

# Dandenong Ranges National Park



## Ferntree Gully

Ferntree Gully covers the south western area of Dandenong Ranges National Park, from Upper Ferntree Gully in the south to The Basin in the north. It occupies nearly 600 hectares of the park's total 3500 hectares. The Doongalla, Sherbrooke, Olinda and Mt Evelyn sections make up the remainder of the park. The oldest area of the National Park, Ferntree Gully offers a diverse range of activities including walking, bike riding, picnicking, nature observation and car touring. It even boasts a playground and cafe.

### Location & access

The national park is a 40 kilometre drive from Melbourne via Burwood Highway or Canterbury Road (approximately 1 hour). Alternatively, take the train to Upper Ferntree Gully station. Melway map 74 gives additional details for the Ferntree Gully area.

### Things to see & do

A network of walking tracks gives access to most parts of the park. With the guidance of this park note you can spend an hour or a day discovering the forest.

Some suggested walks:

#### Walk 1 – RAMBLERS TRACK LOOP

1.5km – 45min return

Grade: Medium

Leaving from the Childrens playground, follow Ramblers Track up the hill. Turning left, where the track connects with the lower section of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walk, will take you back to the picnic ground.

This short walk is ideal to experience the lush fern gullies of the Ferntree Gully Creek. The area is home to both the Rough and Smooth tree ferns which suit these damp conditions, with the rough tree fern easily identified by the rough stems on its fronds. Crimson Rosellas and possums favour the newly forming fern fronds as a food source.

#### Walk 2 – LIVING BUSH NATURE WALK

2.5km – 1.5 hrs return

Grade: Medium

This walk starts at the Acacia Picnic Ground, across the bridge from the childrens playground and enables you to experience beautiful native bushland, including spectacular fern gullies and tall eucalypt trees.

The Mountain Grey Gum (*Eucalyptus cypellocarpa*) tower around you. They are easily recognised by their smooth grey bark, long dark green leaves and flattened gumnut stalks. These mature trees have hollows ideal for possums, birds and gliders. Small holes among the roots shelter lizards and native bush rats.

Download the self guided park note which links to the 11 numbered posts along the walk. Discover features of the bush that you may not have been aware of before – not only things to see, but also to hear, touch and smell.

#### Walk 3 - KOKODA TRACK MEMORIAL WALK (incorporating 1000 Steps)

3km – 1.5 hr return

Grade: Steep (reasonable fitness required)

Created in the early 1900s the 1000 Steps Walk was originally made from the trunks of tree ferns laid along the wetter areas of the track to make the climb a little easier. These were replaced by wooden palings before the more permanent concrete steps were installed in 1950.

The Victorian veterans of the Kokoda campaign adopted this park as their memorial site in 1998. The similarity of the walk to the first 100 metres of the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea resulted in the establishment of the 14 plaques along the walk, dedicated to those Australian Military Forces who fought and died on Kokoda. The 1000 steps represent the "Golden Staircase" a name given by Australian soldiers to the 2000 steps cut by the Australian Army Engineers and others into the track between Uberi and Imita Ridge.

The 'Kokoda Track Memorial Walk' represents an area of historical significance and every effort is undertaken to retain this heritage.



For further information

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre

Call 13 1963

or visit the

Parks Victoria website

[www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

Caring for the  
environment

Help us look after your park  
by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away with  
you for recycling & disposal

All native plants & animals  
are protected by law.

Please do not disturb them  
in any way

Light fires only in fireplaces  
provided. Firewood is not  
supplied – please bring your  
own

Solid fuel barbecues and the  
use of heat beads are not  
permitted

No fires may be lit on days of  
Total Fire Bans and no  
barbecues are permitted on  
days of Total Fire Bans

Firearms are prohibited

Wildlife feed and handling is not  
permitted

Dogs and other pets are not  
permitted in the Park

Observe parking signs and park  
gate closing times

#### Walk 4 – LYREBIRD LOOP

4km - 2 hrs return

Grade: Steep (reasonable fitness required)

Lyrebird Track is a steep climb up to the One Tree Hill Picnic area. From there continue down Ramu Avenue, turning left into Link Track and then right, back down Lyrebird Track to the picnic ground.

These tracks pass through remnant Cool Temperate Rainforest and Wet Forest. Sooty Owls have been sighted and heard in this area, sounding their mating call in the early evening. A small population of Superb Lyrebird inhabit the wet forest and are often heard and seen scratching by the side of the track searching for a meal.

