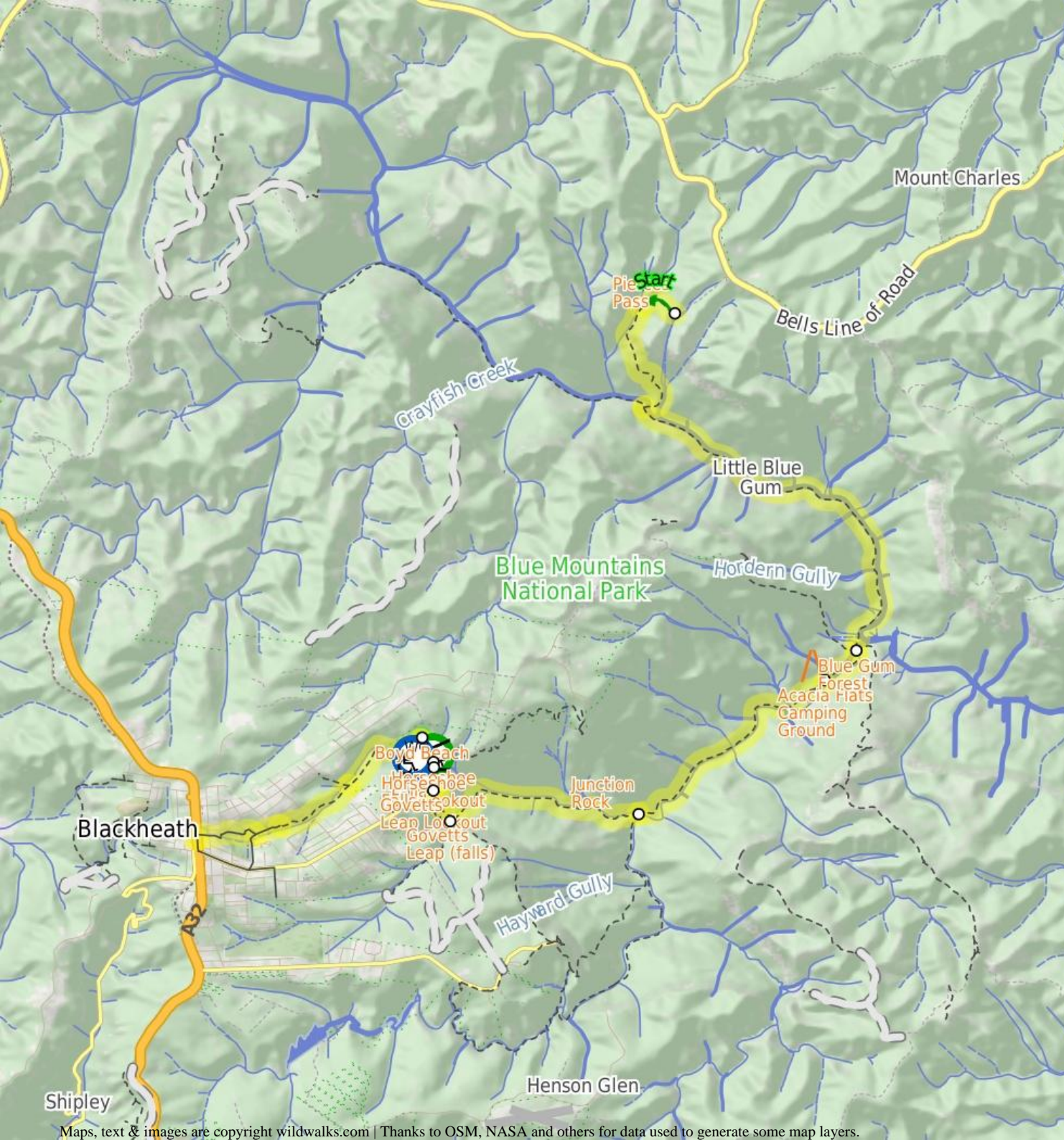



## Pierces Pass to Blackheath Station



9 hrs

Experienced only

5

17.6 km One way  1225m

This walk explores a section of the Grose River and the flats around the superb Blue Gum Forest. The track then climbs up to Govetts Leap Lookout and along Pope's Glen to Blackheath. The hard yakka will be rewarded by some superb views of blue gums, the gorge, waterfalls and cliffs. This walk is one where you'll want to have a friend with a car (they can enjoy some shorter walks or the great cafes in the area) or hail a taxi.

1063m

310m

Blue Mountains National Park

## Pierces Pass

Pierces Pass, Blue Mountains NP, is a passage through the cliffs from the Bells Line of Road. The pass is popular with rock climbers, who use it as an access track to the cliffs.

