

Flora and Fauna at Tuncurry Golf Course

Compiled by Trevor Cupitt

The area is undulating consisting of low dunes and swales, aligned roughly parallel with the coast line and covers an area of approximately 80ha. The soils are unconsolidated marine and aeolian sands. A large dam has been constructed with permanent water available for the fauna.

ORNITHOLOGICAL STUDY - Vegetational Influence on Bird Varieties

The strips of natural vegetation bordering the fairways and the much larger areas surrounding the course consist mainly of Banksia (*Banksia serrata*) a few blackbutt (*E. pilularis*) while lower shrubs of *Leptospermum* and *Melaleuca* dominate. Practically the whole site is dominated by Bracken Fern (*Pteridium esculentum*) Blady grass (*Imperata cylindrical*), and *Lomandra Longifolia*. Other grasses, sedges, vines etc. contribute to making much of the under-storey very dense and an ideal harbour for small birds. There are also remnant pockets of mature *pinus radiata* trees in several locations on the course, providing food for the large colony of Yellow-tailed Cockatoos. These pine trees were planted by the internees of a WW2 Italian prisoner of war camp located just north of the current course site.

The nectar loving birds are prolific during blossom time of the banksia, eucalypts, grevilleas and callistemon.

BIRDS THAT ARE COMMONLY SEEN:

Scaly-breasted Lorikeet
Little Lorikeet
Rainbow Lorikeet
Little Wattle Bird
Noisy Miner
Noisy Friarbird
New Holland Honeyeater
Lewin's Honeyeater
Australian Magpie
Grey Butcherbird
Peewee
Black Duck
Wood Duck
Laughing Kookaburra

OTHER COMMON SPECIES:

Superb Blue Wren
Welcome Swallow
Willy Wagtail
Grey Fantail
Galah
Australian Raven
Pied Currawong
Dab Chicks
Straw Necked Ibis
Spotted Turtle Dove
Crested Pigeon
Yellow Tailed Cockatoo
Eastern Rosella
Pale Yellow Robin

LESS COMMON SPECIES:

Rainbow Bee-eater
Dollar Bird
Spangled Drongo
Common Koel
Spotted Pardalote
Red-browed Firetail
Eastern Spinebill
Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Scarlet Honeyeater
Brahminy Kite
Eastern Whipbird
Eastern Golden Plover
Satin Bower Bird
Regent Bower Bird
Red Wattle Bird
White Bellied Sea Eagle
Swamp Harrier
Stubble Quail
Sacred Kingfisher
Black-faced Grey Shrike-thrush

Some of these species may travel from as far north as New Guinea and stay on the course for a short time while food is abundant or as a short stopover on their annual migration. Some, such as the Rainbow Bee-eater tunnel nests in the open fairways and stay for two or three months in late spring to raise their young.



ANIMALS

Red Necked Wallaby, Echidna, Bandicoot, Brush Tailed and Ring Tailed Possum, Fox.

REPTILES

Red Bellied Black Snake, Brown Snakes, Death Adders, Pythons, Goannas and Skinks

CONCLUSION

Since completing the construction of Tuncurry Course in 1985 there has been a continuous enhancement of the vegetation cover by an intensive planting of natives which provide havens and a food supply for the fauna. These include, among others, *Banksia Integrifolia*, *Callistemon*, *Banksia Serrata*, *Tuckeroo*, *Casuarina* plus several *Eucalyptus* varieties. These are supplemented by scrub species of *Grevillia*, *Leptospermum*, *Melaleuca*, and many others. This diversity of vegetation, and open fairways and large dam provide an environment which has been instrumental in increasing the number of species and the population of birds, reptiles and animals.

List of native flora that can be found in the area - supplied by Department of Lands.

