



# Kindra State Forest Walking Tracks

## Wiradjuri Country

Before European settlement indications are that the Forest area was inhabited by Aboriginal peoples of the Wiradjuri tribe whom it is believed moved away from the rivers for hunting and food gathering when it was seasonably favourable. The Wiradjuri lands stretch from Nyngan to Albury and from Hay to Bathurst.

It has been said that the area was referred to by the Wiradjuri people as 'Coolamon' possibly referring to the rock holes used as stone mills for the grinding of the Nardoo seed which thrived in the area. 'Coolamon' could also have referred to the gilgais, natural depressions in which rainwater collects. Coolamons, food or water carriers made from the bark of trees were also in evidence. Stone artefacts, predominantly tools have been found in close proximity to the forested area.

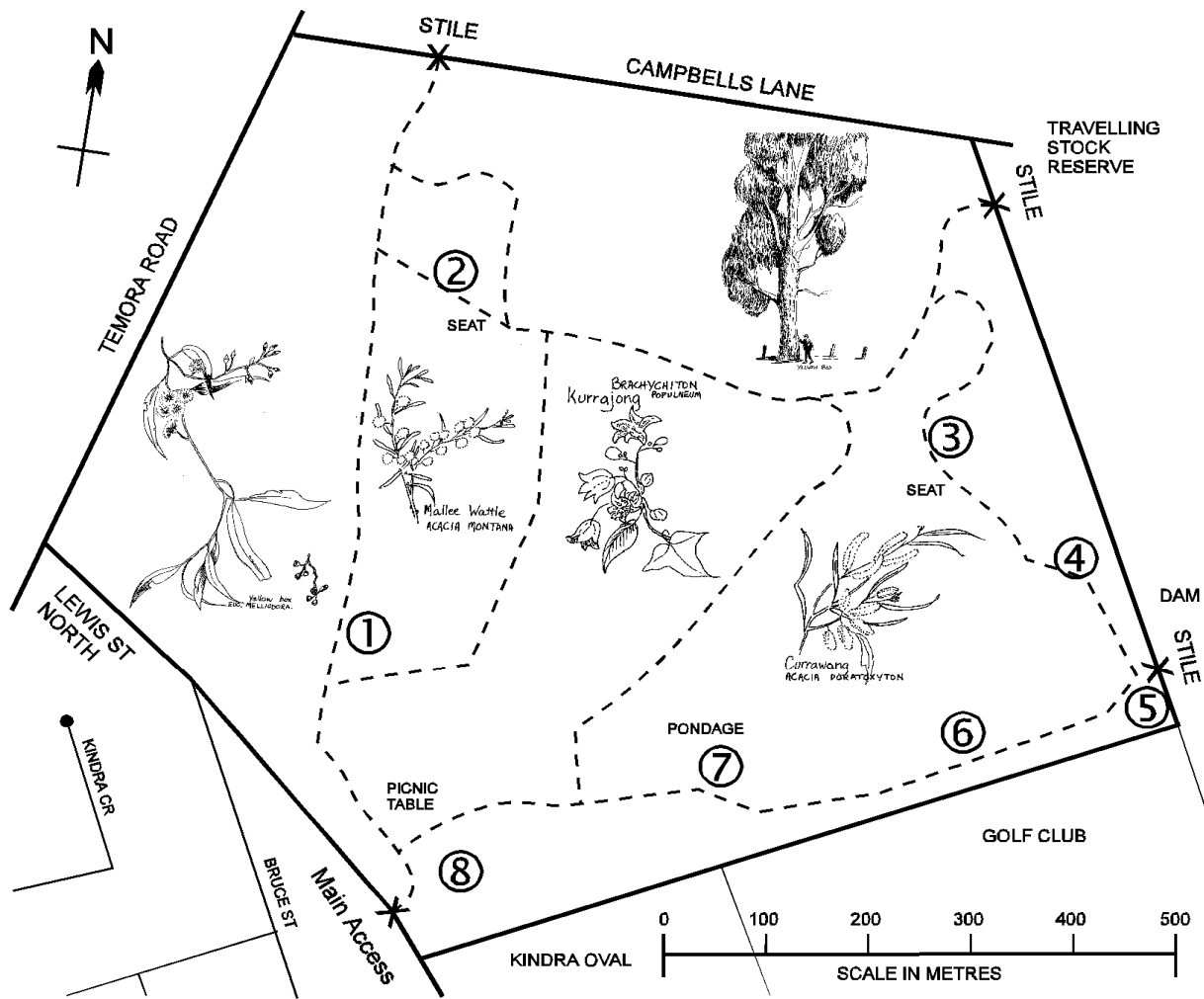


'Coleman' station comprising land to the north of the Forest and south as far as the railway line was established in 1848 by J. Atkinson, later taken up by free selectors. Wheat growing commenced in the late 1850s. When the southern railway began to approach a township was surveyed and established. The railway station opened in 1881 as Cowabbie Road but was changed to Coleman a week later and to Coolamon in 1895. The railway enabled transportation of local wheat, wool and timber.

Early maps show Kindra Forest (Extension 1) as 52 hectares of crown land being set aside for 'pasturage'. Kindra State Forest together with Matong State Forest and the Ganmain Reserve represent the most significant remnants of pre-European vegetation in this locality. The Kindra State Forest has not been subject to significant grazing, preservation being paramount in providing a habitat for species dependent upon a cypress pine-box community.

## Kindra State Forest Walking Tracks

1. The fencing of Kindra Forest under "Fencing Incentives - Greening Australia" and the NSW State Forests was a major step towards the preservation of this 52 hectares of remnant bushland. The gate at the main entrance and stiles (as indicated on map) permit easy walking access within the forest precincts. Walkers are requested to keep to main tracks, to wear suitable covered footwear and to keep the area litter-free. Picnic seating is provided inside the main gate. Interpretative signage has been placed around the main encompassing track as indicated. To the left is the Coolamon Shire Council dump site for road surface materials. Vegetation from this point is predominantly Box (White, Yellow and Grey) and Cypress Pine with evidence of Kurrajong, Wilga and Oak and a variety of Acacias. The track to the right passed the kerosene tin hut of tinsmith Daniel Bourke who resided in the forest for many years until his death in the late 50s when his hut was demolished. Passing the track on the right there can be seen in the spring a spectacular display of ground coverage of golden Clustered Everlasting Daisies. Wallabies and Kangaroos are usually evident from this point on. This section of the track was originally part of 'the historic road' a less steep deviation around Furners' Hill for the horse and bullock wagons which would come in heavily loaded from the north heading for the Coolamon Railway Station.
