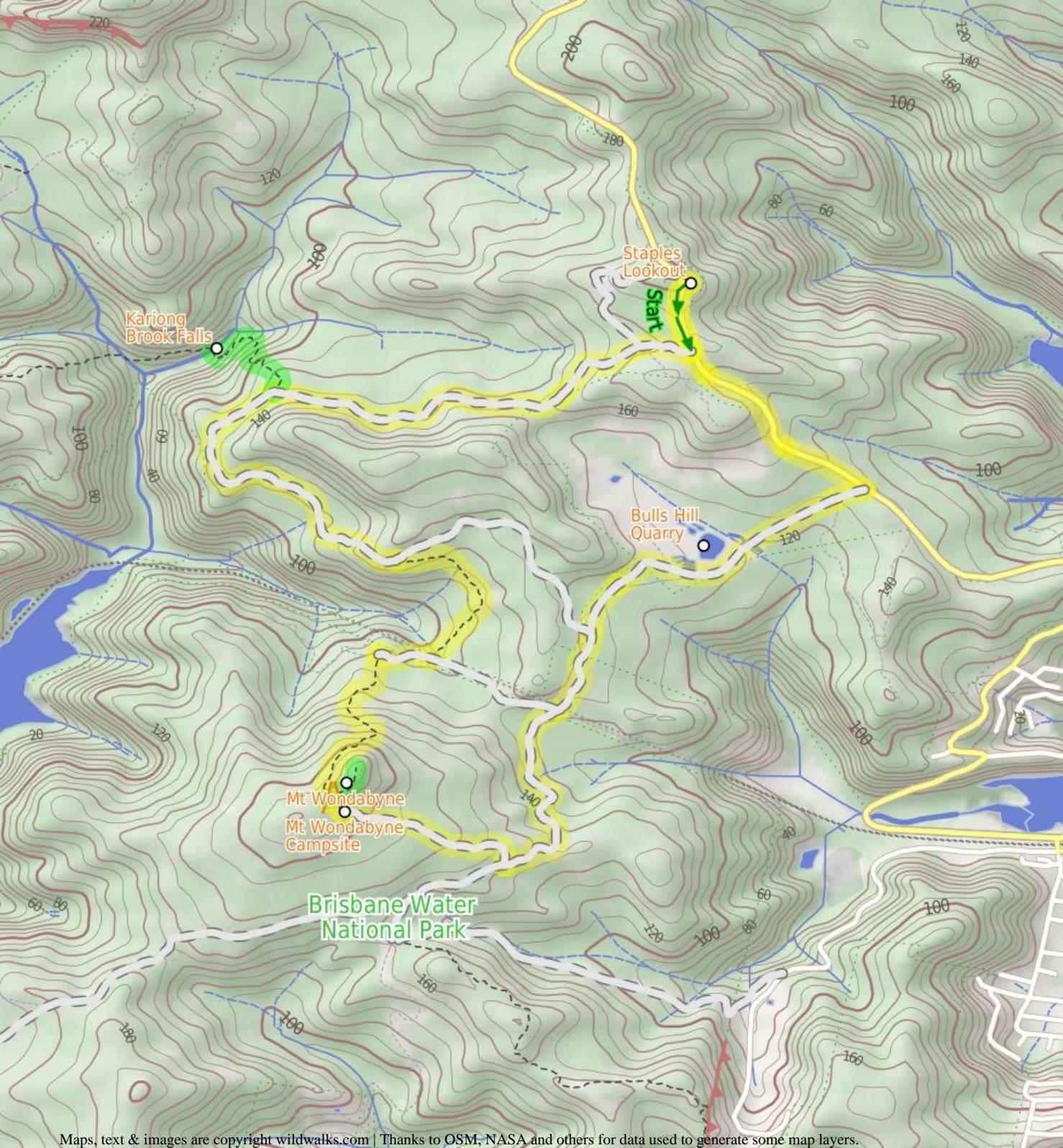


Staples Lookout to Mt Wondabyne loop



4 hrs 30 mins

Hard track

10.8 km Circuit

▲ 337m

4

This walk starts and finishes at Staples Lookout, on Woy Woy Rd. The walk follows sections of the Great North Walk around Mount Wondabyne and the old Bulls Hill Quarry. There are a few options for short side trips, one leading to the tranquil Kariong Brook falls and the other to the peak of Mount Wondabyne, providing great views over the National Park to Woy Woy.

