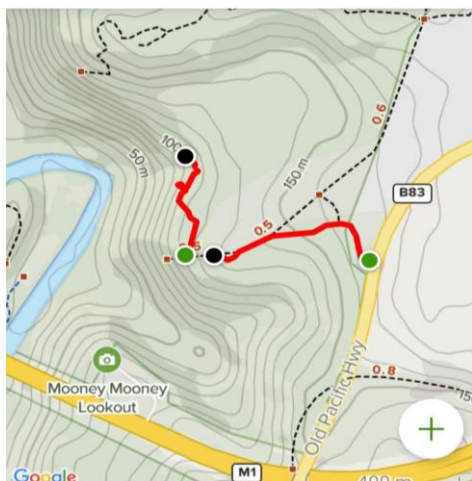


# Mooney Mooney Mega Cave

## Trip and Track Notes



Map of the route to the Mega Cave



Parking Pacific Highway verge (CP1)

## Trip Notes

### Introduction

The Mooney Mooney Mega Cave is a large sandstone cave cut into a cliff line in Brisbane Waters National Park near Somersby, NSW.

With reasonably easy access and a number of small waterfalls that flow after recent rains, it can make for a fun and interesting day trip.

### Access

The best Starting Point to access the site is from a 4WD track off the Old Pacific Highway (CP 2 -33.4298870, 151.2642914) not far from the Reptile Park. There is a locked gated at the start of the track which can be seen from the Highway.

The gate is located on the west side of the road, approximately 650m south of the junction of the highway and Myoora Road.

### Parking

There is fairly limited parking in the area.



Gate at the Start of 4WD Tk (CP2)



Easy walking on wide, clear 4WD Tk



The Oil Pipeline compound (CP4)



Jnt of 4WD & Powerline Tk (overgrown)

You can park on the road verge on the other side (eastern side CP 1 -33.429659, 151.264571) of the highway where there is room for few vehicles.

If parking on the east side of the highway, be **VERY CAREFUL** crossing the road as it can be very busy and vehicles, especially motorbikes, tend to travel at high speeds in the area.

#### Facilities

There are no Facilities in the course of the trip or at 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 Mega Cave is a very pristine location (at the time of writing) and there is evidence of historic Aboriginal use of the area. Please pay the area due respect. **DO NOT** damage the site 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 – the first section of the trip is suitable for mountain biking. However, for all but the most experienced riders, bikes will need to be left (and secured) at the end of the first section before continuing on foot for the subsequent sections.



TK under the powerlines to the WSW



At CP 6 looking back up the "Steps"



Single Telegraph post opposite CP 6



Rock cairn marking Ft Tk start (CP6)

### Navigational Requirements

The first two sections of the trip are easily accessible along well marked and cleared 4WD tracks, although the second section is steep in places.

The third and fourth section of the journey, require some cross country navigation on foot tracks, that can become over grown and difficult to follow in places.

We very strongly recommend you use a Navigation App for these stages of the trip.

Suggestion on suitable "Apps" and their use can be found in the "Training and Skills" Section of the website.

We also strongly recommend carrying a map and compass just in case and an understanding of the basics of Directional Navigation can be very handy on this journey.

At the very least, a basic understanding of navigation is highly recommended for anyone venturing into the bush. 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 suggested list of "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.

By being alert but not alarmed, you will make your trip safe and enjoyable for all concerned.

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!!!



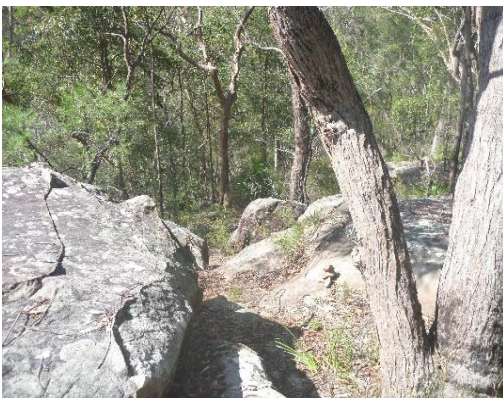
CP 6 Tape at the Ft Tk Start (ATTW)



A reasonably well defined foot track



Top of the boulders on Ft Tk (CP7)



Passage down through the boulders

## Track Notes

Approximate Return Distance – 1700 metres

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

### Degrees of Difficulty:

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

Start Point : Gate at the 4WD Track on the Old Pacific Highway at Somersby (CP 2 -33.4298870, 151.2642914)

End Point : Back at the Start Point.

### Dangers.

There are powerlines in the area (that were under repair ATTW). Please stay well clear of any low hanging powerlines.

The “Stepped” section of the 4WD track is steep in places and due care needs to be exercised in crossing this area.

The areas around the Mega Cave can be wet and slippery especially after rain. Please exercise due care in these areas.

