



**St John's
Cartophiles**

Abbotts Falls Walking Track, Watagans National Park & Olney State Forest, Saturday 19th August, 2017

The Cartophiles' August day walk is our first in the Watagan Mountains and the first in Kit's & Sue's new area. The walk is to Abbotts Falls, on the headwaters of Dora Creek.

The walk is rated hard. It's a 7.3km circuit through open forest on the ridge top to descend into a moist rainforest environment near Abbotts Falls and, based on the bush around Morisett, there should be a nice display of early wildflowers along the way.



A view of Dora Creek near Abbotts Falls

Most of the walk is gentle hills or short steep hills, along formed tracks or trails. It's rated hard because there's about 1km of rough track of which about half is very steep. It should take about 3 hours to complete the circuit.

After the walk we'll debrief at the Craig's, about half an hour drive from the finish point. The debrief will include a sausage sizzle.

Those who don't feel like walking but would like to debrief anyway are invited to come straight to the Craig's where Sue will entertain them until the walkers return.

The start point is The Pines Camping Area, just off the Watagans Forest Road in the Olney State Forest. It's about 1½ hours drive from Wahroonga and is easily accessible by 2WD cars. We'll meet there at 9.15am on Saturday, 19th August and start walking at 9.30am.

If you'd rather take the train, catch the 6.22am train from Hornsby to Newcastle; you'll arrive at Dora Creek Station at about 8.00am and Kit will give you a lift to the walk.

Wear a hat and carry at least a litre of drinking water. The forecast is for temperatures in the mid-teens with a chance of a shower, so bring a rain coat. As usual, Kit will carry a first aid kit. This is a walk for hiking shoes or boots.

Don't forget a camera to preserve the memories.

To get directions to the Craig's house, register for the walk, or to get more information, contact Kit Craig at cartophiles@stjohnswahroonga.org or on 0411 507 422.