

Yan Yean Reservoir Park

Yan Yean Reservoir Park offers visitors peaceful picnic areas, a variety of walking tracks and breathtaking views of Melbourne's oldest water storage site. Come and experience one of Melbourne's oldest recreational parks.

Location and size

Yan Yean Reservoir Park, 15 ha in area, 32 Kilometres north of Melbourne along Recreation Road (off Arthurs Creek Rd) Yan Yean. (Melway ref: 391 D1)

Park opening hours

The park is open every day, including weekends and public holidays, from 9.00am to 5.00pm, daylight saving, between 9.00am and 6.00pm.

History

Yan Yean Reservoir was designed by James Blackburn, an English civil engineer, who was transported to Tasmania as a convict following charges of embezzlement. After being pardoned he came to Melbourne in 1849.

Blackburn was concerned about the quality of Melbourne's drinking water, which at the time was Yarra River water held in a storage tank on the corner of Elizabeth and Flinders Streets. He joined with four other men to found the Melbourne Water Company, with the aim of providing a "quality of water more abundant and better than is obtainable in almost any town in Europe." (State Government Report giving the approval for Yan Yean Reservoir to commence.)

Work began on Yan Yean Reservoir in December 1853, at the height of the gold rush. It took four years to construct and cost over 750,000 pounds. It was the first reservoir constructed in Victoria and is a remarkable engineering feat. It is now the oldest water storage site in Victoria.

Shortly after completion on 31st December 1857, 10,935 hectares surrounding the reservoir were proclaimed a permanent reservation for water catchment.

The name Yan Yean is thought to mean 'Young Man' in the local Aboriginal language (Wurundjeri-baluk) and believed to be associated with tribal rights bestowed upon a boy when he reaches manhood.

Blackburn did not live to see the reservoir completed, dying in 1854 from typhoid fever. Today Yan Yean Reservoir Park is as popular as it was 100 years ago for day visitors and picnickers.

Activities

- Take in the historic features of Melbourne's oldest dam including the remnant stone water channel, bluestone Valve House and Caretaker's Cottage built in 1853*.
- Sit and relax as the children play on the playground.
- Visit the extensive wetlands and watch the abundant birdlife that live and feed in the area, including the Swamp Hen and Glossy Ibis.



