

ENJOYING GUM SWAMP

Gum Swamp is a fantastic place for enjoying many recreational opportunities. Walking, picnicking or bird watching can be undertaken at any time of the year. Please take your rubbish when you leave.

The bird life is spectacular when water levels are high, as they fly in for a feast. Gum Swamp often serves as a canoeing destination for the local community when water levels allow. It is such a versatile location to visit.

As it is a conservation area, activities such as vehicle access, camping, firewood collection, lighting of fires and hunting are banned.



A SHARED PATH

The Walla Walla Shared Path allows visitors to walk or bike the two kilometres from Walla Walla to Gum Swamp. The path commences to the north of Walla Walla, at Klemke Avenue and Commercial Street, and finishes at the Gum Swamp entrance. Enjoy the sounds, colours and smells of the agricultural landscape and Gum Swamp. Everyone is welcome.

BIG VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

The site is managed by a group of keen volunteers, the Walla Gum Swamp Committee. The group is a 355 committee working under the guidance of the Greater Hume Shire Council.

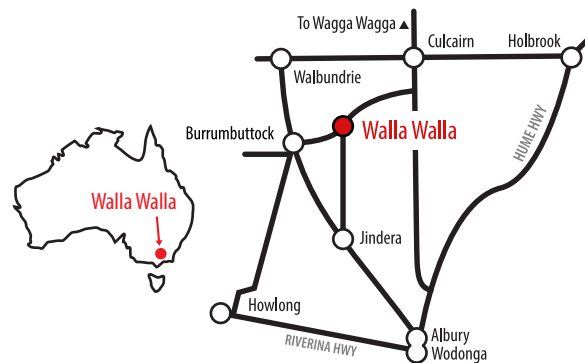
FOR MORE INFORMATION

EXPLORE, EAT OR STAY IN GREATER HUME

Greater Hume Visitor Information Centre
Submarine Park, Wallace Street, Holbrook NSW
P: 02 6036 2422
E: tourism@greaterhume.nsw.gov.au
W: www.visitgreaterhume.com.au

WALLA WALLA VISITOR INFORMATION

Walla Store, 73 Commercial Street, Walla Walla NSW
P: 02 6029 2231
E: wallastore@gmail.com



Greater
Hume
Council

COME AND EXPERIENCE

GUM SWAMP

WALLA WALLA

GUM SWAMP RESERVE

Gum Swamp Reserve is a high conservation wetland that is home to many threatened species, including the white-bellied sea eagle, fishing bat and squirrel glider. It is an important cultural heritage site on Wiradjuri Country, and community recreation area.

BACKGROUND & HISTORY

Gum Swamp spans 458 hectares located about two kilometres north of Walla Walla, NSW. To get there, take Lookout Road and turn right onto Swamp Road.

The Swamp is listed in the *Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia* for its ecological features and notable birds. Endangered bush stone-curlews and broilgas have been recorded at the swamp. It is a seasonal feeding ground for the migratory sharp-tailed and marsh sandpipers; both breed in Siberia and travel over 11,000 km to Australia.

Gum Swamp was declared an area for Environmental Protection and Public Recreation in 2001.



FIRST NATIONS HERITAGE

The Wiradjuri people were the first inhabitants of this area and the pasture, trees, creeks and waterholes provided all their needs. This included food, tools, clothing, shelter, as well as nourishing the essential social and spiritual needs of the people.

There is clear evidence of Indigenous activity within the reserve.

The Gum Swamp Committee acknowledge that Gum Swamp is on Wiradjuri Country. We acknowledge their cultures and we pay our respects to their Elders both past, present and emerging.

EUROPEAN USES

Major Mitchell first noted Gum Swamp in 1836 on his exploration of the region. In 1872, it was declared a Water Reserve and referred to as the Walla Walla Public Watering Place.

Near the southern end, a large dam was sunk in 1883 and a horse powered water pump was set up to provide water for locals and travelling stock. When full, the swamp was also the scene of recreational boating. The Shire deepened the overflow outfall in 1946-47 to reduce the impact of flooding on local roads and neighbouring properties during wet years.

In the early to mid 1900s, sleeper cutting took place in the deeper parts of the swamp. The land has been leased to a variety of locals up until 1958 when it was proclaimed as a Sanctuary under the *Fauna Protection Act, 1948*. Nevertheless, the area was agisted with cattle until 1990. The base of the swamp has never been cropped (unlike many other swamp reserves). Currently, the northern section of the Gum Swamp area is under private leasehold.



SQUIRREL GLIDER



CIRCA 1920s

HYDROLOGY

Gum Swamp fills, on average, 4 years out of 10. Once full, the Swamp usually retains some water throughout the summer. The main source of water is from Petrie's Creek entering from the south west corner. It overflows via an outlet to the west.



LACE MONITOR



VEGETATION

Gum Swamp is comprised of a central River Red Gum Woodland swamp surrounded by a Grassy Box Woodland above the flood line. Within each of these two environments a wide variety of plant species and structure can be found.

The River Red Gum Woodland contains fabulous, ancient, large hollow-bearing trees. They are ringed by new gum tree growth and various sedges, rushes and grasses. Red Gum saplings are evident around the high water line of the swamp.

The Grassy Box Woodland consists of Yellow Box on the higher loamy soils and Grey Box on the lower slopes. The native pasture plants consist of perennial Kangaroo, Red-leg, Wallaby and Spear grasses. There are many wildflowers that show their colour in spring.

When filled, the swamp contains many aquatic plants including water milfoil, water ribbons, nardoo, duckweed and azolla. In dry seasons it is dominated by the semi-aquatic perennial tussocks of rushes and sedges as well as various grasses, knotweeds, spike-rushes and buttercups.



WILDFLOWERS

The Gum Swamp is a wonderful resource of native flowers.

- Blueberry, or flax, lily (*Dianella revoluta*)
- Purple burr-daisy (*Calotis cuneifolia*)
- Chocolate lily (*Dichopogon strictus*)
- Bulbine lily (*Bulbine bulbosa*)

Keep an eye out for this little gem, the BULBINE LILY, flowering from September to March. Also known as native leek, wild onion or *durrin* in Wiradjuri. This perennial herb grows to 75 cm high. It has a fragrant yellow flower (great for our pollinators) about 2 cms in width, which only opens for a day. The corms are a traditional food source eaten roasted; it is highly nutritious containing calcium and iron.



WILDLIFE

The diversity of plants and trees at Gum Swamp provide many opportunities for wildlife. The year-round tree cover provides an excellent habitat for birds (over 120 species) possums, bats and reptiles. As well as the usual Australian wildlife such as kangaroos, snake-necked turtles, kookaburras and water dragons, there are many threatened animals identified at the Swamp:

BIRDS

- Brown tree-creeper (*Clinacteris picumnus*)
- Grey-crowned babbler (*Pomotostomus temporalis*)
- Brolga (*Grus rubicundus*)
- White-bellied sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

MAMMALS

- Squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*)
- Fishing bat (*Myotis adversus*)

REPTILES/AMPHIBIANS

- Growling grass frog (*Litoria raniformis*)
- Common froglet (*Crinia signifera*).



THERE'S SOMETHING NEW AROUND EVERY CORNER