

Walking the Lake

Awaba Wobble & Awaba Wander

Correct as at 19th January, 2019

Overview and Track Information

This is two walks of different difficulty, that share the first leg:

- *Awaba Wobble* is an easy out-and-back walk of 3.8 km along a mix of fire trail and well-defined foot track
- *Awaba Wander* is a moderate to difficult circuit walk of 4.7 km, much of which is on a narrow bush track, but which also includes about 200 m of roadside walking

Both walks start on the lake shore below the Bolton Point retirement village, then climb to Hepplewhites fire trail on a well-defined walking track with good timber-framed steps. They then descend to traverse the edge of the lake with lovely views across Awaba Bay. There are no toilets or drinking water available along the track, but there are resting places at Alexanders and Marmong picnic areas.

The footing is good all the way, but watch out for slippery loose stones or piled leaves on the steeper sections. There's also a risk of wet feet along the lake edge.

Meeting Point & Getting There

The meeting point is the entrance to the Bolton Clarke retirement village, *Bolton Point*, 12 The Ridgeway, Bolton Point. Once assembled we'll drive through the village down to the lake shore following the 'staff parking' signs.

Map and Elevation Profile

Both walks begin and end at the red square on the map, near the Bolton Point jetty.

Awaba Wobble



Awaba Wander



Background & Source

The walks are based on the NPWS [Awaba Bay Foreshore walk](#). The revised start point avoids street parking and the steep climbs to and from the aptronymic Ridgeway Road. The Awaba Wobble (and outbound leg of the Awaba Wander) is well signposted.

The return leg of the Awaba Wander uses an informal foot track which parallels Ridgeway Road between Hepplewhites fire trail and the Ridge Trail. There is no signposting.

Track notes

From the Bolton Point jetty, walk north (keeping the lake on your right) along the grassy foreshore and down into the beginnings of the scrub, where there is a wooden staircase to your left. Climb the stairs and continue up the hill on the obvious foot track until a junction with Hepplewhites Fire Trail. Turn right onto the fire trail.

Follow the fire trail for a couple of hundred metres until you see a signposted foot track on the right. Turn right onto the foot track. The track soon crosses a small foot bridge and passes a scout camp site known as Hepplewhites Shack. Cross the bridge over Green Waterhole. This is the one kilometre mark.

Continue to follow the track along the foreshore past a swampy area where you may hear frogs calling. Soon there is a track junction. Turn left to an area with a seat and information signs about the wetlands. Continue to follow this trail past Alexanders picnic area, until it rejoins the trail along the foreshore.

Continue to follow the track down to the edge of Awaba Bay and along a gravel beach. The rocks here are Teralba Conglomerate, formed from sediments deposited in rivers and swamps approximately 255 million years ago.

At the end of the gravel beach climb the stairs. This well-defined section has many wooden bridges over the gullies and very solidly-made steps on steep sections. Forks in the track join up again within a few metres. Continue to follow the track to an open grassy area with a picnic table at the Marmong picnic area.

Across the lake you can see Rocky Point and Eleebana Head. To the right of Rocky Point is Croudace Bay, named for Thomas Croudace who purchased land there in 1869. He built his lakeside house, Leighinmohr, near Shepherd's Creek in Valentine. He was a very successful mining engineer and manager who arrived in Australia in 1862 to serve as a mining engineer for the Scottish-Australian Mining Company.

To the left of Rocky Point is Warners Bay, named for Jonathon Warner, a retired army Lieutenant who was the first settler here in 1839. He built a two-storey weatherboard house called "Biddaba" ("silent resting place") on a hill near the present Warners Bay Primary School and established a farm and orange orchard. Sadly, the Warner homestead was demolished about 1932.

This is the turnaround point for the Awaba Waddle; to finish, retrace your route to the cars.

For the Awaba Wander, there are two choices:

- take the steep foot track uphill on your left or
- continue to follow the track uphill onto the fire trail then follow the fire trail as it swings left and climbs a steep hill

Both end at a gate onto The Ridgeway. This is the two kilometre mark. Turn left at The Ridgeway and walk along the verge for about 200m past the orange Bolton Point sign to the gate onto the Ridge Fire Trail. Turn left onto the fire trail.

The trail soon takes a left hand turn more steeply downhill. It crosses a low berm (roll-over) and swings right. After about 100m look for an ill-defined foot track joining the fire trail from the right, just before a second berm. Turn right onto the foot track.

Follow the foot track, which becomes much clearer further from the fire trail, as it swings right around the head of a small gully then swings hard left and heads south. Continue to follow the track as it winds and undulates through the trees.

Soon the trail does another swing right and winds around the heads of several gullies and crosses a couple of dry creeks. This is the three kilometre mark. Just after going around the wreck of a blue car there is a fork in the track. Take the left, downhill fork.

The track continues for a while with The Ridgeway on the high ground to your right. After a while the track crosses Alexanders Fire Trail and continues south through the trees, undulating over many low ridges and shallow gullies. You pass the four kilometre mark when the track climbs out of a steeper gully and goes around the base of a very large log.

After crossing some more gullies the foot track merges into a disused vehicle track and swings hard left. Follow the track uphill to a junction with Hepplewhites Fire Trail. Turn right onto the fire trail and climb the hill to the signposted junction with the foot track on your left. Turn left and downhill and follow the track back down the wooden stairs and along the lake shore to the cars.