



EXPLORE

THE HAWKESBURY

BUSHWALKS

The Hawkesbury includes a variety of opportunities for outdoor activities such as bushwalking, picnicking, camping, bird watching, rock climbing, canoeing (you need to bring your own), canyoning and cycling.

Bushwalking tracks through many of the Hawkesbury's national parks and reserves cater for a range of abilities from leisurely strolls to rugged treks for the experienced walker. Experience breathtaking views from lookouts, learn about the region's historic sites and explore caves and canyons.

Enjoy the peace and serenity of unspoilt bushland, cross pristine rivers and creeks and examine interesting and unusual flora along the way. Glimpse Australian native animals and birds in their natural environment.

Included in this leaflet you will find details of many of the most popular bushwalks in the Hawkesbury area. Further information on the national parks of NSW: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks/
For local conditions and park closures contact Richmond National Parks Office: (02) 4588 5247.

WOLLEMI NATIONAL PARK

Wollemi, the second largest national park in the state (487,500 hectares) contains the greatest remaining wilderness area in NSW and forms part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The Wollemi Pine was discovered growing in a remote canyon in this park in 1994. The park forms the southern catchment of the Colo River, a tributary of the Hawkesbury and offers a range of bushwalking experiences with spectacular scenery and a diversity of plant and animal life. The area was once inhabited by the Darkinung, Dharug and Wirajuri people.

Access this national park from the northern side of Bells Line of Road; west of Richmond; from Comleroy Road, Kurrajong or from the western side of the Singleton (Putty) Road north of Windsor. Suggested walks include:

- **Wheeny Creek Reserve:** Access from Comleroy Road, Kurrajong (2WD). Tracks from the picnic area lead through majestic Sydney blue gums winding up and down the creek edged by sandy beaches. Enjoy swimming during times of high water.
Grade: Easy
Hours: Half hour return
- **Warrigal Road off Comleroy Road:** The walk meanders down to Wheeny Creek from the end of Warrigal Road.
Grade: Easy but steep climb back up from the creek
Hours: 2 hour return
- **T3 Track Mountain Lagoon:** Commence this walk by parking your car in Sams Way off Mountain Lagoon Road near the NPWS sign, or by taking the 4WD track to the end. The track is sign-posted and leads down to the junction of the Colo River and Tootie Creek. Side tracks lead down to Cabbage Tree Creek & Condor Trig. Ancient palm-like plants called burrawangs (members of the cycad family) are commonly found along this track.
Grade: Hard, beware of cliffs, steep climb back to track, 5km return
Hours: 3-4 hours return



- **Mailes Ridge Walking Track:** A well marked 12km track that descends to Colo Meroo Camping area. Access is from Gaspers Ridge Fire Trail, off Mountain Lagoon Road, Mountain Lagoon. The expansive view of the Colo wilderness on one side of Meroo Trig is contrasted with farmingland stretching towards the suburbs of Sydney on the other side. Spend the night at Colo-Meroo camp ground before returning via the same route.
Grade: Experienced 23km return
Hours: Full day or overnight
- **Bob Turners Track, Colo Heights:** A well sign-posted walk that commences 700m west of the Shell service station at Colo Heights on the south side of the Singleton (Putty) Road. Follow 2WD dirt track for 3km to start of the walk. The track descends gradually down to the Colo Gorge to a lovely picnic area with natural pool.
Grade: Hard 7km return, steep climb back to ridge
Hours: 4 hours return

BLUE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Also part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, the **Blue Mountains National Park** covers an area of 247,000 hectares. This park is popular with canyoners and bushwalkers alike. There are many spectacular scenic lookouts and walking tracks. This park is one of the major nature-based tourist destinations in Australia and features sheer sandstone cliffs, deep gorges and valleys, rivers and waterfalls with unspoilt wilderness areas. Access from the Hawkesbury area is on the southern side of Bells Line of Road, west of Richmond and Kurrajong.

