

# Long Forest Flora and Fauna Reserve

## Visitor Guide

A haven for walking within close-proximity of Melbourne on the doorstep of Bacchus Marsh and Melton. Classified by the National Trust and rich with birdlife, spring wildflowers and ancient rock forms the 600hectare conservation reserve is unique in its geology and landform. Walkers can explore the track network and enjoy the nature of this special place with its small-scale creek escarpments, rocky Mallee tree woodlands and multiple circuit walk choices.



### Getting there

The Reserve is situated between Melton and Bacchus Marsh on the outskirts of Melbourne. Park at one of the four walker's trailhead access points shown on the map.

### Things to see and do

Long Forest Reserve has basic visitor carparking at Canopus Circuit and Happy Valley Trailheads (carparks). No toilets or rubbish bins are provided and camping is not permitted in this small reserve.

Visitors need to be self-contained to enjoy the bushwalking, birdwatching and other wildlife viewing opportunities on the reserve's management vehicle and walkers track network.

### Walk and discover the nature of the reserve

The map shows these numbered walk options. Circuit Walks 2,4 and 5 can be travelled in either direction. These Grade 3 Walks may involve slopes, uneven surface and some steps and creek crossings. Good walking shoes, sunscreen, a hat, map and drinking water are recommended. Rocky woodland slopes leading down to creek flats and up again are a feature. Let someone know before you go.

#### 1. Djerriwarrh Track– 3km return, 1.5 hours return

Start at the trailhead on the east side of Long Forest Road. Walk east on Djerriwarrh Track down to a flat on Djerriwarrh Creek. Return via the same track.

#### 2. Old House Track Circuit –3.5km, 2 hours

Start from Happy Valley Trailhead and follow Happy Valley Track to the junction with Link Tk. Turn left and walk to meet the Gravelly Track. Turn right and follow this down to the Coimadai Creek. Return to the carpark/trailhead via the Old House Track and then left onto Mallee Track. You will arrive at the Long Forest Road. Follow the roadside walking track back to Happy Valley Trailhead.

#### 3. Happy Valley Track – 4km return, 2 hours

Start from Happy Valley Trailhead on Long Forest Road. Walk west beyond the information shelter until you eventually reach a beautiful Blue-box tree flat beside the Coimadai Creek. Return on the same track.

#### 4. Coimadai Circuit – 4km, 2.5 hours

Start from Canopus Circuit Trailhead. Follow Long Point Track until it meets Coimadai Creek Trail. Turn left and walk until you reach Coimadai Track. Turn left and follow this until you intersect with Long Point Track again which returns you to Canopus Circuit carpark.

#### 5. Happy Valley Trailhead to Canopus Circuit Trailhead

**8.5km, 4hours.** This is a long loop walk.

Starting from Happy Valley Trailhead. Walk Happy Valley Track down to Coimadai Creek Trail. Follow the trail to the end and turn right onto Long Point Track to reach Canopus Circuit Road, and then right returning to your car via Long Forest Road's adjoining walking track.

#### 6. Moonah Track – 1.5km return, 45 minutes

Start on Moonah Drive Trailhead at the north-east end of Long Forest Road. Walk through open woodlands down to Djerriwarrh Creek and back up to the trailhead (carpark).

### An important foothold and haven for plants and wildlife

The Long Forest Flora and Fauna Reserve is a Conservation Reserve; an ecological island which is unique and important in its nature. The Reserve lists over 400 native plants and 160 bird species.

The Bull Mallee at Long Forest is its only occurrence south of the Great Dividing Range. This multi-stemmed eucalypt is the main species in the Rocky Chenopod Scrub plant community. Taller trees including Grey Box, Red Box and Yellow Gum. Turkey Bush, Moonah and eleven wattle species also thrive here.

Sixteen species of saltbush are found within the reserve, including the larger Fragrant Saltbush which grows to over a metre tall.

The quiet and observant walker may see an Echidna or Koala, Eastern Grey Kangaroo and Black-tailed Wallaby. Active at night are Brushtail Possum and Sugar Glider. Less obvious, but just as interesting, are the smaller skinks, toads, frogs, spiders, ants, moths, butterflies and beetles that all live here, connected in some way.

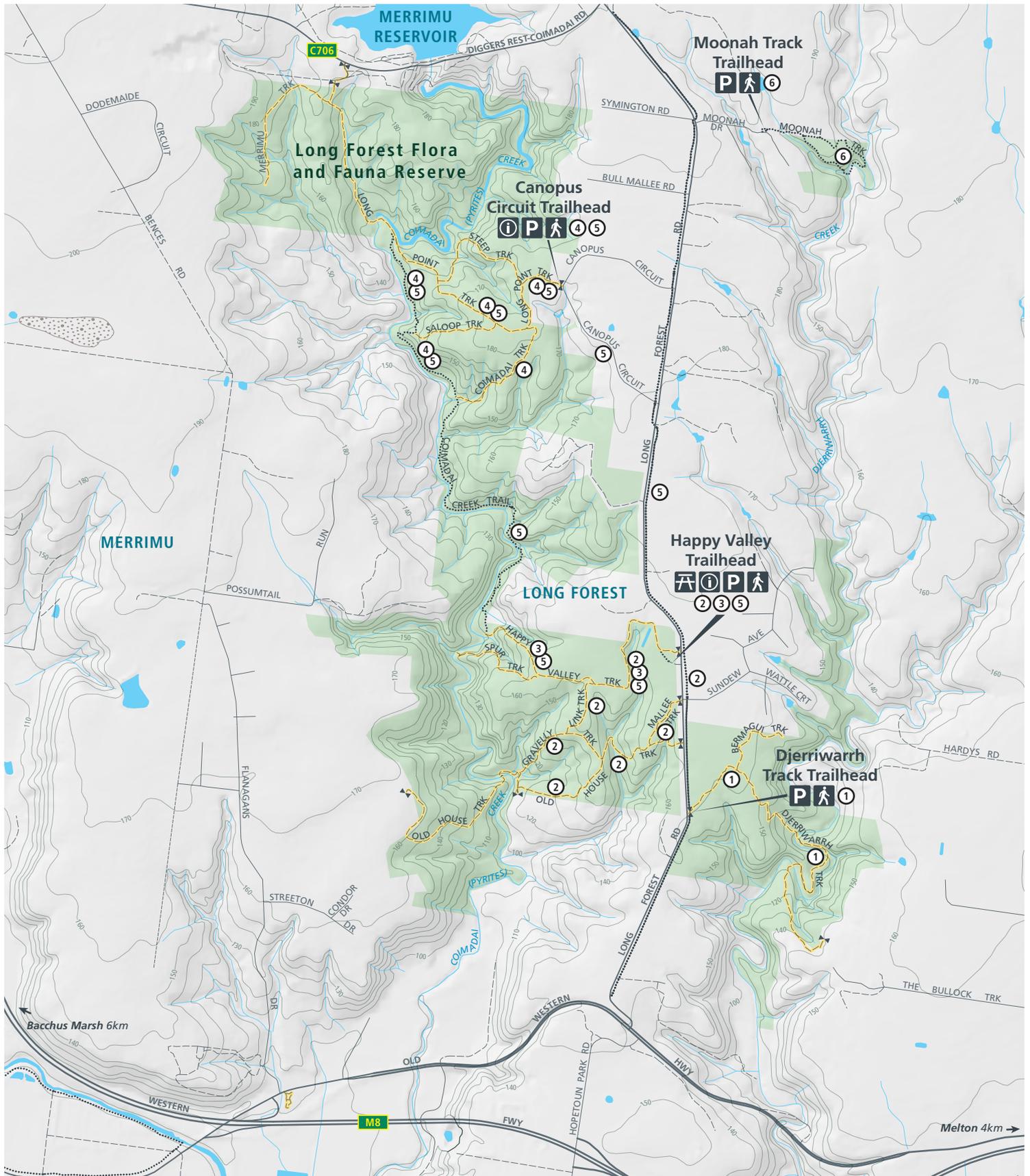
The reserve is a haven and refuge for some threatened species of Temperate Woodland birds. Get a field guide and keep your ears tuned for the distinctive birdcalls including these threatened species Jacky Winter, Speckled Warbler, Red-capped Robin, Rufus Whistler, Crested Bellbird, Diamond Firetail and the nocturnal Barking Owl.

### Be prepared and stay safe

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. Long Forest FFR 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](http://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. Warnings signs may be erected, but do not expect a personal warning. Check the latest conditions at [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) or by calling 13 1963.

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|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>P</b> Parking     | — Main road              | Subject to inundation       | <b>④</b> Coimadai Circuit                  |
| <b>i</b> Information | — Sealed road            | Long Forest F.F.R.          | <b>⑤</b> Happy Valley Canopus Circuit Walk |
| Picnic area          | - - - Unsealed road      | <b>①</b> Djerriwarrh Track  | <b>⑥</b> Moonah Track Circuit              |
| Walking track        | - - - 4WD track          | <b>②</b> Old House Track    |  |
| Mgmt. vehicle gate   | ..... Walking track      | <b>③</b> Happy Valley Track |  |
| — Highway            | — Mgmt. vehicles/walkers |                             |  |

