

Kara Kara National Park and surrounds

Visitor Guide



Experience a sense of what the Box-Ironbark forest landscapes were like before the gold rush. Kara Kara National Park contains one of the most intact large areas of Box-Ironbark vegetation and landscapes in Victoria. Along with surrounding parks and reserves, Kara Kara National Park offers a range of recreational opportunities, including walking, cycling and nature appreciation.



Womin-dji-ka (Welcome)

Kara Kara National Park is part of the traditional lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung and Barengi Gadjin people.

The Dja Dja Wurrung people's rights were recognised through a Recognition and Settlement Agreement with the State of Victoria in March 2013. The Dja Dja Wurrung People maintain a close and continuing connection to Djandak, their traditional Country.

Kara Kara National Park, Greater Bendigo National Park, Hepburn Regional Park, Kooyoorra State Park, Paddy's Ranges State Park and Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve are jointly managed by the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and Parks Victoria.

Djandak is a cultural landscape that includes both tangible objects such as scarred trees, mounds, wells and stone artefact scatters; and intangible stories. Djandak is a living entity, which holds stories of creation and histories that cannot be erased.

Parks Victoria pays our respects to Dja Dja Wurrung Elders, past, present, and future, and asks visitors to do the same. Aboriginal artefacts are protected by law, and it is prohibited to disturb them in any way.

Getting there

Kara Kara National Park is 200km north-west of Melbourne. Main access to the park is from the Sunraysia Highway to the east. At Stuart Mill, follow the signs to Teddington Campground.

St Arnaud Regional Park to the north is easily accessible from the town of St Arnaud. There are also many nature conservation reserves in the area, including Stuart Mill, adjoining in the north-east, Dalyenong further east, Redbank and Landsborough Hill to the south and Big Tottington to the west.

Things to see and do

Walking

The area offers ample opportunities for bushwalking and exploring the Box Ironbark habitats. Redbank Nature Conservation Reserve and Percydale Historic Area offer some steep and challenging tracks with excellent views of the surrounding landscape from high points.

The rocky ridge tops in Kara Kara National Park also offer fine views for bushwalkers. There are many walk options for all abilities. For example take a scenic walk from the Teddington Campground:

Upper Teddington Reservoir Walk - 2.6km return, flat

Walk to the dam wall from the campground around the eastern edge of Upper Teddington Reservoir and return the same way. At

times the reservoir is a haven for many different waterbird species including the endangered Freckled Duck.

Teddington Hut Walk- 2.6km return, flat

Stroll along Teddington Road from the campground to historic Teddington Hut and return the same way. This walk also follows Strathfillan Creek which is lined with some very large trees. These often attract flocks of noisy White Cockatoos. Please don't enter the Hut if the site is occupied.

Camping and picnicking

The banks of Upper Teddington Reservoir provide a pleasant spot for camping and picnics. Toilets, picnic tables and fireplaces are provided and the campground is accessible for caravans. Camp only in the designated campground. Dispersed camping is available north of Stuart Mill Gap Road, except within 500m of the Rostron and West of England picnic areas. Campers in this zone may use gas or liquid fuel stoves, but not campfires.

Drinking water is not provided in the park, so please bring your own.

Teddington Hut

Teddington Hut was originally constructed around 1955 to provide temporary accommodation for employees working on the Teddington Reservoir catchment. Today the hut and adjoining campsite is a popular spot for large groups to gather and camp. No booking is required and use of the hut is on a first in basis.

