

# Dandenong Ranges National Park

## North

### Visitor Guide



The north of Dandenong Ranges National Park covers Doongalla and Olinda sections. The Doongalla precinct spans the north-western corner and is a popular area for walks and picnics. Here you will find the historic site of the former Doongalla Homestead which was established in the 1890s. The area between Olinda, Kalorama and Silvan Reservoir, once formed part of the Olinda State Forest Reserve. One of the newer sections of the national park, Olinda boasts relatively undisturbed native habitat.



### Opening hours

Dandenong Ranges National Park is open every day, including weekends and public holidays.

The Eagle Nest and Valley picnic grounds close at 6.00pm during Daylight Saving and at 4.00pm at other times of the year. The Doongalla Homestead Site and Stables picnic ground opens at 9.00am each day. It closes at 6.00pm during Daylight Saving and at 4.00pm at other times of the year.

### Getting there

The National Park is located about 40km east of Melbourne. From the city take the Eastern Fwy (M3) and exit onto Boronia Rd. Continue as Boronia Rd merges into Forest Rd, then turn right into Basin Olinda Rd and follow it all the way to Olinda. To get to Doongalla, turn left from Basin Olinda Rd into Sheffield Rd and right again into Doongalla Rd.

Alternatively, for a scenic route, enter the park at Ferntree Gully and take the windy Mount Dandenong Tourist Rd to the top.

### Things to see and do

#### Walking

There are several walking tracks within this precinct that cater for a range of abilities. Most start from the picnic areas, allowing you to explore the different areas of the park. Don't forget to keep an eye out for the many birds and animals that call the park their home.



#### Olinda Falls – 1.2km, 30 minutes circuit

Starting at the Olinda Falls Picnic Ground follow the Falls Track. After 300m, you will come to the top viewing platform across Olinda Creek as the steady flow of water cascades over the rocks. A further 140 metres leads to the lower viewing platform and a small bridge over the creek.

Retrace your steps to the top platform and take Mechanics Track. This walking track meanders through lush thick forest before coming out on an unsealed road. Turn right to make your way back to the car park and the picnic area.



#### Eagle Nest Walk – 3.0km, 1hr circuit

This easy to moderate walk mostly follows wide gentle tracks. Starting at Valley Picnic Ground, proceed on Boundary Track that slopes downhill. Turn right on to Eagle Nest Road which will take you to Eagle Nest Picnic Ground. Cross the wooden bridge and follow Hermons Track to Georges Track. Turn left for a short walk and follow Georges Track via Boundary Track back to Valley Picnic Ground.



#### Valley Walk – 6.5km, 3.5hrs circuit

This longer walk is steep and rocky in sections. Suitable only for prepared and experienced walkers.

Proceed as for Eagle Nest Walk but after following Hermons Track to Georges Track, turn right and follow Georges Track to Barges Road. Turn left and follow Barges Road to Predator Track. Continue to turn left, proceeding to Mathias Road, left into Yallambee Way and left to return back to Valley Picnic Ground.



#### Stables Track Loop – 1.9km, 45 minutes circuit

From the Stables parking area, walk across the picnic ground to find the beginning of Stables Track. Follow this track until you get to a T intersection, then turn right. There is a short steep climb uphill on this track until it joins Camelia Track. Turn right and continue along Camelia track until it reaches the unsealed Doongalla Forest Rd where you then walk back down to the car park and picnic area.



