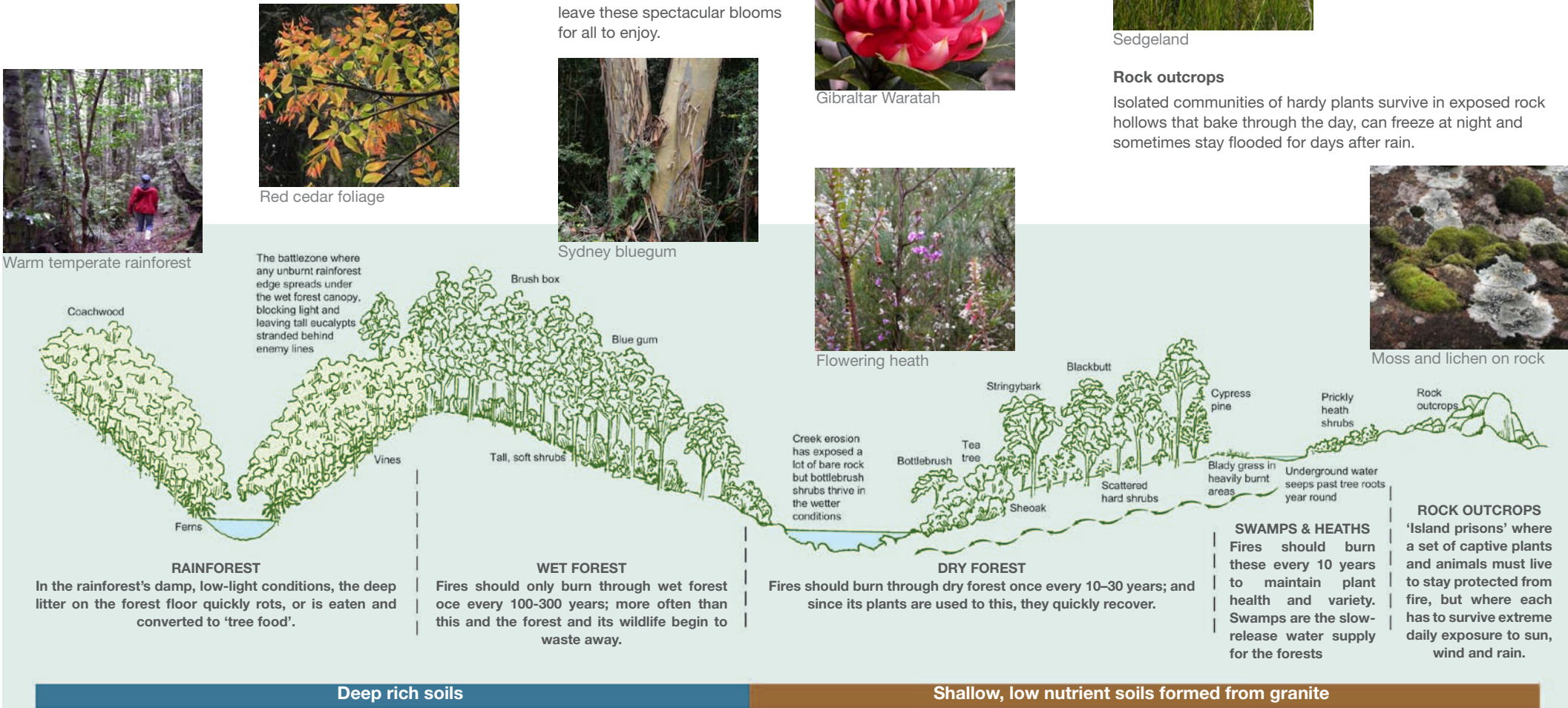


FLORA

Plant communities in these parks range from extensive rainforests and wet and dry forests to the smaller plant communities of the swamps, heaths and rock outcrops.

Rainforests

The largest areas of rainforest are found in the eastern section of Washpool National Park but can also be found in Gibraltar Range, Nymboida and Barool National Parks. Rainforest types include the dominant warm temperate rainforest, and more restricted patches of lowland subtropical, cool subtropical and dry rainforests. Interestingly, despite the high altitudes, there is no cool temperate rainforest recorded. The Willowie Scrub in Washpool National Park contains the largest forest of coachwood trees in the world. These rainforests also contain some of the best examples of red cedar left in NSW.