2. On turning to the right at the bottom of the slope an excellent example of forest ground covers can be observed with a variety of daisies and "Creamy candles" in evidence in the spring. The section to the left supports several varieties of native ground orchids. A colony of large and often noisy White Winged Choughs reside in this locality and their large, mud nests can sometimes be observed. With herbage closing in a little here Red-capped Robins fly in close to investigate intruders. Following rain a variety of animal tracks are evident along the walkway- kangaroo, wallaby, echidna, reptiles and several ants' nests. White-winged Trillers and Rufous Whistlers can often be heard in this area. An excellent specimen of Yellow Box is marked on the right with its yellow hue and 'stockinged' trunk. Several other Yellow Box are situated towards the northern fence and can be clearly observed from Campbells Lane. Just prior to turning right to the south excellent examples of native ground orchids are visible. Their life in bloom is only very shortlived with the diminutive greenhood being the first to show its head. A mature Grey Box marks the turning point here before following along the Travelling Stock Reserve fence now in place to permit access to the stock reserve without intruding on the precincts of the forest.
3. On the right there is a clump of Deanes' Wattle which is also commonly found throughout the whole forest area. If approached quietly kangaroos can often be observed in the clearing on the right. This is predominantly a 'lilly' patch which can be observed to best effect in the spring. When the White Box are in flower the bush seating provides an opportunity to observe the variety of bird life which visit the trees for nectar and to forage for insects. The Red Wattle Birds can often be observed here as well as a variety of other Honey eaters. A clump of Nodding Blue Lilly is well established on the opposite side of the track to the seating as well as several types of fungi growth when it is wet. Moving on to the next White Box there is much interesting undergrowth with a drooping-leaved Wilga establishing itself beneath the Eucalypt.
4. On the left is the gate from the stock lane to the reserve and here between the track and the fence is a stand of the native Kangaroo Grass. Moving up the slope is very significant evidence of the success of the fencing operation. Charles Sturt University carried out extensive observations over more than one season with a significant number of flora being recorded. The Climbing and/or Creeping Salt Bush was not noted. It is now evident in most sections of the forest. It can be observed as the wirey groundcover down most of the fenceline on the left. It can often be observed at the base of trees and develops small vibrant red to orange berries. It is apparently very palatable to stock but since fencing it has had the opportunity to prosper.
5. Reaching the top of the rise there is an excellent view of the Travelling Stock Reserve dam (originally Government Tank) historic site surveyed by the Mines Department and constructed as a back-up water supply for the township of Coolamon and the Steam Engines. A 'pump man' was employed to pump the water to an overhead tank at the Coolamon Railway Station. The dam was originally fenced with a long watering trough for stock and the watering of the teams following their off-loading at the railway. The dam now provides a habitat for a wide variety of birdlife including the endangered Superb Parrot, Swans, Pelicans and Ducks. The Coolamon Landcare Stock Reserve Rehabilitation plantings can be viewed from this area It is interesting to make a comparison with the growth inside the fencing and the sheet erosion evident without. In a good season when the canola is in bloom a patchwork of colour is an amazing sight from this vantage point.



