

Visitor Guide

Extending north of the town of Glenrowan in north east Victoria is a steep scarped range known locally as the Warbys. The combination of excellent viewing points along the ridge, pleasant picnic spots and an outstanding variety of birdlife and wildflowers makes a visit to the park well worthwhile.



Grass Tree (Xanthorrhoea australis)

Enjoying the park

The views from Ryan's Lookout are exceptional, especially in winter with snow covered peaks in the distance.

Picnic facilities

Barbecue facilities and picnic tables are available at Ryan's Lookout, Brien's Gorge Falls and Pine Gully.

Car touring

For a pleasant drive, from Ryan's Lookout follow Gerrett's Road, turn right into Adam's Road, then follow Tower Road to Boweya Road and return to Wangaratta. To visit the Killawarra Forest on the way re-join Boweya Road via School House Road.

Camping

Camping is permitted in the simple camp grounds at "Wenhams" and "the Camp" which have a pit toilet, water tank and barbecues. Large groups are asked to contact the Ranger before using the camping areas.

Walking

Bushwalkers wishing to camp away from the roads and tracks are required to make arrangements with the Ranger before their trip.

Management tracks and the open grassy understorey are ideal for easy walking. The gentle tracks of the Killawarra Forest are popular with bike riders and walkers. Other popular walks are listed on the back page.

Make sure to bring water to the park at all times, especially in summer and carry it on walks. Always wear sturdy footwear when walking.

Prospecting

A small area is set aside in the Killawarra Forest for prospecting.

Waiting for the rains

The Warby landscape has an unusual charm. Winter rains rejuvenate the Warbys, allowing the creeks and waterfalls to flow once more. With spring comes the wildflowers. Nodding Blue-lily, Common Fringe-myrtle, grevilleas and orchids burst into flower to the delight of the bird and insect world.

