

Walking the Lake

Eraring Encirclement 1

Correct as at 30th December, 2018

Overview and Track Information

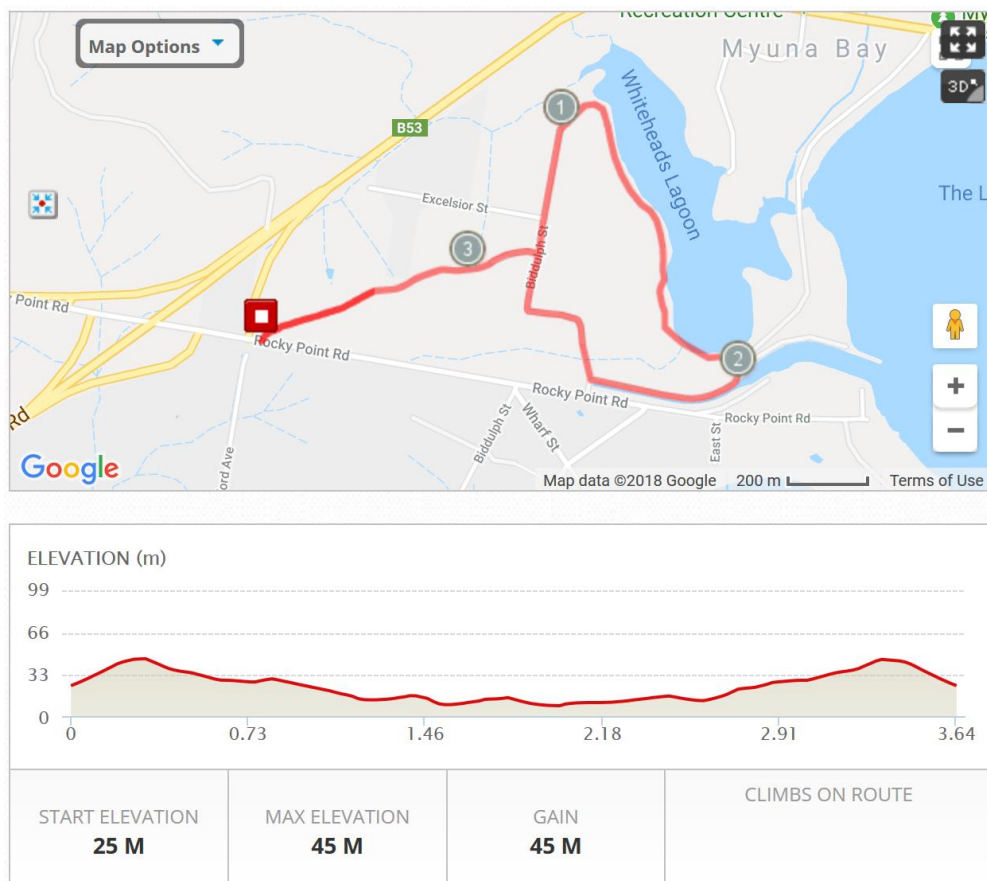
This is an easy 3.7km circuit that incorporates part of the Eraring walking track, laid out by the Department of Lands in 1987. It's a pleasant walk along fire trails and foot tracks in the scrub near the western shore of Whiteheads Lagoon, including a brief walk past the powerful current in the outlet channel for the Eraring Power Station.

Meeting Point & Getting There

The meeting point is on Rocky Point Road, Eraring, about 400m east of the Wangi Road bridge. Coming from Morisset, take the Rocky Point Road exit and turn right under the road bridge. The meeting point is on your left just after the south bound off-ramp from Wangi Road. There are public toilets about half way through the walk.

Map and Elevation Profile

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



Background Information

Captain Henry Dangar's 1826 sketch map marks the mouth of Dora Creek as 'Yererung'. In 1839 Rev Threlkeld reported a burial at 'Iring'. Lt Percy Simpson's 1838 grant of 2000 acres near the mouth of Dora Creek was recorded as at 'E-ra-ring'.¹ Eraring is believed to be an Aboriginal term meaning "that which gleams or glitters".

Philip Whitehead had a vineyard in 1898 on what is now Myuna Bay Recreation Area. The lagoon and point are named for this family.²

¹ K.H. Clouten, *Reid's Mistake*, Lake Macquarie Shire Council 1967

² Lake Macquarie City Library, <https://history.lakemac.com.au>

Track Notes

At the end of the fence line on the north side of the road is a rough set of stone steps up the embankment. Take these steps past the old Eraring Walking Track sign. Continue to follow the obvious foot track onto the fire trail.

Follow the fire trail north through the open forest. This track is all that remains of Excelsior Street, laid out in the failed 1910 subdivision of Eraring by the Excelsior Land Co.

Continue along the track until a T-junction. Turn left and follow the track downhill. The large piles of soil alongside the track were deposited there when the outlet canal for the Eraring Power Station was excavated in the early 1980s. Follow the fire trail to its end; this is the one kilometre mark.

At the end of a fire trail look for the foot track on the right hand side of the road heading more easterly. Follow that foot track for a couple of hundred metres to a junction with another foot track. Turn left and shortly you will come to another track junction with a track leading off to the right. At this junction is a trail marker from the Department of Lands Eraring walking track.

Take the track to the right. It soon descends to the edge of water and then follows the shoreline south. After about 800m the track crosses a small creek via a log bridge with rope handholds. Continue through the more open vegetation to a nice viewing spot down the lagoon towards the ski ramp.

The track soon climbs a grassy bank into a picnic area with public toilets overlooking the Eraring Power Station outlet canal. This is the two kilometre mark.

This is a good place to witness the power of the outlet flow and to observe the large schools of juvenile fish feeding in the warm water.

From the vicinity of the picnic tables take the right hand dirt track rather than the gravel track that runs alongside the canal. This leads through light scrub past some concrete construction remains and, after a couple of hundred metres into open grassland. Head right in the open grassland and take the vehicle track that leads uphill away from the road. This is all that remains of the northern section of Biddulph Street as laid out in 1910.

The road swings left then right as it climbs over about 500m with heavily-treed piles of excavated soil on your right. After the road straightens and flattens out you come to a road junction with a track leading off to the left. Turn left and follow the track down into a low point. This is the three kilometre mark.

Continue to follow the track over the hill and down to the foot track and steps to the start point.