




Patonga to Staples Lookout

(Darkinjung & Guringai Country)

 5 h 50 min to 6 h 30 min

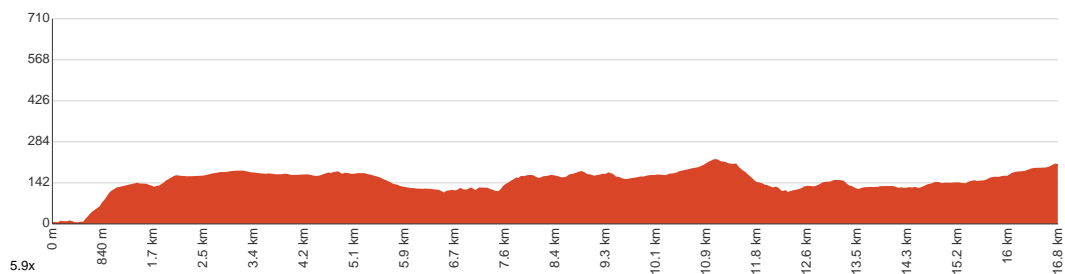

16.8 km
One way


↑ 619 m
↓ 420 m


Hard track



This great walk explores much of the main ridge running through Brisbane Water National Park. The walk visits a number of great lookouts and has two worthy side trips, one up to the top of Mt Wondabyne and another to the falls in Kariong Brook. The walk requires a bit of planning for transport, but is well worth a car shuffle. Allow time to relax and enjoy the views. Let us begin by acknowledging the Darkinjung & Guringai people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we travel today, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.



Class 4 of 6

Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely

Quality of track

Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely (4/6)

Gradient

Very steep (4/6)

Signage

Directional signs along the way (3/6)

Infrastructure

Limited facilities (such as cliffs not fenced, significant creeks not bridged) (4/6)

Experience Required

Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)

Weather

Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)

Before you start any journey ensure you;

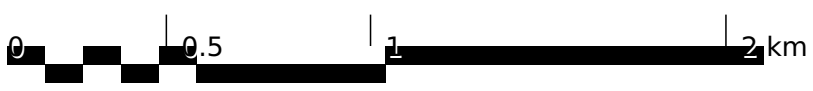
- Tell someone you trust where you are going and what to do if you are late returning
- Have adequate equipment, supplies, skills & knowledge to undertake this journey safely
- Consider weather forecasts, park/track closures & fire dangers
- Can respond to emergencies & call for help at any point
- Are healthy and fit enough for this journey

If not, change plans and stay safe. It is okay to delay and ask people for help.

Share
[Bushwalk.com](https://bushwalk.com/j/YGZABW)
[/j/YGZABW](https://bushwalk.com/j/YGZABW)

