

Kylies Hut walk-in campground

Crowdy Bay National Park



Overview

The historic writer's retreat is the centrepiece of this shady campground in Crowdy Bay National Park. Set up a tent on your choice of campsites in this secluded area.

Camping type	Tent, Remote/backpack camping
Facilities	Toilets
Price	Adults \$12 per night, child (5-15yrs) \$6 per per night. Infants (0-4 yrs) free.
Entry fees	<u>Park entry fees</u> apply and are not included in your camping fees.
Bookings	The campground operates on a first-in, first-served basis and bookings aren't taken. Camping and entry fees are payable at the nearby Diamond Head campground office. Fees must be paid before setting up camp.
Please note	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There's no marked sites, water or power at this campground.• You are welcome to go inside the hut but camping and fires are not permitted inside• Campfires are permitted in the camp area, but we encourage off-the-ground braziers.• You can buy firewood and ice from the office in <u>Diamond Head campground</u>

Kylies Hut is an historic hut that was built by local man Ernie Metcalfe for Australian author Kylie Tennant who moved to the area during World War II. Kylie used the hut as a writer's retreat, no doubt using the stunning scenery of the park for inspiration. Ernie Metcalfe, Diamond Head and Crowdy Bay is portrayed in *The Man on the Headland*.

The hut is in a shady glade and secluded campsites are nestled under nearby trees. It's a great place for relaxing and maybe a spot of writing. And at the rear of Kylies Hut is a track to Kylies Beach. You are welcome to have a look inside the hut, but it's not a place for camping in or for campfires; that's what outside is for.

Take a virtual tour of Kylies Hut walk-in campground captured with [Google Street View Trekker](#).

Local alerts

For the latest updates on fires, closures and other alerts in this area, see

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/camping-and-accommodation/campgrounds/kylies-hut-walkin-campground/local-alerts>

Operated by

Port Macquarie office

🕒 Monday to Friday, 9am to 4.30pm.

☎ 02 6588 5555 for general enquiries only, no bookings.

✉ npws.hastingsmacleay@environment.nsw.gov.au

📍 22 Blackbutt Road, Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Park info

📍 in [Crowdy Bay National Park](#) in the [North Coast](#) region

🕒 Crowdy Bay National Park is always open but may have to close at times due to poor weather or fire danger.

📄 Park entry fees:

\$8 per vehicle per day. Pay park entry fees at the Diamond Head campground onsite office.

Buy a pass (<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/crowdy-bay-national-park/visitor-info#Fees-and-passes>).

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Visitor info

All the practical information you need to know about Kylies Hut walk-in campground.

Getting there and parking

Access to Kylie's Hut walk-in campground is via Indian Head campground:

- Follow the track on your right as you drive into Indian Head campground until you reach a gate
- Kylies Hut and the camping area are a short 150m walk beyond the gate

🛣 Road quality

- Unsealed roads

🚗 Vehicle access

- 2WD vehicles

🅑 Parking

Parking is available at Indian Head campground, where access to Metcalfes walking track leading to Kylie's Hut commences.

Best times to visit

Crowdy Bay National Park generally enjoys a warm subtropical climate. However outside of winter the temperature can reach above 30C, so be sure to carry sunscreen, a hat and plenty of water. Drinking water is not available within the park. Winter days and nights can be cool to cold, particularly in exposed areas of the park.



Spring

Wildflowers paint the dunes and heath in spectacular colour during spring.



Summer

Swimming, boating and fishing – enjoy the delights of Crowdy Bay's magnificent beaches. Look out for the festive Christmas Bell blooms.



Winter

Remember your binoculars and camera to experience the sight of migrating whales.

Weather, temperature and rainfall



Summer temperature

Average	Highest recorded
19°C and 25°C	43.3°C



Winter temperature

Average	Lowest recorded
10°C and 19°C	-1.7°C



Rainfall

Wettest month	Driest month	The area's highest recorded rainfall in one day
February and March	September	310mm

Facilities

Water is not available at this campground so you'll need to bring your own supply.



