

This two day walk covers large sections of the Glenbrook Gorge between the two train stations. As well as winding through the gorge, the walk travels up onto the ridges to pass Red Hands Cave and camp the night at Darug camping area. The gorge section from the causeway to the Nepean River presents many opportunities to get your feet wet, too. This is a wonderfully picturesque and challenging walk.

Blue Mountains National Park

Length: 18.8 km
Time: 2 Days
Climb: 1136 m
Style: One way
Rating: Route: Unmanaged
Where: 0.5 km ESE of Glenbrook
Transport: train bus car



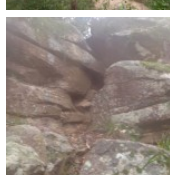
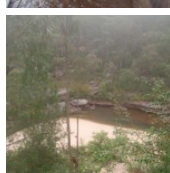
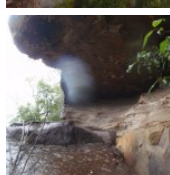
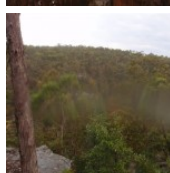
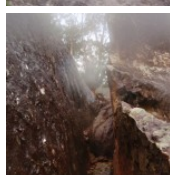
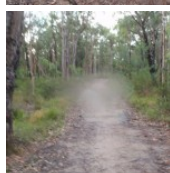
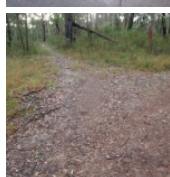
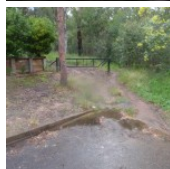
Visit www.wildwalks.com for more info

Side trips and Alternate routes mentioned in these notes are not included in the tracks overall rating, distance or time estimate. The notes only describe the side trips and Alternate routes in one direction. Allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing these notes but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury sustained by using these notes or maps. Please take care and share your experience through the website.

Please check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating just before leaving for your walk. Walk maybe closed during Total Fire Ban.

GPS for start the start of this walk:-33.7689,150.6213 & for the end:-33.7733,150.6428

This walk passes through a remote area and sections have no visible track. At least one person in your group should have training and experience in off track walking and navigation. Even with these notes and a GPS these extra skills and equipment are required.



Wildwalks

April & May 2014 bushwalking Magazine.

Download the full magazine for free [Bushwalk Australia eMag](http://bushwalk.com.au)

The eMagazine is produced by the community at bushwalk.com and the Wildwalks team

[Bushwalk.com](http://bushwalk.com) Australia's most active bushwalking forum - Check it out.

Happy Reading. Matt :)



Glenbrook

Glenbrook is situated on the Great Western Highway and is a tourist hub for the lower Blue Mountains, with the Blue Mountains Visitor Information Centre located here. Glenbrook has quite a bustling little town centre with a number of cafes, bakeries and shops to explore. Prior to 1879, Glenbrook had changed its name numerous times, known at various times as Watertank, Wascoe Siding and Brookdale before being given its current name by Sir John Jamieson. Glenbrook is a gateway into the Blue Mountains National Park and is also the end point of the Woodford-Glenbrook mountain bike trail, along the Oaks Fire Trail. [More info](#)

Glenbrook Station to End of Station St 0.6km 10 mins

(From S) From the top of Glenbrook Station, this walk turns left along Burfitt Pde (keeping the train line to the left of the footpath). The walk turns left over the bridge on Cowdery St and then the first right after the bridge, Station St. The walk continues to the bottom of Station St where there is a gate.

End of Station St to Station St mngt trail 0.6km 10 mins

(From 0.58 km) Veer left: From the intersection, the walk follows the trail along the back of the houses, keeping them on the left. The walk follows the straightest management trail, passing numerous side trails (that head off the ridge). The trail then leads over a number of water bars as the relatively straight trail meets the bush, where a defined single track continues down the hill.

Station St mngt trail to Glenbrook Creek Beach 0.4km 15 mins

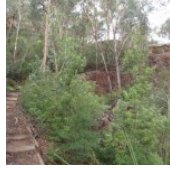
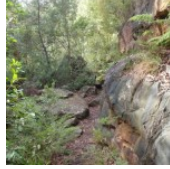
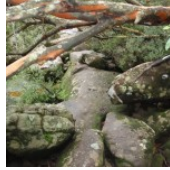
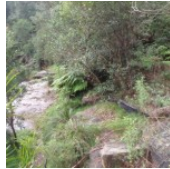
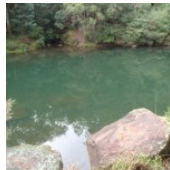
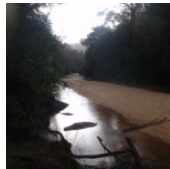
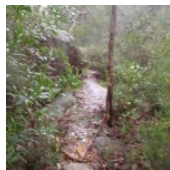
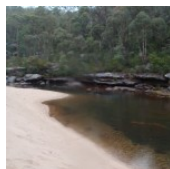
(From 1.23 km) Turn left: From the intersection, the walk heads follows the bush track, downhill. The track steeply winds down over rock platforms and under overhangs, using a number of slots and cracks to descend the hill. The track continues winding steeply down the hill, coming to be near a sandy beach where the track climbs down a slot in the rock to reach the sand. The track then continues out across the sand to the turning point in the creek.