Cycling

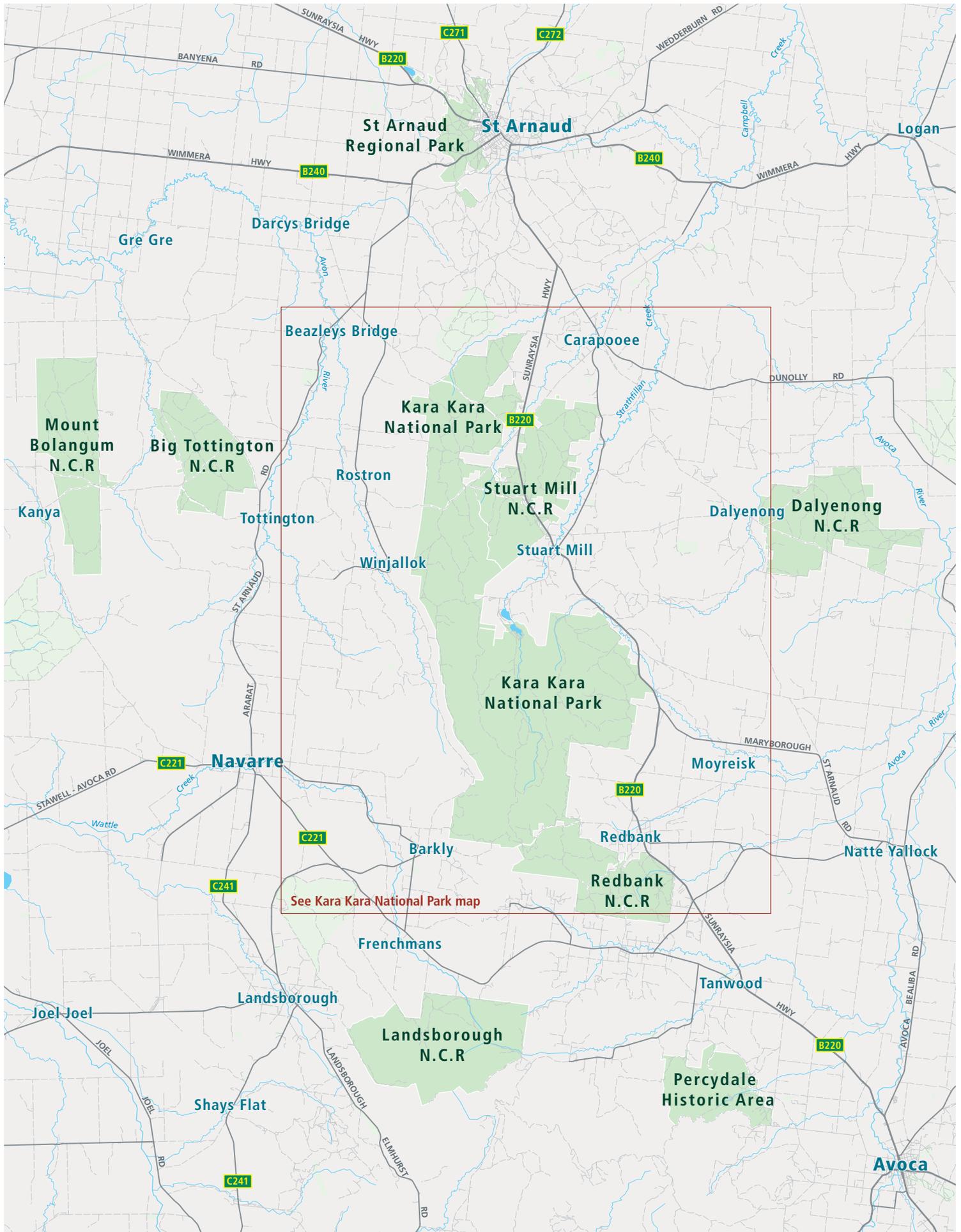
The roads in and around Kara Kara National Park are suited to both cycling and mountain bike riding. The lower areas in the north and east of the park and the area immediately around Upper Teddington Reservoir are most suited to cycling. Elsewhere, the rougher roads and steep terrain are more suited to mountain bike riding. A mountain bike touring route follows Centre Road along a north-south ridge of the park, with other shorter rides off this route. The St Arnaud Range Cycling tracks brochure is available from the Visitor Information Centres in St Arnaud and Avoca.

