

The Upper Goulburn Valley is an attractive, rugged area with an interesting heritage associated with gold mining and early settlement.

The Goulburn and Jamieson Rivers are popular for camping, trout fishing, canoeing and gold fossicking and beautiful scenic vistas.

Historic sites

The landscape of the Upper Goulburn River, with its ranges, deep gullies and thick forest would have been difficult to traverse. However, when gold was discovered at Gaffney's Creek in 1859 the adventurous overcame the challenges and began to open up the Upper Goulburn valley through the persistent search for gold. Their legacy is still evident today.

Matlock township is now a barren ridge and hilltop with few relics of the former flourishing gold town that supported seven hotels, seven stores and two banks in 1865. In 1873 a bushfire almost destroyed the town, forcing residents to resettle at a new site. The cemetery still bears silent testimony today to its great beginnings.

Wood's Point township is the focal point of the area. Gold mining has continued since 1862 and historic items from those early days remain. Features of interest include the hotel, museum, store, and Ross' hydro-electric plant.

A1 Mining settlement is the site of the A1 Gold Mine which began operations in 1861. Along with the Morning Star in Woods Point it produced almost 60% of Victoria's total gold output from the 1950's to the late 1970's. This unique settlement in the narrow Raspberry Creek valley retains its original mining characteristics.

Gaffney's Creek/Lauraville settlement is the site of the first gold discovery on the Jamieson-Walhalla goldfields in 1859. Present day attractions include the historic cottages, chimneys and mining relics scattered throughout the hills.

Knockwood and **Ten Mile** township sites have few obvious remnants, although historic relics can still be found including the water diversion tunnel at **Tunnel Bend**. This was dug in 1866 to allow alluvial mining of the river bed. Works to build a dam to enable sluicing for gold were almost complete when carried away by severe floods in mid 1867. Rebuilding never occurred.

Kevington contains a number of private residences that date back to early times. Beckton, the Masonic Arms Hotel and the Kevington hotel are examples.

Jamieson is a picturesque and historic settlement near the junction of the Goulburn and Jamieson rivers. It is the largest settlement in the district.

The most significant of its historic buildings is the former Court House built in 1864 that serves as a museum and memorabilia display today. Jamieson became established in the early 1860's to service the gold digging settlements to the south.

Visiting and camping information

Several day visitor areas are located along the river between Jamieson and Kevington. Picnic facilities are also available at Gaffney's Creek, Woods Point and Matlock. Bush camping on a first come first served basis is available at a number of sites; please refer to the map overleaf for camp site locations and facilities.

Note: Scott's Reserve at Woods Point is managed by a local Committee of Management and camping fees are payable.

Looking after the Forest

- Do not disturb or remove historical artefacts.
- All rubbish must be taken home.
- Camps should be at least 20 metres from any watercourses. Do not wash in the river.
- Use toilets where provided, otherwise bury faecal waste at least 100 metres from water or campsites.
- Observe all fire regulations. Always ensure fires are completely extinguished before you leave. Use existing fire places rather than creating your own.
- Campers may use fallen dead wood for campfires. Do not remove timber from standing trees.

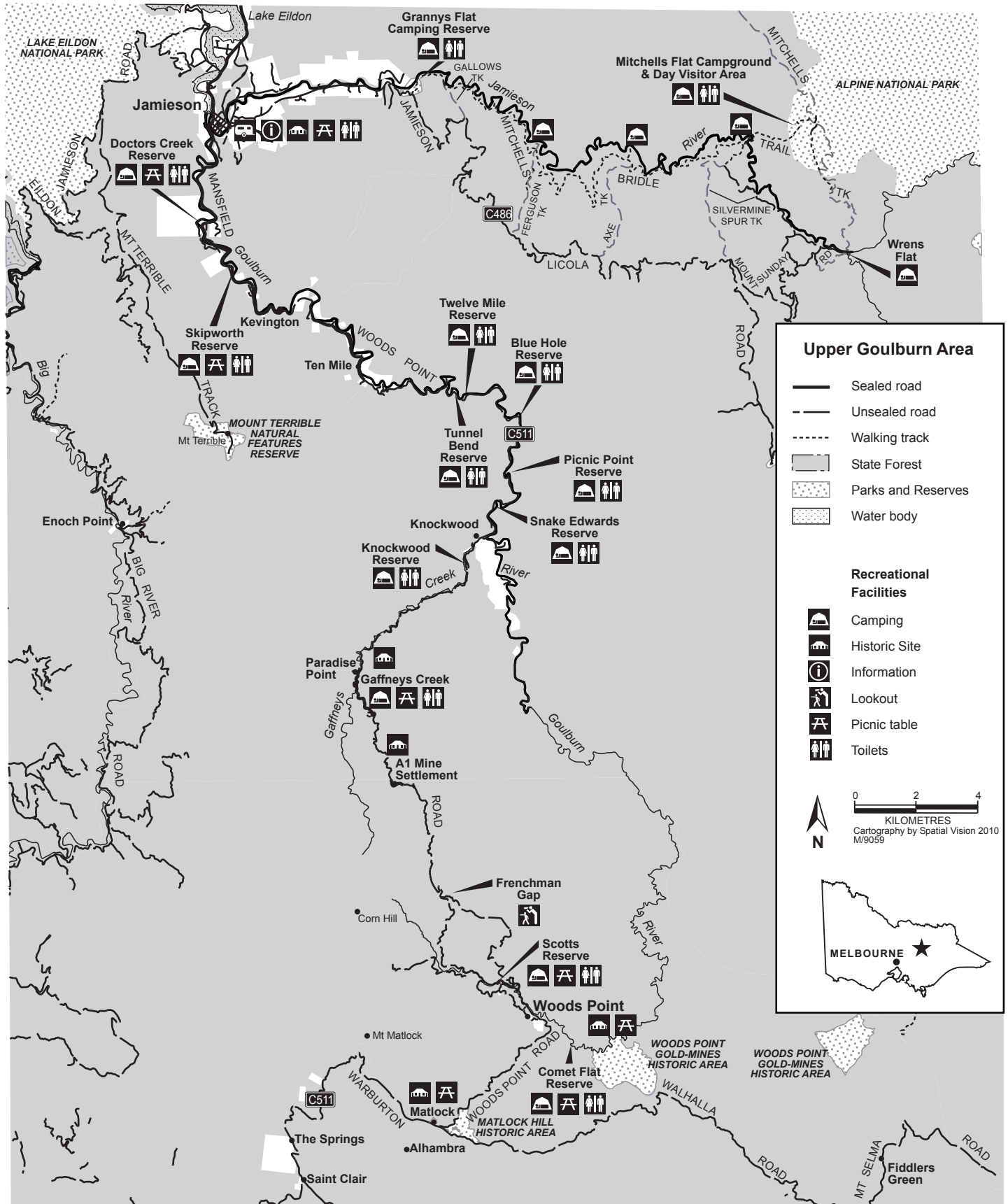
Safety

- This area is dotted with many mine shafts. Exercise care while walking through the bush and keep dogs on a leash.
- Keep well clear of open adits (tunnels)
- Some tracks are steep and slippery when wet. Dry weather 4WD access only is recommended.

For more information

For further information contact the Mansfield DSE office (☎ 03 5733 1200) or DSE's Customer Service Centre on ☎ 136 186 or visit DSE's website <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au> then select "Forestry".

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