

# Snowy River National Park

## Visitor Guide



Reserved as a national park in 1979, Snowy River National Park now covers 114,505 ha. Named after the Snowy River, which bisects the park as it cuts through Tulloch Ard Gorge on its way from the alps to the sea, the park features spectacular river scenery, magnificent deep gorges, old growth forests dominated by towering Alpine Ash and rain-shadow Cypress Pine woodlands and pristine wilderness areas.



### Welcome to Country

In 2010 the Federal Government recognised the Gunaikurnai's native title rights over much of Gippsland. This included much of the Snowy River National Park, west of the Snowy River. At the same time the Victorian Government entered into legal agreements under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act in acknowledgement of Gunaikurnai's traditional owner rights, known as Joint Management of ten parks and reserves in Gippsland.

Through Joint Management, the State has created an equal partnership with the Gunaikurnai people. The benefits of this partnership are many and include: the knowledge and culture of Traditional Owners incorporated into natural resources (land) management, cultural awareness and knowledge of local history, improved park management through knowledge-sharing and increased opportunities for new initiatives.

By conserving and protecting the natural environment and cultural values, the education and enjoyment experience is enhanced for all community members and visitors.

New Guinea Cave within the Snowy River National Park, is one of the jointly managed areas within Gippsland. This agreement recognises the fact that the Gunaikurnai people have always been connected to their land and are the rightful people who speak for that Country. These parks and reserves are cultural landscapes, which are part of our living culture. For more information, visit

[www.gunaikurnai.org](http://www.gunaikurnai.org)

### Getting there

The Snowy River National Park is located 390km north-east of Melbourne, almost half way to Sydney and can be approached from a number of directions. From the south, access is via the Princes Hwy and either Buchan or Orbost. From the north, the Barry Way through Jindabyne and the Bonang Road from Bombala, NSW give the best access.

### Things to see and do

#### Walking

To get the most from your visit come prepared to walk. The park has walks to suit all interests, abilities and timeframes.

If you are planning a walk remember to:

- Know where you are going and carry a detailed map and compass
- Carry plenty of drinking water
- Wear comfortable sturdy footwear
- Always let someone know before you go and when you return.



#### Raymond Creek Falls – 1km, 30 minutes one way

These picturesque falls in the south of the park can be reached all year round from Orbost along Moorsford Road. A short walking track leads to a view of Raymond Creek Falls plunging 20 metres into a deep, clear pool. To get another perspective, continue further 300m to the bottom of the falls.



#### Tulloch Ard Gorge Lookout – 1.6km, 1.5hours return

This walk takes you through diverse vegetation culminating in the observation lookout offering spectacular views of the Snowy River country and Tulloch Ard Gorge. It is quite steep in sections and requires moderate level of fitness.



#### Little River Gorge – 400m, 30 minutes return

Enjoy the breathtaking cliff-top views over Victoria's deepest gorge where the Little River plunges 300 feet into the deeply incised valley. This is a short but steep walk, starting at the end of an 800 metre drive off the Bonang-Gelantipy Road.



#### The Silver Mine Walking Track – 15.5km, 6 hours one way

Starting from McKillop Bridge, the Silver Mine Walk links fire access and other minor tracks in a varied and interesting route, including a section of the bank of the Snowy River. The walk includes a considerable amount of climbing however the path is well graded and carefully benched where it crosses steep hillsides.

The track passes through extensive stands of native White Cypress-pine (*Callitris columellaris*), a distinctive botanical feature of this section of the Snowy River National Park.

The ridge separating the Deddick and Snowy River valleys, provides spectacular views of the rivers and surrounding mountains. The Pilot and Mt Cobberas can be seen to the northwest and Mt Tingaringy is the big plateau to the east.

See the back page for track notes and a map.

#### Car touring

A great way to discover some of the park's special features is by vehicle. All major roads are suitable for 2WD vehicles, however many roads are unsealed, narrow and winding and some are unsuitable for caravans, particularly from Little River Gorge to McKillops Bridge. Allow plenty of time for touring.

