

Walking the Lake

Peninsula Penetration 2

Correct as at 19th April, 2020

Overview and Track Information

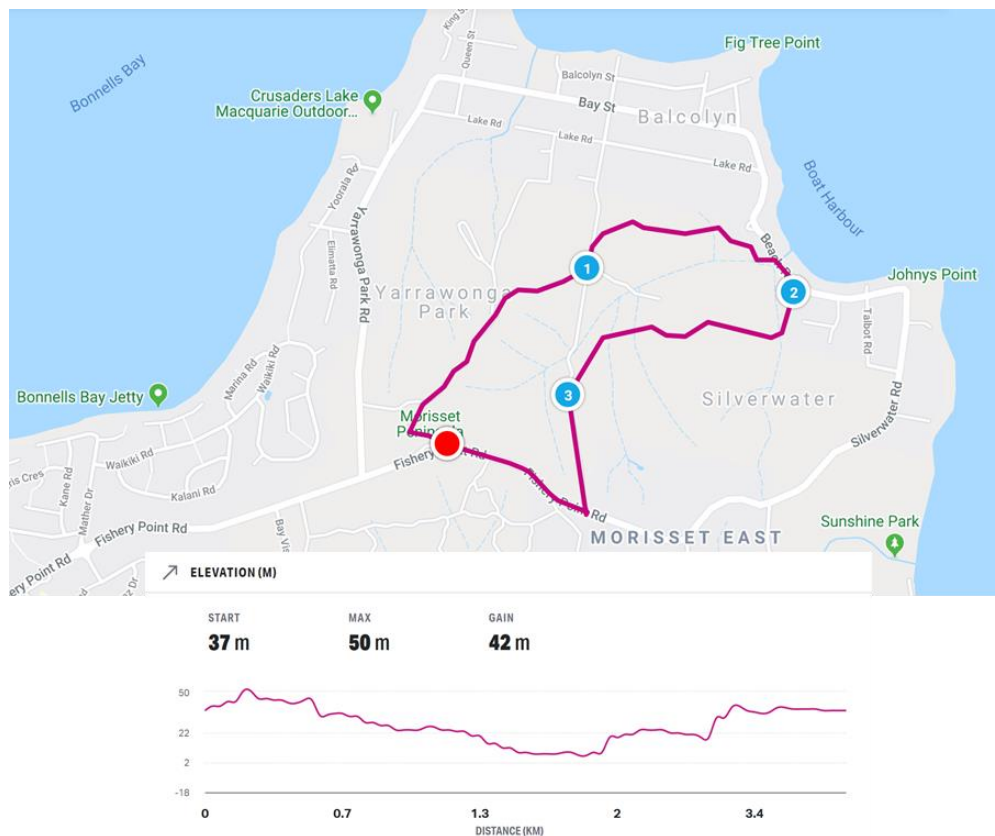
This easy-to-moderate 3.9km circuit walk takes in the quite lovely bush in the heart of the northern part of Morisset Peninsula. The walk is mostly along fire trails, with about a kilometre of foot track and about 500m of roadside walking, with one long uphill piece that will make people puff. There are a lot of surveyors' pegs out in the area, so I suspect its days as bushland are numbered.

Meeting Point & Getting There

The meeting point is the gravel layby on northern side of Fishery Point Rd, Brightwaters, 350m after Yarrawonga Park Rd. There's a memorial at the end of the layby with a picture of a yellow Holden Monaro on it. There are no public toilets on the walk.

Map and Elevation Profile

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



Background Information

This fast-growing part of the Morisset Peninsula was once lightly-settled farmland and fishing villages; in 1970 the combined population of Balcolyn, Silverwater and Yarrawonga Park was only 180 people.

It was first settled in 1881 and subdivided in 1889, when it was all named "Balcolyn". Sunshine was split off in 1925 and Yarrawonga Park in 1991. The street names reflect the changing face of Australia: streets in the first subdivision include King St & Queen St, but the later street names are all aboriginal: Yarrawonga means "where the cormorant builds in the river gums", Elimatta means "my home", Murraba means "good" & Yooralla means "love, affection".¹

¹ From "Aboriginal Words of Australia" by A.H. and A.W. Reed, cited on the [Lake Macquarie History](#) pages of the Lake Mac Library website

Track notes

From the meeting point walk along the Balcolyn side of the road towards Yarrowonga Park Road to the beginning of the fire trail. Turn right onto the fire trail.

The track climbs over a small embankment, then turns left, uphill, on the fire trail. Follow the fire trail up the hill and follow it as it swings right. Stay on the main trail, ignoring the minor side trails, for about 400m, when you come to a metal gate. Go past the gate and continue on the main trail past a large replanted area on your right. The fire trail climbs to the top of a small knoll with a clump of trees in the middle of a track junction. Straight ahead the track descends a hill towards some houses in the distance. **DON'T GO STRAIGHT AHEAD.** Turn right and follow the track down a gentle slope.

Follow the road for just over 350m to a gate. This is the one kilometre mark.

Pass the gate and follow the main track straight ahead up a gentle slope, ignoring the track on your right. The trees open up and you can see houses ahead of you. About 100m after the gate turn onto the fire trail on your right.

Follow the fire trail uphill for about 100m, passing a two small foot trails on your right, and approaching the backs of some houses on the crest of the ridge. At an apparent turnaround, with a small copse of trees, there is the faint remains of a vehicle track on your right, which disappears into some grass as it descends the slope. The vehicle track is washed away on the right hand side and appears to go nowhere. Follow the vehicle track. After about 50m it turns into a well-defined foot track. Follow the foot track the trees, roughly parallel to the back boundaries of the properties on the ridgeline.

In about 300m, as you can see two shelters with caravan in them on the slope in front of you, you will come to a junction with another foot track on the right. This track may be covered in deadfall. Turn right onto the foot track.

This foot track comes to a mown strip at the back of a row of houses. Turn right and follow the mown strip along the fence line. The mown strip turns left at a shed with 'AIRY' painted on the side then follows the fence left again, passing a group of beehives. Continue to follow the mown strip along the fence line until it finishes with a green colorbond fence at some wetlands. Turn left at the end of the fence line and walk past a brick house to Beach Road.

Turn right onto the road and follow it for about 100m, over a bridge and past the water monitoring site. When the houses start again at number 60 Beach Road, turn right past the locked gate onto the mown reserve. This is the two kilometre mark.

Follow the reserve between the houses and the bush until the end of the fence line, when the reserve turns left. At this point continue straight ahead to the fire trail through the trees.

Follow the fire trail for a short distance until it comes to a T junction. Turn right and follow the well-defined trail for about 800m as it winds through the trees and traverses a low, swampy area over two unnamed creeks.

The trail merges with a wide, well-defined fire trail. This is the three kilometre mark.

Continue on this fire trail up a long hill for about 350m to a locked gate. Continue past the gate to Fishery Point Road.

Cross the road and turn right. Follow the foot track beside the road for 500m back to the cars.