

# National Parks in Port Stephens, Great Lakes and Gloucester areas

## The perfect learning environment: 2015



[nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://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

- Dry rainforest, a curious wonder
- Subtropical rainforest on elevated walkways
- Gold mining
- 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 defence of Australia from Port Stephens and settlement
- Integrated catchment of national park, marine park and built environment.

### COPELAND TOPS STATE CONSERVATION AREA

#### Historic Mountain Maid Gold Mine

Gloucester

Copelands offers the unusual opportunity to compare dry and subtropical rainforests from an elevated boardwalk. Explore rainforest adaptations, cycles, values of the surrounding rainforests, threats and influences on rainforests, and the people who depend on rainforests. Step back in time to discover the lives of miners, families and other community members during the gold mining at the historic Mountain Maid Gold Mine. Explore relics from mine entry and loading buckets to crushers and whirly gigs, and try their hand at gold panning. Walk the old wagon tracks and consider catchment issues.

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.

Investigate past and current impacts.

**Geography Stage 4:** Global environments—rainforests

**Science Stage 4:** Ecosystems—rainforests.

**HSIE Stage 3:** Gold Environments—rainforests



Photo: Cath Ball



Photo: G Woods

### WORIMI CONSERVATION LANDS

Nelson Bay

Worimi is a spectacular coastal mobile sand dune system. Examine the biophysical interactions that stabilize and unsettle this highly dynamic system, as well as human impacts; visitor and management induced. Aerial photos are used to outline changes. Discuss management arrangements of these lands, a unique story in NSW.

Tasks relate to the specifics of each stage

**Geography Stage 4:** Global environments: coasts

**Stage 6:** Ecosystems at risk—coastal dunes.



## TOMAREE NATIONAL PARK

Nelson Bay

Featuring rocky coastlines and dramatic headlands, protecting sand dunes, heathland and forest ecosystems, Tomaree National Park offers diverse opportunities for educational studies, including WWII sites of defence.

Explore beach, dune and headland ecosystems, see how abiotic features influence the biota as we climb Tomaree Head. Experience track management techniques and how these relate to topography, destinations and visitor experience.

From the lookouts see diverse geological features and how the headlands influence beach formation. Appreciate the value of national parks and their interaction with the local built environment.

Near the park, join Worimi rangers to hear Worimi traditional culture, see scar trees, and explore their interdependence on sea and coastal environments.

### History Stage 5: WWII

Explore the heritage from WWII—examine the role of Tomaree Head, Port Stephens and the nearby areas in the war, as an international training ground, defence against invasion, and recovery. See the radar towers, gun emplacements and how soldiers bunked down behind the scenes. Appreciate Port Stephens' role in potential defence of Australia and how this influenced its future development.

### Geography Stage 6: Biophysical interactions

Contrast the biophysical interaction on Tomaree's Zenith Beach and the adjacent Tomaree Head. Compare biotic and abiotic features on beach and dune with those on the volcanic rhyolite headland. Assess the influence of soil, elevation and aspect as we ascend. From atop, spectacular views enable appreciation of the broader influence of the biophysical and human interactions. Management issues are raised and various solutions examined.

## TOMAREE NATIONAL PARK & PORT STEPHENS MARINE PARK

Nelson Bay

Studies in ecosystems for geography and science includes seagrass, mangroves, rocky platforms, dunes, coastal forests and wetlands.

**Geography Stage 4 & 5:** Global environments and Issues in Australian environments—coasts

**Science Stage 4 & 5:** Ecosystems—coasts, landforms and geological history

**Biology Stage 6:** A local ecosystem—coasts.

## SEA ACRES NATIONAL PARK RAINFOREST CENTRE

Sea Acres programs include a Welcome to Country and amazing rainforest films. 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.

### HSIE Stage 3: Environments—rainforests

### Geography Stage 6: Ecosystems at risk—rainforests

Sea Acres National Park contains intact examples of both subtropical and rare littoral rainforest. Students examine traditional management practices, effects of coastal development, altered hydrology, invasive pest and weed species and the long term effects of a changing climate on the rainforest.



## OTHER PARKS

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

## 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.

## 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.

## COSTS

Excursions are pre-booked only. Costs below are indicative 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, Great Lakes and other Lower North Coast parks

Phone 02 4984 8210 [Discovery.LowerNorthCoast@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Discovery.LowerNorthCoast@environment.nsw.gov.au)

### Sea Acres National Park

Phone 02 6582 3355  
[SeaAcres@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:SeaAcres@environment.nsw.gov.au)

### Crowdy Bay National Park

Phone 02 6588 5519  
[Susan.Phillips@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Susan.Phillips@environment.nsw.gov.au)

For more details and other programs, see [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/schools](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/schools)