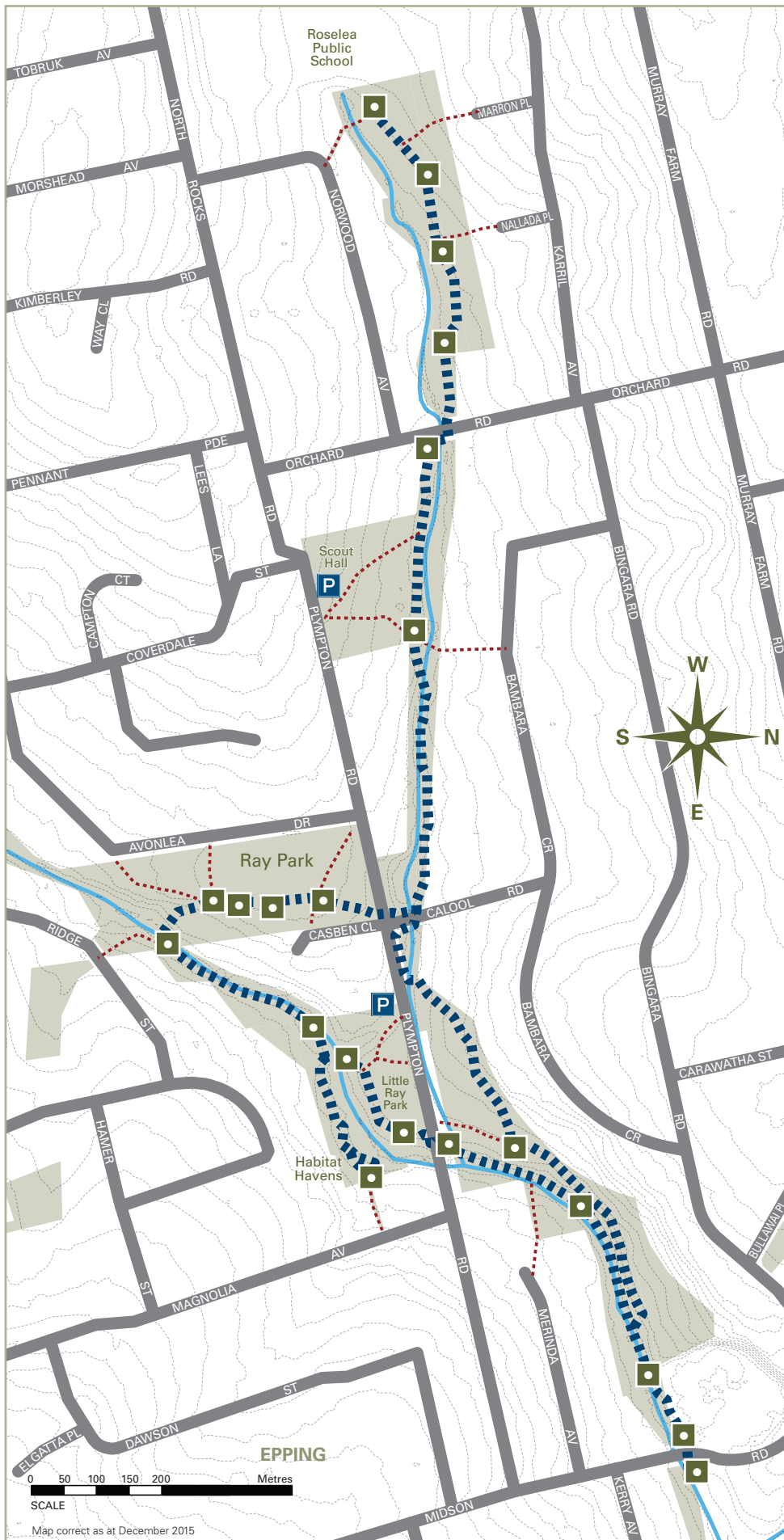


# Self guided bushwalks

## Pioneers' Heritage Trail



### Important information

**Location:** Beecroft, Carlingford, Epping

**Walk length:** 3.4km

**Difficulty:** Grade 2 (easy/moderate)

**Starting points:** Various

**Getting there:**

Car

Bus (553 from Beecroft Station)

Train (25min walk from both Beecroft and Cheltenham Stations)

### LEGEND

- Bushland
- Roads
- Creeks
- Pioneers' Heritage Trail
- Extra tracks
- Interpretive signs
- Parking

**DUETO AREAS OF LIMITED MOBILE COVERAGE, DOWNLOAD THIS PDF BEFORE YOU BEGIN.**

For more information visit [hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushwalks](http://hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushwalks)

# Pioneers' Heritage Trail

Meandering through local bushland reserves, the Pioneer's Heritage Trail traces the area's natural, Aboriginal and colonial history through a series of interpretive signs.

This area once formed part of the seasonal range of family groups most likely speaking the Darug language. The surrounding landscape contributed to their food, medicine, shelter and other material and cultural needs. Signs that remain of their way of life could potentially include occupation sites, rock engravings, middens, scar trees and artefacts. Please respect any sites or objects you may come across. Not only do they provide a tangible link to our country's ancient heritage, but they also hold a profound significance for present day descendants of these communities.

Not long after British colonisation, timber-getters began moving through the region harvesting the massive **Blue Gums** *Eucalyptus saligna*, **Blackbutts** *E. pilularis* and **Turpentine** *Syncarpia glomulifera*. As the largest trees disappeared, orchards, market gardens, nurseries, and poultry farms sprang up. At first they were little more than cleared islands in a sea of bushland, until finally most of the vegetation was removed and the bushland became the islands.

Interpretive signs along the trail display a wealth of information about the areas early settlers, gleaned from their descendants and their friends by volunteers and local historians. They bring to life once more the colourful characters and childhood memories of the past through tales of hardship, love and laughter.

As you walk the trail, imagine life in the area over the past two centuries and beyond: the tall, beautiful forests now crammed with houses; fruit orchards and nurseries now bisected by busy roads; large families living off the land, growing their own food, building their homesteads and livelihoods from the clay, stone and timber around them.

The few areas of bushland that still remain support ecological communities such as **Blackbutt Gully Forest** and the extremely rare **Blue Gum High Forest**, of which less than 5% remains in existence. These bushland corridors provide important habitat for native fauna such as the **Powerful Owl** *Ninox strenua* and **Sugar Glider** *Petaurus breviceps*, and are a welcome respite from the monotony of the urban landscape.

Visit the 'Habitat Havens' locality on the walk for loads of information on local flora and fauna. This area is just one example of the immense investment of time and resources by Bushcare volunteers and Hornsby Shire Council that has gone into helping restore what remains of the local bushland.

## 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](https://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.**