

Anglesea Heath



Visitor Guide

"Take a close look at this remarkable heathland and you will be richly rewarded. The tapestry of heathlands, woodlands and paperbark swamps bursts into colour in springtime, and is claimed as the richest and most diverse vegetation community in Victoria. This natural haven also provides homes for many species of birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. Discover and enjoy." - *Ranger In Charge, Dale Antonsen*

A unique place of diversity



The white, pink or red Common Heath flowers herald the arrival of Spring!

Amazingly, about a quarter of Victoria's plant species can be found here including over 80 different types of orchids. Equally as diverse is the wildlife that lives here. 29 mammal species have been recorded, among them the Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*) and the rare Swamp Antechinus (*Antechinus minimus*). More than 100 species of native birds thrive here including the Crimson Rosella, Bronzewing pigeons and a variety of Honeyeaters.

This exceptional biodiversity has not gone unnoticed; naturalists have admired and studied the area for decades. The Australian Heritage Commission listed the Anglesea Heath on the Register of the National Estate, recognising its importance Australia wide!

Partners protecting the Anglesea Heath

The local community, Parks Victoria (on behalf of DSE) and Alcoa of Australia Limited (Alcoa) are working together to manage and protect the Anglesea Heath's values.

Alcoa was granted a long-term lease over the Anglesea Heath in the 1960s to extract brown coal. The coal helps to power their Point Henry Aluminium Smelter near Geelong. Alcoa currently use a relatively small area in the South East corner of the Heath for extraction (see map - Mining Area).

The remaining land is thus made available for conservation and low impact recreation. Alcoa also contributes to on-ground conservation works in this area. Local conservation and recreational groups recognising the beauty and value of the

Anglesea Heath, have vigorously campaigned for its care and protection. Their past efforts have led to a unique and cooperative management partnership and they continue to contribute through active participation on the Anglesea Heath Consultative Committee.

Parks Victoria rangers jointly manage the natural values of this area, guiding recreational users to explore and enjoy it, but also to tread lightly to ensure its ongoing preservation and protection for future generations.

Enjoying Anglesea Heath

Few places so close to Melbourne have such diversity and beauty. The sense of remoteness offered by the area is a peaceful alternative to the popular Great Ocean Road coastline. *It is up to all visitors to respect the precious and fragile natural values of the area.*



Walking and nature study

Vehicle tracks offer walkers, artists, photographers and birdwatchers opportunities to view the heathland up close. Springtime is spectacular, when the heathland erupts into a sea of vibrant colour, but observant visitors will be rewarded in all seasons. Dusty Miller, Honeyeats and Harrison's South tracks are great places to explore springtime in the Heath.



4WD and motorcycles

Driving vehicles and riding trail bikes on open formed and named roads and tracks is permitted. Driving off - road damages and destroys the fragile soils and plants of the Anglesea Heath and is illegal. Parks Victoria works together with Four Wheel Drive Victoria on projects that demonstrate care and good will. If you'd like to get involved contact Four Wheel Drive Victoria on 03 9857 5209 or via their web site at www.vafwdc.org.au.

Seasonal track closures apply to many tracks in the Anglesea Heath. For more details call Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or on the web at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au.



Enjoying Anglesea Heath

Seasonal track closures

During winter and spring some roads are closed to vehicles, (usually between 30 June and 1 November). These roads are closed to prevent erosion, preserve road surfaces and ensure public safety of roads affected by seasonal closures (See map for details).

Horse and mountain bike riding

There are a number of horse back or mountain biking opportunities in Anglesea Heath. From a leisurely hour long ride to an all day adventure. There's something to suit everyone.

Horse and mountain bike riding is permitted on open named vehicle roads and tracks. The recently completed Anglesea Bike Park has over 500m of mountain cross and jump tracks and will provide challenges for novice and experienced riders alike.

Surrounding the bike park is a series of trails ideal for cross country mountain biking. Ixodia and Firebreak tracks and the network of trails within Coogoorah Park will make excellent short rides. For something longer why not explore Dusty Miller, Shiney Eye, Honey pots or Harrison South Tracks.

