

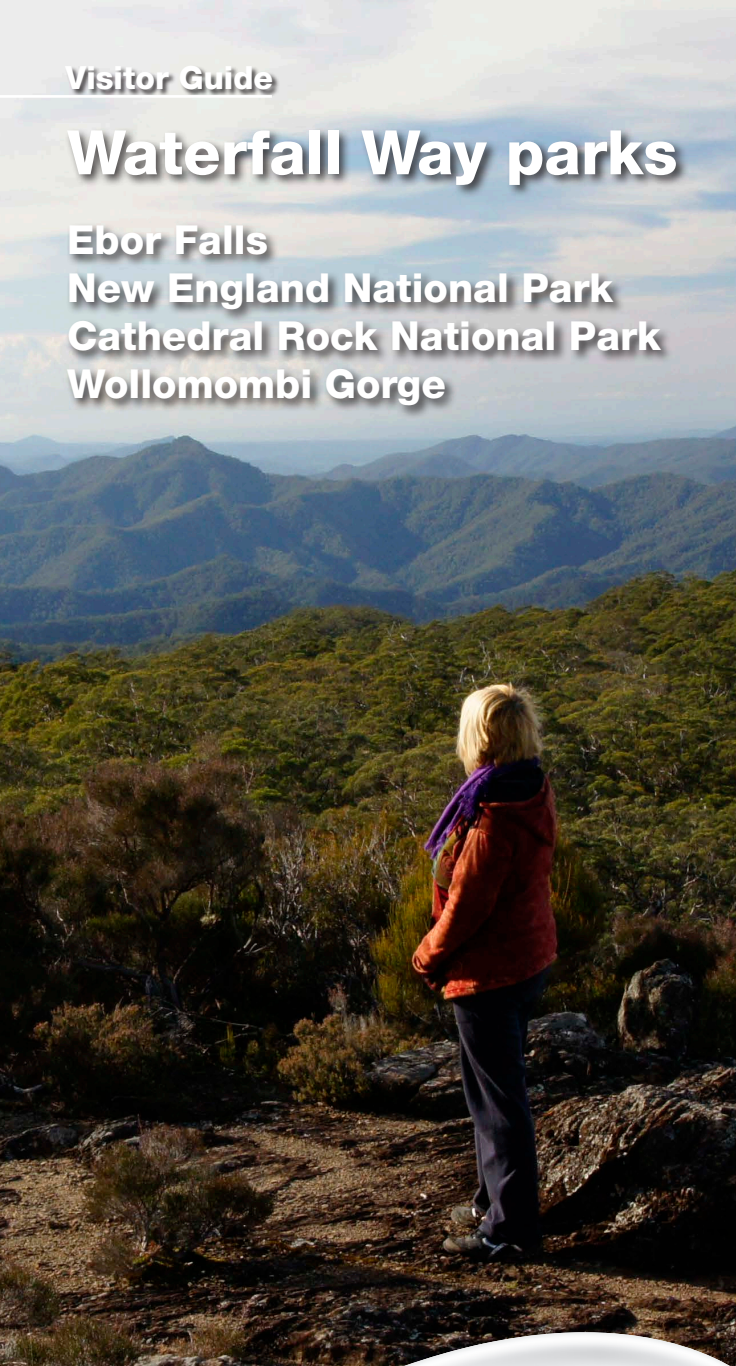
# Waterfall Way parks

## Ebor Falls

## New England National Park

## Cathedral Rock National Park

## Wollomombi Gorge



### GUY FAWKES RIVER NATIONAL PARK



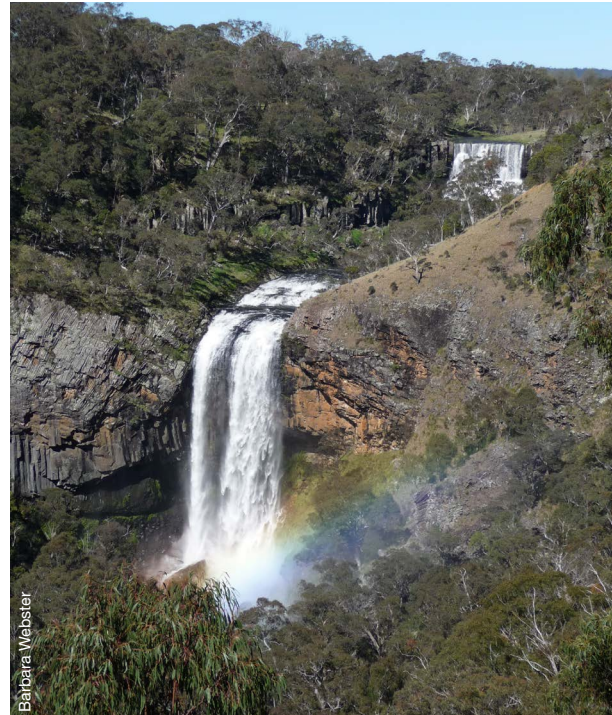
#### EBOR FALLS

A great stop-off between the coast and Armidale along Waterfall Way, Ebor Falls offers spectacular waterfall views, scenic lookouts and a tranquil picnic area.

The Gumbaynggirr people traditionally called Ebor Falls 'Martiam', which means 'the great falls'.