- **Bowen Mountain:** Several short walks are accessible on foot from Lieutenant Bowen Drive including the Eastern, Southern and Western Fire Trails. Ample parking is available at the southern end of this road.
- **Poets Rock:** Park at the southern end of Lieutenant Bowen Drive, Bowen Mountain and take the fire trail to the left for views of the Cumberland Plain and Sydney CBD.
Hours: 1 hour return
- **Burralow Fire Trail** which leads down to Burralow Creek, a tributary of the Grose River is accessible to walkers from the northern end of Lieutenant Bowen Road. There is limited parking at this location. Crago Observatory operated by the Astronomical Society of NSW is about 200m along the track.
Grade: Easy 3.5km to the one way to the bridge over Burralow Creek
Hours: 2 hours one way
- **Burralow Creek** may also be accessed from Kurrajong Heights. Turn left off Bells Line of Road into Warks Hill Road then left into Burralow Road and follow the 4WD trail for 7 km into the valley. Or further west on Bells Line of Road, 1km east of the 'Fruit Bowl', turn left onto the Paterson Range Trail and proceed for 10 km. A bush camping area is located beside the creek.
- **Bulcamatta Falls Walk:** On the western side of Burralow Creek camping area there is a sign-posted track located near the stepping stones across creek. Cross the creek and follow the trail through warm temperate rainforest, past convict ruins to a small waterfall. Glow-worms may often be seen in cavities on the rock face.
Grade: Easy 3km return
Hours: 1 hour return
- **The Gorge Walking Track:** Follow Bells Line of Road 7km west of Bilpin then turn left into Valley Ridge Road and proceed for 2km to the Waratah Native Garden Picnic Area. From the picnic area the track leads down to the cool mossy gully of a tributary of Hungerfords Creek. Koalas have been seen in the forks of eucalypt trees along the track, listen for the mimicking cry of a lyrebird.
Grade: Moderate 2km return
Hours: 1 hour return



For further information call the Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre (02) 4578 0233 or 1300 362 874 or visit www.hawkesburytourism.com.au. The Centre is at Ham Common (opp. Richmond RAAF Base), Hawkesbury Valley Way, CLARENDON NSW 2756. Open 7 days. Managed by Hawkesbury City Council.

- **Mt Banks and the Wall Track:** Mount Banks picnic area is on the southern side of the Bells Line of Road 6 km past Mount Tomah. The moderate 2.5km walk to the tree-covered summit of Mount Banks (1062 metres) takes about 1 hour return. The Wall Track leads to a lookout over the Grose River Gorge, the chasm of the Grand Canyon, Katoomba and Blackheath may be seen in the distance.
Grade: Moderate 11km return
Hours: 4 hours return
- **Walls Lookout:** Turn off Bells Line of Road at the Pierces Pass Road 11km west of Mount Tomah. Travel along gravel road for 1 km to picnic area and park in top carpark. This walk offers spectacular views of the Grose Valley from the cliff top. Caution: the cliff edge is overhanging and unfenced.
Grade: Moderate 3km return
Hours: 1 hour return
- **Pierces Pass:** Turn off Bells Line of Road at the Pierces Pass Road 11km west of Mount Tomah. Travel along gravel road for 1 km to picnic area and park in top carpark. This walk starts off quite gently as you enter the Grose Valley, however, be prepared for steep descent with many steps. Walk leads you through a rainforest gorge before emerging at the base of cliff lines providing views of the valley. The tracks to Victoria Falls Lookout (4 hours) and the Blue Gum Forest (2 hours) should be undertaken with caution as they are unmarked and require a topographic map and navigation skills.
Grade: Difficult 5km return
Hours: 3 hours return
- **Rigby Hill:** From Pierces Pass Picnic area follow the steep track to the top of Rigby Hill for spectacular views over the Grose Valley.
Grade: Moderate 1.5km return
Hours: 1 hour return

LOOKOUTS:

- **Vale of Avoca Lookout:** Located at the end of Cabbage Tree Road Grose Vale with views over the Hawkesbury River. Drive to North Richmond turn onto Grose Vale Road then into Cabbage Tree Road and follow the fire trail from the end of the sealed road to the lookout. There is a second trail leading off to the left which will take you to the Grose River.
Grade: Moderate with some steep sections.
Hours: 2 hours return

MOUNT WILSON

Mount Wilson, with its unique village atmosphere and extensive cool-climate gardens is located 8km from the turnoff on Bells Line of Road 14km west of Mt Tomah and is about 60 minutes drive from Richmond. The village is surrounded by Blue Mountains National Park which provides many opportunities for scenic walks.

