

Near the top you will come to a fork in the path. Take the Mt Gravatt Lookout track. A couple of metres further on your right you will see Cocksbur Flower *Plectranthus parviflorus*, a small herb to about 70cm with a fleshy tuberous base and dense clusters of violet blue flowers most of year.



Cocksbur Flower  
*Plectranthus parviflorus*

Several Queensland Blue Gums *Eucalyptus tereticornis* can be found near the edge of the mown picnic area at the Lookout. Distinguished by their patterned blue-grey bark, often hanging in long strips, these are favourite Koala food trees. Timber getters know these trees as Forest Red Gum because of the attractive red to dark-red heartwood.



Queensland Blue Gum  
*Eucalyptus tereticornis*

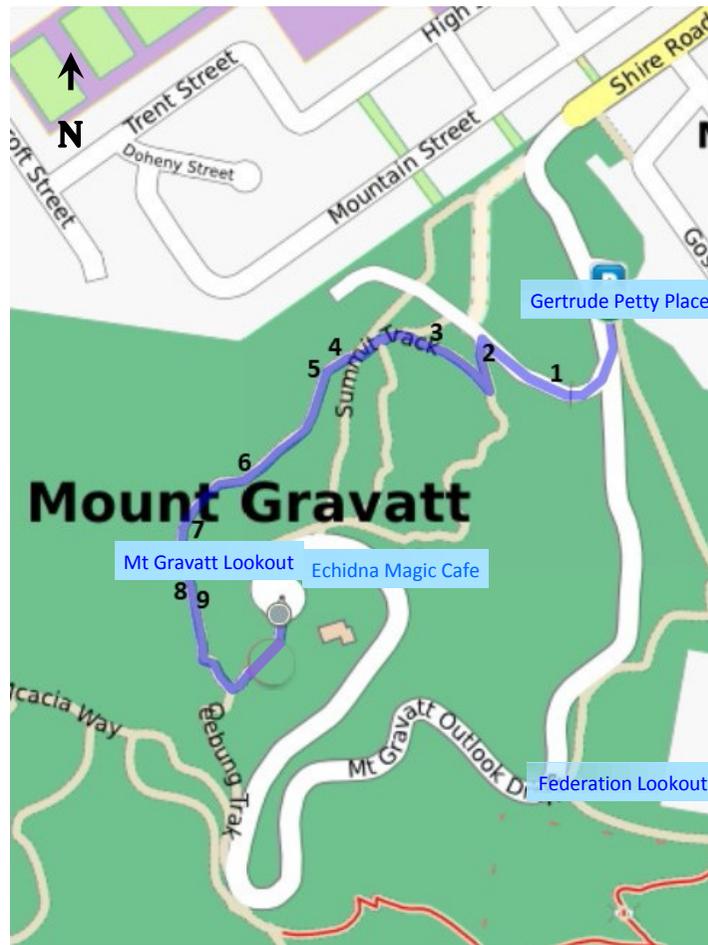
Rest at the Lookout and enjoy the views over the city and out to the coast. On a clear day you can see the Main Range to the west and the distinctive Glass House Mountains to the north. Perhaps you'd like to visit the Echidna Magic Cafe, a great place to sit and soak up the magnificent panorama whilst enjoying a coffee or meal. We advise you to return to Gertrude Petty Place via the Summit Track, which is safer than using the road.

Compilation: Michael Fox & Susan Jones  
Photography: Michael Fox & Chris Bamberry  
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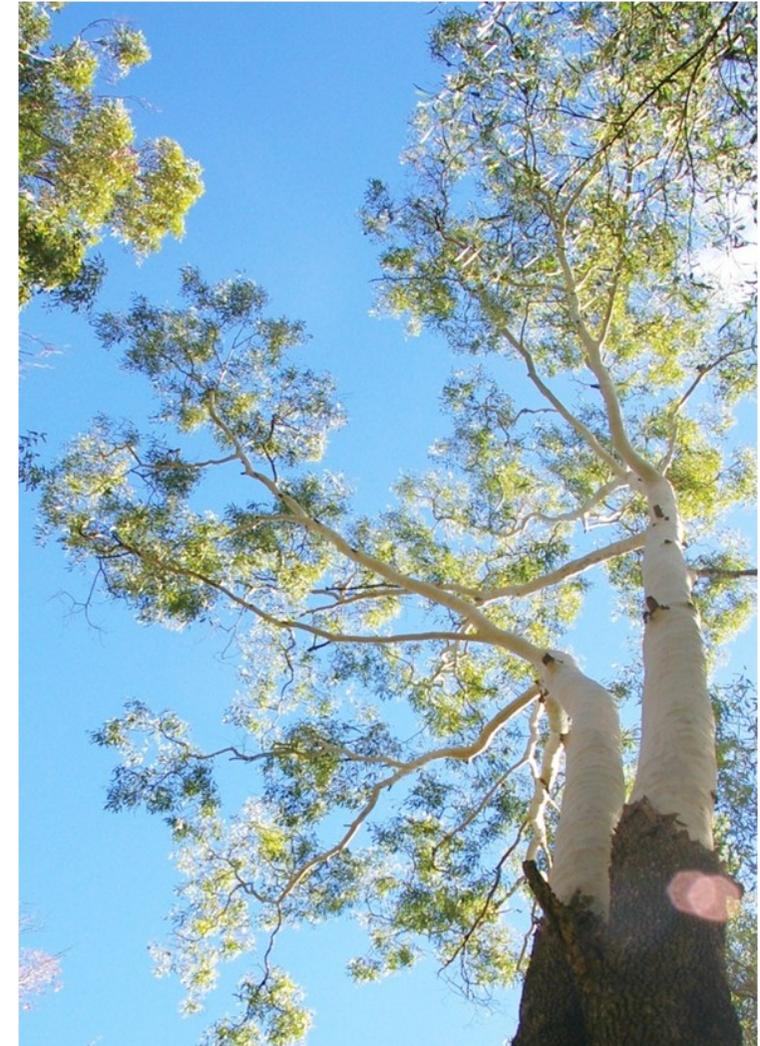
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[Click on map to view walk on www.mapmywalk.com](http://www.mapmywalk.com)