## Blue Gum Forest

Blue Gum Forest, Blue Mountains NP, is a large stand of Eucalyptus deanei trees on the junction of the Grose River and Govetts Creek. The magnificent trees stand tall on the flats with low vegetation beneath. The trees of Blue Gum Forest represent the protection efforts of Myles Dunphy, who lead a group to raise the 130 pounds required to buy the Blue Gum Forest - quite a sum in 1931 during the depression - and save it from being cleared. The group were successful and the Blue Gum Forest is now protected within the Blue Mountains National Park. [More info.](#)

## Acacia Flats Camping Ground

Acacia Flats Camping Ground, Blue Mountains NP, is situated on the floor of the Grose Valley between Perrys Lookdown and Lockley Pylon. The camp ground is approximately 50m from Govetts Creek and approximately 500m upstream from Blue Gum Forest. Acacia Flats Camping Ground is appropriately named after the dense population of Acacias found in this area. Acacia Flats is a wonderful area to camp with tall shady Blue Gums and level grass clearings which make for a great place to pitch a tent. There is a pit toilet and sitting logs to make camping more comfortable, and plenty of room for large groups. Water is available from Govetts Creek (treat before drinking).

## Junction Rock

Junction Rock, Blue Mountains NP, is a rock situated in the middle of the Govetts Leap Brook and Govetts Creek junction. The rock is signposted, giving directions to Evans Lookout, Neates Glen, Acacia Flats and the Blue Gum Forest. Junction Rock is a great place for lunch and a swim in summer.

## Govetts Leap (falls)

Govetts Leap, is a waterfall in the Blue Mountains National Park. The fall is fed by Govetts Leap Brook which runs over the cliff into the Grose Valley. The falls are best viewed from Govetts Leap and Barrow Lookouts. Leap is a scots dialect word for cataract or waterfall.

## 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 Central Tablelands District](#))
- 2) Fire Dangers ([Central Ranges, Greater Sydney Region](#))
- 3) Park Alerts ([Blue Mountains 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:**89301S KATOOMBA, 89301N MOUNT WILSON

**1:100 000 Map Series:**8930 KATOOMBA

## Grade

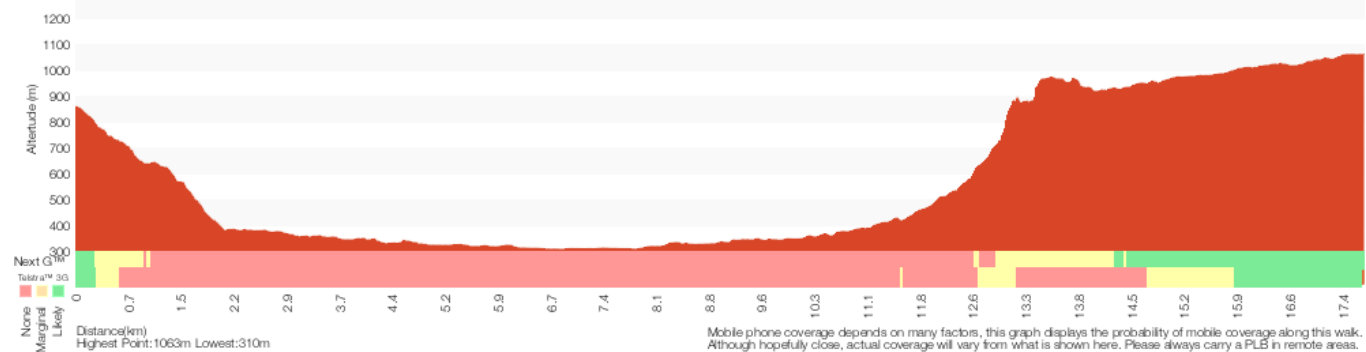
This walk has been graded using the AS 2156.1-2001. The overall grade of the walk is determined by the highest classification along the whole track.



Grade 5/6  
Experienced only

<b>Length</b>	17.6 km One way
<b>Time</b>	9 hrs
<b>Quality of track</b>	Rough unclear track (5/6)
<b>Signs</b>	Directional signs along the way (3/6)
<b>Experience Required</b>	Some bushwalking experience recommended (3/6)
<b>Weather</b>	Weather generally has little impact on safety (1/6)
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Limited facilities (such as cliffs not fenced, significant creeks not bridged) (4/6)

**\* This walk passes through very remote areas 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.**



### 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 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. **Experienced walkers only: This walk passes through very remote areas 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.**

**Getting there** Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Pierces Pass car park (gps: -33.5701, 150.3386). Car: There is free parking available. You can get back from Blackheath Station (gps: -33.6339, 150.2844) by car, train 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/pptbs>

### 0 | Pierces Pass

Pierces Pass, Blue Mountains NP, is a passage through the cliffs from the Bells Line of Road. The pass is popular with rock climbers, who use it as an access track to the cliffs.