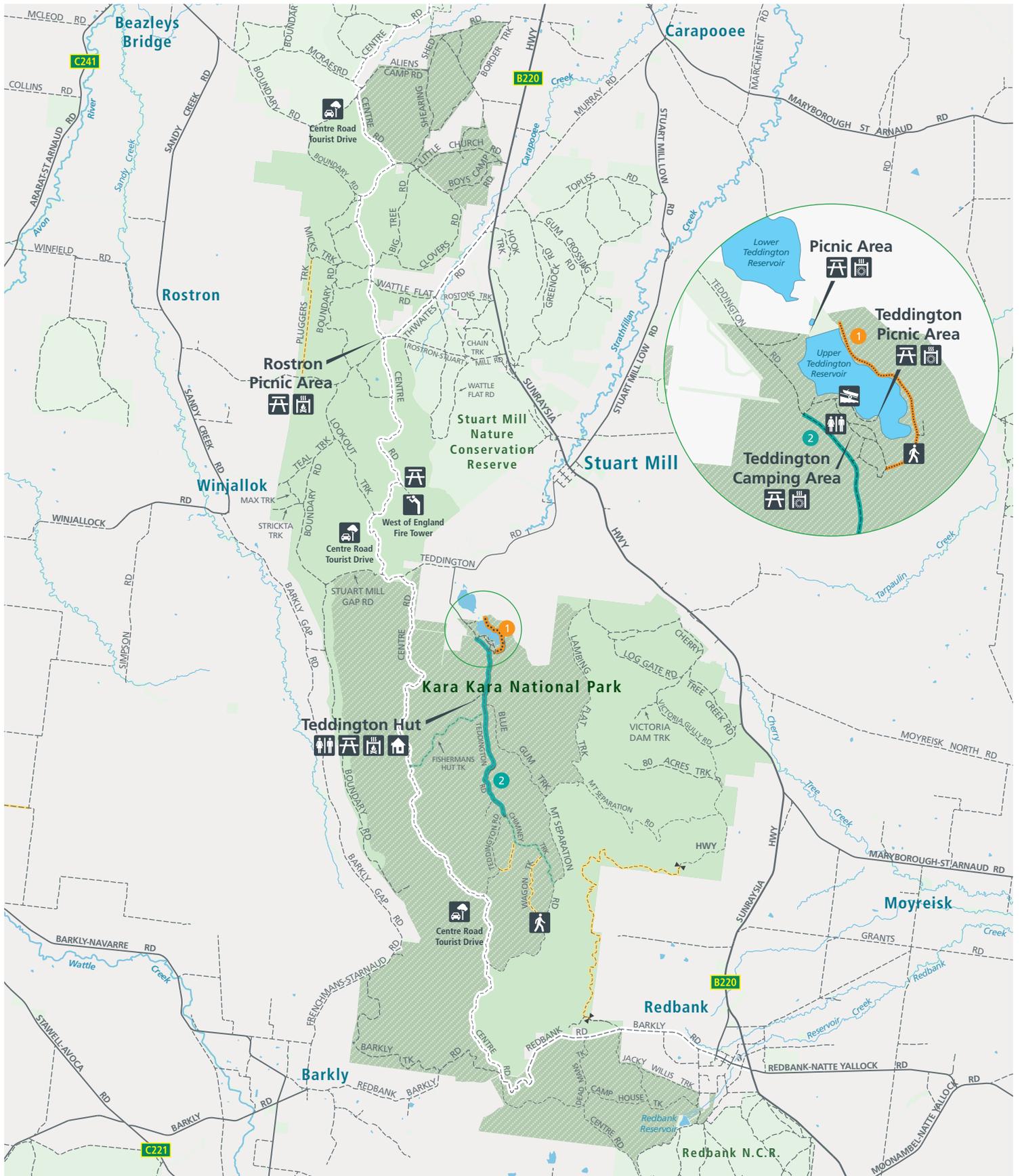
Remember to only ride on open roads and look out for other road users. Bikes are not permitted on walking tracks.

Four wheel driving

The whole Kara Kara National Park's road network is suited to four-wheel drive and trail bike touring. Popular routes are along Centre Road, which traverses the park north-south and offers many vantage points, and the Mount Separation Road in the east of the park, suited only to 4WD vehicles with high clearance.

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|---------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Parking | Electric barbecue | Highway | 4WD | Kara Kara National Park |
| Toilets | Hut | Main road | Walking track | Prospecting not permitted |
| Picnic table | Walking track | Sealed road | Management vehicle/walking track only | Other park/reserve |
| Wood barbecue | Lookout | Unsealed road | Seasonal road closure | |

Redbank Nature Conservation Reserve and Percydale Historic Area also have some interesting and challenging tracks, of which many are 4WD drive only. Make sure you are aware of conditions and seasonal road closures and have the experience to use these tracks. Please keep to signed vehicle access tracks and respect road closures when applicable. Some tracks are permanently closed except for management purposes only. Normal road rules apply.

Scenic drives

The 50km Centre Road Nature Drive starts from the Wimmera Highway just out of St Arnaud and passes through Kara Kara National Park. Four-wheel drive vehicles are recommended from Rostron-Stuart Mill Road south to Redbank. The West of England Lookout provides magnificent views of the surrounding countryside and Grampians National Park.

