

Explore

# Glass House Mountains and surrounds

National parks and forests

The volcanic peaks of the Glass House Mountains rise dramatically from the surrounding Sunshine Coast landscape.

For many generations, these mountains have held great spiritual significance for Aboriginal people. Their creation stories and beliefs are reflected in strong links that remain in the Aboriginal community today.

Individually, the mountain peaks have traditional Aboriginal names. Collectively they are known as the Glass House Mountains — a name given to them by Lieutenant James Cook in 1770. In the following extract from Cook's journal on Thursday, 17 May 1770, he noted:

'These hills lie but a little way inland, and not far from each other, they are very remarkable on account of their singular form of their elevation, which resembles glasshouses which occasioned my giving them that name...'

Take a closer look at these amazing geological formations, the plant and animal communities that live here and the areas' cultural significance. Walking tracks through tranquil forests, scenic lookouts and picnic areas are provided in national parks, state forests and forest reserves around the Glass House Mountains peaks. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) manages these areas under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Forestry Act 1959*.

## Aboriginal links to the land

For traditional Aboriginal people, this area was a special meeting place for ceremonies and trading. The Glass House Mountains area is considered sacred ground, with many ceremonial sites still present and protected today.

Large festivals and gatherings, such as bunya nut festivals, were held at times when local food sources were peaking. This way a crowd of hundreds of people could be catered for with minimal effort. Aboriginal people could read nature's "signs" and knew that events, such as certain trees in flower, heralded another food supply. Early missionaries saw gatherings in this area of up to a few thousand people.

The bush here sustained people for thousands of years. The Glass House Mountains area provided many resources from a varied and rich environment which included river systems, open forests, coastal wetlands and mountain forests.

*The dilly bag was often used to catch fish and carry seafood and also to trade with other inland groups for flint. Records show that tools were found in this area from as far away as Kingaroy, some 150km away.*



## European settlement

During the 1860s, many things changed for the Aboriginal people here. Vast areas of timber were felled and burnt to make way for farming and stock. The railway from Caboolture to Landsborough, built in 1890, opened the way for more intense settlement.

As part of the Beerburrum soldier settlement scheme in the early 1900s, ex-servicemen and their families were allocated land and grew pineapples. Many farms, however, were unsuccessful and farmers turned to the timber industry to survive.



*Bankfoot House serviced the Cobb & Co coach which brought many people through here during the Gympie gold rush day. Landsborough Museum*

## Plantation forests

The timber industry is a significant part of the history of the Glass House Mountains area and today, the pine plantations remain a feature of the landscape. In the early years, a substantial sawmilling town called Campbellville was established on the banks of Coochin Creek. During this time, timber was floated downstream to Pumicestone Passage after being processed at the sawmill.

Forest plantations in this area were originally planted in the early 1930s. Pine plantations around Mount Tibrogargan and Tunbubudla Twins were replanted in the 1980s and 1990s with Caribbean pine, slash pine, and a slash-Caribbean pine hybrid.

Prior to harvesting forest plantations, native timbers along watercourses are often marked to identify and preserve native buffer strips. These buffer strips protect water quality, prevent erosion and provide corridors for wildlife. For further information about plantation areas contact: Forestry Plantations QLD (Beerburrum) ph (07) 5438 6666.

## Caring for this area

As these mountains have great spiritual significance to the local Aboriginal people, visitors are asked to be considerate and use only the walking tracks and lookouts provided. Help protect these special places for future enjoyment and to ensure the survival of native plants and animals that live here.

## Getting there

The Glass House Mountains are approximately one hours' drive north of Brisbane. From the Bruce Highway, take the Glass House Mountains turnoff along the Steve Irwin Way and follow the signs. This iconic Australian landscape was added to the National Heritage List in 2006 as a "Landscape of National Significance".

## Bushwalking safety

Be prepared, even on short walks, and use sound judgement. Your safety is our concern, but your responsibility.

- Carry this track map.
- Avoid walking during wet weather. Tracks can be slippery, especially after rain.
- Stay away from cliff edges.
- Never walk alone — if something happens to you someone in your group can go for help.
- Walk to your ability and fitness levels.
- Supervise children at all times.
- Carry enough drinking water, food, a mobile phone and insect repellent.
- Carry a first aid kit and know how to use it.
- Wear suitable shoes.
- Plan to complete your walk well before dark.

