

Walks

Three Poles Walk (Signposted)

(One hour 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. Carry some water. Two picnic tables are available; one on the left just uphill from the Doondoo Street entrance and the other in the pine plantation.

Following the orange markers the track heads uphill. This is an access road to the Reservoirs which store Cooma's water supply pumped from the Murrumbidgee River. From this point there is a wide view. See Vista 1. Beyond the tanks the track descends a short, rocky section. As this levels out continue straight ahead, keeping to the left of a small planting of introduced pine trees.

Proceed along the track which bears left at a large flat area of exposed rock and continue to arrive shortly at a locked gate. Take time here to admire Vista 2 from the natural rock lookout a few metres to the right.

Through the gate, at the next fork, follow the narrower, slightly uphill track to the left, leading to the Three Poles Lookout, Vista 3. Return can be via the same route by following the orange markers or by the blue markers.

Northern Walk (Unsignposted)

People with more time may follow the track which continues along the ridge through Inland Scribby Gum woodland (*Eucalyptus rossii*) for about another kilometre to the northern extremity of the Reserve. Return is via the same path or along a parallel track to rejoin the Three Poles Walk and back to Doondoo Street.

Borrow Pit Walk (Unsignposted)

An interesting and longer alternative return to Cooma CBD. **WARNING:** This track, which descends down the dry gully below the Three Poles Lookout, is mostly steep and the surface may be loose. It can be accessed from the Three Poles Walk. Leave the main track, at the south end of the pine tree planting, where signposted, and descend to the creek flats. At the foot of the ridge follow the old vehicle track to the left across the Borrow Pit for ½km, then cross Cooma Creek at the causeway and exit the Reserve over the stile. For a longer walk this can be combined with the Lambie Bush Walk off Mulach Street. Return to town centre is approximately 3km.

Vistas

1. Water Reservoirs Vista

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

2. Bunyan Vista

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

3. Three Poles Vista

with a view to the Borrow Pit, then across Cooma Creek to the Lambie Street end of town and beyond to the basalt naturally treeless grasslands and the volcanic peaks of The Brothers.

Management

The Reserve is inspected regularly by Council Staff and volunteers.

In 2003 a NSW Government Environmental Grant was used to carry out major works to restore the Borrow Pit area which had been degraded by many years of soil removal.

A long ditch was dug to control erosion and the remaining soil re-shaped. School and community groups have since planted trees and shrubs native to the area. Later grants have been used to repair erosion on damaged tracks elsewhere in the Reserve.

Maps

For more information on other Cooma walks ask at the Visitors Centre.



NORTH RIDGE RESERVE