

# Mount Richmond National Park



## Visitor Guide to Benwerrin

With spectacular spring wildflowers and abundant wildlife in unspoilt bushland, Mt Richmond is the perfect place to have a picnic, take a walk or simply drive to the summit and enjoy the magnificent views.



Long-nosed Potoroo

*"Ngatanwarr wartee pa kakay teen Gunditjmara mirring"; Welcome brothers and sisters to Gunditjmara Country.*

### A rich human history

The Gunditjmara have inhabited the Mt Richmond area they call Benwerrin, meaning 'Long Hill,' for many thousands of years, enjoying the rich variety of foods available in the bush and along the coast. The large trees with dark grey, hard and fissured bark with dense dark green foliage are Blackwood Wattles (*Acacia melanoxylon*). The tree's strong wood is good for making hunting boomerangs, and the sticky sap forms useful glue for hand tools.

Mount Richmond was named after Richmond Henty, one of the first European children born in the Portland area. The national park was established in 1960, as a result of the dedication of local naturalists such as Noel Learmonth and Cliff Beauglehole.

### Where's the volcano?

Visitors to the park may be surprised to learn that Mount Richmond is an extinct volcano. Where's the crater and volcanic rock? Most of the volcano is in fact covered with a layer of sand blown inland long ago from Discovery Bay. The mountain itself consists not of basalt, but of tuff, a porous rock formed when volcanic ash gradually hardened after the eruption ceased over two million years ago.

Vegetation gradually became established on Mount Richmond and many hardy native plants now grow successfully in the infertile sandy soil.

### Animals birds and plants

The park's varied habitats support a wide range of wildlife. Eastern Grey Kangaroos graze near the picnic areas and Koalas may be seen in the nearby eucalypts in drier months. Red-necked wallabies occur throughout the park and echidnas can often be seen foraging for ants.

*Copperheads and Tiger Snakes are sometimes seen sunning themselves on a warm day.*

Mount Richmond is an important habitat for the uncommon Long-nosed Potoroo; a small member of the kangaroo family, it is seldom seen as it lives in thick undergrowth and is only active at night.

Birds include Emus, Crimson Rosellas, Gang-gang Cockatoos and Currawongs. Smaller birds frequently seen include honeyeaters, thornbills, wattlebirds, Silveryeyes, robins, finches and tree-creepers. Among the less common bird species are the Southern Emu-wren, Beautiful Firetail, King Quail and Rufous Bristlebird.

**Some of Victoria's best wildflowers are found here.** About 450 species of plants have been recorded in the park, including 50 orchid species. Correas, heaths, wattles and Bush Peas provide spectacular colours in spring, but there are plants flowering almost all year round.

The well-drained soils near the summit support a gum forest dominated by Brown Stringybark with small pockets of Manna Gum. Further down the slopes are Shiny-leaf Peppermint and Swamp Gum (common in the picnic area) with an understorey of grass trees and heath. The wet heathlands are dominated by Swamp Paperbark.

### Great South West Walk

This internationally acclaimed walk allows for a number of short or longer walking combinations. Starting and ending at Portland, the 250km route passes through forest and heathlands, along rivers and via wind-swept coastal cliffs and beaches. A brochure covering the entire walk is available from Visitor Centres at Portland and Nelson and on-line at [www.greatsouthwestwalk.com](http://www.greatsouthwestwalk.com).

### 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 may 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](http://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.

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For further information

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre  
Call **13 1963**  
or visit the website  
[www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

Portland Maritime  
Discovery Centre  
Lee Breakwater Road  
Portland Vic 3305  
Freecall: 1800 035 567

### Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away with you for recycling and disposal

All plants, animals, archaeological sites and geological features are protected by law & must not be disturbed or removed

Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park

Firearms are not permitted

Fire may only be lit in fireplaces provided.  
No fires, (including gas or fuel stoves in tents) may be lit on days of **Total Fire Ban**

Mt Richmond National Park is in the **South West Total Fire Ban District**

Keep to tracks, for your own safety and to protect soils and vegetation

Vehicles, including motor cycles, must not be driven off open formed roads. All vehicles must be registered and drivers licensed