Glenbrook Creek Sandbar

The sandbar is an unofficially-named beach on the banks of Glenbrook Creek. The beach has a fantastic white colour and some height above the water - a great spot for to camp or enjoy lunch.

Glenbrook Creek Beach to Int. Blue Pool and Glenbrook Gorge trks 1km 25 mins

(From 1.66 km) Turn left : From the beach, the walk keeps the water on the right as it heads to the end of the beach. The walk then crosses the creek over the rock platform and winds along the bank for quite some time. The track passes a rock overhang as it continues to undulate and wind above the creek (which is on the left). Tending right at a wider area of the creek (forming a pool), the track then turns left, crossing the again-narrow creek at a rocky section and leading up to an intersection, below a cliff line.



Int. Blue Pool and Glenbrook Gorge trks to Blue Pool 0.1km 1 mins **Optional Side Trip:**

(From 2.69 km) Turn left: From the intersection, the walk keeps the water to the left as the track meanders below the cliffs for a very short time, to the bank of Blue Pool.

(Retrace your steps back to the main track, then continue straight to continue along this walk.)

Blue Pool

Blue Pool, Blue Mountains National Park, is named after the blue colour of the water. This appearance is caused by clay particles suspended in the water, which refract the light. This part of Glenbrook Creek is a popular swimming hole, but it is not patrolled.

Int. Blue Pool and Glenbrook Gorge trks to Int. Bruce Rd and Bruce Rd access trk 0.2km 5 mins

(From 2.69 km) Turn right: From the intersection, the walk heads alongside the creek (keeping the creek to the right). The track soon turns left up many steps, and comes to an un-signposted intersection below the road.

Turn right: From the intersection, the walk heads across the hillside tending left to a 'Blue Pool' sign at a corner in a road.

Int. Bruce Rd and Bruce Rd access trk to Eastern side of Causeway 0.2km 5 mins

(From 2.9 km) Veer right: From the intersection, the walk heads down the road to the start of the causeway, with the fenced clearing to the left of the road.

Glenbrook causeway

Glenbrook causeway is the only way for vehicles to cross Glenbrook Creek. It is a concrete road, with a raised gutter for pedestrians to cross the creek. The causeway is subject to flooding. Glenbrook causeway is a crossing point for many of the popular walks throughout the Glenbrook Valley area.

Eastern side of Causeway to Campfire Creek sign side of Causeway 0km

(From 3.13 km) Veer right: From the paved area side of the causeway, the walk crosses the creek via the causeway, then heads to the area beneath the 'Camp Fire Creek Track' sign. The causeway may be impassable after rain.

Campfire Creek sign side of Causeway to Red Hands Cave 3.1km 1 Hrs 5 mins

(From 3.15 km) Turn right: From the causeway, the walk follows the 'Camp Fire Creek Track' sign along the water's edge to the signposts for 'Red Hands Cave' and 'Car park'.

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Red Hands Cave' sign, keeping the creek to the right. The track winds and undulates, soon coming to a rock platform which crosses a creek (with the gully on the left). Here, the walk continues along the lower track, not heading up the rock steps. The track continues along the hillside and comes to a sign titled 'Neighbours'.

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk heads across the small bridge and up the track. The walk soon passes over another small wooden bridge and then continues through the bush, with the creek on the right. Winding for a short time, the track comes to an un-signposted intersection.

Turn left: From the intersection, the walk heads up the hill, winding above the creek (on the right). The track follows the hillside for quite some time, passing near the creek in places, before coming to a 'Glenbrook Causeway' sign.

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'Red Hands Cave' sign down across the creek. The track leads over a small rise across another smaller creek, then follows the hillside for a short while, passing a bench seat and then a small log bridge. The track then starts tending left, heading up to a rocky outcrop where the walk arrives at the metal verandah of Red Hands Cave.

Red Hands Cave

Red Hands Cave, in the Glenbrook area of the Blue Mountains National Park, is found near the end of Red Hands Cave fire trail. The cave has quite a few hand stencils and prints of various colours (including red). The cave is well protected, with a perspex and steel cage. There are some information signs and some artifacts to help visitors learn more about the people who made these prints over 1600 years ago. In 1913, when searching for a lost child, this cave was found by Europeans and is now protected.

