

## Bringing back the bush

With the introduction of sheep, cattle and horses in the early 1800s, the native vegetation on the dune declined. The later planting of exotic trees caused further damage.



DECC

The dune as seen from the ferry wharf in 1905.

In 2008, a bush regeneration project commenced to restore the plant community that would have existed in 1770. Local Aboriginal people work with DECC to maintain this country, which contains traces and memories of their past.



DECC/G. Eldershaw

Thousands of native plants have been grown so you can once again experience the diversity of this landscape. The names of some plants are a tribute to the remarkable botanical work of Joseph Banks. These include various species of banksia, and the tiny *Viola banksii* found near the fresh water stream.

## Plants at Kurnell today

Along the Burrawang Walk, look out for species that were collected by Banks and Solander. These include:

Bracken fern (*Pteridium esculentum*)  
Burrawang (*Macrozamia communis*)  
Cabbage palm (*Livistona australis*)  
Coastal banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*)  
Coastal teatree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*)  
Coastal wattle (*Acacia longifolia*)  
Coffee bush (*Breynia oblongifolia*)  
Dusky coral pea (*Kennedia rubicunda*)  
False sarsaparilla (*Hardenbergia violacea*)  
Magenta brush cherry (*Syzygium paniculatum*)  
Mat rush (*Lomandra longifolia*)  
Native wandering jew (*Commelina cyanea*)  
Old man banksia (*Banksia serrata*)  
Prickly Moses (*Acacia ulicifolia*)  
Smooth-barked apple (*Angophora costata*)  
Sweet-scented wattle (*Acacia suaveolens*)  
Wombat berry (*Eustrephus latifolius*)  
Woody pear (*Xylomelum pyriforme*)



DECC/G. Eldershaw

Old man banksia (*Banksia serrata*)

For more information, contact Kamay Botany Bay National Park, Cape Solander Drive, Kurnell.  
Phone: (02) 9668 2000

General inquiries:  
Environment Line: phone 1300 361 967, fax (02) 9995 5911  
Email: [info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@environment.nsw.gov.au)  
Website: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)  
Cover photo: DECC/G. Eldershaw  
DECC 2009/40 June 2009 ISBN 978 1 74232 203 2

# Burrawang walk

## Botany and bush tucker



Take the Burrawang Walk in Kamay Botany Bay National Park to:

- discover fascinating facts about the first scientific collections of Australian native plants
- walk in the footsteps of Aboriginal people who lived in the area for thousands of years
- relive the experience of the crew of the *Endeavour* as they explored this landscape in 1770.



Australian Government

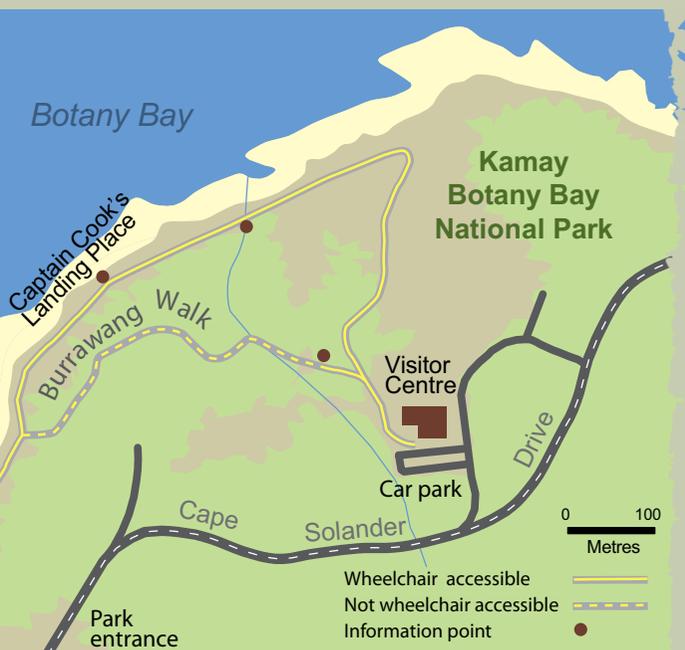


## About the walk

The Burrawang Walk enables visitors to imagine what Kamay Botany Bay National Park looked like in 1770 when the *Endeavour* arrived. The walk features interpretive signs on cultural and natural history, native plants that would have been growing here, and a soundscape that brings the Aboriginal connections to this area to life.

The 1.1-kilometre loop track meanders by a fresh water stream, through regenerating coastal forest, over a sand dune and along the shores of Botany Bay. The walk is wheelchair accessible, except for the section that climbs over the dune (see the map). It is accessed from the visitor centre car park.

The visitor centre provides more information on the walk and other sights.



## The country of saltwater people

For thousands of years, Aboriginal people used the many different plants on the Burrawang Walk for food, medicines, shelter and tool making. The stream provided fresh water.



DECC/G. Eldershaw

The seeds of *Lomandra longifolia* (mat rush) can be ground to a flour and cooked. The raw leaf bases are also edible and tasty. Aboriginal people split the leaves into strips for weaving dillies and mats. Mat rush can be seen on the walk growing on the dune.

## Journey with Banks and Solander

In 1770, the sandy dune would have been covered in low native forest, dominated by coastal banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) and pigeon berry (*Monotoca eliptica*). Botanists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander from the *Endeavour* explored this dune and were fascinated by its plants.



DECC/G. Eldershaw

On his first excursion, Cook mentions seeing palm trees with steps cut into them by Aboriginal people. These were cabbage palms, *Livistona australis*, which you can still see on the walk, growing on the banks of the fresh water stream.

Banks and Solander collected specimens of the plants they found. They then wrote about the day's events and the plants in their journals. At the same time, the botanical artist on the *Endeavour*, Sydney Parkinson, sketched the specimens.



DECC/G. Eldershaw

In his journal, Banks wrote of '... several trees which bore fruit of the Jambosa kind, much in colour and shape resembling cherries.' He was probably referring to the magenta brush cherry (*Syzygium paniculatum*), the fruits of which were eaten by Aboriginal people. You can see these large trees on the walk growing by the fresh water stream.

On 3 May 1770, Banks noted in his journal that his collection of plant specimens had 'grown so immensely large that it was necessary that some extraordinary care should be taken of them lest they should spoil in the books.' Banks and Solander collected at least 132 plant species from around Botany Bay. These were the first scientific collections of Australian flora.



DECC

A specimen of a burrawang was collected in 1770, and is one of the many now housed at the National Herbarium of NSW in Sydney.



DECC/G. Eldershaw

The red fleshy seeds of the burrawang or *Macrozamia communis* are rich in starch and were a staple food for Aboriginal people. Even though the raw seeds are poisonous, Aboriginal people made them edible by crushing the kernels and soaking them in water for several weeks. The seeds were then ground to paste, cooked and eaten. Burrawangs grow on the slope as you walk up the dune from the stream.