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name
AIZOACEAE	<i>Carpobrotus glaucescens</i>	Pigface
APIACEAE	<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>	Flannel Flower
APIACEAE	<i>Platysace ericoides</i>	
APIACEAE	<i>Platysace lanceolata</i>	
ASTERACEAE	<i>Ozothamnus diosmifolius</i>	White Dogwood
CASUARINACEAE	<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>	Black She oak
CASUARINACEAE	<i>Casuarina glauca</i>	Swamp Oak
COMMELINACEAE	<i>Commelina cyanea</i>	Native Wandering Jew
CYPERACEAE	<i>Caustis flexuosa</i>	Curly Wig
DENNSTAEDTIACEAE	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Bracken
ERICACEAE	<i>Astroloma pinifolium</i>	Pine Heath
ERICACEAE	<i>Leucopogon ericoides</i>	
ERICACEAE	<i>Leucopogon esquamatus</i>	
ERICACEAE	<i>Leucopogon lanceolatus</i>	
ERICACEAE	<i>Leucopogon leptospermoides</i>	
ERICACEAE	<i>Leucopogon leptospermoides</i>	
ERICACEAE	<i>Leucopogon muticus</i>	Blunt Beard-heath
ERICACEAE	<i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i>	Coastal Beard-heath
ERICACEAE	<i>Monotoca elliptica</i>	Tree Broom-heath
EUPHORBIACEAE	<i>Homalanthus populifolius</i>	Bleeding Heart
FABACEAE (FABOIDEAE)	<i>Bossiaea ensata</i>	Sword Bossiaea
FABACEAE (FABOIDEAE)	<i>Desmodium gunnii</i>	Slender tick trefoil
FABACEAE (FABOIDEAE)	<i>Desmodium varians</i>	Slender Tick-trefoil
FABACEAE (FABOIDEAE)	<i>Dillwynia retorta</i>	
FABACEAE (MIMOSOIDEAE)	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>	Sydney Golden Wattle
FABACEAE (MIMOSOIDEAE)	<i>Acacia sophorae</i>	Coastal Wattle
FABACEAE (MIMOSOIDEAE)	<i>Acacia suaveolens</i>	Sweet Wattle
FABACEAE (MIMOSOIDEAE)	<i>Acacia ulicifolia</i>	Prickly Moses
LOMANDRACEAE	<i>Lomandra glauca</i>	Pale Mat-rush
LOMANDRACEAE	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush
MYRTACEAE	<i>Angophora costata</i>	Smooth-barked Apple
MYRTACEAE	<i>Corymbia gummifera</i>	Red Bloodwood
MYRTACEAE	<i>Corymbia intermedia</i>	Pink Bloodwood
MYRTACEAE	<i>Eucalyptus botryoides</i>	Southern Mahogany
MYRTACEAE	<i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i>	Blackbutt
MYRTACEAE	<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	Swamp Mahogany
MYRTACEAE	<i>Leptospermum arachnoides</i>	
MYRTACEAE	<i>Leptospermum juniperinum</i>	Prickly Tea-tree
MYRTACEAE	<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	Coastal Tea-tree
MYRTACEAE	<i>Leptospermum liversidgei</i>	Olive Tea-tree
MYRTACEAE	<i>Leptospermum polygalifolium</i>	Tantoon
PHORMIACEAE	<i>Dianella caerulea</i> var. <i>Caerulea</i>	Blue Flax-lily
PHORMIACEAE	<i>Dianella crinoides</i>	
PHORMIACEAE	<i>Dianella longifolia</i>	Blue Flax-lily
PHYLLANTHACEAE	<i>Breynia oblongifolia</i>	Coffee Bush
PITTIOSPORACEAE	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Sweet Pittosporum
POACEAE	<i>Austrodanthonia tenuior</i>	Wallaby Grass
POACEAE	<i>Cymbopogon refractus</i>	Barbed Wire Grass
POACEAE	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Common Couch
POACEAE	<i>Dichelachne</i> sp. - id	
POACEAE	<i>Echinopogon caespitosus</i>	Hedgehog Grass
POACEAE	<i>Entolasia marginata</i>	Bordered Panic
POACEAE	<i>Entolasia stricta</i>	
POACEAE	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	Blady Grass
POACEAE	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass

POACEAE	<i>Poa labillardierei</i>	Tussock Grass
POACEAE	<i>Themeda australis</i>	Kangaroo Grass
POLYGALACEAE	<i>Comesperma ericinum</i>	
PROTEACEAE	<i>Banksia aemula</i>	Wallum Banksia
	<i>Banksia ericifolia</i> subsp.	
	<i>Macrantha</i>	
PROTEACEAE	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Coast Banksia
PROTEACEAE	<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia
PROTEACEAE	<i>Banksia serrata</i>	Old-man Banksia
PROTEACEAE	<i>Persoonia lanceolata</i>	Lance Leaf Geebung
PROTEACEAE	<i>Persoonia levis</i>	Broad-leaved Geebung
PROTEACEAE	<i>Persoonia linearis</i>	Narrow-leaved Geebung
PROTEACEAE	<i>Persoonia virgata</i>	
PROTEACEAE	<i>Petrophile pulchella</i>	Conesticks
RUTACEAE	<i>Boronia pinnata</i>	
RUTACEAE	<i>Zieria arborescens</i>	Stinkwood
SAPINDACEAE	<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i>	Tuckeroo
SAPINDACEAE	<i>Dodonaea triquetra</i>	Large-leaf Hop-bush
XANTHORRHOACEAE	<i>Xanthorrea macronema</i>	Grass Tree