Red Hands Cave to Red Hands Cave car park 0.5km 10 mins

(From 6.21 km) Continue straight: From Red Hands Cave, the walk heads up the stairs, winding to be above Red Hands Cave. The track then continues across the rocky surface, slowly climbing through the bush and leading away from the rock outcrop. The track winds through a few rocky outcrops, tending right, before coming to a car park and 'Red Hands Cave' sign (pointing back to the cave).



Red Hands Cave Picnic Area

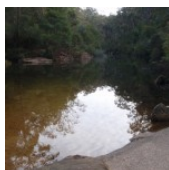
Red Hands Cave Picnic Area is found at the end of the Red Hands Cave Fire Trail in the Glenbrook area of the Blue Mountains National Park. The small picnic area is next to the car park and has a couple of platforms (to act as both a table and seat) as well as a fire place and toilet. The toilet itself is wheelchair accessible, but access to the toilet is over moderately rough terrain. A good spot to rest when exploring Red Hands Cave.



Red Hands Cave car park to Axe Grinding Grooves 2.1km 40 mins

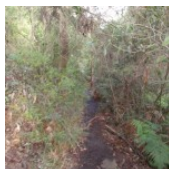
(From 6.71 km) Turn left : From Red Hands Cave car park, the walk follows the sign for the 'Link Track' past the bench and fireplace and into the bush. The track winds down the hill via many steps, winding for quite some time, then comes near a creek, which it loosely follows. The walk then crosses this creek to the signposts on the other side.

Turn left: From the creek intersection, the walk follows the 'Glenbrook Causeway' sign, keeping the water on the left. The track continues up to a rock overhang from where it heads down the hill, coming near the creek again. The track follows the creek to a junction with another creek. To the left is a large sandstone area and approximately 10m along the track is a sign explaining the grooves in the sandstone.



Axe Grinding Grooves

These well-defined axe grinding grooves are found on the sandstone bed of Camp Fire Creek. The grooves were formed by Aboriginal people when sharpening axes (or forming axe blanks). Rubbing the axe blanks would sharpen the stone into a more useful tool, and the process would also wear the sandstone, leaving these markings. These sites are typically found near water, as the water was added to make the stone more abrasive. Sites like this will fade in time due to erosion of the sandstone - please help them last as long as possible by not walking on, or close to the grooves. [More info](#)

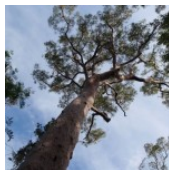


Axe Grinding Grooves to The Ironbark Picnic Area 1km 15 mins

(From 8.8 km) Turn sharp right: From where the main track crosses the small side creek (just above the axe grinding site), this walk follows the rocky side creek south-east, upstream. After about 20m, the gully splits in two. This walk follows a narrow track on the spur between these two creeks. The track heads up the spur line and crosses a number of rocky outcrops. Near the top of the hill, the bush becomes quiet dense. The track then opens out on the wide Oaks cycleway.

Turn right: From the intersection, the walk follows the wide track south, gently down the hill as it bends to the left. The track then heads down the hill a bit more steeply, and crosses a gully before gently climbing the other side. Not far after the gully, the track comes to an un-signposted intersection with the Ironbark access track, on the left.

Turn left : From the intersection, the walk follows the narrower track east towards the road. The track opens up at the car park, and the walk crosses the road to the Ironbark picnic area.



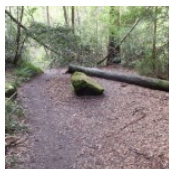
Ironbark Picnic Area

Ironbark Picnic Area is a basic picnic area on the Oaks Fire Trail, about 450m south of Euroka Rd. The picnic area has a low bench that acts as both a table and seat, and there is also a wood-fired barbecue provided. The picnic area is at the top of a gated management trail, which leads down to campsites at Euroka. There are plenty of car parking spaces provided and it is a fairly popular starting point for people cycling the Oaks Cycleway.



The Ironbark Picnic Area to Nioka Campsite 1.3km 25 mins

(From 9.76 km) Continue straight: From the Ironbark Picnic Area, this walk follows the management trail south east by first stepping over the locked gate (pole). The wide trail then gently leads downhill. As the hill steepens a bit, the track becomes narrower. As the track approaches Euroka, there are a few sharp bends and the walk leads to the top of Nioka. The campsite comes into view, and the walk continues down the clear track, now with the camp ground on the right. The track then passes a toilet and continues down around the locked gate to the dirt road intersection just below Nioka campsite.

