

Horse Riding

Bunyip State Park

Horse riding is a great way to explore the distinctive bush atmosphere of Bunyip State Park and nearby Kurth Kiln Regional Park. The Bunyip Heritage Horse Trail and other shorter loops form a trail network that allows visitors to enjoy riding while respecting the natural environment and other park users.

Location and access

The start and finish of the Bunyip trail network is at the gate to Cannibal Creek Track at the Cannibal Creek Horse Unloading Area (off Tynong North Road, Tynong North).

At this site there are horse tie rails, a picnic table and float car parking, but no toilets or water access. The nearest facilities are at Mortimer Camping and Picnic Area. Don't forget that Bunyip State Park is a "Carry In Carry Out" site and no rubbish bins are provided.

Before you leave home check for any 'Change of conditions' on the Parks Victoria website and weather forecasts on your favourite app. Bunyip State Park falls under the National Park Regulations 2024. No dogs are permitted at any time.

Avenza maps

Before visiting the park, download the free park maps to your phone from Avenza Maps. If you don't have the app installed, you will be prompted to download it (WiFi is recommended).

The app uses your phone's GPS location feature to show you where you are, even without a signal. Search for maps by park name.

Avenza app link:



Trails and loops

The Heritage Horse Trail is a significant feature of this park, but there are also many other shorter loops to choose, depending on how much time you have to visit.

Bunyip Heritage Horse Trail

This unique trail traverses a large part of Bunyip State Park. At 41km long, it is a full day ride, with options for shortcuts. Unique markers are located along the trail to help keep you on course. Riders aiming to complete the entire route should ensure their horses are adequately fit and have access to water during the day.

Shorter loops

There are a number of shorter tracks and routes in the park, most accessed from the Cannibal Creek Unloading Area. Half a dozen trail loops cover the south-west section of the park. Enjoy a wide variety of vegetation and landscapes while benefiting from outdoor exercise. See map overpage for details.



It is safer to ride with someone else

Equestrian strategy

In conjunction with Parks Victoria's track and trail network, Cardinia Shire Council has created the 'Equestrian Strategy 2024-2034'.

This document has excellent information on horse riding opportunities in the region. The strategy is available from the council website: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au

Horse management

- Be aware and respect other people using the park. The trails in the southern section are shared use with walkers and cyclists.
- Do not ride off marked tracks and trails.
- Bring your own water for you and your horse.
- When not in a yarded area or horse float, horses must be restrained by a bridal, leadrope, leash or cord (up to 10 metres in length).
- Horses must be under immediate control of the person bringing it into the park.
- Maximum group size of 10 horses permitted. Larger groups require written permission from the Area Chief Ranger or delegate.
- Report any damage, illegal or antisocial behaviour to Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

Caring for your horse

- Horses are to be watered downstream of camping and day visitor areas. Please use buckets to collect drinking water. Do not allow your horse to drink directly from streams or to damage banks.
- Horses must not be washed in (or near) rivers, streams, aqueducts or other waterbodies. Buckets should be used in a suitable location.
- Nosebags are required for hard feeding. Your feed type should be selected to minimise the risk of weeds. Best choices are pellets, certified clean chaff/hay or rolled/cracked clean grain.



Enjoy nature from a different viewpoint



Keep your eyes open for some of the smaller wildlife including the beautiful blue male Superb Fairy Wren

Cleaning up

To assist in keeping the park safe and clean, all waste associated with horses must be removed and disposed of responsibly.

Bag manure and hay, remove all tie-up twine, collect rubbish and take everything home with you.

Fines may be issued to visitors who breach park regulations.

Riding safely

- Ride with someone else, or make sure you tell people your plans.
- In wet conditions, steep sections of track can be slippery and need to be used with care.
- Trail markers highlight the Heritage Horse Trail, but may be difficult to see if ridden in reverse.
- Be aware of deer and native animals on trails, including snakes.
- Do not rely on mobile phone reception within Bunyip State Park.
- 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. This will help pinpoint your location and the fastest access for emergency services.

Heritage Horse Trail history

The Heritage Horse Trail follows some of the course from the 2009 Tom Quilty Gold Cup ride – Australia’s national horseriding endurance event.

Riders from all over Australia (and a few overseas entries) participate in the endurance event, with the hope of completing the 160km course. 206 riders entered the 2009 ride with 55% of them successfully completing the full course. Many of the riders commented on the wonderful scenery and excellent footing of the Tonimbuk Quilty.

Today, riders who follow the 41km Heritage Horse Trail can also experience these horse friendly features.

