

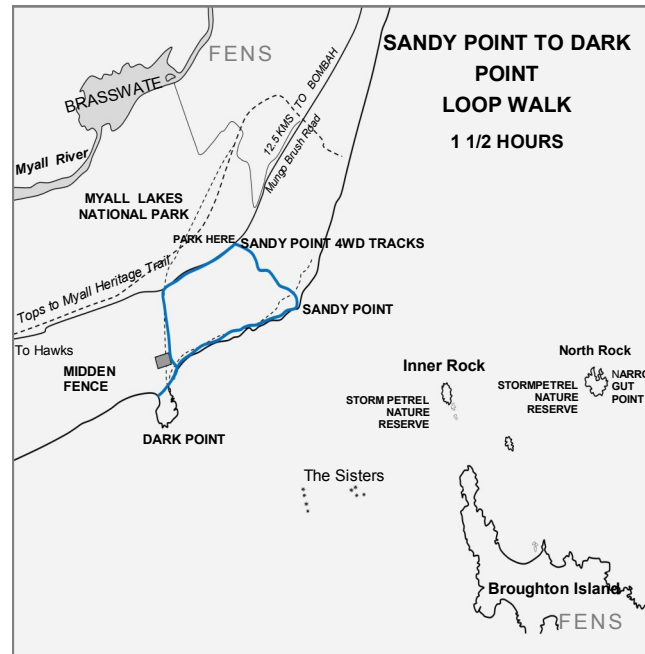
## Sandy Point to Dark Point / Little Gibber Loop Walk

1 ½ to 2 hours

The start of walk is 12.8kms south of the ferry at the Sandy Point 4WD track; the NPWS sign says **Sandy Point 4wd access 300 metres**. Park your car on the road and walk the track to the beach. Enjoy the wildflowers in spring and note the fresh water hole on the left. The Broughton Island Group is just off shore – the largest island off the NSW coast.



**At the beach** - Turn right and walk south towards a rocky headland – Dark Point. Look out for dolphins and whales in the surf between June and October. At low tide the swales are deep in beautiful shells. Scattered pumice on the beach was washed up after the volcanic eruption in the New Hebrides in 1984.



**To the road** - Return about 100m up the beach and turn west (right). You will see a fence protecting the Aboriginal Midden site from 4WDs. Walk along the northern side of this fence to the interpretive sign. Fresh water in the dunes and abundant food has resulted in massive accumulations of shells, bones and stone cutting tools over thousands of years. All Aboriginal sites are protected and removal of items is forbidden. Continue directly straight ahead over the sand dunes, making sure you stop at the top to look back and take in the view. To find the Dark Point car park look out for foot prints in the sand leading to it and listen for cars on the road. At the road turn right to return to your car – about 1 km.



Tea Gardens Visitor Centre  
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**Dark Point** - This volcanic outcrop generally has a side protected from the wind, which is relatively safe for swimming and snorkeling, but is not a patrolled beach. Ospreys, Whistling Kites, Sea Eagles and the endangered Little Tern are often sighted.



From the southern side of Dark Point the islands off Hawks Nest can be seen. Cabbage Tree Island is the only breeding site of the endangered Gould's Petrel



### **Dark Point Aboriginal Place**

The area of significance of this aboriginal place extends beyond the fenced area at Dark Point. Dark point covers a 7km strip of coastline between Lemon Tree 4WD access road in the south, through to Sandy point 4WD access road in the north of Myall Lakes National Park. The western boundary is Mungo Brush, the beach is the eastern boundary.

### **Archaeological Significance**

The archaeological significance of Dark Point was recognized following a cyclone in 1974. A large amount of sand was displaced and subsequently a large number of artifacts were exposed. In 1977, an archaeological survey identified stone material, shell middens and mammal, bird and fish bones around the site. Scientific study on the fish bones indicated that aboriginal people had caught a variety of fish, molluscs and shellfish. Ancestral remains have also been uncovered and reburied at the site. Wind erosion continually covers and uncovers artifacts throughout the sand dunes. The findings of archaeological surveys at Dark Point are significant to the Worimi people of today as the findings enrich their oral histories, traditions and culture, and strengthen their links to their traditional lands.



# **Sandy Point to Dark Point - Little Gibber Loop Walk**



## **Myall Lakes National Park**