

# PLACES TO GO IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

Amended April 2021.

The following suggestions are drawn from our out-of-print 2008 book of Places to Go and Birds to See. Updates have been made to reflect changes over time, while some places are no longer included.



The Bega Valley Shire is vast and varied. The eastern boundary covers 106 km of coastline, the longest of any council in New South Wales, with much of it easily accessible, while the western boundary is the Great Dividing Range. The northern boundary is just north of Bermagui and the southern boundary follows the border with Victoria. Total area is 6,280 sq km and over 70% is either National Park or State Forest.

This is a rural area with unsealed roads the norm. In some parts of the text the use of 4WD is advised. **It is recommended that our suggestions are used in conjunction with a GPS or a district map.** For more challenging 'adventures' detailed maps are available from Visitor Information Centres.

At times you might meet livestock on the roads. Horse riders will appreciate cars slowing down. Cattle, sheep and goats often graze close to road edges, with or without supervision, and sounding the horn or forcing a passage through a herd is inconsiderate as well as resulting in possible damage to your car. Proceed slowly.

Kangaroos, wallabies, wombats and echidnas are road users too. Please take care.

For those not familiar with the area note that mosquitoes, ticks and snakes may be present.

Some of the walks are maintained by service clubs and community groups and the condition of each could vary depending on what funds and manpower are

available.

Birdwatching from the car for the less able can be very worthwhile and although traffic problems are almost nonexistent, please remember country drivers do not expect to find slow vehicles and birdwatchers on 'their' roads. If stopping for an extended view please pull well off the roadside.

Entry fees are applicable for some National Parks as noted in the text.

Far South Coast Birdwatchers can accept no responsibility for you visiting the places listed and we remind you that mobile reception is not accessible in all areas of the far south coast.

We welcome contact from you via the website [www.fscb.org.au](http://www.fscb.org.au) or by email to [fscbirds@bigpond.com](mailto:fscbirds@bigpond.com) Reports of interesting sightings are always welcome.

W – walk

D – drive

P – picnic tables

B – BBQ

C cover

We hope you enjoy exploring new places and finding interesting birds as you make your choices from some of our favourite locations described here. Download map [http://www.getawaymerimbula.com.au/File/Sapphire\\_Region.pdf](http://www.getawaymerimbula.com.au/File/Sapphire_Region.pdf)

**BERMAGUI TO TATHRA** includes Mimosa Rocks National Park

- |                          |                            |                              |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Wallaga Lake Bridge   | 9. Sth River Rd            | 17. Wapengo Creek Bridge     |
| 2. Murunna Point         | 10. Michael Lerner lookout | 18. Bithry Inlet             |
| 3. Bermagui State Forest | 11. Baragoot Lake          | 19. Middle Beach and Lagoon, |
| 4. Long Swamp,           | 12. Cuttagee Lake          | 20. Mumbulla Creek Falls     |
| 5. Sth Tilba Rd          | 13. Cuttagee Beach         | 21. Gillards Beach           |
| 6. Bermagui Lagoon       | 14. Aragunnu               | 22. Nelson Lagoon/Wajurda Pt |
| 7. River Rd              | 15. Wapengo Lake           | 23. Mogareeka Headland       |
| 8. Bermagui Bridge       | 16. Picnic Point           |                              |

**TATHRA TO PAMBULA** includes Bournda National Park

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 24. Mogareeka south side   | 32. Turingal Head             | 40. Spencer Park Merimbula     |
| 25. Sewage Treatment Works | 33. Scotts Bay                | 41. Rotary Walk to Bar Beach   |
| 26. Kianinny Bay           | 34. Hobart Beach              | 42. Short Point                |
| 27. Water Tower Track      | 35. Bournda Lagoon            | 43. Long Point                 |
| 28. Tathra Forest Reserve  | 36. Mandeni Resort            | 44. Merimbula Boardwalk        |
| 29. On the Perch           | 37. Tura Beach Flora Reserve  | 45. Merimbula town and Fishpen |
| 30. Bird Route No 1        | 38. Tura Head Coastal Reserve |                                |
| 31. Wallagoot Lake         | 39. Berrambool Oval           |                                |

**PAMBULA TO EDEN** includes Ben Boyd National Park

- |                             |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 46. Panboola                | 53. Pambula River Lochiel   | 60. Curalo Lake Boardwalk |
| 47. Smiths Lookout          | 54. Goodenia Rainforest     | 61. Eden Wharf            |
| 48. Watsons Waterhole       | 55. Pambula Lake            | 62. Cocora Beach          |
| 49. Pambula River mouth     | 56. Severs Beach            | 63. Quarantine Bay        |
| 50. Pambula Beach Hill      | 57. Haycock Point           | 64. Nullica River         |
| 51. Ben Boyd NP Nth Section | 58. Broadwater Rd Eden      | 65. Boydtown              |
| 52. Nethercote Falls        | 59. Eden Golf Course Forest | 66. The Snake Track       |

**SOUTH & WEST OF EDEN** includes Ben Boyd National Park

- |                              |                             |                      |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 67. Davidson Whaling Station | 73. Saltwater Creek         | 79. Wonboyn Cemetery |
| 68. Boyds Tower              | 74. Bittangabee             | 80. Wonboyn Township |
| 69. Bull Creek               | 75. Towamba Rec Ground      | 81. Myrtle Cove      |
| 70. Disaster Bay Lookout     | 76. The Cemetery            | 82. Jewfish Beach    |
| 71. Green Cape Light Station | 77. Scrubby Creek Rest Area | 83. Greenglade       |
| 72. Pulpit Rock Rd           | 78. Watergums Creek         | 84. Bay Cliff        |

**THE FAR SOUTH** includes Ben Boyd National Park

- |                      |                |                               |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 85. Imlay Road       | 87. Allenbrook | 89. Wallagaraugh Forest Drive |
| 86. Newtons Crossing | 88. White Rock | 90. Maxwells Nature Reserve   |

**INLAND AND WESTERN TOWNS**

- |                                 |                                |                               |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 91. Cobargo                     | 100. Kisses Lagoon             | 109. Myrtle Mountain          |
| 92. Yowrie and Wandella Road    | 101. Bega River Walk           | 110. Bird Route No 3, Wyndham |
| 93. Yowrie locality             | 102. Glebe Park                | 111. Bemboka Colombo Park     |
| 94. Yowrie River                | 103. Reedy Swamp Rd            | 112. Cemetery and TSR         |
| 95. Quaama                      | 104. Biamanga/Mumbulla Falls   | 113. Bird Route No 2          |
| 96. Verona Road                 | 105. Wolumla Recreation Ground | 114. Buckleys Rd              |
| 97. Brogo Dam                   | 106. Old Soldiers Rd circuit   | 115. Pipers Lookout           |
| 98. Bega Lookout                | 107. Candelo to Six Mile Creek | 116. Rutherford Creek         |
| 99. Bega Cheese Heritage Centre | 108. Six Mile Creek            |                               |

**TABLELANDS** includes South East Forests National Park

- |                             |                         |                   |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 117. Coolangubra Forest Way | 118. Waratah Gully Camp | 119. Myanba Gorge |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|

# BERMAGUI to TATHRA

**Bermagui** is a substantial and expanding coastal town, with good facilities, tempting shops, eating places and a pub. The Wallaga Lake Bridge just north of Bermagui is the northern boundary of the Bega Valley Shire. These easily reached locations provide a variety of habitat and opportunities for excellent birdwatching. There is also a Coastal Walk accessed from various signposted points.

**1. Wallaga Lake Bridge.** The small park beside the bridge overlooks the tidal lake. A sand island near the bridge is a roosting and feeding area for many waterbirds but can be submerged when the lake mouth is closed. *Caspian Tern*, *White-faced Heron*, *Bar-tailed Godwit*, *Little Egret*, and occasionally an *Eastern Osprey*. P. T. B.

**2. Murunna Point.** Wallaga Street leads to a car park facing Wallaga Lake, Murunna Point and the ocean. From here a boardwalk leads via tracks to Murunna Point. (out of use as at Oct 2017 but Point may be accessed easily on a track). These tracks can be followed further south over the headland and back down to Camel Rock Beach. The car park, boardwalk, and approaches to the headland provide a variety of viewpoints over this corner of Wallaga Lake which, depending on water levels, has sand islands and shoreline. Under the right conditions *Little Terns*, *Hooded Plovers* and *Pied Oystercatchers* breed here in summer. *Caspian* and *Crested Terns* favour the beach in front of the headland. *Grey Goshawk*, *Black-shouldered Kite*, *Australasian Pipit*, and a range of resident and migratory honeyeaters are all seen on or around the headland. Dolphins and whales can often be spotted during migration. W. P. (T at Camel Rock.)

**3. Bermagui State Forest** has two entries off the coast road (Spotted Gum Road and Scenic Forest Drive), and one off the Cobargo road, the preferred way, (Scenic Forest Drive). A picnic area is 1 km off the road, within the forest. There are many walks here if you poke around, but 'drive and stop' is an option too. The Lilly Pilly Rainforest Loop Walk, especially the first 100 metres, is worth a look but can be very dry. *Rufous Fantail*, *Black-faced Monarch*, *Scarlet Honeyeater*, *Rose Robin*. W. D. P. T. B.

**4. Long Swamp.** Tilba Road, at a Sewerage substation, leads to the north end of Long Swamp parallel to the beach. *Variiegated Fairy-wren*. Depending on water levels look for *Black-winged Stilt*, *Musk Duck*, *Dusky Moorhen*, *White-fronted Chat*. There are two hides accessed from this end of the walking track or from the southern entry. W.

