

# NORTH SYDNEY

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harbour foreshore

bushwalk guide





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## **HARBOUR FORESHORE WALKS**


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# Introduction

North Sydney is fortunate to have several areas of bushland left to enjoy in the surrounds of urbanisation. Many of these are on the harbour foreshore, combining places of natural beauty with spectacular views.

This Harbour Bushwalks Guide is intended to help you appreciate the richness and diversity of North Sydney's bushland. Along with practical information on the length of walks and transport access, we have included some information on the Aboriginal and European history of the area and the types of flora and fauna you might expect to see.

Urban bushland is under increasing pressure from development, pollution, runoff, invasive weeds and introduced animals. We all need to share responsibility for protecting the bushland that remains. I urge you to enjoy North Sydney's bushland and help to protect it for future generations.



**Genia McCaffery**  
Mayor of North Sydney

North Sydney is rich in Aboriginal culture and history. Before Europeans arrived, the original occupants of this region, the Cammeraygal (also known as the Gammerraigal Clan or Band of the Kuringgai Tribe) lived along the foreshores and in the bushland, cliffs and rock overhangs. Aboriginal people had a deep respect for the area, living in natural harmony with the environment for many thousands of years.

A short while after the Europeans arrived, small pox ravaged the Aboriginal population, who had no immunity to such a deadly disease. The devastation shattered a way of life, displacing local bands and tribes throughout the Sydney region. It is not known how many Cammeraygals survived this disaster, but the push by Europeans to take over their land resulted in more losses and further displacement.



*Opening of the Gadyan Track, Berry Island*

North Sydney's foreshore areas have some of the finest examples of Aboriginal cultural sites on the lower North Shore. The oldest archaeological finding has been dated at 7,500 years old. Large caves and shelters along waterways and trade routes were another popular location for local tribes. Remnants of their occupation can still be found throughout the region today. Such sites include middens, rock shelters with archaeological deposits, open camp sites, rock engravings, axe grinding grooves and rock paintings. These sites provide direct physical evidence of thousands of years of Aboriginal history, occupation and culture and provide visible links to the past.

Burial grounds and ceremonial grounds are also sacred to Aboriginal people. However, as most of the Cammeraygal people disappeared from the land many years ago, most of these sites are unidentifiable. Natural sacred sites such as water holes, rivers, rocks and mountains are regarded as sacred by the Aboriginal people. They are places created by Dreamtime ancestors and can only be identified by Aboriginal people.



*Hand and fish stencils in foreshore rock shelter*

Australia's flora is unique, evolving in isolation from the rest of the world and adapting to Australia's harsh environmental conditions. Fire has also shaped the vegetation of this land, for in addition to natural events it was used by Aboriginal people as a form of farming. Rainforest communities were once prominent in Australia. It has been proposed that the use of fire has contributed to the successful evolution of fire tolerant plant species, which now dominate the landscape.

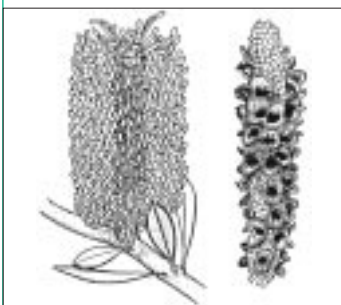
Six thousand years ago, during the last ice age, North Sydney was about 12km from the coastline. Today, North Sydney's remnant bushland is on the edge of a drowned river valley. The geology of the area is predominately Hawkesbury Sandstone, producing poor sandy soils deficient in nitrogen and phosphorus and with vegetation that has adapted to these conditions.

Today, with the absence of fire, many bushland areas are slowly losing species that require fire for seed germination. Together with the increase in moisture and nutrients around stormwater drains and hard surface runoff areas, and other urban impacts, native species are dying and being out-competed by exotic weed species (see Bush Weeds).



*Flannel Flower*

## Banksias



The sugary nectar from the blossoms provided a delicious sweet treat for Aboriginal people who sucked the nectar or made sweet drinks by soaking the flowers in water, sometimes making an alcoholic mead-like brew. The nectar is

best in the early morning.

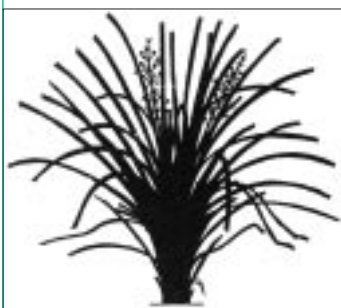
## Bracken Fern (*Pteridium esculentum*)



The uncurled shoots can be boiled and eaten, while the underground rhizomes often contain white starch, which is edible raw or cooked. Bracken starch was an important resource to Aborigines. Around Sydney, fern starch was

flavoured with crushed ants!

## Mat Rush (*Lomandra longifolia*)



The raw white base of the leaf makes a refreshing snack for bush walkers and tastes a little like green peas. Aborigines used the tough leaves for weaving dillies and mats.

### Flax Lilies (*Dianella caerulea*)

Edible berries that resemble the taste of blueberries. Aborigines used the tough leaves to weave dillies and baskets.



### Lillypilly (*Acmena smithii*)

Fruits are aromatic and slightly drying. There are many records of Aborigines eating them. Lillypillys can be made into jam.



### New Zealand Spinach (*Tetragonia tetragonoides*)

#### *Warrigal Greens*

First sighted along the New Zealand coastline by Captain Cook and eaten by the crew of the *Endeavour* to combat scurvy. It grows close to mangroves in brackish water. The leaves are a delicious substitute for cooked spinach.



The young leaves can be eaten raw and can be easily grown in the garden.

# Bush Weeds

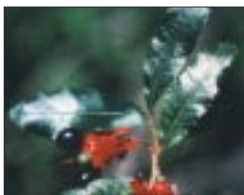
Bushland is under threat from the invasion of weeds and thrive due to disturbance, lack of fire, increased nutrients and changed ecology.

