

Welcome to the Tweed Valley

The extinct volcano Mt Warning has been eroded to create an unusual geological feature - a caldera. This formation is a roughly circular valley, with the original plug, Mt Warning in the middle and the outer rim formed by the escarpment walls of the McPherson and Border Ranges.

Within Australia, the Tweed Valley has an exceptionally high biodiversity as it supports a high number of plant and animal species. Contributing factors to this are fertile soils, the climate and latitude. The area is able to support temperate and sub-tropical species. Many species here are at the northern or southern extents of their range.

This brochure has been produced by the Tweed Bird Observers who have selected these sites to provide bird enthusiasts with an opportunity to enjoy this unique area.

1. Tweed River Entrance

(Wheelchair accessible)

ACCESS & POINTS OF INTEREST:

2k south of Tweed Heads Post Office (P.O.).

Turn left from Wharf Street into Florence Street and continue to the riverbank. Looking across the river the site takes in rock walls, sandbars, mangroves, casuarinas and other coastal vegetation.

To the keen eye Pacific Golden Plovers and Grey-tailed Tattlers may be seen feeding along the rock walls and a wide range of shore birds may also be seen at low tide.

BIRDS SIGHTED INCLUDE:

Darter, Australian Pelican, Eastern Reef Egret (grey morph), Osprey, Brahminy Kite, Whistling Kite, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Grey-tailed Tattler, Red-necked Stint, Beach Stone-curlew, Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher, Pacific Golden Plover, Masked Lapwing, Crested Tern and Caspian Tern.

2. Minjungbal Aboriginal Nature Reserve

(Wheelchair accessible)

ACCESS & POINTS OF INTEREST:

3k south of Tweed Heads P.O.

Turn left at the lights from Minjungbal Drive into Water Street and continue to the end of the road. The walk commences at a boardwalk that takes you through mangroves and mud flats and provides good bird-watching opportunities for water and bush birds. From the boardwalk follow the bitumen path that is bordered by marsh and sedge lands, paperbarks and swamp oaks. Veering right stroll along the path through sclerophyll bushland and a grove of native ferns to the bora ring, then continue on behind the Minjungbal Aboriginal Museum to your starting point. For the more adventurous birder it is possible to step off the boardwalk and wander through eucalyptus woodland to the river and into mature mangrove habitat. Contact one of our local birdos to guide you.

BIRDS SIGHTED INCLUDE:

Great Egret, Striated Heron, Buff-banded Rail, Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Tawny Frogmouth, Superb Fairy-wren, Variegated Fairy-wren, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Large-billed Scrubwren, Mangrove Gerygone, Striped, Lewin's, Brown, White-cheeked and Scarlet Honeyeaters and Golden Whistler.

3. Philp Parade

ACCESS & POINTS OF INTEREST:

5k south of Tweed Heads P.O.

Travel along Minjungbal Drive, turn right into Dry Dock Road then follow the river along Philp Parade to the boat ramp - the path starts just off to the left. This walk takes you along the river behind Tweed Broadwater Village to the boardwalk, then onto mangrove and seagrass areas. At low tide a variety of waders may be seen. On leaving the boardwalk turn right to follow the river on a gravel road through wet sclerophyll forest where many species of bush birds are to be found.

BIRDS SIGHTED INCLUDE:

Australian Brush-turkey, Royal Spoonbill, Brahminy Kite, Whimbrel, Eastern Curlew, Pied Oystercatcher, Emerald Dove, Eastern Rosella, Collared Kingfisher, Red-backed Fairy-wren, Striped Honeyeater, Little Friarbird, Mangrove Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Scarlet Honeyeater, Eastern Whipbird, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush, Restless Flycatcher, Red-browed Finch.

4. Vintage Lakes

ACCESS & POINTS OF INTEREST:

6k south of Tweed Heads P.O.

Turn right from Minjungbal Drive into Dry Dock Road, then into Fraser Drive turning right at the first roundabout and continue on to Port Drive. A series of ponds is home to a diverse range of bird life, the lily pads providing ideal footing for the Comb-crested Jacana. Casuarinas and melaleucas form part of this diverse habitat so follow the paths through the natural bushland and explore this unique area at your leisure. Much to the delight of our local bird-watchers a pair of Magpie Geese have bred here.

BIRDS SIGHTED INCLUDE:

Wandering Whistling-Duck, Chestnut Teal, Black-shouldered Kite, Brahminy Kite, Whistling Kite, Buff-banded Rail, Comb-crested Jacana, Crested Pigeon, Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, Pheasant Coucal, Superb and Red-backed Fairy-wren, Striped Honeyeater, Rose Robin, Golden Whistler, Rufous Whistler, Varied Triller.

5. Terranora Broadwater

(Wheelchair accessible)

ACCESS & POINTS OF INTEREST:

6k south of Tweed Heads P.O.

From Wharf Street take the Bilambil Heights turnoff under the bridge, travel along Kennedy Drive to Seagulls Club in Gollan Drive. Parking is available at the rear of the club in the far right-hand corner of the parking area. Follow the path behind the fenced-off compound and the walk commences just past Kirkham's Oyster Farm. Home to a superb range of bird life it is not uncommon for 50 - 60 species to be seen on a days outing. Meander along the scenic banks of the Terranora