

# You Yangs Regional Park



## Visitor Guide

The granite peaks of the You Yangs rise dramatically from the surrounding volcanic plains between Melbourne and Geelong. Although only 340 metres high, they dominate the landscape, and are clearly visible from as far away as the bay side of Melbourne and beyond.



Mountain biking © Robert Avitabile

Mountain Bike Riding - one of the many fantastic recreational opportunities to enjoy in the You Yangs!

## Go for a walk

Fantastic walking opportunities abound within the park, catering for all ages and abilities.

Many of the walking tracks can be linked by Management Vehicle tracks to provide longer walks for the more enthusiastic.

To find the walk that suits you, check out the walk descriptions on the map page.

Dogs are welcome in the park but must be kept on a lead at all times.

## Have a picnic

Enjoy a picnic with family and friends at one of several picnic areas located throughout the park.

All have wood fired barbeque places, however wood is not supplied. The main picnic areas provide gas barbeques free of charge on a first come basis.

To guarantee access to a barbeque we recommend that you bring your own.

## Drives around the park

**Great Circle Drive** is a 12km gravel road accessible by two wheel drive cars. The drive provides the full spectrum of diverse scenery available in this unique park.

**Turntable Drive** is a sealed road from the park entrance to Turntable car park, located approximately one-third of the way up Flinders Peak. It provides access to most of the main picnic areas.

## Mountain bike riding

Two areas of the park have been set aside for mountain bike riding.

The Stockyards provides riders with a variety of tracks with a range of challenges including both cross country and down hill riding.

The Kurradjong Plantation has a cross country track through flat terrain.

For a more casual experience, Great Circle Drive and Turntable Drive offer enjoyable rides for all levels of experience.

Mountain bikes are not permitted in the Western Plantation or on walking tracks.

## Rock-climbing and abseiling

There are several great rock-climbing and abseiling sites throughout the park.

Bookings are required for groups. Individuals are not required to book, but should check with the Park Office to enquire about the availability of sites.

Seasonal closures apply to some sites.

## Horse riding

The Western Plantation offers great riding opportunities. A loop trail marked with orange arrows starts at the front entrance of the park and winds its way through the plantation to the Western picnic area and then back to the front gate. Horses are only permitted in the Western Plantation west of Sandy Creek Road.

Great Circle Drive is open for horse riders after hours. Horses are not permitted in any other area of the park.

Drinking water for horses is not provided.

## Orienteering

A permanent orienteering course has been established in the park.

