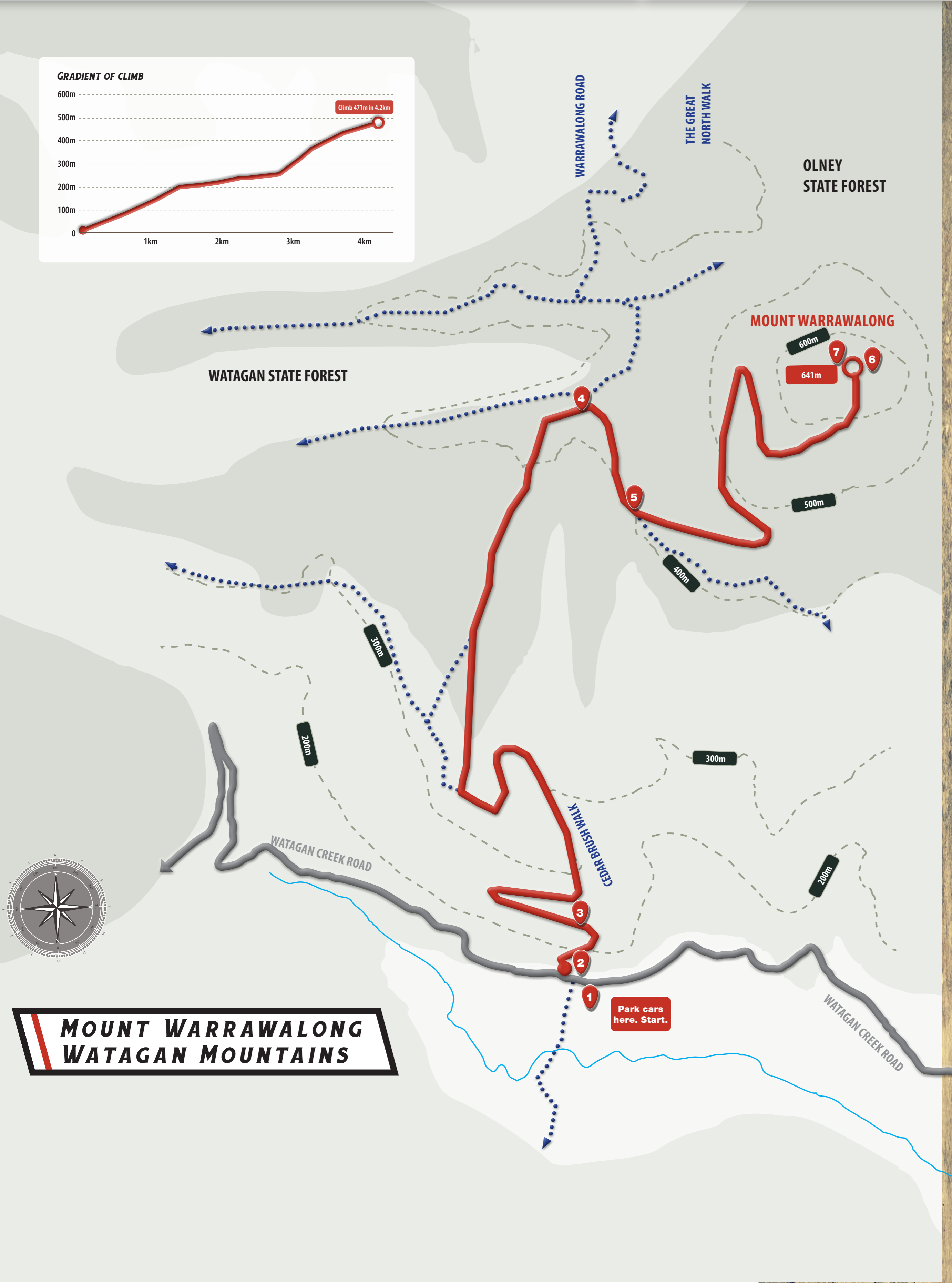
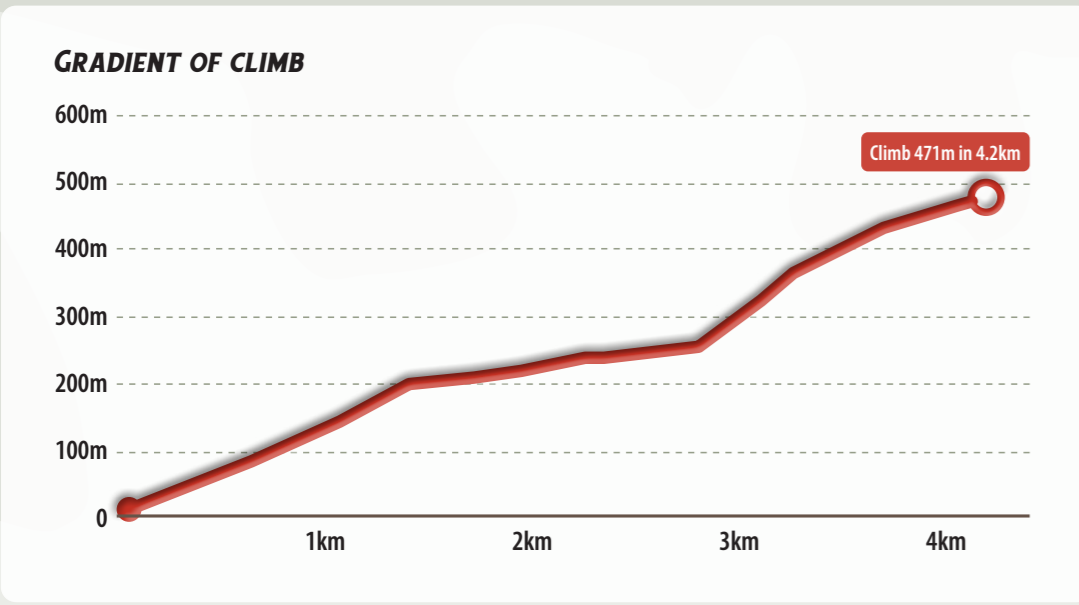




