Welcome to the Cessnock Woodlands

"Explore this incredible biodiversity hotspot in the heart of New South Wales"

Tim Faulkner Director, Australian Reptile Park

The Cessnock Woodlands in centraleastern NSW are located within the traditional country of the Wonnarua people. Located 50 km west of Newcastle and only a two hour drive north of Sydney, these easily accessible woodlands provide a diversity of birdwatching locations surrounded by the scenic beauty of the Hunter Valley vineyards and a wealth of accommodation, dining and entertainment options.

These woodlands are recognised internationally as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) primarily because they provide a vital refuge for birds including the Critically **Endangered Regent Honeyeater and Swift** Parrot. They include the natural assets of Werakata National Park and State Conservation Area, Crown Reserves and privately owned bush land around the Cessnock and Kurri Kurri townships and the smaller villages of Abermain, Kitchener, Pelton, Ellalong and Quorrobolong. Vegetation varies from the open structure of the Lower Hunter Spotted Gum -Ironbark forest to the denser Hunter Lowland Redgum Forest along drainage lines to the low woodland or heathland structure of Kurri Sand Swamp Woodland (all of which are endangered ecological



Tim Faulkner of the Australian Reptile Park recognises the importance of Cessnock Woodlands

communities). There is even a patch of beautiful subtropical rainforest at Brunkerville that supports birds and wildlife unique to that environment.

This incredible biodiversity hotspot is not only a birdwatcher's paradise but is also home to a high diversity of Eucalypt species, threatened flora species found nowhere else like the Pokolbin Mallee (Eucalyptus pumila), and fascinating European and Aboriginal cultural history. We hope you enjoy discovering this special

Happy birding!

part of the Lower Hunter region.

Preparing for your walk

Take a little time to prepare for your walk. Work out a route and ensure you take all the essentials with you. Here are a few tips:

- ✓ It is always wise to tell a family member or friend where you're going.
- Wear sensible clothes and sturdy boots.
- ✓ Always carry ample water and a snack.
- A first-aid kit, sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat and mobile phone are essential.
- √ Be aware that you may encounter ticks, mosquitoes or snakes on your walk.
- V Don't forget binoculars and a field guide.





giant Laughing Kookaburra

Cessnock is a vibrant country town, the gateway to Hunter Valley Wine Country and boasts diverse and affordable dining and accommodation options. You'll also find a range of cafés, bakeries, an art gallery and Performing Arts Centre.

Kurri Kurri is Australia's largest mural town with over 60 outdoor artworks. The town hosts mural tours, mining and railway museums, distinctive country pubs and an RV Point.















This publication was made possible through the generous support of the organisations listed above as well as Hunter Local Land Services and the NSW Government's Saving Our Species Program through the Environmental Trust. For more information Region visit www.hboc.org.au. HBOC is affiliated with BirdLife Australia, global leaders in bird and nature conse onmental Trust. For more information on birds in the Hunte Front cover image: Regent Honeyeater on Long-flowered Mistletoe

BirdLife Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Country on which we live and work, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise and are grateful for the immense contribution of Indigenous people to the knowledge and conservation of Australia's birds. ©BirdLife Australia/HBOC 2021 Design by ConservationMatters 0420 821 460. Illustrations by Rachel Klyve. v11/21 Enjoy the abundant bird life

Birds to look out for on your woodland walk

The breadth and diversity of habitat that's covered by this guide explains the variety of species that you could see on your walk. As you enjoy this unique environment you will have the opportunity to see many of these birds and possibly a Rare or

If you're sure you've spotted a bird that's Rare in the region you can report your sighting by email to recordsofficer@hboc.org.au

