

CROWS NEST NATIONAL PARK



Crows Nest National Park is situated 6kms from the town of Crows Nest between Toowoomba and Kingaroy. The park protects spectacular creek scenery, granite outcrops, a scenic waterfall and eucalypt forest in the headwaters of Crows Nest Creek on the Great Dividing Range west of Brisbane.

Few places have such a wonderful variety of eucalypt trees from gums to stringybarks, bloodwoods and ironbarks, delighting the amateur naturalist. The park is a haven for wildlife including platypus, swamp wallabies, echidnas, bandicoots, lace monitors, birds, and the brush-tailed rock-wallaby *Petrogale penicillata*, which is vulnerable to extinction in Queensland.

WALKS

Take a creek-side walk to waterholes and to lookouts with spectacular views.

Tracks lead from the picnic area and follow the steep-sided gorge in the upper reaches of Crows Nest Creek to a lookout overlooking Crows Nest Falls. Continue to Koonin Lookout for an impressive view over a deeper gorge known locally as the Valley of Diamonds.

Explore around the creek, but be careful. Rocks and stepping-stones can be slippery, especially after rain. Supervise children closely.

WALKING TRACKS

Crows Nest Falls via Kauyoo Loop (including The Cascades, Kauyoo Pool and Bottlebrush Pool) —2.7 km return (1 hr) Class 3 loop to the Cascades, Class 4 to Kauyoo Pool and Bottlebrush Pool

Bottlebrush Pool is the ideal place to enjoy a swim and relax. The river she-oaks and bottlebrush trees here provide shade and habitat for a variety of wildlife. Keep an eye out for brush-tailed rock wallabies, as they move quietly around the surrounding granite hills and boulders. Take care on the steps leading down to the creek, as they can be slippery when wet.

A sandy beach allows easy access to the normally shallow water at **Kauyoo Pool**.

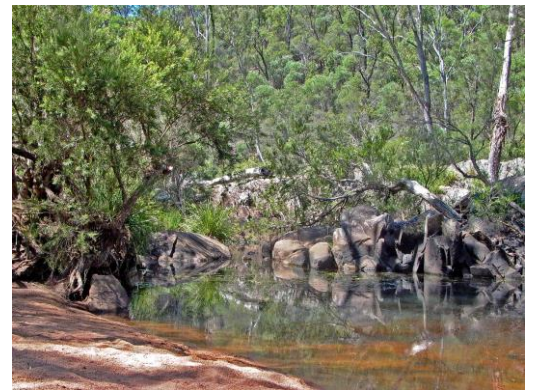
Steep crevices and slippery rocks lead to the **Cascades**, where you can hear the ‘tock tock’ calls of striped marsh frogs echoing around the boulders in summer. Watch your step, especially if the creek is flowing. This is another good spot to sit quietly and watch for rock-wallabies.

Crows Nest Falls lookout—2.1 km return (45 mins) Class 3

At Crows Nest Falls water tumbles over 20 m high granite cliffs.

Access to the Crows Nest Falls waterhole has been closed due to the danger posed by large rocks falling onto the track and into the waterhole.

For your safety, never attempt to climb around the Crows Nest Falls lookout barriers for any reason—to do so could result in serious injury or cost you your life!



A small sandy beach allows access to Kauyoo Pool. Photo NPRSR.

Koonin lookout—4.5 km return (1 hour 30 mins) Class 3

Wander out to Koonin Lookout for a bird's-eye view of the gorge (known as the Valley of Diamonds) and to distant rolling hills around Ravensbourne. Look along the way for intricate lichen patterns on rocks and small ground orchids.

CAMPING

Camp beneath the eucalypts in the small bush campground which has unpowered tent and caravan sites, pit toilets, wood barbecues and 'boil-your-own-water' showers. Camping permits are required and fees apply. For Crows Nest National Park you can book online at www.npsr.qld.gov.au, by phone on 13 74 68, over the counter at a booking office (in Toowoomba it is the Parks and Wildlife Service at Level 1/173 Hume Street) or upon arrival outside of school holidays.

Cost is \$5.60 per person per night or \$22.40 per family group per night.

Maximum length of stay is 30 nights.

Sites 5–11 are e-permit only (pre-booked) at all times. Campers with e-permits must only camp in the numbered camping site(s) they have booked. Campers can self-register for sites 1–4 and 12–13 only (except over long weekends and school holidays when e-permits are required for all sites).



Camp under the eucalypts. Photo E. Collins NPRSR.

ACCOMMODATION

A range of holiday accommodation is available in and around Crows Nest, Toowoomba and the Hampton and Ravensbourne areas.

PICNIC AND DAY USE AREAS

Picnic area beside Crows Nest Creek. The picnic area has picnic tables, pit toilets, gas powered barbecues and interpretive signs.

VIEWING WILDLIFE

Look for platypus in the creek near the picnic area and brush-tailed rock-wallabies on the rocky cliffs along the creek. Be patient and quiet and you may be rewarded. For your safety and to protect the wallaby habitat, stay on the track.

