

# NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NSW

## Port Stephens Walking Group: Program July - Dec 2024



<p><b>WELCOME to the Port Stephens Walking Group.</b> 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.</p> <p>We aim to program fortnightly Wednesday walks and some extras in cooler weather. Moderate fitness is required; please note walk grades.</p> <p><b>New walkers are very welcome:</b> 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 <a href="mailto:portstephens@npansw.org.au">portstephens@npansw.org.au</a> and include your name, phone, and the first name and mobile phone for an emergency contact who is not likely to walk with you.</p> <p><b>All walks must be booked:</b> Enquiries are welcome anytime, but please <b>book AFTER the detailed email is sent with the walk information</b>, 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.</p>		<p>Membership with the NPA is via <a href="http://www.npansw.org.au/npa/join/">www.npansw.org.au/npa/join/</a></p> <p>For information about our walks, email: <a href="mailto:portstephens@npansw.org.au">portstephens@npansw.org.au</a> or see our local website <a href="http://www.ecops.au/walk-ps">www.ecops.au/walk-ps</a></p>
<p><b>Program colour key:</b></p> <p><b>Wednesdays</b> Fortnightly day walks (+ extras)</p> <p><b>Tuesdays or Fridays</b> Opposite week to fortnightly Wednesdays: half or day walks</p> <p><b>Sundays</b> 2nd or 3rd Sunday of month, 1/2 day walks</p> <p><b>Other walks</b> Special activities</p> <p><b>Extended trips</b> Offer either Port Stephens or Upper Hunter</p> <p><b>Weekend activity descriptors</b> Sunday walks, specials, extended trips etc</p> <p>Program Coordinator : Vacant (interim, Sue Olsson) , Admin &amp; Membership: Sue Olsson</p>	<p><b>Walk grades:</b></p> <p>① <b>Easy:</b> well-made tracks, no steep hills, possibly a few steps. Distance under 10km. Suitable for beginners.</p> <p>② <b>Easy-medium:</b> well-made tracks, some hills. Distance under 15km. Suitable for most beginners.</p> <p>③ <b>Medium:</b> defined tracks with hilly or rougher terrain. Distance under 20 km. Suitable for fit beginners.</p> <p>④ <b>Medium-hard:</b> up to 25% off tracks. Steep or rough terrain, possibly minor rock scrambling. Not suitable for most beginners.</p> <p>⑤ <b>Hard:</b> mainly off-track or difficult terrain. May involve rock scrambling, creek walking or river crossings. Suitable only for fit experienced walkers.</p> <p>⑥ <b>Extreme:</b> extremely strenuous or challenging. Suitable only for very fit and experienced walkers.</p>	<p><b>Health status:</b></p> <p>Please take care, stay home if any Covid or flu symptoms or possible known Covid exposure. Be conscious of some social distancing when walking.</p>

<b>Port Stephens Hikers - NPA</b>	<b>July - Dec 2024 Program</b>	Version 5/7/24
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### Celebrating 40 years of Tomaree National Park | 2024

Our program celebrates the diversity of Tomaree, its spectacular views, wild coast, glorious wildflowers, rolling dunes and rocky headlands, contrasting vegetation -- coastal, woodlands, heathlands and wetlands. And we walk the Tomaree Coastal Walk with a difference, from north to south in circles -- grabbing each section and returning on a circuit through the park's hinterland, a largely unappreciated treasure, experiencing the park's contrasts.

#### Tomaree Coastal Walk -- walking in circles, enjoying more of Tomaree National Park -- shown here from north to south, not by date offer. See details below by date

10/7/2024	Wednesday	Tomaree Coastal Walk (1)	Tomaree Summit, two peaks & a wetland
18/9/2024	Wednesday	Tomaree Coastal Walk (2)	Box Beach-Boulder Bay circuit
7/8/2024	Wednesday	Tomaree Coastal Walk (3)	Boulder Bay-Big Rocky-Samurai circuit (we will walk this from south to north and circuit return)
14/7/2024	Sunday	Tomaree Coastal Walk (4)	One Mile Beach via Morna Point to Boat Harbour
11/12/2024	Wednesday	Tomaree Coastal Walk (5)	Boat Harbour-Fishermans Bay/Iris Moore circuit

#### Tomaree's late winter and spring wildflower tapestry is a treat ~ celebrating more of Tomaree National Park

The heathy woodlands are alive with colour, diversity and surprises. Choose from short 2 hr walks and learn a few names, to longer walks enjoying the colourful splendour. See details below by date.

