

Set amongst the Box and Ironbark trees of the Craigie State Forest, Battery Dam offers the visitor a varied mix of cultural and natural history. Remnants from pre European times, the gold rush of the 1850's to more recent forest based industries are still visible in this picturesque forest environment.

Our forests tell a fascinating story of change and survival. How you use the forest today will shape our forest's future. How will you help shape the next chapter?

Getting There

Located 170 km north west of Melbourne, Battery Dam is situated in the Victorian Goldfields approximately 3 km south of the historic town of Maryborough. Once in Maryborough, head south along the Maryborough/Majorca Road (Inkerman St) until you enter the Craigie State Forest, turning west onto Graves Track at the sign for Battery Dam and travel into the forest for approximately 1km.

History

The area's first inhabitants were the Jajowurrong people. Evidence of how these people survived in these dry forests can be found at Bull Gully Rock Wells. These wells provided a valuable source of drinking water by collecting rain in trenches dug from outcropping sandstone. The wells are the best-known example of their type in Victoria.



Photo: Bully Gully Rock Wells (DEPI/Camilleri)

The lives of the Jajowurrong were changed forever by the discovery of gold. In 1854 a 15.25 kg (537 ounce) nugget was found about one km north of Battery Dam. With this find the rush was on, thousands of hopefuls flocked to the district.

The quest for gold has left its mark in the forests around Battery Dam. Hundreds of 'diggers' holes dating back to the 1850's can still be observed in gullies throughout the forest. Deep lead mining commenced in the late 1850's with numerous shafts sunk to mine the rich, gold bearing quartz veins. Chemical extraction of gold using cyanide commenced in the 1870's and again in the 1930's. Evidence of all these activities can be found at Battery Dam today. In 1917, eucalyptus distilling commenced at Battery Dam and continued until the 1950's.

The regrowth forest seen today around Battery Dam has resulted from harvesting carried out to supply timber to the mining industry in the 1800's. Sustainable harvesting of firewood, fencing timbers and sawlogs continues today and is subject to strict environmental standards as set out in the 'Code of Forest Practices'.

Attractions

The Craigie State Forest contains numerous natural attractions, all of which can be seen around Battery Dam. The main tree species in this part of the Forest are Red Ironbark, Grey and Yellow Box and Yellow Gum. Red Box, Long Leaf Box and Red Stringybark can also be found in the area. The large Grey Box located near the picnic tables is thought to be over 250 years old, a true forest giant!

During the spring and early summer a wonderful mix of wildflowers fill the forest with colour. The most obvious is the Golden Wattle, which blankets the forest understory in golden yellow during September and October. Other easy to find wildflowers include Gold Dust Wattle, Narrow Leaf Bitter Pea and Cats Claw Grevillea. Numerous orchids are found in the forest, with the most common being Waxlip and Leopard Orchids and Blue Caladenia.

Wildlife abounds in the forest around Battery Dam. Watch for Wallabies, Echidnas and if your lucky (and quick) the tiny Yellow Footed

Antechinus. Some of the most common birds you are likely to encounter are the Yellow Tufted Honeyeater, Musk Lorikeet, Eastern Yellow Robin and Superb Wren.

Facilities and Walking Tracks

The walking track from Battery Dam to the Bull Gully Rock Wells is an excellent way to experience the Box Ironbark Forest. This easy walk is 2 km return and will take approximately 45 minutes to complete. For those seeking a picnic in a relaxing forest environment, Battery Dam is hard to beat. Picnic tables and BBQ's are provided for day visitor use. Several information boards provide interpretation of the various features at the site.

Activities to enjoy in the State forest

- bike along the bush roads and appreciate the beauty of the forest. Be sure to stay on formed roads when riding.
- Find a nice spot to relax, camp or have a picnic, remember to look after the forest by taking your rubbish home with you.
- Take your dog for a walk. Making sure your dog is under control at all times and does not disturb other visitors or harm wildlife.
- Try your luck fossicking or prospecting. All prospectors require a Miner's Right. This lasts two years and costs around \$30. You can purchase a Miner's Right online from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries website at www.depi.vic.gov.au. Remember to re-fill any holes you dig.
- Enjoy a car or motorbike tour of the forest, exploring the extensive road network. Make sure you are licensed and registered and always stay on formed roads.
- Test your hunting skills with licensed firearms and protect the forest from pest animals such as foxes and rabbits.
- Explore and search the forest for clues that give us evidence from the past – remember to leave everything as you found it.

Looking After our Forests

Lets look after our living museum!

- All native plants, animals, historic sites and geographical features are protected by law.
- Campfires are part of the outdoor experience. However sparks can easily start the bush burning. You can take care with fire by observing all fire regulations and Total Fire Ban days. Always use existing fireplaces where possible or 30 cm deep trenches, collect only dead wood from the ground for campfires, ensure your fires is less than 1 metre square and at least 3 metres clear of burnable material, never leave fires

unattended, and ensure fires are safe and that they are completely extinguished when you leave.

Safety – Please read

- On Code Red Fire Danger rating days, Parks and State Forests 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 declared, you should leave the night before or early in the morning.
- **Campfires are banned on days of Total Fire Ban. If in doubt, leave campfires out.**
- **Campfire safety** (on non Total Fire Ban days):
 - Use fireplaces where provided. Where not provided light your campfire in a 30cm deep trench or create a barrier around the fire with rocks or soil. Clear 3m around the campfire of any flammable material.
 - Keep your campfire just big enough for cooking and keeping warm and have an adult present at all times (Most campfires escape when they are left unattended).
 - Put your fire out with water. **If it's cool to touch it is safe to leave, and can't go bush!**
- **Forest roads** are public roads and normal road rules apply. Drive as if you were expecting a vehicle to come around the next bend.
- **Pit toilets** are provided at some State forest sites but hand washing facilities and toilet paper may not be supplied. Come prepared. Carry water with you when walking.
- **Do not camp under trees** – they can drop their limbs without warning
- To protect communities from **wildfire**, DEPI undertakes extensive fuel reduction burning, so you may notice smoke more often. For more information contact DEPI .

