

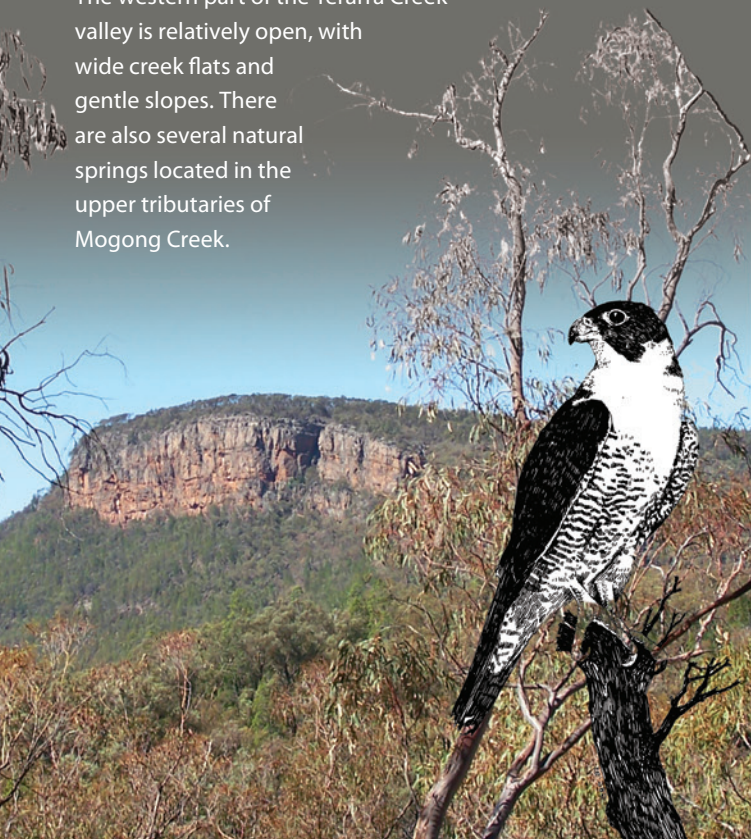
The landscapes of Nangar

Nangar's landscapes are directly linked to the parks location on the Lachlan Fold Belt – a massive landscape feature which runs from Queensland, through mid-western NSW and into Victoria. It is a zone of folded and faulted rocks of similar age that were formed between 450 to 340 million years ago.

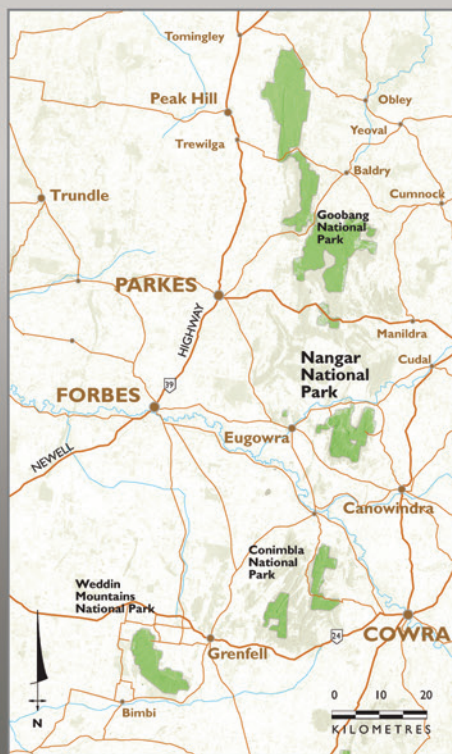
The spectacular scenery of the cliff line and Mount Nangar are the principal scenic features of the park and surrounding areas.

The landscape can be divided into two units based on relief. The northern section is relatively rugged, with cliffs, ridges and narrow valleys. The principal feature is a long cliff line of red siltstone on the northern boundary, around Nangar Valley. The cliff line rises to 770 metres at Mount Nangar, which provides extensive views across the surrounding park and farmland.

The western part of the Terarra Creek valley is relatively open, with wide creek flats and gentle slopes. There are also several natural springs located in the upper tributaries of Mogong Creek.



Nangar National Park is one of four major national parks in the central west of NSW. Located between Orange and Forbes the park covers 9,196 hectares of rugged escarpment country overlooking the surrounding plains which have been largely cleared for agricultural activities. It is one of a series of conservation reserves in the region which occur along the Lachlan Fold Belt.



