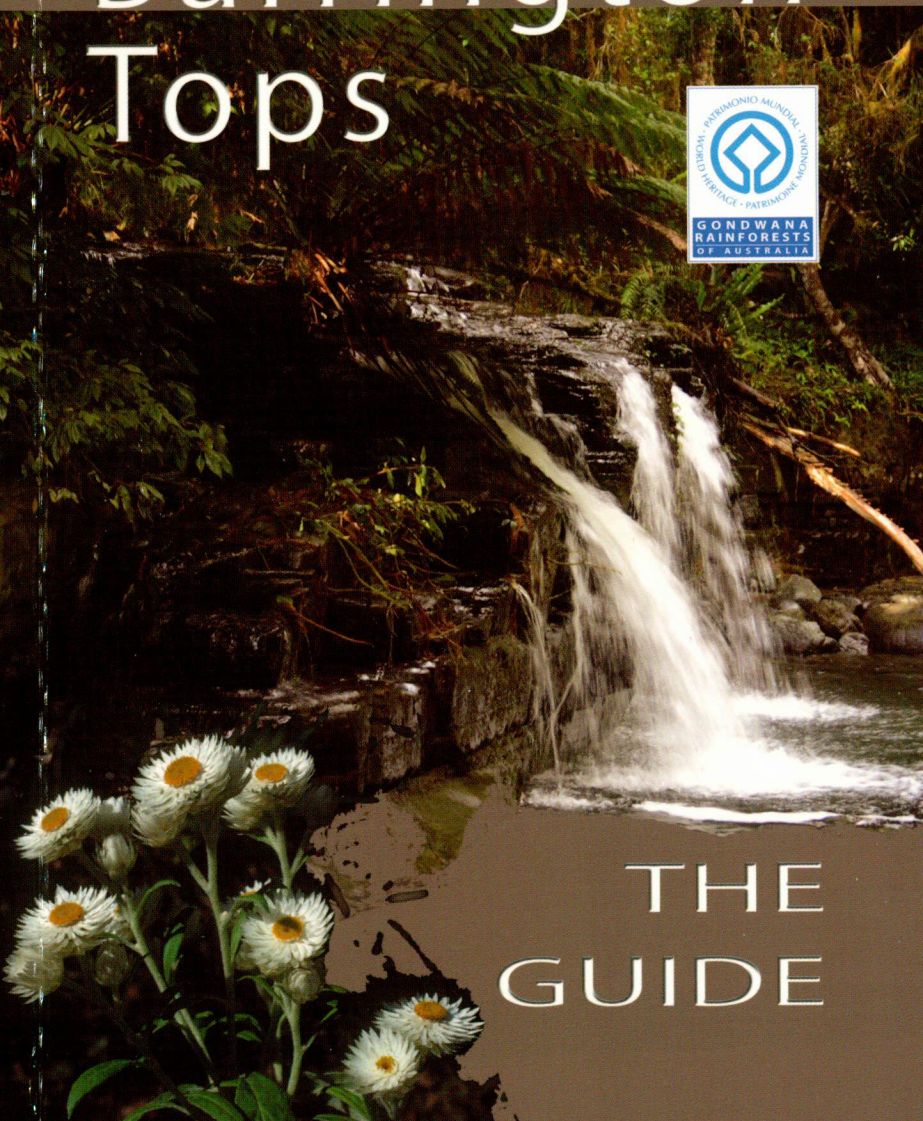


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Department,
Change & Water
Parks & Wildlife Service



Barrington Tops



THE
GUIDE

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About Barrington Tops

Barrington Tops National Park and State Conservation Area is 83,000ha of wild country offering extremes of climate, landscapes and plant and animal communities. It is this diversity of landscape which captures the visitor and creates the desire to return again and again to experience what it is Barrington Top offers.

Whether it is chasing respite from the summer heat and to cool off in the high altitude country or mountain rivers such as the Williams River and Gloucester River, or it is just the chance of a snow storm or crisp winter frosts, people are drawn to the Tops.

There are many special places to visit, and many special ways to access different sections of the park.

From Gloucester, people can access Gloucester Tops and experience pristine rivers and streams, Beech forest and snow gums. They can also cross the plateau via the Gloucester-Scone Road and delight in the open woodlands and eucalypt forests which lead to the sub-alpine landscape.

In the south eastern section of the reserve, the beautiful Williams River supports the sub-tropical rainforest environment and you can experience the wonders of this world heritage listed region that forms part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area.

About this guide

This guide is designed to give visitors a workable understanding of Barrington Tops National Park. It provides information and detailed maps on the key features of the park including day use areas, camping areas, walking tracks and drive routes.

These condensed references help you appreciate the scale of Barrington Tops as a large park with many different features and four major access points.

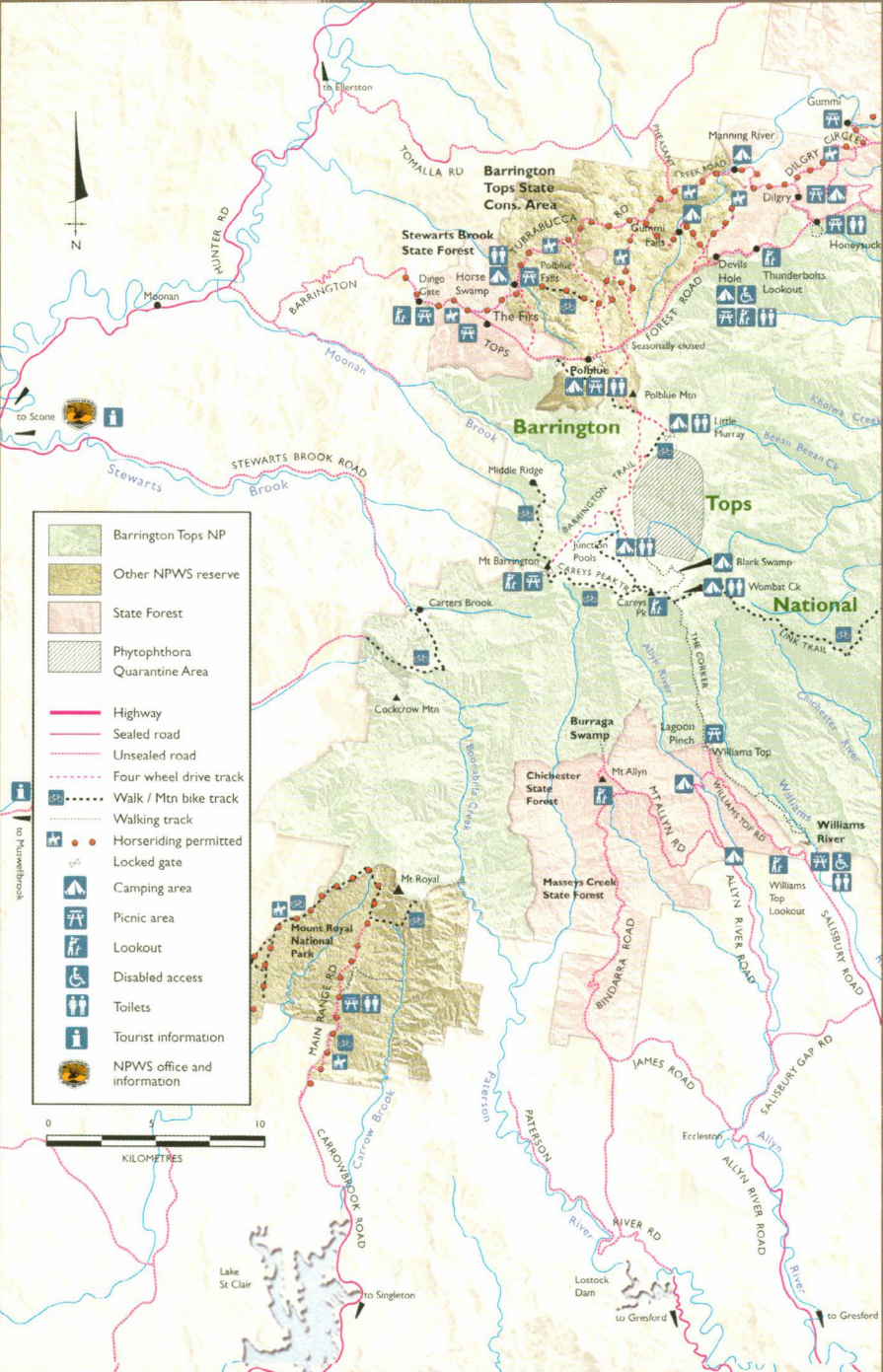
Also included in this guide is detailed information on the park –its Aboriginal cultural history, historic cultural links and the plants and animals which live in various habitats throughout the reserve.



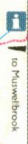


Careys Peak view (Ian Brown)

Barrington Tops National Park Map



- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| | Barrington Tops NP |
| | Other NPWS reserve |
| | State Forest |
| | Phytophthora Quarantine Area |
| | Highway |
| | Sealed road |
| | Unsealed road |
| | Four wheel drive track |
| | Walk / Mtn bike track |
| | Walking track |
| | Horsingrid permitted |
| | Locked gate |
| | Camping area |
| | Picnic area |
| | Lookout |
| | Disabled access |
| | Toilets |
| | Tourist information |
| | NPWS office and information |



to Singleton

to Gresford

to Gresford

Great Places to Visit: On The Plateau



Polblue Swamp

There is a choice of great places to camp on the tops, but none better than at Polblue Swamp.

Devils Lookout

A must see spot on the eastern section of the tops. The lookout is accessible via a short walk from the carpark.



Snow on the tops

A winter special is to catch a snowfall up on the plateau.

Great Places to Visit: Williams River

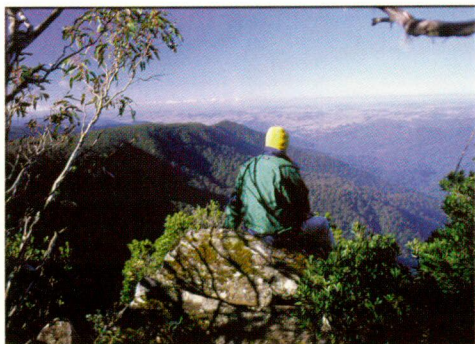
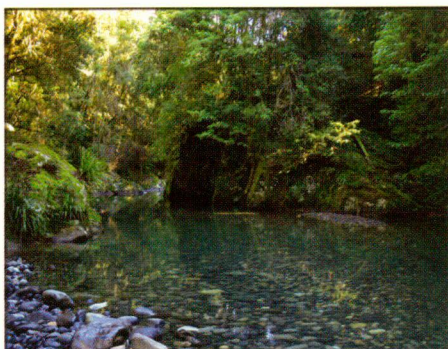


Burruga Swamp

Just west of the Williams River on the northern slopes of Mt Allyn is this magical setting located just a short walk in from the carpark.

Williams River walks

The walking trail network along the Williams River is easily accessed from the picnic area at the park entry.



Adventure awaits

If you're energetic and well prepared you can access the Tops and Careys Peak from the Williams River park entry.

About World Heritage

The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention) was adopted by the United Nations in 1972. By 2001, 164 countries had joined the convention and 690 places were listed, making it one of the world's most successful international agreements.

The World Heritage symbol – a square within a connected circle – represents the interdependence of human culture within the natural environment. World Heritage expresses the concept of a common heritage for all humanity. Places on the World Heritage list, such as Barrington Tops National Park, are places of such outstanding universal value that their conservation is important for current and future generations.

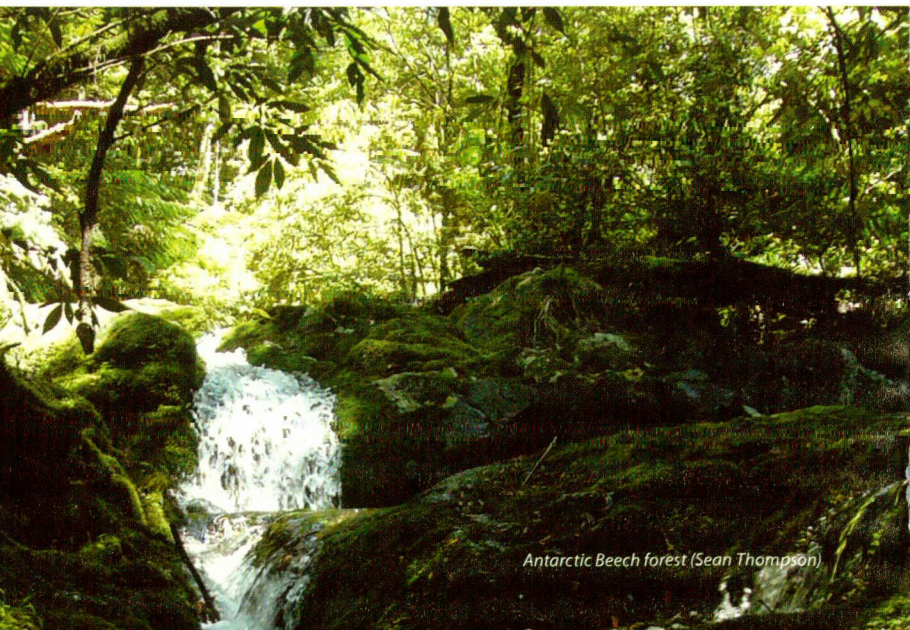
The Gondwana Rainforest of Australia are in the company of the Grand Canyon, South West New Zealand,

Mount Everest and the Galapagos Islands as irreplaceable natural treasures. Cultural places on the World Heritage List include the Taj Mahal, Auschwitz Concentration Camp and the Acropolis.

Australia has 18 World Heritage places, including Kakadu National Park, the Great Barrier Reef, Lord Howe Island, the Greater Blue Mountains and Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.

Other Australian rainforests are conserved in Queensland's Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

Listing of these areas means Australia has an obligation to protect their values for all time on behalf of the peoples of the world, and to present these values to the community.



Antarctic Beech forest (Sean Thompson)



(Sean Thompson)

About Gondwana Rainforests of Australia

Barrington Tops National Park is the most southerly link in the chain of some fifty Gondwana Rainforests of Australia reserves that spread along the coastal escarpment of northeast NSW and southeast Queensland.

Barrington Tops and other NSW rainforest parks won World Heritage status in 1986. More areas were added in 1994 to make up the 367,000 hectare World Heritage Area. It includes such other well known reserves as Lamington National Park and Dorrigo National Park.

So why do these rainforests rank as one of the Earth's natural treasures?

Gondwana Rainforests is listed under three World Heritage criteria:

- as an outstanding example representing major stages of the Earth's evolutionary history
- as an outstanding example representing significant ongoing geological processes and biological evolution
- containing important and significant habitats for the in situ conservation of biological diversity.

It contains the largest areas of subtropical rainforest in the world and large areas of warm temperate and cool temperate rainforest. These are the most ancient types of vegetation in Australia, remnants of the vast forests that once covered much of the southern continents.

Even just a few million years ago, rainforest covered much more of Australia. The progressive drying of the continent and increased occurrence of fire caused these rainforests to contract into isolated patches where distinctive species of plants and animals evolved. Rainforest was further reduced by European settlement and two centuries of land clearing. The precious world heritage remnants, mostly on rugged escarpments, now survive as islands in a sea of fire-prone eucalypt forests and cleared lands.