Link Track provides a welcome relief during the warmer weather where some plants interlink overhead to provide shade. This corridor is a favourite spot for Goulds Wattle and Chocolate Wattle Bats; in the evenings they can be seen flying and catching insects, moths and beetles.



#### Walk 5 - BELVIEW LOOP

4.5km - 2.5 hrs return

Grade: Steep (reasonable fitness required)

Start at Lyrebird Track which is a steep climb to Link track. Follow Link track to Belview Terrace. Turning left continue to the bottom of the track and turn left into School Track. This will bring you back to the picnic ground near where you started the walk.

Belview Terrace passes through open Shrubby Foothill and Grassy Dry Forest. You will notice cleared areas on both sides of the track – these are known as “slash breaks” and were created following the 1968 wildfires which burnt significant areas of the hill. These maintain minimal understorey reducing the risk of severe fire and enable easy access for fire vehicles.

Swamp Wallaby, Possums and Gliders frequent this area, together with the Blue-tongue Lizard known to wander the drier slopes.

#### Popular for 100 years

Ferntree Gully has long been popular as a place to escape city life for a picnic or stroll through the forest. In the 1800's tens of thousands of people were visiting each year.

The natural beauty and popularity of the gully prompted a group of local residents in 1881 to ask the Minister of Agriculture to reserve the area as a public park. The following year 168 hectares, including the main gully, were reserved as a site for public recreation.

However, it wasn't until December 1927 that an enlarged area of 227 hectares was permanently reserved as Ferntree Gully National Park, Victoria's second National Park. With the addition of Sherbrooke Forest and Doongalla in 1987, Ferntree Gully was renamed Dandenong Ranges National Park.

#### Community involvement

The Friends of Dandenong Ranges National Park and Chandler Hill Parkcare Group undertake works in and around the Ferntree Gully Unit.

There are also a number of other Friends groups that work at various locations within the Dandenong Ranges National Park.

To find out more about these groups please go to our website or phone the Parks Information Centre on 13 1963.



Adults and child walking ©RA

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### Caring for the environment

Help us look after the park by remembering these guidelines:

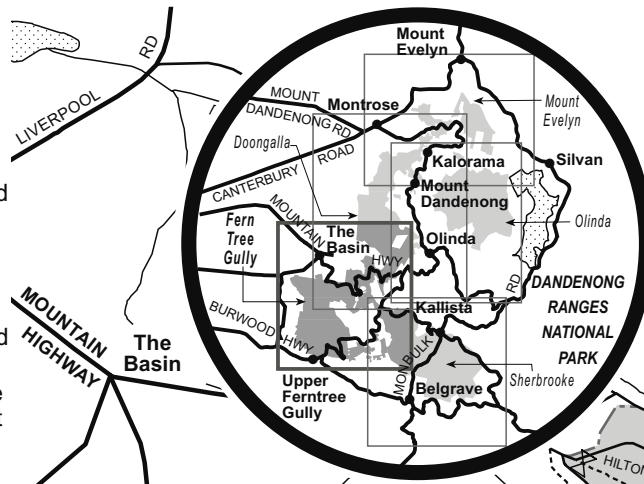
Rubbish bins are not provided, please take your rubbish home  
 Light fires only in fireplaces provided. Firewood is not supplied - please bring your own

No fires may be lit on days of Total Fire Ban.