The descent into the Snowy River Valley from Little River is one of Victoria's most stunning drives marked by great scenery and spectacular vertical drops on one side.

It's advisable to check road conditions if visiting the park after rain or bad weather. Drive carefully and watch out for wombats, kangaroos and wallabies. Be aware of log trucks if you are travelling along the Bonang Road, Yalmy Road or Tulloch Ard Road.

### Four-wheel driving

Four wheel drive through this remote park and enjoy spectacular river scenery, deep gorges, waterfalls and magnificent forests.

Visit [www.4wdvictoria.org.au/iconic4wd/](http://www.4wdvictoria.org.au/iconic4wd/) for details of the Snowy River Iconic 4WD adventure, a 2-3 day drive that includes opportunities for walking, swimming and canoeing along the way.

To protect the environment and for your safety, many of the 4WD tracks in the park are closed during the wetter winter months. To check road conditions at any time of the year please visit [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au).

Due to its very steep and rugged terrain, the Deddick Trail should only be traversed in a northerly direction and in dry weather conditions.

This three hour drive commencing from Yalmy Rd to McKillops Rd, includes the scenic Roger River, Mountain Creek and Ash forests of Mount Gelantipy.

Before embarking on your 4WD trip be sure to check current road conditions. Carry a chainsaw or sharp axe as roads may be blocked by fallen trees and recovery gear including a winch, tree protector and shovel. Leave details of your trip intentions with a responsible person.

Water levels and river conditions along the Snowy River can change rapidly and need to be checked prior to each crossing.

When crossing the river at Jacksons Crossing be careful to use the appropriate water access points and to follow shallow sections of the crossing.

### Wilderness

Wilderness areas have been set aside to provide opportunities for solitude and self reliant recreation activities including bushwalking, canoeing, dispersed camping, nature studies and photography.

There are two wilderness areas in Snowy River National Park: Bowen and Snowy River.

These wilderness areas protect large and essentially untouched areas containing significant plant and animal communities and a variety of geological formations.

People visiting wilderness areas need a level of self reliance far exceeding that required for most other natural areas.

Horseriding and vehicles, (including motor and mountain bikes), are not permitted in wilderness areas. All tracks in wilderness areas are closed to public vehicles.

### Camping

The camping areas and other attractions in the park are some distance from towns and shops. When you visit, carry all the fuel, food, drinking water and equipment you will need during your stay.

Bush camping areas offering basic facilities are provided at Balley Hooley, at the junction of the Snowy and Buchan Rivers; McKillops Bridge, Raymond Creek Falls, Waratah Flat, Jackson's Crossing, Little River Junction and Hicks camp site.

Dispersed camping is allowed throughout the park. Please ensure you are at least 20 metres from any river or stream. Wherever you camp, please respect the environment, the area's cultural heritage and other visitors by aiming to leave as little trace of your visit as possible.

Use existing toilets or bury waste at least 100m from any water.

### Canoeing and rafting

McKillops Bridge is one of the few places in the park with access to the Snowy River by conventional vehicle making it the best canoe launching place for experienced adventurers wanting to explore the gorges downstream.

The Snowy River offers thrilling canoeing and white water rafting opportunities with rugged gorges, rapids, flat sections with sand bars and beautiful scenery. The gently sloping sand bars make ideal camp sites for extended trips.

The most popular section is from McKillops Bridge to the Buchan River junction at Balley Hooley, taking three-four days to complete.

Prepare carefully for any river trip. Consult guide books or speak to the Victorian Canoe Association. Better still, include in your group someone with canoeing or rafting experience or someone who knows the river. Remember to check river levels and weather conditions with the Bureau of Metrology before you leave.

Always leave details of your itinerary with a responsible person.

### Horse riding

Horses can be taken on a number of tracks in the Snowy River National Park. Access to some tracks is subject to seasonal road closures. Camping with horses is allowed in Hicks Camping Area for a maximum of four consecutive nights. Horses are not permitted on the banks and bed of the Snowy River except to cross or drink. Be aware that all tracks are shared with cars.

Further information is available in the Greater Alpine National Parks Management Plan.

