



Blackbutt Reserve

Explore nature up close and personal at Blackbutt Reserve, a 182 hectare natural bushland oasis located only 6 kilometres from the Newcastle CBD.

Blackbutt is a nature reserve providing bushwalking trails, wildlife exhibits, children's playgrounds, duck ponds and recreational facilities. It is a perfect place to explore the wonders of nature or enjoy a relaxing family picnic or barbecue.

Named for the Blackbutt Eucalypts which are dotted throughout the reserve, the area was once used for farming, but after the Depression was purchased by local councils for use as a public recreational reserve. In 1963 Newcastle City Council began work to revitalise the site, which had been over-run by weeds and pests. Over the next few years the council transformed the site into what it is today. Captive animal displays were first introduced during the 1960s and barbecues and playgrounds were constructed. In recent years, the animal displays have been improved and are a highly enjoyable and educational way to spend the afternoon.

The Reserve has over 16 kilometres of tracks offering the ideal location for enthusiastic walkers and joggers. Tracks vary from short and gentle to long and hilly. You can walk through the rainforest restoration area or stroll through the open forest.

The undercover boardwalk which leads through a range of native animal exhibits is truly a unique experience and offers a great opportunity to view a wide diversity of Australian wildlife. The area is home to wombats, emus, koalas, spotted-tail quolls, pythons and a variety of kangaroos and wallabies. The exhibits also house a colourful array of beautiful birdlife including the Australian king parrot, emerald dove, crimson rosella, galahs, cockatoos, zebra finches and tawny frogmouth owl.

Popular with international visitors are the koala encounters, which provide a wonderful opportunity to get up close to the cuddly natives. These encounters are available by prior arrangement. Wombat talks (also by prior arrangement) give visitors a chance to learn more about this shy creature.

Make Blackbutt a great family day out, experience the outdoors without leaving suburbia. Discover the animals and explore the sensory trail, then find a cozy place and enjoy a relaxing picnic or a great Aussie BBQ, while the kids go wild on the playground and feed the ducks.

Main entrance: Carnley Ave, Kotara
Other entrances: Lookout Road, New Lambton Heights
& Richley Reserve off Freyburg Street, New Lambton

Open every day and entry is free!

For further information please contact Blackbutt Reserve
Phone (02) 4904 3344 or www.ncc.nsw.gov.au/discover_newcastle/blackbutt_reserve