Terrick Terrick National Park

Visitor Guide

The isolated granite outcrops of Mount Terrick Terrick, Bennetts and Riegals Rock, surrounded by extensive areas of Northern Plains Grasslands, provide imposing views and contrasting landscapes. Terrick Terrick National Park contains one of the largest, most intact tracts of indigenous northern plains vegetation in Victoria. An abundance of wildlife gives the park high conservation value, making it a very special place indeed.

Enjoying the park

Nestled at the base of Mount Terrick Terrick, the picnic area is the ideal spot to start exploring the park. Picnic tables, toilets and park information are provided.

Walking - A short, steep walk to the pinnacle of Mount Terrick Terrick will reward you with spectacular views of the entire park and surrounding area.

Keen nature lovers can discover many of the beautiful plants and animals of the area on short or even whole-day walks through the park.

Scenic driving - A scenic drive through the park will ensure that you see the very best the park has to offer such as grasslands, granite outcrops, woodlands and historical farming sites.

Spring is the best time to see the wonderfully diverse and colourful display of wildflowers of the native grasslands.

Camping - Camping is permitted only at Mount Terrick Terrick near the Picnic Area to protect the park’s fragile vegetation.

The park provides a basic bush-camping experience. Campers are advised to bring their own water, as well as a gas stove for cooking. Please notify the Ranger at Echuca of your camping stay by calling 13 1963.

A rich human history

The cool granite outcrops provided shelter for the Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal people and associated clans of central Victoria. The plants and animals of the area provided food, while rock wells in the low granitic outcrops increased the water supply during the dry summers.

There are curving scars on a number of old Grey Box trees where they were cut to make canoes, shields, carrying bowls and material to provide shelter. An Aboriginal skeleton found in the park during gravel extraction operations has been dated at five and a half thousand years old.

Major Sir Thomas Mitchell climbed Pyramid Hill, 11km north of the park, in the winter of 1836 and was very impressed with the surrounding countryside. His reports encouraged squatters with large numbers of sheep to the area.

Farming systems dramatically changed the dynamics of the pre-European grassland community.

In November 1998, after celebrating 10 years as a State Park, Terrick Terrick was declared a National Park - the first National Park in Australia’s Riverina bioregion. This was a direct result of the acquisition of the 1,277ha Davies sheep grazing property. The park was further expanded in 2009 as a result of the River Red Gum Forests Investigation to include all of the Grassland Nature Conservation Reserves (12 grasslands) in the Patho Plains.

How to Get There

Terrick Terrick National Park is 225km north west of Melbourne and 60km from Bendigo along the Bendigo-Pyramid Road. The park is 4km north of Mitiamo. Entrance to Mount Terrick picnic and camping areas and the White Cypress Pine forest is off Sylvatterre-Timms Lake Road. The historic homestead and associated grasslands can be accessed via Mitiamo-Kow Swamp Road.

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

For further information
Call Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

Echuca Moama Visitor Information Centre
2 Heygarth St,
Echuca Vic 3564
Freecall: 1800 804 446

Cohuna Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre
90 King George Street
Cohuna Vic 3568
Tel: (03) 5456 2047

Be fire ready and stay safe
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.

A haven for plants and animals
The park protects the unique vegetation and wildlife of the area while maintaining a sense of remoteness that attracts many visitors.

Woodlands
Tree species within the park include Grey Box, Yellow Box and White Cypress Pine.

Victoria’s most significant stand of White Cypress Pine is found within the park. This species is slow growing with many of the trees being over 100 years old. Past thinning operations were designed to promote their growth.

Growing on and around the granitic outcrops within the forest are shrubs such as Deane’s Wattle, Snowy Mint-bush and Nodding Blue-lily.

Native grasslands
The grassy ecosystems of the lowland plains of south-eastern Australia are recognised as one of the most endangered ecosystems in Australia.

Terrick Terrick grasslands have significant conservation values and provide habitat for numerous endangered flora and fauna species.

Approximately one-third of the Davies property had been cropped in the past, which has degraded the biological values in these areas. However, the remaining grasslands host both significant flora and fauna values.

The grassland values that exist today are the result of over 100 years of sheep grazing with relatively light stocking rates. Parks Victoria aims to maintain these values by the continuation of light sheep grazing.

Flora
Twenty-six rare or threatened plant species occur within the grasslands. Annual Buttons and Pepper Grass are endangered species that are only found at this site within Victoria.

The park also contains the largest Victorian population of the following threatened species; Bottle Bluebush, Fragrant Leek-orchid and Murray Swainson-pea.

Annual Buttons are upright daisies with yellow button flowers. Their distribution is restricted to areas that have never been cropped and they appear to thrive best under minimal sheep grazing with no ploughing or fertiliser use.

Annual Buttons were discovered within the grasslands in 1992. This species was thought to be extinct in Victoria. Seen in spring in very large numbers, the attractive Annual Buttons are thought to be the only population in the state.

Plains-wanderer (Photo: Mark Tscharke)

Annual Buttons

Fauna
The wooded and open grasslands are home to over 100 species of birds, including the Plains-wanderer, Grey-crowned Babbler, Bush Stone-curlew, Mallee Ringneck Parrot, Barking Owl and Brogla.

The Plains-wanderer is quasi-like in appearance and approximately 15-19cm tall. Once common on the flat open grassy plains of Southern and Eastern Australia, the Plains-wanderer is now nationally vulnerable and endangered in Victoria. Their rapid decline has been a result of native vegetation clearance for agricultural use and predation.

Native mammals and reptiles include the Black Wallaby, Fat-tailed Dunnart, Striped Legless Lizard, Hooded Scaly-foot and Tree Goanna.

The Hooded Scaly-foot is found in the native grasslands and is a large legless lizard growing up to 450mm in length. It is usually pale grey to a rich reddish-brown. It has no limbs and may resemble a snake, however it can be distinguished by external ear openings, an undivided tongue, and a tail that is much longer than its body.

The Hooded Scaly-foot is considered critically endangered in Victoria. Terrick Terrick National Park is one of only three conservation reserves where it is known to occur in Victoria, making the conservation of this species within the park extremely important.

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Tel:

13 1963

2 Heygarth St,

Echuca

Vic 3564

240 667

Information Line

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Park - the first National Park in Australia's Riverina

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Victorian Bushfire

For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.

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

Collection of firewood is prohibited in the park.

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

Please obey the 30km/hr speed limits

Be self sufficient with drinking water

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