Warrandyte State Park

The closest State Park to Melbourne, Warrandyte is a haven for picnickers, bushwalkers, canoeists, birdwatchers and those who enjoy peace and solitude. Its lightly wooded landscape is dominated by the Yarra River as it winds through the Warrandyte Gorge. There’s a good chance of seeing koalas in the trees at Pound Bend Reserve, while kangaroos and other wildlife are not uncommon in sections of the park.

Location and access
The park is 24km north-east of Melbourne. Access is mainly via three sealed roads: Warrandyte Road, Research-Warrandyte Road and Ringwood-Warrandyte Road (Melways pages 23 & 24).

Warrandyte State Park has a rich gold history. It is believed to be the site of Victoria’s first gold find in 1851 and remnants of the gold rush remain at Fourth Hill. For details about public transport to the park contact VicTrip on 13 1638.

Facilities
The park consists of a number of different sections, each with its own character and attractions for visitors.

Jumping Creek has a large recreational area with wood barbeques, picnic tables, toilets and information shelter. Some wood is provided but it is advisable to bring your own. For those who enjoy getting out on the river, there is a canoe launch at this reserve.

Pound Bend has a delightful picnic area with tables, toilets, a canoe launching ramp, great views of the river and carpark. There are easy walks and tracks for visitors with limited mobility.

Some suggested walks
Pound Bend River Walk
A short walk leading from Pound Bend Picnic Area will lead you to the historic Pound Bend Tunnel. In 1870, the Evelyn Tunnelling and Mining Company dug through 145 metres of hard rock at Pound Bend to divert the Yarra through what is now known as the Tunnel. This left five kilometres of the old river bed exposed to dredge for gold. Be careful though, because the rocks around the Tunnel can be particularly slippery.

Follow the track upstream along the river but don’t forget to look up as there are often Koalas lounging in the tree tops. At the half way point the walk leaves the river and loops back up towards the road, along the top ridge and back to the carpark. (3.5km 1-1.5hrs return)

Jumping Creek Nature Walk
This informative walk introduces you to the various flora and fauna species in the park. (2km 30-60minutes return) Collect a park note for this walk from our website www.parkweb.com.au or by contacting the Information Centre on 13 1963.

Mt Lofty to Wittons Walk
Located in Wonga Park, Mt Lofty features spectacular views of the river and surrounding mountain ranges. Bushwalking is the most popular leisure activity, with tracks leading from either Reserve Rd (Wittons Reserve) or Lower Homestead Rd car parks (Melways 279 B4 or 24 K6). Lower Homestead Rd is a departure point for canoeists who paddle to Wittons Reserve or even further.

Gold Heritage Walk – Fourth Hill
This walk takes you around landmarks and remnants of yesteryear when those down on their luck, sought riches from the gold-laden hills of Warrandyte. Collect a park note for this walk from our website www.parkweb.com.au or by contacting the Information Centre on 13 1963.

Vegetation
Except for a few large trees, most of the plant life is relatively young. Much of the vegetation in the park was cleared during gold mining days, when local timber was used as fuel by the miners to feed large rock-crushing machinery.

The park is home to a variety of eucalypts, the most common of which is Red Box. This eucalypt, along with Red Stringybark and Long leaf Box, dominates the hilltops, while large Manna Gums line the Yarra River. A large diversity of wattles, orchids and wildflowers are a spectacular sight in the usually hard, dry landscape of Warrandyte.

For more information call the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or visit our website at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au
Warrandyte State Park

Major Road
Minor Road
Management
Vehicle Track
Walking track
Horse Riding Trail
State Park
Gate
Water body

Recreational Facilities
Barbecue
Canoeing
Carpark
Dogs on leads allowed
Facilities for people with disabilities
Guided walk
Horseriding
Lookout
Mine site
Park information
Picnic shelter
Picnic table
Toilets
Walking track
No dogs allowed
No horses allowed

POUND BEND
A delightful picnic area with graded walking tracks, interpretive signs, tables and toilets, all designed for use for people with disabilities. There is also a canoe ramp. BYO gas barbecue

NORMAN RESERVE
Excellent view of Pound Bend Tunnel entrance from here

WHIPSTICK GULLY
Several relics of the gold boom remain amongst old mines. A poppet head stands near the information shelter which provides an excellent history of the area. Self-guided walk, part of a broader Gold Heritage Walk.

FOURTH HILL
Enjoy the amenity of this historic site, with relics from the mining era. Part of the broader Gold Heritage walk with excellent wildflower displays.

Map updated
May 2008

Parks Victoria
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Caring for the environment

While Warrandyte State Park caters for a wide range of activities, it is one of few natural bush areas left near Melbourne. Please use the park sensitively so that the plants, animals and scenery that everyone comes to see and enjoy are not destroyed.

Help us look after this park by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away with you for recycling & disposal.
All native plants & animals are protected by law.
Please do not disturb them in any way.

Wildlife

Living around the Yarra and other parts of the park are a variety of native animals. Along with the many Koalas, Eastern Grey Kangaroos populate certain areas of the park. The park also abounds with possum life, particularly Brush-tails and Ring-tails. Sugar Gliders are present, but rarely seen. Wallabies, Wombats and Possums are often hard to find because they are nocturnal. At dawn or dusk look for platypus in the river.

The riverine environment of Warrandyte State Park supports numerous bird species, including the Azure Kingfisher and the rare Powerful Owl. A Victorian endangered bird, the Regent Honeyeater, is found along the drier slopes of the park. In the trees rosellas and robins can often be seen.

Ducks, Cormorants, Waterhens and other waterbirds are quite conspicuous on the river itself.
Over 90 different bird species have been recorded in the Warrandyte area.

Aboriginal Heritage

The area now known as Warrandyte State Park is located within the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri willam of the Woiwurrung language speaking group. The Wurundjeri willam inhabited the area on a seasonal basis to exploit seasonally available flora and fauna species for food, clothing, medicine, transport, temporary shelters, hunting implements and many other culturally important items.

The confluence of the Brushy Creek and Yarra River (Birrarung), near Mt Lofty, is said to be the birthplace of William Barak, a prominent Wurundjeri Elder. As a child William Barak witnessed the signing of the “treaty” between elders of his group and John Batman.

European Heritage

After overlanding cattle from Sydney, James Anderson arrived at Warrandyte and settle in 1839 on the flats of what is now know as Andersons Creek.

Twelve years later Warrandyte made headlines “GOLD!” It is believed to be the first officially recognised discovery in Victoria.

Activities

Dogs are not permitted within most of Warrandyte State Park, however there are three areas set aside to allow dogs-on-lead. These areas include:
- Norman Reserve Mel Ref: 23 B12
- Taroona Reserve Mel Ref: 23 C12
- Koornong Reserve Mel Ref: 23 J7

Opportunities for horse riding in the park are available only along specific trails. Please refer to the map for these trails or visit our website www.parkweb.com.au and download the Horse Riding park note.

The extensive Management Vehicle Only (MVO) tracks scattered throughout the park provide great mountain biking opportunities. However due to the sensitivity of the vegetation, Cross Country (XC), Down Hill (DH) and Free Riding are prohibited.

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