

# Dandenong Ranges National Park



## Cycling

Dandenong Ranges National Park, right on Melbourne's doorstep, is famous for its tall Mountain Ash Forests, wildlife and scenic views. Over one million visitors are attracted to the 3500 hectare park each year enjoying a variety of recreational opportunities, flora and fauna. Bike riders are welcome to explore the network of cycling tracks that wind through the park.

### Where can I cycle?

Cyclists can use roads and vehicular tracks, including 'Management Vehicles Only' tracks, unless they have been closed to bicycles.

**You are not permitted to cycle on walking tracks because of the danger to walkers on these narrow tracks.**

Tracks closed to cyclists display a 'No Bikes' symbol. Refer to the map overleaf for where you can and can't ride, as signs may be vandalised and damaged at times.

Any track may be closed to cycling at short notice, particularly if the track conditions become very muddy, eroded or dangerous.

**An on the spot fine will apply to cyclists found on tracks which are closed to bikes.**

### How do I get there?

The Dandenongs are accessible by train (catch the train to Belgrave, Upper Ferntree Gully or Lilydale Stations) and by car.

The main roads Mt. Dandenong Tourist Road, Mountain Highway, and Monbulk Road, take you to the National Park. They are narrow and busy, so avoid cycling on them when you can.

Use this brochure and a Melway or other directory to plan your trip. Study the map overleaf so that you know which tracks are closed to bicycles.

### Nature in Harmony

The Wurundjeri Aboriginal people lived in the area and had an intimate knowledge of the native plants and animals, enabling them to obtain vegetable products, including roots, leaves, stalks, fruits, gums and resins.

### Settlement Strikes

Settlers moved into the foothills in the early 1850s clearing the forests. In the 1860s the area became the retreat of the wealthy and then the general population with the introduction of the motor car. In 1882 land was reserved as a site for public recreation and in 1927 the area was declared the Ferntree Gully National Park.

On 13 December 1987 the Dandenong Ranges National Park was proclaimed amalgamating Ferntree Gully National Park, Sherbrooke Forest and Doongalla Estate, with Olinda State Forest, Mt. Evelyn and Montrose Reserve formally added to the National Park in 1997.

