

# The Kelly Tree and Stringybark Camping Reserve

DSE – Mansfield

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This reserve is in north-east Victoria on Taungurung Traditional Lands, 50km from Benalla and 36km from Mansfield within the Toombullup State Forest. It was here, on the banks of Stringybark Creek in 1878 the Kelly Gang members became the most wanted outlaws in Australia after Police Constables Lonigan, Scanlan and Sargeant Kennedy were shot and killed.

## Getting there

**From Benalla** take the road to Tatong. Follow the sign to Tolmie. This road becomes gravel as you enter the State Forest. The Day Visitor Area is down Stringybark Creek Road.

**From Mansfield** take the Mansfield-Whitfield Road for 31km. Turn left down the Tatong-Tolmie Road and travel for approximately ten kilometres. Stringybark Creek Road is on the left hand side.

**Be aware that log trucks use the Tatong-Tolmie Road. Take extra precautions and expect oncoming traffic.**

## Activities

**Bushwalking:** A short walking track meanders through the tall forest and leads the visitor to the key points of interest. This track requires basic experience and a low fitness level.

**Picnicing:** The day visitor area provides picnic and wood barbeque facilities.

**Delving into history:** The comprehensive signage located in the campground, day visitor area and along the walking track provides the full historical story of the site from the original custodians – the Taungurung, to the early settlers and land acquisition.

This gives historical context to Ned Kelly's story – his relationship with the area and the events leading up to the pivotal tragedy that created the Kelly Gang. A historic grave, located off Madhouse Road, not far from the Tatong-Tolmie Road is another point of interest.

**Bushcamping:** The associated camping ground, accessed by vehicle from the Tatong-Tolmie Road is a lovely bush camping spot. Facilities include a bush toilet, picnic shelter, tables and fire pits. Bring all required water with you.

**All Ability Access** is possible to the Kelly Tree viewing area from the carpark. The toilet in the carpark has wheelchair access.

## Remember

Please take your rubbish home when you leave and use existing fire places rather than creating your own. Leaving non-combustibles in the fire is littering.

No firewood is supplied. While you may use fallen dead wood, do not remove any from standing trees or damage other vegetation.

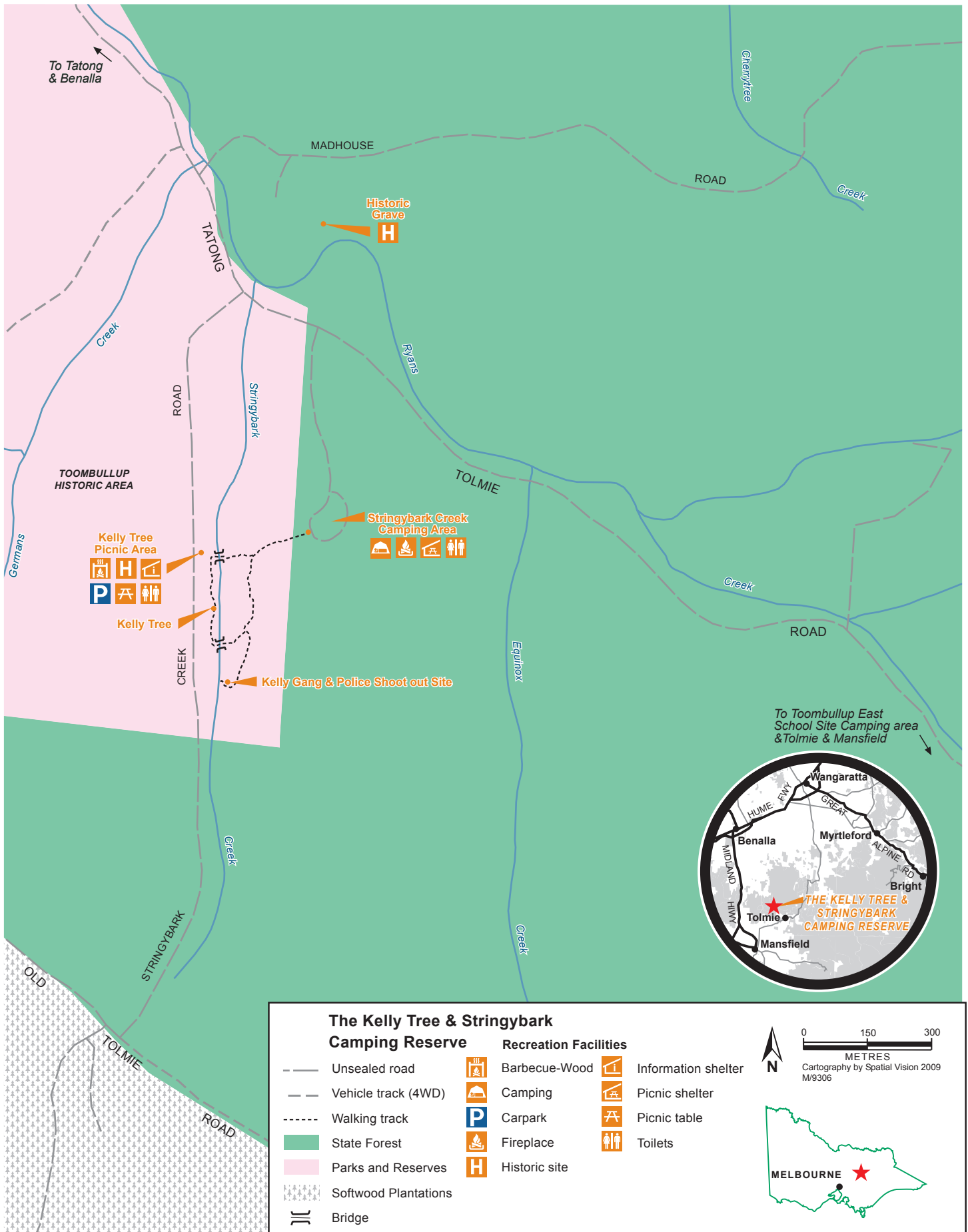
**Do not light fires on a Total Fire Ban Day.** It is your responsibility to know when Days of Total Fire Ban are declared. Stringybark Creek is located within the North Eastern Total Fire Ban District.

Camp away from trees as branches can fall unexpectedly. Check overhead and around the camp before pitching your tent.

## For more information

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forest. For further information contact DSE's Customer Service Centre on 136 186 (TTY: 1800 122 969) or visit DSE's website at <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/forests>

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