



OXLEY'S WALK NOTES

CAUTION: This walk has a steep section and unfenced cliff edges.

NOT SUITABLE FOR SMALL CHILDREN

- 0.0km [1] Start at the Big Sign explaining that Oxley came through here in 1818. Follow a ridge & enter a small valley with lots of Ironbark trees. Go up a small zig-zag steep section & through a Calytrix thicket. The track flattens out then slopes down to the first lookout at checkpoint [2]. *0.30km*
- 0.30km [2] Explorer's Lookout gives good views into Oxley's Creek & Gorge, plus views into the lower section of Dandry Creek Valley. Follow the cliff top E & veer SE over a small rise, then through a gully which comes from the Panorama Walk. Continue over another rise & through a small gully to check point [3]. Following good rains this section has lots of Flannel flowers. *0.50km*
- 0.80km [3] Track junction. Continue straight ahead (E) or turn right onto the link track to Panorama Walk. In Nov 2021 the Flannel flowers at this junction were shoulder high! Continuing E you will pass through a small flat rock gully. If you look closely, you may find 2 grinding grooves. The track continues up a long gentle slope & a rocky section to check point [4]. *0.53km*
- 1.33km [4] Track junction. Turn left for Oxley's Lookout (only 12m) or right to continue the walk. There are good views into Oxley's Gorge & to some of the cliffs on the Panorama Walk to the SW. The smooth barked trees below the lookout are Dwyers Red Gum scattered between stringybarks & ironbark trees. Go up a gentle slope to check point [5]. *0.27km*
- 1.60km [5] Rocky Ridge Lookout is the highest point on the walk, about 520m above sea level (asl). Look through gaps in the trees to the SW to see the Warrumbungle Range & Siding Spring Observatory, on a clear day. The rocks here are more shale like rather than pure sandstone. Continue E through several shallow gullies to checkpoint [6]. *0.46km*
- 2.06km [6] A sign indicating that Oxley went NE, while our walk goes SE through a good stand of Ironbark trees & black boys. Note that not far from this sign are 2 large Cypress Pine trees that

managed to survive the 1997 bushfire. Cypress pines are generally absent from most of this walk! Continue through fairly open Ironbark country & cross a small depression which had flowing water in November 2021. A small incline brings you to checkpoint [7]. *0.34km*

2.40km [7] Track junction where this walk meets the Ridge Top Walk (RTW). You have several options –

Option A - Retrace your tracks back to the start [1], 2.4km

Option B - Turn R & go about 150m to meet up with the Split Rock walk & follow that back to Pottery, about 3km.

Option C - Turn R & follow the RTW back to Pottery, about 3km.

Option D - Turn L & follow the RTW to Bernhards Lookout & then follow the Ironbark Trail back to the Pottery, about 5km.



Flannel flower (*Actinotus helianthi*)

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 30s. Winters are cool, mid teens to low 20s (centigrade).

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

PILLIGA POTTERY

AND

BARKALA FARM

- OXLEY'S WALK -

A 2.4 km walk that joins the Ridge Top Walk (RTW).

Option 1. Return the same way (4.8km), or

Option 2. Continue along the RTW back to Pottery (5.4km)

Allow 2-3 hours for both options.

This walk has three lookouts, lots of interesting plants (Flannel flowers in season) and isolation. By doing this walk you will be tracing about 2km of Oxley's journey in August 1818.



