

Paddys Ranges State Park



Visitor Guide

This beautiful Box-Ironbark forest bursts into colour with spring wildflowers and is dotted with relics and reminders of an industrious past. Visitors today can retrace the steps of 'Paddy', a miner who reputedly roamed this area in the 1800s. These parks remain as fragmented remnants of bushland to encourage the return of endangered plants and animals.



Brush-tailed Phascogale or Tuan, one of the threatened species found in Paddys Ranges

The Dja Dja Wrung Aboriginal people were the custodians of the area prior to European settlement. Many of the sites in this area are sacred and spiritually important including rock rainwater wells and scar trees.

Enjoying the park

Bushwalking

A pleasant track suitable for prams and wheelchairs begins at the picnic area and winds through the forest to an old eucalyptus distillery dam - 40 mins return.

Enjoy a spring wildflower walk along the self-guided Interpretive Trail from the picnic area. Or take a forest walk from the campground to the picnic area.

Picnics

Settling Ponds Track Picnic Area has tables, toilets and wood barbecues. We recommend bringing your own firewood.

Camping

Karri Track camping area has toilets and fireplaces. No fees apply, but it is advisable to contact the ranger to ensure site availability.

Horse riding is permitted on formed open roads, but horses must not be taken on walking tracks. Horses must not remain in the park overnight

Prospecting

Recreational prospecting is only permitted in designated areas. Prospectors must hold a current Miner's Right. Please do not drive off road, and fill any holes created by prospecting.

Refer to the "Prospecting Guide" for more information.

Caution Care must be taken as dangerous mine shafts occur throughout the park.

Paddys' friends and history

Who were you, Paddy? The people of Maryborough knew you simply as an Irishman, so the area southwest of the town where you lived, some time before the 1880s, became known as Paddys Ranges.

From the 1840s the area was used for grazing, gold mining, timber harvesting, eucalyptus oil and honey production. In 1951, the Maryborough Field Naturalists Club began pushing for the protection of the parks unique Box-Ironbark forest. In 1989, Paddys Ranges State Park was reserved.

The park was increased to 1,954ha in October 2002 to conserve and enhance what remains of the Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands of north central Victoria.

Be fire ready and stay safe

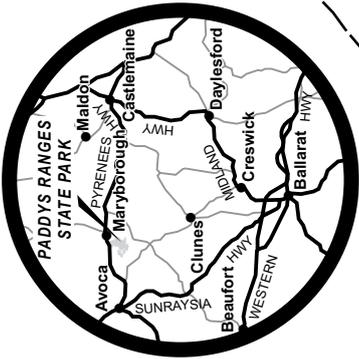
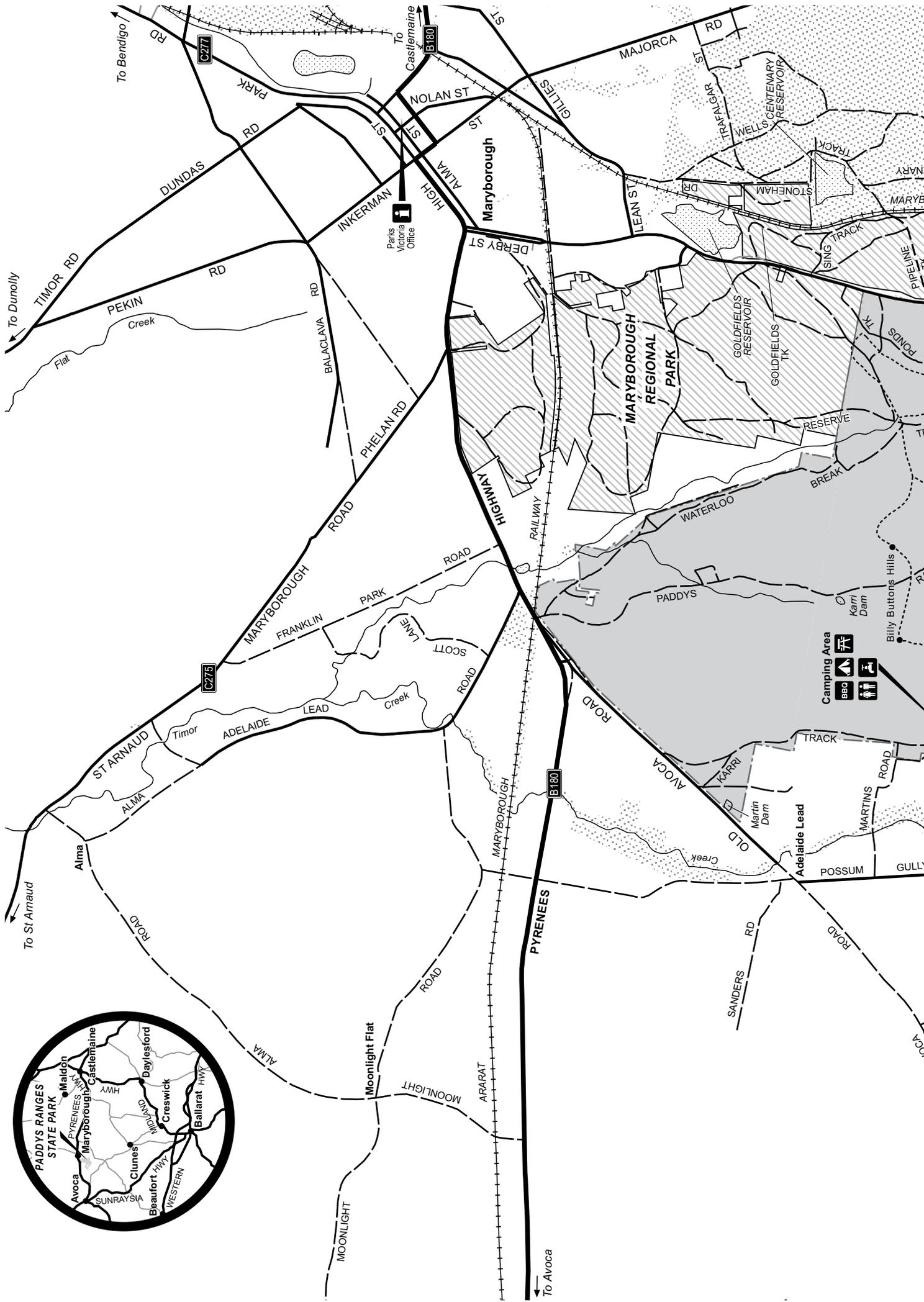
Many parks and forests are located in high fire risk areas. **On days of forecast Code Red Fire Danger this park will be closed for public safety.**

