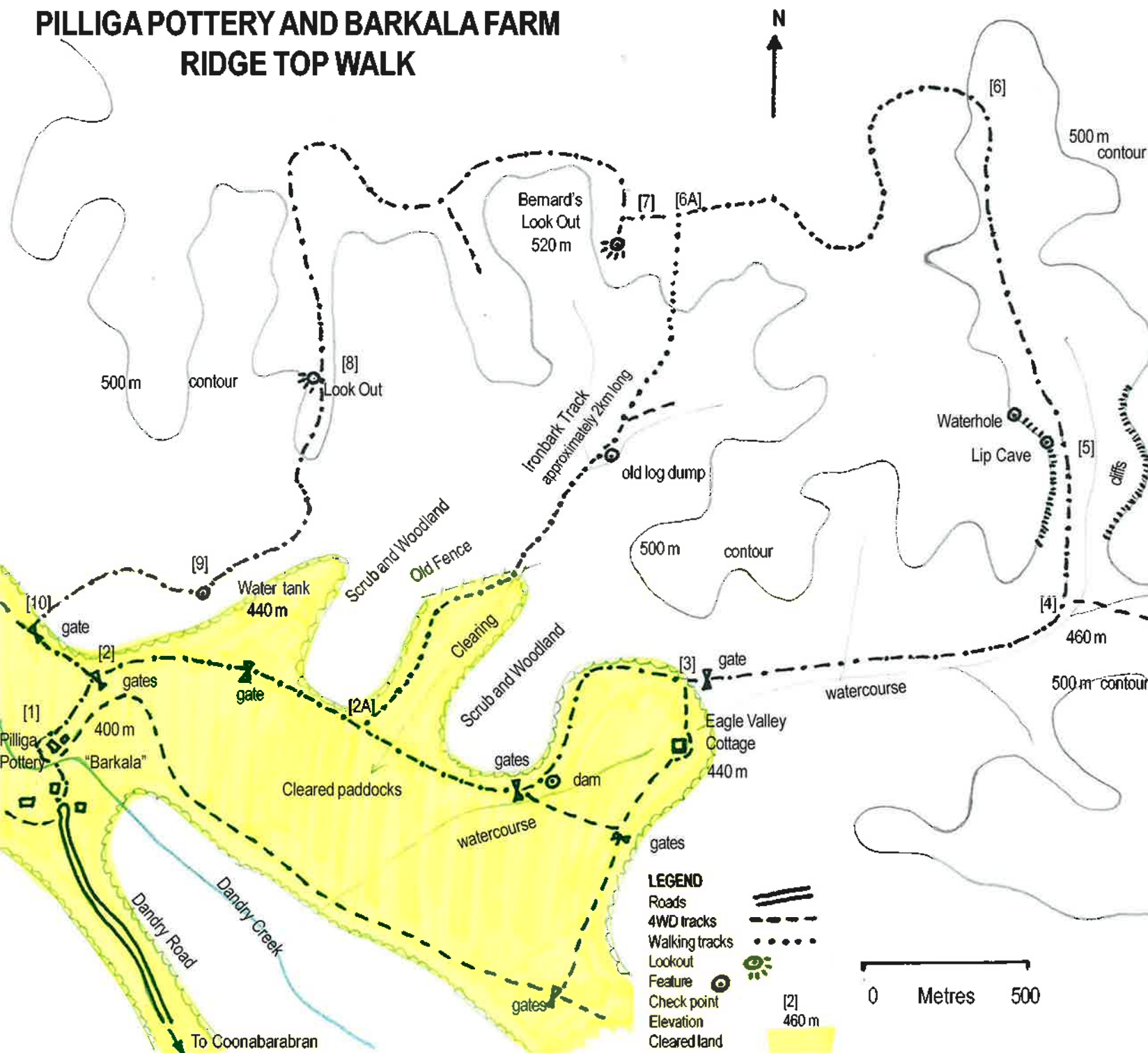


PILLIGA POTTERY AND BARKALA FARM RIDGE TOP WALK



- ### CHECK POINTS
- (Notes read anti-clockwise from start.)
- [1] Start & finish at Pilliga Pottery
 - [2] Track junction, double gates, go straight ahead
 - [2A] Ironbark Track junction
 - [3] Track junction, go straight ahead
 - [4] Track junction, turn left
 - [5] Side track to Lip Cave & Waterhole
 - [6] Steeper sections, track veers west, then south.
 - [6A] Ironbark Track junction
 - [7] Track junction, turn left for Bernard's Look Out
 - [8] Second Look Out
 - [9] Water tank on side of track
 - [10] Track junction & gate, turn left
 - [1] Pilliga Pottery & Barkala Farm

A 12km loop walk including Look Out side tracks, Lip Cave & Waterhole.
Allow 3 - 5 hours
Elevation change of 120m
(Pilliga Pottery 400m asl and Bernard's Look Out 520m asl)

Grades are gradual with some steeper sections near [6] and between [8] and [9]

MAP USERS PLEASE NOTE :-
To simplify map details, all distances and locations are approximate only.

