



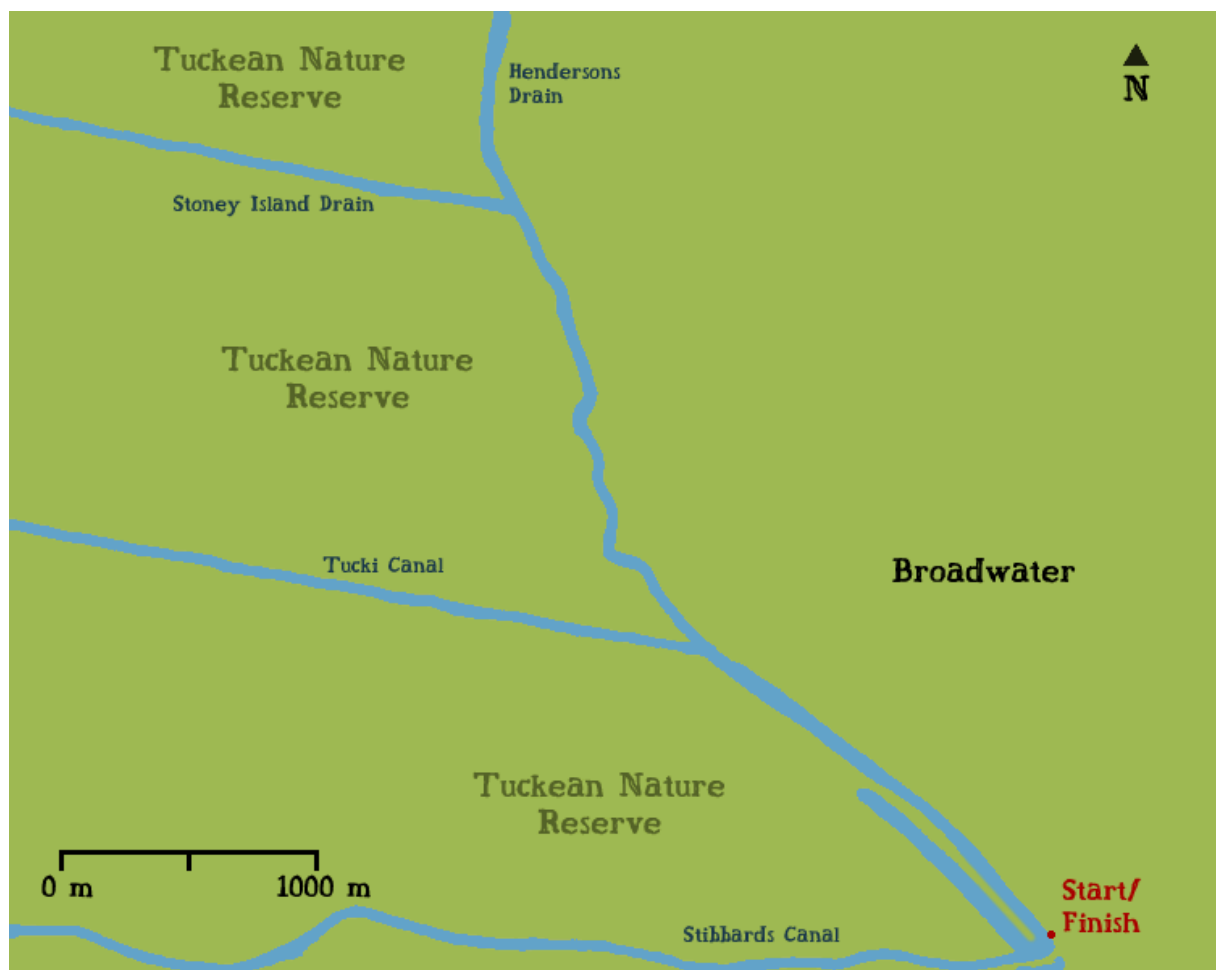
ESCAPOLOGY

Take yourself out there!

