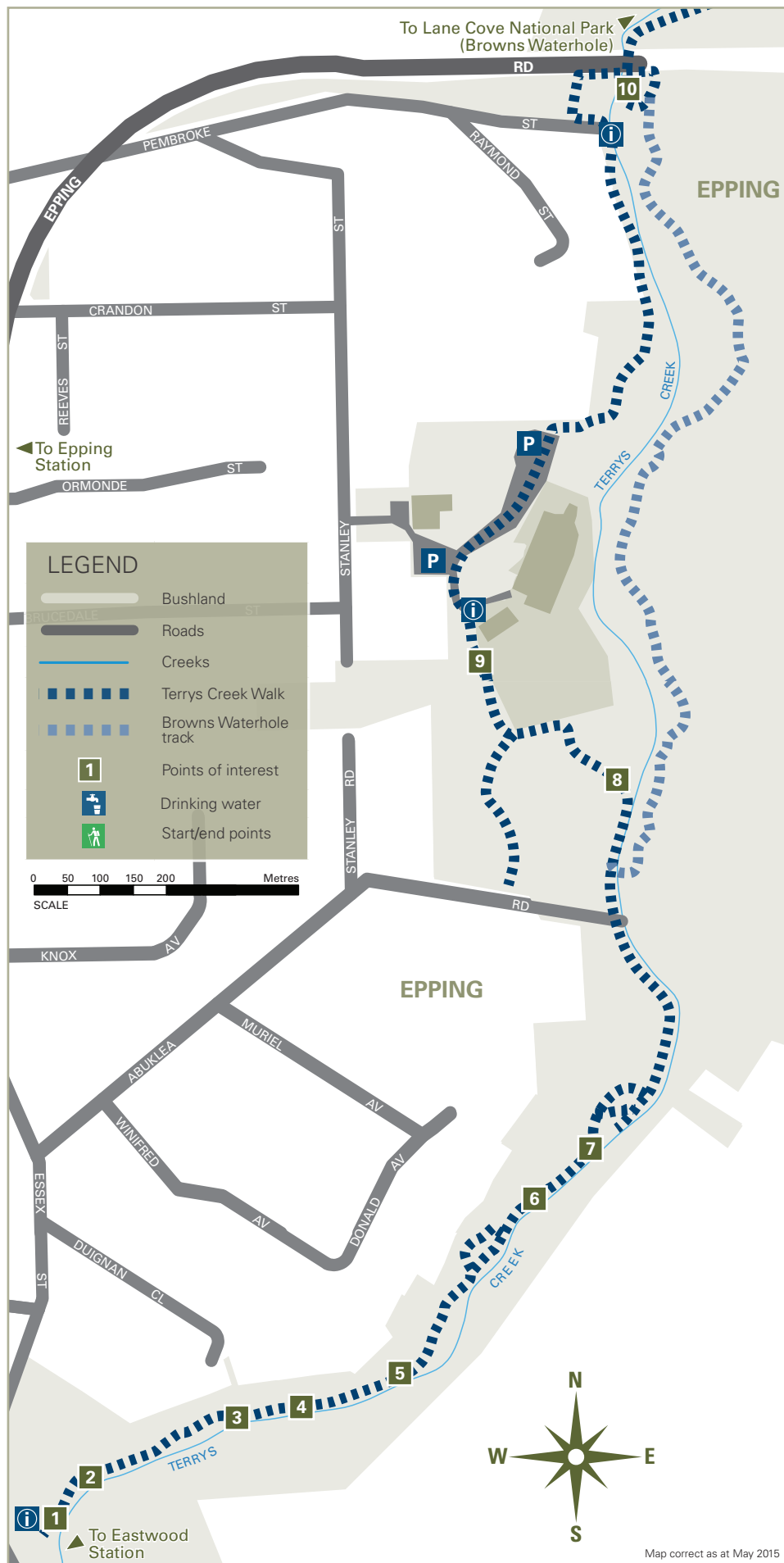


Self guided bushwalks

Terrys Creek Walk



Important information

Location: Epping

Terrys Creek Walk: 1.5km Essex Street to Pembroke Street approx 30 mins, 1.5km from Essex Street to the Cascade (Point of Interest number 7) approx 30 mins, or 7 km for Abuklea Road to Browns Waterhole approx 3hrs.

Difficulty: Grade 2 (easy/moderate)

Starting points:

Vimiera Park (cnr Albuera Road and Essex Street, Epping) or Abuklea Road, Epping

Getting there:

Car <https://goo.gl/maps/7bk6q>

Bus (551 from Eastwood Station)

Train (20min walk from Eastwood and Epping Station) via Quarry Road and Heritage Steps)

If you want to enjoy a shorter bushwalk, this track also incorporates the Cascade Loop, which is ideal for a leisurely walk with friends or family.

A bushwalk on Terrys Creek trail is a perfect way to enjoy the outdoors while also catching a glimpse of native flora and fauna.

Explore a beautiful pocket of rare unspoiled bushland right next door to suburbia with the Terrys Creek Walk. An important waterway that flows into the Lane Cove River, Terrys Creek was named after the first mayor of Eastwood, Edward Terry.

The bushland features Blue Gums, Blackbutts and Turpentine trees, harvested by timber-getters shortly after colonisation. While much of the original vegetation has been cleared, Terrys Creek provides a stunning natural landscape for the people to enjoy, and is also important to Sydney's animal residents by forming a 'wildlife highway' connecting to Lane Cove National Park.

