

Highlights

Dorrigo National Park is one of Australia's most accessible World Heritage rainforests, and provides all visitors with an opportunity to experience and appreciate this unique environment. Included in the World Heritage List in 1986, as part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia, Dorrig National Park is recognised as an area of exceptional natural beauty with significant habitats of outstanding universal value to science and conservation.

Getting there

The 11,732 hectare park spreads across the Great Escarpment of the Dorrig Plateau, one hour's drive south-west of Coffs Harbour and one and a half hour's drive east of Armidale. Access is via Dome Road off the Waterfall Way about two kilometres east of Dorrig. The park is open from 5:00am to 10:00pm.

Enjoying Dorrig National Park

Dorrigo Rainforest Centre and Skywalk



The visitor centre is open 9:00am to 4:30pm daily and provides an introduction to the World Heritage rainforests of northern New South Wales. Information is available in the National Parks shop, next door to an exciting interpretive display. Canopy Cafe offers drinks, meals and snacks. The dramatic *Skywalk* boardwalk provides views over the rainforest canopy.

The Glade Picnic Area



One kilometre by road from the Rainforest Centre, The Glade has a large barbecue shelter with electric BBQs, and is the starting point for the wheelchair accessible *Walk with the Birds* boardwalk and other walking tracks.

Never Never Picnic Area



A scenic 10 kilometre drive along Dome Road (unsealed) ends in the secluded beauty of this remote picnic area. A range of walking tracks give access to waterfalls, temperate rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest in the central part of the park.

Walking tracks

Detailed walking track maps are available on-line or at Dorrig Rainforest Centre.

From the Rainforest Centre

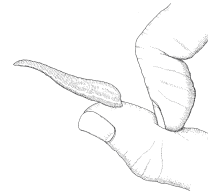
Lyrebird Link Track, an easy stroll of 400m, links with Wonga Walk, a 5.8km circuit taking in the *Walk with the Birds* boardwalk, Crystal Shower Falls and Tristania Falls.

From Never Never Picnic Area

Along the circuit of *Rosewood Creek Track*, 5.5km, you will pass Coachwood Falls, the turn-off to Cedar Falls (an extra 2km return), and a linking track to *Blackbutt Track*, if you wish to see Casuarina Falls before returning to the picnic area. The total length of *Blackbutt Track* is 6.4km, best walked from a carpark just inside the park boundary. Return via the road is 4km.

Take care

Walkers may encounter leeches during damp weather. Simply scrape them off with a fingernail and flick away. The large bright green leaves of the stinging tree should also be avoided. Ask the friendly staff at the Rainforest Centre Information Desk for more details.



More information

Contact :

Dorrigo Rainforest Centre

Dorrigo Plateau Area

NPWS North Coast Region

Dome Road, (PO Box 170), Dorrig NSW 2453

Phone: 02 6657 2309

Email: dorrigo@environment.nsw.gov.au

Published by Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW
59-61 Goulburn Street, Sydney. PO Box A290, Sydney South, 1232
Phone: 1300 361 967, web: www.environment.nsw.gov.au
© Department of Environment and Climate Change, 2007.
Cover photograph © NSW Tourism/Hamilton Lund



