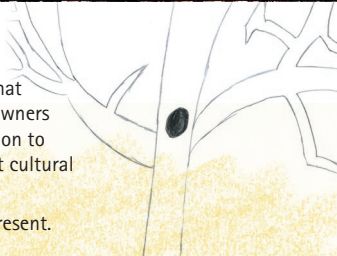




Tradition Ngurra (Country)

Winmalee High School is located within the Country of the Darug and Gundungurra people. We recognise that Darug and Gundungurra traditional owners have a continuous and deep connection to their Country and that this is of great cultural significance to Aboriginal people.

We pay respects to Elders past and present.



Winmalee High School

Bush backyard

Walking track and guide

Our back yard is a special place – a patch of shale-sandstone transition forest. It also has remnants of Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark forest. A shale-Stone Transition forest is a plant community that lays on areas with clay soils, which come from the Wianamatta Shale and sandy soil which is from Hawkesbury Sandstone. Before European settlement this vegetation community was extensive around the edges of Cumberland plain and western Sydney. The forest is now protected as an Endangered Ecological Community. It is listed under Threatened Species Conservation Act and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conversation Act.



Winmalee High School

Bush backyard

Walking track and guide

Learn about and connect with our school's bushland

Learn about and connect with our school's bushland



Bush backyard

What to look for in our bushland

You can find different types of trees in this community including Yellow Bloodwood (*Corymbia eximia*), Red Bloodwood (*Corymbia gummifera*), Narrow Leaved Apple (*Angophera costata*), Turpentine (*Syncarpia glomulifera*), Grey Gum (*Eucalyptus punctata*), Mountain Mahogany (*Eucalyptus notabilis*), and various ranges of Ironbarks.

See if you can identify some of these plants on your walk ...

- Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*)
- Grass Tree (*Xanthorrhoea media*)
- Wattles (*Acacia binervia*; *Acacia amoena*; *Acacia oxycedrus*)
- Old Man Banksia (*Banksia serrata*)
- Hairpin Banksia (*Banksia spinulosa*)
- *Dampiera stricta*
- Hop Bush (*Dodonea triquetra*)
- Mountain Devil (*Lambertia formosa*)
- Golden Glory Pea (*Gompholobium latifolium*)
- Broad-leaved Geebung (*Persoonia levis*)
- Christmas Bush (*Ceratopetalum gummiferum*)
- Trigger Plant (*Stylidium graminifolium*)
- Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*)
- Old Mans Beard (*Caustic flexuosa*)
- Woody Pear (*Xylomelum pyriforme*)



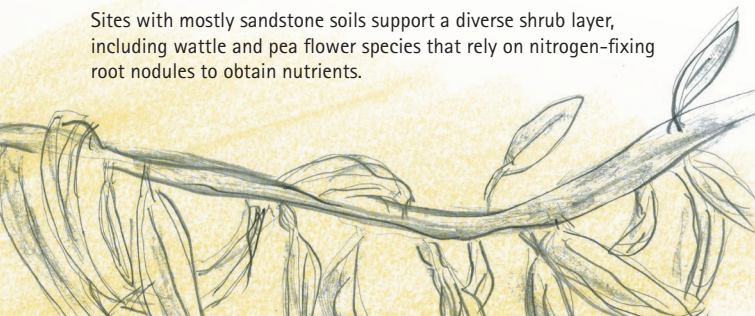
This guide was developed by Winmalee High year 7 students with the support of the Blue Mountains City Council Connect with nature team. Thank you to Tyla, Zac, Sebastien, Jasper, Ariya, Charlie, Ella, Amy, Annabel, Miriam, Ari, Noah, Simona, Lucas, Holly and Ms Barrett, Ms Cameron and Mr Maidment.



Discover ...

Shale-sandstone Transition forests provide habitat for threatened species such as the powerful owl. Hollows and dead standing trees form important habitat for native animals.

Sites with mostly sandstone soils support a diverse shrub layer, including wattle and pea flower species that rely on nitrogen-fixing root nodules to obtain nutrients.



Let's explore our school's backyard



Walking instructions

To start the walk go across the oval and through the fence opening on the left. Follow the sandy, rocky track through a semi-cleared area down to a track junction. From here you can do the loop walk. Follow the left hand track and walk through open forest. The track veers right and then down steps and downhill along the gully. Here you will find the creek bed and ferny vegetation.

The creek flows during rain. See if you can find rock pools. Notice that the vegetation on the slope here changes to turpentine trees. Turpentine trees grow in clay soil that is derived from shale rock. Follow the track until it comes to the next junction with the red bloodwood tree. Follow the track down to the left and you will come to a rock platform. This is a great spot to sit and look out at the forest. Listen for birds.

See if you can spot rainbow lorikeets, king parrots, kookaburras or grey fantails.

On your walk can find this bark?



Pregnant Tree

To the rock platform

To the oval

Steps

Turpentine forest

Footpath to Newton Drive

Creek

Red Bloodwood Junction