

Macedon Regional Park



Visitor Guide

The Macedon Ranges form the southern end of Victoria's Great Dividing Range and feature a diverse range of natural and cultural features. The 2,379 hectare park protects forested land along the ridge of the Range and offers great opportunities for bushwalking, scenic drives and picnics. Mount Macedon is one of the highest peaks in the range and you can enjoy magnificent views from the Mount Macedon Memorial Cross and the Camels Hump viewing platforms.



Super Fairy Wren © IFT

Things to do

Have a picnic - Enjoy a leisurely picnic at one of six picnic grounds spread along the ridge of the range.

Enjoy a walk - There is ample opportunity to explore the park on foot via a series of walks that make up the Macedon Ranges Walking Track. Most walks are easy to moderate and link picnic grounds and other park features. A separate parknote is available describing the Walking Tracks.

Ride a bike - Multi-purpose tracks below Bawden - Douglas Road and other specified roads and tracks within the park provide cyclists with a variety of terrain and landscape. Some tracks link to other areas of public land. A separate parknote is available describing cycling tracks.

Scenic drives - A network of sealed and unsealed roads allows you take in the stunning scenery of the park by car. Some unsealed roads are subject to seasonal closure. On your way up the mountain be sure to take in the significant historic gardens of Mount Macedon.

Horse riding - Horse riding is a great way to explore the park. Riders should remain on defined roads and tracks at all times. Horses are not permitted on walking tracks, closed management tracks or in picnic grounds. A separate parknote is available on horse riding in the park. Some tracks have seasonal closures. Please call Parks Victoria on 13 1963 to check on track conditions.

Places to see

Mount Macedon Memorial Cross - After the Shrine of Remembrance, Mount Macedon Memorial Cross is considered to be the most significant war memorial in Victoria. Located on the summit of the mountain within the War Memorial Cross Reserve, this imposing structure stands 21 metres high and commemorates all those who served in wars and conflicts.

Major Mitchell Lookout - Offering stunning views to the north west of the Range, the Major Mitchell lookout was named after Major Thomas Mitchell, the first European to climb the 1000 metre peak in 1836. After sighting Port Phillip Bay from the southern aspect of the peak, Mitchell named it Mount Macedon in reference to Philip II of ancient Macedonia.

