



Explore.... **DUNGOG COMMON** Walking Routes



Loop Walks from
800 m to 10+ km
*Step back in time in a
haven of peacefulness*

It's all yours....

In the Gringai language Dungog means 'sparsely wooded hills'. On the edge of Dungog town, surrounded by farmland, is an 'island' of country still largely covered in trees. This is the Dungog Common, still with mobs of kangaroos, diverse bird life, grand views of the Williams valley, and a sense of the way the land was when the Gringai people walked these hills living their traditional lives. Today the Common is communal land shared for recreational purposes – mountain-biking, walking, enjoying nature. It is open to everyone, any time. From grassy ridgelines with extensive views to shady gullies and a paperbark-lined stream – the Common is there for all to enjoy.



Four interconnecting loops....

The 5 km Girriwa Loop heads up into the hills on the west side of the Common. Gulugu Loop (800 m) meanders among paperbark trees on Common Creek. Boorangong Loop (2.5 km) is a wander through open forest and a rocky gully. Rifle Range Walk (2 km) is interconnected grassy circuits focused on some local history. From the Saleyards a track connects up to high ridgelines where vehicular tracks enable each of these walks to connect to others.



On your own two feet....

Pick a meandering loop walk along the creek or take on the roller-coaster 5-kilometre Girriwa Loop circuit around Hungry Hill. Wander anywhere bird-watching. Go for a cross-country run on trails and ridgelines. The Common offers a surprising variety of ecosystems, diverse flora, some grand old trees, eastern grey kangaroos and perhaps an echidna, a dingo or a koala.... Take food and plenty of water. Keep track of where you are on the map. Journey back in time to when the Gringai walked these hills, passing on their skills and knowledge generation to generation.





TO ACCESS DUNGOG COMMON take the northern exit from town (turn left at the Bank Hotel at the bottom of Dowling Street) and 50 metres past Dowlings General Store turn left onto Common Road.

RIFLE RANGE LOOPS start at the Common entrance beside the water pipeline. Several routes follow up the catchment of Rifle Range Creek in open country. All circle back to the start unless you continue uphill to the left (east side) of the pipeline. This connects to the Saleyards and vehicular (and walking/horse-riding tracks) along the ridgelines. Australian Walking Track Grading System (AWTGS) Grade 2: Easy trail.

At the end of the bitumen section of Common Road is Sheltons Bus Depot (on the left). Immediately past Sheltons turn left onto the gravel section of Common Road. Here there is parking on the right and a sign for Girriwa Loop.

GIRRIWA LOOP is about a two-hour walk starting by Common Creek (follow the goanna signs). Alternatively drive one kilometre further along the gravel road, and across the creek there is another connection point for Girriwa Loop. Either do the full circuit or short-cut across The Snip. AWTGS Grade 3: uneven ground, hilly/steep, creek crossings.

BOORANGONG LOOP begins and ends 100 metres up the dirt road behind Sheltons Bus Depot and leads south-west around the side of the hill, circling back to its starting point - less than an hour's walk. AWTGS Grade 2: uneven surface, undulating.

GULUGU LOOP is 1.2 km along the gravel section of Common Road, on the right hand side, 100m past a car parking area opposite Cattle Grid No 5. A half-hour walk in creek-side forest with some grand old paperbark trees. 21 information points along route. AWTGS Grade 2: Uneven ground, creek crossings. This walk feels a little adventurous....