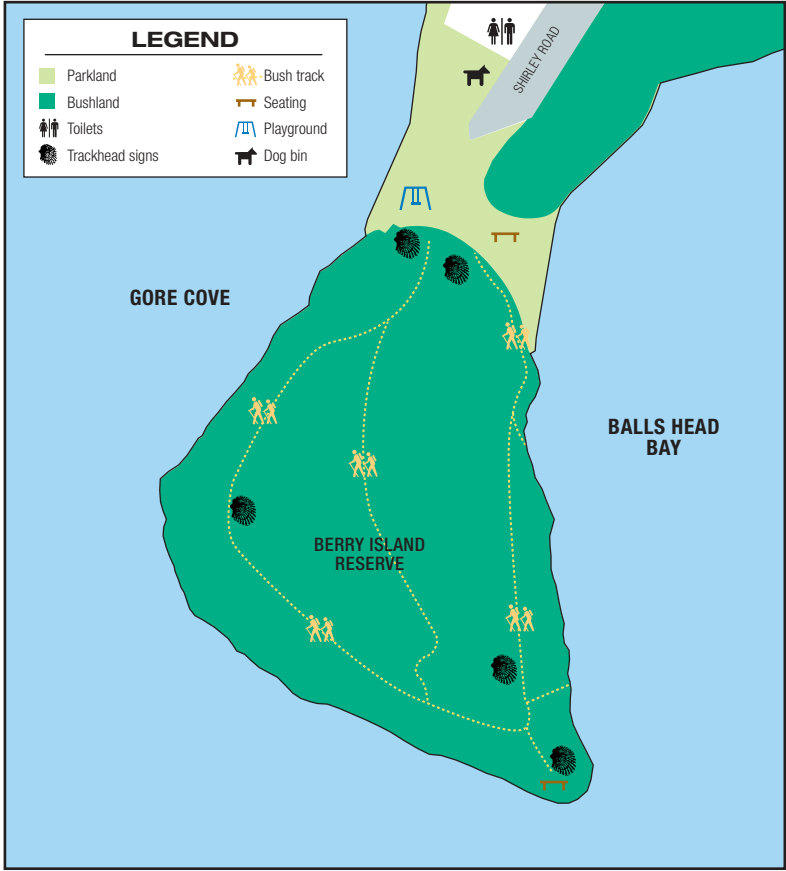


Berry Island Reserve, Wollstonecraft - The Gadyan Track



Take a self-guided walk around Berry Island on the Gadyan Track, which has interpretive signage detailing the rich Aboriginal history and heritage of the island. 'Gadyan' is the Aboriginal name for the Sydney cockle, a shellfish common in the middens on the island. The signage takes you to rock engravings and describes the lifestyle of the Cammeraygal people.

GRADE/TIMING

10 minute, 750m easy-grade bushwalk that loops around the island.

HISTORY

The Aboriginal history of the island is indicated by the numerous shell middens, axe grinding grooves and the large engraving found here.

In the early 19th century, this small island was attached to the property of Edward Wollstonecraft on the mainland by a stone causeway over mud flats. After he died, the property was passed to his sister and her husband, Alexander Berry. There was great debate over the use of the area for commercial and/or residential purposes. Public protests saw that the island was dedicated as a nature reserve for public recreation in 1926, along with Balls Head Reserve. In the 1960s the mudflats were filled in with car bodies, building rubble and relocated soil to create a grassed area.



Berry Island Reserve, 1937

Bush regeneration has been carried out on the island since 1980.

ACCESS

Follow Shirley Road, off the Pacific Highway at North Sydney to the end. Limited street parking. A 5 - 10 minute walk from Wollstonecraft station down Shirley Road.

OUTLOOK

West to Greenwich Point, south to Balmain and Birchgrove and east to Balls Head.

INTEREST SPOTS

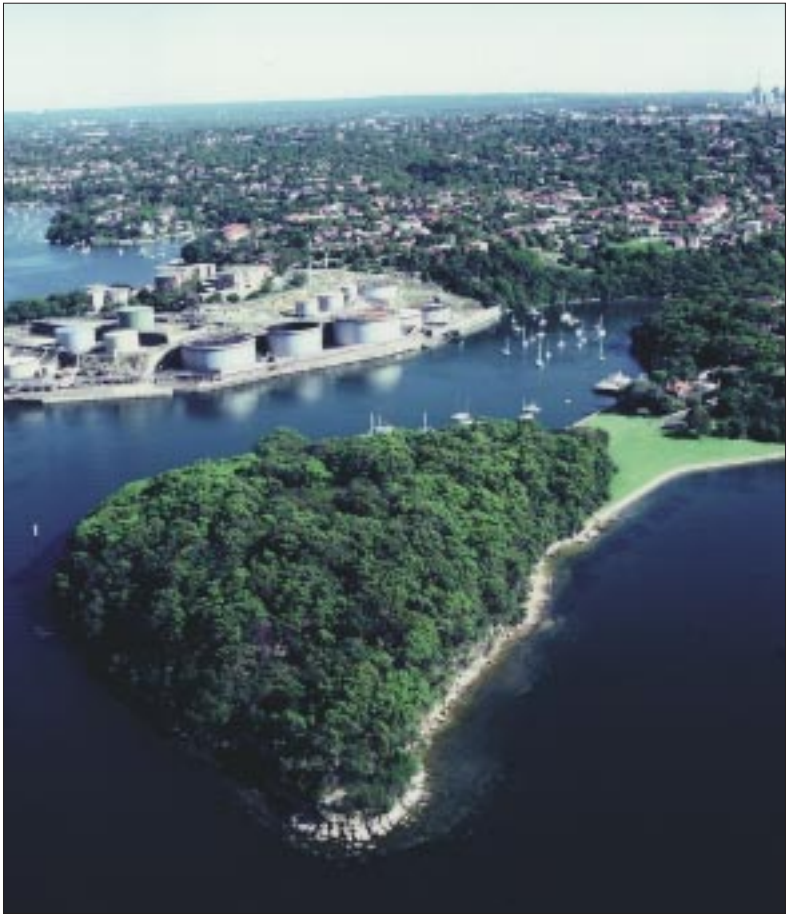
Aboriginal midden sites, watering hole and rock engravings.

Jazz band in the bush (third Sunday of the month).
Contact the Sydney Jazz Club on 9798 7294.

FLORA/FAUNA

Berry Island consists of relatively untouched remnant Hawkesbury Sandstone vegetation, one of the most pristine bushland areas in North Sydney. As you walk around the island you will pass through open forest towering with Sydney Red Gums and Red Bloodwoods with a stunning understorey of flowering shrubs of White Spider Flower, pink flowering Crowea, Wattles, Banksias and the green and red bells of Correa. Shallow soils throughout the interior of the island supports a lower shrubland of Tick Bush, which makes important habitat for Ringtail Possums. Some locally rare plant species can also be found on the island, including *Acacia longissima*, *Banksia oblongifolia* and Grey Ironbark.

Berry Island is home to a few bird species, lizards and Ringtail Possums. A resident pair of Masked Plovers can be seen regularly on the lawn verge and Welcome Swallows are often seen gliding above the mown grassed area feeding on insects. A wildlife corridor was first planted along the grass verge in 1998.



Berry Island