

Lysterfield Park & Churchill National Park



Visitor Guide

Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park take in much of the southern side of the Lysterfield Hills and form a valuable link between the Dandenong Valley and the Dandenong Ranges. In 1997 these two parks were joined by the acquisition of further land, and they now cover a total area of 1,668 hectares. These parks are a haven for native birds, mammals and reptiles, and provide great recreational opportunities.



Short-beaked Echidna ©MT

How to get there

The main entrance for Churchill National Park is off Churchill Park Drive (Melway 82 C11). The entrance for Lysterfield Park is from Horswood Road (Melway 108 D2).

Things to see and do

Both Lysterfield Park and Churchill National Park are great for a number of recreational activities; there are electric/gas barbecues, picnic tables and toilets facilities.

Groups of fifty or more are asked to notify the park of their intended visit by calling 13 1963.

The joining of the two parks has increased the area accessible to the public, including the magnificent view from Trig Point. There are many tracks through the parks suitable for walking, jogging and cycling.

Cyclists can enjoy riding the Commonwealth Games Mt Bike track or associated recreational trail system, but must take note of signs restricting access for bicycles to some tracks, and must be wary of walkers on all tracks at all times.

Horse riding is permitted on a limited number of the eastern tracks in Lysterfield Park. There is no off-road vehicle access, and all vehicles must park in designated parking bays.

A window to the past

Less than 150 years ago the Melbourne region was covered by natural bush and forest, but today there are very few areas of bush left. Lysterfield and Churchill fortunately retain a valuable portion of what was once a common landscape.

History of Lysterfield Hills

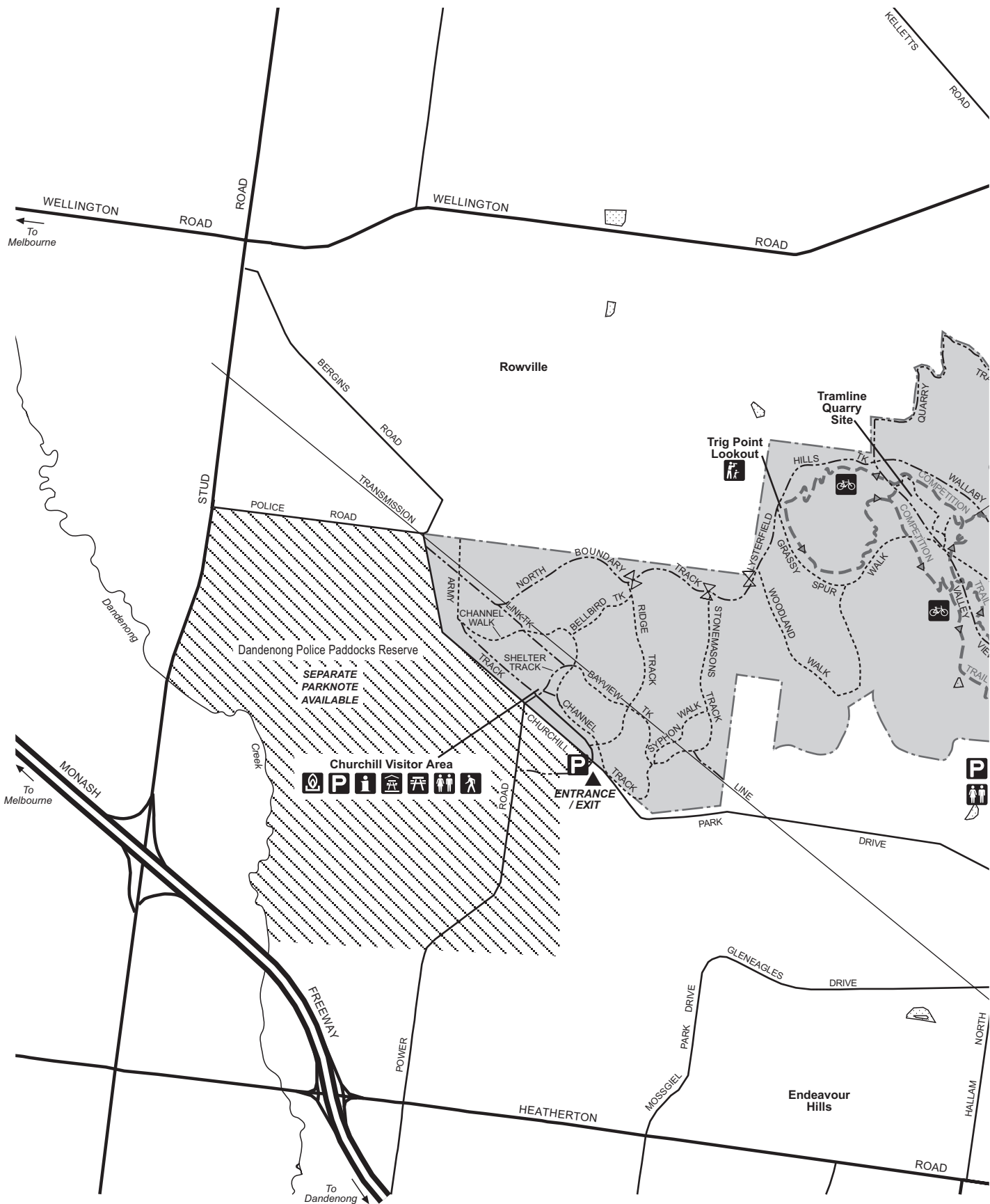
Between 1936 and 1975 Lysterfield Lake supplied fresh water to the Mornington Peninsula. A large area surrounding the lake was purchased from farmers in the early part of the century and fenced off to protect the quality of the water. The State Rivers and Water Supply Commission established eucalypt plantations around the lake and also protected the remaining remnant native forest. After 1975 Cardinia Reservoir became operational and Lysterfield Lake was no longer required.