For further information refer to:  
*'Flora & Fauna of Mt Gravatt Reserve'* Susan Jones & Michael Fox: Mt Gravatt Environment Group, 2011  
*'An Island in Suburbia' – the Natural & Social History of Toohey Forest'* ed. Catterall & Wallace: Institute of Applied Environmental Research, Griffith University, 1987  
*'Mt Gravatt Then and Now - Vol 1'* Mt Gravatt Historical Society, 2004

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## Mt Gravatt Summit Track

Gertrude Petty Place  
to Mt Gravatt Lookout

2 km return  
1 to 1.5 hours

## Mt Gravatt Reserve

The Reserve, a remnant of once extensive bushland, now protects rare plant and animal species that, just 150 years ago, were widespread.

### Geology

The Reserve contains the headwaters of Mimosa/Bulimba and Ekibin/Norman Creeks, so it has an important role in maintaining water quality of these suburban creeks.

Rocks of the erosion-resistant Neranleigh-Fernvale group (about 350 million years old) occur on Mt Gravatt, creating the steep slopes and shallow lithosol (poor quality, mainly rock fragments) soils.

### Fauna

Native ground mammals such as [Echidnas](#) and Bandicoots live here, as do arboreal mammals such as [Koalas](#), Sugar and Squirrel Gliders, Ringtail and Brush-tail Possums.

Mt Gravatt is an extremely valuable bird habitat with forty-six species of birds recorded. As remnant bushland, it is an important part of the overall habitat for migratory birds. Many other birds, including Grey Fantails, Firetail Finches, Striated Pardalotes and Pheasant Coucals, live in the forest year-round.

Reptiles such as Carpet Pythons, Yellow-faced Whipsnakes, Golden Crowned and Green Tree snakes, Bearded Dragons



Koala  
*Phascolarctos cinereus*



Red-browed Finch, Firetail  
*Neochmia temporalis*

Front cover: Moreton Bay Ash *Corymbia tessellaris*

and Skink species may reveal themselves to the keen observer.

Several frog species, including Green and Eastern Dwarf Tree Frogs, Rocket Frogs, Striped Marsh Frogs and the introduced Cane Toad have been identified.

Forty-five species of butterflies are found here. It is noteworthy that the Reserve is an overwintering site for congregations of the Common Crow Butterfly.

Some species 'hill top' (collect in trees on mountain tops) at the Lookout in search of mates. The abundance of native grasses, rushes and sedges ensures the Reserve is one of the few areas in suburban Brisbane to find Skipper butterflies.

### Flora

Two hundred and fifty-four indigenous plant species have been found in the Reserve.

Most trees are Angiosperms (flowering plants), dominated by members of the *Myrtaceae* family: Eucalypts, Angophoras and Brush Box. Species associated with rain forests are often found in gullies.

Ferns like Basket, Bracken and Rough Maidenhair are seen on rocky slopes.

Native grasses include Kangaroo, Blady, Graceful, Creeping Beard, Pademelon Grass and Wiry Panic.

Fungi, mosses and lichens thrive when conditions are ideal. Some may be tiny, like *Cladonia floerkeana* Lichen, which is an unassuming blue-grey until it is ready to reproduce.