FAUNA

The varied plant communities supported a diverse range of wildlife in the national parks of Gibraltar Range. Over 170 bird species, 30 reptile species and more than 50 mammal species have been recorded here.

Tread softly and you may surprise Eastern water skinks sunning themselves near rocky areas, or look into Coombadiha Creek for a glimpse of the rare blue freshwater crayfish. Around Mulligans visitor areas, look for red-necked wallabies at dawn or dusk, and at night use your torch to spy the glowing eyes of greater gliders in the trees around Little Dandahra Creek.

A relatively common inhabitant of the rainforest is the superb lyrebird. A master of mimicry, it can sometimes be heard sending out a chorus of other bird calls and may even mimic sounds of human activity. Walk quietly along Lyrebird Walk between Coachwood day use area and Bellbird campground and you might be lucky enough to see one of these birds putting on a display.

Some rare and threatened species that largely rely on these parks are koala, spotted-tailed quoll (a cat-like marsupial), parma wallaby, the rabbit-sized rufous bettong, the long-nosed potoroo and the common dunnart (a mouse-sized insect eater).



The rufous scrub-bird needs the rainforest and moist undergrowth of the wet forests, but the dry forests provide the richest habitat for birds, with flower nectar supporting many species of honeyeaters.

These parks also support a large variety of amphibians and reptiles which rely on the diverse habitats to survive.

Wet and Dry Forests

Tall open wet and dry forests are dominated by eucalypts, including the magnificent Sydney blue-gum. These forests can have a well developed rainforest understorey or a more open grassy understorey. The dry eucalypt forests are more likely to have a heathy understorey.

Heaths

Restricted to islands of shallow soils in rocky areas, heathlands tend to be a continuation of the shrubby understorey of surrounding forests. They are species-rich and particularly colourful during the flowering season. The Gibraltar Waratah is a spectacular feature of the dry forests and heathlands in late spring and early summer.

Flowering from October to December, the Gibraltar Waratah (*Telopea aspera*) shows why it was given its genus name: *Telopea* means 'seen from afar'. Please leave these spectacular blooms for all to enjoy.



Gibraltar Waratah

Swamps

Small pockets of Wet Heath and Sedgeland are found throughout the Tablelands area. Granite rock beneath shallow soil traps moisture, forming each swamp with its own rich variety of plant life. These isolated 'hanging swamps' hold large amounts of water beneath the surface, slowly releasing it to feed creeks long after the last rain.

Christmas bells cover golden swamp and sedgeland with bright splashes of scarlet in December.



