

GIRRIWA LOOP

Walking Trail on Dungog Common



Reaching into the history
of the Williams Valley

Welcome to the wild side of the Dungog Common

Across Common Creek on the north-western side of the Dungog Common is steep country largely tree-covered. It is here that a walking trail circles around the highest point, Hungry Hill, passing through several distinct ecosystems. The main Girriwa Loop is 4.8 kilometres long and takes two to three hours to complete. Short-cutting across The Snip halves the distance. The trail has some steep sections but is not difficult for reasonably fit walkers.



The recommended start-point for walkers on the Girriwa Loop is just across Common Creek, a 100-metre walk down from the parking area at the entrance to the Common off Common Road. Marker pegs featuring the goanna logo are all along the route. *Please follow a clockwise direction.* The route initially follows the creek upstream, then climbs into the hilly country. Wear sturdy footwear, carry water and snacks, and keep a sharp eye out for wildlife.

The Aboriginal word *Dungog* means 'sparsely wooded hills'. The Girriwa Loop walk steps back in time, enabling some sense of the way this Williams valley landscape was before European settlement. Here and there it is grassy but mostly it is a wander through scattered trees. A walk such as this the Gringai people might have loosely followed over thousands of years... gathering food and medicinal plants, hunting kangaroos, and perhaps congregating for ceremony. The Girriwa Loop follows a route that meanders and zigs and zags as the Gringai might have done.

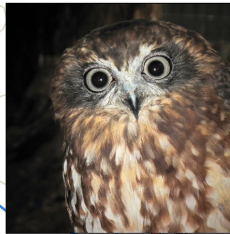
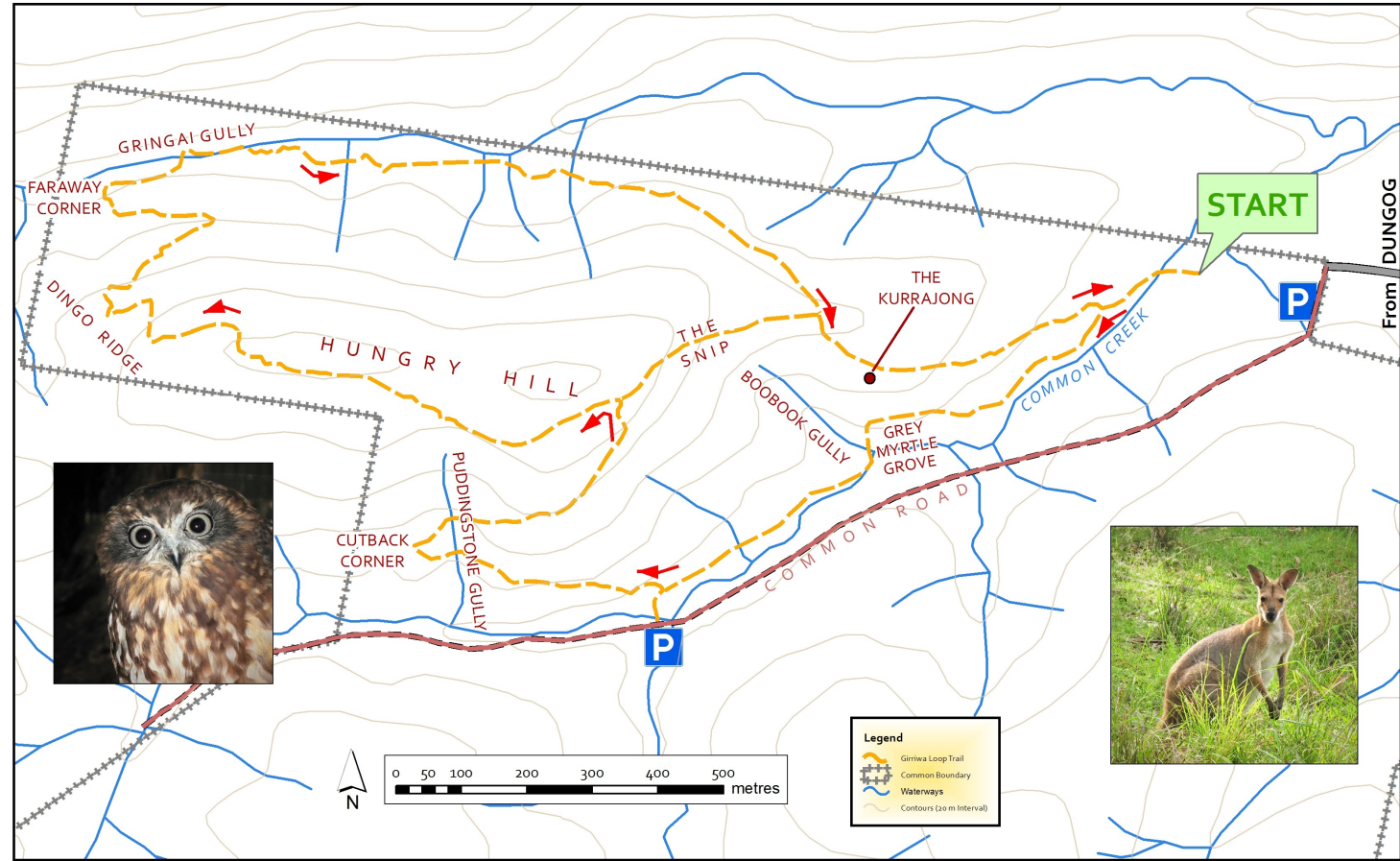
The Girriwa Loop is a walk on Gringai ground.



Dungog Common was established in the 1890s as land for communal use. Comprising pastured and tree-covered land of around 260 hectares on the outskirts of Dungog town, the Common is enjoyed by walkers, runners, mountain-bikers horse-riders and nature-lovers. Some areas are used for cattle-grazing, but everywhere wildlife has free roam - grey kangaroos, red-necked wallabies, echidnas, goannas and diverse birdlife.

Girriwa Loop Walking Trail

Girriwa is the Gringai word for goanna or lace monitor



DIRECTIONS TO DUNGOG COMMON

To enter Dungog Common follow down Dungog's main street to the roundabout at the Bank Hotel and turn left on the road to Chichester Dam. After 1.0 km, just past the Caltex shop, turn left onto Common Road, Proceed 1.0 km and just past Sheltons Bus Depot turn left into the Common. There is a parking place here. Follow the signs down the hill to the start of the Girriwa Loop Walk.

Dungog lies within the boundary of the Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council whose community has strong ties to this area. The Girriwa Loop trails were established with support from KLALC, Hunter Local Land Services and the NSW Environmental Trust.