

Walking the Lake

I'm Walking on Sunshine (whoa)

Correct as at 21st March, 2020

Overview and Track Information

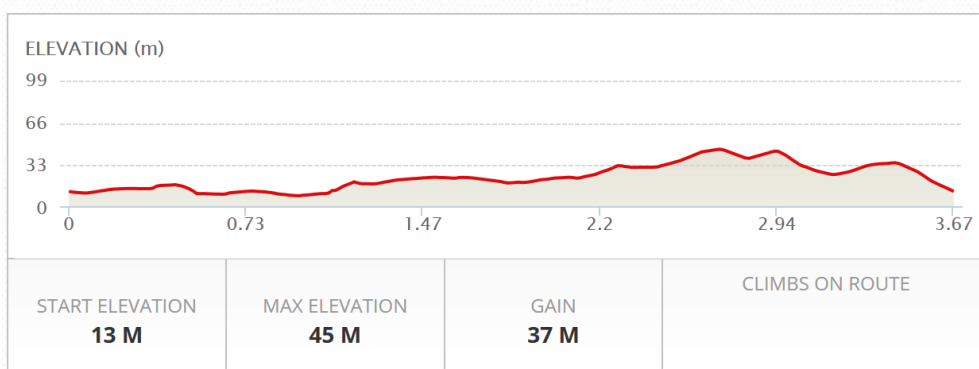
This 3½km circuit is slightly more challenging than many of our other walks, but well within the capabilities of the group. It varies between flat, easy boardwalks along the foreshore and rough uphill bush tracks through the open forest. I recommend using a trekking pole or poles on this walk. Johnnys (or Johnys) Point is a critical Swamp Forest remnant and provides nice views across the deepest part of the lake to Pulbah Island.

Meeting Point & Getting There

The meeting point is the parking area for Sunshine Park, at the end Sunshine Parade, Sunshine. There are public toilet facilities at the meeting point.

Map and Elevation Profile

The walk begins and ends at the car park, marked on the map by a red square.



Background Information

The lakeside reserve is a popular local walking, picnic and camping area. Sadly, this led to degradation of the bush, exacerbated by illegal dumping of garden refuse and vandalism. There was severe erosion and weed infestation. In some areas the erosion was extensive enough to cause trees to fall into the lake, silting up the lake and destroying marine habitat.

The Sunshine Silverwater Landcare group secured a \$22,900 Coastcare grant in 2008 to arrest the severe erosion, remove weeds and plant 2000 locally indigenous native plants as part of the Sunshine Silverwater Foreshore Erosion and Siltation Control Project. The walkway was completed in 2010.

Track notes

From the meeting point in the car park walk towards the public toilet blocks then turn right on the concrete towards the lake shore. At the fishing table turn left and follow the path towards the children's playground. Continue past the playground and enter the foreshore walk. Follow the obvious path along the foreshore, including the boardwalks.

This area was formerly heavily eroded, resulting in foreshore trees falling into the lake, siltation of the lake and subsequent destruction of the adjoining marine habitat. In 2010 the local Landcare group, using a government grant, built retaining walls and 160 metres of boardwalk to provide a safer walking trail for the public while protecting the fragile environment. An additional 21 metres of boardwalk was completed in 2012 over a flood-prone section of the track close to the park using funds donated entirely by local residents.¹

Continue along the trail and uphill to the sign into Johnys Point reserve. This is the one kilometre mark.

This lovely natural bush reserve is the result of a lot of hard work! Twenty years ago this area was impassable. Funding from the Crown Lands Public Reserve Management Fund in 2014-2016 targetted removing weeds and garden escapees like Asparagus Fern, Black-eyed Susan, Morning Glory, Lantana and Blackberry by a professional bush regeneration team. In 2015 a further grant from Delta Electricity funded more weed removal at Johnys Point by the Landcare group, the volunteer Bush Regeneration Crew and a volunteer Green Team with paid supervisor.

Continue on the foot track into the reserve. Soon you will come to a Y junction in the track. Take the right hand fork downhill, past a bench donated by Delta Electricity, and around to Johnys Point itself, with lovely lake views.

Continue to follow the foot track out of the reserve and through the gate onto Silverwater Road. Turn left onto Silverwater Road and follow it for about 100m to the intersection with Talbot Street on the right. Turn right into Talbot Street. When the street bends right continue straight on to the locked gate. Go past the locked gate and follow the fire trail behind the houses.

About 100m past the gate you will see a track leading off uphill to the left. This track junction is the two kilometre mark.

Turn hard left and follow the track uphill. Look for red necked wallabies in this area. The track degenerates from vehicle width to a rough foot track as it climbs to the top of the hill and emerges onto Silverwater Road. Turn right and follow the cleared firebreak parallel to the road. As the roadside foliage thickens move closer to the road.

In a little while you will see a locked metal gate on the other side of Silverwater Road. Cross the road, pass the gate and follow the heavily eroded fire trail downhill. **THE SURFACE HERE IS VERY LOOSE AND SLIPPERY.** This descent is the three kilometre mark.

About 50m down the hill the fire trail swings left and there is an obvious foot track on the right. Just near the intersection with the foot track there is a man-made possum nest in a tree. Turn right onto the foot track and follow it uphill.

The foot track passes a deep gully on the left and immediately afterwards there is an intersection with another foot track on the left. Turn left (downhill) onto this track. **THE DESCENT HERE IS QUITE STEEP AND SLIPPERY, AND IT'S ADVISABLE TO USE A TREKKING POLE OR A STICK.**

Stay on the obvious foot track. After the steep descent the track goes through two gullies in quick succession, climbs a small ridge and then through a third gully. The track swings left through a fourth gully and flattens considerably as it meanders through the trees roughly following the dry watercourse.

After a little while the foot track swings right away from the gully and, tending uphill, winds through the trees for a couple of hundred metres, until it meets a wide, disused fire trail. Turn left onto the disused fire trail.

Follow the fire trail downhill, catching glimpses of the lake through the trees in front of you. When the fire trail emerges into an open grassy area angle right through the fence to the car park and back to the cars.

¹ [Sunshine Silverwater Landcare Case Study 2016](#)