

## Welcome to Yuraygir

When you take the Yuraygir Coastal Walk and follow the path of the coastal emu, you are within the traditional homelands of the Gumbaynggirr (in the south) and Yaegl Nations (in the north). Caring for these lands shows respect for elders past and present and their strong spiritual and cultural connection to this Country.

This unique four day walk traverses Yuraygir National Park, the longest stretch of protected coastline in NSW, and adjoining Solitary Islands Marine Park. Along your journey you will encounter vast heathland plains, long sandy beaches, crystal clear creeks and lagoons, rocky headlands and abundant wildflowers and birdlife. Taking this walk will enrich you with experiences and memories to value forever.

The signposted 65km walking route extends from the coastal villages of Angourie to Red Rock.

The walk is a series of tracks, trails, beaches and rock platforms that are linked by following the "coastal emu footprint" marker (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*). Some walkers will choose to complete the entire route in a single trip, but options for shorter 'half' and 'single' day walks are available and may

suit your needs better.

The walk passes through the villages of Brooms Head, Minnie Water and Woolli. These tranquil communities allow you to restock on supplies and recuperate. You could even stay in village overnight accommodation if you have decided not to camp in one of the seven national park campgrounds along the route.

Your adventure awaits...

## Yuraygir Coastal Walk

follow the coastal emu



The magnificent views of the conical shaped Clarence Peak and the beautiful waters of Lake Arragan can be enjoyed from Plumbago headland

Day 1 (18km, 6.5 hours)

### Angourie to Brooms Head

Commencing in the world famous Angourie Surfing Reserve the walk descends into Yuraygir National Park and onto Back Beach. At the end of Back Beach a staircase leads you onto the 'Angourie Walk'. Please note that if the tide is high you may need to walk along the track which goes off mid way along the beach – look for the tall post. The 'Angourie Walk' section follows the coastline and is signposted with lots of interesting information about Yuraygir National Park, including the importance of the spectacular Dirrangan Lookout to the local Yaegl people.

2 km south of Dirrangan Lookout is the Shelley Headland Camping Area. This primitive campground is a fuel stove only area with no fresh water, toilets or vehicular access available. From the campground the walking track leads south to Plumbago Headland, along this section you get magnificent views to the west of the conical shaped Clarence Peak and the beautiful waters of Lake Arragan.

Reaching Lake Arragan you have the option of staying the night in the national park campground. Fresh water is available at the campground vehicle entry station. Gas/ timber BBQs and toilets are provided. Make sure you check out the views from the Redcliff Lookout before you go.

Brooms Head Beach is accessed via the Greycliff stairs at the southern end of the campground. The beach passes the village of Brooms Head, which has a general store, bowling club, caravan park and tap water. Check [www.clarencetourism.com](http://www.clarencetourism.com) for further information on village accommodation and services.

Day 2 (18.0km, 7.5hours)

### Brooms Head to Illaroo

At the very southern end of the Brooms Head Beach follow the stairs up to the Brooms Head Lookout. Again you get great views to the north and south. The walking track leads you onto the north end of Sandon Beach. This long stretch of sand ends at the Sandon River Camping Area. The campground has toilets, BBQs and drinking water available. If you have time, at low tide you can explore Plover Island, which has great cultural importance to the Yaegl People.

At Sandon you experience your first deep river crossing. Prior contact with campground contractors is recommended if you require assistance crossing the river. The river is the northern most point of the Solitary Islands Marine Park. The Park runs for 75 km south to Muttonbird Island located at Coffs Harbour.

On the southern side of the river you are in the hamlet of Sandon which has only 35 dwellings. Permanent European settlement commenced in 1914 by fisherman and oystergrowers. The dwellings are now largely occupied by families where they spend their summer holidays in this beautiful location.

The track from Sandon splits just out of the village and you have the choice of taking the 'Sandon Back Track' or following the beach to the Illaroo Camping Area. The campground has toilets and gas/ wood BBQs. Please note the fresh water is found at the intersection of the Minnie Water Road and the campground entrance which is approximately 2km south of the campground.