- Protect yourself from the sun. Wear sunscreen, a hat and long-sleeved clothing, even on cloudy days. Start longer walks at cooler times of the day to avoid heat exhaustion on hot days.
- Tell friends or family where you are going and when you expect to return. If you change your plans, inform them.
- Observe and comply with all regulatory signs.



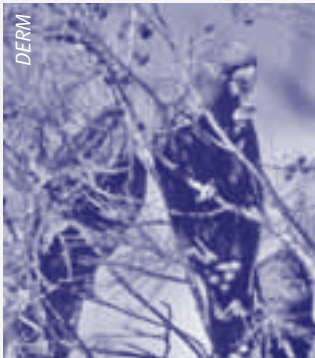
Ross Naumann

Tibrogargan circuit

## Glass House Mountains

The Glass House Mountains are the eroded remnants of volcanoes active approximately 25–27 million years ago. These mountains were formed from plugs and masses of molten rock which solidified into hard rock called trachyte and rhyolite. Since then, extensive erosion and lowering of the land surface has removed the exteriors of the volcanic cones and the surrounding softer sandstone rocks. As the volcanic mountains cooled, interesting vertical columns formed and this can be seen today at Mount Beerwah, Mount Ngungun and Mount Coonowrin.

This park offers some spectacular walking tracks which wind through open woodlands, montane heath and high summit peaks. This area is home to koalas, goannas, echidnas and grey kangaroos. Many birds such as kookaburras, cockatoos, lorikeets, rosellas and peregrine falcons can also be seen.



The vulnerable glossy black-cockatoo is found in the Glass House Mountains area.

### Pictogram legend

	Toilet		Boat ramp		Fishing
	Information		Picnic shelter		Constructed lookout
	Wheelchair access		Picnic area		Campfires prohibited
	Drinking water provided		Walking track		Trailbikes prohibited
	Barbecue		Viewpoint		Domestic animals prohibited
	Fire rings		Car camping		Car camping prohibited
	Parking area		Caravan site		Bike riding prohibited
			Bike riding		Horse riding prohibited
			Horse riding		

## Walking track classification

Each track has been classified so you are better able to select a walk that matches your bushwalking experience and fitness. Wheelchair-assisted access is possible at Glass House Mountains Lookout, Coochin Creek camping and day-use area, and Stony Creek day-use area. Take time to read these classification details before walking out into the park — you owe it to yourself and those in your party.

### Class 2 track *Australian Standards*

- Easy level track, suitable for all fitness levels.
- All junctions signposted and include interpretive signs.

### Class 3 track *Australian Standards*

- Distinct tracks with junctions signposted, rough track surfaces with some exposed roots and rocks.
- Variable in width; muddy sections, steep grades and steps may be encountered.
- May be partially overgrown; hazards such as fallen trees and rock falls may be present.

- Caution needed at creek crossings, cliff edges and naturally occurring lookouts.
- Reasonable level of fitness and ankle-supporting footwear recommended.

### Class 4 track *Australian Standards*

- Distinct tracks with junctions signposted, rough track surfaces with exposed roots and rocks.
- Variable in width, muddy sections and steep grades likely to be encountered.
- May be extensively overgrown, hazards such as fallen trees and rockfalls likely to be present.
- Caution needed at creek crossings, cliff edges and naturally occurring lookouts.
- Moderate fitness level with bushwalking experience and ankle-supporting footwear recommended.

### Class 5 track *Australian Standards*

- Steep track with irregular surface and loose stones.
- Considerable exposure to the elements may be experienced.
- High level of physical fitness; rockclimbing experience, flexible-soled shoes with good grip required.

## Walking track classification - a quick glance

Track name	Classification	Km return	Time	Platform lookout
Lookout circuit	Class 3	800m	25mins	✓
Mount Beerburrum track	Class 4	1.4km	1hr	✓
Wild Horse Mountain lookout track	Class 3	1.4km	1hr	✓
Mount Ngungun summit	Class 4	2.4km	2hrs	
Mountain View lookout	Class 3	800m	45mins	✓
Tibrogargan circuit	Class 3	3.3km	1.5hrs	
Trachyte circuit	Class 4	6km	2–3hrs	✓
Western boundary walk	Class 2	1.4km	45mins	
Tunnel track	Class 3	6km	2hrs	
Mooloolah River circuit	Class 2	500m	20mins	
Melaleuca walk	Class 2	1.3km	40mins	

## Places to visit

### 1 Glass House Mountains Lookout



A short drive from Glass House Mountains township will take you to the lookout. The sheltered fire tower provides a platform to view the mountain peaks, Caloundra, Maroochydore, Brisbane and Moreton Island.