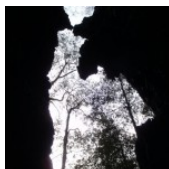


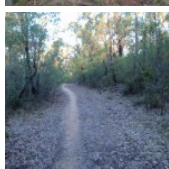
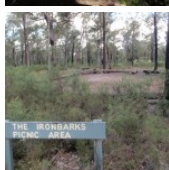
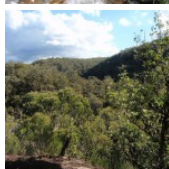
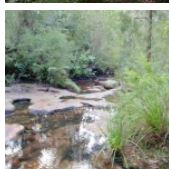
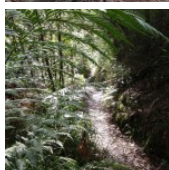
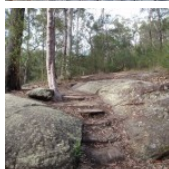
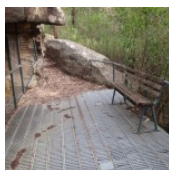
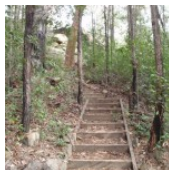
Euroka Campground - Nioka

The Nioka campground offers 20 sites to choose from. There is tap water at the park entrance.

Euroka Campground - Red Gum

The Red Gum campground offers 20 sites to choose from. There is tap water at the park entrance.





Nioka Campsite to Top of Darug campsite car park 0.2km 5 mins

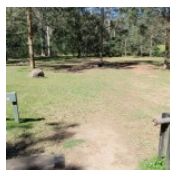
(From 11.07 km) Veer left: From the dirt road just below the signposted 'Nioka' campsite, this walk follows the main road, initially keeping the campsite to the left. The walk heads across a small, bridged creek crossing and up to the intersection. At the intersection, there are some information signs about the area (on the right).

Continue straight: From the signposts, the walk follows the 'Daruk' arrow along the flat dirt road, keeping the hill up to the left. After passing the garbage bins, the trail crosses a small creek and comes to an intersection with a bush track on the left, just before the signposted 'Darug' campsite.

Euroka Campground - Darug

The Darug (sometimes labeled Daruk) campsite is found the Euroka Clearing, in the Glenbrook region of the Blue Mountains National Park. There are about 20 camping spaces to choose from in this area. Tap water is available at the park entrance. The campsite has a wheelchair-accessible toilet (access over grassy terrain) and a few metal fireplaces. The campsite is surrounded by large gum trees and is right at the base of a steep hill to the north.

Overnight stay



Day 2

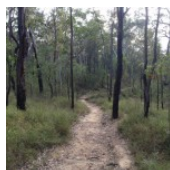
Top of Darug campsite car park to Campfire Creek sign side of Causeway 2.5km 50 mins

(From 11.31 km) Turn left: From between the small creek crossing and the 'Darug' campsite, the walk follows the bush track up the hill, initially keeping Darug to the right. There are two tracks at time of writing, nearly parallel and heading to the same place. The track becomes steep and works its way up the steep rocky hill. At the top of this climb, the walk follows the track to the right and then the clear track meanders through the scrub. The track soon comes to an intersection with the signposted 'Portal waterhole' track (which heads off to the right).

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk heads north, following neither of the arrows on the sign. The track soon comes to Mount Portal Trail, just next to the intersection with Euroka Road.

Veer right: From the intersection, the walk follows the 'The Causeway' sign, along the bush track. The track tends right into the low grassy bush. As the track continues down the hill, the grass gives way to wattle bush covering the gully. The track leads down many stairs then crosses a creek or two before winding along the hillside. The track then continues down into the gully to pass a fading track, on the left, then winds through to a hairpin corner on the road, marked by a 'Euroka Track' sign (pointing back the way you came).

Veer right: From the intersection, the walk heads down the steep road to the causeway.

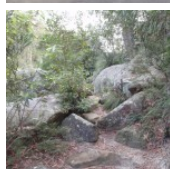
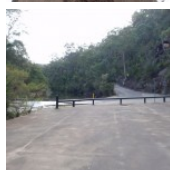


Campfire Creek sign side of Causeway to Eastern side of Causeway 0km

(From 13.84 km) Veer right: From the southern side of the causeway, the walk heads across the causeway to the road, next to the fenced, paved area. The causeway may be impassable after rain.

Eastern side of Causeway to Jelly Bean Pool 0.3km 5 mins

(From 13.85 km) Turn right: From the causeway, the walk heads through the blocked-off paved area, keeping the water on the right. The walk heads alongside the creek (the track is not very clear at this point) but winds around and over the large rocks beside the main creek (This creek does become impassable after heavy or prolonged rain). The soon the creek widens and turns into a large pool, where the track leads around the rocky outcrop to a metal staircase, above Jellybean Pool.

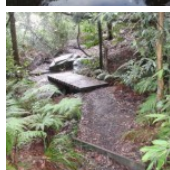
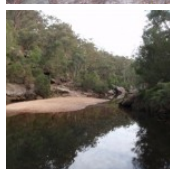


Jellybean Pool

Jellybean Pool is a large pool in Glenbrook Creek, just south of the weir. The pool has a few sandy beaches, rock platforms and is surrounded by cliffs. Jumping and diving is not a good idea, and is not permitted. This is a popular spot for locals to swim. Swimming can be dangerous - the creek is especially dangerous after rain. Check with rangers before heading in.

