

National Parks in Port Stephens, Great Lakes and Gloucester areas

The perfect learning environment: 2015



nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

Engage your students with educational and fun excursions in your local national park.

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service offers quality, curriculum-based school excursions. Our experienced guides are guaranteed to enthuse and engage your students as they learn in nature.

Risk assessments are provided for all excursions.

LOCATIONS

From Port Stephens' Nelson Bay and Worimi dunes, to the Great Lakes and Gloucester areas.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Gold mining
- Dry rainforest, a curious wonder
- Subtropical rainforest on elevated walkways
- Magnificent coastal views from rolling dunes and coastal beach stretches to imposing volcanic headlands
- Diverse coastal ecosystems and fauna habitats—seagrass, mangroves, beaches, coastal forests and wetlands
- Unique geology and spectacular dunes
- Aboriginal culture with Worimi or Birpai Discovery rangers and guides
- World War II relics from defence of Australia from Port Stephens.

ALL STAGES: LIVING COUNTRY, LIVING CULTURE—ABORIGINAL DISCOVERY

Take a walk with a Worimi or Birpai Discovery ranger on Country, to appreciate traditional and contemporary Aboriginal culture. Learn how the environment is important to Aboriginal people and the roles of men and women through an artifact presentation and bush tucker and bush medicine walk. Depending on location, view middens or scar trees.

Where: Birpai—Sea Acres
Worimi—Nelson Bay area



COPELAND TOPS STATE CONSERVATION AREA

Historic Mountain Maid Gold Mine

Gloucester

Stage 2: State and National Parks

Your visit to Copeland Tops SCA highlights different ways parks are managed and the roles of national park workers. Experience the sights, smells and sounds of the bush and investigate the plants and animals of the dry and sub-tropical rainforest from elevated boardwalks. Explore the historic relics from the gold mining era. This program links with the additional in-school activity "The park that Jack and Jill built".

Stage 3: Global Environments: Rainforests

Copelands Tops offers the unusual opportunity to visit and compare dry and subtropical rainforests from an elevated boardwalk integrated with a rainforest bushwalk. We explore rainforest adaptations, cycles, values of the surrounding rainforests, threats and influences on rainforests, and the people who depend on rainforests.

Stage 3: It's Gold!

Step back in time to discover the lives of miners, families and other community members during the gold mining. Explore relics from mine entry and loading buckets to crushers and whirly gigs, and try your hand at gold panning. The dry rainforest walk, takes you to the old wagon tracks and a bridge where students can consider catchment issues. Students see 'red gold', the red cedars logged after mining, sustaining some of the community. At the education centre video footage brings the mining experience alive.



Photo: Brent Mail

DISCOVERY
FOR SCHOOLS

STAGE 2: AUSTRALIA—YOU'RE STANDING IN IT!

Tomaree National Park

Copeland Tops State Conservation Area

Explore the natural and cultural features of the park, and investigate the significance of particular sites and places and why people value them. Hear stories of the past history, how people interacted with and changed the area over time, and see management issues in the park today.



TOMAREE NATIONAL PARK

Nelson Bay

Early Stage 1 & Stage 1: Wet and Dry

Using your senses, investigate the coastal environment, explore the natural and built features of the beach and dunes, and how people interact with these areas.

Stage 1: The Need for Shelter

Explore the need for shelter on the beach, exposed coastal dunes and bush around Zenith Beach. Find places where animals live, examine ways plants survive and compare to people shelters in nearby. An option is to meet Worimi rangers to discuss traditional ways of survival in different environments.

Stage 2: Places: Then, Now and Tomorrow

Join Worimi rangers to see scar trees and hear about Worimi traditional culture and their dependence on sea and coastal environments. Explore heritage from WWII see behind the scenes of the gunning emplacements. From the lookout see how the national park landscape interacts with the local built environment.

Stage 2: State & National Parks

Explore coastal and headland plant and animal life and how life changes as we climb Tomaree Head. Look for different styles of track management and how this may relate to different destinations and visitors. Explore the heritage from WWII. From the lookouts appreciate the value of national parks, and their interaction with the local built environment.

CROWDY BAY NATIONAL PARK

Stage 2: State and National Parks

Parks come to life at Diamond Head with a nature walk and activities exploring the roles of park workers. Create a park sign, and use a maths activity charting options for sustainable camping.



Photo: Cath Ball

BOOTI BOOTI NATIONAL PARK AND GREAT LAKES AREA

Early Stage 1 & Stage 1: Wet and Dry

Stage 1: The Need for Shelter

In Wet and Dry, students explore and compare beach and forest environments using their senses and through activities. Listen for birds and insects and look out for animals and the evidence they leave behind. In the Need for Shelter, we examine the places plants and animals live, and how they compare in different environments.

Stage 2: State and National Parks

Explore coast, wetland and headland environments through activities to connect with nature. Look at park management of these environments, the camping area and other facilities for people.

SEA ACRES NATIONAL PARK RAINFOREST CENTRE

Sea Acres programs include a Welcome to Country, amazing rainforest films, and a chance to explore the rainforest on the 1.3km elevated boardwalk.

All Stages: Yun Yi Barragay

Birpai people deliver the Yun Yi Barragay, or Walk with Me program with NPWS. Yun Yi Barragay offers an exciting range of tours, educational experiences and events, tailored to suit learning outcomes and styles. Meets K-12 requirements.

Early Stage 1 & Stage 1: Wet and Dry

Stage 2: State and National Parks

Stage 3: Global Environments: Rainforests

OTHER PARKS

Enquire about tours for Forster–Myall Lakes area and Wingham Brush Nature Reserve.

WE VISIT YOUR SCHOOL TOO

We can engage the children in learning about the national parks, our natural environments, why they are important and how we can all look after them.

Activities can include powerpoint presentations, role plays, nature debates, birds of flight—make a kite, nature trivia, biodiversity for kids—mini-beast hunts, the park that Jack & Jill built and other environmental activities.

COME PREPARED

What to bring

- Minimum 600ml water (more on longer walks and hot days)
- Snacks and/or lunch, rubbish bag
- Camera (optional)
- Personal medications (e.g. asthma puffer, epipen).

Please wear

- Enclosed walking shoes
- Sun hat and sun screen
- Warm jacket (April–October)
- Please do not wear ugg boots or sandals.

COSTS

Excursions are pre-booked only. Costs below are indicative only for weekday excursions, for a group up to 25 students inclusive of GST. Additional per student cost where more than 25 students. Maximum of 30 students per group per ranger.

Costs may vary depending on location and where significant tour modification is required to the current tour.

Weekend and public holiday tours are available at additional cost.

Duration	Group up to 25	Extra per student
2 hours	\$220	\$9
3 hours	\$300	\$12
4 hours	\$380	\$15
5 hours	\$440	\$18

INFORMATION & BOOKINGS

Tomaree, Worimi, Copeland Tops, Great Lakes and other Lower North Coast parks

Phone 02 4984 8210 Discovery.LowerNorthCoast@environment.nsw.gov.au

Sea Acres National Park

Phone 02 6582 3355
SeaAcres@environment.nsw.gov.au

Crowdy Bay National Park

Phone 02 6588 5519
Susan.Phillips@environment.nsw.gov.au

For more details and other programs, see www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/schools