

Kurth Kiln Regional Park

Visitor Guide



Kurth Kiln Regional Park features a range of forest types awaiting exploration. Located a short distance east of Melbourne, the park is mostly known for its kiln, used during the Second World War to make charcoal for gas producer units fitted to motor cars. Today, the park is popular for picnicking, camping, nature walking and horse riding.



Getting there

Kurth Kiln Regional Park is 65km east of Melbourne. Get there via Launching Place Road or Beenak Road, Gembrook. Kurth Kiln Picnic Ground and Camping Area is seven kilometres north of Gembrook.

Things to see and do

Walking

Walking is the best way to get to know the park and there are several tracks with a variety of walks for all groups. Information on walks is available at the Kurth Kiln Picnic Ground.



Tomahawk Creek Circuit – 2km, 30 minutes circuit

Starting from Kurth Kiln Picnic Ground this gentle circuit follows the Tomahawk Creek, providing glimpses of the creek flowing through the moist messmate valley.



Thornton Walking Track – 2km, 30 minutes return

Also starting from the Kurth Kiln Picnic Ground, walk Thornton Walking Track north then east, parallel to Tomahawk Creek.

Enjoy seven different plant communities on the way and the various sounds and smells of the bush environment.

To make a loop return via Scout Loop Track and Soldiers Road.



Shiprock Falls – 300m, 10 minutes return

From the Shiprock Falls Picnic Area a short walk from the car park will take you to the falls, where water tumbles over the weathered slabs of granite.

Picnicking

Several picnic grounds have fire places, tables and toilets, making them ideal for picnics or just getting a breath of fresh air. Refer to the map overleaf for locations.

Camping

Camping is possible within Kurth Kiln Regional Park, providing one of the closest bush camping opportunities to urban Melbourne. The Scout Loop and Magazine Camping Areas (east of the picnic ground and kiln) offer convenient access to 36 designated sites in attractive natural settings. There is also

a communal camping area at Heritage Fence Camping Area. Campers are encouraged to bring their own firewood.

Bike riding

There are good opportunities for mountain bike riding on 'Horses, Walker and Bicycle Only' designated tracks. The tracks provide easy to moderate levels of difficulty for riders and are great for novices and social/family groups. There are no designated single trails within the park.

Horse riding

The park has many kilometres of tracks suitable for horse riding. There are designated areas where horses can be loaded/unloaded safely.

A charcoal kiln

Kurth Kiln was built during the Second World War to make charcoal. It was developed and patented by Professor E. E. Kurth of the University of Tasmania.

Most of the charcoal was used in gas producer units fitted to motor cars to produce a combustible gas as a substitute for petrol, which was heavily rationed during the war. Display boards around the kiln explain the process used to produce gas.

The cottages nearby housed the early workers and their families and at a later stage, Forest Commission crews.

Plants and animals

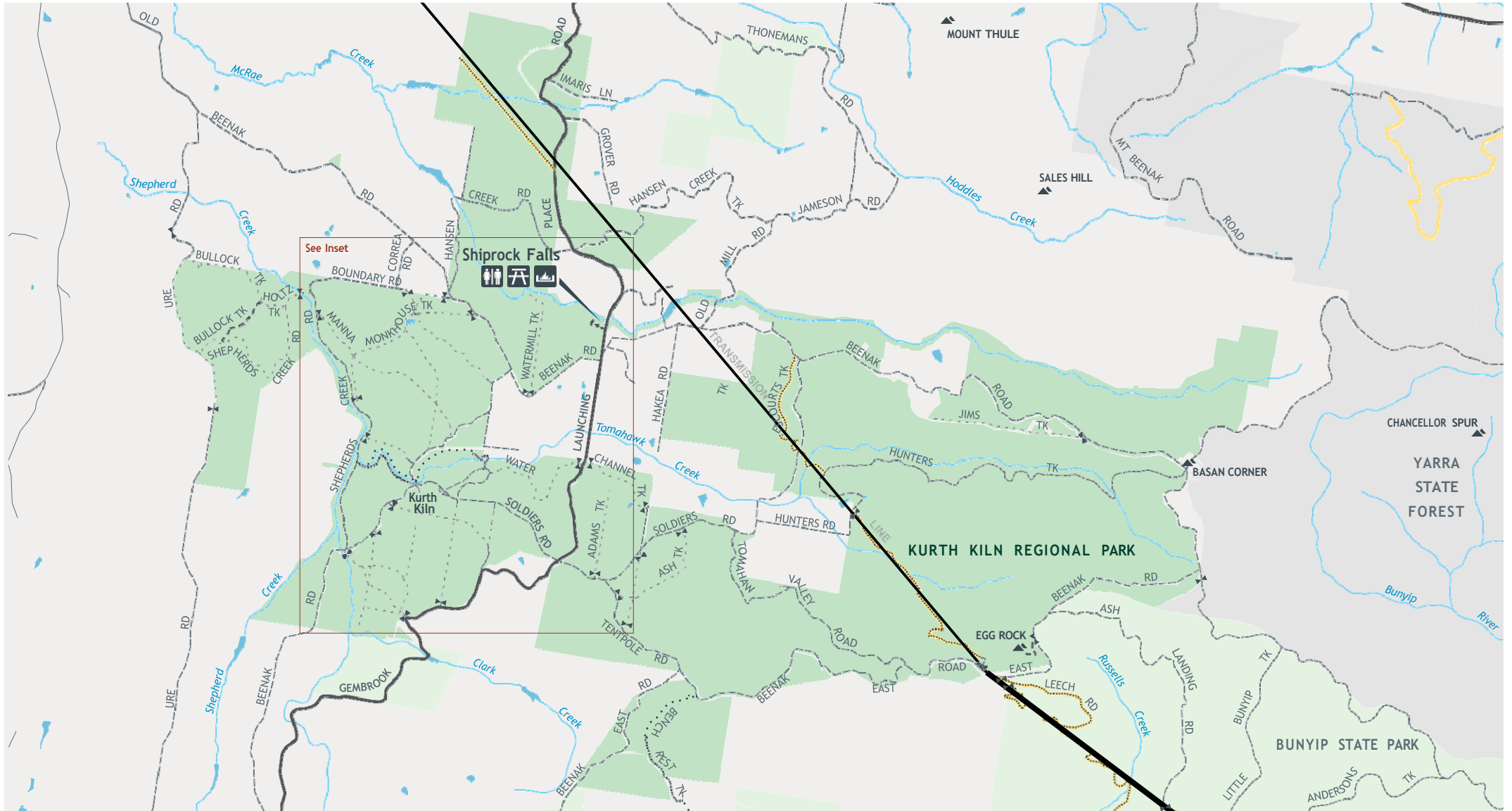
The park has several plant communities ranging from Mountain Ash forest and riparian forest to shrubby foothill forest and swamp heathland. These support a rich flora and contain the rare plants Long Pink-bells, Tall Astelia, Jungle Bristle-fern and Brickmakers Saw-sedge.

The diversity of plant life attracts a range of wildlife including wombats, Swamp Wallabies and Echidnas. There is also a diverse mammal population, active mostly at night. They include possums, Yellowbellied Gliders, Sugar Gliders and Greater Gliders that glide for up to 100m from tree to tree. Bush Rats and Antechinus may be spotted scuttling around on the forest floor.

Birdlife is active. Lookout for lyrebirds, honeyeaters, kookaburras, parrots, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, currawongs and butcherbirds.

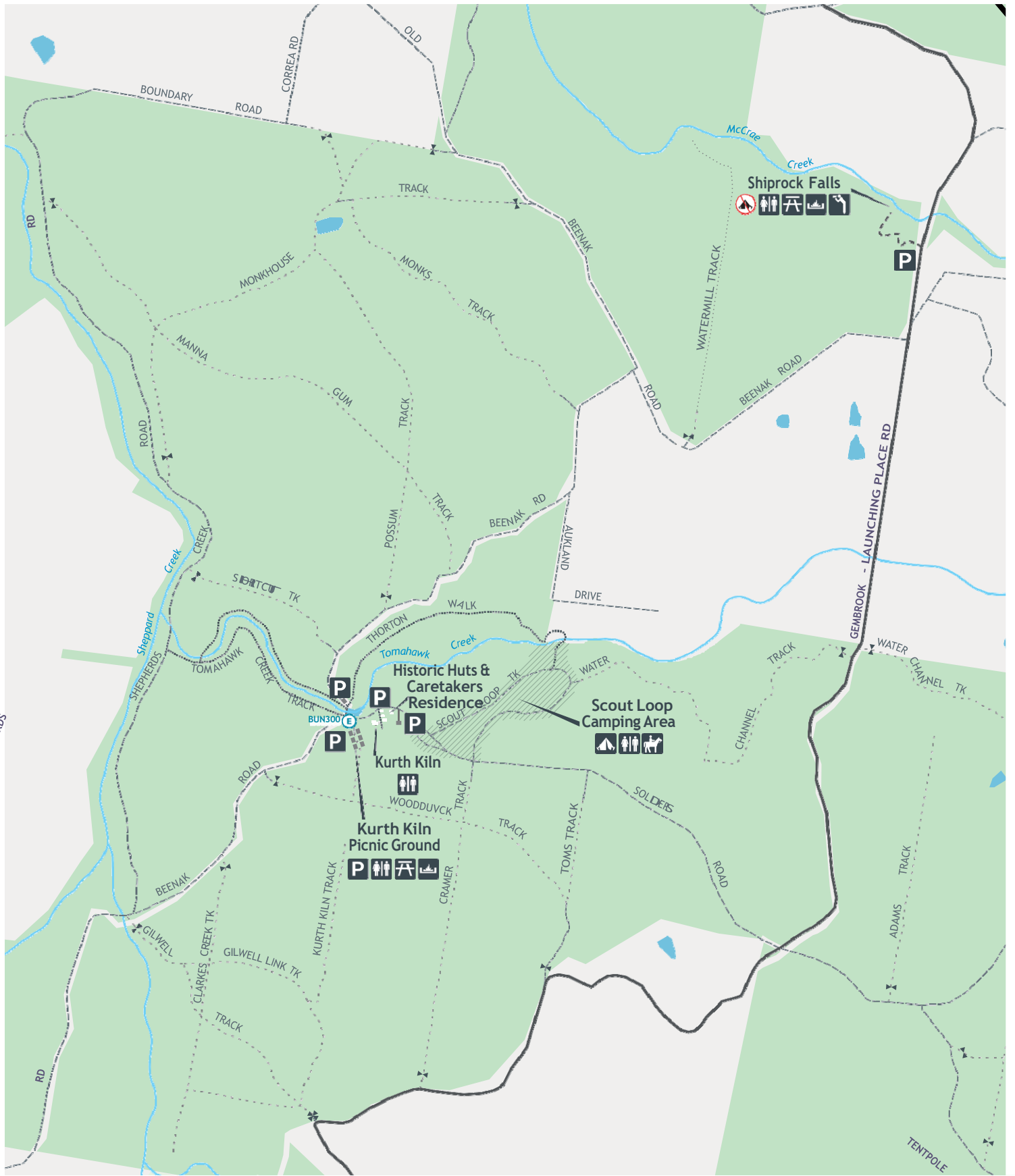
Parks Victoria

Phone 13 1963
www.parks.vic.gov.au



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|--------------|-------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Information | Camping (formal sites) | Parking | Sealed road | Walking track | Kurth Kiln Regional Park |
| Toilets | Fireplace/ Wood BBQs | Gate | Unsealed road | Shared horse/walk/bicycle track | Other park/reserve |
| Picnic Table | Horse corrals/ unloading area | | 4WD track (Seasonal Road Closure) | Management vehicles only (walkers permitted) | Other public land |





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|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Information | Camping (formal sites) | Sealed road | Walking track | Kurth Kil Regional Park |
| Toilets | Fireplace / Wood BBQs | Unsealed road | Shared horse/walk/bicycle track | Kurth Kil camping area |
| Picnic Table | Horse corrals/unloading area | 4WD track (Seasonal Road Closure) | Gate | Emergency marker |
| Parking | Lookout | | No camping | |

Get involved

The management and preservation of Kurth Kiln Regional Park is actively assisted by the voluntary community group 'Friends of Kurth Kiln'.

Regular working bees are held to maintain the heritage and natural values of the park. To get involved visit www.parks.vic.gov.au or call 13 1963.

Be prepared and stay safe

Kurth Kiln Regional Park is in the Central fire district. Bushfire safety is a personal responsibility. Anyone entering parks and forests during the bushfire season needs to stay aware of forecast weather conditions. Check the Fire Danger Rating and for days of Total Fire Ban at www.emergency.vic.gov.au, on the VicEmergency smartphone app or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226. No fires may be lit on Total Fire Ban days.

On Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating days this park will be closed for public safety. Warning signs may be erected but do not expect a personal warning. Check the latest conditions at www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963.

For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000). If there is a green emergency marker sign near you, read the information on the marker to the operator.

Caring for the park

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

- Take all rubbish away with you for recycling and disposal.
- All native plants and animals are protected by law. Please do not disturb them in any way.
- Firearms are prohibited.
- Dogs must be controlled on a leash.
- Light fireplaces in the fireplaces provided in the picnic and camping areas. No fires may be lit on days of Total Fire Ban
- Keep to the constructed paths.
- Observe signs for 'management vehicles only', 'walkers only' and 'horses, walkers and bicycles only'.
- Horse and bike riding is permitted on roads and designated tracks, but is not permitted on 'walkers only' tracks or in picnic areas.
- Horse riders are reminded to take home any manure, hay or litter and utilise the horse loading/unloading areas provided.
- Please report any illegal or antisocial behaviour to Victoria Police via Triple Zero (000).