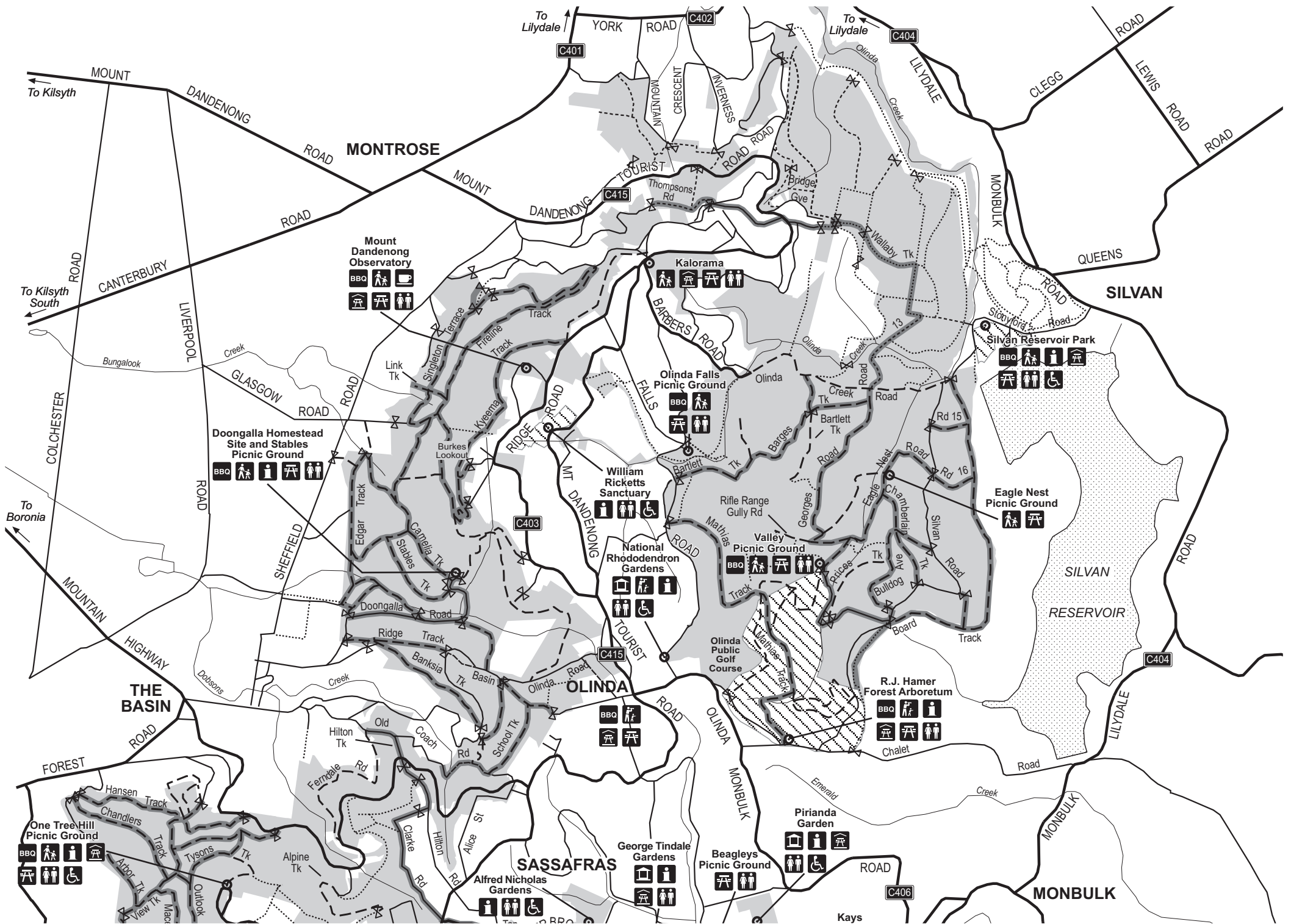
### A Wonderland of Nature

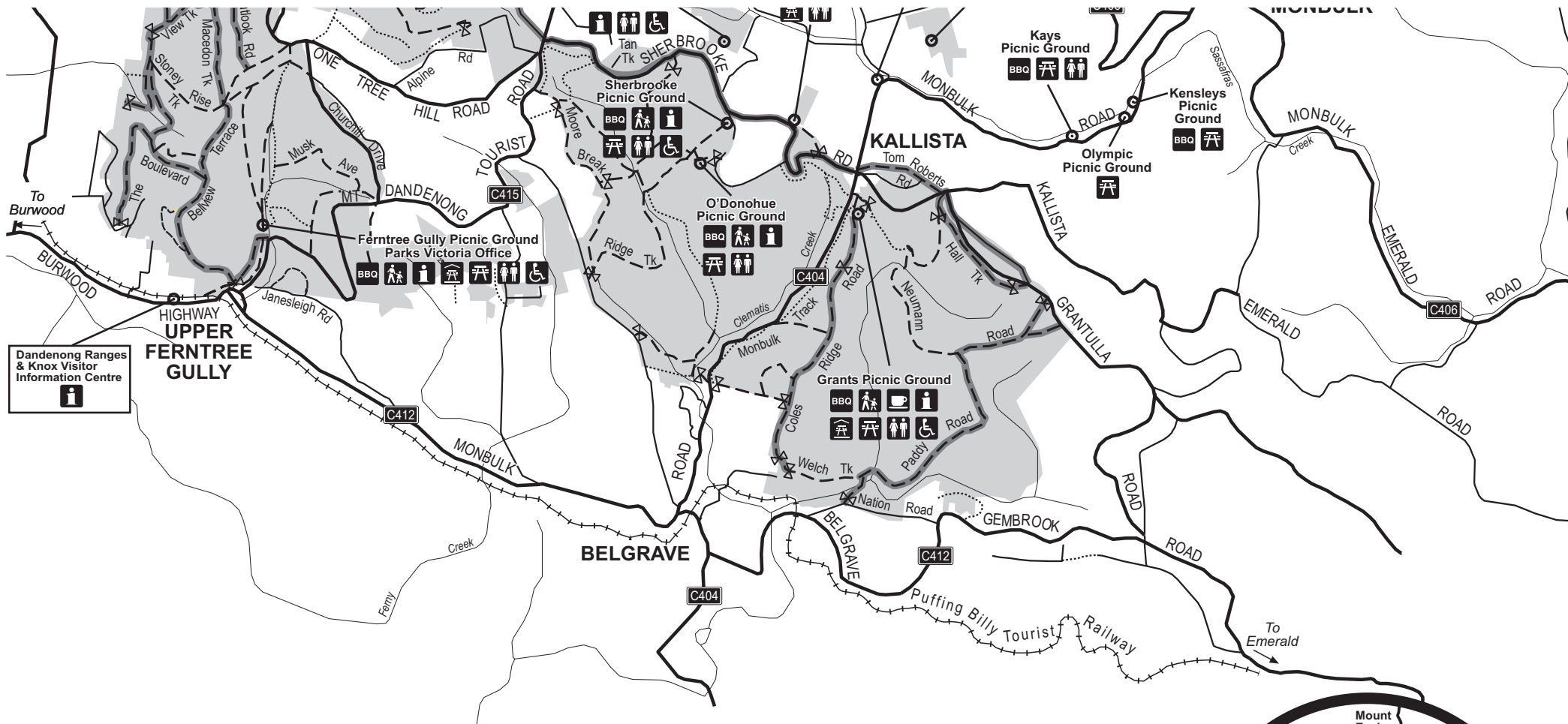
More than 350 species of native plants have been recorded in the park. There are also over 130 native bird species, 31 species of native mammals, 21 reptiles and 9 amphibians that inhabit the park. Most of the mammals are active only at night.

