

## Walking the Lake

### Avondale Adventure 2 – Girls' Walk

Correct as at 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2018

#### Overview and Track Information

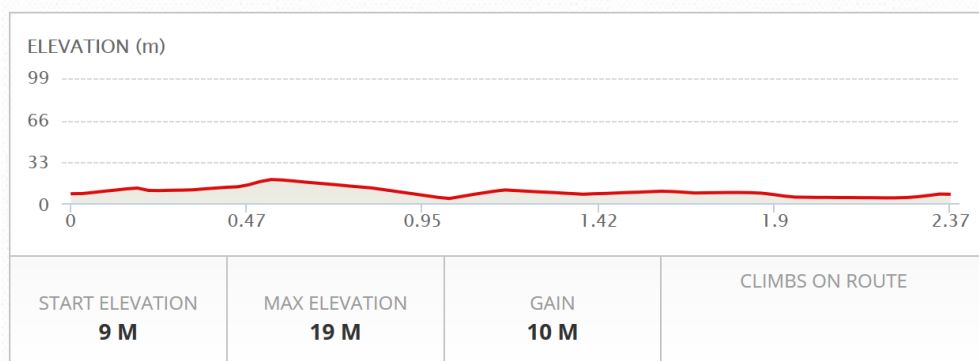
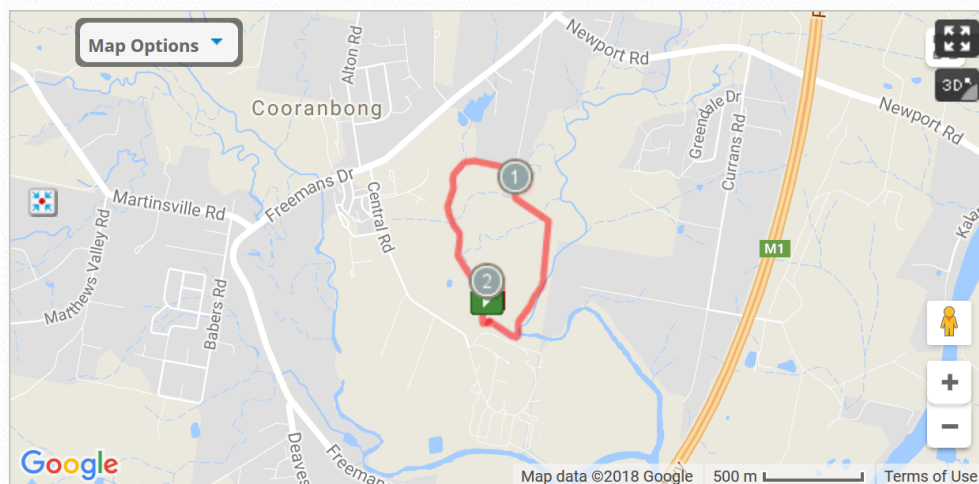
This is a very flat, very easy 2.5km circuit around Avondale College's Girls' Creek walk along Sandy Creek. It's a pleasant, open track that includes some lovely paperbark forest along the creek as well as a bucolic stroll around paddocks full of stock. Beware, though – it's muddy in the wet!

#### Meeting Point & Getting There

The meeting point is Avondale College Car Park 1. Turn into Central Road from Freemans Drive and go all the way to to the boom gate at the entrance to Avondale College. Turn left immediately after the boom gate. As you enter the car park boom gate you will see a prominent tree on the left of the road – that's our meeting point.

#### Map and Elevation Profile

The walk begins and ends at the meeting point, shown as the green square on the map.



#### Background Information

This historic walk was reopened in 2009, but dates from the earliest days of Avondale College at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. To avoid temptation there were separate walks for the boys and the girls, and only on the weekend when chaperoned could they walk together. The track takes in key heritage and ecological features of the Avondale Estate and formed the original entrance to the college from Avondale Rd.

## Track notes

From the meeting point walk downhill over the grass to the opening in the scrub. You should see a sign that says, "Girls' Walk".

Follow the foot track through the gap in the scrub and around to the right, following the fence. Soon you will come to a white wooden bridge; this is the connection to the Sandy Creek walk. Turn left just before the bridge and follow the track alongside the fence. The track does a dog leg through an open gate with a disused metal foot bridge alongside it, then follows Sandy Creek on your right.

Look to your right as you walk along to spot the Fallen Log Bridge, once used as a short cut to Avondale College. It is not safe to use these days. The other end of the bridge is the *Sandy Creek Saunter*.

The track soon starts to meander through a lovely section of paperbark swamp and the occasional stand of Swamp Mahogany (*Eucalyptus robusta*). In a while the ground on the left starts to open into a paddock and then the track turns sharply left away from the creek at the corner of the fence. The track follows the fence line through a dog leg and crosses a small wooden bridge to a seat. This is the one kilometre mark.

This track was the original entrance to Avondale College and is an extension of Avondale Road.

The track re-enters the trees and meanders through another lovely section, this time of drier forest and occasional grassy glades. Along the way it crosses another wooden bridge.

The track breaks out of the trees at a double gate into a paddock and turns sharply left. At the gate you can see the white water tower on Central Road. With the creek on your left and the fenced paddock on your right the track turns left again and follows a long straight section of fence. The beginning of the straight section of fence is the two kilometre mark.

As you walk along the straight you can see the car park and the meeting point off to your half right. Follow the trail along the straight, turn right with the fence, cross another wooden bridge and return to the meeting point under the tree.