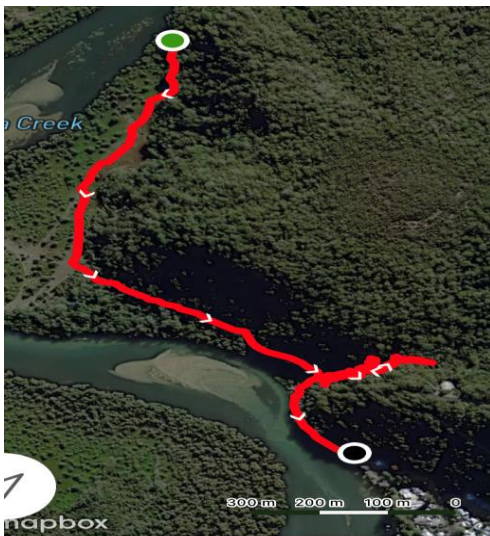


# Patonga Falls

## Trip and Track Notes



Map of the route to the Falls



Parking area Jacaranda Ave (CP1)

### Trip Notes

#### Introduction

Patonga Falls is a small set of waterfalls on a minor tributary creek that runs into Patonga Creek near Patonga, NSW.

With fairly easy access, a number of small sandy beaches and waterfalls that flow quite spectacularly after recent rains, it can make for a fun and interesting day trip especially in the summer months.

#### Access

The Starting Point to access the area is from a parking area at the end of Jacaranda Ave in Patonga (CP 1 -33.5474722, 151.2688657).

A 4WD track, which has become overgrown down to a foot track, extends west from the car park to a locked gate.

There is a sign for the Patonga Creek Wetlands at the start of the “overgrown 4WD track.”



Patonga Creek Wetlands Sign



Easy walking on well defined Ft Tk



Steep & slippery Ft Tk beside the falls



Patonga Ck, large & can be fast flowing

### Parking

There is parking for a number of vehicles in the location. However, in recent times the area has become far more popular. Additional parking can be found further back up Jacaranda Ave.

### Facilities

There are no Facilities in the course of the trip or in the destination area. Please ensure you DO NOT leave RUBBISH behind. Take it with you.

“Leave only footprints and take only photos”

### Site Conservation

The area is still a fairly pristine wetlands environment. Please pay the area due respect. DO NOT damage the area or leave rubbish.

### Water

There is no guaranteed drinking water available in the area, so you need to ensure you carry sufficient water.

If you ever make the decision to drink from local source, always ensure that YOU know the source of the water is safe.

For suggestions on water usage and other handy items, please refer to the “Equipment Section” of the website.

### Modes of Travel

Walking – the trip is suitable for walking.

Mountain biking – under Local Council regulations, bike riding is not permitted in the area beyond the locked gate (CP 2 -33.547069, 151.268243).

### Navigational Requirements

The first section of the trip is very easily accessible along a very well defined foot track.

The second section, up bedside the tributary creek, is via an ill-defined foot track that can steep, slippery and challenging in places.



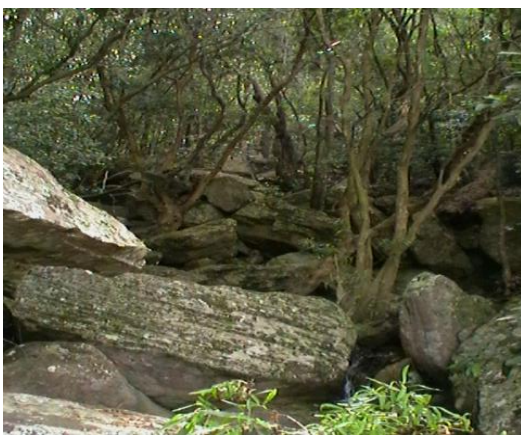
Razor-type grass to be avoided



The Locked Gate (CP 2)



The creek crossing at low tide (CP 3)



Large boulders at the start of the Ck

The extensions to the third and fourth sections are along well defined foot tracks, although in the area of the fourth section, the track branches into numerous secondary side tracks.

Patonga Creek provides an excellent Navigation Control and makes Basic Directional Navigation in the area very easy.

Navigation “Apps’ are always useful but be aware that the climb up beside the creek line and much of the area around Patonga Creek can be a “electronic black spot” where the Apps may not function.

We always recommend carrying a map and compass just in case, and an understanding of the basics of Directional Navigation makes navigation in this area extremely simple.

Further information regarding “Bush Navigation” can be found in the “Training and Skills Section” of the website.

#### Specialised Equipment.

There is no specialised equipment needed for this trip.

However, a “climbing tape” can be very handy on the descent, if you choose to explore the track up to the waterfall pools.

Being a Wetlands area, mosquito repellent is pretty much an essential for the trip.

A suggested list of other, “standard” equipment and other information can be found in the “Equipment Section” of the website.

#### General Safety

The “bush” is a foreign and uncontrolled environment in which you need to use common sense and due care to ensure your own safety, the safety of those with you and the safety of those with who you may come into contact.