6. Turning westward the 'rehabilitation' area is entered. To the right gravel had been extracted. Slowly this area is regenerating naturally on both the left and right sides of the track. A great display of Clustered Everlastings are extending towards the track. White Browed (or Grey Crowned) Babblers proliferate in this area and towards the main gate keeping in the wooded parts. Their many 'play' nests' can be observed here with the cuckoos which utilise the nests. On the left Chocolate Lilies can be seen with several Wilga trees establishing along the fence line of the Coolamon Golf Course. On the left extending down from the fence there has been significant regeneration naturally by young Cypress Pine and ground covers. Logs have been placed as an observation and study area.
7. This 4 hectares running towards the main gate (at one time set aside for a hospital) is now under the jurisdiction of the Wagga Aboriginal local Council. Coolamon Landcare has been granted permission to carry on with rehabilitation. Coolamon Shire Council relocated a gravel dump site from this area and assisted in the contouring and planting operations. A dry season and growing numbers of kangaroos saw the trees eaten to the ground but guards have been replaced and a program of "healing the scar' with the placing of natural mulch materials is being implemented. The pondage towards the lower section is retaining an ongoing supply of water and habitat for birds as previously observed. The lightly constructed bird hide provides an excellent observation point. Kangaroos and wallabies can be observed feeding in this area especially in the early morning.
8. Yellow Robins, Treecreepers and Babblers can often be observed around the main gate. Kindra Forest is used extensively by study groups from the local schools, TAFE and the Charles Sturt University. History of the site is made available as are tours and walks for a variety of groups on request. The forest has also become a popular venue for schools' cross-country running at both the local and district level as well as being utilised by fitness and recreational walkers. It is hoped you have enjoyed your walk in Kindra Forest and that you will return to discover many more of its treasures for yourself.

