

Tomaree Coastal Walk



End of year update – December 2022

You are receiving this email because you have been identified as a key stakeholder or have registered your interest on the Tomaree Coastal Walk project [webpage](#). We appreciate your ongoing interest and involvement in this exciting project.

It's been a busy year

The National Parks and Wildlife Service project team and local staff have made significant progress in the past year, completing a range of new and upgraded infrastructure to support the 20-kilometre connected walk, despite delays due to COVID-19, wet weather and flooding events. This year we've delivered the following:

- Upgrades at the Zenith Beach precinct, including resealing the road and car park, improving drainage, formalising the lower car park with a dedicated accessible parking space, and installing bike racks and cable and bollard fencing for safer pedestrian access.
- Upgrades at the Big Rocky precinct, including improvements to drainage at the site, resurfacing and minor reconfiguration of the car park, installing vehicle barriers and walking track links to prevent illegal and unsafe behaviour and improve pedestrian safety at the site.
- Track surface upgrades and erosion control on the Fingal Ridge Track
- Upgrades to the Big Rocky, Boat Harbour and Boulder Bay sections of the walk, including track surface upgrades and erosion control.
- Works commenced for the following new track sections:
 - Boat Harbour to One Mile
 - Kingsley Beach to Little Kingsley Beach
 - Middle Rock (connecting One Mile Beach to Samurai Beach)
 - Iris Moore to Fisherman's Bay
 - Big Rocky to North Samurai Trail.
- Installing 3 new lookouts at the Fingal Ridge Track, Boat Harbour Slot Canyon and Iris Moore Reserve.
- Constructing 6 new bridges and low-level boardwalk at Boat Harbour, Big Rocky and Middle Rock.
- Planning for interpretation, directional and wayfinding signage is almost complete. Manufacture has commenced on priority signage, and installation will begin in March 2023.

Next steps in 2023

- Constructing the Southern Gateway near Birubi.
- Installing directional, wayfinding and interpretation signs.

- Completing outstanding sections of track, including Fishermans Bay to Little Kingsley Beach, Green Hill track, and a section between Big Rocky and Boulder Bay, to deliver a connected walk from Tomaree Headland to Birubi Point.

Visitors to Tomaree National Park this summer are advised that track upgrades are still underway on some sections of Tomaree Coastal Walk. Check for park closure alerts before you travel on Tomaree National Park webpage.



Tomaree Summit Walk upgrades – commencing 2023

Detailed designs for upgrades to the elevated stairways leading up to Tomaree Summit Walk and walking track loop from the WWII command post have been completed, with work expected to commence in 2023, pending historic heritage planning approval.

Funding for Stage 1 of the upgrades includes replacing some of the elevated steps to reduce congestion at key pinch points.

In 2021, a severe weather event brought heavy rain and flooding, causing a significant landslide on the Tomaree Summit Walk. Work to repair and stabilise the area was completed in 2022 including replacing 20 metres of track with a water-based emulsion that is embedded with natural rock. Further storm damage repairs will continue in early 2023, including stabilising the landslide near the Gun Emplacements.

The Tomaree Summit Walk may be temporarily closed for short periods outside peak holiday times in 2023, to enable the prefabricated stairways to be installed and to complete other upgrades.

We will continue to update you on this as the planning progresses, and closure alerts will be posted on the webpage.



Future use of the Tomaree Lodge Site – consultation open

The NSW Department of Community and Justice is consulting on the future use of the Tomaree Lodge site. National Parks and Wildlife Service is participating in this consultation, and we encourage anyone interested to provide feedback on the have your say webpage before 6 January 2023.

[**Tomaree Lodge Site Community Consultation**](#)

Protecting the natural values of Tomaree Headland

Tomaree National Park contains many rare and threatened plant species, including several species of rare orchids on Tomaree Headland.

The Friends of Tomaree National Park and National Parks and Wildlife Service staff have conducted surveys over the past 3 years to better understand where rare plant species are located, and ensuring the planned works do not impact these species.

The surveys have mapped their location and abundance, and designs have considered the known location as part of the new upgrade works. No construction work will be permitted during the flowering season, and sensitive areas will be marked as no-go zones during construction. The design of the visitor infrastructure upgrades will provide better protection for these delicate rare plants.



Caring for our national parks

The dedicated Hunter Coast Area team has had another busy year, conserving the natural and cultural values of our local national parks and reserves and providing enriching and sustainable visitor experiences. This includes carrying out pest control, fire management and other conservation programs, and delivering a range of measures to better cater for visitors and provide safe and sustainable access to our parks.

Thank you to our outstanding volunteers

During 2022, the Friends of Tomaree National Park volunteer group was outstanding in their work to bolster the conservation values of the park, by carrying out important bitou bush and lantana weed control work and assisting with many surveys for threatened species. Volunteers also continue to support the ongoing shorebird conservation programs on Broughton Island and Cabbage Tree Island.

Volunteers add immeasurable value to the work we do, and we thank everyone who contributed their time and energy in supporting our important conservation work.

Combating illegal trail bike riding in our parks – no licence, no rego, no ride

Motorbikes are prohibited from most of Tomaree National Park. Registered trail bikes are allowed only on formal public roads (such as Big Rocky Road) and designated sections of Samurai Beach. It is illegal to ride motorbikes through the bush or on any fire trail or walking track within Tomaree National Park. All motorbikes must be registered, and all riders must hold a current motorbike licence.

This year we've stepped up law enforcement of illegal motorbike riding in national parks and reserves in the Port Stephens area, including installing surveillance cameras, vehicle barriers and increasing Ranger patrols.

You can report issues with motorbikes in Port Stephens national parks by emailing us.

New Hunter Coast Area workplace

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service in partnership with the Worimi Conservation Lands Board of Management is establishing a new office at the Worimi Conservation Lands, off the Nelson Bay Road near Anna Bay.

The new purpose-built office will be constructed on the existing disturbed footprint of the former Roads and Maritime Services depot at 4154 Nelson Bay Road and will accommodate up to 40 staff in one centralised location. The facility will incorporate sustainability and energy efficiency and include a works depot, improving the capacity to service existing and future park management needs, including responding to bushfires and other incidents.

The new jointly funded office partnership is one of the first of its kind in New South Wales. It is testament of the strong cooperative working relationship between the Worimi Conservation Lands Board of Management and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

It is expected that the new office will be operational in late 2023.