- **Cathedral of Ferns** walk starts from Cathedral Reserve on Mount Irvine Road and winds through magnificent rainforest with towering tree ferns. Follow the path and turn right onto the track. This track circles to the left, keep going to the left. (Do not go through the private property gate)
Grade: Easy
Hours: 30 minutes return
- **Waterfall Circuit Track** features superb rainforest vegetation including giant coachwood, sassafras, corkwood and tree ferns, as well as delightful waterfalls on Waterfall Creek. From Waterfall Reserve on Waterfall Road, veer left as you head across the picnic grounds to the start of the track. The track follows the creek past two waterfalls, one small and one large, then returns to the reserve.
Grade: Steep in parts
Hours: 1 hour return
- **Chinamans Hat:** From Du Fours Rocks (named in honour of Frederick Eccleston Du Faur, philanthropist and landowner) located beside the Fire Station, follow track along the cliff top for views of the town of Bell, Wollangambe River, Du Fours and Bell Creeks. At Chinamans Hat evidence of Aboriginal occupation may be found in the form of tool sharpening grooves cut into the rocks.
Grade: Steep return walk
Hours: 45 minutes return

- **Wollangambe River Track:** Commence on The Avenue between the Study Centre and the War Memorial. Follow the fire trail for approximately 1km and then follow the sign pointing to the track leading from the fire trail. Enjoy the views through this part of the track and where the path divides around a stand of rocks; take the track to the left. Continue walking across the top and you will eventually see that the river is on both sides of you, the path will divide and you can make a choice of which direction to follow.

The track to the left will take you upstream, where you can picnic on the sandy beach. Follow the rough track upstream on the right, and you will come to the junction of Bell Creek and the Wollangambe River. Cross here and continue up the spectacular ravine on the right

Grade: This is very rough and wild country and is quite a haul back up the mountain.

Hours: 3 – 4 hours return

LOOKOUTS:

- **Du Faus Lookout** provides views over the spectacular canyons of the Wollangambe River. Follow The Avenue for 0.9km and turn left down a gravel road at the Bush Fire Brigade Shed proceeding for a further 0.4km.
- **Wynns Rock Lookout** provides wonderful views over the valley of Bowens Creek. Go to the junction of Queens Avenue and The Avenue and continue for 1.3km along Queens Avenue and Wynns Lookout Road.

SCHEYVILLE NATIONAL PARK

Scheyville National Park is located 5km east of Windsor and covers an area of 954 hectares. The park protects a large remaining portion of the Cumberland Plain woodland, an ecosystem threatened by urban expansion. Longneck Lagoon lies within the park and is a significant wetland area.

Access is from Pitt Town Road (off Windsor Road), turn into Saunders Road and follow the signs to Scheyville National Park. Alternatively from Boundary Road, turn into Old Pitt Town Road and follow sign to Scheyville Road. The park can also be accessed from Whitmore Road, Maraylya.

- **Longneck Lagoon** includes a series of walking tracks around the lagoon. Bird watching enthusiasts can glimpse a variety of species in a natural wetland environment. Access is on the eastern side of Cattai Road, park just before the bridge.
Grade: Easy 3 – 4 km return
Hours: 1 hour return
- **The History Walking Trail** commences at the Scheyville National Parks Office. Informative signs describe the early European occupation of this area and the range of land uses evident in the area. Access from Old Pitt Town Road.
Grade: Easy 1km return
Hours: 2 hours return

CATTAI NATIONAL PARK

Cattai National Park is located 13km from Windsor along the eastern bank of the Hawkesbury River. From McGraths Hill take the road to Wisemans Ferry, look for the turn off to the park about 3.5km north of Pitt Town. The Cattai Farm area, originally a land grant to First Fleet assistant surgeon Thomas Arndell, features Arndell's 1821 cottage, historic grain silos and ruins of a windmill believed to be the oldest industrial building in NSW.

