



## 1: Jungo Walk

Pennant Hills circuit

**Route:** Bellamy Street, Pennant Hills, to the Jungo, to Boundary Road, returning to Bellamy Street by public streets

**Distance:** 5 km

**Grade:** Easy

**Time:** About 2 hours

**Transport:** Single car, or one car at Bellamy Street and another at Boundary Road; or by train or bus

**Track status:** Official track, except for optional Morrison Place exit section

### Synopsis

The walk, which is part of the Great North Walk, passes through a clearing known as the 'Jungo', and it overlaps sections of Walk 4: Elouera, and Walk 2: Callicoma. The walk is a circuit, the final 1.5 km section being on public streets and through school grounds.

## JUNGO WALK GUIDE

The beginning of this walk is at the northern end of Bellamy Street, about 1.6 km from both Pennant Hills and Thornleigh stations. There is a water bubbler at the Bellamy Street parking area, and along the walk there are suitable spots for picnics. The distance to the clearing known locally as the Jungo is 1.6 km.

Bellamy Street is named after landowner and special constable James Bellamy (1798-1875).

Close to the end of Bellamy Street is the site of the old zigzag railway settlement of the 1880s known as the Halls Creek camp, and before that known as Slaughterhouse Paddock, both long vanished

### Bellamy Street to the Jungo



### Detour to the Historic Quarry

The concrete cycleway to the right replaced the old quarry road constructed about 1912. It re-crosses Zig Zag Creek then ascends to the top of the hill 160 m away. This is the site of the Historic Quarry and the end of the one-time zigzag railway branch line. (For details see Walk 4: *Elouera*, as well as the section 'Historic Quarry and Zigzag railway' in this guide.)



George Foster

Zig Zag Creek is a low-volume watercourse typical of sandstone areas in Sydney, but it comes rapidly to life during wet or stormy weather. The waterfall near the Historic Quarry is one of many such impressive water features in the Park. This photograph may also be familiar as the cover of the Guide to *Elouera* Bushland Natural Park.

and now built over by housing. The first of several access points to traces of the old zigzag railway<sup>1</sup> is on the right at the end of the fence of the first house below the Bellamy Street parking area. Zig Zag Creek, as Halls Creek is now known, and the line of the old zigzag railway, may be reached after about 100 m along this side track.

Return to the main concrete pathway and after about 150 m cross a tributary to Zig Zag Creek.

On the higher and drier ground to the left is flora typical of Sydney sandstone. The taller trees are Sydney Peppermint *Eucalyptus piperita* with rough bark on the trunk and smooth upper branches with hanging strips of bark, and the Sydney Red Gum *Angophora costata*, with its pink-tan smooth bark and twisted branches. Under the canopy grow some large Heath-leaved Banksia *Banksia ericifolia*, which from January to May bear spikes about 20cm long of red and yellow flowers.

About 150 m from the ford, at a 15 m high green metal sewer vent, the concrete cycleway branches off to the right and leads to the Historic quarry. For the present walk, carry straight on along the Great North Walk.

### Zig Zag Creek to the Jungo

#### WALK 1: JUNGO AND WALK 4: ELOUERA OVERLAP STARTS HERE

The track leaves the fire trail and becomes a narrow path following Zig Zag Creek. Soon you pass through an extensive patch of *Lomandra longifolia*, herbaceous plants with long straplike leaves.

There are views of a steep sheltered cliff on the right. The sunlight slants down through the canopy of Sydney Peppermints *Eucalyptus piperita* and Sydney Red Gums *Angophora costata* to highlight leaves, plants and rocks in the dimness of the gully. Old Man Banksia *Banksia serrata*, as well as Hairpin Banksia *Banksia spinulosa* and Heath-leaved Banksia *Banksia ericifolia*, all grow along here and can be seen flowering from summer to winter. There are also ferns and grass trees.

After about 300 m and just before a walk-marker-post, a side path to the right descends to the sound of running water, opening onto a 10 m-diameter rocky clearing through which the creek passes, trickling down a broad waterfall cascade into a pool of similar size. This is the waterfall below the quarry and hopper site mentioned in the section on the 'Historic quarry and zigzag railway'.

River Rose *Bauera rubioides*, Graceful Bush-Pea *Pultenaea flexilis* and Handsome Flat Pea *Platylobium formosum*, flower profusely in spring, as do black-centred deep pink Black-eyed Susan *Tetradlea thymifolia*, whose flowers face the ground.

Continue along the main track. Many of the trees have burnt-out trunks where bushfire has reached the central heartwood. When the outer part, the sapwood, survives, so does the tree.

