



St John's
Cartophiles

A weekend in the Blue Mountains, Queen's Birthday Weekend, 9th – 11th June, 2018

Following the success of last year's long weekend in the Blue Mountains, the Cartophiles bushwalking club will again spend the Queen's Birthday long weekend in and around Blackheath to take on three fun, moderate-rated day walks.

If you don't feel up to all three walks, drive up or catch the train for just one or two. If you want to stay overnight, book your accommodation NOW!

Saturday, 9th June, Walls Ledge, Porters Pass, Centennial Glen Circuit



This 5.4 km circuit walk covers many of the tracks just to the west of Blackheath. The walk follows the cliff lines, both above and below, with amazing views of the Kanimbla Valley, rock features and waterfalls. The walk takes in a cross section of plants, with defined changes through the cliff passes.

Most of the walk follows a formed track or path, but it is rated hard because it descends and climbs nearly 500m.

Meet in the car park of the New Ivanhoe Hotel, Blackheath, at 10.00 am for the 5 minute drive to the start of the walk at the Centennial Glen Road Carpark. The walk will take about 3½ hours, followed by a debrief at the New Ivanhoe. Bring your lunch.

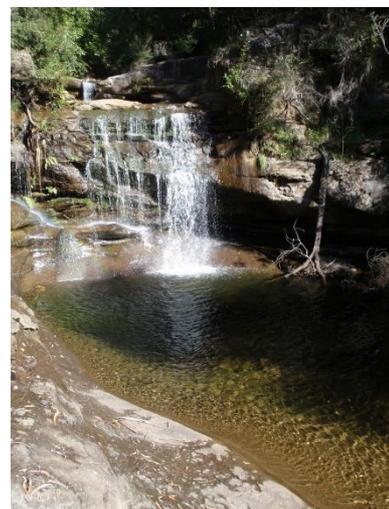
Afterwards there'll be time to fossick through the Blackheath shops and galleries.

Sunday, 10th June, Evans Lookout to Junction Rock

This 11km circuit takes a very scenic route from Evans Lookout down into the valley before returning along the scenic Cliff Top walk. The track takes in a wide variety of vegetation as it changes altitude. Be sure to keep your eyes open for the colourful fungi along the track, and the ferns attached to the cliff wall.

It descends and climbs nearly a kilometre, so we'll take about 6 hours to complete it. That will give us plenty of time to take in the great views as well as catch our breath.

Meet at the information sign at Evans Lookout car park at 9.30am. The car park is at the end of Evans Lookout Rd, which runs off the Great Western Hwy just south of Blackheath.



We'll organise a dinner that night at one of the excellent local restaurants.

Monday, 11th June, Grand Canyon Track



I walked this track for the first time on last year's long weekend and fell in love with it.

The 6.3km adventurous track has been trodden by walkers since 1907. The intimate and awesome Grand Canyon track will take us into the heart of the Blue Mountains' World Heritage-listed landscape with great sandstone walls, ever-present waterfalls and abundant native plants.

Meet at the Evans Head lookout, Blackheath, at 10.00am. The walk will take about 4 hours, after which we'll head home.

You need to carry your lunch.

Travel and Accommodation

You'll need to seek your own accommodation, but luckily, there are lots of accommodation choices in the Blue Mountains from B&Bs to the 3½ star old world charm of The Hotel Imperial, Mount Victoria; the 5 star luxury of Lilianfels in Katoomba or the not a lot of stars but 1930's architecture at the New Ivanhoe Hotel, Blackheath.

What to Wear and Carry

Kit will carry a first aid kit and personal locator beacon. You will need to carry at least a litre of drinking water, your lunch, something warm to put on during stops and wet weather gear. The tracks are all well-defined and often are paved, but you should wear boots or stout walking shoes – the Grand Canyon particularly can be very slippery.

Bring a camera to preserve the memories, some nice clothes for the non-walking times and money for the debriefs!

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