

# Mount Beckworth Scenic Reserve

## Visitor Guide

A lone pine tree stands as a sentinel crowning this picturesque granite outcrop, a sanctuary for native plants and animals. Magnificent views and a rich variety of spring wildflowers are two of the reserve's features.



*"Nature never did  
betray the heart that  
loved her."*

- William Wordsworth

Black Wallaby

### Remnants of history

In days past the Dja Dja Wrung people traditionally lived in an area including Mt. Beckworth that covered 15,600 square kilometres. Major Mitchell passed through the area in 1836, describing it as '...being well covered with trees.'

Five pines were planted in 1918. All but one were cut down around 1945 to make way for an aerial survey beacon. The remaining lone pine tree had its lower branches pruned and remains as a 'lollypop' landmark seen up to 50 km away.

Before 1962 Mt Beckworth was grazed, quarried and logged. These activities ceased because of their degrading effects on the reserve's fragile granitic soils. Today Mt Beckworth protects many natural treasures and is an island of bushland bordering the goldfield plains.

### A haven for plants and animals

**Wildflowers:** Spring wildflowers make a colourful display and the Mt Beckworth plant list contains more than 250 species, including 35 orchid species. *Please do not pick wildflowers.*

**Birds:** An excellent location for bird enthusiasts with over 100 species recorded, 60 breeding locally. Common sightings include finches, honeyeaters and parrots. Birds of prey such as the majestic Wedge-tailed Eagle, and the swiftest of hunter of all, the Peregrine Falcon, dominate the skies.

**Mammals:** Although not always easily seen, Grey Kangaroos, Black Wallabies, Echidnas, Possums, Sugar Gliders and Koalas live here.

**Trees:** Open woodland and a grassy understorey dominate most of the reserve. Kangaroo Grass is the most common native grass. Messmate, Manna Gum and Long-leaved Box eucalypts grow on the lower slopes with Silver Banksia, Drooping Sheoak and Yellow Box gums on higher slopes.

### Enjoying the reserve

**Walking:** Breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside reward a walk to the summit. The best way to enjoy the reserve is with a stroll. *Take care when walking off tracks - our native wildlife protected here includes snakes.*

**Picnics:** There are several picnic areas in the reserve and wood barbecues are provided at most of them. Collect only dead wood from the ground, or better still, bring your own. Please extinguish fires before leaving.

**Camping:** You can camp for short stays at a number of camping sites with limited facilities. Bring your own drinking water and firewood. Check with your nearest Visitor Information Centre for details on camping in the district.

**Horse riding:** The reserve is an attractive setting for riding. Horses can only be ridden on formed roads open for public use and must not be taken on walking tracks.

**Mountain Bike Riding:** Many opportunities for bike riders to explore the Reserve on existing vehicle tracks. Bicycles are not permitted on walking tracks.

### Finding your way

Mount Beckworth Scenic Reserve is 8 km west of Clunes and 35 km north of Ballarat.

### Use Parkweb to plan your visit

**Just a click away – [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)**

Access and download information about parks, rivers and bays – print parknotes, discover who the local tour guides are.

Prepared for Parkweb March 2001

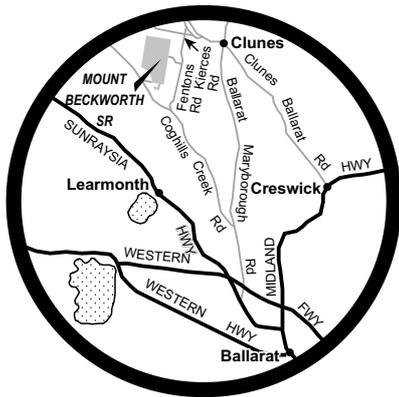


**For further information**

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre  
Call **13 1963**  
Or visit the website at  
[www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

Parks Victoria Office &  
Landcare Centre  
PO Box 3  
Daylesford Rd  
Creswick 3363  
Tel: (03) 5345 1352

Ballarat  
Visitor Information Centre  
39 Sturt St Ballarat 3350  
Tel: (03) 5332 2694  
Toll Free: 1800 648 450



**Getting the most from your visit**

Why not take time out to explore the natural splendour of the Mount. All major features within the reserve are linked by a network of tracks. Remember to wear strong footwear and suitable clothing as some sections of track are steep.

**Suggested Walks**

**The Dam - The Oval.**  
Time: 30 min return.

For a short walk after lunch and a great view of the surrounds, the clearing at the oval is just the thing.

**The Dam - Mt Beckworth**  
Time: 2 hrs 30 min return.

Continue across The Oval on to the summit of Mt Beckworth for breathtaking views of the countryside. See the many ancient volcanic peaks which have shaped the land over millions of years and at the many mullock heaps from the mining days of not so long ago.