#### Channel 10 Track/ Camelia Loop – 3.6km, 1.5 hour circuit

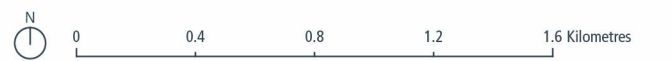
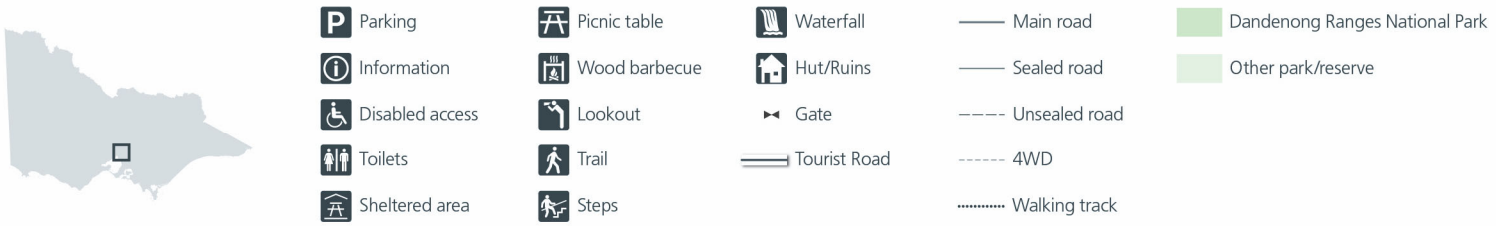
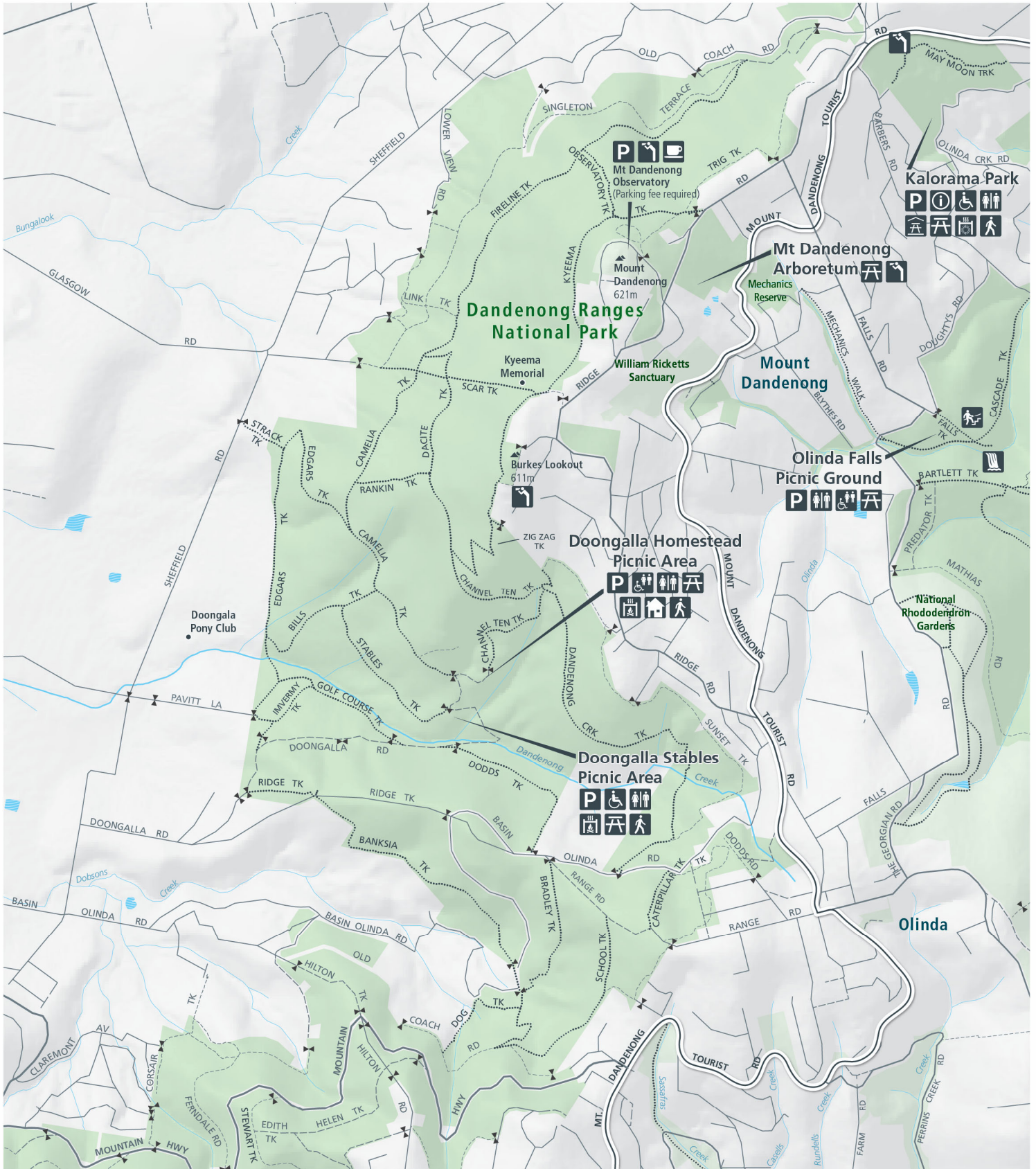
This longer, more challenging walk takes you to areas abundant with wildlife, so don't forget to look around you.

