

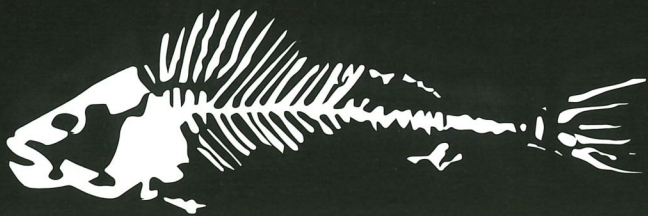


CANOEING AND KAYAKING

TRAILS GUIDE

NAMBUCCA VALLEY

DISCOVER | PADDLE
ONE VALLEY – MANY TRAILS



Nambucca Boatshed & Café



The Nambucca Boatshed is a popular destination located on the Nambucca River and beside a wide kayak launch. You can hire a kayak, stand up paddle board, boat or just sit back and relax and enjoy an Artisti Di Espresso coffee on the shed's veranda.

Delicious breakfast, lunch, morning and afternoon tea is served at the Boatshed's café seven-days-a-week, making this spot located on the corner of Riverside Drive and Nelson Street in Nambucca Heads the perfect place to launch from.

Kayak hire: Singles – \$25 per hour | Double – \$40 per hour
Stand up paddle board – \$25 per hour

Boat hire: 2 hours – \$80 | 3 hours – \$100 | 4 hours – \$125
8 hours – \$220 | Bookings essential – phone (02) 6568 6432

Opening hours:

Boatshed – 7am-4.45pm Mon to Sat. 7am-3pm Sunday.

Café – 7.30am Monday to Sunday.

Kitchen closes 2.30pm Monday to Saturday and 2pm on Sundays.

Phone (02) 6568 6511 to book a table.



1 Riverside Drive, Nambucca Heads, NSW 2448

Boatshed: 02 6568 6432 • Café: 02 6568 6511 • info@nambuccaboatshed.com.au

GREAT FOOD • FANTASTIC POSITION • BOAT HIRE • TACKLE & BAIT

WELCOME TO THE NAMBUCCA – A VALLEY OF RIVERS AND SEA.

The Gumbaynggirr people are the traditional owners of the land and water here and we pay respect to them.

Paddling a canoe or kayak is one of the best ways to explore the Nambucca Valley where there are 80 kilometres of navigable waterways to enjoy.

This guide provides information to help you plan for your trip and make the best decision about where to go and potentially stay.

Prior to embarking on your journey we recommend that you read the NSW Government Boating Handbook, available online or free from Service NSW centres or by calling 13 12 36. You must be aware of your requirements and responsibilities for boating safely in our Rivers and Creeks. Council recommends that lifejackets are worn at all times and you travel with a mobile phone in waterproof pouch.

WEAR A LIFEJACKET

DON'T RISK YOUR LIFE





NAMBUCCA TRAILS

- ① Nambucca River Lower Estuary 6-8
- ② Stuart Island 9

MACKSVILLE TRAILS

- ③ Tilly Willy Creek Upstream towards 11
- ④ Taylors Arm 12
- ⑤ Upstream to Devil's Elbow Reserve 12
- ⑥ Downstream to Gumma Dock 13

TALARM TRAIL

- ⑦ Welsh's Pioneer Park to Boat Harbour 14-15

SCOTTS HEAD + GUMMA TRAILS

- ⑧ Gumma Reserve to Gaagal Wanggaan National Park 16-17
- ⑨ Scotts Head to Gumma Reserve or Henstock Reserve 18-19

VALLA TRAIL

- ⑩ Deep Creek estuary to Valla Rural 20-21

BOWRAVILLE TRAIL

- ⑪ Devil's Elbow Reserve to Grassy Park 22-23



NAMBUCCA RIVER LOWER ESTUARY

Paddle the picturesque lower Nambucca River, an area where the river runs to the ocean. You will experience a wide variety of trails here and you can island hop around the estuary's mangrove islands and intertidal flats. Sea turtles and dolphins can be regularly seen and you will be amazed by the abundance of fish and birds.



