



Community Bush Walk

Date: Sunday 22nd November 2020

Location: Eric Mobbs Reserve, 242 Excelsior Ave, Castle Hill

Please note: Meeting point will be “Amenities for Fields 1&2” as shown in the map on the next page. Parking is available at the park & nearby streets.

Day Outline:

09:00 AM - Everyone arrives, quick introductions and splitting of group

09:30 AM - First group heads off on their chosen track

09:45 AM - Second group heads off on their chosen track

12:30 PM - Everyone returns to meeting spot

Track Options:

1. PLATYPUS TRACK - 2.4km ~1.5 hours
2. BURRAGA TRACK - 5.2km ~2.5 hours

Documents are attached after this page outlining the track options for your reference.

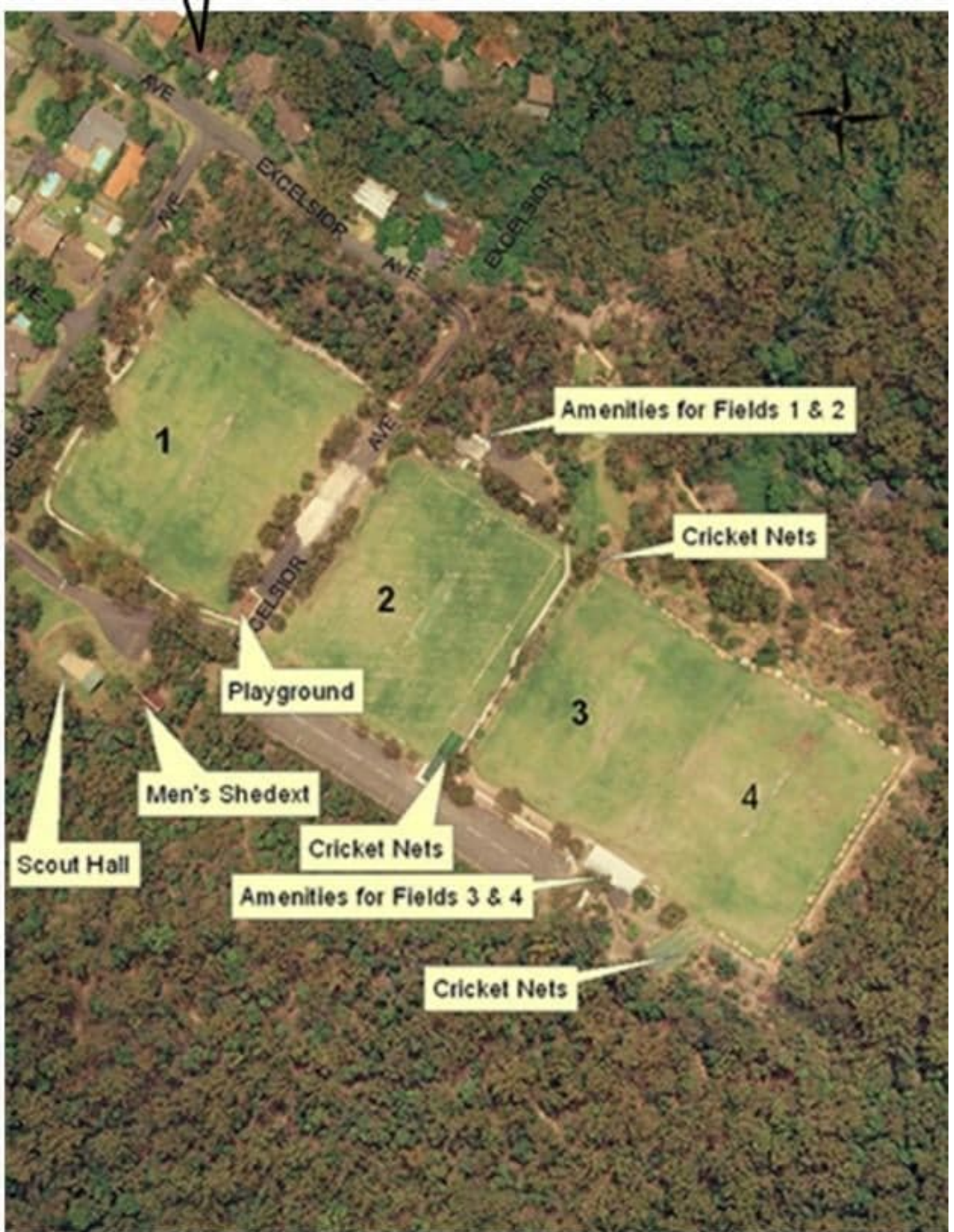
What to bring: Comfortable walking shoes, plenty of drinking water, sunscreen, hat, sunnies, and snacks.

