

Stanley State forest

Situated south of Wodonga, the Stanley State Forest abuts the township of Yackandandah and provides some great opportunities for scenic driving and camping. This brochure details a scenic half-day drive taking in some of the natural and historic features of the Stanley State forest.

Getting there

The Stanley State Forest is most easily accessed from Yackandandah, which lies 28km to the south of Wodonga, in Victoria's north east.

Flora and fauna

The forests of this region vary in species composition depending upon local topography. On drier sites such as ridges with shallow, less fertile soils, you will more commonly see eucalypt species such as Red Stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha*) and Broad-leaf Peppermint (*E. dives*). Species common to gullies and low-lying areas where soils are deeper and higher in nutrients include Blue Gum (Eurabbie) (*E. globulus bicostata*) and Narrow-leaf Peppermint (*E. radiata*). Other species found in the Stanley State forest include Red Box (*E. polyanthemos*), Candlebark (*E. rubida*), and Brittle Gum (*E. mannifera*).

Forest Drive Circuit

Yackandandah Forest Drive

14 km, 0.5 hours driving time

The Yackandandah Forest Drive begins in the centre of Yackandandah. Set your vehicle trip meter to zero at the start of the drive indicated on the map. The distances noted at each site indicates the distance that feature is located from the start of the drive. Note that trip meters may vary from vehicle to vehicle, and any side trips that are taken will also alter trip meter readings from feature distances on each respective drive. Be aware of other road users, and drive according to the prevailing road and weather conditions.

This scenic drive (see map) begins and finishes in the historic town of Yackandandah, starting from Bells Flat Road (off Yackandandah's main road - High Street) and follows a circuit through Stanley State forest taking in many of the local and historic features.

1. The Gorge - 1.4 km

A 2-3 minute walk takes you to the Gorge, a tail race constructed in 1859 and subsequently deepened in 1880 to

divert water so as to mine for the once rich alluvial gold deposits in the area.

2. Army training ground - 4.5 km

This and other locations in the Stanley State forest are used as training sites by the Australian army.

4. Townsite - 5.1 km

This unassuming junction was once the site of the bustling community of 'Yackandandah Junction'. A hotel and school once stood here amongst the miners' dwellings and goldfields. NB: An optional short side trip is available between here and stop 5. See below.

5. Native pines - 12.0 km

Here at this junction, a small stand of Black Cypress-pine *Callitris endlicheri* grow amongst local eucalypt species.

6. Yackandandah sawmill - 12.9 km

The sawmill near Yackandandah has been in operation at this site since 1964. Here, a variety of local hardwood and softwood species are milled.

Side trip (dry weather) - 8.0 km

A parking area and plaque 500m along Cohn's Track marks the site where prospector Alex (Billy) Kohn worked a mining lease until his death in 1986. A short distance (300m) further down, and visible from the track on the right side, is the site of a 'hydraulic elevator' used in conjunction with sluicing activities. NB: A return to the drive from Kohn's camp will add approximately 1 km to your trip meter reading.

Camping

Camping sites are available at along Yackandandah Creek off Yack Gate Road and off Number One Road (see map). These sites offer cleared space for pitching of tents and fireplaces. To ensure minimal impact camping please observe the following:

- Takes your rubbish home, do not bury or leave it behind.
- Camp at least 20m from any watercourse. Camp at existing campsites rather than create a new one.
- Where there are no toilet facilities, bury your faecal waste 15cm deep and at least 100m from any watercourse.

Picnic sites

Picnic areas with picnic tables and fireplaces are available along Yackandandah Creek off Yack Gate Road (see map).

Looking after our forests

- Fires are permitted, except on days of 'total fire ban', but please use fireplaces provided rather than create new ones. Use only dead fallen wood (as dead standing trees provide homes for wildlife) and ensure that fires are completely extinguished before leaving.
- Dogs are permitted but must be kept under control and are expected to be kept on a leash in picnic and camping areas or when near other visitors.
- Don't disturb native plants or animals.
- Vehicles and trail bikes must be registered and roadworthy and may only be driven on designated public roads and tracks.

For more information

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forest. For further information contact the Department of Sustainability and Environment office at Beechworth (☎ 5720 8190) or DSE's Customer Service Centre on ☎ 136 186.

Visit DSE's website

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>
then select "Forestry".

The Stanley State Forest is managed for a wide range of uses including catchment protection, timber production, recreation and conservation. If you are interested in how State Forests are managed, the current North East Forest Management Plan can be viewed on the Department's website on the Internet at

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>
then select "Forestry", then select "Publications".

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