

# Lerderderg State Park



## Visitor Guide

The Lerderderg River, which rises on the Great Dividing Range, has cut a rugged 300 metre deep gorge through sandstone and slate in its course southwards to the plains near Bacchus Marsh. The Gorge is the dominant feature of the 20,180 hectare park which also protects a wide variety of vegetation from fern gullies to dry open forest, colourful displays of spring wildflowers and some interesting relics of early gold mining.



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo © MT

## Exploring the park

The park is a great place for outdoor activities including, bushwalking, picnicking, camping, photography, nature study and car touring.

## Walking

Walking is the best way to see the park. Tracks provide for a variety of walks from short, easy strolls to challenging overnight expeditions.

## Picnicking

There are two major picnic areas in the park at Mackenzies Flat and O'Briens Crossing.

Mackenzies Flat Picnic Area, at the end of the Lerderderg Gorge Road, has toilets, electric barbecues and picnic tables. This area is very popular with day visitors and people looking for a place to swim on hot days. Camping and dogs and are not permitted in this picnic area or on the walking track to Grahams Dam.

O'Briens Crossing has toilets and fireplaces.

Shaw's Lake has a small picnic area with tables and a fireplace.

## Camping

O'Briens Crossing and Upper Chadwick Track have designated campgrounds. Walk-in camping is permitted within the Conservation Zone, but solid fuel fires are prohibited. Some vehicle based camping is permitted elsewhere in the park.

Campers should be prepared for a basic bush camping experience and to be self-sufficient with drinking water. Carry it in and/or know how to make untreated water safe for drinking.

Overnight walks, such as down the river from Blackwood to Mackenzies Flat, should only be undertaken by parties of experienced bushwalkers. When camping beside the river, remember that river levels can rise suddenly after heavy rain.

A wide range of accommodation is available in and around Bacchus Marsh, Ballan, Blackwood and Gisborne.

## Car touring and 4-wheel driving

O'Briens Crossing, and Golden Point, near Blackwood, are the two crossings of the river for two wheel drive vehicles in the park. Along O'Briens Road there are panoramic views of Lerderderg Gorge and Wombat State Forest to the north. The road is unsealed but suitable for two wheel drive vehicles.

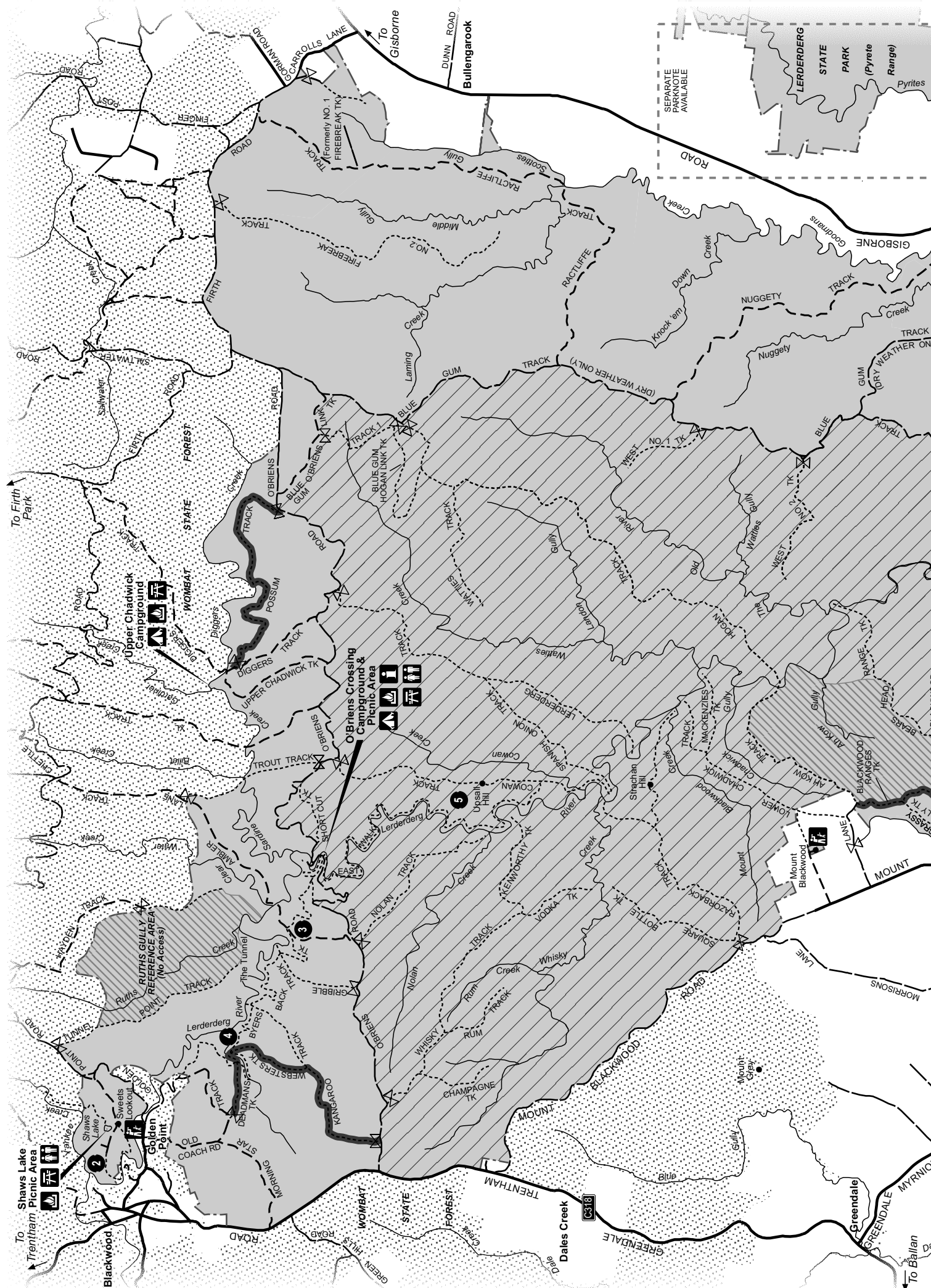
There are several four wheel drive tracks, mostly in the north and east of the park which connect O'Briens Road and the Lerderderg Gorge Road.

