

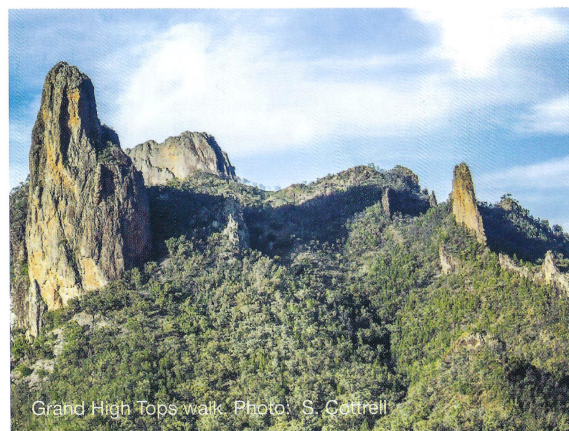
## Rock climbing and backcountry camping

Registration at the visitor centre is required to go rock climbing, back country walking or camping in the park. Climbing is permitted everywhere except at the Breadknife, Chalkers, Square Top and Blackjack Mountains. Local temporary climbing bans may be imposed. Registration provides park staff with some knowledge of your movements in the event of a search and rescue operation being required.

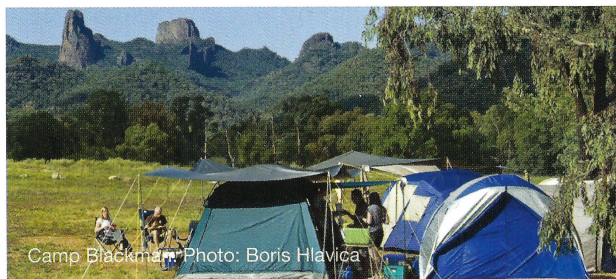
## Caring for the park

The protection of our natural environment and cultural heritage depends on the cooperation of all who visit and enjoy national parks. Here are a few ways you can help:

- Firewood collection and chainsaws are not permitted in the park.
- Drive only on formed roads.
- All flora and fauna are protected.
- The use of drones is permitted only with prior consent.
- Leave your pets at home.
- Generators are not permitted.
- Do not feed any animals as this can damage their health.



Grand High Tops walk. Photo: S. Cottrell



Camp Blackman. Photo: Boris Hlavica

## Look after yourself

It's great to explore and experience NSW national parks. We also want you to stay safe and a bit of planning makes all the difference. Check out these general safety tips.

- Keep to tracks and take care by staying a safe distance from cliff edges.
- Look up and take care when parking your car, camping, walking under or using the shade of large trees. Branches can fall without warning.
- Weather can change quickly. If in doubt carry warm clothes and wet weather gear.
- Wear sturdy footwear as most of the tracks have rocky sections.
- Water is scarce in the park and should be carried on all walks.
- Mobile phone coverage is unreliable in the park.

## Roads

The roads to Warrumbungle National Park from Coonabarabran and from the Newell Highway via Tooraweenah are sealed and suitable for caravans.

## Further Information

Warrumbungle National Park Visitor Centre  
Coonabarabran NSW 2357  
Open 9am - 4pm daily excluding Christmas day.  
Ph: (02) 6825 4364 Fax: (02) 6825 4334  
[nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

ISBN 978-1-925755-88-6 OEH2019/0173 June 2019

Cover photo: R Mulally



Visit

# Warrumbungle National Park

Nature has  
the best  
stories

Warrumbungle National Park

[nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)



#NSWParks



## About the park

Warrumbungle National Park is an area of former volcanic activity. Its landscape includes forested ridges, barren spires and deep gorges. The park was added to the National Heritage List in 2006 and became the first International Dark Sky Park in Australia in 2016. It is an ideal destination for the bushwalker, pack camper, photographer, birdwatcher or those who simply enjoy watching sunlight change the colours on a cliff face.

### East meets west

Referred to as the place where east meets west, the Warrumbungle Range supports plants and animals of the moist east coast and dry western plains. In spring, the sandstone areas often produce remarkable displays of wildflowers such as wattles, peas and heaths more commonly associated with coastal areas. Warrumbungle National Park is also home to a population of the threatened brush-tailed rock wallaby. The park boasts an impressive number of bird species including 19 of Australia's 55 species of parrots.

### A powerful landscape

The rocky spires and domes visible throughout the park are all that is left of a large shield volcano that was active from 13–18 million years ago. As the volcano began to erupt, magma pushed through the ancient Pilliga Sandstone layers that were laid down by sand-laden meandering rivers and streams. Weathering of these rocks has left the harder trachyte plugs towering over the wooded slopes below, including such outstanding features as the Breadknife, a 90m high rock wall known as a dyke.

