

Knob Ridge/Gum Creek Walk



Section 1 (Track under telephone posts to Fowlers Creek)

The first section is dominated by black bluebush and prickly wattles.

Several chenopods, like *Atriplex conduplicata* and *Atriplex vesicaria* (bladder saltbush) are relatively rare. (Most of them are juveniles growing on and along the track. On the track grow mainly *Sclerolaena* sp., like pale povertybush, short-winged copperburr, silky copperburr etc.

Some tall groundsels (*Senecio* sp.) are obvious to see.

The common mammals are red and western grey kangaroos and euros. The bird diversity is low but common species are galah, chestnut-crowned babbler, Australian magpie and Australian raven.

Section 2 (Fowlers Creek)

There are river red gums along both banks of the creek and also in the creek bed and there is much lemon scented grass on the banks.

The vegetation along the creek includes several western boobiallas, Mitchell grass, silver-tails, cottony saltbush, fruit-salad plant, ruby saltbush and thorny saltbush.

At the gap (the old highway) there are some belahs and then more and more prickly wattles become a dominating species in this section.

The bird diversity increases and you should see wedge-tailed eagle, collared sparrowhawk, Nankeen kestrel, galah, little corella, mallee ringneck, mulga parrot, striated pardalote, southern whiteface, spiny-cheeked honeyeater, white-plumed honeyeater, crimson chat, willie wagtail, Australian raven, apostle bird, and tree martin.

Section 3 (Walk on top of ridge)

Pearl and black bluebush dominate the vegetation on top of the ridge.

Other plants on the ridge are velvet potato-bush, silver-tails and many different kinds of *Sclerolaena* sp.

On the later hills there are quite a few acacias scattered over the ridge.

Euros are common and you should see the following birds: Nankeen kestrel, white-winged fairy-wren, Hall's babbler, black-faced woodswallow, and Australian raven.

Section 4 (Cross from ridge to Gum Creek)

The beginning of this section is also dominated by pearl and black bluebush progressively changing to an area with increasing amounts of pale and long-spined copperburrs and then changing into an area dominated by bladder saltbush.

The little creek leading into Gum Creek is dominated by black bluebush, emubush, some quandong, velvet potato-bush, bladder saltbush, *Sclerolaena* sp., Belahs, Rosewood, Mulgas and Dead Finish.

Red kangaroos and euros are common and you may see a red fox. The common birds include wedge-tailed eagle, crested pigeon, white-winged fairy-wren, singing honeyeater, chirruping wedgebill, white-browed babbler, chestnut-crowned babbler, and black-faced woodswallow.



Section 5 (Gum Creek)

There are three distinctive vegetation communities to be found as you progress along the creek:

1. The first part of this section is dominated by prickly wattle, dead finish, black bluebush, thorny saltbush, lemon-scented grass and velvet potato-bush.
2. The section vegetation community includes black bluebush and river red gum, lemon-scented grass, bladder and thorny saltbush and fruit-salad plant.
3. River red gums are present only where Gum Creek leads into the lake.

Common birds are crested pigeon, galah, variegated fairy-wren, white-

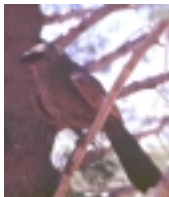
winged fairy-wren, southern whiteface, spiny-cheeked honeyeater, yellow-throated minor, white-plumed honeyeater, crimson chat, chestnut-crowned babbler, willie wagtail, and Australian raven.

Section 6 (The lake)

There are many river red gums growing around the lake.

In the dried out parts of the lake-bed is much fruit-salad plant, mexican poppy and common sneezeweed.

Common birds are hoary-headed grebe, Australian shelduck, Pacific black duck, Eurasian coot, white-faced heron, masked lapwing, black-fronted dotterel, little corella, mallee ringneck, mulga parrot, variegated fairy wren, white-plumed honeyeater, magpie lark, black-faced cuckoo-shrike, ground cuckoo-shrike, Australian magpie, Australian raven, apostle bird, welcome swallow and tree martin.



Section 7 (Gum Creek back to Station)

Following the creek, section 3 is dominated by river red gum, western boobialla, black bluebush, prickly wattle, some groundsels (*Senecio* sp.), lemon-scented grass and some chenopods (*Atriplex* sp., *Sclerolaena* sp.).

A big cluster of old man saltbush lies to the right hand side, where to turn right into the side creek, leading to the dam wall in front of the lake.

Many velvet potato-bushes and fruit-salad plants grow close to the dam wall in front of the lake.

Euros are common. Bird include galah, little corella, mallee ringneck, mulga parrot, variegated fairy-wren, striated pardalote, rufous fieldwren, singing honeyeater, white-plumed honeyeater, chestnut-crowned babbler, masked woodswallow, Australian raven, Australian magpie, apostle bird and tree martin.