Rainforest now only covers 0.3% of Australia, but is home to about one third of the continent's plant and animal species. Gondwana Rainforests protects more than 200 rare and threatened species. It provides a living link with the evolution of Australia and the world's vegetation. Few places on Earth contain so many plants and animals whose ancestors can be traced through the fossil record and today remain relatively unchanged.

There is a concentration of primitive plant families that are direct links with the birth and spread of flowering plants over 100 million years ago, as well as some of the oldest elements of the world's ferns and conifers. In these specially protected areas, the processes of geological change and evolution that create the richness of the natural world can continue.

Landscape

The forests of Barrington Tops owe their existence to the landscape, which has been shaped by plate tectonics, volcanoes, wind and rain.

Eighty million years ago the Barrington Tops area was low-lying, made up of siltstone, mudstone and other sedimentary rocks, which can still be seen in many valleys of the park. Magma pushed into these layers to form granodiorite, a granite-like rock which outcrops extensively in the Chichester valley and on the plateaus of Gloucester Tops and Barrington Tops.

Australia's northward voyage following the breakup of Gondwana caused a momentous event to occur - a rift split Australia from New Zealand and opened the Tasman Sea. These movements of the Earth's crust also spawned a string of shield volcanoes along the eastern edge of the continent, sending lava flooding over the landscape.

A volcano centred near the present Mount Barrington was spilling basalt flows over the existing rocks about 45 million years ago. More eruptions moved steadily north into Queensland - the Mount Warning volcano is one of the most well known of these.

Possibly around this period (the timing is uncertain), the Eastern Highlands were uplifted to form the Great Divide. Rapid erosion of the steep coastal fall of the divide has carved a remarkable scarp that winds along Australia's east coast for thousands of kilometres and is up to a kilometre high - the Great Escarpment.

The leap of Barrington Tops Plateau is one of the most dramatic sections of the Great Escarpment. The plateau's tough granodiorite and basalt core resisted the westward and northward retreat of the escarpment like a bold coastal headland.

Today, Barrington Tops stand high at the southern end of the Mount Royal Range, overshadowing the more subdued Great Divide further inland.

Barrington Plateau is one surviving piece of the once vast lava sheets. Other remnant highland basalt caps include New England, Dorrigo Plateau and the Border Ranges - all sites of World Heritage parks. It is no accident that rainforest strongholds occur where these tablelands meet the Great Escarpment.

The steep rise of the escarpment forces the prevailing moist easterly winds upwards to deliver yearly rainfall of 1500mm or more onto the slopes and foothills.

Good, reliable rainfall and fertile basalt soils promote the vigorous growth of rainforest and help keep out its greatest enemy - fire. The erosion of these basalts has also contributed to the rich soils of the coastal lowlands.

Peaking at 1586 metres and with an area of more than a hundred square kilometres above 1400 metres, Barrington Tops is the highest tableland in the country outside the Australian Alps, yet it falls quickly to near sea level. The abrupt topography has both nurtured and defended the World Heritage forests.

LEAVES ACROSS THE WATER

What does Barrington Tops have in common with Tasmania, New Guinea, New Caledonia, New Zealand, South America and Antarctica? Leaves – leaves of southern beech, in fact.

In the wild and wet mountains of each of these lands, except Antarctica, grow mossy beech rainforests dominated by *Nothofagus* trees, just like those of Barrington Tops. Some 40 species of *Nothofagus* (southern beech) are spread across the southern lands, all with different leaves but very closely related. Antarctica is too cold for any trees to grow – now. But fossils show that beech forests once grew there too. How could trees which are oceans apart be so similar?

In 1912 German scientist Alfred Wegener proposed a bizarre idea based on the shape of the southern continents – that they were once joined together before splitting up and moving around the surface of the Earth. He had no idea how this could have happened. “Preposterous!” they all said.

But gradually the evidence grew – the distribution of *Nothofagus* was an important piece. A mechanism for shifting the continents around has even been worked out. Wegener’s ‘continental drift’ has become today’s ‘plate tectonics’, which explains earthquakes, volcanoes, the origin of oceans and mountains and the global spread of plants and animals.

Researchers believe that deep currents within the liquid core of the Earth push the floating continents around like leaves on moving water, but much much slower.

Australia is moving north at about six centimetres a year, ramming into New Guinea and escaping Antarctica which it left just 45 million years ago. Australia and the other southern lands still carry the *Nothofagus* forests that once thrived across Gondwana – the name given to Wegener’s primordial super-continent.

Since separating they have evolved different beech species, but step into a beech forest in Fiordland in New Zealand or Patagonia in South America and you might think you’re back at Barrington Tops.

Aboriginal Heritage

The Barrington Tops National Park overlies the territories of several Aboriginal groups. The eastern side is the traditional home of the Worimi and Biripi people, while the western side is Wonnarua country.

The Biripi took in the area between Tuncurry, Taree and Gloucester. Worimi territory extended from Barrington Tops and Forster in the north to Maitland and the Hunter River in the south.

The Worimi, Biripi and Wonnarua were divided into a number of nurras or clans. Nurras were local groups within tribes, each occupying a definite part of the tribal territory. The exact location of tribal boundaries is knowledge that has been lost following European settlement.

Both the Worimi and Biripi spoke the Kattang language. Dungog is a Kattang name meaning 'place of thinly wooded hills'.

The Aboriginal people were hunters and gatherers who moved throughout their territory in response to seasonal availability of food, so that the land's resources could be naturally replenished.

Stone for tool-making was another valued resource. Clans occupied the valleys year round, visiting the plateaus in spring and summer to gather food.

The coastal clans would move to the tops during winter to hunt kangaroos, possums and wombats.

A wide range of plant foods was collected from the lowland forests.

Orange Thorn, Giant Stinging Tree, figs, Native Cherry, Geebung, Native Raspberry and Lillypilly are some of the edible fruits found in the Barrington area.

Other plant foods include the bulbs of many orchids and the starch from the crown of tree ferns. There is a report of starch from stinging tree roots being roasted to make a bread.

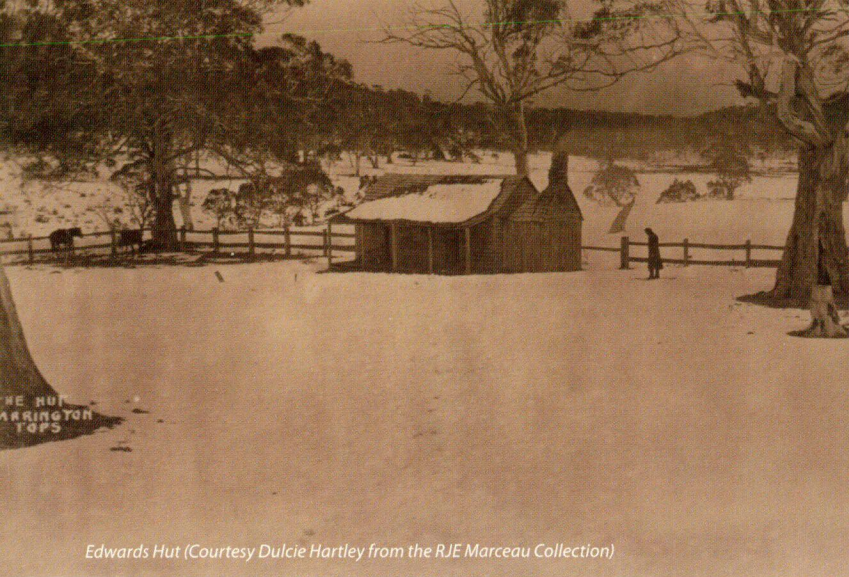
Aboriginal occupation of Barrington Tops is recorded in oral history and in the presence of Aboriginal sites. Sites in the area include open campsites with stone artefacts, scarred trees, ceremonial places and mythological sites recorded in dreaming stories.

When Europeans settled in the Gloucester-Manning area in the 1820s and 1830s, the Aboriginal people lost their homelands to logging, clearing and livestock.

Traditional hunting grounds were depleted and sacred sites were destroyed. Wildlife dwindled. Oral history tells that by 1840 the natural food supplies were almost exhausted.

Starving Aboriginal people began killing stock, but the settlers and government troopers retaliated with random shootings and massacres. The poisoning of waterholes and 'gifts' of food laced with arsenic, known as 'the Harmony', were also widely reported from the Manning River basin.

The rugged lands of Barrington Tops sometimes became a refuge, most famously for black outlaw Jimmy Governor. Barrington Tops National Park is important to today's Worimi, Biripi and Wonnarua communities as an intact part of Aboriginal country.



Edwards Hut (Courtesy Dulcie Hartley from the RJE Marceau Collection)

European Heritage

The history of Barrington Tops has followed changing attitudes to the Australian environment. After the explorations of government surveyors, 19th century interest in the area was limited to timbergetting, especially for the prized Red Cedar, a little exploring for gold and summer grazing on the tops. At the turn of the century several large state forests were proclaimed. In 1905 grazier W.H. Edwards built a hut on Edwards Plain which was to become a haven for adventurers, naturalists and holidaymakers.

Through the early 20th century groups of gentlemen made their way to the tops for riding, hunting and fishing vacations. They approached on a bridle trail up the Corker or from the north. Scientific parties soon followed, attracted by the rich variety of landscape, plants and animals.

In December 1915 a large expedition of geologists, botanists and entomologists was guided to Barrington Tops by Edwards and local bushman and naturalist John Hopson.

They camped at Edwards Hut and collected specimens for the Australian Museum and the Linnean Society of NSW. It was the first of many scientific expeditions to the area.

Word of Barrington Tops' delights spread quickly. In Easter 1923, the same year Chichester Dam water was piped to Newcastle, a party of prominent men from Newcastle and Maitland took in the sights of the plateau.

They predicted Barrington Tops would become 'the health resort of the Hunter Valley' and discussed agriculture, a racecourse, golf course and hydroelectric development.

Public meetings called for improved roads to open up the area and the Barrington Tops League was formed to push for tourism development. In the winter of 1923 deep snow lay on the plateau for three months. John Hopson and schoolteacher - photographer R. Marceau returned from an excursion convinced the area could be a wonderful playground for skiing and skating.



R, Marceau on the plateau c. 1923 (Courtesy Dulcie Hartley from the RJE Marceau Collection)

A visit in 1924 by members of the NSW government gave a boost to the development campaign. Barrington Guest House on the Williams River was opened in 1930, and in 1934 Newcastle City Council drew up a detailed plan for a tourist resort on the plateau.

It was to be 'The Mecca of Australian Tourists and the Katoomba of the North'. Work began but ground to a halt when funds ran out. This early drive for development was motivated by a mix of local economic interests and the urge to both share and protect the wonders of Barrington

Tops. But the steep southern fall of the plateau confounded road access and all the grand plans.

Conservationist, Myles Dunphy took a long walk over the tops with the Mountain Trails Club in the summer of 1924-25. He suggested a national park "or better still, a primitive reserve" as an alternative to development. Even during the Second World War, local concern for the preservation of Barrington Tops led to formal protests over increased logging and roadbuilding.



Edwards Hut (Courtesy Dulcie Hartley from the RJE Marceau Collection)

The Barrington Club was formed in 1948 to popularise the area and promote its conservation.

Pressure for a national park grew through the 1950s, with several community groups pursuing different visions. Others were pushing for more development. In 1959 the government decided to reserve two small areas, one on Gloucester Tops and the other in the Williams River.

The state forest system was also expanded. Finally in 1969 Barrington Tops National Park was created from about 14,000 hectares of Crown land.

Through the 1970s, eighties and nineties, an intense community debate developed over whether the remaining native forests of NSW should be used for timber production or protected for conservation. Forest areas were progressively withdrawn from logging and added to the national park system – first the rainforests, then the sclerophyll forests.

The park was enlarged by major additions in 1984, 1997 and most recently in 1999 as part of a Regional Forest Agreement.

Barrington Tops National Park and State Conservation Area now covers about 83,000 hectares. The park was listed as World Heritage in 1986 and the initial Barrington Wilderness was declared in 1999.

(With acknowledgement to 'Barrington Tops – A Vision Splendid' by Dulcie Hartley)

STRANGE HAPPENINGS

The wild country has hidden many secrets over the years. In the 1860s bushranger Frederick Ward or Thunderbolt was robbing people on both sides of the ranges and hiding out in Barrington Tops.

He was finally shot by a policeman on the New England Tablelands in 1870, but is remembered at Thunderbolts Lookout.

In 1900, Jimmy Governor and Jackie Underwood fled east from the Castlereagh River after murdering white settlers.

With Jimmy's brother Joe they continued their crime spree for over two months, eluding an army of pursuers in the rugged bush escarpments of Barrington Tops and further north.

This sad and puzzling episode came to an end as Australia entered Federation. Jackie was captured first and hanged, Joe was shot and Jimmy was caught and hanged on 18 January 1901.

The mistreatment and racial persecution that may have led to Jimmy's violence is explored in Thomas Keneally's novel 'The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith' and a film of the same name. Governors Lookout near The Corker Trail commemorates their flight.

On the night of 16 April 1945 an RAAF Mosquito bomber crashed on Barrington Tops in poor weather, and was not found for another nine months.

Another aircraft went missing in the ranges in 1981. In spite of numerous searches no trace of it has ever been found.

Barrington Wilderness ...

is about as wild as you can get – because no part of Australia can be described as untouched by human hands.

Aboriginal people made their way to Barrington Tops for thousands of years before timbergetters, miners, graziers and bushwalkers entered the picture. But the Barrington Wilderness is the most pristine of the remaining natural areas of the Hunter and Manning regions. Wilderness management aims to keep it that way.

About three-quarters of Barrington Tops National Park is declared wilderness, but this doesn't mean 'hands off'.

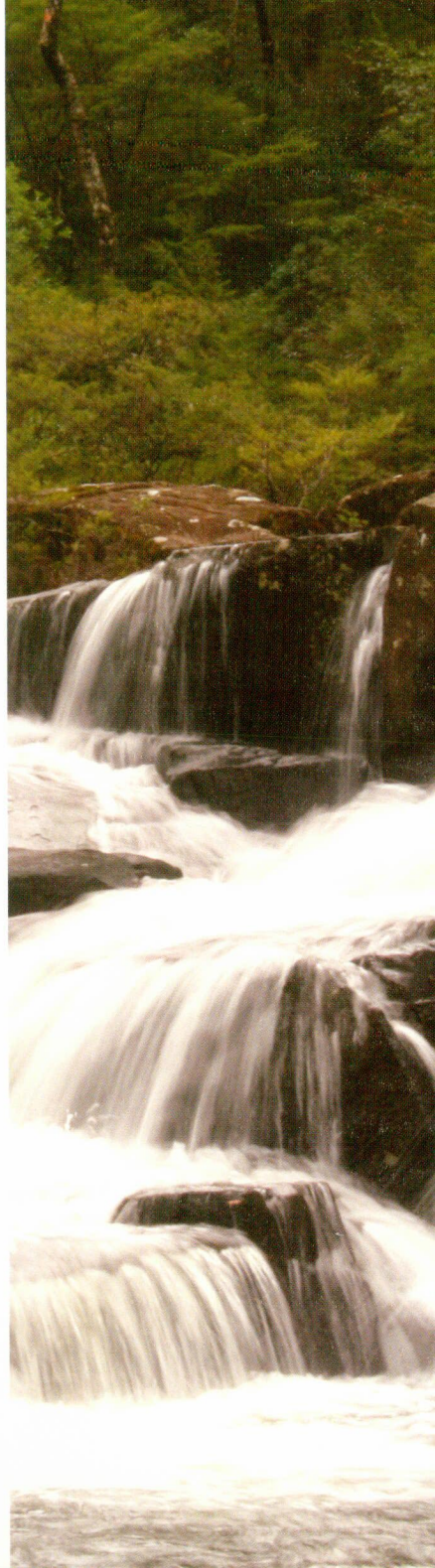
The NSW NPWS undertakes fire, pest control and other conservation programs. Wilderness provides a refuge where plants and animals can survive and evolve largely free of the impacts of humans and introduced species.

