

Woodlands Historic Park



Visitor Guide

Explore this fascinating relic of the landscape that European settlers saw in the 1840s.

Woodlands Homestead offers a rare example of a large pre-fabricated timber house brought to colonial Australia from Britain.

Exploring the park

Picnicking

Enjoy a picnic among the magnificent River Red Gums at the Somerton Road Picnic Area. Electric barbecues, tables and toilets are available.

Walking, cycling, horse riding

The many tracks throughout the park cater for all trail enthusiasts including walkers, cyclists and horse riders. In particular the Murrup Gurrong Yan (Spiritual Creek Walk), 2.5km trail starting across the footbridge from Somerton Road Picnic Area should not be missed.

Woodlands Homestead

Visit the homestead, an 1840s "kit home" and learn about its construction and significance. *Red Gums and Riders*, tells the story of the property and its owners.

Living Legends

Just in front of the Homestead are real Living Legends! Established to bring retired champion horses back to the public, the front paddocks are home to some of Australia's finest retired racehorses, including Fields of Omagh, Might and Power, Saintly, Sky Heights, Brew, Better Loosen Up, Rogan Josh, Doriemus, and Paris Lane.

The "Back Paddock"

Experience the wilder parts of the park away from Woodlands Homestead. Cycle or walk as you search for animals, birds and other wildlife. Please remember to close the gates as this is a site for a recovery program for the threatened Eastern Barred Bandicoot.

Gellibrand Hill

Explore the granite boulders and enjoy a 360° view of the city, the bay, the Great Dividing Range and Melbourne Airport. Access is via walking tracks from Somerton Road Picnic Area, Woodlands Homestead and the carpark off Providence Road. (Melways 178 F10).

A rich human history

Scarred trees and surface stone tool scatters are evidence of the Woiworing Aboriginal people, who lived in the area before Europeans arrived. The descendants of the Woiworing still retain a close identity with the land around Melbourne.

European settlement of the Port Phillip District began soon after the arrival of settlers from Tasmania in 1835.

Emigrating from Ireland with his family to seek a healthier climate, William Pomeroy Greene, a former Royal Navy officer, was entitled to a land grant of one square mile, and chose a site on Moonee Ponds Creek.

The family moved in to the newly erected Woodlands Homestead on 9 June 1843.

The park also contains the ruins of two other 19th century homesteads, Cumberland and Dundonald.

Restoration

The vegetation and wildlife typical of the 1840s is being researched and progressively restored to the landscape. The section of the park known as the Back Paddock is fenced to help manage and restore the 1840s character.

The park's name is a reflection of the historic significance of Woodlands, a reminder of the pioneering pastoral settlement of the Port Phillip District of what was then New South Wales.

How to get there

Woodlands is only 22km from the city, just north of Melbourne Airport. Follow the Tullamarine Freeway and turn right into Oaklands Road (Melways 177 J9) or walk from the Somerton Road Picnic Area (Melways 178 C6).

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For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre
Call 13 1963
or visit the
Parks Victoria website
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Parks Victoria
Grasslands Office
Organ Pipes Road
Diggers Rest 3427

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, archaeological sites and geographic features are protected by law. Please do not disturb them in any way

Dogs are permitted in some areas of the park, but must be kept on a leash at all times

Firearms are prohibited
Use only electric barbecues.
Solid fuel fires are not permitted in the park

