

Darri Track

'Darri' is the name given by the Indigenous custodians of this area to this bush track, which literally means 'track' or 'foot'. 'Warrimoo' the name of the street parallel to the Darri Track translates as 'eagle'.

The Darri Track winds through a picturesque remnant of bush that eventually joins the Warrimoo Track in Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park. Along the way you can experience many of the features of classic Sydney sandstone bushland and also see the impacts our urban environment is having on the bush.

The story of the She-oak

To local Indigenous people the She-oak is considered to be a woman's tree. Besides its spiritual role, the She-oak served practical purposes as well, its seed pods were used by women as rouge and children were told, if they got lost to sit under a She-oak and wait. They

would be safe there because snakes avoid the spikey fallen leaves that carpet the ground beneath She-oaks.

She-oaks are a unique and ancient family of plants, well adapted to Australia's hot dry conditions. Their long thin 'leaves' are really branchlets, the real leaves are the tiny rings of 'teeth' at each joint of the branchlet. The tiny leaves help to reduce the amount of water lost through the stomata - tiny air holes on the



Allocasuarina littoralis

leaf surface. To reduce evaporation further in hot dry conditions, She-oaks can drop their branchlets.

If you have been in a forest of she-oaks you will have heard the beautifully haunting song of wind in the foliage. The effect is caused by the wind playing over the joints and grooves of the branchlets. L.A. Meredith in his 1844 *Notes and Sketches of NSW* described the she-oak: 'Perhaps none of all the novel trees of the colony have so completely strange and un-English an aspect as these; and in a moderate breeze the notes uttered amongst their thousands of waving, whispering strings are far from unmusical and reminded me of the lower, wailing notes of an Aeolian harp...it is said that the name has been borrowed from sheac or cheoak of America, in consequence of some resemblance of the wood'.



Remember

- Protect yourself from the sun
- Take drinking water
- Notify someone of your route and time of return
- Wear appropriate footwear
- Leave only footprints, take your rubbish with you
- All dogs must be leashed and are not allowed into Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park
- Removing or defacing natural and cultural features is prohibited
- Keeping to the track will minimise impacts
- Darri Track is a multi use track, bike riders must give way to walkers

Further Information

Urban Wildlife of New South Wales
edited by John Pastorelli
Collins A & R 1990

Burnum Burnum's WILDthings around Sydney by
G Sainty, J Hoskins, P Abel, S Jacobs,
M Dalby-Ball, Sainty & Assoc 2000

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Ku-ring-gai Council



Darri Track

Bedford Road, North Turramurra
to Ku-ring-gai Chase
National Park

Ku-ring-gai Walking Tracks



Explore your senses

Sight

- The Darri Track runs through a long, thin patch of bushland, which suffers greatly from urban impacts. The surrounding houses produce runoff that seeps into the very fibre of the natural environment causing weed invasion.
- As most mammals and reptiles are nocturnal, you probably will not see them. The tracks in the sand may give you a clue as to what is about. A long winding trail tells of a snake passing. Small prints may be from a rat or gecko.
- Occasionally you'll notice tall trees with twisted limbs and smooth pink bark growing along the track. The Sydney Red Gum or *Angophora costata* are common in these sandstone communities. As the bark sheds from this tree, it changes colour from grey to a rich sunset pink. One bushwalker counted over 27 different colours on one tree.



Angophora costata

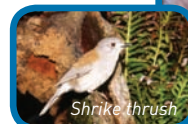
Touch

- Many small waterways flow down the valley. In undisturbed gullies a local rainforest plant, the Coachwood or *Ceratopetalum apetalum* grows. Can you find it? They are large smooth-barked trees sprinkled with distinctive patches of lichen. If you feel the base of the leaf there is a nodule underneath.
- Get close to some natives as you pass over the boardwalk. The She-oak's feathery "leaves" are actually branchlets. Feel the small scales around the branchlets that are the true leaves.

- Long ago, when the most complex life forms on earth were large lumbering amphibians, a huge freshwater river flowed over this land. During each flood, it dumped tonnes of sediment as it meandered to the ocean - the Hawkesbury Sandstone. Feel the lines and ripples in the rock. Each layer tells a story of floods that happened millions of years ago.

Sound

- The bush/house interface favours certain species of wildlife. Listen, you can hear kookaburras, magpies, lorikeets currawongs and sometimes brown cuckoo doves. But very few wrens, shriketits, whistlers and thornbills can be found.
- Take a break along the track. Relax and hear the sounds of the natural environment around you. As the distance between housing and the Darri track gets larger, the impact from the nearby houses disappears.