Lichen photo: Chris Bamberry



Spotted Sedge-skipper  
*Hesperilla ornata*



Lichen  
*Cladonia floerkeana*

## Summit Track

The walk goes from Gertrude Petty Place at the base of Mt Gravatt, then winds around the northern face. The track reaches the Lookout from the west. As you walk you will have views of the city, Glasshouse Mountains, D'Aguiar Range, Mt Coot-tha and over Toohey Mountain to Main Range.

**Start:** Gertrude Petty Place on Mt Gravatt Outlook Drive. Parking available.

**Distance:** Two kilometres (return)

**Grade:** Easy. Uphill all the way: some steps.

**Time:** One to one and a half hours, depending on walking rate and time spent exploring.

**Bushland etiquette:** Please abide by Council signs; stay on track; keep dogs on-leash (carry bags for dog droppings) and take out your rubbish.

**Directions:** From Gertrude Petty Place take concrete path then follow signs to Summit. Cross to bitumen side road; go around gate. Find Station 1.

### Self-Guided Walk

#### Station 1

The first section of the track passes through an area of Neranleigh-Fernvale red earth residual soils. These relic soils occur at several locations around Brisbane at about 60 – 80m above sea level.

Look at the many angular stones in the red soil of the roadside cutting. These sharp-edged quartzite and chert stones have not been smoothed by water action.

Attractive Giant Moss *Dawsonia longiseta* covers the bank on the right.

Look left and see holes of approximately 5cm diameter in the bank. These are nesting holes made by Striated Pardalotes *Pardalotus striatus*. Their two or three note call is heard winter to spring.



Giant Moss  
*Dawsonia longiseta*

A little further on the uphill side is a Hickory Wattle *Acacia disparrima*. Acacia 'leaves' are not true leaves but phyllodes (*fill-odes*): leaf stalks modified to perform as leaves.

Continue along the bitumen. Grevilleas beside the track are not native to this area, nor are the occasional Silver Wattles (North Qld species).

Take the Summit Track to Mt Gravatt Lookout.

## Station 2

In the angle between the track and road is a double-trunked Tallowwood *Eucalyptus microcorys*: the bunched delicate bright green fragrant foliage make this a favoured Koala food tree. Tallowwoods have distinctive orange bark with soft fibres forming a wavy pattern with scattered "pock-marks".

At the base is a Barbed Wire Vine *Smilax australis*: an unfriendly thorny vine with beautiful cream flowers and a delicate citrus perfume. This is a food plant for Red Narrow-necked Leaf Beetles *Lilioceris bakewelli*.

Look for Scrambling Lily *Geitonoplesium cymosum*: vines with delicate white-yellow flowers, clusters of black berries and narrow leaves 3-5cm long. Run your thumb across the top of a leaf to feel the strong central vein. The closely related Wombat Berry *Eustrephus latifolius* (Station 5) has multiple veins on the underside and no strong vein on top.

Mt Gravatt's open forest has a good variety of tree species. Look left before the track bend to see a Grey Ironbark *Eucalyptus siderophloia* (deeply furrowed dark bark) and Broad-leaved White Mahogany *Eucalyptus carnea* (stringy fibrous bark).



Nearby are Small-fruited Grey Gums *Eucalyptus propinqua*, which shed their bark late summer, revealing irregular patches of fresh terracotta colour that gradually fades to various shades of grey.

Watch for twin scratches on bark made by Koalas. If scratches are fresh, look for a Koala high in branches.

## Station 3

Here you will see several spindly specimens of Brush Box *Lophostemon confertus*. In more favourable conditions, such as alluvial soils on edges of rain forests, these trees grow into giants. They have a rough bark at the base and smooth pale orange bark on the branches. Flowers are creamy-white with feathery petals and the large glossy leaves occur in whorls. Many birds, butterflies and native bees utilise Brush Box for leaves, seeds or pollen.

Find clumps of Blue Flax-lily *Dianella caerulea*: blue-yellow flowers in spring, followed by attractive purple berries. Run your fingers along a leaf to feel teeth along edges and under the strong central vein.

Note weed species, like Creeping Lantana *Lantana montevidenses*, invading open land under power lines. Creeping Lantana berries are eaten by birds which spread this weed from local gardens. Creeping Lantana has infected most of the mountain so eradication is a long term objective.



## Station 4

Find several small specimens of Moreton Bay Ash *Corymbia tessellaris*. (Front cover) The rough bark of the lower trunk has a regular tile pattern while the bark above and on the branches is smooth. Lorikeets feed on flower nectar and Sugar Bag Native Bees *Trigona carbonaria* search out pollen.



## Station 5

Four different tree species can be seen close together, a Tallowwood, a Small-fruited Grey Gum at the rear, a Spotted Gum *Corymbia citriodora* and a Rusty Gum *Angophora leiocarpa*, closest to the track. Leaves of the Rusty Gum are arranged in pairs opposite each other, while those of the Spotted Gum grow alternately along the branches. The bark of these last two trees is 'dimpled'.