-30°39'16.4"S,
152°59'45.0"E
Access Stuart Island
boatramp by turning
off Riverside Drive, past
Bellwood Park and over a
causeway bridge to island

-30°38'45.1"S,
153°00'07.8"E
Access the Boatshed launch
point by turning off Riverside
Drive into the Nambucca
Heads RSL Club carpark

-30°38'41.0"S, 153°00'28.1"E
Access Gordon Park boatramp
off Wellington Drive

■ Road ■ Water



BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

REPORT DOLPHIN SIGHTINGS

Estuarine habitats like the lower Nambucca River often support Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins. Research on the Nambucca dolphins commenced in 2014 and has found that the estuary is important to a small resident community of mothers and calves.

Report sightings by phoning (02) 6676 1473.



STUART ISLAND

The largest island to visit in the Nambucca River lower estuary is Stuart Island. The paddle around Stuart Island is scenic and you can stop off on the island for lunch at the Golf Club or to cook up a barbecue – both easily accessed from the island's boatramp.

When deciding which way to paddle around the island, you should check tidal information first. There is a causeway to the island with a tunnel for paddling through and the water flow is dependent on the tide.



When paddling the lower Nambucca River estuary, you can paddle it as one trail or break it up into different sections to suit your available time and interest. It is not recommended to paddle the mouth of the Nambucca River near the V-wall breakwater. The strong water current and shoals make it unsafe and unnavigable for the majority of people.

TIDAL LAG ESTIMATES

NAMBUCCA RIVER

V-wall near river entrance – 11 min

Stuart Island – 1 hr 45 min

Macksville – 2 hr 15 min

Devil's Elbow Reserve – 2 hr 30 min

Bowraville, Grassy Park – 3 hr 30 min.

TAYLORS ARM RIVER

Utungun – 3 hr

WARRELL CREEK

Warrell Creek entrance – 1 hr 30 min

Scotts Head – 3 hr 45 min

Pacific Highway bridge – 4 hr 30 min



■ Road ■ Water

MACKSVILLE KAYAK TRAILS

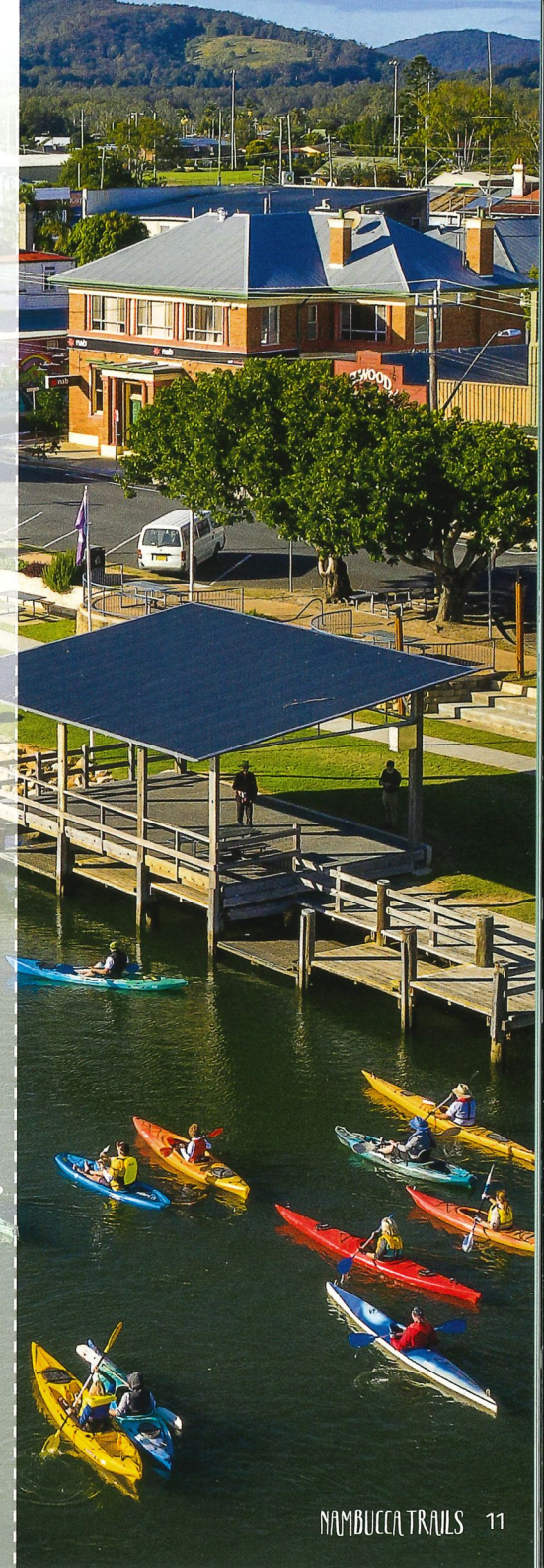
Macksville is a pretty riverside town that offers canoe and kayak launch points on the north and south sides of the Nambucca River. It offers great places to stay and quaint cafes and pubs to unwind and relax in after your paddle.

