

## Walking the Lake

### Green Point Gambol

Correct as at 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2020

#### Overview and Track Information

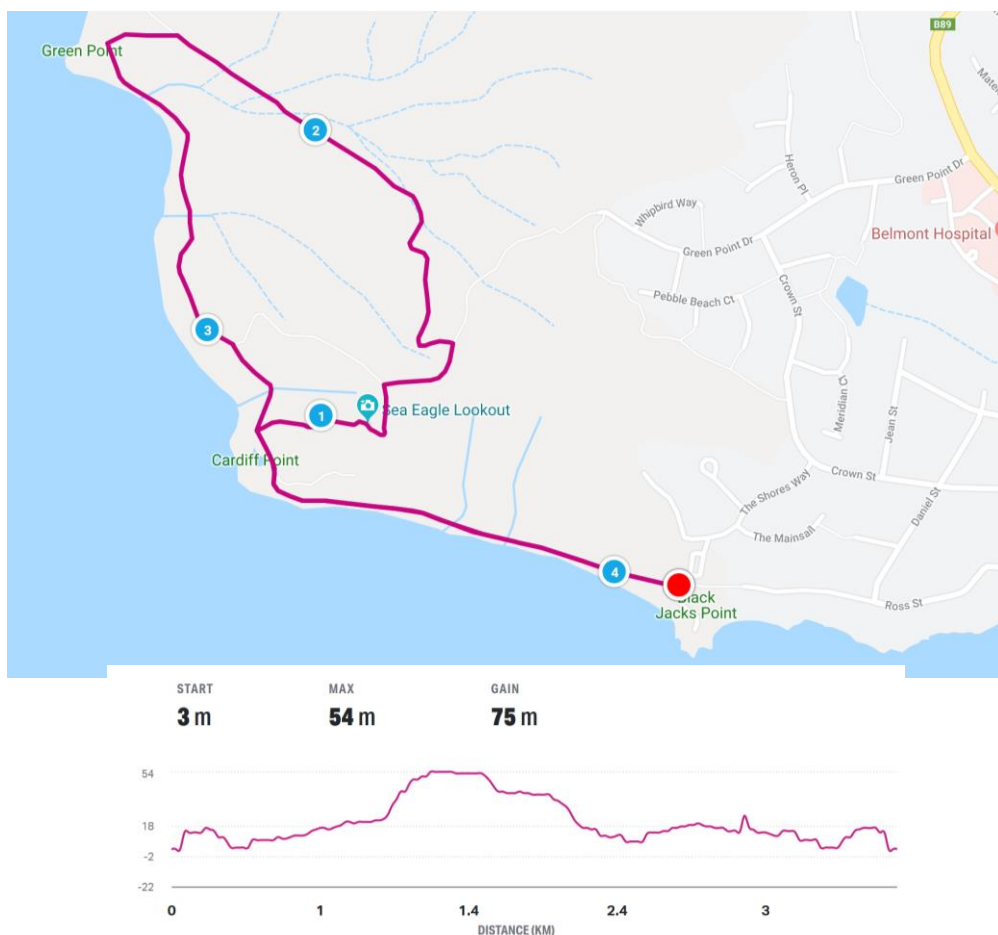
This moderate 4.1km circuit walk on the Centenary of Federation Heritage Trail and Rainforest Walk in the Green Point Foreshore Reserve. The surface is a mixture of concrete pathways and foot tracks. It includes a great view across the lake from the Sea Eagle Lookout. A 2km out-and-back, flat, easy option is to turn back at Sea Eagle Park (the surface is paved the whole way).

#### Meeting Point & Getting There

The meeting point is Green Point Foreshore Reserve main car park off The Shores Way, Belmont. There are public toilets at the start of the walk and at Sea Eagle Park.

#### Map and Elevation Profile

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



#### Background Information

Green Point takes its name from the mine 'The Green Hills Coal Works' which operated there in the 1860s. The name Green Hills came from the owner - John Nixon's - other coal mining interests at Maitland and Morpeth.<sup>1</sup> Green Point was the site of various mining activities for 150 years.

Now a Council Reserve, Green Point has undergone extensive rehabilitation works to establish it as one of Lake Macquarie's foremost natural bushland parks. There are no prizes for guessing when the Centenary of Federation walk opened.

<sup>1</sup> Lake Macquarie City Library, <https://history.lakemac.com.au>

## Track notes

From the car park walk downhill along the asphalt driveway towards the boatshed at Black Jacks. At the track junction with the sign about Green Point turn right onto the concrete pathway parallel to the lake shore.

You are now on the Centenary of Federation Heritage Trail. Follow the walk along the shoreline, making sure you take time to read the historic markers about former local industries along the way.

The track comes to picnic area by a jetty near Cardiff Point, named after the Cardiff Colliery that operated here. Take a stroll out onto the jetty and enjoy the nice clear water. Then return to the pathway and continue along the foreshore.

Continue on until the path rises slightly to Sea Eagle Park, a former gravel quarry which has been transformed into a picturesque grassy picnic area with free electric barbecues, toilets, picnic tables, shelters and drinking water. This is the turnaround point for the basic, very easy walk.

For the main walk continue to follow the pathway gently uphill, keeping Sea Eagle Park on your right, for about 70m, until coming to a three-way intersection with a track and 'Lookout' sign on your right and a 'Getting about at Green Point' sign on your left. Turn right onto the gravel foot track. Follow the foot track steeply uphill for excellent views down the length of the lake. There are three lookouts at different heights; the first lookout is the one kilometre mark.

At the top lookout follow the pathway at the rear of the fenced area around a bend and past a picnic table. Soon you will come to an intersection with another pathway. Turn right.

After about 50m the pathway enters an open, grassy area with rolling hummocks. This was once the site of the Belmont colliery, which closed in 1982. The grassed area covers 'chitter', the product of washing coal. No trees grow here because a bushfire could set fire to the chitter, which is in places 12m deep.

In 60m you come to a track junction with a seat. Turn left onto the concrete path and follow it downhill. Continue to follow it down through the trees towards Valentine for about 800m, ignoring side trails.

You will come to an intersection with an obvious fire trail leaving to the left. The intersection is marked by a circle in the concrete path and a shared pathway sign. Take the fire trail.

Follow the fire trail downhill through the trees until it emerges into a large grassy clearing on the lake shore. This clearing is Green Point. The long peninsula opposite you is Coal Point, so named because the first coal mine on the lake was there. In 1841 Rev. Threlkeld had given up his aboriginal mission and moved to what is now Toronto. He began to mine coal on the southwest side of Coal Point and broke the Australian Agricultural Company's monopoly on coal mining. The explorer Ludwig Leichhardt visited the mine in 1842.

Turn left and follow the foot track along shore, keeping the lake on your right. Soon you will cross a wooden footbridge at a large shell midden. Follow the track for about 500m, including some boardwalks and steps, ignoring any side trails and always keeping in sight of the lake. The track then climbs steeply to a three way intersection with two concrete pathways. Veer right at this intersection and follow the pathway south.

After about 250m the path rejoins the Centenary of Federation Heritage Trail at the Lookout track junction and 'Getting about at Green Point' sign. Follow the concrete pathway back past Sea Eagle Park and Cardiff Point to the cars, choosing the route closest to the lake if you come to a track junction.