Robert Ashdown

Interpretation display at the lookout.

#### Lookout circuit

800m circuit. Allow 25min.

A short walking track takes you through open scribbly gum forest, down through a wet sclerophyll gully and back to the lookout. This track is quite steep in places.

#### Stop!

Don't have your visit spoilt. Reduce the risk of theft by removing valuables from your vehicle.



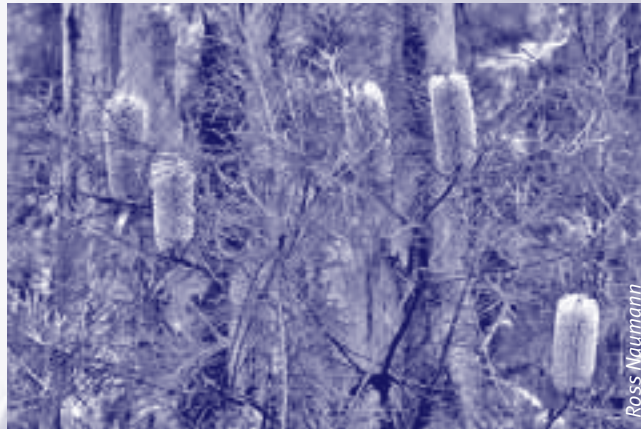
### 2 Mount Beerburrum (278m)



#### Mount Beerburrum track

1.4km return. Allow 1hr.

This steep paved track leads you to a fire tower which offers great views of the surrounding area. Mount Beerburrum's fire tower is used to detect and manage fires throughout the forestry areas.



Ross Naumann

*Banksia spinulosa*

### 3 Wild Horse Mountain (123m)



#### Wild Horse Mountain lookout track

1.4km return. Allow 1hr.

Turn off the Bruce Highway at the Mobil Service Station or take the Johnstone Road turnoff from the Glass House Mountains township. Wild Horse Mountain is named after the brumbies (wild horses) that once lived there. A moderately steep paved track leads to the lookout. Enjoy panoramic 360 degree views of Pumicestone Passage, coastal plains, the Glass House Mountains and forestry plantations from the sheltered fire tower platform.

### 4 Mount Ngungun (253m)



#### Mount Ngungun summit

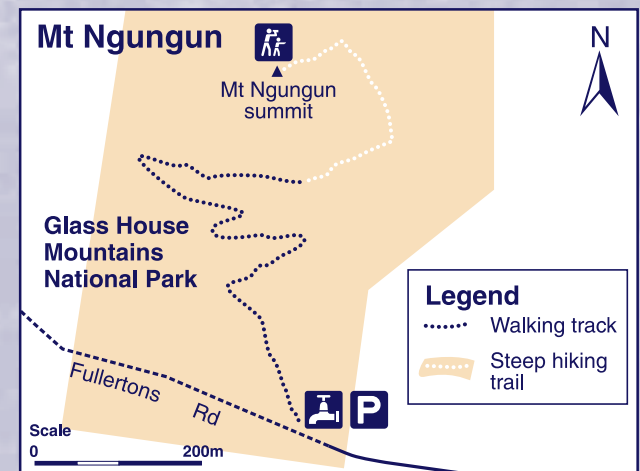
2.4km return. Allow 2hrs.