For management reasons, many of these tracks are closed over the winter period (between June and October). Some tracks are closed to reduce the spread of Cinnamon Fungus.

## How to get there

The park lies north of Bacchus Marsh between Blackwood and Gisborne. The main access roads to the park are the Lerderderg Gorge Road north of Bacchus Marsh, or O'Briens Road which runs across the north of the park south of Blackwood to the Bacchus Marsh-Gisborne Road.





To Shaws Lake  
Trentnam Picnic Area

Blackwood

Golden Point  
Sweets cookout

OLD COACH RD

MORNING STAR

DEALMAN'S TR

WEBSTERS TR

KANGAROO RIVER

LEDERDERG

WOLFBART

STATE FOREST

TRENTNAM

Dales Creek

GREENDALE

GREENDALE

GREENDALE

GREENDALE

GREENDALE

GREENDALE

To Firth Park

Upper Chadwick Campground

WONMERT STATE FOREST

POSSUM

DIGGERS

O'BRIENS CROSSING PICNIC AREA

UPPER CHADWICK TR

O'BRIENS

TROUT TRACK

UPPER CHADWICK TR

UPPER CHADWICK TR

UPPER CHADWICK TR

UPPER CHADWICK TR

UPPER CHADWICK TR

UPPER CHADWICK TR

UPPER CHADWICK TR

UPPER CHADWICK TR

UPPER CHADWICK TR

UPPER CHADWICK TR

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

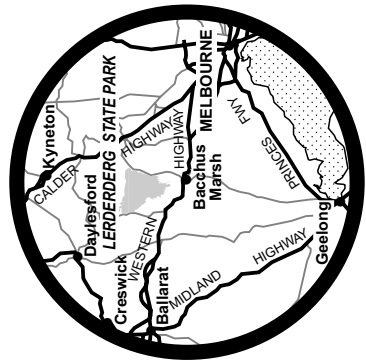
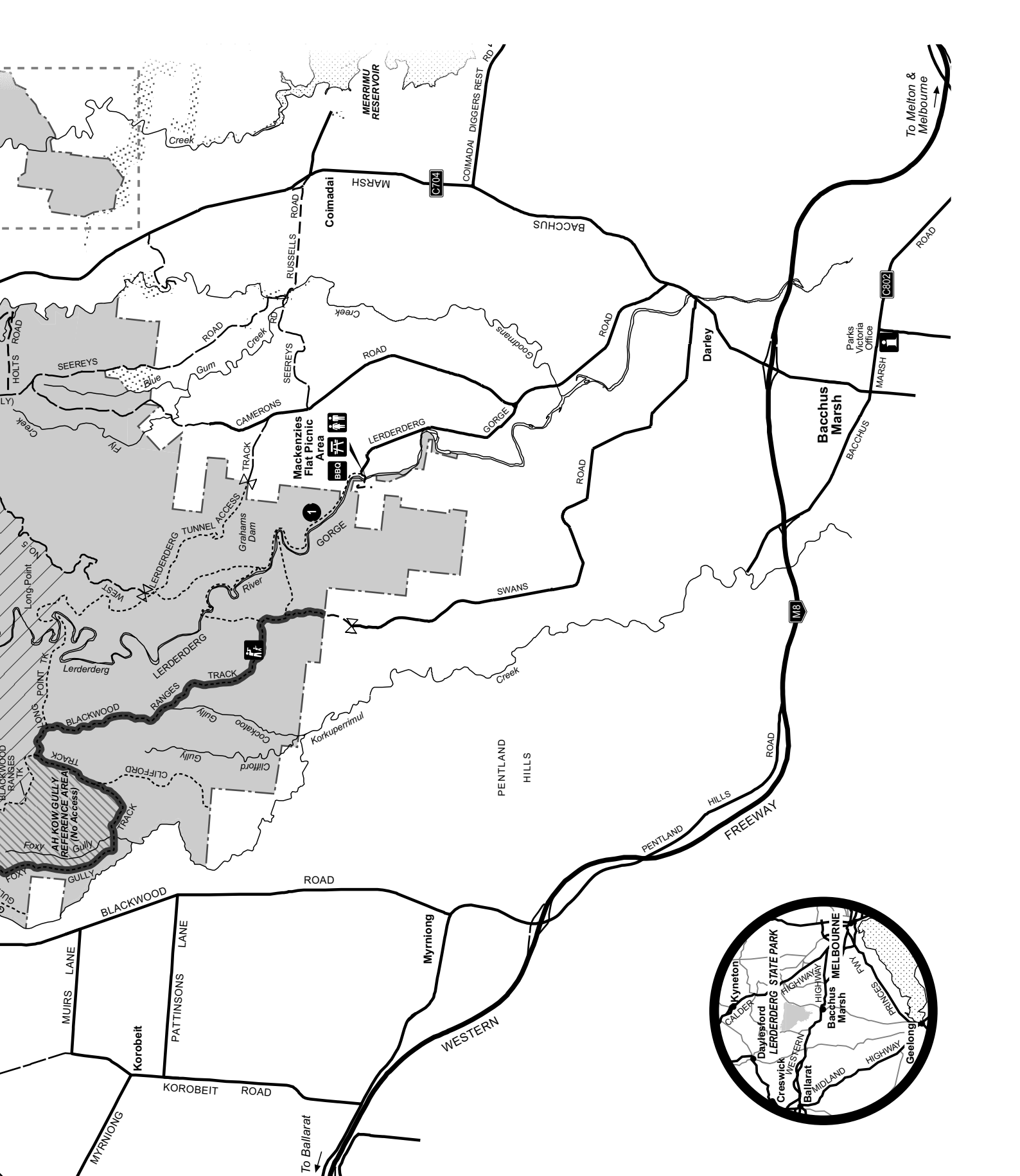
ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD

ROAD



**Lerderderg State Park**

|  |  |  |                                 |  |                  |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------|--|------------------|
|  | Highway  |  | Gate                            |  | Barbecue         |
|  | Sealed road  |  | State Park                      |  | Camping          |
|  | Unsealed road  |  | State Forest                    |  | Fireplace        |
|  | 4WD track<br>(may be subject to seasonal closure)          |  | Reference Area                  |  | Lookout          |
|  | Horseshoe, Cycling<br>(may be subject to seasonal closure) |  | Conservation Zone<br>(No Fires) |  | Park information |
|  | Walking track  |  | Water body                      |  | Picnic table     |
|  | Walk reference number                                      |  |                                 |  | Toilets          |

**Recreational Facilities**

- Barbecue
- Camping
- Fireplace
- Lookout
- Park information
- Picnic table
- Toilets

0 500 1000 1500  
M E T R E S  
Cartography by Spatial Vision 2008  
M15962

**Parks**  
VICTORIA

## For further information

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre  
**Call 13 1963**  
or visit the  
Parks Victoria website  
**www.parkweb.vic.gov.au**

Bacchus Marsh Visitor  
Information Centre  
156 Main Street  
Bacchus Marsh Vic 3340  
Tel: 5367 7488

## Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away with you for recycling and disposal

All native plants and animals are protected by law  
Light fires only in fireplaces provided.