Tuckean Nature Reserve

The Tuckean Nature Reserve is a protected wetland in the middle of an agricultural area which is home to a lot of wildlife, particularly birds. In mid to late summer there are also thousands of lily pads lining the canals.

WATERWAY	Tuckean Nature Reserve Canals
REGION	Northern Rivers
DISTANCE	5km or more
PADDLING TIME	1 hour or more
START/FINISH	Bagotville Barrage Bagotville Road Bagotville NSW
PARKING	Small off-road grassy area
TOILETS	None
CONDITIONS	Narrow creeks, open to wind
OTHER NEARBY	<u>Ballina Island</u>
PADDLES	<u>Evans Head</u>



A street map and directions can be downloaded from whereis.com. Enter 'Bagotville Road, Bagotville'.

www.escapology.com.au



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Step By Step



This paddle is about 25km southwest of Ballina. The car park is really just a small grassy area at the north eastern tip of the Bagotville Barrage that you might mistake as being part of someone's property, but not much parking is needed because it is likely that you will have this little gem all to yourself.

There are no toilets on this paddle, so if you need to go then the closest can be reached by driving west on the Bagotville Rd and then turning right at the T-Intersection with the Coraki-Broadwater Rd. You will soon see the toilets on your left, near a boat ramp.

The Barrage was built in 1971 and prevents the saltwater of the Richmond River from reaching farmland upstream whilst allowing freshwater to escape into the Richmond River when the levels are getting too high. Prior to its construction, this whole area was tidal estuarine wetland. Now, there is a clear difference between the vegetation downstream, which is primarily mangroves, and upstream, which is mainly paperbark (Melaleuca) swamp forest.

The hundreds of lily pads that you often see lining the banks are from the cape water lily. This is from South Africa and is therefore classified as a weed, but it is now habitat for the Combcrested Jacana so it is probably here to stay.



When you are ready to launch, simply slide down the grassy embankment just north of the Bagotville Barrage and choose which canal you would like to explore. As you can see on the map, there are a few ways that you can go once you are on the water. You may have noticed that the time and distance estimates that we have given for this paddle are a little less specific than usual. This is because when you are on this paddle, you tend to just drift around being at one with nature. However, if you are someone who prefers to be told where to go, we recommend that you take the right hand canal up to Henderson's drain.



The Tuckean Nature Reserve is the remains of a swamp that has been cleared and drained. The drains that you can see on the map are man made and are used to reduce flooding in the surrounding agricultural areas. Whilst the drains are very effective at controlling flooding, they have led to a reduction in the water table and exposed acid sulfate soils. When it rains heavily, the run-off increases the acidity of the water to levels not suitable for aquatic life. The NPWS is currently looking at ways to manage this.

NPWS surveys have identified more than 100 bird species, 14 mammals and 10 species of reptiles and amphibians in the reserve. Some of the birds seen in the area are Black Swans, Whistling Kites, Combcrested Jacanas, Royal Spoonbills, Pelicans, and even Broilgas! They can be a little shy because they don't see people too often so if you want to get a good look at them, it is worth taking your binoculars with you.

A paddle through the Tuckean Nature Reserve with its abundant wildlife and no other people in sight is an enriching and invigorating experience that you never want to end. Don't forget to come back to reality... eventually...



Need Stuff?

PADDLE GEAR & ADVICE	Ballina Recreation Mart Cnr Kerr & Fox Street Ballina (02) 6681 4000	CLEANSING ALE	Shaw's Bay Hotel 2 Brighton Street Ballina (02) 6686 2034	BREKKY	Cafe29 Riverside Cnr Cherry & Fawcett Street, Ballina (02) 6681 9222
		BUDGET BED	Ballina Lakeside Holiday Park Fenwick Drive, Ballina 1800 888 268	LUNCH	Pelican 181 12-14 Fawcett Street Ballina (02) 6686 9181
LOCAL KAYAK CLUB	TBA	FLASH BED	Tallaringa Views 1344 Eltham Road Alstonville 0422 516 545	DINNER	Wicked Cnr Cherry & Tamar Street, Ballina (02) 6686 2564