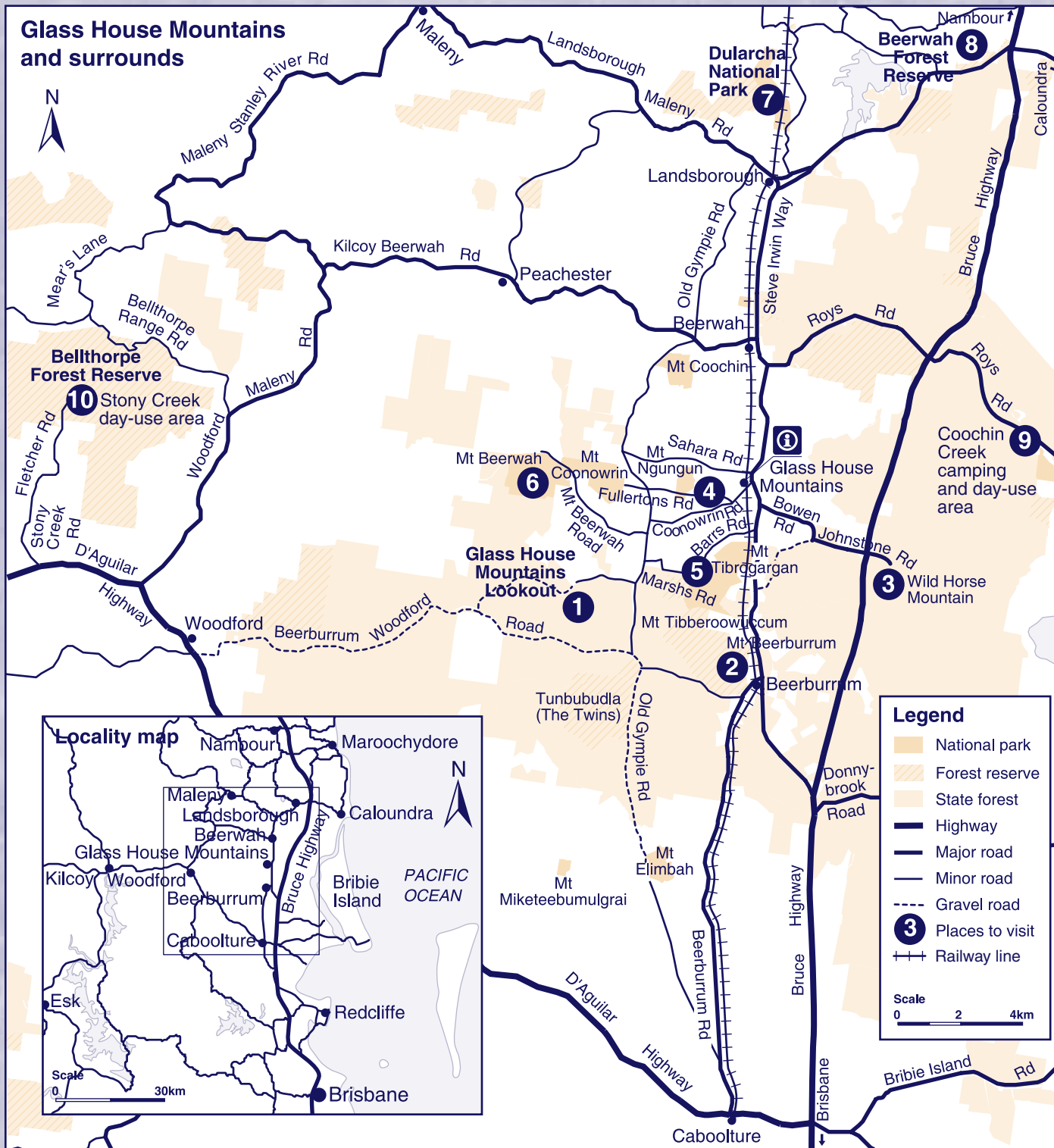
Ross Naumann

Mount Ngungun

This summit provides spectacular views of all of the four major mountain peaks. The trail is relatively short but steep in places and may be unstable in some sections. Family groups should be careful, as the trail passes close to the cliff line. Adults should supervise children at all times. Warning: This track can become very slippery when wet.



