

Description:

Macquarie Pass National Park preserves a section of the Illawarra escarpment. It consists of steep, densely timbered ridges and rainforest gullies, topped by a rim of impressive cliffs. The park also contains interesting historical features including the Nurrewin homestead which was constructed around the turn of the century.

The principal stream through the park is the Macquarie Rivulet. This rises on the plateau outside the south-western boundary of the park, negotiates waterfalls and rapids within the park and leaves via gentler flats on the eastern boundary.

Recreation:

Visitors to Macquarie Pass National Park can relax by picnicking, bushwalking, swimming or observing the beautiful stands of rainforest.

Maps:

The CMA 1:25,000 map which covers the park is : ROBERTSON 9028-IV-N.

Landscape:

The cliffs of the steep escarpment in the park are Hawkesbury sandstone. There are other less conspicuous geological formations underlying the diverse plant communities of the area as well.

Under the sandstone there are seams of Illawarra coal and laterite; and under the lower sections of the park, strata formed by volcanic activity 230-280 million years ago.

Location and Access:

Macquarie Pass National Park, approximately 130 km south of Sydney, is located along the Illawarra Escarpment between Robertson on the South Tablelands and Albion Park on the South Coast.

The park covers an area of about 1,059 ha. Access is by means of the Illawarra Highway which traverses the park, or from the Mount Murray railway station on the Moss Vale - Unanderra line.

The nearest towns to the park are Robertson, approximately 7 km to the south-west, and Albion Park, 10 km to the east.

Facilities ...

are limited. A picnic area is provided at the foot of Macquarie Pass on the northern side of the road. Camping is permitted only if the site is at least one kilometre away from any road, picnic area or other public facility. There are two areas within Macquarie Pass National Park where visitors may leave the highway and take a refreshing walk in the forest: the Cascades Rainforest Walk and the Glenview Track



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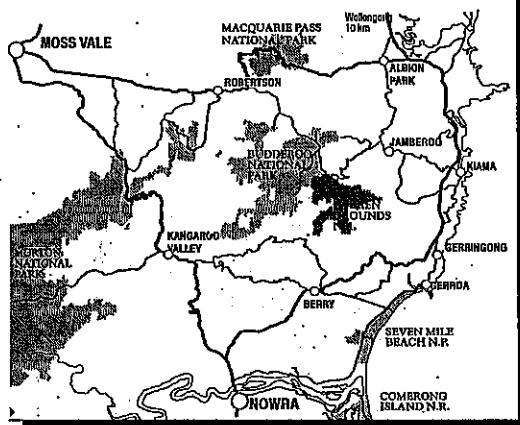
Macquarie Pass National Park



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Macquarie Pass National Park

Location



Flora

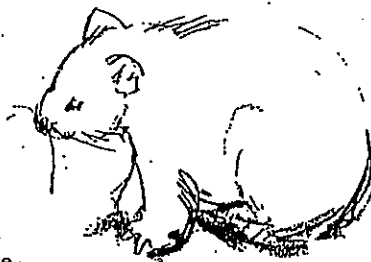
The park contains a variety of vegetation types. Some areas were cleared in the past, but parts of these are regenerating. This area was once a source of red cedar, and there is now some regrowth of this fine tree. As well as remnants of subtropical rainforest, the park contains open eucalypt forest and areas of woodland and shrub associations.



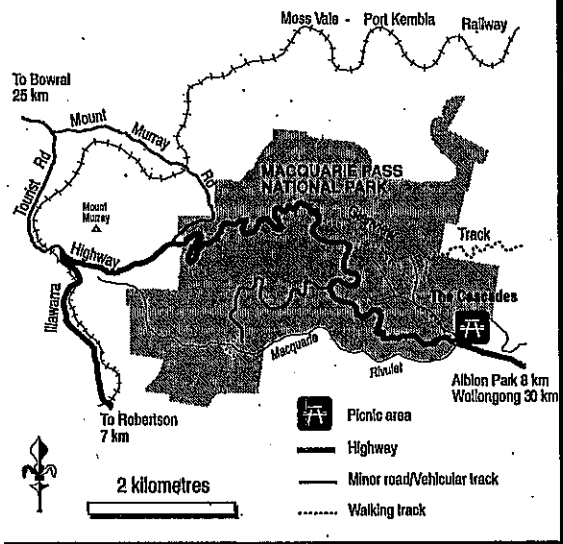
Lilly Pilly

Fauna

The park's varied habitats support a diversity of animal and bird life: swamp wallabies, wombats and bandicoots; lyrebirds and satin bower birds in the damp woodlands; crimson rosellas and the grey thrush. Some small native fish and eels occur in the creeks and many reptiles may be seen during the warmer months when they are more active.



Park Map



Bushwalks

The Cascades Rainforest Walk

Two kilometres return. This track starts at the picnic area at the foot of Macquarie Pass and follows the creek for about one kilometre to the Cascades where the water falls 20 metres.

Along the track the visitor can see typical rainforest trees such as Lilly Pilly (*Acmena smithii*), Native Laurel (*Cryptocarya glaucescens*), Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*) and Cabbage Palm (*Livistona australis*). An interesting feature is the large Small Leaved Fig (*Ficus obliqua*) at the top of the cascades.

Giant Stinging Trees (*Dendrocnide excelsa*) can also be found on the track. This tree has very large heart shaped leaves which can give you a painful sting. The sting is caused by fine hairs which contain concentrated formic and acetic acid, a special device to protect the tree from feeding fauna.

This area was extensively logged for Red Cedar (*Toona australis*) from the late 1880s to the 1960s, resulting in a number of exotic plants - notably lantana and croftweed - invading the forest. As the forest regenerates, these weeds will diminish.

Glenview Track (Glenview Road)

This track is open to walkers but closed to vehicles. The track crosses a creek which, 400 metres downstream, plunges over the Cascades. It has several branch tracks through tall open forest providing the walker with the opportunity to explore other parts of the forest. It is suggested you return the same way.