

Bicentennial Park

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Contacts:

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Driving from the Northern Beach approach the park from Homebush Bay Drive, take the underpass off the left then turn right at the roundabout into Australia Avenue.

Optional early start to the day

Main map reference G3

If you want to get out early, you could plan to start your day with breakfast at the Armory Wharf Café (www.armorywharfcafe.com - 0423 884 801)

Blaxland Riverside Park,
Jamieson Street,
Newington 2127.

Turn into the car park indicated in the photo above, there is a walk down to the café on the right just through the gates.



The café is open from 7.30 am and is situated right by the water overlooking:-

- an island with mangroves;
- two old harbor side cranes;
- the Newington Armory;
- children's play area with lots of interesting architectural shapes etc (but make sure you don't accidentally take pictures of peoples' children!).

There is a host of interesting information on the website below about the whole area which includes Newington Armory:-

[http://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/949468/Web FS History 2015.pdf](http://www.sopa.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/949468/Web_FS_History_2015.pdf)

Day Proper

MORNING SESSION

10.00 am – Drive to Wentworth Common car park which is situated along Marjorie Jackson Parkway. **Map reference L12**

Walk from the car park, past the loo facilities, towards Wentworth Common. We will be meeting at an undercover picnic area for coffee and cake before we head out our on walk at approximately 10.30 am.

This walk is not a circuit and we will be driving to another area of the Park for lunch. In total, we have allowed 3.5 hours for you to slowly walk and photograph the areas of interest, return to your cars, pack up and drive to the meeting point for lunch which is only 5 minutes' drive away but you need to allow time to locate the correct car park.

Photographic Opportunities

Circular, grassy mound which you can walk up to a lookout. **Map reference M11**

Ship wrecks (there are three spots to take photos of these along the walk). The entry is a bit obscure – in the photo below Heather is pointing to the entrance for the first wreck. **Map reference approx. N10**



There is a wonderful **bird hide** and water bird refuge. **Map reference approx. O11**

And a high **look out** – which is the end of the section of the walk. **Map reference approx. O13**

Return to the Car Park

Finally, also the Ring Walk over the **Brick Pit** but we suggest that this is something of interest to look at only if you have time when you return to your car as it is close to the carpark on the other side of the road. It is difficult to see what there is to photograph – there's a challenge! It would take a maximum of 20-30 mins to walk the Ring Walk circuit.



Map reference approx. K14



Return to the car park, pack up and drive to meeting point for lunch.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Turn left out of the carpark and head towards Bennelong Parkway, turning left into the first main entrance of the Bicentennial Park. The entrance is right opposite 102 Bennelong Parkway.

Map reference M18

As you drive into the park, head to the left (the right hand fork is no entry anyway) and park in carpark no P10F.

If you miss this first park entrance, you can carry along Bennelong Parkway and then turn left into Homebush Bay Drive. Turn left into the main park entrance and follow the one way road all the way round, past all the carparks to no P10F.

Please bring picnic chairs or a rug to sit on for lunch. We will have a picnic lunch on the grassy area by the huge sundial. **Map reference P17**



If it is raining, walk further along the path to the Education Centre where there are several covered picnic areas – you will still need your chairs as there are no benches.

After lunch, we can take photographs of:-

- the compass;
- the Treillage tower;
- water fountains;
- avenue of trees;
- Peace sculpture (<http://www.mikekitching.com/peacemonument.htm>);
- Mangrove boardwalk.

Depending how long you wish to take, these items will take about a 1-1.5 hour walk and shoot. In terms of ground to be covered, the afternoon's items of interest are spread across a 1 – 1.5 km radius area.



GENERAL INFORMATION

We strongly recommend car sharing where possible because the park is a popular one and although there is a lot of parking, it can get busy.

Comfortable footwear is required because we will be covering a decent distance but the walks we have identified are all on footpaths, boardwalks or grass. The terrain is flat with no hills to climb (apart from the circular grassy mound which is optional).

On a point of safety, the majority of the footpaths are also cycle trails and the cyclists can whizz along very quickly and quietly! Also, when crossing roads there are no pedestrian crossings – beware of speeding drivers.

You will need to bring a bottle of water with you which can be replenished from the various drinking fountains around the park. Toilet facilities are reasonably frequent.

With regard to photographic equipment: long lenses to capture the birds from the hide, wide angle lenses may be good for the shipwrecks. We didn't see many flowers at all so not sure there will be many macro opportunities on this trip. Tripods are always good but remember you have got to carry them!

Please make sure to sign in at 10am with Deb or Heather *and also sign out* once we have packed up after lunchtime on the day. We don't want to lose anybody in a mangrove swamp!

