



# Forest Notes

## Murrindindi Scenic Reserve

DEPI – Toolangi

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### Murrindindi Scenic Reserve

Situated in the northern end of Toolangi State forest about 1½ hours drive north east of Melbourne, the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve comprises 1,068 hectares of mixed species Eucalypt forest, which includes waterfalls, tree fern gullies and an abundance of birds and mammals. The Reserve provides excellent opportunities for recreational activities such as camping, bushwalking, bird watching, picnicking and fishing.

The Murrindindi River is suitable for paddling, but is generally not deep enough for swimming or canoeing.

The Toolangi State forest is the traditional land of the Kulin nation. The Taungurung tribe looked after the land in the north and the Wurundjeri tribe looked after land in the south. It is believed that in the Wurundjeri language, Murrindindi means 'Mountain Home'.

### Location and Access

**From Healesville** - Travel 13km along Myers Creek Rd towards Toolangi, turn right into Sylvia Creek Rd then onto Murrindindi Rd. Travel approximately 21km through majestic Mountain Ash forest to the Reserve.

**From Melbourne** - Travel along the Melba Highway to the intersection of Murrindindi Road, just before Devlins Bridge. Turn right and drive 9km to the Reserve.

### Dogs and Firearms are NOT PERMITTED

**Campers please note** – Dogs and firearms are not permitted in any parts of the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve. On the spot fines will apply.

### What facilities are provided?

Six campsites and two picnic areas are situated along the Murrindindi River, with some suitable for small caravans (see map overleaf). Flushing toilets are located at Suspension Bridge, Ferns and Bull Creek campsites, with pit toilets at the remainder. Most campsites and picnic areas have properly constructed fire places and picnic tables. Please keep fires in the fireplaces provided.

### Do fees apply? Must I book a site?

Modest fees (charge per car) are payable for camping in the Reserve. Please ensure you purchase your camping permit from the permit box situated at Suspension Bridge or Bull Creek camping areas (see map) **before** you set up your camp. Failing to do so may result in a fine.

All revenue raised from these fees is reinvested back into the Reserve and is used in maintaining the facilities. Camping is on a first-come first-served basis and no

bookings are required, but early arrival is advisable during peak periods and at popular locations.

### Safety Information

- 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 DEPI (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.
- Follow campfire and Reserve use guidelines.
- Mobile phone coverage cannot be relied on here.

**Please note: Rangers and Police are authorised to direct people to leave the Reserve.**

### Reserve Use Guidelines

#### RUBBISH

There are no rubbish collection facilities available. Please take your rubbish with you and ensure the area is clean for future visitors.

Do not bury or burn rubbish in fires. This includes bottles and cans. It is an offence to burn bottles and cans and on the spot fines can apply.

## TRAIL BIKES and VEHICLES

Trail bikes and vehicles must be registered. Unlicensed persons are not permitted to ride trail bikes or drive vehicles. Trail bikes and vehicles must not be ridden off formed roads, on walking tracks or around the campground. The surrounding road network is available to licenced and registered riders.

## CAMPING – Minimal impact

To protect the delicate environments of the forest, we need to 'tread lightly' in the bush to minimise our impact on the natural environment.

- Camping is not permitted outside of designated areas.
- Be careful of camping under trees. Trees can drop their limbs at any time (particularly during high winds).
- Do not dig trenches around tents. With modern tents, this is unnecessary, particularly if you choose a well-drained or raised site.
- Use toilets where provided. At some sites hand washing facilities and toilet paper may not be supplied. Come prepared.
- All native plants and animals are protected.
- Protect water quality – wash up at least 50 metres away from the river and avoid using soap (use gritty sand and a scourer instead).
- Leave campsites tidy.
- Respect the rights of others. Don't use generators or play amplified music.

## Walking Track

### Murrindindi River Walk



One-way 12km | 3 hour  
Short steep hills | Formed track  
Signposted | Occasional steps  
Some bushwalking experience recommended

Start at Suspension Bridge or the Cascades picnic area. The walk follows the Murrindindi River and extends the entire length of the Reserve. The walk crosses over five footbridges and offers river views through a variety of forest types from tall open forest to damp ferny gullies. The walk is accessible from most of the picnic and camping areas.

### Murrindindi Cascades



Return 0.6km | 45 minutes  
Short steep hills | Formed track  
Signposted | Many steps  
No experience required

This track follows the first 600 metres of Murrindindi River Walk from Cascades picnic area. Follow the stepped track down to where two footbridges cross the river at the base of the Cascades.

### Wilhelmina Falls



Return 6km | 2 hours  
Very steep | Formed track, some obstacles  
Signposted | Many steps  
Experienced bushwalkers

Start at the suspension bridge at Water Gauge camping area. Follow the Murrindindi River Walk to the junction of

Wilhelmina Falls Track. Here the track climbs gradually to the base of the falls which flow all year round. These spectacular falls drop 75 metres down a steep granite rock face. The viewing point is a great place to take photos, but for your own safety please do not leave the track. Continue up the stairs to the top of the falls, where a viewing platform is located providing spectacular views of the surrounding mountain range. The falls can also be accessed from the north via Jacksons Rd carpark. Travel along Falls Creek Rd and onto Jacksons Rd to the carpark. The falls are approximately 1.5 km from the carpark.

### Mill Track



Circuit 10km | 3 hours  
Very steep | Formed track, some obstacles  
Signposted | Many steps  
Experienced bushwalkers

Starting at Suspension Bridge picnic area located at the northern end of Murrindindi Scenic Reserve, turn left over the bridge and follow Mill Track up to and along Jacksons Rd to the Jacksons Rd carpark. From here, follow Wilhelmina Falls Track down to Murrindindi River Walk, head right before passing SEC campsite and back to Suspension Bridge picnic area.

### Boroondara Track Circuit



Circuit 10km | 3 hours  
Very steep | Formed track, some obstacles  
Signposted | Many steps  
Experienced bushwalkers

Start at the Boroondara carpark located on Falls Creek Rd, 700m from Murrindindi Rd junction. This circuit track encompasses both Wilhelmina Falls and sections of the Murrindindi River Walk. Stroll along Boroondara track to the Boroondara footbridge, before the track provides an invigorating walk upstream to the Wilhelmina Falls walk intersection. From here, head down to Wilhelmina Falls and take in the amazing views. Carefully descend down the rock trail to the Murrindindi River before turning left and following the walk back to the Boroondara carpark.

## For more information

The Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forest. For further information contact DEPI's Customer Service Centre ☎ 136 186 (TTY: 1800 555 667) or visit DEPI's website at <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au>

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