

# Sale Common Nature Conservation Reserve



## Visitor Guide

Covered by Red Gum woodland and grasslands, the Sale Common State Game Refuge covers approximately 300 hectares. Over seventy per cent of the common consists of freshwater marsh, offering refuge to a host of native birdlife who make the area their home.

### Location and access

The Sale Common is located on the South Gippsland Highway, just south of Sale. The closest carpark to the boardwalk and best wheelchair access is at the eastern end. A carpark is also available on the corner of Maxfields and Stephenson Streets and on the South Gippsland Highway near Cox's Bridge.

### Things to see and do

#### Walking

From the carpark on the South Gippsland Highway, a short walking track leads through both woodlands and grasslands past the information shelter to the lookout.

Partake in the Sale Common- River Heritage and Wetlands Trail (15km return) where you can enjoy the internationally listed wetlands of the Sale Common hosting a combination of freshwater marsh and red gum woodlands which support an enormous variety of birdlife. Get up close and personal at the bird hides as you stroll along the new boardwalk in this magnificent wetlands area.

#### A bird's eye view

The boardwalk provides an opportunity to observe the wetland at a closer level. The boardwalk winds its way through a variety of habitats, starting from the edge of the swamp, through deeper water, past islands and through a small reed bed.

A bird hide is located near the eastern end of the boardwalk. Here you can view the pelicans, swans and ducks to name a few.

#### Panoramic views

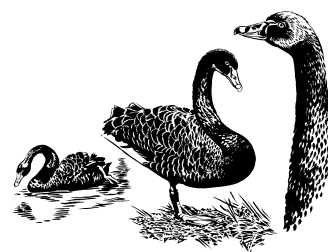
The lookout overlooks the northern section of the common, while the bridge leading to the lookout gives the chance to examine some of the plants and smaller pond life of the morass.

### From past to present

The Sale Common has a history of over 100 years of clearing, burning and browsing. From 1933 - 1942 permission was granted to the council of the Town of Sale, for use of the northern section as a landing ground for aeroplanes. In September 1964 the Sale Common State Game Refuge was proclaimed.

### Plants and wildlife

River Red Gum woodlands and introduced grasslands make up about 30% of the Sale Common. This habitat supports a variety of animals, including laughing Kookaburras, Superb Fairy-wrens, and both Brushtail and Ringtail possums.



Black Swan GMIT

The Long Waterhole, located near the lookout is about seven hectares in size. This area of permanent deep water is an ideal habitat for fish, which in turn provides food for birds such as pelicans and cormorants.

The remainder of the Sale Common is freshwater marsh, which at times can be completely dry. This type of habitat is extremely valuable to many types of waterbirds, frogs and aquatic invertebrates.

Some of the more common water plants in the freshwater marsh include Water Ribbons, Tall Spike-rush and Common Reed. These and other water plants absorb nutrients from the water thereby helping to maintain water quality, as well as providing food and shelter for wildlife.



## For further information

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre  
**Call 13 1963**  
or visit our website at  
[www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

Parks Victoria Office  
1 Lacey Street  
Sale Vic 3850  
  
Wellington Visitor  
Information Centre  
8 Foster Street  
Sale Vic 3850  
Freecall 1800 677 520

## Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Horses, dogs cats and other pets are not permitted

Firearms are prohibited

All plants and animals are protected

Please take your rubbish home with you for recycling or disposal

Please do not park in front of gates as this blocks emergency and management access

