

Yarra Ranges National Park

Lady Talbot Drive, Cambarville and Lake Mountain

Visitor Guide



Yarra Ranges National Park was declared in 1995 and stretches from Healesville to Warburton and beyond to the headwaters of the Yarra River and north to Lake Mountain. A vital catchment for Melbourne's water supply, the park is home to forests of Mountain Ash, rainforest and fern gullies, and the endangered Leadbeater's Possum.



Getting there

Lake Mountain is 120km from Melbourne. Follow the Maroondah Highway through the Black Spur taking the turn at Narbethong to Marysville. From Marysville follow Woods Point Road for 11km to Lake Mountain Road. A further 11km and you arrive at Lake Mountain.

Lady Talbot Drive commences from Woods Point Rd, on the edge of Marysville township.

To get to Cambarville Historic Township keep going a further 6.5km past the Lake Mountain turnoff on Woods Point Road.

Things to see and do

Lady Talbot Drive

This scenic drive, featuring several attractions along the Taggerty River, was named after the wife of Sir Reginald Talbot, Governor of Victoria from 1903 to 1908. If time permits stop for a picnic along the way or take one of the scenic walks.



Phantom Falls - 1.6km, 45 minutes return

A short steep walk from the car park takes you up from the Taggerty River into a wet fern gully where Phantom Falls Creek weaves its way through exposed rocks and thick tree fern trunks. From the viewing platform, the falls are particularly spectacular in spring when melting snow creates a fierce flow.



Keppel Falls - 2km, 45 minutes return

From the car park follow the walking track to a viewing deck overlooking the rushing waters of the Taggerty River. The falls were found and named by the Keppel brothers who settled in the area in the early 1880s.



Keppel Falls Lookout

A short drive up from Keppel Falls Walk, this lookout offers a spectacular view of the Taggerty River Valley with the falls as the centrepiece.



Beeches Rainforest Walk - 4km, 1.5 hours one way

Start this spectacular walk from the Taggerty Cascades car park or The Beeches. The ancient rainforest features groves of Myrtle Beech trees (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*) with many trees over

300 years old! The tranquil bubbling Whitehouse Creek joins the Taggerty River at the Meeting of the Waters.

On the eastern side the walk climbs up into stands of enormous Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*), one of the tallest trees in the world.

Please note: Lady Talbot Drive road conditions vary seasonally and can be subject to closures, four-wheel drives are recommended above the Keppel Falls carpark. Please check the website before planning your trip to avoid disappointment. Currently the road is closed between the Queen's Birthday and Melbourne Cup long weekends.

Cambarville Historic Township

This clearing, just north of the picnic area, was the site of the Cambarville sawmill and township. The township ceased functioning as a timber mill when the sawmill was burnt down in 1970. Some of the stumps of felled trees, houses, tree plantings and other relics of the sawmilling days have survived.

Deep cuts can clearly be seen in the old stumps where tree fellers fitted boards to stand on while they cut above the wide buttresses of the giant Mountain Ash trees.



Cumberland Walk – 4km, 1.5 hours

Starting from the Cambarville Picnic Area this easy to medium walk takes you past the Big Tree, the spectacular Cora Lynn Falls and Cumberland Falls.

The Big Tree - This Mountain Ash is the tallest living tree known in Victoria and is one of the group known as "The Tall Trees."

Cora Lynn Falls - The walk toward the magical cascade of the Cora Lynn Falls is lined with Tree Ferns beneath a thick canopy of Myrtle Beech, with huge Mountain Ash towering above.

Sovereign View - Continuing towards Sovereign View, the track follows an old water race constructed by miners around 1870 to provide water to the Sovereign Mine on the Reefton Spur. Sovereign View provides a spectacular outlook down the Armstrong Creek Valley towards Warburton.

The Big Culvert

This beautiful moss-covered granite arch was constructed by a German settler, George Koehler, who operated a hotel nearby. It was built around 1870 along with several other culverts of this type beneath the Woods Point Road. The road was once part of the "Yarra Track" that miners travelled along to the Woods Point goldfields.

Lake Mountain

Lake Mountain has more than 40km of subalpine tracks and ski trails open to walkers through the summer months. Several lookout points on the mountain offer panoramic views of the Victorian Alps to the east, and Melbourne and the surrounding foothills of the Great Dividing Range to the west.

From November to March, wildflowers bloom in a succession of bright colours and fill the air with perfume.

Picnicking on Lake Mountain is a popular way to escape the summer heat with the temperature averaging 10 degrees cooler than Melbourne.

When snow falls, Lake Mountain is transformed into a cross-country ski resort, offering 37km of groomed ski trails to explore. The resort has ski, toboggan and snow shoe hire, a ski school, first aid centre, as well as the information centre and bistro.