Feel free to either stick around after for a quick bite and chat, or leave once you have completed the walk!
Also please make sure to tag any photos you take & decide to share with #KnowYourKoshurHamsai!

See you then!
-Your Working Committee.

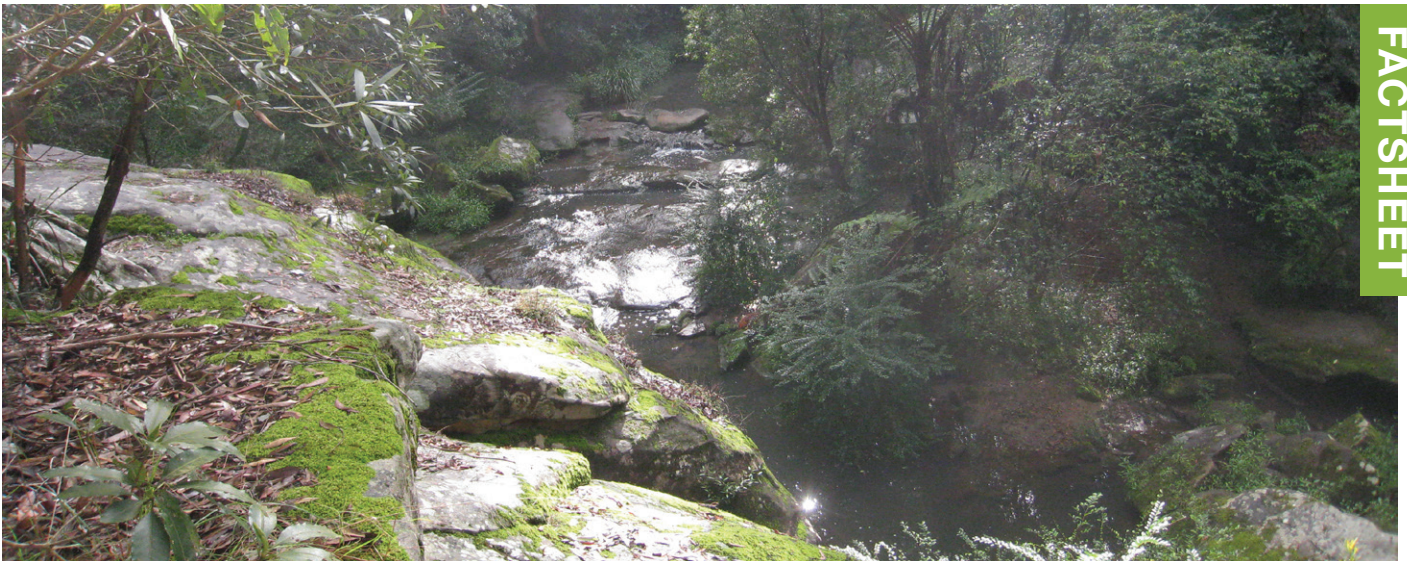
Kashmiri Pandit Association NSW





Eric Mobbs Reserve is located on Ferguson Avenue, Castle Hill and features four sports fields each with a synthetic cricket pitch located in the centre. The cricket pitches are covered in the winter.





PLATYPUS TRACK

CASTLE HILL

What You Will See: This walk provides the opportunity for views into Coachwood and Excelsior Creeks and then a walk along the shady valleys of these creeks amongst ferns and Coachwood trees. On warm days Eastern Water Dragons can be seen in Excelsior Creek.

Distance: 2.4 kilometres

Grade: Moderate (some steep slopes, two creek crossings on stepping stones)

Time: One and a half hours

Facilities: Toilets are located at the edge of the playing fields in the adjacent Eric Mobbs Reserve

There is a picnic spot at the beginning of the track with tables and a wood fired barbecue.

Track Status: Mostly bush paths with an uneven surface.

Starting Point: The fire trail at the end of Excelsior Avenue, Castle Hill. The track commences at the end of the street.

