



Sandstone Communities

Notice the difference in the nature of the soil on the hill slopes to that of the creeks and ridge tops. The shallow sandstone soils drain readily and are low in nutrients.

Plants adapted to the sandstone soils typically have harsh texture and growth form. Angophora, a common tree with rose-pink dappled bark, strangely twists its limbs in search of light. The trunk and roots flow over the rock shelves like lava from a volcano.

Angophoras make a spectacular backdrop to the dense shrubby understorey of banksias, grass trees and hakeas. These understorey shrubs typically have hard leathery leaves to prevent water loss in such a dry environment.

Remember

- All fauna, flora and any natural or cultural features are protected and should not be removed or defaced.
- Pets must be leashed at all times, unless in a leash free area.
- Keeping to the tracks will minimise soil erosion and damage to the vegetation.
- Please use rubbish bins if provided, or alternatively take your rubbish with you.
- Observe fire bans – do not smoke near flammable vegetation.
- When passing near homes respect residents' privacy.



Photo: D. Wilks

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

Native Plants of the Sydney District
by A Farley & P Moore, Kangaroo Press 1989

Ku-ring-gai Council Internet site:
www.kmc.nsw.gov.au

NPWS internet site:
www.npws.nsw.gov.au

Enquiries

Ku-ring-gai Council
818 Pacific Highway
Gordon NSW 2072

Locked Bag 1056
Pymble NSW 2073

Phone (02) 9424 0000
Fax (02) 9424 0001
Email kmc@kmc.nsw.gov.au
Web www.kmc.nsw.gov.au

This brochure available at www.kmc.nsw.gov.au

Public Transport

Sheldon Forest track is a short walk from Turrumurra station via the Pacific Highway. For train timetable details phone infoline on 131 500 from 6.00am to 10.00pm.



Printed 2010



Ku-ring-gai Council



Sheldon Forest Track

Warragal Road to Troon Place
via Avondale Creek
Pymble

Ku-ring-gai Walking Tracks



Sheldon Forest Track

Sheldon Forest is a pocket of bushland located in a narrow valley between Turramurra and Pymble.

As you follow the track you will notice a gradual transition between forest types.

This occurs due to changes in soil fertility which is related to the bedrock below.

Four major plant communities will be obvious along your walk. Closed (or riparian) forest occurs along the creeks, sandstone slopes support an open forest-woodland community and closer to the ridge top, Blue Gum High Forest and Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest are supported by the rich shale soils of Sheldon Forest.

Creek Communities

Cool shaded gullies around the creeks support closed forest communities. These communities occur because there is more water and nutrients in the soil and they are sheltered from the drying effects of the sun and wind.

There is a dense understorey consisting of ferns, moisture-loving shrubs and climbers such as native sarsaparilla. The dominant tree is coachwood with serrated leaves.

The black wattle can be mistaken for the coachwood because it also has serrated leaves but is also marked by its "pom-pom" like yellow flowers that bloom from October to December.

In some areas, weeds have invaded the bush where storm water run off increases nutrients and alters the natural plant environment.

Tall Forest Communities

The tall trees on the shale ridge top near Warragal Road form two endangered plant communities – Blue Gum High Forest and Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest.

Look for the smooth grey trunks of the blue gums standing in contrast to the fibrous bark of the turpentine.

Tall majestic blackbutts, identified by grey-brown bark on their lower trunk with smooth, white upper limbs are also common.

Sheldon Forest is of high conservation value as it is one of the few remnants of Blue Gum High Forest and Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest that was not cleared for development in northern Sydney.

Today less than five percent of its natural distribution remains.

The major threat to its survival now is from weed invasion and dumping of rubbish.