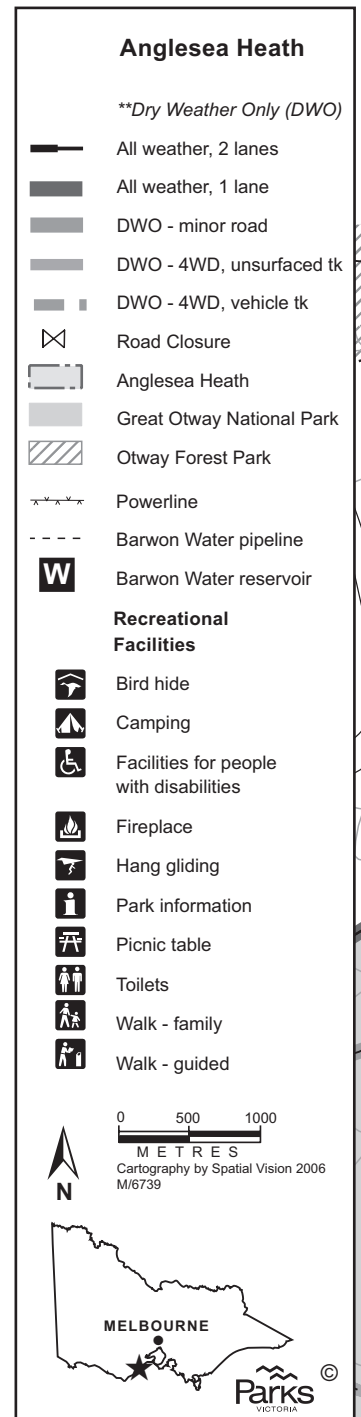
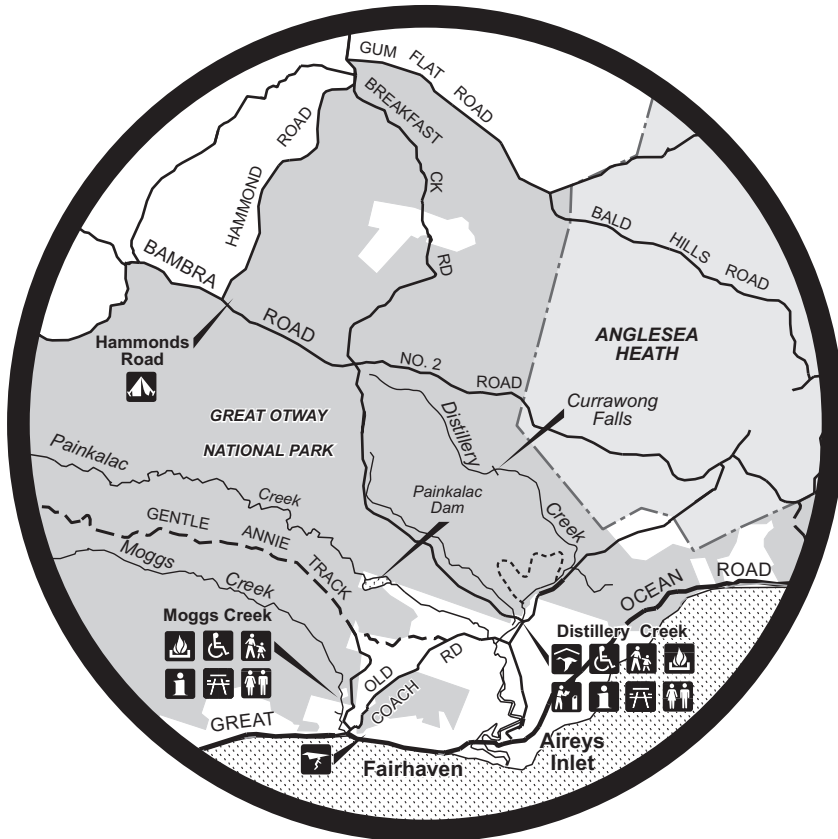
Camping and picnicking

Although there are currently no formal camping or picnic grounds in the Anglesea Heath there are a number of places where you can camp or picnic nearby. Hammonds Road Camping Area, in the adjacent Great Otway National Park, is the closest campsite to the Heath. Distillery Creek, Urquhart Bluff and Moggs Creek provide excellent opportunities for picnicking or barbecues and are trailheads for a variety of walking tracks. See inset for location.

