

EXPLORE BLUE GUM RESERVE

The northern gully of Chatswood West is home to the lush and peaceful Blue Gum Reserve. This moist, tall forest hugs Blue Gum Creek as it flows down to the Lane Cove River creating a valuable wildlife corridor and a magical place to explore.

WALKING TRACK

Track length: Approximately a 5km return trip.

Track grade: Medium - on unsealed bush tracks with steep steps in sections. Sturdy shoes required.

This is a Level 2 Wildlife Protection Area. Residents may walk dogs on a leash.

There are two sections of the walking track:

The upper section has steep sides and rough creek crossings which may be impassable after rain.

It starts at Dulwich Avenue and finishes at the Kooba Street Scout Hall.

The other section of the track runs from the north end of Greville Street and meets Lane Cove National Park at Lady Game Drive. The area between the two track sections requires visitors to walk along Kooba Avenue (approximately 200 metres) and head towards the dead end of Greville Street.

HISTORY

The local Camaragal People are the traditional custodians of this land.

Blue Gum Reserve has a varied past. It has been logged, grazed by dairy cows, inundated by weeds, but most significantly, it has provided a sanctuary for plants and animals whilst the North Shore has been developed.

Like most of the Lane Cove Valley, the area around Blue Gum Creek was logged for its tall, upright trees. Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*) was used to build wharves as far afield as the London Docks.

Black Butt (*Eucalyptus pilularis*), which is still one of Australia's most important commercial timbers is found here, and of course Sydney Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus saligna*), which once supplied the government store in the 1800s with ships timbers and house planks is present.

The area once hosted three dairies. Each dairy was small by today's standards, only having a few cows each.

VEGETATION

Blue Gum Reserve has pockets of 'Blue Gum High Forest' and closed forest, a critically endangered ecological community listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 in NSW under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.

Blue Gum High Forest occurs only in areas where rainfall is high and the soils are relatively fertile (derived from Wianamatta Shale). Blue Gum High Forest consists not only of the magnificent trees but is also host to a diverse variety of shrubs, herbs, grasses, ferns and vines.

WILDLIFE

Blue Gum Reserve adjoins Lane Cove National Park and contains an abundance of wildlife. Whilst walking in the reserve you are likely to see some of the 64 recorded bird species. The vibrant Australian King Parrot and Crimson Rosella are commonly seen sheltering in the reserve.

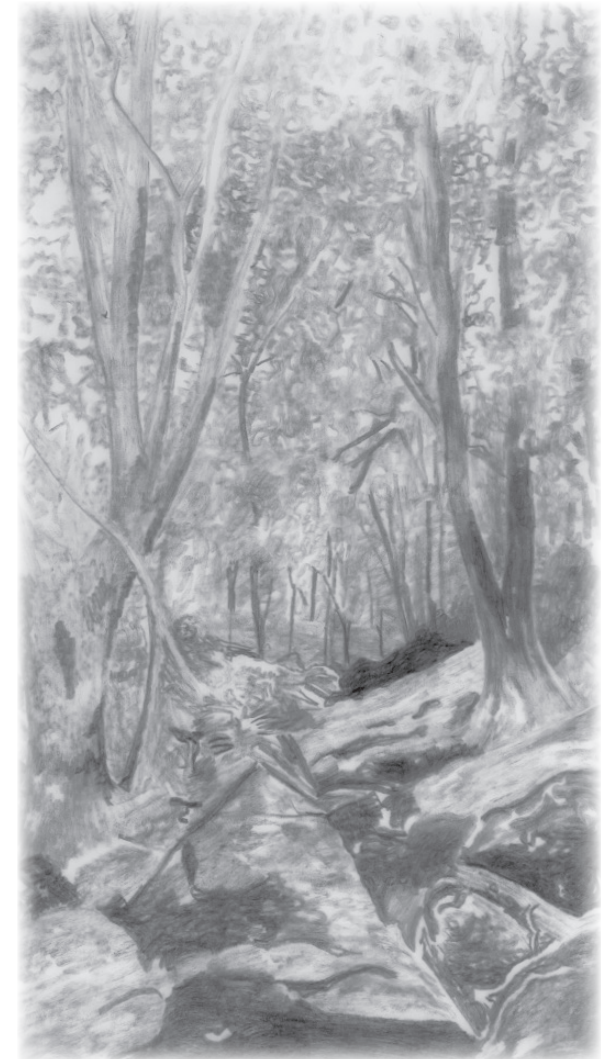
PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The reserve is walking distance from Chatswood Train Station.

For information and timetables, phone the Transport Infoline on 131 500 or visit www.transportnsw.info



Blue Gum Walking Track



Willoughby City Council

PO Box 57, Chatswood NSW 2057

Phone: 9777 1000

www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au



Wander through beautiful wet forest gullies, look out for Blue Gums and different varieties of fungi.