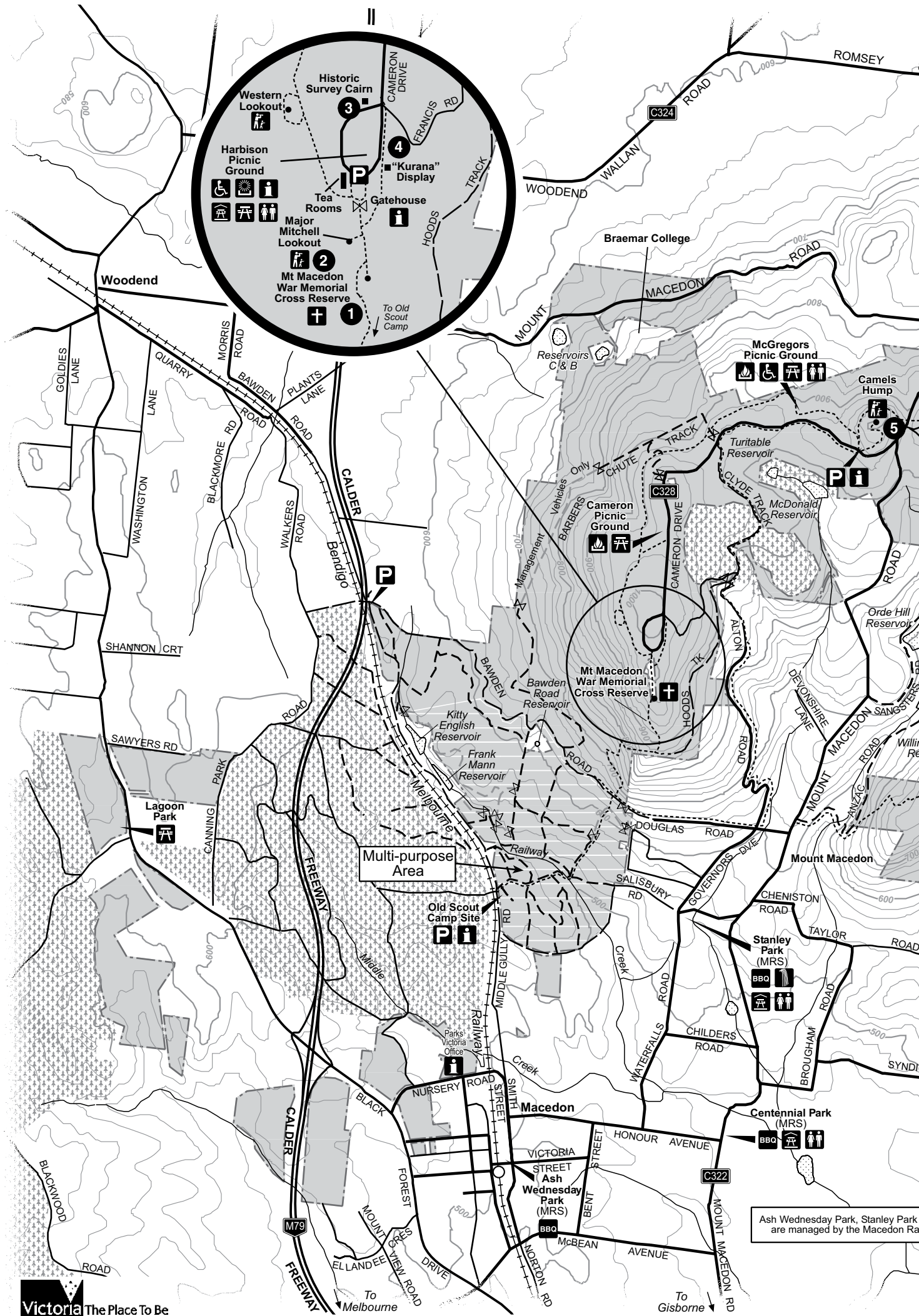
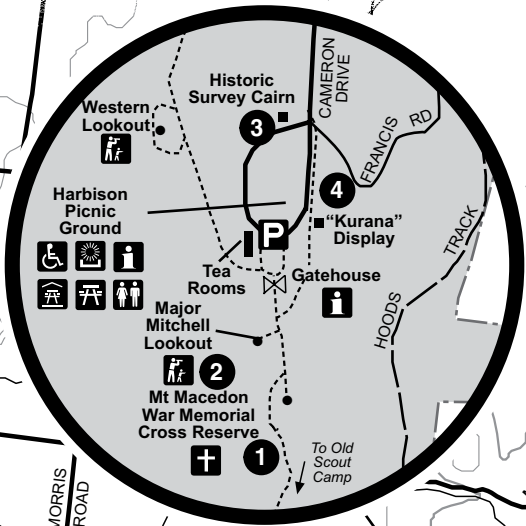
Mount Macedon Survey Cairn - This eight metre high cairn was built in the 1860s as a reference point for land surveys. It is one of only three mortared stone Geodetic Triangulation Cairns in Victoria.

Kurana Display - This interpretive board marks the site of the 1948 crash of Australia's first pre war DC3. The plane ploughed into a pine plantation on the southern slopes of Mount Macedon on route from Melbourne to Deniliquin.

