

Capertee

National Park



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Capertee National Park is over 2800ha, encompassing part of the Capertee River valley and catchment. The park contains high conservation values including endangered ecological communities, threatened plants, animals and birds. The park has a long cultural history both Aboriginal and European, and contains evidence and remains of human occupation of both cultures. Capertee National Park contributes to a largely contiguous reserve system consisting of over one million hectares of the Great Dividing Range. These reserves provide habitat for plant and animal species found nowhere else in the world, and unique recreational experiences.

GETTING THERE

Vehicle access into Capertee National Park is via Port Macquarie Rd, off Glen Alice Rd. Access to the park is through a locked gate on Port Macquarie Rd – the access code is available from NPWS Mudgee 6370 9000 or Blackheath 4787 8877.

From the Castlereagh Hwy: Turn east into Glen Davis Rd at Capertee township. Travel 29km to the junction with Glen Alice Rd and veer left. Travel another 21km through Glen Alice and towards Rylstone, and turn left into the unsealed Port Macquarie Rd. Follow Port Macquarie Rd to the locked gate at the park boundary. Access to Capertee Homestead, Cottage and Camping Area is 2WD, except during flooding of the Capertee River. All other vehicle trails are 4WD only (see map).

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Capertee National Park is within the traditional country of the Wiradjuri people, and contains evidence of Aboriginal occupation in the form of rock art, artefact scatters and scarred trees. Traditional food plants and travel routes are also present in and around the park.

European occupation of the area was formalised in the mid 1800s when much of the area now designated as Capertee National Park was purchased by Thomas Barnaby. The area was used for sheep and cattle grazing and a small orchard until acquired by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service in 2010. Remains of this pastoral and agricultural history are still visible throughout the park.

WHEN VISITING A NATIONAL PARK

Please help to preserve our precious natural and cultural heritage.

- Aboriginal sites, places and artefacts are protected.
- All flora, fauna and rock formations are protected.
- Pets, chainsaws and firearms are not permitted.
- Wildfires can spread rapidly in dry weather. Use only fireplaces provided, observe all fire bans and take care when having a campfire. Extinguish all fires thoroughly.
- Drive carefully. All vehicles must be registered and stay on the vehicle roads identified above. Road conditions may be variable, and river crossings may be impassable after heavy rain.

WILDLIFE AND PLANTS

The Capertee valley is rich in fauna and flora, including some species found nowhere else in the world. Some of the rare and unique species and communities you may find in Capertee National Park include:

- *Grevillea obtusiflora* – a small grevillea with light green foliage and bright pink to crimson flowers. It grows in sandy soils generally on ridgetops in open scrub. Listed as endangered, and only found in the Capertee valley.
- White box, Yellow box, Blakely's Red Gum Woodland – this endangered ecological community is found throughout the fertile river flats and low slopes of Capertee National Park. Characterised by an open woodland dominated by white box, yellow box and red gum trees with a grassy understorey, it provides important habitat for native animal and bird species. The community has become endangered as the soils and habitat in which it grows is also ideal for agriculture.
- Regent Honeyeater – a yellow and black honeyeater with a curved bill up to 24cm long with a wingspan of 30cm. The Capertee valley is one of only 3 known breeding locations for this endangered bird, and nesting has been observed in Spring.
- Cockatoos – the threatened Gang-gang Cockatoo and Glossy-black Cockatoo feed on tree species present in Capertee NP and can be seen and heard in the park.
- Owls – the large Powerful Owl and Barking Owl are nocturnal species that you may find hunting in the park after dark.

The Capertee valley is renowned for bird watching, and many more species may be found nesting and feeding in the park and surrounding areas. Lorikeets, rosellas, pardalotes, honeyeaters, kookaburras and spinebills are some of the birds regularly seen throughout the park. Capertee NP is also home to a large population of mammals including wombats, kangaroos, wallaroos, wallabies, possums and gliders.



