

Introduction

The Rocklands and Grampians State Forest area offers visitors a tranquil woodland setting for recreation and relaxation. The forest follows the meandering arms of the Rocklands Reservoir and includes the Rocklands Reservoir, Grampians State Forest and Claude Austin State Forest. The area is popular for a wide range of outdoor activities including camping, fishing, bush walking and nature study.

Getting there

The Rocklands area is about 340 kms west of Melbourne. Travel through Ballarat, then take the Glenelg Highway to Hamilton and the Henty Highway from there. Cavendish is your starting point for exploring this area from the south. Horsham provides the northern access.

Camping

The majority of camping areas are in open box woodlands on the foreshore of Rocklands Reservoir. Popular sites managed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) on the south side of the Reservoir are Glendinning, Fergusons and Henrys and on the north side, Mountain Dam and Brodies. Mountain Dam has toilets with wheelchair accessible fireplaces, and Glendinning, Fergusons and Mountain Dam have fireplaces, toilets, picnic tables and boat ramps. Camping is on a first-come first-served basis and no bookings are required, but early arrival may be advisable during peak periods.

There are caravan and camping grounds with boat ramps at the Rocklands Caravan Park, Hynes Camping Ground and Toolondo Reservoir.

Bush camping (i.e. away from designated areas) is permitted, but not in those areas fenced off for rehabilitation or signposted "No camping". To minimise your impact on the environment please follow these practical requirements.

- Always maintain your campsite in a clean and tidy condition
- Camp at least 20 metres from any stream or the full supply level of any reservoir.
- Camp at least 1 km from designated camping areas and 50 metres from any sealed road.
- Do not wash in streams or reservoirs.
- Pitch your tent in a natural clearing and avoid River Red Gums as their limbs can drop without warning.

- Use a chemical toilet or bury human waste at least 100 metres from any stream or reservoir high water mark.
- Vehicles must stay on existing tracks.

Fishing

Rocklands Reservoir and other water bodies such as Toolondo Reservoir are popular fishing areas. Toolondo is famous for its fighting Brown Trout while Redfin predominate at Rocklands. The majority of fish, including trout, are taken by boat fishing around trees with bait such as worms, gudgeon and yabbies or by spinning in open waters.

An Amateur Fishing Licence (AFL) is required by all persons over 16 years of age (except pensioners) for fishing or taking shrimp, yabbies or spiny freshwater crayfish using hoop nets. When taking yabbies from Rocklands Reservoir a maximum of 10 hoop nets can be used. Names and addresses are required on floats. However, in the Glenelg River no more than 5 hoop nets are permitted. An AFL is not required whilst yabbying using baited lines without hooks. Yabby pots, including opera house and folding frame pots, are not permitted.

Boating on Rocklands

Although there is a good stretch of bank fishing near the dam wall, a boat is necessary to reach the more remote areas of the lake. The tranquil waters of Rocklands contain flooded forest and submerged logs and boat users should exercise extreme care and be alert for submerged logs. Boating is prohibited within 200 metres of the dam wall. Contact the Reservoir Keeper for further information.

Boat ramps are located at Rocklands wall, Hynes, Glendinning, Fergusons and Mountain Dam. Small boats can be launched around the shoreline.

Bushwalking

The area provides for excellent bush walking. A long walk commences at the Black Range Picnic Ground onto the top of the Black Range where excellent views can be obtained. The walk continues south along the range to Muirfoot Track. More adventurous walkers can choose to continue along Muirfoot Track to a walking track leading to Mount Byron or to return to the Picnic Ground.

Bush walking tips

- Walk in groups.
- Dress appropriately, strong shoes and warm and waterproof clothing (during winter).

- Carry water with you on longer walks (particularly during summer).
- Where defined tracks exist, please remain on the track to minimise erosion and damage to plants.

Looking after our forests

Help to protect the rich flora and fauna of the area and consider the rights of other visitors by following these regulations:

- Dogs are allowed in State forest (but not State Park) and must be under direct control at all times and are expected to be kept on a leash in picnic and camping areas or when near other visitors. In established campgrounds pet owners are asked to camp away from other visitors.
- **All native plants and animals are protected by law.** Don't pick wildflowers and other plants or collect animals - let everyone enjoy them.
- There is no rubbish collection service, so please take your rubbish home. Do not bury rubbish or try to burn bottles or cans. Balmoral and Cavendish have free public rubbish tips. If you have the misfortune to come across other people's rubbish, do the bush a favour and take it out with you too.
- **Generators are permitted** provided they do not disturb other visitors. Use them sparingly and consider others. During operating times the ground and airspace within 3 metres of the generator must be cleared of flammable material and someone in close attendance at all times. A minimum of 9 litres of water or a fire extinguisher must be on hand.
- **Fires may only be lit for preparing meals or for personal comfort** and must be lit in a properly constructed fireplace, portable barbecue or stove or (where no fireplace is provided) in a trench at least 30 centimetres deep. **The use of fires which do not require wood is encouraged**
- The ground and airspace within 3 metres of the fire is to be cleared of inflammable material.
- The fire must be the minimum size necessary and always less than 1 square metre in area.
- The fire must be attended at all times by an **adult** and **extinguished before leaving**.
- **Firewood may be collected from the Claude Austin State Forest for use in the Glendinning camping area only.** Elsewhere, only dry firewood should be gathered. Don't cut down or damage standing trees

either alive or dead or remove firewood for any other purpose than your individual campfire needs.