Safety Information

This is a general safety guide for participants undertaking suggested self-guided bush walks. Walking in council reserves and other bush locations provides a great opportunity for relaxation and the exploration of local environs. However, its important to always be prepared.

Plan your walk

- Research your walk and check everyone is comfortable with the planned route

- Walk in groups – in an emergency one of you might need to wait with the injured person while the other gets help.
- Check the difficulty. Some walks include steep terrain. If you're unsure of the difficulty, contact council.
- Check weather forecasts and reserve conditions and be aware that weather conditions can change, especially during the long fire season.
- Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) - <http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/forecasts/>
- Rural Fire Service Map - <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me>

Tell somebody

- Give route details to your friends and family. Tell them about any medical conditions and when to expect you back, and check in with them when you return.

Stay on track

- Walking tracks are not always signposted or maintained, so please take care.
- To protect our landscapes for future generations, please ensure that native plant and animal habitat and heritage sites are not disturbed.

What to bring

- For longer walks take plenty of water, snacks and a basic first aid kit.
- Wear or take appropriate clothing and closed-toe footwear and consider the need for a waterproof jacket and sun protection.

Disclaimer

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The geographical information provided for the walk route is a suggestion only and it is the responsibility of each person undertaking the bush walk to assess for themselves the best and safest way to proceed through the walk. Each individual must exercise their own independent judgment as to whether the walk routes suggested by The Hills Shire Council are safe for the walker having regard to their fitness, training, skill, age and experience.

All outdoor activities involve some risk of death or injury such as bush fires, snake bites, ankle sprains, heat exhaustion (as some examples only) and users of these maps and bushwalking routes must be aware of such risks in carrying out a bushwalk and each individual bears their own responsibility for the potential risks.

- Take a copy of the topographic map and compass and be confident with how to use them.
- Consider bringing a mosquito spray or spray your clothes prior to the walk.

Report

- Report any fallen trees or other obstacles and any pollution events in creeks and ponds.

Dogs

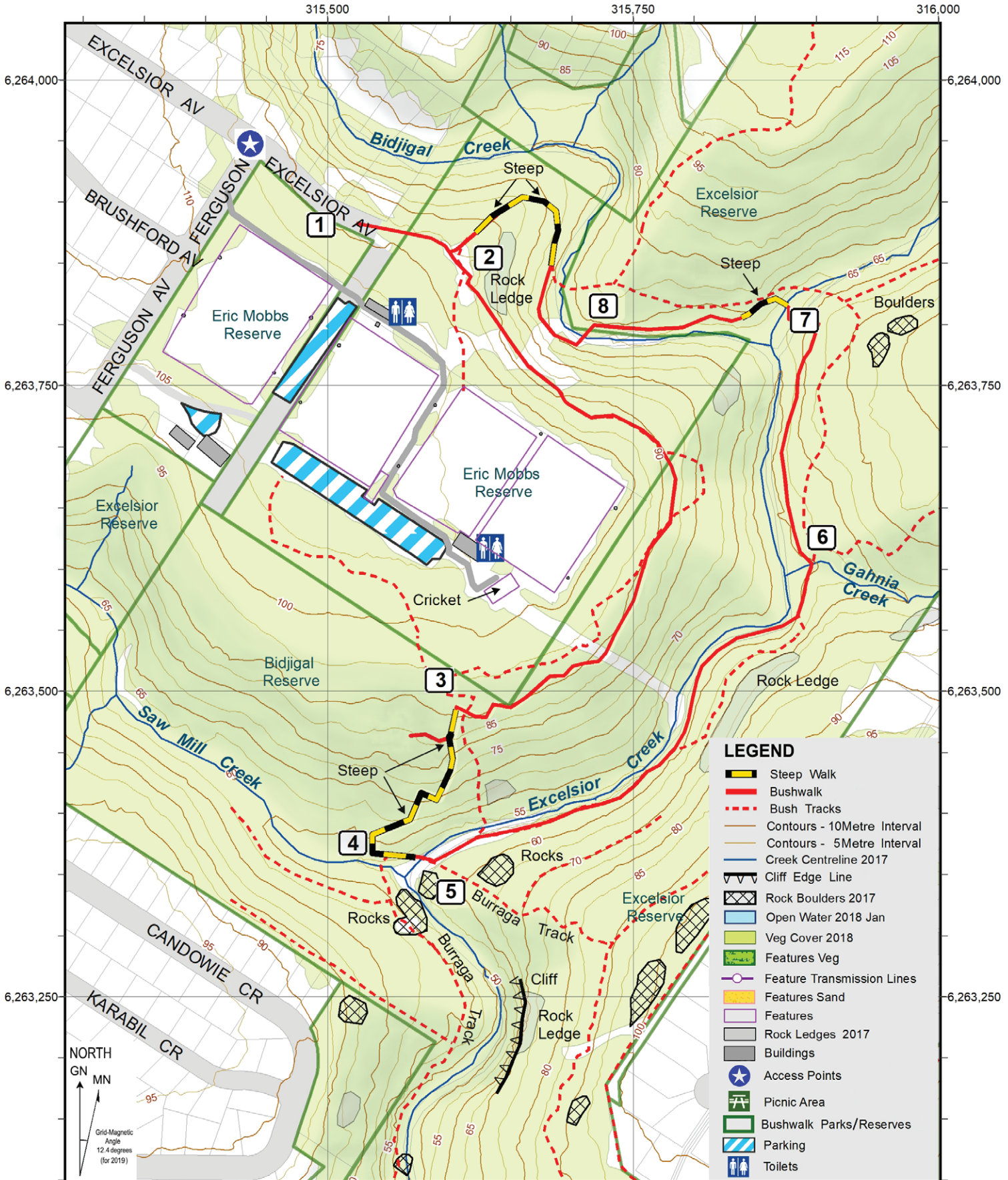
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times when walking in reserves and bushland areas.

