

## COPELAND TOPS STATE CONSERVATION AREA

This delightful mountainous dry rain forest area is only 15 km west by sealed road from Gloucester. Whilst the various vantage points in this area are only 600 to 800 metres above sea level compared to 1,300 to 1,500 metres in the Gloucester and Barrington Tops, the scenery is nevertheless quite dramatic.

Evidence of the intensive activity of the prospectors who joined in the frenzied search for gold at Copeland can be found throughout the area. Gold was discovered in 1872 and at the peak of the rush from 1877 to 1880, there were 51 reefs being worked. Many of these workings were accessed by narrow winding roads cut into the mountain side and negotiated by both men on horseback and bullock wagons. In later years this area was harvested for timber under the control of State Forests of NSW, but has recently been handed over to National Parks.

The walks described below utilize old wagon and logging trails. National Parks are progressively developing access to this area but at this stage the Hidden Treasure Trail is the only established walk. The other trails mentioned here are not yet maintained by National Parks and use is at walkers' own risk.

**Avoid** contact with the broad leaves of the Giant Stinging Tree found on some of the trails. **Look** for the various epiphytes (orchids & ferns growing on trees or tree

stumps) and **listen** for the calls of the Lewin's Honeyeater, Green Catbird, Eastern Yellow Robin, Brown Cuckoo Dove, Bell Miner and Eastern Whipbird.

### HIDDEN TREASURE TRAIL

Refer to NPWS "Copeland Tops" brochure. Easy walking. 1 ½ to 2 hrs.

### BROADBENTS TRAIL

Starts just beyond junction of Old Copeland Road with Scone Road. Park opposite. Distance approx. 6 km return. Easy to moderate walking. Trail follows a spur ridge with dramatic distant views to the west and east. High point (4) or just beyond is an ideal place for picnic, but bring your own table and chairs!

### CENTENNIAL MINE TRAIL

Starts and finishes at Goldtown Car Park. Distance approx. 7 km return. Proceed from the Car Park up the Old Copeland Road above the Goldtown entrance for about 100 m, then fork to left down to bridge across Copeland Creek. This is the start of the Old Mine Access Wagon Trail which initially is also used by the Hidden Treasure Trail. When a junction is reached where a branch trail goes uphill to the left, continue straight ahead. However, a detour may be made up this branch trail to view the old Hidden Treasure Mine (1). The trail, after passing through an open

area where there is clear evidence of earlier habitation by miners (2), climbs more steeply. Watch for evidence on the left of workings associated with the Centennial Mine (3), one of the larger, more successful mines. On reaching the ridge the trail joins Broadbents Trail. It then follows this trail back to its junction with Scone Road. The walk then returns via Old Copeland Road to the Goldtown Car Park.. This is all down hill!

### HIGH PASTURES TRAIL

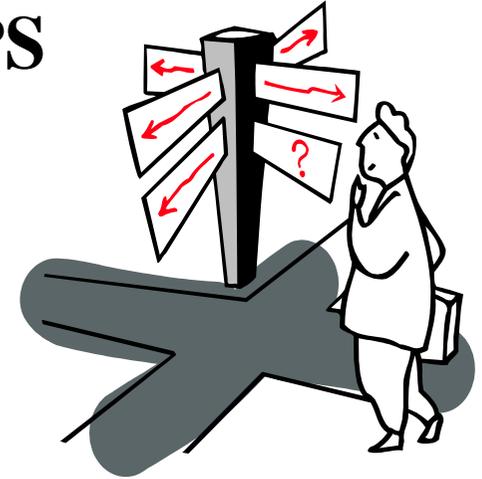
This trail starts at the same point as Craddocks Creek Trail. Parking and access are for that trail. Distance approx 8km return. Easy to moderate walking. Park on either side of Scone Road a short distance uphill from the trail start and walk back on right side of road, watching for traffic! Trail descends to Duffers Creek and then climbs to a ridge. Take branch trail to left at this point and on the way look out for evidence of an old log loading station on the right (5) and old mine shaft (6) close to road also on the right – take care! Continue on the main trail ignoring any branches and eventually a locked gate will be reached indicating the end of the trail. Beyond this gate are the high pastures and time should be taken to lean on the gate and experience the view and the silence before returning down the trail.

## CRADDOCKS CREEK TRAIL

Starts just past of the start of Broadbent's trail on the northern side of Scone Road. Park on either side of the scone Road. A short distance uphill from the trail and walk back on the right side of road. Watching for traffic! Distance approx 10 km return. Easy to moderate walking. Follow directions as for High Pastures Trail, but on reaching ridge, continue on down other side around hill until reaching end of trail just beyond Craddocks Creek. Return on same route.

Just after first creek crossing, note two spur trails, one on high side and one on low side which lead to old mine workings.

## WALKING IN THE COPELAND TOPS



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BARRINGTON...  
TOPS!