

Ngunnawal people  
welcome you to



# Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve

A Brief Guide

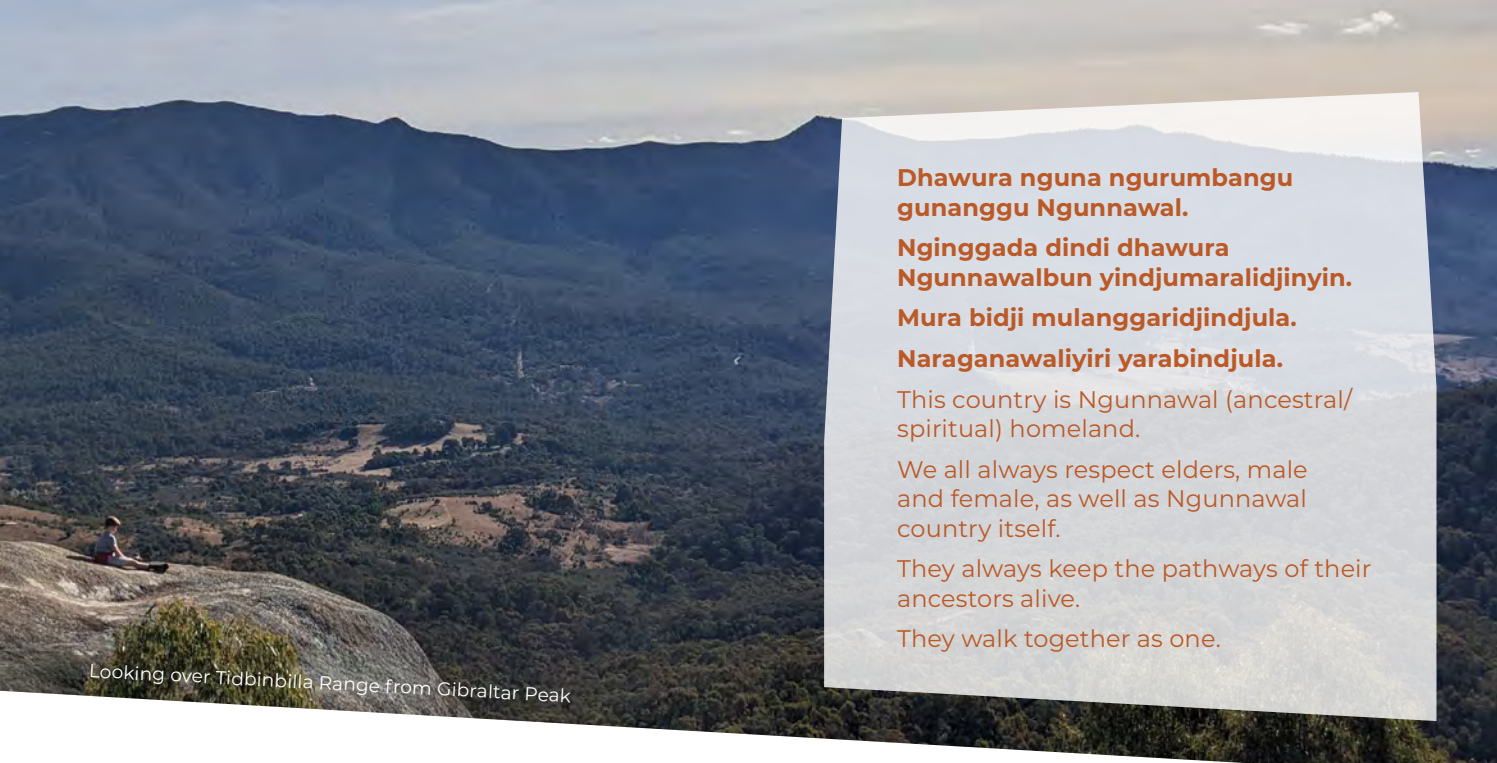


Tidbinbilla



**ACT**  
Government





**Dhawura nguna ngurumbangu  
gunangu Ngunnawal.**

**Nginggada dindi dhawura  
Ngunnawalbun yindjumaralidjinyin.**

**Mura bidji mulanggaridjindjula.**

**Naraganawaliyiri yarabindjula.**

This country is Ngunnawal (ancestral/  
spiritual) homeland.

We all always respect elders, male  
and female, as well as Ngunnawal  
country itself.

They always keep the pathways of their  
ancestors alive.

They walk together as one.

Looking over Tidbinbilla Range from Gibraltar Peak

## Something for Everyone

Visit Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and experience the best nature has to offer.

Tidbinbilla has something for everyone: from rugged peaks to rolling grasslands; from ancient rock shelters to cascading creeks; from whispering forests to wetlands teeming with wildlife. You can enjoy activities like bushwalking, cycling and orienteering or just relax and recharge at one of our picnic areas. The BBQs are free and the Nature Discovery Playground is great fun for kids.