Directions and Points of Interest:

1. Walk along fire trail on the left at end of Excelsior Avenue, Castle Hill to a shelter with a map of the area. The Platypus Track is located in Bidjigal Reserve and is managed by the Bidjigal Trust.
2. Follow the concrete path on the right for approx 200 metres along an avenue of Turpentine trees (*Syncarpia glomulifera*). The path then becomes a well graded gravel path. This path is part of the Platypus Track (blue logo). Enjoy the views from the path down into the creek valley below. Follow this path for 850 metres to a track junction with the sign "Loop Track".
3. Turn left here. At the next track junction take the right hand track for about 30 metres for a view of the Blackbutt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) and Sydney Red Gums (*Angophora costata*) growing in the valley. Return to the main track and turn right to walk down a steep track of rough sandstone steps.
4. At the bottom of the track there is a T-intersection. Turn left and walk down to Excelsior Creek.
5. This is a very picturesque spot with Water Gums (*Tristania conferta*) and ferns growing along the banks. The dominant feature is a large sandstone rock where water dragons (*Bidjwongs*) can be seen basking in the sun on warm days.
6. Cross the creek on the stepping stones. Be careful here as the rocks may be slippery.
7. Turn left to follow the track upstream through Coachwoods (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*), Callicomas and Water Gums. A track coming in on the right hand side is the Burruga Track. Continue on the Platypus track. Walk 500 metres to Gahnia Creek.
8. Cross over this creek and take the trail straight ahead with a sign post which reads "Rest Area".
9. Further along the track you will reach a very large Angophora (*Sydney Red Gum*) growing at the base of a sandstone rock outcrop. There is a cave here to explore and orchids growing on the rocks above.
10. Walk to the bridge and cross over Excelsior Creek which rises in nearby West Pennant Hills. Below the bridge is the junction of Excelsior and Coachwood Creeks. Follow the track along Coachwood Creek to a weir. This is Loch Bruce which was built by local residents in the 1930's as a swimming spot.
11. Upstream of the weir cross the creek on the concrete stepping stones. Follow the boardwalk and then the path uphill to the track head at the shelter. Turn right and take track back to Excelsior Avenue.

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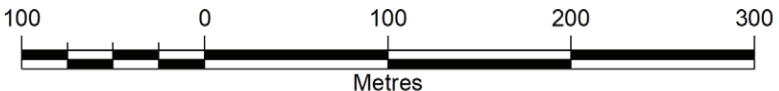


THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire

SUBURB:
CASTLE HILL

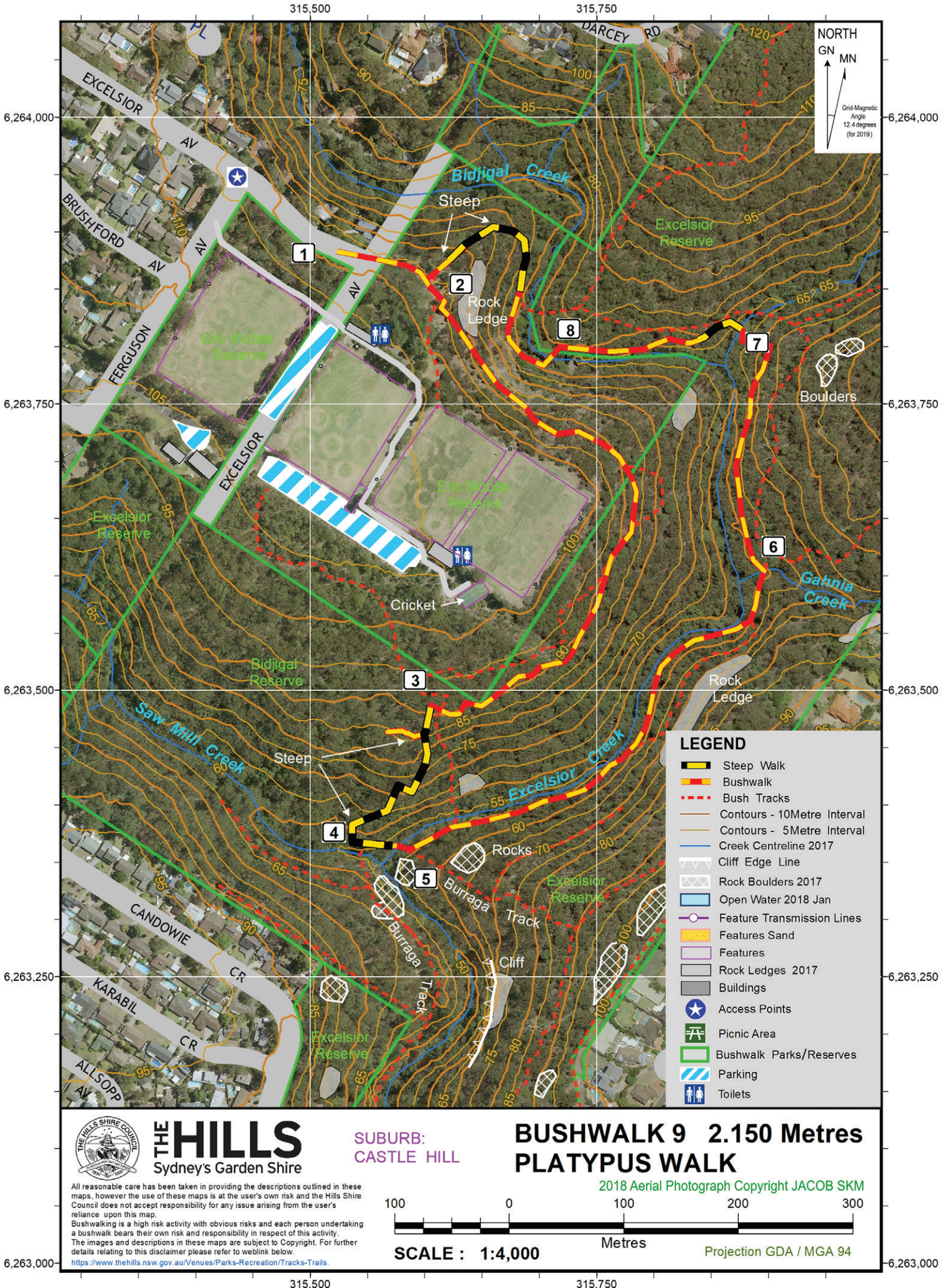
BUSHWALK 9 2.150 Metres
PLATYPUS WALK

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Bushwalking is a high risk activity with obvious risks and each person undertaking a bushwalk bears their own risk and responsibility in respect of this activity.
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<https://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Venues/Parks-Recreation/Tracks-Trails>.



SCALE : 1:4,000

Projection GDA / MGA 94



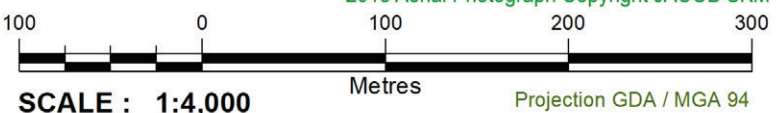
THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire

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2018 Aerial Photograph Copyright JACOB SKM

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BIDJIGAL RESERVE

BURRAGA TRACK BIDJIGAL RESERVE

What You Will See: Valley views. Sandstone shelter, closed Coachwood forest, Ridgetop Heathland, sandstone gullies and woodland. Wildflowers and orchids in Spring. Eastern Water Dragons at Bidgiwong Rock. Water pools, flowing streams and filtered sunlight.

