From Kahibah to Adamstown, the track consistently slopes downhill. Continuing through the Glamorgan State Conservation Area, this section is full of interesting features: The track crosses Flagg and Little Flagg Creeks and passes through Mahogany, Sydney peppermint and smooth-barked apple forest. The area is home to possums, bandicoots, echidnas, rosellas, honeyeaters and more.

A curved former rail tunnel of 181 metres guides the path through the smooth-barked apple forest. The area is home to possums, bandicoots, echidnas, rosellas, honeyeaters and more.

The Fernleigh Track area was home to the indigenous Awabakal people. They lived amongst the rich natural environment and utilised the resources of the open and rocky coastline, swamp land and hilly forests.

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The Fernleigh Tunnel is a highlight, a restored 181-metre long, curved rail tunnel that marks the connecting point between the cities of Lake Macquarie and Newcastle.

The track is built along a green corridor, taking in wetland, coastal and bushland environments. You may see various species of birds and wildlife that call this stunning area home.

Features of the Fernleigh Track

- See heritage railway relics along the track, including former stations, signage and old rail sleepers
- The Fernleigh Tunnel is a highlight, a restored 181-metre long, curved rail tunnel that marks the connecting point between the cities of Lake Macquarie and Newcastle.
- The track is built along a green corridor, taking in wetland, coastal and bushland environments. You may see various species of birds and wildlife that call this stunning area home.
- Paved and gently graded for people of all fitness levels.
- Facilities along the pathway include numerous access points, public toilets, drinking fountains and parking, with cycleways and local shops close by.

The Fernleigh Code of Conduct

- Keep left at all times and do not block the track.
- When cycling, ring bell on approach of other users and travel at a safe speed.
- Keep dogs under control on a short lead.
- Ensure young children are supervised at all times.
- While sharing the path, consider elderly users and people with disabilities.
- The track runs through a corridor of natural bushland. In the event of extreme weather conditions including bushfires and high winds, reorder user.
- A number of fresh water supplies are located along the track, however it is advisable to carry your own supply if travelling in high temperatures or for long distances.
- Help protect this beautiful natural resource. Please retain all litter and dispose of in the bins provided.

Emergency: 000 or 112 from a mobile
State Emergency Service: 132 900

History behind the Fernleigh Track

For an estimated 6,000 years, the Fernleigh Track area was home to the indigenous Awabakal people. They lived amongst the rich natural environment and utilised the resources of the open and rocky coastline, swamp land and hilly forests.

In 1867, a switch from steam to diesel rail motors was made, before the scheduled passenger service was finally terminated in 1973. Throughout the 1980s, closures of coal mines along the line occurred. After the Lambton Colliery shut down operations in 1991, use of the line ceased completely.

The Transformation Process

Guided by the Fernleigh Track Committee the transformation from former rail corridor to treasured community asset began in 1994 after the joint purchase of the land by the Lake Macquarie and Newcastle City Councils. In 1999, the development of a shared pathway was proposed. Funding from both Councils and the NSW State and Federal governments allowed construction to commence with a significant focus set on restoration and preservation. Different sections were completed in stages spanning 2003 - 2011.

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