For more information, drop into the Tidbinbilla Visitor Information Centre where you can also buy snacks, gifts and excellent barista coffee.

While exploring the valley, take the opportunity to learn about the Traditional Custodians, the Ngunnawal people, and their culture. Sites with strong cultural connection that are open to visitors include Hanging Rock,

Birrigai Rock Shelter, Gibraltar Peak and the Wandarawari Track.

Enjoy spectacular views from Gibraltar Peak, Johns Peak and Camels Hump. Take a stroll through the Sanctuary to see if you can spy our elusive platypus. Visit our koalas in the Eucalypt Forest or look for a Southern Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, one of Australia's most critically endangered populations, on the Barayngu Murawung (wallaby's path).

Gazetted as a Nature Reserve in 1971, Tidbinbilla covers 54.5 square kilometres and is home to at least 35 mammal species and around 170 bird species.

Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve offers guided activities on weekends and during school holiday periods. Custom group bookings can also be made. Contact the visitor centre or see the Tidbinbilla website for more information.

Cover photo: Gibraltar Peak

## The Australian Alps National Parks

The Australian Alps consist of twelve national parks and protected areas including Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Together, they cover just 0.15% of the mainland but incorporate nearly all of the alpine and sub-alpine country. Since 1986, park agencies in New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and the Australian Government have worked collaboratively to manage this 1.6 million hectare expanse in recognition of its cultural and environmental significance to all Australians.

Website: [theaustralialpsnationalparks.org](http://theaustralialpsnationalparks.org)



Red-necked Wallaby (M. Will)



Northern Corroboree Frog

## Wild Things

Vegetation in and around Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve includes woodland, dry and wet sclerophyll forest, open grassland, frost hollows and wetlands on the valley floor.

Tidbinbilla offers visitors a unique chance to experience native wildlife up close, but please remember that these animals are wild. DO NOT feed the animals as this can make them sick, reliant on humans for food and more vulnerable to predators.

***Please do not feed our wildlife***

## Threatened Species Program

The threatened species programs at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve contribute significantly towards the conservation of species in peril. These programs focus on captive breeding initiatives that maintain or improve genetic diversity. These captive populations serve as insurance against extinction and provide a source of animals for reintroductions into the wild.

Current programs include the Northern Corroboree Frog, Southern Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby and Grassland Earless Dragon. Most of this exceptional and ongoing work occurs behind the scenes, however, visitors can see Northern Corroboree Frogs at the Visitor Information Centre and might be lucky enough to glimpse the ACT's mammal emblem on Baraygnu Murawung walking track that begins at Black Flats carpark.



Indigenous ranger led activity

## Tidbinbilla and People

Tidbinbilla is a place of ancient and continuing significance to the Ngunnawal people. The Ngunnawal people are the Traditional Custodians of the Canberra region with a continued cultural, spiritual and historical connection to the area.

The name Tidbinbilla comes from the Ngunnawal word 'Jedbinbilla' meaning 'where boys become men'. This was an important gathering place for the Ngunnawal people and many neighbouring groups, who would gather and stay during the bogong moth harvest. This is evident by the many Ngunnawal heritage sites, including several rock shelter sites scattered throughout Tidbinbilla Valley. Experience these wonders by walking to the Birrigai Rock Shelter, the oldest known rock shelter in the Alps region, and Hanging Rock.

For a unique insight into the life of the early European settlers, visit Rock Valley Homestead and Nil Desperandum. Walk the Church Rock Heritage Loop and imagine how those families lived when they first arrived in this remote valley. Find out more about pioneering industries such as eucalyptus oil distilling at Black Flats carpark.

## Picnicking

Choose an isolated, riverside picnic spot such as Greens or Blewitts, or go for the magnificent views of the Lookout or Rock Valley. There are many special places to picnic and BBQ at Tidbinbilla. See map for picnic spots and facilities at each location. Both gas and wood BBQs are free, however no wood is supplied so please bring your own or purchase some from the visitor centre.



Nature Discovery Playground – Sheedys Picnic Area



Nil Desperandum

## Nature Stays and Camping

Nestled beneath the Tidbinbilla Range, Nil Desperandum has heritage charm and offers a feeling of remoteness just a short drive from Canberra. To find out more, visit:

[tidbinbilla.act.gov.au/stay/nil-desperandum](http://tidbinbilla.act.gov.au/stay/nil-desperandum)

Camping within Tidbinbilla is prohibited. Woods Reserve is the closest campsite to Tidbinbilla and other campsites are within driving distance. Book in advance online:

[www.parks.act.gov.au/where-to-stay](http://www.parks.act.gov.au/where-to-stay)



Bushwalkers

## Bushwalking

The 24 signposted walks shown on the map help you explore the bush beyond the main roads and picnic areas—and be enchanted by Tidbinbilla's beauty and diversity. Enjoy the range of walking trails, meander through the Sanctuary wetlands, find a koala in the Eucalypt Forest, or take a full day hike to the top of the Tidbinbilla Range. Please give yourself enough time to exit the reserve before the gates close.

