

0.0

PANORAMA WALK NOTES

(notes read clockwise from checkpoint [2])

[1] Start from a single gate. Head in a NE direction for about 100m, veer left and cross Lightning Strike Creek. The track follows the creek banks for a short distance where you will see a large Cypress Pine tree which was struck by lightning in March 2013. Continue on and veer left again to climb up a steep slope between the 420 and 440m contours. Good views of the cliffs on the opposite side of the creek can be seen from this section. At the top of the steep section the track levels out and curves to the left (NW) to check point [2].

0.45km [2] Track junction, continue straight ahead and zig zag up a steep section to arrive at the first of 4 lookouts between the 460m & 480m contours. All lookouts give good views of Dandry Ck Valley and Barkala Farm.

0.30 km

0.75km [3] Eva's Lookout, about 480m above sea level. The Warrumbungles and Siding Spring Observatory are visible on most days. Note the different coloured foliage of the trees in the valley. Lighter green trees are Rough Barked Apples and the grey leaved trees are White Box. Do a sharp turn right (North) and head towards check point [4]. On the way you will pass through a correa thicket and then a wattle thicket created from the last major bushfire. This section is interspersed with some larger lronbark trees.

1.0km [4] The 4 ways. If you need to cut your walk short, turn right and head back towards check point [2], otherwise turn left towards [5]. After a short distance you will pass a small cave typical of those found on Barkala. Note the different layers, sandstone, conglomerate and sandstone. The conglomerate is structurally weaker and the cave has eroded from this layer. A short steeper section brings you near the 500m contour with views of the Warrumbungles through the trees. Continue down a slight incline to check point [5].

1.2km [5] The Barkala Lookout gives good views of Siding Spring Observatory, the Warrumbungles and the Dandry Creek Valley. Turn right (North) and walk through a grove of Cypress Pine trees and some flat sandstone sections. This section has two more lookouts including the Dandry Creek Lookout which has some Aboriginal stone artefacts. Please do not remove any stones from this or other sites. Follow the signs to check point [6].

1.5km [6] Kerry's Lookout. Note more Aboriginal artefacts at this site. Look closely at the remnant stone tools especially the small flakes of quartz. Retrace your tracks back to the last rock cairn and sign and head for the next two lookouts. Stop and take in the views from the Northern Ridge and Gorge Lookouts. Keep children clear of cliff edges. This section has many Gold Top Wattles, *Acacia mariae*, which have masses of yellow ball flowers in Spring (July - September). Follow a flattish area and continue down a steep section to check point [4]

1.95km [4] The 4 Ways. Turn left (SE) and walk down through a grove of Cypress Pine Trees. Note the absence of shrubs and smaller plants beneath these trees due to the lack of light and competition for moisture and nutrients. Further on, look for the Rusty Spider Flower, Grevillea floribunda. Continue down slope through a small creek bed (which sometimes has water) to check point [2].

2.25km [2] Track Junction. Follow the track down the steep section back to the start.

2.70km [1] Start & Finish the Panorama walk at the gate



FLORA -Trees - broad & narrow leaved ironbarks, brown bloodwoods, white box, river red gums, rough barked apples, white & black cypress pines, western scribbly gums. **Shrubs** - wattles, heaths, casuarinas, pea bushes, hop bushes, daisy bushes, hakeas.

FAUNA - Grey kangaroos, euros, emus, echidnas, wombats, eagles & hawks, rosellas, honeyeaters, ground parrots, wrens & finches to name a few.

CLIMATE - Rainfall varies widely from year to year but averages around 600mm. Summers are hot, mid to high 30's, Winters are cool, mid teens to low 20's (centigrade)

GEOLOGY - Mostty Pilliga Sandstone with lenses of conglomerate formed from large delta sediments during the Jurassic Period about 150million years ago.

PILLIGA POTTERY AND BARKALA FARM

PANORAMA WALK



