

13 Phipps Cutting (Wollemi National Park)

A well-marked trail starts on the northern side of the picnic area and crosses the dry watercourse to climb up some steps onto the old coach road with its drystone walls. About 200m from the picnic area, a wooden bench overlooks the road and Goulburn River below, with the hills of Goulburn River National Park beyond. Walk several hundred metres further east above the River until the old road descends into the next valley where it leaves Wollemi National Park and enters a Travelling Stock Reserve, before rejoining the Bylong Valley Way.

Class 3 • Distance 800m same track out and back to Phipps Lookout or 2km same track out to the Stock Reserve and back

14 Merriwa Historical Town Walk

Early European settlers in search of good grazing land arrived in the Merriwa district in the late 1820s. The first land sales of town lots were held on the 10th and 15th October 1840. The first church was built in 1850; the first hospital in 1883; the railway line came to Merriwa in 1917 and electricity in 1937.

Class 5 • Distance Variable

15 Lees Pinch (Goulburn River National Park)

The Lees Pinch Lookout walking track is a well-marked and constructed 800m loop with three lookouts providing extensive views over the rugged sandstone country of the Park to the east and south.

Class 2 • Distance 800m

16 The Drip/Hands on Rock (Goulburn River, Merriwa)

Take the Ulan/Mudgee Rd, approx. 10km west of Cassilis on the Golden Hwy. Hands on Rock approx. 18km from the turn off, right at the sign—400m to a clearing alongside large rock formations. Car park area and walk approx. 600m along the track to the overhanging rocks where you can see the stenciled hands painted by Aborigines hundreds of years ago. The Drip, 2.3km further south on the Ulan Rd, turn left at “The Drip” sign and park the car. The single file track follows the river along the bottom side of the ridge that leads to The Drip with its fern covered rock formations and water dripping from the rock face, next to the Goulburn River. Hopping stones/blocks are in place through a few shallow gullies and overall the walk is fairly flat with shade patches.

Class 2 • Distance 1.1km return and 2.3km return

Class 1 All access path. Hard, broad surface suitable for wheelchair access.

Class 2 Graded path. Generally a hardened surface, suitable for inexperienced bushwalkers.

Class 3 Walking track suitable for inexperienced bushwalkers. May include steep slopes and unstable surfaces.

Class 4 Hiking track. Unmodified surface, limited facilities, suitable for moderate skill level bushwalkers.

Class 5 Marked route.

Class 6 Unmarked route.

For more information on these walks contact:

**Scone Visitor Information Centre
6540 1300**

**Muswellbrook Visitor Information Centre
6549 3891**



Pedal up!

BIKE HIRE

@ Scone Visitor Information and Horse Centre

The Scone Visitor Information and Horse Centre (VIC) offers a bike hire service to visitors and locals keen to discover the town on two wheels.

Upper Hunter Shire Council was successful in seeking funding through the NSW Government's Better Waste and Recycling Program to purchase ten bicycles and ancillary equipment.

Adults and children's bikes are available seven days a week at the following rates:

- \$15 for 1 hour
- \$20 for 2 hours
- \$25 for 4 hours
- \$30 for full day
- Family full day \$100 (2 adults 2 children)
- Baby seat, tag-along at \$10 flat rate

Helmets included in hire free of charge (conditions apply) plus each hirer receives a free water bottle to keep.

For more information or to book your bike, contact the Scone VIC on 6540 1300 or email sconevic@upperhunter.nsw.gov.au



www.upperhuntercountry.com

WALK THE WALK



Come on up!



www.upperhuntercountry.com



Washpools



1 Paradise Park – Eye of the Needle

The walk starts at a signboard at the far end of Paradise Park (on Paradise Rd, approx. 1km past the Golf Club). It is a constant uphill climb, through a jumble of massive granite boulders and on into the ‘Eye of the Needle’, a deep narrow crack in the cliff. Continue upwards where you can choose to head either left or right to a rocky outcrop, overlooking the town below.

Class 3-4 • Distance 2.5km, 1.5 hours

2 Burning Mountain

Start at the Burning Mountain Nature Reserve Rest Area carpark on the New England Hwy (17 min drive north of Scone). There is a well constructed track to the active vent. Panels along the track give information about the area, along with seated rest areas with views. See the geological effects of the naturally burning coal seam which has been burning for over 6,000 years. The seam is currently burning 30 metres below the surface and moving south at just over one metre each year.

