



Meet the locals at
Warrumbungles National Park.



Photography: LEFT: H. Lund / Courtesy Tourism NSW, RIGHT: M. Van Ewijk / DECOW

Heart of Country

It seems hard to believe that our Heart of Country region contains such an amazing array of national parks, preserved for us and for the future ... sublime natural wonders found nowhere else on earth.

Such delights as Oxley Wild Rivers, Mount Kaputar, the Warrumbungles, Washpool and Abercrombie Karst allow you to create your own experience ... to walk gently through these rocky, tree clad environments, content in the knowledge that they'll be there forever.

You're welcome to stay a while in Heart of Country, enjoying warm hospitality, country heritage, and, of course, its natural wonders.

Full moon at East Kunderang,
Oxley Wild Rivers National Park





Sculptures in the scrub in their spectacular location

HIGHLIGHTS

SCULPTURES IN THE SCRUB

This unique new visitor attraction features four sculptures within Timmallallie National Park adjacent to the Dandry Gorge Aboriginal Area. Renowned sculptors Brett Garling, Badger Bates, Ken Hutchinson and Col Henry tell the story of Aboriginal history, contemporary Aboriginal culture and connection with the landscape of the Pilliga. It is amazing to see how they have interpreted their stories, and to admire these sculptures set against the spectacular natural backdrop that the national park location provides.

A short walk by the scenic Dandry Gorge will take you to these remarkable works, and the signage that reveals the stories they tell. You can stay for a picnic or barbecue with facilities nearby.

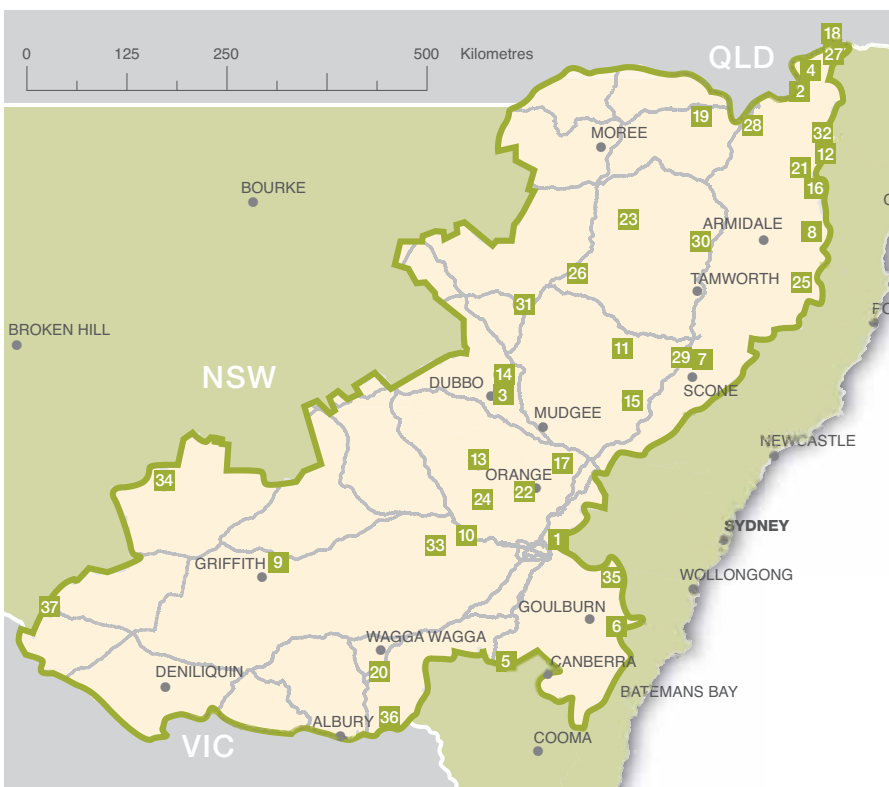
The Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre provides information on the Sculptures in the Scrub. The centre also features interactive displays and exhibitions, helping you uncover the secrets of the Pilliga Forest.

Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre:
6843 4011

THE BREADKNIFE AND BEYOND TO THE GRAND HIGH TOPS

This is a world class walk in a National Heritage Area listed for its geology and scenic beauty. The Breadknife and Grand High Tops Circuit is a 4 to 5 hour walk, but even a shorter walk along the track will reward you with spectacular views. The circuit will take you right past the famous Breadknife, named for the thin and jagged knife like rock that forms it. Keep going just that bit further and you will make it to the Grand High Tops which offers some of the best views of the Warrumbungle National Park. You will look down on the Breadknife and some of the other amazing geological features of the former Warrumbungle volcano. Works have been completed over the last few years to upgrade sections of this walk including staircases up some of the steeper areas along the walk to make this experience even safer and more enjoyable.

Warrumbungle National Park Visitor Centre: 6825 4364



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*A place of awesome night skies;
shining, twinkling stars ... take a moment
to appreciate the beauty of it all*

1 ABERCROMBIE KARST CONSERVATION RESERVE



Camping fee level – special fees

Highlights The Abercrombie Caves lie in a quiet, picturesque valley, 4 hours from Sydney. Here you'll find the Archway - the largest natural archway in the Southern Hemisphere, and a number of other grand and richly decorated caves. A kiosk at the caves sells takeaway food and souvenirs.

Activities Cave tours, camping, hiking, swimming and fossicking. There is an abundance of wildlife. Open everyday 9 am to 5 pm.

Access A four-hour drive from Sydney. Follow the M4 motorway west through the Blue Mountains, Katoomba, Lithgow and on to Bathurst. The reserve is approximately one hour from Bathurst on the Trunkey Creek-Goulburn Road.

Abercrombie Caves: 6368 8603

2 BALD ROCK NATIONAL PARK 8,883 HA



Camping fee level 3

Highlights The water-streaked dome of Bald Rock is the largest granite rock in Australia - 750 m long, 500 m wide and 200 m high.