# Glass House Mountains and surrounds



## 5 Mount Tibrogargan (364m)

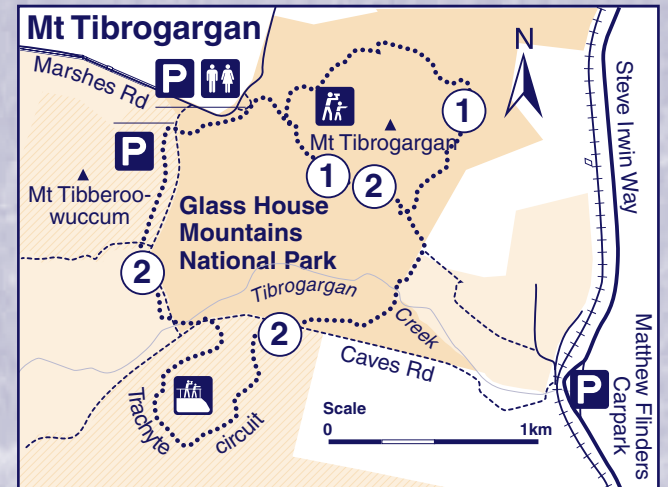


### Mountain View lookout

800m return walk from carpark. Allow 45min.  
Walk to a lookout with views over Mount Beerwah, Mount Coonowrin, Mount Tibberoowuccum and Mount Tunbubudla.

### Tibrogargan circuit – track 1

3.3km circuit. Allow 1.5hrs.  
This walking track leads around the base of Mount Tibrogargan through casuarina groves, open eucalypt and melaleuca forests. The track offers great views of Mount Tibrogargan. Look up occasionally – peregrine falcons may be circling overhead.



### Trachyte circuit – track 2

6km return walk from carpark. Allow 2–3hrs.  
This circuit links Mount Tibrogargan, Mount Tibberoowuccum and the Trachyte range. It passes past exotic pine plantations and native forest before heading up to the Jack Ferris lookout. The lookout and walking track was constructed with assistance from local community group Glass House Mountains Advancement Network (GMAN) as part of the Centenary of Federation celebrations in 2000.



Mount Tibrogargan

## Summit access for experienced rock climbers

Routes that lead to the summits of Mount Tibrogargan and Mount Beerwah (currently closed) have steep rocky sections and irregular surfaces with loose stones that require rock scrambling and rockclimbing skills.

Never attempt these tracks in wet weather as smooth surfaces can be slippery and dangerous. Flexible soled shoes with good grip should be worn.

### Mount Tibrogargan summit

 3km return. Allow 3 to 4hrs.

Caution: These trails require some rock climbing experience. Considerable exposure to the elements may be experienced.

### Mount Beerwah summit

The Mount Beerwah summit trail, including access to the cliff face lookout, is closed until further notice due to a major rockfall.

On-the-spot fines are issued for accessing an area closed to the public.



Mount Beerwah

## Roped sports (abseiling and rockclimbing)

*Suitable for experienced climbers only.*

Any artificial anchors at rockclimbing sites have not been approved for use by the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

### Mount Ngungun (253m)

This mountain provides opportunities for moderately challenging rock-face climbing and abseiling for 20 to 45 metre roped sports. Equipment and expertise is required.

### Mount Tibrogargan (364m)

This mountain provides opportunities for challenging and potentially dangerous rock-face climbing. A high level of expertise and specialised equipment, in good condition, is required.

## Climbing safely

**Never attempt** any activity that you are unsure of.

**Always use appropriate equipment.** Helmets are strongly recommended.

**Allow enough time** to finish your climb in daylight hours.

**Carry enough water and food** for your climb.

**Carry a mobile phone** and keep emergency phone numbers with you.

**Never climb alone.**

**Be aware of those below** — take care not to dislodge rocks when climbing.


**Watch the weather** — if it looks like it will rain do not attempt the climb. Rocks will become slippery and dangerous.

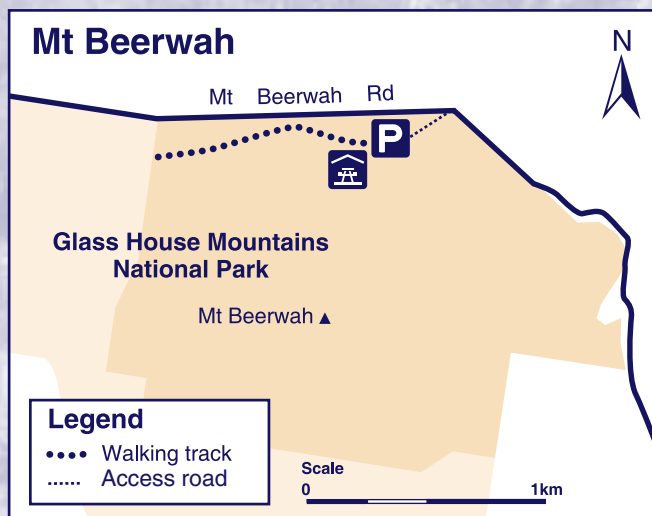
**Carry a well equipped first aid kit.**

## 6 Mount Beerwah (556m)



### Western boundary walk

 1.4km return walk from the picnic area to the western park boundary gate. Allow 45min.



