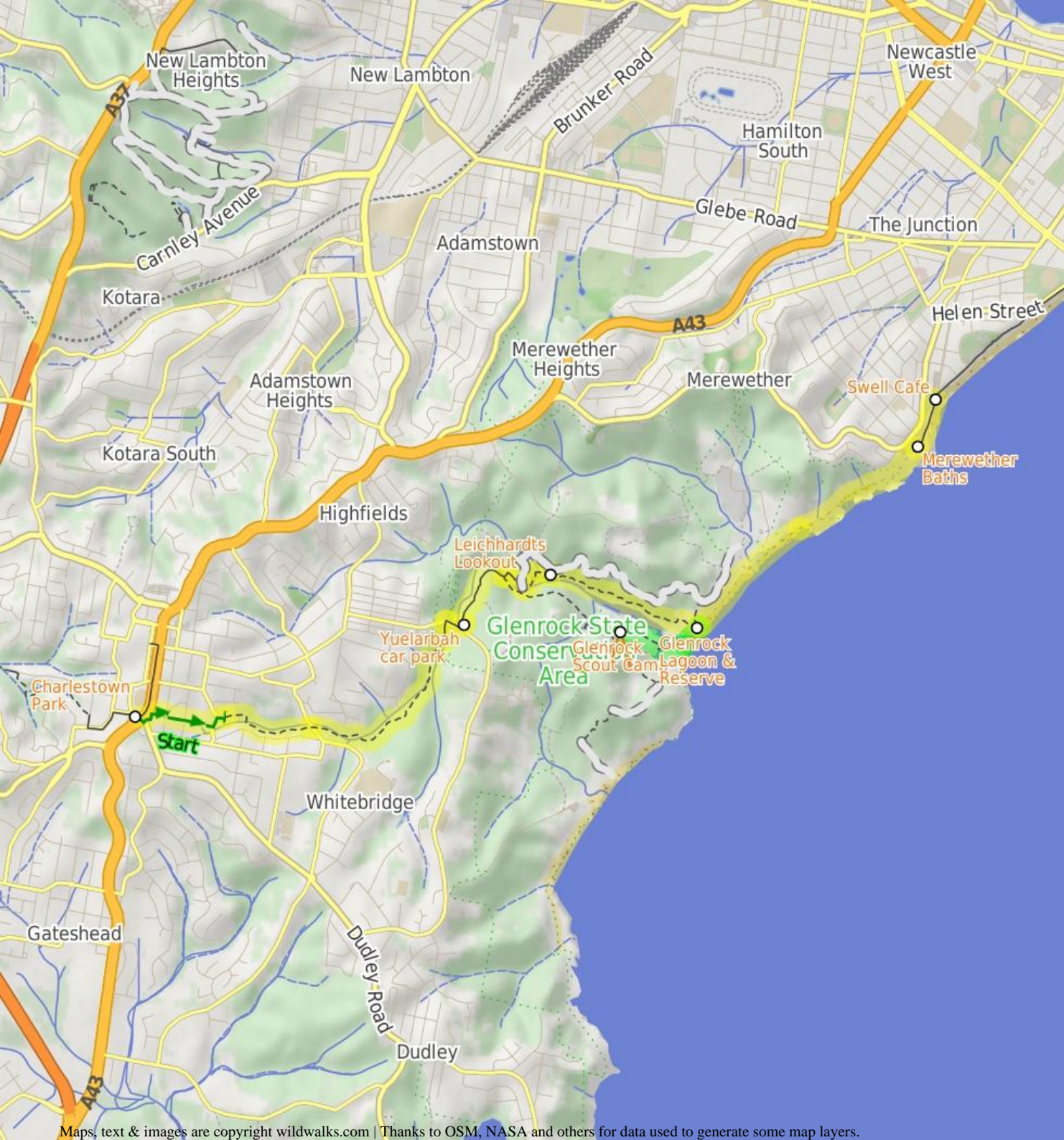


Charlestown Park track head to Merewether



2 hrs 45 mins

Hard track

7.9 km One way

▲ 181m

4

Starting from a small park in Charlestown you will follow the Great North Walk through a few reserves and along a Burwood Beach, past the heads to Merewether Beach. Exploring bush around Glenrock lagoon on the Yuelarbah Track, including the Leichhardt's Lookout are highlights. From this lookout the track leads down past the edge of the lagoon then along the sandy beach, past Merewether ocean pools. This walk describes a side trip to the scout campsite beside the lagoon for those who have organised to camp there.