Two centuries after European settlement, less than five per cent of New South Wales remains in a wilderness condition.

To qualify as wilderness, a natural area must be:

- large enough to maintain its natural systems
- substantially unmodified by human activity or capable of restoration
- able to provide opportunities for solitude and appropriate self-reliant recreation.

There is no vehicle access or formal facilities in the wilderness. Self-reliance is the key to safety and enjoyment.





Gloucester Tops Falls (Glen Crombie)

Exploring the park

Barrington Tops is a wild and beautiful environment. However visitors should be aware that it can be unforgiving to those who come unprepared.

Ensure you have a wonderful stay by considering this information when planning your trip and visiting the park.

Please respect the natural and cultural heritage the park protects

- Leave your pets at home
- Take your rubbish home with you.
- Do not feed native wildlife or leave food for birds to scavenge. Store garbage in a secure place.
- When walking, please stay on the tracks where possible. Barrington Tops is home to rare and threatened plant and animal species you might trample on.

Be prepared

- Be weather aware and make sure you have as much information as possible about current conditions and forecasts.
- Barrington Tops experiences wild weather – particularly during the winter months – and areas on the plateau can be exposed.
- Sudden changes in weather can mean you might have to pack up and leave quickly.

Cooking your own

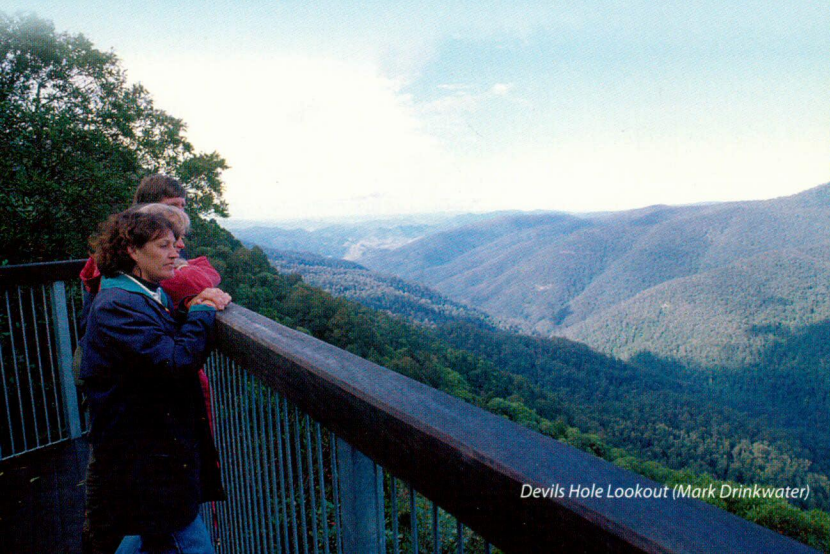
- Gas barbecues are supplied for you to use in camping and most day use areas. Your fellow visitors will appreciate it if you clean the barbecues after each use.
- If camping however, it is strongly advised to have your own cooking equipment.
- Wood fires are permitted in the fireplaces provided. However you must supply your own wood as it is not permitted to collect from the park. Wood provides homes and shelter for small animals – particularly important during winter months.

Camping

- Avoid camping on soft, wet and sensitive ground.
- Never dig trenches and try to cause as little disturbance to the site as possible.
- Take your rubbish out with you.
- Never feed animals (it's bad for them!).
- Don't use detergents, soaps or toothpaste in the bush unless in proper facilities.
- Use toilets where provided or bury human waste at least 100m from any watercourse and 15cm deep (or carry it out).
- Use soft footwear around camp.
- Leave no trace. Carry out everything you take in.
- Use a fuel stove instead of a fire.
- Do not attempt to burn any rubbish other than paper.

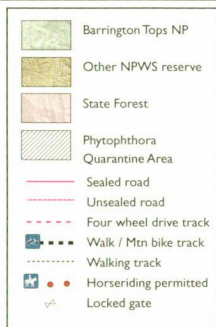
Walking

- Plan your walks carefully and within your ability. Seek a weather forecast, track information and use a map. Tell someone where you are going and when you return.
- Observe all fire restrictions and stay out of the bush in periods of very high to extreme fire danger.
- Wear strong shoes, sunscreen, protective clothing and a hat. Carry a first aid kit and warm and waterproof clothing. The weather can change quickly at any time in the mountains.
- Carry enough drinking water and food. Bring all your rubbish back.
- Keep to marked tracks (don't short-cut) and use the established lookouts.
- Stay inside handrails and safety fences and stay well back from other cliff edges.
- Check water before swimming and never dive into a waterbody.
- Keep children close and under control to protect them from cliffs, pools and other hazards.
- Only walk off marked tracks if you have the necessary skill and experience, have a compass and topographic maps and know how to use them.
- Avoid walking on soft and sensitive vegetation and take great care not to break rock edges.
- All animals, plants and wildflowers are strictly protected.
- Never disturb snakes or try to kill them. Leeches of the wet forests are generally harmless but the itchy bites can lead to infection. Keep ankles and legs covered or use repellent.



Devils Hole Lookout (Mark Drinkwater)

Mountain biking and horseriding



In addition to the mountain bike trails marked on this map, mountain biking is also permitted on all roads open to vehicles. Please note for further information about mountain biking and horseriding please contact a NPWS office as per contact details at the rear of this guide.

Mountain biking

Please note that cycling is NOT allowed on the Waterguage Trail because of the potential for cyclists to spread Phytophthora throughout the park.

Mountain biking is not permitted on single track walking tracks consistent with NPWS policy. Mountain biking on Youngs Trail in Mount Royal National Park is not permitted east of Shalley Hill. When mountain biking in parks or reserves, keep the following points in mind.

BE BIKE SMART

Wear a helmet, and always be in control of your bike so you don't endanger yourself or others. Keep your bike clean - it'll last longer and will be less likely to carry weeds and plant diseases into native bushland. If you come across other cyclists who are not respecting the park or are disturbing others, politely explain that cycling can only continue to be acceptable in bushland areas if riders follow this code.

RIDE CAREFULLY

Don't skid, as it can remove the surface layer of a track and cause erosion.

Avoid riding in the wet - your tyres will carve tracks in the mud that channel water, also causing erosion.

If there are puddles on the trail, please ride through; if you go around them it only widens the trail.

Don't take shortcuts or form new trails, as this destroys native vegetation.

RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Leave everything as you find it. Don't disturb historic places, Aboriginal sites, plants, animals or bush rock. Take all your rubbish home with you.

LOOK OUT FOR OTHERS

Walkers and joggers have just as much right to be on park trails as you. Try to cycle in small groups to prevent too much disturbance to others. When approaching walkers, give plenty of warning by calling out or ringing your bell. Slow right down and only pass when it's safe.

WATCH FOR HORSERIDERS

When you meet horse riders, slow down and tell them you're approaching (don't use a bell or horn), then move over and allow them to pass. A horse can be frightened by a bicycle, endangering both its rider and you.



Horse riding

Horse riding is only permitted in the Barrington Tops State Conservation Area on:

- Tubrabucca Road
- Pheasants Creek Road
- Bicentennial National Trail including identified sections of Butchers Swamp Trail; Paddys Ridge Trail; Green Gap Trail; Barrington Trail; Bullock Brush Trail; Tugalow Trail; Thunderbolts Trail and Gummi Road.

In Mount Royal National Park horse riding is only permitted on:

- Mount Royal Road
- Cassels Road, and
- Cedar, Timberlea and Bunyip trails.

Horses are only permitted within the road corridor of all of these designated trails.

Camping with horses is only permitted at Cascade Camping Area subject to the following conditions:

- processed feeds or cracked grain may be used to feed horses but not hay
- horses are to be tethered at least 20 metres from the Manning River
- horses are to be tethered or contained in temporary yards overnight and
- temporary yards must be erected at least 20 metres from the river. Temporary yards will be constructed of electric fencing tape or other appropriate materials that are to be removed when the camping area is vacated.

Horse riding activities involving more than 10 people, that is part of an organised competition, non-commercial event, or a commercial activity require written consent from the NPWS.



Facilities Checklist

	CAMPING	SHELTER	TOILETS	TABLES	GAS BARBECUES
ON THE PLATEAU					
Black Swamp	✓	x	x	x	x
Cobark Park	x	✓	x	✓	x
Devils Hole	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
Gummi	x	x	x	✓	x
Gummi Falls	✓	x	✓	x	x
Honeysuckle	x	x	✓	✓	x
Horse Swamp	✓	x	✓	✓	x
Junction Pools	✓	x	✓	x	x
Little Murray	✓	x	✓	✓	x
Mount Barrington	x	x	x	✓	x
Polblue	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wombat Creek	✓	x	✓	x	x

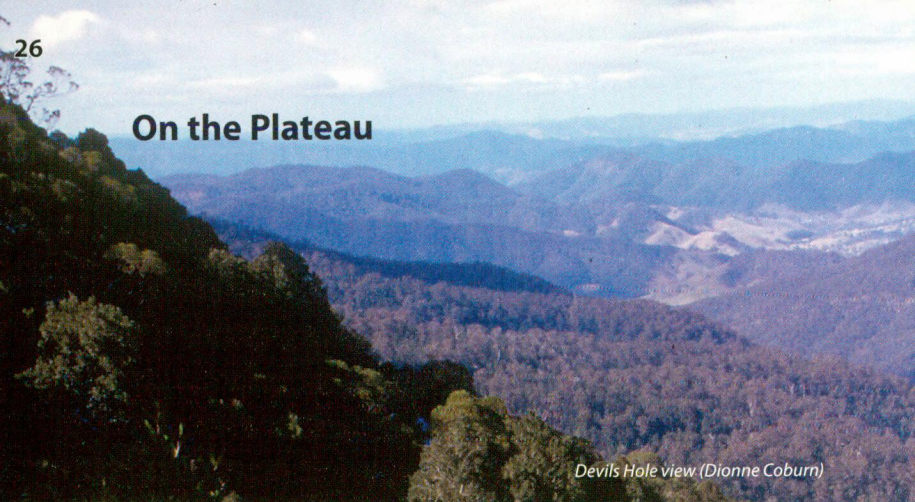
GLOUCESTER RIVER / GLOUCESTER TOPS

Gloucester River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gloucester Falls	x	✓	✓	✓	x

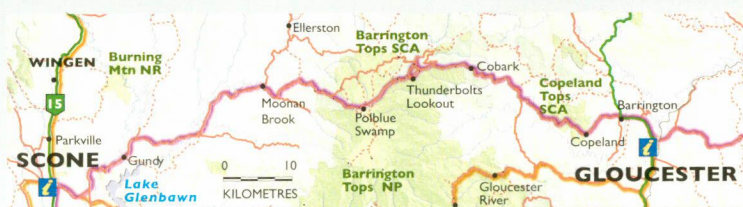
WILLIAMS RIVER AND ENVIRONS

Williams River	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lagoon Pinch	x	x	x	✓	x
Williams Top	x	x	x	✓	x
Jerusalem Creek	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
Burruga Swamp	x	x	x	x	x
Mount Royal	x	x	✓	✓	x

On the Plateau



Devils Hole view (Dionne Coburn)



Access to the Barrington Tops Plateau is via the Barrington Tops Forest Road which traverses the northern boundary of the park between Scone and Gloucester. This road forms an integral part of the Hunter World Heritage Drive.

This winding gravel road is not recommended for large caravans, and may be temporarily closed by snow in winter. Polblue Camping Area is an hour and a quarter from either Gloucester (77 km) or Scone (74 km). Other camping and picnic areas are accessed along branch roads off Barrington Tops Forest Road.

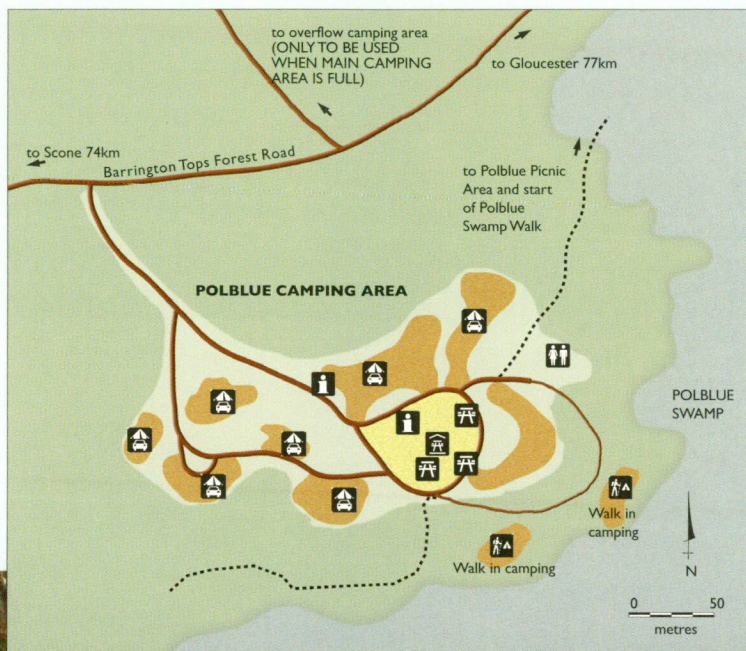
The plateau offers you a wide choice of camping and picnicking areas to enjoy while exploring the area. These are shown on the map opposite and detailed camping maps follow overleaf.

The Barrington Tops Plateau also offers some of the most exciting sub-alpine walks, mountain biking and touring –and it's all just three hours from Newcastle.

