

# BELANGLO STATE FOREST AREA

## 5 walks

[Satellite map](#)

**Use 1:25,000 topographic maps; Moss Vale 8928-1-N, Canyonleigh 8928-4-N and Hanworth 8929-3-S.**

Belanglo State Forest is situated on the southern tablelands approximately 10km west of Moss Vale.

Bellanglo State Forest offers some excellent bushwalking and 4WD opportunities and is one of my favourite places. A commercial exotic pine forest with extensive peripheral native forest, the forest contains many forest trails suitable for walking and bird watching, however numerous tracks exist that are not marked on the topographic maps. Additionally, track signage is poor and many signs are missing or lying on the ground. **Make sure you have a compass** and or GPS when exploring this area. The forest is accessed from the Hume Highway via [Bunnygalore Rd.](#), which about 1km south of Golden Vale Rd. (from Sutton Forest and Moss Vale) and 6km north of the Illawarra Highway intersection. Be very aware of fire danger during summer months. This a great birding location for dry woodland birds (see below) and during spring large flocks of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (up to 120) can be observed.

**1. The western boundary walk**, a 10 km loop. Moderate with two 500m steep sections. Follow the [Belangalo Rd](#) for about 4.5 km until you see the Western Plantation Rd. on your right. Follow this past two cross-roads and turn left at the third, follow this west until you come to the fire break which separates the pine forest from the eucalypt woodland. Turn right and park your car at the next intersection, a track that leads into the eucalypt forest. From hereon its 4WD or walking. Follow the track west down a slight incline to the next intersection and turn right, follow this in a northerly direction for 2km, pass through open woodland with some magnificent sandstone bluffs before you ascend an incline to the near the corner of the firebreak and pine forest (Dalys Rd/ Firebreak Rd). At this intersection is a small memorial commemorating the fate of several backpackers who were murdered in the forest by a serial killer in the early 1980s. From here continue north for about 400m until you come to an unsigned sandy track that heads west (Longacre firetrail). Follow this through woodland for 1.7km when you come to a lookout before the first steep descent. During the steep 400m descent admire the conglomerate and shale lenses in the cliff face. At the bottom of your descent is Longacre Ck., which is usually

dry. Tall smooth-barked gums with blady grass make for a very pleasant rest area. After resting walk up the moderate to steep 700m ascent before emerging onto Bunnygalore Rd. Turn left (south) and walk along the forest roadside for 2.6km and turn east (left) onto the unsigned Belanglo Plateau fire trail. Follow this in an easterly then northerly direction, crossing the upper reach of Longacre Ck along the way. After about 4.4km you come to an intersection, turn right up the incline and you should be back at your car. This is one of my favourite woodland birding areas. Scarlet and Flame Robins are always present, and often there are Grey Currawong about. Other goodies you can expect include Rockwarbler, Emu, Spotted Quail-thrush, Leaden Flycatcher, Common Bronzewing, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Restless Flycatcher, Buff-rumped Thornbill, Speckled Warbler, Brown Treecreeper, Eastern Rosella, White-eared Honeyeater, White-throated Gerygone and if you're lucky the Painted Button-quail.

**2. The northern boundary walk.** 6.5km. loop, easy to moderate grade. Follow [Bunnygalore Rd.](#) from the Hume Highway for 4km turning down Daly fire trail. When you come to a T intersection turn left and follow this to the end and park at the back-packers memorial. Walk back along Daly fire trail for 800m until you reach an un-signed fire trail on your left (Miners Despair trail). Head north for 200m then turn right (east) onto Maritime Pine trail. Follow this for 1.1km and turn left onto Cave Tree fire trail, which turns east, then north, then south, then west. Once you're heading west (use compass) follow the trail for about 1km before you veer north around a bluff, then west again, descending slightly and crossing two creeks with wooden log bridges. Ascend a slight rise to an intersection. You will have walked 3km along this fire trail. At the intersection veer west along Miners Despair firetrail for another 700m or so until you come to an intersection that crosses a creek. Continue 250m along the track that heads north (don't cross the creek). This terminates at a lookout overlooking a beautiful fern-clad gully and small waterfall. Notice the coal seam here. Retrace your route back to Tree Cave fire trail (900m) but head south (right) at the T intersection along Miners Despair trail for 700m. This brings back to Daly fire trail, turn right and its 650m back to your car. Birding is excellent with a similar range to that found along the western walk (above) and you may add White-winged Chough, Striated Pardalote, Rufous Whistler, Noisy Miner, Leaden Flycatcher, Rufous Whistler, Rockwarbler, Pilotbird, Superb Lyrebird and Horsefield's Bronze-cuckoo.