### Explore the history

The park contains some of Victoria's oldest and most significant aboriginal cultural sites. Aboriginal people occupied this land more than 21,000 years ago. Their scar trees, middens and stone artefacts depict life as they travelled the bountiful river corridor which connected the Monaro plains with the coastal lowlands.

Mining for gold, silver and copper, cattle farming and honey production supported a number of small settlements in and around the park since Europeans arrived in the 1830s. Bridle trails and blaze trees stand as evidence to this by-gone era.

### Plants and wildlife

In this area, mountains were worn down and dissected by weathering and the constant action of flowing water. Snowy River has been carving out its present course for over 20 million years. All this activity has created the shape of the land you see today.

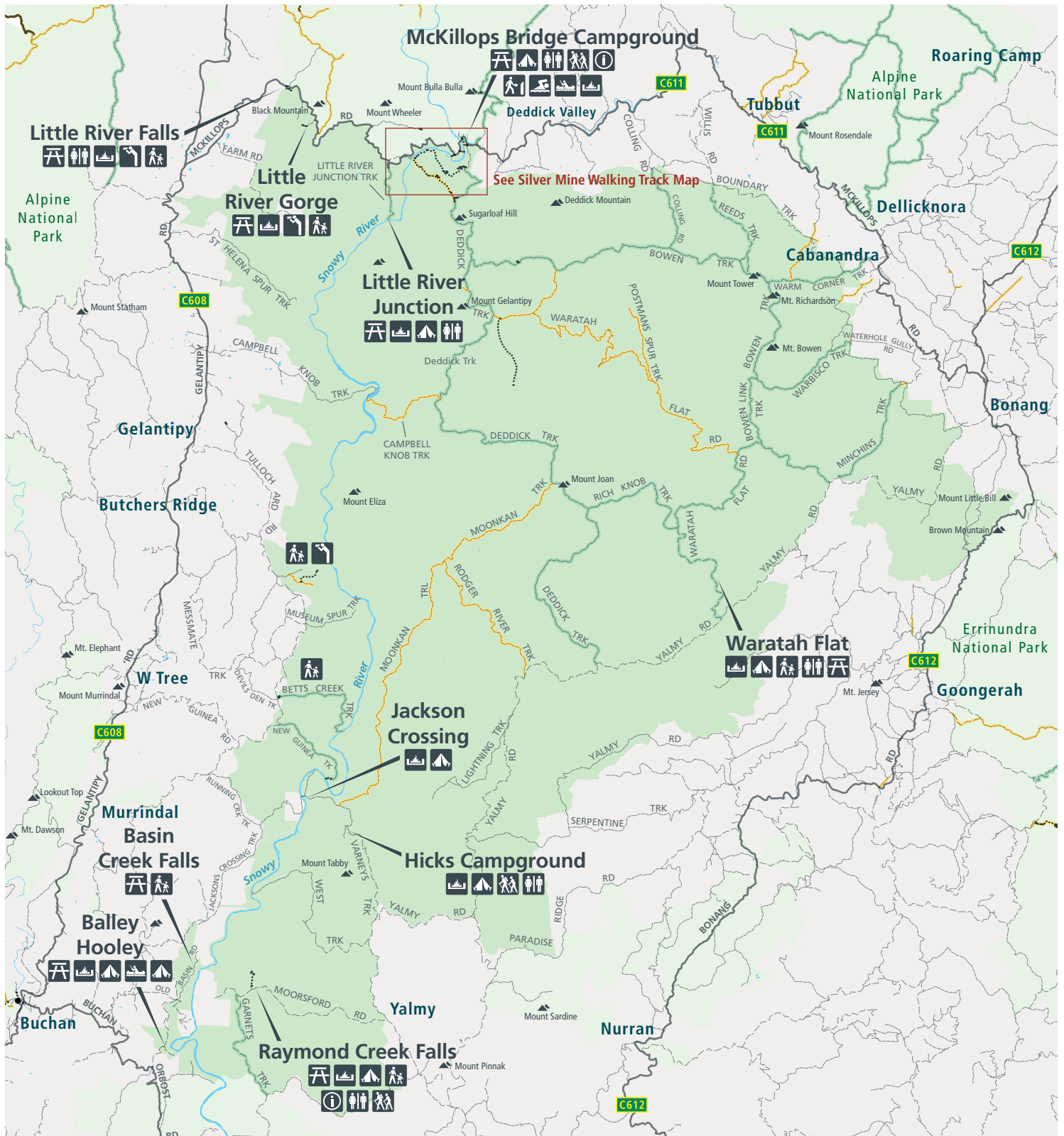
Geology, landform and climate play important roles in determining flora and fauna. The variety of combinations of these elements in Snowy River National Park has resulted in a spectacular diversity of plants and animals including the Snowy River Daisy.

