

Kalkari and Birrawanna Loop Tracks



2 hrs 15 mins

Hard track

5.2 km Circuit

298m

4

This great circuit walk enjoys some views of Cowan Creek and explores the many ferns through the open forest. The walk starts at the Kalkari Discovery Centre and follows the Birrawanna Loop Track down to Bobbin Head, a large picnic area with kiosk, toilets, BBQ's and more. The walk then continues up through the bush to the National Park Regional Office, before returning to the Kalkari.

9m

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

Kalkari Discovery Centre

Kalkari Discovery Centre is in the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, on Ku-Ring-Gai Chase Road, Mt Colah. The discovery center is staffed by volunteers from Chase Alive. The center boasts some interesting flora and fauna displays inside, and out the back is a large enclosure with emu, kangaroos and other native animals roaming around. Take time to explore the wheelchair-accessible circuit within the fence. There are toilets at the centre. For information, phone 02 9472 9300. There are picnic tables, seats and drinking fountain at the front. There is a large car parking area at the front of the centre with two designated mobility parking bays.

Bobbin Head

Bobbin Head is a historic recreation area which is still popular today, suiting the needs of many people. At the center of the Bobbin Head area is the old "Bobbin Inn", built in the 1930s - it is now the park information center and cafe. The area is popular with picnickers, boaters, walkers, canoeists, family groups and people who like to fish. Bobbin Head is roughly divided into three sections (north, south and east). Southern Bobbin Head is a popular picnic area for families and large groups. The area is surrounded by a car park and dotted with picnic tables, electric BBQs, shelters and a large playground. There are toilets nearby, and 'The Station' is a sheltered accessible area with BBQ and tables that can be booked NPWS. The northern Bobbin Head (Orchard Park) area is a more formal picnic area. There is a large picnic shelter, surrounded by 14 smaller octagonal shelters, each of these divided into 4 walled-off compartments, ideal for small groups. The eastern side of Bobbin head is dominated by the Empire Marina and public wharf. The marina is home to a nice restaurant and public toilets.

Bobbin Inn Cafe

At the centre of Bobbin Head picnic area, in the old 'Bobbin Inn' building, is a cafe offering inside and outdoor dining, and a range of foods and drinks. Food includes fish and chips, wraps, focaccia, sandwiches and snack foods. Tea, coffee and cold drinks are also on offer. Opening hours are 9 - 4pm Mon to Fri (closed Tuesdays) & 9 - 5pm weekends. For more information, phone the cafe on 9457 7170. The NPWS Bobbin Head Information Centre is open 7 days a week (closed Christmas Day) 10 - 4pm (closed 12 - 12:30pm lunch). Ramp access available via on the southwestern corner of the building. Ramp access to the information centre through the cafe.

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 Metropolitan District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Greater Sydney Region](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Ku-ring-gai Chase 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:91304S HORNSBY

1:40 000 Map Series:CMA Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park Tourist Map

1:100 000 Map Series:9130 SYDNEY



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	5.2 km Circuit
Time	2 hrs 15 mins
Quality of track	Formed track, with some branches and other obstacles (3/6)
Signs	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
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)

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's 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 Kalkari Discovery Centre (gps: -33.6654, 151.149). Car: A park entry fee is required for driving into the park.

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/kabl>

0 | Kalkari Discovery Centre

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0 | Kalkari Discovery Centre

(1.2 km 25 mins) From the front of the 'Kalkari' centre, this walk heads gently downhill through the car park, keeping the Ku-ring-gai Chase Road to your left, to walk past the 'Kalkari Bush Discovery Track' map to the 'Birrawanna Track' sign at the far end of the car park. This walk now follows the 'Birrawanna Track' sign to the SW corner of the Kalkari enclosure fence and follows the fence for just shy of 400m to step down off a rock platform and continue along the fence for another 150m to the NW corner of the enclosure fence. Here the walk leaves the fence and follows the track as it gently undulates through the wooded forest following the occasional timber step for just over 350m to come to a clear four-way intersection where a sign points back to the 'Kalkari Visitor Centre'.

Continue straight: From the intersection this walk follows the 'Bobbin Head' arrow post east along the track as it almost immediately passes under a set of power lines. The track starts to wind downhill, down a number of timber steps for about 250m where the sandy track flattens out again to come to a three-way intersection marked with a 'Kalkari' sign point back up the hill.