- A** -30°42'21.22"S , 152°55'11.01"E
Access Princess Street launch point near the intersection of Princess and River Streets
- B** -30°42'14.8"S, 152°55'13.9"E
Access Ferry Street launch point through Lions Park in North Macksville, just off Giinagay Way
- C** -30°42'08.9"S 152°57'58.6"E
Access Gumma Dock launch point via Gumma Road, Macksville. Turn left off Gumma Road onto Figtree Road and the launch point is on your left

TILLY WILLY CREEK

1KM ONE WAY

An easy paddle for beginners or children, Tilly Willy Creek offers calm water and picturesque views of some of Macksville's early homesteads.



UPSTREAM TOWARDS TAYLORS ARM

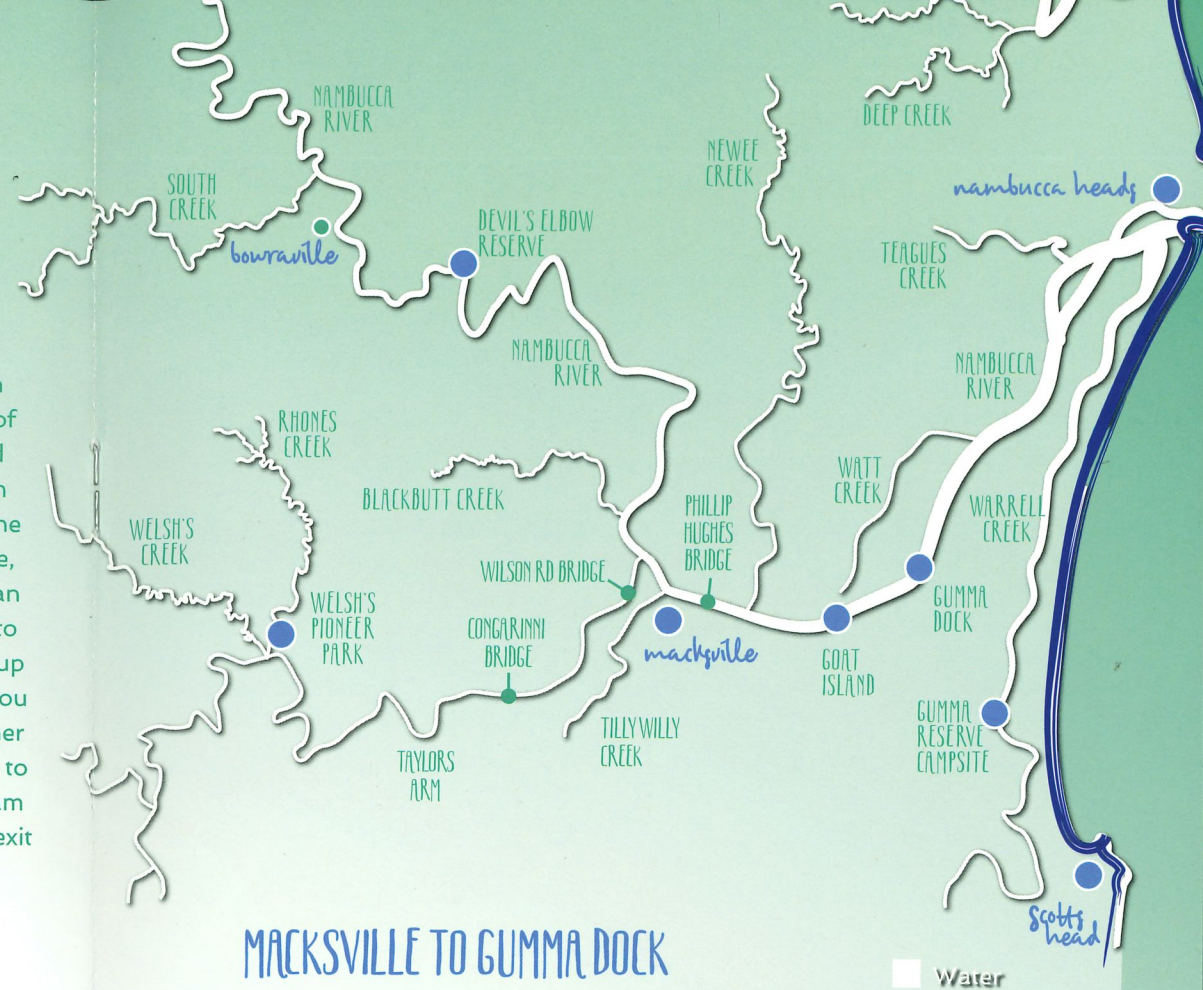
4KM ONE WAY

A medium-length paddle is from Macksville up the Taylors Arm reach of the Nambucca River. From either of Macksville's launch points, you head upstream for one kilometre and then take the left fork of the river toward the Wilson Road bridge. After a kilometre, the trail becomes secluded and you can paddle for four kilometres upstream to the Congarinni Bridge and be picked up at the boatramp beside the bridge. If you are after a longer paddle, you can either turn around and go downstream back to Macksville or continue further upstream to Welsh's Pioneer Park, Talarm, and exit at the riverbank there.

UPSTREAM TO DEVIL'S ELBOW RESERVE

9KM ONE WAY

For a longer paddle, you can go from Macksville's launch points upstream towards Bowraville. Paddle one kilometre upstream and take the right fork in the river. The river is bordered by beautiful trees and pastoral areas. You can paddle eight kilometres upstream to Devil's Elbow Reserve boatramp or turn around and return to Macksville.