Toilets

- Non-flush toilets

Maps and downloads



Kylies Hut walk-in campground factsheet

Safety messages



Beach safety

Beaches in this park are not patrolled, and can sometimes have strong rips and currents. These [beach safety tips](#) will help you and your family stay safe in the water.



Camping safety

Whether you're pitching your tent on the coast or up on the mountains, there are many things to consider when camping in NSW national parks. [Find out how to stay safe when camping.](#)



Mobile safety

Call Triple Zero (000) in an emergency. Download the [Emergency +](#) app before you visit, it helps emergency services locate you using your smartphone's GPS. Please note there is limited mobile phone reception in this park and you'll need mobile reception to call Triple Zero (000).

Prohibited



Pets

Pets and domestic animals (other than certified assistance animals) are not permitted. Find out which [regional parks allow dog walking](#) and see the [pets in parks policy](#) for more information.



Smoking

NSW national parks are [no smoking areas](#).

Nearby towns

Laurieton (7 km)

Located at the base of North Brother Mountain in Dooragan National Park, Laurieton is one of the villages that make up the Camden Haven area on the North Coast of NSW. Laurieton is 30km south of Port Macquarie and offers an idyllic holiday spot for families, nature-lovers and anyone who enjoys a holiday by the beach.

www.visitnsw.com

Port Macquarie (12 km)

Vibrant Port Macquarie is surrounded by beautiful waterways - the Hastings River, canals, creeks, bays and the Pacific Ocean. The city also has a five-star collection of golden-sand beaches stretching from [Port Macquarie Beach](#) to Town Beach and north along the 16-km swathe of North Beach.

www.visitnsw.com

Taree (28 km)

Taree is a major mid North Coast city, ringed by superb beaches. It's situated on the Manning River and set against rolling hills.

www.visitnsw.com

Learn more

Kylies Hut walk-in campground is in Crowdy Bay National Park. Here are just some of the reasons why this park is special:

Gifts of nature



The views may grab the headlines, but within the park are more secretive delights that change with the seasons. These include rolling dunes that spring to life with wildflowers and migratory birds that populate the lagoons. There are lots of great lookouts to spot whales from as they migrate along the coast in winter or watch ospreys and falcons circle in the skies. Not to mention, kangaroos, koalas and cockatoos galore. Christmas visitors will receive an extra gift, Crowdy Bay's famous festive season blooms of Christmas bells.

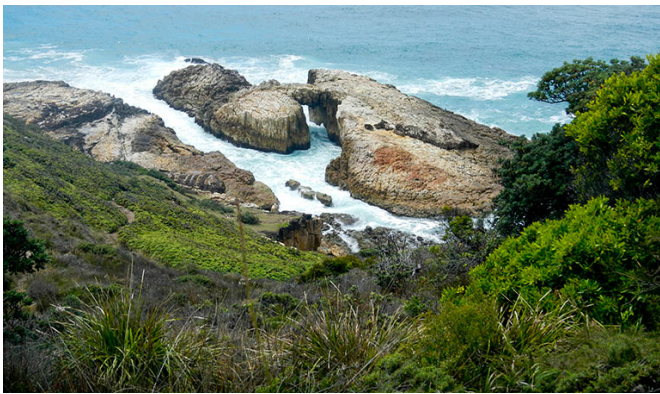


Mermaid lookout track Mermaid lookout track takes you on a tour of Crowdy Bay National Park's secret surprises. Secluded coves, sweeping beaches and mountain views await you on this short hike.