**5. South Tilba Road** turns off just south of a spotted gum forest, north of the town. At the end of this road is the southern end of Long Swamp. Walk parallel to the beach to reach the two hides or view seabirds over the ocean. *White-bellied Sea-Eagle*, *New Holland Honeyeater*, *Black-fronted Dotterel*, *Australasian Gannet*. W. D.

**6. Bermagui Lagoon** is a large swampy area with walks around and through it. A formed pathway beside the main road leads to access from either end of the lagoon. Anything could be hiding in the reeds and for seabirds the ocean is just over the rise. *Black Swan*, *Baillon's Crake*, *Spotted Crake*, *Dusky Moorhen*, *Latham's Snipe*. W.

**7. River Road** (some maps show as Lindo Street) beside the school fence, leads along beside the river to a small bridge and picnic table. Leave the car there and walk in to the right for bush birds and/or cross the bridge and wander left, along the river edge. *Eastern Great Egret*, *Australian Hobby*, *Rufous Whistler*, *Eastern Yellow Robin*, *Crescent Honeyeater*, *Azure Kingfisher*. W. D. P.

**8. Bermagui Bridge.** Wapengo Street beside the shops leads to Moorheads Beach. Walk about 100 metres along the road to a small track leading to the right and the tidal sand flats where waterbirds rest. *Little Pied* and *Little Black Cormorant*, *Bar-tailed Godwit*, *Eastern Curlew*, *Great Knot*, *Whimbrel*. W.

**9. South River Road.** On the Bermagui side of the traffic bridge the road passes the boat ramp and toilets and leads to a Conservation Area. Park and view the saltmarsh roost for *Whimbrel* and *Eastern Curlew*, or the sandy river edge for *Pied Oystercatcher*, avoiding disturbance to roosting birds. Scan the open farm area too.

Tathra-Bermagui Rd is the main road for all traffic south with the following places leading off as you proceed.

**10. Michael Lerner Lookout.** Well above the rugged coast this small rest spot covered by native trees is perfect for hot days. Around the perimeter is mixed vegetation where small birds are abundant. There are two picnic tables and a basic camp BBQ. *Eastern Yellow Robin*, *Spotted Pardalote*, *Superb Fairy-wren*, *Golden Whistler*. P. B.

**11. Baragoot Lake.** There is room to park at the north end of the bridge. *Black Swans* shelter on the lake, at times several thousand. Scanning around the lake might turn up some interesting waterbirds. *Musk Duck, Chestnut Teal, White-faced Heron, Darter.* On the beach side of the road are sandy mounds and shallow water. *Sooty and Pied Oystercatcher, Red-capped Plover, New Holland Honeyeater.*

**12. Cuttagee Lake.** Park close to either end of the bridge over Cuttagee Lake and wander upstream under the bridge or onto the beach. *Black Swan, Caspian Tern, Hoary-headed and Australasian Grebe, Eastern Great Egret, Pied Oystercatcher, Eastern Reef Egret. W.*

**13. Cuttagee Beach.** At the southern end of the beach stop in the beach car park which provides easy access for a stroll on the clean, white sand. Watch out for *Red-capped Plover* on the beach and *Eastern Reef Egret* on the headland rocks. W. P.

Continuing south you will now have access to **Mimosa Rocks National Park** mainly via unsealed roads of varying conditions. National Parks signs mark destinations clearly. For information regarding tracks and facilities including camping, collect a brochure from NPWS offices at Merimbula and some Visitor Information Centres or visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

**14. Aragunnu.** Drive this unsealed road for 3 km and pass all the camp sites to park right at the northern end of the road. Firstly walk the boardwalk to view the Mimosa Rocks then back to the marked walking track with a few roughly stepped patches leading through open forest. Return via the road to the starting point. *Seabirds, Superb Lyrebird, Rufous Fantail, Lewin's Honeyeater, Hooded Plover. W. P. T. B.*

**15. Wapengo Lake.** (The turn at Wapengo Lake Road could be easily missed!) Stop for roadside birding along the winding road en route to the water's edge, or park at the oyster sheds and walk back safely. The lake is a feeding and roost site for *Eastern Curlew, Royal Spoonbill, Eastern Great Egret. W.*

**16. Picnic Point.** From the lake edge, continue on the road, through a gate (please shut after entry), into this portion of Mimosa Rocks National Park, with roadside birding along the track which leads to Picnic Point. *Sooty Oystercatcher, Rufous Whistler, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Varied Sittella, White-bellied Sea-Eagle. W. P. T.*

**17. Wapengo Creek Bridge.** On the left, beside the narrow wooden bridge is a small portion of private land, with a sign granting permission to access the creek. Good for a short stop. *Dusky Woodswallow, White-winged Triller, Azure Kingfisher, Red-browed Finch.*

**18. Bithry Inlet.** Access from Haighs Road. An interesting bush drive leads to a sandy estuary with the option to walk along the shoreline to reach Wapengo Lake or to the rocky headland. Recent walking tracks around the Myer House give more birdwatching southwards. *Eastern Curlew, Pied Oystercatcher, Eastern Reef Egret, Brown-headed Honeyeater. W. P. T.*

**19. Middle Beach and Lagoon.** Access from Haighs Road through tall Spotted Gum Forest with an understorey of Burrawang (an ancient cycad). From the car park take the anti-clockwise 40 minute loop walk. Near the start is a short side-track to the lake edge where a sheltered bay reveals many birds, then return to the circuit to take in bush and lagoon with a return via the beach. *Swift Parrots* have been recorded in this area.

The campsite offers a gentle stroll through low shrubs and eucalypts, passing a small dam where birds drink and bathe. *Australasian Grebe, Musk Lorikeet, Powerful Owl, Caspian Tern, Hooded Plover. W. P. T.*

**20. Mumbulla Creek Falls** is now called **Biamanga Cultural Area**. Situated within the Biamanga National Park it was handed back to the traditional Aboriginal owners in 2006 and leased back to the government in 2014. At that time access arrangements changed. Download a map of the Biamanga Cultural Area for current access details. <http://www.sapphirecoast.com.au/point-of-interest/mumbulla-creek-falls/> At Tanja you can take a right turn on to Dr George Mountain which eventually reaches Bega. Well along, the right-hand turn to Biamanga will finally wind down 1 km to a picnic area with BBQs, tables, toilets and tame *Eastern Yellow Robins*. A short, elevated walkway leads to a platform overlooking the falls. *Lewin's Honeyeater, Silvereye, Crescent Honeyeater, Spotted Pardalote, Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Rose Robin. W. P. T. B.*

**21. Gillards Beach.** National Park signpost on left. A camping area runs right along the beach front where a platform overlooks the ocean for *seabirds*. When driving in, when in sight of the water is a walking track. Park at the row of deteriorating bollards and explore part or all of the track (several kilometres) through the Spotted Gum forest which leads

to the upper reaches of Nelsons Lagoon. *Spotted Pardalote, Noisy Friarbird, Variegated Fairy-wren, Striated Thornbill.* W. P. T. B.

**22. Nelson Beach and Lagoon.** Easy walking access through mixed forest leads to the beach and the pristine lagoon, home to famous oyster leases. *Pied Oystercatcher, White-faced Heron, Eastern Whipbird, Swift Parrot, Musk Lorikeet, Eastern Reef Egret, Eastern Osprey.* W. T. **Wajurda Point track** is accessed from the carpark before descending to the Lagoon and beach. An easy walk leads to a lookout on the cliff top with birds along the way. Access Moon Bay from this track.

**23. Mogareeka Headland** is on the north side of Bega River. For a 4 km walk, park near the playground area. From under the pines (*check the pines for Nankeen Night Herons*) and around the edge of the backwater, walk along a short section of the main road to Bay Drive. Good birding along here as you pass a residential section then continue along the track into Mimosa Rocks National Park.

Follow the meandering walking track with lots of birds along the way to the top, where the remains of a former residence and private garden are evident. Excellent views over Tathra. Return by keeping on the high ground to follow a ridge (with an optional turn to reach Moon Bay) through light forest ending in a casuarina forest. *Variegated Fairy-wren, Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, White-headed Pigeon.* When the track ends return to Bay Drive via a brief steep decline. W. P. T.

## TATHRA to PAMBULA

**Tathra** is a peaceful growing coastal town with the National-Trust-listed Tathra Wharf. Summer brings a huge increase in population attracted to the beach. Good eating places, restored Tathra Hotel, supermarket, gift shops, bakery and fuel and endless bike tracks through the forests.

**24. Mogareeka.** At the Bega River mouth the south side of the river is the summer breeding site for *Little Tern* and *Fairy Tern* when conditions are right. Volunteers guard the fenced site and educate visitors. Access to the site is through Lions Park where there are well maintained sheltered facilities. At times the river mouth is closed and the islands where numerous birds roost are swamped. The opposite side of the main road, overlooking the river and lagoon, is worth a look too. *Red-capped Plover, Red-necked Stint, Australasian Pipit, hungry Australian Magpies, Buff-banded Rail and Eastern Great Egret.* W. P. T. B. C.

**25. Sewage Treatment Works.** Between Mogareeka and Tathra, beside the main road, watch for the small council sign to the STW and drive in 50 metres off the road. Park at the cyclone fence to scan the ponds, and then wander along the tracks to explore the bushland. This is a popular mountain bike area so be aware of riders suddenly appearing on the narrow bike tracks. *Chestnut Teal, New Holland Honeyeater, Noisy Friarbird, Eastern Yellow Robin, Gang-gang Cockatoo, Crested Shrike-tit.* W

**26. Kianinny Bay.** Leaving Tathra turn off Bega Road into Davidson Road. Follow the boat ramp signs, passing Chamberlain Lookout which overlooks the Bay, (worth a stop). From the steps at the picnic area the Kangarutha Walk leads 9 km south to Wallagoot Lake. Even a small part of the walk is interesting but challenging in parts. *Caspian Tern, Australasian Gannet, Variegated Fairy-wren, Eastern Reef Egret.* W. P. T. B. C.

