



www.visitarravalley.com.au

Published by Tourism East Limited
PO Box 903
Lilydale, VIC 3140
TourismEast.com.au
info@tourismeast.com.au

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Editor: Gwen Luscombe
Book design: Christine Better
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Note: Some bird identification images have been digitally generated for educational purposes. These images were then edited and verified by the author.

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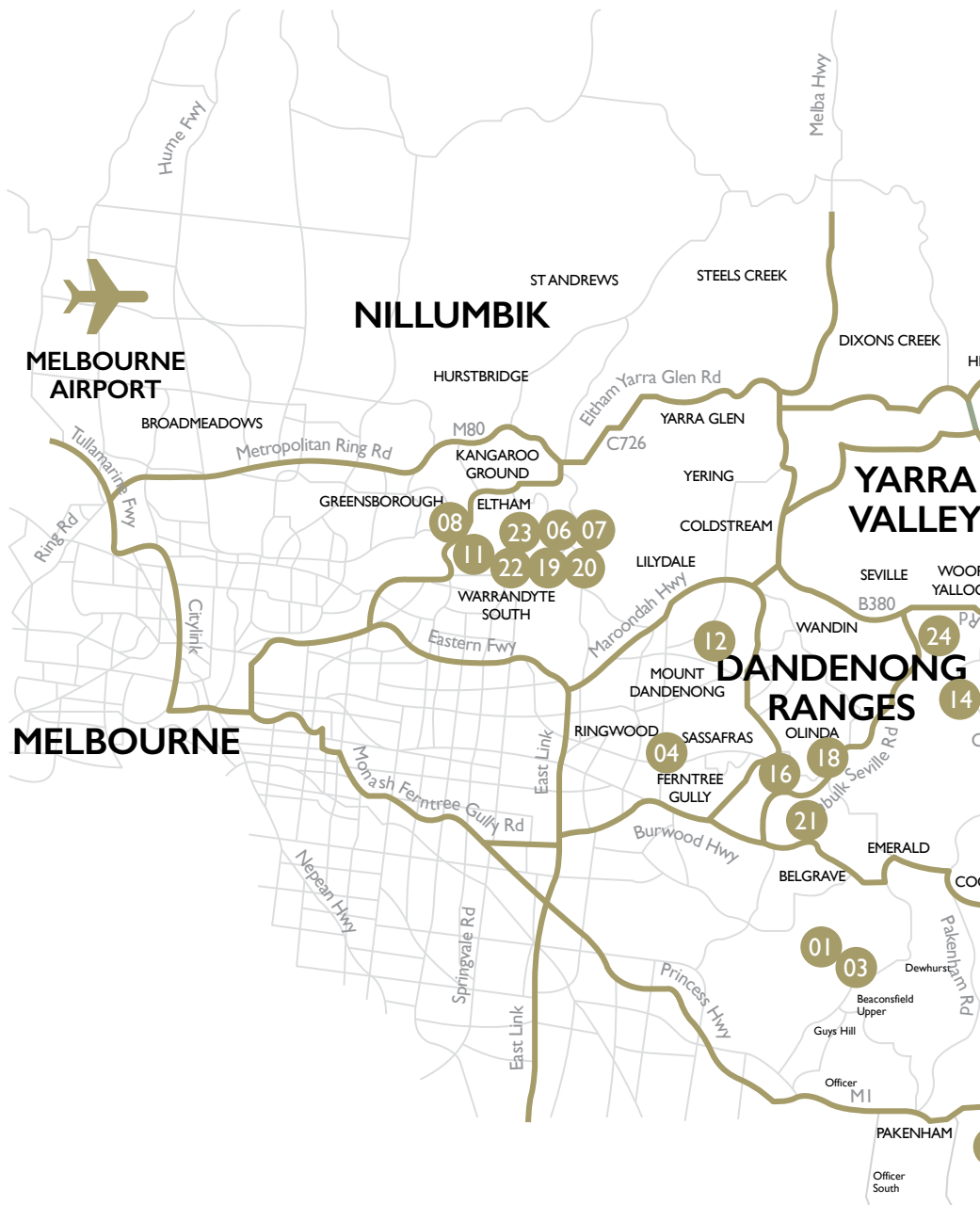
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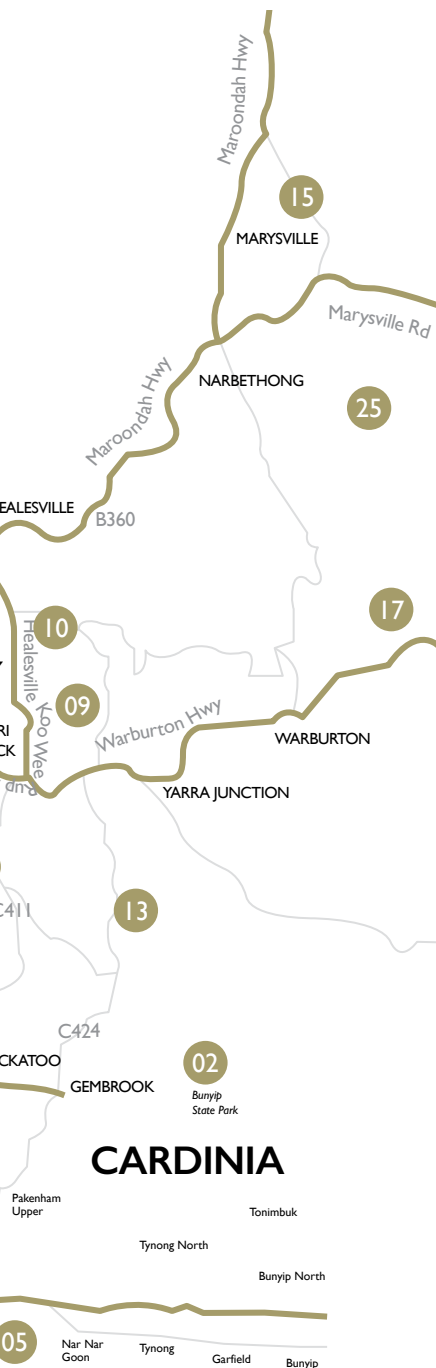
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