### 0 | Pierces Pass car park

*(2.1 km 1 hr 23 mins)* From the car park, this walk heads down the hill tending right, to follow the creek. The track then follows the line of the creek, which drops away quickly before the track winds under a rocky outcrop. The track then winds to pass a tree which ends with a large step at the roots of the upturned tree, marking the intersection.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads down the hill, with the creek below on the right. The track becomes lighter as the rainforest vegetation gives way, and the track leads away from the cliff lines of Pierces Pass. The track then descends across the hillside for approximately 400m to tend right onto a narrowing spur line. The track is quite steep in places as it makes its way down to the creek flats. From where the track meets the creek flats, the walk then leads through the low vegetation to the creek. The track crosses the creek to head downstream for approximately 20m, then climbs off the creek flats and coming to an intersection with signposts pointing to 'Burra Korain, Victoria Falls' and 'Acacia Flats'.

### 2.12 | Int. Pierces Pass and Grose River Tracks

*(4.9 km 1 hr 34 mins)* Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the sign to 'Acacia Flats', keeping the creek below on the left. The track continues for approximately 500m, undulating across the steep hillside. The terrain then begins to flatten out as the track leads onto a creek flat area. After a short while, a clearing with a fireplace is passed, on your right. The track continues to undulate along the hillside, with the creek to the left, for approximately 2km, to an area where the creek flats broaden. The track passes some more clearings with fire places, coming to a sign marked 'Blue Gum Forest'. The track passes this sign and continues for approximately 500m to a well-signed intersection.

### 7.02 | Blue Gum Forest

Blue Gum Forest, Blue Mountains NP, is a large stand of Eucalyptus deanei trees on the junction of the Grose River and Govetts Creek. The magnificent trees stand tall on the flats with low vegetation beneath. The trees of Blue Gum Forest represent the protection efforts of Myles Dunphy, who lead a group to raise the 130 pounds required to buy the Blue Gum Forest - quite a

sum in 1931 during the depression - and save it from being cleared. The group were successful and the Blue Gum Forest is now protected within the Blue Mountains National Park. [More info.](#)

### 7.02 | Blue Gum Forest intersection

*(610 m 10 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the sign 'Camping only at Acacia Flats', heading downstream. The track tends right, away from the Grose River and towards the hills on the right. The walk then heads downhill and across a small creek, after which it meanders for approximately 100m before arriving at Acacia Flats camping area.

### 7.62 | Acacia Flats Camping Ground

Acacia Flats Camping Ground, Blue Mountains NP, is situated on the floor of the Grose Valley between Perrys Lookdown and Lockley Pylon. The camp ground is approximately 50m from Govetts Creek and approximately 500m upstream from Blue Gum Forest. Acacia Flats Camping Ground is appropriately named after the dense population of Acacias found in this area. Acacia Flats is a wonderful area to camp with tall shady Blue Gums and level grass clearings which make for a great place to pitch a tent. There is a pit toilet and sitting logs to make camping more comfortable, and plenty of room for large groups. Water is available from Govetts Creek (treat before drinking).

### 7.62 | Acacia Flats Camping Ground

*(3 km 1 hr 2 mins)* Continue straight: From Acacia Flats camping area, the walk leaves the camping area with the Grose River far to the left and the majority of the camping areas to the right of the track. The walk passes a pit toilet on the right after approximately 100m. Continuing along the creek flats before climbing up a small hill, the track contours and undulates for approximately 600m to round a hill which gives views of Pulpit Rock above on the cliffs. The track turns right to climb up the hill, and then left to contour for some time. As the slope lessens, the track descends to the creek bank, which is on the right. The track continues to contour for approximately 1km just above the creek, on a steep bank which has minor undulations, until it comes across a clearing with a 'No Camping' sign. The track turns left here and descends to the creek bank at a signposted intersection of Junction Rock. Junction Rock 'intersection' sits in the middle of the creek.

### 10.6 | Junction Rock

Junction Rock, Blue Mountains NP, is a rock situated in the middle of the Govetts Leap Brook and Govetts Creek junction. The rock is signposted, giving directions to Evans Lookout, Neates Glen, Acacia Flats and the Blue Gum Forest. Junction Rock is a great place for lunch and a swim in summer.

### 10.6 | Junction Rock

*(2.4 km 1 hr 15 mins)* Veer right: From Junction Rock, the walk follows the 'Govetts Leap' sign, soon crossing the brook. The track then follows the brook for approximately 150m, to another creek crossing. The track continues, with the creek now on its left, for approximately 60m, before crossing back to the other bank. The track continues for approximately 1km with the creek to the right, and undulates steeply in sections between magnificent waterfalls. A section of track traverses a rock shelf for a short stretch, before continuing to wind up and down (with the creek to the right) to a few sets of steeply-cut stairs. From these, the walk continues to wind over hills to a creek crossing. The track then heads up the spur, winding between views of waterfalls, before tending left further up the hill. The walk leads up the winding steps for some time, until crossing the creek at the bottom of a waterfall cascading off the large cliffs - Govetts Leap falls.