MACKSVILLE TO GUMMA DOCK

9KM ONE WAY

Paddle downstream, east of Macksville to Gumma Dock. The trail is rich in history and culture. You will paddle under the Macksville Bridge and pass the remains of the old Government Wharf, a former trade epicentre. Further downstream, you will go under the Phillip Hughes Bridge (named in honour of an Australian Test cricketer and local). Just on from the bridge is Goat Island, a small mangrove and littoral rainforest island. You will see many bird species there and often the threatened white-bellied sea eagle can be spotted. Gumma Dock is just two kilometres further downstream. As you approach, you will see oyster leases and a launch point on the southern bank of the river.

On the northern side of the Nambucca River just past Goat Island is believed to be the last place Birroungan – a creation spirit in Aboriginal mythology – crossed the river in his canoe.



WELSH'S PIONEER PARK TO BOAT HARBOUR

9KM ONE WAY

Welsh's Pioneer Park is a peaceful place and is named after the first family to select land in the Talarm area. Here kayaks and canoes need to be handed down a two metre bank to reach the waterline below.

When paddling upstream, the river gradually narrows. First gravel beds emerge and then, near Boat Harbour, you will pass through Hell's Gates, a prominent bedrock gorge. Hell's Gates is believed to have been a waterfall before the last major marine transgression when sea-levels are thought to have been about 120m lower than they are today.