Bikes are not permitted on the boardwalk

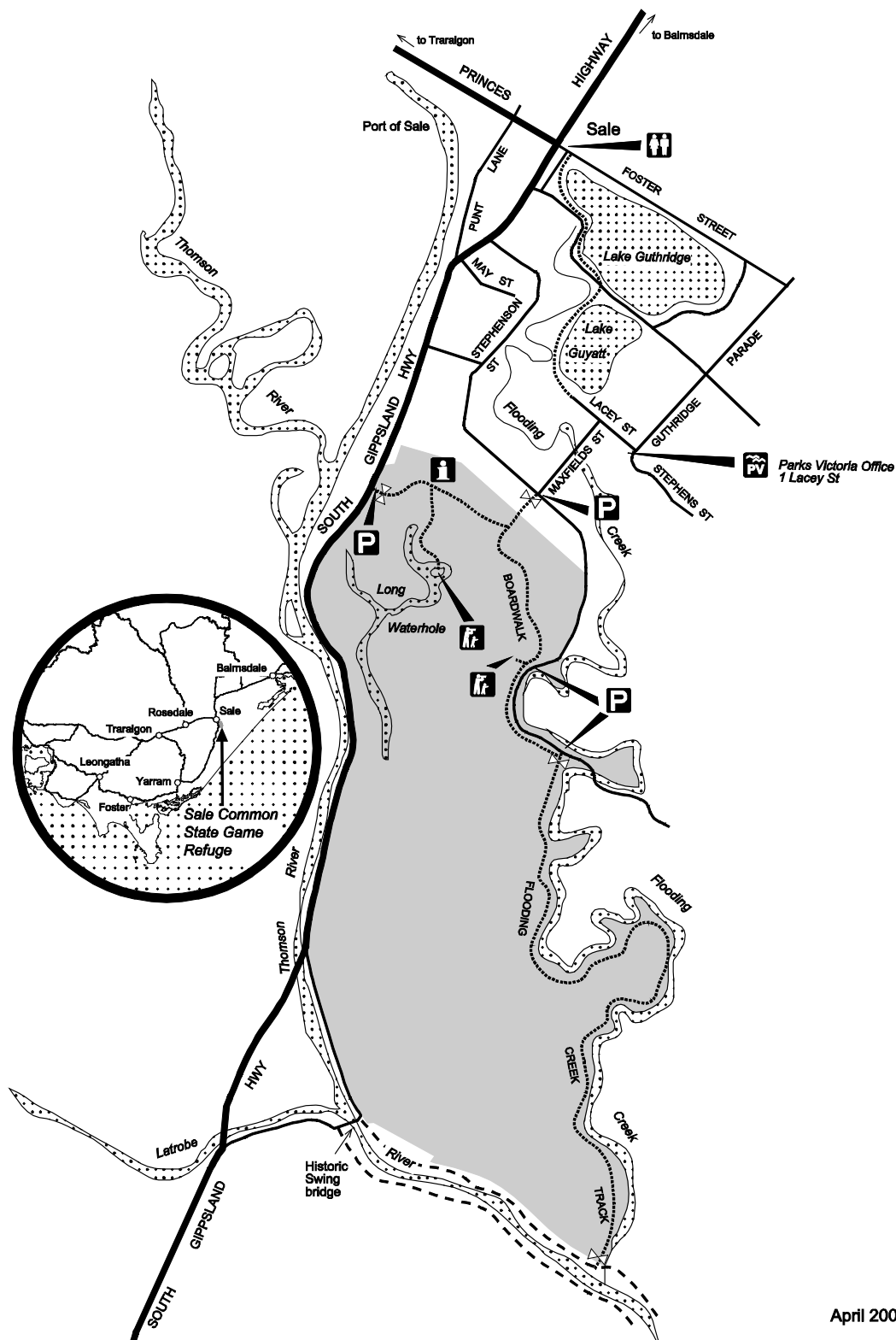
This park is located in the West & South Gippsland Total Fire Ban District.

Stay aware of the fire and weather warnings issued by local radio including ABC

*Please don't throw this park note away. Keep it, return it for others to use, or recycle it*

## Healthy Parks Healthy People

Visiting a park can improve your health, mind, body and soul. So, with over four million hectares of parkland available to Victorians, why not escape to a park today!



April 2008

Sale Common State Game Refuge	
	Highway
	Other road
	Vehicular track
	Walking track
	Game Refuge
	Water body
	Locked gate
<b>Recreational Facilities</b>	
	Carpark
	Information
	Lookout/bird hide
	Parks Victoria office
	Toilets

Cartography by Charles Walsh  
 Nature Tourism Services 08/04

August 2012

Printed on Australian-made 100% recycled paper



Healthy Parks  
Healthy People®