### 12.95 | Govetts Leap (falls)

Govetts Leap, is a waterfall in the Blue Mountains National Park. The fall is

fed by Govetts Leap Brook which runs over the cliff into the Grose Valley. The falls are best viewed from Govetts Leap and Barrow Lookouts. Leap is a scots dialect word for cataract or waterfall.

### 12.95 | Bottom of Govetts Leap falls

*(610 m 42 mins)* Continue straight: From the bottom of Govetts Leap Falls, this walk heads north-west, following the blue signs up the hill. The track zigzags its way steeply up to a wall of rock covered by moss, ferns and grasses. The track passes along the base of this cliff to a metal staircase, passing through the rock. The track continues to wind steeply below the cliffline, passing two lookouts before coming to the signposted intersection. Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the sign to 'Govetts Leap carpark' up the stairs. The walk zigzags up the hill before tending left to the signposted intersection. Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads across the grassed area towards a platform structure. The walk climbs some stairs onto Govetts Leap Lookout, with its great views and sandstone monuments.

### 13.56 | Govetts Leap Lookout

Govetts Leap Lookout is named after the first European man to have enjoyed this view, William Govett, as an assistant surveyor in June 1831. Govetts Leap Lookout offers wonderful views over the Grose Valley and the spectacular Bridal Falls. The word 'leap' is an old Scottish word meaning waterfall. The lookout is easily accessed from the car park, there are also toilets and picnic shelters nearby.

### 13.56 | Govetts Leap Lookout

*(340 m 11 mins)* Turn around: From Govetts Leap Lookout, this walk heads down the stairs at the edge of the lookout, keeping the valley to the right. The walk then crosses a grassed area to a well-signposted intersection on the edge of the tree line.

Turn left: From the intersection, this walk heads down some stairs, keeping the valley to the right. The walk turns right over a bridge, continuing around the hillside to drop down onto a viewing area and intersection.

Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads down steep stairs, keeping the valley to the right. The track then winds along the cliff top until coming to an intersection, near Horseshoe Falls Lookout.

### 13.9 | Horseshoe Falls Lookout

Horseshoe Falls Lookout, Blue Mountains National Park, is a small fenced lookout. There are views down to Horseshoe Falls and across the Grose Valley.

### 13.9 | Horseshoe Falls

Horseshoe Falls, Blue Mountains National Park, are sourced by Popes Glen Creek which runs over the cliff into the Grose Valley. The Horseshoe Falls seem to be named after the shape of the valley into which they drop.

### 13.9 | Horseshoe Falls Lookout

*(440 m 11 mins)* Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads along the cliff top towards Horseshoe Falls, with the valley below to the right. The track winds for some time around the hillside, to a lookout on the right, before continuing around to a railing some steep stairs. The stairs lead to Popes Glen Creek, where the track continues through the ferns to meet a street sign.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the sign to 'Popes Glen' keeping the creek below on the right. The track continues for approximately 100m, rising to the left of a prominent rock feature. The walk passes another track on the right (with access to the creek), then continues to rise past the rock feature (on the right - The rock feature has a trail to its top.) This walk continues from the rock feature, heading down the hill to a

signposted intersection.

#### **14.34 | Optional sidetrip to Boyd Beach**

*(40 m 1 mins)* Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads down the hill following the 'Boyd's Beach' sign (under the bush). The walk winds down the rocky steps for approximately 40m to Boyd Beach. At the end of this side trip, retrace your steps back to the main walk then Continue straight.

#### **14.34 | Boyd Beach**

Boyd Beach, Blue Mountains National Park, is a small sandy bank on Popes Glen Creek. The beach is a quiet spot with nice ferns and shade. The beach is a short distance from the Popes Glen track.

#### **14.34 | Int. Popes Glen Trk and Boyd Bch Trk**

*(2.1 km 49 mins)* Turn left : From the intersection, this walk heads up the hill, following the arrow on the sign pointing to 'Blackheath'. The track continues above the creek (on the right) for some time, then crosses a bridge so that the creek is now on the left. The walk crosses a second bridge, then continues for some time up a rocky hill to an intersection below power lines, with a bridge below on the right.