102m

0m

Glenrock State Conservation Area

Charlestown Park

'Charlestown Park', by the Pacific Highway in Charlestown, offers a picnic table, shelter, barbeque and war memorial. Charlestown Park is also known and signposted as 'Anniversary Grove'.

Yuelarbah car park

Yuelarbah car park on Burwood Rd, Kahibah is the starting point to a number of walks within the Glenrock State Conservation Area. From the car park tracks being for the Yuelarbah Track, Flaggy Creek, Little Flaggy Creek, Leichhardts Lookout and Burwood Beach walks. There is a sheltered information sign with historical and natural heritage information.

Leichhardts Lookout

Leichhardts Lookout is within the Glenrock State Conservation Area. This lookout is a timber platform, looking east across Glenrock Lagoon and out to the ocean. Leichhardts Lookout is named after Ludwig Leichhardt a Prussian naturalist and explorer who, in 1842, described the view down into Glenrock Lagoon as well as other important geological sightings in the area. [More info.](#)

Glenrock Lagoon & Reserve

The Glenrock Lagoon is within the Glenrock State Conservation Area and has a rich history. It was named for 'Glen' meaning narrow valley and 'rock' because of the rocky nature of the valley. The site was first occupied by the local aboriginals of the Awabakal Tribe, who were known to roam and hunt in the Glenrock Lagoon, with evidence near the mouth of the lagoon. The Awabakal Tribe had a large sacred cave, which was filled with paintings, however, these paintings are now gone. Glenrock was the site of the first coal deposits found in Australia. Deep in the valley, there are remnants of the early Colliery. Coal was mined at Glenrock for over 100 years - a good example of this is Smelters Beach, just north of the lagoon exit, which contains historic rail tracks in the cliff side. The Scout camp was established here in 1932, with a 99 year lease and continues today.

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 Hunter](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Glenrock State Conservation Area](#))
- 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:92323S WALLSEND, 92322S NEWCASTLE

1:100 000 Map Series:9232 NEWCASTLE

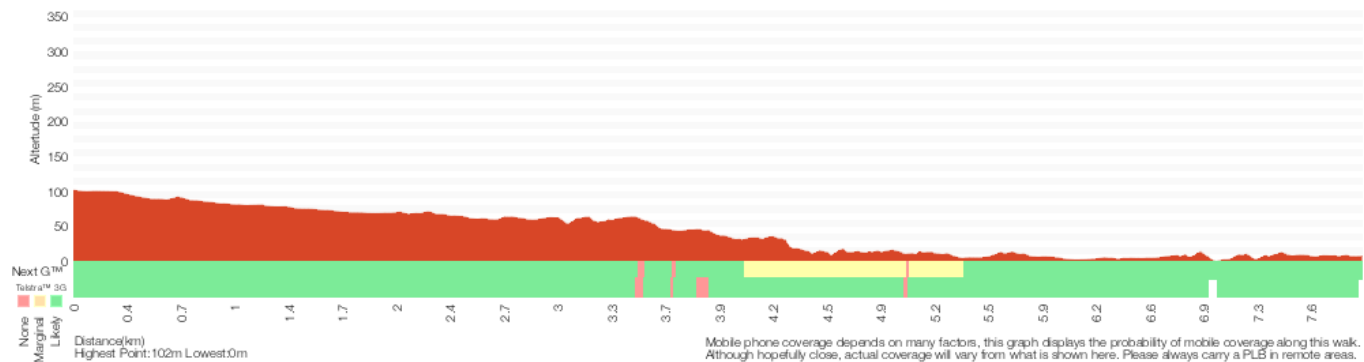
Grade

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	7.9 km One way
Time	2 hrs 45 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	Moderate level of bushwalking experience recommended (4/6)
Weather	Forecast, unforecast storms and severe weather may impact on navigation and safety (4/6)
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 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 Charlestown Park (gps: -32.9678, 151.6943) by car or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

You can get back from Merewether SLSC (gps: -32.9483, 151.7568) by car or bus. Car: There is free parking available.

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

0 | Charlestown Park

'Charlestown Park', by the Pacific Highway in Charlestown, offers a picnic table, shelter, barbeque and war memorial. Charlestown Park is also known and signposted as 'Anniversary Grove'.

