

Walking the Lake

Dora Dawdle

Correct as at 31st July, 2018

Overview and Track Information

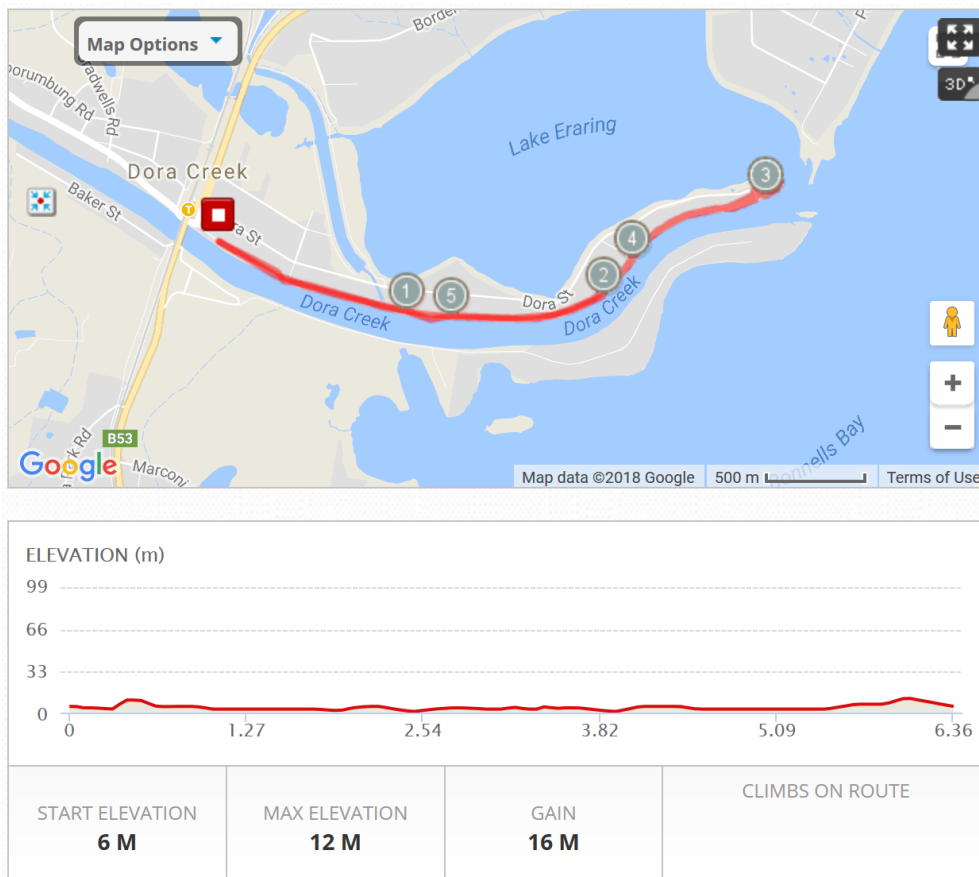
This walk is a flat, easy 6.4km stroll along the reserve from the Dora Creek shops to the point past the boat ramp at the end of Dora Street, and return. We explore the riparian vegetation and the creek's strange digitate delta while enjoying birdwatching opportunities and views of Lake Eraring and Shingle Splitters Point.

Meeting Point & Getting There

The meeting point is outside the Dora Creek Community Hall, Doree Place, Dora Creek. There are public toilets near the meeting point.

Map and Elevation Profile

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



Background Information

Dora Creek was the southern boundary of Lt Percy Simpson's second land grant of 2000 acres in 1838. He had originally chosen a different area which, through a clerical error, was allocated to someone else. The Eraring grant was given to Simpson instead, but as he was in financial difficulties he sold it almost immediately. In the 1840 speculation boom the grant was part of the first Newport sub-division. As the soil and transport were better along the creek than north of the shallow lake, gradually the name Newport came to be applied to the Dora Creek subdivision.

The name comes from the Awabakal *Doree Doree*, meaning a creek running into the lake. A map of about 1840 shows it as Dorri Brook. It was also known as Nekinda, Nellinda, Dorah, Badge and Manering Creek. From 1840 the township was called Newport until 1887 when the railway was opened and the station was named Dora Creek.

Track Notes

From the Community Hall walk down Doree Place with the creek on your right. The Public jetty & small beach here are a popular preening place for water birds.

Go past the Post Office and shops and at the end of Doree Place walk through the fence past the locked gate onto the reserve. After about 800m notice the piece of machinery right on the bank of the creek. A shipwright used to live in one of these houses and this is the remains of the winch he used to haul boats onto the reserve to work on them.

In another 200m there are large concrete blocks that indicate the inlet for Eraring Power Station. The inlet takes cooling water from Bonnells Bay, under the creek bed, to the power station.

Continue to follow the reserve. At the end of Miami Way you have come about 2½km. In the direction you are walking (East) you can see out of the mouth of Dora Creek towards Wangi. Look north along Miami Way and you can see Lake Eraring. The formation of Dora Creek is called a delta jetty or a digitate delta, formed by silt being deposited on either side. Continue along the reserve.

Soon you come to the boat ramp at the end of Dora Street. From here you can see an active delta with plenty of birdlife due to an increase in vegetation, particularly Mangroves. Spoonbills can often be seen here taking shelter. Cross the car park and follow the foot track past the fish cleaning table.

At the point, you are looking across the mouth of Lake Eraring to Pipers Point. You can also see the Norfolk Pines of Shingles Splitters where old man Sara split the Red Cedars from the Watagans into roofing shingles.

Follow the foot track around the point and back to Dora Street. This is the 3km mark. Along the way look for Black Swans feeding on shallow Lake Eraring.

Retrace your route back to the start point.