

TAMWORTH

1. PEEL RIVER

31° 05' 44"S, 150° 55' 39"E

From the CBD, walk through Bicentennial Park to the Peel River. There are good walking tracks on both sides of the river; use the footbridge to cross over to walk on the opposite side, then the main bridge to return.

2. TAMWORTH BOTANIC GARDENS

31° 04' 44"S, 150° 56' 42"E

From the Peel Street traffic lights, follow Brisbane Street up the hill about 1.5km, then follow signs. You'll find an attractive setting beside bushland walking tracks. Take the time to walk through the Aboriginal section of the gardens.

3. KINGSWOOD PARK

31° 09' 30"S, 150° 54' 34"E

Take the New England Highway (Sydney Road) south. From the Tamworth Visitor Information Centre at the Big Golden Guitar, travel a further 4.3km and turn right into Spains Lane. Turn right again into Kingswood Drive. The park is 750m on the right; it curves behind the houses into Linda Masonwells Wildlife Corridor. The bird route also extends onto the opposite side of Kingswood Drive.

4. QUIPOLLY DAMS

31° 25' 10"S, 150° 42' 18"E

Take the Werris Creek Road towards Quirindi. About 9km south of Werris Creek, turn left at the sign to Quipolly Dams. The wall of the larger dam is 6km from the main road. Further up Lowes Creek Road, a smaller and older dam is almost silted up providing habitat for many waterbirds.

5. THORNTONS ROAD

31° 15' 43"S, 151° 12' 12"E

Take the New England Highway (Armidale Road) 6.1km to Nemingha. Turn right onto Nundle Road. After 23.6km, continue straight at the roundabout onto Ogunbil Road. Travel 10.3km to Thorntons Road on the left. Note memorial to Nat Buchanan. There are good birdwatching spots from the corner to the creek and around the bend to the dams. Take some time to sit beside Dungowan Creek.

6. COCKBURN RIVER CAMPSITE LIMBRI

31° 03' 00"S, 151° 08' 39"E

Take the New England Highway (Armidale Road), for 17.3km to Kootingal (on the right of the highway). From Kootingal, follow signs towards Limbri. After crossing the railway line, turn left and travel 6.4km to Cockburn River Campsite on the right.

7. MOONBI COMMON

31° 00' 02"S 151° 02' 47"E

Take the New England Highway (Armidale Road) for approximately 21.3km to Moonbi. Immediately after the Moonbi Store, turn left onto Moonbi Gap Road. Cross the concrete bridge where the road veers right into New England Gully Road. 1.8km along this road, turn left into Moonbi Common Road and travel 1.7km to the Common.

8. ATTUNGA STATE FOREST

30° 55' 51"S, 150° 54' 29"E

Take Fossickers Way (Manilla Road) north towards Manilla for 20.5km. Turn right into Inlet Road. After 5km, the T intersection indicates the start of Attunga State Forest. Turn left and in a short distance on the right is an open area which may be used by the local archery club. This area leads to a number of fire trails and walking tracks.

NUNDLE

Nundle is 73km from Tamworth. Take the New England Highway (Armidale Road) to Nemingha, then right onto Fossickers Way (Nundle Road). The following directions are from Jenkins Street, Nundle unless otherwise indicated.

9. SHEBA DAMS

31° 29' 56"S, 151° 11' 49"E

From the Peel Inn, take Oakenville Street and travel east. This leads directly to Barry Road, which has a very steep section of road leading to Hanging Rock. Just past the village, Sheba Dams is on the left (approximate total distance is 9km). There are several walking tracks including one around the main dam.

10. TEAMSTERS TSR

31° 33' 24"S, 151° 03' 22"E

From the Peel Inn, take Jenkins Street south (it becomes Crawney Road). The reserve is 15km on the left and follows the creek including woodlands. The path immediately behind the picnic area leads up and around the hill.

MANILLA

Manilla is 48km north of Tamworth on the Fossickers Way (Manilla Road). The following directions are from Manilla Street, Manilla unless otherwise indicated.