Jelly Bean Pool to Int. Gorge Walking and Jelly Bean Pool Trk 0.6km 10 mins

(From 14.17 km) Continue straight: From the metal staircase at Jelly Bean Pools, the walk keeps the water on the right as it winds along the shore, downstream. The track meanders and undulates above the creek as it heads downstream to come to an intersection just before a small foot bridge.

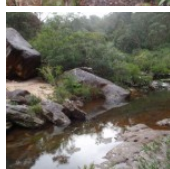


Glenbrook Gorge

Glenbrook Gorge is a deep cut in the sandstone formed by Glenbrook Creek, just before it flows into the Nepean River. The spectacular gorge, the tall cliffs and the creek make for a great place to cool down in summer. The gorge can be very dangerous after rain, check with the rangers before entering.

Int. Gorge Walking and Jelly Bean Pool Trk to Glenbrook Gorge Beach 0.3km 5 mins

(From 14.77 km) Veer right: From the intersection, the walk crosses the footbridge and continues along the hillside, keeping the main creek to the right. The walk winds down past a pond (on the right) and continue downstream to a sandy beach.



Glenbrook Gorge Beach

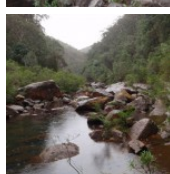
Glenbrook Gorge Beach is a small, sandy spot on a rock platform in Glenbrook Gorge. The beach is beside a fairly large pool, making a great spot to rest, especially on warmer days.



Glenbrook Gorge Beach to Int. at junction of Nepean River and Glenbrook Creek 2.1km 1 Hrs 20 mins

(From 15.05 km) Continue straight: From the beach, the walk heads downstream, keeping the creek on the right for some time. The track winds, weaves and climbs its way down the gorge, crossing the creek numerous times. The track fades out completely, but the walk continues down the gorge generally following the creek. A large number of rock shelves and surfaces are used to speed the pace down the gorge as the walk continues, coming near to the junction with the Nepean River. The track crosses the creek to a rock shelf above a large boulder sitting in the creek, and a campground clearing nearby, on the far bank.

Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk leads downstream, keeping the creek below on the right as it heads along the rock shelf. The track continues to an intersection behind a large rock shelf, next to the river.



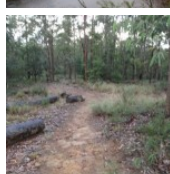
Int. at junction of Nepean River and Glenbrook Creek to Nepean Point 0.2km 2 mins Optional Side Trip:

(From 17.14 km) Veer right: From the intersection, the track winds down the rocky outcrop, keeping the mouth of the Glenbrook Creek behind on the right. The track winds down through the rocks onto the island-like stretch of land in the Nepean River. The track crosses many large round river stones which are slippery. The walk keeps the water close on the left as it heads out to the point.

(Retrace your steps back to the main track, then turn right to continue along this walk.)

Nepean view point

Nepean view point is an informal lookout which peers back down the Nepean River towards Penrith. The point is made from rocks deposited in the river and is now covered by trees and surrounded by reeds.



Int. at junction of Nepean River and Glenbrook Creek to Int. Tunnel Gully trk and Nepean Pt trk

1km 20 mins

(From 17.14 km) Continue straight: From the intersection, the walk keeps both the creek and river below on the right as it skirts around the rocks on the hillside. The track then leaves the rock platforms and winds for some time, undulating above the Nepean River which is below on the right. The track then tends left, up and away from the river to open onto a management trail.



Int. Tunnel Gully trk and Nepean Pt trk to Int. Tunnel Gully trk and car wreck trk 0.4km 10 mins

(From 18.15 km) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads uphill along the management trail. After about 115 metres, the trail passes an electricity tower, where it tends left further up the hill. The trail continues up the hill to the ridge where a car wreck sits in the bush to the right, at an intersection with a track on the left.

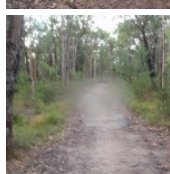


Int. Tunnel Gully trk and car wreck trk to Lapstone lookout 0.2km 5 mins Optional Side Trip:

(From 18.59 km) Turn left : From the intersection, the walk follows the single track away from the clear management trail. The track crosses the hillside and leads across the depression of a creek to rise onto a small ridge, and in intersection with a track on the left.

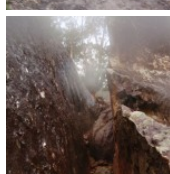
Turn left: From the intersection, the track leads down the ridgeline, keeping the houses and railway behind and the creek below on the left. The track winds down the rocky ridge to a rock surface with a view over the Nepean River.

(Retrace your steps back to the main track, then turn left to continue along this walk.)



