

MARIA'S WALK NOTES

(Notes read clockwise from start)

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

NOT SUITABLE FOR SMALL CHILDREN

0.0 km **1.** Start & finish at the Maria's Walk sign opposite the Lip Cave. Proceed (N) along the 4WD track (shared with the Ridge Top Walk) to check point 2. 0.40km

0.4 km **2.** Track junction, turn right (E) and go across a flattish section, an intermittent watercourse. Follow on through a very white sandy section with lots of shrubs including boronias. The track curves to the left and becomes rocky as you approach a sandstone cliff. You then go up a short steep section which levels out in a (S) direction to check point 3. 0.90km

1.3 km **3.** Track junction veer right for Maria's Lookout (continue straight ahead for the Summit Walk). This is a short section across rock platforms and through Casuarina and calytrix bushes. 0.20km

1.5 km **4.** Maria's Lookout (about 555m asl) Rest a while and take in the fabulous views. The Warrumbungles including the Siding Spring Observatory are clearly visible on most days. Arguably the best view on Barkala!

Retrace your steps back about 20m and veer left for a steep descent. Watch for loose rocks and use the Mallee Gums as a handhold. Pass through an Allocasuarina thicket badly damaged by feral goats. Pass a large Brown Bloodwood tree and many Hibbertias. The last 250m of the walk is along the base of a small cliff which features a natural arch and several small caves. Cross a flattish area before arriving back at the start. 0.60km

2.1 km **1.** Start & finish

SUMMIT WALK NOTES

(Notes read clockwise from start)

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

NOT SUITABLE FOR SMALL CHILDREN

0.0 km **3.** Start & finish at this check point on Maria's Walk. Travel in a SE direction along the 4WD track to checkpoint 1S 0.10km

0.1 km **1S.** Track junction. Veer left along the 4WD track and around a sharp right hand bend onto a rough rocky section with thick calytrix shrubs. Pass a couple of big grass trees just before checkpoint 2S. 0.40km

0.5 km **2S.** Track junction, turn left. (4WD track continues to top of hill). Go through a rocky section of casuarinas, ironbarks and grasses. The track slopes down to the first of two lookouts and then follows the cliff edge around to the S side for great views along the way. 0.30km

0.8 km **3S.** Johann's Look out affords great views to the Warrumbungles and a large cliff/cave system on the other side of Eagle Valley. Continue in a westerly direction to the Crooked Mountains Lookout where the Siding Spring Observatory is visible on most days. Go in a northerly direction and pass the head of a small gully and walk over sandstone rock platforms to arrive at the Sunset Lookout. See one of the best views of Barkala here as well as a small clearing beside Dandry Creek (not far from the Pottery.) Continue upslope to checkpoint 4S 0.40km

1.2 km **4S.** Nandewar Range Lookout. It is the highest on Barkala at 580 mtrs asl. On a clear day if you look in a NE direction, you can just see the Nandewar Range (Mt Kaputar NP) about 110km distant. Stop awhile and take in the beauty of the Australian Bush from this rocky outcrop. A short steepish drop will have you back to checkpoint 1S. 0.10km

1.3 km **1S.** Track Junction. Follow the 4WD track back to checkpoint 3. 0.10km

1.4 km **3.** Start & finish. If you walked up via checkpoint 1 and 2 you have the option to go back the same way (1.3km) or go via Maria's Lookout (0.80km).

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).

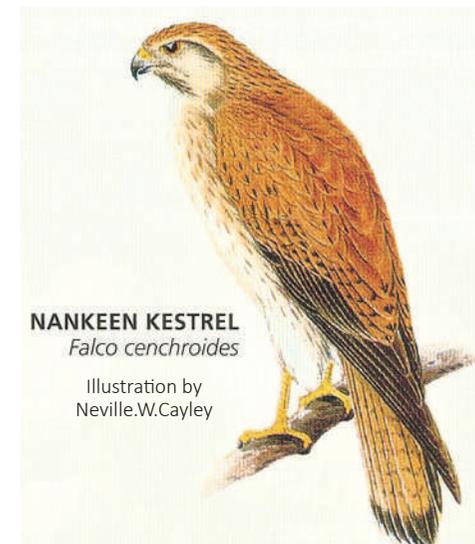
GEOLOGY – Mostly Pilliga Sandstone with lenses of conglomerate formed from large delta sediments during the Jurassic Period about 150million years ago.

PILLIGA POTTERY AND BARKALA FARM MARIA'S WALK 2.1km SUMMIT WALK 1.4km Total both walks 3.5km

MARIA'S WALK – A single loop featuring interesting rock formations, cliffs and one of the BEST VIEWS on Barkala. Allow at least 1hr.

SUMMIT WALK – A single loop which follows on from Maria's Walk featuring 6 lookouts with fabulous views, including the highest elevation on Barkala at 580m above sea level. Allow at least 1 hr.

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



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Falco cenchroides

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AUSTRALIA

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PILLIGA POTTERY AND BARKALA FARM

MARIA'S WALK

CHECK POINTS (Notes read clockwise from start.)

- 1 Start & finish opposite the Lip Cave. (Shared track with Ridge Top Walk)
- 2 Track Junction, turn right. (East). (Ridge Top Track continues straight on.)
- 3 Track junction, turn right (SE)
- 4 Maria's Lookout. The best view on Barkala!

1 Start & finish
 A 2.1km single loop with a fantastic lookout. Allow about 1hr. Elevation change of about 85m (start of walk 475m high point 560m asl)
 Grades are gradual with a steep drop down from Maria's Lookout. Watch for loose rocks.

SUMMIT WALK

3 CHECK POINTS (Notes read clockwise from start.)
 Start & finish. (Shared checkpoint with Maria's Walk.) Go straight ahead.

- 1S Track junction, veer left and follow 4WD track.
- 2S Track junction, turn left (4WD track continues to top of hill – a dead end) and go to two look outs
- 3S Johann's Lookout named after Maria's Grandson. Continue to two more lookouts.
- 4S Nandewar Range Lookout. Highest point on Barkala. Go down a steep drop to 1S & 3.
- 3 Start & finish.
 A 1.4km single loop. Elevation change of 20m.

THANKS GO TO:

- * Pilliga Pottery & Barkala Farm for their support in providing this walking opportunity.
- * Kerry Lowe for developing the tracks, buswalking information and brochure compilation.
- * Brochure production and printing by Copywrite Tamworth

LEGEND

- 4WD tracks -----
- Walking tracks (dotted line)
- Lookout (sun icon)
- Feature (circle icon)
- Check Point (circle with number icon)
- Elevation 480m
- asl = Above Sea Level

MAP USERS PLEASE NOTE:

To simplify map details, all distances and locations are approximate only.