-30°42'53.0"S, 152°50'46.4"E

Welsh's Pioneer Park is located about seven kms west of Macksville, via Taylors Arm Road. Turn right to cross Congarinni Bridge, then left onto Welshs Creek Road and the park is about four kms down on the left.

WELSH'S
PIONEER
PARK

CONGARINNI ROAD NORTH

WELSHS CREEK RD

congarinni
bridge

TAYLORS ARM RD

BOAT HARBOUR RD

→
macksville

TAYLORS ARM RD

-30°43'35.4"S, 152°49'30.18"E

Boat Harbour Bridge is located about nine km west of Macksville, via Taylors Arm Road. Taylors Arm Road becomes Boat Harbour Road. Cross the first bridge on Boat Harbour Road and the access gate is immediately on the right. Access to the river here is via private property, so enter at your own risk and keep an eye out for cattle.

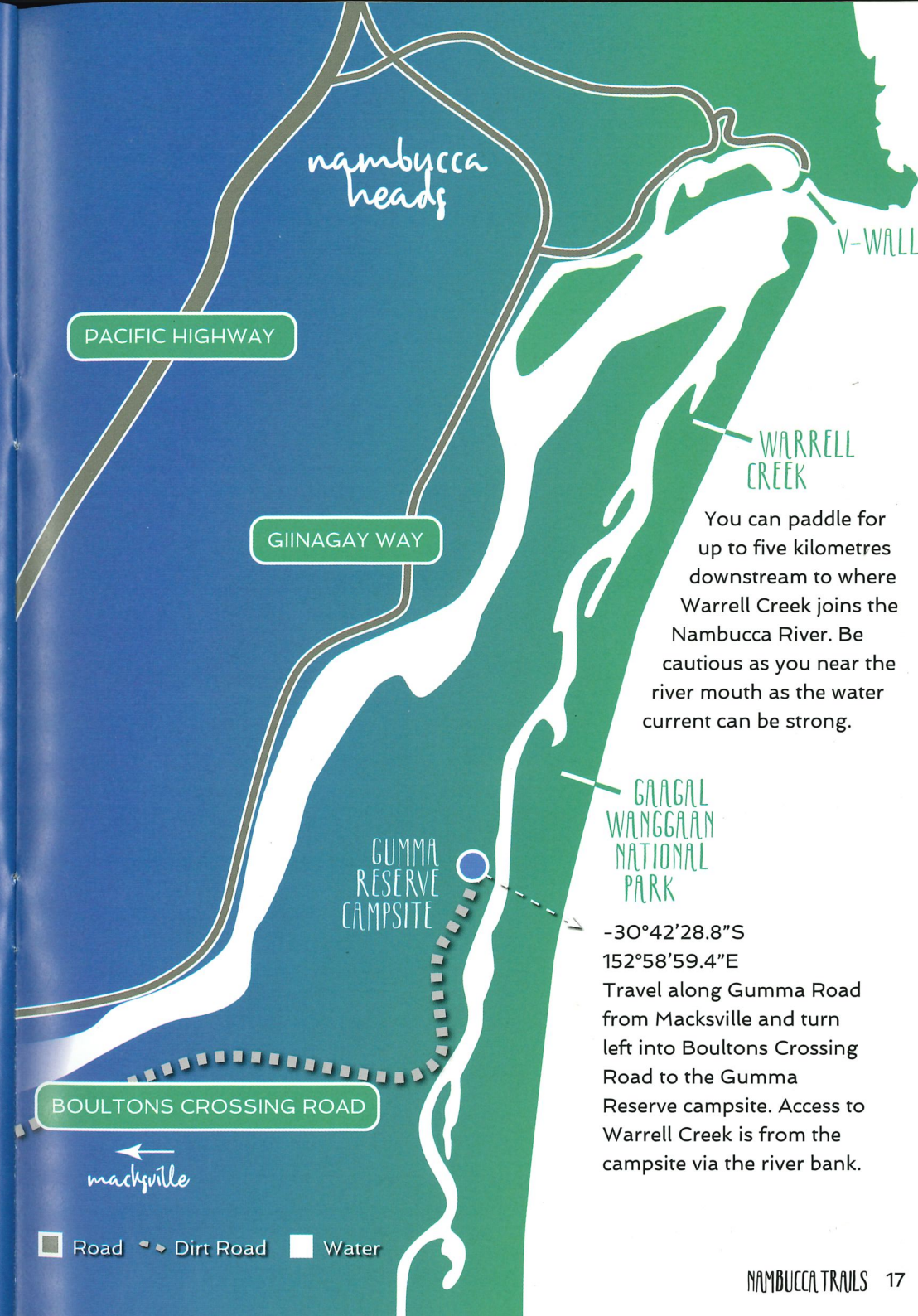
■ Road ▬ Dirt Road ■ Water



GUMMA RESERVE TO GAAGAL WANGGAAN (SOUTH BEACH) NATIONAL PARK

It takes very little effort to escape the daily grind in Gaagal Wanggaan National Park. It is Aboriginal Land and is leased back to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Pictured