Border Ranges National Park

FEATURES
Border Ranges National Park, a World Heritage listed rainforest park on the rim of a vast and ancient volcano, adjoins Lamington National Park in Queensland. Border Ranges National Park offers spectacular views, pristine rainforests, waterfalls, sparkling creeks, steep escarpments and rugged ridges. More than three-quarters of the park is managed as wilderness.

GETTING THERE
The nearest main centres are Murwillumbah and Kyogle. Border Ranges National Park is 38 kilometres west of Murwillumbah off the Murwillumbah-Kyogle Road or 28 kilometres north of Kyogle via Wiangaree on the Summerland Way. Access includes some gravel roads.

A CHANGING VIEW OF THE LAND
These national parks and reserves belong to country which has held long-standing associations and spiritual connections for Githabul Aboriginal people for thousands of years, continuing to the present. In November 2007 the Federal Court of Australia recognised the Githabul people’s native title rights and interests over 1120 sq km in 9 national parks and 13 state forests in northern NSW, including these reserves.

The earliest Europeans were the cedar-getters who arrived around 1842. On a sandstone wall adjacent to the Palm Forest Walk at Sheepstation Creek are engravings by cedar-getters dating from the late 1800’s. The area became Border Ranges National Park in 1983 following the efforts of a number of individuals and organisations including the Border Ranges Preservation Society and the Colong Committee. It was subsequently listed as a World Heritage area in 1986.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO
The park section of the Tweed Range Scenic Drive is a 42 km all weather gravel road crossing the eastern plateau of the park. Much of its way follows the caldera edge of the eroded Mount Warning volcano, providing incomparable views.

The drive can be completed in 4-5 hours, allowing for a leisurely pace with stops to enjoy views, shrills in the rainforest and picnic breaks. Due to the steep roads, caravans and buses must be left at Sheepstation Creek Rest Area and cannot enter the Park via the eastern or Murwillumbah Road entrance.

Sheepstation Creek Camping Area is a popular camping spot suitable for families or larger groups. From here a walking track network explores the nearby rainforest and creeks.

Forest Tops Camping Area is another smaller camping area set in a grassy forest clearing.

Camping fees apply at Sheepstation Creek and Forest Tops camping areas. This is a self-registration system and sites cannot be pre-booked. Campers are advised to pack a gas or fuel stove as moist conditions often make the firewood damp and difficult to light.

Brindle Creek Picnic Area provides picnic facilities in the rainforest besides the beautiful Brindle Creek. There are no BBQs here.

Antarctic Beech Picnic Area has a northern outlook over Grady’s Creek and the NSW/Qld border to the rainforest clad ridges of Larrimington Plateau. This is a beautiful spot on a sunny day.

The Pinnacle Lookout is reached by a short walk. The view from this lofty peak is breathtaking. Help to protect rare plants by staying on the track and not proceeding beyond the lookout platform.

Blackbutts Picnic Area provides another impressive outlook over the caldera and views of Mount Warning.

Bar Mountain Picnic Area is situated high on the caldera rim in the misty realm of ancient Antarctic Beech forest.

PARK FEES
Visitors to Border Ranges National Park need to pay a fee for day-use, and an extra fee if using the camping areas. Cash or cheque at self-registration pay stations. These fees are used locally to help protect each park and maintain its facilities.

Regular visitors to parks where day-use fees apply can save time and money by purchasing an annual pass. Call the National Parks Contact Centre on (02) 9253 0880 within Sydney or 1300 727 575 or visit a NSW National Parks visitor centre.

CARING FOR THE PARK
• Leave your pets and firearms at home, as they are not permitted.
• Enjoy the wildlife but do not disturb plants, animals, bushland, Aboriginal sites or historic places. All are protected.
• Be careful with fire. Use only fireplaces provided. Observe any total fire bans.
• Firewood is not provided. Bring your own firewood or better still use gas stoves.
• Firewood collection is not permitted.
• Drive carefully and keep to public roads. All vehicles must be registered and drivers licensed.
• Keep the park clean and safe for wildlife. Please take your rubbish home.
• Observe all signs, as they are there for your safety and to help you enjoy your visit.
• Keep to walking tracks, as they are designed to have minimal impact.
• Be considerate of other park users – keep your noise to a minimum.
• Please do not feed the wildlife.
• Drinking water is not provided.

NATIONAL COMMUNITIES
The park includes a variety of rainforest types - cool temperate, warm temperate, dry and sub-tropical - and wet and dry sclerophyll forests. Buttressed booyong forests, Bangalow Palms, Red Cedar trees, Brushbox, Antarctic Beech (some as old as 2000 years) and giant Hoop Pines are just some of the diverse vegetation within the park.

Red Cedar can be found along the creeks and sheltered gullies throughout the park. In the spring the new leaves glow golden-red in the sun - this made them an easy target for the cedar-getters of the last century.

Cool temperate rainforest is confined to small patches at higher elevations where mists and soaking rain are frequent. This type of forest is close to its northern limit here. Antarctic Beech are direct descendents of genetic stock going back 80 million years, when Australia was part of the ancient, rainforest-clad super-continent, Gondwana.

The animal population of the Border Ranges is extremely diverse, thanks to the great range of habitats. Spot-tailed Quolls hunt amongst sclerophyll forests and rainforest. Koalas feed on the eucalypts, Brush Turkeys build enormous mound nests of leaves on the rainforest floor, and at the cool summits the rare Rufous Scrub bird can be heard calling from the dense undergrowth. Over 170 bird species have been identified, many of which are rare and threatened.

