

Tingalpa Creek - the freshwater section



above:the Tingalpa reservoir, and, below, the JC Trotter Memorial Park



left: shelter shed

Tingalpa Creek has its origins near Mt Cotton to the south east of Brisbane, and can be seen at the Venman Bushland National Park, West Mt Cotton Road.

There are a couple of walking trails in the park, that explore the creek: the Tingalpa Creek circuit — 2.5km circuit (allow 1.5 hours), and the Venman circuit — 7.5km (allow 4 hours). These trails follow the banks of Tingalpa Creek, through melaleuca swamp and into open eucalypt forests. The Venman circuit links to an 18km trail system that works its way through Neville Lawrie Reserve and Daisy Hill Conservation Park.

Downstream, Tingalpa Creek runs into Tingalpa Reservoir at the Leslie Harrison Dam. The Mt Cotton Road from Mt Gravatt crosses Tingalpa Creek, and at higher dam water levels, the creek, as seen from the road, is filled with backed up stored water.

The dam is closed to fishing, canoeing and swimming. The surrounds of the dam are particularly beautiful, and consists usually of melaleuca or paperbarks growing in shallow waters, with open eucalypt forest away from the water.

This article covers the 3.5 kilometre circuit walk in the JC Trotter Memorial Park, as it offers about the only access and opportunity to view the lake. The park is accessed from Cherbon Street, off Mt Cotton Road, Burbank, and your street directory is best for finding it. Gates are locked from 6pm to 8am, but the carpark is only 50 metres in through the gate, and earlier arrivals can walk in anytime.

A shelter shed with electric BBQ's is 50 m from the carpark, down the trail. The map (page over) shows that the reservoir trail runs south to clear an arm of the swamp, crosses a small bridge, then immediately turns north for 580 metres. At that point the trail emerges onto a wide cleared avenue where pylons carry power lines from east to west. The trail follows the pylons, to an open view of the reservoir, a bench to rest on, and eventually loops its way back.

Wild flowers, from tiny stars in the marsh grasses, to giant banksia candlesticks, can be found. The early morning visitor may see the resident wallabies.



top image: Reservoir trail

mid image; the small bridge

lower image: open eucalypt forest



