



Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Gold Adventurous Journey

Great North Walk – Sydney

Ku-ring-gai to Wondabyne via Brooklyn

51km: 4 days / 3 nights

SUPERVISORS

Supervisors are qualified in first aid, have Working with Children clearance and carry emergency communication equipment. They adhere to the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Volunteer Code of Conduct.

MEETING PLACE

Mount Ku-ring-gai Station
Mount Ku-ring-gai, NSW 2080
GPS: -33.652414512700965, 151.13681368465757

We will meet in the little park on the western side of the station.

MEETING TIME 9:00am

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Ku-ring-gai Station to Berowra Heights (Turner Rd Campsite)

(GPS coordinates of campsite: -33.593828,151.135238) Distance: 10km.
Grading: moderate, some hard.

Depart the station on the Benowie Walking Track and cross Sam's creek before ascending the steep face up to Berkeley fire trail at the top of the plateau which has great views of the route hiked that morning. Continuing North along the plateau we will make the steep descent down into Berowra Waters for lunch which has picnic tables, water and toilets. From Berowra Waters we will continue North and then East along the Hawkesbury Track ascending two steep ridges to get to the campsite. The campsite does not have water or toilets. Participants will need to carry enough water for this afternoon the following morning so depart Berowra Waters with full water. If necessary, the last opportunity to top up water prior to camp is the little stream at 262 817 (recent rainfall dependent) which will need to be purified.

Day 2: Berowra Heights to Brooklyn Dam.

(GPS coordinates of campsite: -33.554702, 151.207155) Distance: 17km.
Grading: hard.

This is a big day with a few steep climbs. Drinking water is available at Cowan station an hour or two after leaving camp. From Cowan we will lose all the elevation we gained during the morning to descend down into Jerusalem Bay which is a great spot for a break and to take in the view. From there we will head North, ascending a couple of



steep ridges via the Vize Spur in order to climb up to the fire trail which will take us all the way to the campsite. The campsite is next to Brooklyn Dam, which can be used to top up your water, but it needs to be purified. There are no toilets at this campsite and toilet waste needs to be buried far from the dam as per your guide's instructions.

(Guide notes: There is a toilet at the "Great North Café" 200m North of Cowan train station, but you need to buy something in order to use it.)

Day 3: Brooklyn Dam to Mt Wondabyne

(GPS coordinates of campsite: -33.496059, 151.274536) Distance: 15km

Grading: hard

After a short walk to Brooklyn we can refill water and use the toilets at either the train station or at the toilet blocks to the East of the park. We'll then catch a ferry across the Hawkesbury River to Little Wobby.

******* Please bring \$4.30 cash for the ferry, it does not accept Opal Card *******

The Ferry will drop you off in an odd little shore front community. The trail is not obvious but continues to the South, weaving its way in front of, behind, over and sometimes under the resident's properties. This will eventually open up and put us on to a road called "Pacific Trail".

We are aiming to get up onto the North-South running ridge above and to the East of Little Wobby but to the west of Patonga Creek. Atop this ridge runs a poorly defined track called the Highway Ridge Track.

There are two entry points to this ridge, but both while require some off track navigation along steep rugged terrain.

The first is at Croppy Point: Climbing up the road there is a set of old steps opposite the water tank. From here you will need to navigate East to meet up with a track junction at around 378 858.

The second is at Little Wobby Beach: Continuing along the road past Croppy Point for 500m you will arrive at Wobby Beach. Above the road at Little Wobby beach there are some spectacular rock overhangs. Climbing up to these reveals a poorly defined and very steep track which heads North up to the track junction around 378 858.

However you get to the track junction, from there we will need to head North. This track in some parts is very obvious and in others is completely obliterated. Keep your eyes open or you may take a difficult detour. Make sure you stay close together in your map groups or you may get separated.

The Highway Ridge Track will cross Tank Creek, which is your best spot to refill water for the afternoon. There is also a campsite at this location known as Rocky Ponds Campsite. From Tank Creek the trail will appear to go up one of the streams, which is actually a washed out and overgrown old fire trail. Eventually it will join up with a well-maintained fire trail known as the Rocky Ponds fire trail which will allow us to make good time to camp.

We can either camp beside Mt Wondabyne and enjoy 360° views of the sunset / sunrise or continue a bit further to a campsite above Kariong Brook Falls, it's up to you as a group. There is creek water a short distance past both campsites but none at the actual campsites. If your first option for water on the map is dry, continue to descend in altitude and water should be found in one of the creeks. There are no toilets and all toilet waste needs to be buried.

Day 4: Mt Wondabyne to Wondabyne Station

Distance: 10km Grading: Moderate



Kariong Brook Falls offers a great spot to enjoy an Aussie bush waterhole and refill water in the morning but, as with all waterways, it's at the bottom of a gully. Climbing the hill out of this will get the blood pumping before dropping downhill again to Wondabyne Station.

END POINT

Wondabyne Station

GPS: -33.492224, 151.256939

Wondabyne is the only train station in Australia that does not have road access. Heading south, the nearest train station with car parking facilities is Hawkesbury River Station (Brooklyn).

END TIME

Between 12pm and 2pm, depending on group decisions.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

We recommend you use public transport to travel to and from your adventurous journey. We have designed this route for this purpose. Check <https://transportnsw.info/> for train times to Sydney or Central Coast and Newcastle.

DRINKING WATER

We recommend drinking 3 litres of water per day plus 1 litre to cook with at night. 1 litre of water weighs 1 kg. Please keep this in mind when packing. You can adjust this after the first day depending on your water intake. Tap water is available at camp on Day 2, lunch on Day 3, early morning Days 4 and 5 (Day 3 of qualifying). We anticipate creek or dam water being available every day, but this is never certain. Water from creeks or dams needs to be treated.

CREEK CROSSINGS

Creek crossings occur every day, but the water level should be low enough to keep your feet dry. Supervisors will make decisions on creek crossings in the field.

TOILETS

Flush toilets are available at our campsite on the second night, lunch on Day 3 and the morning of Day 5 (Day 3 of qualifying). At all other times toilet waste must be buried and you will need to bring a trowel for this purpose.