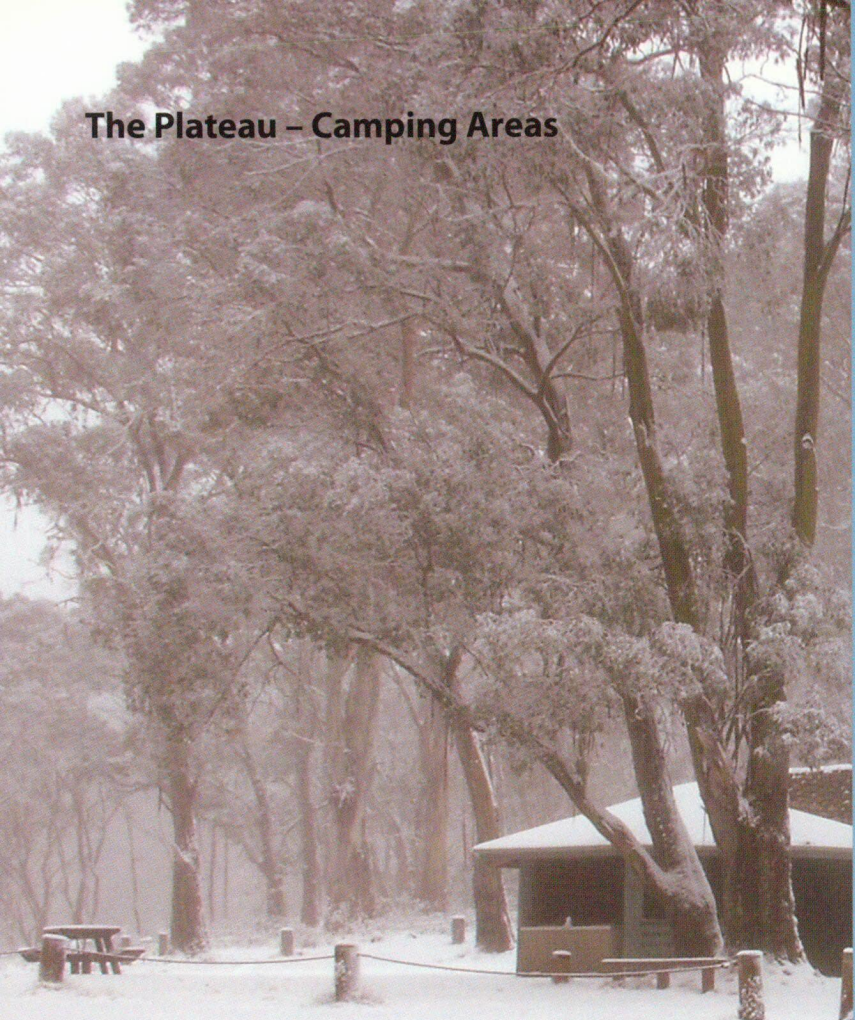
There are a number of 4WD tracks to explore and the region is a haven for bushwalkers and mountain bikers all keen to sample the crisp mountain air. For many people it offers the opportunity to explore sub-alpine woodlands without having to travel to the Snowy Mountains. Detailed tracknotes are also included as part of this section.



Polblue Swamp Camping Area



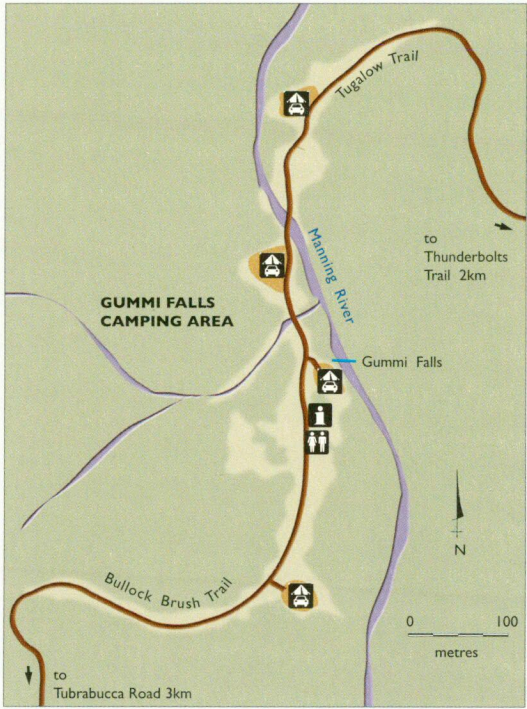
The Plateau – Camping Areas



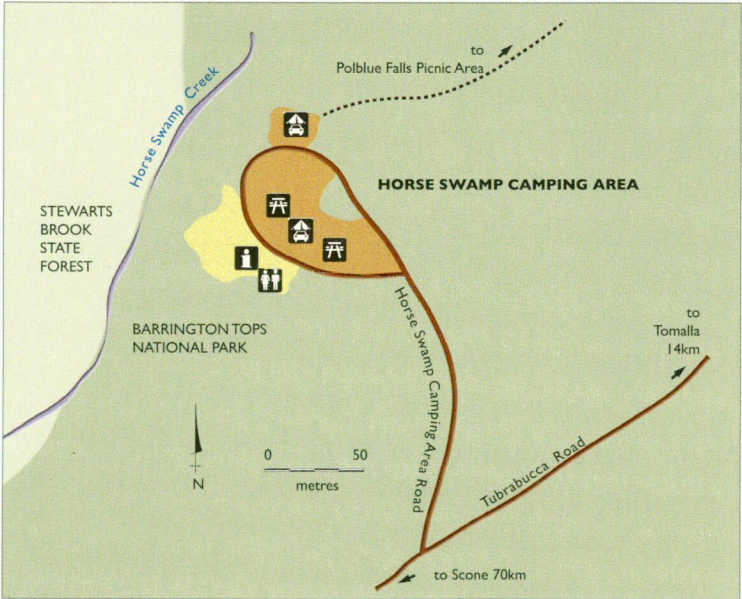
Camping fees apply for the use of campground facilities in Barrington Tops National Park.

For more information please contact the NPWS Barrington Tops Area office at Gloucester on ph (02) 6538 5300 or Upper Hunter Area Office at Scone on ph (02) 65402300.

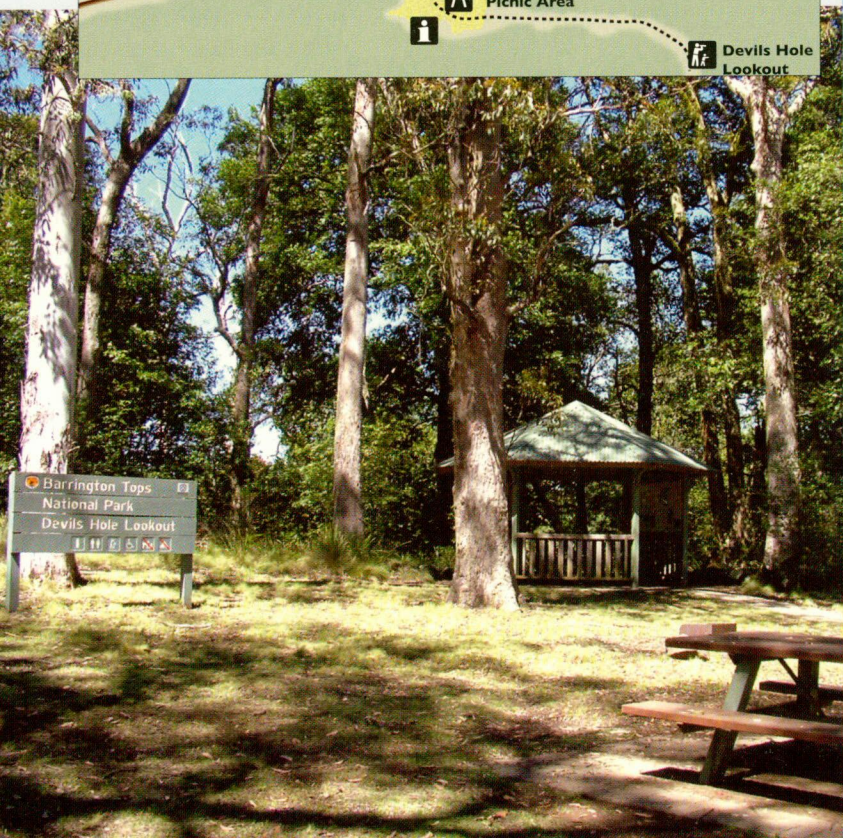
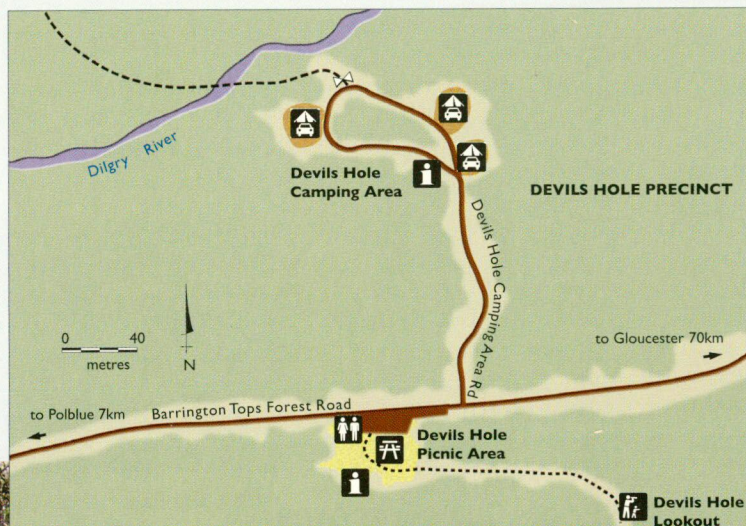
Gummi Falls Camping Area



Horse Swamp Camping Area



Devils Hole Camping Area



The Plateau – Short Walks and Tracks

THE BARRINGTON TRAIL

The Barrington Trail leaves the Barrington Tops Forest Road about 1.7km east of Polblue Swamp. There is a carpark, information shelter and gate a short distance off the main road. The Barrington Trail provides access to Little Murray Camping Area (5.5 km), Mount Barrington (15 km) and a walk-in campsite at Junction Pools (12.5 km) for walkers, mountain bike riders and 4WD vehicles. These trails are closed to vehicles from 1 June to 30 September each year and at other times when wet. Walkers and mountain bikers can also utilise Narrow Plain Trail as a link between Little Murray and the Barrington Trail.



HONEYSUCKLE FOREST TRACK**Easy 1 km circuit: 30 min**

From the Honeysuckle Picnic Area on the Barrington Tops Forest Road, this sheltered walk loops through magnificent Antarctic Beech forest and thickets of Soft Tree Fern. It is a special delight in the misty rain so common on the tops. The abrupt boundary of the beech forest, which here hugs the moister southern slope of the plateau, is probably the result of bush fire burning up to its edge. Open forest with an understorey of tall Mountain Banksia, also called honeysuckle, surrounds the picnic area.

*Polblue Swamp (tan Brown)***THUNDERBOLTS LOOKOUT****Easy 400 m return: 20 min**

A short, flat track leads through Snow Gum woodland and a small patch of Antarctic Beech to a spectacular view on the edge of the escarpment and the Barrington Wilderness. The deep valley of the Moppy River spreads out below the bulk of Mount Carson beyond.

DEVILS HOLE LOOKOUT**Easy 400 m return: 15 min**

This paved walk, suitable for wheelchairs, winds from the Devils Hole Picnic Area on the Barrington Tops Forest Road to a lookout platform poised on the brink of another world. The montane, snow-grassed woodland of the gentle Barrington Plateau stretches behind, while below lie the dense forests, wild gorges and ridges of the Barrington Wilderness. On a clear day the view extends from the Antarctic Beech forest canopy immediately below to the coast over 90 km to the east.

POLBLUE SWAMP TRACK**Easy 2 km circuit: 1 hour**

A circumnavigation of the Polblue Swamp provides an enjoyable introduction to the wetlands and high altitude forests of the Barrington Tops Plateau. Start from either Polblue Camping Area or Polblue Picnic Area on the Barrington Tops Forest Road and walk in either direction. A timber walkway across Polblue Creek connects the camping area to the picnic area.

POLBLUE SWAMP TRACK

Easy 2 km circuit: 1 hour
(cont'd)



The smooth dark trunks of Black Sally, a close relative of the Snow Gum (also called White Sally), make up the woodland on the eastern side, while the western side features Snow Gums (with scribbles on their bark) and tall Mountain Gums.

From the forest edge, grasses give way to a dense growth of sedges crowding the sphagnum moss of the swamp. Rare ground orchids might be seen along the track in spring and summer. Please keep to the track as the swamp edge is vulnerable to trampling.

This is a good walk for spotting Grey Kangaroos and perhaps a Wombat – or certainly their squarish droppings! Unfortunately feral pigs are also present, and the damage they cause by digging for roots, worms and other food may be obvious. Scotch Broom is another introduced problem which forms a thick undergrowth in places. Control programs for both of these pests are in place.



Polblue Swamp (Ian Brown)



Edwards Plain (Ian Brown)

EDWARDS SWAMP TRAIL (Junction Pools to Careys Peak)

Moderate 7 km one way:

2 hours (one way)



From Junction Pools, this vehicle track meanders through the high plains at the head of the Barrington River to reach Careys Peak. It is a very enjoyable walk with gentle slopes, a variety of scenery, plenty of water and a good chance of seeing some large grazing marsupials such as Wombats and Eastern Grey Kangaroos. In summer, wildflowers brighten the tawny plains with yellow, blue and white.

The dark trunks of Black Sallies will be seen along streams and forest edges. Along the way are old timber fences and ruins from the days when the high plains were used for summer grazing. The Scotch Broom and feral pigs in this area are being controlled by the NPWS. The creek crossings may be difficult or hazardous after heavy rain. As a daywalk, the return can be made the same way or via Black Swamp and Aeroplane Hill for an excellent circuit.

The track begins a short distance back along the Junction Pools access road, branching off on the western side. It descends onto the plains, crosses the Barrington River near a track junction and gate, and traverses an open snow grass hillside. Sedge swamps appear as areas of dark vegetation on the wetter parts of the grassy plains. After crossing a small saddle the track climbs into open forest and then down to the edge of the spacious Edwards Plain.

Grassland near the edge of the forest is a good place to spot Wombats, Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Swamp Wallabies or Red-necked Wallabies. The corded crossing of Edwards Creek leads to Crows Gate on an old fenceline, across two more creeks and plains to join a more substantial management trail less than a kilometre from Careys Peak.

If returning via Black Swamp, follow the signposted management trails from Careys Peak 2.5 km to the Black Swamp bush campsite and then the Aeroplane Hill Track another 3.5 km to Junction Pools.

AEROPLANE HILL TRACK (Junction Pools to Black Swamp and Careys Peak)

**Moderate 6 km one way:
1.5hr (one way).**



Cross the Barrington River at Junction Pools (but not after rain) and follow the track over Aeroplane Hill (1531m) through the montane forest that dominates this walk. Crimson Rosellas often chatter and swoop through the trees. After crossing a saddle the track ascends again onto a broad ridge and around a drainage line to meet Black Swamp. At almost 1500m this is the highest large subalpine wetland in the area.

From a hardy and comfortable snow grass edge studded with Mountain Gums, Black Sallys and Snow Gums, the vegetation changes abruptly to delicate sphagnum and sedges. When mist sweeps across the swamp it is a compelling sight.

The track follows the edge of the swamp before merging with the more prominent Big Hole Trail a short distance from the Black Swamp campsite. Turn right to reach the

campsite on the far side of the creek draining the swamp. Careys Peak is reached by continuing past the camping area. A further 1km along the track you will come across a junction. Take the right-hand turn and soon you will see the left turn towards Careys Peak.