## For further information

### Obtaining camping permits

You need to book your permits before you visit:

- On-line at [www.qld.gov.au/camping](http://www.qld.gov.au/camping)
- By phone 13 13 04 (24 hours)

### For all other enquiries:

Visit us online at [www.derm.qld.gov.au](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au)  
Phone 1300 130 372

## Emergency contacts

**Ambulance non-urgent medical transport: 13 12 33**

**Emergency: 000**

**If you have difficulty connecting to 000 from your mobile phone try: 112**

*Special thanks to the Gubbi Gubbi people for sharing their knowledge.*

*Special thanks to Stan Tutt for information from his book Sunshine Coast Heritage, and Pat and Sim Symons for information from their book Bush Heritage.*

*Front cover artwork depicts the peregrine falcon — the world's fastest animal it reaches speeds of up to 200km/h! Cliffs in this area provide important nesting habitat for this bird which is considered endangered on a global scale.*

©State of Queensland 2009.  
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service,  
Department of Environment and Resource Management.  
BP1535 December 2009  
Printed on eco-friendly paper to save energy and resources.

## Protect the area's natural values

Help protect the natural values of this area by observing the following:

- Camp only in camping areas. For reserves covered by this publication, camping is permitted only at Coochin Creek camping area.
- Do not take or interfere with plants, animals, soil or rocks. Everything within national parks and forests is protected.
- Open fires are not permitted, except in fire rings provided at Coochin Creek camping area. It is illegal to collect wood from the forest. Fallen timber provides homes for many insects and small animals.
- Domestic animals are not permitted in national parks and Coochin Creek section of Beerwah State Forest.
- Do not feed or leave food for animals. Human food can harm wildlife and cause some animals to become aggressive.
- Stay on track. Do not cut corners or create new tracks.
- Take rubbish home with you. Bins are not provided.
- Obey signs and safety notices.
- Respect that some areas are not developed or open to public access to retain their natural values or for visitor safety due to unstable rock formations.

## 7 Dularcha National Park



### Tunnel track ①

6km return. Allow 2hrs. Easy grade SEQ Horse Trail Network Standard

From northern entrance the tunnel is 900m one-way  
From southern entrance the tunnel is 1.2km one-way  
Alternatively catch a train to Mooloolah, walk to the national park and take the Tunnel track. Then walk to the Landsborough train station to get back on a train (about 6km).

The historic curved railway tunnel, constructed in 1890, is a heritage feature of this park. Take a torch and look for the bat colony huddled in crevices in the tunnel's ceiling.

### Tunnel bypass track ②

220m one way. Moderate grade SEQ Horse Trail Network Standard.

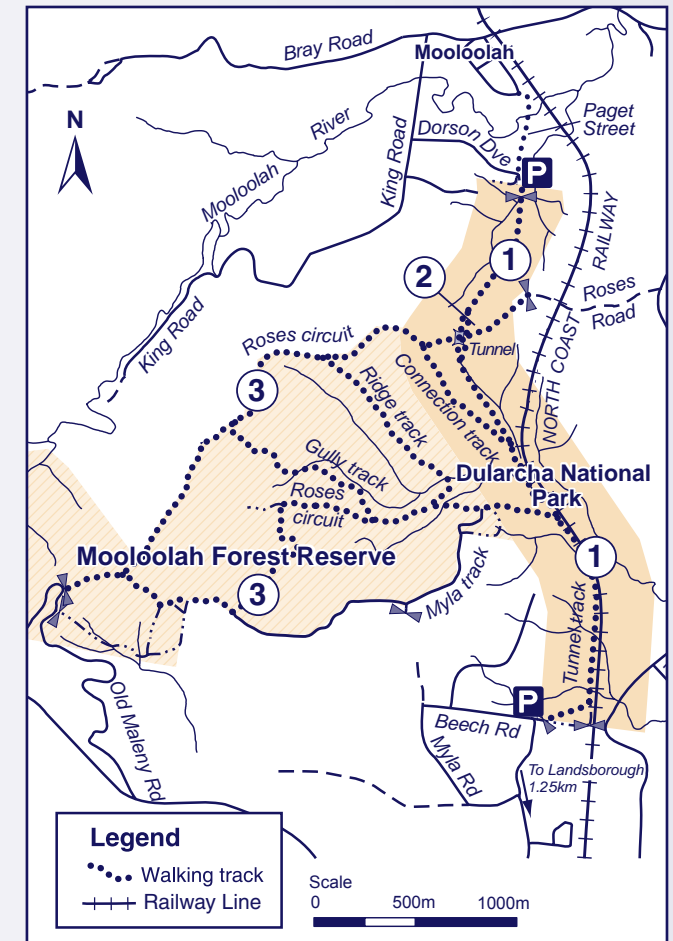
This track passes over the ridge and is designed for visitors with horses that are uncomfortable in the tunnel confines.