John Joseph William Molesworth Oxley
First Surveyor-General of NSW

**** Take only photos and leave only footprints ****

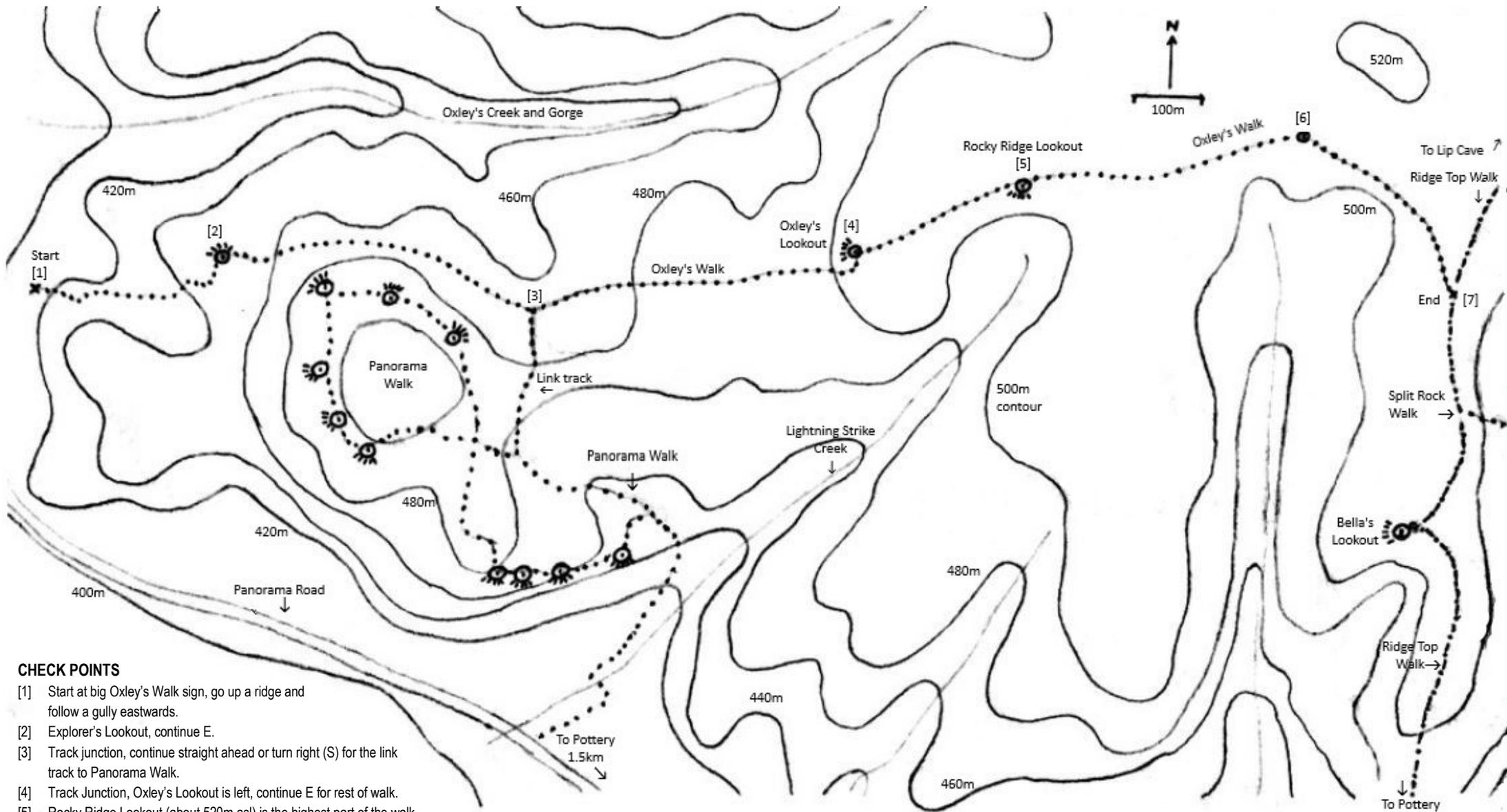
Enjoy your walk.

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CHECK POINTS

- [1] Start at big Oxley's Walk sign, go up a ridge and follow a gully eastwards.
- [2] Explorer's Lookout, continue E.
- [3] Track junction, continue straight ahead or turn right (S) for the link track to Panorama Walk.
- [4] Track Junction, Oxley's Lookout is left, continue E for rest of walk.
- [5] Rocky Ridge Lookout (about 520m asl) is the highest part of the walk.
- [6] Oxley went NE at this sign, our track goes SE.
- [7] Track junction with RTW, turn right for Pottery or left for Bernhards Lookout and Lip Cave, or retrace your tracks back to [1] start.

Elevation change about 110m (start 410m, Lookout 520m).

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

CAUTION: This walk has steep sections with loose rocks and some slippery rocks when wet (which is not very often). There are unfenced cliff edges.

NOT SUITABLE FOR SMALL CHILDREN.

LEGEND

4wd tracks - - - -

Walking tracks

Lookout ☀

Feature ⊙

Checkpoint [4]

Contour with elevation above seal level (asl)



460m

OXLEY'S WALK



Thanks go to:

- Pilliga Pottery and Barkala Farm for their support in providing this walking opportunity.
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