The Wollombi Valley Walks



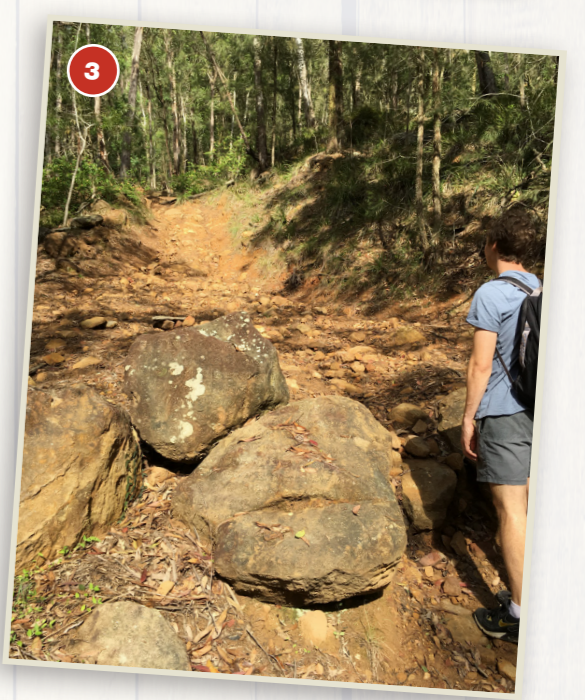
MOUNT WARRAWALONG WATAGAN MOUNTAINS

DIRECTIONS

Leave George Downes Drive at Laguna (32deg 59' 39" S, 151deg 7' 48" E) and head east along Watagan Creek Road. After approximately 5.5kms the road becomes predominantly unsealed. After a total of 17.4 kms from leaving George Downes drive there is a grassy edge of the road that is suitable for parking (See 1). This is approximately 500m after the gateway to a property called GenRoy. It should take around 25minutes along this road with possibly one gate to be opened (and closed) to gain access to the starting point of the walk.



There are green wooden signposts showing the walking track with reference to the Great North walk. (33deg 1' 42" S, 151 deg 16' 26" E). Leave your vehicle here.



Head south up the hill. The walk is approximately 4kms each way, taking 2 1/2 hrs up and 1 1/2 hours down. The walking track is well defined as it was originally access for vehicles to build the watch tower at the summit.



It should be noted that although a major part of the walk is on a section of the Great North Walk there are two junctions requiring care. The first is the right fork to be taken at the base of Mt Warrawalong where the track leaves the Great North Walk (See 1) and the second is 500 m after the first turn off and is a fork to the left going uphill to the summit (See 5).



When reaching the summit the watch tower and the surrounding trees delay the feeling of achievement. A walk around the edge and into the trees soon yields the spectacular views and rewards the effort.

ADVICE

The area of this walk is quite remote and it is likely you will meet no one while you are walking so being prepared is essential. Check the weather forecast before starting. Wear and carry suitable clothing. Well fitting walking footwear is essential. First aid knowledge and basic equipment would be wise. Be aware of the fitness of all those with whom you walk and carry plenty of food and water. There is none available after you leave George Downes Drive. There is no radio reception for telephone although satellite connection allows positioning. Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. Let them know when you have returned. Above all enjoy the experience, watch out for animals, take a camera and if possible a pair of binoculars. The views to the north, south and east at the summit are spectacular.