Woolshed Ruins



Capertee Homestead

PLACES TO STAY

CAPERTEE HOMESTEAD: "PORT MACQUARIE"

The homestead, originally built in the 1920s, provides country-style accommodation for up to 14 people (10 in the main homestead - 4 queen beds and 2 bunks, and an additional 4 in the adjacent studio). There are four bedrooms and two bathrooms, a wrap-around verandah, large living room with an open fireplace and a fully equipped kitchen. The homestead is fully air-conditioned. There are wood and gas BBQs and an outdoor dining area, and parking for up to 6 cars.

The adjacent studio has beds for four people, and is separate to the homestead. Next to the studio is a laundry with washing machine.

Linen is not provided. A two-night minimum applies to all bookings at all times of the year.

When you arrive at the homestead, you will need to turn the mains power on at the power box on the north-eastern corner of the house, and turn on the gas at the gas bottle. Please turn off electricity and gas when you leave (except electricity if there is someone staying at the Cottage).

OTHER INFORMATION

MOBILE PHONE, INTERNET AND TV RECEPTION

Mobile phone and internet reception can be obtained at the higher elevation areas of the park, including out the front of the homestead (in the car parking area). There is no reception along the river or at the camping areas. Reception will vary between devices and carriers. Wi-Fi internet is not provided in the park.

TV reception is not available in the homestead or cottage, however TVs and DVD players are provided.

CARETAKER

Caretakers reside on the south side of the main causeway, and are usually available for assistance if required. Doris and Neville Eather 6379 7634.

CAPERTEE COTTAGE

The cottage is a basic two bedroom bunkhouse, with a small kitchenette and attached living area. Basic furniture and kitchen facilities are supplied, and the cottage has reverse-cycle air-conditioning. Outside is a gas BBQ and picnic table. The cottage can accommodate up to 6 people with one double bed and bunks for four people.

Linen is not provided. A two-night minimum applies to all bookings at all times of the year.

When you arrive at the cottage, you will need to turn the mains power on at the power box on the north-eastern corner of the homestead. Do not change any of the switches in the power box inside the bedroom of the cottage. Please turn off electricity when you leave (except if there is someone staying at the Homestead).

IMPORTANT

Both houses have electric power, the homestead has gas cooking, and both are tank water only. The water is filtered, and fit for drinking, but it is not treated. Please make sure all appliances are switched off before you leave, and do not leave fires unattended in the homestead or BBQs.

Check in for both houses is from 2pm and check out by 11am. You are welcome to continue to explore the park before check in or after check out.

CONTACTS

NPWS Mudgee 6370 9000 (Mon to Fri)
NPWS Blackheath 4787 8877 (Sat/Sun)
NPWS Duty Officer 4787 6094 (after hrs)

CAMPING

Capertee National Park provides opportunities for vehicle based camping, and self-reliant bush camping. There are no fees for camping in the park, but campers must make a booking with NPWS Mudgee. Campers are requested to take all rubbish out with them, and bury human waste well away from creeks and rivers, as no toilet facilities are provided.

Vehicle based camping:

Capertee Camping Area:

Just north of the Homestead on the Capertee River. The site is suitable for tents and camper trailers, and off-road caravans (river crossings required). There are currently no facilities available at the camping area – campers must remove all rubbish and bury all human waste away from the river or bring portable toilet facilities. Campfires are permitted in fire places, please bring your own firewood. The Capertee River does not flow consistently, so campers must also bring drinking water.

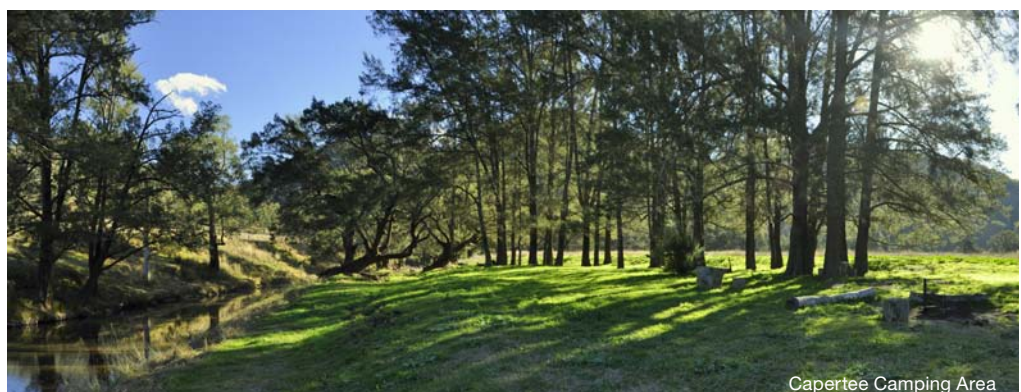
Bush camping (walk in access only) is possible throughout the park. Generally, campers must be at least 100m from trails, unless in a designated camping area (those identified above and below). Designated bush camping areas are located at:

Policeman's Point:

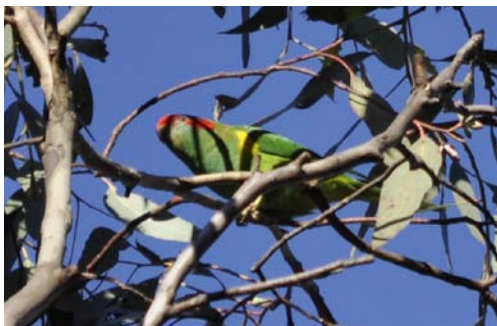
On the banks of the Capertee River south of the Caretaker's cottage, this tranquil site is ideal for a bush camping experience. Walk (or cycle) in from either the Capertee Trail (past the Caretaker's cottage, 2km), the Oaky Creek Track to the south, or the Policeman's Track (900m off Carinya Trail). A number of sites are located along the river flats in this area.

FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS:

Email: mudgee@environment.nsw.gov.au
Mail: 27 Inglis St, Mudgee NSW 2850



Capertee Camping Area



THINGS TO SEE AND DO

DRIVING

4WD vehicles can explore the following trails in the reserve:

Port Macquarie Trail:

Runs east-west across the park traversing woodland ridges and slopes, past the turnoff to the Homestead, the woolshed ruins and other remains of the agricultural past of the area.

Distance: Park entrance to main causeway 4.6km; main causeway to locked gate on western boundary 5.9km

Carinya Trail:

From the junction with the Port Macquarie Trail south of the Homestead, the Carinya Trail heads to the southern boundary of the park through the river valley and provides views of the sandstone escarpments of Muggi Murumban SCA to the south before climbing the slopes at the base of this escarpment.

Distance: From Port Macquarie Trail junction to southern boundary 6.9km

Airly Gap Trail:

From the junction with the Carinya Trail this trail heads east and provides spectacular views of Mount Airly and Mount Genowlan to the south.

Distance: From Carinya Trail junction 3.7km

Capertee Trail:

From the main causeway this trail heads north past the Homestead, Cottage and camping area, along the Capertee River to the northern boundary of the reserve where Valley Lookout provides views of the Capertee River valley and sandstone escarpments to the south. This trail contains a number of river crossings which are usually dry except during times of flood.

Distance: From main causeway to Valley Lookout 4.9km



Grevillea obtusiflora

CYCLING

Capertee National Park contains over 40km of management trails suitable for mountain biking of varying difficulty and skill level. Other than the vehicle trails listed above, all management trails are unmaintained and may be rough, eroded or blocked by fallen timber or other debris. In addition to the vehicle trails above, the following trails are highlights for cyclists:

Wallaby Creek Trail:

Heads south from Port Macquarie Trail, and descends into Wallaby Creek. Steep initially, then undulating to the junction with the Capertee Trail, involves a number of creek crossings.

Distance: 4.3km

Capertee Trail:

Heads south from the main causeway past the Caretakers Cottage. This trail follows the Capertee River to the junction with the Oaky Creek Trail and involves a number of river crossings which should not be attempted if the river is flowing.

Distance: From main causeway south up to 5.1km each way

Airstrip Trail:

Heads north from the Port Macquarie Trail onto the ridgeline which was once used as an airstrip by previous property owners. After the initial climb onto the ridge the trail provides views of the Capertee River valley to the north and south. A steep, unmaintained trail descends the northern end of the ridge to the river, and joins onto the Capertee Trail near the lookout.