### Course:

#### **Section 1 – 4WD Track – Approximately 510m**

- A. From the Start Point, follow the 4WD track down a fairly steep slope for about 70m and then to the north for about another 50m.
- B. The track then turns due west and continues for about 40m to a junction (CP 3 -33.428898, 151.263446) with another 4WD track coming in from the north.
- C. At the junction, continue on the main track, following it to the west.



Smaller caves in the nearby cliff line



Climb up to the base of the cliff line



Waterfall below the Mega Cave



CP 8 View of the Mega Cave roof

- D. After about 180m the area opens up to the surrounds of the Oil Pipeline Compound (CP 4 -33.429257, 151.261541). At this point the track joins the powerlines track, the junction of which is barely recognizable.
- E. The track moves to the WSW and after about 90m begins to drop more steeply,
- F. The track then curves around to the north, before reaching the top of the “stepped “ section (CP 5 -33.429672, 151.259926) after about another 80m.

### **Section 2 – 4WD Track down the “Steps” & under the powerlines – Approximately 50m**

- G. From the top of the “steps”, carefully follow the track downhill for approximately 50m.
- H. On the south side of the track there is a single, green timber power pole. Directly opposite this on the north side of the track, is the start of the foot track (CP 6 -33.429605, 151.259397).
- I. The start of the foot track can be a little hard to locate so you need to look carefully. This is where the “All Trails” map can become very handy.
- J. ATTW, the start of the foot track was indicated by a stone cairn and a red and white marker tape.

### **Section 3 – Foot track – Approximately 300m**

- K. The foot track crosses a large boulder then heads north through the bush on a reasonably well marked and defined track.
- L. After about 160m a group of large rocks is reached (CP 7 -33.428321, 151.258887) and the track descends down through them.
- M. Follow the track down through the boulders and through the bush for about 100m before crossing a small creek (CP 8 -33.427666, 151.259045).



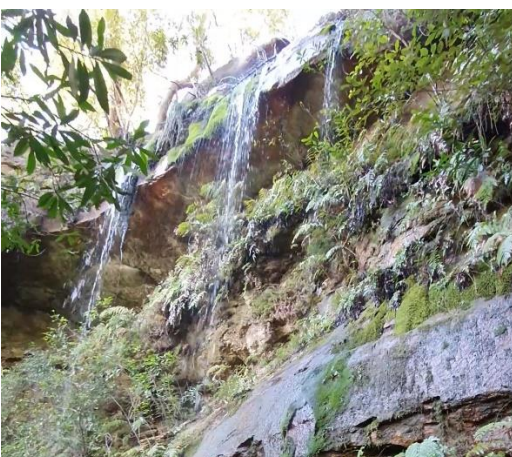
Cave view looking from east to west



Foot track past the Cave to the Waterfall



Foot track is steep and slippery in places



Waterfall beyond the west end (CP12)

- N. At this point the cliff line and the roof of the Mega Cave can be clearly seen above you to the north.
- O. Climb north up the track for about 40m to the base of the Mega Cave (CP 9 -33.427392, 151.259254).

Explore and enjoy ... but please respect the pristine nature and cultural importance of this area.

#### **Section 4 – Beyond The Cave Approximately 40m**

- P. About 40m beyond the far (west) end of the Mega Cave is a small waterfall (CP 10 -33.426887, 151.258689) which is well worth visiting, particularly on a hot day.
- Q. Sections of the track, and the area around the bottom of the waterfall, can be quite slippery, so please exercise due care in these areas.
- R. The foot track continues beyond the western end of the Mega Cave and along the base of the cliff line, before climbing up through a large sandstone overhang.
- S. The short climb is a little steep and some of the sand can be loose and slippery, so due care needs to be taken.
- T. The track continues under the overhang and then drops slightly through an area of slippery rocks to the base of the waterfall.

#### **Return**

The return journey follows the same course as travelled but in reverse.

#### **Further Information.**

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	-33.429659	151.264571	The Old Pacific Hwy	Car Parking	
CP 2	-33.4298870	151.2642914	Gate on 4WD Tk	Start Point	
CP 3	-33.428898	151.263446	Track Junction		Fm CP 2 160m
CP 4	-33.429257	151.261541	Oil Pipeline compound		Fm CP 3 180m
CP 5	-33.429672	151.259926	Top of the "Stepped" section of 4WD Tk		Fm CP 4 170m
CP 6	-33.429605	151.259397	Jnt of Ft Tk to 4WD Tk		Fm CP 5 50m
CP 7	-33.428321	151.258887	Top of boulders		Fm CP 6 160m
CP 8	-33.427666	151.25933	Small Ck crossing		Fm CP 7 100m
CP 9	-33.427392	151.259254	Base of Mega Cave	East end	Fm CP 8 40m
CP 10	-33.426887	151.258689	Waterfall	Beyond west end of the Mega Cave	Fm CP 9 90m