Uncommon bird from			Ι,		$\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ $
Tick the circles next to t	ne spe	cles you see.		/isit www.hboc.org.au	X
		λ		λ	
BRUSH-TURKEY		IBISES & SPOONBILLS			1
Australian Brush-turkey	LC	Australian White Ibis	С	KITES, HAWKS & EAGLES	
QUAILS		Straw-necked Ibis	С	Black-shouldered Kite	C
Stubble Quail	R	Glossy Ibis	R	Square-tailed Kite	U
Brown Quail	U	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	U	O Pacific Baza	U
DUCKS, GEESE & SWANS		Royal Spoonbill	LC	Wedge-tailed Eagle	U
		HERONS, EGRETS & BITTER	NS	C Little Eagle	U
Plumed Whistling-Duck	R 	Black-necked Stork	R	Swamp Harrier	U
Pink-eared Duck	U	Nankeen Night-Heron	U	Spotted Harrier	R
Black Swan	С	Cattle Egret	С	Grey Goshawk	U
Hardhead	LC	White-necked Heron	U	O Brown Goshawk	С
Australasian Shoveler	U	Great Egret	LC	O Collared Sparrowhawk	С
Pacific Black Duck	С	O Intermediate Egret	U	○ White-bellied Sea-Eagle	LC
Grey Teal Chestnut Teal Chestnu	C U	White-faced Heron	С	Whistling Kite	С
_	R	◯ Little Egret	R	O Black Kite	U
○ Freckled Duck ○ Musk Duck	K U	O Black Bittern	R	FALCONS	
○ Musk Duck ○ Australian Wood Duck	C	PELICANS			
Mallard*	R	Australian Pelican	LC	Nankeen Kestrel	С
	K		LC	Australian Hobby	С
GREBES		CORMORANTS & DARTERS		Brown Falcon	С
Australasian Grebe	LC	Little Pied Cormorant	С	Black Falcon	R
O Hoary-headed Grebe	R	Great Cormorant	LC	Peregrine Falcon	U
Great Crested Grebe	R	Little Black Cormorant	LC		77
		Pied Cormorant	R		

Australasian Darter

RAILS, CRAKES & WATER-HENS	COCKATOOS	SWIFTS
O Buff-banded Rail U C Lewin's Rail U	Glossy Black-Cockatoo U Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo C	White-throated NeedletailFork-tailed SwiftR S
Australian Spotted Crake U	Gang-gang Cockatoo LC	KINGFISHERS & ALLIES
O Baillon's Crake US	Galah C	Rainbow Bee-eater C S
○ Spotless Crake○ Purple SwamphenC	C Long-billed Corella LC	Oriental Dollarbird C S
Purple SwamphenDusky Moorhen	◯ Little Corella◯ Sulphur-crested CockatooC	Azure Kingfisher LC
C Eurasian Coot C	0 .	Sacred Kingfisher C S
0	PARROTS & LORIKEETS	C Laughing Kookaburra
BUTTON-QUAILS	Australian King-Parrot C	PITTA
Painted Button-quail	Red-rumped Parrot C	○ Noisy Pitta R
STILTS, PLOVERS & WADERS	C Crimson Rosella C Eastern Rosella C	LYREBIRDS
Red-necked Avocet U	Swift Parrot UW	Superb Lyrebird LC
O Black-winged Stilt C	○ Turquoise Parrot R	BOWERBIRDS
Red-capped Plover R	Musk Lorikeet LC	Green Catbird LC
○ Black-fronted Dotterel○ Masked LapwingC	C Little Lorikeet	Regent Bowerbird U
Red-kneed Dotterel R	Rainbow Lorikeet C	Satin Bowerbird C
Australian Painted Snipe RS	Scaly-breasted Lorikeet U	Spotted Bowerbird R
Comb-crested Jacana R	O Budgerigar R	
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper R	CUCKOOS	TREECREEPERS
C Latham's Snipe LC S	Pheasant Coucal U	White-throated Treecreeper C
Common Greenshank RS	CS Eastern Koel CS	Red-browed Treecreeper R
Marsh Sandpiper RS	CS Channel-billed Cuckoo	O Brown Treecreeper LC
	Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo US	FAIRY-WRENS
GULLS & TERNS	Shining Bronze-Cuckoo CS	Variegated Fairy-wren C
○ Silver Gull U	○ Fan-tailed Cuckoo C	Superb Fairy-wren C
Whiskered Tern R S	O Brush Cuckoo U S	HONEYEATERS
PIGEONS & DOVES	O Pallid Cuckoo U S	
○ White-headed Pigeon LC	OWLS	Scarlet HoneyeaterStriped HoneyeaterLC
O Brown Cuckoo-Dove	0	Noisy Friarbird C
○ Wonga Pigeon	,	Little Friarbird R
Common Bronzewing	Masked OwlRBarn OwlU	Brown Honeyeater R
O Brush Bronzewing R	<u> </u>	New Holland Honeyeater LC
Crested Pigeon	O =	White-cheeked Honeyeater C
O Peaceful Dove	O Powerful Owl O Southern Boobook C	White-eared Honeyeater LC
O Bar-shouldered Dove C	Southern Boobook C	Blue-faced Honeyeater C
O Topknot Pigeon	FROGMOUTHS & NIGHTJARS	Black-chinned Honeyeater LC
Brown-capped Emerald Dove R	Tawny Frogmouth C	O Brown-headed Honeyeater C
O Rock Dove*	White-throated Nightjar US	White-naped Honeyeater C
Spotted Dove*	O Australian Owlet-nightjar C	Eastern Spinebill C

