



## Hunter Lookout and Great North Walk loop



**2 hrs 30 mins**

**Hard track**

**5.6 km Circuit**

**▲ 336m**

4

This loop track starts from the Hunter Lookout picnic area and follows the Great North Walk around the edge of the ridge via the Macleans Lookout, Rocky Creek gully and the cliffs around the eastern edge of the ridge. This walk provides great views across the valley and much of the Hunter to the north. On the return, the walk takes a leisurely stroll along the dirt roads, passing the pines plantation area and the rocky creek camping area.

343m

Heaton State Forest

### Are you ready to have fun?

Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. Check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating before setting out. Optional side trips and alternate routes noted are not included in this walk overall grade, length or time estimate. Please allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing this information but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury you may experience. Please take care, have fun - Happy Walking.

**Getting there** Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Hunter Lookout picnic area (gps: -32.9626, 151.4138). Car: There is free parking available.

This is a circuit, so you will finish back at the start.

Find up to date and more information including; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <http://wild.tl/hlagnw/>

### 0 | Hunter Lookout

Hunter Lookout can be found on Bakers Road, along the Great North Walk. This fenced lookout has everything you will need snack-stop, including toilets, picnic tables, chairs and wood-fired barbecues. This lookout has fantastic views over much of the Hunter region. In 2010, a series of vandalism attacks occurred on the water tank, so water is no longer available at Hunter Lookout.

### 0 | Hunter Lookout picnic area

(700 m 16 mins) From the picnic area, this walk heads north, past the metal gate to the intersection of Bakers Road.

Veer left: From the Hunter Lookout picnic area (on Bakers Road), this walk follows Bakers Road north and gently downhill, while keeping Hunter Lookout on your left. The walk continues for about 400m until coming to a Y-intersection (Bakers Road loop).

Continue straight: From the intersection (Bakers Road Loop), this walk follows the track gently uphill, while keeping the other end of Bakers Road Loop to your right, gently downhill. The walk follows the road for about 130m until coming to Macleans Lookout.

### 0.7 | Mcleans Lookout

McLeans Lookout offers magnificent views of the valleys in Heaton State Forest. Located on Bakers Road, this fenced lookout also has picnic facilities including tables with seats and open grassy areas.

### 0.7 | Maclean Lookout

(670 m 17 mins) Veer right: From Mcleans Lookout, this walk follows Bakers Road gently downhill, while keeping Macleans Lookout behind you on your left. The walk continues for about 80m until coming to a three-way intersection with a wide track and GNW arrow marker (on the left).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the trail gently downhill, while keeping the 'Heaton Lookout' sign on your right. The walk continues (becoming moderately steep downhill) for about 280m until coming to a three-way intersection with a track on the left.

Turn sharp right: From the intersection, this walk follows the track moderately steeply downhill, while keeping the GNW arrow marker on your left. The walk continues (descending moderately steeply into and out of a gully) for about 150m, until coming to a three-way intersection, Glen Road.

### 1.37 | Int of GNW track & Glen Road

(860 m 25 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the track gently downhill, while keeping the 'Glenn Rd' sign on your right. The walk continues through forest for about 120m, until coming to a three-way intersection with a track and GNW arrow marker (on the left).

Turn left : From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow marker moderately steeply down along the track. The walk continues for about 100m, to find a forested mossy creek where the track bend right and continues close to the creek for about 70m to then bend left and crossing the creek. The walk now follows the track undulating gently for about 280m before finding a large rock overhang. The walk then continues moderately steeply uphill for about 200m until coming to a T-intersection with a wide trail and GNW arrow marker.

### 2.23 | Int of GNW track & a wide track

(770 m 24 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows 'Watagan Forest Road' sign uphill along the trail for about 200m to a three-way intersection, with another 'Watagan Forest Road' sign (on your left).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the wide track gently downhill, while keeping the 'Macleans Lookout 2km' sign on your right. The walk continues for about 140m to a three-way intersection, with Fosters Road on your right and 'Fosters Road' sign on your left.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post down along the wide old trail, passing the 'Fosters Road' sign on your left. The walk continues for about 100m, where the wide track then leads moderately steeply downhill for about 150m more. The walk then crosses a gully and heads up over another rise for about 70m to where the track narrows then bends left at a GNW arrow post. About 180m past the post, the walk crosses a gully then heads up the other side, past a termite mound to an unfenced cliff with distance valley views. Here the track bends right and leads up a short distance to a dirt road. The walk turns left and follows the road down for just a few metres to the 'Hammonds Road' sign, where the 'MacLean Lookout' arrow points back along the road.

### 3 | Int of Hammonds Road and GNW bushtrack

(400 m 10 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, the walk follows Hammonds Road along the management trail and up the steady hill, through thick forest to the intersection with Fosters Road.

### 3.4 | Int of Hammonds and Fosters Roads

(590 m 11 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads south-west down the long hill, following Hammonds Road along the edge of the plantation. Soon, the road heads up to the other side of the hill to the intersection with Hermits Road.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads west along Hammonds Road, following the edge of the plantation to the intersection with Rocky Creek Road.

### 3.98 | Int of Hammonds and Rocky Creek Roads

(510 m 9 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows Rocky Creek Road north-west down the long hill to the intersection with Hermits Road.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads down the hill along Rocky Creek Road, crossing a small stream on a rock platform and heading up the other side to the rest area on the north side of the road.

### 4.49 | Rocky Creek Campsite

This campsite provides ample room for a few tents and a campfire, and there is a small creek a short distance away, which often provides opportunity to boil up some drinking water (may dry out at times).

### 4.49 | Rocky Creek Rest Area

(450 m 10 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads up Rocky Creek Road, around the sharp left-hand bend and up the long and steady hill to the intersection with Bakers Road.

### 4.94 | Int of Bakers & Rocky Creek Roads

(400 m 7 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows Bakers Road north and gently uphill, while keeping Rocky Creek Road (no signpost) on your right. The walk continues, undulating gently for about 400m until coming to a three-way intersection with Glen Road (on the right).

### 5.35 | Int of Bakers & Glen Roads

(270 m 4 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows Bakers Road gently uphill, while keeping Glen Road on your right. The walk continues, undulating gently for about 250m until coming to Hunter Lookout picnic area (on the left).

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads off the road and up the hill following the Hunter Lookout picnic area sign, past the wooden gate and the public toilet, to the picnic area area and the lookout.