21/8/2024	Wednesday	Full day	Wildflower wander on high trails and low trails ~ appreciation rather than identification
30/8/2024	Friday	Morning	Spring orchid splendour
7/9/2024	Saturday	2 hr. AM & PM	Wildflower Wonderland - a taste of colour & some names
12/9/2024	Tuesday	2 hr AM	Wildflower Wonderland - a taste of colour & some names

Read more about our celebrations, and please take a look and contribute to Tomaree's Treasure Trove of cherished features at ...

[www.ecops.au/tomaree40](http://www.ecops.au/tomaree40)

Date	Day	Location / Reserve	Walk name	Brief Description	Distance approx	Grade see code	More information:
10/7/2024	Wed	Tomaree NP	Tomaree Coastal Walk (1): Two peaks & a wetland	<b>Morning or All day options:</b> Morning walk from Zenith Beach picnic area around the Tomaree headland coast to summit and return. Afternoon circuit along Tomaree Coastal Walk explores another peak then circuits on inland trails to Shoal Bay wetlands. Co-lead, Maria Capazzo and Sue Olsson. <a href="#">Celebrating 40 years of Tomaree NP</a>	~14km	G3	<p>More information about each walk will be available about one week prior.</p> <p>Register interest or to receive emails about each walk, email: <a href="mailto:portstephens@npansw.org.au">portstephens@npansw.org.au</a></p>
14/7/2024	Sun	Tomaree NP	Tomaree Coastal Walk (4): Morna Point area	<b>Morning:</b> From One Mile Beach explore Morna Point area, split canyon, dykes, on the Tomaree Coastal Walk. Return from Boat Harbour whale watch lookout, in part on other tracks. <a href="#">Celebrating 40 years of Tomaree NP.</a>	~8km	G3	
19/7/2024	Fri	Watagan SF	Heaton Lookout	<b>Morning:</b> From Heaton Gap, walk a steep hill via Heaton Gap lookout with exhilarating views over the valleys towards Tuggerah Lake and Lake Macquarie. Pass grass tree groves, then undulating to Heaton Lookout's grand views. Return downhill.	8.6km	G3-G4	
24/7/2024	Wed	Glenrock SCA /Awabakal	Dudley Beach SOUTH - Awabakal	<b>All day:</b> Dudley Beach SOUTH includes Beach walking, coastal bush and heathlands, wildflowers, lagoons and rock pools, ocean and coastal views, possible whale sightings	12km	G3	
30/7/2024	Tue	Wallarrah NP	Caves Beach to Pinyon Beach via Pinyon Beach	<b>Morning:</b> Coastal track to Pinyon Beach then via an inland track to Southern Headland south of Pinyon Beach. Return is via an inland track. Spectacular coastal views with whale viewing opportunities and a variety of vegetation.	approx 8km	G3	
7/8/2024	Wed	Tomaree NP	Tomaree Coastal Walk (3): Samurai-Boulder Bay circuit	<b>All Day:</b> Sweeping dunes, views over Samurai, Coastal Walk via Big Rocky and Boulder Bay. Wonderful wildflowers, inland high point, loop return via inland tracks. Fantastic time to be in Tomaree. <a href="#">Celebrating 40 years of Tomaree NP</a>	approx 13km	G3	
11/8/2024	Sun	Glenrock SCA	Yularbah Track and Dudley Beach NORTH circuit	<b>Morning:</b> Enjoy the coastal rainforest and views along Yularbah Track to beach. Head up to the look out over Dudley Beach. Follow the track down through woodlands to Dudley beach and return via the Burwood track on the south side of Flaggy Creek.	8km	G3	
21/8/2024	Wed	Tomaree NP	Wildflower wander on high trails and low trails	<b>All day:</b> Enjoy a circuit walk beside splashes of brilliant coloured wildflowers on well formed mainly fire trails, with some gentle inclines. Appreciate the diverse array (this is not a flower identification walk). <a href="#">Celebrating 40 years of Tomaree NP.</a>	12-14km	G2-3	
27/8/2024	Tue	Morpeth	Heritage walk	<b>Morning walk:</b> Explore Morpeth township, once one of the most important river ports in NSW, today described as a 'living museum'. Reputed for its scrumptious tasty treats. Stay for lunch (Optional)	approx 8km	G2	

