

by predators such as domestic dogs and dingos. They look similar to the large eastern grey kangaroo. In addition to the wallaroo is another macropod, the red-necked wallaby which is often seen on the lower grassy slopes and valley.

Other residents of the Buccan Buccans include the koala, spotted tailed quoll, brush tailed phascogale and squirrel glider. You may also see many smaller birds that live in the understory shrubs. Take a bird book and binoculars. This will add to the enjoyment of the walk.

Safety

The whole of the Bucketts Mountains are on private land, it's essential that you show due respect as you are on private property.

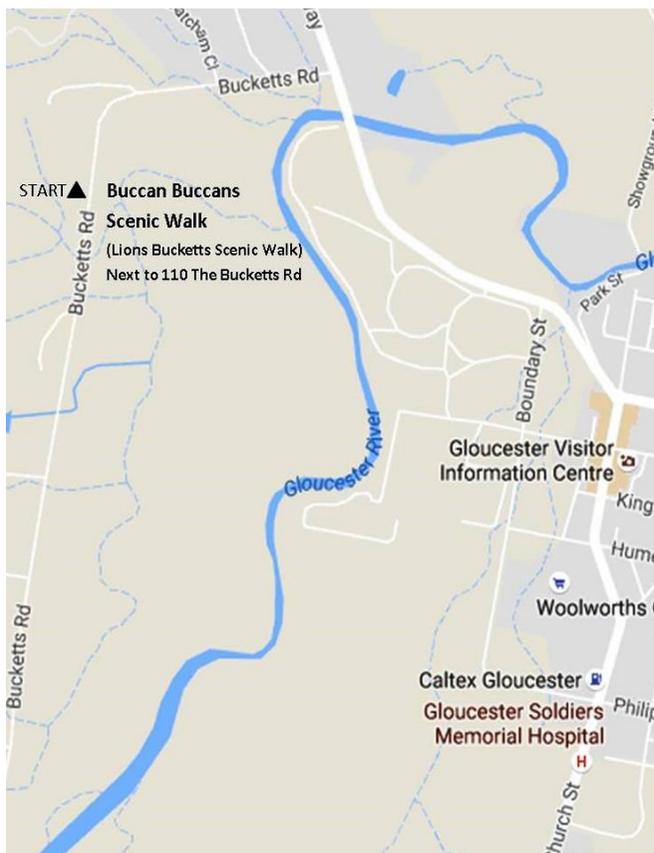
Visitors undertake the walk at their own risk.

This walk is suitable for moderate fitness levels and above. You'll need 1-3 hours for the return journey and bring water bottle, sun protection and sturdy enclosed shoes. Be cautious of slippery trails, loose rocks, cow pats and snakes.

At the top of the trail at the base of the rocks is a small shelter, which is where the official trail finishes. Past this point the terrain becomes dangerous with steep drops, loose rock and rough footholds and handholds.

The walk is maintained by Gloucester Lions Club.

Please keep to marked trails and take all rubbish with you (including food scraps) and do not remove any flora or fauna.



Gloucester

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Buccan Buccans Lions Club Scenic Walk

**Located at 110 The Bucketts Road
(off Thunderbolts Way)
Gloucester**

Known as **The Bucketts Scenic Walk**, this is not an easy walk but it provides ample rewards: panoramic views of the Gloucester valley, a rich array of flowering plants, wildlife and wonderful photo opportunities.

The Buccan Buccans (the Bucketts Mountains) are the dramatic rocky outcrops overlooking Gloucester. This area of native vegetation of 1370 hectares act as rocky sentinels above the peaceful Gloucester valley and provide a large area of island habitat in a sea of farmland.

Revered by the indigenous peoples for thousands of years, the Buccan Buccans provides walkers with an outlook where they can sit quietly, absorb the sacredness and imagine what the area looked like to the first Europeans...

