

A bushwalkers' guide to exploring East Ballina's Bushland Treasures

(approx. direct road distance from Tourist Information Centre in brackets)

1. Lighthouse Beach (3.2km)

From the Surf Club building stroll south along the beach or the shared pathway to North Wall, taking finger-paths of your choice to examine the forest. Admire old Banksias and the emerging Littoral Rainforest. Volunteer regeneration work began in the 1960s. On the footpath is a memorial plaque to the late Ruth Readford who in 1990 began one of Ballina's first Dunecare groups here. Every week of the year dedicated volunteers continue to care for this forest, maintaining it as one of East Ballina's loveliest coastal gems.

2. Shaws Bay Escarpment forest (2.9km)

Observe the lush hillside forest from below at Compton Drive, or start from above at the end of Bayview Street (Richmond Park). Use the challenging, narrow, zig-zag trail to walk down from the Park to the dog-exercise reserve below. At Harbourview Street behind Lighthouse Hill (the "Village Green") you can also inspect the canopied Brushbox rainforest. No walking trails start from there. Once a sandy camp-ground overlooking the river, this rare self-sown Littoral Rainforest on a steep hillside is now an Endangered Ecological Community.

3. Shelly Beach - North and West (3.9km)

At the Shelly Beach south end, follow a dirt lane opposite the old Surfclub and admire the restored paperbark wetland. Continue up into wallum heath towards the cemetery. The late Joan James started the restoration here. Her memorial is on a seat above the access lane. Return downhill then go up Shelly Beach Road, turning off onto the track east towards Black Head. See the paperbark wetland and rainforest below the embankment. Never sand-mined, these Shelly Beach forests contain fine old-growth vegetation.

4. Black Head (3.8km)

This headland is forever associated with the tragic 1850s massacre of Bundjalung people. Its front face was later quarried for basalt to build the North Wall. In 1989 Shirley White and friends started Ballina's first Dunecare group here. It is now a healthy restored rainforest with a network of sandy walking trails. Starting from Shelly Beach Road stroll up the South Heritage Walk to a lookout and return back using the North Heritage Walk. Read the memorial plaques along the shared pathway leading northwards to the Jingi Wahla tunnel whose splendid murals depict Bundjalung life before occupation.

5. Angels Beach - Overpass (5.9km)

This long beach boasts over 70ha of restored forests and a rich Indigenous heritage. From Jingi Wahla tunnel walk down the slope seawards then follow the sandy track north to the carpark. Continue along the paved path northwards through restored rainforests and reach the overpass. There you can access the beach or continue walking north to Flat Rock Tent Park. The more ambitious can take an unformed trail (AYOR) north from under the overpass, skirting the paperbark wetland on its west side. This reaches a seasonal reed-filled lake south of the Tent Park. Also AYOR, enjoy ocean views by approaching the Tent Park via the high foredune using an unformed eastern trail exiting the Tent Park pathway 100m north of the overpass.

6. Flat Rock - Tent Park (6km)

Follow the Tent Park beach track down to the whale lookout platform. Note its interpretive signage then go through the fence and head north. Follow a comfortable sandy maintenance trail (known as "Shirley White's track") to the surf beach which is the southern limit of the National Surfing Reserve. Enjoy ocean views and the restored rainforest. At the surf beach note the interpretive seabird signage at the lookout platform. Continue north as far as you wish taking in the ocean views. On returning, admire the paperbark wetland opposite the Tent Park entrance and inspect the tall 'black-boy' heath on the totemic Bundjalung heritage hill "The Knoll".

7. Angels Beach North - Cultural Site (3.9km)

Leave the Angels Beach Drive/Coast Road roundabout on its west side and enter the Angels Beach North estate. This is no ordinary residential development but quite unique, being the subject of many long court proceedings. The land is a highly significant Aboriginal Heritage site. Along the back ridge of the land is a conservation area of Coast Cypress Pine where artifacts and relics uncovered during the development are buried. On the right hand side of Minley Crescent enter the Cultural Heritage site through a gate leading to the memorial plaque.

8. Allawah Bushland Reserve - Firetrail heath track (2.9km)

From the Coast Road at the East Ballina Landcare sign, cross the trail-gate and enter the wallum heath. Follow it uphill then downhill where it ends in a circle. Pressing further downhill you can reach the wetland edge. Everywhere you'll see the best of East Ballina's coastal wildflowers, vines, shrubs, herbs, orchids and "blackboy" grass-trees. August to October are best for wildflowers but any time is a superb experience. Return back along the same path.

