

Kooyoora State Park



Visitor Guide

Kooyoora State Park, with magnificent views and a rich variety of plants and wildlife, protects some of north-central Victoria's outstanding natural features. The park is ideal for many outdoor recreation activities from picnics to sightseeing, rock climbing, orienteering and nature study.



Melville Caves, named after robber and rogue "Captain Melville", has a rich history and offers fine views from giant rocky outcrops

Womin-dji-ka (Welcome)

Kooyoora State Park and the Whela Nature Conservation Reserve are part of the traditional lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung People.

The Dja Dja Wurrung people's rights were recognised through a Recognition and Settlement Agreement with the State of Victoria in March 2013. The Dja Dja Wurrung People maintain a close and continuing connection to Djandak, their traditional Country.

Kooyoora State Park, Greater Bendigo National Park, Hepburn Regional Park, Kara Kara National Park, Paddy's Ranges State Park and Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve are jointly managed by the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and Parks Victoria.

Djandak is a cultural landscape that includes both tangible objects such as scarred trees, mounds, wells and stone artefact scatters; and intangible stories. Djandak is a living entity, which holds stories of creation and histories that cannot be erased.

The Dja Dja Wurrung People of the Kooyoora area depended on natural springs and wells for their water as the area lacks permanent streams. Many large shallow rock wells in the upper surfaces of the granite outcrops were created to store rainwater.

Rock shelters and caves were used for shelter from the weather and their sandy floors have preserved many stone artefacts. Other remnants of Aboriginal occupation are scars in the bark of trees. Bark was used to make bark dishes and shields.

Parks Victoria pays our respects to Dja Dja Wurrung Elders, past, present, and future, and asks visitors to do the same. Aboriginal artefacts are protected by law, and it is prohibited to disturb them in any way.

How to get there

Kooyoora State Park is about 220km north west of Melbourne, just west of the Calder Highway between Inglewood and Wedderburn.

Enjoying the park

Picnicking - Melville Caves Picnic Area has tables, shelter, toilets and water and is most popular for enjoying the natural features of the park. Relax in natural surroundings, and enjoy its scenic and historic values.

Camping - For short stays, camp at Melville Caves Camping Area, one kilometre past the main Melville Caves picnic area. Facilities include toilets and fireplaces with grills. Firewood collection is prohibited in the park. Please bring your own supply or use a gas camping stove or barbecue.

Scenic Driving - Tour the road network throughout the park from Wehla block through Melville Caves to Sunday Morning Hills to take in the diversity of landscapes and enjoy the magnificent view from Mt Brenanah.

Walking - Exploring the walking tracks and road networks is a great way to see the park. Breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside from Melville Caves summit and Mt Kooyoora make for a worthwhile walk.

Horse riding - The park is an attractive setting for riding. Horses may only be ridden on formed roads open for public use and must not be taken on walking tracks.

The golden days

European settlement of the area began in the 1840s and mining for alluvial gold had begun by the late 1850s. Substantial finds in the late 1860s began a gold rush that lasted for several years.

The gold rush in the Kooyoora area followed soon after the discovery of gold in the Wedderburn district. One of the most famous finds of the Kingower goldfields was the 1857 discovery of the "Blanche Barkley" weighing some 49.5kg.

Mining excavations are scattered throughout the park, left behind by the retreating miners who moved on to other fields.

