

Staples Lookout to Kariong Brook



2 hrs 30 mins

Hard track

5.8 km Return

▲ 261m

4

This walk gives the shortest access to Kariong Brook waterfall, one of the nicest falls in the area. Starting from Staples Lookout, on Woy Woy Rd, most of the walking is along the Thommos Loop management trail, except for the last descent into Kariong Brook. The waterfall is a nice and cool place to stop for lunch on a warm day.

202m

25m

Brisbane Water National Park

Are you ready to have fun?

Please ensure you and your group are well prepared and equipped for all possible hazards and delays. Check park closures, weather information and Fire Danger Rating before setting out. Optional side trips and alternate routes noted are not included in this walks overall grade, length or time estimate. Please allow extra time for resting and exploring areas of interest. The authors, staff and owners of wildwalks take care in preparing this information but will not accept responsibility for any inconvenience, loss or injury you may experience. Please take care, have fun - Happy Walking.

Getting there Traveling by car is the only practical way to get to Staples Lookout (gps: -33.4717, 151.2883). Car: There is free parking available.

This is a return, so you will finish back at the start.

Find up to date and more information including; travel directions, weather, park closures and walker feedback at <http://wild.tl/sltkb>

0 | Staples Lookout

Staples Lookout beside Woy Woy Road, is a fenced lookout providing good views east across the Central Coast, the Brisbane Water and out to the ocean. There is a large car park and picnic tables, with plenty of natural shade. The lookout was named as a tribute to Charles J Staples, a pioneer of route that Woy Woy Rd now follows. The lookout was constructed in 1955 by the Rotary Club of Woy Woy. An inscription at the lookout quotes 'and I shall meditate on your wondrous works' from Psalm 119:27.

0 | Staples Lookout

(370 m 7 mins) From Staples Lookout, this walk heads downhill alongside Woy Woy Rd (keeping the view to the left). Where safe this walk crosses the road and continues down the hill. Just after passing a large brown 'Scenic Lookout 300m' sign (facing downhill), the walk comes to the signposted start of "Thommo's Loop Fire Trail" and a locked gate.

0.37 | Int of GNW and Woy Woy Road

(1.8 km 37 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk heads around the National Park gate and continues down the service trail for a short while, before coming to the intersection of the power line service trail.

Continue straight: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Thommas Loop' sign down the management trail as it bends left. The trail winds down the hill to soon cross a rock platform with good views.

Continue straight: From the rock platform, this walk follows

the management trail down the hill, keeping the valley views to the right. The trail then generally winds down the hill to come so a signposted three-way intersection with a 'Staples Lookout' sign pointing back up the hill.

2.2 | Int of the GNW and Patonga service trail

(690 m 24 mins) Turn right: From the intersection, this walk follows the 'Girrakool' sign gently down along the narrower track. The track leads down for about 60m to pass over a rock outcrop and then 80m later, comes to a clearing that has been used as a campsite (on your left). From the clearing, the track continues down the hill for about 150m, stepping down the rocks and along a sandy track to then bend right at metal handrail. Here the rocky track becomes quite steep in places and winds down past some rock walls and among the grass trees for about 300m, where the track bends sharp right at the bottom of some steps in a cleft in the rock. The track continues down for another 100m to follow the steps down through the sandstone overhang, here the track bends left then right to wind down and cross the creek (that is often underground) and come to an intersection with a faint track in front of Kariong Brook Falls (on your right).

2.89 | Kariong Brook Falls

This tranquil spot of the Great North Walk is home to some lovely falls and a water hole. The eastern side of the creek has a tall sandstone cave and wall. After rain these falls can become very spectacular, other times is a cool place to rest. A great spot to stop for a snack.