105m

219m

Brisbane Water National Park

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.

Kariong Brook Falls

This tranquil spot of the Great North Walk is home to some lovely falls and a water hole. The eastern side of the creek has a tall sandstone cave and wall. After rain these falls can become very spectacular, other times is a cool place to rest. A great spot to stop for a snack.

Mt Wondabyne

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.

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).

Bulls Hill Quarry

The Bulls Hill Quarry, which was once a sandstone quarry on the western side of Woy Woy Rd. In 2002 Gosford Council proposed converting the quarry into a 'composting and recycling facility'. These plans were rejected due to concerns of the environmental impact. In 2005 the then-Department of Land and Water Conservation worked on the sediment dams to improve water flow quality from the site.

Before You walk

Bushwalking is fun and a wonderful way to enjoy our natural places. Sometimes things go bad, with a bit of planning you can increase your chance of having an enjoyable and safer walk. Before setting off on your walk check

- 1) Weather Forecast ([BOM Hunter District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Greater Sydney Region](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Brisbane Water National Park](#))
- 4) Research the walk to check your party has the skills, fitness and equipment required
- 5) Agree to stay as a group and not leave anyone to walk solo

Think before you TREK

The 'Think before you TREK' program developed by NSW Police & NPWS promotes the benefits of planning ahead for your bushwalking trip by using an easy to remember acronym:

- T** Take adequate supplies of food, water, navigation and first aid equipment.
- R** Register your planned route and tell friends and family when you expect to return.
- E** Emergency beacon (PLB's) should be carried on walks with significant gaps in mobile coverage (check terrain profile).
- K** Keep to your planned route and follow the map and walking trails.

Topo Maps

The maps provided on wildwalks are helpful, but there are times where you may need maps covering a broader area. Maps that cover this walk include;

1:25 000 Map Series:91312S GOSFORD

1:100 000 Map Series:9131 GOSFORD

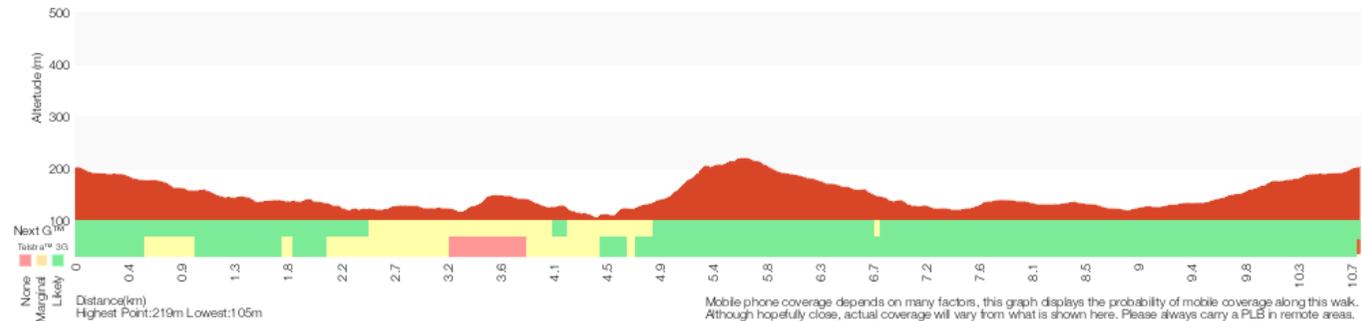
Grade

This walk has been graded using the AS 2156.1-2001. The overall grade of the walk is determined by the highest classification along the whole track.



Grade 4/6
Hard track

Length	10.8 km Circuit
Time	4 hrs 30 mins
Quality of track	Rough track, where fallen trees and other obstacles are likely (4/6)
Signs	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
Experience Required	Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
Weather	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)
Infrastructure	Limited facilities, not all cliffs are fenced (3/6)



Are you ready to have fun?

Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. Check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating before setting out. Optional side trips and alternate routes noted are not included in this walk's overall grade, length or time estimate. Please allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing this information but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury you may experience. Please take care, have fun - Happy Walking.