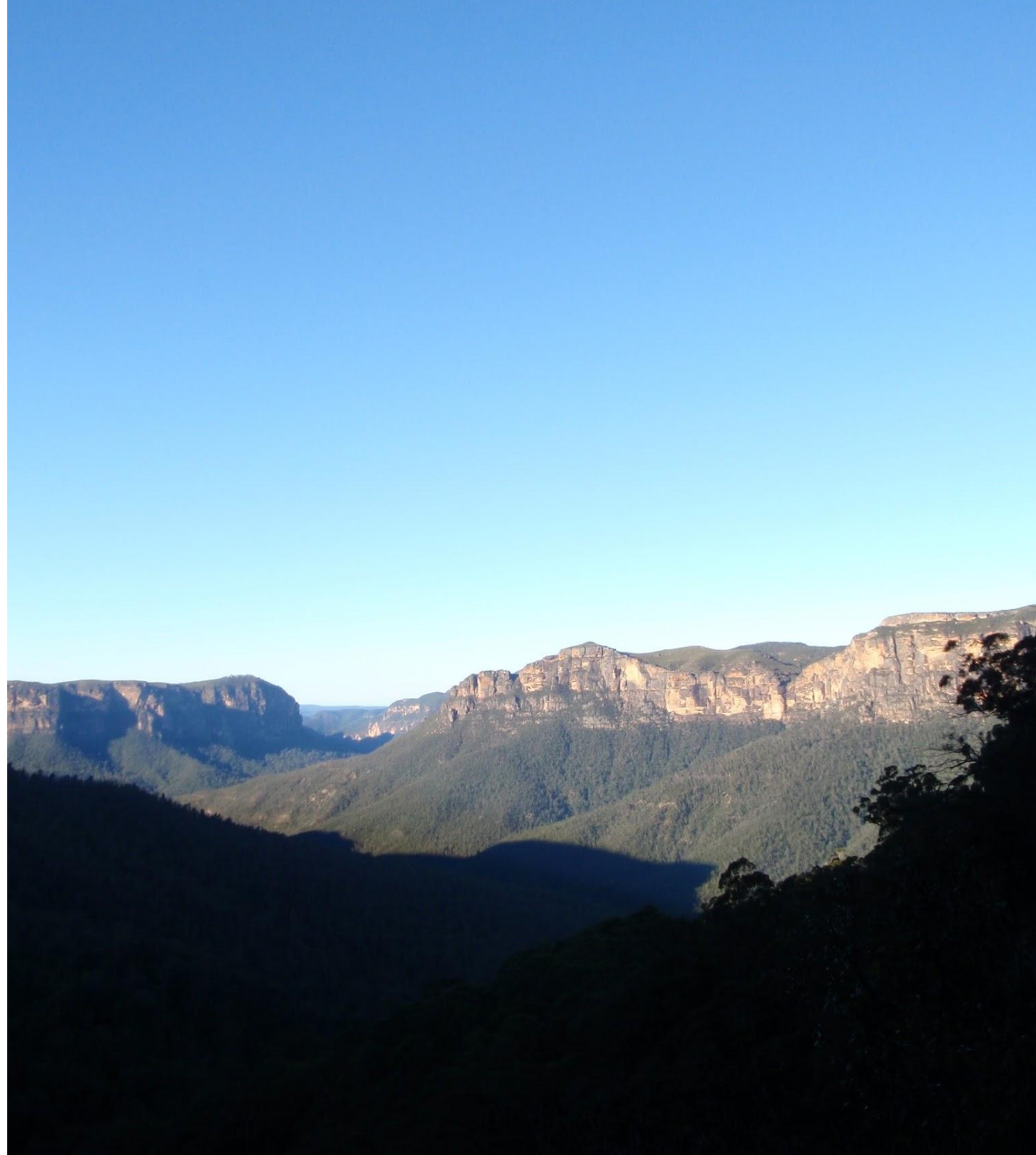
Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads up the hill, keeping the creek below on the right. The walk soon crosses the creek at a bridge, continuing along the other side to a small waterfall (on the left). The track then continues up the hill for for a short time, passing an intersection (with access tracks to Clarence Rd). The track continues to head up the hill for approximately 300m to the intersection with Dell St.

