

Macquarie River
Trails

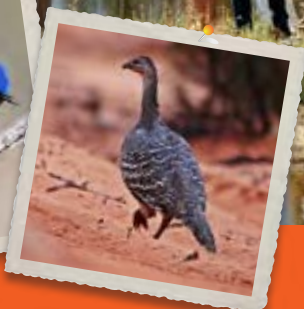
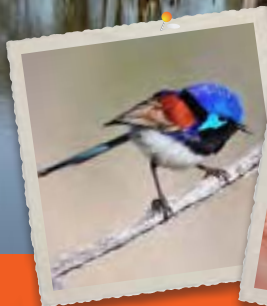


Relax Recover Unwind Discover

Bird
Watching

Bird Watching Trail Guide

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THE MACQUARIE RIVER TRAILS

The Macquarie valley, in the heart of NSW is one of the State's – and indeed Australia's – best kept secrets, until now.

Macquarie River Trails (www.rivertrails.com.au), launched in late 2011, is designed to let you explore the many attractions and wonders of this rich farming region, one that is blessed with a vibrant river, the iconic Macquarie Marshes, friendly people and a laid back lifestyle.

As our slogan says, this is your chance to 'Relax, Recover, Unwind and Discover'.



Relax Recover Unwind Discover

The Bird Watching Trail is the eighth under this initiative and is designed to help you plan your stay in the region as you meander through – let the river be your tour guide. There are close to 150 things to do, and places to visit already described on the web site trip planner which is also available as two other printed glovebox guide companions to this one and also as a downloadable application for iPhone, iPad and Android devices.

From the wonders of Lake Burrendong to the flat western plains and the Macquarie Marshes if you only spend a week, you'll probably have to come back. But that's ok, you're welcome anytime.



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Photo: Dione Carter



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BIRD WATCHING IN THE MACQUARIE RIVER VALLEY

The section of the Macquarie valley between Lake Burrendong and the iconic partly Ramsar-listed Macquarie Marshes offers an amazing diversity of birdwatching opportunities, primarily focussed on woodland bird species and waterbirds of the wetlands and waterways.

For birds, the best time to visit is spring and early summer when most of the seasonally migratory species are present and the weather is most pleasant, however other times of year still offer a good diversity.

This guide features a few of the sites known by locals to be great, accessible examples of the habitats and bird populations in the area. These include some notable species, like the elusive Malleefowl in Goonoo Forest, woodland birds like Grey-crowned Babbler, Hooded Robins and Speckled Warblers and wetland birds such as the cryptic Painted Snipe, Brolgas and various egret species of the Macquarie Marshes.

In this guide we have included a mix of individual sites and area 'routes' representing many of the best birding spots. All are publicly accessible, however some have access restrictions or admission requirements as is indicated in their site details.

While the sites identified in this guide are considered to be some of the best spots, there are many other reserves, Travelling Stock Routes (TSR's) and areas of woodland not mentioned but that can offer valuable opportunities for birdwatching. Any of the river reserves (urban and rural), TSRs or Conservation Areas are great places to stop. Nearly forty such areas are identified and described in the companion guide to this, the one for fishing, so if you want to explore other areas, get yourself a copy of that guide also.

All of these guides can be downloaded to your iPhone, iPad or Android device. Visit www.rivertrails.com.au and follow the link from the main page.

Hooded Robin, photo: Brian O'Leary



THE MACQUARIE RIVER VALLEY


The Macquarie River lies in the heart of New South Wales, less than six hours drive from Sydney, the central and mid-coast and the Canberra region. Apart from the many other attractions the region has to offer (see www.rivertrails.com.au) it also offers bird watchers the opportunity to travel the length of the river and experience a range of differing riverine, floodplain, wetland and woodland habitats and the birds they house.

From Lake Burrendong, about 350 river-kilometres downstream to Warren, there are nearly 40 river parks, reserves and other access points that you can plan your bird watching journey around. Along the way you can also enjoy the hospitality and other attractions that the communities of Wellington, Dubbo, Narromine, Trangie and Warren have to offer.

From Warren, you can proceed on to the Macquarie marshes where we've suggested some touring routes to allow you to cover the long distances involved. Note that a good place to stay in the heart of the Macquarie marshes is Willie Retreat (see page 30 for details). Alternatively there are options to stay in Nyngan, Coonamble, Walgett, and the smaller communities of Carinda or Quambone.



TAKE CARE NOT TO TRESPASS

The places described in this guide are a mixture in terms of what facilities they offer (if any) and whether or not they are well known or more off the beaten track. Some areas allow overnight stays but if in doubt please check with the relevant local government area managers and the information they distribute, or have available through places like Visitor Information Centres or their respective websites. Also, several sites are Travelling Stock Routes. These are marked with . See page 48 for the conditions applying to recreational uses of these areas.

In providing this guide our hope is that you will find it easy to spend a few leisurely days bird watching along the Macquarie River and enjoying the peace and quiet plus the other attractions on offer.

Across the region many (but not all) of the river parks are sign posted. Others do not have signs and the maps included in this guide are designed to help you find these locations. For each site we've also included GPS coordinates to help you navigate your way to them if you have access to that technology.



Bush-stone Curlew, photo: Neil Zoglauer.



Square Tailed Kite, photo: Julian Robinson.

YOUR SAFETY

1. When using this guide you will encounter unsealed roads quite regularly so exercise common sense and caution when attempting to drive along these tracks and trails, even if you have a 4WD. The black soils found in some areas are notorious 'car-catchers' after rain so be on the look out for these or check with locals before you venture off the beaten track.
2. Mobile phone coverage remains patchy across some parts of this region, and with some phone service providers, so don't assume you can simply call for help if required. Be sure to follow all the usual safety precautions for outback travel – ample water and food, first aid kit, spare fuel, warm and wet weather clothes etc. Stay with the car if you get stuck or breakdown and most importantly, make sure someone knows where you were going! It's wise to get yourself an EPIRB beacon and consider a satellite phone or satellite communication device (for example, a 'spot tracker') to ensure people can find you in an emergency.
3. BE CAREFUL WHEN BIRDWATCHING NEAR ROADS. Passing traffic do not necessarily share your passion for whichever bird you've pulled over to see.
4. Don't camp under big old gum trees, as tempting as it is in summer particularly. Too many people have died or been badly injured by falling limbs.



Black Swans in the Macquarie Marshes, photo: Dione Carter.

SUGGESTED BIRDWATCHING SITES

In the following pages we have provided advice on those locations you can seek out to enjoy bird watching along the Macquarie River corridor and in various parts of the Macquarie marshes. All of the areas described are public lands, some with better access than others. Please note the earlier advice about being careful not to trespass on private lands and the conditions of use that relate to Travelling Stock Routes.

To assist you with finding these sites, coordinates have been supplied, where they are relevant.

THE VARIETY AVAILABLE

The section of the Macquarie Valley between Burrendong Dam and the Barwon River offers a wide variety of birdwatching opportunities, spanning the woodlands at the edge of the central tablelands through to the plains of the Barwon–Darling floodplains. Along the way there are some excellent birding spots in areas of remnant vegetation including woodlands, scrub, riverside areas and wetlands.

Within each woodland type you'll find different birds – for example, keep an eye out in spring in the flowering mistletoe of Myall woodlands for Painted Honeyeaters – but where there are remnant patches of sufficient size, maturity (hollow trees) and connectivity you'll start to find the gems of the sheep/wheat belt – Sittellas, Little Lorikeets, button quail and robins.



Painted Honeyeater, photo: Julian Robinson.

There are two key wetlands at either end of the river section – from Burrendong Dam, a large artificial impoundment, downstream to the complex and ecologically rich Macquarie Marshes 80km from the Barwon River.

Apart from the river itself, which can contain many species of waterbirds, other wetlands include the polishing ponds of sewage treatment plants of towns and cities along the way, particularly Narromine and Warren. Some areas still contain important remnant billabongs and floodplain wetlands that were once common along the river.

Within these wetlands, migratory and nomadic species can be found and vary greatly depending on the season, rainfall and regional population trends.

The Macquarie Marshes attracts some very special birds in big flood years – Pied Herons, pygmy geese, Magpie Geese, wader species and reedbed birds like Pheasant Coucal, cisticolas and both grassbirds. In protected, secluded spots massive colonies of over 250,000 nests of Ibis and egrets form in such years (see below).



Waterbirds in the Macquarie Marshes, photo: Neil Zoglauer.

