

Self guided bushwalks

Carrs Bush

Carrs Bush is an 8.5 hectare area of remnant bushland within the precinct of Fagan Park. It contains a network of short trails which explore many parts of the forest, some of which form circuits. The easy, relatively level trails with interpretive signage, together with the nearby picnic areas, BBQs and playgrounds make Carrs Bush ideal for families or those new to bushwalking.

DUE TO AREAS OF LIMITED MOBILE COVERAGE, DOWNLOAD THIS PDF BEFORE YOU BEGIN.

Important information

Location: Galston

Walk length: Various short walks

Difficulty: Grade 2 (easy/moderate)

Starting point:

Carrs Road entrance to Fagan Park

Getting there:

Car - Carrs Road entrance to Fagan Park, Galston - parking fees may apply

Bus - 638 from Pennant Hills Railway Station or Castle Hill



Map correct as at December 2015

LEGEND			
	Parkland		Creeks
	Bushland		Carrs Bush Walk
	Roads		Other tracks
	Parking		Drinking water
	Access points		Toilet
	Picnic tables		Play equipment

For more information visit hornsby.nsw.gov.au/bushwalks



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This area once formed part of the seasonal range of family groups speaking the Darug language. The surrounding landscape contributed to their food, medicine, shelter and other material and cultural needs. Signs that remain of their way of life could potentially include occupation sites, rock engravings, middens, scar trees, and artefacts. Please respect any sites or objects you may come across. Not only do they provide a tangible link to our countries ancient heritage, but they also hold a profound significance for present day descendants of these communities.

By 1817, colonial timber-getters were moving into this region harvesting the giant **Grey Ironbarks, White Mahoganys, Turpentines, and White Stringybarks**. As these disappeared, land grants were issued, and the rich, shale-derived soil proved ideal for growing crops. Orchards, market gardens, nurseries, and poultry farms sprang up. At first little more than islands in a sea of bushland, most of the vegetation was eventually cleared, until areas such as Carrs Bush became the islands. In the early 1900s, Fagan Park became the centre of a booming fruit industry, followed by a dairy, and it is remarkable that this Carrs Bush remnant survived!

The vegetation here is significant for another reason: it represents one of the largest areas of intact **Turpentine-Ironbark Forest** in northern Sydney. This extremely rare ecological community once covered much of the more fertile parts of Sydney. Due to past and current land practices, less than 0.5% of this community remains in existence, mostly in small patches such as this one. Consequently it is protected under both Commonwealth and New South Wales legislation.

Over 120 native plant species have been recorded within **Carrs Bush**, including rare or threatened species. The main canopy species are dominated by **Turpentine** (*Syncarpia glomulifera*), **White Mahogany** (*Eucalyptus acmenoides*), **White Stringybark** (*E. globoidea*), and **Sydney Red Gum** (*Angophora costata*). The older trees contain hollows which provide vital nesting sites for many native birds, mammals and insects. Can you see any currently being used? A guide to help identify the local native trees can be viewed or downloaded from Council's website: www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0012/50511/Native-Tree-Brochure.pdf

As well as a brochure, there is a native tree identification table for common indigenous trees - see link:

<http://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/trees-plants-and-bushland/trees/indigenous-trees>

RISK WARNING

Hornsby Shire Council has taken all care in producing these notes and map. Bushwalking can be hazardous. Trails are unsealed and you may encounter slippery or loose surfaces, creek crossings, fallen timber and sloping ground. Poisonous plants and animals or biting insects may be encountered. Snakes are rare but may be seen in warmer seasons. Please keep to designated trails. Dress for the conditions and wear sturdy shoes and a hat. Take plenty of water, food, sunscreen and always take a map.

Before leaving tell someone where you will be going and when you expect to return. Check the local weather forecast. Please do not undertake this walk during Total Fire Ban days. Check the Rural Fire Service website rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fdr-and-tobans or phone **1800 679 737** if you suspect a Total Fire Ban may be in force.

In case of emergency dial '000', but be aware that not all areas have reliable mobile reception.