

Walking the Lake

Roamin' 'Round Redhead

Correct as at 9th January, 2020

Overview and Track Information

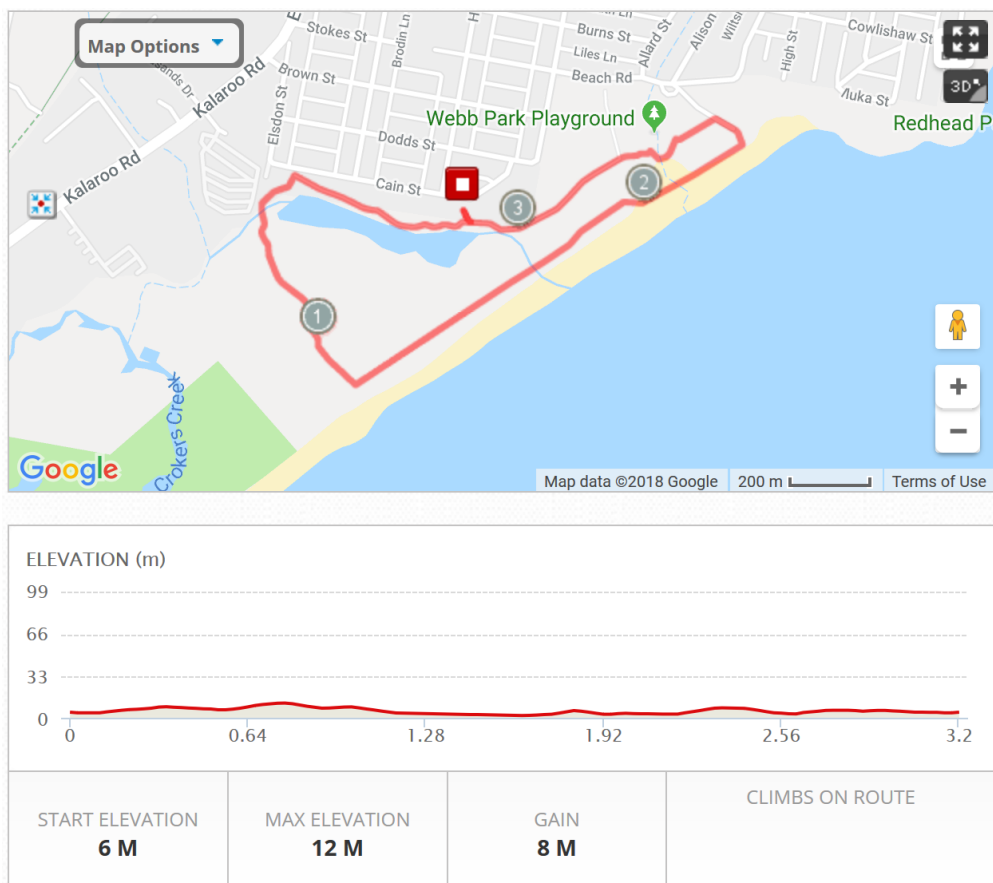
This walk visits the Owens Wetland on the Owens Walkway, before entering Redhead Beach and walking north to the Redhead SLSC. The walk then returns via the Redhead Beach car park, crossing a creek (your feet may get wet) and following the Owens Walkway back to the start of the walk. A good walk that gives an excellent sense of the northern end of Redhead.

Meeting Point & Getting There

The meeting point is the Owens Walkway car park, opposite 9 Cain St, Redhead. There are public toilets at the Redhead SLSC in the middle of 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

Redhead's name comes from the reddish colour of the headland when seen from the sea. The aborigines are believed to have called the area "Kinti Irrabin".

According to the *Newcastle Chronicle* of 1871 Mr James Parker had an orchard at 'Big Redhead' which he started in about 1865. Mr Parkers bananas were described as 'superior'.

Coal mines operated at Redhead from 1889. Redhead had the distinction of being a mining town without a hotel.

The Ken & Audrey Owens Walkway was named in 2002 in recognition of the work done by the Owens over many years for Redhead and the local environment.

Track notes¹

From the car park, follow the concrete footpath gently downhill past the 'Ken and Audrey Owens Walkway' sign and elevated lookout on your right. Continue about 30m into coastal forest and take the right fork of the concrete path onto the Owens Walkway.

Follows the concrete footpath gently downhill, keeping the ocean and wetland to your left, for about 130m, to find an elevated timber lookout and stone monument on your left.

Continue along the concrete footpath which undulates gently through the coastal forest for about 300m, until coming to a T-intersection, marked with some concrete posts, a drinking fountain and a trail on the right.

Turn left and follow the concrete footpath gently downhill, initially keeping the drinking fountain on your right. Continue through dense coastal forest for about 140m to an elevated timber foot bridge over Owens Creek.

Cross the elevated timber bridge and follow the sandy track south through coastal forest (ignoring side tracks) for about 400m, to pass timber posts with views of the ocean. Continue for about 100m to Redhead Beach. Please preserve the dunes – don't walk on the vegetation.

Turn left and walk along Redhead Beach, with the ocean on your right, for about a kilometre to the Redhead Beach Surf Life Saving Club. As well as public toilets there's a small café serving hot and cold drinks, hot food, snacks and ice cream cones.

In front of the SLSC is the Redhead Beach shark tower, believed to be the last structure of its kind on the east coast. In 1922 the Surf Life Saving Association instructed all clubs to provide an observation tower for spotting sharks at their beaches. The six metre high tower was built as "susso" work during the Great Depression using timbers from an old local coal mine.

Follow the footpath past the left of the Redhead Surf Life Saving Club, with the car park on your right and vegetation on your left. After about 50m the footpath ends. Turn left into the car park and continue for about 120m, until coming to a locked metal gate and a dog walks sign. Go around the locked metal gate and follow the sandy track (with timber steps) gently downhill for about 40m, cross Freshwater Creek then turn right, inland. Continue gently uphill for about 70m to a level grassed area. Veer left to on a gravel track.

Follow the track for about 60m to the Owens Walkway four-way intersection, with a red and white "Notice to all dog owners" sign. Follow the timber walkway gently uphill, while keeping the ocean (in the distance) on your left. Continues through the low coastal vegetation (passing two bench seats) for about 400m to come to a concrete footpath. Continue along the footpath for about 90m, ignoring the turnoff to the left, to a line of timber posts. Turn right and follow the concrete footpath gently uphill back to the Owens Walkway car park.

¹ These notes are based on those from Wildwalks, an online Bushwalking Guide Book with the aim of helping more people get out and safely enjoy the many great bushwalks and camping opportunities in NSW. See <http://www.wildwalks.com/>