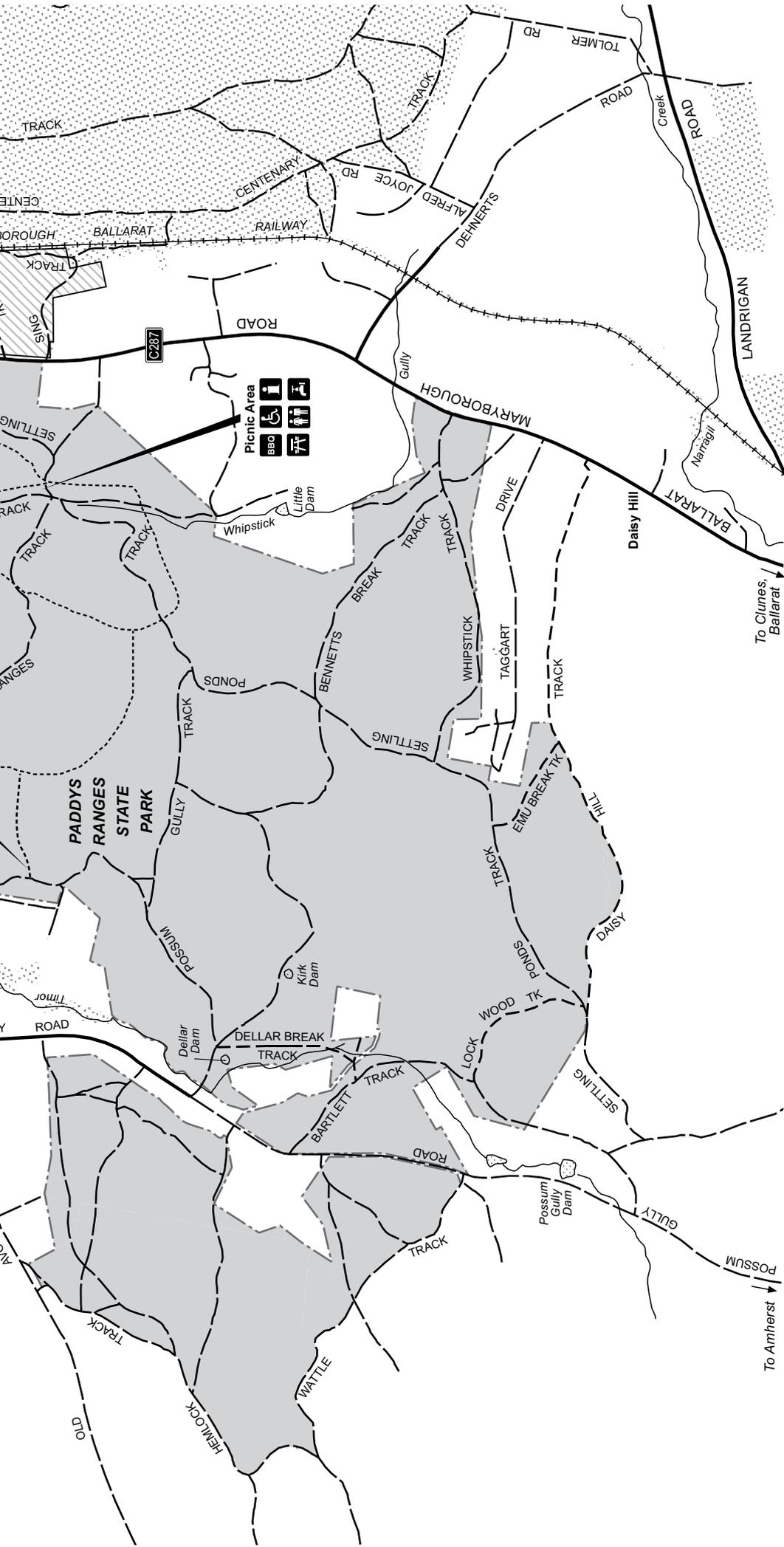
If you are already in the park you should leave the night before or early in the morning for your own safety.