Community involvement

There are various ways to get involved in your community and help contribute to the health of this park.

The Friends of Bunyip State Park undertake various works including trail maintenance, weed removal and flora and fauna monitoring.

The Equine Forest Friends are a group that help deliver activities that support horse riding within the park.

Both these groups can be contact through the Parks Victoria ParkConnect program at: www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au

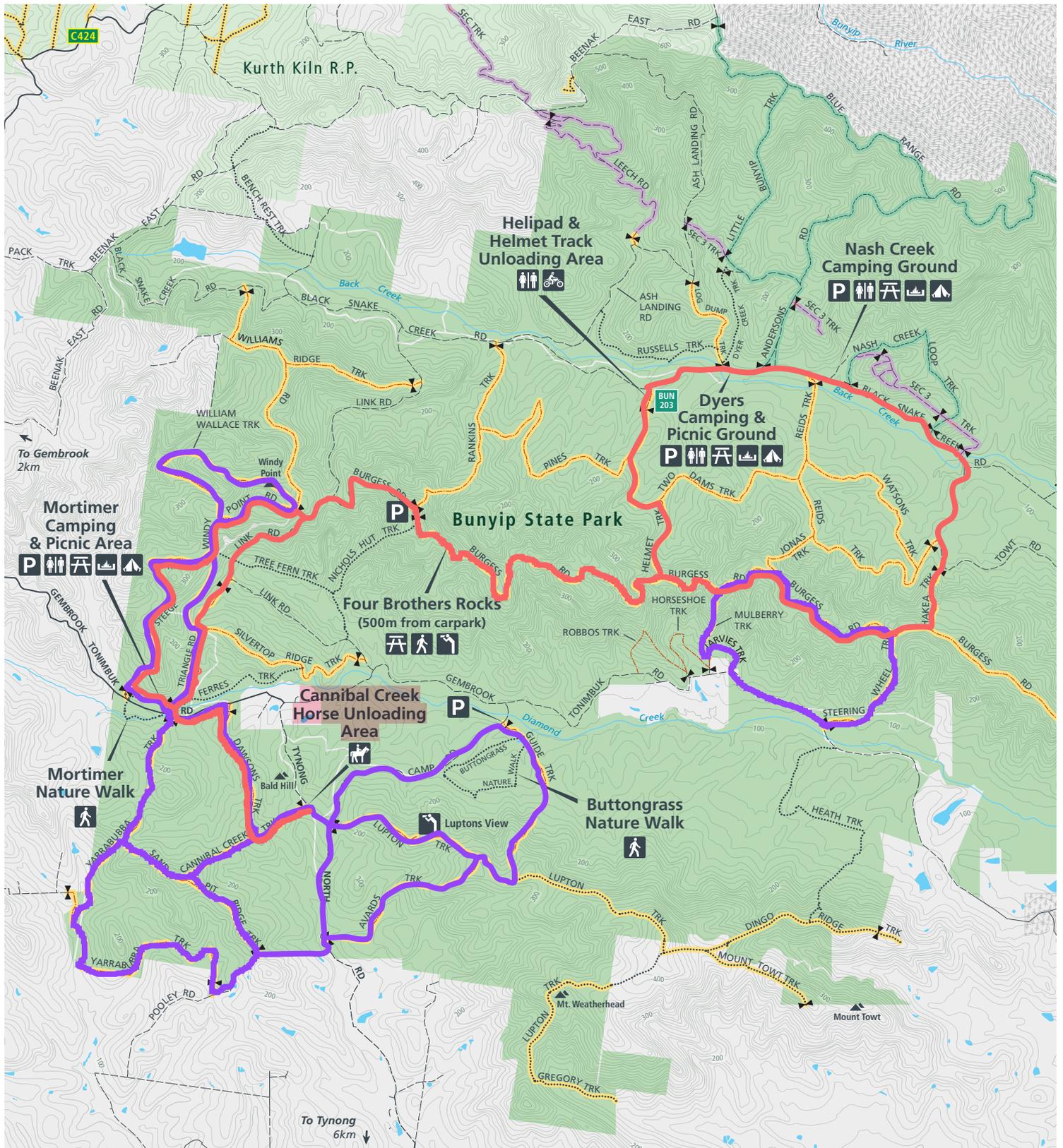
Further information

Check specific warnings or access changes when planning your ride.