About halfway to the Jungo, just after a pair of 1 m-diameter Sydney Red Gums, you cross a timber bridge over north-flowing

1. For details see Historic quarry and zigzag railway.

Tedbury Creek, which rises in the vicinity of Observatory Park on Penannt Hills Road, Pennant Hills. This bridge and others like it make access easier and prevent disturbance to the plants growing on the banks. Note the soft-leaved fern Common Maidenhair *Adiantum aethiopicum*. Fallen trees and a few large tree stumps along the track remind walkers of the timber-getting era in this area. Eventually the logs decay and add nutrients to the soil, and new trees grow to replace them.

The track rises slightly and you pass through open-forest of Sydney Red Gums and Sydney Peppermints. The valley closes in with the sandstone piling up on both sides, steeper on the right (or north-east); this is one of the prettiest sections of the walk.

Those with sharp eyes may spot a concentric rings pattern on a boulder beside a pair of fallen logs (the left hand boulder of a pair almost opposite one another flanking the track). These boulders are just past another pair of boulders and a large fallen mossy log, cut to clear the track. Some 250 m further on, and 10 m off to the left, a boulder has a hole through it.

WALK 1: JUNGO AND  
WALK 4: ELOUERA OVERLAP ENDS

### The Jungo

Today the Jungo is an open flat sandstone space loosely covered with sand, grass and a few shrubs, about 20 m across, where the track meets the fire trail to Schofield Parade, Pennant Hills, coinciding briefly with the Great North Walk.

Near the Jungo Rest Area there used to be a popular swimming hole at the junction of Zig Zag Creek and Berowra Creek, both of which flow to the north in the direction of Westleigh, Hornsby and Berowra Waters. Here the water used to be clear and deep but by 2000 it was silted-up and overgrown. The site of the waterhole can be found by following the exposed sandstone in the Jungo picnic area down through the bushes to the creek.

### Old Swimming holes

There used to be a number of swimming holes in the Park. Two of these are further downstream and were known as Big Sandy and Little Sandy. These are also now silted up from the combined effects of quarrying and sub-division in the catchment in earlier times.

Trees of interest here include an almost pure stand of Narrow-leaved Apple *Angophora bakeri*. These have contorted limbs and narrow leaves, and generally grow on poor sandy soils or laterite.

At the Jungo, temporarily join Walk 2: *Callicoma*. This is a circular track opened in 1995 from the Lakes of Cherrybrook. A signboard shows that the Lakes are 1.7 km away in the direction of Fishponds and 3.4 km in the direction of the Cumberland State Forest.

### Possible derivation of the name 'Jungo'

Early residents affirm that the name *Jungo*, pronounced 'jung-oh', is an Australian slang contraction of 'junction', the junction of the two creeks there. In the first half of the twentieth century it was common Australianism to abbreviate words and to add '-o'. Another explanation is that it is a contraction of 'junction (swimming) hole': jung-ho.

### Jungo is also a Sydney Aboriginal word

Another possible explanation is that *jung-o*, *jungo* and *jungho* (*dyangu*) are Sydney Aboriginal words for the dog *Canis familiaris dingo* recorded by David Collins, Daniel Paine, and William Ridley (using John Rowley as his source), respectively. Collins also recorded *jungo* as a common name denoting all animals. David Collins *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales* (1789) Daniel Paine *The Journal of Daniel Paine 1794-1797* (with documents 1795-1805) William Ridley *Kámilaroi, and other Australian languages* (1875)

Information on the English-language explanation of the name was provided by long-time Pennant Hills resident Bob Schofield, who used to swim in the waterhole in the 1940s, and who was Hornsby Council fire control officer for 23 years, from 1970 to 1993.

## The Jungo to the metal bridge

### WALK 1: JUNGO AND WALK 2: CALLICOMA OVERLAP STARTS

Take the fire trail to the left and follow the track up the slope westwards, rather than the GNW track, which leads downhill over the ford across Berowra Creek. Continue up the hill, leaving the fire trail when it sweeps away to the left.

The walking track goes straight on, dropping down to Berowra Creek beside a rock overhang. In the dimness of a narrow gully, almost rainforest, are Coachwood *Ceratopetalum apetalum*, Black Wattle *Callicoma serratifolia*, and Water Gum *Tristaniopsis laurina*, which block out much of the sky. The Umbrella Fern *Sticherus flabellatus* lines the track and mossy boulders lie in the creek. The track follows the creek, twisting and turning among the rocks.

Follow along beside Berowra Creek, diminishing now in its upper reaches. The track rises steadily then descends by a flight of 25 log steps back to the creek bank. A few hundred metres of shady walking in near-rainforest conditions, mostly beside the stream, leads to marker 5 of the Callicoma Walk, then to a fallen tree forming a log bridge and about 10 m later a narrow single-person metal bridge, which you cross.

### Metal bridge

#### Callicoma Walk Marker 5

The most common tree here is Coachwood with its distinctive grey blotches or lichen spots on the trunks. Coachwood's close relative, Christmas Bush *Ceratopetalum gummiferum*, is also present. Turpentine *Syncarpia glomulifera* can be seen from the bridge.