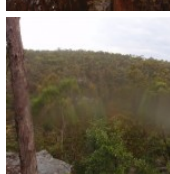
Lapstone Nepean View

This informal and unfenced view point is just below Lapstone Station. There are stunning views up and down the Nepean River and across some farmland on the Cumberland Plain. A great spot to enjoy the views.



Int. Tunnel Gully trk and car wreck trk to Int. Station trk and Tunnel Gully trk 0.1km 2 mins

(From 18.59 km) Continue straight: From the intersection, the track leads up the hill, keeping the car wreck behind on the right. The track undulates a little to an intersection below the train station.



Int. Station trk and Tunnel Gully trk to Platform 2 Lapstone Station 0.1km 1 mins

(From 18.71 km) Turn left : From the intersection, the track heads up the hill to the train station.

Lapstone

The historic town of Lapstone is the eastern-most town in the Blue Mountains. The small township has a railway station, which is shares with the bordering town of Leonay. The station offers a public telephone and toilet. There are no commercial facilities in the area. The name 'Lapstone' is said to have come from the 'many water-worn stones in the area', which resemble the lapstone used by cobblers when making shoes.

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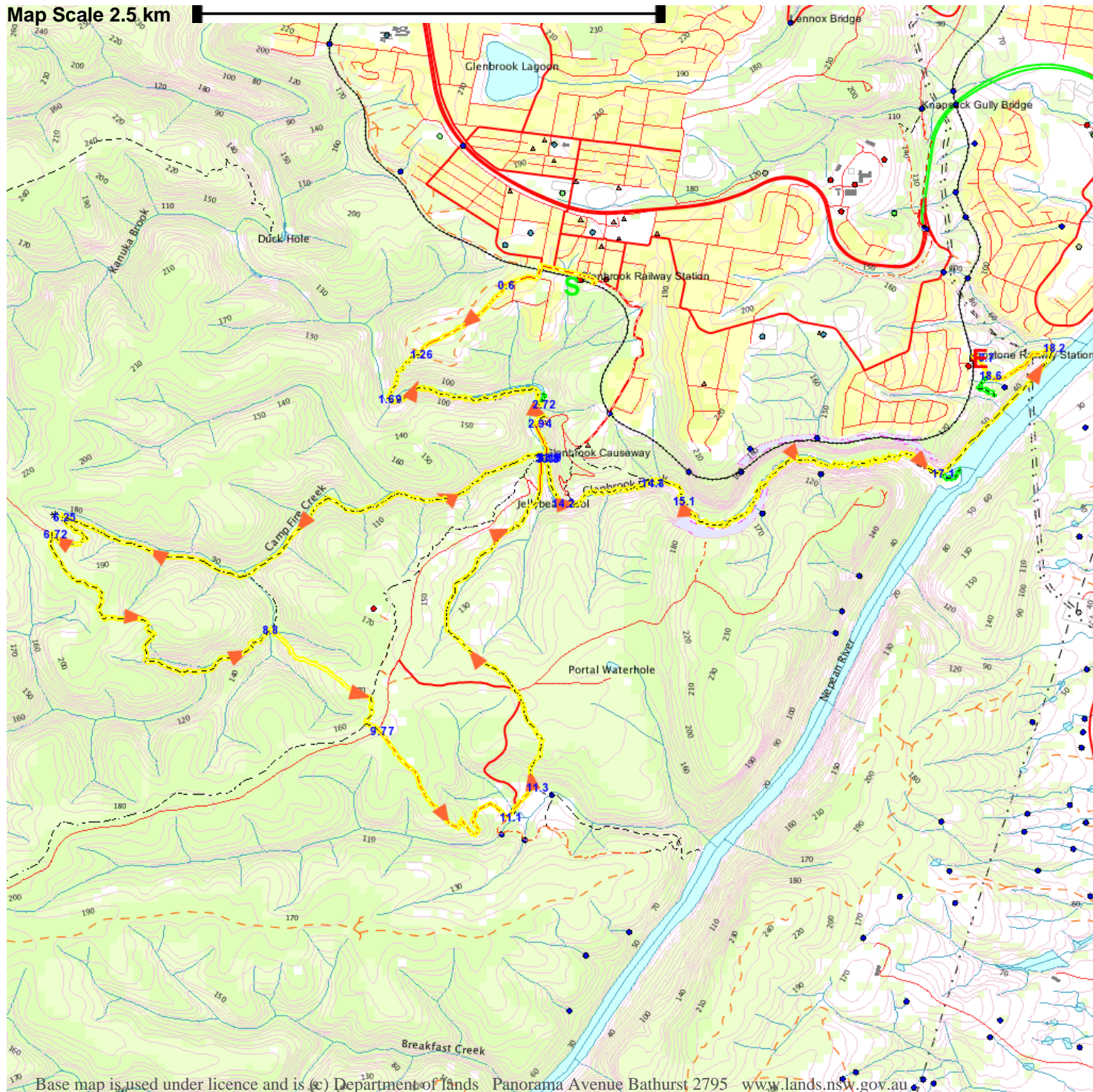
www.wildwalks.com/books.html