1.15 | Int of Birrawanna and Regional Office tracks

(1.1 km 32 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Bobbin Head' sign east and gently down through the tall wooded forest. After about 400m this track passes between two piles of disused sandstone blocks then about 30m later leads past an intersection with an informal track in a casuarina forest (on your right). The main track continues straight, gently downhill for 80m where this walk almost completely flattens out for about 100m. The track then begins to wind down a series of timber and stone steps for about 300m to find a flat sandstone rock platform beside a large angophora with filtered views over Cowan Creek. From here the rocky track bends right and heads downhill for another 30m to pass through a tunnel formed under a sandstone overhang, then about 30m further downhill this walk follows a metal handrail down some steps. Here the track then zig-zags downhill for about 60m before heading down some sandstone stairs, where the track comes to the edge of the Bobbin Head clearing, marked with a 'Welcome to the Birrawanna Track' sign. This walk now veers left and

follows the brick paved footpath, to come to the now visible 'Bobbin Inn' cafe, just before Ku-ring-gai Chase Rd.

2.21 | Bobbin Head

Bobbin Head is a historic recreation area which is still popular today, suiting the needs of many people. At the center of the Bobbin Head area is the old "Bobbin Inn", built in the 1930s - it is now the park information center and cafe. The area is popular with picnickers, boaters, walkers, canoeists, family groups and people who like to fish. Bobbin Head is roughly divided into three sections (north, south and east). Southern Bobbin Head is a popular picnic area for families and large groups. The area is surrounded by a car park and dotted with picnic tables, electric BBQs, shelters and a large playground. There are toilets nearby, and 'The Station' is a sheltered accessible area with BBQ and tables that can be booked NPWS. The northern Bobbin Head (Orchard Park) area is a more formal picnic area. There is a large picnic shelter, surrounded by 14 smaller octagonal shelters, each of these divided into 4 walled-off compartments, ideal for small groups. The eastern side of Bobbin head is dominated by the Empire Marina and public wharf. The marina is home to a nice restaurant and public toilets.

2.21 | Bobbin Inn Cafe

At the centre of Bobbin Head picnic area, in the old 'Bobbin Inn' building, is a cafe offering inside and outdoor dining, and a range of foods and drinks. Food includes fish and chips, wraps, focaccia, sandwiches and snack foods. Tea, coffee and cold drinks are also on offer. Opening hours are 9 - 4pm Mon to Fri (closed Tuesdays) & 9 - 5pm weekends. For more information, phone the cafe on 9457 7170. The NPWS Bobbin Head Information Centre is open 7 days a week (closed Christmas Day) 10 - 4pm (closed 12 - 12:30pm lunch). Ramp access available via on the southwestern corner of the building. Ramp access to the information centre through the cafe.

2.21 | Bobbin Inn Cafe

(160 m 4 mins) Turn left: From the 'Bobbin Inn' cafe, this walk heads to the front of the building to the 'Information Centre' main entrance. From here this walk follows the 'Birrawanna Loop Track' alongside the road a few meters to find a metal 'Welcome to the Cockle Creek Lookout Track' sign and map. Now the walk follows the track behind the safety barrier (keeping the road to your right) for about 70m to cross a small culverted creek and pass a few old a couple of picnic tables in a shaded and mossy gully. This walk continues for another 30m behind the safety barrier to come to the bottom of the signposted 'Birrawanna Track' steps.

2.37 | Int of Birrawanna track and Ku-Ring-Gai Chase Road

(300 m 7 mins) Veer left: From beside Ku-Ring-Gai Chase Road, this walk heads down a few steps to cross a small flat concrete bridge, to then follow the 'Birrawanna Track' sign up the timber steps. This walk leads quite steeply up the track as it zig-zags up a series of timber and rock steps for just over 300m to find the top of small rocky ridge. Here the walk leads down a series of timber steps for about 50m to cross a moist gully that is home to a disused telegraph pole. Now this walk follows the clear rocky track leads uphill for just shy of 200m to come to a faint intersection at the top of the ridge (where the lookout track is on your right).

2.67 | Optional sidetrip to Cockle Creek Lookout

(110 m 3 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the rocky track, east along the top of the ridgeline towards the rocky outcrop. After about 50m this walk passes through a gap between two large rock outcrops, then around another rock to wind gently down the hill for just shy of 50m to come to an unfenced rock ledge overlooking Cockle Creek. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn right.

2.67 | Cockle Creek Lookout

Cockle Creek Lookout is an informal lookout with no facilities, on the Birrawanna track in Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park. The lookout provides Glimpses of Cockle and Cowan Creeks. The area is surrounded by some beautiful gum trees and rock boulders, making it a nice place to sit and reflect on the surroundings.

