

# The Stawell 'Ironbarks'

## Deep Lead Nature Conservation Reserve



### Visitor Guide

Situated on the outskirts of the township of Stawell, the 1823 ha Deep Lead Nature Conservation Reserve has been described as "...one of the most important sites for nature conservation in Victoria. It supports at least 21 threatened species, including three plant species not found anywhere else in the world." (Environment Conservation Council, 2001)

### Rich in nature and history

A total of 350 species of native plants has been recorded here. The reserve contains a variety of forest eucalypts, all important homes and habitat to birds and animals.

They include Red Ironbark (the southern part of the reserve is known locally as "the Ironbarks"), Yellow Gum, Yellow Box, Long-leaf Box, Red Stringybark, River Red Gum and Grey Box. Wattles, particularly Golden Wattle, dominate the heathy shrubs, often in the company of small orchids.

This north and eastern area of the Gariwerd-Grampians region is home to the local Indigenous people, the Djab wurrung and Jadawadjali. Parks Victoria recognises this connection and acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Communities of Victoria.

Thousands of miners and their families flocked to the Stawell area when gold was discovered here in 1853. The impact of change was devastating to the traditional landscape and its people: changing the face of this place and its people forever. They brought new diseases, a new diet and new laws.

Prospectors and miners scoured the area, mining at first with shallow and then deeper shafts. The forests were harvested for sawmilling, mining timbers and firewood.

The Deep Lead reserve is the western outpost of Victoria's Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands. Once covering three million hectares, today, only 17% of the original area of Box-Ironbark vegetation remains. These parks, along with more than 200 conservation reserves protect and enhance what remains of the Box-Ironbark forests, wildlife and woodlands.

Note: prospecting and fossicking are NOT permitted in the reserve, because of potential damage to the many significant low-growing plant species, particularly the rare orchids.



### Enjoying the reserve

Wildflowers are at their vibrant best in spring.

"This reserve is home to many species of small and delicate native orchids are rare and under threat for their future survival." Parks Victoria Ranger-In-Charge.

An extensive road/track network provides easy access throughout the reserve. Some tracks become muddy in winter and visitors are requested to avoid using vehicles on them. There are no camping facilities here.

The alluvial mining landscape of the Four Posts Diggings, the sites of the Three Jacks, Darlington and Germania Mines, and the Bonnie Dundee mine dam are reminders of the reserve's mining history.



### Walking and cycling

Walk or ride your bike around the well signposted roads and tracks.

- McCann Dam nature walk (2km loop). Basic picnic facilities are provided just off the Stawell-Deep Lead Road.
- Three Jacks walk (1km) Off Sanctuary Rd.



### Wildlife

Birdlife is plentiful - Long-billed Corellas, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and a variety of honeyeaters, smaller parrots and lorikeets can all be spotted in the reserve.

The endangered Swift Parrot flies in from Tasmania to feed on winter-flowering gums. Grey Kangaroos and Swamp Wallabies are commonly seen. The endangered Squirrel Glider, and it's more common relative the Sugar Glider, live in tree hollows and are active at night.



### How to get there

Stawell is 230 km from Melbourne, via the Western Highway. Access the reserve from the Donald-Stawell Road in the east, the Stawell-Deep Lead Road in the west, or from the hamlet of Deep Lead in the north-west.

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## What is a Nature Conservation Reserve?

They are areas of public land that are highly significant for their natural vegetation, or native wildlife, or both.

Specifically reserved to protect plant and animal species that are rare or threatened, they conserve vegetation communities and wildlife habitats that have largely been cleared since European settlement.

*Public access and recreation activities are encouraged, provided they do not impact on conservation values.*

## For further information

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre  
Phone 13 1963  
or visit the website  
[www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

Parks Victoria Stawell  
Phone 13 1963  
Stawell and Grampians  
Visitor Information Centre  
Western Highway, Stawell  
Toll Free 1800 330 880

## Caring for the environment

Help us look after the reserve by remembering these guidelines:

All plants, animals, and historic sites are protected by law.

Vehicles, including motor bikes, may only be used on formed open roads.

Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy.

Please take rubbish home with you for recycling or disposal.

Dogs are permitted but must be under control at all times.