For a shorter and more leisurely two-wheel drive tour, start the scenic drive at St Arnaud and visit the Wax Garden in St Arnaud Regional Park. Continue through to Rostron Picnic Area for a pleasant picnic stop. Exit via Thwaites Road to the Sunraysia Highway.

Fishing and boating

Upper Teddington Reservoir is popular for fishing with Brown Trout and Redfin commonly caught. A Victorian Recreational Fishing Licence is required from service.vic.gov.au. Only non-powered or electric boats can be launched in Upper Teddington Reservoir. Car parking is not permitted around the edge of the reservoir.

Lower Teddington Reservoir is outside of the park and is managed by the Stuart Mill Water Supply Committee. Fishing and canoeing are permitted at this reservoir, but swimming, power boating and camping are not. However check current signage as local rules are subject to change.

Prospecting

Recreational prospecting is permitted in designated areas. Prospectors must hold a current Miner's Right. Please fill in any holes created.

Plants and animals

Kara Kara National Park is one of the largest intact areas of Box-Ironbark vegetation and landscapes in Victoria. Forests and open woodlands dominate most of the park. Vegetation types in the park include Heathy Dry Forest, Grassy Dry Forest, Valley Grassy Forest, Alluvial Terraces, Herb-rich Woodland and Box-Ironbark Forest.

There are 275 species of native flora recorded in the park including threatened species such as Lowly Greenhood, Green Leek-Orchid and Buloke Mistletoe.

Mature trees with hollows, standing dead trees, fallen logs and abundant ground litter provide nesting sites and shelter for a variety of native birds, mammals and reptiles. These include Owls, Kookaburras, Crimson Rosellas, Possums, Yellow footed Antechinus, Sugar Gliders and Bats.

Ground dwelling fauna such as Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Black Wallabies are also commonly seen throughout the park.

Fauna species in the park regarded as threatened include Freckled Duck, Brown Treecreeper, Swift Parrot, Barking Owl, Powerful Owl, Tree Goanna and Bibron's Toadlet. The endangered Brush-tailed Phascogale and Squirrel Glider may also occur in the park.

All the local Nature Conservation Reserves, including Dalyenong, Landsborough, Mount Bolangum, Big Tottington and Stuart Mill offer excellent birdwatching opportunities.

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Wildflowers

Especially during spring, wildflowers abound in the bush in and around Kara Kara National Park.

Dalyenong and Mt Bolangum Nature Conservation Reserves and Percydale Historic Area have some spectacular spider orchids. All wildflowers are protected, please be very careful when taking photos not to damage any plants.

St Arnaud Regional Park has a colony of grey grass trees whose flower spikes attract a range of insects and birds.

The Wax Garden, a fenced off area within St Arnaud Regional Park, is a great place to start exploring with easy walks and signage for many of the plants. The garden showcases over 90 flora species in three short walks.

The St Arnaud Field Naturalist Club has been working with Parks Victoria and other agencies since the early 1990s to showcase The Wax Garden's 90 plus flora species in three short walks. Further information and species lists, including an information brochure about The Wax Garden can be found at starnaudfieldnats.org.au

European cultural heritage

Kara Kara National Park holds many relics from the past, offering an insight into early European uses of the land. The Upper Teddington Reservoir and a series of works including catch drains, rock bars, weirs and diversion drains in the upper Strathfillan Creek catchment, constructed from 1898, are evidence of this area's role in supplying water to the Stuart Mill and St Arnaud communities for 50 years

There are also several historic features associated with early gold mining and forestry work. As you wonder through the park, look out for charcoal pits, forest camp areas, puddlers, batteries, mines, water races and diggings.

Caring for the park



Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

- Please take rubbish away with you for recycling and disposal.
- All native plants, animals and archaeological sites and geological features are protected by law. Collection of native fungi, including morels is prohibited.
- Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park.
- Firearms are prohibited in the park.
- Chainsaws are prohibited. Collection of firewood for domestic or commercial use is prohibited.
- Vehicles, including motor bikes, may only be used on formed open roads. Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy.

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.

Kara Kara National Park is in the Wimmera and South West fire districts. 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 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. Do not enter the Park. If you are already in the Park, leave the night before or as early as possible in the morning. Warning signs may be erected but do not expect an official warning. Check the latest conditions at parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963.