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NSW National Parks
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Nangar National Park



Department of
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Welcome to Wiradjuri Country

The Indigenous people of the region are the Wiradjuri people. Wiradjuri Country covers a vast area of the central west of NSW, extending from the Talbraggar River near Coolah, south to Albury, east to the Blue Mountains and west to Willandra.

It has been suggested that the Nangar Range is likely to have been an important landmark in Aboriginal culture and to have been occupied for extended periods. Within the park there may be individual places that are significant to the Wiradjuri people. These include archaeological sites containing artefacts, stone scatters, quarries and scar trees. Other types of sites such as mythological, ceremonial and contact sites may occur on park.

Farming heritage

The park area was formerly a combination of vacant crown land, crown lease land, state forest and freehold. The freehold section, known as Dripping Rock, was settled in 1928 and purchased by National Parks in 1988. It makes up what is now the western part of the park along Terarra Creek. The flats and lower slopes were cleared and used to run sheep while some parts were improved for dairying and cropping. The relatively fertile soils of the area ensured good yields, although water supply was always a problem.

The original Dripping Rock homestead, which was little more than a tin shed, was built in 1928. From 1931 to 1945 it also doubled as a school. The children of the owners and nearby properties were educated at the school. Around 1954 it was converted to a shearing shed. In 1935 a larger weatherboard and fibro homestead was built which provided comfortable living for the families of Dripping Rock. In September 2009, the Dripping Rock homestead was lost to fire and all that remains of the original homestead are remnants of the once luscious gardens and bountiful orchards.

Nearby the remains of the piggery, fallen down hay shed, fences, yards and other ruins can be seen which tell the story of the early settlers and their lifestyle.

Gold mining heritage

Gold was discovered around Eugowra in the 1860s, resulting in significant population growth in the area. It also encouraged bushranger activity. The Gardener and Ben Hall gangs operated adjacent to and within the park. Escort Rock between Eugowra and the park is a significant part of local Bushranger history, where there was a two-day hold up of a stage coach carrying gold and bank notes in 1862.

Chinese miners resided in the park area prospecting for copper during the early 1900s. Mine diggings, a fenced garden area beside Terarra Creek and a small weir can still be seen today. A well is located close to the garden but has partly collapsed and become overgrown. It is reported that the garden was originally fenced with small timber slabs but this was later replaced with chicken wire. Part of the fence still exists today.



Nangar's prominent cliff lines are its most striking visual feature.

Plant communities

Six woodland communities are located within Nangar National Park - Grey Box, White Box, Blakely's Red Gum/ White Cypress Pine, Red Stringybark/ Scribbly Gum, Mugga Ironbark/ Red Stringybark and Tumbledown Gum Woodland. The park's vegetation and landscape have been altered by past agricultural and forestry activities. However, the vegetation communities will gradually recover from these impacts through natural regeneration.



Red-necked wallaby

Nangar's wildlife

The eastern grey kangaroo, common wallaroo, red-necked wallaby and swamp wallaby can be seen throughout the park grazing in open forests and along creeks. Small mammals recorded here, include the yellow-footed antechinus and common dunnart. Seven species of bat have also been observed in the park including the little mastiff-bat and chocolate wattled bat.

The park has a great abundance of birds, both sedentary and migratory. Many species return to the park in winter including the jacky winter, red-capped robin and woodswallow to name a few.

Other birds commonly seen throughout the year include the white winged chough, crested pigeon, apostle bird, red-rumped parrot and eastern rosella.

Birds of prey such as the peregrine falcon, wedge-tailed eagle and brown falcon, along with some species of owls, utilise the cliff face along the northern boundary for nesting and perching. These birds are relatively common within the park and adjacent lands.



Mount Nangar provides dramatic views out to the north of the park

to Parkes 36km, Forbes 34km

Walking in Nangar

There are numerous walking tracks to choose from in Nangar National Park, offering kilometres of walking adventure. Depending on your level of fitness and desire to experience remote hiking, you can take any of the walking tracks described below, or follow the network of trails.

① Mt Murga Walking Track

4 km to the top, 3 hours one way. Medium (some hard sections)

Start at the carpark near the Mt Murga Walking Track or at Terrarra Creek Camping and Picnic Ground, and follow the signs and markers to the top of Mt Murga. Come back the way you came or for the experienced walkers, continue down the steep descent and along the 5km Mt Murga – Nangar Link Track to Mt Nangar lookout. For a shorter walk take Chinamans Garden Walking Track, where you can head back down the hill towards Terrarra Creek Camping and Picnic Ground.