To access Bunyip State Park visitor information visit the Parks Victoria website at www.parks.vic.gov.au or scan this QR code:

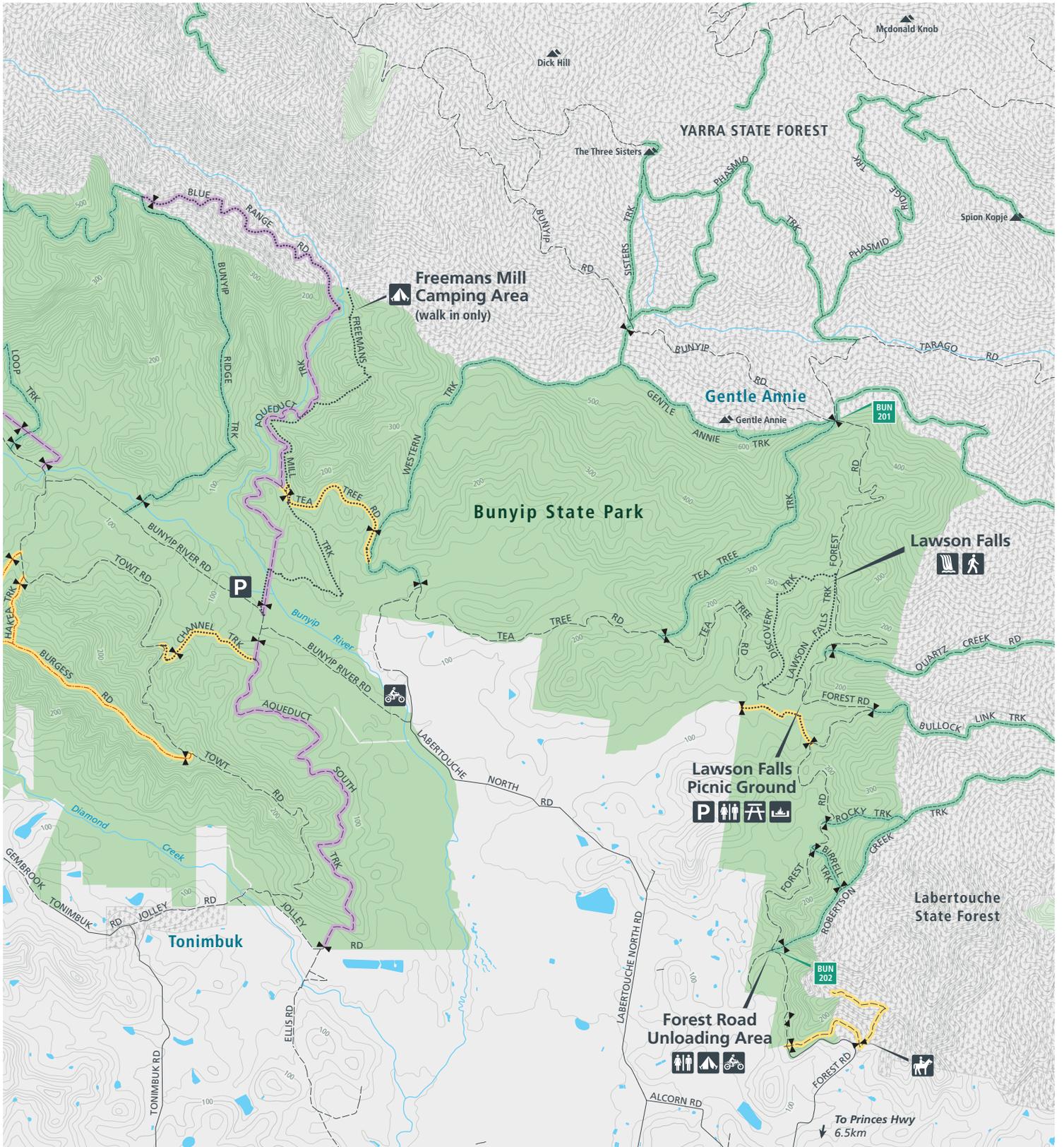


Bunyip State Park has many beautiful views to discover



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|--------------|---------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| Parking | Horse unloading area | Sealed road | Authorised vehicles only |
| Toilets | Trail bike unloading area | Unsealed road | 100 metre contour interval |
| Picnic table | Walking track | Walking track | Bunyip State Park |
| Fireplace | Camping area | Shared path (walking, horse riding, cycling) | Other park/reserve |
| Lookout | ESTA emergency marker | 4WD seasonal closure | State Forest |
| Waterfall | Gate | Management vehicles only | Heritage Horse Trail |
| | | | Riding Loops |