- Thanks go to :-**
- ~ Pilliga Pottery & Barkala Farm for their support in providing this walking opportunity.
 - ~ Bernhard Rickert for the initial survey and 4wd track construction.
 - ~ Robert Banks for geological information.
 - ~ Leo Butler for surveying and GPS mapping.
 - ~ Kerry Lowe for developing the tracks, bushwalking information and brochure compilation.

LEGEND

- Roads
- 4WD tracks
- Walking tracks
- Lookout
- Feature
- Check point
- Elevation
- Cleared land





RIDGE TOP WALK NOTES

(notes read anticlockwise from start)

- 0.0 [1] Start from Pilliga Pottery, go across the creek and stay west of the Farmhouse. Follow the stockyard fence towards the NE to check point [2]. 0.5km
- 0.5km [2] Double gates, go through (leave all gates as you find them) i.e. if gate is open, leave it open. If gate is shut, leave it shut. Continue along the track with bush on your left and open paddocks on your right. About 400m on pass through another gate, continue straight ahead to 2A. 0.8km
- 1.3km [2A] Ironbark Track junction, turn Left for a short cut to Bernard's Lookout, otherwise continue straight ahead. At the next gate veer to the left and follow track around past a small dam to the next check point. 1.3 km
- 2.6km [3] Track junction. (Eagle Valley Cottage is to the south) Continue East through a gateway into the bush up a narrow valley enclosed on both sides by interesting sandstone rocks & cliffs. Look for remnant wombat holes at the base of some of the cliffs. 1.0km
- 3.6km [4] Track junction. Turn left and go up a side valley which has thickets of wattle, daisy bush and hop bush. 0.7km
- 4.3km [5] Side track to view Lip Cave. One of the many interesting sandstone caves on Barkala. The sandstone surfaces are very fragile, please do not deface any part of the cave.
- Optional side trip.** Follow cliff line around on the northern side of the Lip cave for about 200m to a small waterhole, the home of a Blue Belly Black Snake (so take care). On your way you will pass the "Foot Print" Cave. Retrace your tracks back to the Lip Cave. Continue North up the valley. 1.0km
- 5.3km [6] Start of the "jump up" and some steeper sections. Track veers west then south. Take note of the many colours in the sandstone outcrops and the change in vegetation with more Ironbark trees and a different understory of casuarinas, pea bushes, heaths, geebung etc. 1.3km
- 6.6km [6A] Ironbark Track junction. Continue straight ahead. If coming up the Ironbark Track turn left (west) to go to check point [7]. 0.2km

- 6.8km [7] Track junction. Turn left and follow the ridge to Bernard's Look Out (about 100m) See good views of the Warrumbungles with Siding Spring Observatory easily visible on a clear day. Rest awhile and breath in the atmosphere. Retrace your steps back to the main track which rapidly changes from very rocky to very sandy over short distances. Continue in a westerly direction past grass trees, Brown Bloodwoods and many small pea bushes, guinea flowers, wattles etc. 2.0km
- 8.8km [8] Second Look Out to the right of the main track. The Warrumbungles are just visible on the south western horizon. Continue down slope through some thick eucalypt regrowth. 0.9km
- 9.7km [9] A large water tank is on your left. Rain water collected during storms at Pilliga Pottery is pumped to this tank and later gravity fed back for domestic use. Continue down a steep section (take care with the loose rocks) to the valley floor. 0.5km
- 10.2km [10] Fence and gate. Pilliga Pottery now visible. Turn left and follow track and fence line to [2] or take a short cut across the paddock to bypass check point [2] 0.2km
- 10.4km [2] Double gates. Turn right and follow track past the Farmhouse. Cross the creek and return to the start. 0.5km
- 10.9km [1] Start & finish, Pilliga Pottery.

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FLORA -Trees - broad & narrow leaved ironbarks, brown bloodwoods, white box, 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

RIDGE TOP WALK



A 12 km loop walk including side tracks.
Allow 3 to 5 hours

Take a walk through some beautiful natural bush. You will see rocky slopes, cliffs, caves and lots of interesting plants some of which will be flowering at any time of the year. You will see and hear many species of birds. There are good views from two look outs. Take only photos and leave only footprints.

Enjoy your walk.

PILLIGA POTTERY AND BARKALA FARM

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