Starting with a steep climb from Wondabyne Train station you will explore a series of large rock platforms with wide views over the Brisbane Water National Park and visit Scopas Peak. After Scopas walk you cross a few pleasant rocky gullies before crossing Piles Creek on the Phil Houghton suspension foot bridge. Here the walk heads towards Mooney Mooney Creek before walking up to the Mooney Mooney Creek Trackhead on the Old Pacific Hwy. A side trip to Camp Kariong is also described if you want to take advantage of the well established camping facilities.
Wondabyne

Wondabyne is situated in Brisbane Waters National Park on the banks of Mullet River, which feeds into the Hawkesbury River north of Brooklyn. The area is defined by the National Park’s flora and fauna, the quarry, railway station and a few houses sitting above the water around the river. The quarry produced sandstone building materials, used in the construction of the National War Memorial in Canberra. More recently, in 2000, the quarry was re-opened for restoration of St Mary's Cathedral spire in Sydney. Wondabyne Station, named after the nearby Mt Wondabyne, was built in 1889 and exclusively used for the quarry - it was then known as Mullet Creek Station. The station is one of the smallest on the line and one of very few railway stations in a NSW National Park. When you catch the train to Wondabyne, let the guard know you want to get off at Wondabyne Station, otherwise the train will not stop. Travel in the last carriage as the platform is very short. To catch the train from Wondabyne, wave to the driver.

Camp Kariong

Camp Kariong is a Scout Association run campsite with facilities for small to large groups. The campsite is well established with a range of good facilities in a pleasant bush setting. For groups of around 40 there are bunk rooms, kitchen and a hall. For small to larger groups there are bush campsites, camp fires, toilets, showers, an outdoor camp chapel and a treated water supply. As an extra bonus there is a stone hut, know as the ‘Gosford Apex Hut’ that can be hired, and saves the need for a tent. The single room hut has a fire place, small kitchen, fridge, TV, crockery, tables, chairs and water tap near by. The hut has been recently renovated and can sleep four with a bit of planning you can increase your chance of having an enjoyable and safer walk.

Phil Houghton Bridge

The Phil Houghton Bridge is a metal suspension bridge that crosses Piles Creek. It is part of the Great North Walk and replaces an older bridge, with part still visible upstream. The bridge can hold up to 8 people and feels very stable. There are great views both up and downstream half way across this bridge. There is a clearing on the northern side that people have used for camping.

Before You walk

Bushwalking is fun and a wonderful way to enjoy our natural places. Sometimes things go bad, with a bit of planning you can increase your chance of having an enjoyable and safer walk.

Before setting off on your walk check
1) Weather Forecast (BOM Hunter District)
2) Fire Dangers (Greater Sydney Region)
3) Park Alerts (Brisbane Water National Park)
4) Research the walk to check your party has the skills, fitness and equipment required
5) Agree to stay as a group and not leave anyone to walk solo

Think before you TREK

The 'Think before you TREK' program developed by NSW Police & NPWS promotes the benefits of planning ahead for your bushwalking trip by using an easy to remember acronym:

T Take adequate supplies of food, water, navigation and first aid equipment.
R Register your planned route and tell friends and family when you expect to return.
E Emergency beacon (PLB’s) should be carried on walks with significant gaps in mobile coverage (check terrain profile).
K Keep to your planned route and follow the map and walking trails.

Topo Maps

The maps provided on wildwalks are helpful, but there are times where you may need maps covering a broader area. Maps that cover this walk include:

1:25 000 Map Series: 91313S GUUNDERMAN, 91312S GOSFORD
1:100 000 Map Series: 9131 GOSFORD

Grade

This walk has been graded using the AS 2156.1-2001. The overall grade of the walk is determined by the highest classification along the whole track.

Grade 4/6
Hard track

Length 10.1 km One way
Time 4 hrs 15 mins
Quality of track Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely (4/6)
Signs Minimal directional signs (4/6)
Experience Required Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
Weather Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)
Infrastructure Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)

More info.

Basic instructions for navigating the AS 2156.1-2001 grading system:

Grade

1/6: Very easy —ideal for children and beginners.
2/6: Easy —suitable for most bushwalkers.
3/6: Moderate —suitable for experienced bushwalkers.
4/6: Hard —suitable for experienced bushwalkers with good fitness and equipment.
5/6: Very Hard —suitable for experienced bushwalkers with good fitness and equipment.
6/6: Advanced —suitable for experienced bushwalkers with good fitness and equipment.

Mobile phone coverage depends on many factors, this graph displays the probability of mobile coverage along this walk. Although hopefully correct, actual coverage will vary from what is shown here. Please always carry a PLB in remote areas.
From the north-bound platform of Wondabyne Station, this walk follows the 'Girrakool' sign uphill along the wide trail. After about 300m, this trail heads north and gently uphill along the trail. The trail continues uphill for another 150m, first passing through a cleft in the rock then past a few rock walls. Just past this point, the trail heads uphill along the solid sandstone platform, with more distant views to your left. The track leads downhill, becoming notably steeper for about 300m to then cross over a long rock platform, with a series of GNW arrow posts guiding the way. After this rock platform, the track leads for about 250m, crossing a couple of small rock platforms before leading along a heath covered track. About 400m along, the walk passes another view to Mooney Mooney Bridge, then comes to the edge of another large rock platform. A series of GNW arrow posts lead across this rock platform, gently curving away from Scopas Peak for about 400m, where the arrows lead off the rock platform downhill and back onto the heath. The rocky track continues down along the ridge for just shy of 300m to come to the edge of another smaller rock platform with more distant views. From here, the track leads downhill for about 600m, passing a couple of rocky outcrops and becoming progressively steeper until coming to the edge of an intermittent creek, which flows over the solid sandstone platform, at the bottom of the valley.

