



Barker Creek Circuit Bunya Mountains National Park



Bunya Mountains National Park, approximately 260kms north-west of Brisbane, covers 19,493 hectares. Logging has occurred in the past but ceased in 1917, with local timber mills still operating until 1961.

The Bunya Tree (*Araucaria bidwillii*) is the iconic plant for the region with large 10kg pineapple-shaped cones ripening and falling to ground from December to March. Within each fruit are 50-100 edible and highly nutritious seeds – the bunya nuts. These seeds were harvested and collected by the local Aboriginal people for festivals and trade. For more information on Bunya Trees, refer to STG Issue 11 page 66.

This circuit is approximately a 10km return walk with gentle slopes and a few steps. The track passes through spectacular rainforests, grasslands and some open eucalypt forests. Expansive views northwards can be photographed at both Big Falls Lookout and Barker Creek Lookout. Side walks feature a number of waterfalls.

Walking at various times of the year provide visitors opportunity to see the diversity of flora species in bloom such as Lacebark (*Brachychiton discolor*), Native Violet (*Viola betonicifolia* subsp. *betonicifolia*), Native Buttercup (*Ranunculus inundatus*), various epiphytic orchids (*Dendrobium* species), Wonga Vine (*Pandorea pandorana*) and many more. Birdlife is also an attraction along the walk.

It is not uncommon along the walk to come across wallabies and pademelons while night spot-light walks will discover nocturnal antechinus, possums, gliders and insects.

Access to this location: Bunya Avenue, Danabah, QLD.