Not all green is good green! Can you spot the difference?

*Privet -  
Broad Leaf*



*Ochna,  
Mickey Mouse Bush*



*Lantana*



*Morning Glory*



*Turkey Rhubarb*



*Tradescantia,  
Wandering Jew*



*Madeira Vine*



*Asparagus Fern*



*Asthma Weed,  
Sticky Weed, Pellitory*



Bushcare is helping to fight the battle against weeds. See the section *What is Bushcare?*

North Sydney supports a variety of wildlife. Although much of North Sydney's native fauna diversity has declined, many species still survive and some native species have benefited from urbanisation and are quite common in the area.



*Rainbow Lorikeet*

Some more common inhabitants of North Sydney's bushland reserves include: Tawny Frogmouth Owls, the Laughing Kookaburra, Rainbow Lorikeets, Ringtail Possums, Noisy Miners, Butcher Birds, Magpies and Currawongs.

## **All Native Fauna are Protected**



*Tawny Frogmouth*

Not all wildlife is cuddly and furry. In fact, the vast majority of species diversity is in the insect world. They make up 90% of the world's inhabitants and are fundamental to ecological functioning.



*Silvereye*



*Superb Blue Fairy-wren*

Some of North Sydney's less common inhabitants to look out for include: Owls, Hawks and Kestrels, King Parrots, Rosellas, Herons, Sacred Kingfishers, Spangled Drongos, Figbirds, Silvereyes, White-browed Scrub-wrens, Superb Blue Fairy-wrens, migratory Channel-billed Cuckoos and Koels, the Brown Antechinus (Native Mouse) and Microbats.

Many species have suffered as a result of deforestation, resulting in a lack of tree hollows, loss of sheltered understorey vegetation and changed ecology.

Feral and introduced animals such as: Foxes; Indian Mynahs; Honey Bees; domestic cats and dogs are also threatening native fauna, along with an increase in native aggressive or predatory animals.

If you are a keen wildlife observer or you see a rare creature please contact Council's **Wildlife Watch Program** on 9936 8258.

Council regulations are in force to help protect bushland areas in North Sydney. You can help by following these simple rules.

- Carry doggy bags and pick up after your dog. Nutrients from dog faeces cause pollution in our waterways and impact on bushland.
- Use the dog bins provided in the unleashed dog exercise areas at Berry Island, Primrose Park and Cremorne Point.
- Keep dogs on a leash when walking through the bush. Unleashed dogs can disturb, chase and scare native fauna.
- Keep to the formal walking tracks.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Do not pick native vegetation or flowers.
- Do not disturb any fauna.

Report any injured wildlife to:

- ▶ Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services: 9413 4300
- ▶ WIRES (Wildlife Information and Rescue Service): 8977 3333
- ▶ NRMA Wildlife Clinic, Taronga Zoo: 9969 2777

- Do not remove any Aboriginal artefacts, ie. shells from midden sites.
- Do not release possums into bushland as possums are highly territorial. Contact Council on 9936 8252 for further information on solving possum problems.
- Do not light fires.

Please note that camping is not permitted in North Sydney parks and reserves.

# What is Bushcare?



## B U S H C A R E

Bushcare is a volunteer program operated by North Sydney Council throughout the local area. Participants meet each month to regenerate bushland areas. Supervision, equipment, plants and free training in bush regeneration are provided. Council also offers other programs to support volunteers in their interest in the environment, bushland and wildlife.

If you are interested in becoming involved or have any enquiries, please telephone the Bushcare Officer on 9936 8258.

## Self-guided Walking Brochures

- *Cremorne Point Foreshore Walk.*  
Brochure available from Council, contact the Bushcare Department.
- *Hands Across Time: a guide to North Sydney's Aboriginal History and Culture.*  
Available for purchase from Stanton Library.
- *Historical North Sydney - 10 walks with accompanying map, produced by North Shore Historical Society.*  
Available from Stanton Library.
- *North Sydney Circle: World Class Walking Circle Walk -*  
A 29km walk in six segments circling North Sydney.  
Available from Stanton Library and Council's Customer Service.
- *On the Waterfront: Your guide to North Sydney's foreshore Parks & Reserves.*  
Available from Council, contact the Open Space and Environmental Services Division.
- *The Gadyan Track - Berry Island Reserve.*  
Brochure available from Council, contact the Customer Service Centre.

## **Books**

- Benson & Howell (2000). *Sydney's Bushland: more that meets the eye*. Royal Botanic Gardens, Australia.
- Low, T (1988). *Wild food plants of Australia*. Angus & Robertson Publishers.

## **Useful Field Guides**

- Abell & Jacobs (1995). *Burnam Burnam's Wildthings*. Sainty & Associates.
- Robinson, L (1991). *Field Guide to the Native Plants of Sydney*. Kangaroo Press.
- Slater, P (1986). *The Slater Guide to Australian Birds*. Lansdowne Publishing Pty Ltd.
- Triggs, B (1996). *Tracks, Scats and other Traces: a field guide to Australian mammals*. Oxford University Press, Australia.