Date	Day	Location / Reserve	Walk name	Brief Description	Distance approx	Grade see code	More information:
30/8/2024	Fri	Tomaree NP	Spring orchid splendour	<b>Morning:</b> Tomaree is home to a magnificent variety of ground orchids, many seen alongside walking trails often in their hundreds. <a href="#">Celebrating 40 years of Tomaree NP.</a>	8-10km	G2	
4/9/2024	Wed	Dungog Commons	Girrawa Trail	<b>All day:</b> Girrawa Trail (Aboriginal name for Goanna) follows creeks, zig zag track with a few hills to views over the country side, wildlife opportunities.	10km	G3	
6 & 7/9/24	Fri & Sat	Tomaree NP	Night Walks	<b>Night walks:</b> Friday Anna Bay, Saturday Shoal Bay, exploring the park by night, sounds and smells create a different experience as we walk slowly and carefully, we may spot some night creatures also. <a href="#">Celebrating 40 years of Tomaree NP. Book early.</a>	approx 2km	G3	<a href="#">Tomaree40-nightwalks</a>
7/9/2024	Sat	Tomaree NP	Wildflower Wonderland - a taste of colour & names	<b>Short walks AM &amp; PM:</b> Enjoy & learn about Tomaree's diverse tapestry of colourful spring wildflowers & some names. Slow-paced circuit, undulating sand tracks in heathy woodland. Lead John Simpson. <a href="#">Celebrating 40 years of Tomaree NP</a>	2.6km	G2	<a href="#">Tomaree40-wildflowers</a>
8/9/2024	Sun	Salamander Tops / Corlette	Byways and bushways	<b>Morning:</b> Explore the natural and garden wildflowers in the byways and bush paths of Corlette and Salamander Tops. Option for lunch at a nearby establishment.	8-10km	G2-G3	
10/9/2024	Tue	Tomaree NP	Wildflower Wonderland - a taste of colour & names	<b>Short walk AM:</b> Enjoy and learn about Tomaree's diverse tapestry of colourful spring wildflowers & some names. Easy circuit on undulating sandy tracks, heathy woodland. Slow-paced. Lead Sue Olsson. <a href="#">Celebrating 40 years of Tomaree NP.</a>	2.6km	G2	<a href="#">Tomaree40-wildflowers</a>
13 & 14/9/24	Fri & Sat	Tomaree NP	Night Walks	<b>Night walks:</b> Friday Shoal Bay, Saturday Anna Bay, exploring the park by night, sounds and smells create a different experience as we walk slowly and carefully, we may spot some night creatures also. <a href="#">Celebrating 40 years of Tomaree NP. Book early.</a>	approx 2km	G3	<a href="#">Tomaree40-nightwalks</a>
18/9/2024	Wed	Tomaree NP	Tomaree Coastal Walk (2): Box Beach-Boulder Bay	<b>All day:</b> From Box Beach join the Tomaree Coastal Walk, Fingal section to Barry Park and Boulder Bay, circuit via inland fire trails. Board walks, sandy trails, views, wildflowers and maybe a whale sighting. <a href="#">Celebrating 40 years of Tomaree NP.</a>	14kms	G3	<p>More information about each walk will be available about one week prior.</p> <p>Register interest or to receive emails about each walk, email:</p>
22/9/2024	Sun	Sugarloaf SCA	Sugarloaf Range	<b>Morning:</b> Sugarloaf Range from the west via "The Old Brush" property at Brunkerville. Interesting area with many surprises; palm forests with a lush subtropical ambience. Afterwards, NPA Hunter AGM and afternoon tea. Bring your ideas for 2025.			
24/9/2024	Tue	Maitland	Walka Water Works and more	<b>All day:</b> Walking through varying forest types, from dry heath woodlands to fall eucalypts and lush rainforest; past waterfalls under cabbage tree palms and along creeks	approx 10km	G3	
2/10/2024	Wed	Strickland State Forest SCA	various linked walks	<b>All day:</b> Walking through varying forest types, from dry heath woodlands to fall eucalypts and lush rainforest; past waterfalls under cabbage tree palms and along creeks	9km	G3	
5-7/10/2024	Sat-Mon	Pilliga Forest	Various walks	<b>Long weekend</b> to inland cypress and ironbark forests with our NPA Upper Hunter group. Sculptures in the Scrub, Dandry Gorge, Sandstone Caves. Spring wildflowers, many walking options. Stay at Pilliga Pottery (unique camping with pizza oven). Camp fees.	Varied	G2-3	
13/10/2024	Sun	Tomaree NP	Fingal Island	<b>Morning:</b> Walking to Fingal / Shark Island, only if the spit is safe. See the lighthouse, remains of lighthouse keepers homes, the scant jetty remains for dropping supplies and enjoy a dip in the Shelly Beach pools. <a href="#">Celebrating 40 years of Tomaree NP.</a>	8-10km	G3	
