

Looking north from Gibraltar Road



River Redgums and River Sheoaks, Duuwaesq River at Mingoola Station Road

# MINGOOLA HERITAGE TRAIL



## FLORA AND FAUNA



**NATURAL HERITAGE ROUTES AROUND MINGOOLA**  
WELCOME TO MINGOOLA, A PASTORAL BORDER REGION SITUATED ON THE WESTERN SLOPES AT THE BASE OF THE GREAT DIVIDING RANGE, HALFWAY BETWEEN TENTERFIELD, NSW AND TEXAS QLD.

*Happy Travelling!*



**CHECK FOR ROAD CLOSURES, AND CURRENT CLOSURES WITHIN NATIONAL/STATE PARKS**

**TAKE CARE: SOME ROUTES INCLUDE GRAVEL ROADS AND GATES**

**TRAVELLING STOCK ROUTES (TSR)**

You may enter on foot between sunrise and sunset

Enter only through unlocked gates

There are walking tracks in Torrington State Conservation Area and Sundown National Park

**THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN STOPPING**

Don't park in front of gates or block tracks

If you stop on the road make sure you have pulled off safely

Don't park on long grass (fire danger)

Leave gates open or closed as you find them

Exercise caution around stock.

*Drive slowly to avoid collisions with wildlife!*



*Find US !  
Facebook Mingoola Community*

First Nations Peoples have lived in the Mingoola district for tens of thousands of years. Tenterfield Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

The Council proudly protects and supports the cultural, built and natural heritage values of the Mingoola district.

Acknowledgments to Heritage NSW for the grant funding to celebrate the heritage of the Mingoola Area in this project; to Julia Harpham, Janet White, Deborah Wray Clarence Heritage for research, the preparation of interpretive signage and brochures.

**Photos:** Regent Honeyeater Dean Ingwersen, Tusked Frog Harry Hines, other fauna Neil Fordyce, other images Janet White.

**Cover:** Silver-leaved Ironbark (*Eucalypt*).

**Design:** Kerry Hardy **W:** baabaa.net



Proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Tenterfield Shire Council.



*Click the QR code for the online version*

The landscape around **Mingoola** is a study in contrasts of colour and texture; forested steep rocky hillsides are the backdrop to cultivation on the fertile river flats whilst slender spikes of native Cypress protrude from the silver-grey canopy of eucalypts in the woodlands.

Whilst the peaks and slopes of the area are thickly wooded, the vegetation of the valleys has been highly-modified. Grassy woodlands or shrubby forests have been cleared for pasture or crops leaving scattered trees and a more park-like appearance.

Changes in colour of the landscape are dramatic. Take a drive down **Woodside Road** into the **Mole Valley** - note the change from green to grey as you travel from east to west and from the plateau to the valley. Green woodlands of box, apple box and redgum transition to silvery forests dominated by **ironbarks** and **native cypresses**. The forest composition changes due to the fall in altitude and the underlying difference in rock types (from the volcanic rocks of the Tenterfield area to the sedimentary rocks and less fertile soils of the Mingoola region).

 **IRONBARK**

The **IRONBARKS** are slow-growing, drought-resistant trees typically found on poor, shallow soils. The spectacular pink flowers of Mugga ironbark are rich in nectar and a favoured food source for the Critically Endangered Regent Honeyeater and much loved by bees and other pollinators.

Ironbark is a very strong, dense timber which was widely used for gate and fence posts and house framing in the past. It is resistant to rot - fence posts have lasted in the ground for over one hundred years. Although hard to ignite it is a hot and long-burning firewood.

You may notice a bright red sap (kino) exuding from the bark. This hardens in the bark making it very difficult to cut.

Tree hollows in mature trees are important nest sites for birds and mammals.

The rare Ovenden's Ironbark (*Eucalyptus caleyi* subsp. *ovendenii*) has a small distribution and is found in the Reedy Creek and Torrington areas.

 **NATIVE CYPRESS**

In much of the region, woodland includes **NATIVE CYPRESS** (*Callitris* sp.) which are bright green, slender and shaped like Christmas trees. The mixed species woodlands are important wildlife habitats but where pure stands of cypress develop after wet years the fauna diversity is lower. Seed cones are food for cockatoos and small birds forage for insects in the foliage. Although fire kills cypress (unlike eucalyptus) it releases the seed from its cones which then germinates.