Indigenous history

The Gloucester region sits within country belonging to the Biripi and the Worimi peoples. In the Kattang language of these first peoples, Gloucester was known as **Mookibakh** and the mountains were the **Buccan Buccans**, from which the European name “The Bucketts” is derived. ‘Buccan Buccan’ is thought to mean ‘father of stones looking down on sacred land’. The site was used for ceremonial male initiations and is therefore of great significance.

Archaeological finds in the region, including middens and campsite debris, indicate that aboriginal groups moved along the ridge tops regularly between Gloucester and the Myall Lakes. West of the Buccan Buccans throughout the Barrington Tops, art sites can be found including charcoal drawings and hand stencils. These tend to be rare, as the rock types don’t lend themselves to this type of artwork as much as the sandstones of the Sydney basin.

Gloucester is the Pelican Songline - this brings to the area feelings of tranquillity, gentleness and peacefulness.

European settlement

One of the first Europeans to describe the Gloucester valley was Robert Dawson, chief agent of the Australian Agricultural Company, in 1826. The AA Co was granted one million acres on the northern side of Port Stephens up to the south bank of the Manning River. Impressed by the 'romantic scenery' of the river valley, Dawson established an outstation which he named Gloucester after the English town, as the landscape reminded him of that terrain. More English names followed with the naming of the Avon River and Stroud township.

In 1851 churchman John Dunmore Lang observed that “Gloucester is one of the best sites for an inland town, I have ever seen in the colony. It is altogether a beautiful spot in the wilderness.” In 1855 the township of Gloucester was laid out below the range of hills. Notorious bushranger, 'Captain Thunderbolt' (Fred Ward) hid out at Gloucester Tops in the mid-1860s.

Alluvial gold was discovered to the west of Gloucester, at present-day Copeland, in 1872, but it was kept secret until 1876 when a rush started. At the height of the rush (1877-80), there were some 3000 people in the area working 51 reefs which yielded 566 kg of gold.

In 1903 the AA Co sold its property to the Gloucester Estate Syndicate which cleared the land, drew up the town subdivision and sold allotments. In 1905 two hotels were built, a school of arts was completed and the main northern railway arrived in 1913, enhancing the town's role as a service centre to the surrounding area and precipitating a period of development. Timber getting almost eliminated valuable red cedars from the surrounding forests as the timber contributed to the growth of regional towns and Sydney. Today cattle grazing, dairying and intensive agriculture are predominant in the Gloucester valley. Recent changes include the growth of tourism, outdoor adventure activities and lifestyle acreages for tree-changers.

Geology

In this part of Australia, there has been a long period of surface folding, erosion and deposit. Folding of the Earth’s crust off the Pacific coast has pushed against the continent, contributing to the uplift of the Great Dividing Range, and to the series of folds and ripples you can see where roads now cut through the hills.

This part of the country was once under water and the sands, mud and other sediments were laid down. The disturbance of the crust also caused faults which, in places, allowed melted rock (volcanic extrusion) to force its way to the surface. Common igneous (from heat) rocks are granite (eg., in the New England area) , basalt (Barrington Tops area), and in this spot rhyolites or rhyolitic agglomerates, which were laid down in the early Permian period, some 290 million years ago.

At the Buccan Buccans lookout, you are standing on rhyolite which was forced up through the sedimentary layers. Subsequently, the area was folded so that the layers formed a trench: the Stroud – Gloucester Trough. So you are standing on the western side of the trough and the rhyolite also protrudes about 5kms to the east, forming the Mograni hills on the other side of Gloucester. To the south you may be able to see where deposits of coal are being mined.

Rivers

Gloucester is bounded by three rivers: the Gloucester, the Barrington and the Avon. You can see the line of the Gloucester River between the Buccan Buccans and Gloucester township. The Avon River can be seen flowing north on the eastern side of the town. The Barrington River joins the other two rivers just north of Gloucester and they all become part of the Manning River system that meets the Pacific Ocean just east of Taree, Australia’s only true river delta system.

Wildlife

The rugged rock outcrop of the Buccan Buccans provides shelter and protection for the wallaroo, which is also called the euro in other areas. They feed on grass on the upper slopes and shelter under rocky overhangs and retreat to these rocky areas when chased