# Key to Symbols



public transport



toilets



BBQs



tables



seating



children's playground



wheelchair access tracks

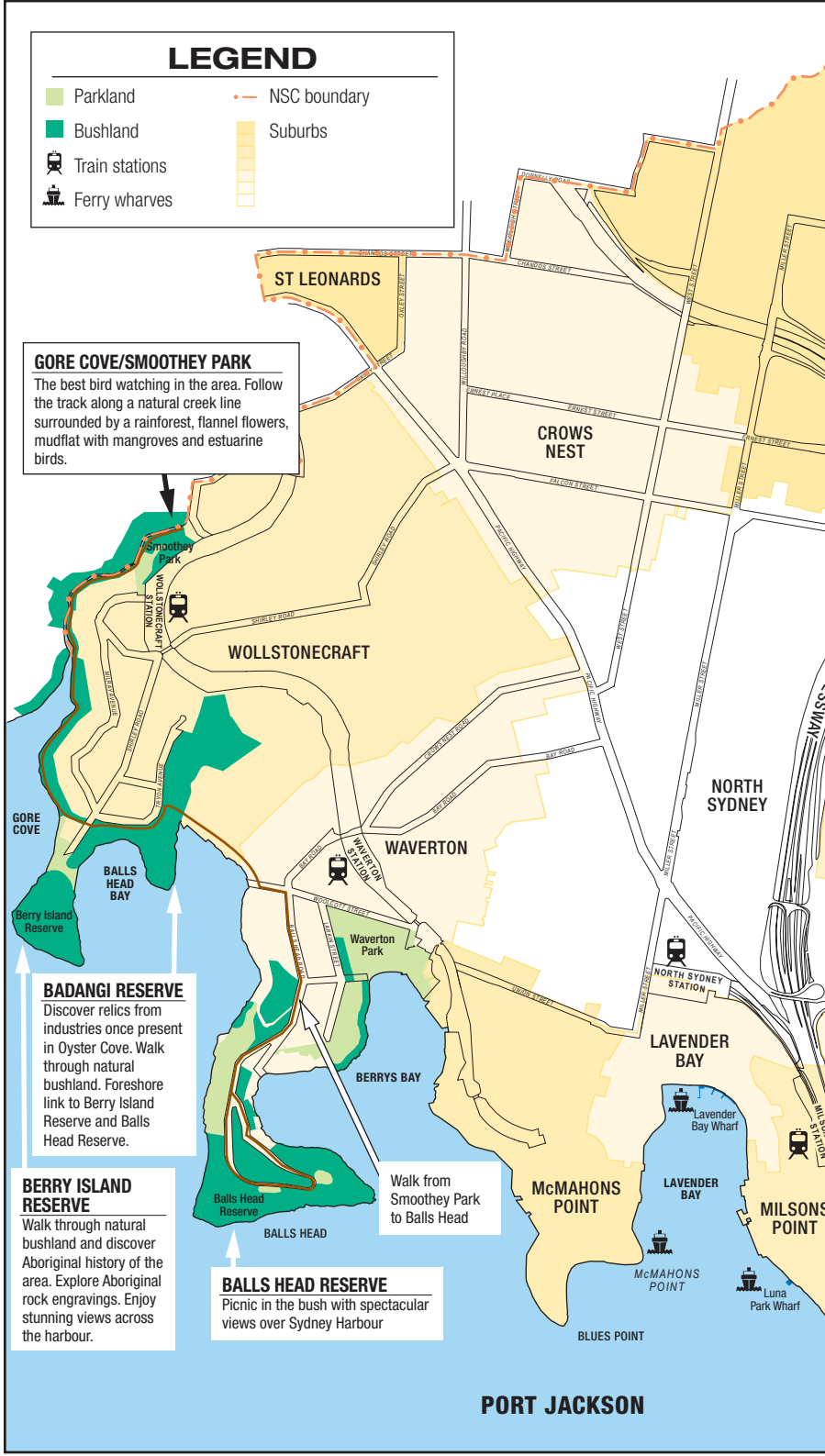


self-guided walk



dog exercise area

# Map of Bushland in North Sydney

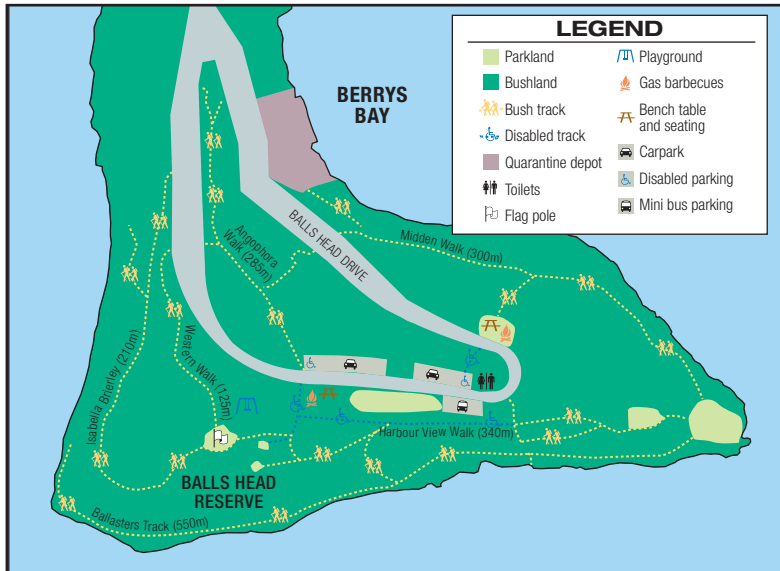




**PRIMROSE PARK**  
Enjoy bushwalking and Willoughby Falls with scenic views overlooking Middle Harbour.

**CREMORNE POINT RESERVE**  
Explore the foreshore with a self guided walk through the natural and historical features of Cremorne Point with: unrivalled views and great picnic spots; swimming in the harbour side pool; surrounded by 20th Century houses; and the stunning Lex and Ruby Gardens.

# Balls Head Reserve, Waverton



## GRADE/TIMING

A moderate 20 - 40 minute walk around headland. There are several walking tracks in the vicinity. Caution should be taken on unpaved foreshore tracks.