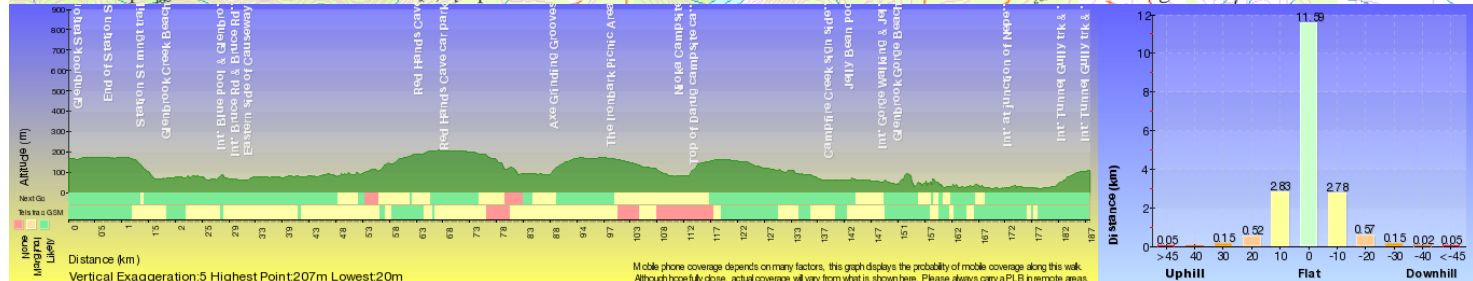
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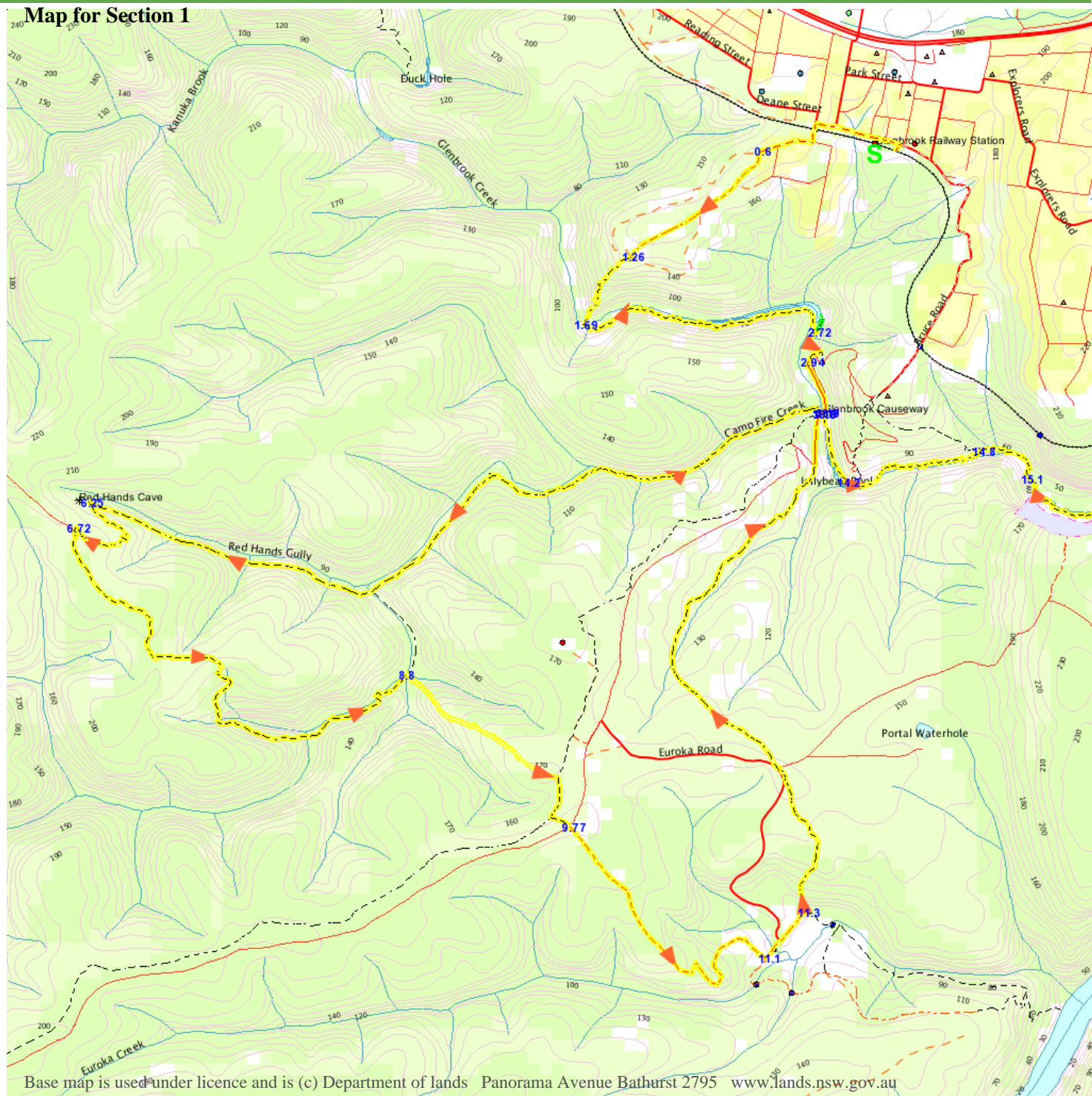
Map Scale 2.5 km