A large number of vegetation communities occur in the park, including warm temperate rainforest and rain shadow woodland. This diversity is reflected in the fauna, which includes more than 30 mammal species (from common wombats and kangaroos to the endangered Long-footed Potoroo, Brush-tailed Rock-Wallaby, Tiger Quoll and about 150 species of birds. Reptiles, amphibians, insects and other invertebrates are also numerous.

### Caring for the park

Help us care for our parks by remembering these guidelines:

- Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park
- Firearms are not permitted in the park
- Hunting is not permitted
- Do not disturb or remove any native plants, animals or rock formations
- Vehicles including trail bikes may only be driven or ridden on formed roads open to the public, and must be fully road registered. Drivers and riders must hold a current licence.



- |                  |               |  |                           |
|------------------|---------------|--|---------------------------|
| Information      | Hiking        | Main road                                  | Major river               |
| Toilets          | Canoeing      | Sealed road                                | Snowy River National Park |
| Picnic table     | Swimming      | Unsealed road                              | Other park/reserve        |
| Fireplace        | Camping area  | 4WD  |                           |
| Lookout          | Mountain/Hill | Walking track                              |                           |
| Self-guided walk |               | Management vehicles/<br>walking track only |                           |
| Family walk      |               | Seasonal road closure                      |                           |







## Silver Mine Walking Track

### Track notes

From the north-eastern end of McKillop Bridge the walk leads away from McKillops Rd and quickly joins the Deddick Trail to climb steadily. It soon offers views of the Snowy River, McKillop Bridge and surrounding peaks.

About 1.5km from the bridge you come to the point where the return loop of the walk rejoins the Deddick Trail. For a less arduous walk you may choose to follow this track to the Snowy River - returning to the bridge along the same path.

Those intending to undertake the entire walk should continue along the Deddick Trail as it passes close by adjacent farmland before climbing up a long spur. This spur provides expansive views of the Snowy River Valley to the north and Mt Deddick to the east.

After approximately 2km of continuous climbing, the walk reaches the intersection with Silver Mine Tk. Turning off the Deddick Tk onto Silvermine Tk, the walk now descends steeply, past abandoned mines before arriving at the Snowy River and a basic overnight hiker camp. From here, the track follows a disused mining track for approximately 1km along the tree line which marks the edge of the river's original flood plain before heading away from the river along a creek line. If you walk along the edge of the river instead of following the marked track in this area, be vigilant for the marker post which indicates the location where the walk deviates from the river valley (GDA94 Grid ref. 242944). At this location a particularly rocky spur meets the Snowy River and this feature serves as a good landmark.

For those walking the track in the opposite direction, a cable with orange aviation markers which stretches across the river at the bottom of Silvermine Tk will serve as a similarly useful landmark.

Leaving the Snowy River behind, the track closely follows a stream bed for approximately 1km and passes further evidence of previous mining history before climbing steeply to a saddle on the rocky spur mentioned previously. After cresting this spur, the track winds down its northern flank and crosses a gully before climbing once again to rejoin the Deddick Trail. Multiple switchbacks keep the grade manageable.

### Be prepared and stay safe

The Snowy River National Park is in the East Gippsland 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.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

No fires may be lit on Total Fire Ban days. On Code Red Fire Danger Rating days this park will be closed for public safety. Do not expect an official warning. Check the latest conditions at [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) or by calling 13 1963. For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000).