

Walk 9 – Ellensbrook

Distance: 9 km **Time:** 2½ hrs

Old Ellensbrook Road (One-way option) – Distance: 4 km **Time:** 1 hr

Description

This is a walk of diversity and contrast, from the sheltered, wooded Ellensbrook Valley, to open coastal heath over the high part of the Ridge, and from rugged coastline to the serenity of the old homestead.

This was the first home of pioneer settlers, Alfred and Ellen Bussell. They built Ellensbrook and lived here from 1857 to 1865, after which they moved to Wallcliffe House near the mouth of the Margaret River. Ellensbrook was gradually extended as their family grew, and is a unique example of early architecture and construction techniques in this part of Australia. The National Trust restored it and now maintains it. A small fee is charged to look through the property.

In the nearby National Park is Meekadarabee Cave and Waterfall, a luxuriant spot of lush green mosses and reeds. According to aboriginal legend this is the Moon's bathing place.

Caution: *At the end of this walk you do wet your feet if the Ellensbrook Stream is flowing. It is generally a shallow paddle, but can become moderately deep in winter, and after heavy rain. If in doubt, first take the short walk down to the beach from the car park to check the stream, before setting out on the long circuit.*

Starting point

The Homestead car park, at the end of Ellensbrook Road.
[6246119 mN, 50 314298 mE MGA]



Ellensbrook Homestead. In the foreground are parts of the waterwheel that operated in the brook

Directions for the walk

Old Ellensbrook Road (1.5 km)

Follow the sign-posted walk to Meekadarabee Cave and Waterfall. The cave has formed in a large outcrop of tufa (see pp. 10 – 11). This deposit has accumulated over thousands of years from the spring emerging from the hillside above. The more acidic water of the main Ellensbrook Stream has re-dissolved the tufa,