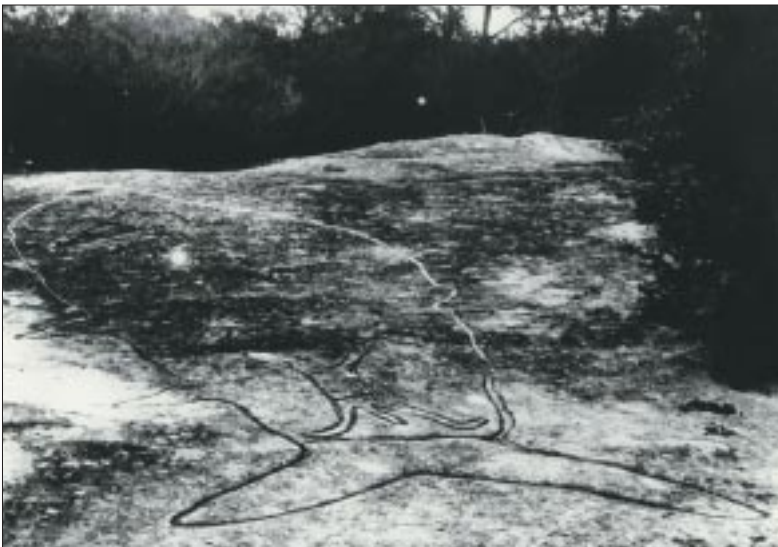
## HISTORY

The Aboriginal name for Balls Head is 'Yerroulbine'. This reserve contains many Aboriginal sites including archaeological deposits/middens, art sites and rock engravings. It is thought that Balls Head Reserve was a site where men came to perform sacred corroborees to honour their ancestors of the Dreamtime.

Named after Lieutenant Henry Lidgbird Ball, Commander of the ship 'Supply' in the First Fleet of 1788, Balls Head was the original foreshore land included in the large Wollstonecraft Estate, which remained largely undeveloped at the beginning of the 20th century. In 1912 the Quarantine Depot was established in Berrys Bay to service the boats operating to and from the Quarantine station at North Head. This is now the National Maritime Museum's working depot.

There was some debate in the earlier part of the 20th century as to the use of the location for commercial and residential purposes versus open public space. Strong public protests resulted in it being declared public parkland in 1926.

European industrial sites dating back to the 19th century were located north of the Quarantine Depot and these featured the original stone store (house), later the torpedo



*Aboriginal engraving of whale at Balls Head, pre 1900*

depot and still later ship repair yards and oil storage tanks. Some of these stone stores were used for shelter by homeless people during the Depression in the 1930s.

Bush regeneration began on Balls Head in 1980 and the Bushcare group has been working weekly on the site since 1990.

## **ACCESS**

Follow Balls Head Drive from Bay Road off the Pacific Highway at North Sydney. One large car park on the headland is available for parking. Street parking on Balls Head Road is also available. A 5 - 10 minute walk from Waverton railway station, turn left and follow Bay Road, which leads into Balls Head Road and then into Balls Head Drive.

## **OUTLOOK**

West to Gladesville, south to Sydney CBD, Balmain, Birchgrove, Goat Island and Mort Bay, east to Berrys Bay, McMahons Point and North Sydney.

## **INTEREST SPOTS**

Several picnic areas, dedication plaques, foreshore caves and historic flagpole. The flagpole is situated 300ft above sea level, marking the highest point west of the Harbour Bridge. In early settlement times it was used as means of communication with Government House.

## **FLORA/FAUNA**

Vegetation is predominately Open Forest, with Sydney Red Gums, and Red Bloodwoods and an understorey of Grevilleas, Wattles, Banksias, Geebung, as well as

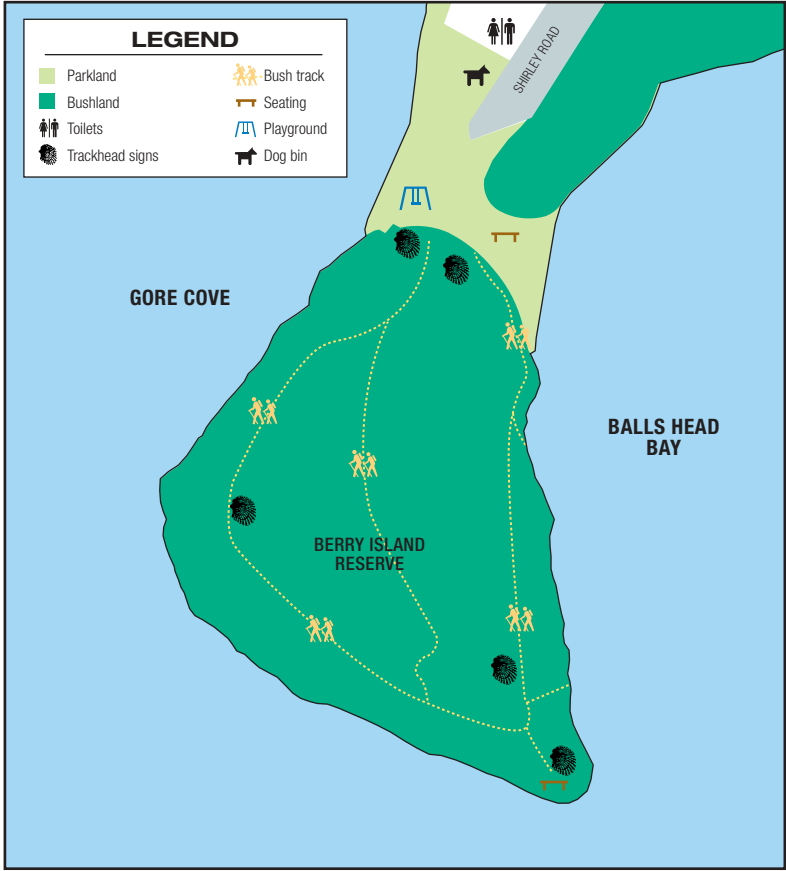
shrubs and grasses. In sheltered gullies, species such as Cheese Trees, Sweet Pittosporum, Blueberry Ash, NSW Christmas Bush, Lillypillys, and Mock Olive flourish. On the south/western side of the reserve you can hear the wind blow through the stands of She Oaks. There are Port Jackson Figs, filled on summer nights with Grey-Headed Flying-fox eating the fleshy fruits. Some locally rare orchids can also be found on the reserve.