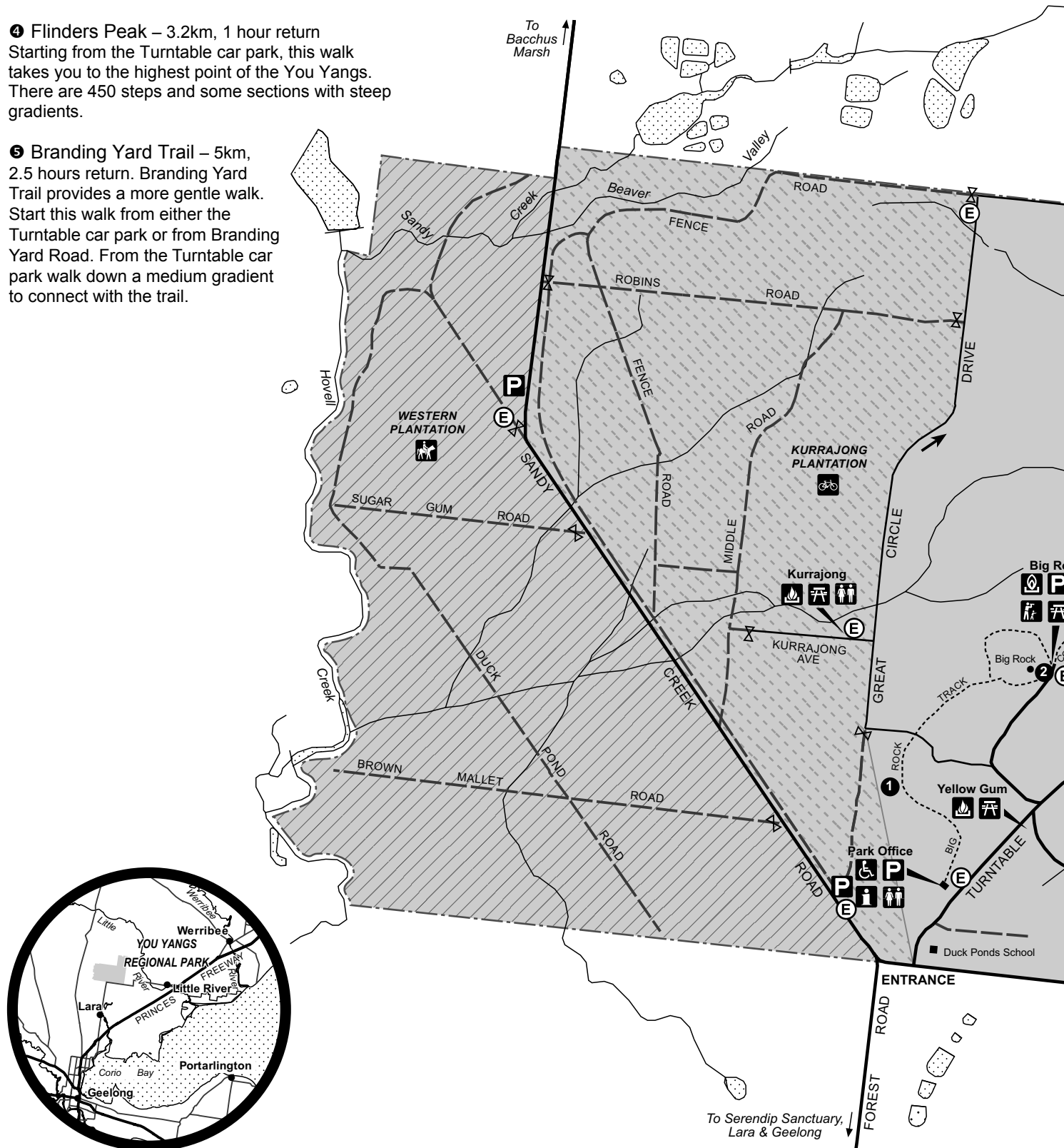
Additional information and maps are available from the Park Office.