The native cypress timber is resistant to termites - it was used to construct the original timber tobacco barns which can be seen in the Mole Valley.

 **RIVER REDGUM & RIVER SHEOAK**

Riverside vegetation is dominated by **RIVER REDGUM** (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and **RIVER SHEOAK** (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*).

River Redgum is the most widespread species of eucalypt in Australia and is found in every mainland state. It can be seen growing along the Dumaresq River and the lower portion of the Mole River. River Red Gums often have a rather 'beat-up' appearance due to their tendency to drop limbs. However, when a branch breaks from a trunk a hollow often forms and it is this which makes them such an important habitat tree.

 **VINE THICKET**

An interesting plant community known as **VINE THICKET** can be found on some south-facing slopes and sheltered gullies. Look for patches of bright green amongst the grey of the ironbarks. It comprises species affiliated with rainforest including Rusty Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*) Mock olive (*Notelaea microcarpa*) Wild Quince (*Alectryon subdentatus*) and *Boobialla*



Mugga Ironbark  
(*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*)



Fruit of White Cypress  
(*Callitris glaucophylla*)



Boobialla (*Myoporum montanum*)



Rough-barked Apple, a spreading tree with contorted branches

(*Myoporum montanum*) and vines such as Wonga (*Pandorea pandorana*). Ooline (*Cadellia pentastylis*) is a rare tree, a relic species of wetter times in the geological past, which can be seen in Sundown National Park along the Ooline Creek track.

 **ROUGH-BARKED APPLE** (*Angophora floribunda*)

grows naturally on alluvial soils on floodplains and along watercourses. Occurring on what is considered by farmers as the best land it has been much cleared but can be seen as isolated paddock trees. Angophoras are close relatives of Eucalyptus but differ in bearing seed in papery capsules, rather than gum nuts, and in their leaves lacking scent.

**The Gibraltar Rock Apple, (*Angophora exul*) is an endangered tree found only on the Rock of Gibraltar**

 **WHITE BOX - YELLOW BOX - BLAKELY'S RED GUM GRASSY WOODLAND**

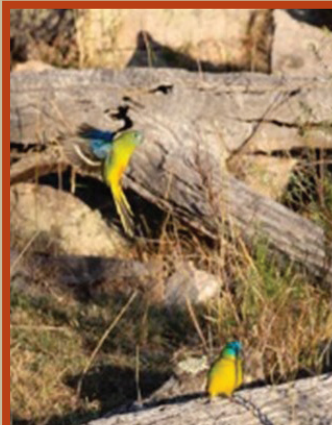
A vegetation community that has been much cleared for grazing and is now classed as a **Critically Endangered Ecosystem** under Commonwealth and NSW legislation. Remnant patches can be seen along Reedy Creek Road and in Springfield TSR.

Take the quieter gravel roads to view the wildlife. At any time of day, you have a good chance of observing an echidna as it bustles about its business snuffling for ants and termites.

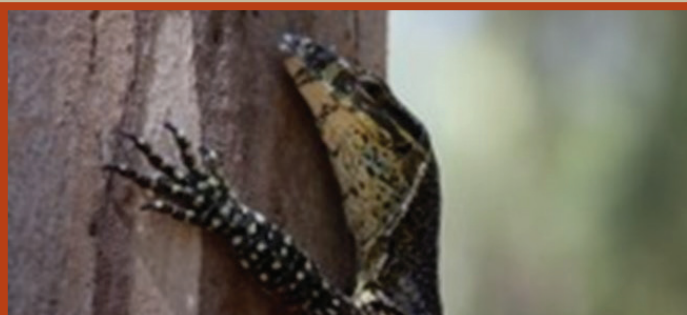
In the morning watch for the **Diamond Firetail** bobbing up and down holding grass in his beak - that is how he woos his beloved! And that flash of yellow and blue could be the beautiful **Turquoise Parrot**.