DUE TO AREAS OF LIMITED MOBILE COVERAGE, DOWNLOAD THIS PDF BEFORE YOU BEGIN.

Points of interest (see overleaf)

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Great North Road | 2 Blue Gum Shale forest |
| 3 Dragon's lair | 4 Dark secret |
| 5 A home for wildlife | 6 Healthy habitat |
| 7 Life in the water | 8 Sandstone soils |
| 9 A timeless swimming spot | 10 Another crossing |

For more information visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushwalks

Points of interest

Terrys Creek Walk

1 Great North Road

In the 1830s, the first road connecting the colony of Sydney to settlements in the Hunter Valley ran past this point. It is said that the grassed area of Vimiera Park was used by travellers journeying north on their first night out of Sydney. The abutments of a convict built bridge across the creek can still be seen on the left of the trail as a raised mound.

2 Blue Gum Shale Forest

This area, called Vimiera Park, contains remnant Blue Gum High Forest, an extremely rare ecological community with less than 5% left in existence. It features the majestic Sydney **Blue Gum** (*Eucalyptus saligna*), though also contains **Blackbutt** (*E. pilularis*), and **Turpentine** (*Syncarpia glomulifera*). Blue Gums are obvious by their bluish smooth trunk and 'sock' of rough bark at the base. Blackbutts have a rough bark 'stocking' on the trunk up to the lower branches while the Turpentine is rough barked with fruits resembling spaceships.

3 Dragon's Lair

Eastern water dragons (*Intellagama lesueurii lesueurii*) are lizards found around Terrys Creek basking on rocks, darting off the track or diving and swimming in the creek. They grow up to 90cm long and their tails make up two-thirds of their body length. With long, powerful limbs and claws for climbing, a long muscular tail for swimming and a spiky crest down their body, they add a prehistoric element to this walk.

4 Dark secret

Grey myrtle (*Backhousia myrtifolia*) rainforest promotes the growth of mosses and lichens. There is also evidence that this area was once a sandstone quarry. Vertical drill marks can be seen on rock faces and chunks of blasted stone lie in the creek. Perhaps the stone was used in the construction of the Great North Road.

5 A home for wildlife

The large trees with smooth pink or orange trunks and dimples are known as **Sydney Red Gums** (*Angophora costata*) some aged over 200 years old. Closely related to the eucalyptus, they are very important habitat for many birds especially parrots and owls, possums and bats, which use their hollows for shelter and nesting. Can you see any hollows being occupied at present?

6 Healthy habitat

Despite much of the vegetation along the banks of Terrys Creek being dominated by weeds, this section of creek remains relatively healthy. **Coachwood** (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*) has a smooth trunk, thin horizontal rings and white lichen blotches. The highly prized timber of this tree is light, easily worked and has a caramel odour. Used in colonial times for coach building and later for Mosquito Fighter Bomber frames and 303 rifle stocks during the Second World War. Also growing along the creek is the **Water Gum** (*Tristaniopsis laurina*). The trunks and branches of this species are shaped in the direction of the water flow.

7 Life in the water

This pool below the lovely cascade was once a favourite swimming hole before urban pollution made swimming here unsafe. Nevertheless, there have been sightings of eels and **Eastern long-necked turtles** (*Chelodina longicollis*). Much of the litter that accumulates here comes from streets, so remember to dispose of rubbish responsibly!

8 Sandstone soils

The soft, broad leaved plants give way to shrubby species typical of sandstone derived soil. The shallow, sandy, infertile soil is unable to retain much moisture. To survive these difficult conditions some plants have tough, thin leaves and small or woody fruit. Look for the flower spike of the **Grass Tree** (*Xanthorrhoea species*), the grape-like fruit of the **Geebung** (*Persoonia pinifolia*) and the woody 'cone' or the **Banksia** (*Banksia spinulosa*).

9 A timeless swimming spot

According to local lore, there was a dam that served as the local swimming pool. In 1954 local landholder John Dence sold the land to Council. Some of Stanley Road was subdivided for residential development, and the rest became a park named in his honour. Six years later, Epping Aquatic Centre was built on the site.

10 Another crossing

Before Terrys Creek bridge was built in 1939, travellers would come down Pembroke Street, wade across the creek via a weir then wind their way up the steep slope on the other side. The Terrys Creek Bridge is listed on the New South Wales state heritage inventory as it forms an important component of Epping Road, allowing for the patterns of development of the northern and north western sector of Sydney.

A short stroll up Pembroke Street is a path to the bridge. By crossing the bridge then walking under it, the trail continues on the east of Terrys Creek to Lane Cove National Park for approximately 5.5km to Browns Waterhole. A trail on the eastern side of Terrys Creek joins the trail near the end of Abuklea Road.

RISK WARNING

Hornsby Shire Council has taken all care in producing these notes and map. Bushwalking can be hazardous. Trails are unsealed and you may encounter slippery or loose surfaces, creek crossings, fallen timber and sloping ground. Poisonous plants and animals or biting insects may be encountered. Snakes are rare but may be seen in warmer seasons. Please keep to designated trails. Dress for the conditions and wear sturdy shoes and a hat. Take plenty of water, food, sunscreen and always take a map.

Before leaving tell someone where you will be going and when you expect to return. Check the local weather forecast. Please do not undertake this walk during Total Fire Ban days. Check the Rural Fire Service website rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans or phone **1800 679 737** if you suspect a Total Fire Ban may be in force.

In case of emergency dial '000', but be aware that not all areas have reliable mobile reception.