

ECHO CANYON WALK NOTES

(Notes read anti-clockwise from checkpoint 2.)

CAUTION: This walk has steep sections with loose rocks and unfenced cliff edges.

NOT SUITABLE FOR SMALL CHILDREN OR UNFIT PERSONS.

- 0.0 km **1.** Start and finish on the track to Pine Park, approximately 1.0 km from double gates and 800 m from the start of the cliff walk. Head E through a woodland of Angophora trees & acacia shrubs for about 200 m, then the track starts to climb up a series of rocky terraces featuring some large eucalypts including a big stringy bark tree. 0.5 km
- 0.5 km **2.** Track junction. Link track from cliff walk comes in on the left. Continue straight ahead. The track passes several colourful rock overhangs and big boulders while following the base of a long cliff line. You will come to a high point giving good views to the SW at checkpoint 3. 0.3km
- 0.8 km **3.** Vertical cliff with good views. Continue following the cliff base around to the left and pass several caves including the wombat cave. High up on the left is a very colourful and spectacular overhanging rock formation. Continue onto checkpoint 4. 0.28km
- 1.08km **4.** Echo Cave. A very dark cave over 10m deep. If you can Cooee from near the cave entrance you will get a short sharp echo for the E side of the Canyon. Follow the track up the Echo Canyon Gully to checkpoint 5. 0.13km
- 1.21km **5.** Track Junction where first and second loops meet opposite a small waterfall (after good rains such as September 2016). Turn left for the first loop or straight ahead if you are doing the second loop. Pass several black boys and veer around to the right and go up a rocky incline past more black boys to checkpoint 6 0.22km
- 1.43km **6.** Echo Point Lookout. Excellent views to the S & SW showing Upper Dandry Creek Valley and the Warrumbungles. Retrace your steps back to the previous sign and turn right (E) and follow the cliff edge past more black boys and thick casuarina scrub. The track continues in a big loop with views into the Hidden valley (to N) and eventually arriving back at checkpoint 5. 0.58km
- 2.01km **5.** Track Junction, turn right and follow the base of a small cliff to a leaky roof cave which is only a short distance upslope from Echo Cave. Continue past the cave and up a steep section to 7. 0.21km
- 2.22km **7.** Top of cliff. Good views across the canyon to Echo Point L.O. A good spot to test your Cooeing Skills! Follow the cliff top to the NW. There are good views up the Dandy Creek Valley all the way to checkpoint 8. 0.19km

- 2.41km **8.** Observatory Lookout. On most days you will have an excellent view of the Siding Springs Observatory sitting atop the Warrumbungle Mountains. Stop a while and take in the views. Continue on fairly level ground to checkpoint 9. 0.15km
- 2.56km **9.** Valley View Lookout, track junction with cliff walk. Turn left and follow the shared track past the Pine Park L.O. with a steep descent to checkpoint 10. 0.19km
- 2.75km **10.** Track Junction. Turn left and link up with the Echo Canyon walk (Alternatively continue straight ahead if you wish to follow the cliff walk to the Vine Canton and back to pottery) 0.05km
- 2.8 km **2.** Track Junction, turn right and follow Echo Canyon Walk back to the start. 0.50km
- 3.3 km **1.** Start and Finish.
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Spotted quail-thrush
(Cinlosoma punctatum)

FLORA – Trees – broad & narrow leaved ironbarks, brown bloodwoods, whitebox, 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 – Mostly Pilliga Sandstone with lenses of conglomerate formed from large delta sediments during the Jurassic Period about 150million years ago.

PILLIGA POTTERY AND BARKALA FARM

ECHO CANYON WALK

ECHO CANYON WALK – A double loop walk featuring many caves, big cliffs, a small canyon and 5 lookouts. The first loop of 2.5 km has a wombat cave and Echo cave and canyon. Allow at least 1hr to 1.5 hours.

The second shorter loop of 800 m circumnavigates a flattish ridge and features Echo Point Lookout and views to Hidden Valley. Allow about 30 to 45 mins.

The total of both walks is about 3.3km. Allow about 1.5 to 2.0 hrs.

Take only photos and leave only footprints.
Enjoy your walk.



Azure Kingfisher
(Ceyx azurea)

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