Watch the Guy Fawkes River plunging 100m over two waterfalls near the beginning of its long journey north. Three lookout platforms along the edge of the gorge – upper falls, lower falls and valley view – give spectacular views out into the rugged gorge country of Guy Fawkes River National Park.

A walking track links the upper falls and lower falls lookout platforms via the escarpment edge and is an easy walk that's suitable for children. You can also walk to the village of Ebor if you need to grab a coffee or pick up some picnic supplies.



Barbara Webster

Upper and Lower Ebor Falls

You can explore more of this rugged wilderness park by turning off the Armidale-Grafton Road at Dundurrabin and continuing 34km to Chaelundi campground (gravel roads). The **Escarpment walk** leads to the spectacular Chaelundi Falls and Lucifers Thumb lookouts, with remarkable 180-degree views out over the park and the Guy Fawkes River gorge.

### CARING FOR THE PARK

- Don't feed wild animals. It can make an animal sick or aggressive.
- Take only photos and leave only footprints. All plants and animals, living or dead, all rock formations and Aboriginal and historic places are protected in national parks.
- Domestic animals are not permitted in national parks. They can frighten wildlife, annoy other visitors or become lost.
- Use fireplaces and wood provided. Do not gather wood from the bush as it provides shelter and food for wildlife. Bring gas or fuel stoves if you can.
- Wash well away from streams. Soap, detergent and toothpaste can harm fish and other water life.
- No bins are provided, so please take your rubbish with you for recycling and disposal.
- Fossicking in national parks and nature reserves is not allowed.

### STAYING SAFE IN PARKS

Many NSW parks are remote and rugged places, weather can change quickly and conditions in the bush may be unpredictable. When visiting a national park, be aware of the risks and take responsibility for your own safety and the safety of any children in your care. Remember to plan ahead, choose your walks and activities to match your fitness level, and tell someone where you're going and when you'll be back. For more information about staying safe in parks visit [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety).

### CONTACTS

#### NPWS DORRIGO OFFICE

Dome Road, PO Box 170  
Dorrigo NSW 2453  
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#### NPWS ARMIDALE OFFICE

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Armidale NSW 2350  
T: (02) 6738 9100 F: (02) 6738 9140



Search for Oxley Wild Rivers, New England, Cathedral Rock and Guy Fawkes River national parks on Facebook.

#### GENERAL INQUIRIES:

Phone: 1300 PARKS (1300 072757)  
[parks.info@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:parks.info@environment.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.facebook.com/NSWNationalParks](http://www.facebook.com/NSWNationalParks)  
OEH 2014/0294

## GETTING THERE

The Waterfall Way, between Armidale and Dorrigo, provides access to some of the most spectacular national parks in NSW. Turn offs are well signposted to lookouts, campgrounds and picnic areas, on all-weather unsealed roads.

## ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

*"Rather than Country belonging to us, we believe we belong to Country."*

The Dunghutti people belong to the area of the catchment of the Macleay River and the Anaiwan people belong to the tablelands beyond. In the north the Gumbaynggirr people include the Bellinger River valley in their area. These associations with the land go back many thousands of years and continue to this day.

The Great Escarpment crags and other areas within these parks hold special meaning for Aboriginal Peoples. Point Lookout is a sacred location, known to Dunghutti Aboriginal people as 'Berangutta', and is considered a men-only place. Today many Aboriginal women choose to continue this tradition and avoid visiting the area.

*"Where else can you have so much wilderness and natural area to explore all to yourself? A truly magical place to experience."*

## CRAGS, CLIFFS AND CHASMS

Explore the parks along the Great Escarpment and Snowy Range, which dominate this region of New South Wales on the eastern edge of the New England Tableland. Stare into the centre of the ancient Ebor volcano. Watch cascading streams and waterfalls still shaping this dramatic mountainous landscape, as you travel along the Waterfall Way.

From the rugged beauty of **Guy Fawkes River National Park** and the huge granite tors of **Cathedral Rock National Park** to the breathtaking clifflines of **New England National Park** and the plunging ravines of **Wollomombi Gorge** in Oxley Wild Rivers National Park, you will find yourself surrounded by some of the most spectacular scenery on the east coast of Australia.

**Wilderness Areas** have been declared over parts of all four parks, protecting the viewsapes and providing large areas of undisturbed land where genetic diversity and natural cycles can remain essentially unaltered by human activity.

To get a glimpse of what the planet was like millions of years ago, climb down to hidden worlds deep below the cliffs to see some of the unique vegetation of the **Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage area**.



This World Heritage site is a chain of fifty remnant 'rainforest islands' stretching from south east Queensland to Barrington Tops in New South Wales, forming the most extensive areas of diverse types of rainforest to be found anywhere on the globe.

These rainforests protect thousands of special plants and animals in this most ancient of Australian ecosystems.