Sedgeland

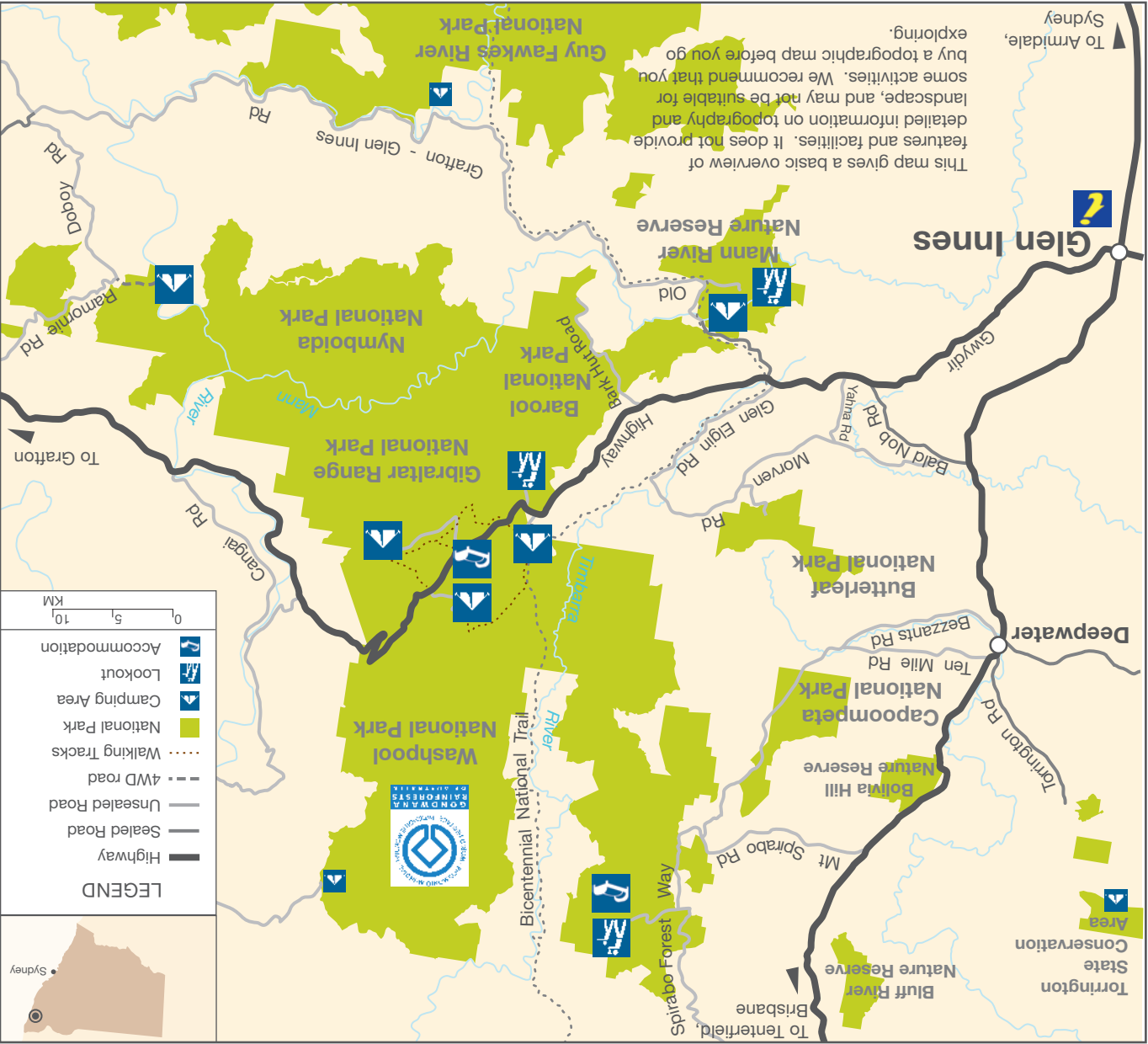
Rock outcrops

Isolated communities of hardy plants survive in exposed rock hollows that bake through the day, can freeze at night and sometimes stay flooded for days after rain.



Christmas bells

"Where else can you have so much wilderness and natural area to explore all to yourself? A truly magical place to experience."



access is via Doboy Road, off the Old Glen Innes-Grafton Rd. only. Use the Rannome Forest Road off the Gwydir Highway to reach the camping area next to the Nymboida River. Alternately before taking a caravan further than the camping area.

Nymboida National Park is a wilderness park with 4WD access only. Use the Rannome Forest Road off the Gwydir Highway to reach the camping area next to the Nymboida River. Alternately before taking a caravan further than the camping area.

Clarence River Visitor Information Centre (T: 02 6642 4677) Glen Innes Visitor Information Centre (T: 02 6730 2400) or the restrictions along the remaining section of road. Check with the section of road is suitable for caravans but there are height travel 12km down a bitumen section of the Old Glen Innes-Highway 35km east of Glen Innes (117km west of Grafton) and To visit Mann River Nature Reserve, turn off the Gwydir Highway 12km down a bitumen section of the Old Glen Innes-Highway 35km east of Glen Innes (117km west of Grafton) and is suitable for 2WD drive vehicles during dry weather only, and is suited to 4WD vehicles only.

Access to Barool National Park is also off the Gwydir Highway slipper during wet conditions.

Access to Washpool National Park is via a 4km gravel road off the Gwydir Highway. This road is steep in parts and may be prices and schedules.