Great Cormorant

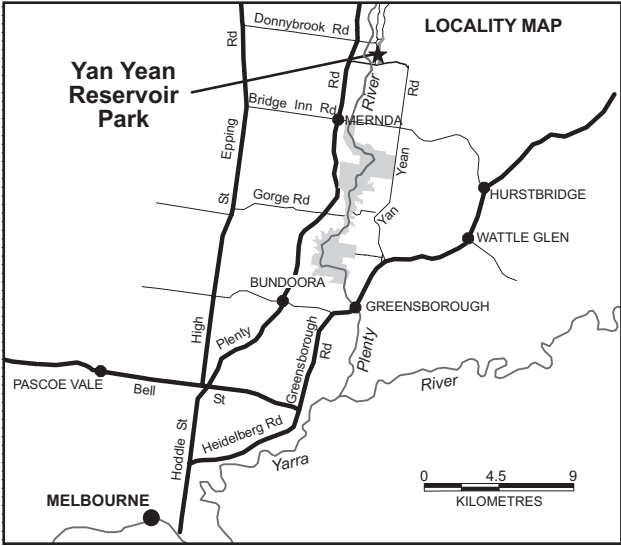
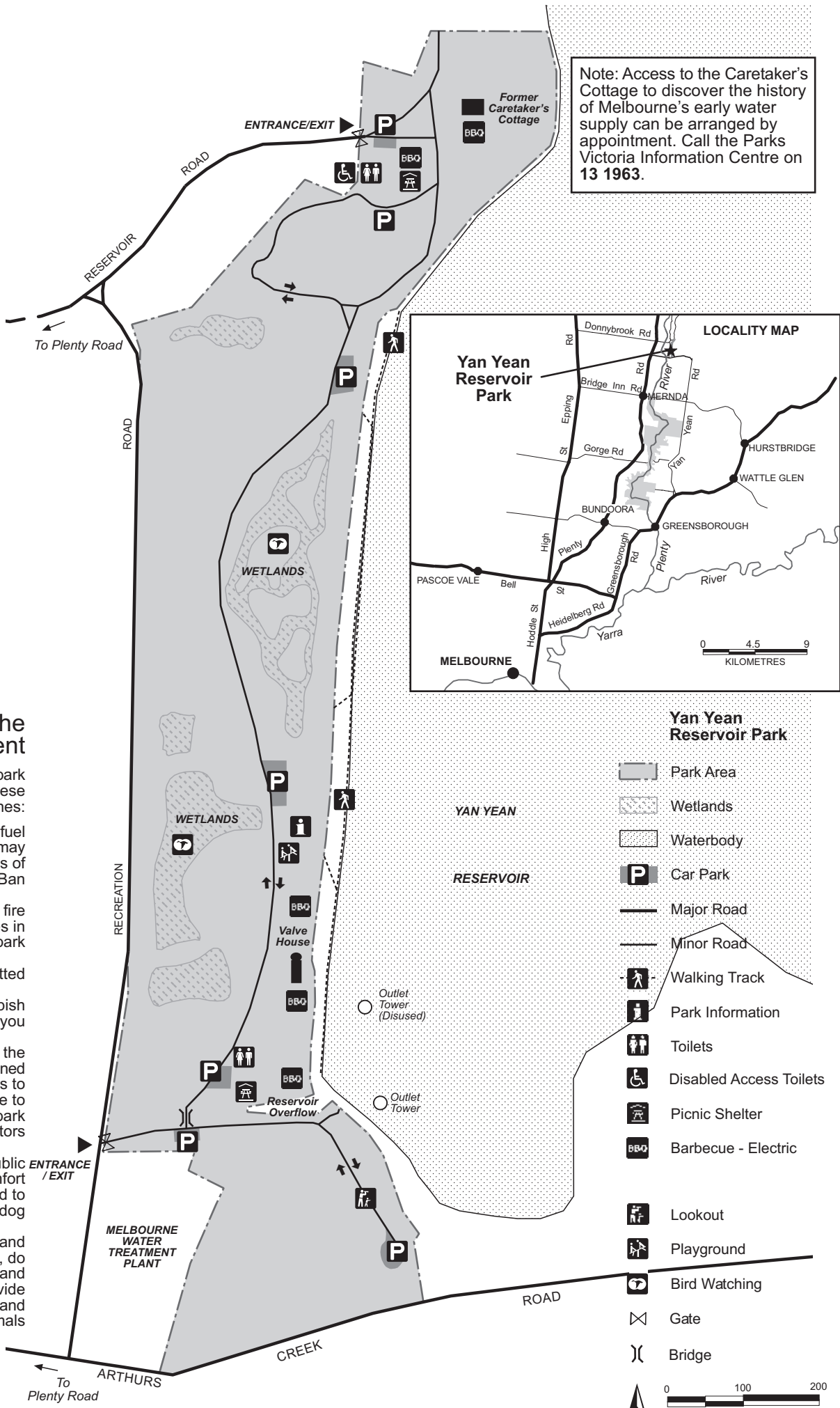
Facilities

Yan Yean Reservoir Park has electric barbecues, carparking, picnic tables, rotundas, walking trails and shaded picnic areas.

A playground near the Valve House is a safe area for children to play. Toilet facilities are located at both ends of the park and have parenting amenities. Toilet facilities for people with limited mobility are located at the northern end of the park.



Note: Access to the Caretaker's Cottage to discover the history of Melbourne's early water supply can be arranged by appointment. Call the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963.



Caring for the environment

Help us look after this park by remembering these guidelines:

No fires including solid fuel or gas fired barbecues may be lit on days of Total Fire Ban

Please observe fire regulations at all times in the park

Camping is not permitted

Take all rubbish home with you

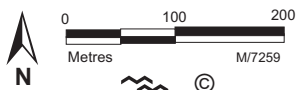
Dogs are permitted in the park, but must be restrained on a leash at all times to minimise disturbance to wildlife and other park visitors

In the interest of public health and for the comfort of all, you are required to clean up after your dog

All native plants and animals are protected, do not remove dead trees and branches as they provide homes to native plants and animals

Yan Yean Reservoir Park

- Park Area
- Wetlands
- Waterbody
- Car Park
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Walking Track
- Park Information
- Toilets
- Disabled Access Toilets
- Picnic Shelter
- Barbecue - Electric
- Lookout
- Playground
- Bird Watching
- Gate
- Bridge



Updated January 2006