INDEMNITY

This map has been produced to assist walkers to gain local information and for your enjoyment. The producer of these maps accepts no responsibility or liability for injuries resulting from the use of this map or from information contained therein.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WOLLOMBI AND LAGUNA
Wollombi is a small village in the Hunter Region of New South Wales, Australia. It is within the Cessnock City Council LGA, situated 29 kilometers (18 mi) southwest of Cessnock and 128 km (80 mi) north of Sydney. To the south is the village of Laguna, to the east, the village of Millfield and to the north, the village of Broke.

The valley is bordered to the west by the World Heritage listed Yengo National Park (and Yengo State Forest) and the main road, the convict-built Great North Road forms one of the major legs of the Greater Blue Mountains Drive. To the east lie Watagans National Park along with Corrabare and Olney State Forests.

Wollombi's modest modern size is offset by its 19th century sandstone buildings and timber slab constructed cottages and sheds in a narrow valley junction containing Wollombi Brook and Congewai Creek. Narone and Yango Creeks also join these waterways near the village.

The area is home to an abundance of native birds, reptiles and other animals including kangaroos, wallabies, wallaroos and wombats and is surrounded by imposing tree-lined mountains.

WOLLOMBI VALLEY WILDLIFE
As you walk the paths, keep your eyes open for wildlife. In the distance, wild deer and kangaroos will be grazing in the late afternoon, while on the paths and rocks, snakes and water dragons will be sunning themselves. In spring the birds are raising their young. Overhead,

Channel Billed Cuckoos will screech, while by the Millpond, water birds will be shepherding their families. The Brook section is a wildlife corridor, where you might catch a glimpse of a platypus at dusk or see wombat droppings on the track. Pause and watch tiny birds like Robins, Finches, Honeyeaters and Wrens in the shelter of the trees.

ABORIGINAL HISTORY
There are a vast number of historic Aboriginal sites in the surrounding countryside which is thought to have been used as a ceremonial meeting place as people from hundreds of kilometers visited the area and made their way to Mount Yengo - a place of great significance throughout the ancient nations of eastern Australia. There are rock engravings, sharpening grooves, hand stencils, tribal markings and other images in caves and outcrops, frequent evidence of camping sites along the Brook and its tributary creeks, and two major mapping sites containing many engravings.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
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FURTHER INFORMATION
www.visitwollombi.com.au

**MOUNT WARRAWALONG
WATAGAN MOUNTAINS**

If you have no further use for this map, please return to Wollombi General Store.

GENERAL

The Watagan Mountains are part of the Great Dividing Range which is the main mountain range running north-south along the eastern side of the Australian continent. The highest mountain within the Watagans is Mount Warrawalong at 641 m high.

The area of the walk is an area of the Wonnarua, Darokinjung, Awabakul and Darug aboriginal peoples. The name Warrawalong is thought to have originated from the word Wallung, which means "head" in the Awabakul language.

Mount Warrawalong is itself within the Olney State Forest, although most of the walk described herein is within the Watagan State Forest. Both these New South Wales state forests are bounded by the Hunter River catchment at Lake Macquarie and the Tuggerah Lake system.

The walk is within ecosystems that include warm temperate gully rainforest, with vines, ferns, orchid, xanthorrhoea and lichen, as well as tall eucalypts, such as turpentine, stringy bark, Sydney blue gum, spotted gum and black butt. There are also many wildflowers. Unfortunately there is also significant evidence of lantana and cotton bush weed, especially near the summit.

The wildlife is also varied with wombats,

snakes, kangaroos, wallabies, and koalas, as well as a wide variety of eastern Australia birds with the lyrebird being particularly evident.

On the 10th of May in 1770, a Thursday, Captain Cook, while sailing north, made the following entry in his journal.

"In the latitude of 33deg, 2' a little way inland is a remarkable hill that is shaped like the Crown of a hatt which we passed about 9 o'clock in the forenoon".

He was looking at what is now called Mt Warrawalong.

Cotton Bush Weed

In 1831 Surveyor General Sir Thomas Mitchell used the mountain as a survey point to establish parts of the route of the Great North Road, that was being built by the convicts between 1826 and 1835 to the west of the Watagans.

In the latter part of the 20th century the Department of Lands developed the Great North Walk which starts at the obelisk in Macquarie Place in Sydney and finishes at the Queens Wharf in Newcastle. The Cedar Brush Track section of this epic walk passes directly around Mount Warrawalong.

There is little old growth forest evident as most of the trees have been harvested initially by the cedar-getters from the 1820, followed by other timber as it was required for the emerging coal industry in the 1850s. The timber was extracted along Watagan Creek Road by ox teams hauling timber wagons over the mountains to the wharf at Dora Creek on Lake Macquarie.

There is an example of handhewn stone abutments from the 19th century on a bridge high in the mountains a little on from the starting point of the Mt Warrawalong walk.

Handhewn Bridge