Hepburn Regional Park, Mt Franklin Reserve

Visitor Guide

Welcome to a real treasure. Hepburn Regional Park nestles around the famous mineral springs townships of Daylesford, Hepburn and Hepburn Springs. Rich with natural springs and relics from the gold mining era, the park abounds with opportunities for bushwalking, mountain bike and horse riding, picnicking and nature study. Mt Franklin is a small volcanic crater with basic camping set amid exotic trees.

Enjoying the park

**Walking**

There is a range of walking tracks throughout the park. The Tipperary Walking Track offers a host of walk options, and for more adventurous walkers the Goldfields Track passes through the park. Check the map for details.

**Picnics**

There are several picnic areas with wood barbecues provided at most sites. Electric barbecues are available at Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve.

**Camping**

You can camp for short stays at Mt Franklin which is also suitable for caravans and motor homes on a first come first served basis. Toilets, fireplaces and washing water are provided.

**Horse riding and mountain biking**

Mountain bikes and horses are popular activities and a great way to see the park. Bikes and horses are not permitted on walking tracks, however, many other tracks are available for these activities.

**Fossicking**

Panning for gold along Sailors Creek is a popular pastime in the park. All adults must hold a current Miners Right to engage in fossicking. Remember to fill any holes made and leave the area as you found it. Relics must not be disturbed or removed and are protected by law. See over page for Miners Rights.

A haven for plants and animals

**Trees:** Most of the park supports a fairly dry open box, peppermint and stringybark eucalypt forest. The more southerly areas are damper and carry a taller forest of Messmate and Candlebarks - along with Manna gums, a favourite food for koalas.

**Wildflowers:** Spring wildflowers make a colourful display with Victoria’s floral emblem, the pink or white belled Common Heath, frequently found growing under eucalypts.

**Birds:** Common birds include White-browed Scrub Wrens, Grey Currawongs, Crimson Rosellas, White-throated Tree - creepers and Yellow Robins. The Rufous Fantail and Satin Flycatcher visit the gullies seasonally.

**Mammals:** Koalas and kangaroos are often sighted in the park while the rare Brush-tailed Phascogale is a shy resident and seldom seen.

How to get there

Hepburn Regional Park is 110km north-west of Melbourne via the Western Freeway (M8 National). Follow the Daylesford-Ballan Road after taking the exit from the freeway. Melway reference 52 C2. Linked train and coach services are available from Melbourne to Daylesford via Woodend or Ballarat. For timetable details call V/Line Country Information on 136 196.

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 when 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.parks.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.
Goldfields Track
Linking Ballarat and Bendigo, the 210km Goldfields Track provides a pathway and cycling track to Central Victoria's hidden treasures – from diverse forests and spectacular views to the artefacts and cultural heritage of the gold rush. Three interconnected tracks make up the Goldfields Track:

- **Wallaby Track (90km)** – Mt Bunyip Summit to Daylesford via Ballarat and Creswick
- **Dry Diggings Track (60km)** – Daylesford to Castlemaine via Vaughan Springs and Fryerstown
- **Leanganook Track (60km)** – Castlemaine to Bendigo via Mt Alexander and the Coliban Channel

For further information contact the Daylesford Visitor Information Centre on 5321 6123

### Tipperary Walking Track
The Track runs from picturesque Lake Daylesford to the Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve, following Sailors Creek and Spring Creek through forested land for most of the way. The 16km track can be walked in five to six hours and is mostly level to gently undulating and is quite easy walking. This track is not for bikes or horses (see below).

#### Planning your walk
If you don't wish to walk the whole length of the track you can plan walks of shorter distance and duration. Between Lake Daylesford and Bryces Flat the track exists on both sides of Sailors Creek providing opportunities for loop walks of various lengths.

#### Access Points, Times and Distance
Note: Times quoted for walks are one way times, at a moderate pace without allowances for rests, and are intended as a guide only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Walk</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Distance (km)</th>
<th>Time (h)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lake Daylesford</td>
<td>Twin Bridges</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Twin Bridges</td>
<td>Tipperary Springs</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tipperary Springs</td>
<td>Bryces Flat</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bryces Flat</td>
<td>The Blowhole</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The Blowhole</td>
<td>Breakneck Gorge</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Breakneck Gorge</td>
<td>Golden Spring</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Golden Spring</td>
<td>Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>50 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve</td>
<td>Argyle Spring</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>25 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Drinking Water
- Be self-sufficient and carry at least 1 litre of drinking water in the warmer months.

#### Tipperary Walking Track
- Tipperary Springs - 2.3km - 40 minutes
  - Start at the Goldfields Track bridge near the sailboat basin. Cross the footbridge and follow the sign to Tipperary Springs, a short walk on a dirt path to the springs. Back to Tipperary Springs, the footbridge to return.Tipperary Springs - 1.3km - 1 hour
  - The walk to Bryces Flat can be undertaken by crossing the footbridge at Tipperary Springs, climbing the short set of steps, and following the track signs. Alternatively, follow the track near the sailboat basin along the west side of Sailors Creek to Bryces Flat.

####warn
- Tipperary Springs - Bryces Flat - 2.3km - 40 minutes
  - Start at the footbridge near the sailboat basin. Cross the footbridge, follow the sign to Tipperary Springs, then continue on to The Blowhole. View the cathedral tunnel and follow the track.
- The Blowhole - Breakneck Gorge - 1.1km - 1 hour
  - Begin near the carpark and follow the track into the deeper forest section of the park. Cross the footbridge and follow the sign to Breakneck Gorge. View the cathedral tunnel and follow the track.
- Breakneck Gorge - Golden Spring - 2.8km - 40 minutes
  - Follow the track on the north side of the bridge across to Hepburn Springs. Take the footbridge to Liberty Spring and Spring Creek; this water is not available from the track. Follow the track to the main track and continue on to Golden Spring to sample the water.

