

Kurth Kiln - Tomahawk Creek Track

Distance: 2.4 km	Land status: State Park
Ascent: 8 metres	Track Difficulty: Hard - undulating and can be slippery.
Site Type: Loop walk	
Habitat: Wet eucalypt forest, creek frontage	
Best time to visit: Spring-Autumn	Paths: Sign-posted walk
Facilities: Picnic ground, toilets, camping	
Typical Birds: New Holland Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill, Lewins Honeyeater, Lyrebird, Scrubwrens, Gang Gang Cockatoo, King Parrot	
Rare and unusual Sightings: Crescent Honeyeater, Rufous Fantail	

Situated in dense wet forest, this walk traverses a variety of habitats ranging from Banksia and Hakea stands, which attract honeyeaters, through to extensive Messmate forest and fern gullies. The tumbling of the creek across the rocks provides a loud background noise to parts of the walk, especially after rain.

Directions

This site is about 8.2 km from Gembrook, partially along dirt roads that can be slippery in wet weather, but is still accessible with 2-wheel drive. From Gembrook take the Gembrook-Launching Place Road. About 2.7 km from town you will then take Beenak Road on your left. Follow Beenak Road for about 4.6 km until you reach the Kurth Kiln Picnic Ground. Park anywhere here (A).



Female Gang Gang feeding quietly in the foliage

The Walk

Note: The track is rocky in parts and can be quite slippery after rain. Boots with good grip are advisable. One section may be overgrown with ferns and in wet weather you may get wet legs. But the walk is certainly worth it for the variety of wet forest species you are likely to encounter.





Adjacent to the parking area at the creek (A) you will see the sign to Tomahawk Creek Track which is where this walk commences. The first part of the walk traverses the creek edge and you are likely to see Grey Fantails, White-browed Scrubwrens and Superb Fairy Wrens. The path then climbs away from the creek (B) into an area of Banksia and Hakea amongst the larger trees. Around here (depending on flowering) species such as Lewins and Crescent Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebill and New Holland Honeyeater are common. Rufous and Golden Whistlers are also a possibility. High in the trees Currawongs, Gang Cockatoos and Crimson Rosellas are likely. Then you

will descend again to the creek where it is worth stopping to enjoy the view of water cascading over the rocky sections (C). Further on you will cross the bridge (D) and begin your return route amongst the rocks - an interesting place, although a bit rough in parts (E). The track crosses slabs of rock and can be a little tricky to follow, but just keep the creek on your right and all will be fine. The loop terminates near where you started.

Rufous Fantail(right) and Grey Fantail (below)

The picnic ground is also worth a bit of exploration where wrens, treecreepers and fantails are always likely. Gang Gangs can be



hard to see as they often feed on gum nuts in the foliage and the first indication is often gum nuts falling down, unless you also hear their distinctive ‘creaking’ call. If you are very observant you might see Crescent Honeyeaters or even a Rufous Fantail.

Extras

There are several other walks in the vicinity - all sign-posted from the parking area. Plenty of options to explore, although this creek walk often has more birds.

Crescent Honeyeater

The site is located near the Gilwell Scout Camp and sometimes you may encounter scout groups exploring the bush. One of the nearby tracks is Scout Loop Track which is not a bad walk itself.

The area is also the site of the historic Kurth Kiln which was built in 1941 with the aim of mass-producing charcoal to generate gas as an alternative fuel in response to war-time petrol rationing. Cars and some busses were converted to run on gas made using charcoal. Use of such vehicles was banned on high fire danger days! The impressive red brick structure and other buildings remain largely untouched.



Banksias in flower attract honeyeaters



The old Kurth Kiln