There are a number of hints and ideas contained in the “Safety Section” of the website that can help ensure a safer trip into the bush.

Remember the emphasis for safety is ON YOU ... if you can't accept it, don't go!!!



Base of first waterfall (CP 4)



Top of waterfall 1 (CP 5)



Boulders in the Ck below waterfall 2



Base of waterfall 2 (CP 7)

## Track Notes

Approximate Return Distance – 2.8 kilometres  
(to the end of the Flood Plain)

Approximate Return Travel Time – 2.0 hours  
(very easy pace)

Approximate Return Distance – 500 metres  
(to the base of the first Waterfall)

Approximate Return Travel Time – 30 mins  
(very easy pace)

### Degrees of Difficulty:

1. Overall – Easy (3)
2. Sections :
  - Section 1 – Easy (2)
  - Section 2 – Challenging (1)
  - Extension 2 – Challenging (1)
  - Section 3 – Easy (2)
  - Section 4 – Easy (4)

Start Point : The parking area at the end of Jacaranda Ave in Patonga (CP 1 -33.5474722, 151.2688657).

End Point : Back at the Start Point.

### Dangers.

Patonga Creek is a large, and at times, fast flowing creek. Children should ALWAYS be closely supervised around waterways.

The climb up beside the waterfalls in Section 2 can be steep and slippery. As is almost always the case, descending can be even more challenging.

There are sheer edges at the tops of each of the waterfalls and these are unfenced and unprotected. Extreme care needs to be exercised in these areas.

There are a number of large “razor grass” type plants in the vicinity of the Ft Tk beside the tributary creek. DO NOT grab hold of these for support or to aid in climbing. The leaves are very sharp and will leave nasty cuts.

If YOU make the decision to visit this area you do so at you own risk and YOU need to exercise appropriate caution.



Waterfall 2 after recent rain



Tk behind rock to top of waterfall 2



Tk across to the top of waterfall 2



Slab & sheer edge top of waterfall 2

### Margins of Error.

As much of the area around Patonga Creek can be an “electronic blackspot”, some checkpoint locations, distances and coordinates may contain small margins of error due to the need to estimate some of these items.

### Course:

#### **Section 1 – 4WD Track & Foot Track : Approximately 250m**

- A. From the Start Point, follow the overgrown 4WD track NW beside the creek for about 100m to the locked gate (CP 2 -33.547069, 151.268243). This section is very flat and makes for very easy walking.
- B. Beyond the gate (CP 2) the track becomes a foot track and continues beside Patonga Creek for about another 150m to the crossing of the tributary creek (CP 3 -33.545800, 151.268404). This section is also flat and very easy walking.

#### **Section 2 – Foot track/climb beside Creek : Approximately 100m**

- C. In the vicinity of CP 3, the creek line can be seen on the RHS and is marked by a number of fairly large boulders.
- D. An ill-defined Ft Tk ascends on the RHS of the creek. To reach the first waterfall, we suggest you climb up through the boulders and then follow the track on the RHS up to the base of the waterfall (CP 4 -33.545807, 151.268529).
- E. The overall distance is only about 40m, but the boulders can be slippery and the Ft Tk can be steep and challenging. YOU need to take due care if YOU decide to explore this area.
- F. If YOU decide to continue on to the second waterfall, the Ft Tk continues up beside the RHS of the first falls.
- G. After a short walk/climb of about 15m, a Jnt with a small and ill-defined, side Tk is reached (CP 5 : co-ords not available).



Route thru ledges & boulders in Ck



Flat, easy walking once past boulders



Tk marker & Water Tank (CPs 9 & 10)



Ck overgrown beyond Tk Jnt (CP 9)

- H. The large rock slab at the top of the first falls (CP 6 : co-ords not available) can be seen on the LHS of the track.
- I. To access the top of the falls (CP 6) a short walk of about 10m down the side track is required. However, YOU need to exercise extreme care if exploring this area as it can be slippery, with a sheer drop (unfenced & unprotected) over the edge of the falls.
- J. The base of the second waterfall (CP 7 : co-ords not available) is reached by continuing to walk/climb for about another 20m up the Ft Tk on the RHS of the creek from CP 5.
- M. The second waterfall is the more impressive of the two, and can be quite spectacular after recent rain.
- N. From the base of the falls you can follow Extension 2 further up the creek, eventually reaching Patonga Drive near the Water Tank (CP 10 -33.5461530, 151.2699255) or you can return to creek Jnt back on Patonga Creek (CP 3).
- O. When walking/climbing back down, please exercise EXTREME CARE as the track can be steep and slippery in places. The heavy leaf and pine needle cover on the track can slip away under foot very easily, making the descent quite challenging.
- P. Always remember that you are more likely to slip/fall when climbing down, so please exercise due care.

**Extension 2 – Creek line & Foot track :  
Approximately 150m**

- Q. If YOU decide to follow the Extension to the top of the second waterfall and beyond, continue to follow the Ft Tk up beside the RHS of the falls from CP 7.
- R. After a walk/climb of about 25m, the main Tk cuts in front of a large square rock and leads into the creek line. A secondary track that runs up behind the rock and past some “razor grass” plants, provides the best access to the top of the second waterfall.