Near the end of the wooden bridge is a sheltered cave under an overhanging cliff. Notice white quartz veins threading through the 350 million year old metamorphic rocks.

Wombat Berry is growing on the bank between the cave and bridge (pink-white feathered flower, orange berries, similar to the Scrambling Lily at Station 2). Run your thumb across under leaf to feel the multiple veins. No strong vein on top of leaf.



There are many weed grasses and Lantana here but keep a lookout for native Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra*: soft narrow leaves and long weeping flower stalks that carry seeds in triangular clusters along the seed heads. Other native



Kangaroo Grass  
*Themeda triandra*

grasses in this area are Barbed Wire Grass *Cymbopogon refractus* (flower spikelets turn back like ties on a barbed-wire fence) and Wiry Panic *Entolasia stricta* (hairy, loosely tufted grass with leaves appearing to stand out at right angles from the stem). Many of our small butterflies are dependent on these grass species.

The rocks used to build the stone walls on the uphill side of the path are pieces of grey granite brought from a quarry at Mt Coot-tha.

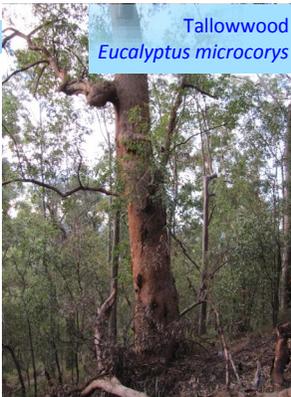


Winter Apple  
*Eremophila debilis*

Winter Apple *Eremophila debilis* grows above stone wall. It's a sprawling ground plant with elliptical leaves, and white, pink or mauve flowers. Cream fruit may be seen throughout year.

### Station 6

The inaccessible steep northern slopes support many of the remaining old growth trees like this Tallowwood. Old trees with hollows are important for Kookaburras, Sacred Kingfishers, Rainbow and Scaly-breasted Lorikeets and Pale-headed Rosellas, which all need nest hollows for breeding. Sugar and Squirrel Gliders also need nest hollows for breeding.



Tallowwood  
*Eucalyptus microcorys*

In dry sclerophyll forests like Mt Gravatt our native trees typically start to develop hollows at around 100 years. Broken branches allow access for fungi and white ants but small hollow development may still take another 50 years. Much of the Reserve is a relatively young forest with limited nest hollows because the mountain and surrounds were logged for railway timber up until declaration in July 1893.

### Station 7

A strangler fig, Rock Fig *Ficus rubiginosa*, on the uphill side spreads its roots over the rocky outcrop. The fleshy fruit of this rainforest species attracts local seed dispersers like Figbirds *Sphecotheres viridis* and the Grey-headed Flying-fox *Pteropus poliocephalus*: seeds dropped in rock crevices or forks of trees germinate then send down roots that strangle their host.



Rock Fig  
*Ficus rubiginosa*

The strangler fig combined with ferns and creepers here and below the track, suggests the presence of reliable water seeping out of the rocks. Mountain Bracken *Calochaena dubias* is present, as is Basket Fern *Drynaria rigidula*: note the dry sterile nest leaves that collect rain-water and nutrients as well as supporting the erect fronds that bear spores.



Basket Fern  
*Drynaria rigidula*

Below the track the hillside is littered with rocky scree formed from metamorphosed bedding rock fractured into small pieces that gradually move down the steep slope. It is difficult for any vegetation to establish on the easily disturbed scree.

### Station 8

On your right is a Poison Peach *Trema tomentosa*, a shrub or small tree with hairy matt green ovate to lanceolate leaves. Its small shiny black berries ripen March to June feeding a wide variety of native birds.



Speckled Line-blue  
*Catopyrops florinda*

Its leaves are eaten by caterpillars of the Speckled Line-blue Butterfly: to find these well disguised green caterpillars, look for chewing and black attendant ants.

Close by is Sweet Sarsaparilla *Smilax glycyphylla*, a smooth stemmed climber with alternate three-veined leaves. White flowers in spring are followed by round black fruits. Early European settlers boiled leaves to produce bitter-sweet tea as a tonic and to prevent scurvy when fresh fruits and vegetables were lacking.

### Station 9

Look for specimens of the Coastal Banksia *Banksia integrifolia*: the nectar of the distinctive bottle brush flowers is an important winter food for Sugar Gliders *Petaurus breviceps*.



Coastal Banksia  
*Banksia integrifolia*

On the other side of the track is a Forest She-oak *Allocasuarina torulosa*, a member of the Casuarina family. The fine green branches are surrounded by rings of small scales which are actually reduced leaves. This tree is an important food source for the endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus lathami*.



Forest She-oak  
*Allocasuarina torulosa*