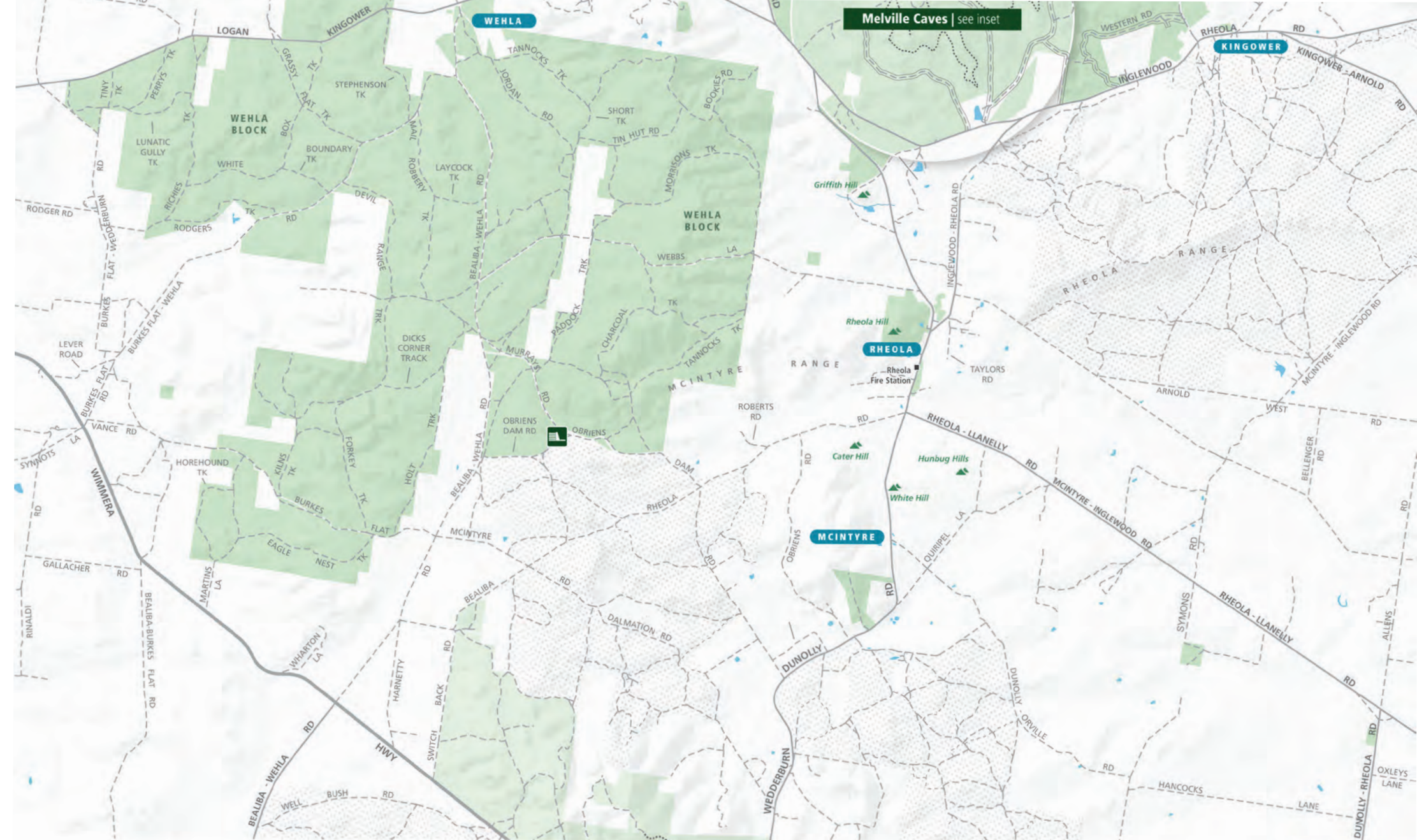
Kooyoora State Park was extended to 11,646ha in October 2002 to enhance what remains of Victoria's Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands.



For more information call Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

Kooyoora State Park





Melville Caves | see inset



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|-------------|-------------|---------|---------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Parking | Table | Camping | Hwy/Fwy | Walking track | Major river | Kooyoora State Park |
| Information | BBQ (Wood) | Dam | Main road | Seasonal closure | Stream | Public land/other park |
| Toilets | Lookout | | Sealed road | Management vehicle/walking track only | | Waterbody |
| Shelter | Family Walk | | Unsealed road | | | |

www.parks.vic.gov.au

Disclaimer: Parks Victoria does not guarantee that this data is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability which may arise from you relying on this information.

Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA 94) Zone 55. Map produced by Parks Victoria. This map supersedes all previous editions. Data source acknowledgements: State Digital Mapbase, The State of Victoria and Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Cartography by Parks Victoria June 2012

For further information

Call Parks Victoria **13 1963**
or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

St Arnaud Tourism
4 Napier Street
St Arnaud 3478
Freecall: 1800 014 455

Central Goldfields Visitor
Information Centre
Cnr Alma and Nolan Streets
Maryborough Vic 3465
Freecall: 1800 356 511

Bendigo Visitor Centre
51-67 Pall Mall
Bendigo Vic 3550
Freecall: 1800 813 153

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park
by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish with you for
recycling and disposal

All native plants and animals
are protected by law.