Getting there Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Staples Lookout (gps: -33.4717, 151.2883). Car: There is free parking available.

This is a circuit, so you will finish back at the start.

Find up to date and more information including; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <http://wild.tl/sltmw/>

0 | 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.

0 | Staples Lookout

(370 m 7 mins) From Staples Lookout, this walk heads downhill alongside Woy Woy Rd (keeping the view to the left). Where safe this walk crosses the road and continues down the hill. Just after passing a large brown 'Scenic Lookout 300m' sign (facing downhill), the walk comes to the signposted start of "Thommo's Loop Fire Trail" and a locked gate.

0.37 | Int of GNW and Woy Woy Road

(1.8 km 37 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads around the National Park gate and continues down the service trail for a short while, before coming to the intersection of the power line service trail.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Thommas Loop' sign down the management trail as it bends left. The trail winds down the hill to soon cross a rock platform with good views.

Continue straight: From the rock platform, this walk follows the management trail down the hill, keeping the valley views to the right. The trail then generally winds down the hill to come to a signposted three-way intersection with a 'Staples Lookout' sign pointing back up the hill.

2.2 | Optional sidetrip to Kariong Brook crossing

(690 m 24 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Girrakool' sign gently down along the narrower track. The track leads down for about 60m to pass over a rock outcrop and then 80m later, comes to a clearing that has been used as a campsite (on your left). From the clearing, the track continues down the hill for about 150m, stepping down the rocks and along a sandy track to then bend right at metal handrail. Here the rocky track becomes quite steep in places and winds down past some rock walls and among the grass trees for about 300m, where the track bends sharp right at the bottom of some steps in a cleft in the rock. The track continues down for another 100m to follow the steps down through the sandstone overhang, here the track bends left then right to wind down and cross the creek (that is often underground) and come to an intersection with a faint track in front of Kariong Brook Falls (on your right). At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Veer right.

2.2 | Kariong Brook Falls

This tranquil spot of the Great North Walk is home to some lovely falls and a

water hole. The eastern side of the creek has a tall sandstone cave and wall. After rain these falls can become very spectacular, other times is a cool place to rest. A great spot to stop for a snack.

2.2 | Int of the GNW and Patonga service trail

(1.5 km 28 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post and 'Patonga' sign downhill along the management trail. The trail then winds along the side of the hill for about 1.3km (passing a pleasant grove of large Sydney Redgums) to then step up onto a particularly large rock platform. After crossing this rock platform, the trail continues for another 120m to come to a Y-intersection (at another rock platform) where a 'Girrakool' sign points back along the track.

3.69 | Int of GNW and Thommos Loop trail

(830 m 18 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post and 'Patonga' sign east, gently downhill along the narrow track. After about 250m, the track leads to a notably large rock platform with a clear view across the valley to Mt Wondabyne. Here the track continues gently downhill, crossing more rock platforms for about 300m to head over a section of timber boardwalk and past a few disused power poles. The track then continues over another rock platform for another 200m to cross a small ephemeral creek. From the creek, the track leads up a short distance up under the power lines to come to a T-intersection with a wide trail, where a sign points back to 'Girrakool'.

4.52 | Int of GNW and Mullet Creek Trail (east)

(1.2 km 25 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, the track follows the GNW arrow post along the management trail, initially keeping the power lines to your right. The trail soon bends left and leads uphill. As the trail flattens out again, it comes to a three-way intersection marked with a 'Great North Walk' and 'Wondabyne Station' sign, pointing back along the trail.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Mt Wondabyne' sign south up the trail. The trail soon begins to narrow and after almost 200m, the track steps up to cross a rock platform, following a few GNW arrow posts to find a GNW 'Walker Register' tube. After writing a comment, the walk continues uphill along the track for about 700m, as the track become progressively flatter, passing beside the Mt Wondabyne Peak (up to your left). Then about 50m after leaving the trees and entering a section of low heath, this track then comes to a three-way intersection (the Mt Wondabyne peak track, on the left), marked with a GNW arrow post.