Never leave fires unattended. No fires may be lit on a day of **Total Fire Ban. Lerderderg State Park** is in the **Central Total Fire Ban District**

**It is your responsibility to know if it is a day of Total Fire Ban.** If in doubt call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667**

**Park closures** - Be prepared to leave early as **extreme weather may cause the closure of some park areas** for public safety

Dogs on a leash are permitted in some areas of the park, but are prohibited within the Conservation Zone, Mackenzies Flat Picnic Area and on the walking track to Grahams Dam

All recreational vehicles must be fully road registered and drivers and riders must be licensed. They may travel only on roads open to public vehicles within the park

## Be fire ready and stay safe

Many parks and forests are located in high fire risk areas. **On days of forecast Code Red Fire Danger this park will be closed for public safety.**

If you are already in the park you should leave the night before or early in the morning for your own safety.

Closure signs will be erected and rangers will patrol where possible, however you may not receive a personal warning that the park is closed so check the latest conditions by calling 13 1963 or visit **www.parkweb.vic.gov.au**.

For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667**.

## Short easy walks

1. *Mackenzies Flat - Grahams Dam return (3km, 1 hour return)*

Follow the river upstream from Mackenzies Flat Picnic Area to Grahams Dam, which is an attractive pool and is ideal for swimming.

2. *Blackwood Mineral Springs – Shaws Lake – Sweets Lookout and return (3.5km, 1.5 - 2 hours)*

An easy walk which starts near the caravan camping area and passes some historical features typical of the Blackwood area.

3. *O'Briens Crossing – Byers Back Track – The Tunnel and return (3km, 1.5 hours)*

The track follows an old water race around the steep Lerderderg valley and gives fine views of the river. At the second cross track, turn right and descend steeply to a point opposite The Tunnel.

## Medium walks

4. *Blackwood – Golden Point Road – Byers Back Track – O'Briens Crossing return (22km, 7 hours)*

Most of the walk is along the track following the old water race. The remains of some gold mines are passed along the way.

5. *O'Briens Crossing – East Walk – Cowan Track – O'Briens Road – Short Cut track – O'Briens Crossing (14km, 5 – 5.5 hours)*

The East Walk follows the Lerderderg River downstream and is rough in places and subject to flood damage. Cowan Track is steep and climbs more than 200 metres from the river to O'Briens Road. Return along O'Briens Road and Short Cut Track to O'Briens Crossing.

## Overnight Walk

*O'Briens Crossing – Lerderderg River – Mackenzies Flat (20km, 2 or 3 days)*

This is a challenging walk in the Lerderderg Gorge and is for experienced bushwalkers only. It is best to do the walk when the river is fairly low, as many crossings are necessary and at times the river-bed itself is the track. Here you can experience remote, unspoiled bushland.

## Be prepared

Although the tracks are generally well defined, many have rough sections so it is advisable to wear strong shoes or boots with a good tread.

Except for very short walks, a spare warm jumper, waterproof jacket, food and drinking water and a good map should always be carried. Walkers do get lost in Lerderderg State Park, so it is recommended that you develop good map reading and navigation skills prior to undertaking longer walks.

## A diversity of habitats

The vegetation changes dramatically from north to south in accordance with the rainfall gradient. Dry Stringybark-Box forests near the gorge mouth, and Box-Ironbark woodlands along the high ridges of the south, change to taller, damper Messmate-Peppermint-Gum forests along the northern boundary of the park.

The river bed supports Blue Gums and Manna Gums, while grevilleas, wattles and hakeas cover the cliffs.

Late winter and spring are the best times to see the spectacular display of wildflowers.

## A haven for wildlife

Koalas live in the Manna Gums. Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Swamp Wallabies and Echidnas are also about during the day. Nocturnal animals include the Greater Glider, Bobuck (or Mountain Brushtail Possum), Bent-wing Bat and Powerful Owl.

There are wonderful bird watching opportunities. Sulphur-crested Cockatoos nest in the gorge and fly out to feed in the open grasslands. They are sometimes preyed on by the area's most spectacular predator, the Wedge-tailed Eagle, which nests in tall trees in the side gullies.

Other birds to be seen are White-naped Honeyeaters, White-throated Treecreepers and Crimson Rosellas. Gang-gang Cockatoos can be located by the noise of cracking gumnuts.



White-throated treecreeper © MT

December 2010

Printed on Australian-made, 100% recycled paper.