

Cooktown Update



A few new things to see in and around Cooktown. Firstly, Nature's Powerhouse Information Centre in the Botanic Gardens in Walker Street has really hit its stride with great exhibits, lots of local information and great food. It adjoins the walking tracks to Finch and Cherry Bays and you can return to town via the track from Cherry Tree Bay to Grassy Hill.

Also, it has been remiss of me not to have included the 4wd track to the mouth of the Annan River. Head down the Quarantine Bay Road just to the south of town and turn right towards the golf club. A couple of hundred metres down the road a sand track heads to the right. Warning! This is a very narrow sand road not suitable for non 4wds or those nervous about towing trailers. If you meet oncoming traffic you may have to do some reversing. Drive slowly. The good news is that you get access to a long and wild piece of coastline where, at this stage, the council don't seem to object to campers – so please leave the place tidy and don't drive over the vegetation! Like most places along the coast here it can be very windy.

Another little spot that might interest some is a small picnic area on the Annan River just to the north of the Trevathen Creek crossing. A big sign proclaims "Annan River Water Supply". A few kms along here is a small, rarely used picnic area where, again, Council don't seem too concerned about overnight camping. So take your rubbish away. Probably not a good place to swim though!

And a quick word on Archer Point – turning right just before you reach the first small headland takes you into some sheltered and forested campsites. Very nice during the week when the place isn't too busy. Be sensible with fire. Oh, and Mungumby Lodge has gone a bit upmarket. Expect to pay quite a bit more than the prices I quoted in the book.

