

## Visitor Guide

# Bundjalung National Park

# Iluka Nature Reserve



nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

**Welcome to country.** When you visit Bundjalung National Park and Iluka Nature Reserve, you are within the traditional homelands of the Bundjalung and Yaegl Nations. In caring for these lands, we show our respect for elders past and present and their strong spiritual and cultural connection to this Country.

### A SPECIAL PLACE

Vast heathland plains, mangrove mudflats, sandy beaches and the rocky headlands of the Iluka Peninsula make Bundjalung National Park a coastal treasure. Bundjalung, together with Iluka Nature Reserve and Yuraygir and Broadwater national parks, make up the largest stretch of protected coastline in New South Wales.

Bundjalung supports the endangered coastal Emu and the marine interface provides breeding grounds for the bright red-beaked Pied Oystercatchers.

At the centre of the park is the Bundjalung Wilderness Area. Nestled upon a large sandplain, it supports magnificent heaths, wetlands, lagoons and the Esk River - the longest undisturbed coastal river system in New South Wales.

Iluka Nature Reserve, a World Heritage Gondwana rainforest, is a small but valuable remnant of what was once an extensive coastal rainforest. Home to a suburb range of birdlife including the White-eared Monarch and the rare Barred Cuckoo-shrike.

### THINGS TO DO

Pack a picnic and enjoy the day use facilities throughout the park.

Gummigurrah Walk



Back Beach



Iluka Bluff



Shark Bay



Frazers Reef



Old Ferry Crossing



Spend time exploring the Esk River and Jerusalem Creek systems by canoe or kayak. Launch at Bill Weiley Bridge on Iluka Road for the Esk River and at the canoe pontoon at Black Rocks Camping Area for Jerusalem Creek.

For boating enthusiasts, Woody Head Camping Area has a public boat ramp. You can explore the Esk River south of Jackys Gully through riverine and mangrove ecosystems to the tidal Clarence River estuary. Access into the Bundjalung Wilderness

Area above Jackys Gully is available to electric or non-powered craft only.

Recreational fishing is permitted in rivers, estuaries and along the coastline. Anglers require a permit from DPI Fisheries. Spearfishing is not permitted in sections of Woody Bay.

Explore the Iluka Peninsula with its wave cut rock platforms and beaches. Look for, but don't take, the interesting marine life in the rockpools at low tide.

Best viewing points for whale watchers include the lookout at Iluka Bluff. From April to June whales are travelling north, returning with their young in early Spring.

Take a self-guided walk through Iluka Nature Reserve where informative signs share the secrets of this World Heritage Gondwana rainforest.

See map and legend over page for symbol definitions, picnic areas and walking track locations.

### GO FOR A WALK

#### Gummigurrah Walk <sup>1</sup>

3.5km, 2 hours return, easy grade

Gummigurrah is an Aboriginal area – traditionally used as a winter camping ground for the Bundjalung people. From the picnic area, walk through open woodland, heath and rainforest to a shady midden beside the Evans River.

#### Jerusalem Creek Peninsula Track <sup>2</sup>

6km, 2.5 hours return, easy grade

Follow Jerusalem Creek, a tea-tree stained freshwater creek, north from Black Rocks Camping Area to the beach.

#### Woody Head rock platform <sup>3</sup>

1km, 30 minutes one way, slippery uneven surfaces

Venture around the headland at Woody Head Camping Area for views to the south. Explore the rock platform, but just look at the rockpool animals and leave them in their homes.

#### Iluka Bluff Lookout <sup>4</sup>

150m, 10 minutes one way, moderate grade with steps

While at Iluka Bluff picnic area, take the steps to the top of the bluff where a viewing platform provides a spectacular outlook over Iluka Nature Reserve, coastal beaches and the mouth of the mighty Clarence River.