5.68 | Optional sidetrip to Mt Wondabyne Peak

(210 m 5 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the Mt Wondabyne peak track north-east as it heads uphill directly towards Mt Wondabyne. The track is leads gently at first then starts to climb up a series of rock ledges. After about 60m, the track passes a small cave (large enough for 2 or 3 people to lie in). The track then continues to climb for another 90m, up the rocky track then for through a grove of small trees, to come to the first peak. The faint track continues along the ridge for another 60m then comes to the main peak, where there is an old trig station and great panoramic views. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Turn left.

5.68 | Mt Wondabyne

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.

5.68 | Int of GNW and Mt Wondabyne Peak tracks

(90 m 2 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post south over a small rise then gently downhill along the rocky track, leaving Mt Wondabyne peak behind and to your left. After about 90m, the track leads down to a clearing at the end of a management trail, where there is a sign pointing back to 'Mooney Mooney rest area'. This is the Mt Wondabyne campsite.

5.76 | 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).

5.76 | Mt Wondabyne Campsite

(760 m 16 mins) Turn left: From the clearing (campsite), this walk follows the 'Patonga' sign down the wide management trail. The trail winds downhill for about 300m, enjoying some views back to Mount Wondabyne as well as to Woy Woy and Brisbane Water. From here, the trail continues downhill through the heath for another 400m to come to a T-intersection with another management trail (Tunnel Track), where there is a 'Mt Wondabyne' and 'Girrakool' sign pointing back up the hill.

6.52 | Int of Girrakool and Mt Wondabyne tracks

(1.1 km 22 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the management trail down the hill as it bends to the left (initially keeping Mt Wondabyne to the left). The trail winds down the hill, passing a filtered view of the Woy Woy landfill site and some nice sandstone formations. The trail then leads into a valley and crosses an often dry creek using a concrete ford. Soon after this, the trail comes to a four-way intersection, with some power lines and a sign pointing back to 'Tunnel Track'.

7.59 | Int of Tunnel and Mullet Creek Tracks

(720 m 13 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads north-east along the management trail up the hill, away from the power lines (not following any of the signs). The trail soon comes to a three-way intersection with the signposted 'Thommos Loop' trail (on the left).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the red-gravelly trail north, gently downhill (soon bending right). The trail passes an old rusty trailer (on the left) and soon comes to a 'Brisbane Water National Park' sign and heads around a locked gate.

8.3 | Brisbane Waters NP gate

(1 km 18 mins) Continue straight: From the gate, this walk heads away from the gate and national park along the management trail. The trail soon comes to the old Bulls Hill Quarry (on the left) and continues around the edge, passing the pondage area (there are many tracks in the area, this walk follows the main Tunnel Track). The trail bends left, rounding the quarry to cross the sandstone rock platform and climb the gravelly trail leaving the quarry behind. About 170m after passing under the power lines, the trail comes to an intersection with a power line maintenance trail (on the right, signposted '830').

9.31 | Bulls Hill Quarry

The Bulls Hill Quarry, which was once a sandstone quarry on the western side of Woy Woy Rd. In 2002 Gosford Council proposed converting the quarry into a 'composting and recycling facility'. These plans were rejected

due to concerns of the environmental impact. In 2005 the then-Department of Land and Water Conservation worked on the sediment dams to improve water flow quality from the site.

9.31 | Int of Tunnel track and Powerline maintenance trail

(130 m 2 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads towards the gate (and road), just visible up the gentle hill along the management trail. On the other side of the gate, the walk comes to small clearing beside Woy Woy Rd (a short distance uphill from the speed camera).

