

The rugged landscape of the Strathbogie State Forest offers a variety of recreational opportunities including bushwalking, horse riding, trail bike riding and 4WD driving. It has an interesting heritage associated with the mining of gold, particularly alluvial mining and early Chinese settlement. Walking amongst the giant boulders at Lima East, taking in the view from Rocky Ned and camping under the stars at James Reserve are highlights of a visit to this area.

### Geology

The boulder formations and rocky outcrops seen in the Strathbogie Ranges are the result of geological processes that began between 300 and 400 million years ago. After the sea withdrew during the Devonian period, there was a large scale crustal collapse which resulted in two volcanic cauldrons. Eruptions built up large layers of volcanics and the emplacement of granitic rock which has been eroded to the present day to form the Strathbogie Ranges.

### History of mining

Gold was first found at Hells Hole Creek in 1851. This was shortly after gold had been discovered in Victoria for the first time.

During the gold rush in 1860, alluvial mining occurred in the bed and banks of Hells Hole Creek as well as Glen, Dry, Tallangalook and Brankeet Creeks. The rush lasted only for a short time with the area all but deserted by the end of 1861, many of the miners headed for Jamieson.

The Dry Creek Sluicing Company was set up in 1860. This company was instrumental in providing the water required for alluvial mining in this area.

In the late 1860's and early 1870's, sluicers returned to the area. At its peak, production of alluvial gold was reportedly around 6,000 – 7,000 oz per annum.

Dry Creek was thriving during the early 1870's, and had a store, school, post office, hotels, gambling houses, soap factory, bakery and a population of mostly Chinese miners. Gold production diminished towards the turn of the century and only small operations continued. Hydraulic sluicing and bucket dredging continued on the lower Dry, Tallangalook and Glen Creeks until the 1930's.

Quartz crystal has also been mined in the Strathbogies and two crystal mines are still operational within the forest. The crystal is used for piezo-electric applications including radio transmitters. The largest hand cut crystal in the world, the 1.7kg 'Crystal King' was mined in the Strathbogies. Visitors are not permitted at or around the crystal mines.

### History of forestry

The forests of the Strathbogies have been a significant source of quality messmate, blue gum and other millable timbers since the late 1800's when timber started to be used locally in commercial quantities for mining, construction and railway building ventures. Over the years, several mills established within the forest to supply the demand for timber. Selective harvesting still occurs in the forest, supplying mills within the region.

### Places to visit

*Take care when exploring these areas as mine shafts and adits can be obscured by vegetation.*

### Wild Dog Rocks

This large and impressive rock outcrop is well worth exploring. Access is along a short 4WD track off Ferraris Road. Picnic facilities are provided.

### Ruoaks

Located on North Creek, the campsite sits amongst the tall gums in the southern part of the forest surrounded by remarkable boulder formations. Whilst enjoying your stay, explore the lower rocky reaches of the picturesque North Creek.

### Tallangalook – Dry Creek Historic Area

The main goldfields along Hells Hole and Tallangalook Creeks are within the Historic Area. The Tallangalook Mine Picnic Area is a good base for exploring. You may discover old batteries and evidence of the alluvial mining in the form of heaps, shafts and chasms – please take care.

### Hells Hole

This sluice hole lies at the head of Hells Hole Creek, part of the Dry Creek Goldfield. It's existence was first documented in 1912. Picnic facilities and information signs make this a pleasant roadside lunch stop.

### Lima East

Situated on the Moonee Moonee Creek, this pretty site provides an excellent location for a picnic (no camping). A short but steep walking track rewards walkers with spectacular granite boulder formations.

## James Reserve

James Reserve is a large, scenic camping site on the banks of Moonee Moonee Creek. Access to this popular destination is via Lima East Road.

## Walking Tracks

### Rocky Ned Walking Track

Rocky Ned Walk is accessed via Police Track or Goodes Track. The walking track starts on the boundary of the pine plantation and the state forest. It is a short pleasant walk through open woodland with fantastic views provided from the rocky ledge at the top.