Channel 10 Track starts at the top of the Doongalla Homestead car park. Turn left into Rankin track, then Camellia Track that connects with Doongalla Forest Rd, turn right to return to the top car park.

For spectacular views of Melbourne and, on clear days, as far as Port Philip Bay and the You Yangs, detour via Zig Zag Track to Burkes Lookout.

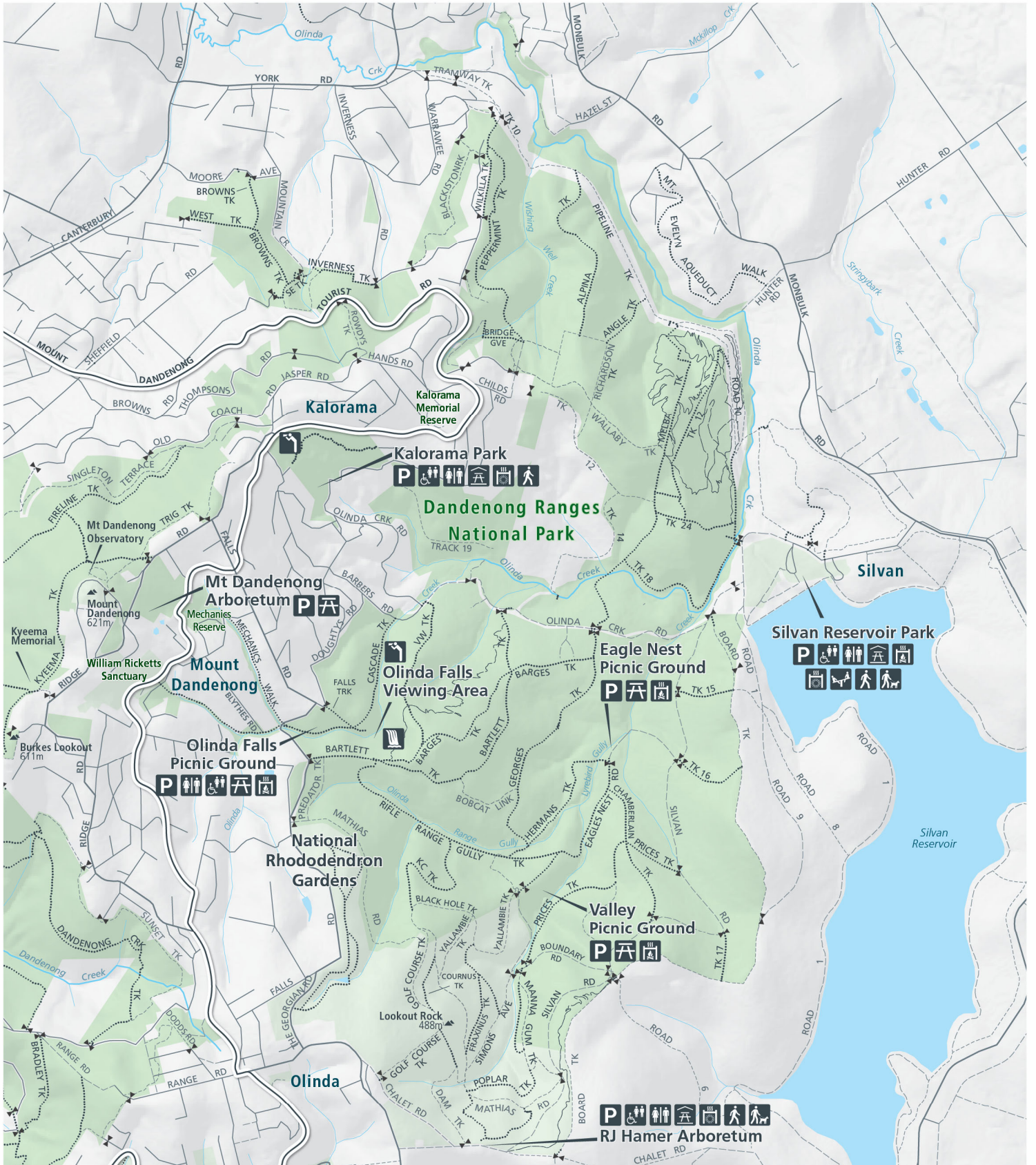
# Dandenong Ranges National Park

Doongalla Area



# Dandenong Ranges National Park

Olinda Area



- |                         |                |                |                     |                                |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Parking                 | BBQ - Electric | Dogs permitted | Main road           | Dandenong Ranges National Park |
| Disabled access toilets | BBQ - Wood     | Playground     | Sealed road         | Other park/reserve             |
| Toilets                 | Trail          | Gate           | Unsealed road       |                                |
| Sheltered area          | Lookout        | Walking track  | 4WD                 |                                |
| Picnic table            | Waterfall      | Tourist Road   | Mountain bike track |                                |



### Doongalla Homestead Site and picnicking

The Doongalla Homestead was established in the 1890s but destroyed by a bushfire in 1932. The remnant gardens and open lawn areas make this a great location for a family picnic. Approximately 700m away is the more shaded Stables area which also has picnic facilities.

Both locations have picnic tables, wood barbecues, car parking and toilets.

There are also three lovely picnic areas in the Olinda section. Valley Picnic Ground to the south, Eagle Nest Picnic Ground to the east and Olinda Falls Picnic Ground to the west, which is the ideal location to start your walk to the nearby Olinda Falls. All have picnic tables and wood barbecues. Olinda Falls Picnic Ground has toilet facilities.

### Bike riding

Bike riders are welcome to explore the network of cycling tracks that wind through the park, including roads, vehicular tracks and 'Management Vehicle Only' (MVO) tracks, unless they have been closed to bicycles.