#### Iluka Rainforest Walk <sup>5</sup>

2.5km, 1.5 hours one way, easy grade

Take a stroll through the World Heritage Listed Gondwana Rainforest of Iluka Nature Reserve where tall trees are intertwined by strangler figs. If you walk quietly, you can hear the chatter of the brightly coloured Noisy Pitta and the sharp crack of the Whipbird. A section of this walk is wheelchair accessible. Wear insect repellent.

### More information

Check onsite information boards for more information about the national park and nature reserve. In the school holidays, take a Ranger guided Discovery tour. Check park noticeboards for planned activities or pre-book your tour before you leave home. View the Discovery program at [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

### THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

**Camping fees** are payable at the self registration station at Black Rocks or the Woody Head Kiosk. You can stay for a maximum of 21 days. See each campground description for pricing details. Children under five are free and child rates apply to 5-15 years.

Day or annual **vehicle passes** must be clearly displayed on your vehicle while you are in the park. Buy an annual vehicle pass and save. For more information, contact any NPWS office, see the Woody Head Kiosk, or visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au). Day passes can be purchased from self-registration stations at Gummigurrah picnic area

and Black Rocks camping area, or from the Woody Head kiosk.

**Rubbish disposal and recycling** is only available at Woody Head Camping Area. Please remove all other rubbish from the park.

**Water** is only available at Woody Head Camping Area. For all other areas, take sufficient water for your stay.

**Portaloos** cannot be buried in the park or emptied into composting toilets. Contact local councils for disposal locations or take it home.

**Firewood** cannot be collected in the park. Use only the fireplaces and BBQ's provided. Firewood is available at Woody Head camping area. For all other sites, please bring your own. Check first that a cane toad hasn't hitched a ride!

**Please don't bring...** generators, chainsaws, firearms, spearguns, animals (including the family dog or cat), plants or soil into Bundjalung National Park or Iluka Nature Reserve.

**To reduce** odour, flies, scavenging goannas and crows, take sturdy buckets for your rubbish and food. Keep the lids on tightly.

### FOR YOUR SAFETY

- Iluka Beach is the only beach patrolled by lifeguards.
- Do not feed wildlife (including goannas) or leave food unsecured. Keeping your campsite tidy will make it uninviting to scavenging animals.
- Watch out for snakes - use a torch at night.
- Extinguish campfires completely with water - not sand.
- Water is not available at all campsites.
- If you explore foreshore rockpools, leave animals and shells in their homes rather than take them to yours. Some species could inflict painful or deadly stings.
- Supervise children at all times.

### MORE INFORMATION

NPWS North Coast Regional Office  
Level 4, 49 Victoria Street (PO Box 361) Grafton NSW 2460

Tel: (02) 6641 1500

Fax: (02) 6641 1599

Email: [northcoast.region@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:northcoast.region@environment.nsw.gov.au)

NPWS Richmond River Area Office

7 Northcott Crescent, (PO Box 856) Alstonville NSW 2477

Tel: (02) 6627 0200

Fax: (02) 6628 3937

Email: [northernrivers.region@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:northernrivers.region@environment.nsw.gov.au)

### Woody Head Camping Area Bookings

Tel: (02) 6646 6134

Fax: (02) 6646 6897

Email: [Woodyhd@bigpond.net.au](mailto:Woodyhd@bigpond.net.au)

### Vehicle Passes

Tel: 1300 361 967 | [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

### Fishing Permits

Tel: 1300 369 365 | [www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au)

### GENERAL INQUIRIES:

T: 13000PARKS (1300 072 757)

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



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Pied Oystercatcher

# Bundjalung National Park and Iluka Nature Reserve

## ILUKA NATURE RESERVE



Iluka Nature Reserve contains the largest remaining stand of littoral "by the sea" rainforest in New South Wales and is a World Heritage listed Gondwana rainforest.

Rich and diverse, it is an ecosystem adapted to a harsh environment of salt-laden winds and poor soils. The Riberry and Broad-leaved Lillypilly forest where strangler figs, ferns, epiphytes and vines intertwine is sheltered by protective sand dunes and salt-tolerant Tuckeroo and Banksia trees.