Activities There are canyons and stone arches on the three-hour return walk to the summit, which offers panoramic views - on a clear day you can see well into Queensland. Other walks (4 to 14 km return) take in the surrounding granite country. The track to the foot of Bald Rock is wheelchair-accessible, with assistance. The camping area suits car-based camping and medium-sized caravans, and has toilets and creek water.

Access 29 km north of Tenterfield off the sealed Mt Lindesay (Woodenbong) road onto the sealed entrance road. Vehicle entry fee is \$7 per day.

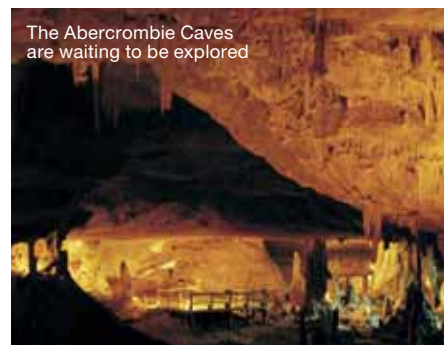
Tenterfield office: 6736 4298

3 BENI STATE CONSERVATION AREA 1,841 HA



5s This forested area is a good representation of the original vegetation around Dubbo and provides protection for a diverse range of plant and animal communities. Visitors can go picnicking, walking and cycling in the park.

Dubbo office: 6841 7199



The Abercrombie Caves are waiting to be explored



Spectacular Landscapes in
Bald Rock National Park

4 BOONOO BOONOO

NATIONAL PARK 4,377 HA



Camping fee level 3

Highlights From a lookout platform you can watch the river plunge 210 m at Boonoo Boonoo Falls. In spring, the park's granite woodlands are ablaze with wildflowers.

Activities Cypress-pine camping area, by Boonoo Boonoo River, suits car based camping, including medium-sized caravans. Contact the office to book the park cabin. The falls are an easy 300 m walk from Boonoo Boonoo Falls picnic area, and swimming in the river is popular in summer.

Access 24 km north-east of Tenterfield off the Mt Lindesay (Woodenbong) Road on partly unsealed roads. Vehicle entry fee is \$7 per day.

Tenterfield office: 6736 4298

5 BRINDABELLA

NATIONAL PARK 18,472 HA



Camping fee level 1

Highlights Stringybark, scribbly gum, box and peppermint forest, and subalpine snow gum and mountain gum forests protect threatened species, such as the powerful owl and corroboree frog, in the most northern of the Australian Alps national parks.

Activities Car-based camping is available at sites along the Goodradigbee River.

Facilities are provided at Flea Creek. Responsible 4WD and motorcycle users can access the system of trails.

Access 30 km west of Canberra off Brindabella Road (4WD only).

Queanbeyan office: 6229 7000

6 BUNGONIA

NATIONAL PARK AND STATE CONSERVATION AREA 4,055 HA



Camping fee level 3

Highlights A network of walking tracks and lookouts offers spectacular views to the Shoalhaven River and the Bungonia Slot Canyon, and the park is one of Australia's prime wild caving spots (experience and equipment essential).

Activities There are opportunities for various types of adventure recreation, such as bushwalking, canyoning, abseiling and caving. (BASE jumping prohibited). The park has a well equipped car based camping area (bookings required), including a camp kitchen, and gas BBQs are provided at several of the park's visitor sites.



Ebor Falls, one of the spectacular waterfalls in this region, are located in Guy Fawkes National Park

Access 190 km southwest of Sydney, 140km northeast of Canberra and 35 km east of Goulburn via Bungonia township along Lookdown Road (10 km). Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

Info line: 4844 4341

Bungonia office: 4844 4277

7 BURNING MOUNTAIN

NATURE RESERVE 15 HA



Giving the appearance of a volcano, billowing smoke and ash actually results from a rare, slow burning coal seam.

Scone office: 6540 2300

Nelson Bay office: 4984 8200

8 CATHEDRAL ROCK

NATIONAL PARK 10,897 HA



Camping Fee Level 2

Giant granite tors and sculptured boulders make striking subjects for photography along the walking tracks.

Dorrigo Rainforest Centre: 6657 2309

9 COCOPARRA

NATIONAL PARK 8,358 HA



Camping fee level 1

Wattles, orchids and blue-tinged cypress pines contrast against rich red rocks in one of the Riverina's rare forest remnants. After heavy winter rains the creeks flow, waterfalls leap into life and the land is bright with wildflowers.

Griffith office: 6966 8100

HIGHLIGHTS

GIBRALTAR-WASHPOL WORLD HERITAGE WALK

This walk is an 80 km network of walking tracks, linking the Gibraltar Range and Washtopol national parks. This is rugged, mountainous country, high above the Clarence River Valley on the edge of the Northern Tablelands.

These two national parks protect a rich variety of wildlife, including many rare and endangered species. Dry eucalypt forests, set amidst a collection of ridges and granite tors, surround a mosaic of swamps. Lush rainforests include the largest area of coachwood trees in the world. Within these ancient pockets of wilderness, waterfalls plummet from a lacework of streams and wild rivers. In spring and summer the heathlands, swamps and open woodlands erupt in a colourful display of wildflowers.

Despite the difficult terrain, the walk is not too strenuous. Travelling along roads, fire trails and walking tracks, most walkers allow 5 days to do the 40 km main loop, the optional side walks add another 40 km. Most walkers start and end the walk in Gibraltar Range National Park at Mulligans Camping Area.

BUNGOONA WALK

The Bungoona Walk begins near the picnic area and leads to the eastern side of Bald Rock, where a marked track across the Bald Rock saddle leads to the 1277m-high summit. The walk has signs along the way that describe its geological, botanical and natural features.