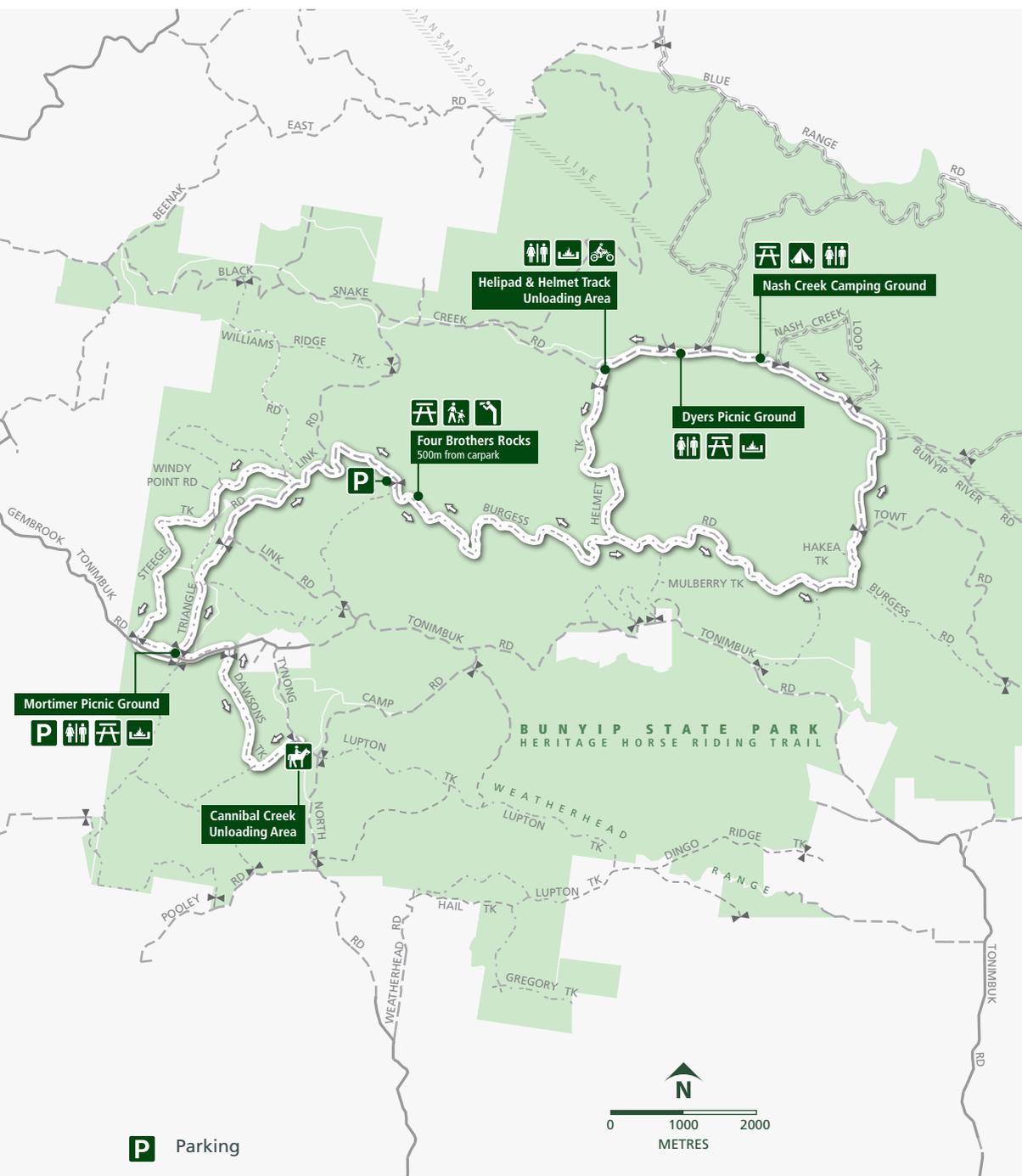


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Bunyip State Park Heritage Horse Riding Trail

Map created by Parks Victoria Jan2014



-  Parking
-  Toilets
-  Picnic Table
-  Fireplace
-  Camping
-  Lookout
-  Horse Unloading Area
-  Trail Bike Unloading Area
-  Family Walk
-  Suggested Riding Direction
-  Gate



-  Bunyip Heritage Horse Riding Trail
-  Sealed Road
-  Unsealed Road
-  4WD Track
-  Shared Horse/Walk/Bicycle
-  4WD subject to seasonal closure (Mid June to November)
-  Bunyip State Park