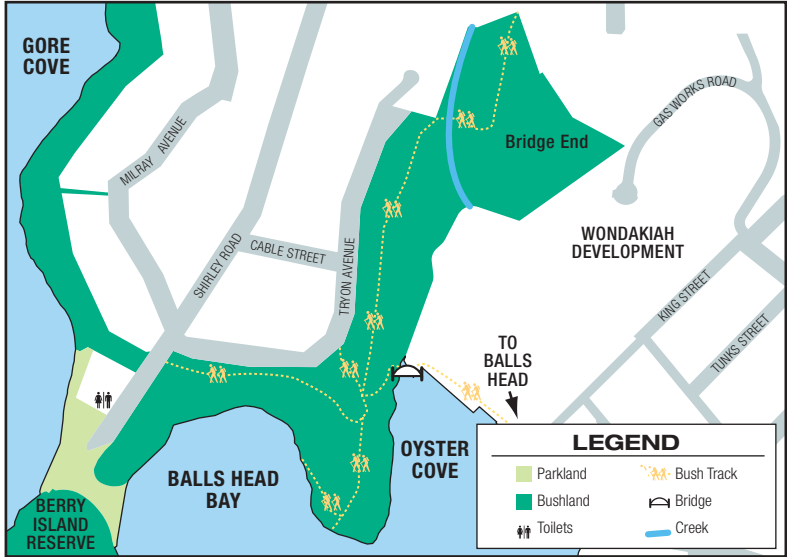


Badangji Reserve, Wollstonecraft



'Badangji', is the Aboriginal word for Rock Oyster. Information signage throughout the walk reveals the fascinating history of this bushland reserve.

GRADE/TIMING

An easy-grade 30-minute walk. Either walk down to the Point, and at low tide walk along the beach to Berry Island, or walk along the entire track and follow the same track back. Alternatively, cross the bridge and walk along Oyster Cove foreshore up towards Balls Head.

HISTORY

Aboriginal people would have frequented the bushland of this area and the fresh water creek that once ran through this bushland. A small open section of this creek is still present through Bridge End and the remaining section now lies underground.

The deep harbour frontages of Balls Head Bay and Oyster Cove promised a great industrial future for the North Shore. It is believed that it would one day rival places such as Darling Harbour on the south side for maritime industry and shipping. One of North Sydney's earliest industries, a sugar refinery, was established on the foreshores of Oyster Cove in the 1850s; this was later converted to a kerosene works in the 1860s. The buildings were reused in 1917 as part of the Oyster Cove Gas Works which operated from the site (now a residential development) until 1983. Only a sample of the original buildings remain and are now incorporated into this development.



North Shore Gas Works, Oyster Cove, 1914

Badangi Reserve Bushland also formed part of the Berry Estate in the early years of settlement. Tryon Avenue was named after Sir George Tryon, Rear Admiral of the Royal Navy between 1884 -1887 and the first admiral to occupy Admiralty House, Kirribilli.

The Badangi Reserve (formally known as Tryon Avenue) Bushcare Group was formed in 1993 and along with North Sydney Council, has been responsible for weeding and maintaining this bushland.

ACCESS

Turn off the Pacific Highway into Shirley Road at Crows Nest. Drive down to the end of Shirley Road towards Berry Island. The Badangi Reserve walk starts on the left facing Berry Island at the corner of Shirley Road and Tryon Avenue.

By public transport, take the train to Wollstonecraft station and walk 5 minutes down Shirley Road.

OUTLOOK

South to Sydney Harbour and east to a residential development.

INTEREST SPOTS

Old sandstone walls, pebbled paths and relics from the sugar refinery and kerosene works once present in Oyster Cove; a building of the old Gas Works forming part of the residential development; rare Forest Red Gums.

FLORA/FAUNA

Badangi Reserve is predominately an open forest of Sydney Red Gums, Peppermints, and Red Bloodwoods with a small community of rare Forest Red Gums. Wattles, ferns and the peppery smell of Zierias are common in the understorey. This walk takes the passer-by through good examples of remnant Hawkesbury Sandstone vegetation. Sweet Pittosporums are prolific at the Point.

The bush gets a little weedy along a drainage line at the end of the track. This area forms part of the Bushcare site.

Tawny Frogmouths nest annually along Tryon Avenue and eastern Toadlets pop up in various locations after rain. A chorus of Noisy Miners, Lorikeets and, in spring and summer time, Koels can be heard. Butterflies flutter along the shrub layer.

Bridge End has a large variety of small birds such as Wrens, Robins, Scrub-wrens and Satin Bower Birds. The gully area along the creek line is dotted with Coachwood, Lillypilly and mature vines that reach high into the canopy and are noted for the diverse fungi species that emerge after rain.



Badangi Reserve