HEART OF COUNTRY WATERFALLS

Some of the state's largest and most spectacular waterfalls are in the Heart of Country. The highest falls in Australia are the Wollomombi falls in the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. The single fall drops from the plateau above down to the Wollomombi Gorge, and it's a spectacular sight, particularly after rain. The smaller Chandler Falls can be seen from the same vantage point, tumbling into the Chandler River. Also in Oxley Wild Rivers is the Apsley Falls, which are actually two dramatic drops into the Apsley Gorge. Once you've seen the falls, there are some lovely walking tracks to explore the rest of this highly scenic area. And if you head out to explore Dangars Gorge, you can enjoy the spectacular 120 m Dangars Falls and a variety of dry eucalypt forests and grassy woodlands.

Ebor Falls are in Guy Fawkes National Park, the two-tiered falls result from the Guy Fawkes River plunging off the tablelands. Enjoy a picnic or barbecue as you take in this spectacular sight.

These and other waterfalls can be explored while touring the Waterfall Way.

For more information visit
www.waterfallway.info



The blissful colours of Brindabella National Park



Cycling in Coolah Tops National Park

10 CONIMBLA NATIONAL PARK 7,590 HA



Camping fee level 1

Yambira Mountain and its surrounding forested ranges rise nearly 500 m above the plain, forming a 'bush island' amid the Central West farmlands. Features rock ledges, waterfalls and wildflowers.

Forbes office: 6851 4429

11 COOLAH TOPS NATIONAL PARK 13,265 HA



Camping fee level 1

Highlights Waterfalls plunge from the plateau heights in this spectacular park. Giant grass trees and tall, open forests with stands of huge snow gums shelter abundant wildlife, including gliders, wallabies, eagles and rare owls.

Activities The higher altitude offers cool walks through the year and amazing views northward towards the Liverpool Plains. There are plenty of opportunities for picnicking, as well as car-based, caravan (very limited) and backpack camping at the western end of the park.

Historic Brackens Cottage is available for accommodation - bookings essential.

Access 30 km east of Coolah, along Coolah Creek Road (unsealed sections). 4WD is necessary on some roads in the park, but camping areas at The Barracks and The Pines are 2WD accessible.

Mudgee office: 6372 7199

12 GIBRALTAR RANGE NATIONAL PARK 25,407 HA



Camping fee levels 1, 2, 3

Highlights Deep valleys and giant granite boulders protect rainforest of World Heritage importance. Scenic creeks and cascades, swamps, heaths and woodlands can be explored on more than 80 km of walking tracks.

Activities Short walks lead to famous rock formations such as The Needles and Anvil Rock, or you can take the spectacular five-day World Heritage Walk. Waratahs and Christmas bells bloom October to December, and drive-to lookouts give dramatic wilderness views. Mulligans and Boundary Creek camping areas have visitor facilities and suit car-based camping (and will take medium-sized caravans) or you can backpack camp throughout the park.

Access 79 km east of Glen Innes, 104 km west of Grafton off the Gwydir Highway. The 9 km park entry road from the highway to Mulligans is unsealed but suitable for all weather. Vehicle entry fee \$7 per day.

Glen Innes office: 6739 0700

13 GOOBANG

NATIONAL PARK 42,080 HA



Camping fee level 1

Highlights There are two parts to any trip to Goobang National Park. One is exploring the park itself; the other is the journey to and from Goobang.

The wooded hillsides of reserves such as this one are a major feature of the Central West region surrounding Orange, Parkes and Forbes. Together with travelling stock routes, they provide a landscape rich in scenic touring opportunities for motorists and cyclists. This is one of a series of conservation reserves in the Central West located across the Lachlan Fold Belt, with a total area of 42,080 hectares - one of the largest areas of natural vegetation in the region.

As Goobang adjoins agricultural holdings, managed for wool and crop production, it has a significant role in conserving and protecting representative samples of central western flora and fauna such as glossy black cockatoos and pockets of white box, yellow box, Blakely's red gum grassy woodland.

There are two camping areas, excellent bases to access walking tracks and trails to explore this diverse park or discover the scenic views of the surrounding agricultural regions from the Caloma or Burrabadine lookouts.

Activities Picnicking, walking and backpack camping. Caloma Trig lookout offers fantastic views of the surrounding countryside. There are camping and picnic areas at Wanda Wandong and Greenbah Creek camping areas.

Access Wanda Wandong campground - follow the road signs located north of Tomingley on the Newell Highway, onto Gundong Road. This road is almost fully paved to the national park entrance, and is suitable for 2WD vehicles towing caravans. Greenbah Creek Camping Area - follow the road signs located 8 km south of Peak Hill on the Newell Highway on to the unpaved Peak Hill-Baldry road.

Forbes office: 6851 4429

14 GOONOO

NATIONAL PARK AND STATE CONSERVATION AREA 62,778 HA

5s

Highlights This extensive forest north-east of Dubbo protects over 35 threatened ecological communities, plants and animals, including koalas, eastern pygmy-possums, barking owls, turquoise parrots and many other threatened woodland bird species.

The forest is a major stronghold for the spectacular glossy black-cockatoo and contains the eastern-most population of the endangered malleefowl in Australia.

Ancient red gums line the sandy creek beds and ironbark trees tower over the surrounding native pine thickets, box gum flats and she-oak stands, which provide food for the rare glossy black cockatoos.

Activities Ride your mountain bike or walk along the old forestry trails that crisscross through the park. Enjoy a relaxing picnic by one of the many dams or natural waterholes and sit quietly at dusk to watch the elusive glossy black cockatoos as they come in for their evening drink. Go bird watching in spring and admire the colourful array of wildflowers that cover the forest floor.

Access Goonoo National Park and State Conservation Area along either side of the Mendooran Road, approximately 25 km north of Dubbo. All roads are unsealed, suitable for 4WD vehicles only. Check conditions before you travel as many roads become impassable after heavy rain.

Dubbo office: 6841 7100

15 GOULBURN RIVER

NATIONAL PARK 70,649 HA



Camping fee level 1

Highlights The Goulburn River snakes its way from west to east between dramatic sandstone cliffs pocked with caves. Emus, redneck wallabies, goannas, platypuses and a rich selection of birdlife thrive among eucalypt woodlands.