Cool temperate rainforest of Antarctic beech can be seen along walking tracks in New England National Park



# NEW ENGLAND NATIONAL PARK

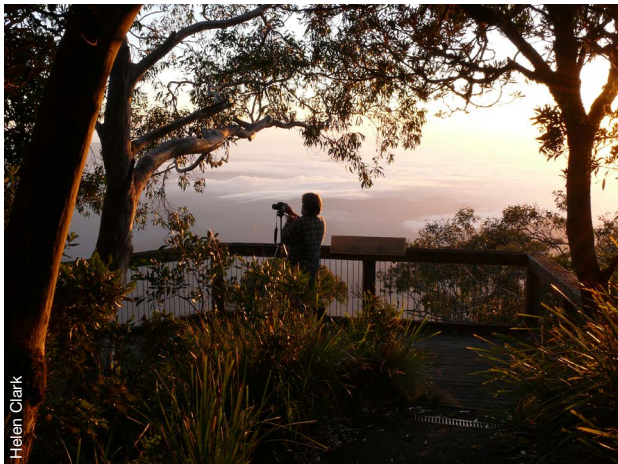
## WHY VISIT?

Just a one-hour scenic drive from Armidale or Dorrigo or two hours by car from Coffs Harbour, you'll discover a place of spectacular beauty and pristine wilderness at New England National Park.

Few parks in NSW offer such a choice of activities in such glorious surrounds, which is why some people come back year after year to enjoy the many viewpoints, and diversity of habitat and wildlife found within the park's 1400m altitudinal range.

Even in one day you can admire a magnificent 180 degree panorama over a wilderness of ranges, step down through the hushed and mossy mystery of a surviving pocket of Gondwana rainforest, scramble to the top of a craggy volcanic plug with flowering heathland and more breathtaking views, and picnic with crimson rosellas amongst silver-trunked snowgums.

But why not stay overnight and get up in the dark to catch the sunrise from Point Lookout, then discover more experiences that await you? You can walk upstream along a cascading, pristine mountain creek, or listen to lyrebird concerts echoing down the gullies, or capture colourful wildflowers on camera, or count how many of the 100 species of birds you encounter in the many habitats explored by the 22km of walking tracks.



Helen Clark

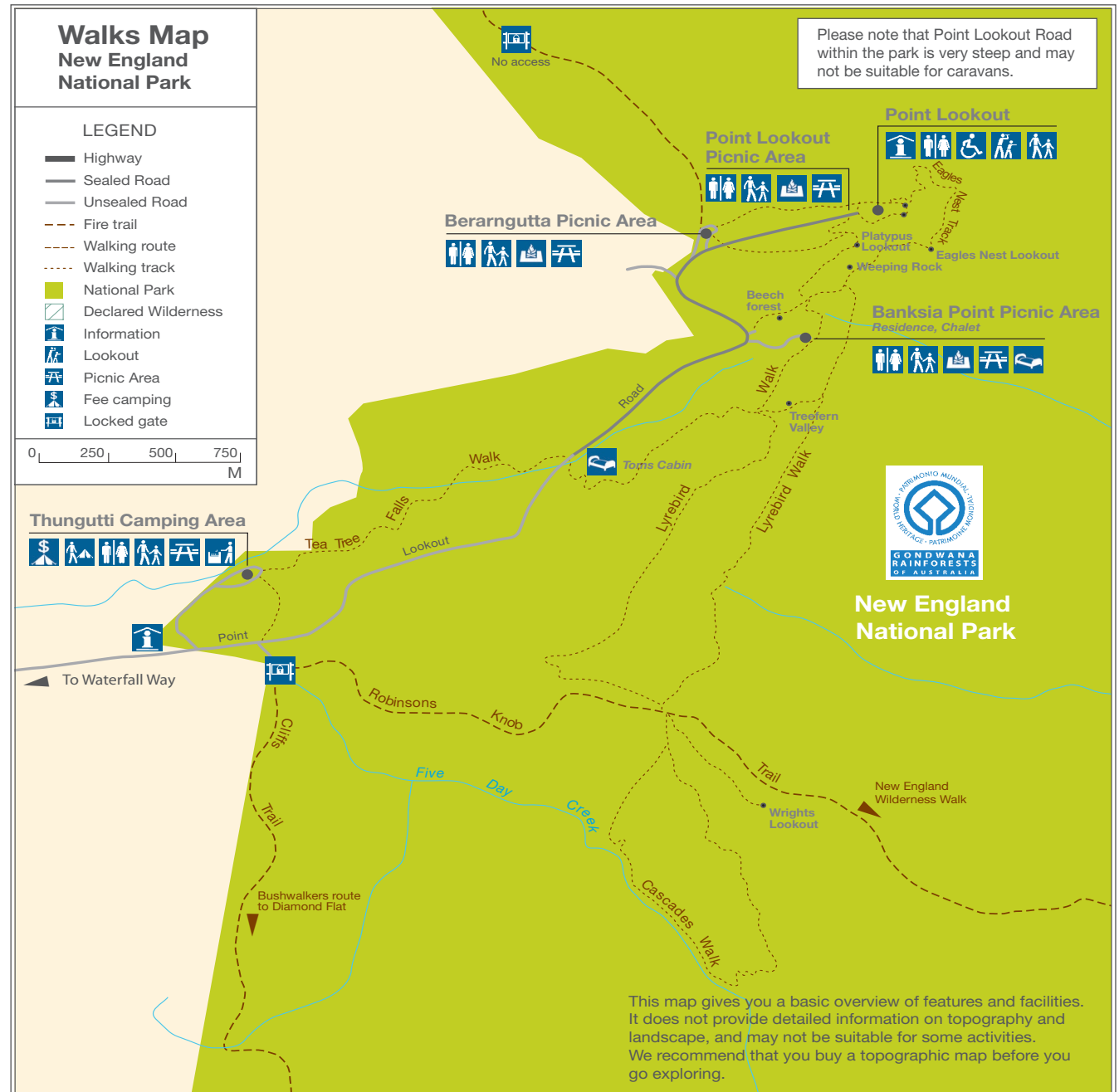
Photographers love the sunrise view from Point Lookout

## POINT LOOKOUT



You'll need your camera for the breathtaking views from Point Lookout, a 200m walk from the carpark on a wheelchair-friendly track. You can see all the way to the coast across a wilderness of forested peaks and valleys. Join the heroic early risers who arrive before dawn to see the sensational sunrises over mist-filled valleys.