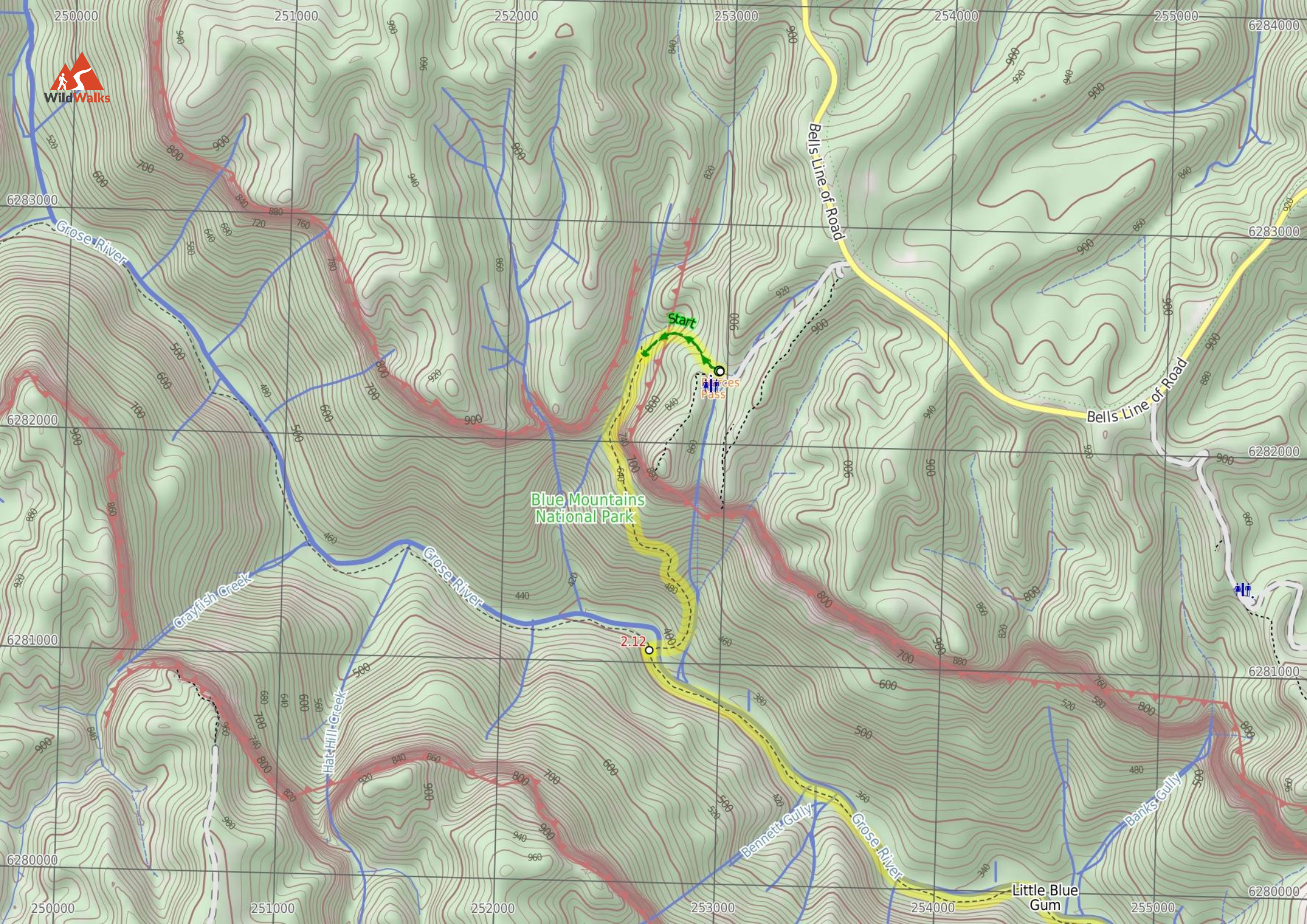
#### **16.45 | Int. Pope's Glen Trk and Dell St**

*(1.2 km 26 mins)* Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads down Dell St, keeping the bush to the left of the road and houses to the right. The walk soon passes Cleopatra St on the right and continues along Dell St to the intersection with Gipps Lane, on the right (where Dell St changes name to Wills St).

Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads along Gipps Lane, passing a large wooden house to the right of the road. The road tends left onto Robertson Lane which then becomes Wills St. The walk follows Wills Street for sometime to turn left onto Inconstant St and then right onto Gardiner Cres. Gardiner Cres is followed to the Great Western Highway, where there is a petrol station on the left. From here, this walk turns left to follow the Great Western Highway, keeping the petrol station on the left, as the walk heads towards the Gardners Inn pub. This walk continues to the pedestrian crossing, opposite Blackheath Station steps.

Turn right: From the pedestrian crossing, this walk crosses the Great Western Highway to turn right up the covered station steps. The walk follows the railway bridge to the top of the station staircase.