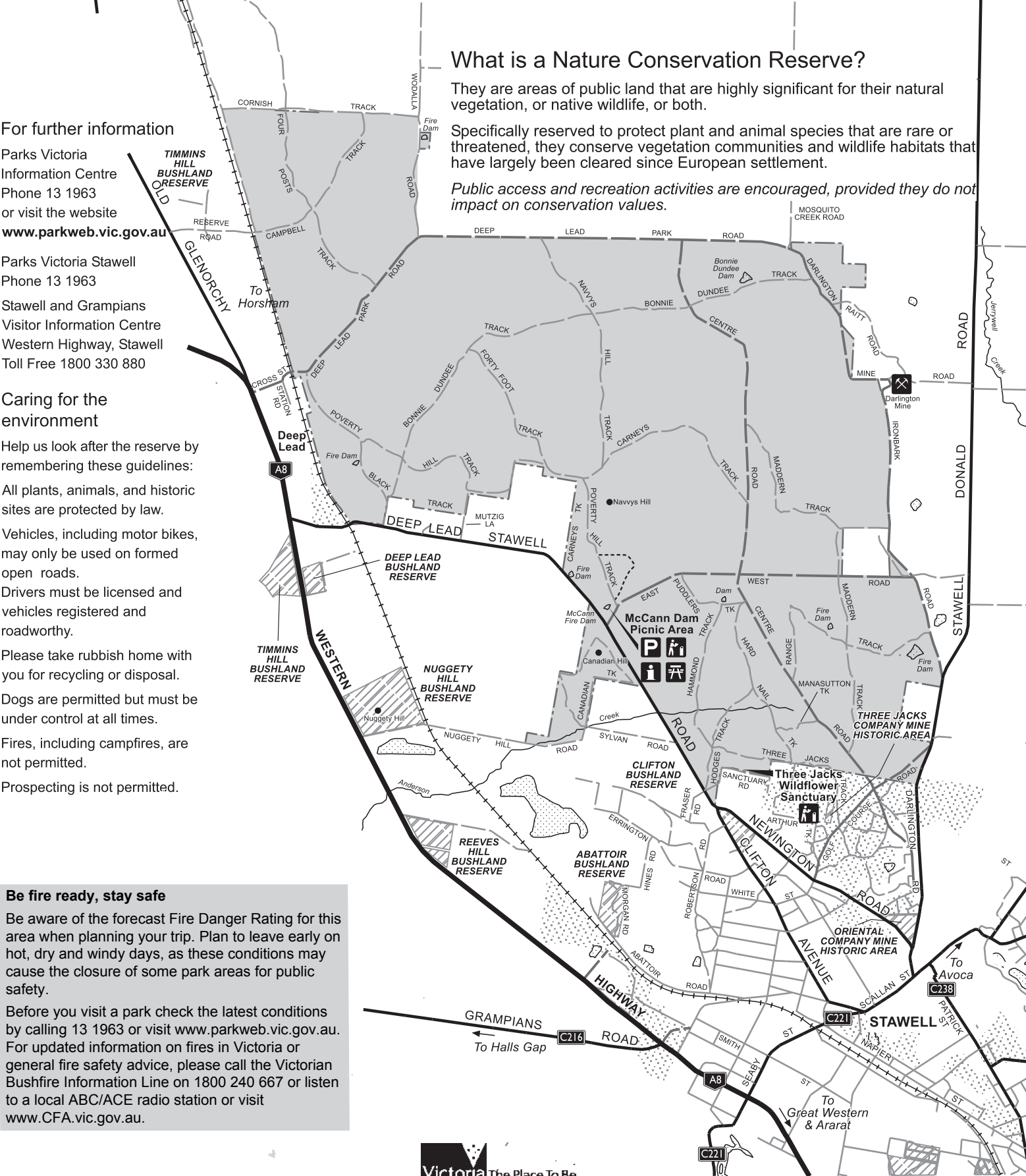
Fires, including campfires, are not permitted.

Prospecting is not permitted.

## Be fire ready, stay safe

Be aware of the forecast Fire Danger Rating for this area when planning your trip. Plan to leave early on hot, dry and windy days, as these conditions may cause the closure of some park areas for public safety.

Before you visit a park check the latest conditions by calling 13 1963 or visit [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au). For updated information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice, please call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 or listen to a local ABC/ACE radio station or visit [www.CFA.vic.gov.au](http://www.CFA.vic.gov.au).



Victoria The Place To Be

## Deep Lead Nature Conservation Reserve

- |                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Highway             | Nature Conservation Reserve |
| Major sealed road   | Other public land           |
| Minor sealed road   | Other Reserve               |
| Major unsealed road | Water body                  |
| Minor unsealed road |                             |
| Walking track       |                             |

## Recreational Facilities

- |                  |
|------------------|
| Carpark          |
| Lookout          |
| Mine site        |
| Nature walk      |
| Park Information |
| Picnic table     |