0 | Charlestown Park

(750 m 13 mins) From Charlestown Park, this walk follows the 'Newcastle' sign across the Pacific Highway at the traffic lights. The walk then turns left to cross 'Dudley Road' and follow the GNW arrow post along the foot path towards the service station on the Pacific Highway. Just before the service station, this walk turns right to following Charles Street gently downhill for about 100m, then takes the first right onto Smith Street, and then immediately turns left into Mulbinga Street. The walk follows Mulbinga St gently downhill for about 300m, turning left onto Moto St heading gently uphill for about 100m before turning right onto Milson Street. This walk follows Milson St gently downhill for about 40m, until coming to the end of the street. where there is a small timber footbridge (on the left).

0.75 | End of Milson Street

(710 m 12 mins) Veer left: From the end of Milson Street, this walk follows the GNW arrow post down over the grass and across the timber footbridge. The walk continues through the forest, and over the next 150m, heads along a few sections of timber boardwalk and crosses a small bridge with a handrail, to then cross Flaggy Creek at a metal bridge with handrails. Just after crossing the bridge, this walk turns left, following the GNW arrow post at the three-way intersection. This walk follows the track, keeping Flaggy Creek to the left for about 500m, until coming to an intersection with Guna Street.

1.46 | Int of Flaggy Creek track & Guna Street

(1.7 km 31 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection, this follows the GNW arrow post across Guna Road then follows the track east, back into the bush. The walk follows the track for about 200m then crosses the usually small creek. The track continues for another 160m and then crosses the now-a-bit-wider creek. The wide track gently winds through forest for about 600m before crossing the creek again on the timber boardwalk and bridge with handrails. The walk then continues to follow the track for a further 170m, to head up the timbers steps and cross a smaller timber bridge. The track continues gently uphill for another 170m, until coming to a T-intersection with the sealed shared Fernleigh Track.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the shared Fernleigh Track footpath gently uphill, initially keeping the railing on your right. The walk follows the sealed path for about 110m to find Burwood Rd and a pedestrian crossing with traffic lights. Here the walk crosses Burwood Rd and comes to an intersection, marked with a 'Great North Walk' sign.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Great North Walk - Newcastle' sign gently downhill along the footpath, keeping the safety barrier and Burwood Rd to your right. After about 70m, the path leads across a bridge (over Flaggy Creek) and then after another 30m, the walk turns left into the signposted 'Yuelarbah car park'.

3.19 | Yuelarbah car park

Yuelarbah car park on Burwood Rd, Kahibah is the starting point to a number of walks within the Glenrock State Conservation Area. From the car park tracks being for the Yuelarbah Track, Flaggy Creek, Little Flaggy Creek, Leichhardts Lookout and Burwood Beach walks. There is a sheltered information sign with historical and natural heritage information.

3.19 | Yuelarbah carpark

(570 m 11 mins) Turn left: From the Yuelarbah car park, this walk follows the 'Yuelarbah walking track' sign down along the sealed footpath then along the timber boardwalk. The elevated boardwalk leads through the bush for about 100m, where the walk then follows the wide gravel footpath for a further 400m, passing a picnic table partway, then coming to a three-way intersection, marked with a 'Yuelarbah Track' sign (and track on the right) just before a bridge.

3.76 | Int of Yuelarbah track & Glenrock scoutcamp track

(190 m 4 mins) Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Yuelarbah Track' sign across the timber and metal suspension bridge over Flaggy Creek. On the other side of the bridge, this walk comes to a T-intersection with a track.

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the track gently downhill, initially keeping the bridge and Flaggy Creek on your right. The walk heads down along the footpath, past the bench seat and down a few timber steps for about 150m, until coming to an intersection under the power lines, just past the 'Yuelarbah Track' sign.

3.95 | Int of Yuelarbah AND powerline tracks

(300 m 6 mins) Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Yuelarbah Track' sign under the power lines and down the timber steps, while keeping the creek on your right. The walk heads past the NPWS post and follows the track for about 60m, to then follow a section of timber railing with views over the waterfall (on the right). Then the walk continues gently downhill for about 130m, until coming to a three-way intersection with a track, marked with another 'Yuelarbah Track' sign (and a bridge visible on the right).

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the rocky track moderately steeply downhill, towards the timber bridge. At the bottom of the timber steps, this walk crosses the timber bridge over Little Flaggy Creek. Here the walk leads up some timber steps then winds moderately steeply up along the track for about 70m, coming to a three-way intersection beside the raised timber platform, signposted as 'Leichhardts Lookout'.

