

Where to find littoral rainforests in the Manning

SEPP 26 rainforests shown in green
Other littoral rainforests coloured blue

Diamond Beach

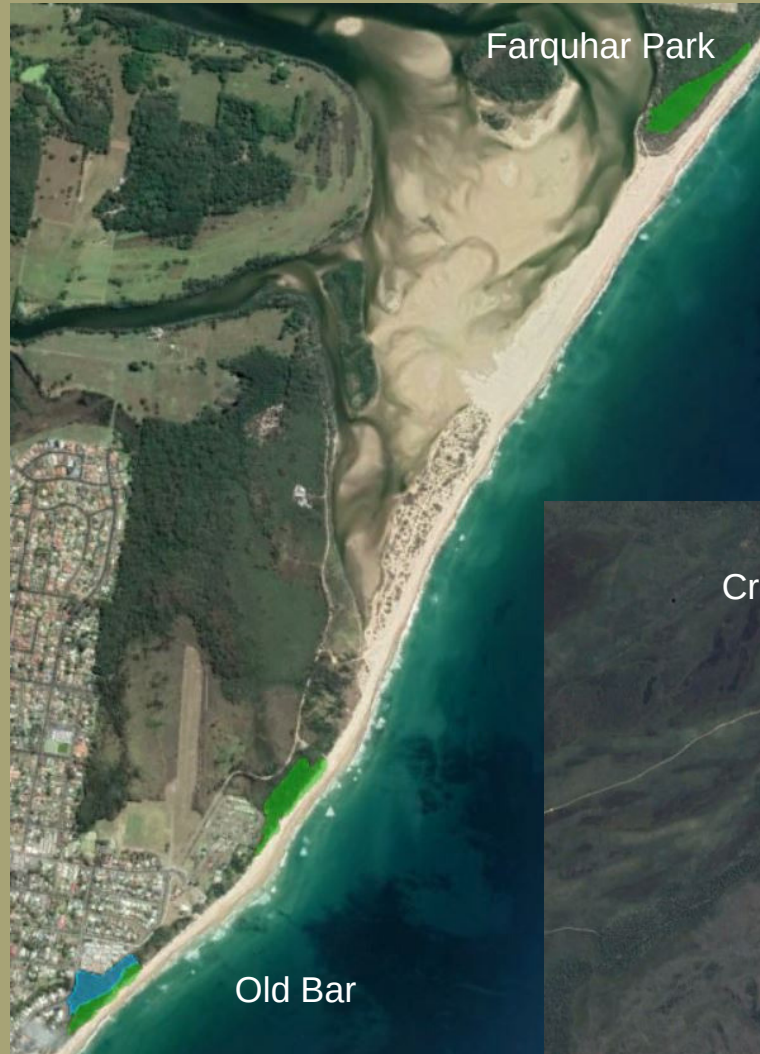
Red Head

Black Head



Farquhar Park

Old Bar



Saltwater NP



Manning Pt



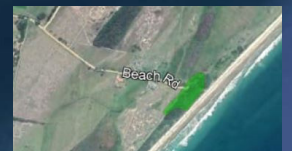
Crowdy Gap camping area

Crowdy Head

Harrington



Beach Rd
Mitchells Island



Species found in Manning Littoral Rainforests

Littoral rainforest vegetation is diverse and about 100 tree and shrub species can be found in Manning littoral rainforests. The species present depend on the soil (whether it derives from beach sands or headland rocks), shelter, disturbance and so on. For example, the headland clays at Red Head and Black Head support a different suite of species to the more recent Holocene Sands of Harrington to Crowdy; and Manning Point to Farquhar Park. In general, littoral rainforest communities possess few epiphytes and ferns. The headland communities at Red Head are dominated by Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*) and Water Gum (*Tristaniaopsis laurina*). These species are more commonly associated with waterways and the moist forest of the hinterland and ranges. At Red Head they provide dense canopy cover in a very salt-exposed location.

A number of species are shared by most of the littoral rainforest remnants in the Manning, but each strand is unique in terms of the particular plant species found.

Tuckeroo (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*) is a common dominant species, for example at Harrington and Old Bar. In many cases, Coastal Banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) which is not normally associated with rainforest, occurs as an emergent above the littoral rainforest. More typical rainforest vegetation can develop under the shelter of the Banksia and over time the Banksias die out (unless there is, for example, a fire event, in which case the Banksias respond better after the fire and the cycle begins again).

Thus, while typical rainforest species with moist, evergreen, leathery leaves dominate littoral rainforest, scattered individuals of hard-leaved or sclerophyllous plants such as, Coastal Banksia, Smooth-barked Apple, Bangalay and Forest Red Gum may also be present.

Plum Pine (*Podocarpus elatus*) is another common species and is dominant at Manning Point. Its fruits commonly litter the ground in autumn and winter.

You may notice that several rainforest species have a common name which includes 'Brush' – this was the nineteenth century term for rainforest. 'Brush' Turkeys inhabit rainforest.

Common Trees and Shrubs of Manning littoral rainforests

Species, Common name

Alphitonia excelsa, Red Ash

Arytera divaricata, Coogara

Banksia integrifolia, Coastal Banksia

Elaeodendron australe syn *Cassine australis*, Red Olive Berry

Clerodendron tomentosum, Hairy Clerodendron

Cupaniopsis anacardioides, Tuckeroo

Diospyros pentamera, Grey Persimmon

Drypetes australasica, Yellow Tulip

Ficus fraseri, Sandpaper Fig

Ficus rubiginosa, Rusty Fig

Glochidion ferdinandi, Cheese Tree

Guioa semiglaucula, Guioa

Notelaea longifolia, Large Mock-olive

Pittosporum revolutum, Rough-fruited /Yellow Pittosporum



Planchonella australis, Black Apple

Myrsine variabilis syn *Rapanea*, Variable Muttonwood

Rhodomyrtus psidioides, Native Guava

Sarcomelicope simplicifolia, Yellow Acronychia

Scolopia braunii, Flintwood

Syzygium smithii syn *Acmena smithii*, Lilly Pilly

Wilkiea heugliana, Common Wilkiea



Compiled by Pieta Laing 2019

More information:

www.midcoast2tops.org.au/resources

LITTORAL RAINFORESTS OF THE MANNING COAST

Most people will agree that rainforests are special places. Rainforests that occur close to the coast—called littoral rainforests, are particularly special but need to be protected and helped because, in general, they have been very degraded. Indeed only a small fraction of the littoral rainforests that once occurred now remain. All of these small pockets of littoral rainforest in New South Wales are recognized as an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. Most of these remnants are also covered by the 1988 State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) 26 – Littoral Rainforests.

Littoral rainforests occur on both the deep sand behind beaches as well as the more clayey soils on headlands. Rainforests are 'closed forests', where 70% or more of the sky is obscured by tree leaves and limbs. In littoral rainforest the canopy might be only a metre or two in height, so they vary from low thickets in wind exposed environments to tall forest in more protected sites.

It is the sad case that the canopy of many of the remnant littoral rainforests has been compromised so there is no longer a 70% cover; and weed invasion can be a major problem. While perhaps not immediately recognised by some as a rainforest, these degraded littoral rainforests are still listed as EECs and appropriate care should allow the canopy of these important areas to be restored over time.

The vegetation on the seaward side of a littoral rainforest is usually wind-pruned but this dense canopy provides protection for the less salt-tolerant species of the rainforest. Damage to vegetation on the seaward side of a littoral rainforest can have devastating effects on the rainforest.