## Important Tips for your Trip

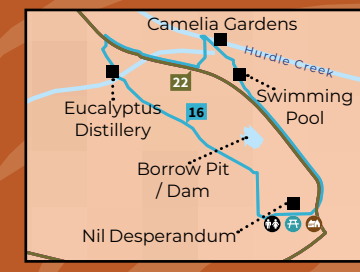
- » Please walk safely. Know your capabilities, consider your level of fitness and the distance and steepness of the walk.
- » Be prepared for all conditions with adequate food, water, clothing and first aid kit.
- » Do not rely on a mobile phone, avoid walking alone and tell a reliable person your plans and approximate return time.
- » Where available, enter your details into the walking register at the start of the walk. You can hire a Personal Location Beacon (PLB) from the visitor centre.



White-eared Honeyeater

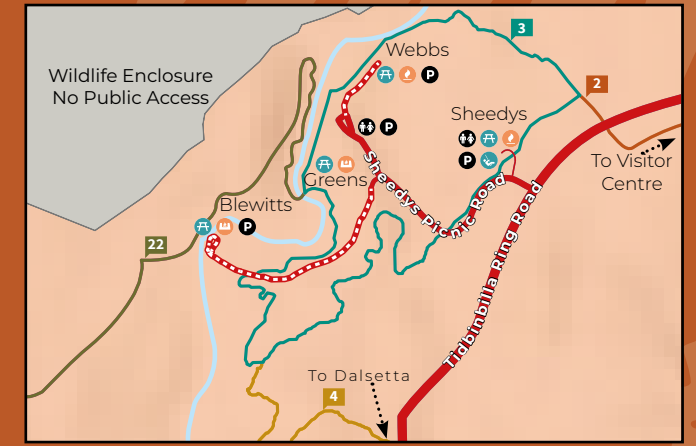


### Inset 1 Nil Desperandum

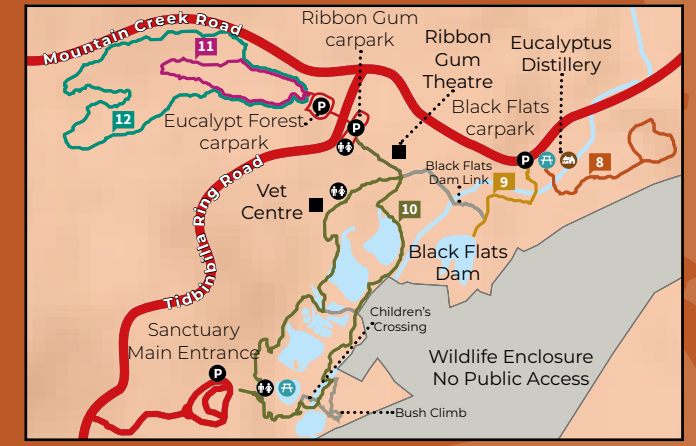


- #### Legend
- Namadgi National Park
  - Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve
  - Forest reserve
  - Wildlife enclosure - no public access
  - Sealed road
  - Unsealed road
  - Walking trail
  - Point of interest
  - Heritage and culture - Aboriginal
  - Heritage - European
  - Visitor centre
  - Toilets
  - Wheelchair access
  - Lookout
  - Picnic area
  - Playground
  - Gas/electric barbecue
  - Wood barbecue
  - Campground (fees apply)
  - Campervan sites
  - Food and drink available

### Inset 2 Picnic Areas and Playground



### Inset 3 Sanctuary Precinct



# Australian Walking Track Grading System



## Grade 1

No bushwalking experience required. Flat even surface with no steps or steep sections. Suitable for wheelchair users who have someone to assist them.



## Grade 2

No bushwalking experience required. The track is hardened or compacted surface and may have a gentle hill section or sections and occasional steps.



## Grade 3

Suitable for most ages and fitness levels. Some bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may have short steep hill sections a rough surface and many steps.



## Grade 4

Bushwalking experience recommended. Tracks may be long, rough and very steep. Directional signage may be limited.



## Grade 5

Very experienced bushwalkers with specialised skills, including navigation and emergency first aid. Tracks are likely to be very rough, very steep and unmarked.