7km walk along Little Dandahra Creek to Mulligans Camping and Day Use Area. Phone Countylink on T: 13 22 32 for bus travellers off at the entrance to the park. From here, it is an easy gravel road off the Gwydir Highway. A commercial bus service provides access to many of these parks.

The Gwydir Highway between Glen Innes and Grafton and

GETTING THERE

GRANITE PEAKS, RAINFOREST & WILD RIVERS

Spanning the eastern edge of the Great Dividing Range in northern New South Wales, six parks between Glen Innes and Grafton offer a range of experience. Striking granite outcrops and steep escarpments, wild rivers, woodlands, spectacular flowering heathlands and World Heritage rainforests provide a varied backdrop for a choice of activities. Sightseeing, camping, bushwalking, swimming or birdwatching are just some of the ways to enjoy these parks.

In 1986, the importance of rainforests within Washpool and Gibraltar Range National Parks was recognised by World Heritage listing, as part of a chain of fifty remnant 'rainforest islands' stretching from south east Queensland to Barrington Tops in New South Wales.

These Gondwana Rainforests of Australia form the most extensive areas of diverse types of rainforest to be found anywhere on the globe. They protect thousands of special plants and animals living in these rainforests and give a glimpse of what the planet was like millions of years ago.

Enjoy the picnic areas, camping areas and walking tracks in both these parks.



Lush subtropical rainforest can be seen in Washpool National Park

Mann River Nature Reserve and the wilderness of Nymboida National Park are located on the mighty Mann River. Picnic or camp beside the river and explore the valley.

Butterleaf National Park offers solitude, two marked walking tracks and an opportunity to see the common wombat, and Barool National Park overlooks the Mann Valley.

CARING FOR THE PARK

- Don't feed wild animals. It can make an animal sick or aggressive.
- Take only photos and leave only footprints. All plants and animals, living or dead, all rock formations and Aboriginal and historic places are protected in national parks.
- Domestic animals are not permitted in national parks. They can frighten wildlife, annoy other visitors or become lost.
- Use fireplaces and wood provided. Do not gather wood from the bush as it provides shelter and food for wildlife. Bring gas or fuel stoves if you can.
- Wash well away from streams. Soap, detergent and toothpaste can harm fish and other water life.
- No bins are provided, so please take your rubbish with you for disposal or recycling.
- Fossicking in national parks and nature reserves is not allowed.

STAYING SAFE IN PARKS

Many NSW parks are remote and rugged places, weather can change quickly and conditions in the bush or on the water may be unpredictable. When visiting a national park, be aware of the risks and take responsibility for your own safety and the safety of any children in your care. Remember to plan ahead, choose your walks and activities to match your stamina and fitness level, and tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back. Wilderness walking is an exciting challenge for those with a taste for wild and scenic mountain country. You must be an experienced bush walker as the rugged terrain and often dense vegetation can be difficult. Warm clothing is needed at any time of the year. Navigation skills are essential. An EPIRB is recommended.

For more information about staying safe in parks visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parksafety)

CONTACTS

NPWS GLEN INNES OFFICE,  
68 CHURCH STREET,  
PO BOX 281, GLEN INNES, NSW, 2370.  
T: 02 6739 0700 F: 02 6739 0750

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is on Facebook

GENERAL INQUIRIES:  
49 BRIDGE STREET, HURSTVILLE NSW 2220  
T: 1300 36 1967 OR 02 9995 5550  
F: 02 9995 5999  
W: [www.nswnationalparks.com.au](http://www.nswnationalparks.com.au)

