Evidence of the fascinating history of the Pilliga can be found where just two mills were taking timber from the Pilliga. Cypress pine sawmills in the area also fell, so that by 2010 there were still in use, grave sites, old sawmill sites, historic fences, sleeper dumps.

**Cultural heritage**

The local Gamilaroi (also written as Gamilaraay or Gomeroi) Aboriginal people are proud of their cultural heritage. This heritage includes a connection to the Pilliga landscape and the native plants and animals within it. Stone tools, grinding grooves, modified trees and rock art provide a strong link with traditional times. The first Europeans to see the Pilliga were John Oxley’s exploring party in 1818. Settlers soon followed, moving west in search of grazing land for sheep and cattle.

Farming faced many problems and timber-cutting gradually came to the fore and grew into a major local industry. By 1908 the introduction of concrete and steel sleepers. The number of Sleeper cutting eventually ceased by the year 2000 with the introduction of concrete and steel sleepers.

**Look after the Pilliga Forest**

- Leave your pets at home if visiting National Parks and Wildlife Service reserves.
- All plants, animals, rock formations, Aboriginal sites and historic relics are protected in all National Parks and Wildlife Service reserves.
- Firearms and other hunting equipment are prohibited in all National Parks and Wildlife Service reserves.
- Take your rubbish out with you when you leave or use bins if provided.
- Water is scarce in the Pilliga Forest so please do not use soap or detergents in or near water bodies.
- Access to Pilliga Nature Reserve is restricted to Sandstone Caves and the No 1 Break Rd.

**About the Pilliga**

The Pilliga Sandstone is the foundation of everything that has happened in the Pilliga forest. Vast horizontal layers of sediment were laid down in a series of lakes during the geological past. The sediments were then compressed and weathered to form the Pilliga Sandstone Formation. The Pilliga Sandstone is underlain by Permian shale and sandstone that is part of the Walgett Group.

**Look after yourself**

- Obtain a copy of the detailed Pilliga Forest Map before you leave the main roads.
- Carry plenty of water and food and stay with your vehicle in the event of a breakdown. Notify someone of your plans.
- Roads can become impassable after rain so it is best to check road conditions before setting out.
- Watch out for kangaroos, emus and other animals, particularly at dusk and dawn.
- Reduce your speed for the conditions.
- Beware of sand, loose gravel, potholes, creek crossings, washouts and dust.
- Be prepared for off track walking by carrying a map, navigational aid, water and food supplies and let someone know of your planned walk.
- Mobile phone reception is unreliable. In an emergency dial 000 or 112 on a mobile phone with limited service.

**For further Information**

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre. (02) 6843 4011
Baradine Area Office. ph (02) 6843 4000
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

The Parks are part of the Office of Environment and Heritage.

DECCW 2010/1026 Cover photo: Ian Brown / OEH
The Pilliga forest offers many unsealed scenic forest drives and road side rest areas. The Pilliga has well known bird routes which are included in a brochure available at local visitor centres. Bird enthusiasts will enjoy bird watching on these routes ranging from easy to medium grade walks. Most walks reveal fauna, flora and cultural heritage – the Pilliga like you’ve never seen it before. A Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre features interactive displays and technology that will make your ‘walk in the forest’ an event to remember. This architecturally designed environmentally sustainable centre will captivate visitors of all ages. Featuring the latest in modern technological services, Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre is an excellent point of departure and departure for those who wish to visit the Pilliga Nature Reserve or to explore the vast Pilliga forest surroundings rich in Aboriginal history.

Aboriginal Discovery Ranger guided tours of the Sandstone caves are offered by Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre. (Directions to access the Sandstone caves are required as they are off tracks.) The best way to experience the Sandstone caves is on an Aboriginal Discovery Ranger guided tour which can be arranged by contacting the Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre (minimum numbers and fees apply).

The 1.7km medium grade walk takes you through a picturesque part of the forest to the impressive sandstone hills. The numerous caves along the walk range in sizes and colour with some containing Aboriginal rock engravings. Note: Public access to Pilliga Nature Reserve is restricted to Sandstone Caves and No. 1 Break Road.

The Salt Caves visitor area and Lookout Tower are in the central part of the forest and has a picnic and camping area, which include picnic tables with shelter, free gas barbeque and toilet facilities. The cave itself is much smaller than the Sandstone caves.

The Pilliga is well known for its Bird Routes – a series of mapped bird routes to observe the wildlife including some of the 230 species of birds found in the area. Picnic facilities are available at Sculptures in the Scrub and at Salt Caves. Sculptures in the Scrub: Dandry Gorge – bird routes to observe the wildlife including some of the 230 species of birds found in the area. Picnic facilities are available at Sculptures in the Scrub and at Salt Caves. Sculptures in the Scrub: Dandry Gorge – bird routes to observe the wildlife including some of the 230 species of birds found in the area. Picnic facilities are available at Sculptures in the Scrub and at Salt Caves.

Aboriginal Area

Calga Ck

Newell Highway

Teridgerie Ck

Willala

NARRABRI

Borah Ck

Kerringle Ck

Stony Creek Mill

Calgi Ck

Coxes Crossing

Sculptures in the Scrub

Salt Caves Dam

Coomore Ck

Salt Caves: Pilliga Nature Reserve

Conservation

State Forest

Pilliga East State Conservation Area

TERIDGERI

Sixteen Foot Rd

Salt Caves and Pilliga Forest Tower:

Gulargambone Baradine Rd

Coonamble

Aboriginal Area

Rocky Rd

Schwagers Bore Rd

Kamilaroi Hwy

Timmallallie National Park

Top Crossing Rd

Bungee Rd

W

KHEMBRI

Squirrels Rd

Bens Rd

Etoo Ck

Teridgerie Ck

Yaminbah Ck

M

Burm

Cumbil Rd

Wee Waa

Pilliga East

H

Pilliga West

Pilliga

Aloes

COONABARABRAN

Coonarba

Garrawilla Ck

Gunnedah

Gympie Rd

Gulargambone

Tabletop Rd

Bugaldie Rd

Pilliga National Park

Ten Mile Rd

Wee Waa

Cygnet Rd

Baradine Ck

Wee Waa

Kamilaroi Hwy

NEWELL HIGHWAY

Oxley Highway

NPWS offices, before travelling these routes.

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