Return 1.7 km | 1 hour  
 Gentle hills | Formed track, some obstacles  
 Signposted | Occasional steps  
 No experience required

### Lima Falls Walking Track

Access to the walking track is through the pine plantation, follow the road signs. A short, steep but pleasant walk from the carpark takes you to the Lima Falls, a small, pretty waterfall on White Gum Gully Creek.



Return 1.2 km | 1 hour  
 Short steep hills | Formed track, some obstacles  
 Signposted | Occasional steps  
 No experience required

## Safety – Please read

- On Code Red Fire Danger Rating days, parks and State forest are closed to the public. Do not enter parks or forests on Code Red Days. If you are already there when a Code Red day is announced, you should leave the night before or early in the morning. For more information contact DELWP (see below).
- **Campfire safety** – Use fireplaces where provided. The fire must be attended at all times by a person with the capacity and means to extinguish it. For solid fuel fires, the ground and airspace within 3m of the outer perimeter of the fire must be clear of flammable material. Ensure the fire is extinguished with water before leaving. **If it's cool to touch it is safe to leave.**
- **Campfires are prohibited on days of Total Fire Ban.** Only gas or electric appliances that have been designed and commercially manufactured exclusively for cooking may be used for meal preparation on a Total Fire Ban Day provided:
  - the ground and airspace within 3m of the appliance is clear of flammable material
  - a minimum of 10 litres of water is on hand
  - it is in a stable position when in use

**It is your responsibility to know if a Total Fire Ban is declared. If in doubt, do not light a campfire.**

- Be responsible for your own safety. Be aware of extreme weather events, carry your own first aid kit and let someone know before you go.
- Forest roads are public roads and normal road rules apply. Drive as if you were expecting a vehicle to come around the next bend.

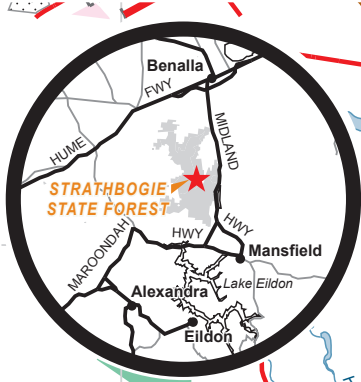
## General Information

- Pit toilets are common at State forest sites but hand washing facilities and toilet paper may not be supplied. Come prepared.
- Be careful camping under trees – they can drop their limbs (particularly during high winds).
- Camps should be at least 20 metres from any water course. Do not wash in creeks.
- There is no rubbish collection service, so please take your rubbish home.
- Dogs are allowed in State forest but must be under direct control at all times and are expected to be on a leash in picnic and camping areas or when near other visitors
- Motor vehicles including motorcycles must not be driven off formed roads or on walking tracks. All vehicles must be registered and drivers licensed
- This area is dotted with many mine shafts. Exercise care while walking through the bush and keep dogs on a leash
- Do not remove timber from standing trees.
- Do not disturb or remove historic relics.

## For more information

The Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forest. For further information contact DELWP's Customer Service Centre ☎ 136 186 (TTY: 1800 555 667) or visit DELWP's website at <http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au>