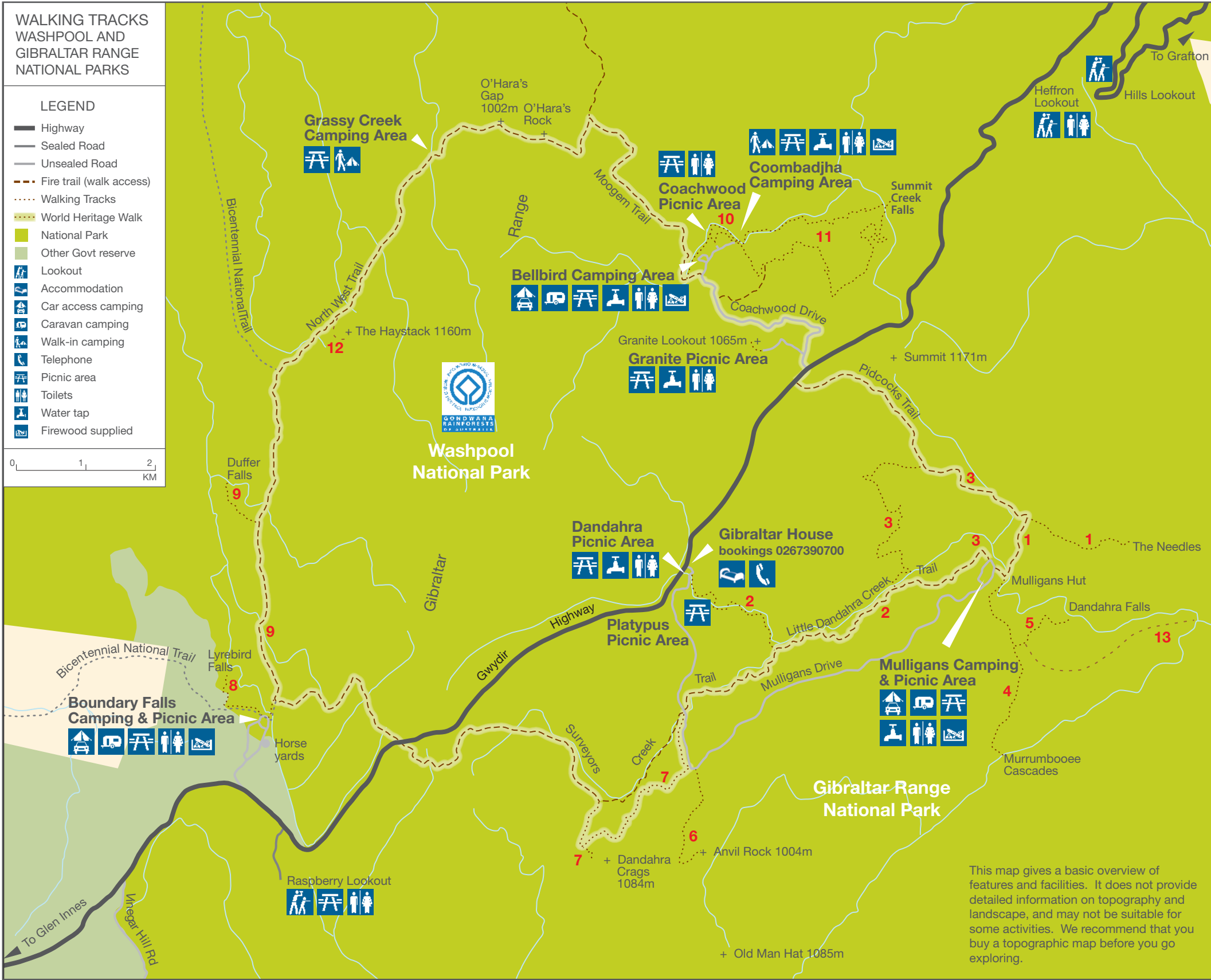
Visitor Guide

# Washpool & Gibraltar Range

## World Heritage National Parks

Coombadiha Creek  
Washpool National Park





### THE WORLD HERITAGE WALK



Blue damiera

The World Heritage Walk links Gibraltar Range and Washpool National Parks through dramatic and diverse landscapes. The backbone of the World Heritage Walk is a 45 kilometre circuit of roads, management trails and walking tracks. There are many side walks available that can be taken as part of the journey and are listed as walks 1 to 13.

