

Welcome to

# Yarramundi Reserve



Hawkesbury City Council



*With its 78-hectare riparian setting, Yarramundi Reserve is one of the Hawkesbury's most popular parks, offering opportunities for a range of nature-based activities.*

### Location and access

Yarramundi Reserve is located at the confluence of the Grose and Hawkesbury-Nepean Rivers. Access is off Springwood Road, Yarramundi, with a main entrance and car park on the northern side of Springwood Road and a minor entrance on the southern side, adjacent to the Yarramundi Bridge.

Pedestrian access to the northern most section of the reserve can be gained from the adjacent Navua Reserve, off Ashtons Road, Grose Wold. Wheelchair and pram access are available from the northern car park.

### Flora and Fauna

Although the vegetation of Yarramundi Reserve is highly degraded, it plays an important role in supporting a variety of native animals and providing a vegetated linkage to other areas of bushland.

It is believed that the vegetation within the reserve once consisted of River Oak Forest and the now endangered River-flat Eucalypt Forest. However, what exists within the reserve today is mostly planted, with some remnant trees and natural regrowth occurring. As many as 68 native plant species have established themselves within the reserve.

Many of the birds and animals using the reserve assist with the pollination and dispersal of native plants within the reserve. A Grey-headed Flying Fox colony will sometimes come to visit the reserve and these are well known for their wide ranging foraging habits. They feed on the fruit, nectar and blossom of eucalypts and rainforest plants. Due to habitat clearing, they are listed as a vulnerable species under the Threatened Species Conservation Act.

Birdwatchers can view a variety of woodland and wetland birds within the reserve. Over 93 different species have been recorded, including Ducks, Herons, Eagles, Doves, Parrots, Wrens, Honeyeaters and Finches.

The reserve is also very popular for fishing, with at least 14 species of fish known to live in the area, though not all of them are suitable for fishing. You may find Bass, Catfish, Eels, Mullet and Gudgeons in these waters, as well as exotic fish such as Carp and Goldfish also occur here.

Due to the abundance of native wildlife within the reserve, the southern portion of the reserve, south of Springwood Road, is managed as a conservation zone and Wildlife Refuge.

# *Solitude, tranquillity, diversity—a natural setting for informal family recreation*



### History of the Reserve

Aboriginal people, particularly the Buruberongal clan of the Darug had a strong association with the area around Yarramundi Reserve. This area was an important source of stone for tool making and the diverse landscape provided water, fish, animals and plants for food, fibres, tools, canoe making and medicine.

After European settlement, the land now comprising the reserve was used for grazing and crops. In 1868, this area was notified as a crown reserve and a lease for the removal of ballast and gravel from the island was granted. During the early 1900's, sand was mined to meet the demand for high quality river sand

for public buildings, including the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Sand and gravel continued to be extracted until 1989.

The extraction activities have dramatically altered the landform of the reserve. The large open “lagoon” at the southern end of the reserve is a flooded former excavation pit. It covers an area of approximately 30 hectares and originally had a depth of 3.6 metres.

In 2002, Hawkesbury City Council became the Trust Manager of Yarramundi Reserve when the reserve was gazetted for public recreation and environmental protection. After some initial landscaping and restoration works, the reserve was officially opened to the public in 2007.



## Things to do

**Picnic:** Open picnic areas along the Grose River and surrounds are ideal for families. They offer an opportunity to just sit and relax or kick a ball around.

**Swim:** The Grose River is a popular spot for swimming and wading. This area is not patrolled. Be aware of sudden changes in depth and rough under-footing. Swimming in the Hawkesbury-Nepean is not recommended due to poor water quality.

**Fish:** Fishing is a popular past time, particularly along the Hawkesbury-Nepean. Please observe legislative requirements regarding catch limits and permits.

**Canoe/Kayak:** The Hawkesbury-Nepean and the Grose River are suitable for canoeing or kayaking. Gentle slopes lead from both car parks to aid portage.

**Walk:** Over 1.5 km of walking track meanders along the southern peninsular, offering views of the lagoon with the mountains as a backdrop. A smaller walking trail meanders along the northern bank of the large lagoon for those who are not as energetic but still wish to experience the natural elements of the reserve. Unformed tracks meander throughout the northern sand island, waiting to be explored.

**Horse Riding:** In the northern section of Yarramundi reserve, a beach area and sandy track around the north lagoon is ideal for horse riding.

**Exercise the Dog:** Approximately 12 hectares of dog off-leash area is located at the junction of the Grose and Nepean Rivers, including the large sand island in the northern part of the reserve, adjacent to Navua Reserve. Such a large area offers dog owners opportunity to enjoy the benefits of the reserve with their dogs, such as swimming and picnicking, without disturbing other patrons.

**Bird watching:** All areas of the reserve offer opportunities to sight birds, however the lagoons, particularly those in the conservation zone, are home to a diverse range of birds throughout the year. Woodland and predator birds can be seen at the reserve. A small bird hide is situated on the large southern lagoon for those patient enough for a close up view.

**Photography:** The diverse range of landscapes and birdlife within the reserve provides a great opportunity for keen photographers.





## What is Council doing in the Reserve?

**Recreation:** Council is developing low-key recreational opportunities within the reserve as funding permits. Future works will include a composting toilet and picnic tables.

**Weed Management and Habitat Restoration:** Council continues to rehabilitate the reserve's natural heritage. Works include weed control and revegetation activities. Due to the high level of degradation, it will take many years to achieve a resilient ecosystem.



## How you can help look after the Reserve

- Join a bushcare group to help with weed control and revegetation works. For information phone Council's Bushcare Officer on 4560 4525;
- Keep pets out of the Conservation Zone / Wildlife Sanctuary area;
- Stay to formed tracks when walking in the reserve as wildlife can be disturbed and erosion caused through the use of unauthorised tracks;
- Report dumping and vandalism to Council;
- Take rubbish home with you or use bins provided;
- Clean up after your dog

Yarramundi Reserve is subject to frequent flooding and should not be visited in times of heavy rainfall within the catchment. Change can occur rapidly and areas may become eroded or sands and gravels deposited in areas used for recreation activities. Please be cautious. Supervision of minors is recommended.

This brochure was printed with the assistance of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority.

For further information about this and other parks in the Hawkesbury please contact:



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