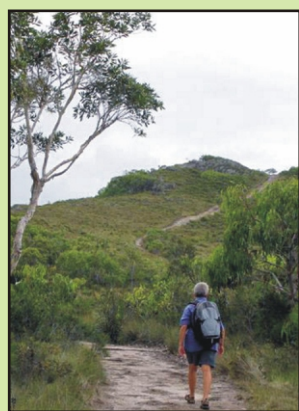


EMU MOUNTAIN by Diane Goodwillie & Bill Matthews



In 2004 a small red flowering bush, the endangered allocasurina emuina exclusively found in the shadow of Emu Mountain enabled the expansion of the Noosa National Park to include scribbly gum, Tumble down gum & numerous wallum wildflowers. Peregian is the Aboriginal name for emu & the Emu Mountain Section is carved out from the original Wallum Research Station closed in 1983.

The approach to the summit of Emu Mountain is from the northern side, at Havana Rd, opposite Coolum High School the summit can be reached along a track of about 500 metres. This track has a gentle gradient, & should take about 15 to 20 minutes to the top, at a very leisurely pace. If you look to your left as you approach the parking area in the road outside the school, you will see a Q.P.W.S. board behind the fence & this is the starting point of the track.

Emu Mountain is only 72 metres in height, but there are few areas on the Sunshine Coast which can rival the 360 deg. panoramic views from its summit. Length of walk return approx. 1.5 km. It is a moderately easy walk but not suited for wheelchairs or prams.

Special Features. Birds, wallum wildflowers in spring. No toilet facilities

NOOSA NATIONAL PARK by Graeme Bolden

Peregian section



Start at the carpark, off David Low Way, opposite Emu Mt. Lock your car securely, hide valuables. You cross a wide area of reed and sedge swamp, with 120m of raised boardwalk, with areas for rest. You then enter a low shrub area with good views to parts of Coolum to the south, and Emu Mt to the west. The sandy path is a little narrow, care is required after wet weather. You then head east on a good path over the dunes through melaleuca, banksia and casuarina trees, with a beautiful panorama of an unpatrolled beach, with a memorial cross to Paul "Smiley" Staines, who disappeared in high seas in May 1999. If you wish you can walk down the beach to Stumers Ck (approx 1.2km) where there is a carpark, toilets and picnic tables. The return trip up the beach, then over the dunes is hard to pick up, it is located 250m north of the yellow sign #M11, or 50m south of #M10. This easy return walk is approx. 3km. 1.5 hours

Not suitable for wheelchairs or prams.

Special Features. Birds, wallum, sedge, wildflowers.

Toilet facilities. Stumers Creek.

NOOSA NATIONAL PARK by Pat Deece

Coolum section



The walk begins at the footbridge between Cinnamon Ave and School Rd. near the Coolum Primary School. Go through the gate and keep the creek on your right. The walk ends at the Coolum-Peregian sports complex. Many species of birds may be seen along the track and in spring the wild flowers are abundant. Bird watchers will see fairy wrens, finches and quail in the grass along the track, as well as honeyeaters, flycatchers and many other birds in the trees. Spoonbills, egrets, ducks and herons frequent the waters of the canal, and their actions make interesting entertainment as you walk along.

An easy 4 km walk return, about 1.5 hours.

Special Features. Birds, wallum wildflowers.

No Toilet facilities.

COOLUM BEACH by Ray Barber



Start this walk from the surfclub at Coolum. Tickle Park was named after Bob Tickle, a beachcomber who built a shack here in the 1930s and was well known for the regeneration of the sand dunes right along the beach. You can proceed north along the beach, past the caravan park and follow the path through Lions park to the Stumers Creek rd. Along this track there are many coastal banksias, loved by a myriad of small honeyeaters and casuarinas, whose seedpods are a necessary food for the huge yellow tailed black cockatoos. The brown-black rocks, which are sometimes exposed at the mouth of the creek are known as 'coffee rock'. They are pre ice age and were formed from layers of vegetation submerged under the sand. The walk along the beach back to Tickle Park may present a variety of sea 'life' from the whales breaching out the back to washed up seahorses on the sand.

An easy walk 2.5 km walk. Special Features. Birds, picnic tables and BBQs.

Toilets at Tickle Park, Lions park and Stumers Creek carpark.

CLIFFTOP WALK by Stan Ryan

Point Arkwright to Second Bay



Starting from Point Arkwright carpark, head east out onto the point to admire views south from Mt. Coolum around to Point Cartwright. (As a matter of interest, Richard Arkwright invented the "spinning jenny", and Edmund Cartwright invented the steam-powered loom for weaving cotton, during the Industrial Revolution in Britain) On a clear day Moreton Island can be seen east of Point Cartwright. Head north from Point Arkwright along the track following, the cliff top. Stop at the first lookout to look for surfacing turtles, dolphins, feeding ospreys and brahminy kites and in winter and early spring, passing whales. This lookout is ideally situated to view the landscape northwards past Coolum and Peregian to Noosa Heads, and has been designed with a boardwalk suitable for wheelchairs and prams. Be careful to limit your viewing to the viewing platform, and remain inside fence lines near cliffs as fatalities have occurred in this vicinity.

Walk along the boardwalk towards the road from this point, turning right just past the picnic shelter. Continue north to the second lookout, staying on the track furthest from the cliffs. About 100m. north of the second lookout, the track forks. Take the left fork, which winds through a mixed forest of banksia, bloodwoods and brush and swamp box. Look, too, for seasonal wildflowers such as wedding bush and rice flowers, which star the cliff top. Many small birds, particularly honeyeaters, frequent this area, making it interesting to walk through.