Little Tern



Plover Island, at the entrance to the Sandon River, is a great spot to investigate before crossing the river



Woolli Woolli River

The Woolli Woolli River is the second cleanest of any in NSW, with Sandon River being the cleanest. Yuraygir National Park and Solitary Islands Marine Park protects the vast majority of their catchments

Day 3 (14km, 5 hours)

### Illaroo to Woolli

A short walk along the Rocky Point track south from the campground leads you onto Main Beach. This beach passes the small coastal village of Minnie Water.

Minnie Water has a general store which is just behind the surf club, and a caravan park nearby. Fresh water can be obtained in the town.

At the southern end of Main Beach wind your way up the boatramp road into Melaleuca Park and onto the walking track. This picturesque walk ends at Back Beach timber steps. At the end Back Beach you round a rocky platform and come onto Diggers Beach which passes the hamlet of Diggers Camp. Not much further you will access the steps up to Boorkoom Camping Area. Plan your trip carefully here as some high tides and big swells can make this section between Back Beach and Boorkoom impassable. Boorkoom Camping Area has a gas BBQ and toilet, but no water or wood BBQs.

Adjoining Boorkoom Camping Area is the magnificent Wilsons Headland Walk. Its panoramic ocean views contrast with secluded coves, isolated beaches and banks of wildflowers. The track winds down from Wilsons Headland to Woolli Beach. This long stretch of sand takes you into the township of Woolli. The town has various types of accommodation, general store, restaurants, bowling club, tavern and caravan park.

The Woolli Woolli River can be treacherous for swimmers. Prior contact with a local boat hire company will ensure a safe passage, preferably on an incoming tide.

Day 4 (14.2km, 5 hours + boat time)

## Wooli to Red Rock

Once crossing the Wooli Wooli River you will traverse a 5km stretch of rock platform, which can be quite strenuous. This is the most remote section of the walk. It is vital to check your tide chart as this section of the walk may become impassable in very rough ocean conditions and high tides.

The rocky platform leads you to the spectacular Freshwater Beach. In this section of the coast you come across Yuraygir's most impressive pandanus palms (*Pandanus tectorius*). Whilst not a true palm the pandanus has spined leaves in a spiral arrangement. Wildlife take advantage of the spiny leaves by living in the tree for protection and favour its fruit. The Gumbaynggirr people used pandanus leaves to weave neckbands and armbands. The fibre of the leaves can be used as string for dillybags, baskets, mats and shelters.

The pandanus is an important Gumbaynggirr ceremonial plant, however, Elders permission is required to pick its leaves.

The Freshwater Walking Track links the beach with the Pebbly Beach Camping Area. Please note that there is no water in the campground. However, wood BBQs and toilets are provided. From the campground you cross Station Creek and follow the beach to the Corindi River. The northern and southern end of Station Creek Beach is one of the few beaches used for breeding by the endangered little tern. Breeding success for these birds has improved through the cooperation of visitors and management actions such as fencing, fox baiting and vehicle exclusion areas.

The village of Red Rock abuts the Corindi River. Again crossing the river will require watercraft support and this should be arranged prior to crossing.



## Always people here

The landscape that is Yuraygir National Park has been, and remains, the Country of Aboriginal groups. Generations of Yaegl and Gumbaynggirr people camped, fished and held ceremonies across the whole of the rich environment between the Clarence River and the coast.

From the early nineteenth century, the Clarence coast became a relatively isolated place in an economically marginal region. The soils of its forests, heathlands and swamps were not suitable for intensive agriculture.

While commercial fishing, sandmining and summer holidays brought people to the coast in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, its distance from major roads and from large regional centres meant that it was bypassed in the 1960s North Coast development boom.

After the park's gazettal in 1980 human activity in the coastal areas increased. Park gazettal coincided with a rise in tourism and recreational activity, 'sea changers' moving to the north coast to live and the end of pastoral activities, timber getting and mining which made the area more amenable for recreation.