Dogs and other pets are only
permitted on Melville Caves Road
and the Melville Caves Picnic
Ground and must be kept on a
leash at all times

Firearms are prohibited

Firewood collection is prohibited.

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

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

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?*



Walks

Melville Caves Walking Track – 1 hour loop, 1km
Start on the opposite side of the Melville Caves Picnic Area and climb between boulders, passing Seal Rock. The track continues to the summit (steep grades in places) and Melville Caves Lookout. Return to the Picnic Area via the steep walking track from the summit or via the road past Melville Caves car park.

Eastern Walking Track – 2½ hour loop, 4.5km
The Eastern Walking Track is a loop track leading off Back Road. About 700m along the track there is a rock lookout with a good view of the valley. Continue past a long rock down to the fenced bush paddock. The track crosses a creek then heads down through more rock formations before climbing out of the valley and returning to the car park.

Melville Caves Lookout – 15mins, 300m
This is a short walk starting from the Melville Caves car park. A directional disc on top of the boulders at the Lookout points out surrounding features and landmarks.

Southern Lookout Walking Track – 1½ hours, 1.8km
Start from the Melville Caves Picnic Area and follow the track to the Southern Lookout. Enjoy some of the best views from the park. Return to the picnic area via the same track.

Long Rock Walking Track – 2-3 hours, 5.3km
Start from either the Picnic Area or the Camp Ground. From the Picnic Area head to the Southern Lookout, then backtrack 200m to rejoin the track heading north. Walk in a clockwise direction to McLeod's Lookout with magnificent views. The track continues south through remarkable rock formations and rock pools. From the Camp Ground, follow the walking track to McLeod's Lookout and continue south to the Rock Pool and the Picnic Area. Return to the Camp Ground via the Southern Lookout walking track (turning north at the sign).

A haven for plants and wildlife

Most of the major species of flora typical of north-central Victoria are present, including Blakely's Red Gum, Yellow and Grey Box and Red Ironbark. There are many species of rare or vulnerable plants occur, including Williamson's Wattle as well as many species of native orchids.

There is also a wide range of animal habitats. The Wehla area, in particular, provides some of the best examples of Box-Ironbark forest large old tree sites. Arboreal mammals and tree-nesting birds live in the open forests. Rainbow Bee-eaters nest in the granite soils and Wedge-tailed Eagles among the granite tors.

Kangaroos and wallabies browse the native grasslands and areas with shrubby understorey. Abundant ground litter provides shelter for many ground dwelling animals such as the Yellow-footed Antechinus.

A number of significant or interesting species have been recorded, including the rare Powerful Owl and Tuan and endangered Grey-crowned Babbler.



Powerful Owl chick

Friends of Kooyoora Inc - Spending time with friends can be good for your mind, body and soul. Restoring habitat diversity can have healthy benefits to you and your community. Volunteering is a great way to get involved in your environment - anyone can do it!

You can join the Friends of Kooyoora Inc in caring for this special place. Discover more about the Friends of Kooyoora at www.kooyoorafriends.com.au.

Nearby parks to visit

Kara Kara National Park, south of St Arnaud, has a quiet picnic and fishing spot, with a small campground at Teddington Reservoir. Wedge-tailed Eagles are often seen soaring above the steep forested ranges.

Mount Korong Nature Conservation Reserve - Mount Korong and the lower hills surrounding it have a prominent granite tor landscape. Picnicking, bushwalking and nature studies can be enjoyed here.

Moliagul Historic Reserve - Discovery Walk, information, a picnic area and shelter make this an enjoyable place to discover our gold mining past. The Welcome Stranger Monument commemorates the largest gold nugget ever found.

Emergencies

For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000).

If there is a green emergency marker sign near you, read the information on the marker to the operator.

Kooyoora State Park is in the Northern Country fire district. Bushfire safety is a personal responsibility. Anyone entering parks and forests during the bushfire season needs to stay aware of forecast weather conditions. Check the Fire Danger Rating and for days of Total Fire Ban at www.emergency.vic.gov.au, on the VicEmergency smartphone app or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226. No fires may be lit on Total Fire Ban days.

On Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating days this Park will be closed for public safety. Do not enter the Park. If you are already in the Park, leave the night before or as early as possible in the morning. Warnings signs may be erected, but do not expect a personal warning. Check the latest conditions at www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963.

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