Tracks closed to cyclists display a 'No Bikes' symbol. Any track may be closed to cycling at short notice, particularly if the track conditions become very muddy, eroded or dangerous.

There are over 10km of dedicated mountain bike trails off Pipeline track, north of Silvan reservoir park. These cross country trails have been established to specifically cater for mountain biking. Trails are subject to seasonal closures.

### Horse riding

Horse riding is popular in the park and there are a number of tracks where horses are permitted. Silvan Road, Board Track and Mathias Road, near Silvan Reservoir, are all suitable for horse riding.

### Flora and fauna

The forest here is dominated by majestic tall trees, such as Mountain Ash, Manna Gum, Mountain Grey Gum and Messmate.

The mid-canopy features Soft and Rough Tree Ferns, which provide protection for delicate fern species within the ground cover, such as the Common Maidenhair, Common Rasp Fern and King Fern.

Keep an eye out for the local wildlife as you walk. You might spot an echidna or a wallaby. Many native birds also frequent the area. Laughing Kookaburras, Crimson and Eastern Rosellas, King Parrots and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos are all common. If you are lucky you may catch a glimpse of Superb Lyrebird darting through the dense understorey.

### Be prepared and stay safe

The Dandenong Ranges National Park is closed when there is a Total Fire Ban or strong winds. Signs may be erected but do not expect a personal warning.

Dandenong Ranges National Park is in the Central fire district. Bushfire safety is a personal responsibility. Anyone entering parks and forests during the bushfire season needs to stay aware of forecast weather conditions. Check the Fire Danger Rating and for days of Total Fire Ban at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

The latest park information is available at [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) or by calling Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000). If there is a green emergency marker sign near you, read the information on the marker to the operator.