



Googong Foreshores

Googong



Map and guide

Something for everyone

Whether you like picnicking, birdwatching, bushwalking, mountain bike riding, enjoy sailing and fishing or delving into history—at Googong there's something for everyone.

In the centre of Googong Foreshores is the Googong Dam, fed by the Queanbeyan River and numerous creeks; the area around the dam is a wildlife refuge. The historic London Bridge Homestead beckons visitors to explore the history of farming and settlement in the area. A remarkable natural feature of Googong is London Bridge Arch which formed over thousands of years.

A regional and national wildlife treasure

In addition to being important for catchment and storage of the region's water supply, Googong Foreshores is also a significant wildlife refuge for native plants and animals including a number of threatened species.

The Queanbeyan River, within Googong, is home to one of the few remaining wild populations of the threatened Macquarie Perch. The Pink-tailed Worm Lizard, listed as vulnerable nationally, inhabits Googong's native grasslands. Listed as vulnerable in NSW, Rosenberg's Monitor is also a Googong resident. The Hooded Robin, Diamond Firetail, Brown Treecreeper and Speckled Warbler are all listed as vulnerable in NSW and also occur at Googong.

Googong protects plants of national or state significance including the Silky Swainson-pea and Australian Anchor Plant. These plants occur in open grasslands on the reserve's western side. Unusual Pomaderris and Dillwynia species grow in the woodlands along the Black Wallaby Loop Track and in heathy areas between Tin Hut Dam and Tortoise Inlet. White Box-Yellow Box (Box-Gum) Woodland, an endangered ecological community, also occurs here.

Aboriginal history

The area now known as Googong has a rich history in Aboriginal culture. The Ngunnawal people have lived in and maintained the area for thousands of years. The area is also rich in cultural and natural resources which sustained the Ngunnawal people. The Queanbeyan River was a traditional pathway used by the Ngunnawal, Yuin and other neighbouring tribes to gain access to the higher country where they would perform lore such as initiation, trade and marriage. Googong also has Aboriginal sites which are viewed by the Ngunnawal people as holding spiritual significance, including London Bridge Arch. Please respect all heritage sites.

Picnics and barbecues

- Gas barbecues are situated at the Downstream Picnic Area (downstream of the dam wall) and at the London Bridge Woolshed and Tin Hut (southern end of reserve).
- Portable gas barbeques may only be used on the gravel pads at the gas barbeque areas (Downstream Picnic Area, London Bridge Woolshed) and on the gravel pads at the end of the upper Foreshores car park.
- Barbecues cannot be used when there is a very high or extreme fire danger. Contact the Ranger Station for details.

Birdwatching

Over 165 bird species have been recorded at Googong. Water birds such as coots, ducks and swans congregate around the shores of the dam. Tin Hut Dam at the southern end of the reserve features a bird hide with displays, two bird hide screens, seats and a loop walk. Spoonbills, several species of duck, herons, egrets and waders can be seen here. Raptors including the Peregrine Falcon, Wedge-tailed Eagle and White-breasted Sea-Eagle reside and breed at Googong. Look for eagles riding the thermals.

The woodlands, open forests, grasslands and cool gorges of Googong also provide habitats for a wide range of birds. The Googong Bird List brochure is available from the TAMS website: www.tams.act.gov.au

left to right: kayakers at Tin Hut Inlet, London Bridge Arch (AT), Sailing on the dam, barbecue shelter (AT)



Sailing and boating

The following types of watercraft are permitted on the dam: sailing boats, canoes, kayaks and boats with electric motors.

The following are not permitted: windsurfers, surf skis, jet skis, boats with fuel motors and boats with electric motors which also have fuel motors, tanks or lines.

Watercraft are not permitted to land on any banks north of the disabled car park on Drumstick Point (west side of dam) except at the boat ramp or north of Long Neck Island (east side of dam). Watercraft are also not permitted to pass the line of marker buoys in front of the Dam Wall (see map). The public are not permitted to enter any fenced-off areas north of the boat ramp on Drumstick Point.