Caring for Country

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

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



Black Wallaby

A local resident, often observed in low vegetation and beside roads, this dark coloured wallaby browses on plants and fungi. Watch for them while driving – they have little road sense!

On behalf of DSE, Parks Victoria work with the local community and Alcoa to manage and protect the Anglesea Heath's values.

The partnership agreement between DSE and Alcoa provides the basis for protection of the significant nature conservation values of the Anglesea Heath.



Department of Sustainability and Environment

Drinking Water

Be self-sufficient and carry water in, and/or know how to make untreated water safe for drinking.

Crimson Rosella

These bright parrots are easily seen and their bell-like calls ring out from the forest. Throughout the year look for them feeding on stringybark gumnuts and grass-seeds.



For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre

Call 13 1963

or visit the

Parks Victoria website

www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Torquay Visitor
Information Centre
Surfworld Beach Rd
Torquay 3228
Tel: (03) 5261 4219

Lorne Visitor
Information Centre
15 Mountjoy Parade
Lorne 3232
Tel: (03) 5289 1152

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

All plants, animals, archaeological sites and geological features are protected by law

Dogs and other pets are not permitted

Firearms are prohibited

No fires, including barbecues, may be lit in the Anglesea Heath. Anglesea Heath area is in the **Central**

Total Fire Ban District

Please take all rubbish home with you for disposal or recycling

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

Mobile Phones

You may not be in network range in some areas of the park. To be connected to Police, Ambulance or CFA, key in 112 then press the YES key

Cinnamon Fungus - silent killer

Infecting the roots of native plants, Cinnamon Fungus (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) is a disease causing death (dieback) in many Australian plants. A major threat to the Anglesea Heath's biodiversity, dieback was discovered here in 1972. The movement of water through soil and infected mud on shoes, car and bike tyres, horse's hooves and vehicle underbodies spreads the disease.

Please help reduce the spread of new infections:

- By staying on named and formed roads,
- Obeying track closed signs at all times,
- Cleaning soil and mud from shoes and vehicles before and after visiting the Anglesea Heath.

Safety First

As well as the guidelines listed, there are some special responsibilities that visitors should remember:

- Keep to defined tracks and resist the temptation to cut corners or travel on new or informal tracks - it damages the environment, and in the case of an emergency it may be difficult to find you!
- Come prepared - always carry a waterproof jacket, spare warm clothing, a whistle, matches, a map of the area, compass, drinking water, adequate food and a first aid kit.
- Let someone know before you go. Before setting out on any walk, ride or drive of more than two hours, leave full details with someone about your intended route, planned time of return, names in your party, registration numbers of any vehicles used (and where they will be parked). Make sure you get in touch with your contact when you return.

Warning - Unstable surfaces and wet areas such as creek banks and swamps should be avoided. These areas are dangerous, easily damaged and difficult to rehabilitate.



Signs of new life emerge after fire

Exploring the area

Nearby areas include the Great Otway National Park, Otway Forest Park, Point Addis Marine National Park and Eagle Rock Marine Sanctuary.

Fire - friend and enemy

Fire plays a vital role in the life cycle of the Anglesea Heath. However uncontrolled wildfire is a serious threat to this area, especially between November and March. *Camp fires are not permitted* anywhere in the Anglesea Heath.

Location and access

Located about 100km southwest of Melbourne, the Anglesea Heath is most commonly accessed from the Great Ocean Road north of the Anglesea township, via Forest Road then Gum Flat Road (see map). Several unsealed roads cross the Anglesea Heath and extend into Great Otway National Park and/or Otway Forest Park. These roads can also serve as access points, but for a large part of the year (May to November) they may be slippery and wet and not suitable for two wheel drive vehicles.



Silver Banksia

The generous flower cones drip with nectar throughout the Anglesea Heath, attracting many species of honeyeaters.

Become a Friend

Hanging out with Friends can be good for your mind, body and soul.

Restoring habitat diversity can have healthy benefits to you and your community and volunteering is a great way to get involved in your environment...anyone can do it!

If you'd like to get involved please contact the Friends of the Eastern Otways (Great Otway National Park) Inc. or Angair Inc. for more information.

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