MORE INFORMATION
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Kyogle Area
136 Summerland Way
PO Box 174
Kyogle NSW 2474
Tel: 6632 0000
Fax: 6632 1534
Email: kyogle.area@environment.nsw.gov.au

GENERAL INQUIRIES:
T: 13000PARKS (1300 072 757)
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

Copyright OEH
Brindle Creek, Border Ranges National Park
Over 170 bird species have been identified, many of which are rare and unique to the region. The forest floor, and at the cool summits, you may encounter some of the park's many mammals, including wallabies, pademelons, and koalas. The enormous mound nests of leaves on the forest floor are a testament to the skill of the possums and gliders that call the park home.

Australia was part of the ancient, global supercontinent Gondwana, going back 80 million years, when Antarctica was part of the ancient, southern continent of Gondwana. The vegetation within the park is a blend of ancient and modern species, with many forests growing back after the devastation of the cedar-getters. The park's coastal forests are dominated by Eucalyptus species, while the inland areas are home to a mix of deciduous and evergreen species, including Mountain Ash, Eucalyptus, and Red Cedar.

The earliest Europeans were the cedar-getters who arrived around 1842. On a mission to cut down as many of the trees as possible, they cut down the Antarctic Beech forest. By 1930, the forest was cut down by a third. The park was established in 1930, and since then, it has played an active role in management of the National Park. The Pinnacle Lookout, one of the most popular picnic areas, offers an impressive outlook over the caldera and the surrounding rainforests. The drive can be completed in 4-5 hours, with many stops for breaks. Due to the steep roads, caravans and buses are not recommended. The drive incorporates part of the Helmholtsia Loop and follows the line of Brindle Creek, linking the Picnic Area with the Sheepstation Creek Picnic Area. The walk is 4.25 km long, with many waterfalls, sparkling creeks, steep sections, and spectacular views.

The walk finishes at a lookout platform with spectacular views of Mount Warning caldera. The highlight of this short walk is a giant Red Cedar, measuring 48m in height and 133cm in diameter. It's probably about 1000 years old. Cedar trees often grow close to creek lines. This made them easy pickings for the early cedar-getters, who used flooded creeks and rivers to float the logs down to waiting ships and sawmills.

1. Helmholtsia Loop (1.2 kilometres, 1 hour, easy). This loop walk takes its name from the rare stream lily that is found only in the rainforests of north-east NSW and south-east Queensland. These large strap-leaved plants are usually found along the banks of creeks and gullies. Lush rainforest, abundant epiphytes, Hoop Pines and stands of grained Antarctic Beech are features of this loop walk.

2. Red Cedar Loop (0.75 kilometres, 30 min, easy). The highlight of this short walk is a giant Red Cedar. Measuring 48m in height and 133cm in diameter. It's probably about 1000 years old. Cedar trees often grow close to creek lines. This made them easy pickings for the early cedar-getters, who used flooded creeks and rivers to float the logs down to waiting ships and sawmills.

3. The Pinnacle Walk (0.2 kilometres, 10 min return, easy). This short walk is one of the highlights of the park. No other walk in the region offers such a dramatic encounter with the Mount Warning caldera. The first part of the walk is through subtropical rainforest. Closer to the escarpment edge, you burst out of the rainforest into a stand of New England Blackbutt. The track finishes at a lookout platform with spectacular views of Mount Warning and the Tweed valley 1000m below.

4. Brindle Creek Walk (5 kilometres, 3 hours, medium difficulty). This walk incorporates part of the Helmholtsia Loop and follows the line of Brindle Creek, linking Brindle Creek Picnic Area with the Sheepstation Creek Picnic Area. The walk is 4.25 km long, with many waterfalls, sparkling creeks, steep sections, and spectacular views.

5. Booyong Walk (10.5 kilometres, 5 hours, medium difficulty). Named after the tall and majestic booyong trees that dominate these forests, this track provides an enjoyable introduction to the rainforests of the park. The track links Sheepstation Creek Camping Area with Forest Tops Camping Area. It's best to start this walk at Forest Tops and avoid a long uphill climb. The walk incorporates the Palm Forest Walk and provides access to the Rosewood Loop.

6. Rosewood Loop (6 kilometres from Sheepstation Creek, 3 hours, medium difficulty). About one-third of the way along the Booyong Walk, you'll see signs for the Rosewood Loop. If you start this loop from the Sheepstation Creek end, you will travel down to a creek. You can take a swim here but be warned that even in summer, these waters are cold. The Rosewood Loop is known for its superb rainforest, old-growth Flooded Gum and mature specimens of Rosewood and White Beech. Rainforest fruit-doves,bowerbirds and many smaller rainforest birds are common along these tracks.

7. Palm Forest Walk (2 kilometres, 1 hour, easy to medium difficulty). Walk through rainforest and eucalypt forest near Sheepstation Creek Camping Area to Brushbox Falls. This track follows the line of an old bullock trail and logging road. Close to the creek you enter the subtropical rainforest above the falls. Near here you pass a sandstone rockface into which the early cedar-getters carved their names.

10. Border Loop Walk (1.2 kilometres, 30 min, easy). This short loop walk provides a wonderful opportunity to relax after a long drive. It starts at the picnic area and initially passes through pleasant grassy wet eucalypt forest dominated by Brushbox, Sydney Blue Gums and Tallowwood, before entering a very interesting stand of subtropical rainforest.