

Glenrock State Conservation Area



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ABOUT GLENROCK SCA

Glenrock SCA conserves over 500 hectares of natural coastline close to the heart of Newcastle. The park has striking headlands, attractive beaches and pockets of littoral rainforest. Its rocky creeks flow over waterfalls, past enclosing cliffs into water-worn rockpools before entering picturesque Glenrock Lagoon.

The park is an ideal place to escape suburbia and enjoy beach activities, bushwalking, mountain bike riding, hang gliding and even horse riding. It is a cultural landscape of State Heritage Significance and contains several Aboriginal and historic sites of great interest.

ACCESS

Glenrock is 5 km east of Charlestown off Burwood Road via Dudley Road and 5 km south of Newcastle via the Pacific Highway.

BEACHES

Swimming, fishing and surfing are popular recreational activities at Dudley, Burwood and Glenrock beaches. The park offers a surprisingly isolated and unspoilt beach setting, unique when compared to the surrounding urban area.

Dudley Beach is one of the most popular beaches in Newcastle due to its natural setting. Pedestrian access is from the Dudley Beach carpark and picnic area. A fossilised forest can be seen in the rock platform at the southern end of the beach.

At high tide Burwood Beach can only be accessed from the north via the Hickson Street walking track; at other times pedestrians can walk from Merewether Baths across the rock platform. Rhyolitic tuff from



the cliffs in this area was once used by the Awabakal to make stone tools which were traded as far inland as Quirindi. The beach itself was once part of a traditional Awabakal pathway stretching from Newcastle to Lake Macquarie. The remains of Australia's first commissioned copper smelter (1851) can be seen in the hind dunes and Australia's first railway tunnels (1861) in Merewether bluff. Interpretation panels describing these sites are provided at the northern end of the beach.

Glenrock Beach can be accessed from the Leggy Point Loop track off Scout Camp

Road or from the Yuelarbah Track. An important Awabakal midden sits between the beach and the lagoon. Middens are accumulations of shell material mixed in with the remains of birds, fish and mammal bones, artefacts such as stone flakes, grinding stones, axe heads and hearths. They provide detailed information on Aboriginal occupation in an area and of the types of plants and animals which occurred in the past.

IMAGES THIS PAGE: Glenrock State Conservation Area. Photos: David Benson / OEH.

HANG GLIDING

Hang gliding pads are provided at two sites within the park:

HICKSON STREET HANG GLIDING PAD

This is a gently sloping grass pad providing for both takeoff and landing in south to south-east wind conditions. Access is via the Hickson Track from Hickson Street, Merewether. This heavily used pad is suitable for the safe training of new pilots. Landing is not permitted on Burwood Beach, except in the event of an emergency.

BOMBALA TRACK HANG GLIDING PAD

This is a takeoff only pad for experienced pilots in east to north-east wind conditions. Access is via the Bombala Track off Bombala Street, Dudley. Landing is not permitted on Dudley Beach. In the event of an emergency landing the glider must be carried out via the Dudley Beach carpark or the Banksia Fire Trail to minimise damage to walking tracks.

WALKING TRACKS

THE YUELABAH TRACK

Footprints in the Sand (5 km – wheelchair accessible for 1 km and then medium grade for the remainder)

An extremely popular walk, the Yuelarbah Track is part of the Great North Walk which stretches from Newcastle to Sydney. The first section of the track caters for wheelchair access via a raised boardwalk from the Yuelarbah carpark on Burwood Road, Kahibah, through to a picnic area on Flaggy Creek. The remainder of the track is pedestrian only and winds its way along the creek, past two waterfalls and on to Glenrock Lagoon and the beach. Leichhardt's Lookout is situated midway along the track and

provides excellent views over the lagoon to the coast. From the beach, visitors can loop back to the Yuelarbah carpark via the Leggy Point Loop Track and the Burwood Track; or continue north, at low tide, to Merewether Baths outside the park. During high tide visitors heading to Merewether must exit via the Hickson Track at the northern end of Burwood Beach and then via Lloyd Street to Merewether Baths.

