



As the track leaves Mungo Brush Camping Area there is a forest of Cabbage Tree palm (*livistona australis*) and Paperbark (*melaleuca quinquinervia*) on the water-logged sands to the right.

The ground cover is the Bungwahl fern (*blechnum indicum*). Both the Cabbage Tree palm and Bungwahl fern were used as a food source by the aborigines. Have a look at the interesting pattern developed by the inter-lacing roots of the Strangler Fig (*ficus obliqua*) on the right, behind the sign.

Follow the walking track arrows to the rest area. Common species on the edge of the rainforest here are Sweet Pittosporum, Plum pine, Supplejack, Tuckeroo and Cheese tree.

From the rest area, a short detour loop passes a rehabilitation area to Blackfellows Beach.

After the detour loop, the track leaves the rest area and enters the rainforest proper. Notice that you have to walk from sandy soils to rocky, more fertile soils.

In earlier geological times rocky hills such as Mungo Brush, Johnson's Hill, Bombah Point and Chinamans Knob were actually off-shore islands with the shore line on the western side of the present lakes. These hills are composed of rock of greater hardness than the surrounding sands.

The rock at Mungo Brush consists of carboniferous sandstones which have weathered to produce soils of greater fertility than the surrounding sands. Rainforest occurs on these more fertile soils.

In simple terms, three main features characterise rainforest forest: These are:-

- 1) a closed canopy of trees. You can't see much of the sky where as in open forests you can. The closed canopy also makes it much cooler in the rainforest.
- 2) Woody vines, observe all the draping vines.
- 3) Regeneration on the tree species occurs under shade and in natural openings. Look at all the young seedlings as you walk along the track.

There are five broad types of rainforest in New South Wales. Subtropical, Dry and Littoral rainforest. Littoral rainforest is the distinctive type of rainforest found near the sea, affected by salt-laden winds and adapted to survive the harsh conditions of the coast.

Mungo Brush rainforest, a little littoral rainforest, differs from other rainforests in canopy height, species composition and in the appearance of the leaves. The rainforest canopy at Mungo Brush is low and compared with other types of rainforest, it lacks majestic emergent. There is also less species diversity, for example, of Strangler Figs, epiphytes, mosses and ferns than other rainforests.



View from Mungo Brush camp site.



Black Swans found at Mungo Brush

Plant species occurring at Mungo Brush are salt tolerant. Generally their leaves are small, coarse, hard and blunt tipped to cope with the salt-laden winds.

Common tree species are Native olive (*Olea Paniculata*), Coogera (*Arytera Divaricate*), Brush Bloodwood (*Baloghia Lucida*), Black Apple (*Planchonella Australis*) and Shining Leaf Stinger (*Drocnide Photinophylla*). The latter species reaches its approximate southern limit at Mungo Brush.

The understorey includes many trees seedlings, ferns and the bright berried Orange Thorn (*Citriobatus Pauciflorus*).

After about half a kilometre a clearing is reached. There is a stone boat ramp into the lake from the point. This is an excellent place for a rest. Shortly after re-entering the rainforest you will see a Cabbage Tree Palm forest on your left. Flying foxes use the forest as a transit camp. The track leaves the rainforest rocky soils and re-emerges onto sandy soils. Notice the vegetation here begins to grade into an open forest of drier vegetation which includes Hop Bush (*Dodonea Triquetra*), Coast Banksia (*Banksia Integrifolia*), Monotoca (*Monotoca Elliptica*), Wattle (commonly *Acacia Longifolia*), Mock Olive (*Notelaea Longifolia*), *Breynia Oblongifolia* plus the occasional Swamp Mahogany (*Eucalytus Robusta*).

Swamp Mahogany and Paperbark are koala food trees. Look carefully up into these trees as you pass them. You may be lucky enough to see a koala. Just before the loop is completed look at the epiphytic ferns in the cluster of trees on your right.

What Fauna Are You Likely To See?

A number of small mammals and birds live in the rainforest. Commonly observed birds of Mungo Brush rainforest includes the Golden Whistler, Figbird, Rufous Fantail, Satin Bowerbird, White-headed Pigeon, Flock Pigeon, Emerald Dove, White-eared Honeyeater and Tawny Frogmouth. You may see the spectacular Regent Bower Bird with striking black and gold colours.

Birds are attracted to rainforest by the gourmet variety of fruits available from the tree species present. Fruit Pigeons, in particular, feed by 'island hopping' from one rainforest 'island' to another. This is very important as a seed spreading mechanism in rainforest rehabilitation.

Apart from the koala, other common animals you may see are goannas, dingoes, possums and the flat-running Swamp Wallaby.



Mungo Brush Rain Forest Walk

Rainforest Rehabilitation

The rainforest is now being progressively rehabilitated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to ensure that the forest can continue to be viable in the longer term and that this scientifically important community is protected from further damage. The rehabilitation works have been funded by the Service and the National Rainforest Conservation Programme.

As you walk through the rainforest you may observe these works. Please keep to the marked track and do not disturb any plants. The success of the works and the future of the rainforest depends on your co-operation in caring for the forest.



Mungo Brush Rain Forest Walk

Time 45 minutes return

Grade-Easy

Location Myall Lakes National Park

Mungo Brush is situated 6.5 kms south of the Bombah Point ferry. Travelling north from Tea Gardens / Hawks Nest, Mungo Brush is 15.5 kms from the start of the National Parks boundary.



To find the beginning of the walk simply follow the signs for the caravan area at Mungo Brush camping area. There is a U-turn in the road. You'll see the sign for the start of this walk. Camping is also available at Mungo Brush. Facilities include gas BBQs, toilets, running water (not for drinking) and a good boat ramp. You can also find a National Parks ticket machine to purchase your day pass ticket.



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