**27. Water Tower Track.** Near the edge of the residential area, and behind the water tower near Reservoir Street, a track winds through the forest behind the sports field for about 700 metres to Kianinny Bay. Return via the same track. *White-eared Honeyeater, Brown Gerygone, Satin Bowerbird, Striated Thornbill.* W.

**28. Tathra Forest Reserve.** Turn into Thompsons Drive and park 400 metres on within the Tathra Forest Reserve, which is maintained by a volunteer Trust. In March 2018 Tathra was ravaged by severe bushfires. This Reserve was decimated and it will take time to recover. For memories only this is what used to be there.

*There are three signposted walks with distances marked. Blueberry Ash Loop (300 m), steep and tricky in parts, through casuarinas, rainforest and tall eucalypts; Cream Box Walk (100 m) through dense scrub or Dilker Road (2 km) downward via rainforest and wetland. Superb Lyrebird, Crescent Honeyeater, Eastern Whipbird, Large-billed Scrubwren.* W. P.

**29. On the Perch. Sadly this facility closed after the Tathra fires.** On the way from Tathra to Bega or Merimbula is a commercial venture with walk-in aviaries, keeper talks, light meals and gift shop. Not open every day, entry times noted at front gate or their website.

**Kalaru** is a small village between Bega and Tathra with a Post Office Store. Roadside birding from local streets close to the village centre is good. Worth exploring on foot or by car taking in good mixed habitat. Try **Strathmore Crescent, Blackfellows Lake Road** to the lake or **Lot Stafford Road**. Many parts of this area are unsealed.

**30. Bird Route No 1.** Download a drive yourself guide from [www.fscb.org.au](http://www.fscb.org.au) website. This 20 km circular Route starts on the Bega – Tathra Road at Wallagoot Lane and returns via Old Wallagoot Road and back to the Kalaru Store. There are plenty of spots to pull off the road carefully. The swamps vary from bone dry to shallow water. Expect a high species count along this route. *Australian Shelduck, Musk Duck, Black-winged Stilt, Stubble Quail, Striated Pardalote, Swamp Harrier* and other raptors.

The option now is to proceed to Bega or follow signs to Merimbula via Sapphire Coast Drive keeping you close to the coast, which is where this guide will lead you (at this stage).

**Bournda National Park** with its heaths, wetlands and coastal scrub provides habitat for an interesting variety of birds. Park use fees apply. For information regarding all tracks and facilities including camping, collect a brochure from the NPWS office at Merimbula or visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

**31. Wallagoot Lake.** Leave Sapphire Coast Drive to reach the northern side of lake at the signpost to Wallagoot Boat Ramp within Bournda National Park. At the boat shed are tables, BBQs and toilets, set under the trees right beside the lake. An **overgrown** track from the boat shed to the ocean close to, but set back from, the shoreline (sometimes waterlogged) or drive further to another car park (with facilities) and walk on to Turingal Head. The shoreline itself leads from just beyond the boat shed to a small island where *Little and Fairy Tern, Silver Gull, Pied Oystercatcher, Crested and Caspian Tern* nest, depending on available sand islands. Please observe signs during breeding season. *Southern Emu-wren, White-fronted Chat*. Behind and in the vicinity of the boat shed look for *Rufous Fantail, Lewin's Honeyeater, Olive-backed Oriole, Brown-headed and Yellow-tufted Honeyeater*. W. D. P. T. B. C.

**32. Turingal Head.** Having either driven or walked to the furthest car park, with tables and toilets, walk through the melaleuca forest towards the ocean and down the steps to the beach where the lake filters into the sea. Shallow edges are frequented by various waders. If the lake is almost dry it attracts waders not regularly seen here. *Eastern Yellow Robin, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Red-necked Stint, Grey Goshawk, Ruddy Turnstone, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper*. W. D. P. T.

**33. Scotts Bay.** Leave Sapphire Coast Drive at the large Hobart Beach sign to access the south side of Wallagoot Lake. Scotts Bay is signposted and provides a good stopping point prior to walking further. Either wander beyond the car park into the tall forest **or** in the other direction follow the wide walking track through a tall melaleuca forest around the lake, where a *Powerful Owl* might be seen roosting. At a crossroad take the left track which brings walkers right to the lake edge. Follow the waterline to the Hobart Beach camp then return via an alternative track parallel to the road. Habitat changes provide variety in the birds observed. *Common Bronzewing, Olive-backed Oriole, Scarlet Honeyeater, Little Lorikeet, Varied Sittella*. W. P. T. B.

**34. Hobart Beach.** Having turned off Sapphire Coast Drive at the Hobart Beach sign pass the Scotts Bay turn and continue for 2km to swing left on the Hobart Beach camp ground road. Stop at the day visitors' park area. From here walk down a short stroll to the lake or via walking tracks towards the ocean (500m) or Bournda Lagoon via Bondi Lake (3km). The NPWS map explains the park and tracks within or visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au) for more information. *Rufous Whistler, Bassian Thrush, Satin Bowerbird, Eastern Spinebill*. W. P. T. C.

**35. Bournda Lagoon.** Follow the road to its end and park here. Access to the beach and lagoon is easy, and to Bournda Island across the dunes, which links with a walking track to North Tura, not described here. From the car park another track points to a longer walk beyond the lookout, and a large rock overlooking the tranquil lagoon. The track continues climbing with steep and difficult sections and is not described here. Alternatively, from the car park walk back up the road 50 metres to a signpost pointing to Hobart Beach, then proceed via the soft flat walking track which is good for quiet slow birding with bush birds. *Sooty Oystercatcher, Hooded Plover, Varied Sittella, Eastern Yellow Robin, Dusky Woodswallow*. W. P. T. B.

**36. Mandeni Resort.** **This site is now closed to the public. FSCB have an agreement with the property owner and will continue to arrange visits. These will be advertised in our newsletter and on the website Coming Events page. On request to Committee, FSCB members will be given the code for the locked gate.**

**37. Tura Beach Flora Reserve.** Just off Nolan Drive near the Tura shopping centre is a 4½ ha island of forest cared for by a volunteer group. Formed tracks wind through dense vegetation. *Musk Lorikeet, Common Bronzewing, White-naped Honeyeater.* W.

**38. Tura to Merimbula along the Mundooi Track.**

At the bottom of Tura Beach Drive there is a parking area with access to the beach and safe parking. Between the beach and the houses there is a walk, Mundooi Walk, signposted which winds through coastal vegetation to reach Merimbula Lake below Short Point. *Crescent and New Holland Honeyeater, Eastern Whipbird, chance of Southern Emu-wren.* W.P.T.C.

**39. Tura Head Coastal Reserve.** Off Headland Drive, opposite no 73, this short stroll winds along a good walking track through predominantly melaleuca forest. Several short side tracks lead to picturesque views along the coast. The track opens out onto a rocky headland platform where sea birds may be observed, and it is also a good whale watching spot. *Australasian Gannet, cormorants, terns and gulls* are common. Look on the rocks for *Sooty Oystercatcher* and *Eastern Reef Egret.* W.

## MERIMBULA

**Merimbula** is a fast-growing large tourist town positioned around Merimbula Lake with clubs, airport, hotel, big stores and many specialty shops.

**40. Berrambool Oval Walk.** Access is from Berrambool Drive, a residential street off Sapphire Coast Drive. Park at the oval or reach the start of the track from the traffic bridge over Merimbula Creek. There are plans to develop this area by a newly formed group anxious to promote biodiversity. Established Landcare plantings provide good bird habitat and older trees overhanging the creek provide roosts for water birds. The furthest end opens to the rushes and reeds of tidal Back Lake. *Azure Kingfisher, Nankeen Night-Heron, Eastern Great Egret, Golden Whistler.* W.

**41. Spencer Park.** Right on Merimbula Lake this is the best viewing spot for resting waders. Even on a wet day they can be viewed from the car! Scan the oyster leases too. Apart from the cormorants there could be a *Striated Heron* sitting there. *Bar-tailed Godwit, Pied Oystercatcher, Eastern Curlew, Osprey, Whimbrel.* W. P. T. C. B.

**42. Rotary Walk to Bar Beach, now called Djirringanj People's Walk.** Climb the steps from Spencer Park or drive into Rotary Park, above Spencer Park. The 1.5 km walking track leads up and down, at times close to the water, through varied habitat including a pocket of rainforest. There are some steep awkward steps and possibly eroded sections, with seats along the way from which to enjoy the view. The track reaches Bar Beach and a seasonal food outlet. Migrating *honeyeaters* pass over this walk in late April – early May on their northern migration. Return to Spencer Park along the new walkway beside the road with pausing spots to view the lake. *Silvereye, Rainbow Lorikeet, White-headed Pigeon, Topknot Pigeon, Rufous Fantail.* W. P. T.

**43. Short Point.** Here is the outlet for Merimbula Creek from Berrambool. For seabirds, walk across the pathway to access the headland overlooking the ocean, or wander down to the beach and walk left to Back Lake for roosting birds, then along the lake shoreline north toward Tura and a good walking track to the connecting point for walks from Mirador and Tura Beach, see entry no 38 above. *Red-capped Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Australasian Pipit, Little Pied, Pied, Little and Great Cormorant, Caspian Tern, Pied Oystercatcher.* P. T.

**44. Long Point.** Above the Merimbula Wharf and residential area is Tasman St with a parking area. From here walk through regenerating bush to reach Long Point with viewing platform and signage re birds and whales. W.