Distance: 5.2 kilometres

Grade: Moderate some steep ascents and descents

Time: Two and a half hours

Facilities: There are no facilities

Track Status: Rough bush tracks and several creek crossings on stepping stones

Starting Point: Start at the fire trail at the corner of Sanctuary Point Rd and Highs Rd West Pennant Hills. The Burraga track is located in Bidjigal Reserve. The walk is identified by a yellow bandicoot logo on guide posts. Burraga is the Darug word for bandicoot

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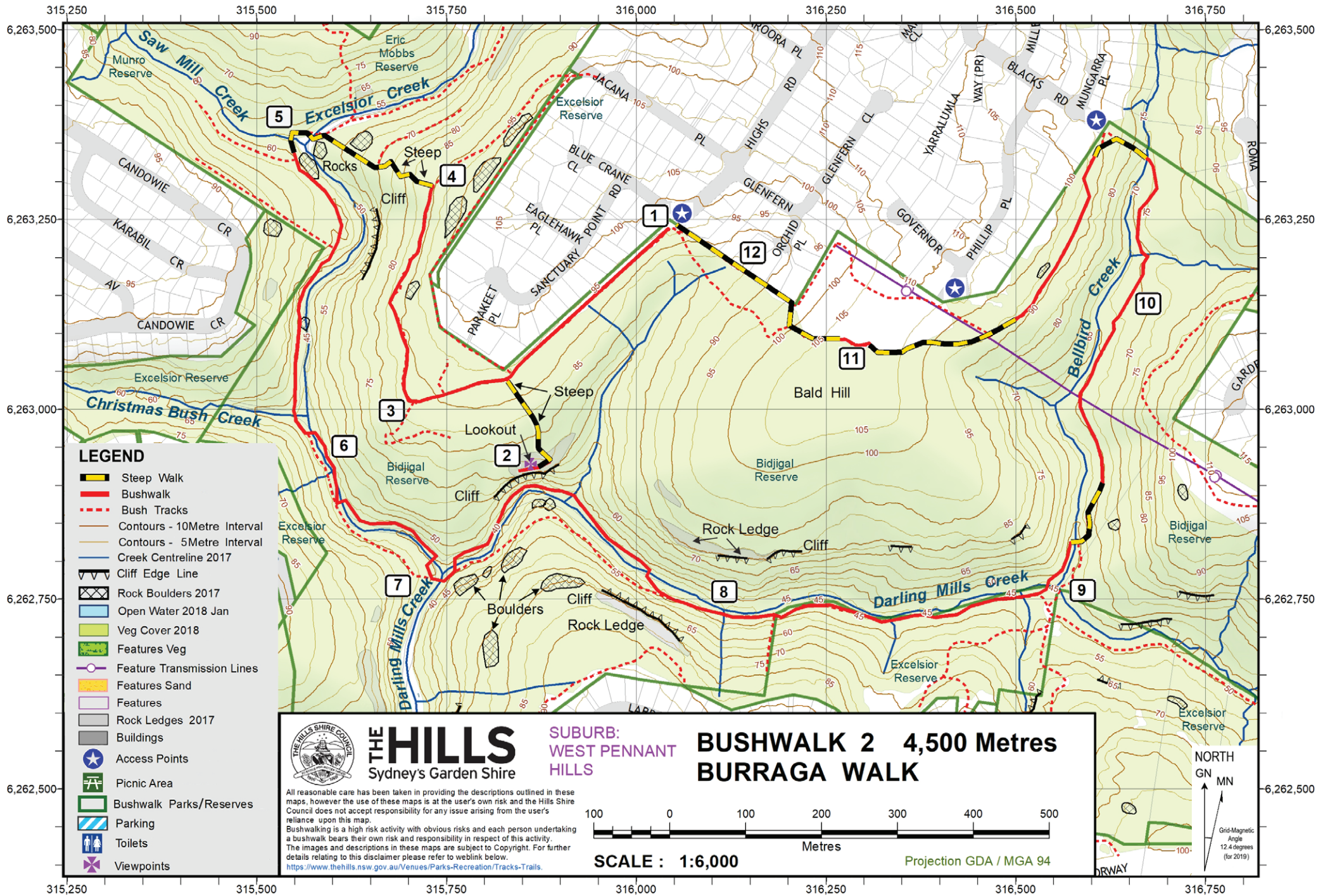
- Dogs must be on a leash at all times when walking in reserves and bushland areas.