The Waugh's camp at Brooms Head late 1880s, courtesy of Rosemary Waugh-Allcock

## A snapshot in time

- 1828 Captain Rous's expedition notes the existence of the Sandon River
- 1840s Decade of Red Rock massacre
- 1914 First hut built at Sandon (north side)
- 1940 Bird and animal sanctuary proclaimed between Angourie and Woolgoolga; shooting prohibited.
- 1940s Logging intensifies
- 1943 World War II mustard gas trials between Wooli and Minnie Water
- 1950s Maclean Shire Council establishes camping reserve by the Sandon River
- 1962 Banana plantation near Station Creek
- 1969 Sand mining escalates
- 1975 Red Rock and Angourie national parks gazetted
- 1977 Sand mining banned
- 1980 Yuraygir National Park gazetted, amalgamating Red Rock and Angourie national parks

Each year after Christmas dinner the Waugh family would set off from Taloombi Station homestead in sulkies and buggies and on horseback and travel to Brooms Head for the summer holidays. As the 'Waughs' were the social elite of the area, their camp was set up for them by their workpeople. There was a kitchen tent, a dining awning in the middle, tents to the side for the governess or tutor and other workers, and the children's tents.



Land and Property Management Authority



Environment, Climate Change & Water

DECCW 2010/479

## In case of an emergency

- Keep your mobile phone turned off to save battery, except in the case of an emergency.
- Police, ambulance, fire – call 000 (or 112 from your mobile phone). Give the name Yuraygir National Park and your current location.
- Mobile phone reception is limited. Pay phones are located in all coastal villages, caravan parks and the Sandon River Camping Area.

## Nearest NPWS office:

NPWS Grafton 49 Victoria St  
Phone (02) 6641 1500 all hours



## Plan ahead...

- ▶ **Water.** Water is not available at all campsites. Ensure you carry sufficient between water points.
- ▶ **Food.** Carry extra food. Rough seas may mean some sections of beach are unpassable, even at low tide.
- ▶ **Rubbish.** Rubbish and recycling stations are available at each national park campground. Cans, plastic bottles and glass can be recycled. Paper is not collected as part of the Yuraygir recycling program.
- ▶ **River crossings.** Organise watercraft for safe river crossings at Sandon, Wooli and Red Rock well ahead of your trip. The safest crossing is undertaken on an incoming tide.
- ▶ **Rock platforms.** Check your tide chart to ensure rock platforms are traversed at low tide.
- ▶ **Beach walking.** Vehicles are permitted on some beaches. Be alert and listen for their approach.
- ▶ **Notification.** Advise a responsible person of your departure and expected time of return and check in with this person when you return.
- ▶ **Direction of walk.** Best walked north to south with the sun at your back.
- ▶ **Protection.** Always wear hat, sunscreen and strong sturdy footwear.

## Track Marking - Steps of the Coastal Emu

The Yuraygir Coastal Walk track marker includes the footprint of the endangered coastal emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) to help guide you. The total number of emus in Yuraygir National Park stands at less than 100. Once in abundance, the local population has been in steady decline over the past 20 years as a result of habitat loss, fires during the spring breeding season, predation by foxes and wild dogs, and collisions with vehicles. The coastal emu has recently been listed as an endangered population.



Keep a look out for coastal emus, if you happen to see any along your walk send the National Parks an Email

of where, when and how many for our records.

The marker footprint is colour coded to delineate what the walking surface will be.

- River crossing – Blue
- Beach Walking – Orange
- Rock Platforms – Red
- Bush Tracks – Green

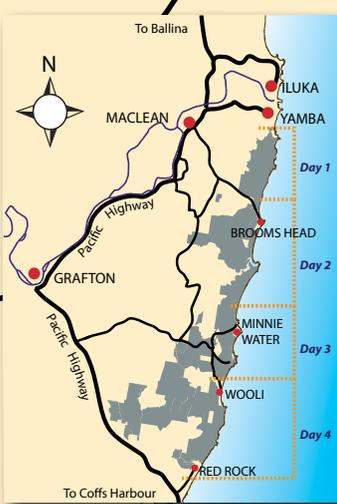
You will encounter markers at track junctions or where the track surface changes.