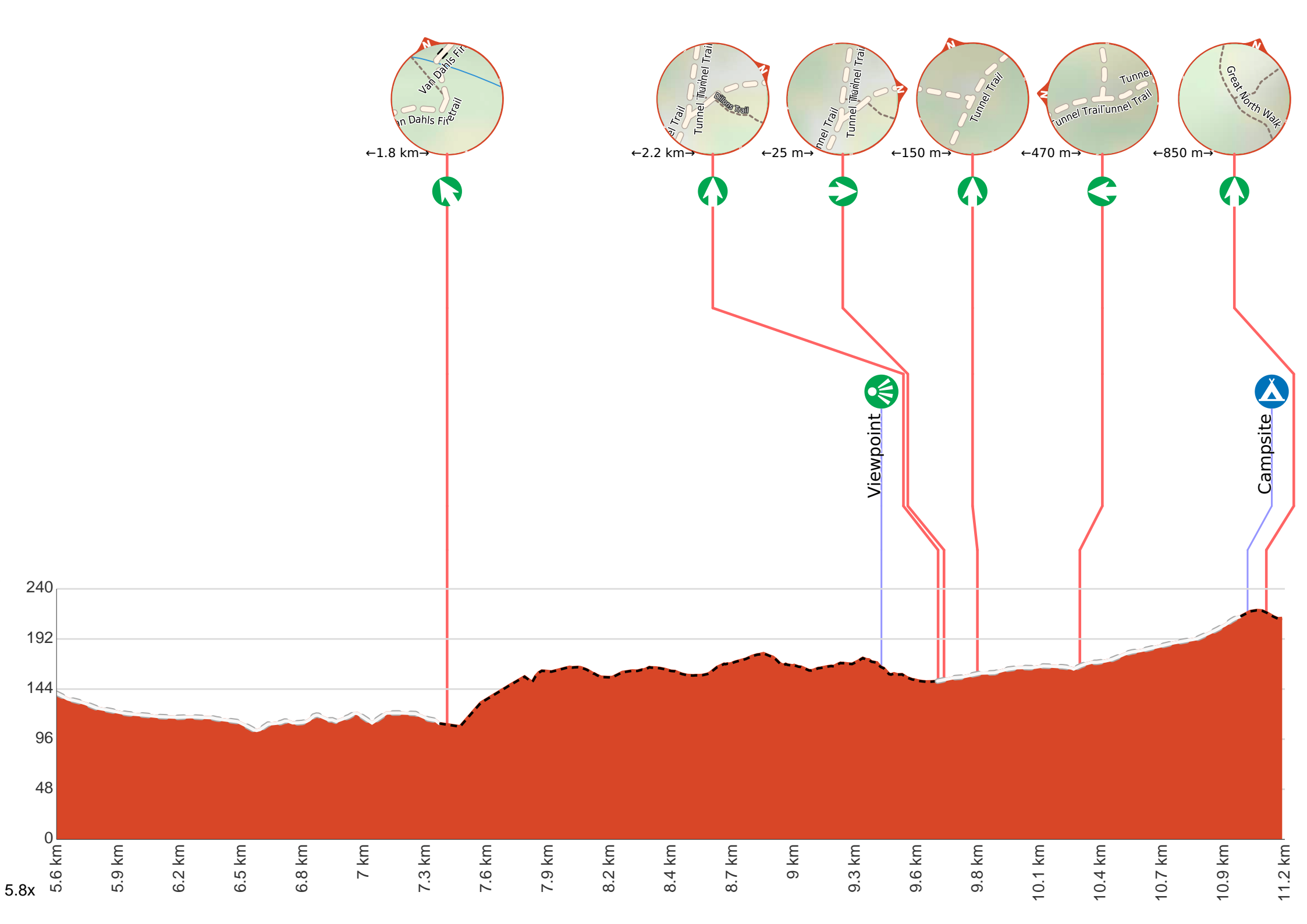


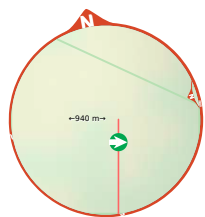












Getting started: From the car park at Patonga wharf, this walk follows the footpath beside Patonga Drive, keeping the water on the right. The road leads out of town passing beside 'Eve Williams Memorial Oval' for 70m to find a large 'The Great North Walk' sign opposite the toilet block. Soon after this sign, this walk turns right following the 'Boat Ramp' sign and GNW arrow post down along a side road for 220m to find a parking area beside Patonga's boat ramp. (Alternatively it is possible to walk along the sandy beach from the wharf to the boat ramp.)

From the boat ramp, this walk follows the power lines across the car park, keeping the water to the right. The walk heads around the gate and continues to follow the power lines across the sand, coming to the eastern end of Patonga Beach and the 'Brisbane Water National Park' sign. This area of the beach is also known as 'Dark Corner'.





After another 45 m **continue straight**.



After another 260 m find the "Broken Bay View" (30 m on your right).

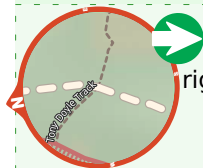


Broken Bay View is an informal, unnamed and unfenced vantage point at the top of the cliffs, east of Patonga. The large rock platform has a number of large Sydney Red Gums, providing some shade. There are great views across the Hawkesbury River, along Cowan Creek and to West Head. The views to the left extend past Lion Island to Barrenjoey Head and out to the Pacific Ocean.



After another 80 m (from the Pearl Beach Patonga Firetrail) **continue straight**, to head along Pearl Beach Patonga Firetrail (a vehicle track).

Start of an optional side trip: An optional side trip to Warrah Lookout.



To start this optional side trip turn right here. **Start**.



Continue another 70 m to find Warrah Lookout at the end.



"Warrah Lookout".



Warrah Lookout is a mostly fenced lookout on a large sandstone platform. The lookout provides fantastic views across the Hawkesbury River. From left to right, you can see along the escarpment which forms the southern boundary of Brisbane Water National Park, out to the Pacific Ocean, Barrenjoey Headland, West Head, along Cowan Creek, Juno Point and along the escarpment to Patonga. This is a great place to spend some time soaking up the views.



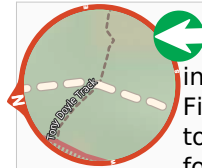
"Warrah Lookout".



Turn around and retrace your steps back the 70 m to the main route.



Back at the main route veer right and follow on from the 1.8 km waypoint.



After another 350 m (at the intersection of Pearl Beach Patonga Firetrail & Tony Doyle Track) **turn left**, to head along Tony Doyle Track (a footpath).



After another 30 m pass the sign (on your right).



After another 295 m to find the car park.



Then find the "Warrah Trig Station" (on your left).