2.67 | Int of Birrawanna and Cockle Creek Lookout tracks

(370 m 9 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads north gently down hill for a few meters to follow an NPWS arrow post along the clear track. After just shy of 100m this track bends left to then gently undulate along the side of the hill (with the road down to your right) for about 300m. Here the track mostly flattens out and contours around the side of the hill for about 150m to then lead up a very gently hill to a signposted three way intersection. The intersection is beside a small clearing behind the regional office (on your right) and is marked with a 'Cockle Creek Lookout' and 'Bobbin Head' sign pointing back along the track.

3.03 | Birrawanna Loop Int

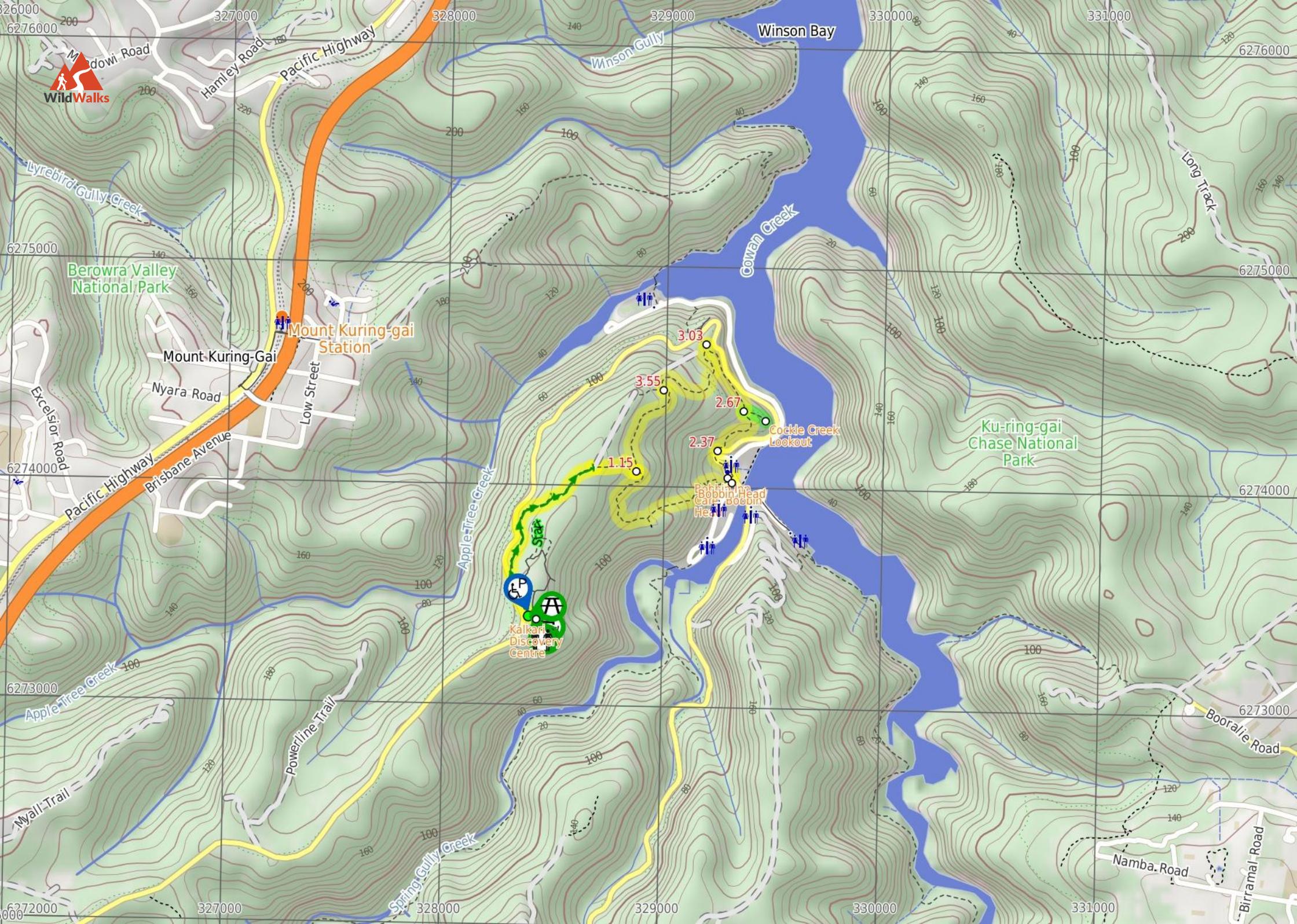
(520 m 12 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Kalkari' arrow along the track which climbs up the ridge. The track winds steeply up the long, rocky hill until it climbs up through a cleft in a rock, then flattens out. A short distance later, the track again starts to climb up the ridge, winding up a long set of wooden steps. The track then flattens again and comes to an intersection and a sign pointing back towards 'Regional Office'.

