

Walk to Blackbutt Creek

Blackbutt Creek Reserve is a precious remnant which has some of the tallest Blackbutts, attractive Angophoras, Turpentines and Peppermint woodland.

The reserve is home to a number of flora and fauna that are listed as endangered, threatened or vulnerable, including the Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*).

This walk is suitable for all ages. It crosses Blackbutt Creek and follows the fire trail where woodland forest species are found. A native plant species called Oat Spear grass (*Anisopogon avenaceus*) is common and provides food for Red-browed Finches. Continuing along the track you will observe a line of Coachwoods (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*). The hardwood tree grows straight with smooth fragrant greyish bark that usually reach heights of 15 – 25 metres and exceptional specimens can reach 40 metres.

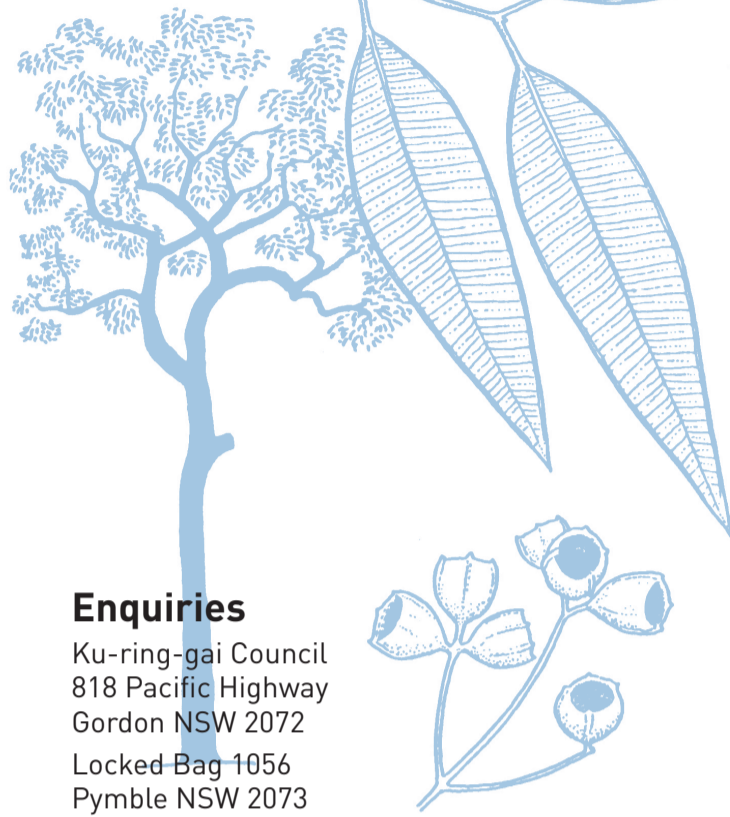
This walk is a great way to experience the bush without being far from urban living.



Photo D. Wilks Oat Spear Grass



Powerful Owl



Enquiries

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Ku-ring-gai Council



Blackbutt Creek

St Johns Avenue
to Vale Street
Gordon



Ku-ring-gai Walking Tracks

What Can You Do To Help?

Blackbutt Creek Stormwater Program

Ku-ring-gai Council values our local environment. As part of our commitment to the health of local waterways, Ku-ring-gai has introduced a range of initiatives including the Blackbutt Creek Stormwater Improvement and Community Education Program. Funded by the NSW Government Stormwater Trust, the project aims to raise community awareness through participation in the preservation of Blackbutt Creek.

As well as the walk to Blackbutt Creek and extensive drain stencilling, Council has installed a number of Enviropods or stormwater treatment devices in drains throughout the catchment.

Keep pollutants out of the stormwater

Stormwater is all the rainwater that runs off roofs, driveways, footpaths and roads into stormwater drains when it rains. Stormwater carries litter and pollutants from homes and gardens directly into Blackbutt Creek. Stormwater is not treated before it enters the creek.

As a local resident you can help Blackbutt Creek by preventing anything except clean rainwater from entering stormwater drains.

You can also learn more about how stormwater flows into the Blackbutt Creek by taking a walk from the Pacific Highway down St Johns Avenue to Blackbutt Reserve. The self guided walk is designed with interpretive signs to encourage local residents to actively participate in conserving one of our most important local waterways, the Blackbutt Creek. The map on the back outlines the route of the walk.

1 Garden Waste

Garden waste including lawn clippings, leaves and top soil, may appear to be 'natural' but in large quantities is a major pollutant of Blackbutt Creek. As garden waste decays it deprives plants, fish and other aquatic animals of valuable oxygen. Seeds and clippings can also spread exotic plant species that cause serious damage to Blackbutt Reserve.

To help you can:

- Sweep or rake up grass clippings and leaves instead of hosing or blowing them down the drain. Garden waste can be used for compost or mulch. Alternatively Ku-ring-gai Council has a fortnightly green waste collection for all residents. Contact Council for more information.
- Ensure exotic plant species don't become garden escapees in the bushland.
- For information on noxious weeds go to www.kmc.nsw.gov.au under natural environment.
- Keep a good grass cover in your yard to stop topsoil running off into the stormwater system.

2 Litter

Litter dropped on the streets often ends up in the stormwater system which is not only unsightly, but it can contain toxic substances and can be mistaken for food by some fish and animals.

To help you can:

- Take your litter home or put it in the bin.
- If you're a smoker bin your butts. When out and about, use an empty film canister to store butts until you bin them.



3 Fertilisers and Pesticides

Fertilisers add unwanted nutrients into natural environments such as Blackbutt Creek that are accustomed to Australia's nutrient poor soils. Pesticides can kill aquatic fauna and native plants.

To help you can:





- Use garden fertilisers and pesticide sparingly to minimise run-off and follow the instructions carefully. Avoid using either near gutters and drains and clean up any spills.
- Hand weed or use mulch to control weeds and use your composted garden waste to fertilise.
- Plant locally native species, they need less water and fertiliser and enhance the biodiversity in the area. Ku-ring-gai Council Community Nursery specialises in locally native species. They are open Monday - Friday 9am to 3.30pm at 430 Mona Vale Road, St Ives. For further information contact 9424 0376.



BLACKBUTT CREEK KEY

-  Bushland Reserve
-  Walk to Blackbutt Creek
-  Reserve Walking Trail
-  Railway Tracks
-  Enviropods
-  Steep or Slippery
-  Creekline

INFORMATION

-  Moderate with some steep and rough sections, steps and some difficulties
-  Dogs on leads only
-  No horses
-  Allow 40 mins one way
Track length one way 2.4 kms