### Cultural heritage

The Warrumbungle area is a significant place for Aboriginal people, especially the Gamilaraay, Wayilwan and Wiradjuri language groups. Evidence of occupation of the area dates back thousands of years. Ceremonial grounds, stone tools, wooden artefacts, tool-making sites, woven artefacts, art sites, scarred trees, carved trees and burial grounds are present in and around the Warrumbungle mountains.

Throughout the park there are remnants of several pastoral leases dating from 1848. Camp Blackman, Camp Pincham and Pincham Trail are named after lease holders.

### Wambelong fire

In January 2013 a major bush fire impacted over 90% of Warrumbungle National Park. Extreme weather conditions fanned the flames that swept through the national park and beyond. Visit the Warrumbungle Visitor Centre to learn more about the fire. Visit the Warrumbungle Visitor Centre to learn more about the fire and recovery.

### Dark Sky Park

Known as the 'Astronomy Capital of Australia', Coonabarabran and Warrumbungle National Park are the ultimate places to see the splendour of the stars. In 2016 Warrumbungle National Park became the 41st International Dark Sky Park and the first in the southern hemisphere. As a national park it is already protected from development. This, and the long distance from cities and its location next to the Siding Spring Observatory has qualified the park for Gold Tier status.

## Facilities

### Visitor centre

The visitor centre is open daily between 9am - 4pm. The centre provides park information, interpretive displays, gifts, souvenirs, limited grocery items and drinks. Daily entry fees and camping fees are payable at the visitor centre. Please note: basic provisions and services are available in the park. Please check any specific requirements prior to your visit.

### Picnic areas

Camp Blackman and Canyon picnic areas offer BBQs, toilets and picnic tables in beautifully shaded settings. The more secluded Old Woolshed Picnic Area offers basic day-use facilities including picnic tables and a toilet and is the start of the Tara Cave walk.

### Warrumbungle Environmental Education Centre

A Department of Education facility is in the park. Contact the centre on 02 6825 4302 for enquires.

## Wake up in Warrumbungle National Park

**Camp Blackman:** is ideal for families and individuals. Powered and unpowered tent and van sites are available. Facilities include untreated water, hot showers, laundry basins, flushing toilets and gas BBQs.

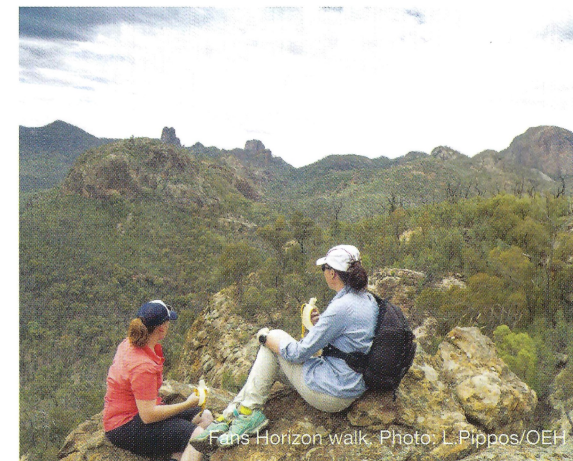
**Camp Wambelong:** caters for individual and family camping. Toilets and untreated water are provided.

**Walaay:** Group camping facilities. Toilets and untreated water provided. Bookings are essential, please contact the visitor centre.

**Backcountry campsites:** include Danu, Dows, Ogma, Hurleys and Burbie Camps. Campers are required to register at the visitor centre. Fuel stoves must be carried by campers as firewood cannot be collected in the park. These bush camps offer no facilities beyond a great view.