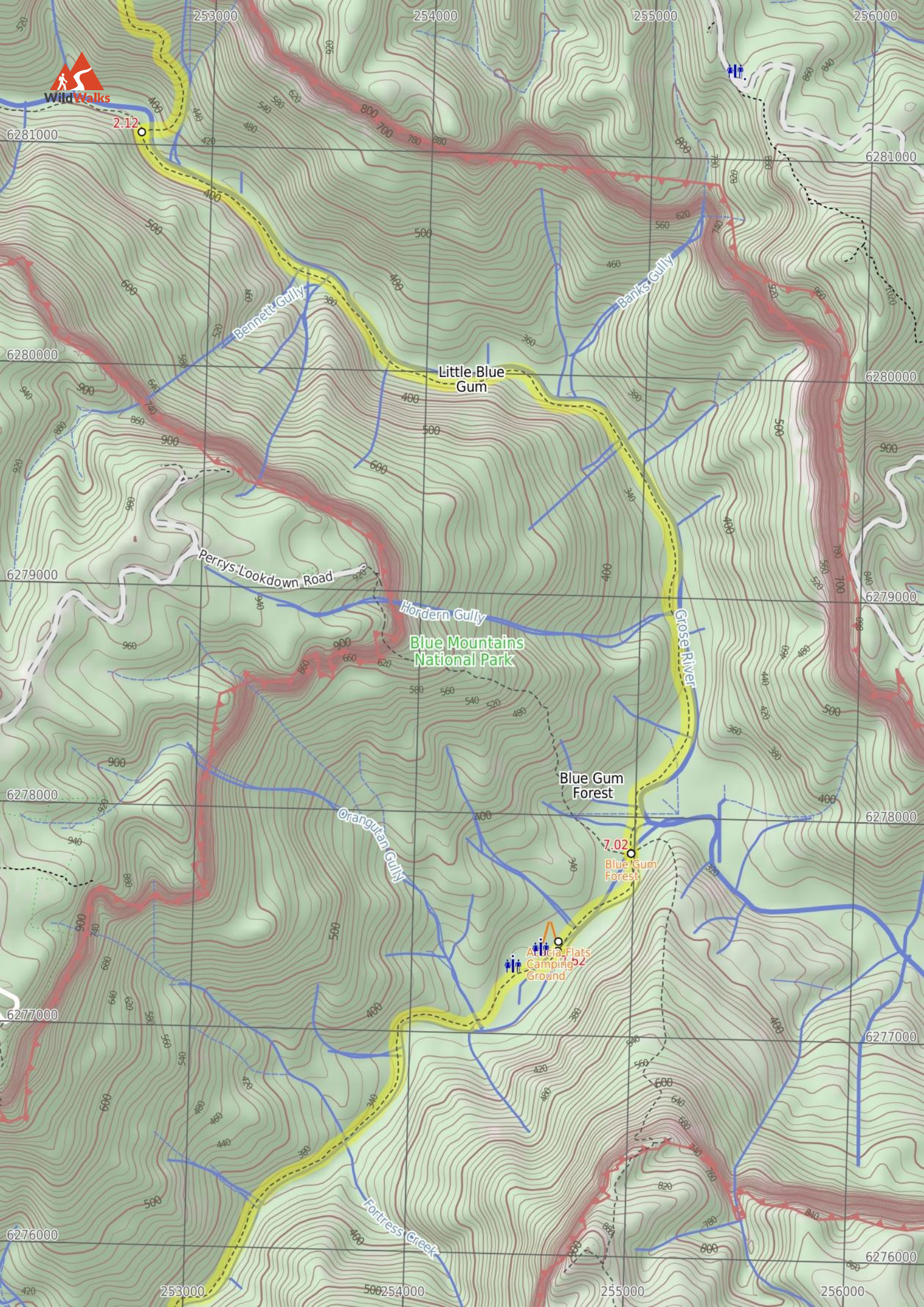




Blue Mountains National Park

2.12

Little Blue Gum



2.12

Little Blue Gum

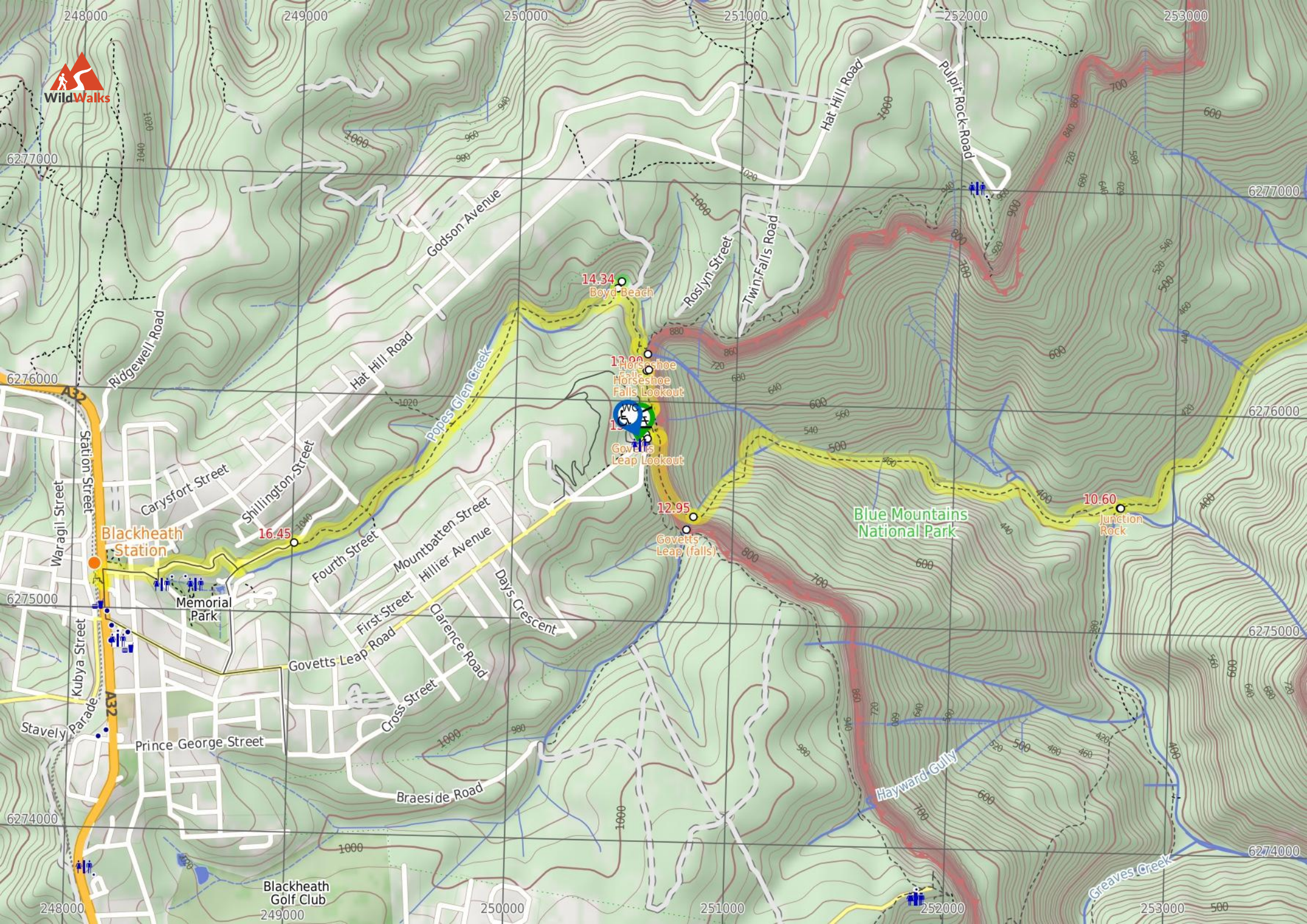
Blue Mountains National Park

Blue Gum Forest

7.02

Alicia Flats  
Camping Ground

Fortress Creek



## Summary navigation sheet for the Pierces Pass to Blackheath Station



km	From	Up/Dwn	Length	Initial directions (Use full tracknotes and maps for more detail)
Start	Pierces Pass car park -33.5701,150.3386 (GR Mount Wilson, 530823)	22 -496	2.1 km 1 hr 23 mins	From the car park, this walk heads down the hill tending right, to follow the creek.
2.12	Int. Pierces Pass and Grose River Tracks -33.5816,150.3352 (GR Mount Wilson, 527811)	110 -184	4.9 km 1 hr 34 mins	Turn left: From the intersection, this walk follows the sign to 'Acacia Flats', keeping the creek below on the left.
7.02	Blue Gum Forest intersection -33.6111,150.3592 (GR Mount Wilson, 550778)	4 -4	610 m 10 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the sign 'Camping only at Acacia Flats', heading downstream.
7.62	Acacia Flats Camping Ground -33.6151,150.3556 (GR Mount Wilson, 547774)	130 -80	3 km 1 hr 2 mins	Continue straight: From Acacia Flats camping area, the walk leaves the camping area with the Grose River far to the left and the majority of the camping areas to the right of the track.
10.60	Junction Rock -33.631,150.3346 (GR Katoomba, 528756)	390 -22	2.4 km 1 hr 15 mins	Veer right: From Junction Rock, the walk follows the 'Govetts Leap' sign, soon crossing the brook.