## BIRD SPECIES REPORTED WITHIN THE COOLAMON SHIRE

Yellow (-billed) Spoonbill	* Major Mitchell	Silvereeye	Blue-faced Honeyeater
Apostlebird	* Superb Parrot	Barking Owl	Brown Songlark
Australian Kestrel	Blue Bonnet	Barn Owl	Brown Treecreeper
Australian Magpie	Budgerigar	Blackbird	Brown-headed Honeyeater
Australian Magpie-lark	Cockatiel	Black-Eared Cuckoo	Crimson Chat
Australian Pelican	Crested Pigeon	Black-Faced Cuckoo-shrike	Inland (Broad-tailed) Thornbill
Australian Raven	Crested Shrike-tit	Blue-Winged Parrot	Little Friar bird
Black Swan	White-browed Woodswallow	Common Starling	Masked Woodswallow
Straw-necked Ibis	Crimson Rosella	Dollarbird	Mistletoebird
Black-Shouldered Kite	Eastern Rosella	Dusky Woodswallow	Noisy Friar bird
Cattle Egret	Eastern yellow Robin	Fairy Martin	Noisy Miner
Collared Sparrowhawk	White-winged Chough	Fan-Tailed Cuckoo	Pied Butcherbird
Wedge-tailed Eagle	House Sparrow	Flame Robin	Pied Currawong
White Faced Heron	Galah	Grey Butcherbird	Rufous Songlark
Common Bronzewing	Golden Whistler	Ground Cuckoo-shrike	Southern Whiteface
Diamond Dove	Grey Fantail	Hooded Robin	Speckled Warbler
Domestic/ Feral Pigeon	Grey Shrike-thrush	Laughing Kookaburra	Spiney-cheeked Honeyeater
Dusky Moorhen	Grey-crowned Babbler	Pallid Cuckoo	Striated Pardalote
Eurasian Coot	Jacky Winter	Rainbow Bee-eater	Variegated Fairy-wren
Maned (Aust. Wood) Duck	Little Corella	Red Capped Robin	Weebill
Marsh Harrier	Mallee Ringneck	Richard's Pipit	White browed Babbler
Masked Lapwing	Red-rumped Parrot	Sacred Kingfisher	White-eared Honeyeater
Pacific Black Duck	Restless Flycatcher	Scarlet Robin	White-fronted Chat
Painted Button-quail	Rufous Whistler	Singing Bushlark	White-plumed Honeyeater
Peaceful Dove	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Tree Martin	White-throated Treecreeper
Peregrine Falcon	Willie Wagtail	Welcome Swallow	Yellow (Little) Thornbill
Royal Spoonbill	Yellow Rosella	White-Backed Swallow	Yellow-rumped Thornbill

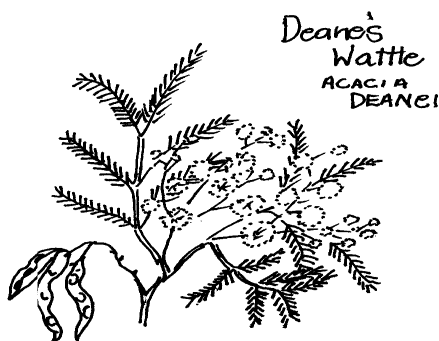
Can you add to this list?

Report any new sightings to

Cheryl O'Brien, P.O. Box 80,

Coolamon. NSW 2701

Ph (02) 6927 2110



## SOME COMMON FAUNA SPECIES

Giant Bango Frog	Salmon-striped Frog
Spotted Marsh Frog	Eastern Spiny-tailed Gecko
Stone Gecko	Boulenger's Skink
Short-beaked Echidna	Common Brushtail Possum
Eastern Grey Kangaroo	Swamp Wallaby
Gould's Wattled Bat	Chocolate Wattled Bat
Lesser Long-eared Bat	Gould's Long-eared Bat
Little Forest Eptesicus	House Mouse
Rabbit	Hare
Fox	Bearded Dragon
Brown Snake	Red Bellied Black Snake
Rat	

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