Boat launching and retrieval is easy from the boat ramps at the Foreshores. Please return cars and trailers to the car park to ensure access for others.

At Tin Hut car park to the south, boats must be carried or wheeled by hand from the car park to the water's edge.

All visitors participating in boating should return at least half an hour before closing time. People using electric motors should carry oars and more than one battery to ensure they have sufficient power and backup to return to the Foreshores' boat ramp or Tin Hut access.

NSW Waterways safe boating regulations apply.

Safety

The waters of Googong Dam can be dangerous. Please note:

- life jackets, bailer, oars and torch should be carried
- There is no water rescue patrol or service
- the prevailing winds are towards the inaccessible eastern shores
- local weather conditions can change rapidly producing dangerous conditions
- the water is extremely cold, especially during winter

A great place to fish

Googong is managed as a mixed fishery and is stocked with Rainbow Trout, Golden Perch, Murray Cod and Silver Perch.

Some specific points to remember

- The dam is open to fishing all year. Streams and rivers are closed to fishing from the end of the long weekend in June to the beginning of the long weekend in October.
- NSW fishing regulations apply and a NSW fishing licence is required.
- Two rods are permitted on the dam but only one in streams and rivers. The use of handlines, traps or nets is not permitted anywhere.
- Bait collection is not permitted. Please bring your own. The use of live fish or frogs is strictly prohibited.
- Bag and size limits apply to most fish.
- There is a closed season on Murray Cod between 1 September and 30 November inclusive.
- Macquarie Perch are totally protected and must not be taken.
- Discarded fishing line kills wildlife. Be sure you take it with you when you leave. Take all litter home.

Mountain bikes

There are numerous fire trails throughout the reserve that are great for mountain biking. Riders must stay on the fire trails as off-trail riding causes erosion and subsequently reduces the quality of our water. Mountain bike riders should not ride on designated foot tracks. There are two excellent rides at Googong (see descriptions under 6 and 8 for details). Please contact the rangers if you are intending to undertake a long ride.

Opening hours

Googong Foreshores is a day use area only. Camping is not permitted. The minimum opening hours for the whole reserve are from 8 am to 5 pm. The southern end of the reserve closes one hour earlier than the northern end. Googong Foreshores is closed on Christmas Day and when a Total Fire Ban is declared for the NSW Southern Tablelands or the ACT. When the gates are closed, members of the public are not permitted into the reserve, even on foot.

	Queanbeyan/ Northern end	Burra/Southern end
Daylight saving time	8 am-8 pm	8 am-7 pm
Non-daylight saving	8 am-6 pm	8 am-5 pm

Walks and rides

S=walk is in southern section of Googong

N=walk is in northern section of Googong

Short walks

1. London Bridge Walk, 3.4 km return, easy (S)

This circuit starts at London Bridge car park, crossing the Burra Creek via the London Bridge Arch then takes you to the historic London Bridge Homestead. Return along the management trail. Both the arch and the homestead are on the register of the National Estate. Refer to the *London Bridge brochure* for further details.

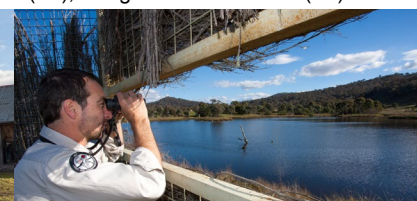
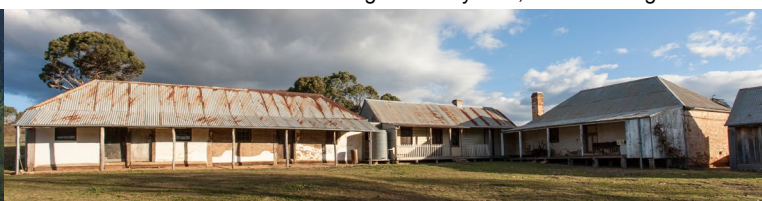
2. Black Wallaby Loop Track, 2.6 km return, easy (N)

Start at the Downstream Picnic Area and walk parallel to the Queanbeyan River to the dam wall. This walk provides lovely views of the river gorge known as the Cascades. The track climbs gently through thick patches of tea-tree and wattles, crossing a number of moist gullies before emerging into open grassland above the dam. It is a short walk back along the bitumen track to the car park.

