

Walking the Lake

Avondale Adventure 3 – Boys' Walk

Correct as at 13th April, 2020

Overview and Track Information

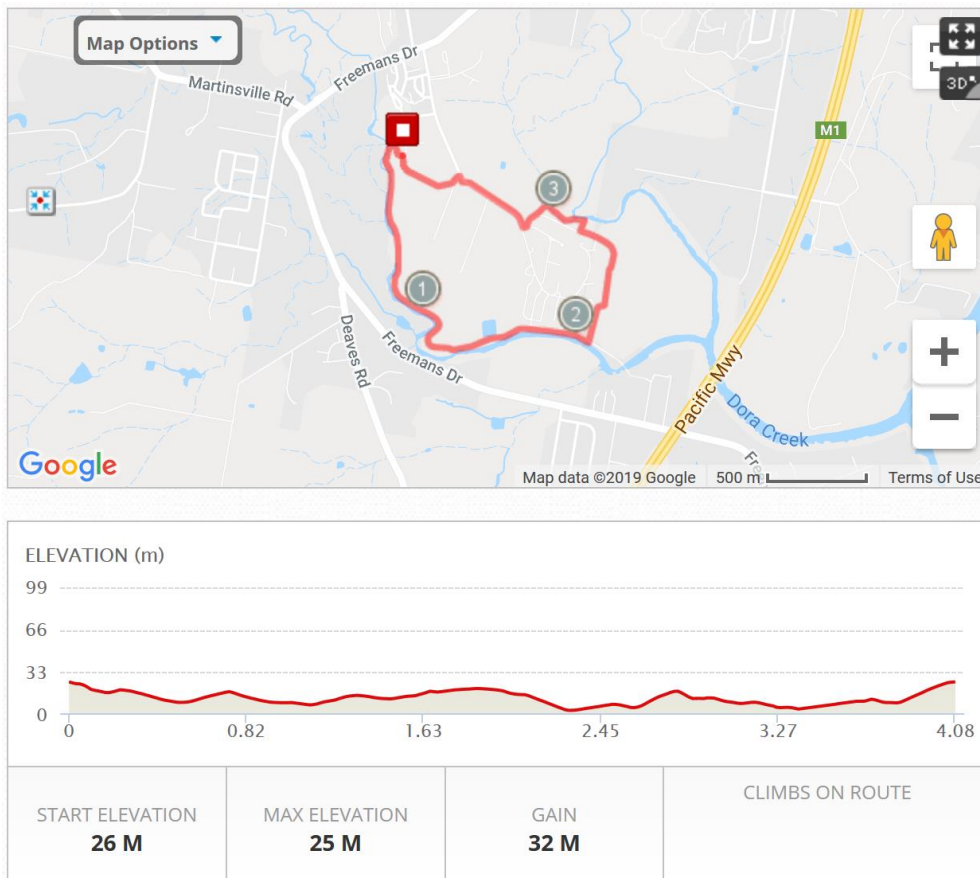
This is a flat, easy 4.1km circuit around Avondale College's Boys' Walk along Dora Creek. It's a pleasant, open track that includes some lovely forest along the creek, a bucolic stroll around paddocks full of stock and look at the closed Sanitarium factory. It may be muddy if it's wet, though!

Meeting Point & Getting There

The meeting point is car park for the Avondale Adventist Cemetery chapel, off Central Road, Cooranbong. From Freemans Drive, enter Central Road near Avondale Memorial Church. Drive about 300m then turn right at the Avondale SDA Cemetery sign. Follow this road down to the bottom of the slope where it does a left turn. The cemetery chapel and its carpark are directly ahead. **If there is a funeral on and we can't use the car park we will meet in Avondale College Car Park 1, which was the meeting point for the Girls' Walk.**

Map and Elevation Profile

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



Background Information

This historic walk dates from the earliest days of Avondale College at the turn of the 20th century. To avoid temptation there were separate walks for the boys and the girls, and only on the weekend when chaperoned could they walk together. The track is longer and harder than the Girls' Walk, presumably because boys are more robust, even if they are easy to tempt. The track was reopened in 2011 and, with the Girls' and Sandy Creek Walks, forms part of a seven-kilometre loop of the estate which the College generously makes open to the community.

Track notes

On the opposite side of the car park to the chapel is the signposted entrance to the Boys' Walk. Go through the entrance and walk downhill towards Dora Creek. Turn left and follow the creek.

Follow the foot track parallel to the creek for about a kilometre, when it emerges from the trees alongside open paddocks on your left. Continue to follow the track for about 500m past a disused sporting complex of some kind. After a copse of trees the Sanitarium factory is on your left.

Sanitarium opened its original factory here in 1899, replacing a disused timber mill which was here when the Seventh Day Adventist Church first acquired the site in 1893. The current buildings date from 1937.

The age of the buildings made maintaining a modern, fit-for-purpose production facility increasingly complex and expensive and in August, 2015 Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing made the tough decision to close down its health food manufacturing operations at Cooranbong. At the end of 2018 the factory closed; its production capacity has been taken up by Sanitarium's modern Berkeley Vale and Brisbane facilities.

Follow the track between the factory fence and the creek past the picnic tables. This the two kilometre mark.

In another 75m the factory fence ends and the foot track runs into an asphalt road. This is the end of the Boys' Walk. Turn sharp left and follow the gravel path beside the fence towards the tennis courts and sports ovals. As the track turns left and uphill into the tennis court car park leave the track and continue walking straight ahead along the AFL oval, keeping the tennis courts on your left. Continue past the cricket nets and on across the open grassland in front of you. At the end of the open area turn left and uphill and walk past a locked chain across a gateway. Turn right onto the gravel road.

The gravel road soon merges with an asphalt road coming downhill from the Avondale College gymnasium on the high ground to your left. Follow the asphalt road past a bocce field on your right.

After the bocce field there's a small open area on your right which soon meets a treeline. Leave the road and turn right past the conifers down through the open area; in 25m you will meet a track. Turn left onto the track and walk towards the white wooden bridge.

You are now on the end of the Sandy Creek walk, and the white bridge is the link to the Girls' Walk. Cross the white bridge and turn left onto the foot track. Follow the track alongside the fence around the corner. This is the three kilometre mark.

After about 50m follow the track as it turns left across a small concrete bridge and out onto an open area beside Avondale College Car Park 1. Keep walking alongside the car park road until you meet a concrete footpath. Turn right onto the footpath and follow it parallel to Central Road, walking away from Avondale College.

After about 750m, just before the paddocks give way to houses, there's a sign on the left hand side of Central Road that says Boys' Walk. This sign used to be nailed to a tree but is now sitting on the ground at the foot of the tree.

Cross the road and follow that sign away from Central Road. Don't try to go through the gate into the paddock: the track runs down the right hand side of the fence, between the paddock and the brick house.

The track becomes better defined as it swings right and then right again and enters the trees. Shortly you can see the car park and the meeting point in front of you; this is the four kilometre mark. Follow the trail back to the cars.