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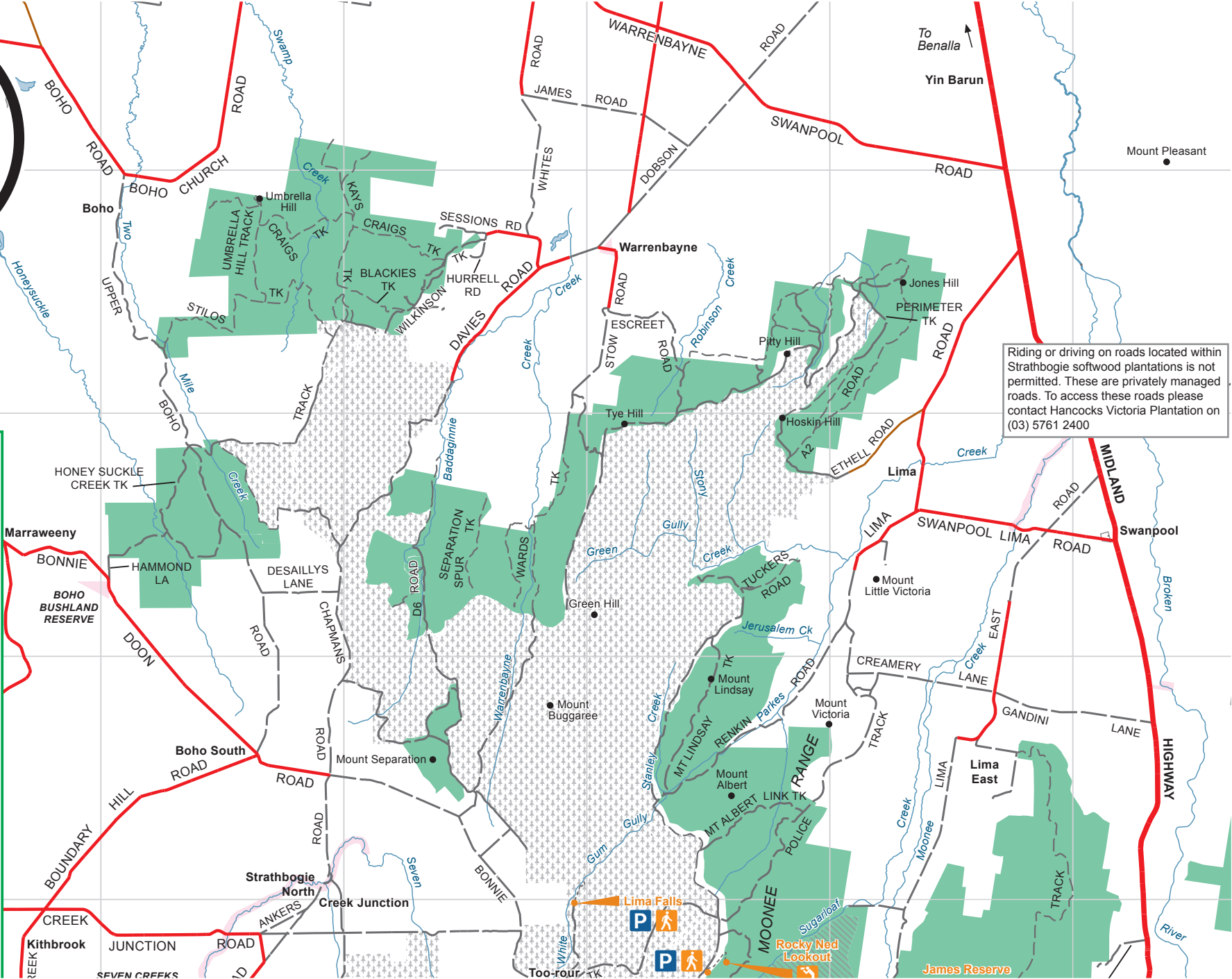
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**Strathbogie State Forest**

- Highway
  - Sealed road
  - Unsealed road
  - Vehicle track (4WD)
  - Walking track
  - State Forest
  - Parks and Reserves
  - Softwood Plantation (private)
  - Other public land
  - Water body
- Recreational Facilities**
- Barbecue-Wood
  - Camping
  - Carpark
  - Historic site
  - Horse yards
  - Information shelter
  - Lookout



Riding or driving on roads located within Strathbogie softwood plantations is not permitted. These are privately managed roads. To access these roads please contact Hancock's Victoria Plantation on (03) 5761 2400



-  Information shelter
-  Lookout
-  Picnic table
-  Toilets
-  Walking track



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