*"Watching the sun rise over the ocean, lighting up the cloud-covered valley below Point Lookout, is one of the most spectacular and memorable dawns I have ever experienced."*



While you're at Point Lookout, why not venture off to discover the rainforest below on the many walking tracks that start here?

## WALKING TRACKS



### EAGLES NEST TRACK

Grade 4, 2.2km, 2hrs circuit

*"It's like going back in time when you walk through Gondwana rainforest, admiring ancient species that have looked this way for millions of years."*

Eagles Nest walking track takes you on a journey into the mysterious world below the cliff line and returns atop the plateau, with outstanding views along the way.

From Point Lookout step down into the ageless green world of Gondwana rainforest. Marvel at the huge Antarctic beech trees covered in moss and dotted with beech orchids. You'll see water trickling from the rocks, or on winter days freezing and forming chandeliers of ice that glisten in the winter light.

Climb back up to the escarpment near Banksia Point and return to Point Lookout through snow gum woodland, carpeted with snowgrass tussocks and colourful wildflowers in the spring. Watch for shy swamp wallabies and friendly yellow robins.



Eagles Nest Track, near Weeping Rock



### LYREBIRD WALK

Grade 3, 5.5km, 3hrs circuit

From Banksia Point you can take the Lyrebird Walk for the full New England experience. Immerse yourself in the ancient Gondwana rainforests and discover secret dells where lyrebirds call. Explore an enchanting range of other environments too, including eucalypt forest, basalt cliffs, and colourful heath, and marvel at the constantly changing feast of expansive views.

Return via Treefern Valley for a shorter (one hour) walk.



Wrights Lookout



### WRIGHTS LOOKOUT

Grade 3, 4km, 2hrs return

From the carpark on Robinsons Knob Trail the walk to Wrights Lookout takes you through the lush world of ferns and mosses to a rocky plateau with spectacular panoramic views.

It's a bit of a scramble to get to the top, but you'll be rewarded at the end, standing on the top of a trachyte remnant of the ancient Ebor Volcano, looking down to Bellinger River in the valley below. The views from the top are beautiful all year round, but in spring the heathlands burst with colourful wildflowers. Birdwatchers will spot honeyeaters on the flowering shrubs.



### CASCADES WALK

Grade 4 with rock-hopping, 5.7km, 3hr circuit

This gorgeous and tranquil walk takes viewers down along the beautiful valley below Wrights Lookout past cascades and waterfalls, alongside giant king ferns and mossy boulders. Five Day Creek, along Cascades walk, is one of the most beautiful rainforest streams in NSW.



### TEA TREE FALLS WALK

Grade 3, 2km, 45 mins one-way

One of the easiest walks in the park, Tea Tree Falls walk links Thungutti campground with Banksia Point and other walks. Look out for hanging moss and spongy sphagnum moss.



### NEW ENGLAND WILDERNESS WALK

Grade 5, 33km, 20 hrs (3 days) one way

This tough walk, which descends over 1000m from the New England Tableland to the headwaters of Bellinger River, invites experienced bush walkers on a journey through wilderness and diverse landscapes. Enjoy the changing scenery of the escarpment descent, followed by creek walking, river crossings, swimming spots and serene camping. Upon reaching the valley floor, easy walking over grassy river flats reveals historic farmhouses and stockyards - a reminder of the early farming heritage here.

Don't go without your pocket guide, available from the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre and Armidale Outdoors.

## STAY OVERNIGHT



### PARK ACCOMMODATION

The holiday cabins near Point Lookout make a great base for exploring the spectacular parks of the Waterfall Way.

Experience nature with all the luxuries of home and a view at **The Residence** or **The Chalet**, located at Banksia Point, or enjoy the rustic charm of **Toms Cabin** by the open fire at night.

Book at:

[www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au), or phone : 02 6657 2309.



The carnivorous spotted-tailed quoll



The Chalet



Toms Cabin

## THUNGUTTI CAMPGROUND



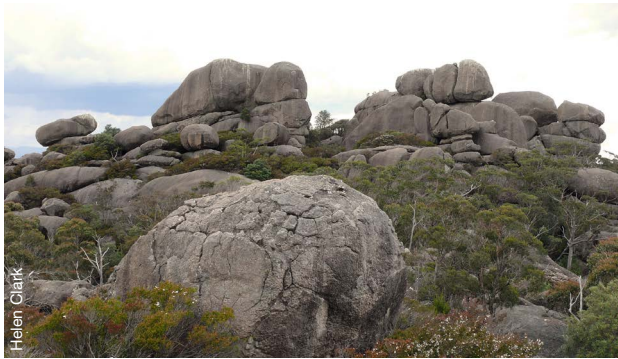
Pitch the tent or park the campervan amongst tall forest trees and enjoy the peace of the bush. Scrub wrens will welcome you and a spotted-tailed quoll may invite itself to your barbecue. Take a spotlight to check out such nocturnal neighbours as greater gliders and brush-tailed possums.

