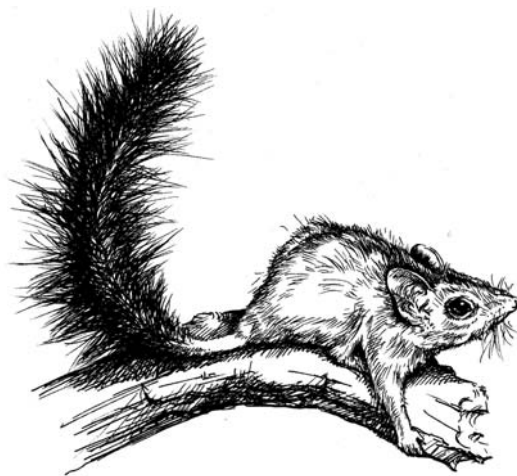


Mt Alexander Regional Park



Visitor Guide

Rising 350 metres above the surrounding area, Mt Alexander Regional Park (1400ha) lies within the Harcourt granite intrusion which is estimated to be 367 million years old. With steep slopes, tall trees and rocky outcrops, the Park is a prominent landmark offering magnificent views and a natural forest setting for picnics and bushwalking. It is also an important habitat for several rare or threatened species.



Brush-tailed Phascogale

Enjoying the park

Lookouts: Experience panoramic views of the surrounding area from Dog Rocks and Shepherd's Flat.

Picnicking: Enjoy the natural beauty and surroundings at one of the lookouts and rock outcrops, or at Leanganook where there are barbecues, toilets and tables.

Camping: Dispersed foot based camping is permitted throughout the park.

Walking: The West Ridge Walking Track is 4km in length and links all major lookouts and points of interest. See map overleaf.

Animals: You may find a koala if you are patient and look carefully. Keep your eyes on the upper branches of the Manna Gums with their distinctive smooth textures and hanging ribbons of bark.

Other animals you may encounter are Black Wallabies, Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Echidnas, Brushtail and Ringtail Possums, Sugar Gliders and the rare Tuan or Brush Tailed Phascogale.

Plants: Mt Alexander has a native vegetation overstorey of Manna Gum, Messmate, Long-leaved Box and Yellow Box. Below the canopy are native grasses, herbs and wildflowers.

An outstanding history

The mountain, called "Lanjanuc" by the Jaara Jaara people, was important as a sacred ceremonial ground and high vantage point.

Major Thomas Mitchell was the first European to climb the mountain in 1836. The rapid occupation of the region by graziers followed.

In 1851 gold was discovered nearby and tales of "Mount Alexander" as the new "Eldorado" swept around the world. It became the richest shallow alluvial goldfield the world has ever known and one of the largest goldrushes of the nineteenth century. The goldfield was later known as Forest Creek or Castlemaine.

In the 1860s the first quarries had opened to provide stone for the Northern Railway. Since then Mount Alexander granite has been used for buildings in Melbourne and monuments such as the base of the Burke and Wills memorial.

By the 1870s the mountain was stripped of vegetation to provide timber for the goldfields. Areas were also used as a Common (land where anybody could graze a cow or a few sheep) and a Silkworm Farm. Slowly the mountain and its vegetation have recovered. Plentiful hollows in the old trees for nesting, dead wood on the ground for shelter and the abundance of native plants for food make Mount Alexander an excellent island for native animal habitat.

The Great Dividing Trail

Linking Castlemaine and Bendigo, the Leanganook Track completes the northern leg of the Great Dividing Trail.

The Track passes through the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, traverses the summit of the Mt Alexander Range and follows the historic Coliban Water Main Channel to the outskirts of Bendigo.

How to get there

Mount Alexander Regional Park is 120km northwest of Melbourne on the Calder Highway, 3km east of Harcourt (Melway Ref: 509 E6).

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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.**

For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre
Call 13 1963

or visit the
Parks Victoria website
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Castlemaine Visitor Information
Centre, Mostyn Street
Castlemaine VIC 3450
Tel: 1800 171 888

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park
by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish home with
you for recycling or disposal

Prospecting is permitted in
designated areas. Prospectors
must hold a current Miner's
Right. Refer to the Prospecting
Guide for more information

Light fires only in fire places
provided. No fires, including
barbecues, may be lit on a day
of **Total Fire Ban. Mount**

Alexander Regional Park is in
the **North 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

Collect only dead wood from
the ground for campfires

All native plants, animals,
archaeological features are
protected by law

Dogs must be on a leash

Firearms are prohibited

Vehicles, including motor bikes,
may only be used on roads
open to the public. Drivers must
be licensed and vehicles
registered and roadworthy

