

Long Forest Nature Conservation Reserve



Visitor Guide

With the opportunity to view Mallee vegetation in close proximity to Melbourne, this 600 hectare reserve provides a unique experience for visitors to enjoy. Plants typical of arid landscapes, small-scale creek escarpments and classification by the National Trust make the reserve a fantastic retreat for bushwalkers and bird observers.



Over generations the lignotuber from one mallee can spread into a large mallee ring indicating great age. The lignotuber is a central woody lump that several stems grow from giving the mallee its distinctive form.

Go for a walk

There are walking experiences to suit all ages, abilities and aspirations.

Moonah Track, 1.5km return, easy

Start on Moonah Drive to the north-east of Long Forest Road and walk east to a bend in Djerriwarrh Creek. Return on the same track.

Coimadai Circuit, 5km return, medium

Start west of Canopus Circuit and follow Long Point Track to Long Point on Coimadai Creek, then continue south along the creek via the Coimadai Creek Track. Turn east on Coimadai Track back to Canopus Circuit.

Happy Valley Track, 4km return, easy

Start from Happy Valley car park on Long Forest Road and go west to a beautiful Blue Box flat on Coimadai Creek. Return via the same track.

Old House Track Circuit, 5km return, medium

Start at the gate to Mallee Track on Long Forest Road and follow Old House Track west. Just east of Coimadai Creek turn north-east via Gravelly Track to the top of a hill to an unnamed track heading north to Happy Valley Track, then east to Happy Valley car park. Walk south beside Long Forest Road back to your car.

Djerriwarrh Track, 3km return, easy

Start on the east side of Long Forest Road from a gate 1km north of the freeway and walk east on Djerriwarrh Track to a flat on Djerriwarrh Creek. Return via the same track.

Birdwatching

Keep your ears tuned for the distinctive calls of the Barking Owl, Jacky Winter, Speckled Warbler, Red-capped Robin, Rufus Whistler, Crested Bellbird and Diamond Firetail. These are just some of the birds of the threatened Temperate Woodland Bird Community the reserve protects.

A haven for plants and wildlife

The reserve offers a high diversity of flora and fauna species with over 400 native plants and 160 bird species listed.

The Bull Mallee found at Long Forest is the only patch of Mallee found south of the Great Dividing Range. This multi-stemmed eucalypt is the main species in the Rocky Chenopod Scrub plant community.

Sixteen species of saltbush are found within the reserve, including the smaller Saloop and the larger Fragrant Saltbush which grows to over a metre tall.

Look for Grey Box, Red Box and Yellow Gum along with Turkey Bush, Moonah and eleven wattle species.

You may see a Short-beaked Echidna, Koala, Brushtail Possum, Sugar Glider, Eastern Grey Kangaroo and Black-tailed Wallaby.

Less obvious, but just as interesting, are the skinks, toads, frogs, spiders, ants, moths, butterflies and beetles that live in the reserve.

How to get there

Long Forest Nature Conservation Reserve is along Long Forest Road between Melton and Bacchus Marsh north of the Western Freeway. Park at one of the four access points and follow the walking tracks into the Reserve. There is no vehicle access.

December 2010

Printed on Australian-made 100% recycled paper



For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre

Call 13 1963

or visit the

Parks Victoria website

www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Parks Victoria Office
219a Main Street
Bacchus Marsh 3340
Ph: (03) 5366 0000

Bacchus Marsh
Visitor Information Centre
156 Main Street
Bacchus Marsh 3340
Tel: (03) 5367 7488
Open: Fri Sat Sun Mon 10-4pm

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take all rubbish with you for recycling and disposal

All plants, animals, historical and archaeological sites and geographic features are protected by law

Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the reserve

Firearms are prohibited

Fires are not permitted within the reserve. **Long Forest Nature Conservation Reserve** is in the **Central Total Fire Ban District**

It is your responsibility to know if it is a day of Total Fire Ban. If in doubt call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667**

Park closures - Be prepared to leave early as extreme weather may cause the closure of some park areas for public safety

