

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NSW



Hunter Branch

Version: Jan-Jun24 V2

Port Stephens Walking Group: Program January - June 2024

WELCOME to the Port Stephens Walking Group. We are a group of the National Parks Association (Hunter Branch), a community group advocating in support of national parks, for improved management and for appropriate protected areas. Our walks explore our wonderful surroundings in the Port Stephens and neighbouring areas, sometimes to the Central Coast, especially during wildflower time. Generally our Wednesday walks are all day (except the Twilight walks), though often monthly Sunday walks are half day. We aim to program fortnightly Wednesday walks and some extras in cooler weather. Moderate fitness is required; please note walk grades.

Membership with the NPA is via

www.npansw.org.au/npa/join/

New walkers are very welcome: We encourage new walkers to try a couple of walks before being requested to join the NPA as a member (link top right). If you'd like to try out a walk or two, please email portstephens@npansw.org.au and include your name, phone, and the first name and mobile phone for an emergency contact who is not likely to walk with you.

For info about our walks email:

portstephens@npansw.org.au

or see our local website

www.ecops.au/walks-ps

All walks must be booked: Enquiries are welcome anytime, but please **book AFTER the detailed email is sent with the walk information**, about 6 days prior to the walk. Please follow those booking instructions.

We ask you not to book earlier, as the walk may change if circumstances change for the volunteer leader. We need to be flexible. Enquiries are welcome, please contact the walk leader for specific enquiries for that walk.

Health status:

Please take care, stay home if any Covid or flu symptoms or possible known Covid exposure.

Program Coordinator : Vacant (interim, Sue)

Admin & Membership: Sue

Program colour key:

Wednesday Fortnightly full day walks

Friday half or full day walks, occasionally

Sunday half day walks, 2nd or 3rd Sunday of month

Extended trip **Port St Grp** Upper Hunter Grp

Walk grades:

① **Easy:** well-made tracks, no steep hills, possibly a few steps. Distance under 10km. Suitable for beginners.

② **Easy-medium:** well-made tracks, some hills. Distance under 15km. Suitable for most beginners.

③ **Medium:** defined tracks with hilly or rougher terrain. Distance under 20 km. Suitable for fit beginners.

④ **Medium-hard:** up to 25% off tracks. Steep or rough terrain, possibly minor rock scrambling. Not suitable for most beginners.

⑤ **Hard:** mainly off-track or difficult terrain. May involve rock scrambling, creek walking or river crossings. Suitable only for fit experienced walkers.

⑥ **Extreme:** extremely strenuous or challenging. Suitable only for very fit and experienced walkers.