12.95	Bottom of Govetts Leap falls -33.6314,150.3137 (GR Katoomba, 508755)	305 -61	610 m 42 mins	Continue straight: From the bottom of Govetts Leap Falls, this walk heads north-west, following the blue signs up the hill.
13.56	Govetts Leap Lookout -33.628,150.3113 (GR Katoomba, 506758)	23 -62	340 m 11 mins	Turn around: From Govetts Leap Lookout, this walk heads down the stairs at the edge of the lookout, keeping the valley to the right.
13.90	Horseshoe Falls Lookout -33.6254,150.3114 (GR Katoomba, 506761)	31 -41	440 m 11 mins	Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk heads along the cliff top towards Horseshoe Falls, with the valley below to the right.
14.34	Int. Popes Glen Trk and Boyd Bch Trk -33.622,150.31 (GR Mount Wilson, 505765)	0 -3	40 m 1 mins	Optional sidetrip to Boyd Beach. Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads down the hill following the 'Boyd's Beach' sign (under the bush).
14.34	Int. Popes Glen Trk and Boyd Bch Trk -33.622,150.31 (GR Mount Wilson, 505765)	145 -48	2.1 km 49 mins	Turn left : From the intersection, this walk heads up the hill, following the arrow on the sign pointing to 'Blackheath'.
16.45	Int. Pope's Glen Trk and Dell St -33.6324,150.2941 (GR Katoomba, 490753)	65 -27	1.2 km 26 mins	Veer left: From the intersection, this walk heads down Dell St, keeping the bush to the left of the road and houses to the right.