

continued from front

The Lookouts *located on the Rim Track*

Oxley View Lookout (*unfenced*) *View South-West to West*
Overlooks the original 'Wingecarribee' grant to John Oxley c. 1820. The Oxley home (large white building opposite) c. 1840 is still with the family.

Mount Jellore Lookout *View West to North-West*

Regarded as the finest view on the mountain with the Mittagong-Bowral Road and Main Southern Railway (before it enters the Gib Tunnel) in the foreground with the Gibbergunyah Reserve on the west.

To the north-west, farmland gives way to the bush of Mt. Alexandra Reserve on the other side of the Old Hume Highway. In the middle distance Mt Jellore can be seen protruding above the dissected plateau. In the far distance, the Nattai and Kanangra wilderness areas and the Blue Mountains (Katoomba) can be seen. Hippo Rock is 100m south on the Rim Track.

Mittagong Lookout (*unfenced*) *View North*

The township of Mittagong is immediately below with the Old Hume Highway and Railway clearly visible. Mt Alexandra Reserve lies opposite with the Nattai wilderness (N.W.) and Sydney Water Catchment Area (N.E.). On a clear day Centrepoint and Sydney city buildings can be seen over the shoulder of Mount Alexandra (about 80km away). To the right Mt Keira (near Wollongong) is visible. The Cavern is 50m below on the Reservoir track.

Walking Tracks

The Rim Track

Yellow Code. Length 1.2km; approx 25 min

This track connects all 4 lookouts on the west side of the reserve. Excellent views of Bowral, Mittagong and the countryside. A suggested walk is to start at Bowral Lookout, walk along the track to Mittagong Lookout and return via the road and Inner Bowl.

The Reservoir Track

Red Code. Length 700m; approx 25 min

From Mittagong Lookout to the Reservoir tank adjacent to the road overbridge on the Mittagong-Bowral Road. The track descends to meet the East and West fire trails. Suggested walk is from Mittagong Lookout, down the Reservoir Track and returning via the Gib West fire trail, Soma Ave and The Gib track to Bowral Lookout.

The Ravine Track

Blue Code. Length 600m; 20 min.

Links Reservoir track to the East fire trail. This is an undulating track with stepping blocks across Chinamen's Creek. Suggested walk from Mittagong Lookout via Ravine track, East and West fire trails, Reservoir track.

The Gib Track

White code. Length 300m; 10 min

This track connects Bowral Lookout with Ellen and Cliff Streets below with a grand stone stairway. Visit the quarries en route. Suggested walk from Bowral swimming pool: walk up Oxley Drive, Ellen Street, Gib track to Bowral Lookout. Return the same way or via Rim and Reservoir tracks, Gib West fire trail and Soma Ave.

Flora and Fauna *Endangered Ecological Community*

Native animals sighted in the Reserve include wallabies, gliders, wombats, echidnas, brush and ringtail possums, various lizards and snakes.

Over 50 species of birds have been noted, including kookaburras, magpies, currawongs, crimson and eastern rosellas, sulphur crested, gang-gang and yellow tailed black cockatoos, galahs, king parrots, wattle birds, eastern spinebills, blue wrens, robins, black-faced cuckoo shrikes, thrush, silvereyes, spotted pardelotes and brush-tailed cuckoos. Many migratory birds visit on passage.

The vegetation comprises a rare remnant of the once common volcanic soil community, now called 'Mount Gibraltar Forest' of *Eucalyptus fastigata* (brown barrel), *E. piperita* (Sydney peppermint), *E. smithii*, (gully gum), *Acacia melanoxydon* (sally wattle) with an understorey of ferns. Other plants include *Exocarpus* (native cherry), *Notelaea* (native olive), *Allocasuarina* (black sheoak). *Persoonia* (geebung), *Leptospermum* (teatree), *Melaleuca hypericifolia* (Honeymyrtle), *Xerochrysum* (golden everlasting daisy), *Stypandra* (blue lily), *Dianella* and species rich ground cover.

Bush Regeneration

The Reserve has been badly infested with weeds: blackberry, pine, holly, laurel, cotoneaster, berberis, hawthorn, honeysuckle, ivy and turkey rhubarb. A small group of volunteers has been systematically weeding the mountain since 1994. Natural regeneration is encouraged, volunteer help is always appreciated.

Assistance has been received from: Landcare, WSC, SCA, NHT, TSN, NSW Envirotrust and Catchment Grants.

Produced by the Mount Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare.

PO Box 981, Bowral 2576 and Wingecarribee Shire Council

MOUNT GIBRALTAR RESERVE



Visitors Guide

Mount Gibraltar (863m) is a collapsed volcanic core composed of very hard rock called Mount Gibraltar Trachyte or *microsyenite*. 150 million years ago it pushed through the Hawkesbury Sandstone to form a high mountain now largely eroded away by wind and water.

It was first climbed by a European - explorer John Wilson - in 1798 and was known as "Bowrell" by the local aborigines. Surveyor Major Mitchell also climbed the mountain. In 1919 Alderman Joshua Stokes had the vision to acquire some of the land for a Reserve. A plaque for him is found on a stone memorial on Oxley Drive, Mittagong. The road and lookout shelters were constructed in the 1930s in an unemployment programme (the Spooner Relief Scheme).

Mount Gibraltar has been extensively quarried for stone for building and road construction. The quarries were eventually acquired by the community and finally closed in 1986.

