

The Wollombi Village Walks

2 kms approx. 1 hour

Grade: Easy, uneven track in the bush with some steps

Welcome to Canning Street. This is a fun walk – but you will also learn a thing or three. Interested in bush plants? This is a great first step for those who want to recognise, and identify the plants of the Wollombi Valley.

If you want to join in the fun, then tick the boxes beside the items on the other side of the map as you identify them and start on a fascinating botanical journey!

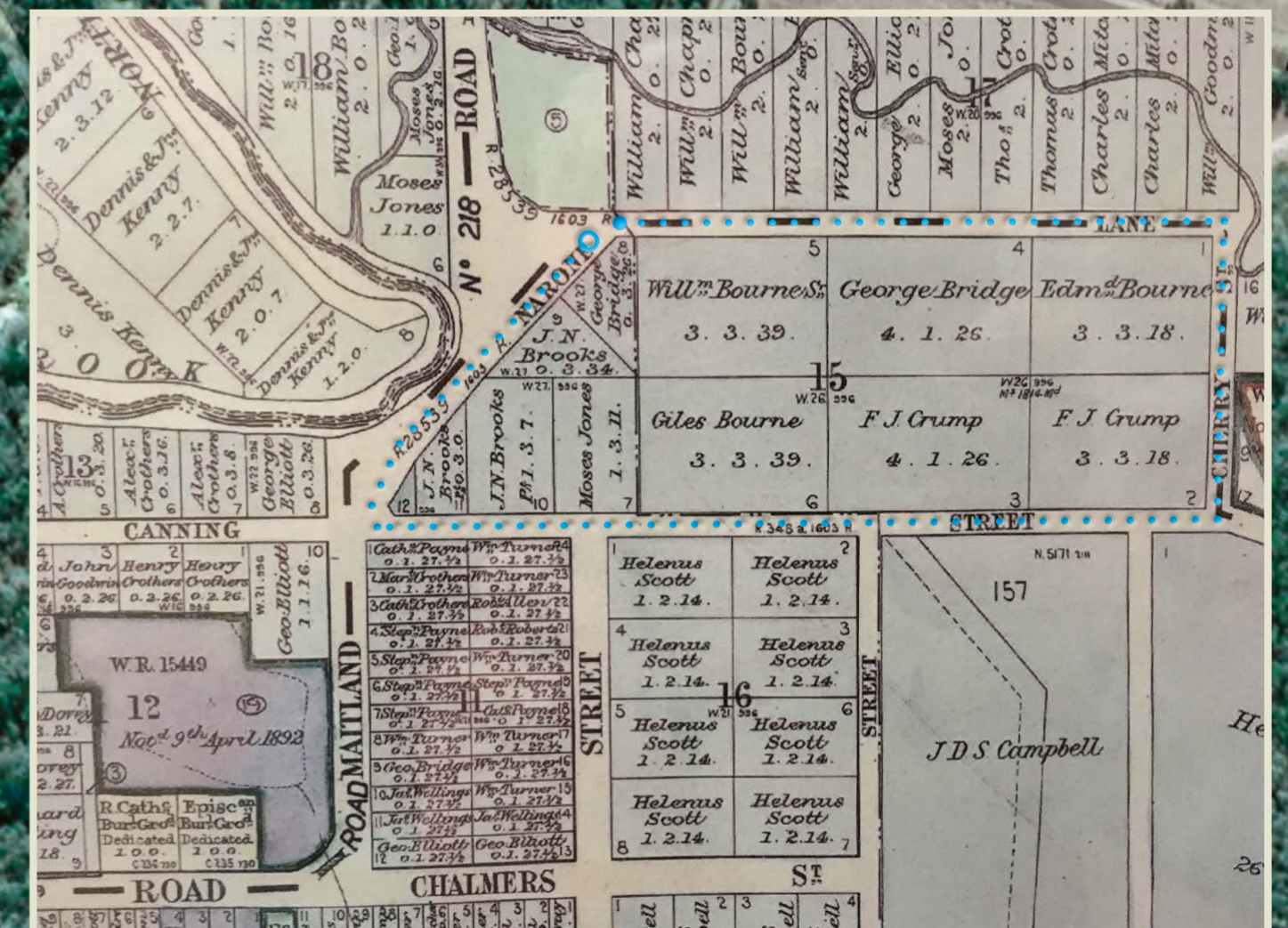
ANZAC RESERVE
refer to Wollombi Village Walk for further details

Park cars here. Start.

For the bush part of this walk, see over

Wollombi Village centre 1.2 kms

CANNING STREET NATURE TRACK



The old map of the Wollombi township



This small area of Australian bush is an area of regenerated native bush and is ideal to gain an insight as to what grows in the area around Wollombi. For those who enjoy walking in the bush and know little of the names of the plants this is a good first step to become aware of what shares this area with. Wollombi is predominantly an area of new growth. By the 1930s it had been logged for timber for the nearby mines and nearly all the mature trees were taken. This shows the view of Wollombi from Canning Street next to Wollombi House looking over the Millpond to the Graveyard, what you see now has grown from that over the past 100 years.



In this little patch of bush the tall trees are mostly Eucalyptus Punctata or Grey Gum. It is a favoured food of Koalas and many have been seen in the Wollombi Valley. It grows well in poor soils like these sandstone ridges. There are also some stringy bark eucalypts with fibrous thick brown bark. This small area of bush consists of four levels separated by three obvious sandstone outcrops. Around the Narone Creek Road end of this part of the walk there are a number of wattle trees. These are usually the first to seed after the ground has been disturbed, such as around the edge of the graded road, and are well known for their blaze of yellow colour in early spring. There are over 1200 species of trees and shrubs called Acacia that are more commonly called Wattle. 700 of these are indigenous to Australia. Wattle either have fern like leaf patterns called bipinnate or flattened leaf stalks known as phyllodes.