### Roses circuit ③

8.8km return. Moderate grade SEQ Horse Trail Network Standard.

This trail passes through dry sclerophyll forest and rainforest gullies and includes some views south to the Glass House Mountains.

Other trails are for mountain bike riders and walkers only.



## 8 Beerwah Forest Reserve



### Jowarra

Situated on the banks of the Mooloolah River, this is one of the few remaining coastal rainforest areas. It is an important home for wildlife including the wompoo pigeon, eastern yellow robin, and the vulnerable Richmond birdwing butterfly. Insect repellent may help to deter mosquitoes and leeches.



Mooloolah River

### Mooloolah River circuit — track ①

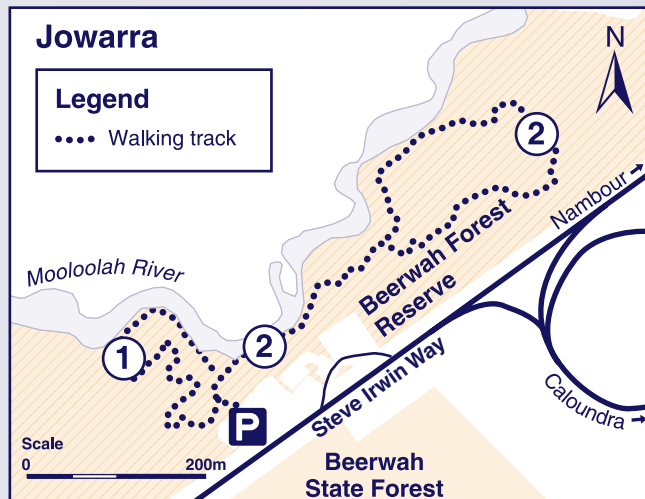
500m circuit. Allow 20min.

This short self-guided rainforest walk winds along a crystal clear creek. The fruiting fig trees attract many birds.

### Melaleuca walk — track ②

1.3km return. Allow 40min.

Explore rainforest with piccabeen palm groves, eucalypt forest and melaleuca swamp. The river is home to platypus, which may be seen at dawn and dusk, if you sit quietly and patiently enough.



## 9 Coochin Creek camping and day-use area



Coochin Creek is ideal for visitors who enjoy fishing and boating. Take the Roys Road turnoff from the Bruce Highway and follow the signs. The access road is suitable for conventional vehicles. (Refer to Glass House Mountains and surrounds map)

Camping permits must be obtained in advance — online at [www.qld.gov.au/camping](http://www.qld.gov.au/camping) or by phone 13 13 04 (24 hours). Maximum length of stay is 21 consecutive nights.

Preferably bring a fuel stove. Use fire rings provided, not an open fire. Bring your own clean cut, milled firewood. It is illegal to collect wood here. Domestic animals are not permitted.



Coochin Creek camping area

## 10 Bellthorpe Forest Reserve



### Stony Creek day-use area

This day-use area is a great place for a picnic. You will be pleasantly surprised to find a rugged landscape containing open forest and rainforest with many small waterfalls, creek cascades and a rock pool. For your safety; never jump or dive into the creek.

Refer to Glass House Mountains and surrounds map for access information.

# Glass House Mountains and surrounds

## Glass House Mountains, Beerwah, Beerburum and Bellthorpe



*Culturally significant rugged mountains and spectacular views*