

# Kooyoora State Park



## Visitor Guide

Kooyoora State Park, with magnificent views and a rich variety of plants and wildlife, protects some of north-central Victoria's outstanding natural features. The park is ideal for many outdoor recreation activities from picnics to sightseeing, rock climbing, orienteering and nature study.



Melville Caves, named after robber and rogue "Captain Melville", has a rich history and offers fine views from giant rocky outcrops

### Enjoying the park

*Picnicking:* Melville Caves Picnic Area has tables, shelter, toilets and water and is most popular for enjoying the natural features of the park. Relax in natural surroundings, and enjoy its scenic and historic values.

*Camping* - For short stays, camp at Melville Caves Camping Area, one kilometre past the main Melville Caves picnic area. Facilities include toilets and wood barbecues. Collect only dead wood from the ground, or better still use a gas stove or barbecue.

*Scenic Driving* - Tour the road network throughout the park from Wehla block through Melville Caves to Sunday Morning Hills to take in the diversity of landscapes and enjoy the magnificent view from Mt Brenanah.

*Walking* - Exploring the walking tracks and road networks is a great way to see the park. Breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside from Melville Caves summit and Mt Kooyoora make for a worthwhile walk.

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

### Remnants of history

The Jaara Jaara Aboriginal people of the Kooyoora area depended on natural springs and wells for their water as the area lacks permanent streams. Many large, yet shallow rock wells in the upper surfaces of the granite outcrops supplemented the water supply by storing rainwater.

Rock shelters and caves were used for shelter from the weather and their sandy floors have preserved many stone artefacts. Other remnants of Aboriginal occupation are scars in the bark of trees. Bark was used to make bark dishes and shields.

### The golden days

European settlement of the area began in the 1840s and mining for alluvial gold had begun by the late 1850s. Substantial finds in the late 1860s began a gold rush that lasted for several years.

The gold rush in the Kooyoora area followed soon after the discovery of gold in the Wedderburn district. One of the most famous finds of the Kingower goldfields was the 1857 discovery of the "Blanche Barkley" weighing some 49.5kg.

Mining excavations are scattered throughout the park, left behind by the retreating miners who moved on to other fields.

Kooyoora State Park was extended to 11,646ha in October 2002 to enhance what remains of Victoria's Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands.

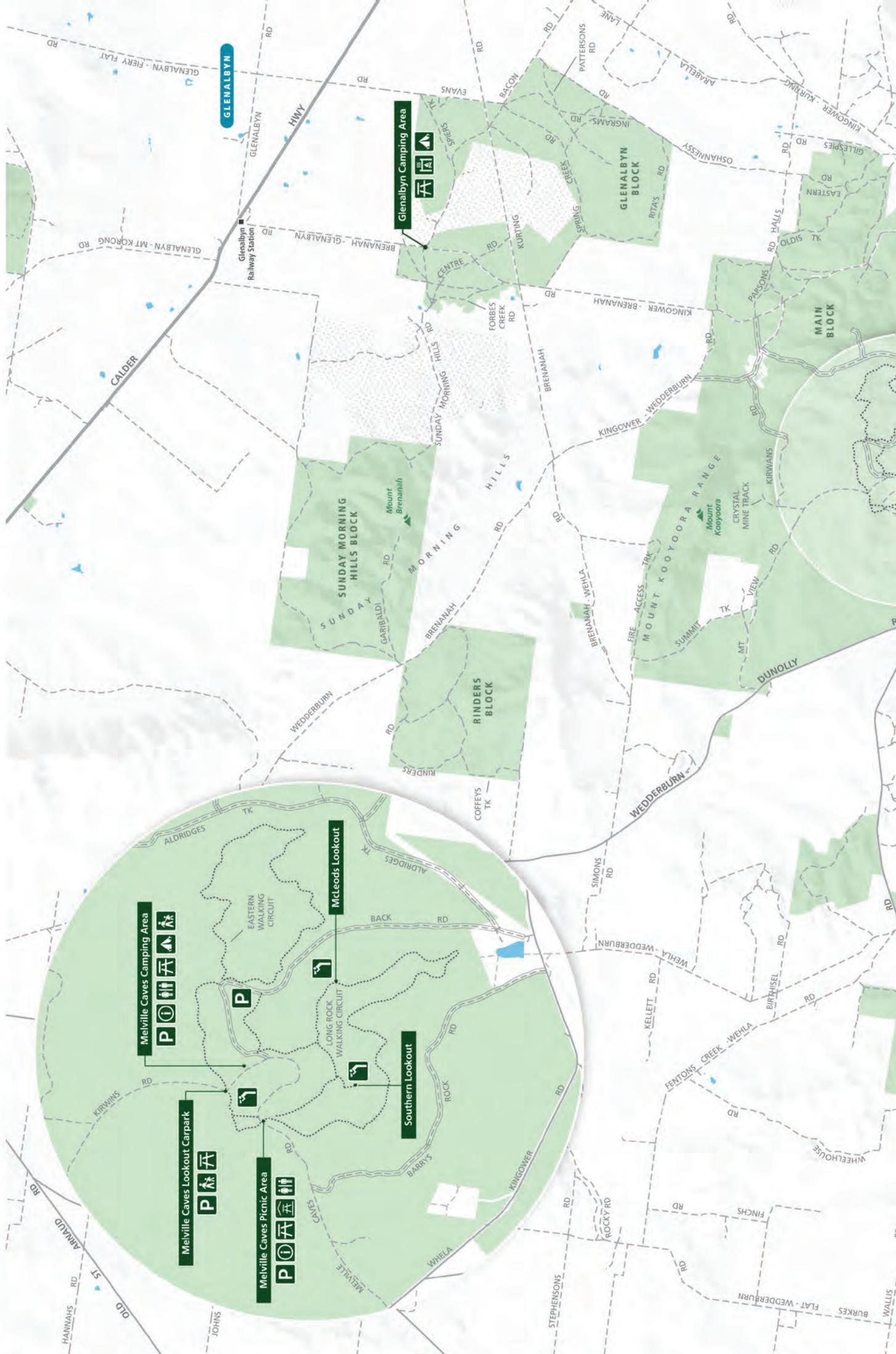
### Friends of Kooyoora Inc

Spending time with friends can be good for your mind, body and soul. Restoring habitat diversity can have healthy benefits to you and your community. Volunteering is a great way to get involved in your environment - anyone can do it!

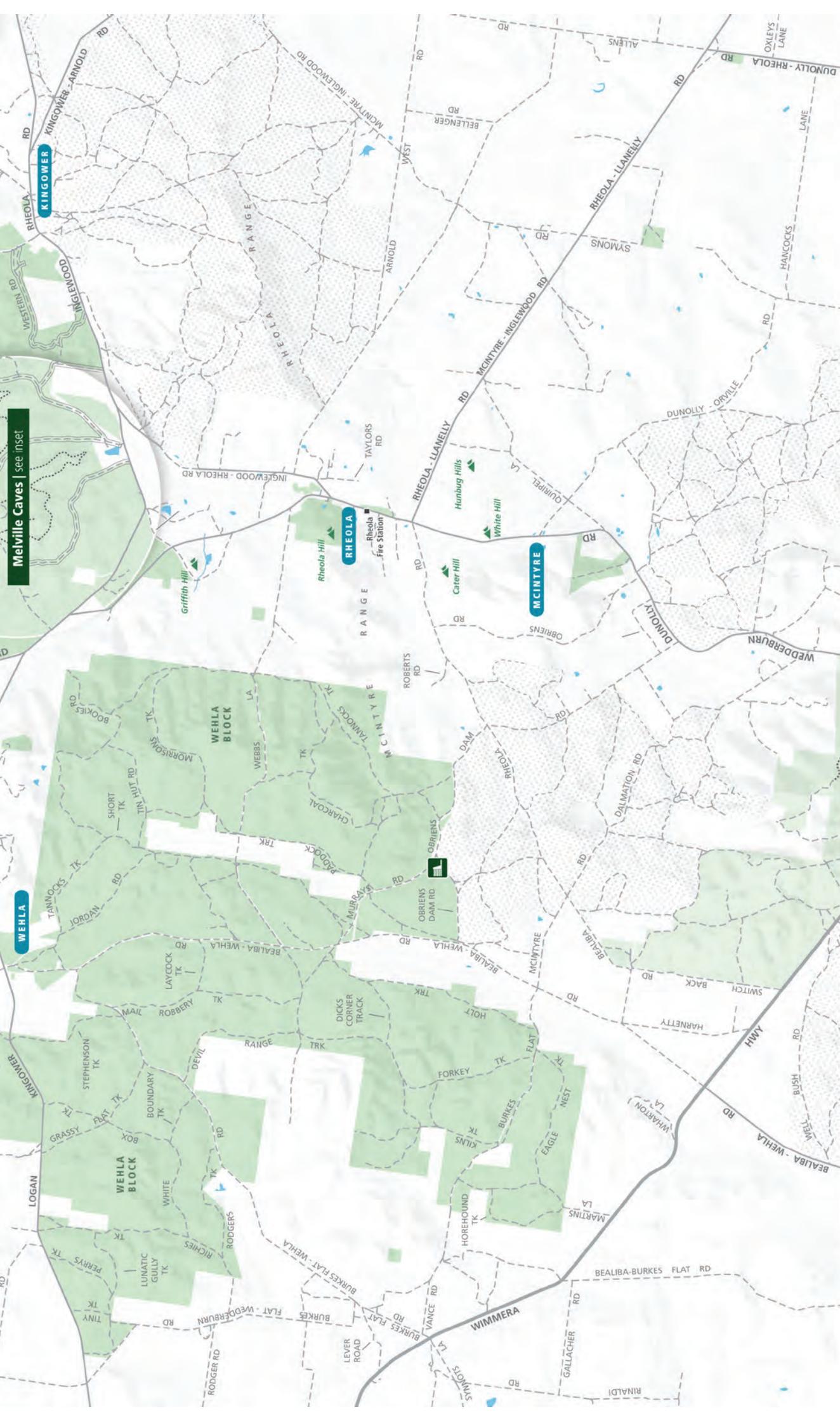
You can join the Friends of Kooyoora Inc in caring for this special place. To discover more about the Friends of Kooyoora visit [www.kooyoorafriends.com.au](http://www.kooyoorafriends.com.au).



# Kooyoora State Park



**Melville Caves** | see inset



[www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)  
 Disclaimer: Parks Victoria does not guarantee that this data is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability which may arise from you relying on this information.  
 Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA 94) Zone 55.  
 Map produced by Parks Victoria. This map supersedes all previous editions. Data source acknowledgements: State Digital Mapbase, The State of Victoria and Department of Sustainability and Environment.

- Hwy/Fwy
- Main road
- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Walking track
- Seasonal closure
- Management vehicle/walking track only
- Major river
- Stream
- Kooyoora State Park
- Public land/other park
- Waterbody
- Camping
- Dam
- Table
- BBQ (Wood)
- Lookout
- Family Walk
- Parking
- Information
- Toilets
- Shelter

Scale: 0 500 1000 2000 METRES

North arrow pointing up.

Inset map of Victoria showing the location of the main map area in the south-western part of the state.

## For further information

Call Parks Victoria **13 1963**  
or visit [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

St Arnaud Tourism  
4 Napier Street  
St Arnaud 3478  
Freecall: 1800 014 455

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

Bendigo Visitor Centre  
51-67 Pall Mall  
Bendigo Vic 3550  
Freecall: 1800 813 153

## Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park  
by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish with you for  
recycling and disposal

All native plants and animals  
are protected by law.

Dogs and other pets are only  
permitted on Melville Caves Road  
and the Melville Caves Picnic  
Ground and must be kept on a  
leash at all times

Firearms are prohibited

Light fires only in fireplaces  
provided. No fires, including gas  
barbecues may be lit on a  
day of **Total Fire Ban**. **Kooyoora  
State Park** is in the **Northern  
Country 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

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

## 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!



## Walks

**Melville Caves Walking Track** – 1 hour loop, 1km  
Start on the opposite side of the Melville Caves Picnic  
Area and climb between boulders, passing Seal Rock.  
The track continues to the summit (steep grades in  
places) and Melville Caves Lookout. Return to the  
Picnic Area via the steep walking track from the  
summit or via the road past Melville Caves car park.

**Eastern Walking Track** – 2½ hour loop, 4.5km  
The Eastern Walking Track is a loop track leading off  
Back Road. About 700m along the track there is a rock  
lookout with a good view of the valley. Continue past a  
long rock down to the fenced bush paddock. The track  
crosses a creek then heads down through more rock  
formations before climbing out of the valley and  
returning to the car park.

**Melville Caves Lookout** – 15mins, 300m  
This is a short walk starting from the Melville Caves car  
park. A directional disc on top of the boulders at the  
Lookout points out surrounding features and  
landmarks.

**Southern Lookout Walking Track** – 1½ hours, 1.8km  
Start from the Melville Caves Picnic Area and follow  
the track to the Southern Lookout. Enjoy some of the  
best views from the park. Return to the picnic area via  
the same track.

**Long Rock Walking Track** – 2-3 hours, 5.3km  
Start from either the Picnic Area or the Camp Ground.  
From the Picnic Area head to the Southern Lookout,  
then backtrack 200m to rejoin the track heading north.  
Walk in a clockwise direction to McLeod's Lookout  
with magnificent views. The track continues south  
through remarkable rock formations and rock pools.  
From the Camp Ground, follow the walking track to  
McLeod's Lookout and continue south to the Rock  
Pool and the Picnic Area. Return to the Camp Ground  
via the Southern Lookout walking track (turning north  
at the sign).

## 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.parks.vic.gov.au](http://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** or visit  
[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au).

## A haven for plants and wildlife

Most of the major species of flora typical of north-  
central Victoria are present, including Blakely's Red  
Gum, Yellow and Grey Box and Red Ironbark.

There are many species of rare or vulnerable plants  
occur, including Williamson's Wattle as well as many  
species of native orchids.

There is also a wide range of animal habitats. The  
Wehla area, in particular, provides some of the best  
examples of Box-Ironbark forest large old tree sites.  
Arboreal mammals and tree-nesting birds live in the  
open forests. Rainbow Bee-eaters nest in the granite  
soils and Wedge-tailed Eagles among the granite tors.

Kangaroos and wallabies browse the native grasslands  
and areas with shrubby understorey. Abundant  
ground litter provides shelter for many ground  
dwelling animals such as the Yellow-footed  
Antechinus.

A number of significant or interesting species have  
been recorded, including the rare Powerful Owl and  
Tuan and endangered Grey-crowned Babbler.



Powerful Owl chick

## Nearby parks to visit

**St Arnaud Range National Park**, south of St Arnaud,  
has a quiet picnic and fishing spot, with a small  
campground at Teddington Reservoir. Wedge-tailed  
Eagles are often seen soaring above the steep forested  
ranges.

**Mount Korong Nature Conservation Reserve** - Mount  
Korong and the lower hills surrounding it have a  
prominent granite tor landscape. Picnicking,  
bushwalking and nature studies can be enjoyed here.

**Moliagul Historic Reserve** - Discovery Walk,  
information, a picnic area and shelter make this an  
enjoyable place to discover our gold mining past. The  
Welcome Stranger Monument commemorates the  
largest gold nugget ever found.

## How to get there

Kooyoora State Park is about 220km north west of  
Melbourne, just west of the Calder Highway between  
Inglewood and Wedderburn.

June 2012

Printed on Australian-made 100% recycled paper