3. Cascades Walk, 200 m, easy (N)

The short river walk takes you down into the Cascades gorge where there are a number of large water holes. The Cascades Lookout and the Dam Wall Lookout are two scenic vantage points. These are both reached by walks of less than 100 metres from the car park.

left to right: Murray Cod, London Bridge Homestead (AT), Ranger at Tin Hut Dam (AT)



4. Shoreline Walk, 4 km return, easy (N)

This walk takes you along one of the most popular and accessible stretches of shoreline at Googong. It runs close to the high water mark between the Foreshores car park and Shannons Inlet. On still days you may see trout and Golden Perch swimming along the bank in search of food, or find waterbirds roosting and sunning themselves. The walk can be extended by returning via the Western Foreshores Walk (6).

9. Dhurrawarri Buranya Walk, 4 km return, easy (S)

This walk starts and ends at London Bridge Arch. Follow the Queanbeyan River Walk (5) branching off towards Washpen Crossing then north along the Queanbeyan River. Climb up a rocky, wooded ridge then down to the junction of the Queanbeyan River and Burra Creek. The return track follows the remains of an old boundary and 'vermin proof' fence along the ridge. If the river is low it may be possible to cross over the nearby Drawdown Crossing and return along the fire trail.

Long day walks and bike rides

5. Queanbeyan River Walk, 18 km return, moderate (S)

This walk starts at the London Bridge car park, crosses the London Bridge Arch then branches onto management trails finishing at Flynn's Crossing. It passes through dry sclerophyll forest and roughly follows the Queanbeyan River, with three access points to the river—Washpen Crossing, Galignite Crossing and Flynn's Crossing. Return via the same route. No swimming permitted.

Googong Foreshores panorama (AT)

6. Western Foreshores Walk/Ride, 19.7 km return, moderate (NS)

This walk can be accessed from either end of Googong. The northern trackhead is near the upper Foreshores car park and the southern end is at Tin Hut car park. The track follows management trails through grassland and open woodland providing many scenic vantage points of the dam and the Queanbeyan escarpment to the east.