Directions and Points of Interest:


1. The track starts at the locked gate. Follow the track along a grassy cleared track.
2. Take a detour to the left just 4 metres before the track marker. This leads to a stunning view over Darling Mills Creek. Return to the fire trail and walk until a concrete path is reached.
3. Follow this to another marker which indicates a right hand turn.
4. Follow the track along the ridge top to the next marker. Take the trail to the left and take your time descending the steep slope through open woodland down to Excelsior Creek.
5. Take time to enjoy this picturesque spot. The large rock is a popular spot for the Water Dragons (Bidjiwongs) to sun themselves. Turn right 5 metres after the marker to cross the creek on the stepping stones taking care in case the rocks are slippery. Take the long series of steps up the hill. The creek flowing into Excelsior Creek here is Sawmill Creek. Follow the track along this creek to a bridge. Ignore the Platypus (blue) track coming in on the right hand side.
6. Cross Sawmill Creek on the bridge and continue along the track which now climbs above Excelsior Creek. Enjoy the views here. The track descends steeply to the creek again where there is a crossing on concrete stepping stones. The track continues along Excelsior Creek which you have to crisscross a number of times. Take care with these crossings and do not attempt to cross the creek if the water is too high.
7. Turn left on to the Burruga track to cross Excelsior Creek, for the last time on stepping stones, at the junction with Darling Mills Creek. Follow Darling Mills Creek upstream until you arrive at a large sandstone overhang.
8. Take time to enjoy this beautiful spot. Just past the overhang cross Darling Mills Creek on stepping stones. Follow Darling Mills Creek again. The trees growing along the creek are mostly Coachwoods (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*), which are a popular roosting tree for the Powerful Owls which live in this reserve.
9. At the next track junction there is a sign "Blacks Road Track West Pennant Hills'. Cross Darling Mills Creek on the left just before this sign. Then follow Bellbird Creek and the track upstream. There is a creek crossing on the right (near a strip of concrete and prior to the large fallen tree). Cross the creek and up a steep climb and then stay on the track until the top of the hill. This is a beautiful part of the walk. 9. Cross a side creek and then continues on to cross Bellbird Creek. The track climbs steeply up to the path out to Blacks Road.
10. Turn left. Take time to enjoy the views from the track to the valley below. If you are doing the walk in spring, look out for Caladenia Orchids growing beside the track here.
11. The track eventually rises up to a hill covered in heath plants. This is Bald Hill. These plants are typical of the vegetation which would have been growing here before the land was cleared for farms. From mid-winter to spring this part of the walk has a wonderful variety of flowers blooming here.
12. As the track begins to descend look out for the track marker indicating a turn to the right. (Be careful not to follow the track straight down the hill). Turn right as indicated on the track marker and follow the track a short way to a fire trail which runs behind the houses here. Turn left on to the fire trail and walk up the hill to the start of the walk.

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- LEGEND**
- Steep Walk
 - Bushwalk
 - Bush Tracks
 - Contours - 10Metre Interval
 - Contours - 5Metre Interval
 - Creek Centreline 2017
 - Cliff Edge Line
 - Rock Boulders 2017
 - Open Water 2018 Jan
 - Veg Cover 2018
 - Features Veg
 - Feature Transmission Lines
 - Features Sand
 - Features
 - Rock Ledges 2017
 - Buildings
 - Access Points
 - Picnic Area
 - Bushwalk Parks/Reserves
 - Parking
 - Toilets
 - Viewpoints