② Chinamans Garden Walking Track

3.3 km, 2.5 hours one way. Medium

400m past Terrarra Creek Camping and Picnic Area get onto the Chinamans Garden Walking Track and follow the markers. You can see the old fence around the garden area which was cultivated by Chinese miners and later worked by Perc Packham. It is sometimes referred to as Packhams Garden. Continue up the hill to meet up with the Mt Murga – Nangar Link Track or return the same way you came.

③ Mt Nangar Hiking Track

3.6 km, 3 hours one way. Medium to Hard

Get onto the track at Dripping Rock. Follow the markers up the hill, along the road and up to Mt Nangar lookout. Once there, sit for a while and enjoy the view across the vast country side. Keep your eye out for the Mt Murga – Nangar Link Track which intersects at 1.2km. Come back the same way or for a really adventurous, long walk return via Mt Murga or follow the Mt Nangar Trail to Link Track – both lead back to Terrarra Creek Trail.

A 15.5km walking track loop is available by linking some of the above walks providing spectacular views and traversing through a variety of vegetation types. Starting at Terrarra Creek Camping and Picnic Grounds the loop can incorporate the walk to the top of Mount Murga, across to Mount Nangar and return via Dripping Rock, or follow the network of trails.

Grading of Tracks

Easy – suitable for all ages, but take care with children.

Medium – some steep sections and stairs. For people who walk occasionally.

Hard – steep sections and stairs. For people who walk regularly. Visitors with heart or breathing problems should not attempt these.

Safe walking

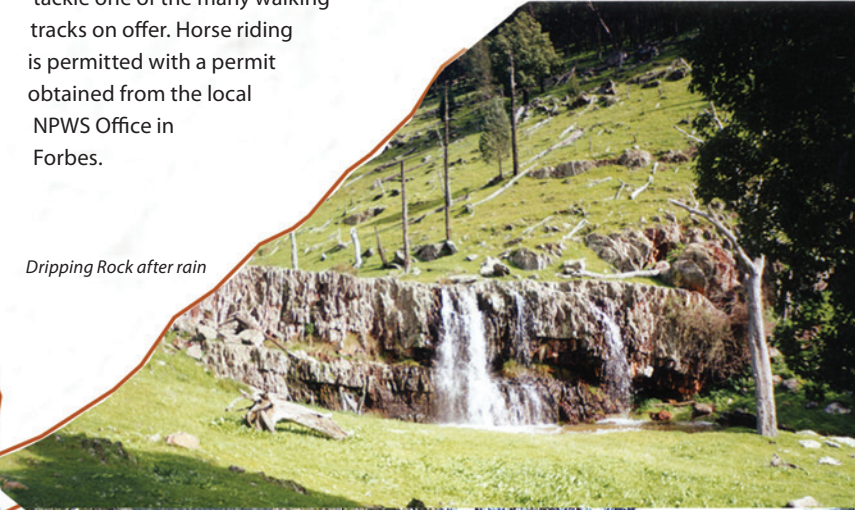
- Always carry drinking water.
- Know your route – advise friends where you are going and what time you expect to be back.
- Wear sensible walking shoes (boots are not essential).
- Carry a bag for rubbish and encourage others to do likewise.

Getting here and things to do

The main entrance to the park is off the Escort Way (Eugowra – Orange Road). From Eugowra travel 10km or 70km if coming from Orange. You will see the National Park entrance sign. Cross the cattle grid and follow the Dripping Rock Road for 2.5km to another cattle grid and a sign identifying the park. This road leads into the former Dripping Rock property and homestead site.

Once past the site of the original homestead, the track winds its way towards the Terrarra Creek Camping and Picnic area. Along the way there are many sites for pack camping and picnicking. Take time out to relax and enjoy the peace and tranquility of the natural bush.

Enjoy the facilities at Terrarra Creek Camping and Picnic Area, set amongst a natural amphitheatre. From here drive, walk or mountain bike up to the well known local feature of ‘Dripping Rock’ – a small waterfall following rain and a dripping rock at other times. A 4WD track winds its way up to the top of Mt Nangar via Goanna Trail and along Nangar Trail. This return trip from Dripping Rock also makes for an ideal mountain bike tour. During your stay tackle one of the many walking tracks on offer. Horse riding is permitted with a permit obtained from the local NPWS Office in Forbes.



Dripping Rock after rain



Terrarra Creek Camping Area is a wonderful base from which to explore the park.