### 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**



## How to get there

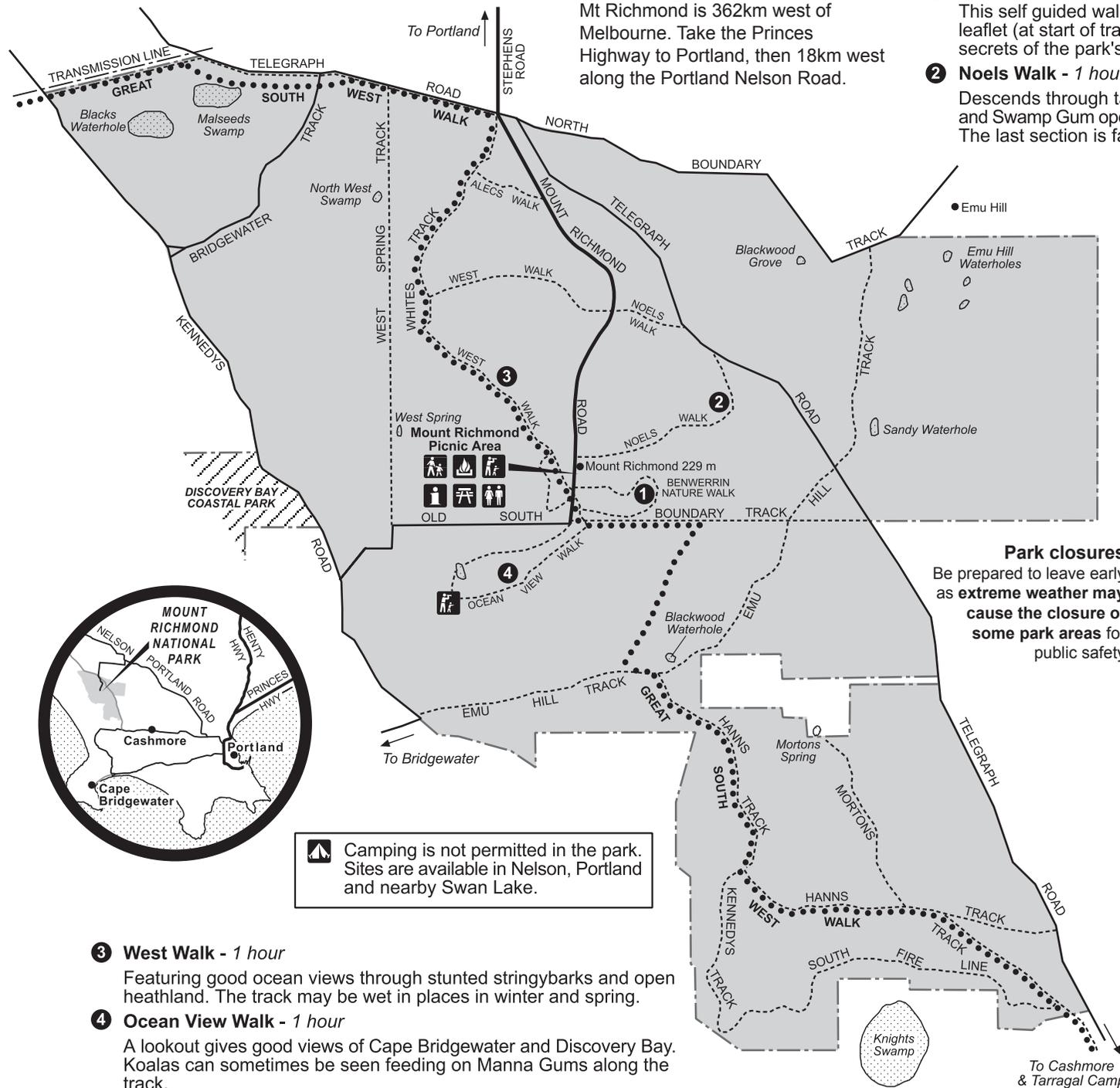
Mt Richmond is 362km west of Melbourne. Take the Princes Highway to Portland, then 18km west along the Portland Nelson Road.

### 1 Benwerrin Nature Walk - 1 hour.

This self guided walk is recommended for all visitors. A leaflet (at start of track) helps you discover some of the secrets of the park's plants and animals.

### 2 Noels Walk - 1 hour

Descends through tall stringybark forest to peppermint and Swamp Gum open forest at the base of the mountain. The last section is fairly steep.



**Camping is not permitted in the park.** Sites are available in Nelson, Portland and nearby Swan Lake.

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

### 3 West Walk - 1 hour

Featuring good ocean views through stunted stringybarks and open heathland. The track may be wet in places in winter and spring.

### 4 Ocean View Walk - 1 hour

A lookout gives good views of Cape Bridgewater and Discovery Bay. Koalas can sometimes be seen feeding on Manna Gums along the track.

### Mount Richmond National Park

- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Great South West Walk
- Walking track
- National Park
- Other Park
- Water body
- Walk reference number

#### Recreational Facilities

- Family walk
- Fireplace
- Lookout
- Park information
- Picnic table
- Toilets

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