**Corcoaks - Mt Beckworth**  
Time: 2 hrs return.

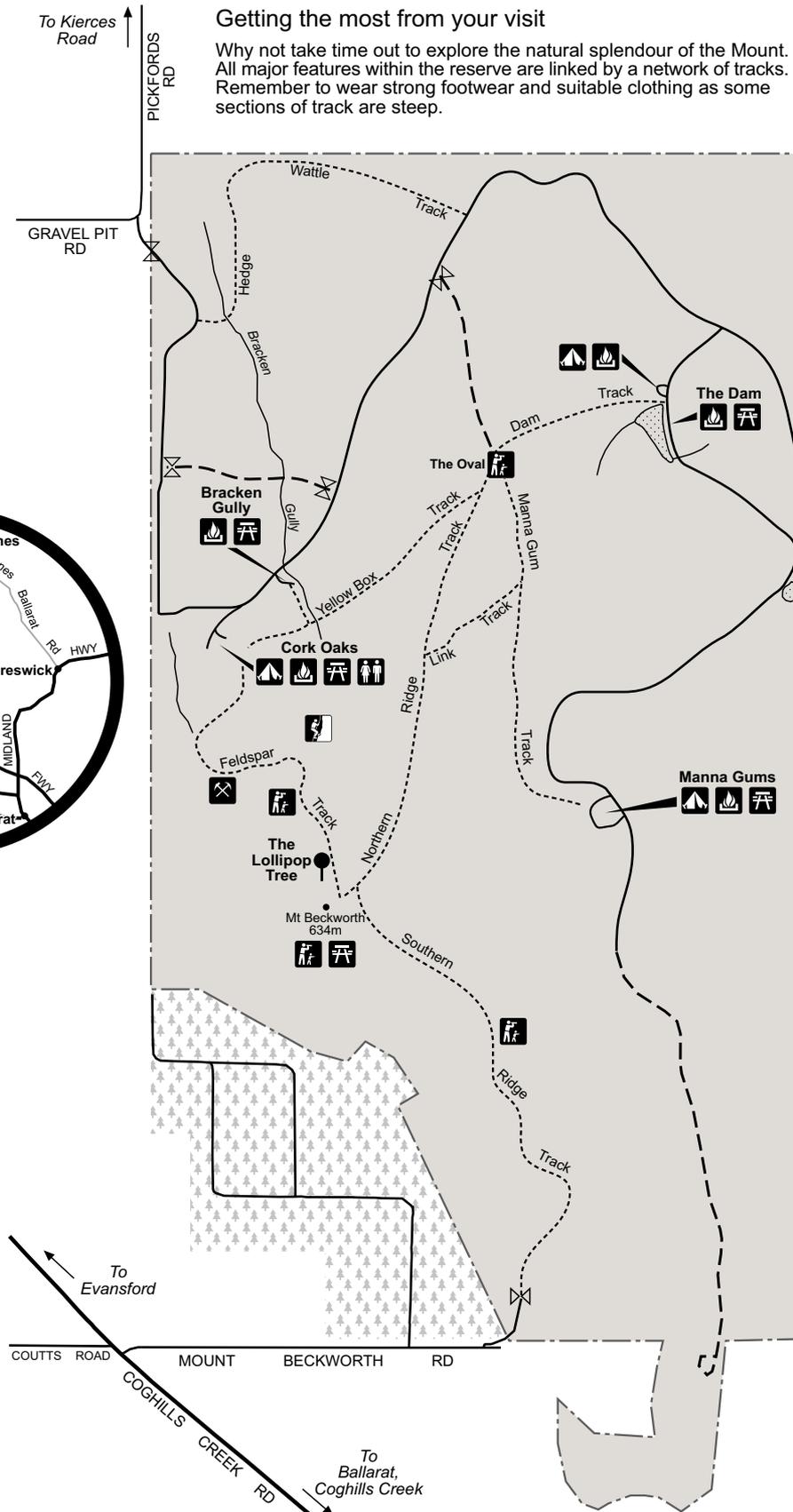
**Caution:**  
There are some steep sections on this walk.

Walk along Feldspar Track which begins at the large patch of Bracken at the top of the picnic area. This section of track guides you past an old feldspar mine and many impressive granite features. Splendid views can be gained from many sections of the track as it winds its way between huge old Stringybarks, eventually arriving at the summit of Mt Beckworth.

**Cork Oaks Loop**  
Time: 3 hr loop.

Follow the directions from the previous walk to the summit of Mt Beckworth. To return, take Northern Ridge Track towards The Oval. Turn down Link Track. You will note that this side of the mount is much cooler and bright green moss covers much of the exposed granite. Continue along to Manna Gum Track and to the Oval. Head back on to Northern Ridge track. Not far up is Yellow Box Track. This will take you back to the Cork Oaks past many majestic Yellow Box and huge granite boulders.

**NOTE:**  
Times are approximates only



**Caring for the environment**

Help us look after your reserve by following these guidelines:

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

Please keep your dog on a lead at all times

No fires, (including gas or fuel stoves in tents) may be lit on days of **Total Fire Ban**. Mt Beckworth is in the **Central Total Fire Ban District**

Do not camp within 20 metres of waterways. Please take rubbish away with your for recycling and disposal

Vehicles including motor cycles must not be driven off formed roads. All vehicles must be registered and drivers licensed

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Mt Beckworth Scenic Reserve		Recreational Facilities	
	Sealed Road		Mine - old Feldspar
	Unsealed Road		Picnic Table
	4WD Track		Rock Climbing Area
	Walking Track		Scenic Lookout
	Gully		Toilets
	Seasonal track closure		
	Scenic Reserve area		
	Pine Plantation		
	Camping area		
	Fireplace		

Cartography by Parks Victoria & Spatial Vision 2001 M/6847