CAREYS PEAK TRAIL

**(Mount Barrington to Careys Peak)
Easy 7 km one way: 2 hours (one way).**



This is a straightforward walk over the plateau to Careys Peak from the end of the 4WD Barrington Trail. From the locked gate just north of Mount Barrington (1555m), the undulating Careys Peak Trail follows the rim of the escarpment eastwards. In a few places the Antarctic Beech forest creeps over the edge of the valley onto the plateau, but most of the walk is through subalpine woodland of Snow Gum and Mountain Gum. After 6 km the trail climbs steeply out of a saddle to meet another trail branching off on the right which leads to the summit.

Help us contain phytophthora

With the increasing movement of people around the plateau there has come a major threat to the survival of the area's plantlife. The water mould *Phytophthora cinnamomi* is an organism that thrives in warm moist soils. It attacks the roots of plants causing them to rot so they are unable to absorb enough water and nutrients. The disease causes the dieback of affected trees and plants.

Phytophthora has been found on the plateau area predominantly on the Watergauge Trail between Beean Beean and Black Swamp. As it is readily spread by mud carried by walkers' shoes park visitors are advised that the area is under quarantine with absolutely no visitor access.

Please be sure to not to enter the quarantined area during your visit. You can also assist the long term containment of *Phytophthora* by cleaning your shoes before entering a natural area.

LONGER BUSHWALKING TRACKS OF THE BARRINGTON TOPS

A number of longer tracks form a network on the linked plateaus of Barrington Tops and Gloucester Tops. They can be joined up for multi-day walks.

The network can be accessed from within the Williams River area, Wangat Road, Gloucester Tops or Barrington Tops Forest Road. These walks are suitable for experienced and well-prepared bushwalkers with navigational skills. 1:25,000 topographic maps are essential.

Several of the tracks traverse remote country of the Barrington Wilderness with no easy escape. High altitudes ensure that weather changes can be rapid, with cold rain, snow and heavy fog in any season.

Bushwalking campsites are provided at Black Swamp, Wombat Creek and the Mountaineer. Bush camping is permitted elsewhere at least 300m from any road or track and 50m away from streams and drainage lines.

Minimal impact practices should be followed and details of your plans left with a responsible person or local police. Larger groups and organised activities may require NPWS consent.

THE TOPS TO MYALLS HERITAGE TRAIL

If the Barrington walks leave you looking for more, how about a stroll to the coast? – it's only 220 km!

The 'Tops to Myall's Heritage Trail' links tracks, roads and management trails from the subalpine Snow Gums and beech forests of Barrington Tops through state forests, The Glen Nature Reserve and private property, to the coastal heaths and dunescapes of Myall Lakes National Park.

The trail follows several tracks across the Barrington Plateau then goes along the Link Trail to Gloucester Tops, the Glowang-Mountaineer Trail and on to finish at the coastal village of Hawks Nest. The 'Tops to Myalls' trail guidebook describes the walk in eleven daily stages, any of which can be walked separately or combined.



*Selby Alley at Carey's Peak on the plateau c. 1935
(Courtesy Dulcie Hartley from the RJE Marceau Collection)*

Gloucester River / Gloucester Tops

GETTING THERE

Gloucester River Camping Area is accessed by a 40 minute drive (40 km) from Gloucester along Bucketts Way, and Gloucester Tops Road (partially unsealed). The last 10 kilometres are narrow and winding with numerous causeways across the river. Access with large caravans or after heavy rain is not recommended. Gloucester Tops lies a further 40 minutes (18 km) from the Gloucester River along the Gloucester Tops Road.



FACILITIES

Gloucester River Camping and Picnic Area

A pleasant grassy clearing beside the river, rich in wildlife. Altitude 360m. Free gas BBQs, caravan camping (no power), picnic tables and park information. Camping fees apply.

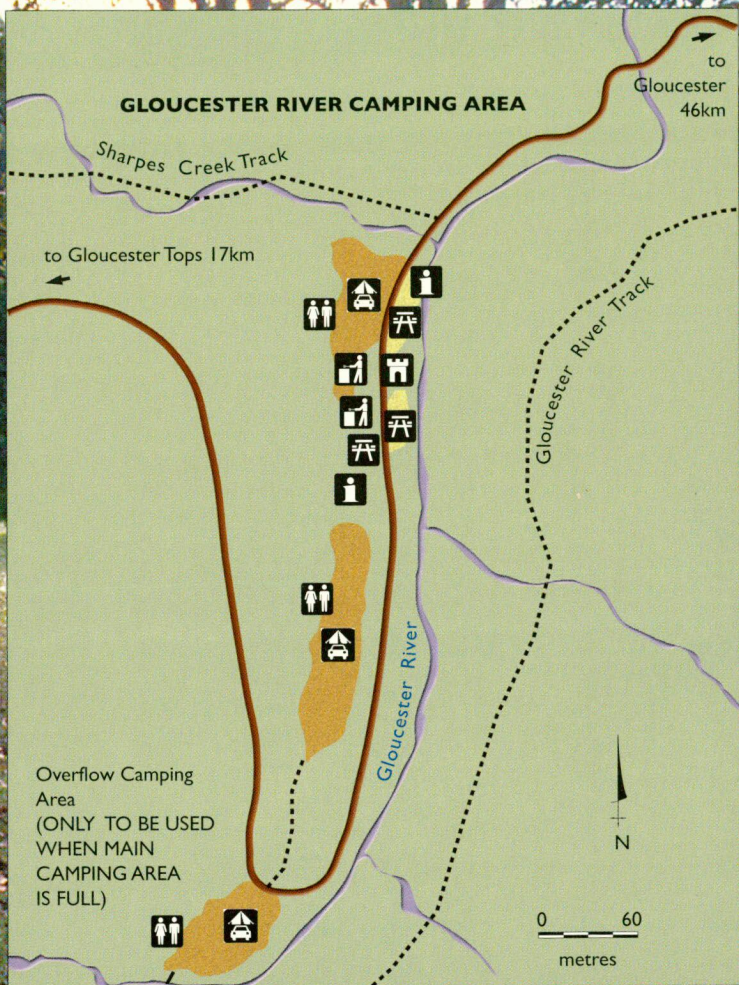
Gloucester Tops Precinct

Gloucester Falls Picnic Area – 500m off the Gloucester Tops Road you'll find the main destination of Gloucester Tops - picnic tables, park information and toilets





Gloucester River camping area (Mark Drinkwater)



Gloucester River Walks

The Gloucester River Camping Area Is The Starting Point For Two Easy Tracks Along Beautiful Rainforest Streams.

GLoucester River Track

Easy 2.5 km circuit: 1 hour.



This gentle stroll above the river begins from the downstream end of the camping area. Walk 400 metres along the road and across the bridge over the river to where the track starts on the right. It heads upstream, climbing gradually along the hillside and crossing a couple of small gullies before descending towards the river again.

The diverse and vigorous young forest growing on the hill-slope includes Sydney Blue Gums, Grey Myrtles, paperbarks and Forest Oaks. It is a rich habitat for birds.

The cries of Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoos as they fly above the canopy often compete with the ever-present sound of rushing rapids from below. The piping shrill of Lyrebirds may be heard, and along the trackside their scratchings mingle with the cone-shaped diggings of bandicoots.

After 1.5 km the track joins an old logging track along the river. Follow it to the right and wade across the river to reach the roadside upstream of the camping area, or return the way you have come. Do not attempt to cross the river if it is running high.

SHARPES CREEK TRACK

Easy 3 km return or harder 4.5 km circuit: 1-2 hours.



This walk can be done as a return walk or as a circuit returning by the road. It follows an overgrown

logging track into the dark and lush subtropical rainforest hugging the sheltered floor of the Sharpes Creek valley.

The track starts on the Gloucester side of the bridge over Sharpes Creek, at the eastern end of the camping area. The trickling creek is crossed three times early in the walk.

Smooth dark lumps of basalt stand out in the cobbles of the creekbed, carried down from the slopes above. The track then leaves the creek to traverse the southern side of the valley, along the edge of the creekside rainforest where it gives way to eucalypt forest on the drier hillside.

There are excellent views into the canopy of the rainforest below and Sydney Blue Gums soar overhead. The forest is regenerating after being logged in about 1947. Rufous Fantails or Golden Whistlers might be seen here. The track crosses a couple of sharp gullies before the turnaround point is reached.

Go back the same way, or, if you have arranged a lift, tackle the climb to the Gloucester Tops Road. This follows a steep spur into drier forest.

Tall grass-trees feature here, beside a number of young Giant Stinging Trees in an unusual combination. Be wary, the large heart-shaped leaves can inflict a painful sting.

Turn left at the road and follow it back down to the camping area, with some good views into the forest.

Gloucester Tops Walks

The three tracks in this area can be linked together in a wonderful circuit covering an impressive variety of landscape and vegetation. The full circuit is of moderate grade, 7 km long and takes about 4 hours.

ANTARCTIC BEECH FOREST TRACK

Long loop: Moderate 2.5 km circuit: 1.5 hours
Short loop: Easy 1 km circuit: 20 min.



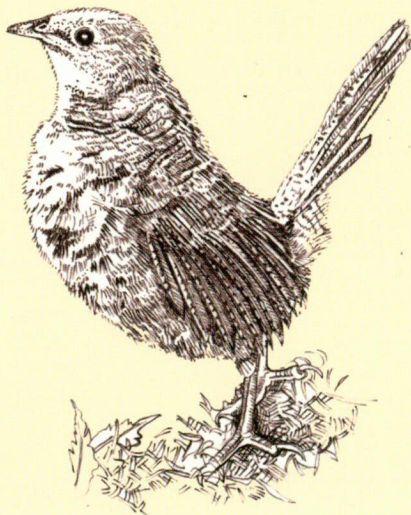
From the parking area on the Gloucester Tops Road, follow the track to the east and turn left at the junction. The airy subalpine woodland of Snow Gums suddenly gives way to the dark world of cool temperate rainforest. The dense canopy of Antarctic Beech is high above, damp moss carpets the ground and the sharp smell of humus fills the air.

Tree ferns crowd the track as it winds between rotting stumps and fallen trees. Take the first junction on the right around the short loop, which descends to some mossy cascades on a small creek. On rejoining the main track, turn left to return to the carpark or right to complete the long circuit.

The long loop continues through the forest and crosses the same creek higher up. It follows around the slope above the ferny stream, dipping in and out of the boundary between the beech forest and eucalypt forest.

This fringe zone is the favourite haunt of the Rufous Scrub-bird, one of Australia's rarest birds. The track then zigzags down into a rocky gorge where white water cascades against black rock.

Downstream, the gorge plummets over the escarpment to join the Gloucester River, way below. After lingering here, climb up the opposite steep hillside where the track emerges into the bright light of the eucalypt woodland on the ridge-top. A 40 min. track linking to the Gloucester Falls Walk, through a variety of forest, branches off to the left just before the carpark comes into sight and the circuit is completed.



Rufous Scrub-bird (Marianne Walsh)

GLOUCESTER FALLS TRACK

Easy 1.5 km circuit: 1 hour.



From the Gloucester Falls Picnic Area, the track crosses a footbridge into open Snow Gum woodland. The end of the loop comes in on the right, so turn left to continue out to the end of the ridge, passing the connection to the Antarctic Beech Forest Track on the left.

The Andrew Laurie Lookout perches on the edge of the escarpment between tall Brown Barrels and Messmates. On a good day the vista includes the deep gorge of the Gloucester River, from the beech treetops to the distant farmland, and forested ridges as far as The Mountaineer on the eastern boundary of the park. Bird calls rise from the valley below.

From behind the lookout, the track goes down a steep forest ridge then a rocky spur to a second viewpoint overlooking Gloucester Falls, where the river begins its 400m plunge off the plateau. After rain the twin drops are a spectacular sight.

The track continues upstream, past some attractive rocky areas beside the river. It is a tempting place to sit but great care is required on the slippery rocks, especially if the river is up. Grey Fantails may be seen catching insects above the water. Tracing the edge of a beech forest, the track soon reaches a junction. Straight ahead along the river links to the River Track. Turn right along a small creek to complete the loop and return to the carpark.

RIVER TRACK

Easy 2.5 km circuit (return via road): 1 hour.



From the carpark opposite the

Antarctic Beech Forest Track, the River Track runs west into a shallow valley. Snow Gums and Mountain Gums dominate the subalpine woodland, a vegetation type restricted to the poorer soils of the high plateau.

Snow Grass and Lomandra clothe the ground while swamp vegetation on the floor of the valley includes sedges and delicate sphagnum moss. Crimson Rosellas often flit through the trees, and spring and summer wildflowers include triggerplants, billy buttons, bluebells and rice flowers.

After crossing a walkway over the creek, the track soon meets the Gloucester River, flowing quietly over the gentle plateau before it plunges to the valley. Wombats, although rarely seen, are common along here, along with Grey Kangaroos, Swamp Wallabies and Red-necked Wallabies.

Follow the track downstream and over a low hill to rejoin the road. Turn left along the road for 800m to return to the start, or turn right to the end of the road where a link track continues downstream to the Gloucester Falls loop.

LINK TRACK (GLOUCESTER TOPS TO CAREYS PEAK)

**Moderate 19km one way:
5–6 hours (one way).**



A beautiful walk along a management trail, the Link Track connects the high subalpine plateaus of Gloucester and Barrington Tops. It follows a narrow forested ridge dividing the Kerripit and Chichester Rivers, providing relatively gentle access to Careys Peak. The track connects to a network of tracks on the Barrington Plateau. Only very strong walkers should attempt the return walk in a day and most will

camp overnight. From the gate and carpark at the end of Kerripit Road on Gloucester Tops, the track passes an information shelter then undulates over a ridge crest. There is no major climbing until the final ascent to the 1500m Barrington Plateau and Careys peak beyond. Views and water are scarce, although there are glimpses out through the trees to the north and the headwaters of a couple of small creeks are crossed.

The route meets several swamps and a mixture of forest, all impressive tall messmate, mixed beech / eucalypt and several kilometres of mature beech forest at the western end before emerging into snow gum woodland on the plateau. The varied forest provides habitat for numerous bird species and tree dwelling mammals like Greater Gliders.

Just before the beech forest ends, a creek can usually be heard close to the north of the track. Two kilometres before Careys Peak and immediately before the junction with The Corker Trail, a track on the right leads down to a sheltered campsite on Wombat Creek. This is a good base for a climb to the summit. At the Gloucester Tops end, there is a small campsite near Munro Hut, north of the track and just west of the Kerripit Road gate.

MOUNTAINEER-GLOWANG TRAIL (WANGAT ROAD TO GLOUCESTER TOPS)

**Moderate 15+ km one way:
5+ hours (one way).**

A solid day's walk through the Barrington Wilderness, the Mountaineer and Glowang Trails provide a bushwalker's approach to the delights of Gloucester Tops. The walk follows pleasant shady management trails along a steeply



undulating ridge system dividing the Karuah and Gloucester Rivers to the north from the Wangat River in the south. A variety of tall timbers are encountered in both low altitude and higher forests, including Sydney Blue Gums, Messmate, Antarctic Beech and Sassafras.

