



6 - McCullys Gap and Sandy Creek Road

Access to McCullys Gap is approx. 11km north of Muswellbrook town centre. Follow the New England Highway and turn right onto Sandy Creek Road just past the War Memorial Park. Birding is road side only (be aware of traffic) but rich in species on farm dams and roadside vegetation. Approx. 6kms along Sandy Creek Road, Wells Gully Road is on your left with places to park and a good picnic area. Numerous bird species can be found along the creek including White-plumed and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Noisy Friarbirds, Superb Fairy-wrens, Yellow and Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Silvereyes, Fairy Martins and water birds such as Dusky Moorhen, Grey Teal, Australian Wood Duck and Pacific Black Duck. Travel a further 4 kms along Sandy Creek Road and Rouchel Gap Road is to the left. A variety of bush birds can be found roadside. There are no public toilet facilities available. The closest toilet is at the War Memorial Park in Muswellbrook.

Diamond Firetail

Image: ©Alwyn Simple



7 - Giant's Leap

The start of the walking trail and car park is behind the Sandy Hollow Tourist Park at the end of Bernard Street, off the Golden Highway. This approximately 2.6km out-and-back trail is generally considered a moderately challenging route and takes an average of 1 hour 17 minutes to complete. The trail leads you out to a viewing spot (be cautious near the edge) called Giant's Leap where you'll catch some stunning views. There are a few sections where you'll need to scramble up some rocks. The trail is marked with rock cairns (human-made stacks) along the way. Birds to

look for include Rockwarbler, Glossy Black Cockatoo, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, White-plumed Honeyeater and Rufous Whistler. Different species of bats also occur in this area. Carry water and tell someone of your plans.



Galah at Pocket Park Sandy Hollow



Please respect private property, drive to conditions, make sure you have plenty of fuel, and stay overnight or longer to avoid fatigue.

For more information on Muswellbrook Shire contact Muswellbrook or Denman Visitor Information Centre.

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SCAN ME

Birding Route



Regent Honeyeater

Critically endangered

Observed in Muswellbrook

Image: ©Rebecca Citroni

Muswellbrook Shire Council respectfully acknowledges
the local Aboriginal people who are the Traditional
Owners and custodians of the land.





1 - Muscle Creek Loop

Start this urban walking loop at Simpson Park Muswellbrook. Follow the purple posts under the railway underpass then turn left on the path between the creek and railway line. Get off the path and head down to the creek crossing towards Haydon Street. Sit on the sandstone blocks and watch for birds around the water. Keep travelling along the path towards Platypus Track between the Aquatic Centre and creek. Simpson Park to Bell Street is 2kms. From here, walk along the path between the creek and football ground. At Bell Street either go back the way you came or walk the loop via Bell and Victoria Streets back to Simpson Park. Fifty three species have been observed including Azure Kingfisher, Nankeen Kestrel and Spotted and Striated Pardalote. Enjoy augmented reality (AR) experiences along the way.



Magpie at Simpson Park Muswellbrook

2 - Denman Rest Stop

Situated 1km east of Denman heading toward Muswellbrook on the Golden Highway overlooking an artificial lake. Different species of Cormorant, ducks and Black Swans are found here. Brown Falcon and Nankeen Kestrel patrol the sky. Superb Fairy-wren and Red-browed Finches inhabit the surrounding vegetation. There are picnic tables but the closest toilet facilities are in Denman.



Azure Kingfisher
Image: ©Alwyn Simple

3 - Denman Nature Walk

Situated in the township of Denman between Hunter and Hyde Streets is a small area of habitat around Sandy Creek in a park environment. There is a walkway along both sides of the creek (200m each) and the vegetation is home to a large variety of birds. The large Eucalypts are full of hollows and house a number of parrots such as Galah, Little Corellas, Red-rumped Parrots and Eastern Rosella. A number of Honeyeaters and smaller bush birds can be found in the lower Grevillea. The water is home to Australian Reed-warbler, Dusky Moorhen and various duck species. There is signage here, as well as some rubber animal sculptures, an undercover children's playground and toilet facilities.

4 - Denman Nature Trail Lookout

Situated approx. 3kms from Denman on Rosemount Road is a parking bay on the right at the intersection of Reg Thornton Road. Start to slow down when you pass the Waste Transfer Station as it is only 500m further down the road. The walking track is 1.5km each way (about 30 minutes) to the lookout and has steps in steeper sections. The walk is entirely through bushland and you will find a variety of birds including Fairy-wrens, Thornbills, Weebill, Golden Whistlers and Speckled Warbler, Pardalotes and White-throated Treecreepers. In the spring/summer months you will find migratory species such as Rufous Whistler, Sacred Kingfisher, Common Cicadabird and some Cuckoo species. Also a variety of Honeyeaters in the blossoming Eucalypts. The walk to the main lookout is worthwhile as it gives commanding views over Denman township, surrounding farmland and distant mountains. There are toilet facilities at the start of the walk.



Red-rumped Parrot

5 - Martindale Creek/Medhurst Bridge at Turnermans Road

Turnermans Road is approx. 44kms from Muswellbrook via Denman. From Denman take Yarrawa Road to Martindale, take the left fork at Martindale School and travel 14kms to Turnerman Road. Medhurst Bridge is at the intersection of Martindale and Turnerman Roads. The closest toilet facilities are located at the petrol station in Denman.

A variety of woodland birds can be found here including Jacky Winter, Rainbow Bee-eaters and Spiny-cheeked, White-plumed and Striped Honeyeaters. When Mistletoe is flowering you may be able to see the migratory Painted Honeyeater. Finch species such as Red-browed, Zebra, Double-bar, Plum-head and Diamond Firetail are occasionally found. Raptors are common in the area such as Brown Falcon, Nankeen Kestrel, Black-shouldered Kite and Wedge-tailed Eagle.



Kookaburra at Denman Memorial Park