Port Stephens Hikers - NPA

January - June 2024 Program

Version Final 24/1/23

Date	Day	Location / Reserve	Walk name	Brief Description	Distance approx kms	Grade see code	Walk leader / booking contact
7/2/24	Wed	Dangar Island / Hawksebury River	Dangar Island	Full day with early start: Drive or train to Brooklyn / Hawkesbury River station for short walk around Brooklyn, catch the Dangar Island Ferry for the island walk, viewing this interesting and historic location.	10kms	G3	Please contact portstephens@npansw.org.au
21/2/24	Wed	Booti Booti NP.	Booti & Wallis Lake walk tracks	Full day: Morning circuit walk from Booti Booti's Ruins campground to Elizabeth Beach returning via Wallis Lake. Scenic walk through rainforest and sclerophyll forest, with reminders of early settlers to the region. Afternoon: Seal Rocks and lighthouse	11km	G3	
2/3/24	Sat	Tomaree NP	Box Beach	Morning: Clean Up Australia Day Tomaree National Park, Box Beach -- Join us 8-10am helping make this wonderful beach and surrounds a better place. Gloves and bags supplied. Stay for a simple morning tea. Please register by email.			Sue Olsson, 0488 440 733 tomaree-np-friends@npansw.org.au
3/3/24	Sun	Tomaree NP	Fishermans Bay	Morning: Clean Up Australia Day Tomaree National Park, Fishermans Bay -- Join us anytime between 8:30-11.30am to help make the park, beach, headlands and surrounds a better place. Gloves and bags supplied. Stay for a simple morning tea.			Josephine OBrien tomaree-np-friends-fbay@npansw.org.au
6/3/24	Wed	Barrington Top NP, World Heritage Area	Blue Gum Loop & Rocky Crossing Circuit	Full day: Perfect for a warm day -- shady trails, magnificent tall trees, inclines follow the creek valley. Enjoy a shorter walk to the Pool of Reflections and dip in large flowing waterholes with leader Barb Boundy or stretch out on the longer trail to Rocky Crossing with leader Fred Fetherston. We'll start and finish at the old Guest House, courtesy of Fred, shortening the walks.	10km / 14km	G3	Please contact portstephens@npansw.org.au
17/3/24	Sun	Tomaree NP	Tomaree forest trails - inland Fingal-Shoal Bay	Half day: Exploring lesser walked, easy, partly shaded forest trails, in the heart of the northern end of Tomaree NP.	~8km	G3	
20/3/24	Wed	Tomaree NP	Tomaree Coastal Walk - Boulder Bay-Big Rocky	Full day: Tomaree Coastal Walk with a twist. We explore lesser known trails off the Walk. Start Boulder Bay, top of Samurai Beach, finish Big Rocky with swim option. Short car shuffle required.	11km	G3	
3/4/24	Wed	Newcastle	Stockton - Islington circuit walk	Full day: Circuit walk alongside the river, harbour and Throsby Creek including Carrington and the mangroves. Return via the Hannell Street side of the creek. Shared pathway, very easy walking	15km	G2	
5-11/4/24	Fri-Thurs	Warrumbungles NP	Various	Several days: Warrumbungles trip (Port Stephens group + Lake Macquarie group) -- waitlist, enquire with leader	various		
14/4/24	Sun	Tomaree NP	Tomaree Coastal Walk - Box Beach & Fingal areas	Half day: From Box Beach, a circuit walk taking in parts of the Tomaree Coastal Walk and other parts of Tomaree NP. An optional visit to a nearby art gallery at the end of the walk. Joint leaders Chris Ryan and Lyn Herd	~ 10km	G3	
17/4/24	Wed	Lake Macquarie SCA	Wangi Wangi loop.	Half day walk: From the Wangi RSL carpark, we walk various reserves and trails while completing a loop walk around Wangi Point. Great views of the lake throughout. We will finish by 12.30pm for an optional lunch in the Wangi RSL Lakeside Bistro.	10kms	G2-3	
1/5/24	Wed	Wyrrabalong NP	Red Gum Forest	Full day: Walking mainly on fire trails through angophora forest. Start and finish at Evans Road, Canton Beach (near The Entrance).	10kms	G3	