It takes about 5 hours to walk to the Gloucester River, the Gloucester Tops Road and the Gloucester Tops walking tracks, but more time is required to reach a bush camp. Along the way there are some views to the north but no water without descending off the ridge. Start at The Mountaineer Trail on the edge of the national park, off Wangat Road in Chichester State Forest. A steep climb leads to a small rainforest campsite and information shelter below the summit of The Mountaineer (1060+m), on the edge of the wilderness. The Mountaineer Trail then weaves through mixed forest along the ridge-crest, past The Pimple and over The Pinnacle to the junction of the Glowang Trail after 6 km. Turn left along the Glowang Trail for a steep descent into Gloucester Gap (760+m).

Near the gap you will find warm temperate rainforest, but the long climb out the other side soon returns to the cool temperate heights of Antarctic Beech. Drier ridges of Messmate give views over the deep Gloucester River gorge. The highest point of the day (1240+m) lies near the junction with the Mt Nelson Trail and another information shelter. Turn right and descend to the Gloucester River, passing abruptly into the low open woodland of Snow Gums on poor granitic soils. Across the river lies the end of the Gloucester Tops Road and a network of scenic walking tracks. If a camp is planned, it must be well away from all tracks.



Williams River Area





Williams River Walks

BLUE GUM LOOP TRACK

Easy 3.5 km circuit: 1.5 hours.



This loop crosses to the far side of the Williams River valley and traverses vigorous young forest with signs of past logging. It joins the lower end of the Rocky Crossing Track.

From the Williams River Picnic Area, follow the paved track down to a high steel-span bridge over the river. This part of the track and the bridge itself are accessible to wheelchairs, and the bridge gives a fine view along the tumbling stream. The track then climbs gently onto the valley slope.

It winds upstream around the hillside, dipping in and out of small gullies high above the churning river. Much of the vegetation is young wet sclerophyll forest and subtropical rainforest.

Many young and fast-growing Sydney Blue Gums reach for the light. Overgrown roads and tall stumps with notches cut in for climbing boards tell some of the story of old logging days.

On the boards, the axemen could get above the thicker and often defective base of the trees to make their task easier.

Just before the track reaches the river again, a 50m branch track on the right leads to a delightful picnic site on the cascading Fern Tree Creek.

The main track re-crosses the Williams River and climbs into the dense rainforest of the western valley to join the Rocky Crossing Track. Turn left and follow the track for 1600m, to come out on the access road to Williams River Picnic Area, which is just another 100m on. This last section of track passes some massive old Sydney Blue Gums and several sidetracks to the river. One track leads to the peaceful Crystal Pool.



Williams River (Sean Thompson)

WILLIAMS RIVER: ROCKY CROSSING TRACK

**Easy 16 km return:
5 hours.**



A delightful excursion through magnificent subtropical rainforest with emergent Sydney Blue Gums, this long, gently graded track follows the Williams River valley with two sidetracks down to features on the river.

The 16km return length includes these sidetracks and takes in the first part of the Blue Gum Loop Track. Just walk as far as you wish and then return. It is best started from the Williams River Picnic Area, but the northern (upstream) end can also be reached from Williams Top Picnic Area on the Lagoon Pinch Road.

From the Williams River Picnic Area, walk about 100m back along the access road to a walking track on the right. Several branch-tracks down to the Williams River are passed before after about 800m the track then passes through continuous subtropical rainforest with Sassafras, Red Cedar, figs, Turpentines, Illawarra Flame Trees and Giant Stinging Trees. The dense canopy blocks most of the sunlight.

About 1.6km from the start, the track reaches the first of three sidetracks which lead to the right.

This is the Blue Gum Loop, which leads down to a large bridge providing dramatic views of the river. The main track continues through dark rainforest which at first is younger and disturbed by logging and fire. Many young Sydney Blue Gums grow amongst the older trees breaking the low canopy. Look for signs of past logging as well as blackened fire scars on the rough bark of the Turpentines. As the track progresses the disturbance ends, the canopy becomes higher and there are no more young Sydney Blue Gums.

At the far end of the track the very old trees soar into the sky above the rainforest canopy to heights of 60m and more. This part of the rainforest has not been burnt in the lifetime of the big Blue Gums – probably several hundred years.

Along the way, sidetracks on the right lead to the Pool of Reflections and a large Strangler Fig. At the end, the track descends to Rocky Crossing with its beautiful mudstone terraces.

Eastern Water Dragons are often seen by the river. All sites on the river are very slippery with deep pools and rapids, so great care is required – especially with children. Either return the same way or take the steep track up to the road at Williams Top Picnic Area.

THE CORKER TRAIL (LAGOON PINCH TO CAREYS PEAK)

Strenuous 20 km return: 10 hours.



The long, steep climb up to the Barrington Tops Plateau is eased by the great variety of forests along the way and rewarded (on a clear day) with magnificent views from the summit.

From the Lagoon Pinch Picnic Area at the end of the Lagoon Pinch Road (altitude 660m), a pleasantly narrow management trail ascends the Williams Range to Careys Peak at 1544m.

This is a serious walk through the Barrington Wilderness, requiring good fitness and adequate preparation for weather changes. Walkers should carry topographic maps and compasses and be able to navigate. There is usually no water on the way, unless a diversion is made to Wombat Creek.

The Corker Trail connects to a network of other tracks on the Barrington Tops and the Link Trail to Gloucester Tops, with opportunities for overnight walks of two or three days.

The track winds through many vegetation changes as it gains height. Low-altitude tall open forests and subtropical rainforests give way to warm temperate rainforests, then cool temperate Antarctic Beech and montane eucalypt forests. Finally the Snow Gum woodlands, snow grass plains and swamps of the expansive, subalpine plateau of the Barrington Tops are gained.

Views on the ascent are mostly limited to the forests and a rich variety of birdlife, with one excellent lookout at the 1250m level as the track rounds Corker Mountain. From here the triangular summit of Careys Peak stands out high above the gulf of the Allyn River.

The grade relents for the final climb over Mount William and on to the plateau. The first junction appears 8 km from Lagoon Pinch. To the right another management trail leads one kilometre to the Wombat Creek campsite, water and the trail to Gloucester Tops. For Careys Peak take the left turn, then left again after a further kilometre (straight ahead here heads north to Black Swamp).

After another 600m a track on the left drops onto a small clearing in a saddle and the rustic Careys Hut. The hut has heritage values, but is in a dilapidated state and should not be used for shelter. The top of Careys Peak lies a short distance along a foot track.

Make sure there is enough time for a safe return to Lagoon Pinch. The descent can be even harder on the legs than the climb.

Burruga Swamp

BURRAGA SWAMP TRACK

Easy 2 km return: 1 hour.



This is a lovely walk to a very interesting feature. Thousands of years ago a huge landslip off the steep western side of Mount Lumeah created a bench and basin in the slope. The basin gradually filled with sediment and peat – an organic deposit made from decomposing vegetation – to become Burruga Swamp. Today the delicate grasses and sedges of the swamp are a sharp contrast to the ancient surrounding rainforest of Antarctic Beech. The organic material deposited over millennia is a valuable scientific resource to help understand past climates and vegetation.

The track begins from the Mount Allyn Forest Road in Chichester State Forest, and climbs gently through the beech forest, across a small saddle and down to the southern edge of the swamp. Return the same way.

When visiting Burruga Swamp please remember it is a highly fragile environment of great scientific importance. Please do not walk out onto the swamp. Stay on the track at all times and don't go beyond the viewing area.

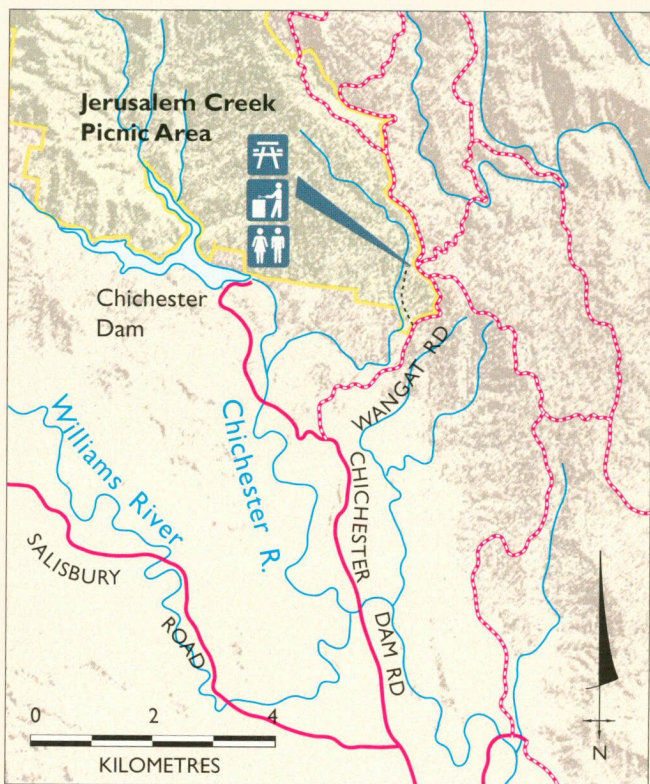


Burruga Swamp (Sean Thompson)



Barrington Tops Marara (Peter Beard)

Jerusalem Creek



Jerusalem Creek Track

Easy 2 km one way (moderate on return): 1 hour (one way).

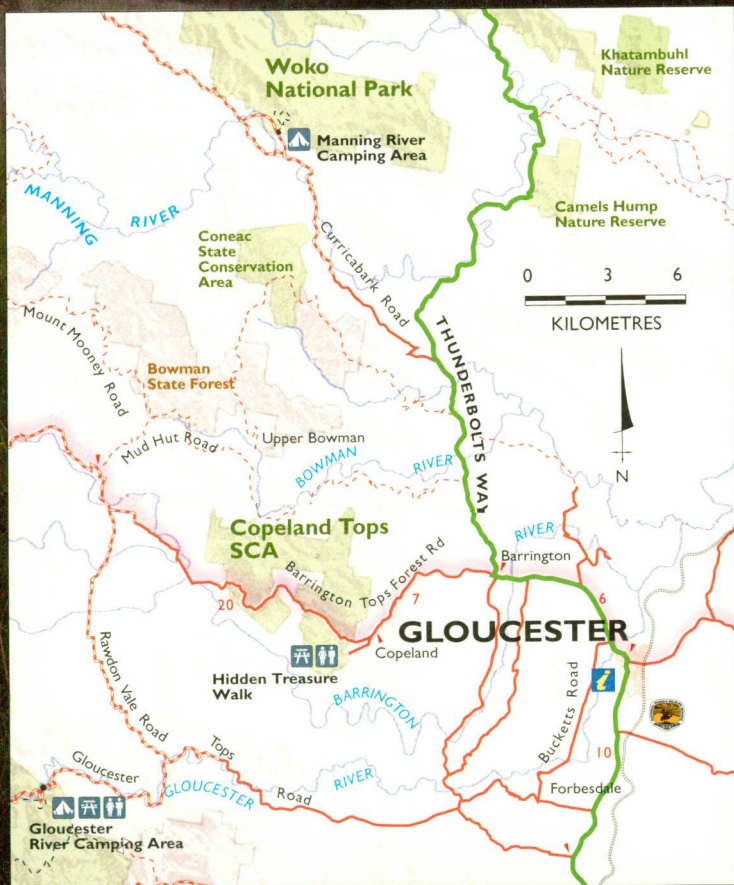


As well as the picturesque Jerusalem Creek Falls, this enjoyable downhill walk features subtropical rainforest and tall Tallowwoods, Sydney Blue Gums and Grey Gums.

There are also signs of old logging. This is a good walk to see or hear a variety of forest birds such as the Wompoo Fruit-dove, King Parrot, Fan-tailed Cuckoo and Eastern Yellow Robin.

From the Jerusalem Creek Picnic Area, just off the Wangat Road, the track descends past the falls and on down the creek. Leaving the creek and passing through a variety of forest, it climbs over a slight spur and crosses two smaller creeks before climbing out to the Wangat Road. Return the same way or walk 2.5km back along the road to the picnic area.

Nearby parks to visit



Woko National Park

Woko features steep and rugged landscapes with large areas of moist eucalypt forest and impressive rock outcrops. The tranquil Manning River is a wonderful spot to sit and enjoy the surroundings.

If you're an adventurous bushwalker you'll be rewarded with dramatic scenery and wonderful birdwatching opportunities, but remember that the terrain is steep.

Car based and caravan camping are available in the Woko Camping Area, where campers can enjoy a swim. Two walking tracks provide access to dry rainforests.

The park is located 35km north of Gloucester via Curricabark Rd of Thunderbolts Way.

Copeland Tops State Conservation Area

This is the largest easily accessible area of dry rainforest in the Gloucester district and contains a diverse variety of plants and animals including a large number of threatened species. It is ideally placed to explore as part of any trip across the Barrington Tops plateau, located just 18km west of Gloucester on the Barrington Tops Forest Road.

The reserve was once part of a thriving goldfield and there are numerous mine shafts and relics of past mining activities.

While visiting the reserve enjoy the Hidden Treasure walking trail through rainforest with abundant birdlife. Relics of the gold mining era of the Copeland area can also be seen along the trail. Other trails that use the old wagon and logging tracks also provide bushwalking opportunities.

Guided Tours: historic Mountain Maid Gold Mine.

For your safety and enjoyment, access to the historic Mountain Maid Gold Mine area is by guided tour only.

Join a NPWS ranger guided tour, and step back in time to the golden days of the historic Mountain Maid Mine, to discover a valley of hidden treasures.

For public tour times, prices and bookings contact the Gloucester Visitor Information Centre in Denison Street, Gloucester.

Telephone (02) 6558 1408. Bookings are Essential.

To arrange a group or school tour contact the NPWS Hunter Region office.

Telephone (02) 4984 8200.

Scone Local Area Map



Towarri National Park

Sandstone outcrops and scenic outlooks feature in a rugged landscape of former grazing properties harbouring rainforest, snow gums and large grass tree stands.

There are no defined paths, but steep hill and spectacular summit views offer a rewarding challenge for bushwalkers.

The Washpools picnic area has wheelchair access and is a great place to bring the family. Please note however that the Washpools camping area is not wheelchair accessible.

Access is 25km north-west of Scone via the unsealed Middlebrook Road. The Washpools camping area is accessed across Middlebrook Creek.

Burning Mountain Nature Reserve

Early explorers assumed Burning Mountain's billowing smoke and peak of grey, smouldering ash was a volcano, but it's actually a slow burning coal seam – one of very few in the world.

Signs along the walk from the rest area explain the effects of the underground fire on the landscape, the regeneration process and the significance of the area to Aboriginal people.