- **No fire** is to be lit on days of **TOTAL FIRE BAN**. Take care with fire – observe all fire regulations and Total Fire Ban days. Use existing fireplaces rather than create your own. Never leave fires unattended. Ensure fires are safe and that they are completely extinguished when you leave.
- Keep the size of your group small, ideally, less than eight people and go off peak.
- **Vehicles and motor bikes may be used only on formed roads open to public vehicles.** All drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy. Sections of all tracks shown on the map are subject to flooding in winter. Roads and tracks are not designed for speed, please respect other users and the wildlife.
- Make sure you tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return, and don't forget to let them know when you are back.

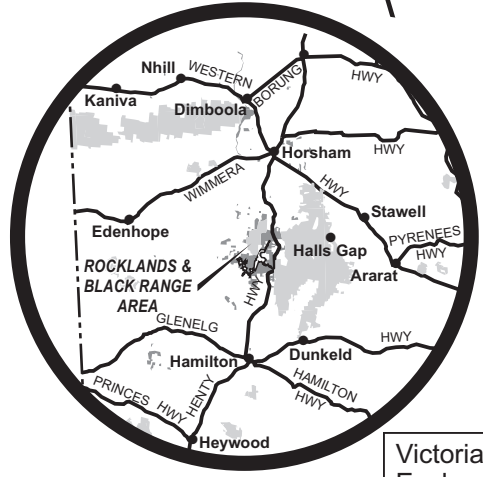
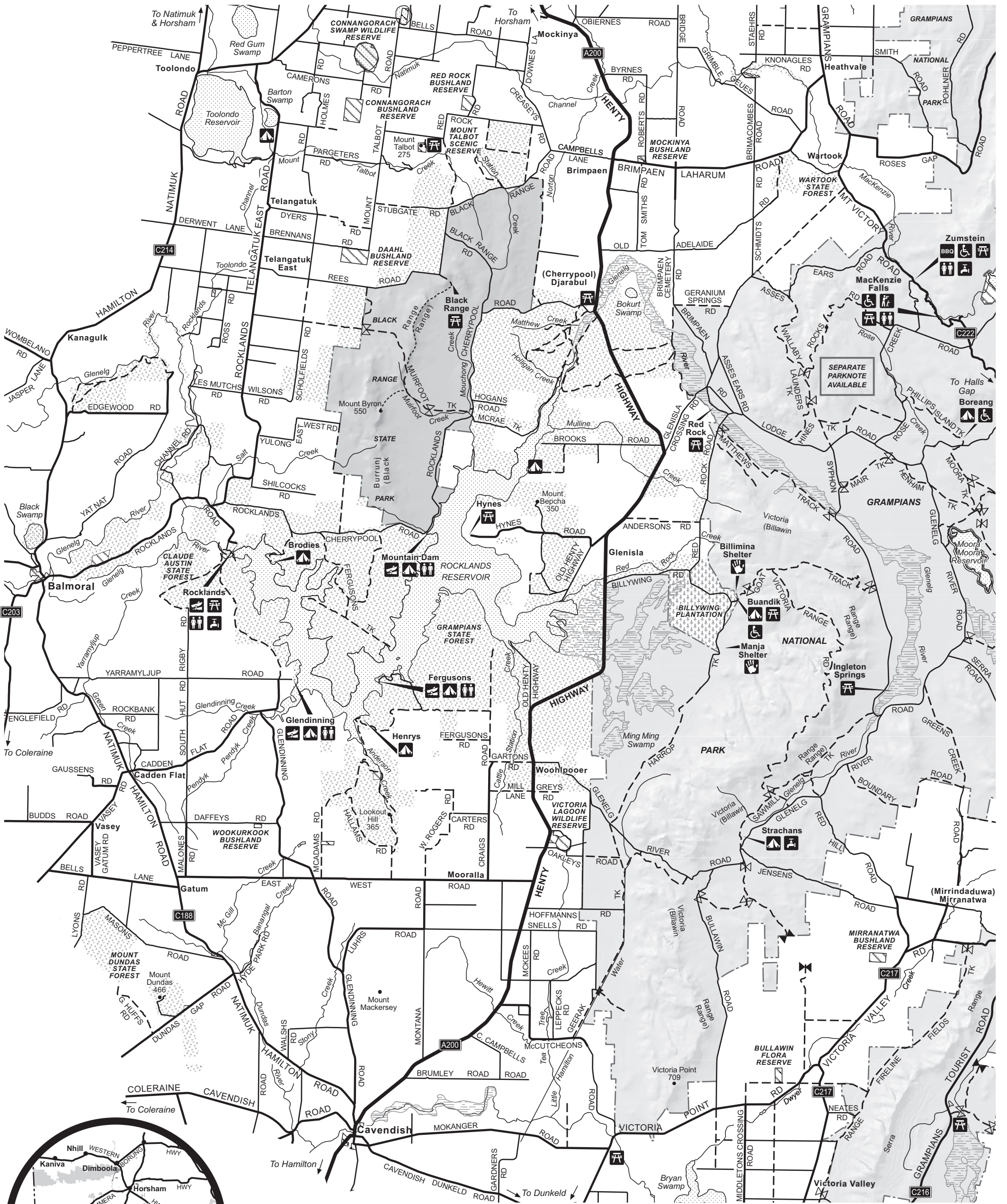
For more information

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 Horsham (☎5362 2111) or the DSE Customer Service Centre on ☎136 186.

Visit DSE's website

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

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Rocklands Black Range

	Highway		State Park		Aboriginal art site		Lookout
	Sealed road		State Forest		Barbecue		Picnic table
	Unsealed road		National Park		Boat ramp		Toilets
	4WD track		Other Reserves		Camping		Water
	Walking track		Softwood Plantations		Facilities for people with disabilities		
	Gate - Management Vehicles only		Swamp				
	Gate - Seasonally closed		Water body				

Recreational Facilities

	Aboriginal art site		Lookout
	Barbecue		Picnic table
	Boat ramp		Toilets
	Camping		Water
	Facilities for people with disabilities		

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