**45. Merimbula Boardwalk.** Accessed from beside the main traffic bridge across the lake or via Monaro Street (at McDonald's corner). Go up the Monaro Street hill to reach Lakewood Drive then down to the Boat Hire on the western end of the boardwalk, which has the advantage of a coffee stop on return! Here is where the description provided here commences. This is an easy flat walk and the rewards can be great. Choose a day without a westerly or southerly wind and with a falling or rising tide to provide sandy areas where waders feed.

The first section of track is narrow with a bank on one side and mangroves right against the track where the bush birds even forage in the rotting sea grasses and *Grey Fantails* and *Little Wattlebirds* nest in the mangroves. Anywhere along here it is possible to see the *Striated Heron* skulking from view or brazenly sitting on an oyster post. The small

walkway to the water is good for the first scan over the oyster leases for water birds. *Eastern Great Egrets, Pied Oystercatchers* and *various cormorants*.

Along the sand flats the *Bar-tailed Godwits* might suddenly appear in flocks, seeking a newly exposed feeding area. They are the dominant wader along with *Royal Spoonbills, Eastern Curlew* and *Whimbrel* but it's worthwhile looking hard for any different smaller waders and trying to identify them. The *Little Egret* is often seen along the edges and a *Caspian Tern* regularly patrols the shallows with down-pointed red bill. A look upwards will usually find a *White-bellied Sea-Eagle* or a *Whistling Kite*.

The boardwalk winds across the water with tall trees, some dead, full of hollows where *Crimson Rosellas* and *Rainbow Lorikeets* nest, and the woodland on the left is where *Golden* and *Rufous Whistlers, Olive-backed Orioles, Eastern Yellow Robins, Red-browed Finches* and *Yellow Thornbills* can be found. Then it's on and around the point from where the township can be seen and passes through another small patch of forest. A *Striated Heron* nests in an isolated mangrove tree near here and often a *White-faced Heron* nests in trees above the boardwalk. There are seats placed all along the walk where you can sit and swing your legs or admire the view.

On the return trip go on to the well-trodden section of track away from the water and through the melaleucas where it borders house blocks and leads into a jungle area with a hidden pond. Here it is quiet and dark and worth pausing for a *Rose Robin, Bassian Thrush* and the local *Buff-banded Rails* which cheekily appear anywhere along the entire walk. Finding a *Satin Bowerbird* bower or watching a *Dusky Antechinus* or *Soldier Crabs* will add a bit of variety. This track eventually links up again not far from the first section close to the cars. Whether a birdwatcher or just a walker this boardwalk is a Merimbula jewel. W. P. T. C.

**46. Merimbula Town and Fishpen.** Near the Merimbula Hotel watch out for an occasional Osprey on the power poles eating its catch or sitting on a boat mast. Heading south cross the bridge and turn **left** to follow the water line to a carpark with access to the lake and beach. This is Fishpen with an ever-changing sand spit and entry to the lake for boats. *Double-banded Plover, Red-capped Plover, White-bellied Sea-Eagle*. P.T.

## PAMBULA to EDEN

**Pambula** is a thriving small historic village, with good facilities. There are several eateries, a bakery, two pubs, specialty shops, a pool, limited hospital facilities and fuel.

**47. Panboola,** on the Pambula River floodplain, is best accessed from Bullara Street, Pambula, with alternative walking entry from the Princes Highway, opposite Oaklands, (worth a visit). Park on the elevated area next to the Robert Smith's Home Store or via a turn beyond the Idlewilde Motel, marked with Panboola sign with safe parking inside the gate and walks commencing there.

The site was formerly a working farm and in 2000 was gifted to the community and is managed by a volunteer group. Since then it has become a welcoming place to visit. There are three access points, two in Bullara St and one on the Princes Highway opposite Oaklands. From the main entry under the metal eagle and nest, cross the arched walking bridge to a brochure box with maps. The Information Booth has colourful panels telling the Panboola story. Birdwatchers will note an impressive list of about 160 species from the 80 ha site.

Walking around the many tracks you will meet birdwatchers, walkers, photographers and cyclists. There are hidden table settings for the casual picnic and seats scattered around the site. At the start of 'Olwyns Link' is a large display board featuring birds on one side and racing history on the other, and from here the former Pambula Racecourse can be reached with good shelter from sun and rain and the 'racetrack', perfect for a run or cycle. *Southern Emu-wrens* can often be found here and *White-fronted Chats* enjoy the saltmarsh. An ephemeral pond at the 400 marker can often produce interesting birds.

The quaint historic 'Old Bar' beside Tips Billabong was relocated from the former racecourse where it served many years as the Publican's Booth. Near the 'Old Bar' is a good spot for birdwatchers to pause and watch for comings and goings within the reeds. Continuing plantings extend over farmland with a walking track forming a vegetation corridor to the river. *Rufous Night-Heron, Golden-headed Cisticola, Gang-gang Cockatoo, Southern Emu-wren, Latham's Snipe, Eurasian Skylark, Black-shouldered Kite, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Swamp Harrier*. W. P. C.

**48. Smiths Lookout.** Park here with safety. Access is through Robert Smith's Home Store in Bullara Street, Pambula. Overlooking the Panboola site, easy ramped access is available from the car if parked beside the lookout. If

you can only spare enough time to visit Smiths Lookout without venturing down to Panboola proper, then do so. Sit on the high seats, lean on the railing and watch and listen. *Black Swan, Purple Swamphen, Baillon's Crake, Buff-banded Rail, Little Grassbird* and ducks. It's a good *raptor* viewing spot too, with twelve species of raptor recorded at the site. W. C.

**49. Watsons Waterhole.** Beside the Idlewilde Motel is the second entrance to Panboola reaching the Panboola Centre (Office). This additional portion of Panboola was recently gifted to Panboola and new tracks are being developed and linked to all parts of Panboola. A brochure box is placed at the start of the bridge *Australasian Darter, Latham's Snipe, various waterbirds*.

**50. Pambula River Mouth.** Pambula Beach Road from Pambula leads directly to the beach. Before the beach a turn right into Coraki Drive ends at the Pambula River mouth. Here it is possible to experience Australia, sitting on clean sand, under a gum tree! Walk along the beach and upstream passing old boat sheds to reach the short bush track to a platform overlooking the river. *White-browed Scrubwren, White-faced Heron, Pied Oystercatcher, Superb Lyrebird, Wonga Pigeon*. W.

**51. Pambula Beach Hill.** Above the village and in the residential area, locate Kanangra Street, 250 metres past the junction with Jinjera Parade, for an entry via an unmarked but well used dirt track leading up the hill into Ben Boyd National Park north section. Walk only or drive as far as the water tank. Continue by foot to the Aviation Light and along the ridge for about 30 minutes to overlook the upper reaches of Pambula River. Return via the same route. *Honeyeaters, Spotted Quail-thrush, Scarlet Robin, Sacred Kingfisher*. W. D.

**52. Ben Boyd National Park north section.** Park off Pambula Beach Road, behind the Sapphire Aquatic Centre. Take the signposted Park track through the service gate. Many tracks go through this open forested site. Follow the main track to a 'T' junction with easy flat walking, passing the first right exit (or wander around here a bit for *Rose Robin*). Continue along the main track. (The right hand track leads to the disused former Pambula Tip with awkward walking but possible birds.) The left track in fine weather leads southwards to the upper reaches of the Pambula River. Even walking to the 'T' junction, about 400 metres, provides a good glimpse within the forest for, *Grey Goshawk, White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Rufous Fantail, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, Varied Sittella, Leaden Flycatcher, White-throated Gerygone, Scarlet Honeyeater*. W.

Heading south again from Pambula you will find Mt Darragh Rd, leading to Wyndham and Bombala. Taking this road you will pass the Tea Tree Roadhouse, (with fuel), and reach a road junction with Back Creek Rd. This eventually reaches Eden winding through farmland.

**53. Nethercote Falls** is best accessed from Back Creek Road, Lochiel (the alternative is from Nethercote Road and not always passable.) Pipe Clay Road leaves Back Creek Road 4.6 km from Mt Darragh Road corner. Drive the forest road to reach the car park. Walking down the steep hill to the river might deter many but there is birding around the car park. To view the Falls requires a walk down to the river and around some rocks. *Brown Cuckoo-Dove, Black-faced Monarch, Rose Robin, Pink Robin*. W.

**54. Pambula River, Lochiel.** On Mt Darragh Rd about 9 km from the Pambula turnoff, Wolumla Peak and Pambula River are signposted. (Check your odometer as the sign often 'disappears'.) The river is a further 1 km of dirt road with a small parking area just before the river. Explore around the river and across the causeway. *Rufous Fantail, Brown Gerygone, Black-faced Monarch, Rose Robin, Brown Cuckoo-Dove*. Forest roads anywhere further along this road, which leads to Wolumla Peak, are good for exploring and **Wolumla Peak** on a clear day has a splendid view over the valley. *Spotted Quail-thrush, Red-browed Treecreeper*. W. P.

**55. Goodenia Rainforest,** South East Forests National Park. From Mt Darragh Road take Chalkhills Road 10 km from South Pambula turnoff. The first 100 metres could be 'not so good' and the remainder of the road is gravel and variable. Watch out for *Spotted Quail-thrush* crossing the road as you continue to the parking area. The steep walking track descends into a rainforest gully. Around and above the parking area provides good birding for the less able. *Eastern Whipbird, Pink and Rose Robin, Crescent Honeyeater, Lewin's Honeyeater, Black-faced Monarch*. W. P. T. B.

**56. Pambula Lake.** Continuing down the Princes Highway towards Eden a large sign on the Princes Highway just points to the boat ramp on the lake edge and the oyster sheds. Follow signs to the Boat Ramp access and park above the ramp where there are covered tables, toilets and BBQ overlooking the lake. Scan the sand spit opposite the ramp for *Eastern Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Pied Oystercatcher*. Look for bush birds in vegetation around the site. W. P. T. B. C.