## Map walking track key

Number	Name	Distance	Time	Track difficulty	
1	Birrigai Time Trail	3km loop	1 hour	3	
2	Sheedys Link	1km one-way	30 mins	2	
3	Congwarra Trail	3.1km loop	1 hour	2	
4	Dalsetta Link	600m one-way	15min	2	
5	Turkey Hill Trail	500m loop	15min	2	
6	Wandarawari Track	2.2km return	45 mins	2	
7	Church Rock Heritage Loop	2.5km loop	1 hour	3	
8	Barayngu Murawung	1km loop	15 mins	2	
9	Black Flats Dam	600m return	15 mins	2	
10	Sanctuary Loop	2.1km loop	30min	1	
11	Koala Path	700m loop	20 mins	2	
12	Peppermint Trail	1.8km loop	30min	2	
13	Cascades Trail	2km/2.6km loop	45-60min	3	
14	Hanging Rock	500m loop	15min	2	
15	Devils Gap Loop from Woods Reserve	3km loop	1 hour	3	
16	Eric and Elsie's Loop	600m loop	15min	2	
17	Ashbrook Fire Trail	6.5km return	2 hours	2	
18	Fishing Gap	7.7km return	3 hours	3	
19	Devils Gap	4km return + 1.4km loop	2 hours	3	
20	Gibraltar Peak	8.2km return	3-4 hours	4	
21	Gibraltar Peak via Eliza Saddle Track	10.5km return	4 hours	4	
22	Nil Desperandum	13km return	4 hours	3	
23	Camels Hump	13km return	4 hours	5	
24	Johns Peak	15km return	5 hours	5	

\*Cycling is allowed on all sealed and unsealed roads.



Koala Enclosure – Eucalypt Forest

## Mountain Biking

Bikes are permitted on three of our walking trails; Sheedys Link, Congwarra Trail and Dalsetta Link. They are also permitted on all roads, sealed and unsealed, unless signposted otherwise.



Mountain biking

## Volunteering

Volunteers are vital in supporting the environmental management, heritage protection and delivery of information to visitors to Tidbinbilla. If you have a passion for the natural environment and enjoy sharing it with others and giving back to the environment, there are some great opportunities at Tidbinbilla. Visit the Tidbinbilla website for more information.



Volunteer activity

## Fire

Please protect Tidbinbilla's sensitive environment by observing all fire regulations and obeying fire danger signs. All fires in the ACT, including campfires, are regulated by law, with fines for those breaking the law.

Fires are only allowed in officially constructed fireplaces in picnic areas. You can purchase firewood at the visitor centre or bring your own. Fuel stoves may be used unless there is a Total Fire Ban. Do not collect wood from within the park; this is an offence and damages the environment.



Sanctuary boardwalk

## Leave No Trace

So everyone can enjoy Tidbinbilla now and into the future, please follow our minimal impact policy:

**Leave your pets at home.** Domestic pets are prohibited as they disturb native animals and other park visitors.

**Carry it in, carry it out.** There are no bins so please take all your rubbish home for disposal and recycling.

**Leave animals, plants and rocks where you find them.** Each has its place in the delicate balance of nature.

**Use a fuel stove.** They are quicker, cleaner and better for the bush.

**Use fire carefully.** Open fires are not permitted in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Fires are permitted only in designated

fireplaces provided at picnic areas and Nature Stay locations. Completely extinguish any fires.

**Be aware of fire restrictions.** Fire danger signs indicate what fire restrictions are in place. Total Fire Bans prohibit all fires (wood or gas).

**Got to go?** Use a toilet or take a walk at least 100 paces away from waterways. Dig 15 centimetres with a trowel, then cover waste with soil.

**Respect heritage sites.** Please be respectful when visiting heritage sites. Leave only footprints, take only memories.

**Stay on track.** Even if it's muddy or dusty, don't widen the tracks as you will damage this delicate environment. Motorised vehicles are not permitted beyond public roads, carparks or locked gates.

## Opening times

Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve is open every day of the year except Christmas Day.

Gates open from **7:30am** and close at **6pm (AEST/Winter)** and **8pm (Daylight Saving Time/Summer)**.

**Tidbinbilla Visitor Information Centre** is open between **9am and 5pm**.

The Reserve and visitor centre may be closed on days of total fire ban, severe weather events or for management requirements.

## Entry fees

Fees are charged per vehicle, up to 8 people. Entry fees apply during visitor centre opening hours.

Regular visitors can purchase an annual pass, which is valid for a year from date of purchase.

For full list of current entry fees visit [www.Tidbinbilla.act.gov.au/visit](http://www.Tidbinbilla.act.gov.au/visit)

## Further information

Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve Visitor Centre  
Paddys River Road, Tidbinbilla, ACT 2620  
T: **02 6207 7921**

**[tidbinbilla.act.gov.au](http://tidbinbilla.act.gov.au)**