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**.







Paddys Ranges State Park & Maryborough Regional Park

	Highway		State Park		Barbecue - Wood		Park information
	Sealed road		Regional Park		Camping		Picnic table
	Unsealed road		State Forest		Facilities for people with disabilities		Toilets
	Vehicular track (4wd)		Water body		Fireplace		Water
	Walking track						

Recreational Facilities

BBQ, Camping, Facilities for people with disabilities, Fireplace

Park information

Information, Picnic table, Toilets, Water

Scale: 0, 500, 1000 METRES
Cartography by Spatial Vision 2004
M15307

North arrow

Map of Victoria showing the location of Melbourne and the park area.

Parks VICTORIA

For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre

Call 13 1963

or visit the

Parks Victoria website

www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

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

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 native plants and animals
are protected by law.
Please do not disturb them
in any way

Dogs and other pets are not
permitted in the park

Firearms are prohibited

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

Paddys Ranges State Park is in
the **North 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

Collection of firewood is
prohibited from the park

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

Be self-sufficient with drinking
water. Carry it in and/or know
how to make untreated water
safe for drinking

A haven for animals and plants

Birds: More than 140 bird species have been recorded in the park including the rare Swift Parrot. Flowering eucalypts attract these parrots to migrate from Tasmania annually between autumn and spring.

The Grey Shrike-thrush, Golden and Rufous Whistlers are best identified by their beautiful song. Peregrine Falcons, a threatened species in Victoria, nest in the park and majestic Wedge-tailed Eagles can often be seen circling high above.



Peregrine Falcon

Wallabies, kangaroos and echidnas are more usually seen than the nocturnal mammals such as possums and antechinus - a small, carnivorous marsupial. The park also provides habitat for the threatened Brush-tailed Phascogale, sometimes called the Tuan.

Wildflowers: Over 230 species of wildflowers have been listed in this fine example of Box-Ironbark forest, including about thirty species of orchid such as this purple Wax-lip Orchid.



Purple Wax-lip Orchid

Golden Wattle is the main understorey species, along with Gold Dust Wattle and Bush Peas. During spring these plants provide the forests true 'golden' treasures and perfume.



Golden wattle

Box-Ironbark trees are not one, but several different types of tree. Box eucalyptus trees have a light flaky bark. The park has Red, Yellow and Grey Box species. Ironbark trees are easily distinguished by their dark, deeply grooved rough black bark.

Use Parkweb to plan your visit

Access information about Victoria's parks, rivers and bays, cultural sites, - print parknotes and find local tour guides - www.parkweb.vic.gov.au.

Victoria's National Parks Explorer's Guide

This comprehensive guidebook is a must for all outdoor enthusiasts. Call 13 1963 to order your copy.

Other parks to visit

Percydale Historic Reserve

Enjoy spectacular views, goldfields heritage tour and picnics in the Pyrenees Ranges, 10 kilometres west of Avoca.

Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park

This is Australia's first National Heritage Park harbouring fascinating tales of a golden past and retaining much of its gold-rush character. The Mount Alexander Diggings Trail takes you to 19 heritage sites in and around the park. Picnic areas, campground and mineral spring facilities are also available.

Location and Access

Paddys Ranges State Park is 170km north west of Melbourne, just south of Maryborough. Sealed roads surround the park and there are good graded roads to visitor facilities.

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