Bring warm clothes for the cool nights, and with so much to explore you may be tempted to stay several days. A large cooking shelter with gas barbecues makes rainy weather more enjoyable. Camping for caravans or pets is available outside the park at Styx River Campground on Point Lookout Road.



Take the family camping at Thungutti campground

# CATHEDRAL ROCK NATIONAL PARK



Woolpack Rocks

## WHY VISIT?

If you like scrambling among enormous granite tors piled up like giant marbles you will love it here. Kids and adults alike will want to perch with the skinks high on a rocky lookout and enjoy the superb views across the wilderness landscape of dry eucalypt forest and numerous granite outcrops. The park's rock formations are particularly photogenic in late-afternoon light or mist.

Picnic beside sub-alpine wetlands, where eastern grey kangaroos mow the grass. Wildflower enthusiasts will wander for hours among the colourful ground orchids and flowering ground cover along the stream valleys, while bird watchers will find the banksias in the forest noisy with yellow-tailed black cockatoos and honeyeaters. You may be fortunate enough to spot the flash of a flame robin or endangered turquoise parrot, and remember to look out for a wedge-tailed eagle silently circling the granite tors.



Rare green five-corners

Get away from the lowland heat and take the family camping for a weekend here on the plateau where temperatures are cooler. It can often be sunny here when the escarpment edge of New England National Park is enshrouded in mist. The kids will love clambering over the granite boulders near the campground or you can pack a flask, grab your torch and set out to climb Cathedral Rock for a very special sunrise.

For a great introduction to overnight walking, carry your pack for the 10.4km Barokee to Native Dog Creek walk and camp at the other end, returning next day.

*"When you get to Woolpack Rocks, you can really see how they got their name - they look like a huge pile of wool bales."*

## WALKING TRACKS



### CATHEDRAL ROCK

Grade 4, 5.8km, 2hrs 45mins circuit

Hike up Cathedral Rock to sit on a natural throne – perched on 200m of stacked boulders – and survey your kingdom. The nearby Round Mountain is the highest point of the New England Tablelands, although only by a royal whisker at 1584m.

The track is most easily accessed from Barokee campground. Follow the circuit clockwise on a gentle climb through sub-alpine woodland to the summit turnoff. Rock-hopping is the scientific term for what you'll be doing for much of the next 400m as you clamber over boulders and straddle crevices. On the way back, keep following the circuit around through a protected valley of manna gums.



Chains assist the climb to the summit of Cathedral Rock



### WARRIGAL TRACK

Grade 2, 1km, 30min circuit

This easy stroll through dry woodland and granite boulders invites walkers to take their time and appreciate the flowering heath plants and native orchids near Native Dog Creek.



### WOOLPACK ROCKS

Grade 3, 3.7km (one way), 1.5hrs each way

Woolpack Rocks shouldn't be overlooked just because the national park wasn't named after them. Easily accessible from Native Dog Creek campground, this feature is a geological wonder in its own right.

Woolpack Rocks are around 270 million years old and you can see how these ancient tors have been exposed through erosion and weathering. You can also see some of the volcanic dykes created at the same time when molten rock pushed into deep pockets within the earth's crust.

The boulders are 1400m above sea level, yet clambering to the summit is even easier than at Cathedral Rock. So, you're getting a great scenic view for the price of a prehistoric walk and an easy climb. Finding an array of wildflowers among the rocks is an extra surprise on your walk to the Woolpack Rocks.



Cathedral Rock summit



### BAROKEE TO NATIVE DOG CREEK

Grade 3, 10.4km, 5hrs one way

Ideal for a first-time overnight hike or a long day walk, Barokee to Native Dog Creek track crosses the Snowy Range. It links the park's two campgrounds and takes in Woolpack Rocks and Cathedral Rock. The grade is moderate apart from when you climb the rock features (which add 1.4km to the distance).

You will walk through subalpine woodland, open forest, heath and boulder fields. There is no better track for birdwatchers as woodland birds are plentiful here and you're likely to see honeyeaters, pardalotes, robins, treecreepers, rosellas and lorikeets. Be sure to bring your binoculars and don't forget to scan the skies for circling wedge-tailed eagles.