11. MANILLA BRIDGE TO BRIDGE WALKING TRACK

30° 44' 40"S, 150° 42' 57"E

From Manilla Street (Fossickers Way), turn west onto Market Street and travel two blocks to the parking area at the intersection of Market and River Streets. The walking track is along the Namoi River between the main bridge and the low level bridge.

12. MANILLA WEIR

30° 44' 35"S, 150° 43' 50"E

Take Strafford Street east for approximately 1.2km from the Manilla town centre. Turn left at the Caravan Park and follow this road to the Namoi River. Turn left and follow the bitumen to the lower bank and picnic area.

13. WARRABAH NATIONAL PARK

30° 34' 07"S, 150° 55' 00"E

Follow Fossickers Way north over the bridge and turn right into Charles Street (the second street after the bridge). Follow the signs for 35km (15km of bitumen, 20km of gravel road) to Warrabah National Park.

14. SPLIT ROCK DAM

30° 33' 50"S, 150° 40' 35"E

Follow Fossickers Way north for 14.5km and turn right into Oakhampton Road, travelling for a further 6.6km. Follow Knellers Road left and go 1.9km to the recreation area, or 2.5km to the picnic area and boat ramp.

BARRABA

Barraba is approximately 95km north of Tamworth on Fossickers Way (via Manilla). The following directions are from Queen Street, Barraba unless otherwise indicated.

15. TARPOLY TSR

30° 32' 52"S, 150° 36' 42"E

Follow Fossickers Way south for 21.4km (25km north of Manilla) and turn right onto Borah Road. Travel 100m, cross a cattle grid and stop off the road by the small dam where the reserve begins. This is a remnant white box woodland. You can birdwatch into the reserve and also in the area between the grid and Fossickers Way.

16. BORAH CREEK TSR

30° 36' 25"S, 150° 35' 57"E

From Tarpoly TSR, travel south another 7km on Borah Road before turning left into the Borah Creek TSR and taking the track down to the creek. The reserve extends 0.9km to the north. This is a grassy woodland featuring mature riverine trees and permanent water, and has a great range of birds.

17. ADAMS RESERVE

30° 40' 45"S, 150° 34' 11"E

From Borah Creek TSR, travel south on Borah Road. This bird route, a grassy woodland, is approximately 10km on the right (and 23km from Manilla).

18. GLENRIDDLE RESERVE

30° 27' 02"S, 150° 41' 35"E

Follow the Fossickers Way south of Barraba 9.7km, then turn left onto Pera-Linton Road. Travel 7km to Glenriddle Bridge. Just past the bridge, turn right into Glenriddle Reserve/Split Rock Dam camping area. To return to Barraba, go back to Fossickers Way (the Mine Road is closed).

19. NANGAHRAH BIRD ROUTE

30° 17' 36"S, 150° 47' 42"E

Take the Fossickers Way (Bingara Road) north for 2.4km, then turn right onto Woodsreef Road (this becomes Bundarra Road). Travel 34km to the Regent Honeyeater sign on the left. Continue another 1km to Coonor Road, then turn off on the right.

20. GARIBALDI BIRD ROUTE

30° 13' 21"S, 150° 42' 26"E

Take the Fossickers Way (Bingara Road) north 17km to Cobbadah, then continue north 5km before turning right onto Gulf Creek Road. Go another 17km until you come to McIntyre Road on the right. From the junction, birdwatch 4.5km west in ironbark scrub and 3km east in white box scrub.

21. PLUMTHORPE TSR

30° 20' 22"S, 150° 27' 36"E

Head west into Alice Street (becomes Trevallyn Road). Travel 16.5km before entering a gate on the left: it's an easy walk or drive to the Manilla River. Access the reserve on the other side of the river via another gate immediately on the left over the bridge.

22. HORTON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

30° 19' 58"S, 150° 20' 15"E

Head west into Alice Street (becomes Trevallyn Road). Travel 24km, then turn left into Mount Lindesay Road. After 10km, turn right into Horton Falls Road. Travel 4km to Cut Road Creek Road: there is good birding at this junction. Turn right and go 1.7km and turn right to Horton Falls Trail. You can birdwatch anywhere along this trail.