NSW National Parks
and Wildlife Service

Dorrigo NATIONAL PARK

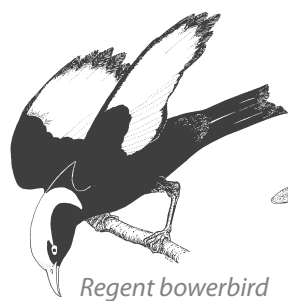
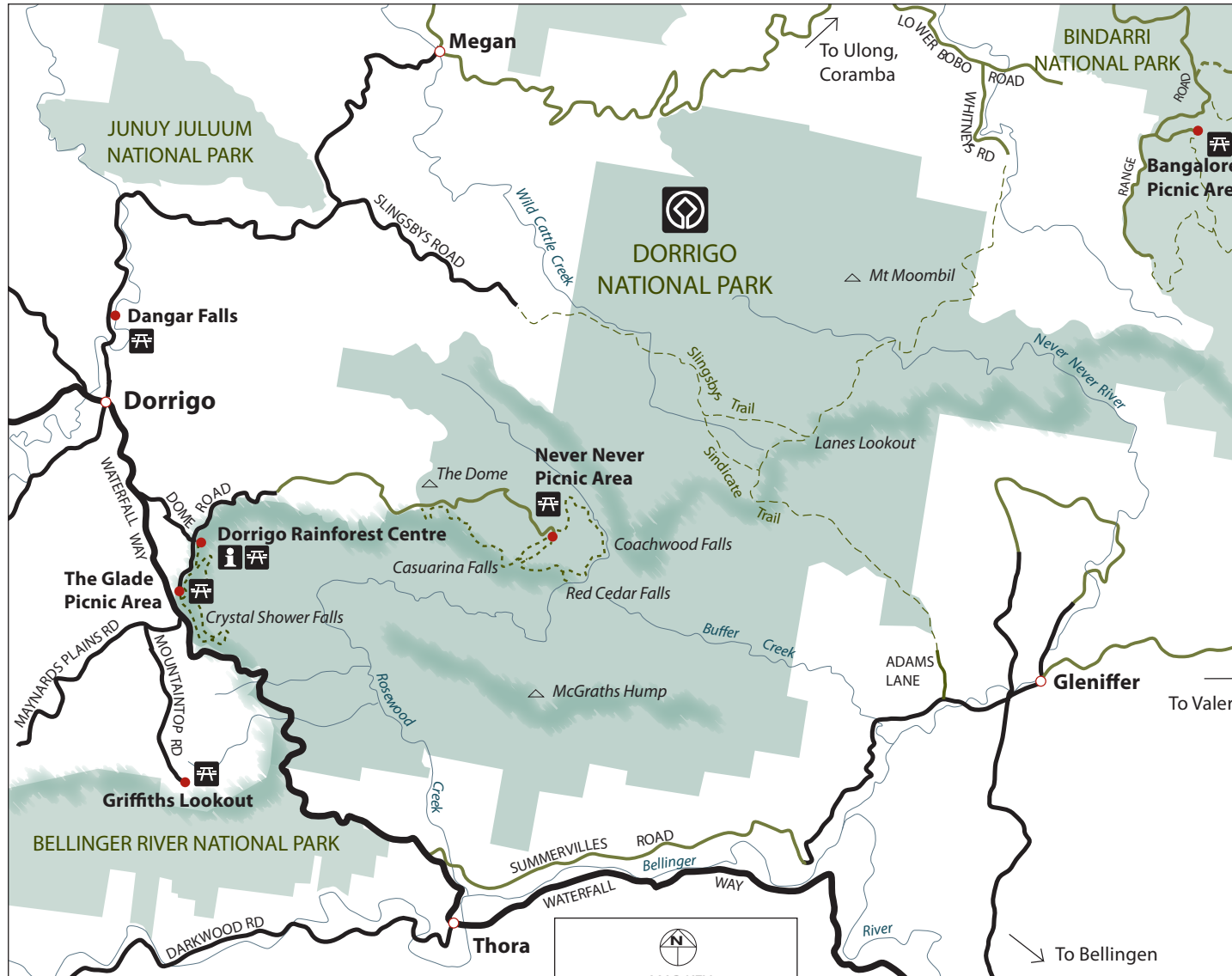


Crystal Shower Falls

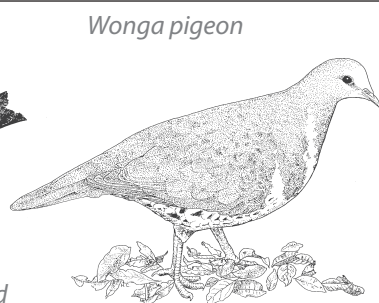
Department of Environment & Climate Change NSW



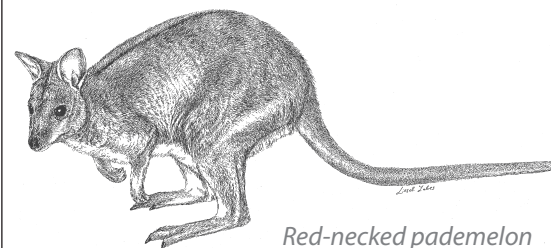
DORRIGO NATIONAL PARK



Regent bowerbird



Wonga pigeon



Red-necked pademelon

Geology and landform

Much of the Dorrigo Plateau was once covered by basaltic lava flow from the Ebor Volcano, active until about 18 million years ago. Under the influence of a very high annual rainfall the basalt weathered to form the impressive escarpment and chocolate soils around Dorrigo. In the northern part of the park and in the valleys, the basalt has eroded away to reveal metamorphic and sedimentary rocks from a much earlier period.

Vegetation

Fertile basaltic soil along the south-west boundary supports subtropical rainforest, which can be seen at its best on the Wonga Walk. A characteristic feature of this type of rainforest is the variety of tree species in the multi-layered canopy. Common species include yellow carabeen, booyong, strangler fig and giant stinging tree. Buttressed trunks, palms, thick woody vines, epiphytes and ferns are also common, adding to the picture of luxuriant vegetation.

By contrast, warm temperate rainforests on the poorer clay soils around Never Never Picnic Area are less complex, with only two tree layers and fewer canopy species, dominated by coachwood, sassafras and crabapple.

Moist eucalypt forest is seen on the more exposed ridges sloping down into the Bellingher Valley. Sydney bluegum, blackbutt and tallowwood are the main species. Some of these hardwood giants are thought to be over 1000 years old and can be seen on walking tracks.

Wildlife

Birds are abundant, with over 120 species recorded. Ground-dwelling birds feed on insects in the leaf litter and include lyrebird, brush turkey, whipbird, logrunner, and noisy pitta. Fruit-eating pigeons, king parrots, green catbirds and both satin and regent bowerbirds can often be seen from the Skywalk.

Small red-necked pademelons, a species of wallaby, feed during daylight on the short grass around the Rainforest Centre and picnic areas, however most of the park's mammals are nocturnal, including ringtailed and brushtailed possums. Some interesting reptiles also find ideal habitat within the park, including land mullet skinks, carpet and diamond pythons, lace monitors and the rare southern angle-headed dragon.