INSECTIVOROUS BATS AND BANDICOOTS

Blue Gum Reserve is home to the increasingly rare small insect eating bats including the Little Forest Bat, Lesser Long-eared Bat and Gould's Wattle Bat. Small mammals that struggle in urban areas such as the Brown Antechinus, Sugar Gliders and Long Nosed Bandicoot also inhabit the area.

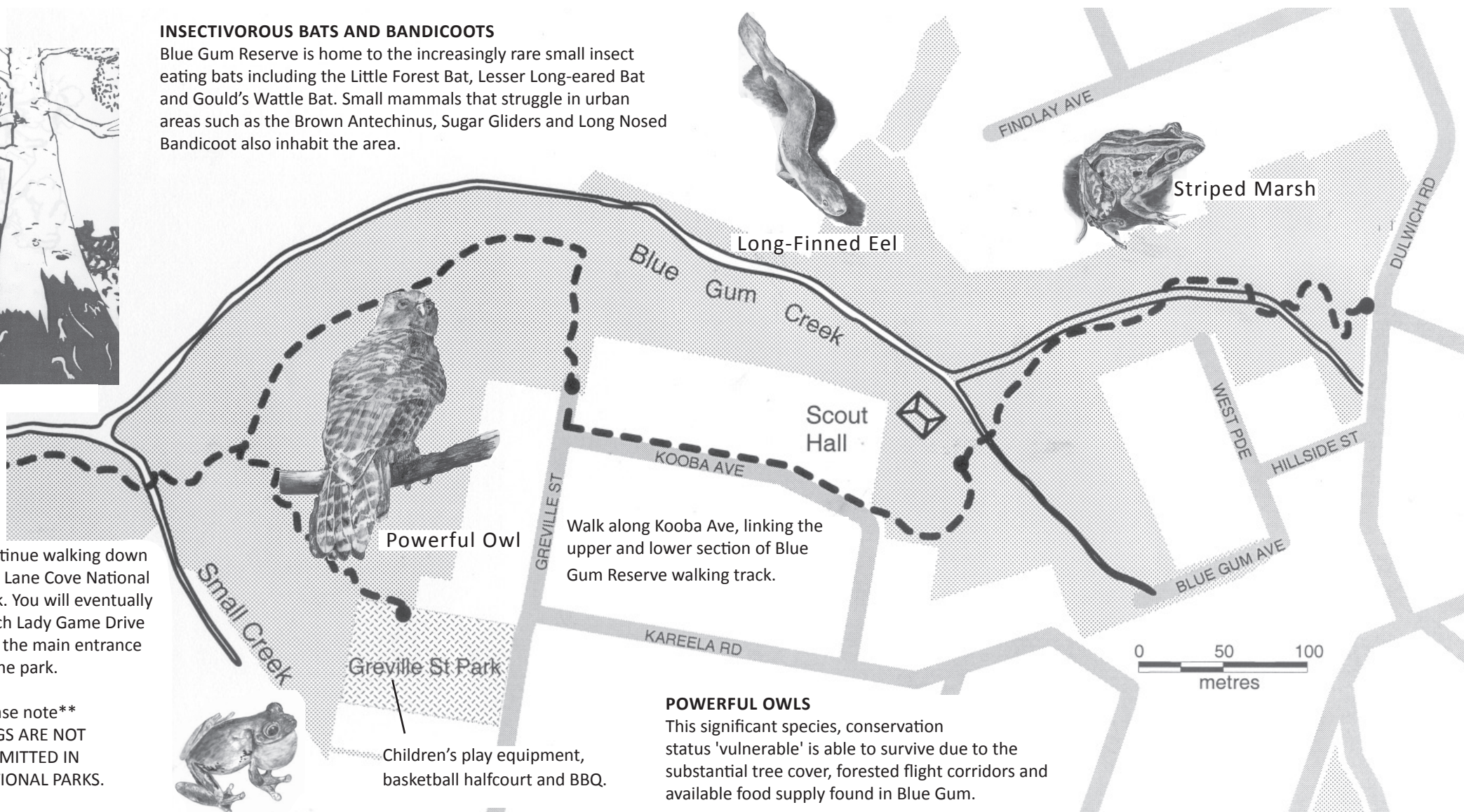


FROGS

Blue Gum Reserve provides habitat for six species of frogs. The Striped Marsh Frog, Peron's Tree Frog, Leaf-green Tree Frog, Common Eastern Froglet and Eastern Banjo Frog.

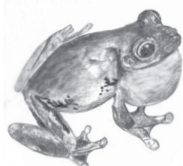
TALL TREES

When you enter the reserve from Dulwich Road, look for the tall upright Blue Gums identified by smooth bluish grey bark with a short rough bark section at the base.



Continue walking down into Lane Cove National Park. You will eventually reach Lady Game Drive and the main entrance to the park.

Please note**
DOGS ARE NOT
PERMITTED IN
NATIONAL PARKS.



Peron's Tree Frog

Children's play equipment,
basketball halfcourt and BBQ.

POWERFUL OWLS

This significant species, conservation status 'vulnerable' is able to survive due to the substantial tree cover, forested flight corridors and available food supply found in Blue Gum.