	1	and	the f	fascinating cultur of this unique reg	al
HONEYEATERS continued		WOODSWALLOWS		ROBINS	
Pied Honeyeater Lewin's Honeyeater Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater Little Wattlebird Red Wattlebird Regent Honeyeater Fuscous Honeyeater White-plumed Honeyeater Yellow-faced Honeyeater	R LC R C U C U	Masked Woodswallow White-browed Woodswallow Dusky Woodswallow White-breasted Woodswallow CUCKOO-SHRIKES & TRILL Black-faced Cuckoo-shrik White-bellied Cuckoo-shri Common Cicadabird	ce C	Rose Robin Flame Robin Scarlet Robin Red-capped Robin Jacky Winter Eastern Yellow Robin LARKS, CISTICOLAS & REEL WARBLERS Golden-headed Cisticola Rufous Songlark	LC W R W U W C C C LC S
Bell Miner Noisy Miner PARDALOTES	C C	White-winged Triller SITTELLAS Varied Sittella	US	Brown SonglarkTawny GrassbirdLittle Grassbird	R S LC LC
Spotted Pardalote Striated Pardalote SCRUBWRENS & THORNBILL	C C	WHISTLERS & ALLIES Rufous Whistler Golden Whistler	C C	Australian Reed-Warbler WHITE-EYES Silvereye SWALLOWS & MARTINS	C S
Brown GerygoneWhite-throated GerygoneWestern GerygoneWeebillSpeckled Warbler	LC CS R U LC	Grey Shrike-thrush Eastern Shrike-tit ORIOLES Olive-backed Oriole	C LC	White-backed SwallowFairy MartinTree MartinWelcome Swallow	R CS C
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren Yellow-throated Scrubwren White-browed Scrubwren Large-billed Scrubwren	LC C LC	Australasian Figbird FANTAILS & MONARCHS Spangled Drongo Willie Wagtail	R W C	THRUSHES Bassian Thrush Common Blackbird* FLOWERPECKERS	LC LC
 Yellow-rumped Thornbill Yellow Thornbill Striated Thornbill Brown Thornbill Buff-rumped Thornbill 	C C C	Rufous Fantail Grey Fantail Leaden Flycatcher Satin Flycatcher Restless Flycatcher	LCS C CS RS	Mistletoebird SPARROWS & FINCHES Red-browed Finch Zebra Finch	C C R
BABBLERS & ALLIES Grey-crowned Babbler Eastern Whipbird	C	Magpie-lark Black-faced Monarch Spectacled Monarch RAVENS & CROWS	C LCS RS	O Double-barred Finch Diamond Firetail House Sparrow* PIPITS	C R LC
Spotted Quail-thrush BUTCHERBIRDS & ALLIES Pied Currawong Australian Magpie	C C	○ Torresian Crow○ Little Raven○ Australian Raven	LC R C	Australasian Pipit Starlings & Mynas Common Starling* Common Myna*	LC C
O Pied Butcherbird O Grey Butcherbird	C C	CHOUGH White-winged Chough	С	* = Introduced Species	

Birding Guide to the Cessnock Woodlands

Including Kurri Kurri, Abermain,

Kitchener, Pelton and Pokolbin.