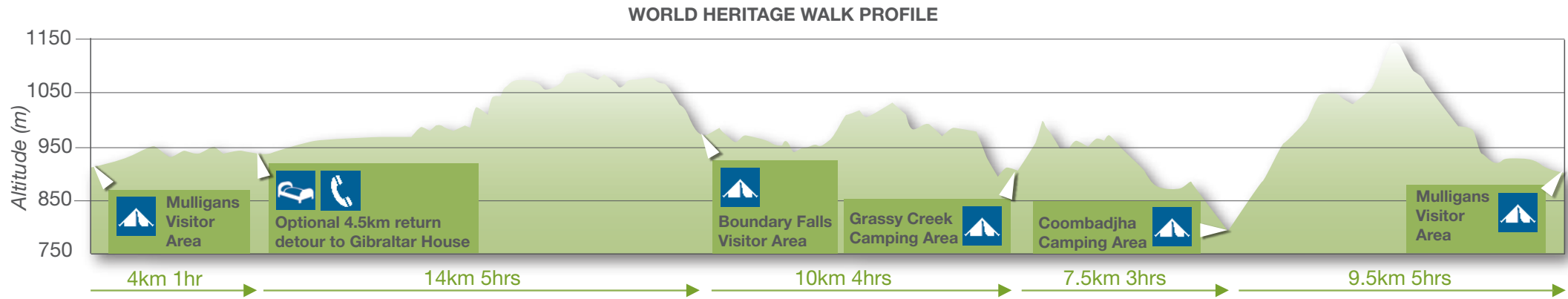
Dry eucalypt forests dominate the tops of ridges and granite outcrops, surrounded by a mosaic of sub-alpine swamps. In gullies lush warm-temperate to sub-tropical rainforests encompass the largest area of unlogged coachwood in the world. Waterfalls plummet from a network of streams and wild rivers within wilderness which offers refuge to a rich variety of wildlife including many rare and endangered species.

In spring and summer, the heathlands, swamps and open woodlands play host to a colourful display of wildflowers, highlighted by the iconic Gibraltar waratah in spring and Christmas bells in summer. Historic sites abound along the World Heritage Walk. Grassy Creek offers an insight into 1880s gold mining. Water races and the remains of a unique ore crusher still remain today, 100 metres north from the campground along the eastern side of Grassy Creek. O'Haras Rock marks the spot where in 1873, the grazier O'Hara camped with his stock whilst trying to find a faster route to move cattle over Gibraltar Range, and Wades Mill at Boundary Falls camping area gives an insight into the logging that occurred in this area.

**45km circuit, allow 3-5 days, medium grade.**



Powerful owl



### CHOOSE YOUR WALK

#### Walks in Gibraltar Range and Washpool National Parks

##### 1. The Needles Walk

Starting at Mulligans Hut this walk crosses the Little Dandahra creek near one of the weirs built by William Mulligan in the 1920s. The poor granite soils support a dry forest of New England blackbutt with a thick undergrowth of bush peas, hakeas, banksias and grasstrees. The forest changes to rainforest as the track steadily rises to a view of six granite columns rising 80 metres above the edge of a steep-sided valley dropping into the Little Dandahra Creek. This walk can be combined with the Tree Fern Forest Walk.

**6 km return, allow 2.5 hours, medium grade.**

##### 2. Little Dandahra Creek Walk

Linking Dandahra day use area on the highway and Mulligans day use area, this walk follows the Little Dandahra Creek past wildflowers, grasstrees and interesting rock formations. Around dusk and dawn, look for platypus foraging in the creek.

**13km return, allow 4 hours medium grade**



Tree Fern Forest Walk

##### 3. Tree Fern Forest Walk

This loop track starting from Mulligans day use area passes through rainforest and emerges in a wonderful 60m high wet forest of Sydney blue gums and tree ferns. The track then rises through open eucalypt forest and heathlands, passing rocky outcrops and spectacular cascades as it returns along Little Dandahra Creek to Mulligans camping area.

**8 km return, allow 3 hours, medium grade.**

##### 4. Murrumbooee Cascades Walk

This walk begins at Mulligans Hut and passes through wet eucalypt forest and then rainforest, to end on the banks of Dandahra Creek. Here, it narrows to form the Murrumbooee Cascades before the creek plunges over the edge of the escarpment. This is the site of Mulligan's second weir, built in the 1920s to measure water flow for his proposed hydro-electric scheme.