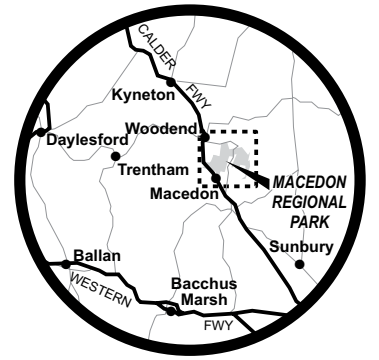
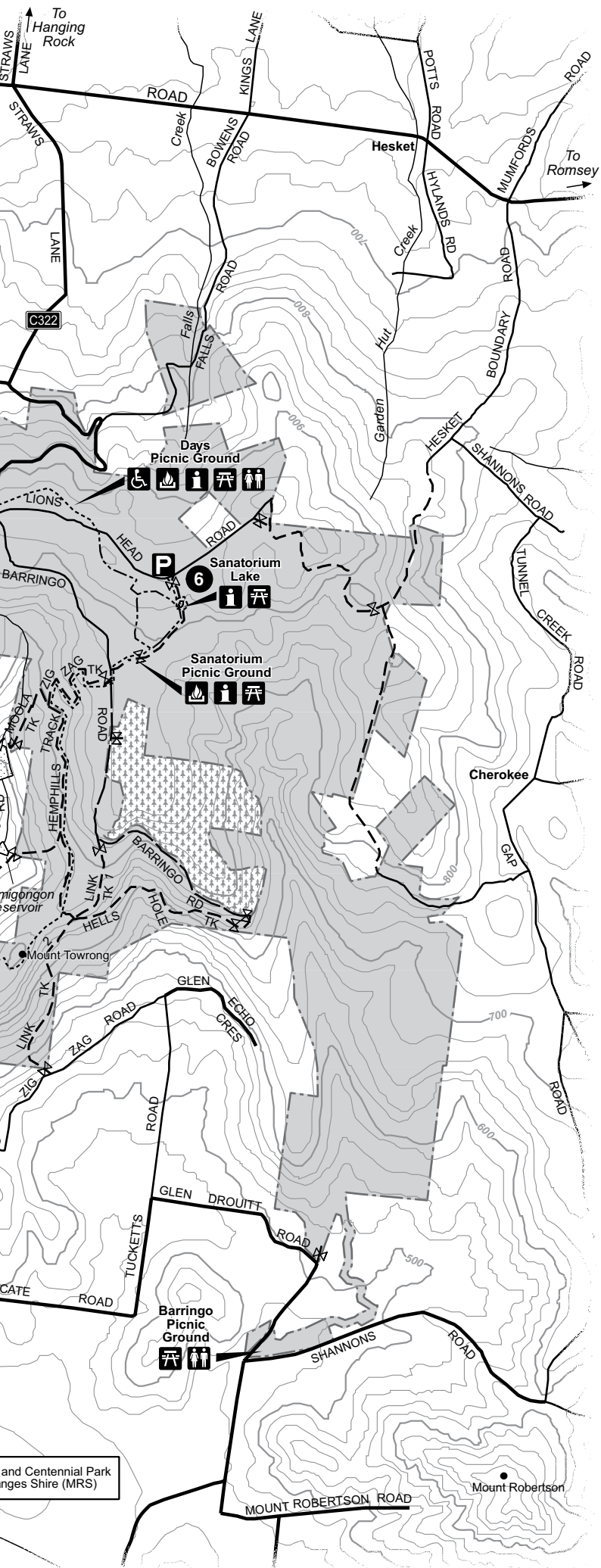
The Camels Hump - Like nearby Hanging Rock, this rocky outcrop is a melon - a volcanic feature formed six million years ago when thick lava squeezed through a narrow vent in the earth's crust. The highest peak in the range, Camels Hump offers superb views of Hanging Rock and the surrounding countryside.

Sanatorium Lake - In the 19th century, the cool climate of the Macedon region was thought to provide a perfect environment for patients suffering tuberculosis. In 1899 a sanatorium was opened a short distance down the Mount from the lake in a building previously used as a private hospital. The lake was built to supply water to a new, larger sanatorium which due to opposition and lack of funding was never built. The original sanatorium closed in 1910 and was later destroyed by fire. Swimming is not permitted in the lake.





Ash Wednesday Park, Stanley Park (MRS) are managed by the Macedon Ra

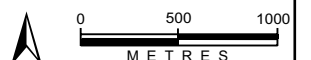


Macedon Regional Park

- Freeway / Highway
- Sealed road
- Major unsealed road
- Minor unsealed road
- Vehicle track (4WD)
- Management Vehicle Only track
- Walking track
- Sanatorium Lake Eco-Tourism Trail
- Gate
- Regional Park
- Multi-purpose area
- Other Public Land
- Softwood plantations
- Water body

Recreational Facilities

- Barbecue
- Barbecue - Electric
- Carpark
- Camping Not Permitted
- Disabled access
- Falls
- Fireplace
- Lookout
- Park information
- Picnic shelter
- Picnic table
- Toilets



Contour Interval 20m
Cartography by Spatial Vision 2008
M/6533



For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre

Call 13 1963

or visit the

Parks Victoria website

www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Parks Victoria Macedon Office
Nursery Road, Macedon 3440
Tel: (03) 5421 5500

Woodend Visitor
Information Centre
High Street Woodend 3444
Tel: (03) 5427 2033

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your parks by remembering these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away with you for recycling or disposal

All plants, animals, archaeological sites and geographic features are protected by law

Dogs are permitted in the park, but must be kept on a leash at all times

Camping and firearms are not permitted in the park

Light fires only in fireplaces provided. Bring your own wood for barbecues. Gas barbecues are recommended

No fires, including gas barbecues, may be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban.