9. Allawah Bushland Reserve - Cultural Site (3.9km)

Enter Cronulla Street, then where it turns left cross the trailgate and the open field to enter the Cypress forest. This is East Ballina's most significant Cultural Heritage site. The 1850s massacre occurred on traditional camping ground here, and it is now the spiritual heart of Allawah Reserve. Remember the sadness of our cruel past as you follow sandy tracks down into the Chickiba wetlands.

10. Central Avenue forest (2.3km)

Central Avenue boasts a small but beautiful Cypress/Rainforest reserve, spread over the slope leading up to the reservoir. Restored by volunteers, the forest is maintained as a valued remnant of East Ballina's past.

11. Fred Stoker Park (2.8km)

This beautiful small urban park on the corner of Links Avenue and Jameson Avenue is maintained by volunteers. Under its old-growth Cyresses see fragments of ancient Aboriginal shell middens. At the front grows a rare, endangered Perfumed Achronychia and its juvenile saplings grow behind the temporary fencing.

12. Mercer Park (2km)

This very old piece of East Ballina's European heritage bushland is notable for its immense small-leaved fig (*Ficus obliqua*). The little park enjoys a superb hillside location near to the Serpentine estuary of North Creek.

EAST BALLINA'S

Bushland Treasures



Banksia aemula

The low growing *Banksia aemula* (Wallum Banksia) with its curiously gnarled trunk displays strikingly large yellow flower-cones. It is the tree perhaps most recognisable and characteristic of the 110 identified heath species within this 57 hectares of East Ballina's Crown Land. This entire site was saved from development in 1997 through community action. In 2008 most of the area became gazetted as Allawah Bushland Reserve. Ballina Shire Council became the Reserve Trust Manager in 2009.

Ballina Coastcare Inc., August 2014

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Ballina Coastcare Inc. (INC9891455; ABN19145009334) is a not-for-profit volunteer group incorporated in June 2009. It continues a 25 years heritage of rehabilitating coastal and urban bushland reserves begun by Lighthouse Beach Dunecare, Angels Beach Dunecare and East Ballina Landcare. Membership is open to the public.

As a community partner of Ballina Shire Council the group works on public reserves, including the East Ballina Aboriginal Place.

Their vision inspires future generations of Coastcarers to continue the work.

Contact Ballina Coastcare at <ballinacoastcare@gmail.com>, mail to PO Box 166 Ballina 2478 or visit the www.ballinacoastcare.org website.

East Ballina's Wallum Heath, Paperbark Wetland, Cypress Pines and Littoral Rainforests are waiting for your visit

Use this map to find your way around. Ballina Coastcare volunteers help to manage all the sites marked in green. Take home with you only your memories and photographs; leave behind only your footprints. Start your walk where the blue arrows point.

EAST BALLINA ABORIGINAL PLACE

NSW Government Gazetted 27th July 2012

The cultural values of the East Ballina Aboriginal Place include the recognition and commemoration of early colonial conflicts and the 1853/54 massacre of Bundjalung people.

Aboriginal families of the area continue to use the cemetery to be buried close to their ancestors.

The place contains a landscape of extensive cultural features and natural resources including wetlands and coastal ecosystems.

It is a valuable cultural and environmental heritage teaching resource for current and future generations.

Aboriginal Place locations are outlined by orange boundaries on this map



LEGEND

- East Ballina Aboriginal Place boundary
- Coastcare volunteer worksites

Visitor Information Centre

8. Allawah Reserve Firetrail



11. Fred Stoker Park



9. Allawah Cultural Site



12. Mercer Park



10. Central Avenue Forest



7. Angels Beach North



Angels Beach North Estate

Chickiba Lake

5. Angels Beach



6. Flat Rock



4. Black Head



3. Shelly Beach



2. Shaws Bay Forest



1. Lighthouse Beach



DISCLAIMER
Although all care is taken in the preparation of this plan, Ballina Shire Council accepts no responsibility for any misprints, errors, omissions or inaccuracies.

The information contained within this plan is for pictorial representation only. Do not scale. Accurate measurements should be undertaken by survey.

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