Balls Head reserve is a refuge for native fauna, with Geckoes, Blue-Tongue Lizards, Skinks, Common Eastern Froglets, Brushtail and Ringtail Possums, a colony of Large Bent-Wing Microbats, and many species of birds living and visiting the area. Sea birds can be found on the rocks around the foreshore and Parrots, Lorikeets, Kookaburras, Butcher Birds, Wrens and Figbirds can be found in the trees. Keep an eye and ear out for migrant Cuckoos and Koels in summer.



*Balls Head*

# 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**

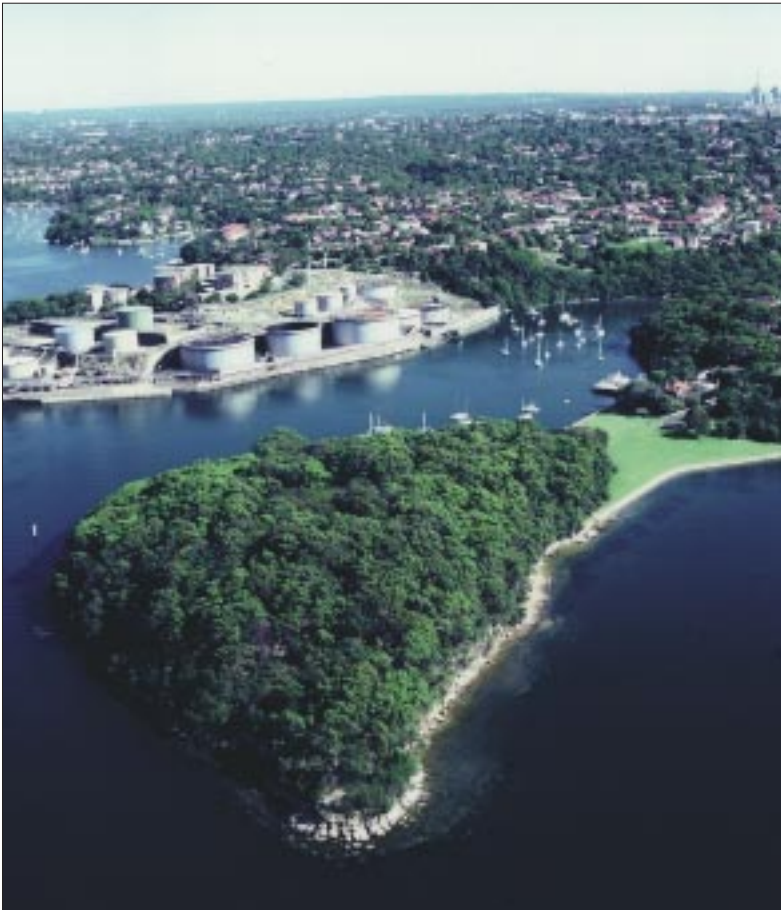
Aboriginal midden sites, watering hole and rock engravings.

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

## **FLORA/FAUNA**

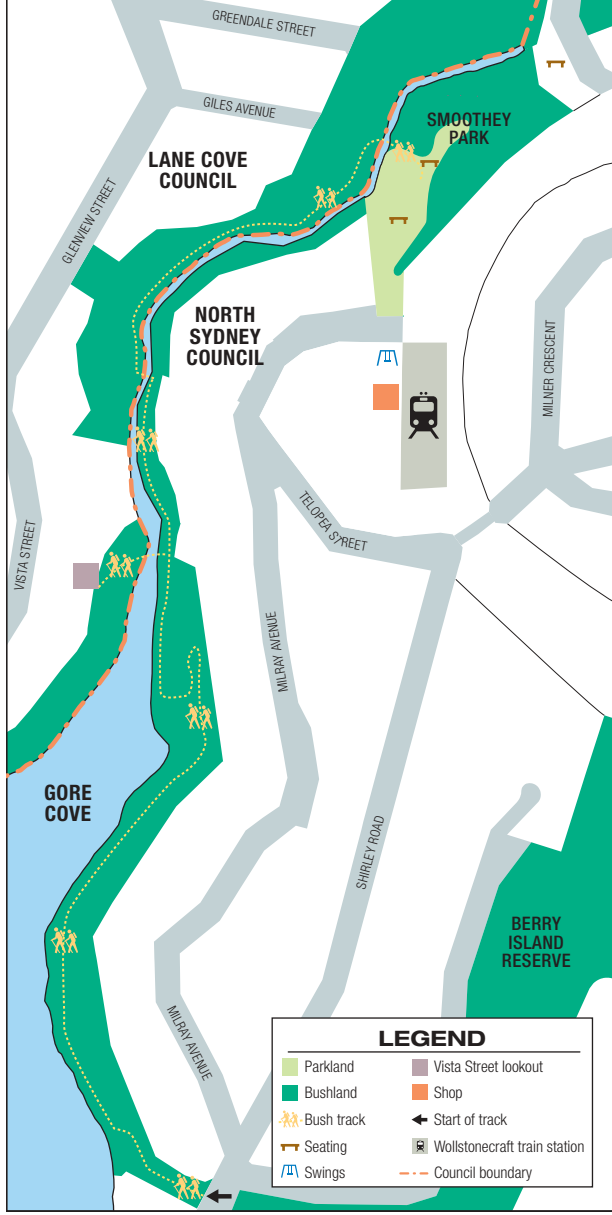
Berry Island consists of relatively untouched remnant Hawkesbury Sandstone vegetation, one of the most pristine bushland areas in North Sydney. As you walk around the island you will pass through open forest towering with Sydney Red Gums and Red Bloodwoods with a stunning understorey of flowering shrubs 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*

# Smoothey Park and the Gore Cove Track, Wollstonecraft



## **GRADE/TIMING**

Moderate-grade walk. Sturdy shoes recommended. Gore Cove to Smoothy Park 1.5km (45 minutes); Gore Cove to Vista Street 0.9km (25 minutes).