Activities Areas of broad, sandy riverbank, often lined with river oaks, provide easy walking access to rugged scenery. Picnic sites and car-based camping are available along the Goulburn River at Spring Gully (2WD) and Big River (4WD recommended).

Access 45 km north-east of Mudgee, 22 km south-west of Merriwa. Access is mainly via unsealed dry-weather roads through Merriwa, Mudgee or Sandy Hollow. Camping area access is via Wollar on Mogo Road (unsealed, dry weather only).

Mudgee office: 6372 7199

16 GUY FAWKES RIVER

NATIONAL PARK 93,085 HA



Camping fee level 2

Highlights Secluded, rugged wilderness and scenic river systems support large plant and animal populations in this park. Lookouts and waterfalls are accessible to picnickers and campers, and experienced walkers can delve into remote bush.

Activities The park offers long, hard hikes and backpack camping along the river. There are good views from lookouts on Misty Creek Road and Chaelundi Road, and you can have a picnic beside Ebor Falls, where the Guy Fawkes River plunges off the tablelands. There's car based camping and access to easy walking tracks at Chaelundi rest area (with accessible campsite and toilets), as well as car based camping at historic Dalmorton near the Boyd River - ideal for camper trailers and small caravans.

Access 60 km north-west of Dorrigo off the Armidale-Grafton road (includes unsealed roads). Take Sheep Station Creek Road (unsealed) at Dundurrabin or Marengo Road (mostly unsealed) from Hernani, on the Armidale-Grafton road. Access to Dalmorton from the Old Grafton-Glen Innes road (2WD unsealed).

Dorrigo Rainforest Centre: 6657 2309



Guy Fawkes River National Park features dramatic waterfalls

Photography: G. Cole / DECCW



Historic Building at Hill End

17 HILL END HISTORIC SITE 134 HA



Camping fee levels 2, 3

Highlights Hill End is a living village featuring intact goldrush streetscapes and buildings dating back to the 1860s. Preserved much as it was in its heyday, it's the perfect place to relive the early goldmining days of 19th century NSW. Hill End's landscape also played a significant role in Australian art, inspiring artists such as Russell Drysdale, John Olsen, Donald Friend and Brett Whiteley.

Activities Take a self-guided tour of the town starting at the visitor centre and museum. Bald Hill Tourist Mine is a popular attraction and tours of historic Craigmoor House are available on the Australia Day and Easter long weekends. Car based and caravan camping are available at Glendora or in the village itself (with 14 powered sites for caravans - fees \$10/\$5 powered; \$7/\$4 unpowered); camping areas have accessible toilets and hot showers with handrails.

Access 84 km north of Bathurst via Sofala (25 km unsealed), 72 km via Hargraves (3 km unsealed), 77 km from Bathurst via Eglinton and Turondale, fully sealed.

Hill End Visitor Centre: 6337 8206

18 KOREELAH NATIONAL PARK 5,270 HA



Camping fee level 2

Highlights Pockets of rainforest within the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area hug steep slopes below Acacia Plateau and Wilsons Peak. Keep an eye out for the regent bowerbird or the threatened brush-tailed rock-wallaby.

Activities There's a pleasant car based camping spot at the small grassy area beside Koreelah Creek (unsealed road but suitable for 2WD in dry weather).

Access 30 km west of Woodenbong on White Swamp Road (unsealed) off Summerland Way at Old Koreelah.

Kyogle office: 6632 0000

19 KWIAMBAL NATIONAL PARK 1,301 HA



Camping fee level 2

Highlights The Macintyre River rushes through sculpted granite gorges and plunge pools at Macintyre Falls before meeting the Severn River. The park protects regionally important cypress pine, box and ironbark woodlands.

Activities Camp or fish by the river or go for a bushwalk. Car-based and caravan camping are available by the Severn River at Lemon Tree Flat, where there are toilets, fireplaces and shelters. Call the office to book a park holiday house.

Access 90 km north of Inverell. Go to Ashford village, then 18 km west on the Wallangra Road, then turn north for 18 km on Limestone Road (unsealed). In wet weather check road conditions in Ashford or phone the Tenterfield office or local police.

Tenterfield office: 6736 4298

20 LIVINGSTONE NATIONAL PARK AND STATE CONSERVATION AREA 2,459 HA



Highlights The park is a relatively undisturbed area of habitat, within an agricultural landscape, and home to threatened species like the squirrel glider and Yass daisy. There are distinctive vegetation communities in the park, including cypress pine on Pine Ridge Trail and scribbly gum, a red ironbark overstorey and a grass tree understorey in Grass Tree Trail.

Activities The network of management trails provide opportunities for 4WD and trail bikes, mountain bikes and horse riders explore this unique park. All vehicles must be registered and off trail/road driving is not permitted. No visitor facilities currently exist in the park.

Access 30 km south of Wagga Wagga and 10 km east of Mangoplah. From the Wagga/Mangoplah road turn into O'Briens Creek Road, then into Wrigley's Road. 4WD access only when dry, there is no 2WD access.

Tumut office: 6947 7025

The spirit of our great land lives in the bush - this truly is the Heart of Country.

21 MANN RIVER

NATURE RESERVE 7,129 HA



Camping fee level 1

Popular for camping and gentle activity, the reserve extends into a rugged and largely untouched landscape, part of the Mann River Wilderness, which offers ideal solitude.

Glen Innes office: 6739 0700

22 MOUNT CANOBOLAS

STATE CONSERVATION AREA 1,673 HA



Camping fee level 1

Mt Canobolas is the highest point between the Blue Mountains and Perth, supporting diverse vegetation and intriguing rock formations. Explore its seven walking tracks.

Bathurst office: 6332 7640

23 MOUNT KAPUTAR

NATIONAL PARK 51,384 HA



Camping fee level 2

Highlights Seventeen million years of erosion have sculpted the now-extinct Nandewar Volcano, forming an island of wilderness rising 1200 m above the surrounding plains. Rocky outcrops offer breathtaking views while a diverse range of vegetation from semi-arid woodland to wet sclerophyll forest and subalpine communities cling to the mountain slopes. The region is a haven for threatened bats, birds, and a unique large pink slug, which often appears after rain.

