

New South Wales – Permits and permissions required to access indigenous and other lands, including national parks

In our home state, there are no aboriginal permit requirements that I am aware of, however, a number of our National Parks and Reserves (about 10% of them, which includes most of the more popular Parks) do levy an entry fee. And, in some there is also an overnight camping fee. If you are in the habit of spending quite a few nights away in our own national parks, or you visit a number each year where charges are levied, then you might want to consider a National Park Annual Pass. They are available from a number of outlets, including Royal National Park and from the National Park Shop located in Cadman's Cottage at Circular Quay. They can be bought to cover a 1 or 2-year period. A few examples (as at November, 2008) are: an All Parks Annual Pass including Kosciuszko is \$190 per annum or \$335 for a 2-year pass. Excluding Kosciuszko reduces the rates to \$65 and \$115. Single Park and Multi Park Passes are also available for NSW Country National Parks. They can also be ordered on-line via the NP&WS website – see below.

Daily rates of admission (where applicable) are reasonable. Rates vary from a general minimum of \$7 per vehicle to \$11 per vehicle. Sydney Harbour National Park and Burratorang State Conservation Area are only \$3 per vehicle. Oxley Wild Rivers National Park does have some special entry costs to particular areas which can be up to \$25 per day. During the skiing season a day entry to Kosciuszko National Park is \$27 whilst for the rest of the year it is \$16. The website contains all the details.

Camping fees are also levied for some campgrounds in some National Parks, and again the website has all the details. Rates can also vary between peak season and off peak seasons. Camping fees where applicable are generally one of the following per person per night: Adult \$10 and child \$5; or Adult \$7 and child \$3.50; or Adult \$5 and child \$3. In Oxley Wild Rivers National Park at the locations where the special entry fees of up to \$25 per vehicle apply, the camping fees can be up to \$40 per vehicle per night. However, if you are camping at those special locations you only pay the camping fee as the day entry fee does not apply.

The New South Wales National Parks & Wildlife Service very helpful and informative website is: www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

For information on NSW National Parks and for annual passes call 1300 361 967 or (02) 9995 5550 or email info@environment.nsw.gov.au

Head Office address is 59-61 Goulburn Street, Sydney, NSW 2000 or PO Box A290, Sydney South, 2000. Telephone (02) 9995 5000 and Fax (02) 9995 5999.

Stockton Beach:

And of course if you enjoy driving on the sand dunes at Stockton Beach, then you will need the appropriate permit for such activities. (Please note that as a consequence of the handing over of

some areas in the region to an aboriginal group, (see Note below), some changes have occurred). One of two vehicle permits is required for what is now known as the Worimi Conservation Lands. The first is a Beach Vehicle Permit for road registered 4WD vehicles to access Stockton Beach; the second is a Recreational Vehicle Permit which is available for RTA conditionally registered vehicles (endorsed for Stockton Beach RVA) to access the Recreational Vehicle Area of the Worimi Conservation Lands. The Beach Vehicle Permit is available at a number of outlets in and around Newcastle, including the Birubi Beach Service Station, Gan Gan Road, Anna Bay ((02) 4982 2201) and the Birubi Beach Holiday Park in James Patterson Street, Anna Bay ((02) 4982 1263). They are also available at Out of Town 4WD at Barnsley ((02) 4953 3288), and at the Metro Lavis Service Station, Nelson Bay Road, Williamtown, (opposite Lavis Lane which is one of the entry points to Stockton Beach). The Metro Lavis can be contacted on (02) 4965 0401, and is probably the closest location for persons from Sydney. Other outlets are at: Tackle Power, Sandgate; the Mobil at Salt Ash; Port Stephens Visitor Centre, Nelson Bay and Medowie Tyre and Auto at Medowie. The minimum three day permit costs \$10 per vehicle, whilst a 12 month permit costs \$30.

(N.B.: The Recreational Vehicle Area at Stockton, together with some other nearby areas has recently been handed over by the Port Stephens Shire Council to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. They in turn have handed some of the area back to the Worimi Aboriginal Corporation).

Hawks Nest to Lemon Tree beach access:

The 3 kilometres or so of public beach access from Saddlington Drive in Hawks Nest to Lemon Tree requires an annual pass issued by the local Council. They are available at the Council Offices in Tea Gardens from Monday to Friday, or on Saturdays they are available from the Tea Gardens Tourist Information Centre, Myall Street, Tea Gardens ((02) 4997 0111 (which is next door to the Council Offices) at a cost of \$45 (June to June). They are also available from the Hawks Nest Newsagency.

Myall Lakes NP beach access:

Currently, (January, 2009), the beach run within Myall Lakes National Park is only open from Lemon Tree to Little Gibber. The rest of the beach, both north and south is closed till further notice. Permits (which are essentially your National Park entry fee), are available either on a daily basis at \$7 each or \$22 for a 12 month period from date of purchase. They are obtainable from the same locations as the Council Permit above, and from the Booti Booti National Park Office. The beach area is very much subject to erosion from wind and tidal action and is subject to closure from time to time. So if you are planning a visit it would be well worthwhile ringing the National Park Area Office which is located within Booti Booti National Park on (02) 6591 0300 to ascertain the latest information. Myall Lakes National Park is one of those parks where peak and off peak camping rates apply.

Port Macquarie/Hastings Shire Council Beaches

To drive any of the beaches which are marked as vehicle accessible within the Port Macquarie/Hastings Shire Council area, including the beach access from North Shore to Point Plomer (which includes access into the Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve), you will need an annual beach access permit issued by the Council. They are available for \$21 per vehicle (July to June) and can be bought at any of the Council's offices or from any of the Tourist Information kiosks within the Council area. If you drive up the beach to Limeburners Creek Nature Reserve you will also need to purchase a national park day entry permit (\$7 per vehicle per day) available from the coin operated vending machines within the Nature Reserve, so ensure you have the correct amount of gold coinage. And if you camp within the Nature Reserve at either of the two designated camping areas it will cost you \$10 per adult and \$5 per child per night.

Can I get a Concession?:

Don't forget, if you are dealing with a National Park Service or any Government Agency, and you have a Seniors Card or a Pension Card of some description; always ask whether a Seniors Discount is available. In most cases the answer is, yes!

Disclaimer:

Whilst every care has been taken in the preparation of this information, no responsibility can be accepted for either the accuracy of the contents or for any errors or omissions.

With your assistance we might also endeavour to maintain this information in an updated form. So if you wish to amend, or add to any of the information contained in this article, please contact the undersigned on (02) 9523 9266 or email john.greig@bigpond.com

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Please also be sure to read the first part of this site titled “Heading Outback – Do I Need a Permit? – Can I drive that track?” in conjunction with the information above.