

# Booderee National Park

[environment.gov.au/parks/booderee](http://environment.gov.au/parks/booderee)



## Walks in the park

Booderee is an ideal place to see the abundance of flowering plants and animals in heath, forest and coastal tea-tree communities. A system of walking and fire trails provide access to most areas of the park and Botanic Garden. The gentle terrain, mild climate and well signposted trails of Booderee provide easy walking conditions. Walks range from a few hundred metres to several kilometres through a variety of scenery and wildlife habitats.

Heath grows in shallow soils and provides a colourful floral display in spring. Southern mahogany and blackbutt are the main trees found in the forests. Small pockets are enriched with species such as lilly pilly and hard corkwood - remnants from the warm temperate rainforests that once dominated eastern Australia. Beneath the canopy mats of ferns and creepers scramble over the ground and weave in and out of the trunks and branches. In the woodland, bloodwood and silvertop ash dominate.

Along the walking trails you see many varieties of birds, including honeyeaters sipping nectar from banksias, shy eastern bristlebirds foraging in the heath and perhaps a white-bellied sea eagle soaring above. Many insects and other small animals live in the foliage and leaf litter and sometimes quiet walkers see wallabies or grey kangaroos grazing beside the trails.

Booderee Botanic Gardens offer many walking trails on well-marked tracks including the Rainforest Boardwalk. The magnificent bird life on Lake McKenzie and displays housed in the Green Hut are other highlights. See the [Booderee Botanic Gardens brochure](#) for more information on walking trails in the botanic gardens.

## Taking care

**Don't feed the animals** The huge quantity of food fed to wildlife by visitors has caused an increase in the numbers of crimson rosellas. They push other birds and mammals out of nesting hollows forcing them out of the area. Feeding also attracts:

- feral black rats, currawongs and ravens that raid nests and prey on the young of our small native birds

Food provided by visitors can be fatal to wildlife. Poor nutrition can lead to:

- bone deformities
- general bad health
- susceptibility to disease
- reduced ability to cope with cold weather

Handfed wildlife becomes:

- easy targets for poachers
- dependant on unnatural food

- aggressive towards humans and each other and
- annoying to visitors in tents, caravans and at picnic tables

#### **Health hazards**

- Sick animals, such as birds, are attracted to free feeds where diseases can spread easily amongst the large flocks that gather.
- Flatworm, psittacosis (a lung disease), salmonella, fungal infections and tetanus can be transferred from wildlife to humans.
- Bites and scratches to people are common when feeding wildlife. This is frightening and often painful and can lead to serious infections.

#### **Unfriendly fire, to avoid causing wildfire please:**

- only light fires in the fireplaces provided
- check fire restrictions before lighting fires
- only use fires for cooking
- keep fires small to conserve wood
- only collect wood from the woodbins provided
- don't dispose of heat beads in the bush

#### **Ruinous rubbish**

Litter such as tin and plastic can be dangerous to wildlife - for example, marine animals sometimes mistake white, plastic shopping bags for squid. They swallow the plastic bag and usually die - it is best to avoid taking plastic bags in boats and near the water. Rubbish also spoils the bush experience. Please put all rubbish in the bins provided or take it home with you.

#### **Please remember:**

- camping is restricted to designated camping areas at Cave Beach, Green Patch and Bristol Point
- fires may only be lit in provided fireplaces and should not be lit at all during days of total fire ban
- all plants, animals, life on rock platforms, timber and soil are protected throughout Booderee and cannot be taken
- place all rubbish in bins provided - or take it home with you
- do not feed the wildlife
- for the safety of Booderee's wildlife do not bring plants, animals or pets into the park
- use the toilets provided for you
- spearguns, handspears and firearms are all prohibited
- stay on the tracks and trails provided to avoid damaging vegetation and causing erosion

#### **For your safety:**

- before undertaking walks in the more remote areas give details of your intended walk to someone
- times given in this pamphlet are for walking at a moderate pace - allow extra time for rest and diversions along the way
- carry your own drinking water
- wear sturdy footwear
- on days of total fire ban, walking trails will be closed - check at the visitor centre for the latest weather and fire hazard information
- both funnel-web spiders and venomous snakes occur in the area - do not attempt to handle these animals
- slip, slop, slap! - protect yourself from the sun
- observe safety precautions when swimming, snorkelling and diving, and never turn your back on the sea
- stay away from cliff edges



## Walks around Green Patch

### Green Patch to Bristol Point (via rock platform)

Best attempted when the tide is low, this walk is a scenic ramble along the rocky shore and through the nearby forest. Access the rock platform from the eastern side of the Green Patch picnic area via a small bridge and follow the signs. Once on the rock platform, continue until you come to a small secluded beach. After the beach, scramble back on to the rocks and follow the track through the forest until you reach Bristol Point picnic area. A return walk back to Green Patch can be taken through tall blackbutt forest.

The rock platform contains plants and animals that have special adaptations to survive in this salty, weather-beaten environment. As with all plants and animals in the park, they are protected and are not to be disturbed. The return walk through the blackbutt forest is great after dark when nocturnal animals can be seen. These animals are shy - so don't get too close and remember to keep quiet.