## **HISTORY**

Aboriginal people frequented this valley and used the creek as a fresh water supply for thousands of years. Shell middens can be found in the area.

Smoothy Park was named after Mr S Smoothy, an Alderman of North Sydney Council from 1911 to 1920. Both Smoothy Park and Gore Cove were part of the original Berry/Wollstonecraft estate. Historic European features of Gore Cove include stone rubble walling, a rock-cut chamber and various rectangular cuts in the base of Berrys Creek.

The Smoothy Park Bushcare group was formed in 1994. Bush regeneration along Gore Cove Track began in 1997.

## **ACCESS**

Turn off the Pacific Highway into Shirley Road at Crows Nest. Drive to the end of Shirley Road, just before Berry Island. The Gore Cove Track starts on the western side. Street parking is limited. The track will take you up to Smoothy Park. Alternatively, you can start at the opposite end of the reserve and park in Russell Street.

The train to Wollstonecraft station will take you directly to Smoothy Park. Walk along the creek line on the Gore Cove Track. This will take you to Shirley Road and Berry Island. A 5-minute walk up Shirley Road will take you back to the train station.

## **OUTLOOK**

West to Holloway Park, Greenwich and the Shell Oil Refinery.

## **INTEREST SPOTS**

Soak in the rainforest microclimate along the creek line and down in the gully. Keep an eye and ear out for many locally rare bird species. Walk up to Vista Street Lookout for a spectacular birds eye view over Gore Cove, Berry Island and Sydney Harbour.

## **FLORA/FAUNA**

The Gore Cove Track passes through several vegetation communities and provides habitat for a range of wildlife, the most diverse in North Sydney. You will pass through sclerophyll woodland along the foreshore with Sydney Red Gums and Peppermints and an understorey of Grass Trees, flowering shrubs, Mat Rush and ferns. Further along the creek line is closed rainforest, with Coachwoods, Tree Ferns, and Sweet Pittosporum, as well as Privet\*. Down on the mud flats some grey mangroves survive, providing breeding and shelter sites for marine life. In the northern section of Smoothey Park there are remnant Turpentine trees, which is an indication of shale. This soil type would have originally supported a Blue Gum High Forest. Locally rare Flannel Flowers are found along the Gore Cove Track towards Berry Island.

This walk will delight wildlife watchers. The diversity of vegetation and the creek support a variety of bird life. Those with keen eyes may be surprised at what they find. Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes, Kingfishers, Robins, Wrens,

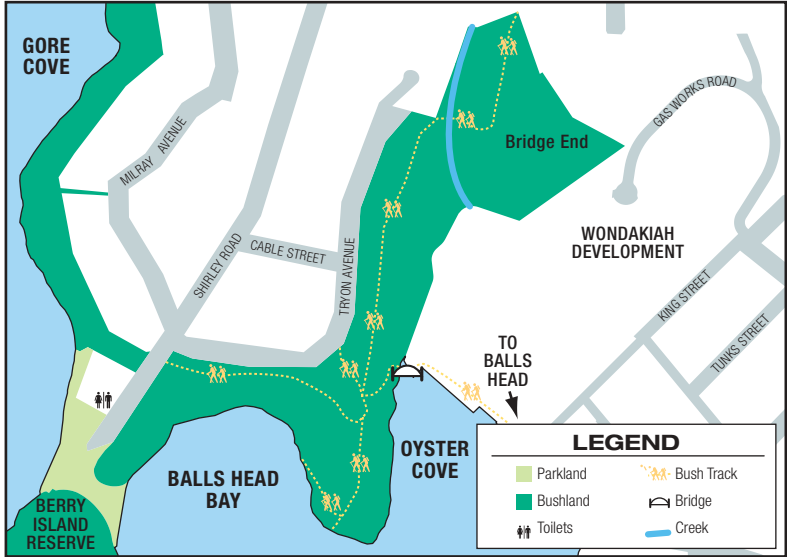
\* introduced weed

Treecreepers, Wattlebirds, Whistlers, Pardalotes, Thornbills, Parrots and Rosellas have all been sighted along this track. Bring your binoculars! Many seabirds such as Herons live down at the mudflats, and Ringtail Possum dreys can also be seen along the track. Skinks scurry around the leaf litter and the Brown-Stripped Marsh Frog and the Common Eastern Froglet live in the areas of runoff that pass through the bushland into the creek. Two microbat species have also been recorded in this reserve: Gould's Wattle Bat and the Large Bent-wing Bat. The only recording in North Sydney of the native ground dwelling marsupial, the Brown Antechinus (often mistaken for a mouse or rat), has been along the Gore Cove Track. Mind your step!



*Mud flats of Gore Cove*

# Badangi Reserve, Wollstonecraft



'Badangi', 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.

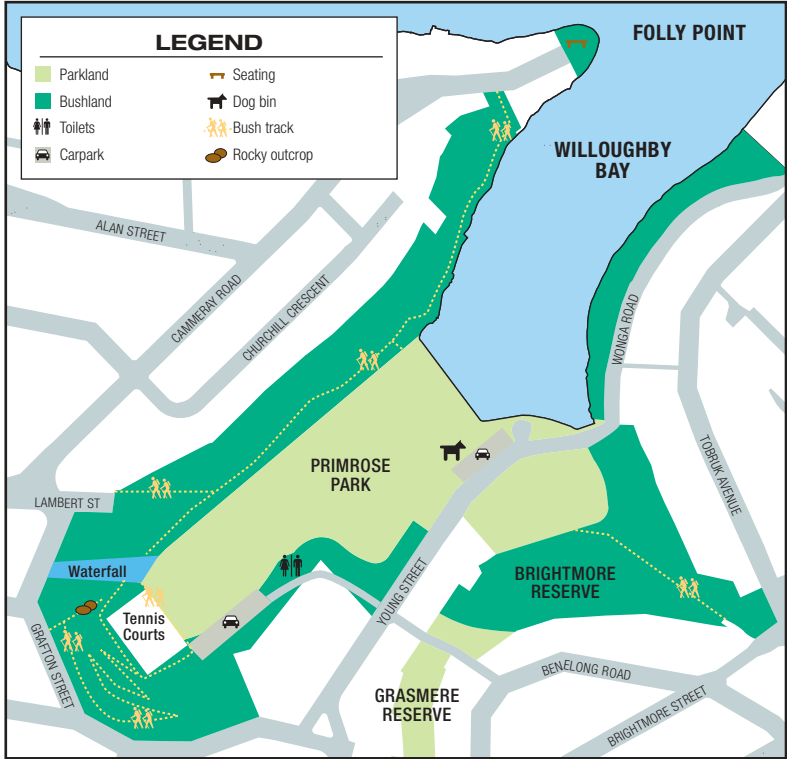
Tawny Frogmouths nest annually along Tryon Avenue and eastern Toadlets pop up in various locations after rain. A chorus of Noisy Miners, Lorikeets and, in spring and summer time, Koels can be heard. Butterflies flutter along the shrub layer.

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*

# Primrose Park, Cammeray



## GRADE/TIMING

An easy-grade 20-minute walk to Folly Point from the tennis courts. A further moderate 10-minute walk up a steep incline over rocky outcrops from the waterfall to Grafton Street and along the zigzag track back to the tennis courts.

## HISTORY

Primrose Park was originally occupied by the Cammeraygal people.

The Willoughby Falls area in the western gully was a favourite picnic spot in the early days of white settlement. This park was named after H L Primrose, a North Sydney Mayor from 1926 to 1932 and later NSW Minister for Health. The oval was once an estuarine bay and in 1899, was the site of North Sydney's first sewage treatment works that serviced North Sydney and parts of Willoughby and Mosman. The former engine house and compressor houses, tunnels and canals can still be seen today and the remaining buildings are the home of the Primrose Park Art and Craft Centre as well as a range of sporting clubs. The sewage works closed in the late 1920s and the area was dedicated as parkland in 1930.



*Primrose Park and Willoughby Bay, 1937*

Bush regeneration and Bushcare have been working in Primrose Park since 1994.

## **ACCESS**

Follow Young Street off Military Road at Neutral Bay to the end. There are two car parks. Catch any of the buses that stop along Military Road from North Sydney or Wynyard and walk 10 minutes down Young Street.

## **OUTLOOK**

East to Willoughby Bay, Middle Harbour and Seaforth.

## **FACILITIES**

Children's bicycle track at Brightmore Reserve.

## **INTEREST SPOTS**

Willoughby Falls; Aboriginal rock art; and the former Primrose Park Sewage Works structure. Folly Point is a beautiful spot for a rest, covered in She Oak trees overlooking a superb view of Middle Harbour. Barcroft Henry Boake was a writer and poet best known for his 'Out Where the Dead Men Lie'. Unable to find work in the depression of the 1890s, he hanged himself in 1892, aged 26 from a tree at Folly Point.

## **FLORA/FAUNA**

The Sydney Red Gum, Peppermint and She Oak crown this open forest with an understorey of flowering shrubs and ferns. There are some beautiful stands of Tree Ferns along the walk and Black Wattle canopy along Willoughby Falls. There are also extensive areas of weed including large areas of Lantana and Privet found in the reserve

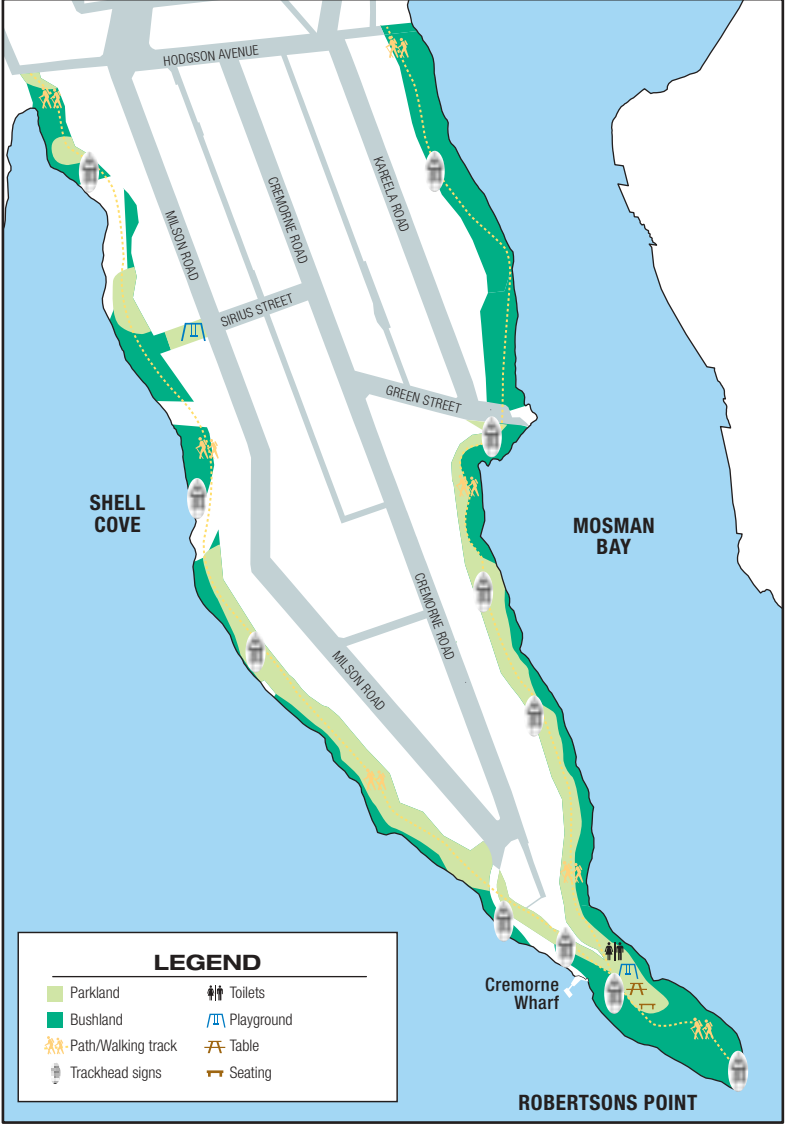
behind the houses, due to past disturbances and neglect.

Both the indigenous bush and weeded areas provide habitat for an array of wildlife. Look for Eastern Water Dragons sunning themselves on the rocks surrounding the waterfall in the middle of the day. Listen for the chorus of bird species including: Whip Birds, Rosellas, Lorikeets, Butcher Birds, Noisy Miners and sea birds around the foreshore. Masked Plovers, Magpies and Crested Pigeons forage for food on the oval. In the dense understorey White-browed Scrub-wrens can be seen. Kingfishers visit and migrate to the creek line. Up in the trees, the Boobook Owl and Tawny Frogmouths roost.



*View of Primrose Park and Willoughby Bay from Grafton Street*

# Cremorne Point Reserve, Cremorne Point



The Cremorne Point Foreshore walk signage around the reserve reveals its fascinating history from Aboriginal times through to early European settlement, its unique residential development and natural environment.

### **GRADE/TIMING**

A 40-minute easy-grade walk on paved paths. The walk continues to Mosman.

### **HISTORY**

The Aboriginal name for Cremorne Point is 'Wulwarrajeung'. The Aboriginal history of the area is evidenced by numerous shell middens and rock engravings found here.

In 1823, 86 acres of Cremorne Point were granted to a Scottish watchmaker and later sold to Mr James Milson. Three years later, 22 acres were leased and turned into an amusement park called Cremorne Gardens, created after a similar pleasure garden in London. Activities such as band music, dancing on an outdoor stage, archery, quoits, shooting gallery, skittles, gymnastics and fireworks would take place in the gardens. Cremorne gets its name from these 'Gardens'.

The Cremorne Point Bushcare group was formed in 1993 and is supported by other bush regeneration works in the area.

### **ACCESS**

Turn off Military Road at Cremorne into Murdoch Street which leads into Milson Road. Follow Milson Road to the end. Limited street parking.

Access by public transport - the Mosman Ferry from Circular Quay goes to Cremorne Point, or catch the Cremorne Wharf bus, from Neutral Bay Junction.

The loop track can be started at three main entrance points: Bogota Avenue, at the bottom of the steps at the end of Hodgson Avenue, and above Cremorne Wharf.

## **OUTLOOK**

West to Kurraba Point, Kirribilli and Shellcove Bay, south to Sydney City, Woolloomooloo and Fort Denison, east to Double Bay and Watsons Bay looking over Taronga Park Zoo.

## **INTEREST SPOTS**

The Lex and Ruby Graham Gardens, started in 1957 from an Elephants Ear, are protected by The National Trust. Climb down to the lighthouse at Robertson Point. There are great places along the western side of the Point near MacCallum Pool for picnics.

## **FLORA/FAUNA**

The reserve is narrow and includes lawn areas, planted trees, exotic gardens, bushland, and degraded weeded areas. At Robertsons Point, indigenous coastal Hawkesbury Sandstone bushland thrives, with a helping hand from Bushcare. In this open forest, the Sydney Red Gum crowns as the canopy, with an understorey of Swamp She Oak, Coastal Banksia, Heath, pink flowered Crowea and Mat Rush. The Scribbly Gum and the Red Spider Flower are locally rare species. Around the reserve some of the Sydney Red Gums are dying due to a fungus

in the soil. A Council program was set up in 2001 to help protect and restore the Red Gum community.

Many bird species, particularly the Pied Currawong and Magpies are common at Cremorne Point. Small Wrens have also come back to the Point in recent years. Tawny Frogmouths nest annually in the area and the rare Powerful Owl has been sighted at Cremorne Point. Grey-headed Flying-foxes visit the area while travelling from their colony at Gordon to feed for the evening. Keep an eye and ear out for the Channel-billed Cuckoo and Common Koel that migrate from Papua New Guinea each year in summer to breed. Ringtail Possums are also common in the area. Two Fairy Penguins are also seen at times in Mosman Bay.



*Cremorne Point from Mosman Bay*

# Plant Names Index

Black Wattle	<i>Callicoma serratifolia</i>
Coachwood	<i>Ceratopetalum apetalum</i>
Coastal Banksia	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>
Correa	<i>Correa reflexa</i>
Crowea	<i>Crowea saligna</i>
Flannel Flower	<i>Actinotis helianthi</i>
Forest Red Gum	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>
Geebung	<i>Persocnia levis</i>
Grass Trees	<i>Xanthorrea arborea</i>
Grey Ironbark	<i>Eucalyptus paniculate</i>
Heath	<i>Monotoca elliptica</i>
Mat Rush	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>
Mock Olive	<i>Notelea longifolia</i>
Peppermints	<i>Eucalyptus piperita</i>
Port Jackson Fig	<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>
Red Bloodwood	<i>Eucalyptus gummifera</i>
Red Spider Flower	<i>Grevillea speciosa</i>
Scribbly Gum	<i>Eucalyptus haemastoma</i>
She Oak	<i>Allocasurina littoralis</i>
Swamp She Oak	<i>Casuarina glauca</i>
Sweet Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>
Sydney Red Gum	<i>Angophora costata</i>
Tick Bush	<i>Kunzea ambigua</i>
Warrigal Greens	<i>Tetragonia tetragonioides</i>
White Spider Flower	<i>Grevillea linearifolia</i>
Zieria	<i>Zieria Smithii</i>

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