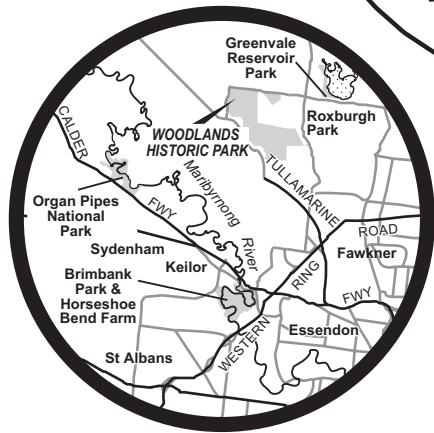
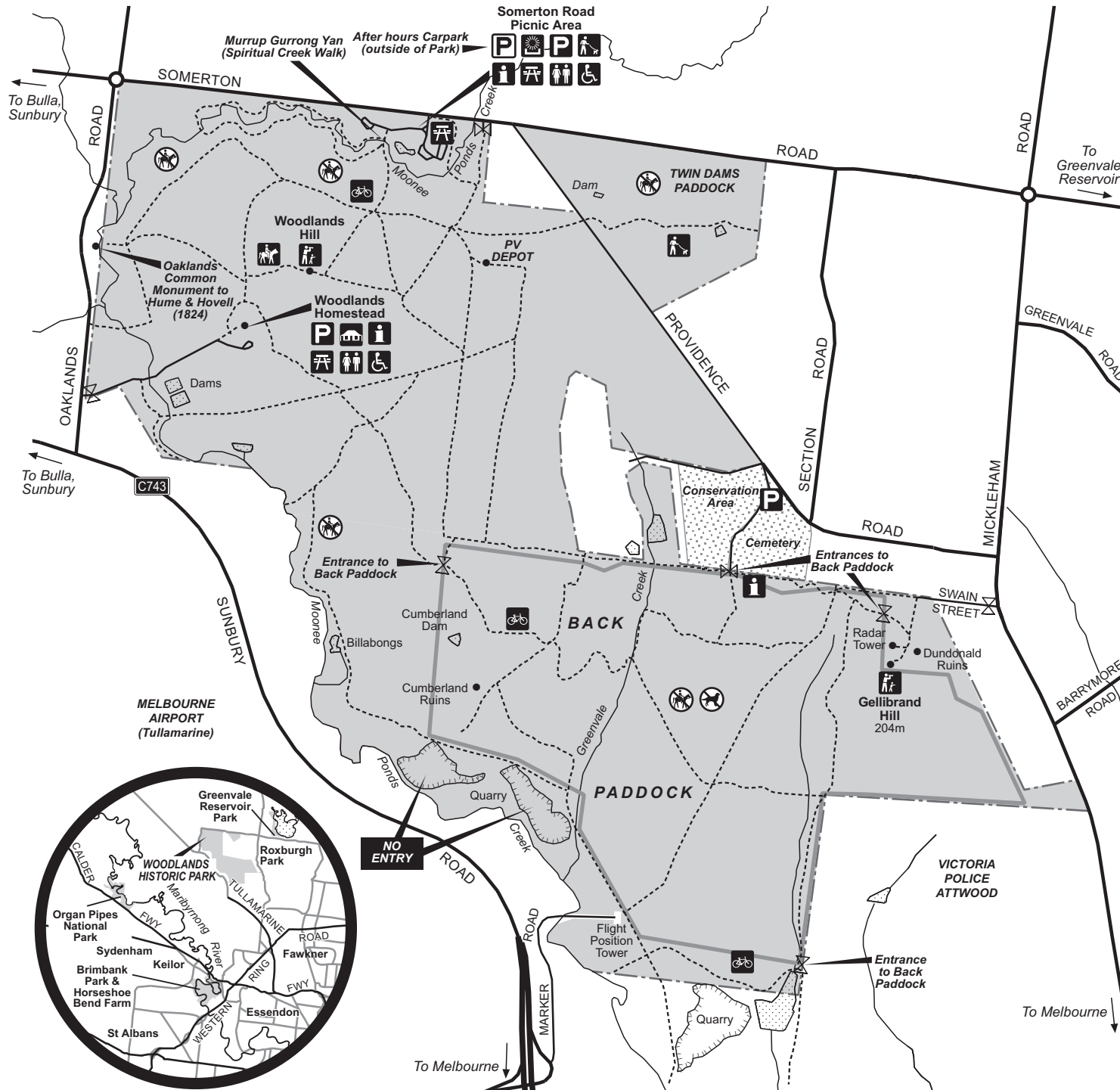
No fires, including barbecues, may be lit on a day of

Total Fire Ban.

Woodlands Historic Park is in the **Central Total Fire Ban District**

Please keep to walking tracks to minimise erosion and trampling of vegetation

Be self-sufficient with drinking water. Carry it in and/or know how to make untreated water safe for drinking



Woodlands Historic Park

- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Walking track
- "Back Paddock" fence
- Gate
- Historic Park
- Other reserves
- Water body

Recreational Facilities

- Barbecue - Electric
- Carpark
- Cycling
- Dogs permitted
- Homestead
- Horsingriding
- Lookout
- Park information
- Picnic table
- Toilets
- Facilities for people with disabilities
- No horseriding
- No dogs permitted

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Cartography by Spatial Vision 2007 M/6063

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