Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve

The Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve conserves 6,800 ha of sandstone pagoda country and scenic bushland 35 km north-east of Mudgee in the Central Tablelands of NSW. The reserve is surrounded by agricultural and crown land and was originally gazetted in 1961.

One hundred and sixty-four species of birds have been recorded in the reserve, a very high count for such a small area. Lyrebirds, bowerbirds, emus and the endangered and very rare regent honeyeater are all resident.

The reserve lies on the extreme western edge of the Sydney-Bowen geological basin and is one of the lowest points in the Great Dividing Range, the escarpment that stretches the length of Eastern Australia, forming an interface between the mountains and the western plains. Parts of the reserve drain to the west into the Cudegong River and then into the Macquarie River system.

Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve and neighbouring Goulburn River National Park are botanically unique because they form a transition zone between the south-east, north-west and western parts of the state. The vegetation is generally dominated by eucalypts, callitris pine and shrubland.

Because it is a transition zone, the area has a rich variety of plants and plant communities and these in turn support a very wide variety of birds, a number of which are at the eastern or western limits of their range.

■ Cultural connections
The Munghorn Gap area has been traditional country for Aboriginal people for at least 12,000 years. The area is of special significance to the local Wiradjuri people, as it was a spur off a major traditional trading route between the Blue Mountains and the plains.

After the arrival of European settlers, Munghorn Gap became important because it was a route between Wollar, Merriwa and Mudgee that was trafficable by horse and bullock teams. Evidence of timber cutting, coal and peat mining, blacksmithing, prospecting and quarrying can be found in and around the reserve.

■ Facilities
There is a day-use picnic area with picnic tables, barbecues and toilets and, at Honeyeater flat, a large open camping area suitable for birdwatchers and other groups (bookings are required).

■ Walking Track
The Castle Rocks Walking Track, which starts at Munghorn Gap, is an easy 8 km return walk to an area of sandstone pagoda formations with spectacular views to the south.
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Located in the Central Tablelands, 35 km north-east of Mudgee, Munghorn Gap is a renowned birdwatching spot where 160 native species have been recorded.

This area is within the traditional country of Aboriginal people including Wanaruah and Wiradjuri

Moolarben Picnic Area

When visiting Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve
Please help to preserve the natural environment and cultural sites.

- Aboriginal sites and places of cultural significance are protected.
- Leave all plants, animals and rock formations as you find them.
- Stay on the walking tracks and minimise damage to wildflowers, vegetation and rocks.
- Take your rubbish home with you.
- Leave pets and firearms at home. They are not permitted in nature reserves.
- Ride only on designated tracks and keep to the track if on a horse or mountain bike.
- Keep your vehicle, 4WD or motorbike to public roads. Bush driving is not permitted.
- Observe all fire bans and guard against the risk of fire. Wildfires can destroy lives and property, so be careful, especially during the bushfire danger period (October to March).

Discovery Programs
For details on Discovery Tours and Information Sessions contact: Blue Mountains on (02) 4784 7301

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