Home to more than 140 species of birds, the reserve is a bird watchers paradise. You might see an Eastern Whipbird as it rustles through the leaf litter or hear its call - the whip crack belongs to the male and the sharp chirps (choow choow) to the female as she responds to the males call.

Iluka Nature Reserve wasn't always the thriving ecosystem it is today. In the early 1990's, the reserve was doomed to encroachment by weed species and in danger of being removed from the World Heritage list. But thanks to an extraordinary group of ordinary locals who formed the Iluka Landcare and Dunecare Group and committed many years of hard work, Iluka Nature Reserve was saved. Their work still continues as they weed, replant and restore koala habitat in the reserve and at Iluka Bluff.

## BLACK ROCKS CAMPING AREA



Set amongst Tuckeroo and Banksia trees behind the dunes at Ten Mile Beach, is the spacious Black Rocks Camping Area (47 sites).

You will need to bring your own firewood. Water is not available - take enough for your stay. Suitable for tents, caravans and camper trailers. Unsealed 2WD access via Gap Road (15km). Campsite bookings can be made online at [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/bookings](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/bookings) or call 13000PARKS (1300 072 757).

Jerusalem Creek, accessed from the camping area, is a pleasant canoeing experience. A canoe launching pontoon is provided. Only non-powered or electric craft are permitted on the creek.

## WOODY HEAD CAMPING AREA



Nestled behind Woody Bluff, Woody Head is a sheltered grassy camping area with a northern outlook towards Evans Head. A group camping site with cooking shelter is available and there are cabins for hire. Hot showers (20 cent coins required). Suitable for tents, caravans and camper trailers. 2WD access.

Bookings can be made online at [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/bookings](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/bookings) or call 13000PARKS (1300 072 757).

Go fishing, snorkelling or explore the interesting sea life at low tide in the rock pools. Look, but don't touch or take.

Spearfishing is not permitted in the camping area and the Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) prohibits spearfishing in Woody Bay and over the rock platform.

## DRIVING ON THE BEACH

Beaches carry two-way traffic and have hazards including washouts and exposed rocks, particularly after heavy rain and rough seas. Safe travelling speeds could be much lower than signposted limits. Plan to travel two hours either side of low tide when there is wide beach and hard surface to drive on.

**Speed limits** – beach speed limits are 40 km/h.

**No go zones** – vehicles are not permitted on the beach north of Black Rocks Camping Area or south of the Shark Bay beach access track.

**Road rules** – road rules on beaches are the same as those on bitumen roads. Vehicles must be registered and seatbelts worn at all times. All drivers must hold a current driver's licence. It is illegal to carry passengers outside the vehicle cabin, in utility trays or on boat trailers.

**Advertise your intentions** – keep to the left of oncoming vehicles. Use indicators when overtaking or turning.

**Stay off the dunes** – it is illegal to drive on dunes. Only use defined access tracks. Foredunes provide the only nesting places for shorebirds and sea turtles. Fragile grasses are easily damaged leading to dune destabilisation.

**Give way to people on the beach** – pedestrians often cannot hear approaching vehicles above the sound of surf or strong winds. Slow down near people on the beach, especially around children. Pedestrians have right of way.

**Give seabirds a wide berth** – so they can rest, feed and breed. Reduce speed and keep your distance. There are not many Pied Oystercatchers or Little Terns left, so please drive carefully! Watch out, they often shelter in wheel ruts.