4.25 | Leichhardts Lookout

Leichhardts Lookout is within the Glenrock State Conservation Area. This lookout is a timber platform, looking east across Glenrock Lagoon and out to the ocean. Leichhardts Lookout is named after Ludwig Leichhardt a Prussian naturalist and explorer who, in 1842, described the view down into Glenrock Lagoon as well as other important geological sightings in the area. [More info.](#)

4.25 | Leichhardts Lookout

(1.3 km 27 mins) Continue straight: From 'Leichhardts Lookout', this walk follows the track east from the beside the lookout, whilst keeping the valley to your right. The track leads quite steeply down the timber steps and soon passes down between the cleft in the rocks. The walk continues down the

steep steps beside the rock face then down the staircase with a handrail. From here, the track continues down the steps for another 150m, crossing two small timber bridges to where the track begins to flatten out. Here the track leads more gently along the side of the hill, crossing 5 more small timber bridges over the next 900m before leaving the dense forest and getting a view of the beach beside the large 'Great North walk' sign. The walk now follows the GNW arrow post gently downhill for about 80m to the large sandy beach, just beside Glenrock Lagoon (on the right), to find a GNW arrow post at the bottom of the vegetated bank (on the left).

5.5 | Glenrock Lagoon & Reserve

The Glenrock Lagoon is within the Glenrock State Conservation Area and has a rich history. It was named for 'Glen' meaning narrow valley and 'rock' because of the rocky nature of the valley. The site was first occupied by the local aboriginals of the Awabakal Tribe, who were known to roam and hunt in the Glenrock Lagoon, with evidence near the mouth of the lagoon. The Awabakal Tribe had a large sacred cave, which was filled with paintings, however, these paintings are now gone. Glenrock was the site of the first coal deposits found in Australia. Deep in the valley, there are remnants of the early Colliery. Coal was mined at Glenrock for over 100 years - a good example of this is Smelters Beach, just north of the lagoon exit, which contains historic rail tracks in the cliff side. The Scout camp was established here in 1932, with a 99 year lease and continues today.

5.5 | Optional sidetrip to Glenrock Scout Camp

(710 m 12 mins) Turn sharp right: From the GNW arrow post, this walk follows the main beach south (while keeping the ocean to your left) for about 70m. There is a possibility of getting wet feet when crossing the lagoon outlet stream, depending on conditions. Once past the lagoon (on the south side), this walk comes to a faint intersection with the scout camp access track (on your right).

Veer right: From Glenrock Beach, this walk follows the sandy track inland, keeping the lagoon on your right. After about 280m, this walk passes the 'This is Scout property' sign and then walks over the large grassed area for about 100m to the camping area beside the camp kitchen. From here, the walk continues gently uphill over the large grassed area (towards the cluster of buildings) for about 150m, until passing around a locked chain gate with an 'Emergency Assembly Point' sign, just beside the caretaker's house (on your left). At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Continue straight.

5.5 | Glenrock Scout Camp

Glenrock Scout Camp, off Burwood road and within the Glenrock State Conservation Area is owned and operated by the Scouting Association of Australia. The scout camp is located by a beautiful lagoon and is close to the ocean. The scout camp is a great place to stop and relax, with self guided walks and nature trails available close by. At the scout camp there is a public telephone, locked toilets (available upon request), water and sheltered picnic tables. The scout camp has indoor accommodation available. The Overman's Cottage is a large simple cottage, with sleeping on mattress's on the floor and costs \$80/day plus \$8/person. Also available is the Mac Crumb Room, which is for adults only, has 8 bunks and has a self contained kitchen and toilet. The Mac Crumb Room costs \$80/day plus \$10/person. Camping is for Scouts only. Please contact the Hunter and Coastal Regional Office (02 4929 1760) for information and to make a booking. The on site resident is also available (02 49447303). [More info.](#)

5.5 | Glenrock Beach (north of lagoon)

(1 km 18 mins) Veer left: From the GNW arrow marker, this walk follows the wide beach north, keeping the ocean on your right. This walk follows the beach past attractive cliffs and historical remnants of the coal mine (on the

left), then several side tracks, over about 800m to come to an intersection with a timber formed track and information signs(on the left). The walk continues straight along the beach for another 230m until coming to another intersection with a track, beside the sheltered information sign (up the hill to the left).