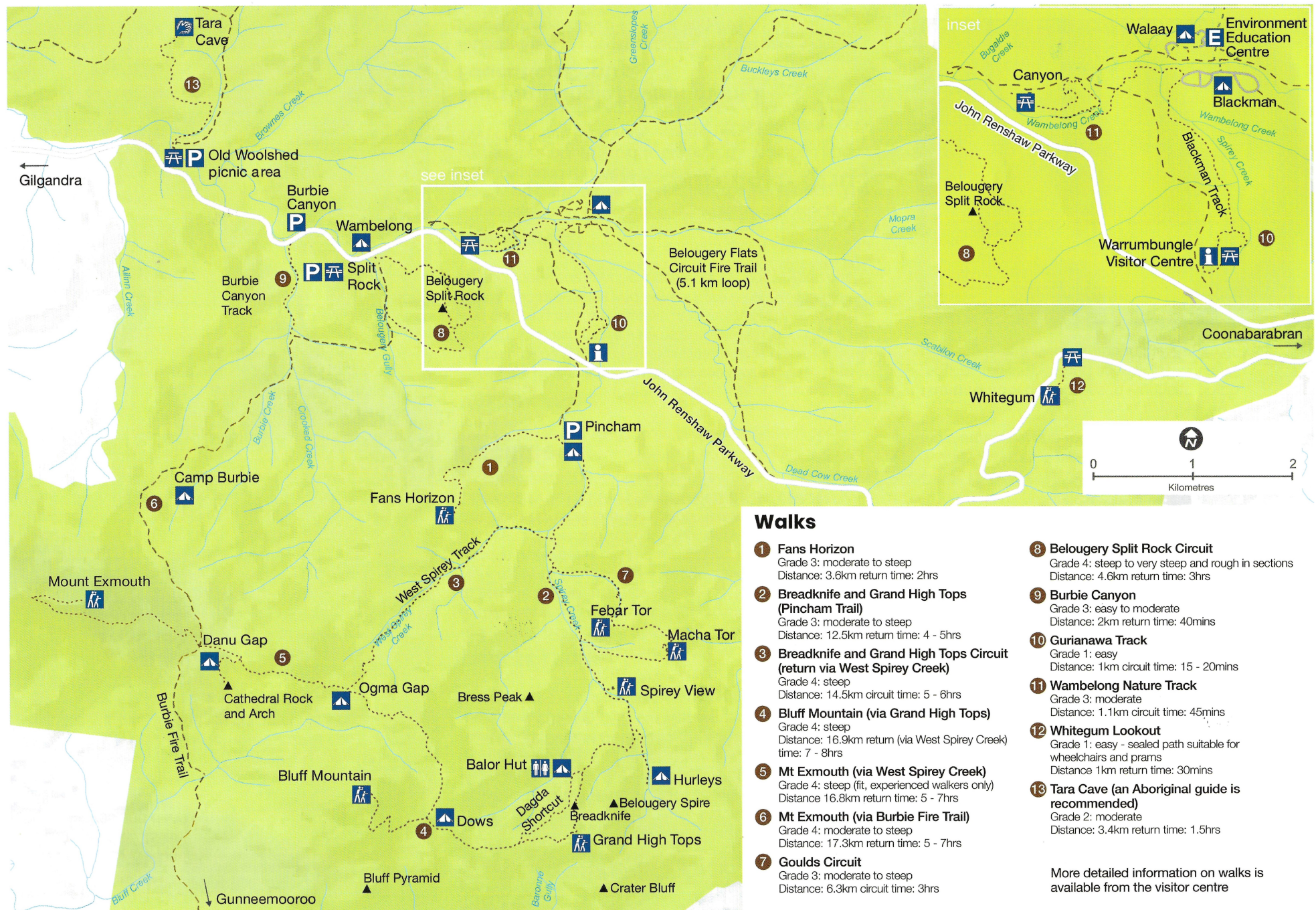
**Balor Hut:** This hut, adjacent to the Breadknife, is available for hire. It has a non-flush toilet, 8 bunk beds (no mattresses) and room for campers adjacent to the hut.

**Gunneemooroo:** Access to Gunneemooroo requires registration and access instructions. Bookings are available through the visitor centre.



