

# CULBURRA AREA

5 walks

[regional Satellite map](#)

**Use 1:25,000 topographic maps Nowra 9028-3-S and Crookhaven 9028-2-S**

Lake Wollumboola is the focus of this section. A medium sized coastal lake rich in fauna and flora. The southern part of the Lake has recently been added to Jervis Bay National Park. Although the greater part of the lake's catchment is forested, much is privately owned and access is restricted to the eastern, north eastern and southern sections of the lake.

**1. Lake Wollumboola estuary**, 5km return, easy grade. Drive to Culburra and park in parking bay next to the [Lake entrance picnic ground](#). Walk to the lake shore and follow it south for up to 2.5km. The estuary is open to the sea infrequently (every few years) and this walk may not be possible at those times. Just south of the entrance is a bare dune area littered with shell fragments, this is the site of a Little Tern nesting area (summer), one of only six left in NSW. Return the way you came and at the northern end of the vegetated dune make your way to the beach and follow that back. When water levels in the lake are low, a plethora of bird species are attracted to the site. Up to 12,000 Black Swan have been recorded, attracted by the prolific growth of the macroalgae *Lamprothmnia* sp. Many shorebird species have been recorded including Marsh, Pectoral, Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpipers, Pacific Golden Plover, Sanderling, Lesser and Greater Sand Plover, Grey Plover, Red-necked Stint, Red Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit, Pied Oystercatcher and the every-present Red-capped Dotterel. Terns are equally diverse with Gull-billed, Caspian, Crested, White-winged Black and Whiskered having been regularly recorded. There are often several thousand ducks present along with herons, egrets and the occasional White-bellied Sea-Eagle and Whistling Kite. Other species you may encounter include Rainbow Lorikeet, Little Corella and Little Wattlebird. White-fronted Chat are sometimes common in the shrubs that grow on the fore dunes.

**2. Lake Wollumboola southern end**, 4km return. Easy grade. On the Culburra Rd. take the Callala Bay turn off south then turn [east towards Currarong](#). Approximately 2.2km along this section of the road you will find a track to the north with an old gate. Park here, follow the track towards the lake, it can sometimes become obscure. There are several old tracks that radiate from a revegetating clearing, one goes to some tall forest along Currumbene Creek, another leads to the lake shore and another heads east. A couple of hours can be spent exploring this area. Look for Powerful Owl, Olive-backed Oriole, Spotted Pardelote, White-fronted Chat, Scarlet and Brown-headed Honeyeater.

**3. Red Point - Caroma Creek**, easy grade. Approximately 2.5km from the Currarong turnoff, look for a dirt road to the south. This takes you to a car park and picnic ground near Red Point. Walk east over the low gate for 2km and you arrive at Caroma Creek. Explore the estuary and then follow the shore of Jervis Bay back to your car. Excellent bush birding here and usually a few waterbirds and shorebirds in the creek including Rainbow, Little and Musk Lorikeets, Spotted Pardelote, Yellow-faced and New Holland Honeyeaters, Spotted Pardelote, Satin Bowerbird, Noisy Friarbird, Ruddy Turnstone and Black Bittern.

**4. Crookhaven Heads**, 2km return, easy grade. From Culburra take the northern road that lead to Orient Point, however do not turn off to Orient Point, follow the signs to Crookhaven Heads until you reach a parking bay and picnic ground at the end of the road. From here walk out to the old [Crookhaven Heads](#) lighthouse and two viewing platforms along a well defined trail. On the way you pass through coastal heath and rocky shore. From the second platform, its possible to descend onto the rocky platform and return via the shoreline at low tide. Sooty Oystercatcher, Eastern Reef Egret and Ruddy Turnstone are usually present on the platform as is the occasional Whimbrel. New Holland Honeyeater, Eastern Spinebill and Little Wattlebird are regular in the heath, while there is often a Nankeen Kestrel present. Offshore, seabirds are occasionally present, especially if fishing vessels are returning to the harbour.

**5. Orient Point**, 5km return, easy grade. From the car park at Crookhaven Heads described above, descend to the rocky shore and follow the trail to the left that follows the river west under the headland. [Continue](#) along the river shore past the boat launching ramp, along a crescent-shaped beach, then grassy foreshore past small exposed reefs and onto some mangrove forest that overlooks oyster leases and the harbour at Greenwell Point is on the other side of the river. Return to your car the same way until you reach the crescent-shaped beach. Here look for a track that leads up into the woodland, then follow the road back to the car park veering off to skirt the woodland side of the playing field along the way. Lots of great birding along the way, especially watch for the rare Beach Stone-Curlew on the crescent-shaped beach at low tide. After you pass the last of the small reefs, look on the northern side of the river. There is a large sandy islet at the mouth of Comerong Bay. This is an important roost site for many shorebirds that migrate here for the austral summer. At high tide thousands of Bar-tailed Godwit, Eastern Curlew and other species congregate. Other species that may be encountered include Pied Oystercatcher, Sooty Oystercatcher, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Great Egret, Little Egret, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Whistling Kite, Rainbow Lorikeet, Red Wattlebird. Beach Stone-curlew has been observed here irregularly over the past few years.