6.5 | Int of Burwood Beach & the Hickson Street track

(1 km 22 mins) Continue straight: From the intersection (below the information shelter), this walk follows the beach north, while keeping the ocean on your right. The walk soon heads over a series of attractive rock platforms at the base of a large cliff and headland, and after about 1km, comes to the Merewether Ocean Baths. If there is a light to moderate onshore breeze, then you might also enjoy the view of some hanggliders and paragliders flying above. Take care along the rock platforms, especially during high tides and high seas - during particularly high tides this section may become unsafe to pass.

7.55 | Merewether Baths

Merewether Baths, located off Henderson Parade in Merewether, have a long history of swimming for the people of Newcastle. The baths are open to the ocean and therefore conditions will be variable. There are toilets, some shelter and seats available here. The baths are open year round (subject to maintenance and cleaning) and are patrolled from 9am to 5pm from 25 September 2010 to 25 April 2011. The current baths were opened in 1935, to replace the original baths just to the north. Both the original and newer baths are used year round. [More info.](#)

7.55 | Merewether Baths

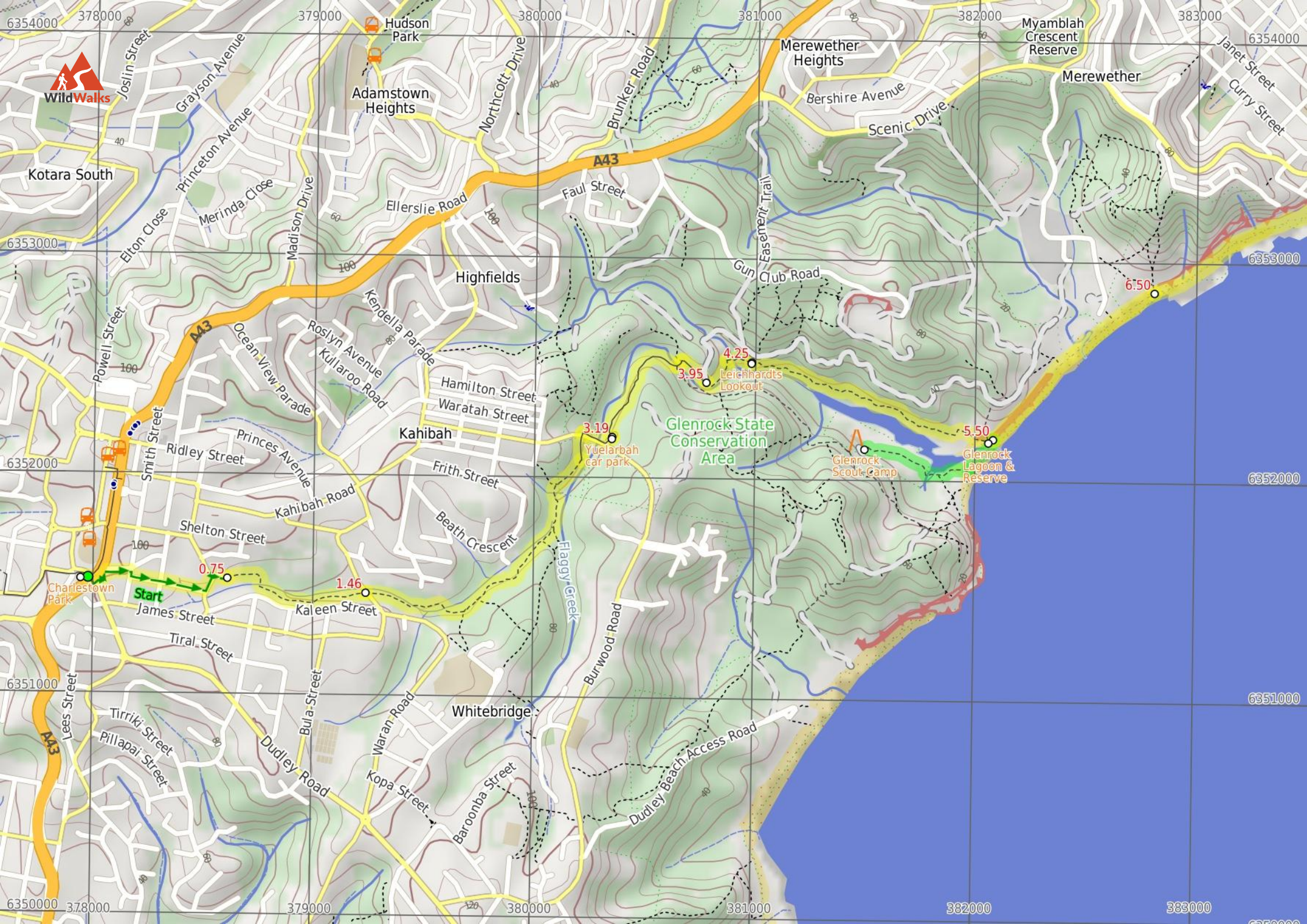
(370 m 6 mins) Continue straight: From the 'Merewether Ocean Baths', this walk follows the slightly elevated footpath gently uphill, keeping the ocean and beach to your right. The walk continues to follow the footpath for about 300m, passing a large picnic shelter and some bench seats until coming to Swell cafe, under the Merewether Surf Life Saving Club building, just near the intersection of John and Henderson Parades.