**6km return, allow 2.5 hours, easy grade.**

### ENJOYING YOUR PARKS

#### Planning your visit

Come prepared for the chance of cool and wet weather in any season. Summer days are warm (25-30°C) with cool nights, while in winter overnight temperatures can drop to well below freezing. Most of the annual rainfall of about 2000mm falls between November and March. Morning mists and fogs are common.

Most roads in these national parks are gravel and suit conventional vehicles and caravans. Please drive to suit the conditions, especially after rain, when roads can be slippery.

For Butterleaf National Park, it pays to check with the Glen Innes NPWS office after heavy rain. Users of 4WD tracks need to be fully self sufficient and watch the weather, as tracks can quickly become impassable after rain.

#### Camping areas

Gibraltar Range National Park:

**Mulligans** offers tent camping sites to suit multi vehicle groups and individuals and a limited number of medium sized (up to 6 metres) caravan sites. Facilities include cold showers, flushing toilets, picnic tables and a cooking galley with gas barbecues. Firewood is provided.

**Boundary Falls** offers a large open camping area which can accommodate large groups and caravans over 6 metres. It has picnic tables and fireplaces. Firewood is provided.

**Grassy Creek** is a very basic bush camping area on the World Heritage Walk and has no facilities.

Washpool National Park:

**Bellbird** is situated in the rainforest and has camping sites for individuals, small groups and small (up to 4 metres) caravans. Facilities include toilets, cooking galley with gas barbecues, picnic tables and fireplaces. Firewood is provided.

**Coombadjha** is situated in a grass clearing next to Coombadjha Creek. It is a walk-in camping area and has access to a toilet.

**Mann River Nature Reserve** campground is a large open area situated next to the Mann River. Facilities include a toilet and fireplaces. Firewood is provided. Bring your own drinking water.

**Butterleaf National Park** campground is an open grassy area with no facilities.

Bookings are not available for any of the camping areas. Contact the Glen Innes NPWS Office during peak times for information on site availability.

##### 5. Dandahra Falls Walk

Starting at Mulligans Hut, first follow Murrumbooee Cascades Walk through dry open forest and rainforest before scrambling down to a natural viewing area giving spectacular views of Dandahra Falls as they drop over the edge of the escarpment. Recommended for experienced walkers only.

**5km return, allow 3.5 hours, difficult grade.**



Anvil Rock Walk

##### 6. Anvil Rock Walk

Commencing off Mulligans Drive, walk beside hanging swamps, grass trees, waratahs and up around granite boulders to the base of Anvil Rock. Anvil Rock itself sits atop the mound and cannot be climbed, but rock formations like Old Mans Hat are part of the spectacular view.

**4km return, allow 1.5 hours, medium grade.**

##### 7. Dandahra Crags Walk

Beautiful summer wildflower displays guide walkers past Surveyors Creek swamp to the base of this granite outcrop. Confident climbers can get onto Dandahra Crags for great views towards Raspberry Lookout and the Mann River valley. Complete the loop walk along the western side of the swamp.

**6km circuit/return, allow 2.5 hours, medium grade.**

##### 8. Lyrebird Falls Walk

Starting and finishing at Boundary Creek Falls Picnic Area, this return walk meanders along tall forest trails and ends at Lyrebird Falls viewing area. Enjoy breathtaking views of Boundary Creek as it makes it way downstream to the Timbarra River.

**2.2km return, allow 1.5 hours, medium grade.**

##### 9. Duffer Falls Walk

This walk starts at the site of Wades Sawmill at the Boundary Falls camping area and takes you to where Duffer Creek cascades over the cliff to join Boundary Creek as it makes its way along the Demon Fault line.

**7km return, allow 3 hours, medium grade.**

##### 10. Coombadjha Walk

Commence at Coachwood picnic area. Coachwood trees dominate this paved, wheelchair accessible walking track to a small swimming hole in Coombadjha Creek. Learn about features of the rainforest along the way. Alternative return via Coombadjha Creek circuit.

**800m return, allow 1 hour, easy grade.**

##### 11. Washpool Walk

This iconic walk begins deep in the rainforest at the Coombadjha camping area. See giant red cedars and strangler figs as you climb through subtropical rainforest, before traversing wet and dry sclerophyll forest with views across the rainforest gully. Cross Cedar Creek as you re-enter rainforest and follow the gentle return ascent along Coombadjha Creek.