Grey gum



Stringy bark



Black thorn

Throughout the bush area there is a predominance of Blackthorn with its spiky branches and small leaves. This is Bursaria Spinosa and it has a white flower in mid summer. Sometimes it is called Christmas bush. It provides great protection for small birds from their predators. It often colonises cleared land.



Casuarina - Forest Sheoak



Jacksonia

These are examples of Casuarina and Jacksonia, both have long spine-like leaves. The former grows into a small tree and is a cousin of the much larger River Sheoak that can be seen along the banks of the Wollombi Brook, and the latter is also a small tree growing to only a few metres high, this smaller version is also known as dogwood due to the smell emitted when burnt. The foliage is similar to scotch broom. There is an example near the old rusty car at the Narone Creek end of the walk.



Black Wattle



Hickory Wattle

In this little area there is the Black Wattle with the bipinnate leaves, and the Hickory Wattle or Acacia Iplexa with the narrow long slender dark green leaves or phyllodes



Standard Vanguard around 1962 in better days!

There is also a hybrid wattle with a combination of bipinnate and phyllodes between the lowest and the middle rock shelves.



Dianella

Along the walking track there are many examples of small shrubs with long leaves sprouting from a common root system, these are Dianella or flax lily. They have blue/purple flowers through spring and summer.

Just next to the wombat hole at the Narone Creek end is an example of Stephania, or snake vine with its beautiful leaf which has grown radially from the stalk.



Snake Vine



Clematis

Just up from the snake vine on the next level there are examples of clematis, climbing plants with vivid white flowers that do not damage their hosts. Beneath the central rock shelf there is a good example of a Casuarina, and just above the rock shelf is a wattle with a clematis growing on it.



olive tree



Bridal creeper

Between the top rock shelf and the graded part of Canning street the bush opens up and there are more grasses. Unfortunately, there is increasing evidence of introduced species and weeds. Bridal creeper, prickly pear and olive trees are all considered weeds and the bridal creeper with its tuberous roots creates significant damage to the undergrowth.

On the second level from Narone creek Road, next to a Jacksonia there is a good example of a Persoonia, it is a small open tree with needle like leaves, a yellow buttercup-like flower and a dark bark which when scratched shows a blood red trunk of the plant. In the eastern states they are often known as Geebung whereas in Western Australia and South Australia they are known as "snottygobbles".



Persoonia with flower



Breynia

Not far from the persoonia is an example of a Breynia, a shrub with its oblong leaves rowed up along its branches like soldiers on parade. The leaves are a green colour and berries are bright red, which is why it is often called a coffee bush. When the leaves are crushed they give off an offensive smell which is why the Breynia is sometimes also called the "fart bush".

The grasses that can be seen are kangaroo grass which grows in tufts with a strait stemmed seed head, and the microlaena stoides or weeping stoides which, although it is a high quality producer of feed, it is also the supplier of every bushwalkers nightmare the grass seed that gets into socks and animal paws.



Clumping grass



Weeping stipodes with bridal creeper beneath



Prickly pear

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WOLLOMBI

Wollombi is a small village in the Hunter Region of New South Wales, Australia. It is within the Cessnock City Council LGA, situated 29 kilometers (18 mi) southwest of Cessnock and 128 km (80 mi) north of Sydney. To the south is the village of Laguna, to the east, the village of Millfield and to the north, the village of Broke.

The valley is bordered to the west by the World Heritage listed Yengo National Park (and Yengo State Forest) and the main road, the convict-built Great North Road forms one of the major legs of the Greater Blue Mountains Drive. To the east lie Watagans National Park along with Corrabare and Olney State Forests.

Wollombi's modest modern size is offset by its 19th century sandstone buildings and timber slab constructed cottages and sheds in a narrow valley junction containing Wollombi Brook and Congewai Creek. Narone and Yango Creeks also join these waterways near the village.

The area is home to an abundance of native birds, reptiles and other animals including kangaroos, wallabies, wallaroos and wombats and is surrounded by imposing tree-lined mountains.

WOLLOMBI WILDLIFE

As you walk the paths, keep your eyes open for wildlife. In the distance, wild deer and kangaroos will be grazing in the late afternoon, while on the paths and rocks, snakes and water dragons will be sunning themselves.

In spring the birds are raising their young. Overhead, Channel Billed Cuckoos will screech, while by the Millpond, water birds will be shepherding their families.

The Brook section is a wildlife corridor, where you might

catch a glimpse of a platypus at dusk or see wombat droppings on the track. Pause and watch tiny birds like Robins, Finches, Honeyeaters and Wrens in the shelter of the trees.

ABORIGINAL HISTORY

There are a vast number of historic Aboriginal sites in the surrounding countryside which is thought to have been used as a ceremonial meeting place as people from hundreds of kilometers visited the area and made their way to Mount Yengo - a place of great significance throughout the ancient nations of eastern Australia.

There are rock engravings, sharpening grooves, hand stencils, tribal markings and other images in caves and outcrops, frequent evidence of camping sites along the Brook and its tributary creeks, and two major mapping sites containing many engravings.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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FURTHER INFORMATION

www.visitwollombi.com.au

ADVICE FOR WALKING IN WOLLOMBI

Wear suitable shoes. Watch for traffic.
Be aware of wild life, snakes and nesting birds - All bite.
Grade: easy



The Wollombi Village Walks

MAP 3 OF THE WOLLOMBI VALLEY SERIES OF WALKING MAPS



CANNING STREET NATURE TRACK

If you have no further use for this map, please return to Wollombi General Store.