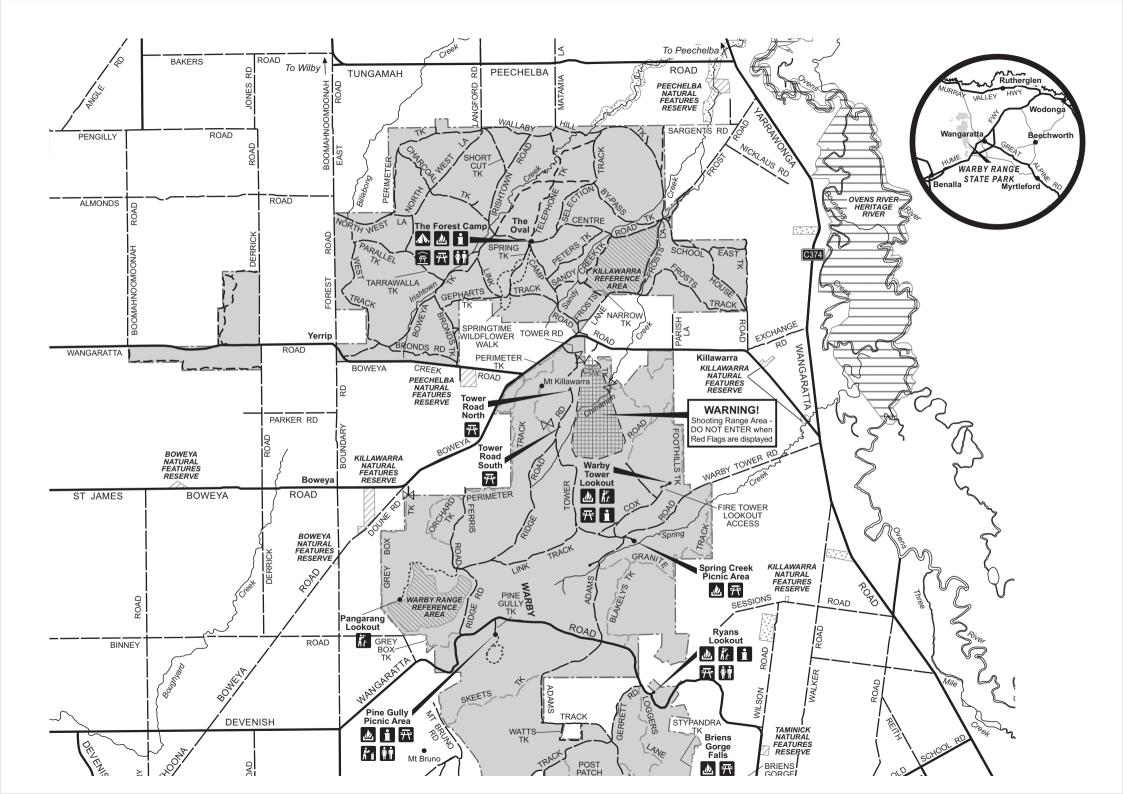
Ned Kelly's lookout

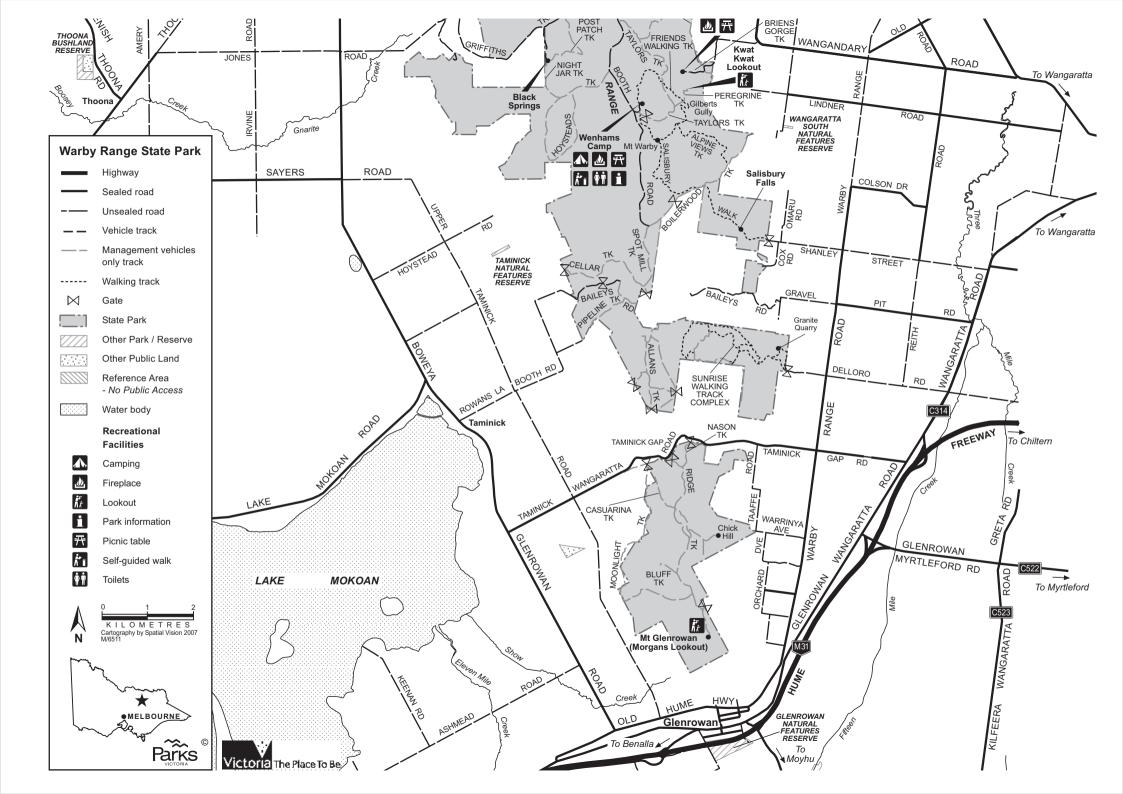
Major Mitchell originally named the Warby Ranges "Futters Range" during his travels through the area in 1836. It was later renamed after Ben Warby, who took up the Taminick Run of 9300ha in 1844.

Despite its modest height (approx 515 metres) the 400 million-year-old granite range probably offered good vantage points to Ned Kelly and fellow bushrangers in the late 1800s. From the summit of Mt Glenrowan, they could easily see the comings and goings in the small town of Glenrowan.

In 1979 the Warby Range was declared a State Park in recognition of its scenic value to the area and the diversity of plant and animal species it supports. The park was expanded to include the Killawarra and Boweya Forests in October 2002 and now covers 11,084 hectares.