Macedon Regional Park is in the **Central and North Central Total Fire Ban District**. **It is your responsibility to know if it is a day of Total Fire Ban.** If in doubt call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667**

Park closures - Be prepared to leave early as **extreme weather may cause the closure of some park areas** for public safety

Vehicles including motor bikes

Rich in cultural history

Traditional custodians - The Macedon Ranges are located within the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Woiwurrung language speaking group. For thousands of years (prior to European settlement), the Wurundjeri people followed a traditional "hunter/gatherer" lifestyle involving seasonal movement within their traditional lands to access seasonally available resources. These resources were used for food, medicine, cultural items and the construction of temporary shelters.

European settlement - European pastoralists first settled in the area in the late 1830s and were followed by timber cutters eager to use the heavily wooded range for timber which was used for buildings, railway sleepers and goldmining props. The township of Middle Gully (now Macedon) was established in the 1850s as a stopover and supply point for travellers on their way to the Bendigo goldfields.

As the regional population grew, the demand for timber increased and by the 1870s most of the Macedon forests were gone. In 1872, the Victorian Government established the Macedon State Nursery to grow seedlings to revegetate the slopes.

In the post gold rush Victorian era, Mount Macedon's cool mountain climate attracted Melbourne's wealthy elite, eager to escape the blistering city heat. Many of the stately homes built during this period can still be seen in the town today.

Ash Wednesday - Fuelled by strong north-westerly winds, a fire that started in East Trentham on 16 February 1983 (Ash Wednesday) quickly spread to the northern slopes of the Macedon ranges and surrounding areas resulting in extensive damage to the park. Four hundred homes were destroyed and, sadly, seven lives were lost.

Be fire ready and stay safe

Many parks and forests are located in high fire risk areas. **On days of forecast Code Red Fire Danger this park will be closed for public safety.**

If you are already in the park you should leave the night before or early in the morning for your own safety.

Closure signs will be erected and rangers will patrol where possible, however you may not receive a personal warning that the park is closed so check the latest conditions by calling 13 1963 or visit **www.parkweb.vic.gov.au**.

For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667**.

A wealth of flora and fauna

Macedon Regional Park is home to echidnas, koalas, wallabies, wombats, possums and gliders and over 150 bird species.

The varied elevations give rise to different soil types that support several vegetation zones from snow gum dominated wet forests above the snowline to the grassy and herb rich foothill forests of messmate, peppermint and box on the lower slopes. Stands of damp forest dominated by messmate and alpine ash are found on the upper slopes while moist fern gullies follow the creek lines.

Sugar Glider – one of the very special animals protected in this magnificent park.



All abilities access

The sealed pathways to the Memorial Cross and the Major Mitchell lookout are suitable for the mobility impaired however there are steps at the base of the Cross. Other unsealed walking tracks along the ridge offer limited dry weather access.

All access toilets are located at Harbison and Days picnic grounds.

We encourage you to contact park staff to discuss your needs to ensure your visit is a pleasant one.

Where to stay

As a catchment area, camping is not permitted in the park. Accommodation is available at Macedon, Gisborne, Woodend and the Mount Macedon township. There are also camping facilities at the nearby Lerderderg State Park and the Wombat State Forest.

Get involved – become a Friend!

There is growing international recognition of the vital contribution parks and reserves make to a healthy environment, to the health of individuals and to a healthy society.

With the invaluable help of the Friends of the Macedon Ranges we are able to maintain the health and integrity of this very special park.

You can join the Friends in caring for this special place by calling Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or visiting **www.parkweb.vic.gov.au** today.

How to get there

Mount Macedon can be accessed via the Calder Freeway. Take the Mount Macedon Road exits north of Gisborne or Woodend exit and follow the signs to Macedon Regional Park (Melway ref: 609 G10).

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