Activities Walking tracks range from short easy strolls to more difficult day walks or overnight treks. Picnic at Dawsons Spring in the subalpine area, take an easy walk along the Nature Trail through tall gums and snow grass, or walk to the summit of Mt Kaputar. Car based camping is available at Dawsons Spring or in the stringybark forest at Bark Hut. Camping areas have free barbecues, hot showers, toilets and fireplaces (bring your own firewood). Three cabins are available at Dawsons Spring (bookings required).

Sawn Rocks, Australia's best example of the geological formation known as organ-piping,

is in the northern section of the park (not accessible from the main part of the park). It's an easy walk and has free gas barbecues, picnic tables and toilets. Waa Gorge offers a more difficult half-day walk.

Access The main part of the park is 50 km east of Narrabri on Mt Kaputar Road (head south-east out of Narrabri on Maitland Street). The road has unsealed sections and caravans are not permitted within the park as the road is steep and narrow. Sawn Rocks is 30 minutes from Narrabri on the Bingara Road (sealed road), and Waa Gorge is 50 minutes from Narrabri along the Terry Hie Hie Road (unsealed sections). Access to Waa Gorge is through several gates on private property and may be closed after rainfall.

Narrabri office: 6792 7300

24 NANGAR

NATIONAL PARK 9,196 HA



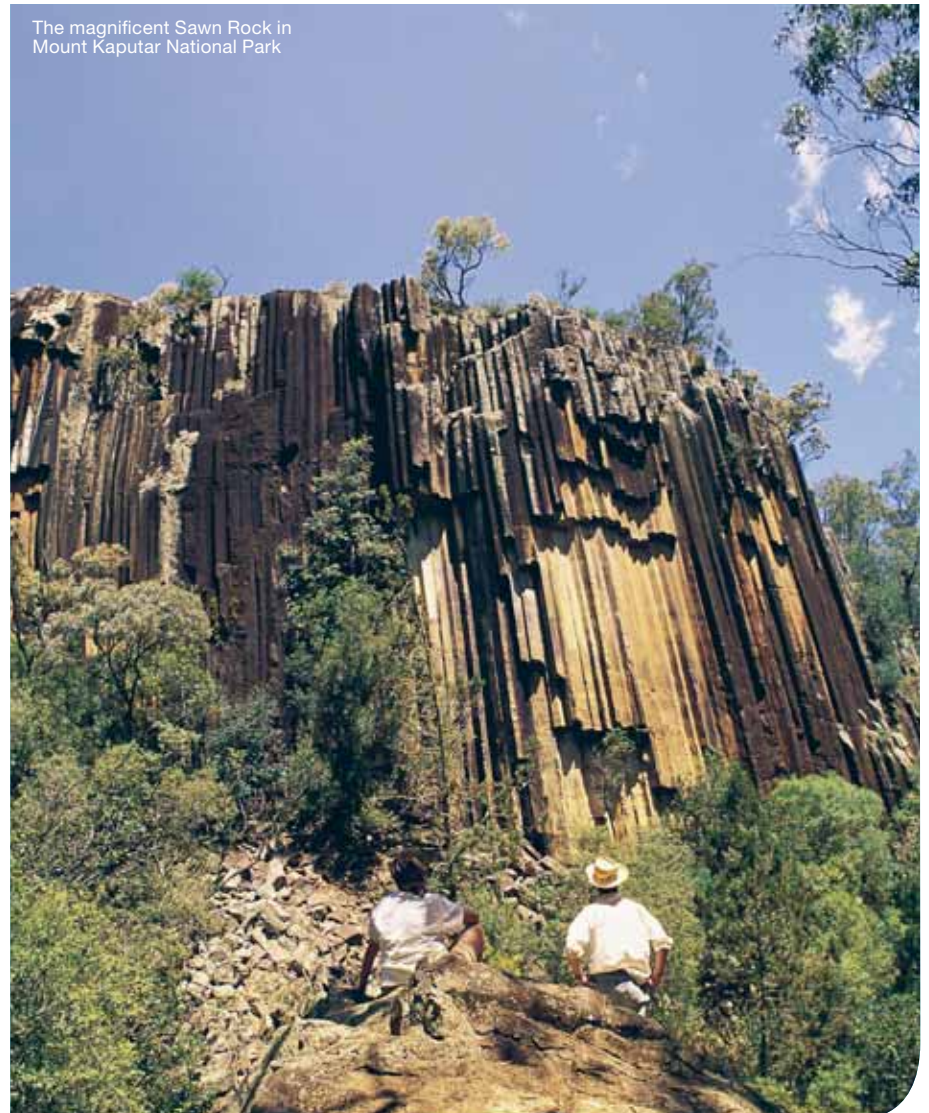
Camping fee level 1

The horseshoe-shaped red silt-stone cliff-lines of the Nangar Murga range are a landmark of the Central West's rolling plains. The rocky slopes running down to Terrara Creek and rich forests form an important wildlife refuge.

Forbes office: 6851 4429



Relaxing in Mann River National Park



The magnificent Sawn Rock in Mount Kaputar National Park

Photography: LEFT: P. Matthews / DECCW, RIGHT: N. Sullivan / Courtesy Tourism NSW



25 OXLEY WILD RIVERS

NATIONAL PARK 145,000 HA



Camping fee levels 1, 2, 3

Highlights A World Heritage park with dramatic gorges and waterfalls, extensive wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, dry rainforest and many rare plants and animals. Wollomombi is the highest waterfall in NSW, and the Bicentennial National Trail passes through the park.