Date	Day	Location / Reserve	Walk name	Brief Description	Distance approx kms	Grade see code	Walk leader / booking contact	
10/5/24	Fri	Tomaree NP	Tomaree forest trails - inland Fingal area	Half day: Inland circuit on Tomaree NP's elevated trails with views over Tomaree, Fingal area and the ocean from a spectacular outlook, maybe even spot a distant whale.	~ 8km	G3	Please contact portstephens@npansw.org.au	
15/5/24	Wed	Salamander area	Hidden Lakes	Full day: Walking heathy woodlands with variable shade, exploring a couple of beauty spots and lakes hidden in Salamander's bushland	~12km	G3		
18/5/24	Sat	Medowie	Medowie Comm'y Centre & Lions Park, Ferodale Rd	Sustainable Living Festival Workshops, activities, live entertainment, local community groups, a huge market, kids zone, pre-loved stalls, gourmet produce and more. Organised by EcoNetwork Port Stephens and Home Grown Markets, 9 am - 2 pm.				www.ecops.au/festival2024
19/5/24	Sun	Tomaree NP	Morna Point	Half day: Return walk from One Mile Beach via Morna Point area to Boat Harbour, following new Tomaree Coastal Walk, split canyon lookout and through Boat Harbour to the whale watching lookout.	~8km	G3		
29/5/24	Wed	Bulahdelah	Bulahdelah Mountain trails	Full day: Bulahdelah Mountain (Mt Alum) with an initial steady climb, interesting rock formations, massive grass trees and great views. Joint leaders Cheryl Skene and Ilona Renwick	~ 8km	G3		
5/6/24	Wed	Tomaree NP	Tomaree Coastal Walk bush care	World Environment Day ~ Morning activity: give back to the bush on this morning walk along a section of the Tomaree Coastal Walk, with the aim to clear some of the bitou seedlings and bushes along the track edge. Open to community.	~5km	G3		
12/6/24	Wed	Myall Lakes NP & Hawkes Nest	Yacaaba Headland and beaches	Full day: From Hawkes Nest SLSC walk Bennets Beach to Yaccaba Headland with morning tea views over the Myall Lakes. Optional steep climb (G4) to views of Tomaree NP. All return via Jimmy's Beach via Hawkes Nest township to SLSC.	~ 8km	G3		
16/6/24	Sun	Tomaree NP	Tomaree Coastal Walk - Northern peaks & inland	Half or Full day options: Two peaks and a wetland. Our morning walk from Zenith Beach picnic area is around the Tomaree headland coast to summit. Our afternoon circuit takes in Stephens Peak and trails through to Shoal Bay wetlands.	~14km	G3		
21/6/24	Fri	Soldiers Point & Stoney Ridge Reserve	Soldiers Point Circuit	Half day: Departing from Foreshore Drive carpark, we'll walk sandy beaches, parks, caves, forest, cabbage palms, wildflowers (maybe see helmet orchids) and possibly sight a koala. Lunch at the end of the walk.	~ 9km	G3		
26/6/24	Wed	Worimi Conservation Lands	Forest trails & Tin City loop	Full day: Exploring Worimi's coastal forest trails, sand dunes, swails, beach and Tin City. Sand walking.	~12km	G3		

Walks in green highlight are part of the NPA Hunter Region walks to which we, as the NPA Port Stephens Group, belong. These walks are provided by the Upper Hunter Group. NPA UH provide monthly walks generally on the last Sunday, and other NPA members provide additional walks. Check your NPA Hunter Nature News, available each couple of months, for more activities. If you are an NPA member you should receive this email. Non members can choose to request it by emailing hunter@npansw.org.au. Again you will be asked to join NPA to continue walking with NPA.

Leaders: Leaders, at least ONE WEEK prior to your walk, please email to portstephens@npansw.org.au and include in your email all items below, as applicable --

- Whether booking is to you via email or text (suggest one method only)
- A fuller description of your walk, confirmed distance, time and grade, providing sufficient detail about what walkers may expect to help decide appropriateness for them.
- Meeting time and meeting site including anything tricky about how to get there and any car pool arrangements as below
- Whether there are toilets at the meeting site, or please specify the nearest toilets for which you are aware on route.
- Whether you are planning for walkers to have a group morning tea before walk start, or afternoon tea at the walk end, and what you are wanting walkers to bring.

Carpooling

Recommended car pool cost: \$5 for each 50 kms driven (\$1 for 10kms), per passenger. Note:carpooling may not be possible depending on willing/available drivers.

Car pooling pickups: Main meet is at Gordon Close (off Gan Gan Rd), Anna Bay, 10 mins prior to departure at [Xam](#). Pickups are possible also at Salt Ash and other sites on route, depending on direction of travel. Walkers prepared to car pool, please indicate when booking whether (1) you are willing to drive or (2) would prefer a lift.