Class 3 • Distance 4.6km return

3 Washpools (Towarri National Park)

Approx. 20km drive north of Scone along Middlebrook Rd (small section south of the Park is unsealed). The picnic area has a viewing platform and steps down into Middle Brook. Sheep graziers used to wash their sheep here prior to shearing, hence the name. Take care wandering through the creek for slippery rocks. The water is usually crystal clear and you can see little fish and tadpoles. There are a number of pools big enough to have a dip during hot weather. Also a great spot for bird watching and a picnic lunch.

Class 3 • Distance 250m one way, return the same way, 10 mins.

4 Scone Town Walk

Scone was laid out in 1837, in the area between the Kingdon Ponds and the Great North Road—now the New England Hwy. A map featuring 36 points of historical interest can be picked up from the Scone Visitor Information Centre. Also visit the Scone Historical Museum at the old gaol for more historical information on Scone.

Class 5 • Distance Variable

5 Polblue Swamp Walk (Barrington Tops National Park)

A circuit walk around Polblue Swamp provides an enjoyable introduction to the sub-alpine wetlands and high altitude forests of the Barrington Tops Plateau. There are a number of timber bridges across the swamp. Start the walk from Polblue Picnic Area. You may spot red neck wallabies or grey kangaroos, perhaps a wombat or even some wildflowers.

Class 3 • Distance 3km, 1 hour

6 Polblue Falls Track (Barrington Tops National Park)

A short walk through the bush from the Polblue Falls Picnic Area on Tubrabucca Road gives views of the cascades which run with clear water that forms some of the headwaters of the Hunter River. After heavy rain the Falls roar with extensive flows as they run off the Barrington Plateau to the valley below.

Class 3 • Distance 500m return

7 Honeysuckle Forest Track (Barrington Tops National Park)

This sheltered circuit walk loops through magnificent Antarctic Beech forest and soft tree ferns. The abrupt boundary of the beech forest, which here hugs the moister southern slope of the plateau, is probably the result of bushfire burning up to its edges. The surrounding open forest has an understory of tall mountain banksia, also called honeysuckle.

Class 3 • Distance 1km, 30mins

8 Lake Glenbawn Foreshores

An easy walk in short sections, or a couple of kms of waterfront hiking in natural bushland. It is the home of kangaroos and birds of every size (tiny wrens, parrots, wedge tail eagles, etc). Add some reasonably strenuous climbing to surrounding hilltops to enjoy the view of crystal clear lake waters that tumble down from Barrington Tops. Kiosk and toilet facilities on the Eastern Foreshore. Call the park office for more details - 6543 7193.

Class 6 • Distance Variable

9 Aberdeen Town Walk

Historic Aberdeen was one of the first European settlements in the Upper Hunter Valley. By 1840 there was a mill and an inn near the banks of the river (both still exist today). By 1866 the town had a post office, a school, 3 inns, some shops, a mill and 2 churches. Today you can still see much of the earlier Aberdeen in a walk around the town. Plaques set in the footpaths and on the buildings identify these historic places from Aberdeen’s past.

Class 1 • Distance Variable

10 Muswellbrook Heritage Town Walk

This 4.5km walk throughout Muswellbrook CBD includes 40 different items of historical significance. Fine old buildings dating back to the mid-1800s, grand residences, community precincts – testimony to the good times and hard times; all of great importance to the development of Muswellbrook – Roads, Rail, Bureaucracy, Arts and Culture, Entertainment, Business and Community.

Class 5 • Distance Variable

11 Giant’s Leap Walks

There are walks out of the Sandy Hollow Tourist Park’s back gate, which can take you all the way to the top of Giant’s Leap. You will be rewarded with exhilarating views across farmland and vineyards in one direction and a green wilderness on the other. These hills go back for some 150 square km encompassing the Manobalai Nature Reserve. These walks are not sign posted but have been well used over the years by tourists and locals alike and are well trodden.

Class 3 • Distance Variable

12 James Estate Ridge Walk

The Ridge Walk showcases the natural beauty of the region with commanding views in all directions, overlooking James Estate winery, Wollemi National Park, Goulburn River National Park and Mount Dangar. Try it in the early morning and you’ll be rewarded with an amazing sunrise and glistening landscape while the afternoon will see a burst of colour contrasts across the valley.

Class 3 • Distance 1.5km return, 1.5 hours

Scan the QR code for more details on walks

