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Walk With Me: Aboriginal Walk and Talk (Leisure Program) Cape Byron State Conservation Area

About this program

Join an Arakwal Aboriginal Discovery Ranger to learn more about Arakwal Bundjalung people and their ongoing connection to culture in their local area. Explore the special connection to the Cape Byron State Conservation Area, known as *Walgun*, and other sites of significance. Rangers discuss traditional and contemporary culture, using Aboriginal tools, weapons and artefacts. Find about joint management between Arakwal (Bundjalung) people and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The activity is conducted along the iconic Cape Byron Walking Track, hearing traditional stories and local history along the way. This activity is undertaken at the Cape Byron State Conservation Area, starting at Wategos Beach and finishing at the Cape Byron Lighthouse

Location

Cape Byron Lighthouse stands on the most easterly point of the Australian mainland, 2km east of the Byron Bay town centre. To get there, take Lawson Street (which becomes Lighthouse Road) and follow it to the lighthouse.

Objectives

- discover traditional and contemporary Aboriginal culture with Aboriginal Discovery Rangers
- explore how the environment is important to Aboriginal people
- explore natural resources, bush tucker and bush medicine on a guided walk
- listen to stories of Aboriginal families and their heritage
- listen to Dreaming stories
- understand ways of caring for sites, features, places and environments to which they can contribute
- recognise that Aboriginal people have interacted positively with the environment for a long time
- identify customs, practices, languages and traditions of Aboriginal people

Program outline:

Start: Wategos Beach Day Use Area (at barbecue area)	
Introduction and safety talk	5min
Activity 1 – Welcome and introduction to Arakwal (Bundjalung) people and culture.	10min
Activity 2 - Start of guided walk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History of Wategos Area - Dreaming story - Bush tucker talk 	25min
Activity 3 – Most Easterly Point <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dreaming story - Sites of significance talk - Discussion about totems - Dolphin /Whale watching (seasonal) 	15min
Activity 3 – Cape Byron Lighthouse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Includes a walk around the Lighthouse precinct - Discuss <i>Walgun</i> and ceremonial site 	15min
Activity 4 – Walk to south of lighthouse precinct (view over Arakwal National Park) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss significance of Arakwal National Park & Broken Head Nature Reserve - Dreaming story 	15min
Activity 5 – Visit Arakwal Room (visitor centre) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watch <i>Special Places</i> DVD - Discuss Aboriginal Joint Management with NPWS 	25min
Activity 6 – Grassed area north of Lighthouse Keepers Cottage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Play traditional game 	15min
Activity 7 – Questions and farewell	
Finish: Cape Byron Lighthouse precinct	
Total time	2 hours

Park facilities: The Cape Café offers refreshments and snacks. Fresh water bubblers and toilets are available at Wategos Beach and the lighthouse. Picnic tables and shady areas are also available at these locations.

Equipment provided: All equipment provided.

What to bring: Hat, sunscreen, adequate food and drinking water.

Transport: This activity starts at the western end of Wategos Beach and finishes at the Cape Byron Lighthouse. Buses transporting students on approved programs are free. Private vehicle passes are also available if buses are not used. Other vehicles are required to pay appropriate fees. Parking is limited at excursion venues. A \$8.00 car entry fee applies at the Lighthouse. A \$4.00/hr parking fee applies at The Pass, Captain Cook and Tallow Beach car park. NPWS Park passes apply.

Safety information: *Pre activity briefing:* Participants will be briefed on expected conditions, potential hazards, appropriate behaviour, recommended clothing and emergency procedures at the start of the activity/day. *Safety equipment:* Discovery staff carry mobile phone and first aid kits, hold current first aid certificates and are aware of emergency procedures. *Staff accreditation:* Discovery staff have current Senior First Aid accreditation. They are competent in the activity they are leading, experienced in working with groups of students in the natural environment and have excellent knowledge of the specific areas they are visiting including being aware of potential hazards of the location. OEH is committed to a Child Safe and Friendly Environment. Discovery staff have been screened for child-related employment and have completed a Working with Children Check. *Emergencies:* Discovery staff are trained to deal with emergencies and emergency procedures are in place. Discovery staff have been instructed to call an ambulance whenever there is any doubt as to the continued well-being of a student or other visitor. Ongoing supervision of a student following first aid treatment will be the responsibility of the visiting school.

Meeting place: Wategos Beach Day Use Area (at barbecue area).

Cost: \$33 per person. Minimum fee of \$330.00 (includes GST). Teachers and staff are free.

Difficulty: Medium

Description: Guided activities in a national park, on paved and uneven bush walking tracks and on a grassed picnic area. The walking track from Wategos Beach to the Lighthouse is approximately 720m.

Wheelchair access level: NA

Access: NA

Duration: 2 hours

Contact: If you would like to be involved in a NPWS program in the Byron area, please contact the Byron Coast Area office.

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