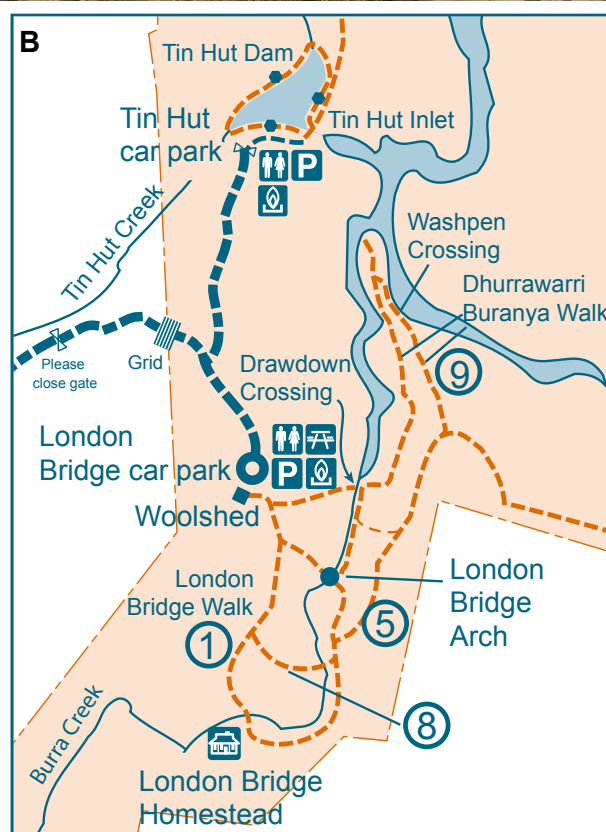
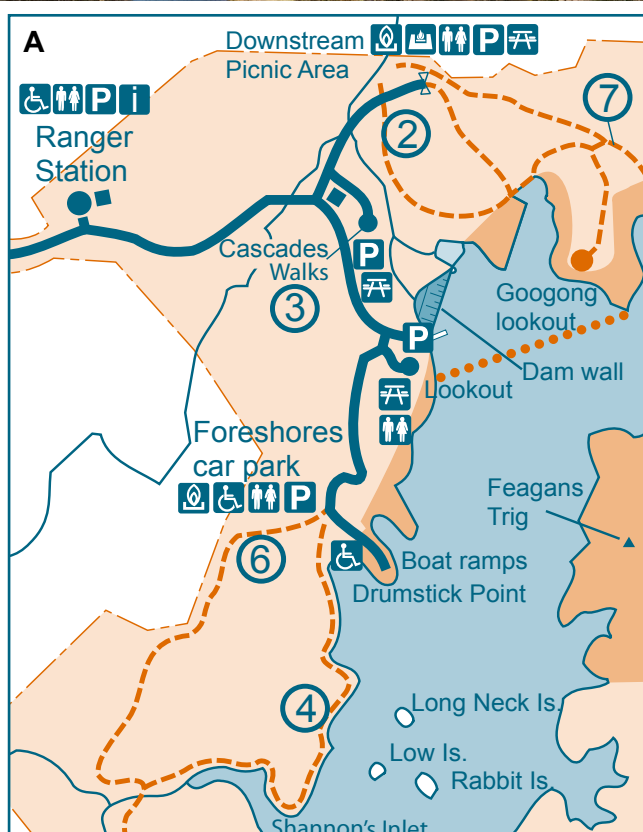
7. Bradleys Creek Walk, 14.2 km return, moderate (N)

Starting at the Downstream Picnic Area the track initially follows a route marked by directional posts. The walk then follows management trails, skirting the northern shore to the dam before climbing steeply up the Queanbeyan escarpment to Gormans Trig. From here it is a relatively easy walk to Bradleys Creek which is typical of the steep sided creeks bisecting the escarpment. The short detour to Googong Lookout on the way provides panoramas of the northern part of the reserve and dam.

