

Rous River canoe trail

Paddling the Rous River canoe trail is a great way to enjoy the Tweed's internationally significant environment.

The Rous River meets the Tweed River at Tumbulgum. A quick paddle across the Tweed River takes you into one of the largest estuarine habitat areas in the Tweed.

The sheltered waters of the lower Rous River feels like it's miles from anywhere and you will be surprised how tranquil it is on the water. A well-planned trip accounting for tidal flow and paddling with the current is especially enjoyable.



**Launch at
Tumbulgum boat ramp**



8km return route



Allow 2–3 hours to paddle



Kayak hire and river tours



Public toilets are available at Tumbulgum

Take time to make side trips into sheltered mangrove fringed bays and Wobul Creek, which is lined with mangrove ferns, hoop pine and rainforest.

Diverse vegetation communities along the canoe trail support abundant birdlife, so don't forget binoculars and a bird field guide. Over 60 bird species have been recorded in the area by BirdLife Northern Rivers. Kingfishers, spoonbills, cormorants, fruit pigeons, honeyeaters, fairy-wrens and lorikeets are often observed in addition to resident osprey and white-bellied sea-eagles.



Secluded bays on the canoe trail provide opportunities for reflection.



Early morning light on fringing mangroves at the mouth of the Rous River.

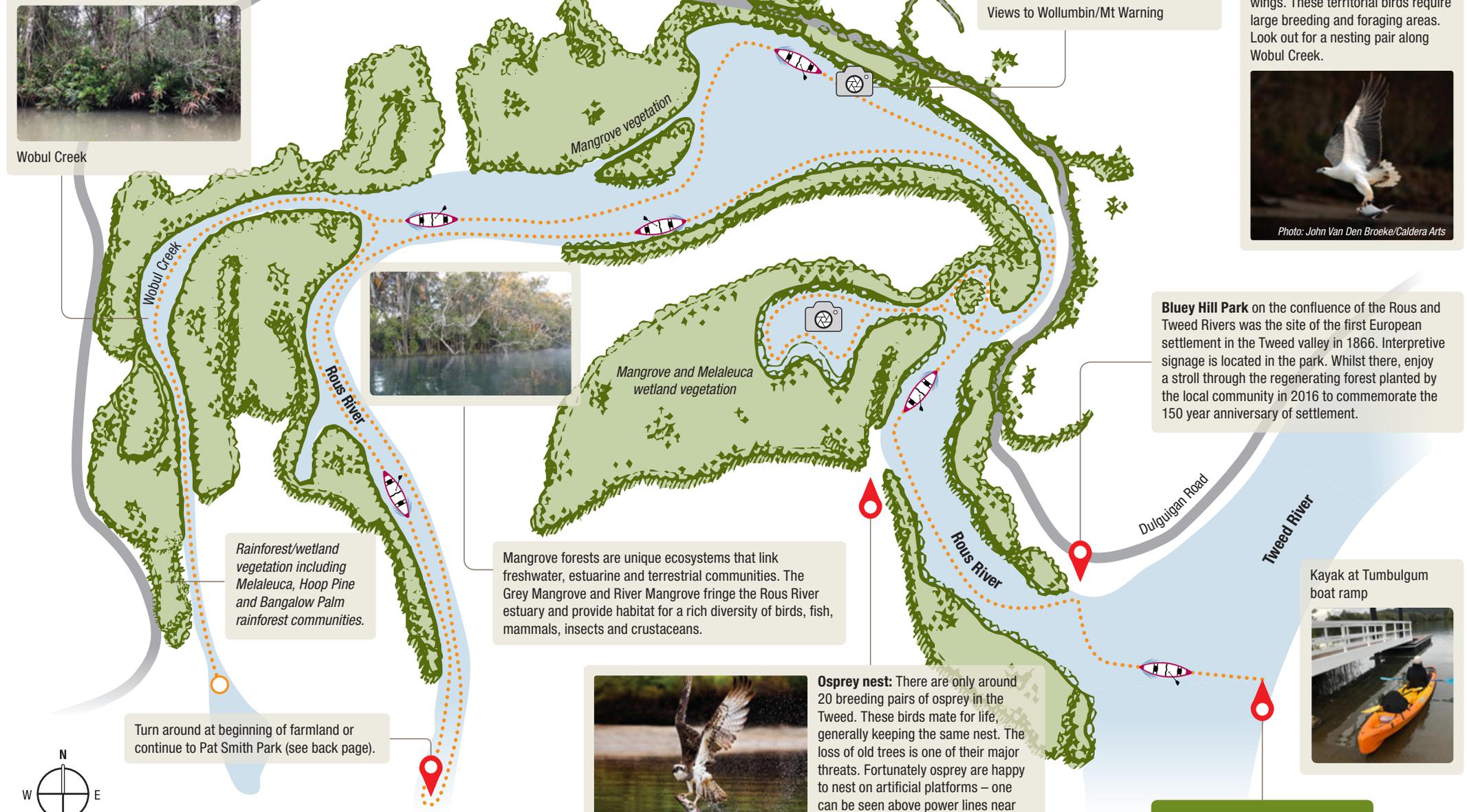
For the more adventurous, try the 10km one way paddle between Tumbulgum and Pat Smith Park on Dungay Creek (a tributary of the Rous River). Pat Smith Park is the only public park along the mid-Rous River estuary and is located at the junction of Dulguigan Road and Urliup Road. The park has a picnic shelter but no toilet facilities. There is no vehicle access to Pat Smith Park, however if you are prepared to carry your canoe 100m through the park, you can start or finish your paddle at this location. Parking is available outside the park on Dulguigan Road.

