

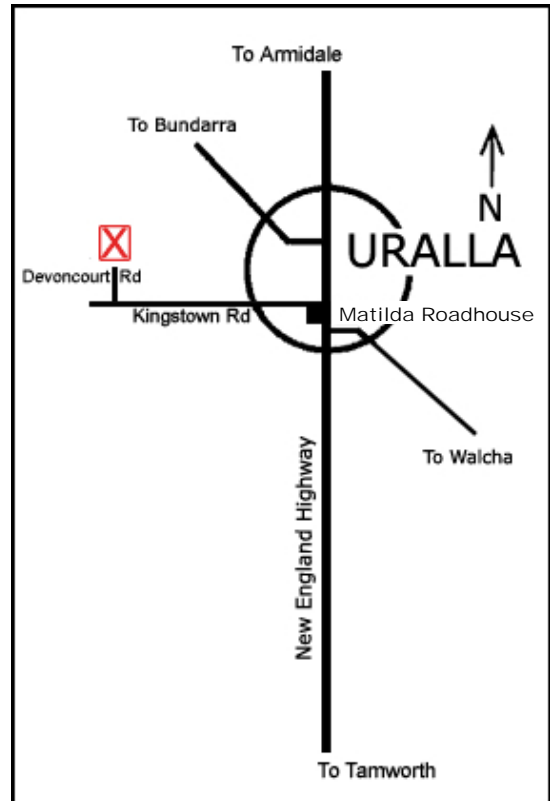
Uralla Recreation & Fossicking Reserve

Located approximately 6km from town, the Uralla Recreation & Fossicking Reserve offers ample parking for caravans and campervans, free camping and toilet facilities, picnic tables, wood fired BBQs (subject to fire restrictions) and fresh drinking water.

Feel free to take a dip on a hot summer's day, or just relax and be serenaded by the variety of bird life that calls the reserve home. Be sure to keep an eye out for the occasional kangaroo or wallaby passing through.

Gold pans are available for hire at the Uralla Visitors Information Centre at a nominal charge, so why not try your hand at panning for gold just like our early pioneers did all those years ago.

Pets are allowed into the reserve, but owners are requested to keep them on a leash at all times. Please use the rubbish bins provided to dispose of litter. Shooting is prohibited.



Gold Panning Instructions

Don't let anyone tell you that this country's rivers and streams no longer contain gold. Every year storms and heavy rain bring more to the surface, continually renewing nature's supply. It's all there for the taking, and the gold pan is still the best way to find it!

Before you begin to process your first pan full of material, look around for the best location for panning. Select a spot where the water is a minimum of six inches deep and flowing just fast enough to keep the muddy water from impairing your vision of your pan, preferably with a place you can sit down comfortably.

Step A. Washing off Larger Rocks and Moss

1. Fill pan 3/4 full of gravel, then submerge it deep enough so it's just under the surface of the water. Give the pan several vigorous shakes back and forth and from side to side, but not too vigorous as to wash material out of the pan.
2. Change from the shaking motion to a gentle circular movement, so the material starts revolving in a circle. This process will cause most of the dirt and clay to dissolve and wash out of the pan. If roots and moss surface, work them over your pan with your fingers to dissolve any lumps. Pick out the larger rocks after making sure that they are washed clean.

Step B. Washing off Lighter Sand and Gravel

1. Hold the pan just under the water and tilt it slightly away from you. Begin to swirl the water from side to side, with a slight forward tossing motion. Take care, but with sufficient force to move the surface and the lighter gravel out over the edge of the pan.
2. Levelling the pan from time to time and shaking it back and forth will cause the light material to come to the surface and the gold to settle to the bottom.



Step C. Washing off Black Sand and Concentrates

At this point it is better for the beginner to raise the pan completely out of the water, leaving about an inch of water in it. Tilt the pan slightly towards you and swirl the water slowly in a circular motion to check the pan for gold flecks and pieces that are easily picked out by hand.

Then submerge the pan again in water and repeat process 1 and 2 of step B for final concentration. This is the most critical part of panning. Make sure this final process is accomplished with as much diligence as possible so you do not wash out the gold.

If you have a plastic pan, the use of a magnet can be employed to quickly aid in the separation of gold from the black magnetic sand concentrate.

Apply the magnet to the bottom side of the pan and move it in a small circular motion with the pan slightly tilted. This will swiftly isolate the gold from the black sand.

Panning Tips



A secret to speed up the final steps is to keep a small squeeze bottle of detergent close at hand. A couple of drops in the pan during the last separation will break the surface tension of the water and speed up the operation considerably.

An item that is considered a necessary part of a panner's equipment is a panning sieve. The sieve sets over the pan and can screen or classify the larger cobbles, making the panning process much easier.