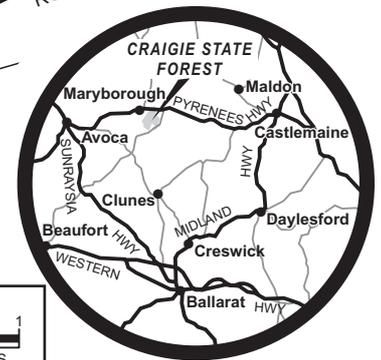
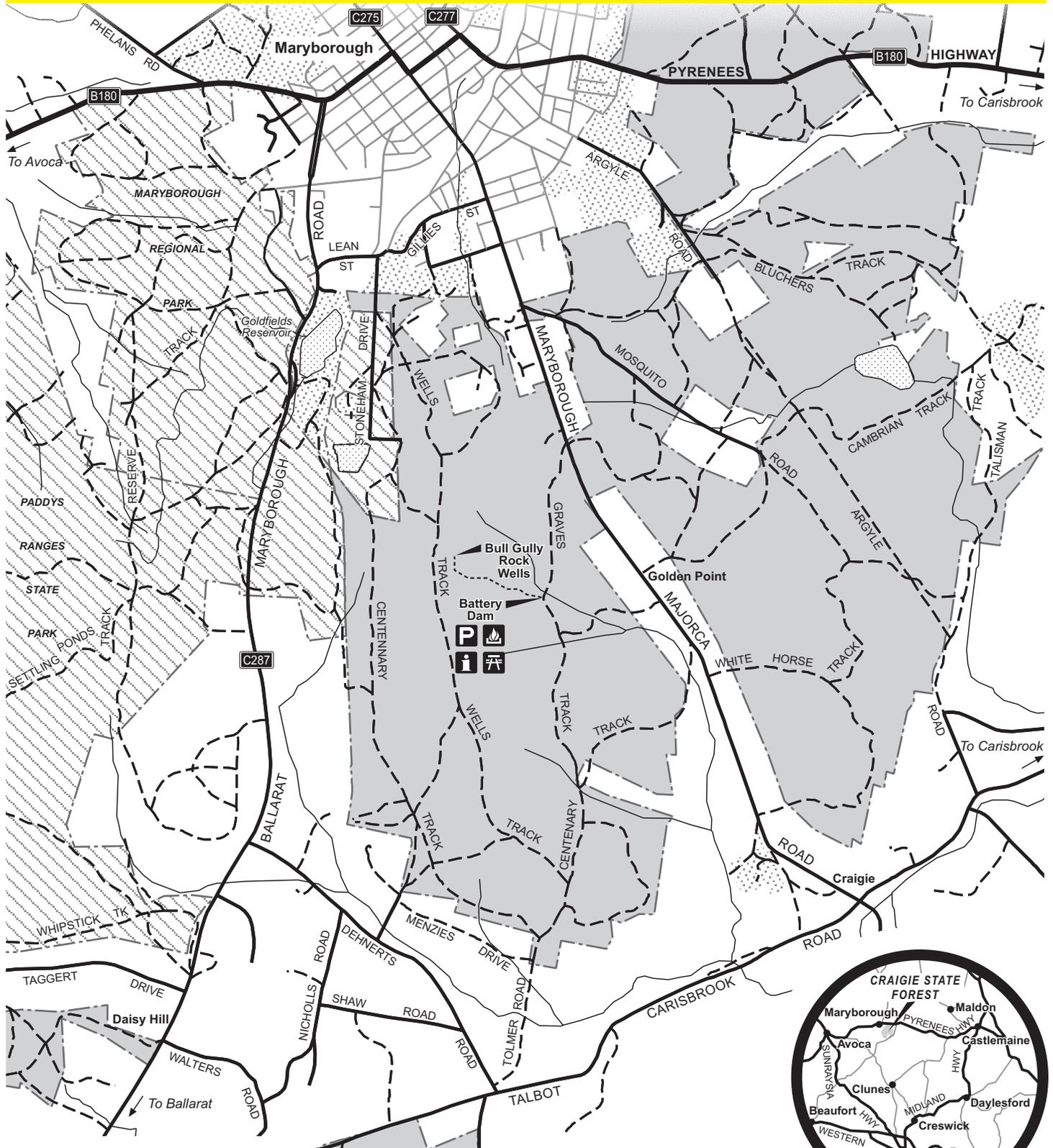
FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY

Look out for old mine shafts when walking through the forest.

For more information

The Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forests. For further information contact DEPI's Customer Service Centre ☎ 136 186 (TTY: 1800 122 969) or visit DEPI's website at <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/>.

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its officers do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication



Battery Dam and Craigie State Forest		Recreational Facilities	
Highway	Craigie State Forest	Carpark	 KILOMETRES Cartography by Spatial Vision 2002 M/7363
Sealed road	Other Park	Fireplace	
Town road	Other Reserves and Other Public Land	Information	
Vehicle track (4WD)	Water body	Picnic table	
Walking track			

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its officers do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.