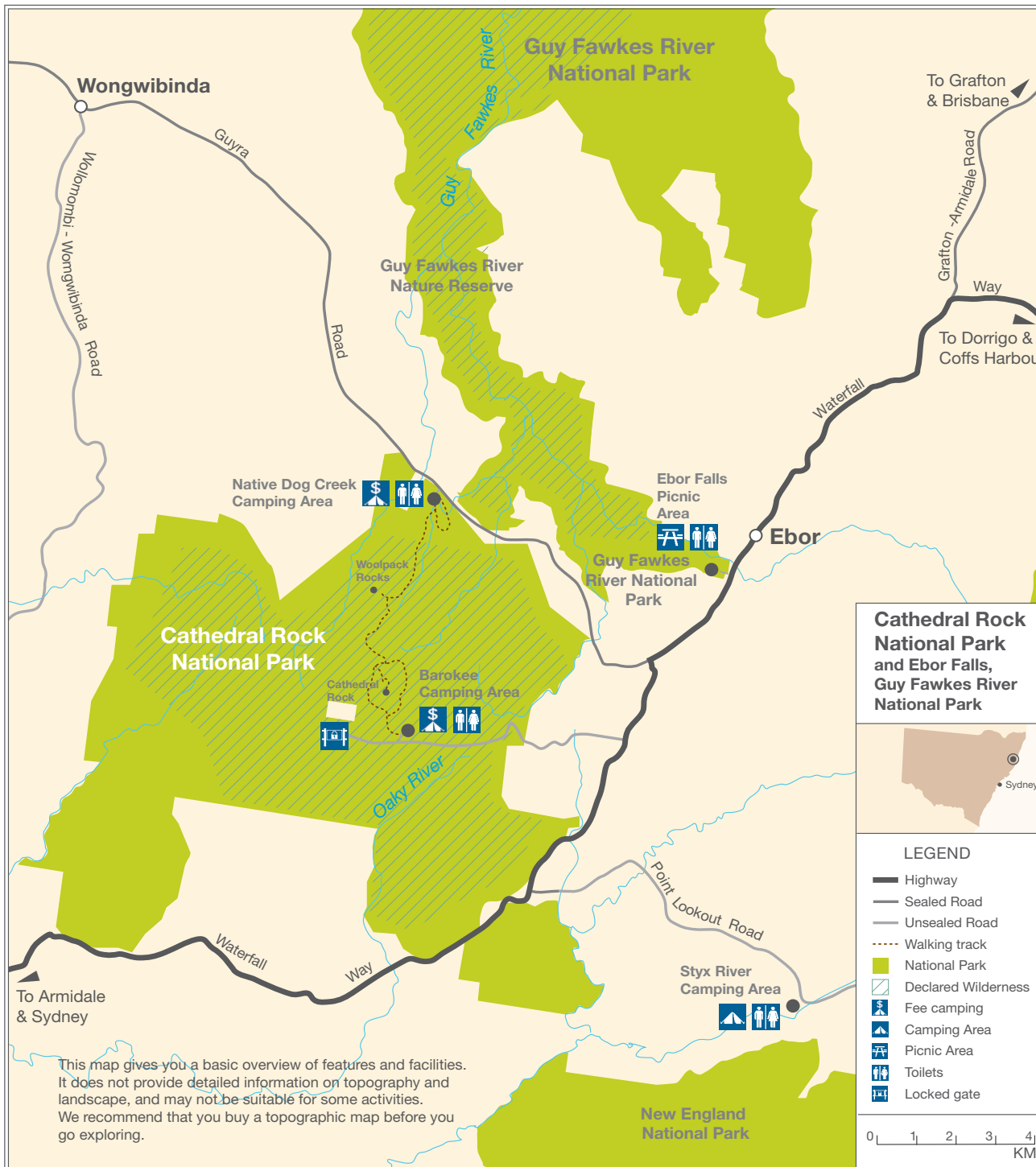
Depending on your group's timetable and fitness, you might leave your vehicle at one end then camp the night at the other and retrace your steps the next day, car shuffle for a one-way day walk, or hike the return 20.8km in one go.



Native iris



Pink fingers orchid



## STAY OVERNIGHT

### BAROKEE CAMPGROUND



Campsites at Barokee campground are tucked away amongst tall banksia and eucalyptus trees, giving a lovely sense of privacy. And because this is remote camping, you're more than likely to have the place to yourself.

The campground is the closest starting point to Cathedral Rock itself, so you can enjoy the circuit and summit scramble, or the longer Barokee to Native Dog Creek walk.

You might also want to wander around the swampy valley at the head of Snowy Creek where a variety of alpine and sub-alpine plants and wildflowers thrive. Although many flower in spring, there is colour at any time of the year.

### NATIVE DOG CREEK CAMPGROUND



Native Dog Creek campground is spacious, and ideal for relaxing. It's mere minutes from the park's northern entrance, so shortly after arriving at the park you'll soon be lazing in the picnic area with a cup of tea in hand.

If you feel like heading out for some exercise, Warrigal track with its gigantic boulders is an easy circuit and Native Dog Creek is ideal for paddling. For a longer hike, carry on to Woolpack Rocks and, beyond that, Cathedral Rock.

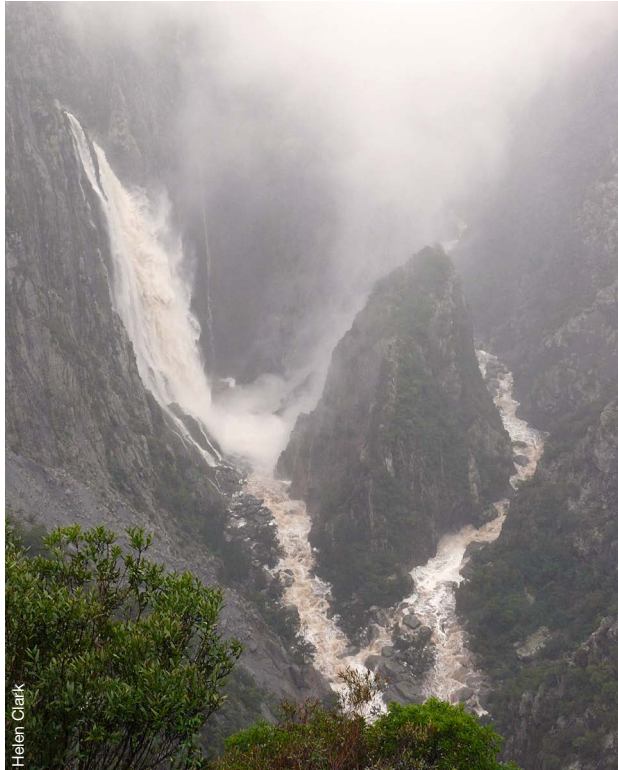
Kangaroos and wallabies are used to campers and may pose for a photo right beside your tent, whilst wedge-tailed eagles are often sighted soaring above.