Activities The park is large, with 10 separate visitor areas. Gara Gorge is for day visitors only. Wollomombi Gorge, Long Point, Dangars Gorge, Budds Mare, Apsley Falls and Tia Falls are suitable for 2WD car-based camping. Riverside and Youdales Hut suit camping and day visits but can only be reached in a 4WD vehicle, with no trailers allowed (bookings required, phone 6777 2755 or 6777 4700). East Kunderang Homestead has accommodation but no camping (bookings required, phone 6738 9100). Walks of varying grades and distances are available from each visitor area. There are excellent facilities for people with a disability, including paths to spectacular lookouts at Apsley, Dangars and Wollomombi falls.

Access The park begins about 20 km east of Armidale and Walcha, so there are two main access roads: the Waterfall Way and Oxley Highway. Other access roads are good but unsealed, with 4WD required in a few places. Check a detailed map for other access points and seek further information before visiting.

Armidale office: 6738 9100

Walcha office: 6777 4700

26 PILLIGA

NATURE RESERVE, NATIONAL PARK, STATE CONSERVATION AREA, ABORIGINAL AREA 236,873 HA



Highlights About 500,000 ha, the Pilliga Forest is the largest remaining native forest in Australia west of the Great Divide. Nearly half the Pilliga Forest is managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to protect this unique area including the habitat of declining woodland bird species and a large koala population. See Highlights of the Region for information on the spectacular new Sculptures in the Scrub attraction.

Activities Follow the bird route through the Pilliga Forest to observe some of the 240 bird species recorded, including barking

owls, turquoise parrots and other threatened species.

Enjoy the many forest drives. Picnic facilities are available at the Salt Caves. The Sandstone Caves are a special place for the Gamilaraay people and a good place to experience Aboriginal culture. Directions to access the Sandstone Caves are required as the area is not sign posted (at the request of Aboriginal Elders). For directions, or to find out about the best way to experience the Sandstone Caves call in to the Discovery centre at Baradine on an Aboriginal Discovery guided tour.

Access Located between Narrabri and Coonabarabran on the Newell Highway, the Pilliga Forest has a complex system of tracks and roads. It is recommended that advice is obtained before visiting the area. Many roads in the area are unsealed and poorly marked. The Discovery Centre is open between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm weekends.

Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre, 50-58 Wellington Street Baradine: 6843 4011

27 TOOLOOM

NATIONAL PARK 4,380 HA



The Tooloom Scrub rainforest is World Heritage Area and includes important areas of subtropical rainforest. There are 10 species of kangaroos and wallabies including the threatened long-nosed potoroo.

Kyogle office: 6632 0000

28 TORRINGTON

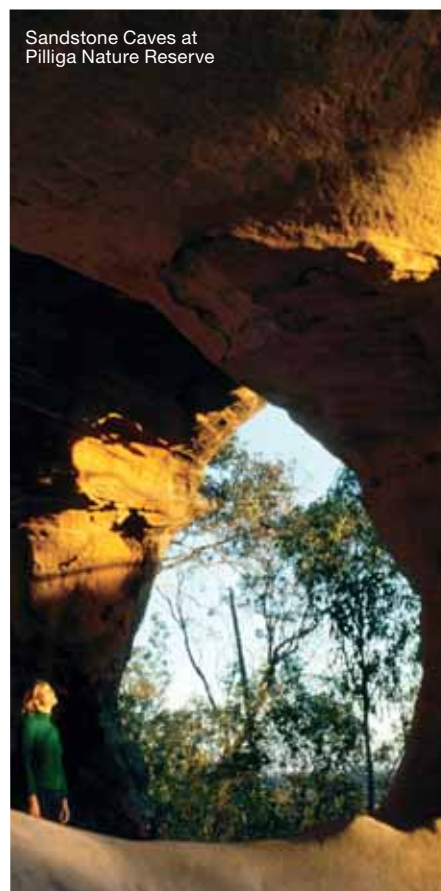
STATE CONSERVATION AREA 30,052 HA



Camping fee level 2

A geologically rich part of the tablelands with beautiful scenery, several historic sites, and an amazing variety of woodland plants and animals. Fossickers seek topaz, emerald, sapphire and quartz crystal here. From Nomads picnic area, a walk to Thunderbolts Lookout offers fine 360° views. A popular walk takes you to a curious rock formation called the Mystery Face. Ugly Corner Walk highlights the area's creekside scenery.

Tenterfield office: 6736 4298



Sandstone Caves at Pilliga Nature Reserve

29 TOWARRI

NATIONAL PARK 5,328 HA



Camping fee level 3

Sandstone outcrops and scenic outlooks feature in a rugged landscape of former grazing properties harbouring rainforest, snow gums and large grass tree stands. The Washpool's picnic area has wheelchair access and is a great place to bring the family.

Scone office: 6540 2300

Nelson Bay office: 4984 8200

30 WARRABAH

NATIONAL PARK 3,471 HA



Camping fee levels 1, 2

One of our few inland river parks, Warrabah provides an important native refuge, with great swimming, fishing, canoeing and bushwalking among nature.

Armidale office: 6738 9100

31 WARRUMBUNGLE

NATIONAL PARK 23,198 HA



Camping fee levels 1, 2, 3

Highlights Its combination of forested ridges, rocky spires and domes, deep gorges and plenty of camping and visitor facilities make Warrumbungle one of the state's most popular national parks. There's such magnificent scenery, abundant wildlife including kangaroos, wallabies, a healthy koala population, emus and many other native fauna and flora.

The park's volcanic rock outcrops were formed over millions of years of wind and erosion and are remnants of active volcanoes that once spewed lava across the area's sandstone floor.

Activities Warrumbungle offers a great variety of walking trails to suit the interests of all visitors, including adventurous souls

who tackle the Breadknife Grand High Tops Walk. Its rewards are well worth the effort of the steep climb to the base of the Breadknife, affording stunning views across the Warrumbungle ranges.

A further short but steep distance beyond the Breadknife is the Grand High Tops walk, offering more exceptional views and photographic opportunities.

