

# Yarra Bend Park



## Visitor Guide

At Yarra Bend Park, the largest area of natural vegetation near the city of Melbourne, the landscape varies from steep, wild river escarpments to open woodlands, formal parkland, playing fields and golf courses. It has over 16km of river frontage, and superb views of the city and the Dandenongs from the higher areas.

### Location & access

Yarra Bend Park is located in inner Melbourne beside the suburbs of Kew and Fairfield. The Park can be accessed via car from the Yarra Boulevard, Kew or Yarra Bend Road, Fairfield. Buses provide access via Studley Park Road, Kew and Heidelberg Road, Fairfield.

### Things to see & do

Yarra Bend is popular for walking, boating, canoeing, team sports, golf, picnicking, dining out, bird watching and just enjoying the bush.

There are many walking tracks to suit all fitness levels. A shared walking and bicycle path follows the Yarra River.

Studley Park Boathouse, Kew, built in 1863 and recently restored, offers kiosk, café and restaurant dining as well as canoe and rowboat hire.



Studley Park Picnic Area (adjacent to Studley Park Boathouse) offers picnic shelters, electric barbecues and toilet facilities.

Kane's Bridge heads across the river to picnic areas, sports grounds and the Yarra Bend Golf Course.

The Yarra Bend Golf Course, only 4km from the CBD, is well known as one of Melbourne's premier public courses and features high quality greens and sculptured fairways, all in a bushland setting.

The nine hole Studley Park Par 3 Golf Course is situated in Kew and is ideal for the beginner, senior or relaxing game of golf.

The Boulevard Restaurant and Function Centre offers a contemporary setting in a country surround only minutes from the CBD.

Bellbird Picnic Area (off Yarra Boulevard) offers a peaceful alternative to the busy Studley Park Picnic Area. This setting provides a shelter, electric barbecue, toilet facilities and canoe launching ramp. Open space and sporting fields are used for organised and informal sports including cricket, football, soccer and bocce.

### Picnic areas

Yarra Bend Park has a number of sites popular for picnics. Several have facilities such as barbecues, rotundas or shelters and toilets, while others are located beside the Yarra River. The map overleaf shows the location of the popular picnic areas.

