

Walking the Lake

Marmong Man Mystery

Correct as at 28th March, 2020

Overview and Track Information

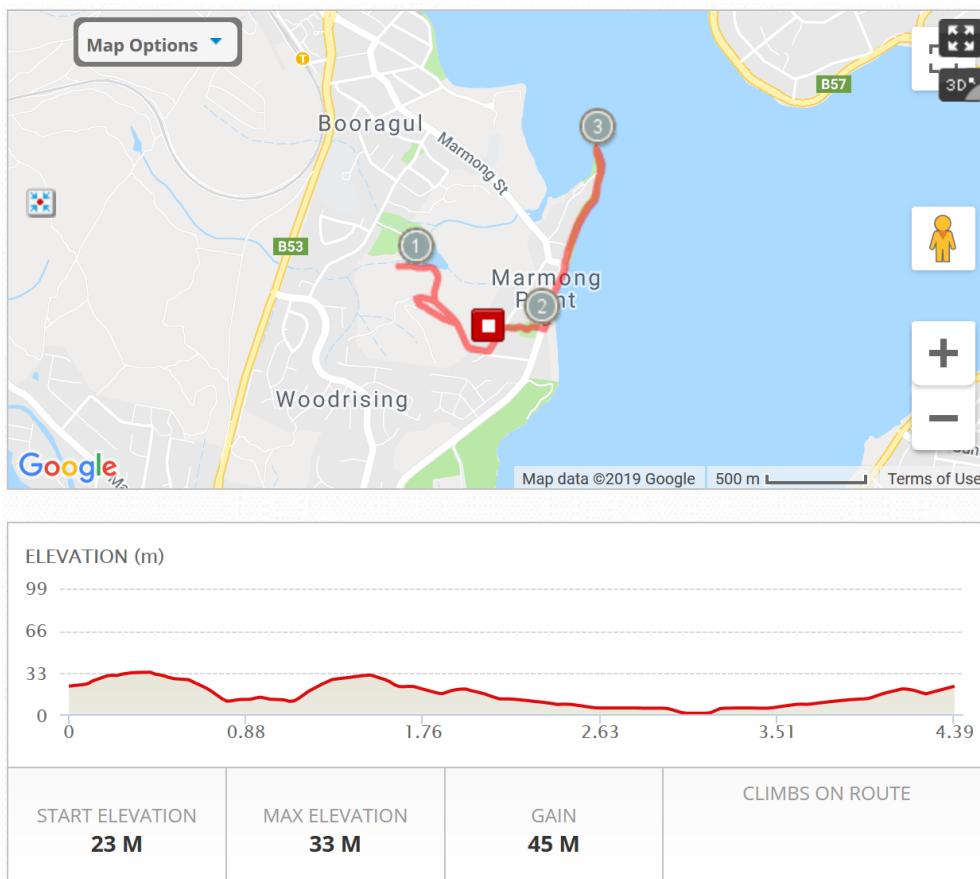
This meandering 4.9km walk looks at the lake shore just north of the area covered in our *Awaba Wobble* as well as the bushland around Marmong Creek. There are some nice views across the lake to Speers Point and to Warners Bay, plus a very peaceful lagoon in the heart of the Marmong Wetlands. The route is on gravel and asphalt roads and lake front reserve.

Meeting Point & Getting There

The meeting point is outside the Mennonite Church of Hope, 16 High St, Marmong Point. There are public toilets about half way through the walk.

Map and Elevation Profile

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



Background Information

Marmong is an Awabakal word meaning low water or swampy water. The suburb used to be known as Marmong Cove, but appears to have changed its name with the development of the marina.

The land was granted to Captain James Mitchell in 1836, and went to his daughter, Margaret, in 1869. She married William Quigley in 1870, and the estate was called "Awaba Park". William Quigley died when he fell from his horse in 1879 and Margaret died tragically when her clothes caught fire at her home in 1887. She ran about 100 metres to the Lake but died in hospital. Awaba House near the Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery is where the original home stood. William's and Margaret's joint grave is in a small park along Park Parade, Marmong Point.

The estate was sold in 1888 to two policemen who subdivided and sold homesites. There was a slaughter yard in the bush at the head of Marmong Creek, which has now been replaced with a sewage treatment works.

The land for the marina was first leased from the Lands Department in 1938 and work on the development began in 1940. It has changed hands several times over the years as it has continued to develop, and in 1982 it was taken over by Marmong Point Marina Pty Ltd. The marina expanded rapidly after swing mooring licenses were closed from further issuing in Sydney. In 1984 there were 104 berths; today there are 245.



Figure 2 Marina circa 1940



Figure 2 Marina today

And the Marmong Man Mystery?

On Google Maps the satellite view reveals this outline of a man just south of the wetlands lagoon. The figure is just over 100m tall and about 75m wide.

What or who is it? Who made it? Is it still there?

Sadly, the answer to the last question is no. I've walked through the area and can find no evidence that this intriguing figure still exists.

Maybe Erich von Däniken can explain it.



Figure 3 Marmong Man

Track notes

From the meeting point walk west, away from the lake. Do not go into Kylie Close. Follow the gravel track uphill towards the locked gate. Go past the gate and follow the gravel fire trail around a right hand bend.

Continue to follow the fire trail with forest on your left and houses on your right. In about 100m there is a junction with an overgrown track on the left. Turn left and follow this track.

After about 100m there is a large patch of lantana with a faint track on the right. Ignore this and continue on the track you're on.

The track climbs a low rise and crosses a very faint vehicle track, then continues downhill for about 100m to cross a much more distinct, but still overgrown, vehicle track. Turn right and follow the track for about 200m to a junction with another well used vehicle track on your left. Turn left.

After 100m this track swings left and runs alongside a lovely lagoon with lots of water birds. The high ground on the left at this bend is the site of the mysterious Marmong Man.

Continue to follow the road to its end at a pumping station. This is part of the sewage treatment works and is the site of the old slaughter yard. It is also the one kilometre mark.

Retrace your steps to the track junction, then turn left. Follow the gravel road all the way back to the locked gate and then to the meeting point.

Now turn left down Marmong Street. Prior to 1936 this section of Marmong Street was known locally as 'the back street' and was yet unformed. Three uniform paths made by horse and carts were all that signified a road. The town's third shop owned by W. Kyle was here. A Mrs Carpenter had a lending library and Miller's tennis court was somewhere along the street.

Follow it for about 60m, where you see an open park on the right hand side of the street. This is Marmong Park. Turn right and walk all the way through Marmong Park and past the Marmong Community Hall to George Street. This is the two kilometre mark.

Cross George Street to the picnic area and public toilets. Turn left and follow the obvious foot track along the foreshore. It goes through a small clump of trees and then goes past the Marmong Point Sailing Club. Walk along the foot track between George Street and the Lake for 350m until the end of George Street. Go through the bollards and onto the reserve and continue to walk along the foreshore.

After 400m walk past the fence at the end of the houses and past the playground. Walk to the end of Marmong Point.

You are looking across Cockle Bay. The white building on the water's edge to your left front is the Speers Point Amateur Sailing Club. Right of that at the prominent Norfolk Island Pines is the Speers Point war memorial in front of Pippi's at the Point. Right of that again the open area on the promontory is Speers Point itself. The built up area further right is Warners Bay.

Retrace your steps to the cars.