9.44 | Int of Tunnel track and Woy Woy Rd

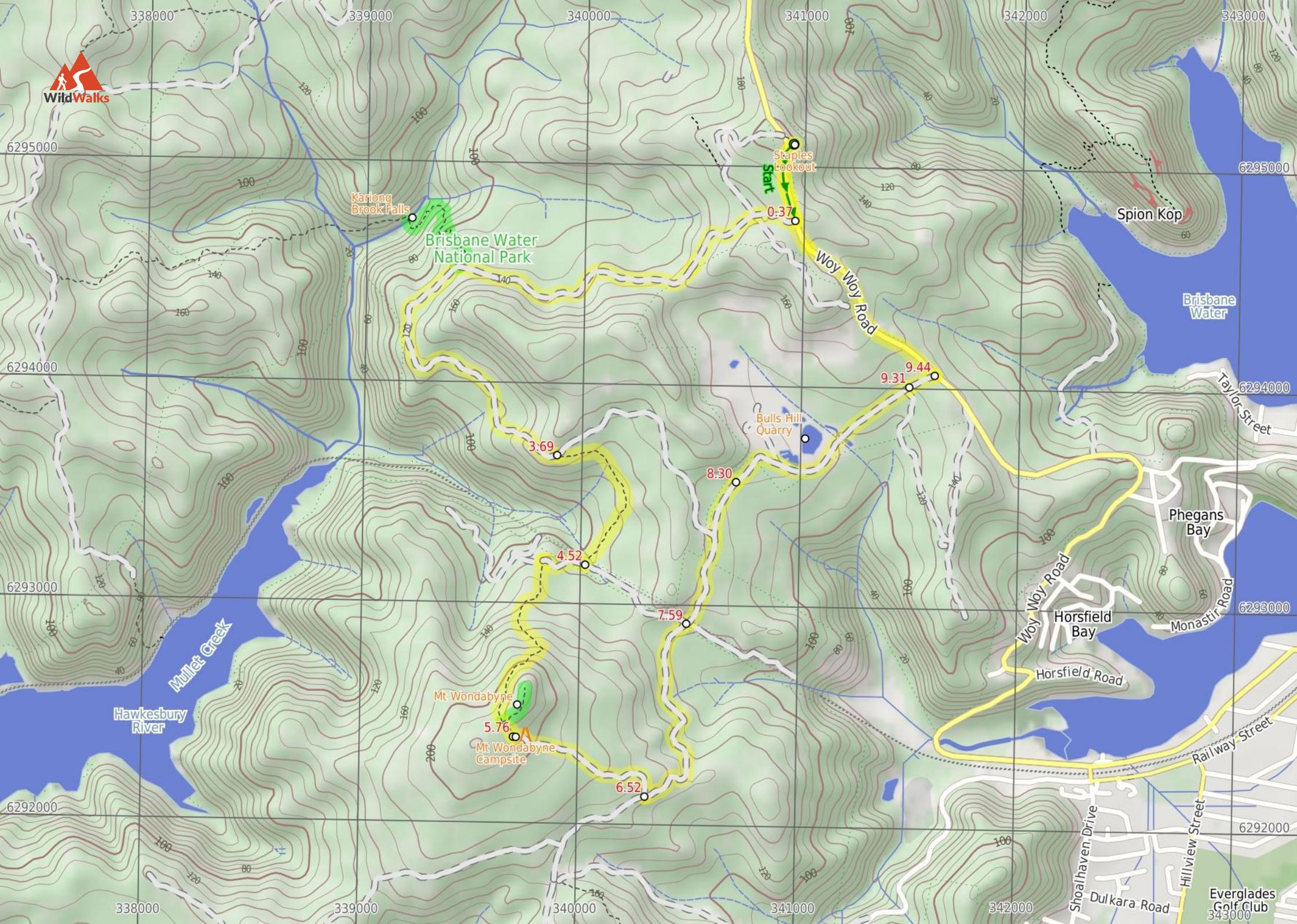
(1.4 km 27 mins) Turn left : From the small clearing, this walk follows alongside Woy Woy Rd away from the speed camera, passing the large 'Overtaking lane 400m Ahead' sign up the hill. Soon the road leads to a 'Roy Lamb the Sand Man' sign.

Continue straight: From the 'Roy Lamb the Sand Man' sign, this walk follows beside Woy Woy Rd, heading up the hill (passing a house on the left). The road sweeps left and (about 10m past the yellow 'Left Lane Ends' sign) the walk comes to an intersection with a power line access trail (on the left).

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads up the hill beside Woy Woy Rd (away from the water view), soon coming to an intersection with the signposted start of the 'Thommo's Loop Fire Trail' and gate (on the left) - just before the brown 'Scenic Lookout' sign.