Mitchell Park may be accessed via Mitchell Park Road off Cattai Road. The park includes more than 5 km of walking tracks some of which have interpretive signs. The park includes a variety of habitats including rainforest, paperback forest and sandstone outcrops.



For further information call the Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre (02) 4578 0233 or 1300 362 874 or visit www.hawkesburytourism.com.au. The Centre is at Ham Common (opp. Richmond RAAF Base), Hawkesbury Valley Way, CLARENDON NSW 2756. Open 7 days. Managed by Hawkesbury City Council.

YENGO NATIONAL PARK

Yengo National Park stretches for over 70 kilometres from Wisemans Ferry to the Hunter Valley. The park includes the catchment of the Macdonald River, a tributary of the Hawkesbury and consists of wild areas of steep gorges and rocky ridges. The two main natural landmarks are the basalt topped Mt Yengo and Mt Wareng. Access to Yengo National Park is via Windsor on the Putty Road (Singleton Road), via Wisemans Ferry on St Albans Road, Settlers Road, via St Albans on Wollombi Road and Mogo Creek Road.

- **Circuit Flat Bridge and Great North Road:** Starting from Mogo Creek Camping area this track winds its way to the convict built Circuit Flat Bridge. Continuing on this track brings you to the northern section of the Great North Road.
Grade: Easy 6 km return
Hours: 2 hours return
- **Mt Wareng Track** commences 76 km north of Colo Heights and about 4.2km north of the Macdonald River bridge on the Putty (Singleton) Road. Locate the fire trail gate which marks the start of Howes Track and after about 1 km cross the Howes Valley Creek. After climbing the hill the vegetation starts to change and large fig and kurrajong trees are common. Head south-west and explore Mt Wareng. Return to the main road the same way.
Grade: Easy 8.5km return
Hours: 4 hours return

DHARUG NATIONAL PARK

Dharug National Park is located on the northern side of the Hawkesbury River opposite Wisemans Ferry and is adjacent to Yengo National Park. The park contains a substantial section of the historic Great North Road, constructed by convict gangs between 1826 and 1836, connecting Sydney and the Hunter Valley. Access to Dharug National Park is via Wisemans Ferry Road and Settlers Road at Wisemans Ferry. There are a number of short walks around the area as well as overnight treks that take in the northern section of the Great North Road which is accessible by turning left after crossing to the northern side of the Hawkesbury River by vehicular ferry. Limited parking is available on the roadside. Along this route may be found evidence of convict life, the role of convict labour in the development of NSW and early 19th century civil engineering practices. For further information on the Great North Road www.convictrail.org

- **Devines Hill:** Learn about the hardships faced by the convicts during the road building period and the engineering skills needed to complete the road. Information boards along the walk detail the construction methods and interesting statistics. The track commences about 0.7km west of the ferry on the northern side of the Hawkesbury River.
Grade: Moderate 3.6km return
Hours: 1hour 30 min return
- **Finchs Line** marks the original ascent of the Great North Road which was abandoned due to steepness. The route includes spectacular scenery and lookouts which take in the confluence of the Macdonald River with the Hawkesbury. Complete a circular walk of about 9km (including 2km along Wisemans Ferry Road) by ascending via Devines Hill and then descending along Finchs Line.
Grade: Moderate 9 km return, take care making the very steep descent to Wisemans Ferry Road
Hours: 3-4 hours return
- **Shepherds Gully and Sternbecks Gully:** Shepherds Gully Road starts 9 kilometres from Wisemans on the northern side of the Hawkesbury River. The road gradually ascends, and after about 15 minutes walking you will be able to see the remains of a small bridge in a gully below the road. This is where you have a choice of continuing along Shepherds Gully or taking Sternbecks Gully Road. Sternbecks Gully Road reveals examples of early stone walling construction styles and colonial graffiti. These two roads merge about 100 metres below the gate at the top of Devines Hill.
Grade: Moderate 1km return
Hours: 1-2 hours return
- **Ten Mile Hollow** is located on the Great North Road 16km from Wisemans Ferry. Turn right at the top of Devines Hill and continue along the road. A service road (the Western Commission Track) joins the old road after 10km. Although closed to public vehicles, this track may be used by cyclists and walkers who want to make a round trip back to the Hawkesbury River. It emerges on the main road 4 km east of the ferry crossing. If continuing north, after passing the pine plantation and buildings at the Wat Buddha Dhamma retreat, the Ten Mile Hollow camping area is reached. This is an ideal place to camp overnight if you are planning to visit Clare's Bridge about 1km further along the road, or to explore Simpsons Track.