## Walking Tracks

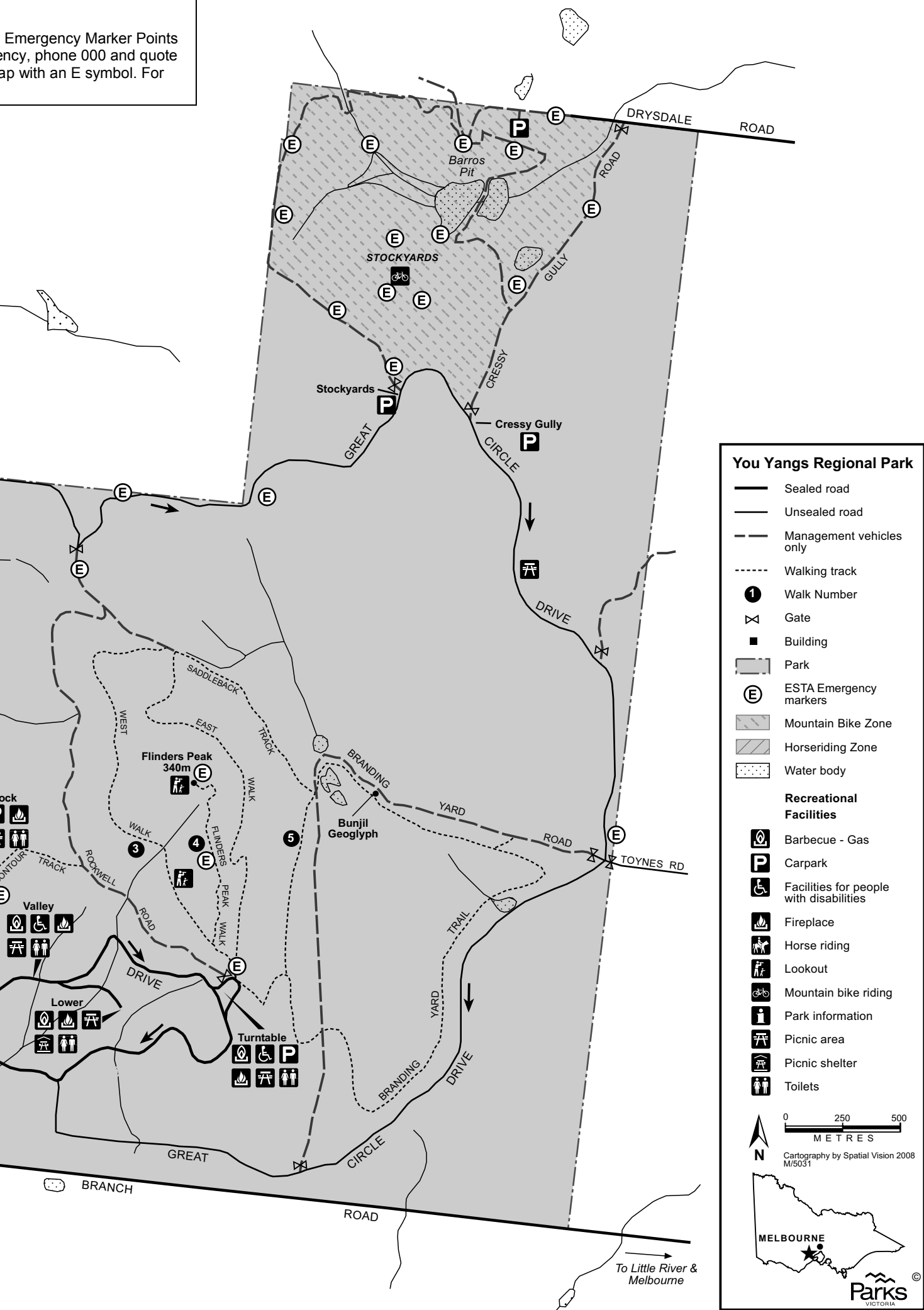
- 1 Big Rock Walk – 3km, 1 hour return**  
From the Park Office car park, Big Rock Walk winds its way around Big Rock and then back down the same path.
- 2 Big Rock – 100m, 10 minutes return**  
A 100m walk from the Big Rock car park takes you to Big Rock. Brilliant views of the surrounding area towards Geelong can be seen from the top.
- 3 East-West Walk – 4.5km, 2 hours return**  
Enjoy this gentle loop walk with some medium gradients, starting and finishing at the Turntable car park. Rewarding views of the You Yangs and the surrounding area can be seen.
- 4 Flinders Peak – 3.2km, 1 hour return**  
Starting from the Turntable car park, this walk takes you to the highest point of the You Yangs. There are 450 steps and some sections with steep gradients.
- 5 Branding Yard Trail – 5km, 2.5 hours return. Branding Yard Trail provides a more gentle walk.**  
Start this walk from either the Turntable car park or from Branding Yard Road. From the Turntable car park walk down a medium gradient to connect with the trail.

## Emergency markers

The Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) has created this to help to pinpoint exact locations in the case of an emergency. In an emergency, dial 000 and provide the closest ESTA Emergency Marker code. Markers are identified on the map. For further information visit [www.esta.vic.gov.au](http://www.esta.vic.gov.au).



