

Observation Checklist

(TICK OFF WHAT YOU SEE)

BIRDS



- ☐ EGRETS
- ☐ DARTERS



- ☐ RAPTORS



- ☐ CORMORANT



- ☐ HONEYEATER



- ☐ SWAN



- ☐ GREBES



- ☐ DUCKS



- ☐ PELICAN



- ☐ COOT
- ☐ MOORHEN
- ☐ SWAMPHEN

MAMMALS



- ☐ KANGAROOS

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES



- ☐ FROGS
- ☐ TURTLES



- ☐ LIZARDS
- ☐ SNAKES

Walka Ecology Walk

EXPLORERS GUIDE



This Ecology Walk is for students and families. It is a way to help you observe and explore Walka's features and to explain its special significance.

It also provides a starting point for further sharing, discussion and research.

A variety of online resources for the Walka Ecology Walk are available from maitland.nsw.gov.au

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide shows two routes to the **Ecology Platform (3)** which is located on the far side of the reservoir.

You can take the north Lake Trail towards **Ted's Rest (2)**, or head across to the **Reservoir Wall (5)**.

Each route has viewing areas where you can often observe wildlife and discover special landscape features.

3 THE ECOLOGY PLATFORM

The Ecology Platform is a target for explorers.

It is located about half way if you are going the full circuit.

It is a place to gather and share observations or to simply look out for, and listen to, birds in the bush and on the water, and observe different types of habitats.

4 MEMORIAL

Good views across the reservoir showing the impact of the Walka Water Works complex on the landscape. Birds can sometimes be seen nesting amongst the reeds.

PRO TIPS

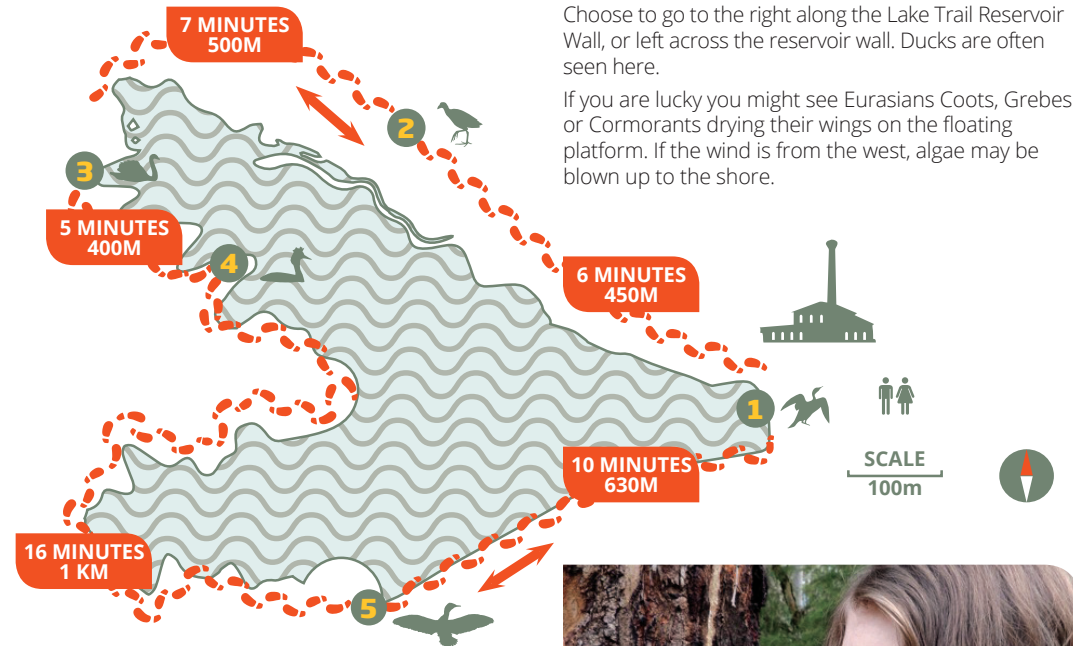
If you are in a group you might want to split up tasks into:

- FINDING
- DESCRIBING
- RECORDING
- REPORTING

The main thing is to be aware of what is around you and how it changes as the walk goes on.

2 TED'S REST

Look all the way across the reservoir and you might see Moorhens, Swamphens, Ducks and Pelicans 'loafing' along the opposite bank.



5 RESERVOIR WALL

Water levels change in the reservoir at different times leaving marks behind on the wall.

From here you might see a variety of birds, kangaroos and long-necked turtles.

INTERESTING FACTS

As you head to the **Ecology Platform (3)**, along the upper side of the path you will see part of Maitland City Council's program to re-instate the natural Lower Hunter Spotted Gum Ironbark Forest.

As the urban population increases around Walka, conserving natural bushland becomes more important.

Look for bush birds already using the area that will spread to new native plantings as they grow and become established.



WALKA BIRD APP

This app is a starter's guide into the world of birds at Walka. Filled with stunning photography, the app features individual birds, with an introduction to where and what to look for.

Download the free Walka Bird App from the App Store or maitland.nsw.gov.au



1 BASE CAMP VIEWPOINT

Choose to go to the right along the Lake Trail Reservoir Wall, or left across the reservoir wall. Ducks are often seen here.

If you are lucky you might see Eurasians Coots, Grebes or Cormorants drying their wings on the floating platform. If the wind is from the west, algae may be blown up to the shore.

WHY IS PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT IMPORTANT?

Protecting vegetation, wetlands and fauna is not just about having pretty things to look at. The environment is vital for supporting human life on Earth. Plants clean the air and supply us oxygen, wetlands cleanse the water and provide nurseries for fish, and fauna pollinate the plants and eat insects.

USING THE VIEWING AREAS

Each viewing area is set up to provide the best chance of observing wildlife from different perspectives and is marked by a post.

Observing wildlife can often be tricky. Some birds and animals prefer the night to daytime. Nesting birds will make an effort to keep out of sight. Wind and weather can influence when they come out.

The seasons can also play a part – a number of birds at Walka migrate from other parts of the state in droughts or water shortages.