Credits: This guide was prepared by Anke Frank (University of NSW and Bonn University) with the assistance of David Croft, Rebecca Montague-Drake, Amanda Bilton and Ingrid Witte (UNSW).

The guide is part of a UNSW research project in collaboration with the CRC for Sustainable Tourism and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. The aim of this project is to develop and implement products to support a vibrant wildlife tourism industry in the rangelands of the Outback. Some more information can be found at our web site

<http://bioscience.babs.unsw.edu.au/rootourism/>.

Field Guides

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Strahan, R. 1995. *The Mammals of Australia*. Reed New Holland, Sydney

Checklist of mammals and birds

MAMMALS

Marsupials

Red kangaroo (*Macropus rufus*)

Western Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus fulingosis*)

Euro/Common Walleroo (*Macropus robustus*)

Placentals

Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)

BIRDS

Little Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucus*)

Hoary-headed Grebe (*Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*)

Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*)

Australian Shelduck (*Tadorna tadornoides*)

Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*)

Grey Teal (*Anas gracilis*)

Pink-eared Duck (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*)

Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*)

White-faced Heron (*Egretta (Ardea) novaehollandiae*)

Masked Lapwing (*Vanellus miles*)

Black-fronted Dotterel (*Elseyornis (Charadrius) melanops*)

Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus axillaris*)

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)

Whistling Kite (*Haliastur (Milvus) sphenurus*)

Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax*)

Collared Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter cirrhocephalus*)

Nankeen (Australian) Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*)

Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps (Geophaps) lophotes*)

Galah (*Eolophus (Cacatua) roseicapilla*)

Little Corella (*Cacatua sanguinea*)

Australian (Mallee) Ringneck (*Barnardius zonarius barnardi*)

Mulga Parrot (*Psephotus varius*)

Varigated Fairy-wren (*Malurus lamberti*)

White-winged Fairy-wren (*Malurus leucopterus*)

Striated Pardalote (*Pardalotus striatus*)

Rufous Fieldwren (Calamanthus) (*Calamanthus (Sericornis) campestris*)

Chestnut-rumped Thornbill (*Acanthiza uropygialis*)

Yellow-rumped Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*)

Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*)

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*)

Yellow-throated Minor (*Manorina flavigula*)

Singing Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus virescens*)

White-plumed Honeyeater (*Lichenostomus penicillatus*)

Crimson Chat (*Epthianura tricolor*)

Chirruping Wedgebill (*Psophodes occidentalis*)

White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*)

Hall's Babbler (*Pomatostomus hallii*)

Chestnut-crowned Babbler (*Pomatostomus ruficeps*)

Ruby Saltbush (<i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low Bluebush (<i>Maireana astrotricha</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black Buebush (<i>Maireana pyramidata</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pearl Bluebush (<i>Maireana sedifolia</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cottony Saltbush (<i>Rhagodia gaudichaudiana</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thorny Saltbush (<i>Rhagodia spinescens</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckbush (<i>Salsola kali</i> var. <i>kali</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
AMARANTHACEAE	
Silver-tails (<i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> var. <i>obovatus</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
PAPAVERACEAE	
Mexican Poppy (<i>Argemone ochroleuca</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
PITTOSPORACEAE	
Butterbush (<i>Pittosporum phylliraeoides</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
MIMOSACEAE	
Mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Broad-leaf Mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>latifolia</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Umbrella Mulga (<i>Acacia brachystachya</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dead Finish (<i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prickly Wattle (<i>Acacia victoria</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
SAPINDACEAE	
Rosewood (<i>Heterodendrum oleifolium</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
MALVACEAE	
Twiggy Sida (<i>Sida instricta</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
MYRTACEAE	
River Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>camaldulensis</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
River Red Gum (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> var. <i>obtusa</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Western Bloodwood (<i>Eucalyptus terminalis</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
BORAGINACEAE	
Paterson's Curse (<i>Echium plantagineum</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Australian Hound's Tongue (<i>Cynoglossum australe</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOLANACEAE	
Green-berry Nightshade (<i>Solanum opacum</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Velvet Potato-bush (<i>Solanum ellipticum</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCROPHULARIACEAE	
Blue-rod (<i>Morgania floribunda</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
MYOPORACEAE	
Spotted Fuchsia (<i>Eremophila maculata</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emubush (<i>Eremophila longifolia</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Western Boobialla (<i>Myoporum montanum</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
CAMPANULACEAE	
Bluebell (<i>Wahlenbergia</i> spp.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
ASTERACEAE	
Common Sneezeweed (<i>Centipeda cunninghamii</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shrubby Groundsel (<i>Senecio</i> sp.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Showy Groundsel (<i>Senecio magnificus</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fruit-salad Plant (<i>Pterocaulon sphacelatum</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saffron Thistle (<i>Carthamus lanatus</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>