is a local Osprey, also known as Sea Hawk or Fish Hawk. Its conservation status in NSW is listed as vulnerable. They hunt for live fish by plunging feet first into the waterways. The Nambucca Valley is home to a great variety of fascinating bird life.



SCOTTS HEAD TO GUMMA RESERVE

5KM ONE WAY

Enjoy the calm waters of Warrell Creek. As you paddle downstream to Gumma Reserve, you will pass littoral rainforest and saltmarsh meadows. Birdlife is abundant here, with beautiful kingfishers, osprey and sea eagles often spotted. You can stay overnight at Gumma Reserve campsite or you can paddle a bit further downstream and camp in Gaagal Wanggaan National Park.

SCOTTS HEAD TO HENSTOCK RESERVE

6KM ONE WAY

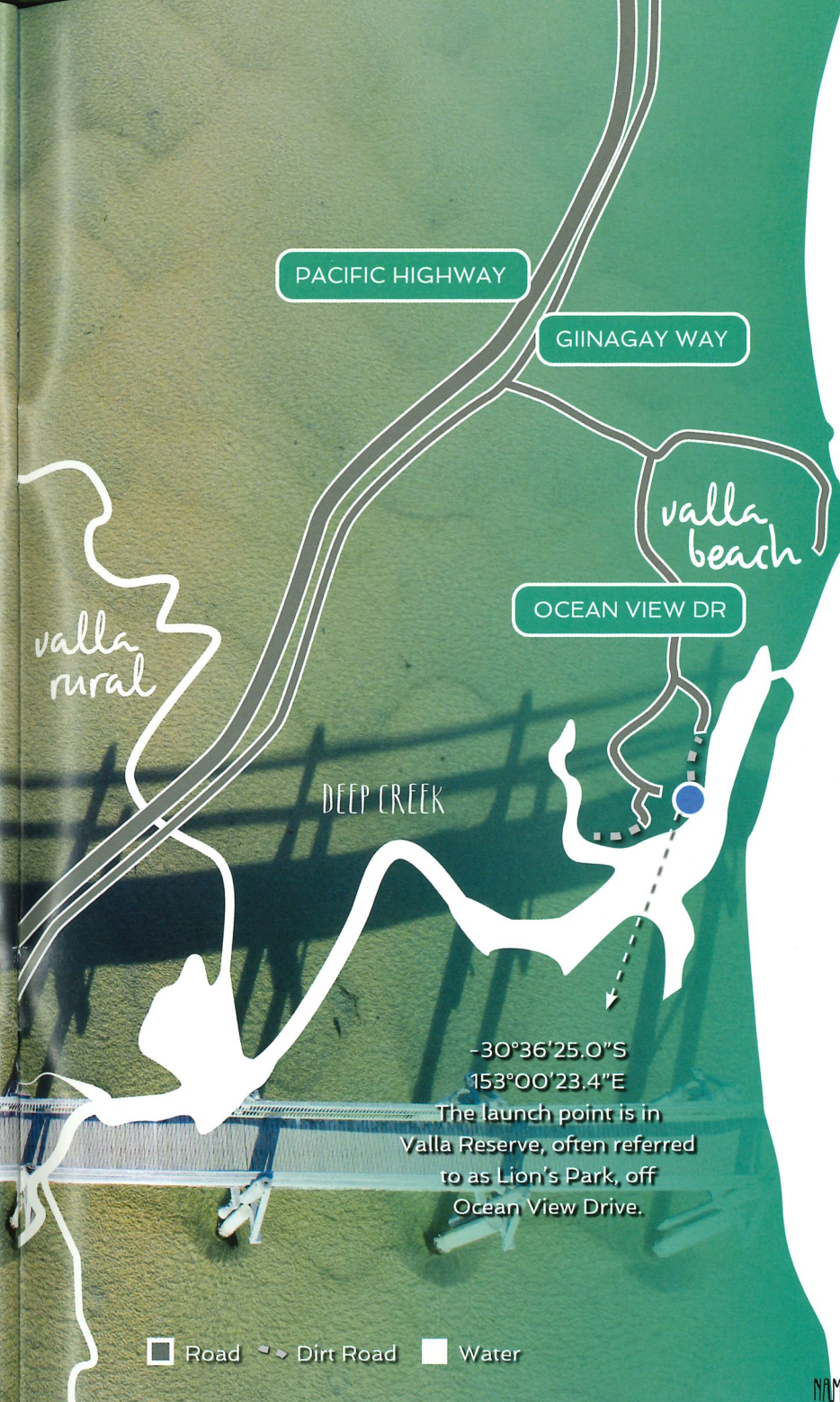
On quiet days, you will have this section of Warrell Creek completely to yourself. You can paddle for six kilometres upstream through farmland and eucalypt forest to Henstock Reserve. The reserve is very secluded and vehicles can access it from Scotts Head Road.