THE LEGGY POINT LOOP TRACK (2 km – medium)

This track is pedestrian only and begins at the Leggy Point carpark at the end of Scout Camp Road and loops around to the water tank above the Scout Camp on Scout Camp Road. Walkers may continue on to the Burwood Track (opposite the tank and a little farther down) off Scout Camp Road. A side track also links the Leggy Track to Glenrock Beach, Burwood Beach and onto the Yuelarbah Track.

THE BURWOOD TRACK (750 m – medium)

The Burwood Track is a multi-use track for both horses and pedestrians. It begins above the Scout Camp opposite the water tank on Scout Camp Road and continues on to join up with the Yuelarbah Track and the Yuelarbah Management Trail at Flaggy Creek. The State Heritage listed Burwood Colliery historic site (c. 1861) can be seen below the escarpment from this vantage point. Interpretation panels describe its operation and significance.

THE HICKSON TRACK (500 m – difficult)

This track begins off Hickson Street in Merewether and ends at the northern end of Burwood Beach. The popular Hickson Track hang gliding pad is situated part way along this track, just prior to its descent to the beach. Good views of the Newcastle



Beach at Glenrock, Glenrock SCA. Photo: David Benson / OEH.

coastline are available from the pad. The track provides a high tide alternative to walkers on the Yuelarbah Track heading towards Merewether, linking into the Bathers Way via Lloyd Street in Merewether.

THE BOMBALA WALKING TRACK (500 m – medium)

The Bombala Track provides access to the southern end of Dudley Beach. Parking and interpretation panels are provided at the end of Bombala Street, Dudley. A small set of steps and a viewing platform occur halfway along the track providing excellent views to the north. A fossilised forest can be seen embedded in the rock platform at the southern end of the beach.



Glenrock Lagoon, Glenrock SCA. Photo: David Benson / OEH.

MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDING

Glenrock provides excellent opportunities for mountain bike riding with 14 km of single track and 20 km of linked management trails in the northern half of the park. A 'no sign, no ride' policy has been adopted in the park – only ride on signposted trails, and only in the northern zone.

The mountain bike tracks wind through open forest and woodlands and, in combination with the management trail network, provide access to Burwood Beach, Leichhardt's Lookout and the waterfalls. The single track network is predominantly graded 'More difficult' under the International Mountain Bike Association trail difficulty rating system.

HORSE RIDING

Horse riding is predominantly provided for in the northern half of the park, however, those with a permit are allowed timed access from the south of the park down Banksia Fire Trail and along Dudley Beach between 5 am and 9.30 am EST.

A 'no sign, no ride' policy has been adopted for horse riding in the park – only ride on signposted trails and at the times specified. Limited parking for horse floats is provided for at the NPWS Works Depot at the start of Scout Camp Road.

LOCATION



CARING FOR YOUR NATIONAL PARKS

- Please respect Aboriginal sites and places, they are protected.
- All native plants and animals and rock formations are protected.
- Fires are not permitted in coastal parks. Free gas barbecues are available at a number of areas.
- Leave dead wood and rocks where you find them, they provide important habitat for many animals.
- Please use rubbish bins where provided, otherwise take your rubbish with you when you leave.
- Please leave your pets at home – they are not permitted in national parks, state conservation areas or nature reserves.
- Please do not feed native animals as this may make them sick.
- Drive carefully. Vehicles, including motorbikes, must keep to formed public roads. Unregistered vehicles, including motorbikes, are not permitted.

DISCOVERY PROGRAMS

To find out about guided Discovery Activities phone (02) 4320 4205 or visit our website:

www.nswnationalparks.com.au

or www.wildwildworld.com.au

FURTHER INFORMATION

NPWS Newcastle Office: Hunter Wetland Centre, Sandgate Road, Shortland, phone (02) 4946 4100

GENERAL INQUIRIES

Phone 1300 361 967

www.nswnationalparks.com.au

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Cycling Glenrock. Photo: David Benson / OEH.

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