**57. Severs Beach.** Haycock Road leads off the Princes Highway 11 km south of Pambula, at the Ben Boyd National Park sign. Side tracks go to the Pinnacles and Quondola Point (both worth a visit, with a circular walking track at the Pinnacles) then Severs Beach track leads left off the road to a parking area. An easy walk (watch for exposed roots) goes down through forest to the Pambula River with a small sandy paddling beach, where ancient middens are protected by a boardwalk. *Striated Heron, Pied Oystercatcher, Rose Robin, Golden Whistler.* W.

**58. Haycock Point.** Here are the friendliest *Eastern Whipbirds* which loiter around the picnic tables. Access the beach for possible *Hooded* or *Double-banded Plover* or follow the higher walking track to overlook the Haycock. A track follows the coast upstream along the **Barmouth Walk** with good birding vegetation. *Sooty Oystercatcher, Eastern Reef Egret, Short-tailed Shearwater, Black-faced Cormorants* expanding north from Eden. Barmouth Beach also has separate access off the entry road. Geologists are in awe when they see the layers of coloured rocks along this part of the coastline, while marine enthusiasts enjoy searching the shallow rock pools. Returning to the Highway check **The Pinnacles** and a short circular walk to see the rock formations. W. P. T. C.

## EDEN

**Eden** is situated on Twofold Bay, a deep harbour with two wharves to service timber, cruise ships and Navy vessels and right in town several smaller wharves. It is a centre for tourism, (especially whale watching), fishing and forestry, with food outlets, a hotel and small shops. There are two large covered table areas either at the Lookout Park, beyond and above the wharf area or overlooking the bay, near the cemetery. Both have toilets nearby. The Eden Killer Whale Museum is close to the wharf area at the end of town. T.C.

**59. Broadwater Forest Road.** Probably best for 4WD, this 14.7 km forest road winds from the Princes Highway just north of Eden to Nethercote Road through a variety of habitats – dry ridges, dry forest, and several creeks with thick vegetation. At one creek bend is a widening of the road with parking to provide access to picnic tables and camp fires on the Yowaka River. On reaching Nethercote Road turn left to Eden or right to Nethercote, Lochiel and Pambula. The road is generally OK with a few stony but manageable bits. Watch out for motor cyclists. *Pilotbird, Leaden Flycatcher, Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Varied Sittella, Black-faced Monarch, Rufous Fantail, Spotted Quail-thrush.* D. P.

**60. Golf Course Forest.** Storey Avenue runs beside the north end of Eden Golf Course. Follow this beside the course and on to a dirt road to park opposite the pony club. Walk along the forest road passing Golf Course Link on the left and continue for 600 metres to the cross roads (Golf Course Trail and Hungry Horse Trail). Wander further if you like, especially to the right, then right again. However, as the forest is a maze of roads, venturing too much further might be confusing unless familiar with the area. *Varied Sittella, Red-browed Treecreeper, Rose Robin, Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Brown Gerygone, Musk Lorikeet, Pilotbird.* W.

**61. Curalo Lake Boardwalk.** Right beside the Princes Highway, park opposite Eden Gateway Caravan Park where there is a Scout Hall and toilet block and start the walk via a concrete path to the wide boardwalk which meanders around the lake. Construction of this boardwalk has been a huge community project. The eastern end leads on to the Eden Tourist Park right on the lake providing access to the lake edges (with a courtesy call at reception), or on to the lake mouth and Aslings Beach. Well-placed seats and leaning rails overlook the lake. The other direction leads to the northern mouth of the lake, crossing two narrow bridged waterways and passing shallows where groups of waterbirds often roost and forest trees for bush birds. *Bar-tailed Godwit, Buff-banded Rail, Royal Spoonbill, Little Egret, Azure Kingfisher, White-faced Heron, Caspian Tern.* W. P. T.

**62. Eden Wharf.** Almost completed is the 'Welcome Centre', planned for the Eden Visitor Information Centre and a welcome area for passengers disembarking from cruise ships. (Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre, has recently closed). This is the northernmost spot to view *Black-faced Cormorants* from land, resting on buoys beyond the breakwater walls within Twofold Bay. *Pacific Gull, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Eastern Reef Egret.* Charter boats for bird and whale watching depart from this point. There is always some activity to watch just wandering around the wharves amongst the boats where throwing a line in off the wharf is a popular pastime. W.T.P.

Leave Eden to head south, still on the Princes Highway.

**63. Cocora Beach.** Ascending the highway turn left into Ida Rodd Drive to reach a small beach on Twofold Bay looking across to the main town wharf. From here follow the Bundian Way, ancient walking trail with many interpretive panels. This part of the track leads to Quarantine Bay. *Black-faced Cormorants on moorings, Pied Oystercatcher, Hooded Plover.* W.P.T.B.C.

**64 Quarantine Bay.** Safe boat launching area with break wall to scan for roosting species. On the way in, beside the fishing clubhouse on the left a parking area provides access to the Bundian Way which from this point leads to lookouts and a small beach before linking up with Cocora Beach. *Dusky Woodswallow, Leaden Flycatcher, seabirds.* W.T.

**65. Nullica River.** A quiet river mouth good for low tide exploring with easy access to the beach. There is a shady picnic area with a bush BBQ. *Little Wattlebird, Striated Heron, Pied Oystercatcher, Hooded Plover, Eastern Great Egret.* W. P.

**66. Boydtown.** Boydtown Park Road provides access to a boutique hotel and a residential subdivision, right on Twofold Bay. Forest trees, waterway, beach front, grasses, all accessible but please do not enter fenced areas. The Boydtown Creek on the right running from the Highway to the beach is good for a prowl along the tree line. *Golden Whistler, Varied Sittella, Dusky Moorhen, Azure Kingfisher, Scarlet Robin, Pied Oystercatcher.* W. D.

**67. The Snake Track.** Aptly named, this track is narrow and twists its way to Towamba through tall forests with dangerous bends and irregularly maintained sections. However the first 4 km is good for roadside birding with room to pull off with care in a few places and walk the road. *Australian King Parrot, Superb Lyrebird, Pilotbird.*

## SOUTH and WEST of EDEN

The Southern Section of Ben Boyd National Park includes historic sites and beautiful scenery along the rugged coastline with camp grounds, and walking tracks through heathland and forests providing excellent bird habitat. For information about tracks and facilities including camping, collect a brochure from NPWS offices at Merimbula and some Visitor Information Centres or visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au) Park use fees apply to some sites. Leave the highway at Edrom Rd, well signposted and leading to the Chip Mill. Check your map or GPS for this area.

**68. Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site.** A pathway leads through the historic garden site to the river mouth. Numerous bird species are found in the garden itself and in the forested area above and near the car park. Higher up the road a dirt road gives an easy walk through quiet forest. *Scarlet Honeyeater, Rufous Fantail, White-bellied Sea-Eagle.* W. P. T.

**69. Boyds Tower.** Access tracks lead to views over the ocean and Twofold Bay. The surrounding bush is good for birdwatching. The 30 km Light to Light walk to Green Cape starts here, but even a section of it provides good birding. *Leaden Flycatcher, Golden Whistler, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, seabirds.* W. T.

**70. Bull Creek.** Turn off the Edrom Road 6 km from the Highway on to the Green Cape Road, then after another 5 km stop just before the junction with Mussel Road. This is Bull Creek. Park and explore the side track before the bridge. Cross the bridge and walk up Mussel Road which swings to the right and about 70 metres along go in to the right along a bush track. *Pilotbird, Beautiful Firetail, Yellow-tufted and White-naped Honeyeater.* W.

**71. Disaster Bay Lookout.** You'll be on the Green Cape Road, having passed the Saltwater Creek turnoff. A 'must see' view overlooks the bay and the entrance to Wonboyn Lake from a viewing platform with bench seat. A good chance to wander along the road here. *Superb Lyrebird, Olive-backed Oriole.* T.

**72. Green Cape Lightstation.** Road conditions are variable (2WD). This is a good vantage spot for land-based seabird watching and to see the raft of resident seals basking below the point. Stop anywhere en route through the heathland. Walk down below the lighthouse and other tracks in the vicinity. The southern section of the Light to Light walking track is suitable for short or long walks. *Sooty Oystercatcher, Eastern Reef Egret, Southern Emu-wren, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Striated Fieldwren, Ground Parrot, shearwaters.* There are picnic tables 100 metres from the car park and overlooking the water. W. T.

**73. Pulpit Rock Road.** Dry weather road, low clearance, to fishing site. Stop near the turn off Green Cape Road and hunt about for *Tawny-crowned Honeyeater, Ground Parrot, Southern Emu-wren, Wedge-tailed Eagle.* There is scrubby vegetation at the headland. *White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo.* T.

**74. Saltwater Creek.** After 6 km on Edrom Road turn right on to Green Cape Road. After another 8.7 km turn left at the Saltwater Creek sign, travel 4.5 km then turn right on to Saltwater Road for 4 km (all signposted). This is a popular summer camp site (bookings essential) with beautiful beach, lagoon and creek, bush and beach birds. *Scarlet*

*Honeyeater, Bassian Thrush, Superb Lyrebird, Australasian Pipit, Wonga Pigeon, Peregrine Falcon, Hooded Plover.* The Light to Light Walk passes through here. D. W. P. T. B.

