Gibbergunyah Reserve

**Boronia Street, Bowral OR Howards Lane, Welby**

Map

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At a glance

**Grade:**

Easy/steep sections

**Time:**

2.5 hours

**Distance:**

5-7 km circuit options

**Ascent:** Up to 170m total depending on circuit.

**Conditions:**

Mostly easy to follow fire trails. The Geebung Track and Glen Track are unmarked bushwalking trails and not as straight forward. Care should be taken.

Bring your own water.

**Facilities:**

No facilities or amenities on this walk

**Location:**

Tracks can be accessed either off Boronia Street in Bowral or Howards Lane in Mittagong which is steep and rocky to start.

A peaceful reserve in the heart of The Highlands

Gibbergunyah Reserve is one of contrasts with secluded, shady walking trails and sunny, rocky outcrops to picnic on – a calm respite from the hurly burly of town. At over 800 metres Ninety Acre Hill Lookout has sweeping views of the distant Blue Mountains from its lichen clad boulders. Wombats and echidnas make their lairs in the crevices of the rocks below. There is a view of Mount Gibraltar from the Gib Lookout.

The 200ha of bushland ranges from open woodland on the drier edges to tall moist fern-carpeted forest in the deeper gullies. A variety of brightly coloured flowers bloom according to the season and tall

banksia await fire to open their spiky, rock hard seed-pods.

Dogs

Bring your dog for the walk too, as dogs on leash are permitted.

On the Trails

Access to the reserve is from either Howard’s Lane on the Mittagong side or off a small parking area on the corner of Boronia Street and St. Clair Street on the Bowral side. The track from Howards Lane can be a bit steep and rocky, whereas access from Boronia Street skirts along the edge of the golf course and has a more gradual accent into the reserve.

Once on the trails you will enjoy a variety of micro climates and relative flora. From tall white barked gums, to lush fern rich valleys there is plenty to explore in the Gibbergunyah Reserve.

Most of the trails are easy walking fire trails with a bit of elevation gain here and there. The Glen Track and Geebung Track are more like a proper bushwalking tracks. The Glen Track is hard to follow in the middle section.

Signage is clear for all the fire trails and a small track off the Gang Gang Track leads to 90 Acre Hill Lookout which is a great spot for a rest and lunch. Another small track off the Galah Track takes you out to the serene Gib Lookout where a small bench offers a perfect spot for a rest.

History of The Gibbergunyah Reserve

“Gibbergunyah” (believed to be an amalgamation of two Aboriginal words meaning stone and house), took its name from Gibbergunyah Creek. In earlier times known as the 460 acre also as the 90 Acres, the reserve covers 186 hectares (just over 460

acres). Its highest point is 814 metres above sea level. Eastward its water drains into Gibbergunyah Creek and westward it looks to the Dividing Range.

In 1939 the area was a scene of raging bushfire which swept into Mittagong. Following that it was controlled by the Soil Conservation Service and used as a practice area by bushfire brigades.

Officially “a Reserve for public recreation and the preservation of native flora and fauna” it was gazette November 1974 with the Council of Mittagong. Since amalgamation of the regions three local governments, Reserve control and administration has passed to the Wingecarribee Shire Council.

More recently The Gibbergunyah has become home to the annual mirror flash ceremony where the traditional owners of the land, the Gundungurra People, are celebrated and The Wingecarribee Reconciliation Group communicates with the community in Katoomba without the aid of modern technology.

A picture containing mountain, outdoor, sky, nature

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**Things to remember**

* Stay on the track – help protect bushland by not damaging any flora or fauna
* Observe fire bans
* No firearms or hunting equipment to be carried
* Take your rubbish home
* Use sunscreen
* Water is not provided
* There are no toilets
* Always tell someone where you are bushwalking before you go.
* Download the Emergency Plus App before bushwalkingIcon

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