History of Churchill National Park

Churchill National Park has a long and interesting history. In the 1920s local stone was quarried there. The SEC (State Electricity Commission) then acquired land through the centre of Churchill as a powerline easement, and in the 1930s the area was officially recognised as a park called Dandenong National Park. In 1944 it was renamed Churchill National Park after Sir Winston Churchill.

There is still evidence of colonial houses that were once in the park as well as an old aqueduct, man-made dams and scarred trees from bushfires. See what clues you can find about the history of the park.





Churchill National Park & Lysterfield Park

- | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| | Freeway | | Shared cycle, walking and management vehicles only track | | Park |
| | Major road | | Mountain Bike trail only | | Conservation Zone (No boats) |
| | Minor road | | Equestrian trail | | |
| | Walking track | | | | |
| | Seasonal Track Closure
May - Oct due to
<i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> , a root rotting fungi | | | | |

Recreational Facilities

- | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|------------------|--|--------------------|
| | Barbecue - Electric | | Cycling | | Swim (Swim patrol) |
| | Barbecue - Gas | | Family walk | | Toilet |
| | Bird hide | | Lookout | | Walki |
| | Boat rigging & launching | | Park information | | Trail I |
| | Carpark | | Picnic shelter | | |
| | Cavaletti | | Picnic table | | |

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 this park by remembering these guidelines:

Please take all rubbish home with you

Firearms are prohibited

Dogs, cats and other pets are not permitted

All native plants and animals are protected

Wood and solid fuel barbecues (including heat beads) are prohibited

No barbecues may be lit on a day of **Total Fire Ban**

Leave the park as you find it

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

Walks

1. A pleasant short walk leads from Lysterfield Lake picnic areas to the dam wall. Please do not climb on the wall or dislodge rocks protecting it; stick to the track on top.
2. An 8 km walk takes you right around Lysterfield Lake. Cross the dam wall and follow Acacia Nature Trail, Casuarina Track, Lake Track and the trail through the conservation zone to Logan Park Road. Follow Logan Park Road or Lake Track back into the park to the main picnic area.
3. For the more adventurous, a 6.4 km walk (including return to the carpark) takes you up to Trig Point for spectacular 360° views of Melbourne. From the carpark at Churchill National Park, walk along Channel Track and continue when it becomes Stonemasons Track and Lysterfield Hills Track. This track leads you straight to the top of the hill.
4. At the picnic area of Churchill there is a 10 minute nature walk loop to enjoy.



Eastern Yellow Robin ©MT

Water sports at Lysterfield Park

Swimming is permitted within the two swimming bays at Lysterfield Lake. Note that the water can be quite murky and children should be supervised at all times. The water body is not patrolled.

Non-powered boating is permitted on the lake, except at the northern, eastern and south-eastern extremities for the protection of swimmers and waterbird habitat. Powerboats are not permitted.

Sailing is permitted in monohull boats up to 5 metres long and multi-hull boats up to 4.3 metres long. There is a local sailing club which welcomes new members. If you would like further details on membership please contact Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

Canoeing, rowing and sailboarding are also permitted, but the number of boats at any one time on the lake may be controlled.



Crimson Rosella ©MT

A valuable wildlife refuge

Lysterfield and Churchill Parks are an especially significant area for an amazing variety of birdlife. A total of 172 species has been recorded in the parks. The birds are attracted by the different types of food and environments; woodlands, forest, the lake and grassy open spaces.

Some of these birds include; parrots, honeyeaters, wrens, thornbills, grebes, pelicans, cockatoos and even the migratory Japanese Snipe.

Parrots and Bell Miners (commonly know as Bellbirds) are probably the most obvious birds. Take a walk along Bellbird Track and listen to the melodious notes of these birds as they call to other members of their family.

Many of the mammals in the area are active only at night, but if you arrive early or leave at dusk, you may catch a glimpse of a wallaby or kangaroo. Echidnas are also common, foraging around in the daytime looking for ants and grubs in the ground and under the bark of trees. In the summer Green and Golden Bell-frogs may be found basking in the sun.

Visitors with limited mobility

Visitors with limited mobility can enjoy both Lysterfield Lake Park and Churchill National Park. Both parks have ramped access and accessible toilets. Please contact staff on 13 1963 if you need further information on disabled access at either park.

Community involvement

The community is a very important part of these parks. If you are interested in joining the Friends Group in this area, please contact Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or ask a Ranger when you next visit.

April 2007

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