7.92 | Swell Cafe

Swell cafe is located right on the beach (with the Merewether Surf Lifesaving Club above it) and just off John Parade in Merewether. Swell cafe offers fresh juices, cafe food, a toilet and water. [More info.](#)







WildWalks

Kotara South

Charlestown Park

Start

Hudson Park
Adamstown Heights

Merewether Heights

Myambah Crescent Reserve

Merewether

Highfields

Glenrock State Conservation Area

Kahibah

Whitebridge

Glenrock Scout Camp

Glenrock Lagoon & Reserve

Leichhardt's Lookout

Yuelarbah car park

6354000

378000

379000

380000

381000

382000

383000

6354000

6353000

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6351000

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6350000

Summary navigation sheet for the Charlestown Park track head to Merewether



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
0.00	Charlestown Park -32.9678,151.6943 (GR Wallsend, 780515)	6 -20	750 m 13 mins	From Charlestown Park, this walk follows the 'Newcastle' sign across the Pacific Highway at the traffic lights.
0.75	End of Milson Street -32.9679,151.7011 (GR Wallsend, 786515)	2 -15	710 m 12 mins	Veer left: From the end of Milson Street, this walk follows the GNW arrow post down over the grass and across the timber footbridge.
1.46	Int of Flaggy Creek track & Guna Street -32.9685,151.7078 (GR Wallsend, 792515)	31 -42	1.7 km 31 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this follows the GNW arrow post across Guna Road then follows the track east, back into the bush.
3.19	Yuelarbah carpark -32.9621,151.7198 (GR Wallsend, 804522)	11 -31	570 m 11 mins	Turn left: From the Yuelarbah car park, this walk follows the 'Yuelarbah walking track' sign down along the sealed footpath then along the timber boardwalk.
3.76	Int of Yuelarbah track & Glenrock scoutcamp track -32.9592,151.7229 (GR Wallsend, 806525)	6 -13	190 m 4 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Yuelarbah Track' sign across the timber and metal suspension bridge over Flaggy Creek.
3.95	Int of Yuelarbah AND powerline tracks -32.9599,151.7244 (GR Wallsend, 808524)	9 -13	300 m 6 mins	Veer right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Yuelarbah Track' sign under the power lines and down the timber steps, while keeping the creek on your right.
4.25	Leichhardts Lookout -32.9591,151.7266 (GR Wallsend, 810525)	47 -75	1.3 km 27 mins	Continue straight: From 'Leichhardts Lookout', this walk follows the track east from the beside the lookout, whilst keeping the valley to your right.
5.50	Glenrock Beach (north of lagoon) -32.9623,151.7383 (GR Wallsend, 821522)	15 -9	710 m 12 mins	Optional sidetrip to Glenrock Scout Camp. Turn sharp right: From the GNW arrow post, this walk follows the main beach south (while keeping the ocean to your left) for about 70m.
5.50	Glenrock Beach (north of lagoon) -32.9623,151.7383 (GR Wallsend, 821522)	21 -22	1 km 18 mins	Veer left: From the GNW arrow marker, this walk follows the wide beach north, keeping the ocean on your right.
6.50	Int of Burwood Beach & the Hickson Street track -32.9563,151.7461 (GR Wallsend, 828529)	43 -39	1 km 22 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection (below the information shelter), this walk follows the beach north, while keeping the ocean on your right.
7.55	Merewether Baths -32.9513,151.7552 (GR Newcastle, 837534)	5 -6	370 m 6 mins	Continue straight: From the 'Merewether Ocean Baths', this walk follows the slightly elevated footpath gently uphill, keeping the ocean and beach to your right.