Long-term effects of weathering on the Hawkesbury sandstone of the Park have resulted in waterfalls and gullies. In the water under the bridge you can see evidence of this process in the grains of sand that are gradually transported away to cause siltation, as at the Jungo downstream.

About 150 m further along the track, on the right, is a natural rock shelter large enough for a dozen adults standing.

Continue until, just after another natural log crossing, Berowra Creek joins Nyripping Creek, which the path then follows. Almost immediately afterwards, cross Nyripping Creek by means of log steps and five vertical concrete cylindrical stepping stones.

Twining Guinea Flower *Hibbertia dentata*, a climber with large yellow flowers, grows near the creek.

### WALK 1: JUNGO AND WALK 2: CALLICOMA OVERLAP ENDS

### Stepping stones to the waterfalls

The path forks on the other side of the crossing, with the Callicoma Walk turning off to the right or south following Nyripping Creek towards Cherrybrook. Ignore the Callicoma Walk turn off and take the Great North Walk, continuing straight on (south-east), along Berowra Creek.

Gregor Newton



Umbrella Fern *Sticherus flabellatus*

Lyndel Wilson



A Coachwood *Ceratopetalum apetalum* seedling rises beside the fallen trunk of an adult tree.

Jeremy Steele



Attractive waterfall and former swimming hole on Berowra Creek near Morrison Place in average weather conditions.

Jamie Wright



Graceful Bush-pea *Pultenaea flexilis*

For several hundred metres the track follows close to the creek, heading upstream. At a 2 m-long sandstone 'paving rock' close to a Sydney Red Gum *Angophora costata*, if you are curious about the sound of water, take the side path to the left. This leads to a waterfall about 8 m in height, with a pool below it.

The track then rises from creek level to the drier gully sides where Graceful Bush-pea *Pultenaea flexilis*, golden in spring, is found.

At the top of the rise, at a flat exposed area with a sandstone outcropping ridge on the right, side paths on the left lead to the site of a heavily silted pool below a second waterfall, once a considerable swimming hole. During heavy rain, this waterfall (6 m wide, 8 m high, with an overhanging rock-ledge) is spectacular. On the far side, a 600 mm hole in the sandstone overhang allows the water to run through. By using a lower side path it is possible with little difficulty to get behind the waterfall curtain. The River Rose *Bauera rubioides* and ferns grow round about.

Just after the waterfall there is a second 15 m-high green metal sewer vent. Continue along the main track for two ways to complete this walk.

### Morrison Place exit

By keeping to the left when the path forks, it is possible to reach either Morrison Place or the Boundary Road exit, but as the track may be indistinct these options are best left to those with local knowledge.

### Great North Walk exit

This is the preferred, more picturesque and easier route. Avoid the Morrison Place path to the left and continue along the walking track following the Great North Walk signs.

The next feature of note stands several hundred metres after the Morrison Place turn-off: a large Sydney Red Gum beside the path with broadly spreading roots, one of the largest such specimens in the Park.

When the path approaches the creek again, take a turn-off to the left to see another flat sandstone portion of the creek bed. This is about 10 m wide, ending in a waterfall lip, with a modest 1 m fall, scenic after rain.

Fled boulders on the right in the form of massive walls and roof could provide a natural refuge in heavy rain.

After a well-shaded section of bush with many Turpentines (trees with very rough bark with greyish leaves, flowers like a eucalypt and fruits like 'flying saucers'), the roar of traffic heralds the walk's end in Boundary Road, just below Kitchener Road.

Black Wattle *Callicoma serratifolia*, is one of the common plants encountered along the track. 'Callicoma' means 'a head of hair', poetically characteristic of wattles in flower. 'Serratifolia' means 'saw-toothed leaf' — an apt description.

A sign in the reserve near the footbridge shows bushwalk distances: Berowra Waters, 27 km; Sydney Cove, 35 km; Newcastle, 218 km.



George Foster

Waterfall on Berowra Creek near Morrison Place in full storm flow.

### Returning to a car in Bellamy Street

#### SIMPLE ROUTE

1. Turn left on Boundary Road.
2. Turn left at the traffic lights into Bellamy Street.
3. Proceed to the far end.

#### MORE SCENIC ROUTE

1. Turn left on Boundary Road.
2. Turn left opposite Lutanda. Close onto the 1 m concrete footpath leading to Pennant Hills High School.
3. Follow the path past the sports courts and continue straight ahead across an oval.
4. Turn left at the footpath parallel to the power lines beyond.
5. Cut across the oval towards the power pylon.
6. Leave the school grounds at the Tedbury Creek exit.
7. Cross Lawrence Street into Wearne Avenue.
8. At the end of Wearne Avenue, turn right into Thorn Street.
9. Turn left at Bellamy Street.
10. Proceed to the end. Do not continue round into Stevens Street, but go straight on into the 'no through road' section of Bellamy Street to the end.