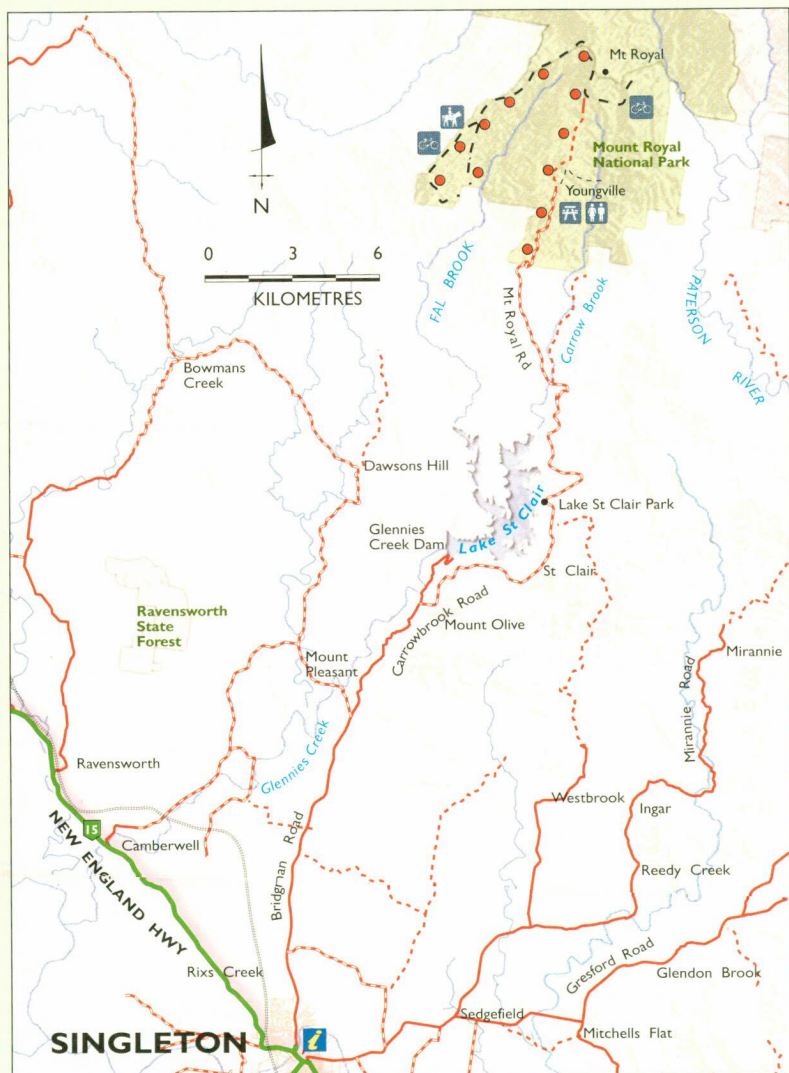
There are good views of the Hunter Valley and Wingen Maid Nature Reserve and great photo opportunities.

Nearby visitor facilities including parking, barbecues, toilets and a rest area are administered by Upper Hunter Shire Council. Access is 24km north of Scone with entry being just off the New England Highway north of Wingen.



Burning Mountain Geoff Woods

Mount Royal Location Map



- National park or reserve
- Highway / arterial road
- Sealed road
- Suburban Road / other road
- Unsealed road
- Vehicular track

- 🚲 - - - - - Cycling / walking track
- 🚶 - - - - - Walking track
- 🐎 ● ● ● ● ● Horseriding route
- 🚪 Locked gate
- 🏕️ Picnic area
- 🏠 Camping area

Mount Royal National Park

Mt Royal National Park is the most southerly of about fifty conservation reserves that make up the Gondwana Rainforest World Heritage Area. The Barrington Wilderness covers about half of the park.

The park was declared over former state forest in 1996 and includes rainforest areas that provide habitat for threatened species such as the Hastings River mouse.

Youngville camping area

is located along the Mount Royal Road, which is inaccessible in wet weather. It offers picnic tables, gas/electric barbecues, non-flush toilets. Walking tracks include the walk to Pieries Peak and the 5km return trail down to Carrow Brook. Beyond the camping area the Mt Royal Road is 4WD only. It leads to Mt Royal which provides stunning views of the local region.



Mount Royal

The Forests

The relief and variety of the park's landscapes have allowed a rich patchwork of plant communities to flourish. Except on the subalpine heights of the Barrington Plateau, rainforests and tall eucalypt forests dominate. Mature, old growth forests occupy more than 70% of the park. The rainforests are classified into three types based upon climate.

Subtropical rainforest grows at around 300 to 600 metres in the valleys. Giant Stinging Tree, Socketwood, Pepperberry, Red Cedar and Yellow Carabeen are common, many growing to impressive sizes. Bangalow Palms and Cabbage Palms may be present. Buttress roots, ferns and thick climbing vines fill the scene at ground level while high on the trees grow epiphytes such as Birdsnest Ferns, Elkhorn Ferns and orchids. The most complex and best developed stands grow on river flats such as in the pristine Chichester and Wangat valleys.

True **warm temperate rainforest** is scarce around Barrington Tops. Coachwood, which often dominates this community elsewhere, is almost absent except for a small area in Jerusalem Creek. Between about 600 and 1000 metres a rainforest containing both subtropical and warm temperate elements occurs. Sassafras, Corkwood, Crabapple and Rosewood are typical and epiphytes are less common.

Cool temperate rainforest occupies the misty heights, from about 700 metres to a limit around 1500 metres. These simple but very beautiful rainforests are dominated by a single species - Antarctic Beech.

Sassafras and Black Olive Berry may also be present, along with Brown Barrel emergents. Soft Tree Ferns crowd the understorey over a ground cover of ferns and mosses. Plant communities often mix together, and Antarctic Beech grades downhill into subtropical rainforest. Barrington Tops is the southern limit for Antarctic Beech forest, which grows as far north as southern Queensland. Similar forests of Myrtle Beech are found in southern Victoria and Tasmania.

Eucalypt forests (also called sclerophyll forests) of the Barrington Tops are just as impressive as the rainforests. At lower to mid altitudes tall Sydney Blue Gum, Messmate, Brown Barrel, White-topped Box, Tallowwood and Manna Gum tower as emergents over the rainforest canopy, along with Turpentine (not a eucalypt). In the drier parts, open forests of Narrow-leaved Peppermint, Grey Gum and New England Blackbutt occur.

The forests and woodlands of the high tops are dominated by a few trees that can tolerate the cold. Snow Gum and Black Sally are the toughest, forming low subalpine woodlands with an open canopy on the highest hills and around the edges of the Snow Grass plains.

In more sheltered sites and at lower altitudes, montane forests of Snow Gum, Mountain Gum, Manna Gum, Messmate and Brown Barrel grow taller with a more crowded canopy.

Subalpine grasslands and swamps occupy many valleys of the Barrington Tops Plateau.

THE BATTLE OF THE FORESTS

The Ents from Tolkien's 'The Lord of the Rings' are not the only forests that move. Take a good look around Barrington Tops – why is some rainforest mixed up with eucalypt emergents, while other patches have sharp boundaries with sclerophyll forest?

In an ecological war of 'scissors-paper-rock', rainforest can grow under eucalypts, but eucalypts cannot invade rainforest – there's not enough light. On the other hand eucalypts can survive on less moisture and poorer soils. Throw in fire and the rules of battle are set.

The giant Sydney Blue Gums spreading above some rainforests are relics of a bushfire that produced a rush of seedlings hundreds of years ago. As the last gums grow old and die, unable to replace themselves, pure rainforest will take over.

The eucalypts might lose, but they hold a time bomb of seed capsules high above the canopy. In extremely dry conditions, rainforests can burn – especially the faster-drying edges. Then eucalypt seedlings will shoot up thin and straight in a race for sunlight, getting the jump on slower-growing rainforest. Repeated fires can chip away at the rainforest edge or eliminate it altogether and allow open forest to triumph.

The abrupt boundaries between some mature Antarctic Beech and sclerophyll forest are probably maintained by frequent 'cool' fires that stop at the border of the damp rainforest. Fire might be the eucalypts' friend, but stealth is rainforest's best weapon. If no fires occur, and provided there is enough moisture and nutrients, rainforest will keep advancing slowly into the edge of the eucalypt forest.

The forests have been wrestling to these rules for millions of years, pushed by shifting climates and fire patterns. The dynamic mix of rainforest and sclerophyll in the forests of Barrington Tops is an important part of their World Heritage story.

Barrington forest (Ian Brown)



On The Tops

The 1500m rise in altitude brings cooler temperatures and occasional snowfalls to the Barrington Tops Plateau. Microclimate, geology and soils combine to create the largest area of subalpine woodlands and wetlands north of the Australian Alps. These environments were more widespread until 10,000 years ago when a warming climate ended the last ice age. Today, subalpine Barrington Tops is an important refuge for cold-climate species.

Not surprisingly, 'The Tops' have a number of plants in common with other Australian high mountain areas, including Snow Gums, Mountain Gums and snow grass. Several rare ground orchids are found only on the Barrington Tops Plateau and the threatened Broad-leaved Pepper Bush grows in only one other place.

The cold tops are a real 'hot spot' for rare plants. Much of the undulating plateau is made up of gentle basins with snow grass plains and swamps. Gravity causes dense, cold air to pool in the basins, making these 'frost hollows' too cold for trees to grow. The swamps soak up and filter runoff from the surrounding woodlands like giant sponges. They slowly release high quality water into the Barrington and Manning Rivers, sustaining a flow in dry periods.

Barrington Plateau (Ian Brown)

Alien Invasion

The Barrington Tops Plateau is threatened by aliens. Around 10,000 hectares have been invaded with Scotch Broom, a vigorous weed that competes with native shrubs and grasses. To make matters worse, the infestation provides shelter for feral pigs, which help spread broom seeds, as do vehicles, humans and other animals.

Trail edges are regularly sprayed and slashed to stop the spread into unaffected catchments and the Barrington Wilderness. A number of broom-specific biological control agents have also been released. Research into better methods of broom control is ongoing.



Scotch Broom (Ian Brown)

Feral pigs searching for food uproot large tracts of subalpine vegetation, including sensitive swamps. To reduce the pig population, soil erosion and the spread of weeds, humane trapping is carried out annually by NPWS. Foxes and wild dogs also pose a threat by preying on native fauna – particularly the threatened Broad-toothed Rat. The NPWS conducts regular control programs for these pests.

Animal Life

The great variety of climate, soils and vegetation of Barrington Tops National Park creates many different habitats for wildlife. From the subtropical rainforest to the subalpine heights, each environment has its own collection of typical and interesting animals. Some unique species have evolved here because of long isolation, and many other populations are a long way from their relatives.

The park is home to about 52 mammals, 278 birds, 42 reptiles and 18 frogs. Amongst many hundreds of insects and other invertebrates, a number of rare species are found only in the park, including a butterfly, three spiders and three velvet worms. Another unique invertebrate is a small isopod crustacean with the scientific name of *Crenoiacus harrisoni*. It has only been found in one place in the world - a swamp on the Barrington Tops Plateau.

The sensitive subalpine wetlands of the tops provide habitat for many other threatened plants and animals, including the Broad-toothed Rat and the Glandular Frog, which lives beside slow-flowing streams.

But on the tops visitors are more likely to see some of the larger, more common mammals like Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Wombats and Swamp Wallabies grazing the grasslands and open forests.

Many nocturnal Greater Gliders also live in the montane forests. Their bright eyes and long bushy tails can often be spotted with a torch as they browse on eucalypt leaves high in the branches.



Greater Glider (Boly Paine)

The rare Powerful Owl, one of Australia's largest birds of prey, snatches Greater Gliders and other tree-dwelling mammals from the trees in a silent swoop. Three other threatened owls find a home in the forests of Barrington Tops.

These gliders and owls, at least eight rare bats and many other mammals and birds of the area depend upon tree hollows for breeding and shelter.



Powerful Owl (CEvolving Images)

Even small hollows can take up to a hundred years to develop, so the old growth forests of the park are critical for wildlife. Young regrowth forest does not provide this type of habitat.

Threatened Koalas, Squirrel Gliders and Yellow-bellied Gliders prefer the lower altitude open forests, where Rufous Bettongs, Spotted-tailed Quolls and two types of bandicoot roam the ground. In the wetter forest lives the very rare Hastings River Mouse and Parma Wallaby. Both species were thought to be extinct in NSW until recently rediscovered.



Spotted-tailed Quoll (G. Baker / Nature Focus)

Wet forest is also the favoured habitat of the shy Long-nosed Potoroo. This small macropod weighs about one kilogram and feeds on roots, tubers, fungi, insects and their larvae.

Rainforest is preferred by two medium-sized macropods – the threatened Red-legged Pademelon, which mainly eats fallen leaves, and the grazing Red-necked Pademelon.

Platypus and Long-necked Tortoises are found in many streams of the park but are rarely seen.

Birdlife is prolific, with many species easily spotted by the casual observer.

The dawn chorus of birdcalls is a special delight for campers and early risers. Superb Lyrebirds thrive throughout the forests. The piercing calls and clever mimicry of the male birds ring through the bush, especially in winter and spring. Brush Turkeys have adapted to the presence of humans and are often seen scrounging in rainforest picnic areas – but please don't feed them.

Other common rainforest birds include the Rufous Fantail, Lewin's Honeyeater, Eastern Whipbird, Brown Pigeon and Green Catbird – whose cat-like call is the most obvious sign of its presence. The large and brightly-coloured Wompoo Fruit-dove is a threatened species of subtropical rainforest.

Other threatened birds include the Olive Whistler and the Glossy Black-cockatoo, which feeds on the fruit of sheoaks in the open forest.



Glossy Black Cockatoo (M. Willis / Nature Focus)

The edge of the beech forest on Gloucester Tops is where the rarest bird in the park might be glimpsed - the Rufous Scrub-bird. Apart from being a good mimic, in the spring breeding season male birds give out a very loud and penetrating series of four to twelve sharp notes, ending in a rapid staccato.

Common birds of the open forests include Eastern Rosellas, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes, Noisy Friar-birds, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, Fan-tailed Cuckoos, Bell Miners and Rufous Whistlers. Wedge-tailed Eagles, Flame Robins, Richard's Pipits, Gang Gang Cockatoos and Pied Currawongs frequent the forests and grasslands of the high tops.

Most reptiles are only active in the warmer months. Two impressive snakes of lower altitude forests are the Diamond Python and Common Tree Snake, which is a bright yellow-green. All snakes should be avoided as the majority - such as the Eastern Tiger Snake - are potentially dangerous.

Perhaps the most frequently seen reptile is the Eastern Water Dragon, with its preference for hunting on rocky streamsides.

The Southern Forest Dragon is more difficult to find, because it changes colour to blend in with the surrounding rainforest.

HOW FAT IS A BROAD-TOOTHED RAT?

Could you eat half your body weight - every day? The Broad-toothed Rat can. In fact it has to eat that much in order to survive. But maybe if most of your diet was made up of snow grass, you would eat a lot and never get fat too - and have big teeth.

The Broad-toothed Rat (*Mastacomys fuscus*) is a cold climate animal now confined in NSW to the Snowy Mountains and subalpine swamps of Barrington Tops. It is an example of a species that was more widespread during the last ice age when subalpine habitats covered a larger area.

The Broad-toothed Rat is a lonely species as the only surviving member of the *Mastacomys* genus and is of great conservation importance. The small and isolated Barrington Tops population is threatened by foxes and broom invading the snow grass habitat. Global warming is also a concern as the species cannot tolerate high temperatures.



Broad-toothed Rat

Some Animals and Plants

This list includes all plants and animals mentioned in this guidebook, along with some other common, unusual and interesting species.