Base map is used under licence and is (c) Department of Lands Panorama Avenue Bathurst 2795 www.lands.nsw.gov.au

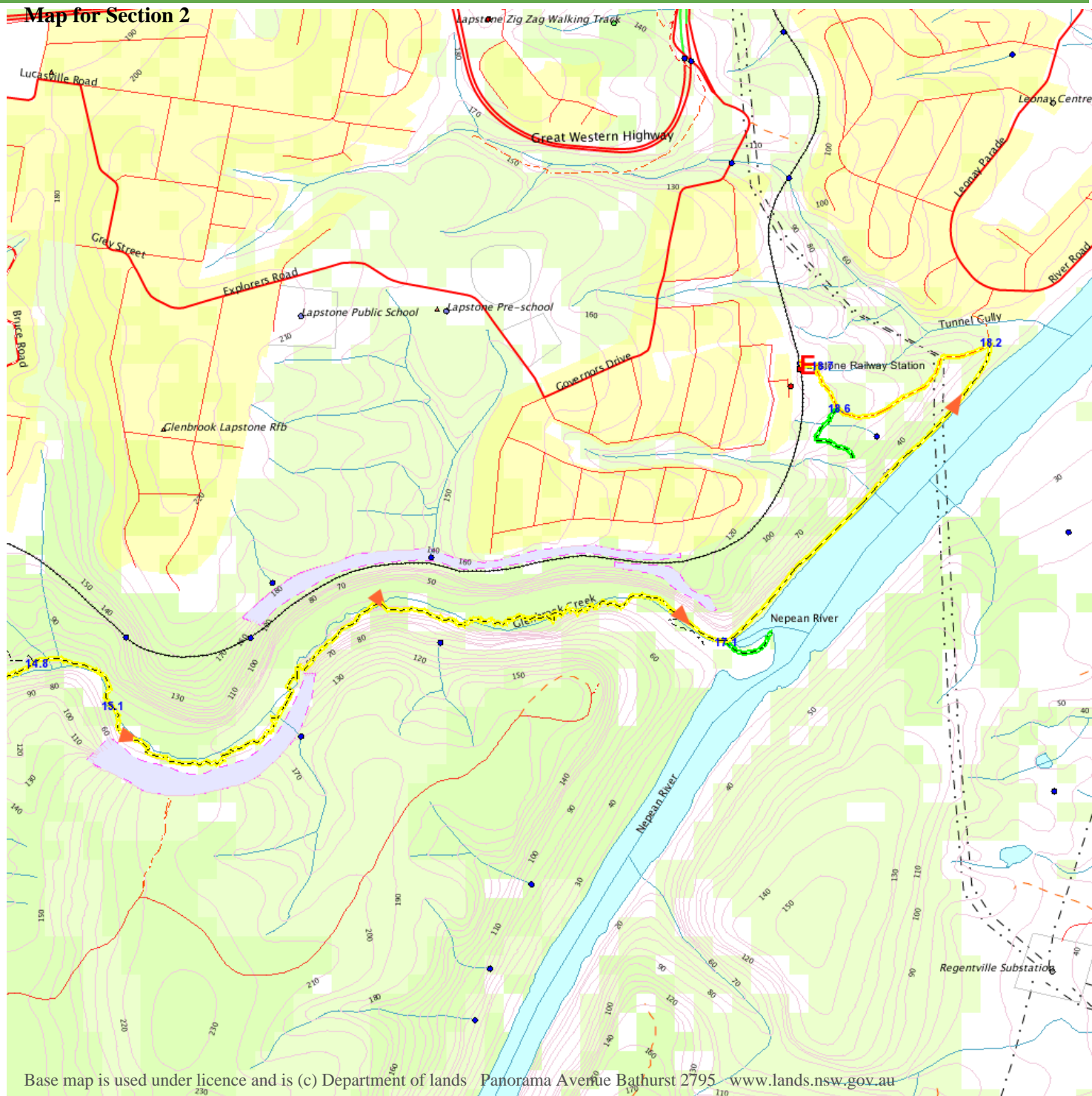


Map for Section 1



Map Scale 1 km

Map for Section 2



Map Scale 1 km

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