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Padding the lower Rous River takes you through one of the largest habitat areas in the Tweed estuary. Sheltered bays and tributaries are best explored at high tide and take you through a diversity of vegetation types.



Wobul Creek



Existing walking trail through subtropical rainforest to **historic cemetery**. No access via river, only via Dulguigan Road.



Views to Wollumbin/Mt Warning

Estuaries support unique birds, many of which have specialised habitat requirements. White-bellied sea-eagles are easily identified by their white tail and dark grey wings. These territorial birds require large breeding and foraging areas. Look out for a nesting pair along Wobul Creek.



Photo: John Van Den Broeke/Caldera Arts

Bluey Hill Park on the confluence of the Rous and Tweed Rivers was the site of the first European settlement in the Tweed valley in 1866. Interpretive signage is located in the park. Whilst there, enjoy a stroll through the regenerating forest planted by the local community in 2016 to commemorate the 150 year anniversary of settlement.

Rainforest/wetland vegetation including Melaleuca, Hoop Pine and Bangalow Palm rainforest communities.

Mangrove forests are unique ecosystems that link freshwater, estuarine and terrestrial communities. The Grey Mangrove and River Mangrove fringe the Rous River estuary and provide habitat for a rich diversity of birds, fish, mammals, insects and crustaceans.

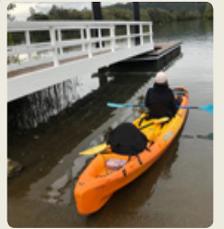
Turn around at beginning of farmland or continue to Pat Smith Park (see back page).



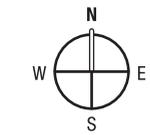
Osprey nest: There are only around 20 breeding pairs of osprey in the Tweed. These birds mate for life, generally keeping the same nest. The loss of old trees is one of their major threats. Fortunately osprey are happy to nest on artificial platforms – one can be seen above power lines near the Rous River mouth.

Photo: John Van Den Broeke/Caldera Arts

Kayak at Tumbulgum boat ramp



Canoe/kayak launching at Tumbulgum boat ramp



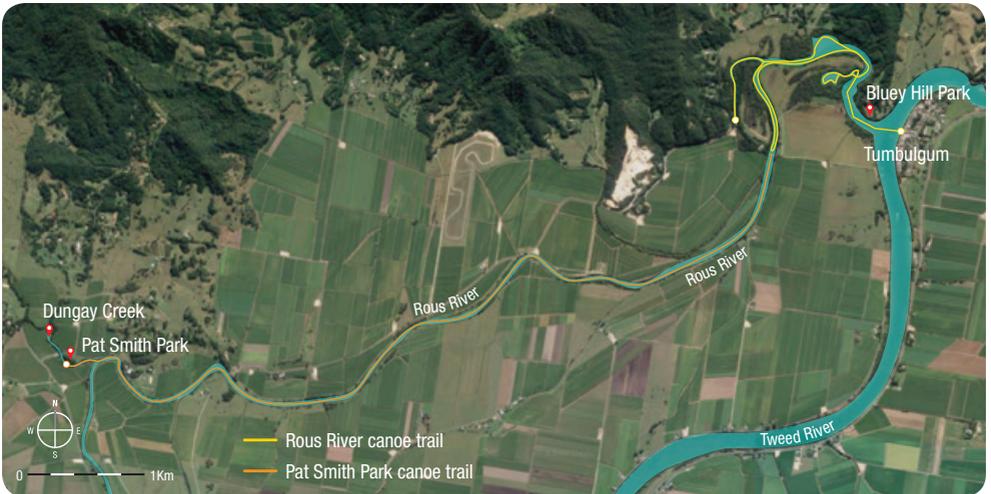
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..... Canoe trail

Careful paddling guidelines



- Paddlers should be competent swimmers and have basic first aid and CPR skills.
- Plan your trip well – always paddle with a partner and tell someone where you are going.
- Wear a personal floatation device, hat, sunglasses and sunscreen.
- Bring rubbish back and dispose of it properly in bins provided at Tumbulgum foreshore.
- Respect private property – there are limited opportunities to land your canoe or kayak along the trail.
- Check the tides, consider paddling on high tide, with the current and allow time to return in the daylight. Tide times and additional information available at www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/CanoeTrails



The lower reaches of the Rous River from Tumbulgum to Pat Smith Park on Dungay Creek provides excellent paddling opportunities with great views to Wollumbin/Mt Warning and Springbrook National Park.

*This project has been assisted by
the New South Wales Government
through its Environmental Trust.*