Emergency Marker Points  
 Emergency, phone 000 and quote  
 map with an E symbol. For



### You Yangs Regional Park

- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Management vehicles only
- Walking track
- Walk Number
- Gate
- Building
- Park
- ESTA Emergency markers
- Mountain Bike Zone
- Horsriding Zone
- Water body

#### Recreational Facilities

- Barbecue - Gas
- Carpark
- Facilities for people with disabilities
- Fireplace
- Horse riding
- Lookout
- Mountain bike riding
- Park information
- Picnic area
- Picnic shelter
- Toilets

0 250 500 METRES

N  
 Cartography by Spatial Vision 2008 M/5031

MELBOURNE  
 To Little River & Melbourne

**Parks**  
 VICTORIA

## For further information

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre

**Call 13 1963**

or visit the

Parks Victoria website

**www.parkweb.vic.gov.au**

You Yangs Park Office

Branch Road, Lara

PO Box 131

Lara Vic 3212

Phone: 5282 3356

Duty Ranger: 0408 512 580

Geelong Great Ocean Road  
Visitor Information Centre

Cnr Princes Highway and St  
Gorge Road Corio Vic 3214

Freecall: 1800 620 880

## Caring for the environment

Help us look after the park by remembering these guidelines:

Please take your rubbish with you for recycling or disposal

All plants, animals, historical and archaeological sites and geographic features are protected by law and are not to be disturbed

Light fires only in fireplaces provided. No fires, including gas barbecues, may be lit on a day of **Total Fire Ban**. You Yangs are 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

Removal of firewood from the park is prohibited

Vehicles, including motor bikes, may only be used on formed open roads. Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy

## 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**.



**Black-tailed Wallaby**

One of the special animals protected in this magnificent park

## The mountain in the plain

A family group of the Wathaurong Aboriginal people known as the Yawangi balug enjoyed a rich lifestyle in the You Yangs for thousands of years. The name You Yangs comes from the Aboriginal word 'Wurdi Youang' or 'Ude Youang' meaning big mountain in the middle of the plain.

Explorer Matthew Flinders and three of his crew were the first Europeans to see the You Yangs. They climbed to the highest point on 1 May 1802. Flinders named it 'Station Peak' but this was later changed to Flinders Peak in his honour.

Following European settlement the You Yangs were a source of gravel and timber. Tree plantations are prominent throughout the park and the remains of the gravel pits can still be seen.

## Aboriginal rock wells

Granitic rock wells were created by the Yawangi balug as permanent water storage due to the scarcity of natural water in the You Yangs and surrounding areas.

Rock wells can be best viewed at Big Rock.

## Bunjil Geoglyph

To commemorate the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, spectacular stone structures located in Geelong's Eastern Park and the You Yangs Regional Park were created by renowned artist Andrew Rogers, as part of a world-wide series of geoglyphs.

An aerial view of the You Yangs stone sculpture reveals Bunjil the traditional Creator Spirit of the Wathaurong Aboriginal people. Bunjil, represented in the form of a Wedge-tailed Eagle, is best viewed from the Flinders Peak Track. It can also be viewed from the East walk. Access to Bunjil is from Branding Yard Walk.

## A haven for wildlife

The park provides a range of habitats for wildlife. More than 200 species of birds have been recorded in the park and koalas, kangaroos, wallabies, brush-tail possums, echidnas and lizards are commonly seen.

## Plants - native and introduced

The You Yangs support a rich variety of plant species. Tall eucalypts such as Manna Gum, Yellow Gum and River Red Gum give way to sparse undergrowth of native shrubs and groundcovers. Patches of Wattle and Drooping She oaks also occur.

The endangered Brittle Greenhood Orchid is one of thirty species of orchids to be found in the park.

One pest plant which has become prominent is Boneseed, a native of South Africa. Today it chokes out large areas of native vegetation.

Parks Victoria is removing Boneseed from areas of high botanical value and supporting research into methods of biological control. Volunteer groups and schools are also actively involved with the boneseed control program.

## Opening hours

The Park is open from 8.00am to 4.30pm year round and 8.00am to 6.00pm on weekends and public holidays during daylight savings.

## How to get there

The You Yangs Regional Park is 55km southwest of Melbourne CBD and 22km north of Geelong. Access to the park from the Princess Freeway is clearly signposted via Lara

December 2010

Printed on Australian-made 100% recycled paper