**75. Bittangabee Bay.** Travel 15 km along Green Cape Road from Edrom Road, turn left at Bittangabee Bay sign. The camp area has covered shelter if required, with BBQs. Just before reaching the camp site a left turn leads to more tables, BBQs and toilets and easy access to a pretty and sheltered beach. A marked track, part of the Light to Light Walk, leads from the picnic area past historic ruins and through heathland if you stay on it long enough, but even the first 1 km on the section pointing to Saltwater Creek is interesting, passing over a trickling stream. Cicadas can be deafening in Spring/Summer. *Crested Shrike-tit, Peregrine Falcon, Superb Lyrebird, Eastern Reef Egret, Brown Gerygone, Tawny Frogmouth, Black-faced Monarch, Rose Robin.* W. P. T. B. C.

## TOWAMBA

**Towamba** is an inland village 30 km south of Eden nestled in a serene valley, surrounded by blue forested hills with a school but **no** store or fuel. The drive there could turn up *Common Bronzewing, Wonga Pigeon, Superb Lyrebird and Spotted Quail-thrush.* Towamba can be reached by turning off the Princes Highway 4 km south of Eden on to Towamba Road.

Driving or walking around the village provides varied roadside birding. Explore the roads up into nearby farm areas. *Scarlet Robin, Noisy Friarbird, European Goldfinch, Rufous Whistler, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Pallid Cuckoo.*

**76. The Recreation Ground.** The surrounding trees are festooned with huge mistletoe clumps. For your picnic there are good sheltered facilities here built by the close-knit community. *Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Peaceful Dove, Mistletoebird.* W. P. T. C.

**77. The Cemetery** is resting ground to residents since the 19<sup>th</sup> century with numerous bird species in the surrounding trees and paddocks. *White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike, Jacky Winter, Golden Whistler.* W.

**Pericoe Road.** A large dam 5 km on the left is worth a look for various ducks. Along this road are free roaming *Emus* with *White-winged Choughs* appearing anywhere. D. Pericoe Road eventually links up with Imlay Road.

## WONBOYN

**Wonboyn** is a remote, peaceful village with a small store, fuel and a caravan park. The pace is slow and the tranquil lake is a good spot to potter about in a boat leaving all your cares behind. Please avoid the oyster leases. The adjoining Nadgee Nature Reserve provides ample opportunity to watch birds. Collect a brochure from NPWS offices at Merimbula and some Visitor Information Centres or visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au)

**78. Scrubby Creek Rest Area.** Opposite the turn-off the Princes Highway to Wonboyn is a Forests NSW maintained Rest Area. Well off the road and set under tall trees beside Scrubby Creek this is a good place to explore. Once parked, follow the perimeter of the cleared area *Bassian Thrush, Crescent Honeyeater, Musk Lorikeet, Sacred Kingfisher* and an easy place to listen for owls. W. P. T. C.

**Wonboyn Road.** This leads through forests to the town of Wonboyn with several fire trails suitable to explore along the way. Watch for *Spotted Quail-thrush* running off the main road. Wonboyn River bridge has dense vegetation around it with tricky parking, but worth a look if able to pull off safely.

**79. Watergums Creek.** Park roadside. On the left there are two tracks, before and after the bridge leading to the creek. A peaceful spot to wait for birds. *Azure Kingfisher, Rufous Fantail, Black-faced Monarch.* W.

**80. Wonboyn Cemetery.** Park at the gate and walk through the Cemetery to reach a natural walking track in an old forest with plenty of birds. A peaceful stroll leads to a wide section of the Wonboyn River. *Eastern Yellow Robin, Superb Lyrebird, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Crescent Honeyeater.* W.

**81. Wonboyn Township.** The triangle of traffic roads around the **Fire Shed** gives a good selection of habitat, both cleared and untouched. Park and walk using the road carefully, (the infrequent traffic will be heard). *Jacky Winter, Noisy Friarbird, New Holland Honeyeater.* Drive or walk some of the village streets and up the hill where there is plenty of habitat for birds, without entering private property. *Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Rufous Whistler, Eastern Spinebill.* W. D.

**82. Myrtle Cove.** At the Store turn left where the road leads down to Myrtle Cove. Here the oyster boats and smaller runabouts are moored and launched. A good spot for a picnic with toilets just nearby. It is well worth the walk up to the store and back to check the bush for *Wonga Pigeon*, *Brown Gerygone*, *Satin Bowerbird*. W. D. P. T.

**83. Jewfish Beach.** Leaving Myrtle Cove the Wonboyn Beach road then enters Nadgee Nature Reserve via a short steep drive and into beautiful coastal forest. The unsealed road conditions are variable, but if taken slowly should suit most drivers. Jewfish Beach is accessed from a walk left from a clearly marked parking area only a few kilometres from the village. A small boardwalk section reaches the lake, with a seat. *Southern Emu-wren*, *Beautiful Firetail* and *Ground Parrot*, *Glossy Black-cockatoo*, *Little Pied*, *Little Black* and *Great Cormorants*, *Crested Tern*, *Caspian Tern*, *Eastern Curlew*. W.

**84. Greenglade.** Continue driving straight along the road looking for options to stop where wide enough to park the car and walk short sections along the road. *Lewin's Honeyeater*, *Rose Robin*, *various cuckoos*. At Greenglade the beach is easily accessed and there are bush birds around the picnic tables. *Pied Oystercatcher*, *Hooded Plover*, *White-bellied Sea-Eagle*, *Eastern Reef Egret*. W. P. T.

**85. Bay Cliff.** A 4 km road leads off to Bay Cliff, (*Turquoise Parrots* have been seen at the edge of this track) where a short track leads down to the lake again and returns to reach the northern end of the beach. The huge cliff tempts some to walk around on the ocean side to overlook the lake entrance but not recommended. *Crested Shrike-tit*, *Eastern Whipbird*, *Rufous Whistler*. Halfway along the Bay Cliff road is a parking area with a 600 m track through woodland for bush birds and access to the middle of Wonboyn Beach. *Varied Sittella*, *Sacred Kingfisher*, *Noisy Friarbird*. T.

## THE FAR SOUTH

The far southern section of the Bega Valley Shire is predominately forest, much of it logged from time to time. Forest roads are good for casual exploration; however, the following suggestions will give ample opportunity to experience birdwatching in different habitats.

### IMLAY ROAD

Imlay Road starts 25 km south of Eden. This is a tarred road, constructed and maintained by Forests NSW. It runs for 65 km from Princes Highway west to Monaro Highway and is used by fast moving logging trucks. The western end passes through a section of the South East Forests National Park. There are four signposted stops along the road suitable for birdwatching and numerous side roads to explore.

**86. Imlay Creek** is 13 km from the turn-off from the Princes Highway. With the Imlay Creek Bridge in sight turn in to the rest area on the left. There are covered picnic tables and toilets plus a short walk down to the rocks and river. The track on the opposite side of the road is worth exploring too. *Sacred Kingfisher*, *Yellow-tufted*, *White-naped*, *Yellow-faced* and *Crescent Honeyeater*. W. P. T. C.

**87.** A further 6 km along Imlay Road is Allen Brook Road. Turn here and drive slowly through forest, watching for the left turn in to **Newtons Crossing**. Picnic tables, BBQs and toilets are at the upper level car park with access down to two rivers, and possible platypus. Care needed on slippery rocks. *Beautiful Firetail*, *Eastern Spinebill*, *Pilotbird*. W. P. T.

**88.** Leaving Newtons Crossing turn left along Allen Brook Road for another 1 km to the Wallagaraugh River, cross the bridge to a small parking/picnic spot, **Allen Brook**, with tables and an easy walk down to the bridge to overlook the wide river, then return to Imlay Road. *Grey Shrike-thrush*, *Golden Whistler*, *Eastern Whipbird*. W. P.

**89. White Rock** is another 40 km along Imlay Road, with easy access to picnic site, toilet and a sandy banked river surrounded by forest. *Satin Flycatcher*, *Rose Robin*, *Dusky Woodswallow*, *Olive Whistler*, *Yellow-tufted Honeyeater*, *Striated Thornbill*. W. P. T. C.

Leaving White Rock turn right to return to the coast or left to continue to the Monaro Highway.  
(See **Tablelands** suggestions 118, 119 and 120)

## WALLAGARAUGH FOREST DRIVE

**90.** This is a 40 km circuit **no longer maintained** by Forests NSW but worth exploring 'with a 4WD and confidence'. Many maps and websites continue to feature this Drive however we suggest using only it with 4WD and preferably an accompanying vehicle for back up. The drive commences 30 km south of Eden left into **Ireland Timms Rd** (previously Wallagaraugh Forest Drive) off Princes Highway and returns to the Highway 40 km south of Eden. There are stopping points with interpretation boards relating to forestry and history. Some stops are described here for birding. As well as the suggested stops there are many opportunities to explore roadside and around road junctions without getting lost.

Logging or thinning operations occur from time to time with signs to alert drivers to be watchful.

Along its route the **Forest Drive** is also signposted variably as **Ireland Timms Road** or **Naghi Road** or **Maxwells Road**. It is advisable to take a regional map, if only for reassurance!

Stop No 1 has a picnic table surrounded by tall eucalypts, about 100 metres off the Highway. Stop No 2 has parking at a gate into **Ludwigs Farm**, now neglected but habitat for *White-eared Honeyeater*, *Southern Emu-wren*, *Olive-backed Oriole*, *Grey Goshawk*. Walking back along the road for about 150 metres will give good birdwatching over swampy thickets, a creek and substantial trees. *Crested Shrike-tit*, *Shining Bronze-Cuckoo*, *Eastern Whipbird*, *White-naped Honeyeater*. W.

Another is signposted as **Natures Boarding House**, a semi-cleared picnic area with tables and toilets under towering trees. Opposite the car park look for the enormous fern then wander back along the road over Ludwig Creek. *Superb Lyrebird*, *Black-faced Monarch*, *Australian Owlet-nightjar*, *Striated Thornbill*, *White-throated Treecreeper*. P. T.