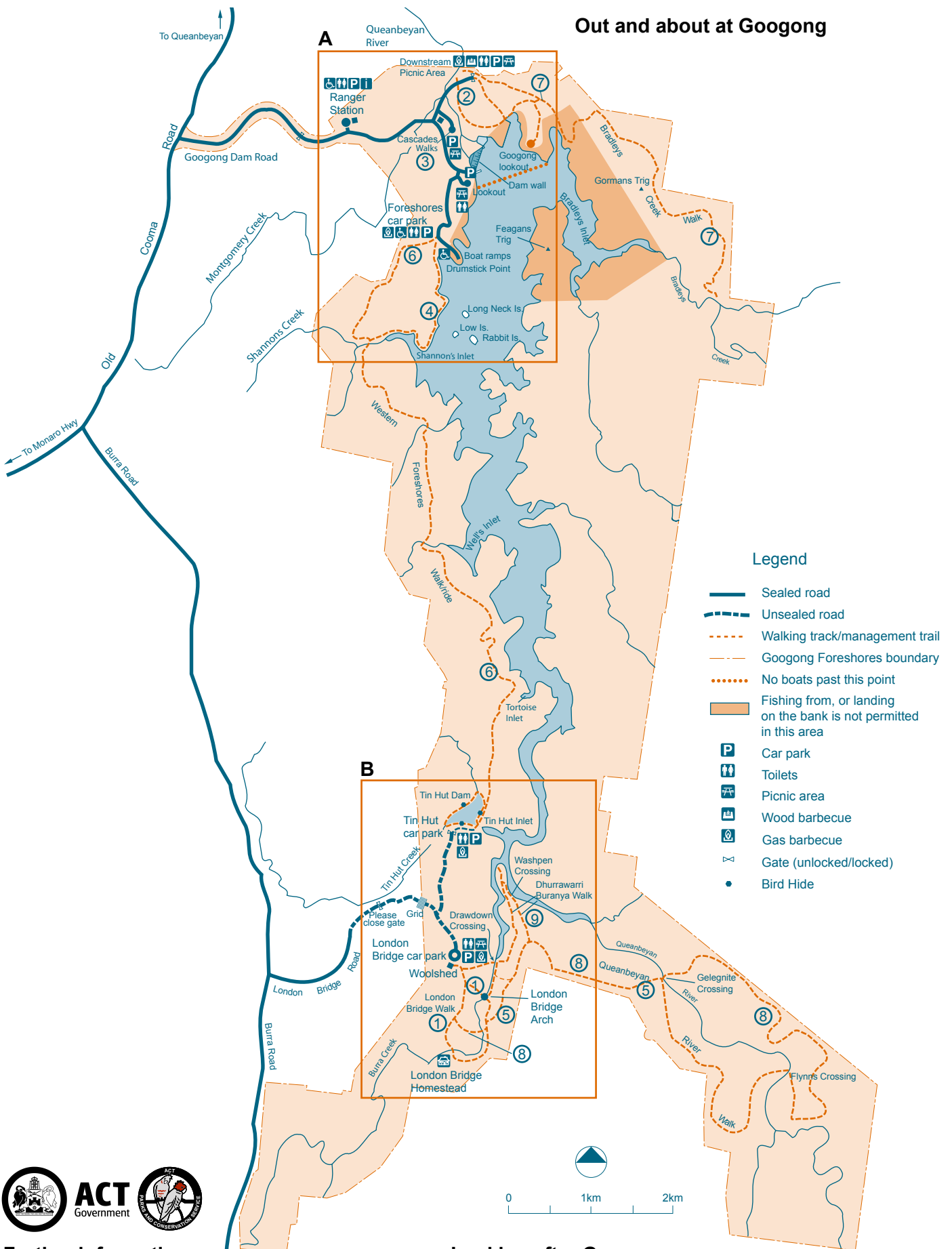
8. Queanbeyan River Loop Ride, 19.7 km return, difficult (S)

This ride starts at the London Bridge car park and follows the management trail towards London Bridge Homestead. Before reaching Burra Creek, follow the management trail branching eastwards and travel past Galignite Crossing to Flynn's Crossing. Follow the trail to loop back to Galignite Crossing and then London Bridge car park. Track markers define the route. The loop involves some steep grades plus two crossings of the Queanbeyan River. See Queanbeyan River Walk for more details.

Enlargements



Out and about at Googong



Further information

Ranger Station (northern end of Googong Foreshores)
 Ph: (02) 6207 2779, 0427 288 260 or 0427 818 400
 Enquiries: Phone Canberra Connect on 13 22 81
 Website: www.tams.act.gov.au

For more information about fishing, phone the Googong Ranger Station or the District NSW Fisheries Officer at Yass: (02) 6226 3867

Photo credits: AT Andrew Tatnell

Looking after Googong

- Swimming is only permitted in the Queanbeyan River below dam wall.
- Use the toilets provided.
- Take your rubbish home—there are no bins at Googong.
- Googong is a wildlife refuge. Therefore all native plants and animals and their habitats are protected.
- Pets are not permitted. No dogs or horses.
- Camping is not permitted.