3.55 | Int of Regional Office and Link tracks

(1.6 km 34 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Bobbin Head' arrow along the track, winding down and along the side of the hill, keeping the valley to the left. After a while, the track comes to an intersection with the Birrawanna track, and a sign pointing back towards 'Regional Office'.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Kalkari' sign gently uphill along the sandy track. This track winds uphill, up a number of timber steps for just shy of 250m where the track flattens out and leads under a set of power lines. Just shy of 20m past these power lines this walk comes to a four-way intersection (where a 'Bobbin Head' arrow post points back along the track).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Kalkari Visitor Centre' sign along the track, over the metal pipe and away from from power lines. The track gently undulates through the wooded forest following the occasional timber step for just over 350m to come to the NW corner of the Kalkari enclosure fence. Here the walk follows the fence for 150m to step up onto a rock platform and continue along the fence for just shy of 400m to the SW corner enclosure. This walk now follows the short track to car park then walks through the car park, past the 'Kalkari Bush Discovery Track' map to the entrance of 'Kalkari'.



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327000

328000

329000

330000

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Berowra Valley National Park

Mount Kuring-gai Station

Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park

Kalkari Discovery Centre

Bobbin Head

Cockle Creek Lookout

6273000

Excelsior Road

Nyara Road

Brisbane Avenue

Low Street

6273000

Myall Trail

Powerline Trail

Spring Gully Creek

6272000

327000

328000

329000

330000

331000

Namba Road

Birrimal Road

Booralee Road

Long Track

Winson Gully

Cowan Creek

Apple Tree Creek

Lyrebird Gully Creek

Hamley Road

Pacific Highway

Winson Bay

6275000

6274000

6273000

6272000

Summary navigation sheet for the Kalkari and Birrawanna Loop Tracks



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
0.00	Kalkari Discovery Centre -33.6654,151.149 (GR Hornsby, 284734)	29 -63	1.2 km 25 mins	From the front of the 'Kalkari' centre, this walk heads gently downhill through the car park, keeping the Ku-ring-gai Chase Road to your left, to walk past the 'Kalkari Bush Discovery Track' map to the 'Birrawanna T...
1.15	Int of Birrawanna and Regional Office tracks -33.6595,151.1544 (GR Hornsby, 289741)	14 -156	1.1 km 32 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Bobbin Head' sign east and gently down through the tall wooded forest.
2.21	Bobbin Inn Cafe -33.6597,151.1591 (GR Hornsby, 293741)	30 0	160 m 4 mins	Turn left: From the 'Bobbin Inn' cafe, this walk heads to the front of the building to the 'Information Centre' main entrance.
2.37	Int of Birrawana track and Ku-Ring-Gai Chase Road -33.6587,151.1584 (GR Hornsby, 292742)	38 -10	300 m 7 mins	Veer left: From beside Ku-Ring-Gai Chase Road, this walk heads down a few steps to cross a small flat concrete bridge, to then follow the 'Birrawanna Track' sign up the timber steps.
2.67	Int of Birrawana and Cockle Creek Lookout tracks -33.6571,151.1597 (GR Hornsby, 294743)	1 -15	110 m 3 mins	Optional sidetrip to Cockle Creek Lookout. Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the rocky track, east along the top of the ridgeline towards the rocky outcrop.
2.67	Int of Birrawana and Cockle Creek Lookout tracks -33.6571,151.1597 (GR Hornsby, 294743)	24 -25	370 m 9 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads north gently down hill for a few meters to follow an NPWS arrow post along the clear track.
3.03	Birrawana Loop Int -33.6543,151.1578 (GR Hornsby, 292746)	78 -4	520 m 12 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Kalkari' arrow along the track which climbs up the ridge.
3.55	Int of Regional Office and Link tracks -33.6562,151.1557 (GR Hornsby, 290744)	85 -40	1.6 km 34 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Bobbin Head' arrow along the track, winding down and along the side of the hill, keeping the valley to the left.