Continue on through the forest and after a downward winding section reaching Naghi Road, turn left at the Forest Drive sign. The next junction is with Maxwells Road and Mines Road where a small sign points left to **Mallacoota Lookout**. This is only 2½ km along and is worth the view, so turn at **Mines Road** and take care not to miss the hidden sign indicating the left turn into the lookout. Return the 2½ km and continue along Maxwells Road.

**91. Maxwells Nature Reserve.** There is a parking area above Maxwells Rainforest Walk with picnic tables and toilets. The walk is steep but beautiful, more especially after rain, and will take about 40 minutes through ferns, Lilly Pilly and Pinkwood trees; but it could be slippery with the occasional fallen tree. *Superb Lyrebird*, *Eastern Yellow Robin*, *King Parrot*, *Rose Robin*, *Pilotbird*, *Large-billed Scrubwren*. P. T. C.

Maxwells Road continues on to Princes Highway and if only wishing to reach Maxwells Nature Reserve this is the recommended road to take in and out.

Having described the coastal sites and southern inlands we now go to the north of the shire to look at

## INLAND AND WESTERN TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

### COBARGO **2020 Fires badly impacted this area.**

A friendly main road township with good facilities and tempting shops featuring local crafts. Fuel, toilets and a country pub. This is the junction of the Princes Highway with the Cobargo – Bermagui Road.

**92. Cobargo Showground.** Turn off the Princes Highway onto the Cobargo – Bermagui Road. Continue to beyond the residences, turning right at the Showground sign. Here there are large trees with gully surrounds and open fields, a good spot for a lunch break and bird watch. *Dollarbird*, *Scarlet Robin*, *Jacky Winter* and maybe *White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike* and *White-winged Triller*. P. T. B. C.

**93. Yowrie and Wandella Road.** Opposite the Cobargo Hotel take the Yowrie and Wandella road into typical farmland and old trees with hollows, where roadside birding and stops are suggested.

After 6 km is the intersection pointing left to Yowrie and Wadbilliga National Park. First, stay on the Wandella Road and explore to at least the end of the bitumen for *Eastern Rosella*, *Nankeen Kestrel*, *Jacky Winter*. About turn to return to the junction with Yowrie Road and proceed to the right. (Or turn right before the junction, on to Link Road, which will link up with the Yowrie Road.) *Little Eagle*, *Dusky Woodswallow*.

**94. Yowrie locality.** The Yowrie Road meanders towards the forest, through farmland. Just after crossing Illawamba Creek there is a grassy parking area on the right with dense vegetation down to the creek with plenty of birds. *Lewin's Honeyeater, Crimson Rosella, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Restless Flycatcher.*

A further 1.5 km along is Murrabrine Road to the left at a collection of letterboxes. A drive along here for a few kilometres leads through good stands of roadside forest and will reach more open farmland and the entry to a section of Wadbilliga National Park. *Spotted Quail-thrush, Gang-gang Cockatoo, Cicadabird, White-eared Honeyeater.* D.

**95. Yowrie River.** Having driven 22 km from Cobargo, the Yowrie Bridge over the Yowrie River is a good stopping point, with picnic tables on both sides of the road and a basic bush BBQ. *Scarlet Robin, Sacred Kingfisher, cuckoo species, Eastern Rosella, Australian Reed-Warbler.*

The choice now is to either walk along Bourkes Road toward Wadbilliga National Park or along Goughs Road beside the river for at least 500 metres which should be satisfying for bush and woodland birds. *Little Raven, White-winged Chough, Wonga Pigeon, Jacky Winter.*

Drivers with 4WD might chose to venture further to Wadbilliga National Park, through remote bush which eventually leads to Cooma or Nimmitabel, but this is for adventurers only and not after rain. Or drive further in the other direction, a few kilometres along Goughs Road, rather than walking it. W. D. P. B.

You might want to explore the forests along **Brassknocker Road** up through steep inclines off Yowrie Road, almost opposite the Murrabrine Road turn-off. This area including **Peak Alone** is not described here.

## QUAAMA and southwards.

**Quaama** village is set off the highway. It has a general store, fuel, a town park with BBQ and covered picnic tables and toilets across the road.

**96. Quaama Rest Area.** On the Princes Highway beside the bridge is a signposted Rest Area with toilets. Walk along the road beside the creek, aptly named Dry River, or drive along here and into the township. Turn into Bermagui Road and follow signs down Orient Street to the Cemetery. Badly affected by fire, with old graves, a wander around the forest perimeter as vegetation regrows could turn up some surprises. W. D. P. B. C.

**97. Verona Road.** This suggestion provides a short circular drive from opposite the Rest Area, leads to Verona Road across Katchencarry Creek and after about 5 km reaches a junction with Upper Brogo Road at Lower Verona. Turning left, follow the road through hilly farmland for about 4 km and about turn at Hore-Lacey Road\*, to retrace the trip back to the junction with Verona Road, where the Upper Brogo Road continues, passing farm dams and good roadside vegetation for roadside birding, back to the Princes Highway just north of Quaama, then back to the Rest Area. *Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Brown Falcon, Wedge-tailed Eagle.* D.

\*You might wish to continue along Upper Brogo Road another 10 km on twisty roads to Puen Buen and the upper reaches of Brogo Dam, suggested only for 4WD and with a district map in hand.

**98. Brogo Dam.** Turn off the Princes Highway 17 km north of Bega. Plenty of opportunities to stop roadside and birdwatch from now on. The road is tarred most of the 13 km from the Highway. Once Brogo Dam is reached park at the first car park on the left within the dam site. It is possible to drive around and avoid the need to walk some steep sections but for birdwatching it is preferable to take this suggested walking route. From the car park walk back along the road for small birds near the entry gate. Return following the roads and wander, firstly to the bottom of the dam wall to explore the ponds, then return to walk down another road leading to the top of the dam wall.

Cross the wall to overlook the spillway and take the short grassy loop walk before returning across the wall. At the toilet block take the road pointing to the boat launching site, which winds down to the water passing the picnic spot and a covered area for inclement weather. *Yellow-tufted Honeyeater, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Scarlet Robin, Jacky Winter, Azure Kingfisher.* W. D. P. T. C.

## BEGA

**Bega** is the major business and rural centre of the Bega Valley Shire with all facilities. Council Chambers, South East Regional Hospital, Regional Gallery, major stores, specialty shops, clubs, library. Famous for Bega Cheese.

**99. Bega Lookout.** Three km north of Bega is a lookout overlooking the rapidly expanding town. A covered table might provide a welcome stopping spot and the surrounding trees are good for small species such as *Yellow Thornbill*. W. P. C.

**100. Bega Cheese Heritage Centre.** The building houses the Visitor Information Centre, full of good advice and pamphlets, with a food outlet and cheese tasting, a gallery and historic artefacts. Displays portray the long history of dairying in the Bega Valley. Fuel from the outlet on the road leading in is available to the public.

Behind the factory are ponds accessed by turning left just before reaching the Centre. *Pink-eared Ducks*. Below the picnic area there is the river bed which is a good birdwatching spot. *Yellow-rumped Thornbill*, *European Goldfinch*, *Yellow Thornbill*, raptors. W. D. T. P. B. C.

**101. Kisses Lagoon.** A covered visitor picnic area is at the town end of the lagoon. Right beside the highway it is home to mainly *Eurasian Coot* and *Purple Swamphen*. *Australasian Darter* and *cormorants* utilize the trees on the edge, as do *Golden Whistlers* and *Silvereye*. Recently revegetated after severe flooding and slowly developing. W. P. C.

**102. Bega River Walk.** Wide walking tracks weave through, but mainly around the edges of Bega and any section of them is good for birding. One leads along the river below and parallel to the main street, with shady trees, parking and picnic tables and access into the river bed, or around the former racecourse and out towards the golf course at **Tarraganda** beside farmland or take the playing field and Kisses Lagoon concreted track, leading towards the Bega River bridge. *Dollarbird*, *Rufous Whistler*, *Yellow Thornbill*. W.

**103. Glebe Park** has a large sheltered lagoon with a vegetated island and lily pads hiding waterbirds. It is surrounded by grass and established trees. *Noisy Friarbird*, *Striated Pardalote*, *Yellow-rumped Thornbill*. There is one covered picnic table plus other uncovered tables overlooking different parts of the lagoon.

Taking care along the road, it is possible to walk around the entire lagoon. Large willows at times host Grey-headed Flying Foxes and provide for nesting *Eastern Great Egret* and *Royal Spoonbill*. The island is a roost site for many birds including *Australasian Darter*. In May 2008 a *Pied Heron* visited this site where it remained for 3½ weeks.

Across the busy road where the overflow is piped are swampy areas worth a look. *Cattle Egret*, *Black Swan* and various ducks including *Pink-eared Duck*, and *Intermediate Egret*. *White-headed Pigeons* shelter in the trees beside the road. W. P. C.

**104. Reedy Swamp Road.** Find Tarraganda Rd, leading from Bega outskirts to the Bega Country Club to the Bega Golf Course (follow signs between the town and Glebe Park). Roadside birding along here for about 5 – 6 kms through farms and forest then return to Tarraganda Rd. *Tree* and *Fairy Martin*, *Dollarbird*, *Golden Whistler*, *Striated Pardalote*. D.

**105. Biamanga Cultural Centre/ Mumbulla Creek Falls.** Tarraganda Rd beyond the Bega Country Club becomes Dr George Mountain Rd. Continue on this for 7 km, turn left onto Mumbulla Creek Rd and proceed for 11 km, following signs to Biamanga Cultural Centre picnic area with BBQs, tables, toilets and tame *Eastern Yellow Robins*. A short, elevated walkway leads to a platform overlooking the falls. *Lewin's Honeyeater*, *Silvereye*, *Crescent Honeyeater*, *Spotted Pardalote*, *Glossy Black-Cockatoo*. W. P. T. B. This site is also accessed from Tanja.