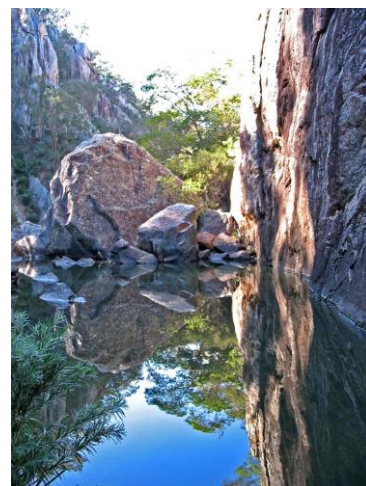
Go bird watching during the day. See pale-headed rosellas, magpies, yellow robins, thornbills, golden whistlers, eastern spinebills, grey fantails or blue-faced honeyeaters. Try spotlighting for sugar gliders, brushtail possums, ringtail possums and greater gliders along the walking track at night. Enjoy the wildflowers in spring.

HISTORY

In 1967, a national park of 236 ha was declared over Crows Nest Falls and the gorges along Crows Nest creek, to preserve the scenic and recreational value of an area long used by the people of Crows Nest. Crows Nest National Park now extends south along the edge of the Great Dividing Range towards Perseverance Dam and covers an area of 1,800 ha.

The rugged topography of the park, including granite, basalt and sandstone outcrops and permanent waterholes, provides a diversity of habitats for plants and animals, including a number of threatened species.








The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) manages Crows Nest National Park to conserve and present its natural and cultural values, and to ensure that the recreational use of its resources is nature-based and ecologically sustainable.

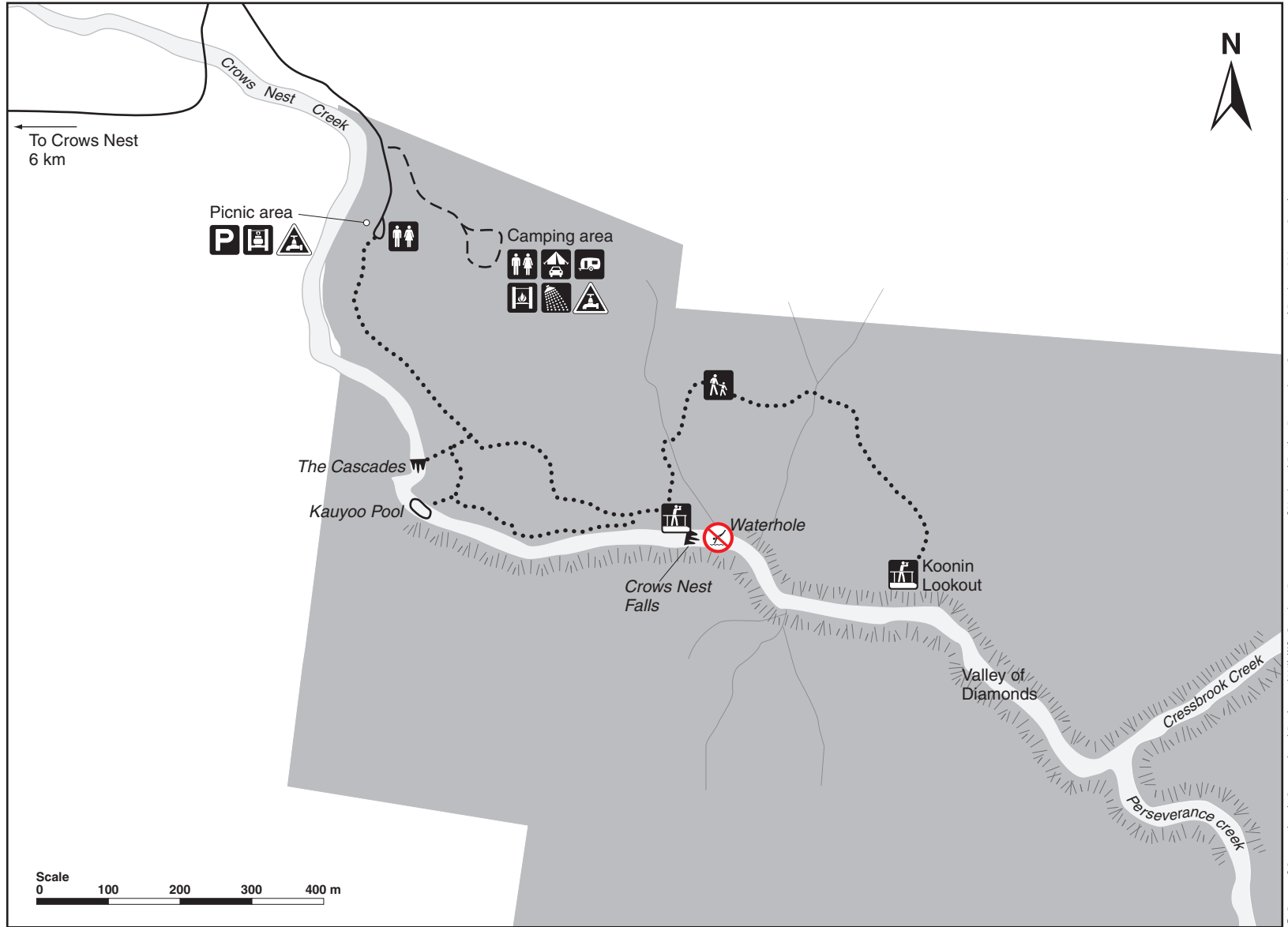


Granite cliffs and calm pools. Photo supplied.

Crows Nest National Park map

Legend

-  National park
-  Creek
-  Waterways
-  Sealed road
-  Unsealed road
-  Walking track
-  Cliff edge
-  Parking
-  Toilets
-  Walking track
-  Lookout
-  Camping
-  Barbecue—wood
-  Barbecue—gas
-  Shower
-  Water—
treat before drinking
-  Diving prohibited



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