

Peterson Creek

- WILDLIFE & BOTANICAL WALKING TRACK -

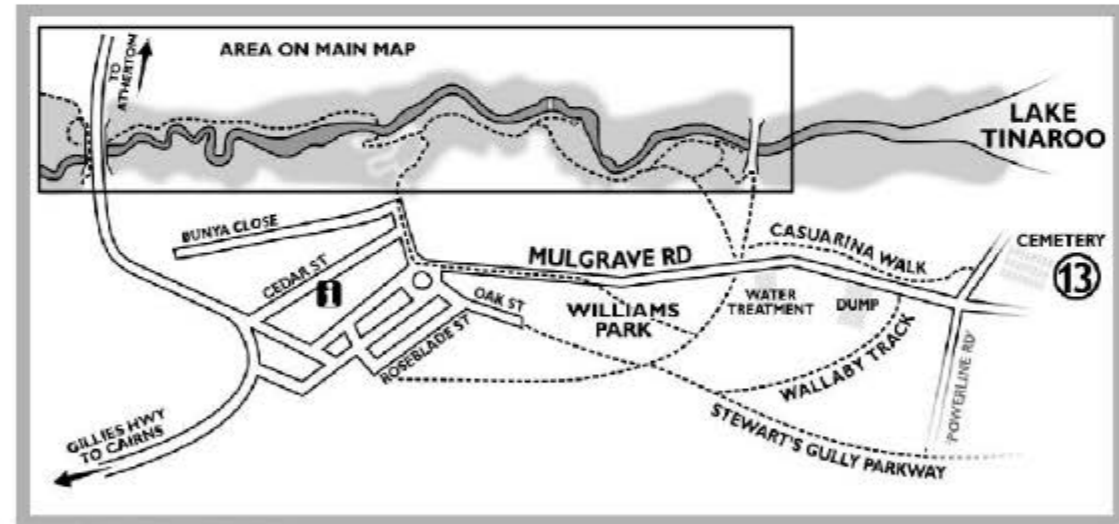
This 2km (one way) walking track can be started from either end: at the Gillies Highway platypus viewing platform (1) or the cemetery on Mulgrave Road (13), as well as roughly in the middle at Allumbah Pocket (6). Starting at the Gillies Highway platypus viewing platform, the track winds down to the creek under the bridge (2), and then meanders along the creek. Picnic tables and a number of peninsulas in this re-vegetated area afford easy viewing (3-4). Platypus are regularly seen on this sector of the track. Crossing the creek on the unique 'Lloyd's Suspension Bridge' leads you to the site of a preserved boiler used in the past to power a coal-fired steam pump (5). This pump was used to fill the water tank serving steam locomotives at the Yungaburra railway station which stood diagonally across from the Lake Eacham Hotel. A few more paces and you have reached Allumbah Pocket Platypus viewing platform and shelter (6) which makes the perfect spot for a break or picnic. Continuing downstream you will notice tall remnant Woodland Forest - look up to see termite nests and their visitors the Forest Kingfisher, and listen out for the Pobblebonk frogs at the water's edge. Many bird species as well as wallabies frequent this area. Platypus are often seen in the pool next to the picnic table (7). The track now leaves the creek and enters the Woodland Forest. Quiet observation of the rainforest scrub on the opposite bank may reveal a rare Lumholtz Tree Kangaroo resting in the shade.

Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroos are endemic to the wet tropics of North Queensland. They inhabit upland rainforest between Ingham and the Daintree River. You may see them as you make your way along the creek.



A side track at Williams Weir takes you to the site of the water wheel turbine (8), which used to supply power to the Hotel and town residents. Returning to the main track and proceeding along and down the hill, you come to Frawley's Pool and the Peterson Creek Interpretive Shelter (9). In the early years, the pool was the village swimming hole, where Mick Frawley, a teacher at the school, taught many children to swim. Cross the plank bridge to the opposite bank, which was re-planted in May 2006. After the pool there is a 'steep pinch' up some stone steps then a footbridge over a ravine. Note the broken glass and pottery shards embedded in the track, apparently from an old dump. There is soon a choice of routes. To the left, a lower track leads down to the creek and dramatic views of the Railway Bridge from below (10). To the right, you progress up onto a ridge with views of the 'Seven Sisters', a group of volcanic cinder cones (11). Both tracks will take you to the Railway Bridge. A picnic table in the Railway Cutting allows a rest to reflect on this engineering feat (12). The cutting then leads you out to Mulgrave Road. Turning left, onto the 'Casuarina Walk' takes you to the Yungaburra Pioneer Cemetery. Then follow either the 'Wallaby Track' or tracks through William's Park back to the village. For the adventurous, Stewart's Gully Road which leads to Lake Tinaroo, beckons.

See inset map below for location of these tracks.



MAP NOT TO SCALE

- TRACK
- PICNIC TABLE
- ⓘ INFORMATION
- ⛛ SHELTER SHED
- ➡ (with 'Z' symbol) NORTH