Warrah Trig Station is part of a national geodetic survey established during the 1970's. The 'Triangulation station' (aka trigonometrical or trig station) is a distinct marker once clear of trees, and would have been visible for many kilometers in the area. There are many such trig stations around Australia, which were used to help in surveying. Each station has a known position and altitude, which allows surveyors to use triangulation and determine another point's location. With advances in technology, these trig stations have been abandoned and superseded. The trig station is now surrounded by trees, with some filtered views along the Hawkesbury River. The area is rich with wildflowers in spring.



After another 55 m pass the sign (5 m on your right).



After another 90 m (from the Warrah Trig Road) **continue straight**, to head along Warrah Trig Road.



After another 145 m (at the intersection of Warrah Trig Road & Warrah Escape Trail) **continue straight**, to head along Warrah Trig Road.



After another 940 m (from the Warrah Trig Road) **veer right** (a walking track).



After another 265 m (at the intersection of Patonga Drive & Warrah Patch Firetrail) **continue straight**, to head along Warrah Patch Firetrail (a vehicle track).



After another 20 m pass the "Waratah" (on your left).



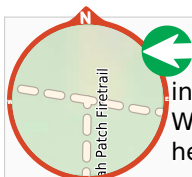
After another 6 m head through/around the gate.



After another 100 m (from the Warrah Patch Firetrail) **veer right**, to head along Warrah Patch Firetrail.



After another 280 m (at the intersection of PMG Firetrail & Warrah Patch Firetrail) **turn right**, to head along Warrah Patch Firetrail.



After another 270 m (at the intersection of Van Dahls Firetrail & Warrah Patch Firetrail) **turn left**, to head along Van Dahls Firetrail.



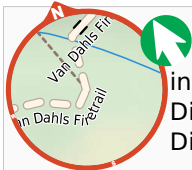
After another 200 m (from the Van Dahls Firetrail) **turn right**, to head along Van Dahls Firetrail.



After another 1.1 km (at the intersection of Sani Depot Trail & Van Dahls Firetrail) **continue straight**, to head along Van Dahls Firetrail.



After another 1.6 km (from the Van Dahls Firetrail) **continue straight**, to head along Van Dahls Firetrail.



After another 185 m (at the intersection of Van Dahls Firetrail & Dillons Trail) **veer left**, to head along Dillons Trail (a walking track).



After another 2 km come to the viewpoint (5 m on your right).



After another 260 m (at the intersection of Dillons Firetrail & Dillons Trail) **continue straight**, to head along Dillons Trail.



After another 25 m (at the intersection of Tunnel Trail & Dillons Trail) **turn right**, to head along Tunnel Trail (a vehicle track).



After another 150 m (at the intersection of Tunnel Trail & Rocky Ponds Trail) **continue straight**, to head along Tunnel Trail.



After another 470 m (at the intersection of Tunnel Trail & Mount Wondabyne Trig Firetrail) **turn left**, to head along Mount Wondabyne Trig Firetrail.



After another 760 m come to the "Mt Wondabyne Campsite".



This basic campsite is found at the end of a management trail, near the base of Mt Wondabyne. The campsite is at the bottom of a small (east facing) rock wall and has trees surrounding much of the area, providing some shelter. There is an established fire circle and a basic seat. There is no water or other facilities. (There is also small cave suitable for sleeping a few people about half way up Mount Wondabyne).

Start of an optional side trip: An optional side trip to Mt Wondabyne Peak.



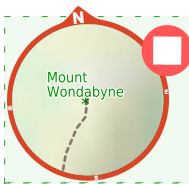
To start this optional side trip turn right here. **Start.**



After 195 m find the "Mt Wondabyne" (5 m on your left).



Mount Wondabyne is one of the most prominent peaks in Brisbane Water National Park. The long cone-shaped hill has a rocky top and is home to a trig station. Walkers can enjoy full 360-degree panoramic views from the top. To the east are good views over the Brisbane Water, Woy Woy and other central coast suburbs. West, down next to Mullet Creek, you can see some buildings near Wondabyne Station and the train line. Otherwise, most of the expansive views are over much of Brisbane Water National Park. There are some small trees providing limited shade, a great place to soak up the views.



After another 20 m come to the end.



"Mount Wondabyne".



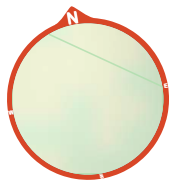
Turn around and retrace your steps back the 215 m to the main route.



Back at the main route turn right and follow on from the 11.1 km waypoint.



After another 85 m **continue straight.**





"Staples Lookout".



Staples Lookout beside Woy Woy Road, is a fenced lookout providing good views east across the Central Coast, the Brisbane Water and out to the ocean. There is a large car park and picnic tables, with plenty of natural shade. The lookout was named as a tribute to Charles J Staples, a pioneer of route that Woy Woy Rd now follows. The lookout was constructed in 1955 by the Rotary Club of Woy Woy. An inscription at the lookout quotes 'and I shall meditate on your wondrous works' from Psalm 119:27.



A park.



About 20 m past the end is a picnic table.



About 25 m past the end is "Staples Lookout".