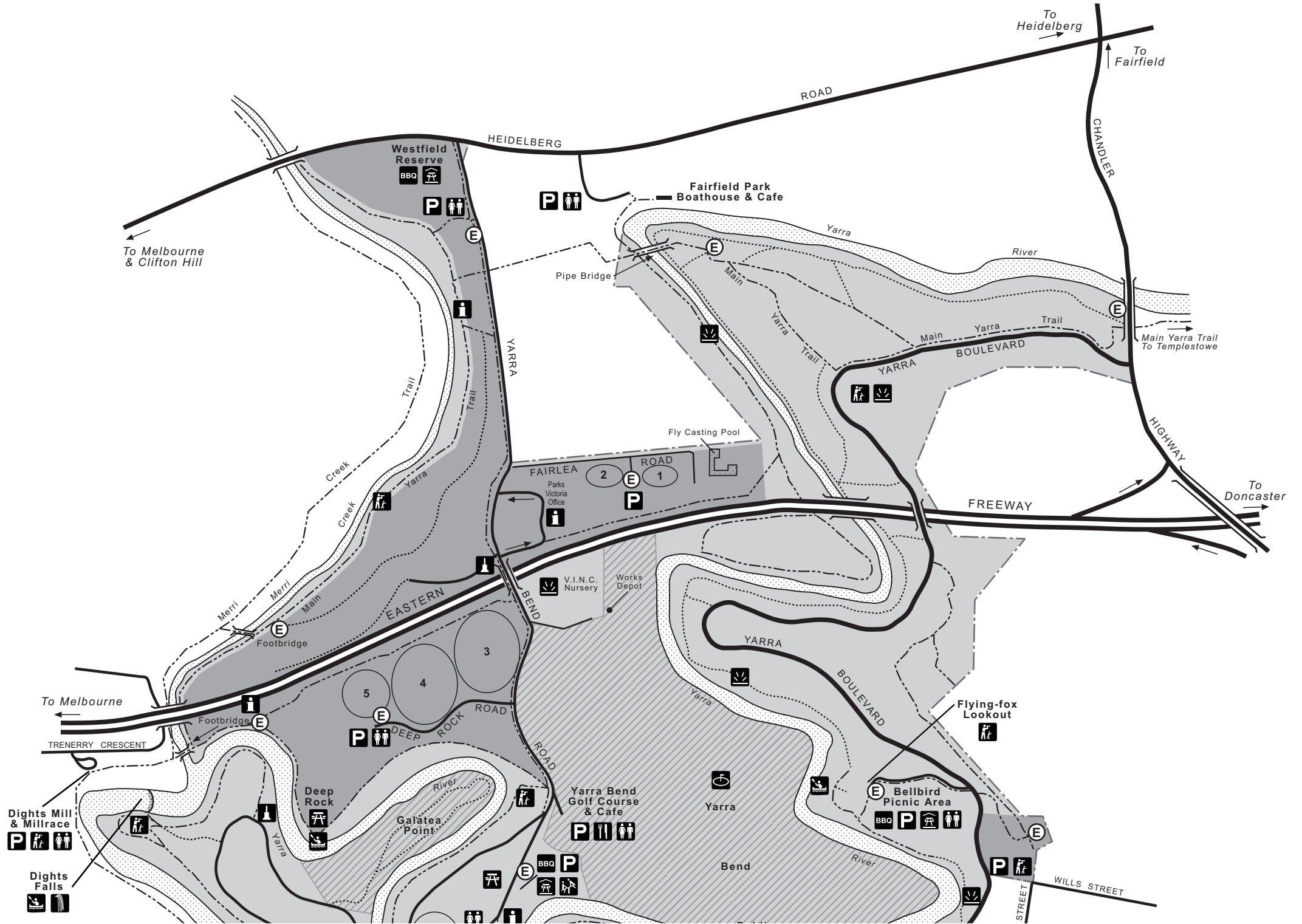
### Taking a walk

There are walking tracks at Yarra Bend Park to suit all levels of fitness. Secluded riverside trails follow the Yarra through peaceful bush surrounds. The popular Main Yarra Trail passes through the Park and extends from Templestowe to Southbank. Varying length circuit trails take you to popular sites including Dights Falls and Deep Rock. A 'Walking Trails' park note provides further information.

### Walking your dog

Yarra Bend Park is a multi-zone park. Dogs are permitted in most areas of the park, but must be kept on a leash in certain areas, and kept out of dog exclusion areas. When dogs are in off-lead zones, a leash must be carried to bring your dog under immediate control if necessary. A 'Dog Friendly' park note provides further information and a map of the various zones.