For further information

Parks Victoria Information Centre Call 13 1963 or visit the Parks Victoria website www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Visitor Information Centre Corner Tone Road and Handley Street Wangaratta 3677 Freecall: 1800801 065

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away with you for recycling and disposal

All native plants and animals are protected by law. Please do not disturb them in any way

Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park

Firearms are prohibited

Light fires only in fire places provided. No fires, including gas barbecues may be lit on a day of **Total Fire Ban** Warby Range State Park is in the **North Eastern Total Fire Ban District**

Vehicles, including motor bikes, may only be used on formed open roads. Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy

Be self-sufficient with drinking water. Carry it in and/or know how to make untreated water safe for drinking

Walking tracks in the park

Friends Track is a self-guided walk starting from Wenhams Camp and is a moderate 4.6km loop track taking approximately two hours to complete. The Friend of the Warbys information stations describe the varied vegetation communities along the way. There is an opportunity to divert from the track to Kwat Kwat Lookout (1km return) which offers excellent views of the Ovens Valley and Victorian Alps.

Salisbury Walk (4.5km) - makes it way up the Salisbury Falls Gorge to Wenhams Camp via Friends Track. An alternative route via Alpine Views Track looks out over the Ovens Valley. Steep in places, this track is suitable for the fit and active.

The Friends of the Warby's Arboretum - A walk through the Arboretum at Wenhams Camp helps visitors identify the parks diverse range of plants.

Sunrise Walk is a complex of tracks providing a choice of 2-6km walks ranging from moderate to hard. The walks start from the end of Delloro Road and climb up to the plateau to the west. During spring a variety of wildflowers beautify the area, with the vegetation being relatively undisturbed. At the start is a 1.5km return walk to a quarry where granite was obtained to build the Anglican Cathedral in Wangaratta.

Pangarang Lookout Walk begins from Ferris Road and is an easy 3km return. Panoramic views to the west take in Mt Major and Boosey Creek catchment.

Pine Gully Nature Walk provides a good interpretation of the park's natural values on a 2km self-guided loop walk. Enjoyed by active families, the walk takes about an hour to complete and is steep and rocky in places. Suitable footwear is essential.

Mt Glenrowan -There is no better place to view the Ovens and King Valley and the Victorian Alps than from this vantage point. The 9km return walk to the lookout begins from the stile at Taminick Gap and follows the Ridge Track. There is one steep section of sealed road leading up to the communication towers near the start of the walk, while the remainder is moderate to easy.

A haven for plants and animals

The vegetation of the Warbys is characterised by a mosaic of open forests and woodlands of Blakely's Redgum, Red Stringybark and a range of Box species. Small communities of White Cypress Pine occur on the western side.

To the north the black trunks of the Mugga Ironbarks in the Killawarra and Boweya Forests contrast strikingly with the granitic hills woodland of the Warby Range.

Other interesting plant species in the park include the Austral Grass-tree, characterised by its long "skirt" and black trunk, which occurs in clumps throughout the forest, and the hardy Spurwinged Wattle growing among rocky outcrops.

Most animals in the Warbys are nocturnal and not easy to spot during the day. Occasionally, you may see dark-furred Swamp Wallabies or Eastern Grey Kangaroos darting off into the bush, disturbed by your vehicle or approaching footsteps. The exposed granite slabs are ideal sunning sites for a variety of reptiles. The open woodland offers plenty of habitat for birdlife including rosellas, robins, the Wedge-tailed Eagle, Eastern Spinebill and White-throated Treecreeper (pictured below).



The forest is an important location for the survival of species such as the Squirrel Glider, Feathertail Glider, Powerful Owl, Turquoise Parrot and Carpet Python and Lace Monitor.

Cinnamon Fungus - Take Care

Phytophthora root rot, also known as cinnamon fungus and jarrah dieback, is a serious plant disease that destroys many native plants is present in the park. The disease infects the plant's roots, restricting its ability to take up nutrients and water. Phytophthora spores are found in the soil and can be transferred to other areas in mud on cars and machinery as well as through muddy bushwalking gear such as footwear and tent pegs.

To help prevent the spread of the disease, avoid walking and driving in wet areas. Clean camping gear and boots before leaving the site and keep to formed tracks. For further information on Phytophthora visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

How to get there

Warby Range State Park is 240km north East of Melbourne, 10km west of Wangaratta best accessed from Wangaratta via Wangandary and Yarrawonga roads.

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