*Diamond Firetails*



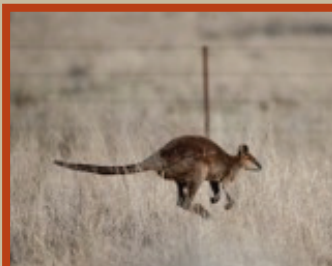
*Turquoise Parrots*



*Lace Monitor*



*Square-tailed Kite*



*Swamp Wallaby*

In the heat of the day watch out for **dragon lizards** sunning themselves in the middle of the road or **Lace Monitors** scrabbling up trees.

Look up for a chance to see a **Wedge-tailed Eagle** soaring on the thermals over the hills or a **Square-tailed Kite** skimming the treetops searching for prey.

Sit quietly by rivers - in the languid pools early or late in the day you may be lucky enough to see a **platypus** or a **rakali** (native water rat). The platypus floats on the surface, catching its breath between dives, whereas the rakali swims quickly across the creek or under the river banks. Look for the white-tip on its tail.

The rivers and dams are also home to **Murray Cod**, **Freshwater Catfish**, **Yellowbelly**, **Silver Perch** and the Endangered **Southern Purple-spotted Gudgeon**.

Look up! In the canopy of the River Redgums you could be incredibly lucky and see a **koala**! Check the hollows in the trunks for the cheeky face of a **Sulphur-crested Cockatoo** as it emerges from tending its nestlings.

Listen for the soft pitter-patter of falling seed - it could be **rosellas** or **lorikeets** above you extracting seed from the sheoak cones. **Mistletoebirds** and **Honeyeaters** hide within the Casuarina Mistletoe feeding on its flowers and fruits.

Late in the day you can encounter four species of macropod - **Red-necked Wallaby**, **Common Wallaroo**, **Swamp Wallaby** and **Eastern Grey Kangaroo**. Wallaroos are heavily-built animals with shaggy fur, dark grey in males and light grey in females. Red-necked Wallabies are usually seen grazing in small groups whereas you may only get a glimpse of the more solitary Swamp Wallaby; a half-hidden face peering through bushes or an impression of something fast and dark as it streaks past.

After rain or on summer evenings listen for frogs. The **Tusked Frog** (*Adelotus brevis*) which is rare on the tablelands was recently rediscovered in the Mole Valley. You are unlikely to see this shy frog but you may hear its soft clucking call from well-vegetated river banks.



*Common Wallaroo (male)*



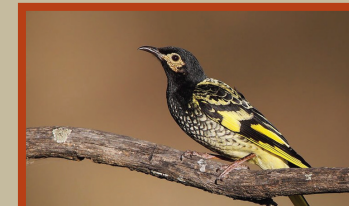
*Tusked Frog*



*Emerald-spotted Treefrog*



*Border Thick-tailed Gecko*



CRITICALLY ENDANGERED: *Regent Honeyeater*



*Glossy Black-Cockatoo*

If you hear cackling laughter it is most likely the **Emerald-spotted Treefrog** (*Litoria peronii*).

This area is home for other rare and seldom seen creatures such as the **Border Thick-tailed Gecko** which hunts at night for small insects.



## THREATENED SPECIES

The Mingoola region is home for some plants and animals considered Threatened under NSW legislation including **Gibraltar Rock Apple** (*Endangered*), **Tusked Frog** (*Endangered*), **Ooline**, **Ovenden's Ironbark**, **Diamond Firetail**, **Turquoise Parrot**, **Square-tailed Kite**, **Glossy Black Cockatoo** and **Border Thick-tailed Gecko** (*Vulnerable*). **The Regent Honeyeater** which has been observed in the area is classed **Critically Endangered**.

# KEY

- 1** Box+Gum+Angophora woodland
- 1a** Clifton TSR, Bruxner Highway
- 1b** Deadman's TSR, Sawyer's Gully Road
- 1c** Ken's East TSR, Bruxner Highway
- 2** Silver-leaved Ironbark and Native Cypress
- 3** Mugga Ironbark
- 4** River Redgum and River Sheoak
- 5** Vine Thicket
- 5a** Ooline
- 6** White Box - Yellow Box -Blakely's Red Gum Grassy Woodland
- 6a** Springfield TSR
- Pool or river access**
- ..... Queensland/NSW Border
- Main Road
- - - - - Quiet Road - unsealed or gravel
- Minor Road