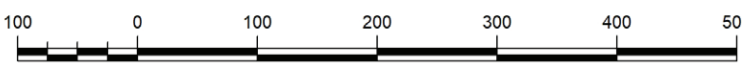


THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire

SUBURB:
WEST PENNANT
HILLS

BUSHWALK 2 4,500 Metres
BURRAGA WALK

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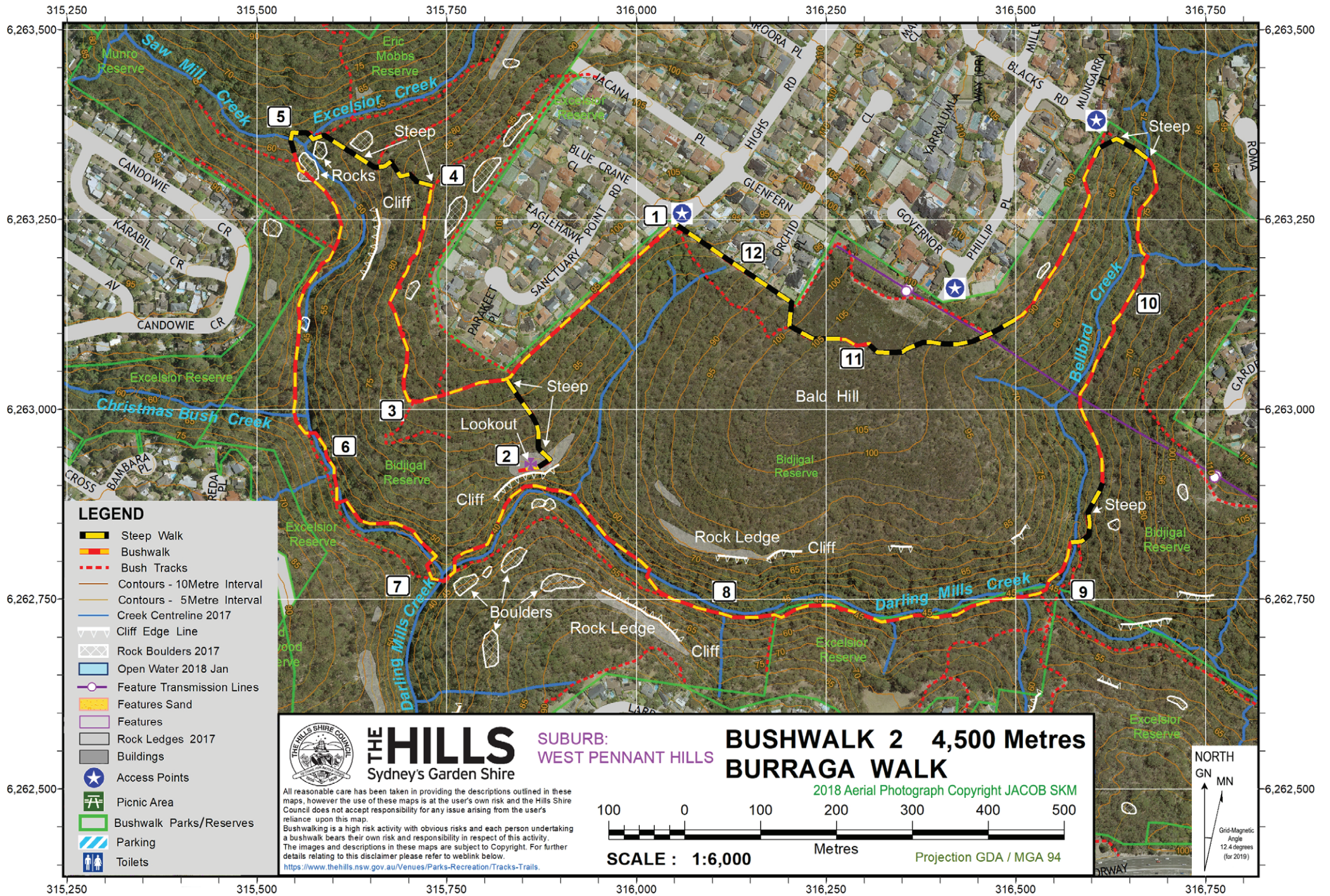
100 0 100 200 300 400 500
Metres

SCALE : 1:6,000


Projection GDA / MGA 94

NORTH
GN
MN

Grid-Magnetic
Angle
12.4 degrees
(for 2019)



- LEGEND**
- Steep Walk
 - Bushwalk
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THE HILLS
Sydney's Garden Shire

SUBURB: WEST PENNANT HILLS

BUSHWALK 2 4,500 Metres
BURRAGA WALK

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NORTH
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Angle
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(for 2019)

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SCALE : 1:6,000 Metres

Projection GDA / MGA 94

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