Fans Horizon walk. Photo: L. Pappas/OEH



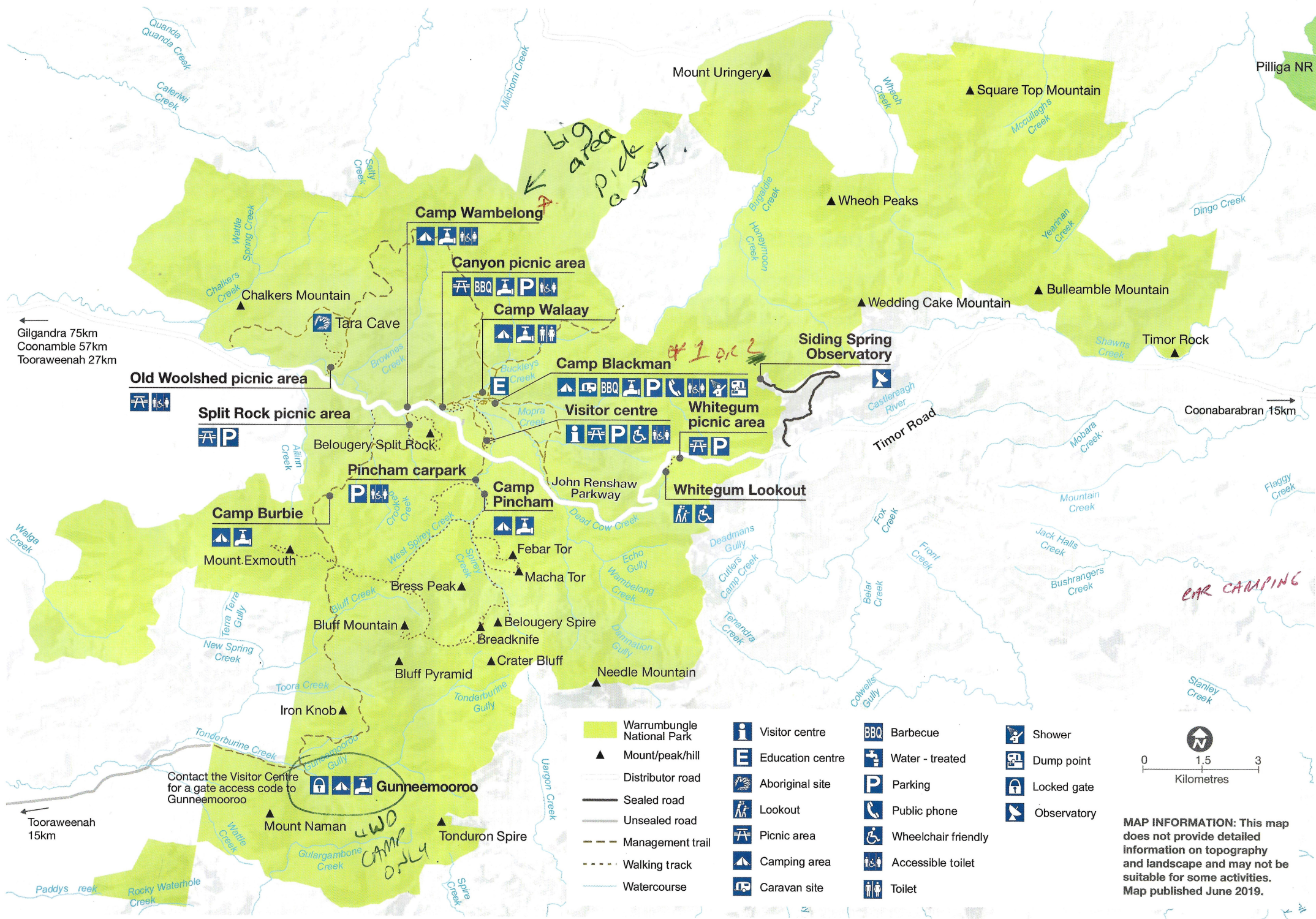


## Walks

- 1 Fans Horizon**  
Grade 3: moderate to steep  
Distance: 3.6km return time: 2hrs
- 2 Breadknife and Grand High Tops (Pincham Trail)**  
Grade 3: moderate to steep  
Distance: 12.5km return time: 4 - 5hrs
- 3 Breadknife and Grand High Tops Circuit (return via West Spirey Creek)**  
Grade 4: steep  
Distance: 14.5km circuit time: 5 - 6hrs
- 4 Bluff Mountain (via Grand High Tops)**  
Grade 4: steep  
Distance: 16.9km return (via West Spirey Creek) time: 7 - 8hrs
- 5 Mt Exmouth (via West Spirey Creek)**  
Grade 4: steep (fit, experienced walkers only)  
Distance: 16.8km return time: 5 - 7hrs
- 6 Mt Exmouth (via Burbie Fire Trail)**  
Grade 4: moderate to steep  
Distance: 17.3km return time: 5 - 7hrs
- 7 Goulds Circuit**  
Grade 3: moderate to steep  
Distance: 6.3km circuit time: 3hrs
- 8 Belongery Split Rock Circuit**  
Grade 4: steep to very steep and rough in sections  
Distance: 4.6km return time: 3hrs
- 9 Burbie Canyon**  
Grade 3: easy to moderate  
Distance: 2km return time: 40mins
- 10 Gurianawa Track**  
Grade 1: easy  
Distance: 1km circuit time: 15 - 20mins
- 11 Wambelong Nature Track**  
Grade 3: moderate  
Distance: 1.1km circuit time: 45mins
- 12 Whitegum Lookout**  
Grade 1: easy - sealed path suitable for wheelchairs and prams  
Distance 1km return time: 30mins
- 13 Tara Cave (an Aboriginal guide is recommended)**  
Grade 2: moderate  
Distance: 3.4km return time: 1.5hrs

More detailed information on walks is available from the visitor centre





- |                            |                  |                     |             |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Warrumbungle National Park | Visitor centre   | Barbecue            | Shower      |
| Mount/peak/hill            | Education centre | Water - treated     | Dump point  |
| Distributor road           | Aboriginal site  | Parking             | Locked gate |
| Sealed road                | Lookout          | Public phone        | Observatory |
| Unsealed road              | Picnic area      | Wheelchair friendly |             |
| Management trail           | Camping area     | Accessible toilet   |             |
| Walking track              | Caravan site     | Toilet              |             |
| Watercourse                |                  |                     |             |

0 1.5 3  
Kilometres

**MAP INFORMATION:** This map does not provide detailed information on topography and landscape and may not be suitable for some activities. Map published June 2019.