

Walking the Lake

Eraring Encirclement 3

Correct as at 26th January, 2019

Overview and Track Information

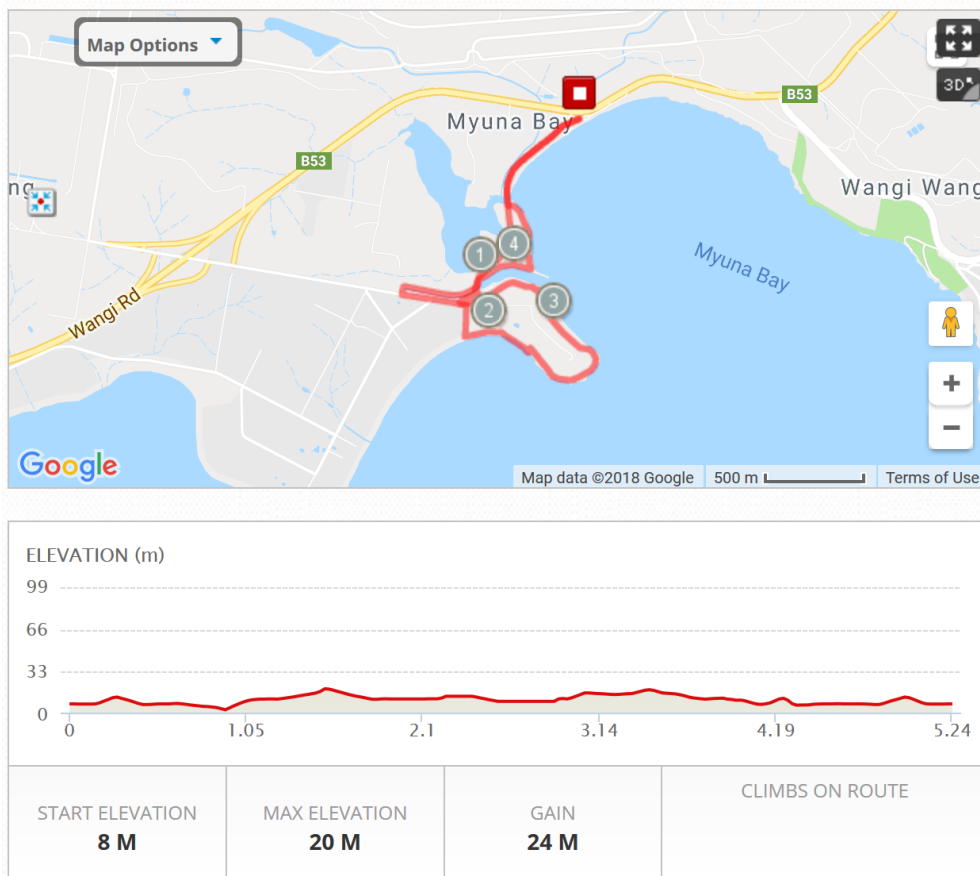
This easy 5.25km circuit takes in the southern shore of Myuna Bay, the Myuna Bay scout campsite, the Eraring Power Station outlet canal area and Rocky Point. From the lovely Myuna Bay Foreshore Reserve picnic area the walk follows well defined walking tracks, roads and fire trails with bridges over all creek crossings.

Meeting Point & Getting There

The meeting point is the playground in the Myuna Bay Foreshore Reserve, off Wangi Road. There is plenty of space in the reserve car park. There are public toilets at the beginning of the walk and at the outlet canal picnic area.

Map and Elevation Profile

The walk begins and ends at the meeting point, which is the number 3 on the map.



Background Information

Myuna is an aboriginal word meaning “clear water.” It’s much nicer, or at least more poetic, than the name “Pantaloone Bay” as shown on early maps.

The Eraring Power Station was officially opened in 1984, and at the time was the largest power generating station in Australia. It uses water from the lake to cool its massive turbines, and each year it pumps three times the entire volume of Lake Macquarie through its canal systems. Large numbers of juvenile fish congregate in the warm waters of the outlet canal every winter. In 2012 a man fishing the outlet canal reported catching a tropical queenfish, normally found in the Coral Sea, and in 2013 a 2.4 metre bull shark was caught there.

Track Notes

Start at the childrens' playground. Keeping the lake on your left walk southwest across the reserve to an opening in the fence and onto the access road. Turn left onto the access road and follow it to the locked gate at the end of the car park. Go past the gate and follow the well-defined track. Soon you pass a small track on the right which crosses a small creek to a locked black metal gate into the Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation Centre. This was the original route of the Department of Lands Eraring Walking Track, but it is closed now. The small creek is Crooked Creek.

Continue along the main track to a white wooden bridge across the mouth of Whiteheads Lagoon. Philip Whitehead had a vineyard in this vicinity in 1898 and the lagoon is named for his family.

Continue along the main track. The elevated area on the left is the Myuna Bay Scout Camp. The track soon emerges from the trees to an open area with picnic tables and public toilets at the Eraring Power Station outlet canal. This is the one kilometre mark, and where this walk meets Eraring Encirclement 1.

Follow the gravel track alongside the fenced-off outlet canal. At the end of the fence turn left past the locked gate onto Rocky Point Road. Turn left onto Rocky Point Road. Beware of cars on this section; the outlet canal is a popular fishing spot and cars frequently speed along Rocky Point Road.

Follow Rocky Point Road east past the entrance to the outlet canal parking area and turn right onto East Street, which is gravel. Go past the locked chain gate at the end of East Street onto the foreshore reserve. This is the two kilometre mark.

Turn left and follow the reserve along the shoreline. You should be able to discern a foot track as you walk. Follow this track as it descends to very close to the water and past a large log. Continue to follow the nowobvious foot track along the shoreline. After a little while you will see a set of wooden steps on your left. Climb the steps to the top of embankment. Continue to follow the foot track right along the fence line and through the thicker scrub.

When the track descends gently to towards the water again, just below the large cream brick house, look across the lake. Directly opposite is Shingle Splitters Point and to the quarter left is Fig Tree Point, the two extremities of the Shingle Splitters Shuffle.

Continue to follow the foot track around the point, overlooking the rocks which give it its name. Soon the track climbs to the top of the embankment again alongside an old hand rail and the remains of some steps from the Department of Lands track. This is the three kilometre mark.

Follow the foot track along the fence and past a log onto Foreshore Street. Follow Foreshore Street for about 50m then turn right at the large bunyah pine onto the track that leads downhill. Don't follow Foreshore Street to the top of the hill.

At the end of the track take the left hand fork, then walk around the treated pine corner post of the fence to the concreted drainage trench. Follow the drainage trench up the hill, parallel to the outlet canal.

Continue to follow the drainage trench until the intersection of East Street and Rocky Point road then turn right and cross the entrance to the outlet canal parking area and climb past the yellow gate onto the embankment. Walk along the embankment then climb down to the foot bridge on your left.

Cross the footbridge to the outlet canal picnic area, then turn right down the road towards the mouth of the outlet canal. After a short walk the track forks. This is the four kilometre mark.

Either fork will take you to the foreshore, but the left is a prettier walk. Follow this track to the Myuna Bay Scout Camp sign, then continue straight on through the trees to the track along the shoreline. Turn left on that track and follow it until it joins the main track at the white wooden bridge.

Turn right onto the bridge and return to the start point.