The native wildlife are an important part of the landscape of the Wurundjeri, Taungurung and Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation on the lands of the world's oldest living culture.

Tourism East Limited respects the deep and continuing connection that the Traditional Owners have and recognise their role in caring for Country. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

REGION MAP:





PARKS, RESERVES & NATURAL AREAS:

- 01 BIRDSLAND RESERVE
- 02 BUNYIP STATE PARK
- 03 CARDINIA CREEK
- 04 DANDENONG RANGES NATIONAL PARK
- 05 DEEP CREEK RESERVE
- 06 DIOSMA ROAD RESERVE
- 07 EASTERN ELTHAM COPPER BUTTERFLY RESERVE
- 08 ELTHAM/GREENSBOROUGH
- 09 HAINING FARM
- 10 HEALESVILLE SANCTUARY
- 11 HOHNES HILL ENVIRONMENTAL RESERVE
- 12 KURANGA NATIVE NURSERY
- 13 KURTH KILN REGIONAL PARK
- 14 LIWIK BARRING YELLINGBO STATE WILDLIFE RESERVE
- 15 MARYSVILLE
- 16 ngurrak barring
- 17 O'SHANNASSY RESERVOIR
- 18 OLINDA FALLS TRACK
- 19 PAULINE TONER ELTHAM COPPER BUTTERFLY RESERVE
- 20 PITT STREET ENVIRONMENTAL RESERVE
- 21 SHERBROOKE FOREST
- 22 WESTERN ELTHAM COPPER BUTTERFLY RESERVE
- 23 WOODRIDGE LINEAR RESERVE
- 24 WOORIYALLOCK CREEK
- 25 YARRA RANGES NATIONAL PARK



CHELSEA AUSTRALIAN GARDEN
DANDENONG RANGES BOTANIC GARDEN, OLINDA

VISITING OUR REGION:

The Dandenong Ranges, Yarra Valley and Surrounds are home to some of Victoria's most treasured natural landscapes, where the rolling hills of the Yarra Valley meet the ancient forests of the Dandenong Ranges and onward to the wildlife-rich wetlands of Western Port.