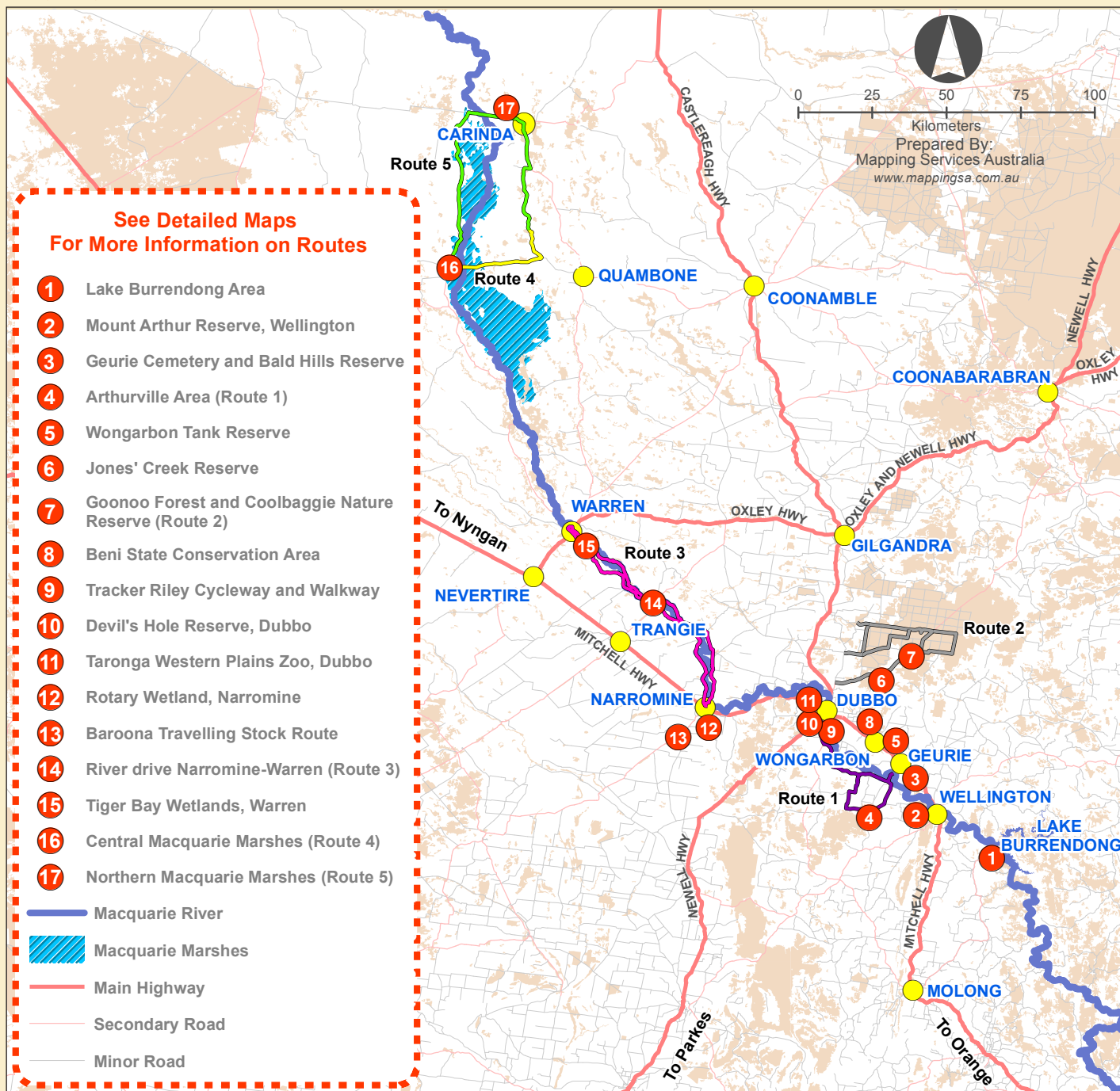
BIRD LIST

At the back of this guide, for your convenience you'll find, a bird list for the area with approximately 300 species listed. If you see anything not on the list, please let us know. Send details to: records@dubbofieldnats.org.au

OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES

- Macquarie River Trails Fishing guide lists about 40 river parks and reserves
- Various publications by Dubbo Field Naturalists and Conservation Society – go to www.dubbofieldnats.org.au
- BirdLife Australia www.birdlife.org.au
- Bird List of NSW www.nswbirdatlassers.com

OVERVIEW MAP



Lake Burrendong Area



Diamond Firetail, photo: Brian O'Leary. Eastern Yellow Robin, photo: Brian O'Leary

Name:	Lake Burrendong, including Burrendong Arboretum and Botanic Garden, Lake Burrendong and Mookerawa Waters State Parks and Lake Burrendong Sport and Recreation Centre
About the site:	Burrendong Botanic Garden and Arboretum was established in 1964 and covers approximately 167 ha. It offers a number of walking and self-drive trails through a range of habitats, including a fern gully. The arboretum is an excellent place for woodland birds including Diamond Firetails, Little Lorikeets and an assortment of honeyeaters. The Fern Gully is home to White-browed Scrubwrens and inquisitive Eastern Yellow Robins. Occasionally Gilbert's Whistlers can be found at the Arboretum.
How to find the site:	Lake Burrendong is only one hour's drive from either Dubbo or Orange and five hours from Sydney. If you are coming from the north of the state, the park is 27km south-east of Wellington. The State Park and Arboretum are about one kilometre from one another.
Coordinates:	32°41'17.87"S, 149° 6'30.67"E
Access information and facilities:	Access to all sites is sealed with ample car parking provided. Payment is required for entry into the State Park and at the Arboretum a voluntary donation is requested. At the State Park there are powered and unpowered camp sites, on-site cabins and powered caravan sites, plus a kiosk, fuel and full amenities.
Opening hours:	Arboretum: open 8am–6pm daily. Closed if fire hazard exists. State Park: 9am–5pm seven days a week Lake Burrendong Sport and Recreation Centre: by prior arrangement only
Contact:	Arboretum: (02) 6846 7454 State Park: (02) 6846 7435 Sport and Recreation Centre: (02) 6846 7403
More information:	www.burrendongarboretum.org www.stateparks.nsw.gov.au www.dsr.nsw.gov.au

Mount Arthur Reserve, Wellington



Red-capped Robin, photo: Neil Zoglauer. Speckled Warbler, photo: Brian O'Leary.

About the site:	First sighted by the explorer John Oxley in 1817, this Reserve of approximately 2,000 hectares is a short drive from the centre of Wellington. It offers several walking trails of various durations plus a number of lookouts to gaze down across the town, its two rivers (the Bell and Macquarie) and valley. The reserve is home to various woodland birds, such as Fuscous, White-eared and Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Speckled Warblers and Red-capped Robins.
How to find the site:	If coming from the Dubbo end of town go straight through the first round-about and then turn right at the second round-about, cross the Bell River and then proceed for approximately two kilometres and you'll see the sign to the Reserve on your right. If coming from the Molong direction turn left at the first round-about and then go straight ahead at the second one.
Coordinates:	For the entrance 32°33'11.04"S, 148°54'58.41"E
Access information and facilities:	There are bar-b-ques, picnic tables and basic toilet facilities. No camping is allowed and caravans are not recommended as the road is quite steep and narrow in places.
Opening hours:	Not applicable.
More information:	www.mtarthurreserve.org.au or go see the friendly people at the Visitor Information Centre in the centre of town to pick up the walking trails brochure.



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Geurie Cemetery and Bald Hill Reserve



Little Lorikeet, photo: Julian Robinson.

Crested Shrike Tit, photo: Julian Robinson.

About the site:

A true birding gem of the area—the cemetery area and adjacent Bald Hill Reserve offer excellent birdwatching opportunities. Here you may see many hard-to-find species including White-browed Babblers, Little Lorikeets, Black-chinned Honeyeaters, Crested Shrike-Tits, Diamond Firetails, Square-tailed Kite and Painted Button-Quail. The vegetation is primarily Grey and White Box woodlands with areas of Cypress and Yellow and Fuzzy Box. The reserve is located on the southern periphery of the village of Geurie, in the lower slope of the iconic 'Bald Hill'. There are three main areas, all with great birds:
 Geurie Cemetery: a managed area surrounded by Cypress woodland – great for little birds
 The old Quarry: the quarry site is east of Arthurville Road.
 The reserve proper: the larger area west of Arthurville Road.

How to find the site:

Cemetery: take the Mitchell Highway east from Geurie. The cemetery access road is 1500m from the village on the south (left). Be careful of traffic when making the turn.
Old Quarry: there is a very rough vehicular entrance off the Arthurville Road. Alternatively, park at the cemetery and walk across the creek to the west.
Reserve proper: there are a variety of walking/mountain biking trails accessed from the southern streets of Geurie (Morley Street/Whitely Street, Old Dubbo Road, Chambers/Payne St).

Coordinates: 32°24'42.21"S, 148°49'57.38"E (for Geurie cemetery)

Access information and facilities: There are no facilities – walking trails only.

Opening hours: Not applicable.

Contact: Not applicable.

Arthurville Area (Route 1)



Yellow-billed Spoonbills, photo: Neil Zoglauer. Superb Fairy-wren, photo: Neil Zoglauer.

About the site:

See map on next page

A great area for birding between Dubbo and Wellington, with areas of remnant woodlands amongst agricultural lands. Great woodland and riparian birds like Diamond Firetails, Little Eagle, Speckled Warbler and many others have been seen in this area.

One route through the area is described below and in the map. The approximate driving distance is 100km round trip from the Newell Highway/Obley Road intersection (the turn-off to Taronga Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo). The distances below refer to the approximate road distance from this intersection near the Zoo.

Site 1 – 4km – *Cumboogle Landcare Reserve*, opposite the Morris Park Race track. Drive up the small road and park beside it. Climb through the fence. This is a mixed box woodland. Red-capped Robins have been seen here.

Site 2 – 8km – the *Cumboogle Fire Brigade Shed*. This small patch of woodland has had Varied Sittellas and Superb Fairy wrens. 10km – Turn left into *Benolong Road*.

Site 3 – 21km – go left at the *Benolong Road* T-intersection, sign indicating towards Dubbo. Stop on the old bridge over the Little River, if no traffic and check out the water, if any, for ducks and herons.

Site 4 – approximately 29km on your left will be Peach Trees Reserve on the Macquarie River. Dollarbirds and Sacred and Azure Kingfishers could be seen here. A good morning tea or lunchtime stop.

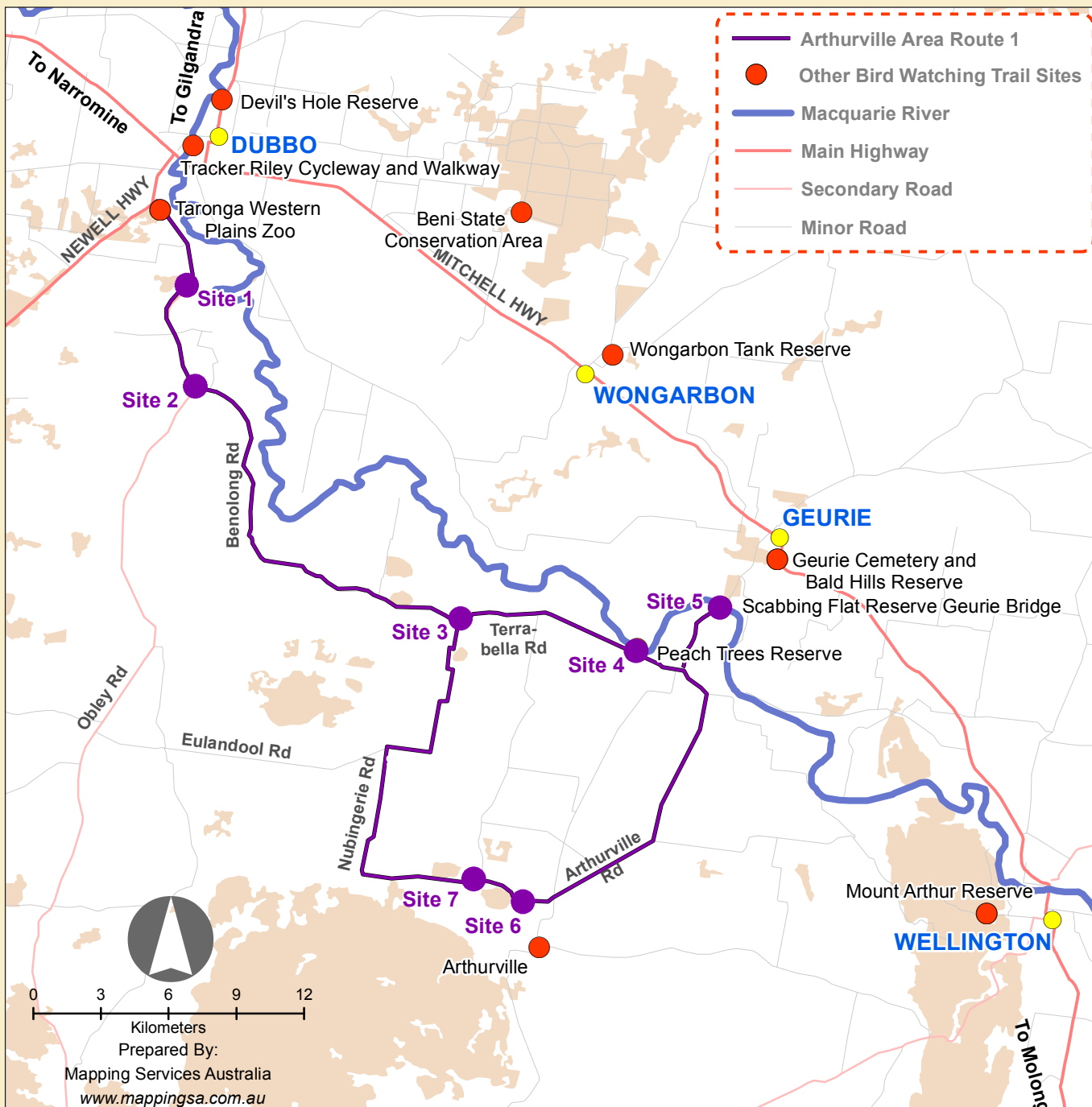
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Australian Pipit, photo: Neil Zoglauer.

Dollarbird, photo: Neil Zoglauer.

ROUTE 1



About the site continued:

Site 5 – back on the road again, at the T-intersection just past Peach Trees (40km) turn left towards Ponto and Geurie. Over the other side of the old bridge on the *Macquarie River*, is a large area to stop and have a wander through Scabbing Flat Reserve.

From here, either continue on to *Geurie Cemetery* and *Bald Hills Nature Reserve* (see elsewhere in this guide), both great for birds, or turn around and head south towards *Arthurville*. 31km – the *River Road* goes off to the east (left) at this intersection. This heads down to the Macquarie River after approximately 1km. If you continue along this road you will eventually get to Wellington via Mt Arthur Reserve (see elsewhere in this guide).

Otherwise continue south along the Geurie-Arthurville road towards *Arthurville* keeping an eye out for Australian Pipits and other grass birds. Continue on, crossing the old railway line with *Bushrangers Hill* on your left. There are some areas of nice woodlands along this section (**Site 6**) and also two dams, one quite large which always has a large number of water birds including Yellow-billed Spoonbills.

Site 7 – 45km – continue straight ahead through this four-way intersection into *Little River Road*, following it to cross a low-level bridge over the *Little River* again. Stop here for a wander.

Continue on this road as it turns right (north) and becomes the *Nubingerie Road*. The road climbs showing good views to the west and north. When you reach the top of the hill (*Nubingerie Road/Eulandool Road*) you can either turn left to head back to *Obley Road*, or turn right and continue to *Benolong Road*, where you turn left back towards Dubbo.

Wellington Riverside Caravan Park

This well maintained, 3-star-rated camping and van park offers on-site cabins, caravan and camping sites with direct access to the Macquarie river for fishing, canoeing etc. Platypus watching is another attraction near here.

Location: On the Mitchell Highway, next to the bridge over the Macquarie River on the Dubbo side of Wellington.

Reservations: (02) 6845 1370



Wongarbron Tank Reserve



Rufous Whistler, photo: Julian Robinson. *Buff Rumped Thornbill*, photo: Julian Robinson.

About the site:	This is a 30 hectare reserve on the edge of the township of Wongarbron which includes a formed path for walking through an area of grasslands and box/cypress woodlands. There is also a small dam on the site. A good variety of woodland birds can be found here including Red-capped Robins, Double-barred Finches, Buff-rumped Thornbills and Rufous Whistlers.
How to find the site:	Wongarbron is on the Mitchell Highway between Dubbo and Wellington.
Coordinates:	32°32'81.03"S, 148°76'62.76"E
Access information and facilities:	There are no facilities. Sealed roads to the Tank Reserve.
Opening hours:	Not applicable.
Contact:	Not applicable.
More information:	The area is managed by Dubbo City Council www.dubbo.com.au



Jones' Creek Reserve, Old Mendooran Road



Leaden Flycatcher, photo: Brian O'Leary.

About the site: A great birding spot, with remnant Cypress and grassy Yellow Box woodlands along Jones' Creek. Watch for Leaden Flycatchers, Wedge-tailed Eagles, Red-chested Button Quail and Speckled Warblers.

How to find the site: Head out the Dunedoo Road (Golden Highway) from Dubbo. Turn left onto the Old Mendooran Road approx. 12km from Dubbo. This will take you over the Talbragar River. Continue 8.5km from the river and the access to the reserve will be on the right (east). This can be difficult to spot, so keep an eye out for the large green reserve sign. There is a single road in and vehicle turning area near the entrance. Best to walk in rather than drive down to the creek.

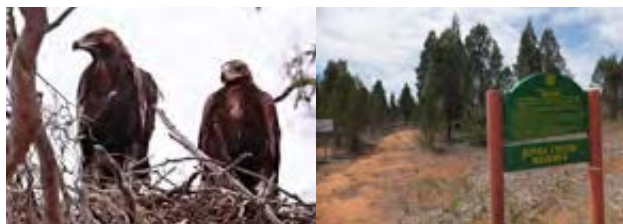
Coordinates: 32° 9' 3.81"S, 148° 46' 26.27"E

Access information and facilities: Dry weather access only. The Old Mendooran Road can be cut when the Talbragar River is up – do not cross floodwaters. No facilities on-site.

Opening hours: Not applicable.

Contact: Not applicable.

More information: The area is managed by Dubbo City Council www.dubbo.com.au



Wedge-tailed Eagles, photo: Neil Zoglauer. Jones' Creek habitat, photo: Bill Phillips.

Goonoo Forest and Coolbaggie Nature Reserve (Route 2)



Variegated Wren, photo: Brian O'Leary.

Malleefowl, photo: Neil Zoglauer.

About the site: A large forest with areas of dry woodlands, scrub and mallee. It is the single largest remnant forest in the area (~100,000ha).

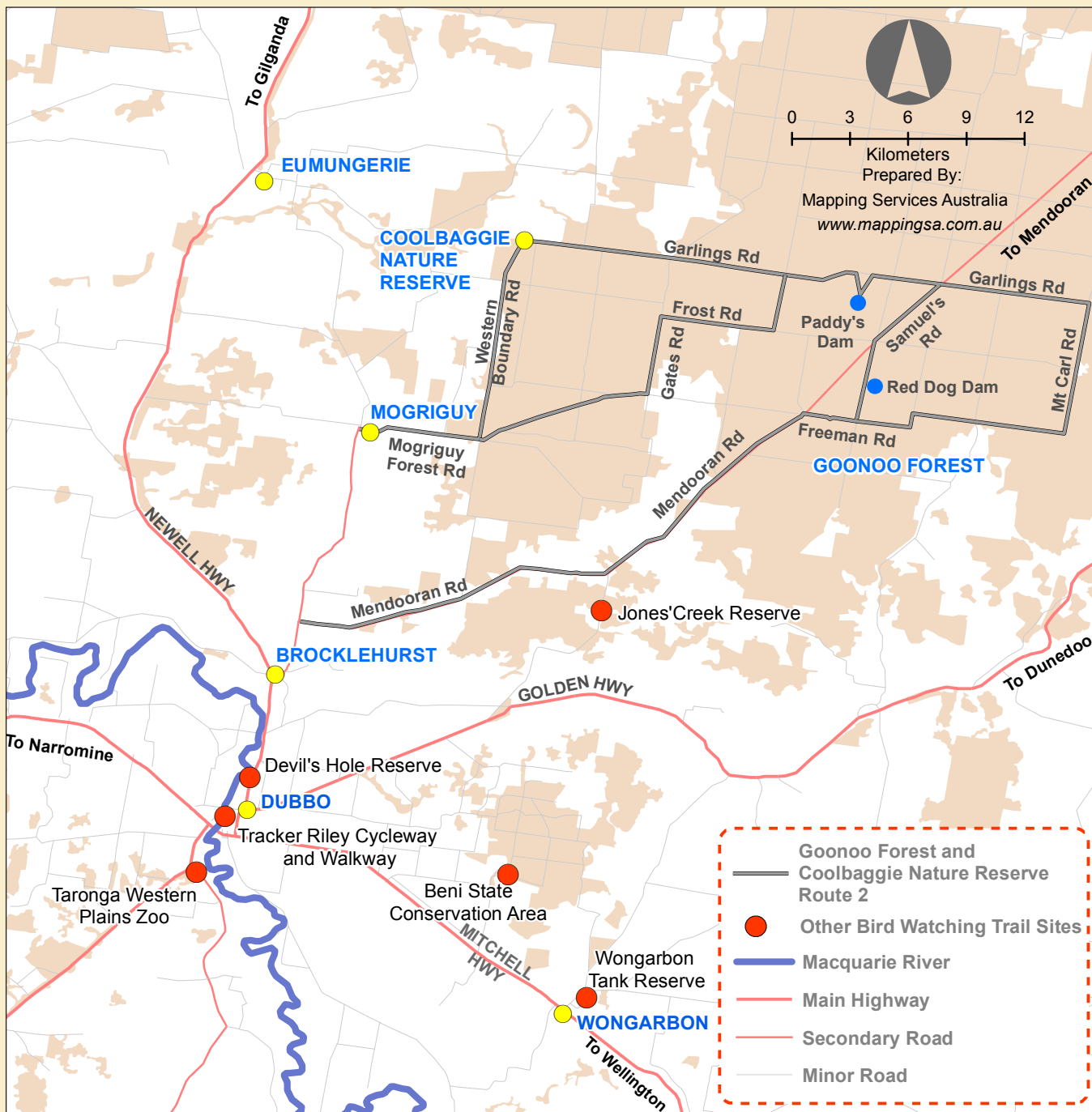
See map next page The forest contains extensive Ironbark and Grey Box woodland, with areas of Allocasuarina/Casuarina and Red Stringybark. In the west, Coolbaggie NR contains Green Mallee areas.

Some great birds can be found here including Gilberts Whistler, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater (in flowering Green Mallee), Malleefowl, Chestnut-rumped Heathwren, Variegated Wren and is a good spot for cuckoos in the spring.

How to find the site: Goonoo is mainly accessed from the Dubbo-Mendooran Road. Travel north from Dubbo on the Newell Highway, turning towards Mogriguy at Brocklehurst. Take the Mendooran Road to the right 4km north of Brocklehurst. Goonoo starts approx. 20km from that intersection. There are a network of trails through the forest. Be sure to take a good map!
A good birding route is to take Garling's Road from the Mendooran Road (Approx 16km from the southern edge of the forest). Travel straight until you reach Coolbaggie Nature Reserve, then turn south (left) down the Western Boundary Road. This will eventually lead back to the Mogriguy Forest Road, where you can either go east (back to the Mendooran Road) or west (to Mogriguy).
Other good areas are Freeman's Road east, Red Dog Dam (Samuel's Road south) and around Paddy's Dam (Samuel's Road north, then Paddy's Dam road).

Coordinates: 32° 4' 41.25"S, 148° 51' 53.01"E

ROUTE 2



Access information and facilities:	Dry weather only. There are some rough trails (ironstone ridges), dry-bogging areas (sandy) and vegetation encroaching on roads in some areas, so 4WD or AWD vehicles recommended. Do not access immediately after rain.
Opening hours:	Not applicable.
Contact:	Access information, NSW National Parks Dubbo Office: 02 6841 7100, office hours 8.30am–4.30pm, Monday–Friday
More information:	http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks



Creek in Coolbaggie Nature Reserve, photo: Bill Phillips.



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Beni Forest State Conservation Area



Varied Sitella, photo: Neil Zoglauer.

Jacky Winter, photo: Brian O'Leary.

Site name:	Beni Forest (State Conservation Area), 10km east of Dubbo.
About the site:	A very accessible forest with a variety of woodland birds. Good spots are the 'two dams' in the central north of the site and around the periphery of the forest. Contains examples of Stringybark and Ironbark woodlands with areas of Inland Grey Box and White Cypress. Keep a watch for Red-capped Robins, Jacky Winters and many different honeyeater species. Use caution in wet conditions.
How to find the site:	There are three main public entrances to the forest: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. from the east: Whitewood Road, 10km east of Dubbo 2. from the south: via Firgrove estate, take Eulomogo Road from the Mitchell Highway, then turn into Beni Forest Road 3. from the west: take Woodley's Road (Beni St) north from Wongarbron village. The edge of the forest is approximately 6km from Wongarbron.
Coordinates:	32°16'23.84"S, 148°43'50.22"E (for Firgrove Estate entrance)
Access information and facilities:	Dry weather access only. There are no facilities except some picnic tables near the 'two dams' area.
Opening hours:	Not applicable.
Contact:	Access information, National Parks Dubbo Office: 02 6841 7100. Office hours 8.30am–4.30pm, Monday–Friday.
More information:	http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks



Tracker Riley Cycleway and Walking Trail



About the site: Cycling and walking trail which forms two river-based loops, a 6km urban loop from Serisier Bridge to the Tamworth Street footbridge and return, and a longer loop from the Tamworth Street footbridge past the Taronga Western Plains Zoo to Dundullimal Reserve, crossing the river again there to return to Tamworth Street via Macquarie Street. Provides great bird-watching along the whole route with the trail following the river corridor for much of the way.

How to find the site: Tamworth street car park is a great place to start in either direction, or at the carpark below West Dubbo Bowling Club, opposite Abel Tasman Motor Inn. Alternatively, cross the road opposite the Visitor Information Centre (where bikes are for hire too) and pick up the trail there.

Access information and facilities: Sealed track, well sign-posted and with toilet facilities at several places along the trail.

Opening hours (where applicable): Not applicable.

More information: This area is managed by Dubbo City Council. www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au



Sacred Kingfisher, photo: Brian O'Leary.

Darter, photo: Brian O'Leary.

Devil's Hole Reserve, Dubbo



Barking Owl, photo: Neil Zoglauer.

White-breasted Wood Swallow, photo: Brian O'Leary.

About the site: The river reserve contains River Red Gum woodlands which features a variety of river birds including Crested Shrike-Tit, Woodswallows, Rufous Songlarks and waterbirds along the river. Keep an eye out for Barking Owls in some of the oldest Red Gums.

How to find the site: On the northern outskirts of Dubbo. From Dubbo take the Newell Highway toward Gilgandra and just after you pass the truck stop the reserve is on the left, opposite the entrance to the Ranelagh Homestead B&B.

Coordinates: 32°13'41.68"S, 148°36'39.76"E

Access information and facilities: Sealed roads to the entry point and then dirt which can be boggy if trying to get down to the beach. No camping or facilities. Bar-b-ques, covered picnic tables and views of the river near the entrance just off the sealed road.

Opening hours: Site is closed after dark.

Contact: Not applicable.

More information: This area is managed by Dubbo City Council. www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au



Rufous Songlark, photo: Brian O'Leary.

Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo



Little Pied Cormorant, photo: Brian O'Leary. White Browed Babbler, photo: Julian Robinson.

About the site:

The gardens, wetlands and bushland of Taronga Western Plains Zoo is not only home to over 700 exotic animals, but it provides excellent fox- and cat-free habitat for a range of (wild, native) bird species.

Bird species include Speckled Warblers, Little Eagles, Little Lorikeets, Grey-crowned and White-browed Babbler and Red-capped Robins in bushland areas. Depending on the condition of the wetlands, a variety of waterbirds can be observed including ducks like Hardhead, Cormorants, Little Grassbird, Buff-banded rails, Ibis and Herons.

How to find the site:

Obley Road, Dubbo – just off the Newell Highway to Parkes.

Coordinates:

For the entrance: 32°16'19.97"S, 148°35'10.76"E

Access information and facilities:

Entry is free to the front ponds but paid entry only to the remainder.

Opening hours:

9am–4pm daily. Last entry to the Zoo circuit 3pm daily.

Contact:

Phone: 02 6881 1400
Email: twpz@zoo.nsw.gov.au

More information:

<http://taronga.org.au/taronga-western-plains-zoo>



Bikes are available for hire at the Zoo.

Rotary Wetland, Narromine



Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, photo: Julian Robinson.

About the site:

This is a reserve with large constructed wetlands and revegetated woodland areas. The wetland areas host a modest variety of egrets, ducks and herons, with woodland birds like Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, thornbills and Rufous Whistlers returning to the revegetated areas. A pleasant walk in the morning.

How to find the site:

On the edge of Narromine township – follow Dandaloo Street to the Tullamore Road. Look for the signs.

Coordinates:

32°14'52.51"S 148°14'10.40"E

Access information and facilities:

There are dry-weather roads on-site with parking areas. Picnic areas are present. No toilet facilities.

Opening hours:

Closed after dark.

Contact:

Maintained by the Rotary Club of Narromine with assistance from the Shire Council.



Baroona Travelling Stock Route via Narromine



Chestnut-rumped Thornbill and Singing Honeyeater, photos: Julian Robinson.

About the site:	A woodland reserve just south of Narromine that includes good areas of Bimble Box/Wilga scrub and endangered Weeping Myall woodlands. Great for western woodland birds like Singing Honeyeater, Chestnut-rumped and Inland Thornbills, robins and others.
How to find the site:	Take the Tullamore-Narromine Road (Dandaloo St) to the south-west of Narromine. The TSR is 14km on the eastern side of the road. Keep an eye out for the Narromine Rotary Park and waterbirds in various Cowsals along the way.
Coordinates:	32°19'21.95"S, 148° 9'30.42"E
Access information and facilities:	Parking is informal only – there are a few tracks into the reserve. No facilities present.
Opening hours:	Not applicable.
Contact:	Not applicable.
More information:	Dubbo Field Naturalists and Conservation Society's 'Plants and Animals of the Dubbo Region' book chapter Places to Visit.

Peppercorn Motor Inn, Narromine

Three star-rated motor inn with great location. The Peppercorn Motor Inn has 21 units and is just fifty metres from the Narromine Golf Course and Club with its Chinese Restaurant. It's also less than 200 metres from the Macquarie River.

Location: Corner of Trangie Road–Mitchell Highway and Warren Road
Reservations: (02) 6889 1399 W: www.peppercornmotorinn.com.au



Macquarie River Drive, Narromine–Warren (Route 3)



Photo: Lisa Minner.

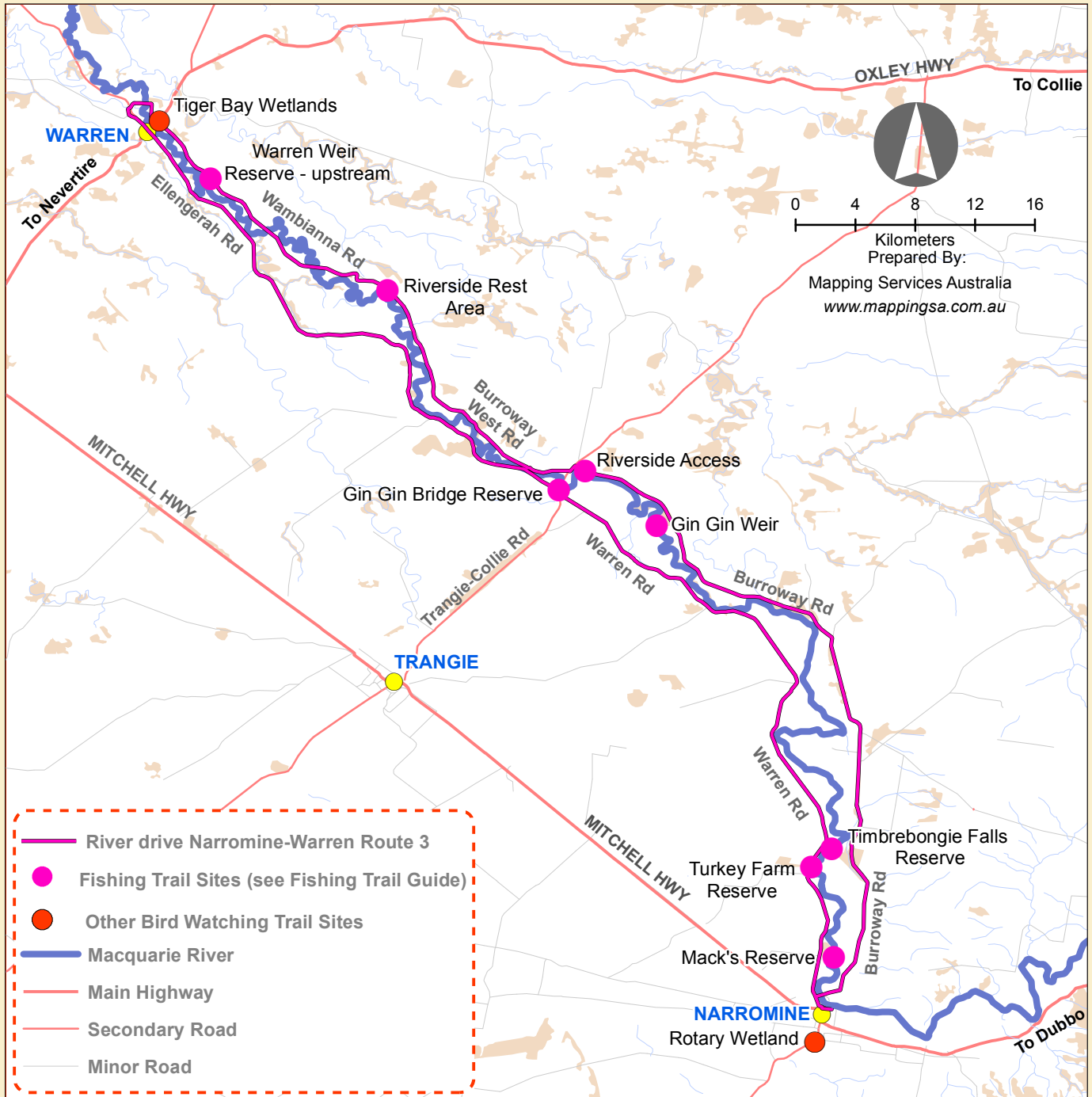
About the site:	Get off the highway and take the scenic route from Warren to Narromine or vice versa and the along the way you'll encounter a number of river parks, reserves and Travelling Stock Routes with great bird watching potential. Lots of woodland and riverine species on offer.
See map next page	
How to find the site:	When leaving Narromine follow the signs to Gilgandra and just out of town, after you cross the Macquarie River, take the left hand turn into Burroway Road. Along this road you'll find Timbreebongie Falls Reserve plus several other riverside TSR's where the river is very close to the road – see <i>Fishing Trail Guide</i> page 73. From Warren, near the bridge over the river, take Milson Street which becomes Wambianna Road and follow it until it reaches a T-intersection (the Collie-Trangie Road) – turn left and then in less than a kilometre turn right into Burroway West Road – which will take you to Narromine.



Sacred Kingfisher, photo: Neil Zoglauer.

Gin Gin Weir – a nice place to stop by the river to look for birds, photo: Bill Phillips.

ROUTE 3



Macquarie River Trails 

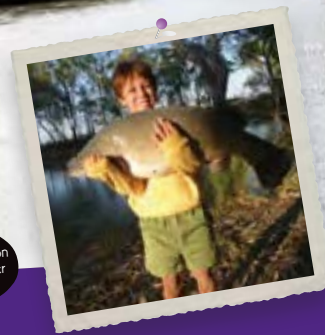
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November
2013



Tiger Bay Wetlands, Warren

Plum Headed Finch, photo: Julian Robinson.



Spotted Bowerbird, photo: Julian Robinson.



About the site:

These wetlands – a series of constructed wetlands adjacent to the Warren Sewage Treatment Plant – are great drought refuge when other areas are dry and can support a good range of waterbird and woodland bird species.

These include Plum-headed Finches, Spotted Bowerbird, various egret and heron species, ducks, crakes and ibis.

How to find the site:

On the edge of Warren township – take the Oxley Highway towards Gilgandra. The wetlands are found on both sides of the road not far past the big green water tower. Look for the signs.

Coordinates:

For the car park: 31°41'40.82"S, 147°50'33.16"E

Access information and facilities:

Good in all weather conditions – sealed access to parking area. There are wetland areas on either side of the Oxley Highway with walking trails, a bird hide and picnic table.

Opening hours:

Open at all times.

Contact details:

This site is maintained by Warren Shire Council.
Phone: 02 6847 6600

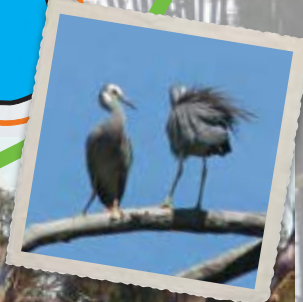
More information:

www.warren.nsw.gov.au

Additional photos provided by Warren Shire Council and Bill Phillips.

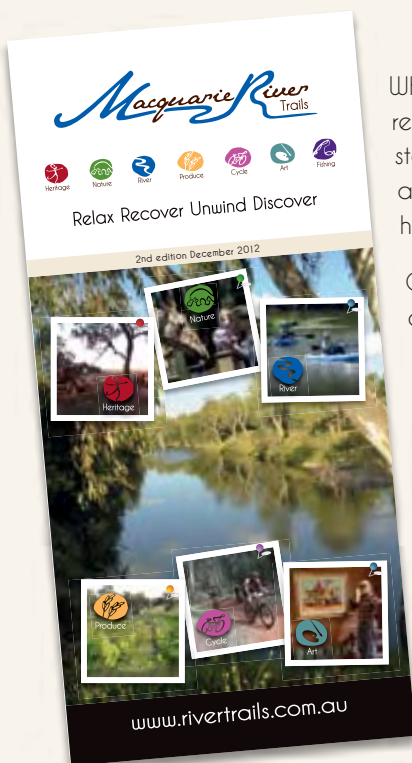


Site of RiverSmart's proposed 'Window on the Wetlands Centre' opening in mid 2014.





Tiger Bay Wetlands, Warren, photo: Bill Phillips.



While you're in the region why not stay a little longer and enjoy our hospitality?

Get hold of the companion glove box guide to this one from participating outlets, visitor information centres, download it from our web site or get hold of the downloadable application.

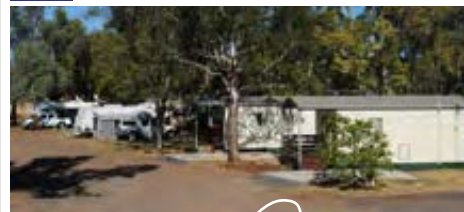
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Central Macquarie Marshes (Route 4)



Feeding Whiskered Tern, photo: Debbie Love.

About the site:

See map next page

Monkeygar Swamp: This reedbed is home to a wide variety of waterbird species. Species include Magpie Geese, Swamp Harrier, Pheasant Coucal, Glossy Ibis, various egrets, crakes and other waterfowl.

The adjacent mudflats, particularly on the eastern side, can support wader species like Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Black-tailed Godwits. Keep and eye out for the family of Brolgas that are often seen nearby.

Terrigal Creek, Little Terrigal Creek and Sandy Camp channel crossings, Gibson's Way: These crossings along Gibson's Way are great spots in the springtime to see Great Egrets, Nankeen Night herons, many species of cormorants, various ducks and some great bush birds too.

'Ninnia' – Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve, Sandy camp–Carinda Road. This portion of woodland north of Sandy Camp is great for western woodland birds like Singing Honeyeater, Crested Bellbird, Southern Whiteface, Chestnut-crowned Babbler, Jacky Winter and Ground Cuckoo Shrike (on the edges).

How to find the site:

This route starts at Marra crossroads, where Gibson's Road meets the Warren–Carinda Road. Look for the telecommunications tower which sits on this corner, just over 100kms from Warren.

Coordinates:

30°53'48.25"S, 147°27'50.03"E
(for the intersection referred to above)

Access information and facilities:

Walgett and Coonamble Shire Councils for road closures.



Magpie Geese, photo: Debbie Love.

Black-fronted Dotterel, photo: Debbie Love.



Yellow-billed Spoonbill, photo: Brian O'Leary.



Darters at Sandy Camp, photo: Tim Hosking.

Beyond Warren – if you decide to head further down the river toward the Macquarie Marshes one option is to stay at Willie Retreat – see below.

WILLIE RETREAT, MACQUARIE MARSHES



Willie Retreat offers a range of accommodation options – camping, on-site vans, powered and unpowered van sites, and the Retreat, which is the old shearers' quarters. It is also in the heart of Macquarie marsh wetlands – when they have water.

Location: From Warren, take the road to Carinda for just over 100kms and turn right at the Telstra tower into Gibson's Way and Willie Retreat is about 2kms further on. See the map available on the website.

Reservations: (02) 6824 4361

E: willie.retreat@bigpond.com.au.

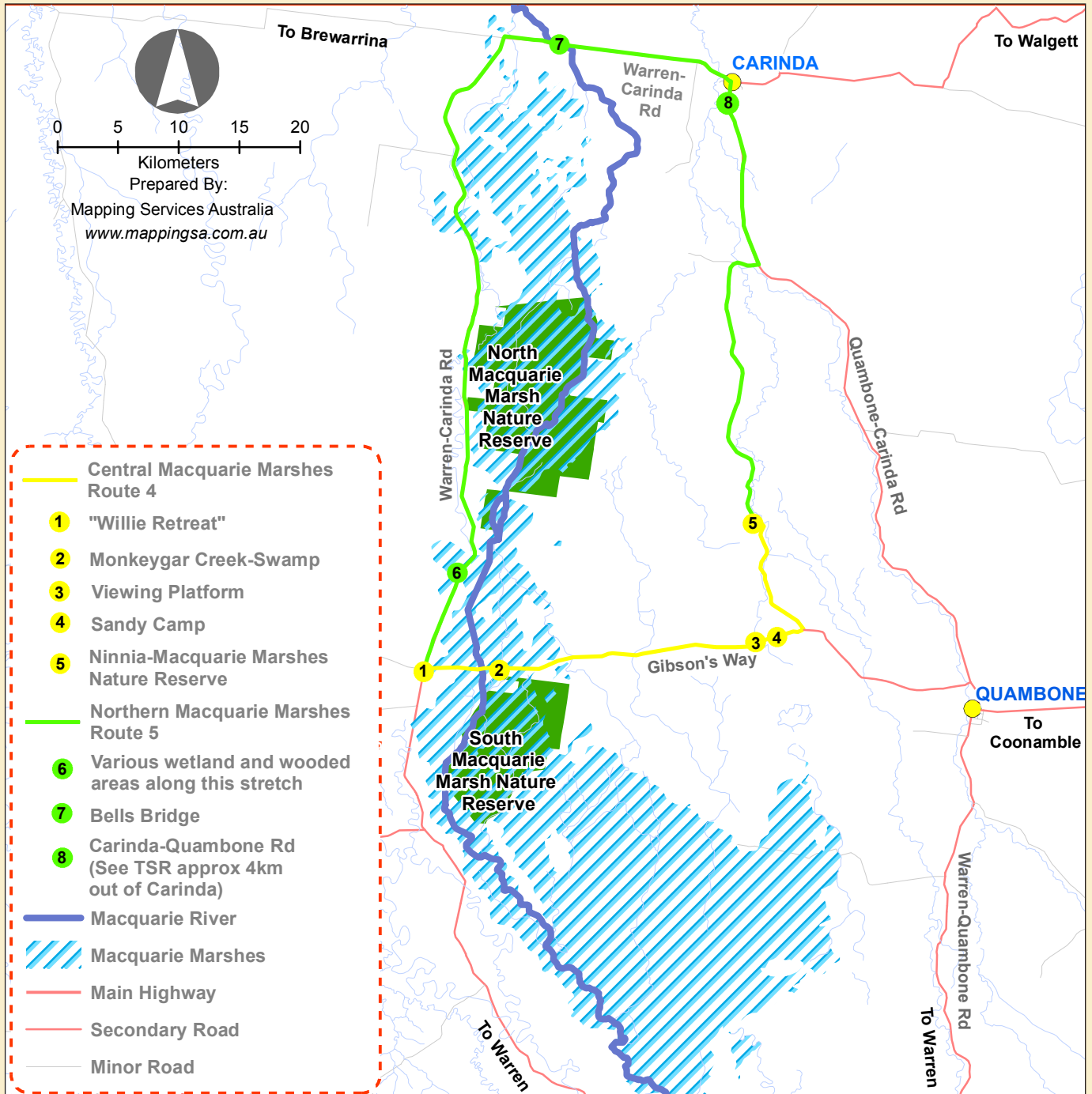
There is no after hours access, and after rain access may be difficult, so be certain to book ahead.



www.willieretreatmacquariemarshes.com.au

www.riversmart.org.au/WillieRetreat/WillieRetreat.htm

ROUTE 4 & 5



Northern Macquarie Marshes (Route 5)



Glossy Ibis, photo: Julian Robinson.

Painted Snipe, photo: Julian Robinson.

About the site:

This route offers excellent opportunities to see western and northern NSW woodland birds like Pale-headed Rosella, Superb Parrot, various thornbills and many birds of prey.

How to find the site:

There are various stops you could consider depending on your time. If starting in the east:

Start at the Marra Crossroads/Telecom Tower (Cnr Gibson's Way and Macquarie Valley Way/Warren-Carinda Road). Head north along the Carinda Road.

Check out the areas of the Mole Marsh which are great when wet. You can find various egrets, dotterels and duck species in the lagoon on the western side of the road. *Be careful of passing traffic*

Pillicawarrina TSR: the land between the main road and the river at the entrance to Pillicawarrina is a TSR. Be mindful of stock in this area, but there are areas of river red gum woodlands through to the Macquarie River here.

The Ginghet: To the north there are some crossing points of the Ginghet Creek. When wet this area has a good variety of waterbirds and woodland birds.

Through to the 'hundred mile' T-intersection. The road northwards to the T-intersection with the Carinda-Gongolgon Road is a good opportunity to see a variety of raptors and other birds. Keep an eye out for Ground Cuckoo-Shrike, Superb Parrots (when in season) and Pale-headed Rosellas.

Mullins Swamp and Bell's Bridge (Lower Macquarie River): These areas can offer some interesting birds at times.

continued next page



Brolgas, photo: Neil Zoglauer.

How to find the site:

Carinda-Quambone Road: The Wilga and Box scrub along the roadside can be very worthwhile at times, especially when some of the plants are flowering. Lots of Singing Honeyeater, Chestnut-rumped Thornbills and occasional Hooded Robins.

Carinda-Sandy Camp Road: Keep an eye out for Ground Cuckoo-Shrike, woodswallows and Little Eagles.

'Ninnia' Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve. This small reserve is full of great remnant vegetation and is generally excellent for birds. If dry, take the access track along the northern boundary through to the ruined homestead. Stopping at Dusty Creek Baradine Red Gum areas will often yield Crested Shrike-tit.

Stop near the southern boundary also, good for Crested Bellbird, Painted button-Quail and various thornbill species. During flooding the section of road between Ninnia and Sandy Camp is excellent for waterbirds as it follows the Terrigal Creek. Be careful not to leave the road, though!

Coordinates: 30°53'48.25"S, 147°27'50.03"E

Access information and facilities:

The Carinda-Warren road is bitumen so is all-weather. Carinda-Sandy Camp is unsealed so is dry-weather only. Be especially careful in the single-lane roads during cotton harvesting season – this road is used by some big trucks! Note that nearly all land adjacent to the road reserve (unless TSR) is privately managed. Do not enter private land unless you have obtained permission from the relevant landholder.

Contact details:

Walgett and Coonamble Shire Councils for road closures.



Superb Parrot, photo: Neil Zoglauer.

Intermediate Egret nesting, photo: Debbie Love.



Plumed Whistling Ducks, photo: Debbie Love.

TRAVELLING STOCK ROUTES

Recreational uses of Travelling Stock Routes (TSRs):

Please note that the following conditions apply to these areas:

- Access to TSRs for recreational activities is only during daylight hours.
- Fishing is an allowed recreational activity on TSRs.
- Motorised vehicular access is not allowed – people may enter by walking, riding a bicycle or horse.
- Camping is not allowed on TSRs (to clarify the gazettal notices, camping for drovers in charge of stock is the only allowable camping; not for recreational activities).
- Any gates which are closed must be left closed after access and departure.
- Beware of stock on reserves – stock have right of way.

For further information contact:

Central West Local Land Services

96 Victoria Street, Dubbo NSW 2830 • Phone: (02) 6882 2133



Magpie Geese in the Macquarie Marshes, photo: Tim Ralph.



The majestic Macquarie Marshes from the air showing ibis nesting, photo: Tim Ralph.

Macquarie River Trails has been made possible by the support of many organisations and businesses; too many to list them all here. Details are available on www.rivertrails.com.au

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Thanks to the Central West CMA (now Local Land Services) for their ongoing support for the Macquarie Riversmart initiative.

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Bird list

- Emu
- Malleefowl
- Stubble Quail
- Brown Quail
- Australian Shelduck
- Magpie Goose
- Plumed Whistling Duck
- Wandering Whistling Duck
- Freckled duck
- Musk Duck
- Black Swan
- Australian Wood Duck
- Pink-eared Duck
- Australasian Shoveler
- Grey Teal
- Chestnut Teal
- Mallard*
- Pacific Black Duck
- Hardhead
- Blue Billed Duck
- Cotton Pygmy-goose
- Green Pygmy-goose
- Australasian Grebe
- Hoary-headed Grebe
- Great Crested Grebe
- Rock (Feral) Dove
- Spotted (Turtle) Dove*
- Common Bronzewing
- Crested Pigeon
- Diamond Dove
- Peaceful Dove
- Bar-shouldered Dove
- Tawny Frogmouth
- White-throated Nightjar
- Spotted Nightjar
- Australian Owlet-nightjar
- White-throated Needletail
- Fork-tailed Swift
- Australasian Darter
- Little Pied Cormorant
- Great Cormorant
- Little Black Cormorant
- Pied Cormorant
- Australian Pelican
- White-necked (Pacific) Heron
- Little Bittern
- Australasian Bittern
- Great Egret
- Intermediate Egret
- Cattle Egret
- White-faced Heron
- Little Egret
- Pied Heron
- Nankeen Night Heron
- Glossy Ibis
- Australian White Ibis
- Straw-necked Ibis
- Royal Spoonbill
- Yellow-billed Spoonbill
- Black-necked Stork
- Black-shouldered Kite
- Square-tailed Kite
- Whistling Kite
- Black Kite
- Brown Goshawk
- Collared Sparrowhawk
- Grey Goshawk
- Spotted Harrier
- Swamp Harrier
- Osprey
- Black-breasted buzzard
- White-bellied Sea-Eagle
- Dusky Moorhen
- Wedge-tailed Eagle
- Little Eagle
- Nankeen Kestrel
- Brown Falcon
- Australian Hobby
- Grey Falcon
- Black Falcon
- Peregrine Falcon
- Brolga
- Australian Bustard
- Purple Swamphen
- Buff-banded Rail
- Baillon's Crane
- Lewin's Rail
- Australian Spotted Crane
- Spotless Crane
- Black-tailed Native-hen
- Eurasian Coot
- Bush Stone-Curlew
- Black-winged Stilt
- Red-necked Avocet
- Black-fronted Dotterel
- Red-capped Plover
- Red-kneed Dotterel
- Banded Lapwing
- Masked Lapwing
- Australian Painted Snipe
- Latham's Snipe
- Red-necked Avocet
- Common Greenshank
- Marsh Sandpiper
- Common Sandpiper
- Curlew Sandpiper
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
- Wood Sandpiper
- Red-necked Stint
- Bar-tailed Godwit
- Black-tailed Godwit
- Painted Button-quail
- Red-chested Button-quail
- Little Button-quail
- Australian Pratincole
- Gull-billed Tern
- Whiskered Tern
- Caspian Tern
- White-winged Black Tern
- Silver Gull
- Red-tailed Black-cockatoo
- Glossy Black-cockatoo
- Major Mitchell's Cockatoo
- Galah
- Little Corella
- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
- Cockatiel
- Rainbow Lorikeet
- Musk Lorikeet
- Little Lorikeet
- Australian King-Parrot
- Mulga Parrot
- Red-winged Parrot
- Superb Parrot
- Pale-headed Rosella
- Crimson Rosella
- Eastern Rosella
- Australian (Mallee) Ringneck
- Blue Bonnet
- Swift Parrot
- Red-rumped Parrot
- Budgerigar
- Bouke's Parrot
- Turquoise Parrot
- Blue-winged Parrot
- Eastern Koel
- Channel-billed Cuckoo
- Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo

Bird list continued

- Black-eared Cuckoo
- Shining Bronze-Cuckoo
- Pallid Cuckoo
- Fan-tailed Cuckoo
- Brush Cuckoo
- Pheasant Coucal
- Powerful Owl
- Barking Owl
- Southern Boobook
- Masked Owl
- Eastern Barn Owl
- Eastern Grass Owl
- Azure Kingfisher
- Laughing Kookaburra
- Red Backed Kingfisher
- Sacred Kingfisher
- Rainbow Bee-eater
- Dollarbird
- White-throated Treecreeper
- Brown Treecreeper
- Superb Fairy-wren
- White-winged Fairy Wren
- Variegated Fairy-wren
- Splendid fairy-wren
- Chestnut-rumped Heathwren
- Speckled Warbler
- Weebill
- Western Gerygone
- White-browed Scrub Wren
- White-throated Gerygone
- Striated Thornbill
- Yellow Thornbill
- Yellow-rumped Thornbill
- Chestnut-rumped Thornbill
- Buff-rumped Thornbill
- Inland Thornbill
- Brown Thornbill
- Southern Whiteface
- Spotted Pardalote
- Striated Pardalote
- Eastern Spinebill
- Pied Honeyeater
- Yellow-faced Honeyeater
- Singing Honeyeater
- White-eared Honeyeater
- Yellow-tufted Honeyeater
- Yellow Plumed Honeyeater
- Fuscous Honeyeater
- White-plumed Honeyeater
- Noisy Miner
- Yellow-throated Miner
- Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
- Regent Honeyeater
- Red Wattlebird
- White-fronted Chat
- Crimson Chat
- Orange Chat
- Black Honeyeater
- Brown Honeyeater
- Black-chinned Honeyeater
- Brown-headed Honeyeater
- White-naped Honeyeater
- Blue-faced Honeyeater
- Noisy Friarbird
- Little Friarbird
- Striped Honeyeater
- Painted Honeyeater
- White-fronted Honeyeater
- Chestnut-crowned Babbler
- Grey-crowned Babbler
- White-browed Babbler
- Spotted Quail-thrush
- Varied Sittella
- Ground Cuckoo Shrike
- Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike
- White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike
- Cicadabird
- White-winged Triller
- Crested Shrike-tit
- Crested Bellbird
- Gilbert's Whistler
- Golden Whistler
- Rufous Whistler
- Grey Shrike-thrush
- Olive-backed Oriole
- White-breasted Woodswallow
- Masked Woodswallow
- White-browed Woodswallow
- Black-faced Woodswallow
- Dusky Woodswallow
- Little Woodswallow
- Pied Butcherbird
- Grey Butcherbird
- Australian Magpie
- Pied Currawong
- Rufous Fantail
- Grey Fantail
- Willie Wagtail
- Australian Raven
- Little Raven
- Little Crow
- Leaden Flycatcher
- Restless Flycatcher
- Maggie-lark
- White-winged Chough
- Apostlebird
- Jacky Winter
- Red-capped Robin
- Flame Robin
- Scarlet Robin
- Rose Robin
- Hooded Robin
- Eastern Yellow Robin
- Singing (Horsfield's) Bushlark
- Golden-headed Cisticola
- Australian Reed-Warbler
- Tawny Grassbird
- Little Grassbird
- Rufous Songlark
- Brown Songlark
- Silveryeye
- White-backed Swallow
- Welcome Swallow
- Fairy Martin
- Tree Martin
- Spotted Bowerbird
- Common Blackbird*
- Common Starling*
- Common Myna*
- Mistletoebird
- Zebra Finch
- Double-barred Finch
- Plum-headed Finch
- Red-browed Finch
- Diamond Firetail
- House Sparrow*
- Australasian Pipit

* Exotics species



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We started along the Macquarie River in 2008 with the goal of getting people to ‘turn and face the river’ – that is, get out and enjoy it, but also be prepared to help look after it – to be a caretaker of sorts. Now we have our finger in many pies from schools education, to landcare type restoration works in collaboration with those who have the privilege of living on the river or get out and enjoy it, scientific surveys so we know where the problems are and all sorts of community events.



Spotted Harrier, photo: Neil Zoglauer.

Macquarie River Trails, under which this Guide fits, is another of our initiatives, undertaken in partnership with the local councils and more than 50 local businesses and organisations that run attractions and activities along the river and its corridor.



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