Shrike thrush



Variegated wren



Photos: D. Wilks

Yellow faced honeyeater

Map

Start/Finish

The track begins at Bedford Ave, Nth Turramurra and ends where it joins the Warrimoo Track just north of Timbarra Rd St Ives.

Length:

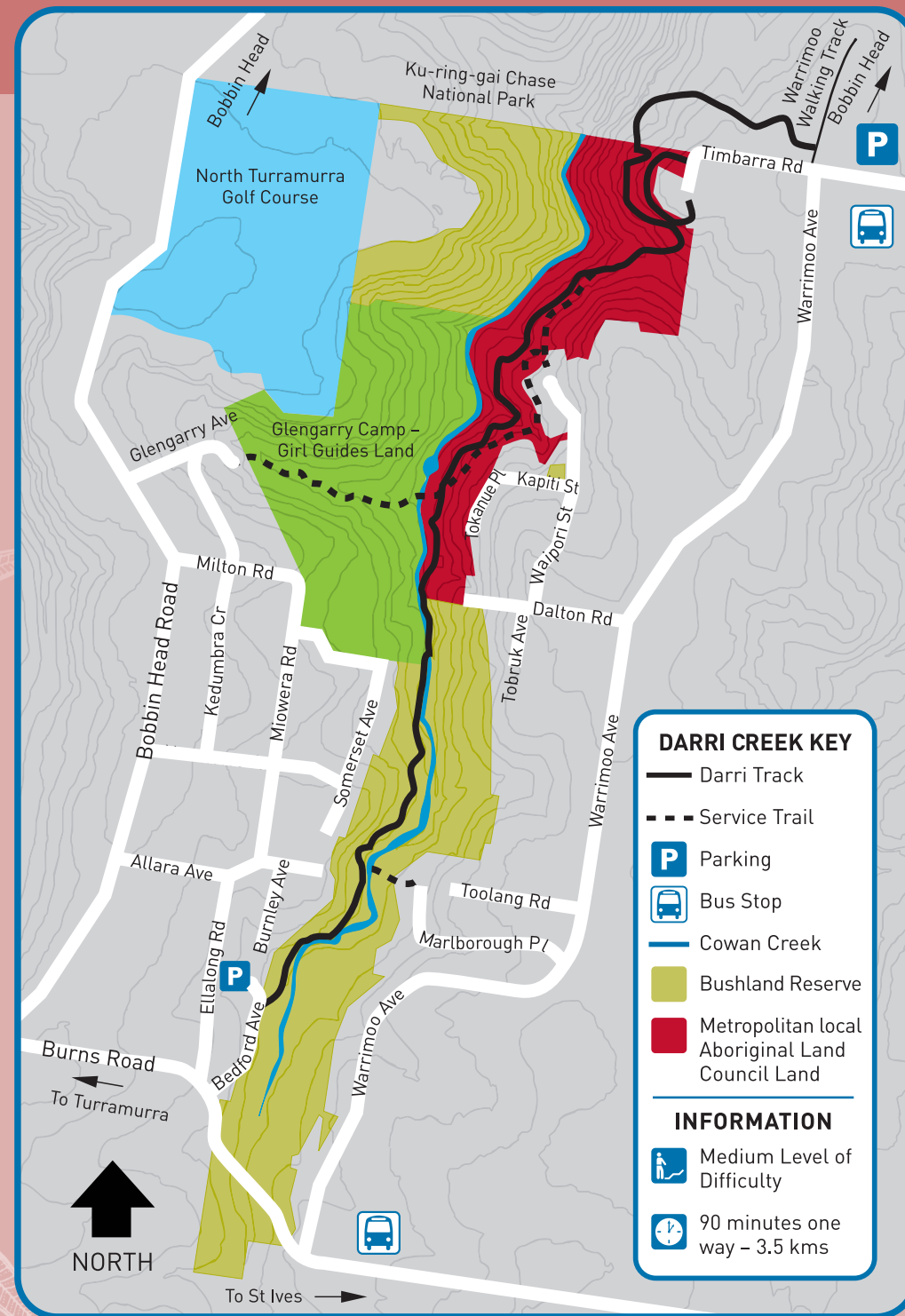
3.5km

Duration:

90 mins one way

Difficulty:

Class 3 Moderate
Moderate: A distinct track with steep and rough sections, steps and some difficulties. Moderate safety level. Suitable for people who walk occasionally.



DARRI CREEK KEY

- Darri Track
- - - Service Trail
- P Parking
- Bus Stop
- Cowan Creek
- Bushland Reserve
- Metropolitan local Aboriginal Land Council Land

INFORMATION

- Medium Level of Difficulty
- 90 minutes one way - 3.5 kms