The track comes out onto the bike path near Third Bay carpark. Continue north on the bike path to the carpark above Second Bay. From here, take the steps at the front of the carpark that lead down into Second Bay. Head south through Second Bay and over the rocks into Third Bay - this is a good area in which to find cowrie shells. Once in Third Bay, continue to the southern end, keeping an eye out for the track back up onto the headland.

Return walk approx. 3km. 1 - 1.5 hrs, easy if you stay on the path.

Not suitable for wheelchairs or prams beyond the lookout.

Special Features. Birds, sea life, coastal forest, swimming.

Toilet facilities at Pt. Arkwright car park.



YINNEBURRA BUSHLAND by Lineese Norrish
Point Arkwright Mosaic



This area is of interest as it has been regenerated by Coastcare and includes a wallum garden that was transplanted from a Marcoola development site. Start this walk from the end of Yinneburra street, Yaroomba where you can view the regenerated garden, enjoy the bird life and perhaps see the bird nesting boxes also courtesy of Coastcare. There are 2 paths leading to Andrew street and if you use the upper concrete path both ways it is suitable for wheelchairs. The lower level track goes behind the bank of planting. The return can be along the path or the beach, via the Point Arkwright carpark.

An easy walk which is around 1 km.
Can be suitable for wheelchairs or prams.

Special Features. Regenerated wallum, birds.
Toilet at Point Arkwright carpark.

YAROOMBA BUSHLAND PARK by Peg Whiteoak



There are 3 main entrances to this area, Boward close, Warran road and Neurum road, each has car parking space. From the western end of Boward close the main path winds through a range of habitats, from wallum to palm forest and via a boardwalk through a sedge swamp and a melaleuca swamp finishing at the open grassy area and childrens playground at Neurum road. The second path from Boward crosses a small creek and follows a sandy path that joins up to the grassy area on Warran road. Not only is the flora of the area plentiful and varied, but so is the bird life. On a recent visit red-backed wrens, rufous and grey fantails, silvereyes, lewins, scarlet and brown honeyeaters, pale yellow robins; rufous shrike-thrushes, a spangled drongo, a scrub turkey; bar-shouldered doves and rainbow lorikeets were seen with many other birds making their presence felt with their calls. Morning is the best time for bird viewing, although those who walk quietly through the park will see many birds at any time of the day. An easy 1 way walk to Neurum is approx. .75km. to Warran .5 km The main track only is suitable for wheelchairs or prams.

BIRRAHL PARK by Frances Windolf
Yaroomba

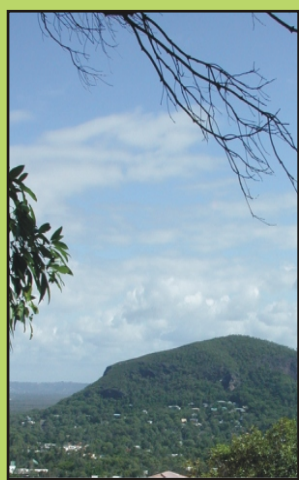


There are 2 'ends' to Birrahl park, enter from Yerranya Row or Warragah Parade. The 2 halves of the park are connected by a bridge over Black Gully. Though backing onto a residential area, the park exudes a feeling of being distant from the suburbs and is surrounded by mature trees, mainly melaleuca, coastal banksias and some casuarinas. From the bridge, a short path heads to the beach via boardwalk. Buried on the beach are the remains of the "Kirkdale" which was wrecked on July 19, 1862. The remains are seen on occasions of erosion after heavy seas that come with cyclonic conditions.

1/2km. easy walk. Suitable for wheelchairs or prams.

Special Features. Birds, picnic tables and bbqs.
Toilet facilities. Warragah Parade carpark.

MT COOLUM NATIONAL PK by Phillip Sharpe



To access Mt. Coolum, take the pathway from the carpark on Tanah street West. The path is easy to follow and but gets steep as it goes past the old quarry, about 1/3 of the way up. The flora includes xanthorrea [grass trees], casuarinas & scribbly gums with the telltale marks on their bark. The views from the top of the steep section are mostly to the east but when you reach the top & proceed 100mts past the red beacon you will take in the spectacular views to the south & west over cane lands & the Glasshouse Mts., which share the same geological structure which was from volcanic activity some 25 millions years ago. Mt Coolum is part of the Aboriginal legend about the beautiful Maroochy which includes Ninderry Mt and Mudjimba Island.

In spring the whole mountain is covered in wildflowers, over 680 species of flowering plants & 52 species of ferns have been recorded in the 1 km sq. of park. This walk has some moderately steep in sections, return approx. 3km. Suitable shoes are recommended.

Special Features. Views, birds, wildflowers. Best in spring. No toilets.



C.A.P.S. was formed in 1997 as a community group to help lobby for more green space in the Coolum district. C.A.P.S. is about defining liveability and appreciation of our natural and built environment. All contributions are by local residents.

For more information about Coolum Area Parks Society
phone : 54461635
meetings are advised on the 'community noticeboard' in the Coolum Advertiser

The native plants booklet 'Our Locals are Beauties' can add to your enjoyment of the Coolum walks. Download from Coolum District Coast Care website www.coolumcoastcare.org.au or pick up from the Library or the Coolum Community Native Nursery on Warren Road. If you're interested in native plants visit the Coolum Community Native Nursery on Warren Road

Over a 100 different birds have been identified in the Coolum area. For this and other information please refer to our website:
<http://coolumareaparks.googlepages.com>