This park was handed back to the traditional Aboriginal owners in 2006 and leased back to the government.

Download a map of the Biamanga Cultural Area from this link for access details.

<http://www.sapphirecoast.com.au/point-of-interest/mumbulla-creek-falls/>

## WOLUMLA

<p><b>Wolumla</b> is a small rural village just off the Princes Highway centred between Bega, Merimbula and Candelo, with steady through traffic from those towns. There is a basic store/PO and a country pub.</p>
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**106. Wolumla Recreation Ground.** On the Princes Highway right opposite the entry to Wolumla is the Wolumla Recreation Ground. This site caters for many sports including horse riding. Just beyond the Sewage Treatment Works' fenced area is the best spot to park, and the woodland here is good for birds. There appear to be pressures on this ground from the many sporting groups using it and habitat could alter. *Rufous Songlark*, *White-winged Triller*, *Jacky Winter*, *Scarlet Robin*, *Mistletoebird*, *Sacred Kingfisher*. Tracks lead up the hill through denser vegetation. Around and below the playing field offers different vegetation with a large dam which can be viewed, although it is in the adjoining property. W. P. C.

**107. Old Soldiers Road Circuit.** This is a short 8 km drive around typical farmland at Wolumla.

From the Wolumla Village follow the Candelo Road for 3 km and turn left into Old Soldiers Road. The road meanders past and through farms via a shaded pond with a seasonal creek and adequate parking to pause; listen and look for birds. Continue on until reaching Sth Wolumla Road, turn left which returns you to the Candelo Road and back to Wolumla (and lunch at the Pub) or right which leads to Myrtle Mountain Road and then either Wyndham or Candelo. *Striated Pardalote, Tree Martin, Eastern Rosella, Channel-billed Cuckoo.* D.

## CANDELO

**Candelo** is a historic village with food stores, country pub, pool, petrol, toilets. A huge Market Day is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month. Five exit roads radiate from Candelo to Merimbula, Bega, Wyndham, Bombala and Bemboka.

Checking the district or town map there are several roads e.g. **Towridgee Lane, Kameruka Lane, Wyndham Lane**, forming part of the web of roads leading to and from Candelo which are interesting to explore and provide quicker access to other destinations of choice. Add **Tantawangalo Mountain Rd, Tarlingtons Lane, Slaters Lane, Kemps Lane** to the exploratory list to cover typical farm habitats.

**108. Candelo to Six Mile Creek.** This route includes farmland, dams, creeks and views, heading towards the mountains. From the park at Candelo cross the bridge and turn left (Myrtle Mountain Road) then right into Tantawangalo Mountain Road, pointing to Bombala. The tar soon runs out and the road continues winding through open farmland, good for raptors and unexpected roadside birds. Along a flat section, a large dam on the right is good for a stop with a walk up and down the road both ways. *Australasian Shoveler, Black-fronted Dotterel, Australasian and Hoary-headed Grebe, Striated Pardalote, Australasian Pipit, European Goldfinch.*

Continue on the road, passing Tarlingtons Lane (or take a loop down Tarlingtons Lane, turning left into Slaters Lane and back to the mountain road. Swing left (sign to Bombala) with big hills on the right as the road proceeds up the valley. All along here are pockets of bush where you could stop and birdwatch along the road.

Pass the junction with Tantawangalo Lane and go a further 100 metres to a small unmarked bushy council reserve with a picnic table on the right. The creek is 50 metres within this reserve and there are tracks both ways through the narrow string of bush above the creek edge, well worth a prowl. *Common Bronzewing, Shining Bronze-Cuckoo, White-winged Chough.*

**109. Six Mile Creek, South East Forests National Park** is a further 10 km up Tantawangalo Mountain Road and links with the Mt Darragh Road just east of Cathcart. The road surface can vary as it winds upwards on the mountain road through pretty scenery. The Six Mile Creek reserve has easy walks on both sides of the road either along the creek or to a viewing platform with tall eucalypts and ferny undergrowth and a good spot for birds. *Red-browed Treecreeper, Crescent Honeyeater, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Bassian Thrush.* En route the road should have *Superb Lyrebird* and *Spotted Quail-thrush*. W. P. T. C. Tantawangalo Mountain Road eventually links with Mt Darragh Rd east of Cathcart and turning left will get you to **Wyndham**.

**110. Myrtle Mountain, South East Forests National Park.** From Candelo travel on Myrtle Mountain Road towards Wyndham through the locality of Yurammie. Along the first section watch out for *Tree Martin, Brown Falcon* and *Eastern Rosella*. The road then leaves the farm area and climbs through forest. After 10 km turn into Myrtle Mountain Picnic Area and follow the track through tall trees and ferns to the lookout. Walk back along the track almost to the entry where a track leads off to wind down below the picnic area. *Wedge-tailed Eagle, Grey Shrike-thrush, Red-browed Treecreeper, Spotted Pardalote.* W. P. T. C. Continue along the road to reach **Wyndham**.

## WYNDHAM

Between Bombala and the coast, **Wyndham** is the hub for a scattered population within the valley. General Store, petrol, picnic tables overlooking Jinjera Rock, toilets beside the Hall and a covered rotunda and table in the park opposite the school.

**111. Bird Route No 3.** This is a 42 km round trip through open farmland and woodland with a backdrop of purple mountains. A self-drive guide with a list of birds likely to be seen is available as a download from [www.fscb.org.au](http://www.fscb.org.au)

You will pass through farmland and eventually reach New Buildings and Big Jack Mountain Rd. and the locations of **Burragate** and **Rocky Hall**. *Yellow-tufted* and *White-naped Honeyeater*, *Diamond Firetail* and *Double-barred Finch*, *Flame Robin* and *Golden Whistler*.

## BEMBOKA

**Bemboka** is a popular stopping point on the Snowy Mountains Highway, at the base of Brown Mountain, 36 km west of Bega. It is about midway for travellers between the coast and Cooma. It offers good facilities: bakery, general store, a pool and **NO** service station. There is an interesting Pioneer Trail at Bemboka Park, next to the pool, where there are picnic tables. Right opposite the Bemboka Hall is the Memorial Park, with more picnic tables and toilets. This area offers a different suite of birds to those on the coast.

**112. Bemboka Recreation Ground/Colombo Park.** The Recreation/Football Ground is below the Highway on the Bega side of the town, with trees and the river running beside it providing good birdwatching opportunities. Although tempting to cross it, the timbers of the old highway bridge behind the picnic table area are unsafe. However towards the scoreboard end of the oval a 1.5 km circular walking track has been developed by the local Landcare group to take walkers across the river into a reserve with existing and new vegetation. *Sacred Kingfisher*, *Jacky Winter*, *Diamond Firetail*, *Scarlet Robin*, *platypus*. W. P. B. T. C.

**113. Cemetery and Travelling Stock Reserve (TSR).** About 600 metres on the highway east from the Football Ground is the Cemetery and the adjoining TSR where parking is plentiful. Walk through and behind the cemetery and to the far end of the TSR for bush species. It is hoped this area will be linked to the Recreation Ground walk in time. *Leaden Flycatcher*, *Buff-rumped Thornbill*, *Scarlet Robin*. W.

**114. Bird Route No 2.** A self-guided 22 km drive can be downloaded from [www.fscb.org.au](http://www.fscb.org.au) with a bird list. *Yellow-rumped*, *Yellow Thornbill* and *Buff-rumped Thornbill*, *Double-barred Finch*.

**115. Buckleys Rd and Buckleys Ridge Road.** Turn off the Highway into Buckleys Road, 7.2 km from Bemboka, then left, a short road ending in a cul-de-sac. Good for roadside birdwatching. *Dusky Woodswallow*, *Jacky Winter*, *Yellow Thornbill*, *Diamond Firetail*.

**115. Pipers Memorial Lookout**, South East Forests National Park. At the top of Brown Mountain is the western boundary of the Bega Valley Shire, 9 km of steep winding road from Bemboka. From the lookout, 'on a clear day you can see forever' or follow the. *White-browed Scrubwren*, *Brown Thornbill*, *Superb Lyrebird*. W. P. T.

**117. Rutherford Creek**, South East Forests National Park. **This track is now closed.** Wander around at the top of the track for possible sightings of, or more certainly calls, from *Olive Whistler*, *Pilotbird*, *Rose Robin*.

## TABLELANDS

**118. Coolangubra Forest Way** extends about 40 km, north to south, linking the Mt Darragh Road at Cathcart with the western end of Imlay Road, and roughly forms the western boundary of the Bega Valley Shire. This is an isolated road, also used by logging trucks, and care is needed.

At the Cathcart end there are many opportunities to find *Scarlet* and *Flame Robins* along the road edges or around shearing sheds, and many patches of hardwood forest. Watch for *Emus* in the tussocky paddocks and *Grey Currawongs*. D.

**119. Waratah Gully Camp.** Midway is a turn to Myanba Gorge. The road runs through tall forest and the **Waratah Gully Camp** could be a good stopping point prior to a walk there or along the road. This is a bush campsite with BBQ and toilets. T.B.

**120. Myanba Gorge** itself has interpretation panels, a covered picnic table, bush BBQs and toilet and a 1 km walk down to an amazing platform overlooking the Towamba Valley.

The walk is staged with three viewing platforms. The first is a short stretch via smooth ramped access. It is then broken into sections of path and steps (150 down and 150 back) with the reward of the view over the valley well worth the effort, if you choose a fine day. *White-eared Honeyeater*, *Striated Thornbill*, *Wedge-tailed Eagle*, *Black-faced Monarch*, *Satin Flycatcher*, *Lewin's Honeyeater*. W. P. T. B. C.