

## Standing amongst giants at Angophora Reserve

Take a step through the stone archway into Angophora Reserve and you'll discover a palm-lined rainforest and wildlife corridor - all hidden amongst the winding back-grounds of Bilgola Plateau.

The reserve, covering 18.5 hectares of land, became a bushland sanctuary back in 1937 when it was purchased by the Wildlife Preservation Society before they donated it to the Warringah Shire Council in 1962. Local volunteers helped to turn the Angophora Reserve into what it is today; laying track foundations and planting native species including Grey Gums to feed its then koala inhabitants.

In 1989, the reserve was even recognised as an important part of Australian heritage by becoming listed on the Australian Heritage Commission's Register of the National Estate.

Many of these natural relics still stand towering above visitors today with Angophora trees soaring high into the sky above the densely populated bush below. It's not a surprise therefore, to see 'caution koala' signs dotted along the roads leading into the reserve.

In 2022, one of the oldest Angophora trees, at an estimated 450 years, collapsed during heavy winds. But it still remains intact and on its side in the reserve today, showcasing a slice of history for modern day visitors.

Walking from one end of the reserve to the other is just over a one kilometre stretch, with an onerous climb up winding stairs if you enter from Palmgrove Road. But it's



Step inside Bilgola Plateau's 18.5 hectares of towering arborous heritage

worth the climb, as majestic views await at various points throughout the walk overlooking Bilgola and Avalon. Plus, a final viewpoint between the bush and homes to reveal Pittwater down below.

Along the way, you'll feel as if you've stepped into an aviary, surrounded by the sounds of kookaburras, rosellas and lorikeets - among a few of the reserve's inhabitants. You'll also be treated to the soothing trickle of gentle waterfalls next to handcrafted wood bridges as you step your way across boulders and smooth sandstone steps.

### Did you know...

The reserve's name might be a bit difficult to pronounce but the name actually stems from the iconic Angophora trees that give the reserve its name. These majestic trees, known for their striking red bark and twisted branches, can

be spotted around the reserve, towering high above you, as they can grow up to 30 metres tall. They also make the perfect home for the variety of birds found here.

### How to get there

The reserve has two main entrances, one on Palmgrove Road and the other on Wandeen Road. If you enter from Palmgrove Road, head about halfway down the length of the street and you'll spot a stone archway leading into the reserve. If you come from the Wandeen Road end, you'll notice a school bus stop nearby and a smaller stone-marked entrance to the path.

Have a great spot you think should be featured?  
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