Barokee campground

## WOLLOMOMBI GORGE, OXLEY WILD RIVERS NATIONAL PARK

*"We were mesmerised by Wollomombi Falls after the rains, even the kids were speechless. Either that, or we just couldn't hear them over the roar of water."*



Helen Clark

Mist rises from Wollomombi Falls after heavy rain

### WHY VISIT?

#### WOLLOMOMBI GORGE AND FALLS PICNIC AREA



If you like being king of the castle, don't miss the dramatic views from Wollomombi Lookout where the Wollomombi and Chandler Rivers plunge into an enormous ravine.

If there's been heavy rain, you'll soak up more than just the scenery as the thunderous waterfalls fill the gorge with mist and the occasional rainbow. It's a great way to introduce the kids to the might of the natural elements and notch up a visit to one of the highest waterfalls in NSW.

When the force of nature gives way to hunger, unpack the picnic basket and barbecue up a feast under the shade of the red gum and yellow box. If you're after action, there's a range of walks that show off the rugged beauty of this spectacular area.

### WALKING TRACKS



#### CHANDLER WALKING TRACK

Grade 2, 2.5km 1hr 30min return

Those who enjoy ridge-walking with all-round views will like this short, easy walk in the middle of the awesome gorge country. From Wollomombi Lookout gaze across the deep ravine gouged by the convergence of the Chandler and Wollomombi Rivers. From here stroll through woodland of stringybarks and blackbutts, where honeyeaters and lorikeets squabble over blossom.

Don't miss the brilliant view from Checks Lookout where you are surrounded by a maze of gorges and valleys. You might also see wedge-tailed eagles and peregrine falcons surfing the thermals rising off the steep cliffs. Although there is no track to the bottom of the gorge you can still look down upon a dramatic U-bend in the river from Chandler Lookout at the end of the ridge.



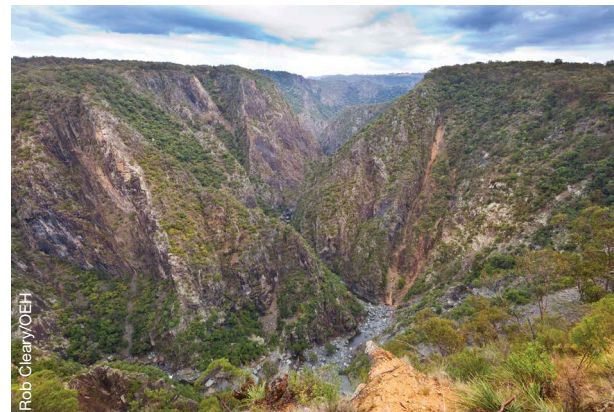
#### WOLLOMOMBI WALKING TRACK

Grade 2, 4km 3hrs return

If you're up for a walk to the head of the gorge, take this track from the picnic area. It's easy and you get to see the waterfalls and the dramatic landscape from quite a few different angles. Take a snack - you'll find some great places to sit and enjoy the great outdoors.

When you cross over the Wollomombi River, stop a while to scan quietly for wildlife. There are platypus living here, and it's also a favourite resting spot for eastern grey kangaroos.

Birdwatchers will also want to take it slow to check out the feathered life of the forest. Colourful spotted pardalotes have a call that sounds like 'sleep maybe', and you are also likely to hear the cheeky but melodious conversations of currawongs.



Rob Cleary/OEH

View of the gorge from the Wollomombi walking track

### STAY OVERNIGHT

#### WOLLOMOMBI CAMPGROUND



Pull up in this peaceful campsite and you'll suddenly be in the bush. It's perfect for an overnight bush stop while exploring the falls country of New England by campervan. There's the accessible **Edgars lookout** just a short stroll from camp.



