

Walking the Lake

Wye Point Whip Around

Correct as at 28th January, 2019

Overview and Track Information

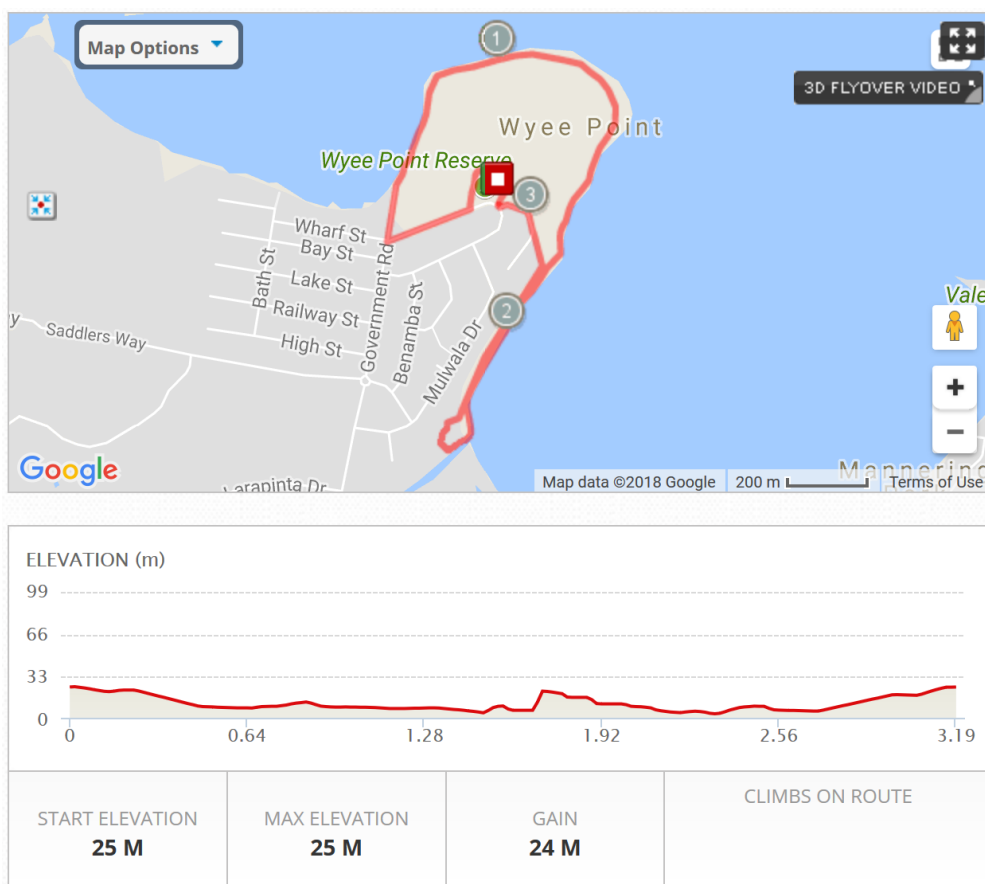
This is an easy 3.2km circuit around the Wye Point foreshore, combining close casuarina scrub, manicured foreshore reserve and an understorey of sedges and estuarine herbs along Cobra Creek.

Meeting Point & Getting There

The meeting point is the Wye Point Reserve car park, off Wymeera Circuit, Wye Point. There are public toilets at the reserve.

Map and Elevation Profile

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



Background Information

Wye is an Awabakal word meaning bushfires.

Wye Point was settled in 1874, after Mr Wakefield won the contract for the construction of the northern railway between Murrurundi and Tamworth. To provide sleepers he built a sawmill and a large wharf at Wye Point. By 1875 the mill employed 60 men and produced about 50,000 feet of sleepers a week, which were shipped in the company's two steamers and purpose-built punt.

By 1879 residents had opened their own school with about 20 students.¹ Many of the local street names date to an 1894 subdivision named Ramsgate Estate.²

¹ K.H. Clouten, *Reid's Mistake*, Lake Macquarie Shire Council 1967

² <https://history.lakemac.com.au/page-local-history.aspx?pid=1085&vid=20&tmpt=narrative&narid=95>

Track notes

From the meeting point take the concrete path parallel to Wymeera Circuit past the climbing frame towards Government Road. When the path meets the grass stay on the inside of the wooden fence. Note all the sign of kangaroos and wallabies all through this section; there is a relatively large resident population in the wooded reserve.

At the corner of Wymeera Circuit and Government Road climb through the broken fence and turn right. Follow Government Road down to the water; there are nice views across the peaceful water towards Morisset Hospital and Birdcage Point.

Turn right across the wooden bridge and onto the foot track. Continue to follow the foot track along the shoreline, enjoying the views towards the Morisset peninsula.

Eventually the track does a dog leg left towards the water: this is the one kilometre mark.

Follow the track as it curves around the end of Wyee Point and Vales Point comes into view, easily identified by the Vales Point power station with its three chimneys of uneven height. The water between Wyee Point and Vales Point is Wyee Bay.

Stay on the track along the water's edge as it narrows. It as it passes a set of concrete steps on your right and then leaves the woodland for a lightly-treed grassy reserve between the houses and the lake. Walk along the reserve. As you cross a small stream/storm water drain you are passing the two kilometre mark.

Continue along the reserve to the sign for the Cobra Creek Bush Reserve.³ Follow the foot track across the boundary line and into the trees. Continue to the mouth of Cobra Creek.

Turn right and walk along the bank of Cobra Creek for 30-40 metres through an area of typical floodplain wetlands forest that occurs in saline areas close to the lake edge. The trees here are primarily swamp oak (*casuarina glauca*) and the tussocks are mainly black fruit saw-sedge (*gahnia melanocarpa*). Turn right towards the houses at the clearing and make your way through the tussocks and over a small creek to the embankment alongside the fences.

Turn right onto the embankment and walk back towards the water. Pass the small asphalt surface area with a water meter and then head left back up the reserve.

When you cross the small stream/storm water drain look to where the houses end. Follow the track to the end of the houses and, just before you re-enter the wooded area, turn left up the path to the concrete stairs.

At the top of the stairs turn right onto Halwin Close. Follow the road back to the start point.

³ Cobra is an Aboriginal word for teredo, woodworm or shipworm, native to mangrove areas throughout Australia. Rotting logs were hacked with axes and worms eaten raw (Source: *The Worimi-Hunter-Gatherers* by Borris Sokoloff).