Acquired in 1919 and added to since, the reserve was gazetted in 1995 and is presently managed by volunteers as Mt Gibraltar Landcare and Bushcare.

Please stay on the tracks and take care of the bushland. All native plants, animals and rocks are protected.

Picnic Areas

The Inner Bowl

The Inner Bowl provides a protected site where the rich soil supports a unique vegetation community of eucalypts with an understorey of ferns. Carparking is at the western entrance. Table and a shelter available.

Bowral Lookout *has disabled access (view south-west)*

The new Bowral Lookout provides a scenic view overlooking Bowral, the Wingecarribee River Valley and Moss Vale. Mount Gingenbullen, and the Cookbundoon Ranges (near Goulburn) can be seen.

Walking tracks radiate from here (see map). Carparking, toilets, tables and a shelter are available.

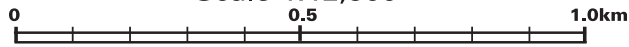
MT. GIBRALTAR RESERVE

Reserve No.83436

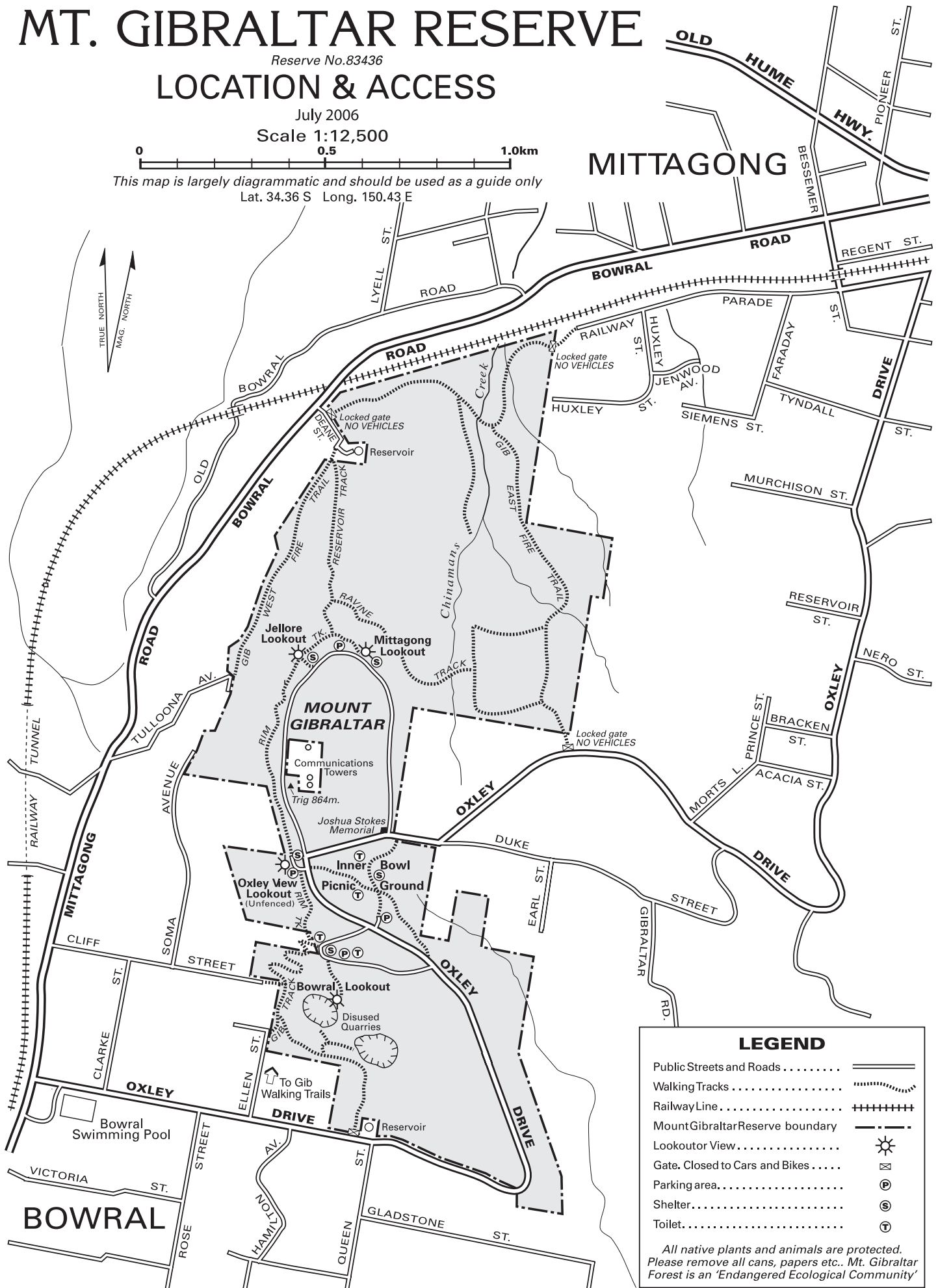
LOCATION & ACCESS

July 2006

Scale 1:12,500



This map is largely diagrammatic and should be used as a guide only
 Lat. 34.36 S Long. 150.43 E



LEGEND

- Public Streets and Roads
- Walking Tracks
- Railway Line
- Mount Gibraltar Reserve boundary
- Lookout View
- Gate. Closed to Cars and Bikes
- Parking area
- Shelter
- Toilet

*All native plants and animals are protected.
 Please remove all cans, papers etc.. Mt. Gibraltar Forest is an 'Endangered Ecological Community'*