DEEP CREEK ESTUARY TO VALLA RURAL

2KM ONE WAY

Deep Creek meanders past the serene and peaceful village of Valla Beach. You can travel two kilometres upstream through farmland to the Pacific Highway and paddle under its bridge, or you can just meander slowly around the lower estuary. Birdlife is abundant here and wallabies often traverse the creek bank.



$-30^{\circ}36'25.0''S$
 $153^{\circ}00'23.4''E$
 The launch point is in Valla Reserve, often referred to as Lion's Park, off Ocean View Drive.

(A) -30°38'56.5"S 152°51'27.6"E
Grassy Park is located at Bowraville
off Park Street on the southern side
of the Nambucca River.

GRASSY
PARK

bowraville

(A)

WILSON RD

RODEO DR

(B) -30°39'55.5"S 152°53'03.5"E

Access Devil's Elbow Reserve boatramp located
approximately seven km west of Macksville toward
Bowraville, adjacent to Wilson Road. Please note
that access to Devil's Elbow Reserve is tight, please
enter when driving east only.

NAMBUECA
RIVER

■ Road ■ Water

DEVIL'S ELBOW
RESERVE

(B)

WIRIMBI
ISLAND

macksville

UPSTREAM TO GRASSY PARK, BOWRAVILLE

4KM ONE WAY

A medium-length paddle is upstream
to Grassy Park, the Nambucca River's
western tidal limit. A few kilometres
upstream, the river gradually narrows
and becomes densely surrounded by
trees, giving you the feeling of being in
complete wilderness. As you near Grassy
Park, the river can become shallow in
sections, so keep an eye out for unmarked
shoals and snags.

DEVIL'S ELBOW RESERVE TO WIRIMBI ISLAND

4KM ONE WAY

This is a quiet stretch of the Nambucca River
bordered by tall gum trees, she-oaks and home
to numerous bird species. A popular paddle
route is travelling four kilometres downstream
to Wirrimbi Island. Once an Aboriginal mission,
the island is a place of cultural significance for
the Gumbaynggirr people. You can turn back and
paddle to Devil's Elbow Reserve or you can go for
a further five kilometres downstream to Macksville
(see map on page 10).



This project has been delivered by Nambucca Valley Council
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Boating Now Program