**8.5km circuit, allow 3.5 hours, medium grade.**

##### 12. The Haystack Route

Follow the World Heritage Walk from Boundary Falls visitor area. Although there is no designated path to the summit of this impressive rock formation it can be approached from the south by following the contour to its base. A 30 minute scramble past native holly, rock orchids and trigger plants will reward you with a view of Waratah Trig to the east, Old Mans Hat to the south-east and the Demon fault to the north-west.

**14km return, allow 5 hours, difficult grade.**

##### 13. Junction Spur Route

Diverge from the Dandahra Falls walk and follow the spur between Little Dandahra and Dandahra Creek to their junction. Navigation skills required. Recommended for experienced walkers only.

**8 km return, allow 5 hours, difficult grade.**

#### Walks in Butterleaf National Park (not shown on map)

##### Butterleaf Walk

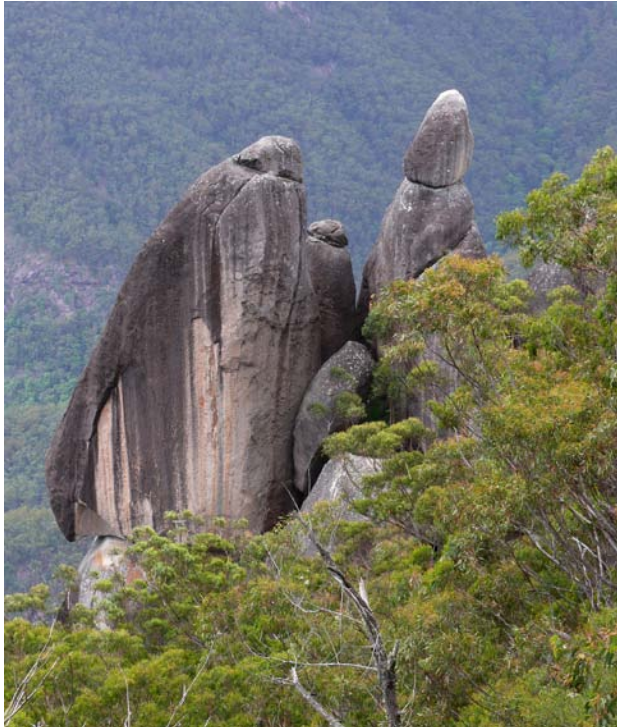
Starting at the car park this circuit follows rarely-used vehicle trails through a variety of superb forests. Keep an eye out for wombat tracks and square droppings along the way.

**12.5km circuit allow 5 hours medium grade.**

##### Mount Scott Walk

Starting at the car park this walk explores the drier, rockier western part of Butterleaf NP. You'll walk past low heath and dry forests of stringybark and blackbutt trees and end with a rocky scramble to nice viewing points on Mount Scott.

**8km return, allow 3 hours, medium grade.**



The Needles, Gibraltar Range NP

#### Accommodation

Gibraltar House is a comfortable base from which to explore Washpool and Gibraltar Range National Parks. It sleeps seven. Contact the Glen Innes NPWS Office on 02 6739 0700 for bookings.

Four Bulls Hut offers a remote accommodation experience in the north west part of Washpool National Park. It sleeps six. Contact the Tenterfield NPWS office on 02 6736 4298 for bookings.

#### Cycling

Cycling through national parks can be an easy, quick and exhilarating way to explore. However, bicycle access is limited to park roads, vehicle-width management trails and the Bicentennial Trail.

Please consider walkers and the environment whilst cycling and tread softly!

#### Swimming

There are cool water swimming holes along Little Dandahra Creek and Surveyors Creek near Mulligans camping and day use area and in Coombadjha Creek near the camping and day use areas. The Mann and Nymboida Rivers have a mix of water depths and are warmer than the streams of the tablelands parks.

**Children and poor swimmers must be supervised at all times as these natural waterholes can have strong currents, submerged hazards, slippery surfaces and murky water.**



Raspberry Lookout, Gibraltar Range NP