

Walks

Three Poles Walk

(50-60 minutes return to Access Point A at end of Doondoo Street)
This is a walk of 3-4km. Wear suitable shoes as some sections of the track are rough and uneven. Carry some water.

Initially, the track is an access road to the Reservoirs which store Cooma's water supply, pumped from the Murrumbidgee River, 8km distant. From this point there is a wide view to the coastal ranges. Beyond the tanks, the track descends a short, rocky path.

At the first major fork in the track continue left past a patch mainly of introduced pine trees and again keep on the major path at the next 2 forks. Do not descend the hill, but veer left to arrive at a gate. Take time to admire the view northwards to Bunyan and Bredbo from the rock lookout on the right.

Through the gate, at the next fork, follow the narrowed, slightly uphill track to the left, leading to the Three Poles Lookout, with Cooma in the foreground and The Brothers on the horizon. People with more time may follow the track which continues along the ridge for about another kilometre to the northern extremity of the Reserve.

Return can be via the same route or one of the other tracks. An interesting alternative is to return to Cooma by descending the steep western slope of the ridge via the dry gully below the Three Poles Lookout. Leave the main track at the gate east of the Three Poles and head south along the fence line before turning west and descending to the creek flats at the foot of the ridge. Follow the old vehicle track south across The Borrow Pits for 1/2 km, then cross the creek at the causeway and exit the Reserve at the stile. For a longer walk this can be combined with the Lambie Bush Walk off Mulach Street.

Vistas

*Water Reservoirs Vista

looks towards Cooma East, Cooma Common, Monaro and further on to the Numeralla district and the coastal ranges.

*Bunyan Vista

overlooks Cooma Creek Plains towards Bunyan, Bredbo and the ranges, from which the first European explorers, Currie and Ovens, in 1823, described treeless Monaro as "a chain of clear downs".

*Three Poles Vista

with a view across Cooma Creek to the Lambie Street end of town and beyond to the basalt grasslands and the volcanic plugs of The Brothers.

Vegetation

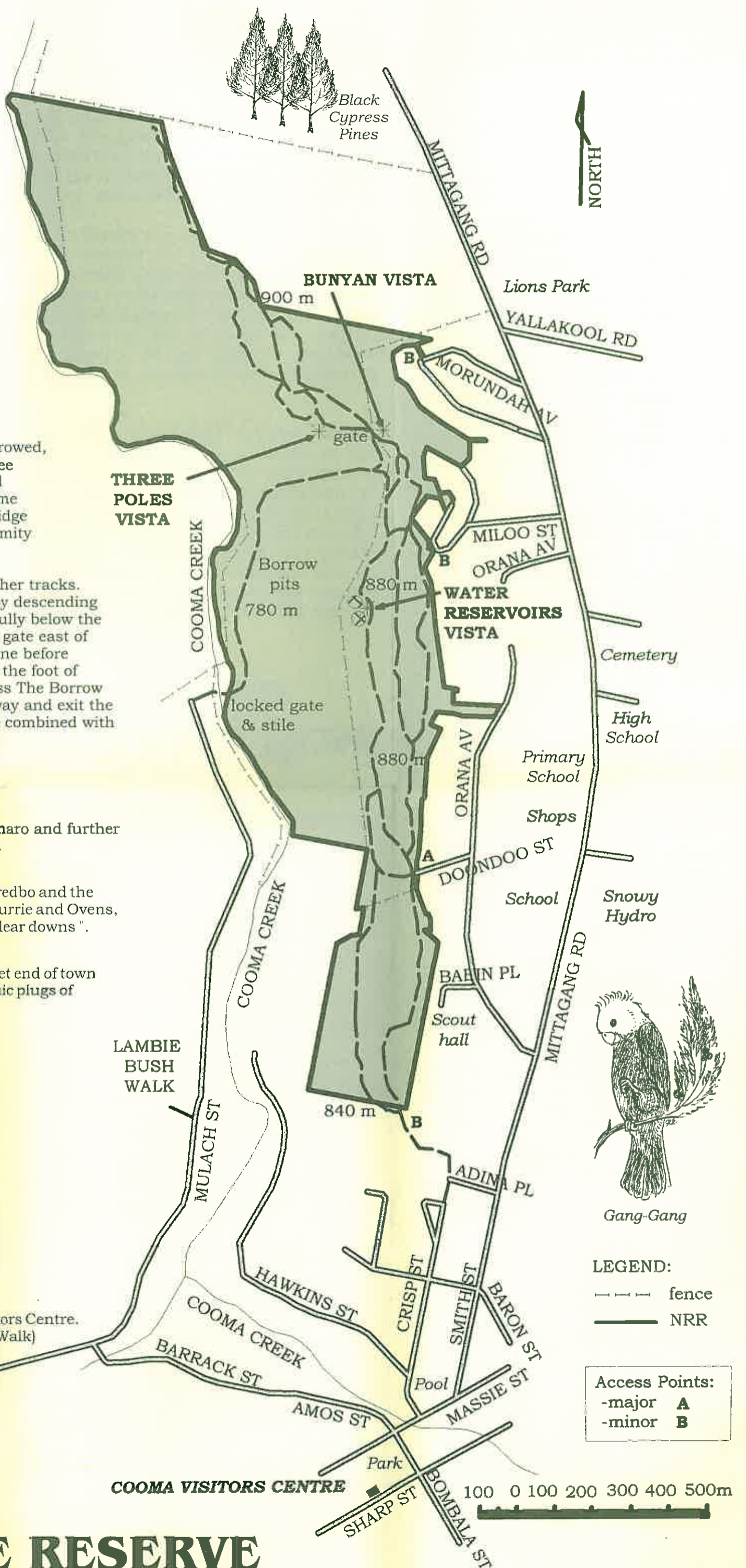
Co-dominant with the Eucalypts are the native Black Cypress Pines (*Callitris endlicheri*) with their dark green leaves reduced to close fitting scales. Cypress Pines are valued not only as survivors in dry conditions, but for termite resistant timber which early settlers found to be useful for fencing and housing. The wood is hard and takes a beautiful polish. The smallish cones are a favourite food of Gang Gang Cockatoos. The main eucalypt species are the widespread Manna or Ribbon Gum, (*Eucalyptus viminalis*), Broad-leaved Peppermint (*E. dives*) and the Inland Scribbly Gum (*E. rossii*).

Maps

A more detailed map is available at the Cooma Visitors Centre. (A separate map is available here for Lambie Bush Walk)



Echidna



Gang-Gang

LEGEND:
 - - - - - fence
 ——— NRR

Access Points:
 -major A
 -minor B



NORTH RIDGE RESERVE