Continue straight: From the intersection, heads along Woy Woy Road passing the large brown 'Scenic Lookout 300m' sign. The walk crosses the road (where safe) and crosses a grassy area to come to the car park and signposted Staples Lookout.





WildWalks

Kariong Brook Falls

Brisbane Water National Park

Staples Lookout

Start

Woy Woy Road

Spion Kop

Brisbane Water

Bulls Hill Quarry

Taylor Street

Phegans Bay

Horsfield Bay

Monastir Road

Horsfield Road

Railway Street

Mt Wondabyne

Mt Wondabyne Campsite

Hawkesbury River

Mullet Creek

Shoalhaven Drive

Hillview Street

Dulkara Road

Everglades Golf Club

Summary navigation sheet for the Staples Lookout to Mt Wondabyne loop



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
Start	Staples Lookout -33.4717,151.2883 (GR Gosford, 409951)	0 -13	370 m 7 mins	From Staples Lookout, this walk heads downhill alongside Woy Woy Rd (keeping the view to the left).
0.37	Int of Great North Walk and Woy Woy Road -33.4749,151.2884 (GR Gosford, 410948)	22 -83	1.8 km 37 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads around the National Park gate and continues down the service trail for a short while, before coming to the intersection of the power line service trail.
2.20	Int of the Great North Walk and Patonga service trail -33.4768,151.2717 (GR Gosford, 394945)	21 -122	690 m 24 mins	Optional sidetrip to Kariong Brook crossing. Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Girrakool' sign gently down along the narrower track.
2.20	Int of the Great North Walk and Patonga service trail -33.4768,151.2717 (GR Gosford, 394945)	54 -34	1.5 km 28 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post and 'Patonga' sign downhill along the management trail.
3.69	Int of GNW and Thommos Loop trail -33.4845,151.2766 (GR Gosford, 399937)	15 -50	830 m 18 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post and 'Patonga' sign east, gently downhill along the narrow track.
4.52	Int of GNW and Mullet Creek Trail (east) -33.489,151.278 (GR Gosford, 400932)	123 -15	1.2 km 25 mins	Turn right: From the intersection, the track follows the GNW arrow post along the management trail, initially keeping the power lines to your right.
5.68	Int of Great North Walk and Mt Wondabyne Peak tracks -33.4954,151.2739 (GR Gosford, 397925)	20 -1	210 m 5 mins	Optional sidetrip to Mt Wondabyne Peak. Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the Mt Wondabyne peak track north-east as it heads uphill directly towards Mt Wondabyne.
5.68	Int of Great North Walk and Mt Wondabyne Peak tracks -33.4954,151.2739 (GR Gosford, 397925)	0 -6	90 m 2 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the GNW arrow post south over a small rise then gently downhill along the rocky track, leaving Mt Wondabyne peak behind and to your left.
5.76	Mt Wondabyne Campsite -33.496,151.2744 (GR Gosford, 397924)	0 -49	760 m 16 mins	Turn left: From the clearing (campsite), this walk follows the 'Patonga' sign down the wide management trail.
6.52	Int of Girrakool and Mt Wondabyne tracks -33.4985,151.2809 (GR Gosford, 403921)	14 -55	1.1 km 22 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the management trail down the hill as it bends to the left (initially keeping Mt Wondabyne to the left).
7.59	Int of Tunnel and Mullet Creek Tracks -33.4914,151.283 (GR Gosford, 405929)	18 -10	720 m 13 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads north-east along the management trail up the hill, away from the power lines (not following any of the signs).
8.30	Brisbane Waters NP gate -33.4856,151.2854 (GR Gosford, 407936)	17 -18	1 km 18 mins	Continue straight: From the gate, this walk heads away from the gate and national park along the management trail.
9.31	Int of Tunnel track and Powerline maintenance trail -33.4817,151.294 (GR Gosford, 415940)	4 0	130 m 2 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads towards the gate (and road), just visible up the gentle hill along the management trail.
9.44	Int of Tunnel track and Woy Woy Rd -33.4812,151.2952 (GR Gosford, 416941)	70 -1	1.4 km 27 mins	Turn left : From the small clearing, this walk follows alongside Woy Woy Rd away from the speed camera, passing the large 'Overtaking lane 400m Ahead' sign up the hill.