

# Ocean Grove Nature Conservation Reserve

## Visitor Guide



Connect with nature and enjoy a network of easy grade walking tracks, some of which cater for all abilities, to explore and discover the nature of this special place. Within close-proximity of Geelong, Ocean Grove and Queenscliff, the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve protects one of the last wild places on the Bellarine Peninsula: a significant remnant of uncleared bushland and a safe-haven for native birds and animals.



### Getting there

This small, fenced bushland area is located on the Bellarine Peninsula in Victoria. The main entrance and picnic area is entered from Grubb Road. The Reserve is 1.5 hours (100km) drive from Melbourne and 30 minutes (22km) from Geelong. It is easily accessed from Ocean Grove, Queenscliff and Barwon Heads.

### Things to see and do

Visitors can enjoy bushwalking, birdwatching, photography, picnicking and other wildlife viewing opportunities. The fenced reserve's network of signposted tracks provides access to a variety of special places. Facilities are shown on the map.

Picnic with wood-fuelled barbecues and picnic tables provided but please bring your own firewood as the habitat here is the only homes and shelter available for local animals, large and small.

### Walk, explore and discover the nature of the reserve

Take a quiet stroll and connect with nature. Two trail heads with carparks are shown on the map and offer access to easy, gentle grade walking routes.

Collect the Discovery Trail brochure near the picnic area to learn more about the inhabitants. Numbered markers along the track relate to the information in the brochure.

#### Main Entrance Trail Head



##### 1. Go-yin/Wallaby & Currawong Track

500m, 20 minutes return

This easy track is a short return loop from the main Grubb Road entrance carpark via the Go-yin/Wallaby Track and one small section of Currawong Track.



##### 2. Currawong Track to Picnic Area

1km, 30 minutes one-way

This easy trail is great for birdwatching as it passes a variety of settings including marshy wetlands alive with frog calls after rain. Car shuffle at the picnic area or return along the same track.

#### Picnic Area Trail Head



##### 3. Buluk/Lake Track

1km, 30 minutes return

Buluk/Lake Track takes visitors on a journey of exploration to the lake, where turtles can be seen basking in the sun on warm days. Swamp wallabies and echidnas are frequently sighted feeding near this track and spring wildflowers abound.

#### 4. Wurrack/Banksia Track

3km, 1.5 hours return



This track an extension of Walk 3. Buluk/Lake Track and winds gently passing by ancient grass trees and stands of the endangered Bellarine Yellow Gum (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon subsp. Bellarinensis*).

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

The quiet and observant walker may see or hear the raucous Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos calling as they flock together to feed on the woody seed-cones of Drooping Sheoak.

If you are lucky you may also see an Echidna or Koala, Eastern Grey Kangaroo and Black-tailed Wallaby. Many of the other residents are less obvious, but just as interesting. These include the smaller skinks, toads, frogs, spiders, ants, moths, butterflies and beetles that all live here, connected in some way to this place that is their home.

### Become a Friend

The Reserve is fortunate to have locals living in the area that enjoy a connection to this special place. Hanging out with friends can be good for your mind, body and soul and the Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve have been meeting regularly for more than 20 years.

The Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve work together as a team to protect the flora and fauna of the reserve, ensuring it remains a vital, healthy piece of natural heritage for all to enjoy. They assist with projects such as tree planting, fauna monitoring, weed control and seed collection for revegetation.

Volunteering and restoring habitat diversity creates healthy benefits for people and the environment. To become a Friend of the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve call 13 19 63 or visit [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

### 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. Ocean Grove NR 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.

February 2021

# Ocean Grove Nature Conservation Reserve



- |                  |              |                       |               |                                |                      |                          |                          |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>P</b> Parking | Picnic table | Drinking water        | Gate          | Main road                      | Walking trail        | Go-Yin / Wallaby Track 1 | Wurrak / Banksia Track 4 |
| Information      | BBQ          | Walking trail         | Sealed road   | Fence                          | Currawong Track 2    | Speargrass Track         |                          |
| Toilets          | Firepit      | Wheelchair accessible | Unsealed road | MVO (Management vehicles only) | Buluk / Lake Track 3 | Reserve                  |                          |