* = species listed as rare or threatened + = introduced species

Amphibians

Glandular Frog *	<i>Litoria daviesae</i>
Stuttering Frog *	<i>Mixophyes balbus</i>

Reptiles

Common Tree Snake	<i>Dendrelaphis punctulatus</i>
Diamond Python	<i>Morelia spilota</i>
Eastern Tiger Snake	<i>Notechis scutatus</i>
Eastern Water Dragon	<i>Physignathus leseurii</i>
Lace Monitor	<i>Varanus varius</i>
Long-necked Tortoise	<i>Chelodina longicollis</i>
Rough-scaled Snake	<i>Tropidechis carinatus</i>
Southern Forest Dragon	<i>Gonocephalus spinipes</i>
Stephens' Banded Snake *	<i>Hoplocephalus stephensi</i>

Tree-dwelling Mammals

Common Brushtail Possum	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>
Common Ringtail Possum	<i>Pseudocheirus peregrinus</i>
Greater Glider	<i>Petauroides volans</i>
Koala *	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>
Squirrel Glider*	<i>Petaurus norfolcensis</i>
Yellow-bellied Glider *	<i>Petaurus australis</i>

Other Mammals

Broad-toothed Rat *	<i>Mastacomys fuscus</i>
Common Wombat	<i>Vombatus ursinus</i>
Dingo	<i>Canis lupus dingo</i>
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	<i>Macropus giganteus</i>
Echidna	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>

Feral Pig +	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
Grey-headed Flying-fox	<i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i>
Hastings River Mouse *	<i>Pseudomys oralis</i>
Little Bentwing-bat *	<i>Miniopterus australis</i>
Long-nosed Potoroo *	<i>Potorous tridactylus</i>
Northern Brown Bandicoot	<i>Isaodon macrourus</i>
Parma Wallaby *	<i>Macropus parma</i>
Platypus	<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>
Red-legged Pademelon *	<i>Thylogale stigmata</i>
Red-necked Pademelon	<i>Thylogale thetis</i>
Red-necked Wallaby	<i>Macropus rufogriseus</i>
Rufous Bettong *	<i>Aepyprymnus rufescens</i>
Spotted-tail Quoll	<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>
Swamp Wallaby	<i>Wallabia bicolor</i>
Yellow-footed Antechinus	<i>Antechinus flavipes</i>

Trees

Antarctic Beech	<i>Nothofagus moorei</i>
Bangalow Palm	<i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i>
Black Olive Berry	<i>Elaeocarpus holopetalus</i>
Black Sally	<i>Eucalyptus stellulata</i>
Blackwood	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>
Brown Barrel	<i>Eucalyptus fastigata</i>
Cabbage Palm	<i>Livistona australis</i>
Coachwood	<i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i>
Corkwood	<i>Caldcluvia paniculosa</i>
Crabapple	<i>Schizomeria ovata</i>
Forest Oak	<i>Allocasuarina tarulosa</i>
Giant Stinging Tree	<i>Dendrocnide excelsa</i>



Barrington forest (Geoff Woods)

Grey Gum	<i>Eucalyptus canaliculata</i>	Azure Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx azurea</i>
Grey Myrtle	<i>Backhousia myrtifolia</i>	Bell Miner	<i>Manorina melanophrys</i>
Illawarra Flame Tree	<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>
Lillypilly	<i>Acmena smithii</i>	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus notatus</i>
Manna Gum	<i>Eucalyptus nobilis</i>	Brown Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza pusilla</i>
Messmate	<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	Channel-billed Cuckoo	<i>Scythrops novaehollandiae</i>
Mountain Banksia	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Crimson Rosella	<i>Platyceus elegans</i>
Mountain Gum	<i>Eucalyptus dalrympleana</i>	Eastern Rosella	<i>Platyceus eximius</i>
Narrow-leaved Peppermint	<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>	Eastern Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>
Native Cherry	<i>Exocarpus cupressiformis</i>	Eastern Whipbird	<i>Psophodes olivaceus</i>
New England Blackbutt	<i>Eucalyptus campanulata</i>	Eastern Yellow Robin	<i>Eopsaltria australis</i>
Pepperberry	<i>Cryptocarya foveolata</i>	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
Red Cedar	<i>Toona ciliata</i>	Fan-tailed Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus flabelliformis</i>
Rosewood	<i>Dysoxylum fraserianum</i>	Flame Robin*	<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>
Sassafras	<i>Doryphora sassafras</i>	Forest Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus pyrroptogya</i>
Shining Gum	<i>Eucalyptus nitens</i>	Forest Raven	<i>Corvus tasmanicus</i>
Snow Gum	<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>	Gang Gang Cockatoo	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>
Socketwood	<i>Daphnandra micrantha</i>	Glossy Black-cockatoo*	<i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i>
Strangler Fig	<i>Ficus watkinsiana</i>	Golden Whistler	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>
Sydney Blue Gum	<i>Eucalyptus saligna</i>	Grey Fantail	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa</i>
Tallowood	<i>Eucalyptus torulosa</i>	Grey Goshawk	<i>Accipiter novaehollandiae</i>
Turpentine	<i>Syncarpia glomulifera</i>	Grey Teal	<i>Anas gracilis</i>
White-topped Box	<i>Eucalyptus quadrangulata</i>	King Parrot	<i>Alisterus scapularis</i>
Yellow Carabeen	<i>Sloanea woollsii</i>	Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguinae</i>

Other Plants

Barrington Tops Marara	<i>Vesselowskyia venusta</i>	Noisy Friarbird	<i>Philemon corniculatus</i>
Barrington Wattle	<i>Acacia barringtonensis</i>	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Billy Buttons	<i>Craspedia</i> spp.	Pied Currawong	<i>Strepera graculina</i>
Birdsnest Fern	<i>Asplenium australasicum</i>	Powerful Owl*	<i>Ninox strenua</i>
Bluebell	<i>Wahlenbergia</i> spp.	Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>
Broad-leaved Pepper Bush*	<i>Tasmannia purpurascens</i>	Richard's Pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>
Elkhorn Fern	<i>Platyceium bifurcatum</i>	Rufous Fantail	<i>Rhipidura rufifrons</i>
Geebung	<i>Persoonia</i> spp.	Rufous Scrub-bird*	<i>Atrichornis rufescens</i>
Grass Tree	<i>Xanthorrhoea</i> spp.	Rufous Whistler	<i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>
Grass-leaved Trigger Plant	<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	Satin Bowerbird	<i>Ptilonorhynchus violaceus</i>
Lomandra	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Southern Boobook	<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>
Native Raspberry	<i>Rubus rosifolius</i>	Spangled Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>
Orange Thorn	<i>Pittosporum pauciflorus</i>	Spectacled Monarch	<i>Manarcha trivirgatus</i>
Rough Tree Fern	<i>Cyathea australis</i>	Superb Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>
Scotch Broom +	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	Superb Lyrebird	<i>Menura novaehollandiae</i>
Slender Riceflower	<i>Pimelea linifolia</i>	Wedge-tailed Eagle	<i>Aquila audax</i>
Snow Grass	<i>Poa sieberana</i>	Welcome Swallow	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>
Soft Tree Fern	<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>	White-throated Treecreeper	<i>Cormobates leucophaea</i>

Birds

Australia Brush Turkey	<i>Alectura lathami</i>	Willie Wagtail	<i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i>
Australian Magpie	<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>	Wompoo Fruit-dove*	<i>Ptilinotus magnificus</i>
		Wonga Pigeon	<i>Leucosarcia melanoleuca</i>
		Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i>
		Yellow-tufted Honeyeater	<i>Lichenostomus melanops</i>



Local towns and services

DUNGOG VISITOR INFO. CENTRE
Cnr Dowling and Brown Streets,
Dungog
Phone: 02 4992 2212
www.visitdungog.com.au

GLOUCESTER VISITOR INFO. CENTRE
27 Denison St, Gloucester
Phone: 02 6558 1408
www.gloucester.org.au

GREAT LAKES VISITOR INFO. CENTRE
Little Street Forster
Phone: 02 6554 8799
www.greatlakes.org.au

MURRURUNDI VISITOR INFO. CENTRE
47 Mayne St, Murrurundi
Phone: 02 6546 6446
www.upperhuntertourism.com.au

MUSWELLBROOK VISITOR INFO. CENTRE
87 Hill St, Muswellbrook
Phone: 02 6541 4050
www.muswellbrook.org.au

NEWCASTLE VISITOR INFO. CENTRE
361 Hunter St, Newcastle
Phone: 1800 654 558
www.visitnewcastle.com.au

SCONE VISITOR INFO. CENTRE
Cnr Kelly and Susan Streets, Scone
Phone: 02 6545 1526
www.upperhuntertourism.com.au

SINGLETON VISITOR INFO. CENTRE
New England Highway, Singleton
Phone: 02 6571 5888
www.singletontourism.com.au

Local NPWS Offices

**NPWS Hunter
Region and Hunter
Coast Area offices**
12B Teramby Road
Melson Bay NSW 2315
ph (02) 4984 8200

**NPWS Barrington
Tops Area Office**
Church St Gloucester
NSW 2422
ph (02) 6538 5300

**NPWS Great Lakes
Area Office**
Ruins Campground
Booti Booti NP
Lakes Way Pacific
Palms NSW 2428
ph (02) 6591 0300

**NPWS Upper Hunter
Area Office**
Kelly St Scone NSW
2337
ph (02) 6540 2300

**NPWS Newcastle
Area Office**
Hunter Wetlands
Centre Australia
Shortland NSW 2307
ph (02) 4955 0038

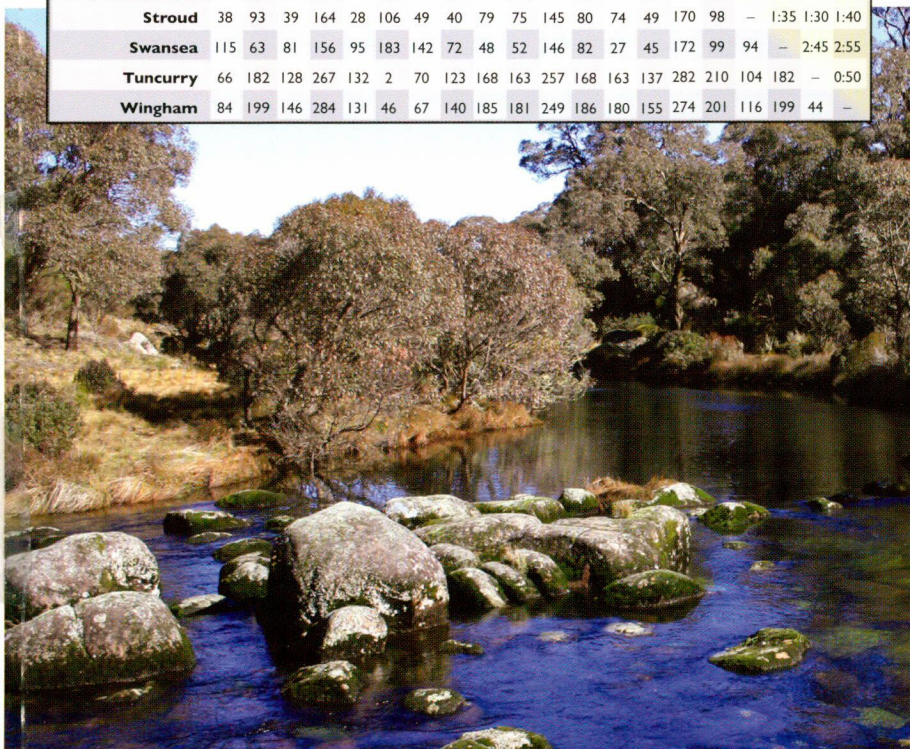
**NPWS Hunter Range
Area Office**
Bulga NSW 2330
ph (02) 6574 5555

**NPWS Manning Area
Area Office**
78 Hargreaves Dr,
Taree NSW 2430
ph (02) 6539 4100



Travel times and distances

	Bulahdelah	Cessnock	Clarence Town	Denman	Dungog	Forster	Gloucester	Karuah	Kurri Kurri	Maitland	Muswellbrook	Nelson Bay	Newcastle	Ray, Terrace	Scone	Singleton	Stroud	Swansea	Tuncurry	Wingham
Bulahdelah	–	1:50	0:50	2:50	0:55	1:00	1:15	0:40	1:25	1:20	2:40	1:30	1:20	0:50	3:00	2:05	0:30	1:45	0:55	1:10
Cessnock	115	–	1:15	1:25	1:35	2:50	2:20	1:20	0:25	0:45	1:15	1:40	1:10	1:00	1:40	0:45	1:35	1:25	2:45	2:55
Clarence Town	62	66	–	1:35	0:20	1:50	1:15	0:25	0:55	0:40	1:55	1:10	1:00	0:30	2:15	1:20	0:30	1:25	1:50	2:00
Denman	196	101	137	–	2:10	3:58	3:05	2:20	1:40	1:30	0:25	2:40	2:10	2:00	0:45	0:55	2:35	2:30	3:45	3:55
Dungog	66	82	23	138	–	1:55	0:55	0:45	1:10	0:55	1:50	1:30	1:20	0:50	2:15	1:15	0:25	1:45	1:55	1:55
Forster	68	183	130	268	133	–	1:15	1:32	2:25	2:20	3:40	2:30	2:20	1:50	4:00	3:05	1:30	2:45	0:05	0:50
Gloucester	86	142	88	201	65	72	–	1:15	1:55	1:50	2:50	2:00	1:50	1:25	3:10	2:15	0:40	2:15	1:15	1:00
Karuah	44	71	28	157	51	112	89	–	0:55	0:55	2:12	1:00	0:50	0:25	2:33	1:35	0:35	1:20	1:40	1:55
Kurri Kurri	101	14	47	110	63	169	128	57	–	0:20	1:35	1:15	0:45	0:30	1:53	0:55	1:10	1:05	2:20	2:30
Maitland	92	27	35	104	52	160	123	48	13	–	1:20	1:15	0:40	0:30	1:45	0:50	1:10	1:10	2:15	2:30
Muswellbrook	186	92	127	26	118	254	182	142	100	94	–	2:30	2:00	1:50	0:20	0:40	2:15	2:25	3:35	3:50
Nelson Bay	102	87	67	172	90	170	129	58	73	68	163	–	1:05	0:50	2:50	2:00	1:20	1:40	2:25	2:40
Newcastle	96	52	62	137	76	164	123	52	37	33	127	60	–	0:30	2:20	1:25	1:10	0:40	2:15	2:30
Raymond Terrace	71	44	28	130	51	139	98	27	30	26	120	45	25	–	2:10	1:15	0:40	0:55	1:50	2:00
Scone	211	117	152	51	143	279	207	167	125	120	25	188	152	142	–	1:00	2:40	2:45	3:55	4:10
Singleton	138	44	79	67	71	206	135	94	52	47	49	115	80	69	74	–	1:40	1:50	3:00	3:15
Stroud	38	93	39	164	28	106	49	40	79	75	145	80	74	49	170	98	–	1:35	1:30	1:40
Swansea	115	63	81	156	95	183	142	72	48	52	146	82	27	45	172	99	94	–	2:45	2:55
Tuncurry	66	182	128	267	132	2	70	123	168	163	257	168	163	137	282	210	104	182	–	0:50
Wingham	84	199	146	284	131	46	67	140	185	181	249	186	180	155	274	201	116	199	44	–



Barrington Tops



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