**Green Patch Beach to Bristol Point | 400 m | 10 min**

**Green Patch via rock platform | 500 m | 30 min**

### Telegraph Creek Nature Trail

This circular walk is easy with signs describing interesting aspects of the vegetation along the way. It passes through tall eucalypt forest where the older trees provide hollows for birds and possums. Crossing serene, fern-lined creeks and swamps you may see freshwater crayfish foraging. The trail continues through woodland and heath. In spring delightful wildflower displays attract a wide variety of birds. Seats are provided along the way. The trail begins at the northern end of the Green Patch car park or where it is signposted along Jervis Bay Road near the Green Patch turn-off.

**Telegraph Creek Nature Trail | 2.4 km | 1 hr**



## Walks around Cave Beach

### Cave Beach

Cave Beach is a great surfing spot and is just a few minutes along the main trail from the Cave Beach car park.

**Cave Beach car park to camping area | 250 m | 5 min**

**Cave Beach camping area to Cave Beach | 350 m | 5 min**

### Bherwerre Beach

Bherwerre Beach is a long, south-facing ocean beach also approached from Cave Beach car park.

Take the main trail from the car park to the camping area. On the western side of the camp area there is a trail that leads around Ryans Swamp to Bherwerre Beach. Ryans Swamp attracts many waterbirds such as swamp hens, egrets and ducks and is also home to numerous frogs and snakes and turtles

To complete a circuit, take the fire trail back to Cave Beach Road from Bherwerre Beach. The fire trail leads you across sand dunes which were revegetated with bitou bush in the late 1960s. Since then this plant has become a major weed and is a threat to all of the NSW coast. In the deeper soils tall blackbutt forest replaces the dune vegetation.

**Cave Beach camping area to Bherwerre Beach | 600 m | 10 min**

**Cave Beach car park to Bherwerre Beach via fire trail | 1.9 km | 45 min**



## Walks around Murrays Beach

### Murrays walking trail

Murrays Walking Trail starts in tall eucalypt forest. As you approach Governor Head the tea-tree scrub replaces the forest and then sandstone cliffs tower 90-120 m above the surging sea. The cliffs are dangerous so beware of loose surfaces and crumbling rock ledges - stay away from cliff edges. As you head south along the cliff line, heath is the dominant vegetation type. Early morning walkers sometimes see the rare and elusive eastern bristlebird in this area.

**Murrays walking trail (loop walk) | 5.5 km | 2.5 hr**

### Murrays Beach

Murrays Beach is an ideal location to cool off and relax after completing the Murrays Walking Trail. Directly behind Murrays Beach a shorter route to Governor Head follows a section of Murrays Walking Trail (return the same way).

**Murrays Beach car park to Murrays Beach | 300 m | 5 min**

**Murrays Beach car park to Governor Head | 1.1 km | 20 min**

### Low tide walks

Exploring the shoreline at low tide is a great way to discover some fascinating marine life. From Murrays car park, walk to the boat ramp and towards Bowen Island over the rock platform and onto Murrays Beach. From here you can return via a forest trail. If you turn left at the boat ramp you will reach Hole in the Wall and Green Patch.

*Please remember: All life on the rock platforms including shellfish, seaweed, octopus and crabs are protected and must not be taken or disturbed.*

**Murrays Beach car park to Hole in the Wall | 1.1 km | 30 min**

**Murrays Beach car park to Green Patch | 5.5 km | 2.5 hr**

**Murrays boat ramp to Murrays Beach | 500 m | 30 min**



## Walks around Steamers Beach

### Steamers Beach

This is a magnificent, isolated beach flanked by high cliffs and backed by steep sand dunes that are an unusual colour for Booderee and are thought to have been dumped there by a tsunami (a giant tidal wave). From Steamers Beach car park the trail takes you through tall eucalypt forest and tea-tree towards the coast. Then finishes with a steep flight of stairs.

**Steamers Beach car park to Steamers Beach | 2.3 km | 1 hr**

### Headland Walking Trails

These trails offer a full day of exploring the St Georges Headland. You may take the Circuit Trail from Steamers Beach car park (11.4 km return), or extend your walk by using the many smaller marked trails along the way (in total about 20 km).

Walk to Brooks Lookout for expansive views of the coastline. If you follow the Circuit Trail southwest and take the short trails to St Georges Head, Corangamite and Kittys Point you will arrive at rocky cliffs and outcrops emerging from the ocean. You can view the Cape St George Lighthouse from a platform. The Circuit Trail continues with short trails leading to beautiful spots such as Kittys Beach, Blacks Harbour and Whiting Beach. Follow the Circuit Trail back to the car park via Blacks Waterhole.

Remember to carry and drink plenty of water, stop for rests and refreshments, and stay on the marked tracks at all times.

**Steamers Beach to Brooks Lookout | 1.4 km | 30 min**

**Brooks Lookout to St Georges Head | 4.9 km | 2.5 hr**

**St Georges Head to Blacks Waterhole | 4.1 km | 2 hr**

**Blacks Waterhole to Steamers Beach car park | 3.0 km | 1.5 hr**