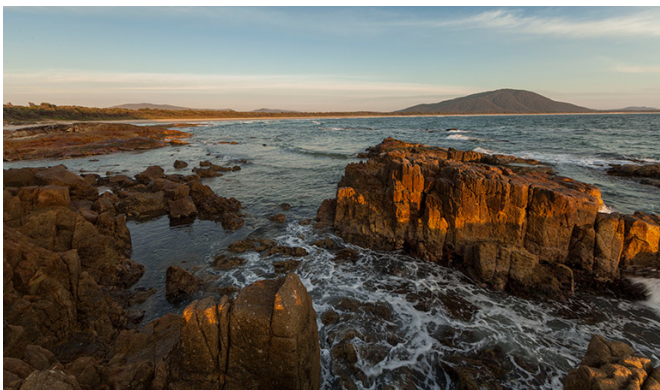
Metcalfes walking track Get up close with nature on Metcalfes walking track, which links Indian Head and Kyllies Beach in Crowdy Bay National Park. It's a family friendly hike and the kids might even spot a koala.

Past present



The Birpai People have climbed the headlands, swum in the rivers, crossed the sand dunes and walked the beaches of Crowdy Bay National Park for thousands of years. The sea and forest areas were a rich food source for the Birpai People, providing fish, shellfish, wallabies and berries. The park protects a number of Aboriginal sites, like shell middens and campsites, the oldest of which are about 6,000 years old. The park continues to be an important place for local Aboriginal people today.

Postcard perfect



This spectacular environment is truly something to write home about. If you can't find the words, try these - panoramic, breathtaking, even gobsmacking. Then again, you'll probably be too busy exploring the tracks, gazing agape at the huge rock arches, communing with wildlife or throwing a line to write lines on a postcard.



Crowdy Gap walking track The short and sweet Crowdy Gap walking track in Crowdy Bay National Park, near Taree, offers a stroll through rainforest with scenic views and the chance to see koalas.



Diamond Head Loop walk Diamond Head loop walk offers scenic coastal views across Crowdy Bay National Park. Expect beaches, lookouts, and glinting rock faces, giving Diamond Head its name.

Writers' retreat



During World War II, the Australian author Kylie Tennant moved to Laurieton where she met the reclusive Ernie Metcalfe, a farmer who grazed cattle on Diamond Head. Ernie built Kylie a timber slab hut to use as a writer's retreat. In return, Kylie portrayed Metcalfe and Crowdy Bay in the book *The Man on the Headland*. Kylie Tennant donated the hut and the surrounding land to Crowdy Bay National Park in 1976. If you're walking along the Metcalfe walk, stop to have a look inside Kylie's hut, or you could set up camp at one of the shady campsites at Kylie's Hut walk-in campground.

Plants and animals you may see

Animals



White-bellied sea eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

White-bellied sea eagles can be easily identified by their white tail and dark grey wings. These raptors are often spotted cruising the coastal breezes throughout Australia, and make for some scenic bird watching. Powerful Australian birds of prey, they are known to mate for life, and return each year to the same nest to breed.



Brown-striped frog (*Lymnastes peronii*)

One of the most common frogs found in Australia, the ground-dwelling brown-striped frog lives in ponds, dams and swamps along the east coast. Also known as the striped marsh frog, this amphibian grows to 6.5cm across and has a distinctive 'tok' call that can be heard all year round.



Lace monitor (*Varanus varius*)

One of Australia's largest lizards, the carnivorous tree-dwelling lace monitor, or tree goanna, can grow to 2m in length and is found in forests and coastal tablelands across eastern Australia. These Australian animals are typically dark blue in colour with whitish spots or blotches.

Plants



Black sheoak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*)

The black sheoak is one of a number of casuarina species found across the east coast of Australia and nearby tablelands. Growing to a height of 5-15m, these hardy Australian native plants can survive in poor or sandy soils. The barrel-shaped cone of the black sheoak grows to 10-30mm long.



Grass tree (*Xanthorrea spp.*)

An iconic part of the Australian landscape, the grass tree is widespread across eastern NSW. These Australian native plants have a thick fire-blackened trunk and long spiky leaves. They are found in heath and open forests across eastern NSW. The grass tree grows 1-5m in height and produces striking white-flowered spikes which grow up to 1m long.

Environments in this park



Coastal environments



Wetland environments



Heathland environments

Education resources (1)



What is a national park?, Stage 2 (Years 3-4), HSIE