

Illaroo to Wooli - Blue Cord Hike – V1.0

(Part of Yuraygir Coastal Walk)

Original - Michael Luxton – November 2016

Updated – Phil Shepherd – July 2018

MAP: Bare Point - 9538-2N
Grid Ref Zone: MGRS 56JNN (56JNM south of Wilson's Head)
Walking Grade: 4 (NPSW)

Summary

This part of the Yuraygir Coastal Walk offers a variety of suitable hikes for Cubs and Scouts..

Best to walk from the North to the South so that the sun is on your back.

The headland walking is safe with no significantly exposed sections. Lots of tracks make navigation interesting.

Beware of incoming tides, especially if walking below headlands at Rocky Point and Diggers Camp.

Payment required for entry and camping within National Park.

Additional Walk Information:

<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/yuraygir-coastal-walk>

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/illaroo-to-wooli-walking-track>

Blue Cord Hike Summary

A testing hike with combination of formed track and headland track finishing with beach hike. Minor navigation skills required.

This particular hike is a good example of a supported hike requiring good planning for emergency purposes, with great opportunities to test the Scouts.

Starting at Illaroo North provides opportunity to maximise number of kilometres – variation to starting points can occur.

Check tide times for midday preferable low tide.

Day 1 - Illaroo North to Boorkoom Camp – 8.5Km

- Start 10am – Illaroo North Camping Area (2816 0806) off Minnie Water Road, dirt track
- There is a junction at (2833 0780) where you can choose to:
 - **either** walk up some steps, and take the more interesting route along the headlands and on to the beach at (2864 0719)
 - **or** take the direct easy route which eventually passes the shop at (2853 0677) before heading on to the beach
- It is best to leave the beach via the white staircase at (2872 0653), and then skirt along the headlands. This avoids the excessive car activity along this section of the beach.
- Toilet and drinking water is available at (2905 0596) just before you enter the tracks along Tree Point headland.
- lunch at 12pm near Minnie Back Beach stairs (2872 0529)
- beach walk south along Minnies Back Beach.

Alternative Head inland to the Minnie Back Beach Trail. Not significantly further, but reduces the amount of tedious beach walking.

- **DANGER** - If the tide is incoming it is dangerous to continue on the beach round the Diggers Camp headlands (2789 0245). Safer to take the inland route marked by the Sanctuary Sign at (2772 0263). Note that the start of track at the Sanctuary Sign is not particularly obvious, but as soon as you are at the top of the dune, there is a very obvious, four wheel drive track.
- Walk to camp at Boorkoom Campground (2818 0112) south of Diggers Camp at 4pm.(as of 2018 camp caretakers, Annette and Tony are very friendly and can be contacted on 0447 497 097 in emergencies)

- **Need to plan water drop at Boorkoom**

Day 2 - Boorkoom Camping Area to Wooli River - 8.5Km

- Start 8am - easy graded walk along Bare Point – some navigation required through numerous tracks
- stairs to beach at Wilsons Headland (2769 0006) – possible morning tea rest stop

End of Red Cord Hike – Head west to Wilsons Headland Carpark (2753 0022)

- then beach walk for remainder – past Wooli village along South Terrace
- Arrive at Wooli Marine Rescue Tower (or at the Rock Wall) near Wooli River entrance (257 937)

Transport pick up ETA 1pm

Alternative to walking along Wooli Beach (9km to 2612 9727):

- Head Inland up 4 wheel drive track at (2732 9972)
- After 1km meet the main dirt road at (2681 0043)
- Follow the main dirt road west for 0.5km (**beware** of cars) to the Faulkners Trail which heads south at (2636 0035)
- After 2.5Km the Faulkners Trail meets the main road at (2490 9894). Head South East along the very straight Powerline Trail
- Once the Powerline Trail gets to Wooli there's a number of tracks. Most logical pick up point is where the tracks meet the beach at (2612 9727). This is about 9km walking from Boorkoom campsite

Escape routes

Villages of Minnie Water, Diggers Camp and Wooli have multiple access points for extraction if required

Mobile phone reception

Minnie Water – limited – works on headlands ok

Wooli – good

Contacts:

National parks, marine parks and forests 02 6641 1500

Dave Redman | Ranger | North Coast Branch 02 6641 1524, 0457 605 862

Police (Wooli) – NOT 24 hour Cnr Main Street and Ollen Close, WOOLI 2462, 02 6649 7055

Police (Grafton) – 24 hour 5 Duke St, Grafton NSW 2460, 02 6642 0222

Hospital (Grafton) – 24 hour Emergency, 184 Arthur St, Grafton NSW 2460 - 02 6640 2222