**3. Miners Despair loop 4.5 km.** Park your car at the backpackers memorial cairn as described above for the western loop (1). Head east back along [Daly Rd.](#) for 400m and turn left down an un-signed firetrail

for 100m and turn right at intersection onto Maritime Pine firetrail and proceed for 600m then turn left (north) onto Miners Despair fire trail. Follow this for 400m to a T intersection. Turn left (west), [right is Tree Cave fire trail]. Continue along Miners Despair trail for 500m until you come to an intersection next to a creek crossing. Veer to the right for 250m along this track which terminates at a lookout over a fern-clad valley and small waterfall. Note the coal seam here. Retrace your route for 200m to the creek crossing and head west over the creek. Follow this track for another 1.3km until you reach an intersection with [Morrice Creek](#) fire trail. Turn left (south) for 800m back to your car. Birding is very good along this track with similar species to that found in northern boundary route above.

**4. The southern boundary loop 4km.** Drive west along Bunnygalore Rd. for just over 3km until you encounter [Cherry Tree Hill Rd.](#) on your left. Follow this south, and then turn west. Along this section of forest boundary are some very old snappy gums and lots of fallen timber, look for White-winged Chough, Eastern Rosella, Flame Robin, Grey Currawong and Brown Treecreeper. Continue west around the boundary trail skirting the private property, past a large farm dam which is good for common waterbirds and occasionally Black-fronted and Red-kneed Dotterel. Eastern Rosella and Noisy Miner are common here. Park here and walk west for 500m then find the track that heads south through scribbly gum woodland past the Link fire trail into strinybark forest. Walk south for another kilometre through forest until you reach the track end and nice lookout over [Black Bobs Creek](#). Return the way you came until you reach the Link fire trail which heads west through a small gully for 500m before you emerge at the boundary of another private property. Walk north for 50m then turn east along the boundary fire trail over rocky track for a kilometre back to your car. Good general birding with Eastern Yellow, Rose and Scarlet Robin, Yellow-faced and Crescent Honeyeater, Variegated Fairy-wren, Spotted Quail-thrush and Grey Butcherbird being some species that may be encountered.

**5. Red Arm Creek fire trail**, 10km loop. A spectacular section of forest of generally easy grade with a steep 500m descent and a steep 500m ascent. From the Hume Hwy, travel west along Bunygalore Rd. through the pine forest and past private property for approx 6.5km until you come to a right hand bend. Continue north for a kilometre (follow the Bunygalore sign) and park at the intersection with a track on your left. This is Calling Coal fire trail on the topographic map, but it's not sign posted. Head in a southerly direction for a kilometre through forest with lots of casuarina (watch for Glossy Black Cockatoo), then turn west for 500m then you should reach an intersection that heads north along a sandstone and shale ridge. This is [Red Arm Creek fire trail](#). Follow this for 3.5km through attractive rugged sandstone woodland until you reach the very steep 500m descent. At the bottom you are next to Red Arm Creek. Walk west for 800m until you come to cleared private property (Rockleigh) where you may see Emu grazing, Eastern Rosella and Common Bronzewing. Return the way you came, past the fire trail you descended, across the normally dry creek bed then begin the moderately steep 700m ascent. At the top you pass an old quarry which is now a pistol club (so you may hear gun shoots)! Continue along the road, veering to the right at the next intersection and past another disused quarry for 2.8km when you should be back at your car.