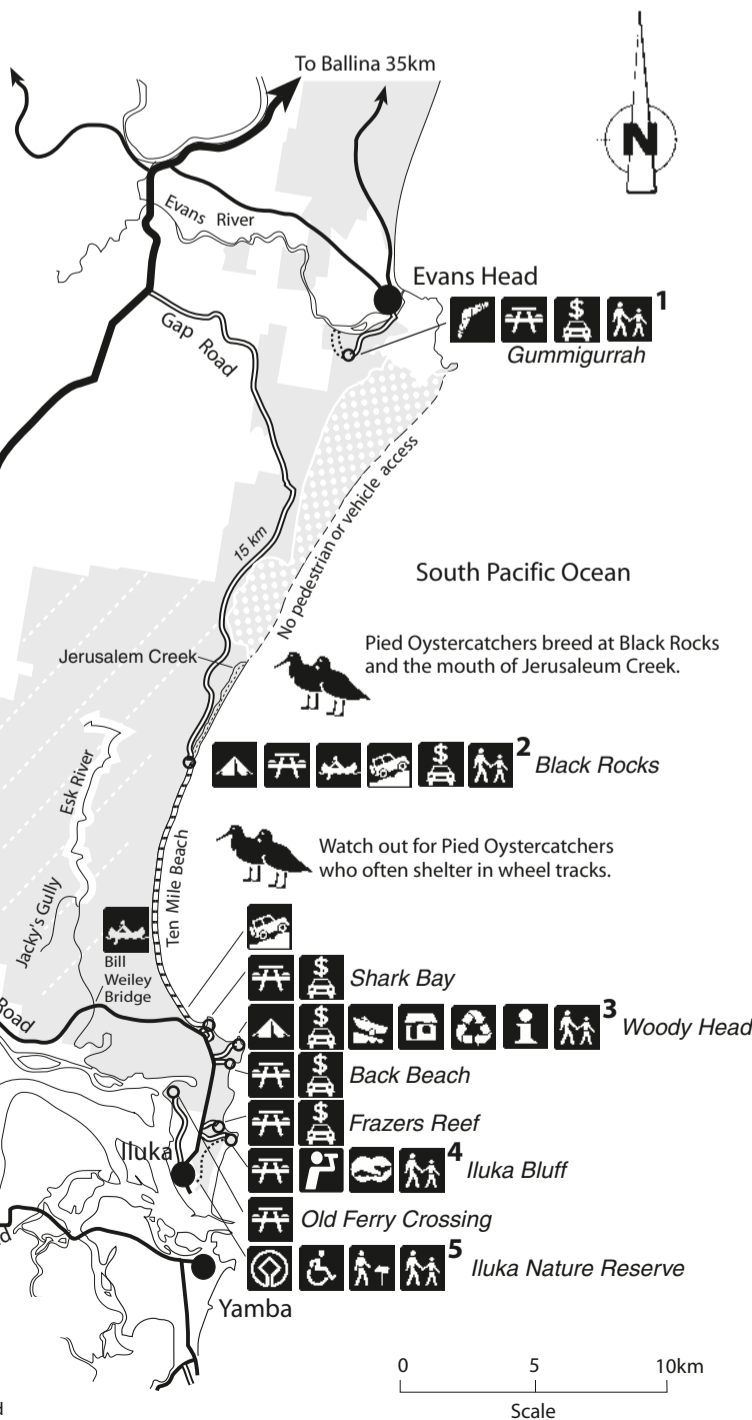
## BUNDJALUNG National Park



**Woody Head recycling station** – Prepare to recycle, get a recycling tub from the kiosk. Paper is not a recyclable item at Woody Head. Use paper to light your campfire or put it in with the rubbish. Paper in the recycling bins contaminates the whole load and it then all goes to landfill.



**Spearfishing** – not permitted in Woody Bay and spearguns not permitted in the camping area. Refer to Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) onsite signage.



## Legend

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|  | ● Towns           |
|  | ○ NPWS facilities |
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## Camping fees \*

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|------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
|                  | Black Rocks |               | Woody Head |
| \$10 adult/night |             | \$28 per site |            |
| \$5 child/night  |             |               |            |

## Walking tracks

- 1 Gummigurrah Walk
- 2 Jerusalem Creek Peninsula Track
- 3 Woody Head rock platform
- 4 Iluka Bluff Lookout
- 5 Iluka Rainforest Walk

**Topographic maps 1:25000**  
**Land and Property Information NSW**  
 Tabbimobile 9539-1-S  
 Woombah 9539-2-N  
 Yamba 9539-2-S

## ILUKA Nature Reserve