- **Mill Creek Picnic Area:** Turn right after crossing to the northern side of the Hawkesbury River, the picnic area is located about 5.6km from the ferry crossing. Facilities include barbecues and toilets. A tidal grain mill built by the Singleton brothers was once located at the mouth of this creek.
- **The Grass Tree Circuit** is a pleasant 1.5km level walk which commences at Mill Creek Picnic Area.
Grade: Easy 1.5km return
Hours: 1 hour return
- **The 11km Walking Track** is a rugged track with steep climbs which also commences at the Mill Creek Picnic Area
Grade: Hard 11km return
Hours: 4 hours return

OTHER RESERVES AND WALKS

- **Ebenezer - Swallow Reach Rock Walking Trail:** Locate the start of the track by walking to the right of the parking area for Ebenezer Church in Coromandel Road, Ebenezer. Picnic facilities are available at the church. This 45 minute (return) walk follows the riverbank with lookouts and interpretive signs and ends in Ebenezer Wharf Road.
- **Bilpin - Bowen Creek:** Take Mount Irvine Road off Bells Line of Road at Bilpin and park car at the barricade. The walk follows the (now closed) road down to Bowen Creek.
Grade: Steep grade uphill return
Hours: 2 hours return
- **Grose Vale - Woods Reserve:** Travelling from North Richmond take Grose Vale Road, then Grose Wold Road, Avoca Road and Woods Reserve Road. The track from the end of Woods Reserve Road leads down to the Hawkesbury River.
Grade: Steep scramble back up from the river
Hours: 1 hour return
- **Kurrajong - McMahons Park:** Located at the end of McMahons Park Road, Kurrajong.
Grade: Easy walking track alongside Little Wheeny Creek.
Hours: 1 hour return
- **Bellbird Hill Reserve and Lookout** is located at the top of the eastern escarpment, 7km west of Kurmond on Bells Line of Road. The view shows the expanse of the Hawkesbury Valley and the Sydney skyline can be seen on a clear day.

SAFETY INFORMATION

Check with the relevant agencies with regards to road, weather and fire conditions. Remember:

- In case of emergency dial 000. NB Not all areas are covered by mobile phone reception
- Always carry sufficient drinking water for your group. It may not be safe to drink from the streams and rivers
- For longer walks, warm waterproof clothing is essential. Weather changes can be dramatic and swift
- Carry extra food for emergencies
- Know your route and advise friends of your plans
- Carry a bag for rubbish and encourage others to do so too
- Wear sensible walking shoes and take sun protection
- Keep to the track; shortcuts can mislead and damage the environment.

© Hawkesbury City Council. Compiled by Cathy McHardy, Information Librarian, November 2009.
Information may be reproduced on condition that the following attribution is included.
Researched information courtesy of Hawkesbury City Council.



For further information call the Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre (02) 4578 0233 or 1300 362 874 or visit www.hawkesburytourism.com.au. The Centre is at Ham Common (opp. Richmond RAAF Base), Hawkesbury Valley Way, CLARENDON NSW 2756. Open 7 days. Managed by Hawkesbury City Council.