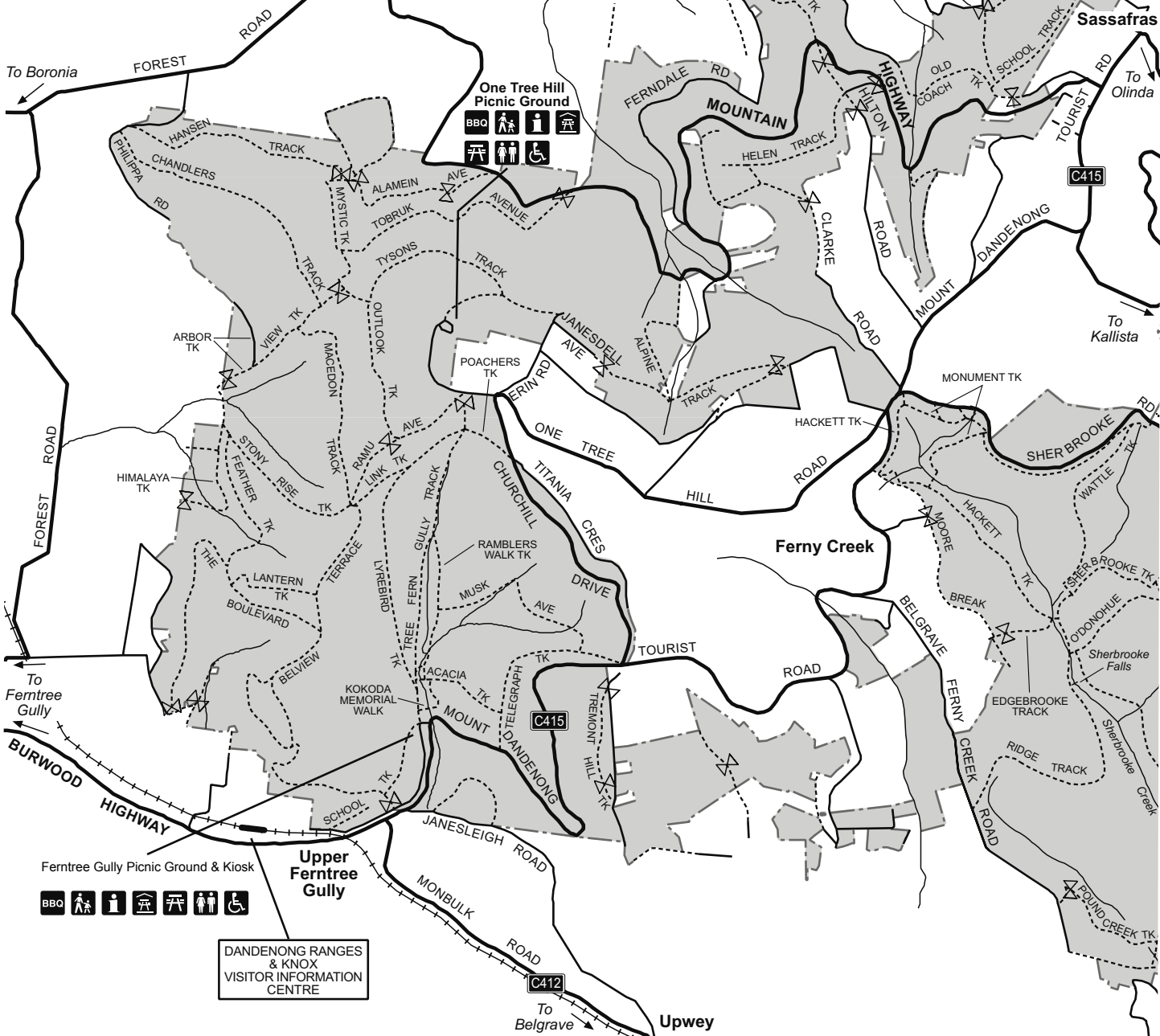
Firearms are prohibited

Dogs and cats are not permitted in the park

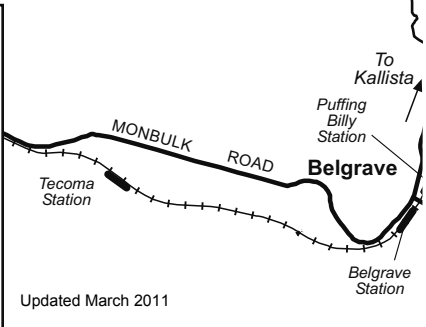
All native plants and wildlife are protected by law. Please do not collect specimens



**Circumnavigate One Tree Hill**  
 3.7 km 1.5 Hour Loop. Grade: Moderate  
 This round trip takes you through attractive peppermint and stringybark forest and, in springtime, flowering pea shrubs add to the beauty of the area. The route starts at One Tree Hill and follows Ramu Avenue to the fiveway intersection, then north along Macedon Track, before weaving around to Tysons Track on the north side of One Tree Hill, and back to the picnic ground.



<b>Dandenong Ranges National Park - Fern Tree Gully</b>		<b>Recreational Facilities</b>		<p>METRES                  Cartography by Spatial Vision 2002                  M/6615</p>
— Major road - - - Minor road - - - - Walking track [shaded] National Park X Gate	[BBQ icon] Barbecue [family icon] Family walk [info icon] Park information [shelter icon] Picnic shelter [table icon] Picnic table [toilet icon] Toilets [disabled toilet icon] Toilet for disabled			



Updated March 2011