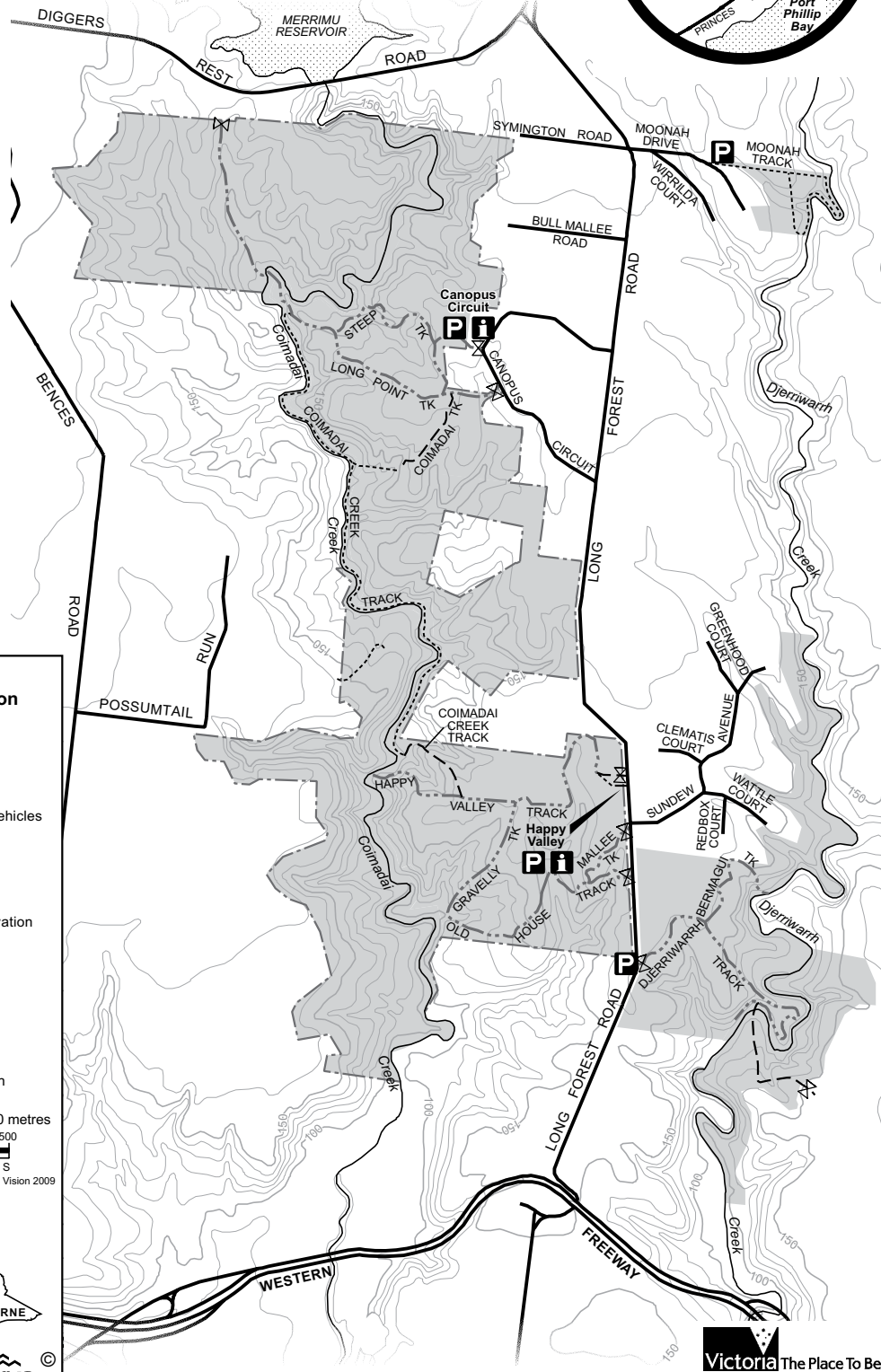
Be fire ready and stay safe

Many parks and forests are located in high fire risk areas. **On days of forecast Code Red Fire Danger this park will be closed for public safety.**

If you are already in the park you should leave the night before or early in the morning for your own safety.

Closure signs will be erected and rangers will patrol where possible, however you may not receive a personal warning that the park is closed so check the latest conditions by calling 13 1963 or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.**



Long Forest Nature Conservation Reserve

- Major road
- - - Vehicle track
- · - · Management Vehicles Only track
- · - · - · Walking track
- ⊗ Gate
- ▒ Nature Conservation Reserve
- ▒ Water body

Recreational Facilities

- P Carpark
- i Park information

Contour interval 10 metres
0 250 500
KILOMETRES
Cartography by Spatial Vision 2009 M/6448

Parks
VICTORIA