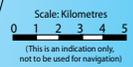
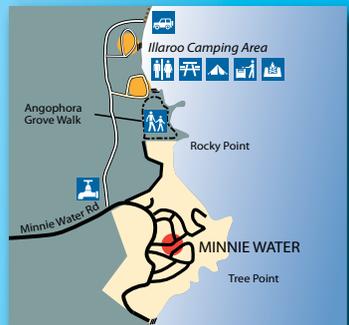
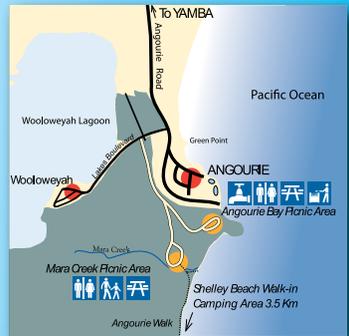
Green & golden bell frog  
A 'craw-awk, crawk, crok, crok' call



Walking across the rock platforms can be difficult and dangerous at times of high tide and big seas. These rock platforms provide feeding, resting and breeding areas for many seabirds and shorebirds. Birds such as the sooty and pied oystercatcher, white-faced heron and ruddy turnstone can all be seen utilising the platforms rich resources.



- Legend**
- Highway
  - Sealed road
  - Unsealed road
  - River
  - Walking track
  - Beach walking
  - Rock platform walking
  - River crossing
  - Yuraygir National Park
  - Other land tenure
  - Lakes
  - Towns
  - 4WD beach
  - NPWS facilities
  - 4WD
  - Caravan
  - Toilets
  - Water tap
  - Walking
  - Lookout
  - Canoeing
  - Swimming
  - Fishing
  - Camping
  - Walk-in camping area
  - Day use area
  - BBQ
  - Fire Place
  - Telephone
  - Kiosk



Possible Itinerary	Location	Distance	Times	Cumulative Distance	Gradient	Path Quality	Bushwalking Experience Required	Walking Track Grade
Day one	Angourie to Shelley Headland	6.0 km	2.5 hrs	6.0	Undulating	Generally track surface		Level 2
	Shelley Headland Camping Area to Lake Arragan Camping Area	7.0 km	2.5 hrs	13.0	Flat	Generally track surface		Level 2
	Lake Arragan to Brooms Head	5.0 km	1.5 hrs	18.0	Flat	Beach		Level 3
Day two	Brooms Head to Sandon	8.0 km	3.5 hrs	26.0	Flat	Beach		Level 3
	Sandon River crossing	0.05 km		26.05		Water		
	Sandon to Illaroo Camping Area	10.0 km	4.0 hrs	36.05	Flat	Track and beach		Level 3
Day three	Illaroo Camping Area to Minnie Water	1.0 km	0.5 hr	37.05	Undulating	Track		Level 2
	Minnie Water to Boorkoom Camping Area	6.5 km	2.0 hrs	43.55	Undulating	Track, beach & rock platform		Level 4
	Boorkoom to Wooli	6.5 km	2.5 hrs	50.05	Flat	Track and beach		Level 3
Day four	Wooli Wooli River Crossing	3.0 km		53.05		Water		
	Wooli to Pebbly Beach Camping Area	6.5 km	3.0 hrs	59.55	Undulating	Rock platform and track		Level 4
	Pebble Beach Camping Area to Corindi River	5.4 km	2.0 hrs	64.95	Flat	Beach		Level 3
	Corindi River crossing (Red Rock)	0.5 km		65.45		Water		

Local Services	Village	Phone / web contacts
River crossings	Wooli	0439 409 909
	Sandon	0427 220 368
	Corindi/Red Rock	0488 491 304
Local shops	Brooms Head	6646 7002
	Minnie Water	6649 7586
	Wooli	6649 7753 or 6649 7606
	Red Rock	6649 2730
Accommodation	Clarence Valley Tourism	6642 4677 <a href="http://www.clarencetourism.com">www.clarencetourism.com</a>
	Coffs Coast Tourism	1300 369 070 <a href="http://www.coffscost.com.au">www.coffscost.com.au</a>
	National Parks & Wildlife Service (Camping only)	02 6641 1500 <a href="http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au">www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au</a>
Bus transport from / to Grafton	Grafton - Maclean - Yamba	Busways - 6645 8941
	Maclean to Brooms Head	Busways - 6645 8941
	Grafton - Minnie Water /Wooli	Atwals - 6644 5482
	Coffs Harbour - Red Rock - Grafton	Ryans - 6652 3201
Grafton taxi		6642 3622

The walk times are based on the speed of an average walker in good weather conditions. Please adjust these times to suit your group's level of experience and fitness. Also, these times are for walking only so allow extra time for resting, swimming, sightseeing and eating.