

THE RESERVE is an area of restored natural forest, a conservation site for wildlife and a pleasant area for quiet recreation.

It is currently 130 hectares around the summit of Mount Gibraltar (863m) which is composed of the igneous rock microsyenite, known commercially as Bowral Trachyte. This was quarried for 100 years, 1886-1986, for stone to build many grand public buildings.

The unique native forest, quarries and views from the Reserve are impressive to every visitor. The quarry scars commemorate a major part of the history of the area, quarrying being one of its early industries.

THE WALKING TRACKS

1 THE RIM TRACK: 1.2km

This track connects all three lookouts and provides excellent views. There are rough patches and some steps.

A circuit walk can be completed via the road and Inner Bowl.

2 THE RAVINE TRACK: 600m

This links the Reservoir track with the Gib East fire trail via stepping blocks across Chinaman's Creek and takes you from Trachyte to Hawkesbury Sandstone communities.

3 THE RESERVOIR TRACK: 600m

This steep track links Mittagong Lookout to Dean Street, near the Bowral Road railway bridge and to the Gib West and Gib East fire trails.

4 THE GIB WEST FIRETRAIL:

Links The Gib East Firetrail and the Reservoir Track with Soma Avenue thus creating possible walking circuits.

5 THE GIB EAST FIRE TRAIL:

Links Railway Parade with Oxley Drive. It is a steep trail through Hawkesbury Sandstone vegetation.

6 THE STONE STAIRWAY: near Bowral Lookout Shelter Shed

This is a very steep set of heritage stone steps that link Bowral Lookout to Cliff and Ellen Streets, the Heritage Quarries Circuit and the Quarries car park.

7 HERITAGE QUARRIES

CIRCUIT: 1.5km with steep

This new walk enables viewing of two of the large heritage trachyte quarries and links with the Stone Stairway to Bowral Lookout. The Quarries car park entrance is off Oxley Drive, Bowral.

Booklet available on request.

PICNIC AREAS and LOOKOUTS

BOWRAL LOOKOUT has a view to the south-west, overlooking Bowral and the Wingecarribee Valley towards Moss Vale & Goulburn. Walking tracks radiate from here. Car parking, picnic facilities and toilets are available. The 60m path to the lookout is suitable for wheelchairs.

THE INNER BOWL is a sheltered site where rich soil supports tall trees and a regenerating understorey of ferns. Car parking is at the western entrance. There is a shelter & table.

JELLORE LOOKOUT has a view to the north-west. This is regarded as the finest view from the mountain. It overlooks the Southern Railway & Gibbergunyah Reserve to Mount Jellore, the Nattai Wilderness and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The 40m path to the lookout is not suitable for wheelchairs.

MITTAGONG LOOKOUT has a view to the north overlooking Mittagong and the Mount Alexandra Reserve over the shoulder of which Sydney CBD can be seen. The Sydney Water Catchment Reserves lie to the north-east and to the east Mt Keira, above Wollongong, is visible. Walking tracks radiate from this point.