To Melbourne & Clifton Hill

To Heidelberg

To Fairfield

Westfield Reserve

Fairfield Park Boathouse & Cafe

Pipe Bridge

Yarra

River

YARRA

Main

Yarra Trail

Main

Yarra Trail

Main Yarra Trail To Templestowe

YARRA BOULEVARD

HIGHWAY

To Doncaster

Fly Casting Pool

FAIRLEA PARKS Victoria Office

ROAD

FREEWAY

Merri Creek

Creek

Merri Creek

Yarra

EASTERN BEND

V.I.N.C. Nursery

Works Depot

YARRA BOULEVARD

Yarra

Flying-fox Lookout

To Melbourne

TRENERRY CRESCENT

5

4

3

DEEP ROCK ROAD

Deep Rock

Galatea Point

Yarra Bend Golf Course & Cafe

Yarra

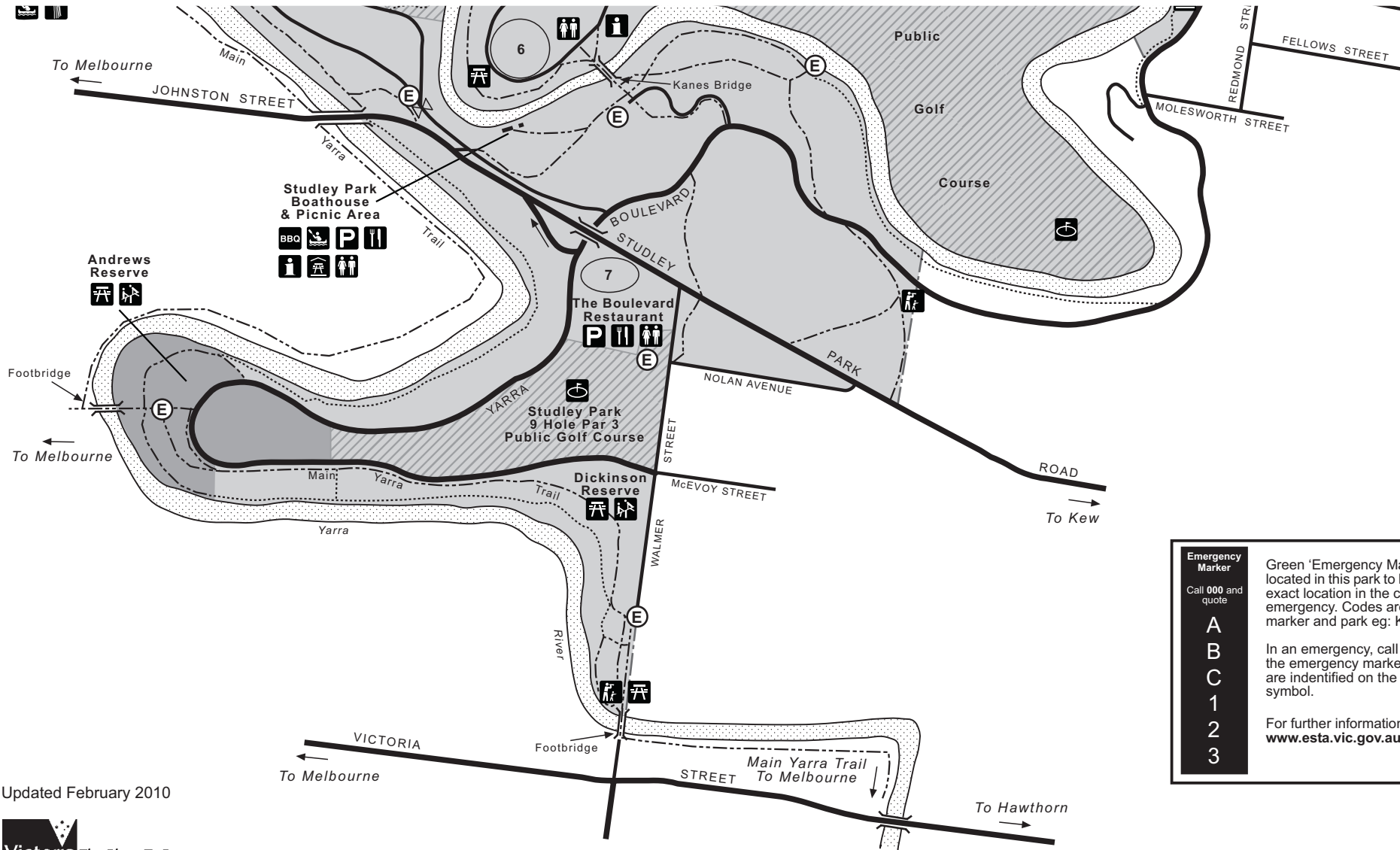
Bellbird Picnic Area

Bend

Dights Mill & Millrace

Dights Falls

WILLS STREET



**Emergency Marker**  
Call 000 and quote

**A**  
**B**  
**C**  
**1**  
**2**  
**3**

Green 'Emergency Marker' signs are located in this park to help pinpoint your exact location in the case of an emergency. Codes are unique to every marker and park eg: KNP001.

In an emergency, call 000 and quote the emergency marker code. Markers are identified on the map with an (E) symbol.

For further information see [www.esta.vic.gov.au](http://www.esta.vic.gov.au)

Updated February 2010



| Yarra Bend Park           |                       | Recreational Facilities |                |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Freeway                   | Park                  | Barbecue                | Picnic shelter |
| Major sealed road         | Dogs Off-lead         | Canoe Access            | Picnic table   |
| Minor sealed road         | Dogs On-lead          | Carpark                 | Playground     |
| Unsealed road             | No Dogs               | Falls                   | Toilets        |
| Shared cycle / walk track | Water body            | Food                    | Wetland        |
| Walking track             | Gate                  | Golf course             | Lookout        |
|                           | ESTA Emergency marker | Park information        | Monument       |

Cartography by Spatial Vision M/6632

**OVALS**

| Oval Number | Oval Name    |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1           | Fairlea East |
| 2           | Fairlea West |
| 3           | McCutchan    |
| 4           | Olney        |
| 5           | Cox          |
| 6           | Corben       |
| 7           | Rylah        |

## For further information

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

## Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away with you for recycling & disposal

All native plants & animals are protected by law.