During the snow season a fee is charged for entry to the alpine resort.

For snow season information please obtain a Lake Mountain snow brochure from the Marysville Visitor Information Centre or Lake Mountain Alpine Resort Visitor Centre.

Lake Mountain Alpine Resort administration is open weekdays between 8.00am and 4.30pm. For more information, go to www.lakemountainresort.com.au

Walking

All walks start from the main car park and visitor centre. The walks at Lake Mountain highlight the alpine regeneration from the Black Saturday bushfires and offer something different for all times of year.

During the designated snow season, ski trails are managed for skiing only. Walking on the ski trails during this time is prohibited. Lake Mountain Summit and Summit Loop Walk are open to walkers all year around.

Lake Mountain Summit - 900 metres one way

From the car park the track rises steeply for 200m before levelling to a gentle incline to the summit. Fifty metres before the summit a short track off to the right leads to the Marysville Lookout. Return to the car park the same way.

Summit Loop Walk – 4km one way

This walk starts with the track to the summit then winds its way under pristine snow gum canopy, taking in three spectacular lookouts, lichen covered granite rock faces and a small alpine bog.

From the summit the track leads 300m to the Alps Lookout. After another 800m the track arrives at a junction. The right track continues the loop via the rock platform of Taggerty Valley View, back to the summit and car park. To see Sherlocks Lookout take the left track for 100m, but remember to return to the junction to find the return track.

Walks on ski trails

The ski trails are all five metres wide, grass covered and gently undulating providing easy walking. The following two walks provide amazing examples of regeneration from fire



Leadbeaters Loop Walk – 4km circuit

This easy loop walk starts on Echo Flat Ski Trail, passing the Snow Gauge and Helicopter Flat, before arriving at The Camp. From The Camp the walk winds back via Snow Gum Trail, then onto Home Trail and back to the car park. Signs along the way highlight various themes, including forest regeneration.



Day Loop Walk – 14km, 5 hours circuit

This walk is designed as an all day walk with plenty of resting places for picnics and views along the way. The walk starts on Royston Trail leaving from the lower car park behind the Ski Patrol Centre.

At Triangle Junction, continue along Panorama Trail to Crossways and past Panorama Lookout back to Crossways. Heading back towards Triangle Junction the walk now turns left down Upper Muster Trail to arrive at The Gap. It then follows Woollybutt Trail onto Jubilee Trail. After winding around the full length of Jubilee Trail it arrives at The Camp.

The return follows Snow Gum Trail past Helicopter Flat and turns left at Home Trail before arriving back at the car park.



Keppel Hut – 8km, 3 hours one way

Keppel Hut has been re-built since the 2009 fires and is accessible via Lake Mountain ski trails. This walk starts past Crossways at the junction of Panorama Trail and Hut Trail. Follow Hut Trail, then Boundary Walking Track until you reach Keppel Hut or access by 4WD via Marysville State Forest.

Mountain Bike Trails

There is a network of mountain bike trails at Lake Mountain. These trails offer a single track alternative to riders, with the 10km Granite Grind loop becoming more and more popular. For further information about the trails, pick up a mountain bike trail map from the Lake Mountain Visitor Centre or go to www.lakemountainresort.com.au

Caring for the park

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

- Yarra Ranges National Park encompasses major closed catchments for Melbourne's pure water supply. It is vital that everyone helps the prevention of pollution and fire. Take notice of signs stating No Public Access.
- Please take rubbish with you for recycling and disposal.
- All native plants and animals are protected by law. Please do not disturb them in any way.
- Dogs and other pets are not permitted in Yarra Ranges National Park, Donnellys Weir or Badger Weir.
- Feeding of birds and other wildlife is not permitted.
- Firearms and other weapons are prohibited.

Be prepared and stay safe

Yarra Ranges National Park is in the Central, North Central and North East fire districts. 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 Code Red Fire Danger Rating days this park will be closed for public safety. Closure signs will be erected but do not expect an official warning. Check the latest conditions at www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963. 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.

When walking in Lake Mountain, please come prepared:

- The terrain is rocky in places. Sturdy footwear is recommended.
- Alpine weather conditions can change rapidly and without warning. Always carry warm and weatherproof clothing.
- It is easy to become disoriented in this environment, especially when snow is present. Please stay on the marked tracks and trails.
- Leave details of your proposed trip with a responsible person, especially if skiing or walking alone.

Tree hazards

Lady Talbot Drive, Lake Mountain, and Camberville were all heavily impacted by the 2009 fires. There is greatly increased tree hazard from fire killed trees throughout this area of the Yarra Ranges National Park. Be vigilant to the dangers of limb and tree fall at all times, and especially during and/or post windy conditions and rain events.