### Seeing Wildlife by bike

Wildlife shares the tracks you ride on. Cyclists can often surprise wildlife as bikes are quieter and quicker than walkers. Please travel slowly so that you can stop for wildlife and people using the tracks. This will also enable you to see more of the park and wildlife.







### DANDENONG RANGES NATIONAL PARK

#### Cycling

	Main Road		National Park		Barbecue		Park information
	Minor Road		Other parks and reserves		Family walk		Picnic shelter
	Park Vehicle Track		Water body		Gazebo		Picnic table
	Walking Track		Tracks available for Cycling		Kiosk		Toilets
	Railway line				Lookout		Toilet for disabled
	Gate						

Cartography by Spatial Vision 2007  
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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**

### 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

Light fires only in fireplaces provided. Firewood is not supplied – please bring your own

Solid fuel barbecues and the use of heat beads are not permitted

No fires may be lit on days of Total Fire Bans and no barbecues are permitted on days of Total Fire Bans

Firearms are prohibited

Wildlife feed and handling is not permitted

Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the Park

Observe parking signs and park gate closing times

## Mountain Bike Riders Code of Ethics

### Ride in control at all times

Out of control riders are a danger to themselves and others. They can also discredit mount bike riding by scaring people and damaging the trails

### Respect the rights of others

Other users have the same rights as you, so let them go about their activities without interference

### If you meet walkers

If you come across walkers, announce your presence, give them right of way and slow down as you pass

### If you come across horse riders

Always give horse's right of way. Some horses are easily frightened by bicycles. A spooked horse can be very dangerous to you and its rider. Announce your presence by voice, dismount and talk as the horse and rider pass to reassure the animal. If necessary, move off the track to give the horse plenty of room. Be alert for signs of horses (hoof prints or droppings) and watch for them on bends and crests

### Avoid skidding

Skidding damages the tracks by removing the harder surface layer. This can then lead to erosion

### Don't cut corners, stay on the track

Cutting corners causes erosion. The track surface has been 'hardened' and your tyres will do very little damage, but the edges of the road are sensitive. Cutting corners breaks up the surface so that the next time it rains, the soil washes away

### Stay away from wet, muddy areas

Muddy areas are very prone to damage. The tracks you leave behind channel the water when it rains and this leads to erosion

### Stay on roads and obey signs

Bicycles are allowed on most roads and tracks made for four wheeled vehicle, including 'Management Vehicles Only' roads, unless they are specifically closed to bicycles. Some tracks are subject to seasonal closure to prevent damage, so please obey closure signs. It is a good idea to check with the local managers (eg. Parks Victoria) to find out about any closures or limitations before you ride

### Abide by any other regulations

In summer, check for fire regulations. Do not cycle within forest areas on days of Total Fire Ban.

## What do I need to know?

- Respect and ensure the safety of other park users and yourself by riding at a safe speed (less than 40kmh).
- Study the map overleaf to see the tracks you are permitted to ride on.
- Special rules apply in the Sherbrooke section of the National Park, where most tracks are for walkers only and are closed to cyclists.
- Some of the special areas of the park are accessible only by foot, so bring a bike lock to secure your bike while you explore the walking tracks.
- Ensure that you follow National Park Regulations (see back page).
- Always wear a helmet and follow the 'Mountain Bike Code'. This code applies to any type of bicycle ridden in the bush. Copies are available from the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963.
- Always clean your bike thoroughly after a ride. This is good for your bike and the environment too. Mud and soil on dirty bikes can spread weeds and plant disease (such as Cinnamon Fungus which causes tree dieback) from one area to another.
- If you are planning a ride with 10 or more bikes, you may need a permit. For permit enquiries please contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963.



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