ite	Location & activity	Amenities	Habitat	Birds of Interest	Man 1 H Manin
1	Old Brush Rainforest, 187 Leiberts Lane, Brunkerville Park and walk (private land) (2) -32.948958, 151.499157	Registrations essential. Call 02 4938 0288 Admission fee Toilets	Sub-tropical rainforest Walking Trails	Noisy Pitta Bassian Thrush Catbird Scrubwrens Bowerbirds	The information on this map is derived from Map data © 2020 Google and other sources. Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this map is accurate and up to date. BirdLife Australia is not liable for positioning inaccuracies, subsequent updates, errors, or omissions of data.
2	Mulbring Park, Vincent Street, Mulbring Park and walk (2) -32.902359, 151.482739	Public toilets Playground Picnic facilities	Parkland trees	Corellas Babblers Honeyeaters Parrots	To Branxton Majors Lane Sawyers Gully
3	John Brown's Lagoon Roadside birding ② -32.857900, 151.512208	Private land – view from roadside only	Large wetland Pasture lands Eucalypts	Jacana Water birds Birds of prey Babblers Kingfishers	Hunter Valley Sardens Gardens Gardens Werakata National Park Werakata National Park M15
4	Sheppeard Drive, Richmond Vale Roadside birding (2) -32.877994, 151.513900	Private land – view from roadside only	Spotted Gum Ironbark	Honeyeaters Treecreepers Lorikeets Woodswallows Robins	Pokolbin October 16 A Appropriate Representation of the control
5	Stanford Road, Stanford Merthyr Crown Reserve Park and walk 32.822128, 151.498839	No facilities but Service Station nearby	Sand Swamp Woodland Spotted Gum Ironbark	Honeyeaters Fairy-wrens Thornbills Lorikeets	Oakey Creek Rd Oud Mailand D Abermain B68 10
6	Log of Knowledge Park, Mulbring Street, Kurri Kurri Street parking 32.825717, 151.481881	Picnic facilities Playground Kookaburra Walk	Spotted Gum Ironbark Parkland Gardens	Lorikeets Parrots Honeyeaters Fairy-wrens	Cessnock (1) (2) Kearsley
7	Hebburn Road Intersection (East side of road MLALC) Park and walk (2) -32.842124, 151.436525	Private land Permission granted for on foot birdwatching	Spotted Gum Ironbark	Pigeons & Doves Button-quail Parrots Honeyeaters Pardalotes	Swift Parrot feeding on
8	Abermain South Power Easement (MLALC) Park and walk 32.823105, 151.434776	Private land Permission granted for on foot birdwatching	Spotted Gum Ironbark	Honeyeaters Birds of prey Parrots Treecreepers Thornbills	Spotted Gum Pelton Pelton To Wollombi
9	Elrington Trail Werakata NP Park and walk ② -32.859336, 151.425127	No facilities	Spotted Gum Ironbark	Swift Parrot Lorikeets Honeyeaters Other bushbirds	Werakata State Conservation Area Ellalong
10	David Street, Neath (MLALC) Park and walk (2) -32.828768, 151.405169	Private land Permission granted for on foot birdwatching	Spotted Gum Ironbark	Parrots Honeyeaters Pardalotes Thornbills Robins	Quorrobolong Quorrobolong
D	Kearsley South Fire Trail, Werakata NP Park and walk the trail 32.878887, 151.381046	No facilities Parking is limited	Spotted Gum Ironbark	Parrots Honeyeaters Cockatoos Cuckoo-shrikes Pigeons & Doves	Scan this QR code with your smart phone camera to view an online map of the sites. To Watagans National Park The best places to see Swift Parrot or Regent Honeyeater Water
2	Poppet Head Park, Kitchener Park and walk 32.878399, 151.366159	Public toilets Picnic facilities Car parking Playground	Eucalypts Parkland Walking Trails Kitchener Dam	Kingfishers Honeyeaters Dotterel Lorikeets Waterbirds	Email Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot sightings to woodlandbirds@birdlife.org.au or call 1800 621 056 i Information Hospital Airport Gardens Picnic National Park Refreshment Toilets Restaurants Winery Trail Mountain
3	Pelton Road, Pelton, Werakata SCA Park and walk ? -32.883735, 151.314612	No facilities	Spotted Gum Ironbark	Quail-thrush Honeyeaters Swift Parrot Lorikeets Woodland birds	Note: All NPWS roads listed in this guide are dirt roads and conditions may vary. Many trails are suitable for 4WD vehicles only (specifically, Pelton Road, Hebburn Road, Elrington Trail and a portion of Shiralee Trail are not maintained to 2WD standards). Enter these co-ordinates carefully into google maps on your smart device to find the waypoint.
14	Shiralee Trail, Werakata NP Park and walk (2) -32.793396, 151.429120	No facilities	Spotted Gum Ironbark	Parrots Thornbills Heathwren Honeyeaters Fairy-wrens	Malinathe most out of nour wall through
15	Cnr Native Dog Hill Road and Gibsons Loop, Werakata NP Park and walk ② -32.778622, 151.397596	No facilities	Spotted Gum Ironbark	Bronzewing Parrots Honeyeaters Thornbills Other bushbirds	Making the most out of your walk throw Wonnarua Country with Mindaribba
16	Astills Picnic Area, Werakata NP Park and walk (2) -32.796782, 151.389407	Picnic facilities	Spotted Gum Ironbark Sand Swamp Woodland Wildflowers	Honeyeaters Woodland birds Parrots Babblers	The traditional landowners in this part of the Hunter Valley are the Wonnarua People. Their stories of Country and Mindaribba LALC offices are
D	Broke Road Dam, Pokolbin Roadside birding (private property) 32.771873, 151.295566	Private land – view from roadside only	Large wetland Pasture	Ducks Grebes Cormorants Herons & Egrets Dotterel	their connection to the land go back over 60,000 years, when the Creation Spirits began forming this unique landscape. Cultural Heritage and Country In the beginning in the Dreaming, Metford near Maitland from maintain a strong sense of the identity and links with Won To find out more about Minus People and Country In the beginning in the Dreaming,
18	Hunter Distillery, Broke Road, Pokolbin Park and walk 3-32.765603, 151.260706	Toilets	Spotted Gum Ironbark	Cockatoos Fairy-wrens Honeyeaters Thornbills Finches	Wonnarua People saw all of the sacred rivers, mountains and animals created with Baiame coming to earth to teach All Lore in order for Wonnarua People All Lore in order for Wonnarua People Ancient handmade cutting tool discovered locally relics and sites have been identified in the region including rock engravings.