This guide serves as your companion to discovering and protecting the remarkable wildlife that calls this region home.

These interconnected landscapes represent some of Melbourne's most accessible yet precious natural heritage. From the towering Mountain Ash forests of the Dandenongs to the wetlands and grasslands of Western Port Bay, and the vine-covered slopes of the Yarra Valley, each area supports unique communities of native plants and animals that have evolved over thousands of years.

As a visitor to the region, it's important to observe but not disturb our natural environment.



DANDENONG RANGES BOTANIC GARDEN, OLINDA
IMAGE BY: NICOLE BATES

DAWN AND DUSK DRIVING

Sunrise and sunset is when much of the natural world is significantly more active. Many of our native animals emerge to feed, move between territories, and go about their activities. Unfortunately, it's also when vehicle strikes pose the greatest threat to wildlife.

Kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, and echidnas are particularly active during these times and may appear suddenly on roadways. Their unpredictable movement patterns mean that even if you see one animal cross safely, others may follow.

Please be especially mindful during dusk and dawn hours to remain vigilant, alert and reduce your speed to avoid collisions. Use your high beams when safe to do so, scan the roadside vegetation continuously, and remember that wildlife corridors often cross roads at specific points where animals have traveled for generations.



BLACK SPUR, VICTORIA

RESPONSIBLE WILDLIFE WATCHING

Observing native wildlife in their natural habitat is one of the great privileges of visiting these areas, but it comes with responsibilities. Always maintain respectful distances from all animals; your presence should never alter their natural behavior. Feeding wildlife, no matter how well-intentioned, creates dangerous dependencies and can lead to aggressive behavior, malnutrition, and increased vehicle strikes as animals lose their natural fear of humans and roads.

Birds, in particular, are sensitive to disturbance during nesting seasons. The lyrebirds of the Dandenongs, the powerful owls that hunt through these forests, and the countless smaller species that depend on hollow-bearing trees all require quiet, undisturbed spaces to successfully raise their young. Keep noise levels low and observe from established paths and viewing areas. Please also refrain from using flash photography that might disturb wildlife.

Always stick to designated trails, carry out all rubbish, and remember that many plants rely on specific pollinators and environmental conditions that our presence can disrupt.

Please respect the guidelines around dog walking in areas where wildlife is present. Where allowed, pets must always be kept on a lead and under appropriate control of an adult.



INJURED WILDLIFE

If you encounter injured native wildlife, your safety and the animal's welfare are both paramount. Never attempt to handle injured animals yourself, as stress can worsen their condition and many species can inflict serious injuries when frightened. Instead, contact Wildlife Victoria on 1300 094 535 or your local wildlife rescue service immediately.

Keep the animal warm, quiet, and in a dark, ventilated container if it's small enough to be safely contained, but avoid unnecessary handling.

For larger animals like kangaroos, prioritise scene safety and call for professional assistance. Document the location precisely to help rescue teams respond quickly.

IN AN EMERGENCY:

Contact Wildlife Victoria on
1300 094 535 or your local
wildlife rescue service immediately.

RESPECTING NATIVE PLANTS

The plant communities of these regions are equally deserving of protection. Many native orchids, ferns, and wildflowers are slow-growing and sensitive to disturbance. Picking flowers, collecting seeds, or trampling through sensitive areas can damage the environment taking decades to recover.

The towering tree ferns of the Dandenongs and the remnant grasslands of Western Port represent ecosystems that once covered much of this region. What remains is precious and irreplaceable. Photography is encouraged, but ensure your pursuit of the perfect shot doesn't compromise the very beauty you're trying to capture.

As you explore these remarkable landscapes, remember that you're not just a visitor but a temporary member of a complex ecological community. Every choice you make, from where you step to how quietly you move, contributes to the ongoing story of conservation in these irreplaceable natural areas.

Welcome, and thank you for caring.



WARBURTON, VICTORIA

FIRST PEOPLES CONNECTIONS: