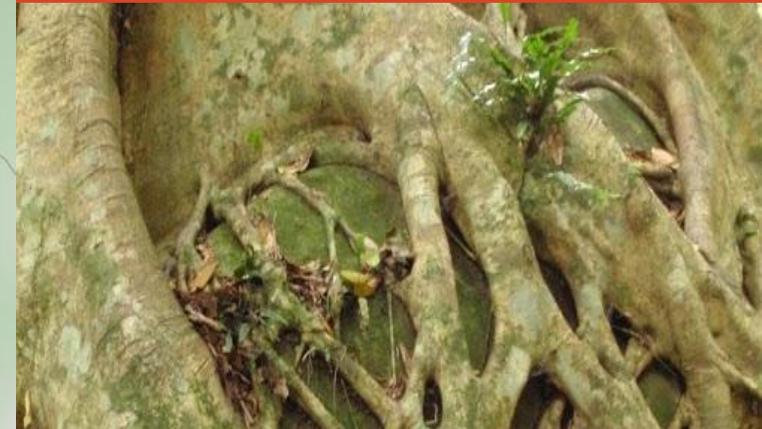


# Strangler Fig Walk



**1 Hr**

**Moderate track**

**3**

**2 km Return**

**▲ 96m**

Starting from the Katandra Rd Picnic Area, you will head past Seymour Pond and along Toomey Walk to the Strangler Fig platform. You will see two magnificent examples of Strangler Fig trees - one growing on a large rock and the other forming a knotted tubular structure. A lovely walk through the dense forest, along a well-formed track. If you have a little extra time, the Watermans walk is a great addition to your visit to the valley.

18m

Katandra Reserve

### 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 walks 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** You can get to Katandra Rd picnic area (gps: -33.4146, 151.396) by car or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

This is a return, 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/2c>

#### 0 | Katandra Rd Picnic Area

The Katandra Road Picnic Area is found at the end of a short driveway (signposted at the intersection of Katandra Rd and Croton Ave, Holgate). The picnic area is in front of the ranger's residence and is open from 7am to 6pm daily. The picnic area provides some toilets, garbage bins, two picnic tables, parking and an information sign.

#### 0 | Katandra Rd picnic area

(140 m 3 mins) From the picnic area, this walk follows the 'Seymour Pond' and 'Waterman Walk' signs north-east along the clear track. The track soon heads down a series of steps and, shortly after turning right (at a locked gate), this walk comes to a three-way intersection marked with two blue/white arrows on a post.

#### 0.14 | Int of Waterman walk and Katandra Rd track

(300 m 8 mins) Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the upper arrow down the hill, keeping the fence and house to the right. The track heads down the hill then steps down into a palm-filled valley. Here, the walk climbs some steps and passes the 'Commemorating 10 years of bushcare in Katandra Reserve' plaque, then bends right and around a sharp left-hand bend and past the number '5' post (and old Wombat Hole). The track continues around the gully to cross a few small bridges and come to a picnic area and a 'Seymour Pond' sign.

#### 0.45 | Seymour Pond

Seymour Pond is medium-sized water body in Katandra Reserve. The pond is fed by a spring coming from the cliffs at

the top of the reserve. The small creek was dammed in the early 1900's to provide water for a farm on the south side (growing vegetables). The pond is home to water birds, large lizards and other wildlife. The council does not allow swimming in the pond, helping to maintain the ecosystem that now relies on this pond. There are a few spots beside the pond where you can enjoy the cool climate and the visiting birds.

#### 0.45 | Seymour Pond Picnic Area

The Seymour Pond Picnic Area is found on the dam wall at the eastern end of Seymour Pond in Katandra Reserve. The picnic area provides a couple of picnic tables and a garbage bin. The picnic area is set in a lovely naturally shaded area in view of the Seymour Pond and beside Watermans and Toomeys walks.

#### 0.45 | Alternate Route Seymour Pond Picnic area to Int of

(660 m 13 mins) Veer left: From the picnic tables, this walk heads past the 'Seymour Pond' sign (following the right-hand 'Waterman walk' arrow) and follows the track, keeping the pond close by on the right. The track soon leads to a viewing platform with long bench seats - Waterman view.

Turn left: From the pond viewing point, this walk follows the timber track, keeping filtered views of the water to the right. The timber soon stops and the dirt track continues down some stairs, over a few small bridges, and soon crosses a bigger bridge just after a bench seat. From here, the track turns right, down the other side of the gully, where it crosses a few more small bridges before coming to a three-way intersection. The intersection is on timber boardwalk, just after a bridge where a sign points back along 'Waterman Walk'. Now Turn left to rejoin the main walk .

#### 0.45 | Seymour Pond Picnic area

(70 m 1 mins) Veer right: From the picnic area, this walk heads across the dam wall, keeping the water on the left while passing the two picnic tables. The walk then crosses a timber bridge and comes to a signposted three-way intersection with 'Toomey' and 'Waterman' walks.

#### 0.51 | Int of Waterman and Toomey walks

(60 m 1 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Toomey Walk' sign along the boardwalk, away from the pond. Soon the walk follows the track along the gully then follows the timber steps as they bend right and head up to the number '4' post, next to the Strangler Fig tube.

#### 0.57 | Strangler Fig Tube

This Strangler Fig Tube is found beside Toomey Walk, just north of Seymour Pond. The scientific name of the tree is

*Ficus obliqua* and it is listed on the Significant Tree Register.

This Small-leaved Fig has grown around a large fallen log. The log has long-since rotted away, leaving a knotted tubular structure. Strangler Figs often grow from seeds dropped by birds. The seeds may fall on logs or rocks and the roots will make their way to the ground (to provided water, nutrients and a firm anchor), whilst the rest of the tree grows upwards for light. [More info.](#)

#### 0.57 | Strangler Fig Tube

(420 m 9 mins) Continue straight: From the Number '4' post, this walk heads to the top of the stairs and turns left around the Strangler Fig. The track soon crosses a small creek on a bridge then heads up a long flight of timber stairs. After gently winding through the forest, the track comes to post '3' (a large Turpentine Tree). The track then continues, crossing a few more creeks on small timber bridges and heading along the valley floor to a large timber platform and an even larger Strangler Fig tree.

#### 0.99 | Strangler Fig platform

The Strangler Fig platform on Toomey Walk has been built to help walkers better appreciate this amazing feat of survival. The tree is formally know as *Ficus obliqua* and is listed on the Significant tree Register. More commonly know as a 'Small-leaved Fig', this tree has an amazing root structure that grasps onto a large mossy boulder before heading underground. The platform is in a lovely shaded spot on the valley floor and the bench seat makes an inviting offer to sit whilst you soak up the surroundings. [More info.](#)