Distance: From junction with Port Macquarie Trail up to 5.5km

SCENERY AND LOOKOUTS

Valley Lookout:

At the northern point of the park at the end of the Capertee Trail – access by 4WD, mountain bike or on foot.

Airly Lookout:

At the southern end of the park on the Airly Gap Trail – access by 4WD, mountain bike or on foot

Airstrip Lookout:

In the northeast of the park at the site of the old, disused airstrip – access by mountain bike or on foot.

Woolshed Ruins:

On the riverflat below the homestead stands the ruins of the old woolshed originally built in the 1850s. The building is unsafe and can only be viewed from outside the protective fencing.

WALKING

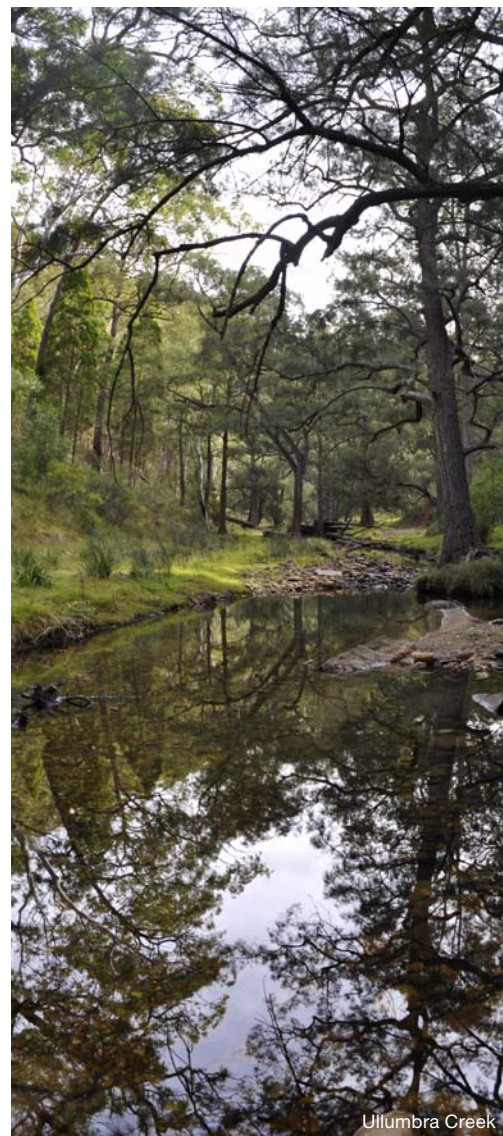
In addition to the tracks and trails described above, there are a number of informal tracks throughout the park that provide walkers with a range of opportunities for exploring. Visitors planning to walk in Capertee National Park should be aware that most tracks are unmarked, and follow informal routes, many of which involve creek crossings. Walkers should carry topographic maps, and be completely self-reliant. Highlights include:

Ullumbra Creek Track:

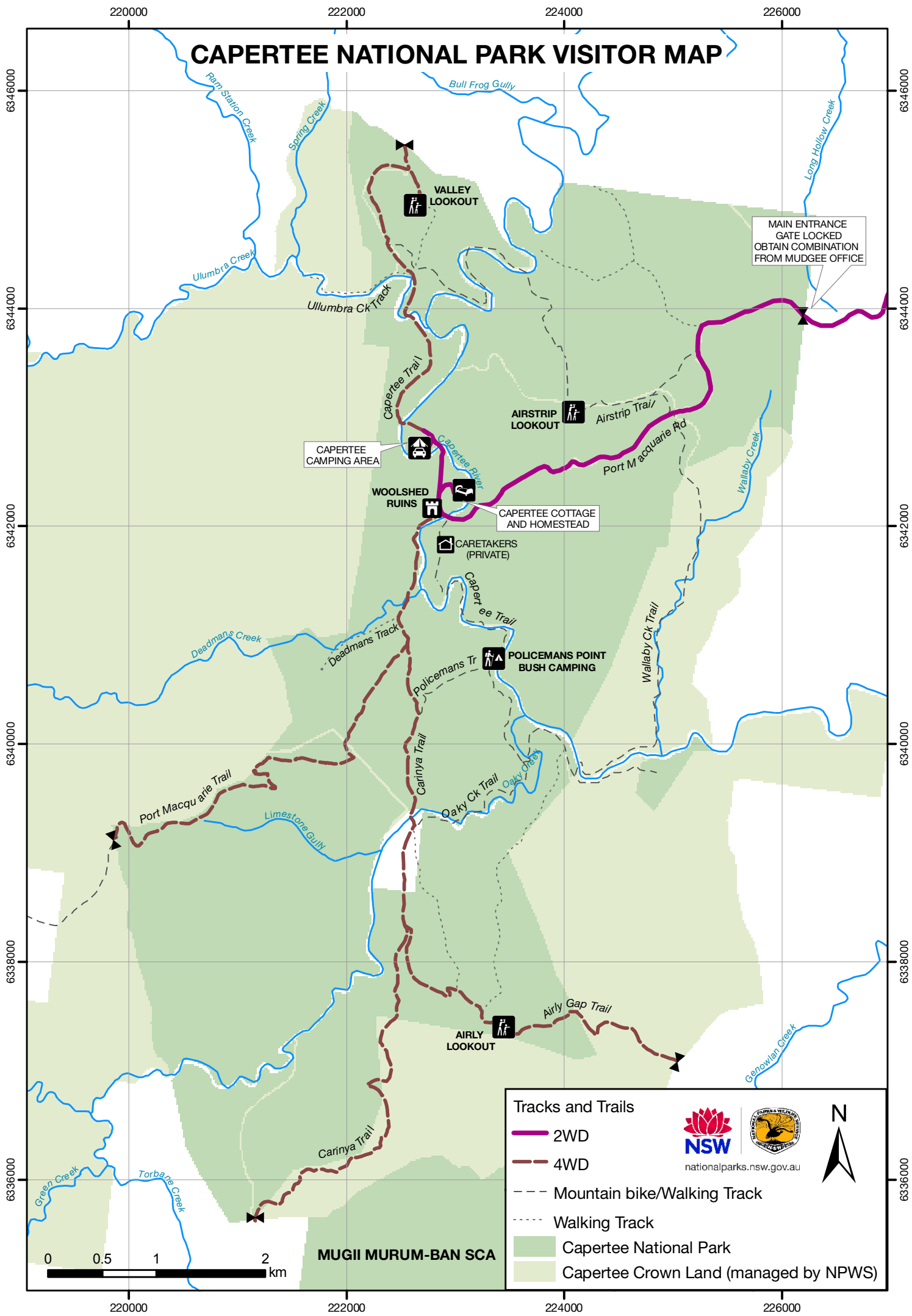
North of the camping area, this track begins just after the 4th crossing of the Capertee River. Ullumbra Creek is a permanent stream that meanders through a lush valley with large river oaks and some deep pools. Ideal for birdwatching, swimming on a warm day, and a peaceful walk following the creek, the track crosses the creek a number of times. Walkers can head as far as the park boundary (1.5km), and return the same way (beyond the park boundary is private property).

Deadmans Track:

Off the Port Macquarie Trail southwest of the causeway, the track follows Deadmans Creek up a quiet, scenic gully (1km each way).



Ullumbra Creek



CAPERTEE NATIONAL PARK VISITOR MAP

MAIN ENTRANCE
GATE LOCKED
OBTAIN COMBINATION
FROM MUDGEE OFFICE

CAPERTEE
CAMPING AREA

AIRSTRIP
LOOKOUT

WOOLSHED
RUINS

CAPERTEE COTTAGE
AND HOMESTEAD

CARETAKERS
(PRIVATE)

POLICEMANS POINT
BUSH CAMPING

AIRLY
LOOKOUT

Tracks and Trails

— 2WD

- - - 4WD

- - - Mountain bike/Walking Track

..... Walking Track

Capertee National Park

Capertee Crown Land (managed by NPWS)



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