#### Golden Spring - Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve (via Jackson's Lookout)
- Start at the end of Golden Spring Ave. Follow the track to the river crossing and make the short detour to Jackson's Lookout. Spectacular views are offered from the lookout. Return via the same track.

### Hepburn Regional Park
- **Eastern Regional Park**
  - Barbecue
  - Picnic area
  - Cycling
  - Fishing
  - Goldfields Track
  - Horse riding
  - Seasonal Road Closure Gate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Recreational Facilities</strong></th>
<th><strong>Facilities</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Barbecue</strong></td>
<td>Electric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Camping area</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cycling</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fishing</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goldfields Track</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Horse riding</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seasonal Road Closure Gate</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Caring for Country

Through their rich culture Indigenous Australians have been intrinsically connected to this Country, for tens of thousands of years.

Parks Victoria recognises this connection and acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Communities of Victoria.

Black - tailed Wallabies although not easily seen, are common residents and frequent the gullies of the park. Please keep dogs on leads at all times.

The golden days

The township of Hepburn was named after Captain John Hepburn, one of the first European settlers in the area, who made his home in Smeaton in 1836. The surrounding hills were denuded by miners following the discovery of gold at Daylesford in 1851. The park’s regrowth forest now hides the marks left by ‘gold fever’.

Many of the water races or channels dug by the miners to bring water to their workings now form the Tipperary Walking Track.

The hillside are dotted with relics, mineshafts and rock retaining walls. Please remember that these relics are fragile and unstable, so for your own safety, and their protection, stay on the walking tracks.

Places of interest

Mount Franklin
Mount Franklin, or Laigambook, as it is known by the Djadja Wurrung people, offers fine views on the approach to the summit. The sheltered crater is an ideal place for a picnic or basic camping set amongst plantings of huge conifers and deciduous trees that create an exotic atmosphere.

Mount Franklin is a fine example of a breached scoria cone. The breach, through which the road now enters the crater, is thought to have been caused by a flow of lava breaking through the crater rim. Lava from Mount Franklin and other volcanoes in the area filled valleys and buried the goldbearing streams that became the renowned ‘deep leads’ of the gold mining era.

The Blowhole

This artificial diversion tunnel on Sailors Creek was built by gold miners around the early 1870s. A tunnel through the spur was cut to redirect water flow from the original creek line. The soil in the dry creek bed was then sluiced for gold. It is now an impressive sight when the creek is in full flow. Short walks can be undertaken by following the spur above the tunnel or through the diggings area.

Mineral Springs

Natural mineral springs abound in the area. The park has mineral springs at Sailors Falls, Tipperary Springs, Golden Springs and Argyle Springs. Adjacent to the park are the Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve and Lake Daylesford / Central Springs. Some of the springs have hand pumps; others are free flowing pipes.

Exploring the region

Buried Rivers of Gold Heritage Trail

Beneath the rolling hills of this district are long buried underground streams - full of gold! This car based tour passes the underground mining operations which won wealth for some beyond their wildest dreams. Booklets are available from the Creswick Historical Museum or Visitor Information Centre.

In the early 1880s the New Australasian Mine was the site of great wealth and prosperity, having tapped a rich gold bearing deep lead. Today the site is remembered as being the place of Australia’s largest gold mining disaster when 22 men lost their lives underground.

Anderson’s Mill

On the banks of Birch’s Creek at Smeaton, the four storey bluestone flour mill and grounds make a delightful scene. Built and operated by the Anderson family from 1862 to 1959, it remains an important landmark well worth a visit.

The mill building is open 12 to 4pm on the first Sunday of the month, while the grounds and picnic area are open all year round.

Daylesford Museum and Historical Society

Opening times are 1:30 to 4:30pm Saturday, Sunday, school and public holidays, located at 100 Vincent St, Daylesford.

Mt Beckworth Scenic Reserve

A lone pine tree on the granite peak is a landmark across the district. The slopes of Mount Beckworth contain an abundance of native plants and wildlife, especially during the September-October spring wildflower season.

Creswick Regional Park

Centrally located between Ballarat and Daylesford, this park embraces the hills once roamed by the artistic Lindsay family. Today you can explore the park on a variety of short and longer walks, picnic by the tranquil St Georges Lake or simply relax in the peaceful park.

June 2014

Printed on Australian-made 100% recycled paper

For further information Parks Victoria Information Centre Call 13 1963 or visit the Parks Victoria website www.parks.vic.gov.au Daylesford Visitor Information Centre 100 Vincent St. Daylesford 3460 Tel: (03) 5321 6123 Caring for the environment Miners Rights: Department of Environment and Primary Industries Information Centre Level 2, State Govt. Offices Cnr Mair & Doveton Sts Ballarat 3350 Tel: (03) 5336 6856 8.30 am-4.30 pm Mon-Fri Caring for the environment Help us care for our parks by following these guidelines:

- All native plants and animals are protected
- Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times
- Please take your rubbish with you when you leave
- Vehicles, including motor cycles, must not be driven off open formed roads
- Do not disturb or remove any historic relics or artefacts Fire Hepburn Regional Park is in the 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: 1800 240 667 Fires may only be lit in the fireplaces provided Park closures Be prepared to leave early as extreme weather may cause the closure of some park areas for public safety. 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!