Ground cover makes descent slippery



Small sandy beach on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ck (CP 11)



The Patonga Ck sandbar at low tide



Rain forest beyond the sandy beach

- S. These Tks are also very steep, slippery and challenging and due care needs to be taken.
- R. After a walk/climb of about 10m you will come level with the top of the second waterfall (CP8 -33.5457076, 151.2689569)
- T. A short track leads across to the top of the second waterfall. Again, YOU need to exercise extreme care in this area as it can be slippery, with a sheer drop (unfenced & unprotected) over the edge of the falls.
- U. From the top of the falls, a less defined track, requiring some scrambling, provides a route through some boulders and rock ledges in the actual creek line near the top of the falls.
- V. Once clear of the top of the falls and the subsequent boulders and ledges, the creek flattens out and provides fairly easy walking. At this stage you will probably hear the traffic on Patonga Drive.
- W. After about 30m you will sight the green Water Tank high on the RHS of the creek.
- X. A track marker (ATTW) (CP9 -33.5455882, 151.2693482) indicates the easiest route of about 60m, up an ill-defined Ft Tk through low-level bush to the Water Tank (CP 10 -33.5461530, 151.2699255) and Patonga Drive.

### Section 3 – Foot Track : Approximately 400m

- Y. If you decide to return down the Ft Tk beside the tributary creek to the Jnt with Patonga Creek (CP 3), Section 3 provides an easy and interesting continuation along the bank of Patonga Creek.
- Z. From the Jnt (CP 3) follow to the Ft Tk west, paralleling Patonga Creek. After about 150m another creek crossing is reached, with a small sandy beach on the far side (CP 11 -33.545277, 151.267148).
- A1. This can provide a great location to cool off on a hot day with a fun and interesting sandbar close to the shoreline,



FT Tk thru rain forest to flood plain



Rain forest diminishes (CP 12)



Numerous Ft Tks on the flood plain



Nth end of flood plain (CP 13)

- B1. However, Patonga Creek is a large, and at times, fast flowing creek. Children should ALWAYS be closely supervised around waterways.
- C1. Beyond the beach, the Ft Tk continues for about 250m, through areas of wetlands and rain forest. Eventually the rain forest begins to diminish (CP 12 -33.5438163, 151.2650989) and the area opens up to flood plain with low lying bushlands.

#### **Section 4 – Foot Tracks on the Flood Plain : Approximately 700m**

- A1. The flood plain covers an area about 250m at the widest point by about 700m long and has numerous tracks throughout the area. Simple Navigation Controls are provided by Patonga Creek to the west and the rising ground to the east.
- B1. The flood plain and the associated Mangrove areas are a fun place to explore, but due care and regard should be taken for both your own safety and your impact on the environment.
- C1. At the far north end (CP 13 -33.5388268, 151.2659491), the plain narrows to a single Ft Tk through areas of tidal mangroves and swamp.
- D1. The track continues north beside Patonga Creek and provides access to further areas of exploration beyond the scope of this trip.

#### **Return**

The return journey follows the same route in reverse back along the Ft Tks beside Patonga Creek to the Start Point at the Carpark.

If you would like to further clarify any of the Trip or Track information, please email your questions to [Aussieoutdoorkids@mail.com](mailto:Aussieoutdoorkids@mail.com) .



## Summary Of Check Points

CP	Longitude	Latitude	Description	Notes	Distances
CP 1	-33.5474722	151.2688657	Parking area on Jacaranda Ave	Start Point	
CP 2	-33.547069	151.268243	Locked gate on 4WD Tk		Fm CP 1 90m
CP 3	-33.545800	151.268404	Creek Junction	Tributary Creek	Fm CP 2 160m
CP 4	-33.545807	151.268529	Base of Waterfall	First Waterfall	Fm CP 3 40m
CP 5	Not Available	Not Available	Track Junction	Tk to top of first Waterfall	Fm CP 4 15m
CP 6	Not Available	Not Available	Top of Waterfall	First Waterfall	Fm CP 5 10m
CP 7	Not Available	Not Available	Base of Waterfall	Second Waterfall	Fm CP 6 300m
CP 8	-33.5457076	151.2689569	Top of Waterfall	Second Waterfall	Fm CP 7 40m
CP 9	-33.5455882	151.2693482	St of Ft Tk to Water Tank	RHS of Creek	Fm CP 8 30m
CP 10	-33.5461530	151.2699255	Water Tank	On Patonga Drive	Fm CP 9 60m
CP 11	-33.545277	151.267148	Small sandy beach	On Patonga Creek	Fm CP 3 150m
CP 12	-33.5438163	151.2650989	End of the Rain Forest	Start of Flood Plain	Fm CP 11 250m
CP 13	-33.5388268	151.2659491	Ft Tk at end of Flood Plain		Fm CP 13 700m