16/10/2024	Wed	Brisbane Waters NP	Staples Lookout - Mt Wondabyne Loop	<b>All day:</b> Starting with the views from Staples Lookout on Woy Woy Rd, walk to Kariong Brook Falls, a tranquil spot on the Great North Walk, to Mt Wondabyne with panoramic 360 views (optional climb), circuit return. Steep & rocky sections.	approx 14km	G3-4	
20/10/2024	Sun	Tomaree NP	Picnic for nature	<b>PICNIC FOR NATURE – connecting bush to your backyard.</b> Bring the family and explore a little local nature – enjoy nature activities and workshops, and more. National Parks Association (Walks and Friends), NPWS, EcoNetwork and more. More information to come. <a href="#">Celebrating 40 years of Tomaree National Park.</a>			
25-27/10/2024	Fri-Sun	Myall Lakes NP	Broughton Island, various walks	Broughton Island weekend adventure with the NPA Upper Hunter group. Bush and beach walking, swimming. Rare bell frog colony, shearwaters nesting, maybe a fairy penguin or two. Pass Yacaaba and Cabbage Tree Island. Boat limit 20. <a href="#">Wait list.</a>	Varied	G3	
30/10/2024	Wed	Valentine	Green Point walk	<b>All day:</b> an easier and less strenuous walk incorporating bushland pathways and stunning lake views from the boardwalk.	~8km	G2	
3/11/2024	Sun	Port Stephens	Tomaree forum	<b>Afternoon:</b> Forum Tomaree National Park - Celebrating 40 years of conservation and involvement. Speakers and discussion. Tomaree library. <a href="#">Save the date, more info to come. National Parks and Wildlife Service, National Parks Association and partners.</a>			
10/11/2024	Sun	Port Stephens coast	Tomaree Peninsula bay walk	<b>Morning or All day option:</b> Morning low tide bay beach and bush walk, between Shoal Bay west and Salamander/Wanda Village. Enjoy coastal outlook, shady sections. Return bus or walk if not too hot. Sun behind us each way.	8/14km	G2	
13/11/2024	Wed	Wyrabalong NP	Red Gum Forest	<b>All day:</b> A great warm weather walk - mainly on fairly shaded fire trails through angophora forest. Start and finish at Evans Road, Canton Beach (near The Entrance). Finish the day with a swim at a nearby beach, a short drive away.	10km	G3	
20/11/2024	Wed	Hawkesbury River	Cruise	<b>All day:</b> Enjoy a relaxed train journey to Hawkesbury River Station, Brooklyn, then board the RIVER POSTMAN and be entertained by the stories of the river whilst cruising in comfort up this spectacular waterway and deliver the river mail. Seniors \$55, includes morning tea & Aussie Ploughman's-style lunch plate. Dietary requirements catered. Individuals book, incl you are from NPA so all on same boat, and adults will be at seniors price. Details in July.	N/a	N/a	<a href="mailto:portstephens@npsnw.org.au">portstephens@npsnw.org.au</a>
27/11/2024	Wed	Myall Lakes NP	Mungo Brush to Tamboi	<b>All day:</b> Escape the heat in shady walks along Mungo Brush's rainforest boardwalk and mostly shady sandy trails to Tamboi and return. Enjoy a cooling dip in the lake.	8km	G3	
8/12/2024	Sun						
11/12/2024	Wed	Tomaree NP	Tomaree Coastal Walk (5): Boat Harbour-Fishermans Bay/Iris Moore circuit	<b>Morning walk and Christmas Breakup:</b> Walking Tomaree Coastal Walk from Boat Harbour to Fishermans Bay / Iris Moore, coastal views, shady sections, circuiting on bush tracks and a few streets. Lunch TBA, share picnic Boat Harbour or Anna Bay Tavern. <a href="#">Celebrating 40 years of Tomaree NP</a>			

#### Car pooling to regional walks:

Recommended car pool cost: \$5 for each 50 kms driven (\$1 for 10kms), per passenger. Note: carpooling is only 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 appointed departure. Pickups are possible also at Salt Ash and other sites on route, depending on direction of travel. Walkers happy to car pool, please indicate when booking whether (1) you are willing to drive or (2) would prefer a lift. *[Leaders, please obtain the travel time between Gordon Close, Anna Bay and your meeting site from Google maps.]*