Rob Cleary/OEH

Wollomombi campground

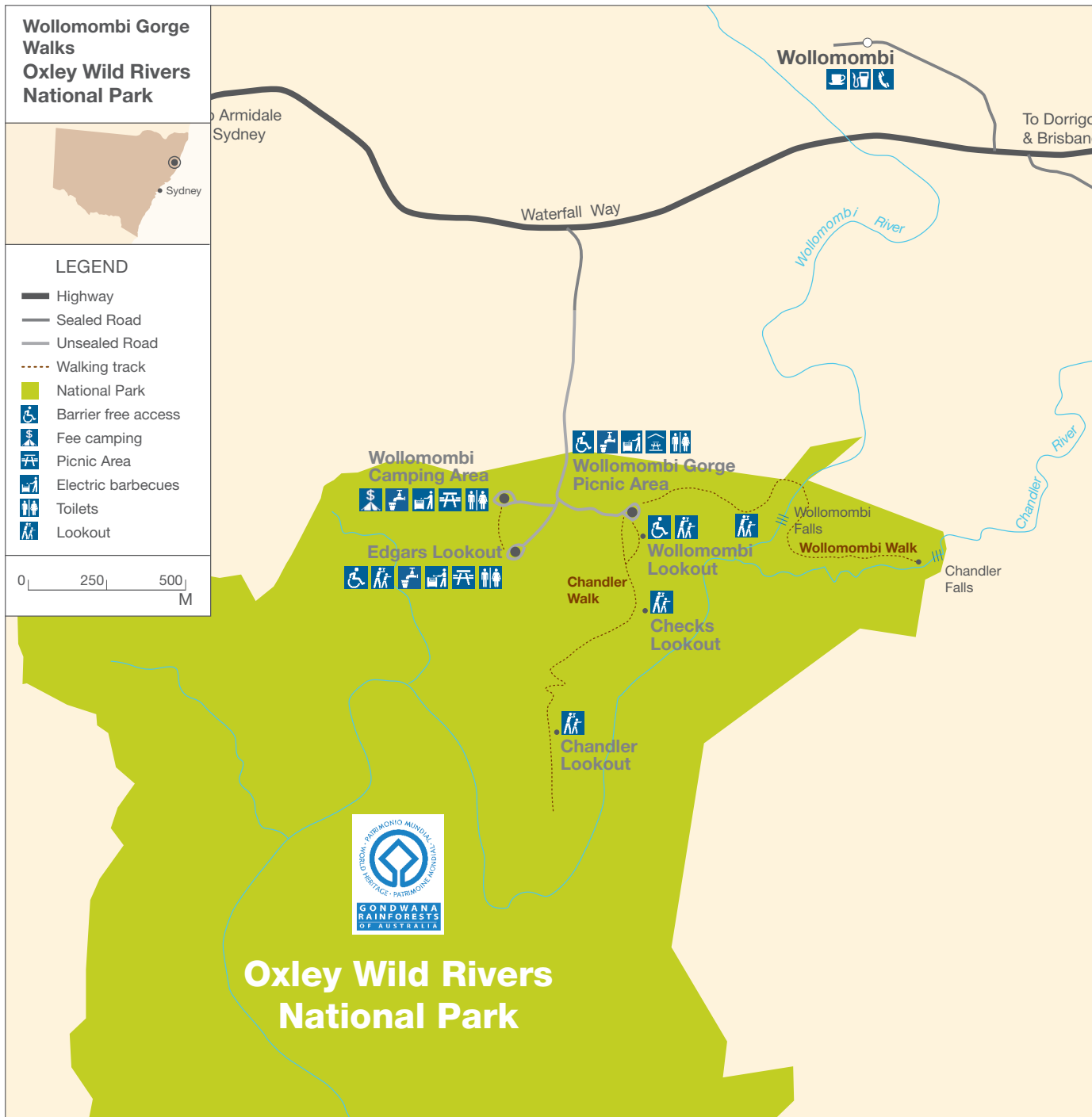
### DID YOU KNOW?

Brush-tailed rock-wallabies have an almost unbelievable ability to hop around on near-vertical cliffs, because they have special 'suction pads' on their feet. Even though there are many thousands of this endangered species in the rocky gorges of the Northern Tablelands, you'll have to keep your eyes open to catch a glimpse of a dark bushy tail. Look for them jumping around rocky escarpments and granite outcrops or grazing on native grasses at dawn and dusk.



Sean Leathers/OEH

Brush-tailed rock-wallaby



## EXPLORE FURTHER

You might be tempted to spend a couple of days on the Waterfall Way to admire more of the spectacular gorges and waterfalls of Oxley Wild Rivers National Park. See the Waterfall Way map for these locations west of Wollomombi.

Part of the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage area, this park is renowned for its patches of rare dry rainforest, perched beneath dry ridges and surrounded by open forests. Dry rainforest sounds impossible, but in the gorge country there are pockets where deep moisture makes it possible for particular rainforest species such as red kamala, lacebark and stinging trees to make it through seasonal dry periods.

## LONG POINT



Along a ridge, 17km south of Hillgrove on a gravel road, Long Point offers breathtaking views and relaxed family camping. Perfect for the kids, the **Cassinia walk** is a short (1.5km), easy track that takes in rare rainforests, gums, and grassy heathlands, making it excellent for wildlife and birdwatching. The longer **Chandler View circuit walk** (6km, 2hrs) follows gorge ridges dotted with yellow box and silvertop stringybark to Chandler lookout for spectacular views over the Chandler River.

## GARA GORGE



Threlfall Walk: Grade 3, 5km 2.5hr circuit

At Gara Gorge, just 22km east of Armidale, the fascinating Threlfall Walk traces the gorge ridge and combines an historic walk with jaw-dropping views. It follows the route of the historic 1894 hydro-electric scheme to a lookout high above the Gara River, where you can gaze out across the rugged wilderness.

## DANGARS GORGE



Just 22km south of Armidale on the Dangarsleigh Road, Dangars Falls makes a great walking or camping destination. After a downpour, the mighty falls are spectacular as Salisbury Waters plunges over the 120m ravine, filling it with mist and rainbows. You'll find plenty of walks to do too.