

## Walking the Lake

### Kalang Canter

Correct as 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2020

#### Overview and Track Information

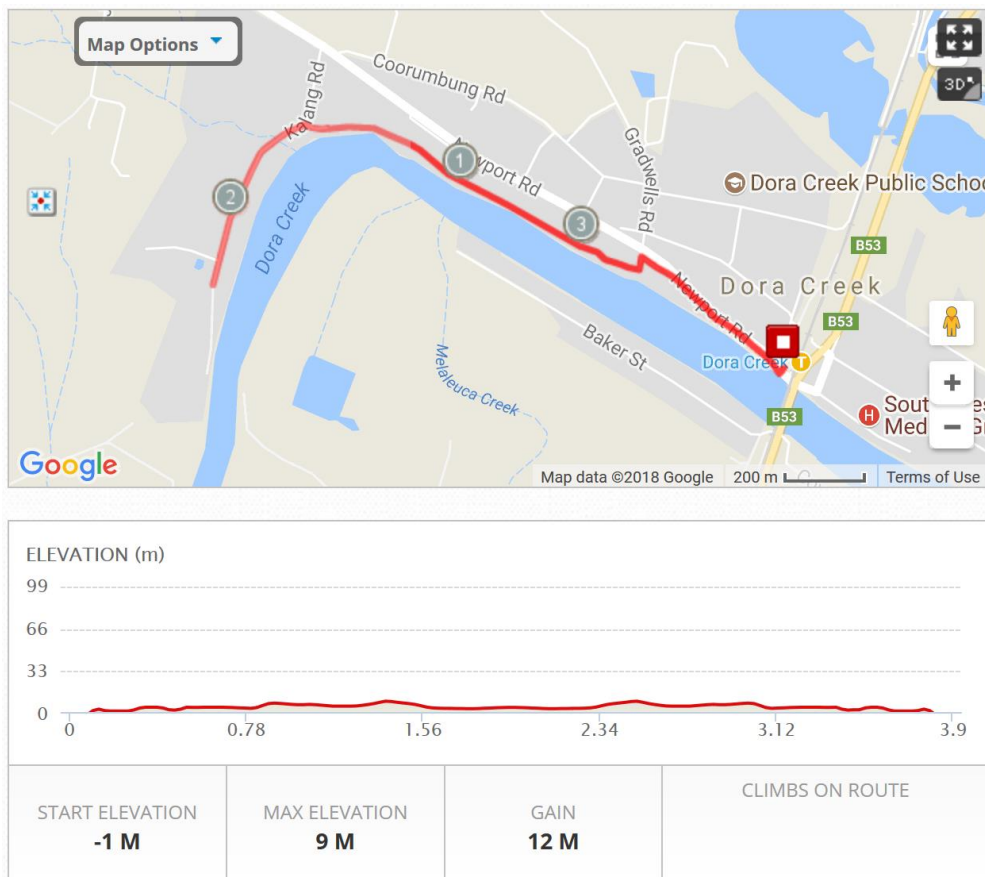
This is a flat, easy 3.9km out-and-back walk along the shoreline reserve of Dora Creek and down to the important drainage zone of Kalang Road, including views of Melaleuca Creek that drains Morisset northwards into the swampy area next to the Salvation Army's land. We'll also have a private look at the extensive wetlands between Dora Creek township and the M1.

#### Meeting Point & Getting There

The meeting point is the picnic area on the bank of Dora Creek, about 100m along Newport Road on the western side of the Dora Creek railway station. The nearest public toilets are at the Dora Creek Hall.

#### Map and Elevation Profile

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



#### Background & Source

This walk came from an brochure from the now-defunct Dora Creek Catchment Group. It forms a pair with the Dora Dawdle.

Kalang is an Aboriginal word meaning 'beautiful'<sup>1</sup>. Kalang Road was named in 1948. There was an estate in Dora Creek named Kalang Bongurra Estate, but I can't find the derivation of the name.

Dora Creek has a 90 degree bend in the vicinity of Kalang Road, which makes it a critical point for flooding. A 1994 study investigated constructing an earth fill levee to reduce flood velocities in the vicinity of houses along Kalang Road.

No levee was constructed.

<sup>1</sup> 'Australian Words and Place Names' by S.J. Endacott

## Track notes

From the meeting point walk west alongside the road, away from the railway line. After 100m you'll come to the first of the houses between Newport Road and the creek, and another 75m after that a crossroad between Gradwells Road and Newport Road. The original Dora Creek Fire Station stood on this corner.

Between 1910 and 1920 the Dora Creek State Boys' Home stood on Gradwells Road. Mr & Mrs Delashaur, who ran the home, slept in a cottage and the boys slept in slab huts. A gazebo by the cottage was the village gathering place for singing and dancing on Saturday nights.

Turn left into Gradwells Road, towards the creek. Just before the dead end, about 30m down the road, turn right past the locked gate and onto the creek bank reserve.

Walk along the reserve for 500m. Across the creek you will see the mouth of Melaleuca Creek. On this side of Dora Creek there is all that remains of a large rock in the water, known locally as Molly's Rock. The popular version of its history is that Molly fell off the rock during a pre-Christmas picnic and couldn't swim because of her heavy petticoats. Her fiancé dived in to save her, but they drowned in each other's arms.

Sadly, that romantic story isn't true. What really happened is that on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December 1911, sixteen year old Lily Vidler slipped off the rock into deep water when bathing with friends. Two of the friends, visiting from Sydney, were eighteen year old Mary Case and her cousin, twenty year old Ernie Locchi. At the time Polly was a popular nickname for girls named Mary. Young Locchi, who couldn't swim, went to help Lily but got into trouble and Polly jumped in fully clothed to save him. Although Lily Vidler was saved the cousins both drowned and were the first internments in Morisset Cemetery. The rock was subsequently blown up to prevent further tragedies.<sup>2</sup> How 'Polly' morphed into 'Molly' remains a mystery.

Continue along the reserve, and follow the track slightly uphill just before the bend in the creek. Stay on the track and walk past the locked chain onto the asphalt house access track and along that to Kalang Road.

Turn left on Kalang Road and follow it downhill and around the bend. Follow the road for 600m to its end. The last driveway on the right gives access to the wetlands, which are hidden from the road.

Retrace your route to the cars.

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<sup>2</sup> Mullard B, *Iron Horse and Iron Bark – A history of Morisset and District*, Southwood Press, 2002