6.81 | Tributary Crossing
(720 m 13 mins) Continue straight: From the western bank, this walk crosses the intermittent creek which flows over the solid sandstone platform, to follow the track uphill. The rocky track initially leads gently uphill but soon leads steeply uphill for about 130m, where the track mostly flattens out to pass a sandstone overhang (on your right). Soon after this overhang, the track leads over a small gully then along the side of a longer rock wall with another tall sandstone overhang. The track continues gently downhill for about 300m, becoming a little steeper along the way, until just past a set of rock steps. Here the track begins to head steeply downhill along the side of the hill for about 130m, where it passes through a quite steep hillside. After a few switchbacks, this walk heads into a narrow gully, past a small 'Patonga' sign, then comes to a three-way intersection along an intermittent creek, marked with a large 'The Great North Walk' sign with a 'Patonga Ferry' arrow pointing back up the hill.

7.53 | Int of Patonga Ferry and Girrakool tracks
(220 m 9 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Piles Creek' sign down the track (keeping the valley to the right). The rocky track heads steeply downhill for about 170m to Piles Creek. Just past the old bridge, this walk climbs up the stairs to cross the Phil Houghton suspension footbridge, enjoying the views of the tidal Piles Creek. On the other side, this
walk climbs down the stairs to an intersection beside a large clearing (and campsite, on your left).

7.75 | Phil Houghton Bridge
The Phil Houghton Bridge is a metal suspension bridge that crosses Piles Creek. It is part of the Great North Walk and replaces an older bridge, with part still visible upstream. The bridge can hold up to 8 people and feels very stable. There are great views both up and downstream half way across this bridge. There is a clearing on the northern side that people have used for camping.

7.75 | Phil Houghton Bridge
(1.8 km 36 mins)
Turn left: From the intersection on the northern end of the 'Phil Houghton Bridge', this walk follows the 'Mooney Creek' arrow through the large clearing and campsite, keeping Piles Creek to your left. The track leads under a large dead tree then winds past some cliffs and among large boulders for about 1km then crosses a short timber bridge with handrails. Just past this bridge, this walk heads over a short flat timber bridge, then about just shy of 150m later, heads along a section of timber boardwalk. From this tall eucalypt forest, this track contours around the side of the hill for about 500m, alongside Piles Creek, then starts to climb passing among the grass trees before heading down a handful of timber steps and coming to a three-way intersection marked with a 'Brisbane Waters National Park' sign, just before Mooney Mooney Creek.

9.54 | Brisbane Water NP sign
(540 m 11 mins)
Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post directly away from the face of the 'Brisbane Waters National Park' sign along the clear track, keeping Mooney Mooney Creek to your left. After about 100m, this walk crosses a green timber footbridge, then about 200m later comes to a small clearing and intersection just before the road bridge. Here the walk turns right, following the old management trail uphill through the tall forest for about 200m then heading around a locked gate. Just past the gate, this walk turn left and heads up the short steep bank to come to a T-intersection with the old Pacific Hwy, at a large gravel car park marked with 'Mooney Mooney Creek' Trackhead (just east of the Mooney Mooney Creek bridge).
### Summary navigation sheet for the Wondabyne to Mooney Mooney Creek Trackhead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>km</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>Up/Dwn</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start</td>
<td>Wondabyne Station</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>440 m</td>
<td>From the north-bound platform of Wondabyne Station, this walk follows the 'The Great North Walk' sign off the southern end of the platform, keeping the train lines (and water) to your left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>Clearing above Wondabyne Station</td>
<td>-15</td>
<td>13 mins</td>
<td>Continue straight: From the clearing, this walk follows the wide management trail uphill past the 'Brisbane Water National Park' sign.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.47</td>
<td>Eastern end of the Pindar Cave Track</td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>19 mins</td>
<td>Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post north, gently uphill along the wide trail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>Int of GNW and Wondabyne trail</td>
<td>-30</td>
<td>11 mins</td>
<td>Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Girrakool' sign uphill along the wide trail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.23</td>
<td>South end of Scopas Peak Track</td>
<td>-14</td>
<td>23 mins</td>
<td>Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Girrakool' sign and GNW arrow post north along the clear track.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.39</td>
<td>Scopas Peak</td>
<td>-189</td>
<td>57 mins</td>
<td>Veer right: From the view point just west of Scopas Peak, this walk heads north-east and gently downhill, initially keeping the distant views to your left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.81</td>
<td>Tributary Crossing</td>
<td>-82</td>
<td>21 mins</td>
<td>Continue straight: From the western bank, this walk crosses the intermittent creek which flows over the solid sandstone platform, to follow the track uphill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.53</td>
<td>Int of Patonga Ferry and Girrakool tracks</td>
<td>-56</td>
<td>45 mins</td>
<td>Optional sidetrip to Camp Kariong. Turn sharp right: From the intersection, the walk crosses the small creek and then follows the 'Girrakool' sign along the bush track.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.53</td>
<td>Int of Patonga Ferry and Girrakool tracks</td>
<td>-56</td>
<td>45 mins</td>
<td>Optional sidetrip to Camp Kariong. Turn sharp right: From the intersection, the walk crosses the small creek and then follows the 'Girrakool' sign along the bush track.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.75</td>
<td>Phil Houghton Bridge</td>
<td>-66</td>
<td>36 mins</td>
<td>Turn left: From the intersection on the northern end of the 'Phil Houghton Bridge', this walk follows the 'Mooney Creek' arrow through the large clearing and campsite, keeping Piles Creek to your left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.54</td>
<td>Brisbane Water NP sign</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>11 mins</td>
<td>Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post directly away from the face of the 'Brisbane Waters National Park' sign along the clear track, keeping Mooney Mooney Creek to your left.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>