19 Point of Interest

Call in to Pokolbin Distillery (2198 Broke Rd) to see an impressive 30-metre mural, painted on the building's exterior in June 2020 by artist Thomas Jackson. It depicts the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot and the Pokolbin Mallee Eucalyptus pumila (a vulnerable species of eucalyptus tree found in a single population in the Pokolbin area).

to sustain life on the land. This learning allowed Wonnarua People to carefully manage their environment. Kinship, reciprocity and obligation between the Wonnarua People, all living things and all parts of this Country ensured that over exploitation of resources never occurred. All food came from the land and the rivers

Hundreds of thousands of Aboriginal

by Rachel Klyve

the region including rock engravings, grinding grooves, scar trees and totemic markings. Mount Yengo is as significant to the Wonnarua and other First Nations Peoples in the Southern part of the Country as Uluru is in the North.

Kawal

When Baiame returned to the sky he took that run like arteries through the Country. on the earthly form of Kawal to watch over and protect the Wonnarua People.



Mindaribba LALC offices are situated at Metford

Respecting and understanding Cultural Heritage while on your walk

Kawal the embodime of Baiame on Earth

John Renshaw Dr

Sugarloaf State **Conservation Area**

ction While walking why not take some time to enjoy the tranquillity of the woodlands and open spaces. If you sit quietly in one place for a period of time you may be surprised to find birds come in quite close to you.

- Please stay on the paths or tracks and do not stray onto private land.
- Remember to leave the environment as you found it and take your litter home.
- Keep noise to a minimum you will find that there may be more for you to see and you will help others enjoy their experience with nature too.