Gurianawa track is an easy access bitumen loop from the visitor centre and leads down to Spirey Creek with views of the remnant volcanoes and Siding Spring Observatory. Walking tracks vary in grade and length, several are easy and well formed while others are steep and rough. Picnic areas are dotted throughout the park, with electric barbeques at Canyon Picnic area.

Rock climbing (not permitted on the Breadknife) is popular on the rocky outcrops, please register at the Visitor Centre. Discovery walks, talks and tours are available in autumn, winter and spring school holidays and tours can be arranged throughout the year for schools and groups. The Discovery program includes Aboriginal

cultural activities guided by local Gamilaroi people, bird and flora walks, spotlight walks and a number of special children's activities.

Camping is available at Camp Blackman (facilities include hot showers and powered sites), Pincham (for backpack camping) and Wambelong. Camp Walaay and the Woolshed (undercover camping) are group camping areas (bookings essential, phone 6825 4364). There are wheelchair accessible toilets at Camp Blackman, Canyon Picnic area, Split Rock, the Woolshed and Visitor Centre.

On the second Saturday of November visitors travel from all over the country for the outdoor Crooked Mountain Concert, featuring top line artists in the best natural outdoor venue in Australia.

Access Warrumbungle National Park is 35 km west of Coonabarabran on John Renshaw Parkway, or 80 km north-east of Gilgandra via Gumin Road. A daily fee of \$7 for park use applies.

Warrumbungle Visitor Centre: 6825 4364
Coonabarabran office: 6842 1311

*The iconic breadknife
is a thrilling sight, dramatic and strong.
This core of an ancient volcano sits
commandingly against a big sky*



32 WASHPOOL

NATIONAL PARK 65,779 HA



Camping fee levels 1, 2

Highlights The landscape of steep gorges, clear waters and World Heritage rainforest protects some of the most varied and least disturbed forest in NSW, including the world's largest stand of coachwood trees. There are excellent wilderness walking opportunities.

Activities The Coombadjha Walk, an easy 1.4 km circuit with educational signs and creek-side scenery, makes a good introduction to the park. The 8.5 km Washpool Walk takes in the park's main forest types. Camp at Coombadjha (a short walk from carpark) or Bellbird camping areas, where there are toilets, shelters and fireplaces. Bellbird suits car-based camping and small caravans.

Access 78 km east of Glen Innes and 93 km west of Grafton off the Gwydir Highway. Includes a 3 km park entry road (unsealed; take care when wet). Vehicle entry fee is \$7 per day.

Glen Innes office: 6739 0700
Tenterfield office: 6736 4298

33 WEDDIN MOUNTAINS

NATIONAL PARK 8,361 HA



Camping fee level 1

The striking crescent of cliffs and ridged gullies is reputed to be a bushrangers' haunt - Ben Halls Cave is named for one of the area's most infamous rogues.

Forbes office: 6851 4429

34 WILLANDRA

NATIONAL PARK 19,386 HA



Camping fee level 2

Highlights Willandra Station was once famous for its wool, and these days it offers an insight into the pastoral history of the region. The homestead, surrounded by gardens and overlooking peaceful Willandra Creek, has been restored to its former glory. The grasslands and black box-lined creek beds to the west of the homestead are home to kangaroos, emus and ground-nesting birds.



Exploring the Yanga Woolshed

Activities Wander around the homestead and gardens, shearing shed, ram shed and other historic buildings. Watch the waterbirds and kangaroos, or the sun setting over huge horizons. Car-based and caravan camping are available near the homestead, or you can stay in the cottage and men's quarters (bookings required, phone 6966 8100).

Access 64 km north-west of Hillston off Mossiel Road (unsealed and impassable after rain). Vehicle entry fee is \$7 per day.

Griffith office: 6966 8100

35 WOMBEYAN

KARST CONSERVATION RESERVE



Camping fee level - special fees

Highlights A spectacular drive from Sydney, Canberra or Wollongong will bring you to Wombeyan Caves. The Wollondilly, Junction, Korrinda and Mulwaree Caves offer excellent year-round guided tours with a wide variety of features. The Fig-tree Cave is a spectacular self-guided cave to experience at your leisure. Onsite accommodation includes a cottage, family cabins and dormitories (bookings essential). Wombeyan Caves also has a large camping ground with full amenities, a kitchen and kiosk.

Activities Guided tours, camping, w, tennis and swimming. Wombeyan is an ideal place for wildlife spotting and photography.

Access 180 km south of Sydney (via Mittagong). Coming into Goulburn from the Sydney entrance, turn right at the first set of lights, follow the road to Taralga, 10 km out of Taralga you will see the sign to Wombeyan.

Wombeyan Caves: 4843 5976

36 WOOMARGAMA

NATIONAL PARK 23,577 HA



Camping fee level 1

Contains the largest remnant of box woodlands on the south-west slopes of NSW and provides extensive views over the Riverina.

Tumut office: 6947 7025

37 YANGA

NATIONAL PARK 76,000 HA



Camping fee level 1

Highlights One the state's newest parks. Discover natural, pastoral and Aboriginal heritage. Picnic with your family, or unwind for a week and enjoy a choice of settings, complemented by an array of new visitor facilities. Enjoy the tranquil Murrumbidgee River and massive red gums. This changing landscape provides habitat for an array of fauna including endangered species and over 150 kinds of birds.

Activities Take a walk around the historic Yanga Homestead and decorative garden. Discover more of Yanga's history in the exhibition 'Yanga People-Lake-Country' housed in what was the cook's cottage adjacent to the homestead. Visit the century old Yanga Woolshed which now houses an interpretive display describing historical aspects of Yanga Station and the flood plain. The riverside picnic spot is great for groups to shelter under the large covered barbeque area. There are two free campgrounds. Mamanga Campground is on the bank of the Murrumbidgee River and offers car based and caravan camping. The Willows Campground is an open woodland setting with car based camping and a picnic area with electric barbecues great for birdwatchers.