Please do not disturb them in any way

Dogs are permitted in the park, but must be kept on a leash within on-lead zones. Call the office for information on dog zones

All dogs must be kept on a leash within five metres of all sealed pathways, playgrounds and picnic areas

Portable solid fuel barbecues or ovens are not permitted in the park

Portable gas barbecues are allowed

No fires, including barbecues, may be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban

## Golf courses

Golf is a popular pastime at Yarra Bend Park. The 18 hole Yarra Bend Golf Course is renowned for being one of the finest and most picturesque public courses in Australia. Bookings can be made directly to the 18 hole Golf Course by calling 9481 3729 and the Studley Park 9 hole Golf Course on 9852 8144. Drop into the Golf Pro-Shop on Yarra Bend Road for all your golfing needs, lessons and hot and cold food.

## Other park facilities

The international fly-casting pool is frequently used by the Red Tag Fly Fishers Club. For further information on joining the Red Tag Club, or to enquire about booking the pool for your club, contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre.

Fun Runs and Cross Country Courses can be booked for your sporting group.

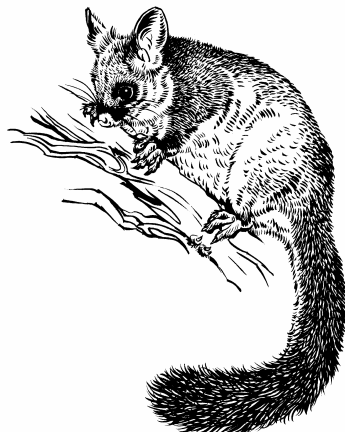
The Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Co-operative (VINC) is a not-for-profit plant nursery. VINC produces local indigenous flora for the north and east of Melbourne for supply to local government, community groups, schools and members of the public. VINC is located on Yarra Bend Road, Fairfield.

## History

Yarra Bend Park and neighbouring Studley Park Picnic Area were reserved since the earliest days of European settlement. Since that time the park has seen many changes creating a colourful and interesting history.

A number of institutions were established throughout the nineteenth century, the most significant being the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum established in 1848 and closed in 1925. Urban development transpired, historic structures such as the Studley Park Boathouse were erected, and some stunning natural landscapes were preserved.

A 'History' park note provides further information.

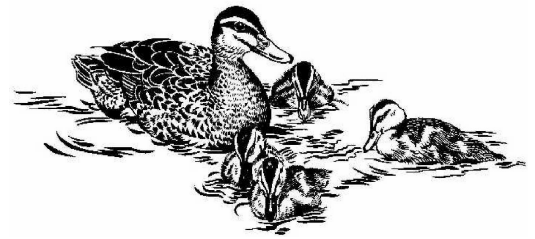


Common Brushtail Possum © MT

## Flora & fauna

Yarra Bend Park contains some of the last stands of original bushland in inner Melbourne. A total of approximately 320 indigenous plants have been recorded in the park of which more than 100 species are considered to be of local, regional or state significance. Animals found in the park include the platypus, water rat and a number of bat and reptile species.

The bird life of the park is quite diverse, including waterbirds, birds that utilise remnant vegetation and those that occur in more modified habitats.



## Grey-headed Flying-foxes

Grey-headed Flying-foxes are an important part of Melbourne's wildlife. In 2003, the colony was successfully relocated from the Royal Botanic Gardens to Yarra Bend Park. The Flying-fox colony is best viewed from the Yarra Boulevard or Bellbird Picnic Area. At Bellbird Picnic Area, a viewing platform, walking trail and interpretive signage allows visitors to learn about and view the Flying-foxes in their natural environment.

## Geology

The oldest rocks exposed in Yarra Bend Park are marine sandstones and mudstones from 400 million years ago. An excellent display of these sediments are at the cliff face at Dights Falls, showing faults and folds, layering and ripple beds of exposed ancient seabeds.

Lava flow from volcanic activity 2.2 million years ago and again about 800,000 years ago, introduced basalt soils to the Park allowing for a wider range of vegetation.

A 'Geology' park note provides more information.