

Creswick Regional Park



Visitor Guide

Home to a variety of native wildlife and colourful spring wildflowers this park provides a fascinating glimpse of the past. Roam through the ancient hills and discover the relics of the gold mining era on a variety of easy walks, cycle or drive tours - or simply relax and enjoy a picnic by the tranquil St Georges Lake.



Honeyeater

Enjoying the park



Picnics

There are several picnic areas in the park, with wood barbecues provided. Gas barbecues are available at St Georges Lake.



Camping

You can camp for short stays at Slaty Creek. This is suitable for motor homes as well as tents. Campers should bring their own drinking water and firewood.

Camping is not permitted at St Georges Lake.



Walking

Explore the park by enjoying some suggested easy walks. Step on and off the Goldfields Track which passes through the park as the trail winds through Victoria's goldfields.



Mountain bike riding

Mountain bikes are a great way to see the park and there are many tracks available. Please note that bikes are not permitted on the walking tracks.



Fossicking

Panning for gold along Slaty Creek is a popular pastime in the park. **All adults must hold a current Miner's Right** to engage in fossicking. Remember to fill any holes and leave the area as you found it. **Relics must not be disturbed or removed.**



Plants and animals

Trees: Eucalypts growing in the park include Messmate, Manna Gum, Scent-bark, Broad-leaved Peppermint and Narrow-leaved Peppermint. Candlebarks also grow in gullies and are recognised by their stark white trunks.

Wildflowers: Victoria's floral emblem, the Common Heath, is one of the plants frequently found growing under eucalypts. Look for its pink or white bells. There are many plants from the pea family growing, including the rich purple flowered Hardenbergia or "Sarsaparilla".

Birds: Common birds include Grey Currawongs, Crimson Rosellas, White-throated Tree-creepers, Grey Fantails, thornbills, robins and honeyeaters. Two migratory species found in the gullies are the Rufous Fantail and Satin Flycatcher.

Mammals: Koalas and Black wallabies are common, although they can be difficult to find. The Koala's main food source is the Manna Gum, a white-trunked tree with hanging ribbons of bark on its trunk. These are common in damper gullies, along with Candlebark gums.

A golden history

The Creswick area was intensively mined during the gold rush of the 1850s. Many methods of mining were used, including surface or alluvial mining by puddling, hydraulic sluicing, shaft and reef mining.

The stone and earth wall of Eaton's dam demonstrates the skill of stone workers of the time, and Chinese workings are also present in the park.

The surrounding forest supplied timber for local firewood, mines and buildings. By the end of the 1890s, the forests had mostly been cleared to support the mining industry.

With the hills left scarred and badly eroded, a pioneer forester John La Gerche, set in motion re-planting trees along the eroded gullies and slopes of Creswick. La Gerche's original plantings are now over one hundred years old and protected as part of this regional park.

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 when 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.parks.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**.

For further information
Parks Victoria Information
Centre
Call **13 1963**
or visit the
Parks Victoria website
www.parks.vic.gov.au

Ballarat
Visitor Information Centre
Cnr Eureka & Rodier Sts
Toll free: 1800 648 450

Miners Rights:

Dept of Environment and
Primary Industries
Information Centre
Level 2
State Govt Offices
Cnr Mair & Doveton Sts
Ballarat
Tel: (03) 5336 6856
8.30am – 4.30pm Mon-Fri

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by
following these guidelines;

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

Vehicles, including
motorbikes, may only be
used on public roads. All
drivers must be licensed
and vehicles registered and
roadworthy.

Fire

Creswick Regional Park 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:**

1800 240 667

No fires may be lit on days of
Total Fire Ban.

Park closures

Be prepared to leave early as
**extreme weather may cause
the closure of some park
areas** for public safety.

Mobile Phones

You may not be in network
range in some areas of the
park. To be connected
to Police, Ambulance or
CFA, key in **112 then press
the YES key**

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Visiting a park can improve
your health, mind, body and
soul. So, with over four million
hectares of parkland available
to Victorians, why not escape
to a park today!



Places of Interest

St Georges Lake

Popular with visitors and wildlife, St Georges Lake was once a mining dam used to supply water. Today it is a popular summer base for water activities. Free gas barbecues and toilets are provided in the main picnic area. Wood barbecues are also provided in the eastern picnic area on the inlet creek. Dogs are permitted at St Georges Lake, but they must be on a lead. There is *no camping* at the lake and *power boats are not permitted*.



Black duck with young

Slaty Creek camping & picnic area

Close to the township of Creswick, Slaty Creek is a great place to enjoy a bush picnic. Pan for gold along the meandering creek, take a stroll beside old water races, or sit and watch the bush come alive with many species of birds. There are three camping areas with wood barbecues and tables on the creek flats, surrounded by tall Manna Gums. The main area has toilets and is more suitable for larger groups.

Koala Park

Koala Park has a network of walking tracks for visitors and there's a chance of spotting a koala, although you are more likely to see one at Slaty Creek or Eaton's Dam.

In 1942, forestry students constructed a netting fence in a section of the forest to be used as a breeding area for koalas. Koalas were released in the enclosure to breed and boost the numbers of the local population. However, they were able to climb the fence and so dispersed into the surrounding forest.

Exploring the region

The surrounding area offers other opportunities for you to enjoy Victorias' past and relax with family and friends.

Buried Rivers of Gold Heritage Trail

Beneath the rolling hills of this district are long buried underground streams - full of gold! This car-based tour passes underground mining operations that won wealth for some beyond their wildest dreams.

Booklets are available at the Creswick Museum or the Creswick Visitor Information Centre.

Hepburn Regional Park

Winding creeks with dry stone miner's walls, bushwalks along old water races and mineral springs in attractive bush settings make this park an enjoyable place for everyone.

New Australasian Mine

In the early 1880s the New Australasian Mine was the site of great wealth and prosperity, having tapped a rich goldbearing deep lead. Today the site is remembered as the place of Australia's largest gold mining disaster, when 22 men lost their lives underground.

Creswick Museum

A fine collection of local art, relics and history from the area is beautifully presented in the old Town Hall at Creswick. Open 1:30pm to 4:30pm Sundays and public holidays.

Mount Beckworth Scenic Reserve

A lone pine tree on the granite peak is a landmark across the district, and the slopes of Mount Beckworth protect an abundance of native wildlife, orchids and spring wildflowers.

Anderson's Mill, Smeaton

On the banks of Birch's Creek at Smeaton, the bluestone flour mill and grounds are like a scene from a postcard. Anderson's Mill was built and operated by the Anderson family from 1862 to 1959. Picnic by the creek and stroll around the impressive ground any day.



The Mill building is open on the first Sunday of the month 12 - 4pm.

How to get there

Creswick Regional Park is 120kms north-west of Melbourne, half way between Ballarat and Daylesford just off the Midland Highway.

June 2014

Printed on Australian-made 100% recycled paper