Access 8 km south east of Balranald, turn off the Sturt Highway into the Yanga rest area and travel a further 2 km to the Park Office and Homestead (open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm daily). The woolshed is located 5 km south west of Balranald on the Windomal Road. The roads are unsealed and trafficable after light rainfall. Detailed campground information is available from the park office.

Yanga office: 03 5020 1764
Hay office: 6990 8200

GREAT PLACES TO STAY

GIBRALTAR HOUSE

This two bedroom cottage is a great base for exploring the World Heritage areas of Gibraltar Range and Washpool National Parks. It has been extensively renovated to cater for those who want to combine activity and adventure with comfort and relaxation. Explore the ancient rainforests of Washpool or climb the many granite outcrops in Gibraltar Range. Cyclists can enjoy the World Heritage Trail, stopping at high vantage points for spectacular views. On hot days, the clear waters of Surveyors and Little Dandahra Creeks will entice you.

Your comfortable accommodation features a modern kitchen and heating.

For more information and bookings contact the Glen Innes office on 6739 0700.

WILLANDRA COTTAGE

Willandra Station in Willandra National Park was once famous for its wool, and these days it offers an insight into the pastoral history of the region. The homestead and associated buildings, surrounded by gardens and overlooking peaceful Willandra Creek, have been restored to their former glory and are now available for accommodation and functions.

Built in the 1940s, the fibro cottage has two bedrooms, a lounge, kitchen, bathroom and gauzed-in verandah. It sleeps up to eight people in bunk beds. All cooking and eating utensils are provided and there's air conditioning and wood heating, an inside bathroom and outside flushing toilet.

For more information and bookings contact the Griffith office on 6966 8100.

BUSH CABINS AT MOUNT KAPUTAR

Mt Kaputar National Park is a place of glorious trees - eucalypts, wattles, cypress - wilderness and spectacular open views.

If you long to stay a while, the Dawsons



Spring cabins are available for hire. Self-contained cabins comfortably sleep up to six, perfect for families and groups, and they're a great winter getaway with views of misty snow gums and indoor wood fires.

Activities in the park include bushwalking, abseiling, bird watching and rock climbing, and enjoying some of Australia's beautiful flora and fauna.

Dawsons Spring Nature Trail gives a great introduction to the park and can be combined with a walk to the summit of Mt Kaputar - passing through varied sub alpine vegetation to a scenic lookout.

Staying in the cabins will also give an opportunity to view the night sky, and see why this region is a world centre of astronomy.

The cabins may be booked up to six months ahead.

For more information and bookings phone 6792 7300.



ABERCROMBIE KARST CONSERVATION AREA CABINS

This is a place for those who seek adventure, with challenging walks, fishing, and, of course, exploring the caves on guided or self-guided tours.

At Grove Creek there are two basic standard cabins sleeping up to six, and two deluxe cabins sleeping four. Arch Cottage is a self-contained three-bedroom house sleeping up to eight, allowing you to stay longer and explore even further.

Abercrombie Caves are the most accessible in Australia. The Archway Cave is part of a 1.4 km long self-guided tour, which brings the visitor to the southern end of the Archway along the creek and valley. There are other interesting caves to explore, such as the three huge chambers of King Solomon's Temple and the shawl formations of Red Shawl Chamber. There are night tours of the caves, lit to showcase spectacular arches and natural decoration.

Grove Creek also features deep water holes where rainbow trout can be fished from October to June.

For more information and bookings phone 6368 8603

THE TABLELANDS WAY

From the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, The Tablelands Way winds down through the Heart of Country region, showcasing its spectacular scenery and natural beauty. Attractions include the Wombeyan Caves, where you can stop to explore this unique karst system, with a variety of camping and cabin accommodation available. There's more exploring to do around Mudgee and Goulburn, including activities in the Goulburn River and Coolah Tops national parks.

Goulburn is the gateway to the Bungonia State Conservation Area, which has the deepest cave system in Australia and is popular with adventurers - and everyone can enjoy spectacular views from the easier walks and lookouts.

Along The Tablelands Way there are plenty of opportunities to sample great food and wine, explore arts and crafts in heritage country towns, and, of course, enjoy the warm country hospitality that the Heart of Country region is famous for.

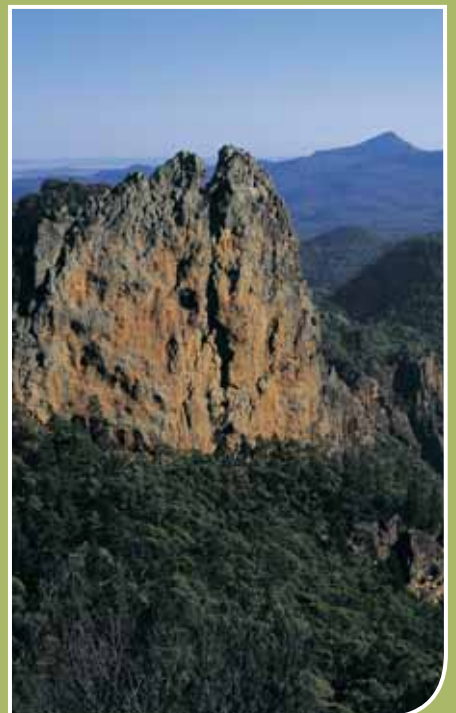
For more information visit www.tablelandsway.com.au

WARRUMBUNGLE NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTRE

Coonabarabran: 6825 4364

Located in the central part of the park, the visitor centre highlights the outstanding values of the park and provides an enhanced experience for visitors. The centre provides information on camping and walking. The interpretive display shows the Aboriginal and European history of the area and the geology, flora and fauna of the park and surrounding area.

Open daily 9 am to 4 pm (except Christmas, Boxing and New Year's Day); there is a range of gifts, books, maps, basic camping supplies and tea and coffee.



Photography: LEFT: B. Hlavica / DECCW, MIDDLE: B. Hlavica / DECCW, RIGHT: Susan Wright / Courtesy Tourism NSW