

Copeland Tops Mountain Maid Gold Mine Guided Tour

Tour days are usually Wednesdays and Sundays by appointment only. Minimum number per tour is 4 people. Tours don't run unless a booking is made, it is advised that you make bookings ahead of time at the Gloucester Visitor Information Centre.

COST: \$12 adults - \$8 children - \$28 family

Mac's Minerals

WHERE: 45 Denison Street, Gloucester

WHEN: By appointment 6558 1286

Brian has an impressive collection of rocks, minerals and gemstones. Gold coin donation.

Manning Valley Rock Hound and Lapidary Club Gem and Mineral Museum

If you're into rocks, gems and minerals you'll love Manning Valley's rock museum.

WHERE: Grandstand Pavilion Wingham Show-ground , Gloucester Road Wingham

WHEN: Every Saturday - 10 to 4pm

The Museum is constantly growing evolving. Featuring gems, fossils and minerals collected from our local area, an ever increasing collection from around Australia, and a large hands-on display for beginners and school groups that covers everything from fossils and crystals to agates and zebra stone.

Whether you're a rock hound, a fossil hunter, a cutter, or a collector, there's something for everyone at the Manning Valley Rock Hounds Lapidary Club Gem and Mineral Museum.

Gil Bennet Gem and Mineral Museum

WHERE: Nundle Visitor Information Centre, Jenkins Street Nundle

WHEN: Daily 9am to 4pm

The Gil Bennet Gem and Mineral Collection is the work of Tamworth local, the late Gilmore (Gil) Thomas Bennett who spent years collecting the unique and wondrous selection of fine stone and rock. The rocks, gems and minerals on display represent the finest specimens of his extensive collection assembled over more than 20 years. As a dedicated collector, Gil travelled extensively and frequently over Australia earning the respect of lapidarists nationwide, while his collection was highly regarded by museum curators in many states.

Gloucester Visitor Information Centre

27 Denison Street Gloucester 2422
New South Wales
AUSTRALIA

02 6538 5252

vic.information@MidCoast.nsw.gov.au

www.gloucestertourism.com.au



Fossicking

State Forests in the Barrington Tops Gloucester Region

Fossicking is a great family activity combining leisure, pleasure and treasure into one activity.

Fossicking is defined as the small scale search for gemstones and or minerals. In the Gloucester region amateur fossickers may be lucky enough to find jasper, chalcedony, kimberlite, quartz crystal or gold.

Historically, gold was first discovered in the Copeland district by Mr Saxby in 1876 at Back Creek. The resulting boom saw the population of Copeland swelled to over 1000 people with 800 of them miners.

The reefs and mines were given interesting names such as; Rainbow Reef, The Centennial, The Mountain Maid, The Hidden Treasure, The Lady Lizzie, The Mechanics, The Morning Star, The Star of the South, The Rose & Thistle and Lord of the North. Rich finds in the late 1870's saw the industry peak in 1879.

While fossicking is not permitted in the Copeland Tops State Conservation Area, gold panning is allowed in Copeland Creek at Copeland Reserve.

Where can you fossick

In Gloucester gold panning is permitted in Copeland Creek at Copeland Reserve Fossicking is allowed in most NSW State forests with a permit. Permit applications can be downloaded from the NSW State Forests website.

Fossicking is prohibited in National Parks including the Barrington Tops National Park and the Copeland Tops State Conservation Area.

What type of equipment can you use?

Permitted

Hand-held equipment such as;

- Shovels, hammers, picks
- Metal detectors
- Sieves, gold pans and shakers



Fossicking supplies at
**38 Queen St
Gloucester
6558 2321**

Not Permitted

- Explosives
- Dredges
- Power operated equipment including; mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, battery or electrical equipment
- Excavation equipment

Other restrictions

- Do not interfere with waterways
- Remove or damage bush rock
- Stick to the limits of how much material can be removed

Who owns your find?

Public land

Any mineral or stone that you find during lawful fossicking on public land is the property of the person who found it.

Private property

Ownership of the mineral or stone needs to be agreed between the fossicker and the landholder.

How much can you take?

The find limit is defined by the Mining Regulation 2009 during a single 48 hour period.

- 10kg of mineral –bearing material
- 5kg of minerals (other than gold or gemstones)
- 50gms of gold (or 5 nuggets of 10grams or greater) or
- 100gms of gemstones

A number of former gold mines are located in the area of Upper Hunter, Cobark, Kerripit, Rawdon Vale, Upper Bowman, Commonwealth Creek and Copeland. The Copeland State Conservation Area was the main concentration of gold mine activity, currently fossicking is not permitted in this area.

Maps - State Forests

Maps can be downloaded from the internet showing clear details for fossicking under permit. These maps are indicative only and, while every effort is made to ensure accuracy, State forests are working forests and areas may be closed at short notice for operational or safety reasons.

The link to these maps is found on the NSW State Forest webpage.

Permit information

An application for a 12 month State Forest fossicking permit, which covers most State Forests in NSW can be completed online at the Forestry Corporation website www.forestrycorporation.com.au

COST: \$27.50 including GST

A single permit may cover a family group with a maximum of 5 people covered by a permit (2 adults and 3 children under 18 years of age).

If you are fossicking in as a group or club, each member/ family group must hold a permit. Alternatively, clubs may apply through the Forest Permit – organised activities system for a permit to cover single events.

Safety

Amateur fossickers should remember that there are numerous old gold mine shafts and many of the mine sites are potentially dangerous. Personal safety (and the safety of others who might be impacted by fossicking activities) is the responsibility of the persons undertaking fossicking.

Information Courtesy of :

NSW State Forests

www.forestrycorporation.com.au/visit/activities/fossicking

Department of Industry Resources & Energy

www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/miners-and-explorers/applications-and-approvals/mining-and-exploration-in-nsw/fossicking-in-nsw