

Bushy Park Wetlands



Visitor Guide

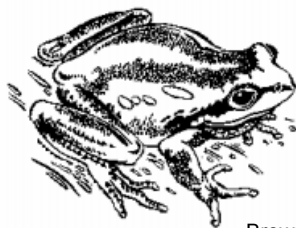
Nestled at the north eastern edge of Glen Waverley is Bushy Park Wetlands, a 30 hectare conservation park in the Dandenong Valley. This is a great park for walking, cycling or bird watching. Over 90 species of wetland, bushland and farmland birds are found in the area.

Access and trails

Visitors can park at Highbury Road (Melway Map 62 J10), or near Drummies Bridge Reserve off High Street Road (Melway Map 71 J1).

From Jells Park, pedestrians and cyclists can travel north to the Bushy Park Wetlands along the Dandenong Creek Trail. Along the way you pass Shepherds Bush, Napier Park, Drummies Bridge Reserve and the pony club.

From Koomba Park, visitors can walk or cycle across the footbridge over the Dandenong creek, then head south over Burwood Highway and take the marked trail to the wetlands.



Brown Tree Frog ©MT

History of Bushy Park Wetlands

Originally this land was timbered, with Yarra Gum (*Eucalyptus yarraensis*) and about 65 other species of native trees, shrubs and grasses. For thousands of years before European settlement, the Woiworung Aboriginal tribe roamed through the area.

The first European settler on the eastern side of the Dandenong Creek was the Reverend James Clow. His pastoral lease covered some 9,324 hectares. In the early 1840s Mrs Madeline Scott sold her homestead, "Bushy Park", which was located in the current Jells Park. Madeline moved across the creek to James Clow's pastoral lease and built a new homestead between Burwood Highway and High St Rd. She named this home "Bushy Park" as well.

Through various subdivisions and owners the name persisted. When the land was acquired for the Dandenong Valley Parklands, the name

Bushy Park was applied to both the east and west of the creek. The low-lying floodplains on the west side were called Bushy Park Wetlands.

Bird watching

An amazing 90 bird species have been recorded in the area, ranging from water birds to bushland and farmland birds. On the northern and southern lakes you are likely to see pelicans and ducks. Spoonbills and herons may also be observed searching for food in shallow water. In the grassland areas, insects attract Willy Wagtails, Magpies, Cattle Egrets and White Ibis. Overhead you may spot a Black-shouldered Kite or Brown Falcon. Use the bird hide, just a short walk from the main trail, to learn more about the different species in the park.

Community involvement

Since 1989 the Friends of Dandenong Valley Parklands have worked closely with the Park Rangers to restore and improve this and other nearby parks. The group works on various activities such as planting, weeding and constructing walking tracks and bird hides. To join or for further information on the park visit www.vicnet.net.au/~fbpw/ or ring Bryan Loft on 9561 2381.

Farm animals for maintenance

During the year cattle are grazed in the northern part of the park, maintaining the rural heritage of the area and keeping the grass short to reduce the risk of fire.

Dogs on leads

Dogs are only allowed on the multi-purpose trail and must be on a leash at all times. They are strictly prohibited from entering the wetland sanctuary or path to the bird hide. Also don't forget to clean up after your dog.

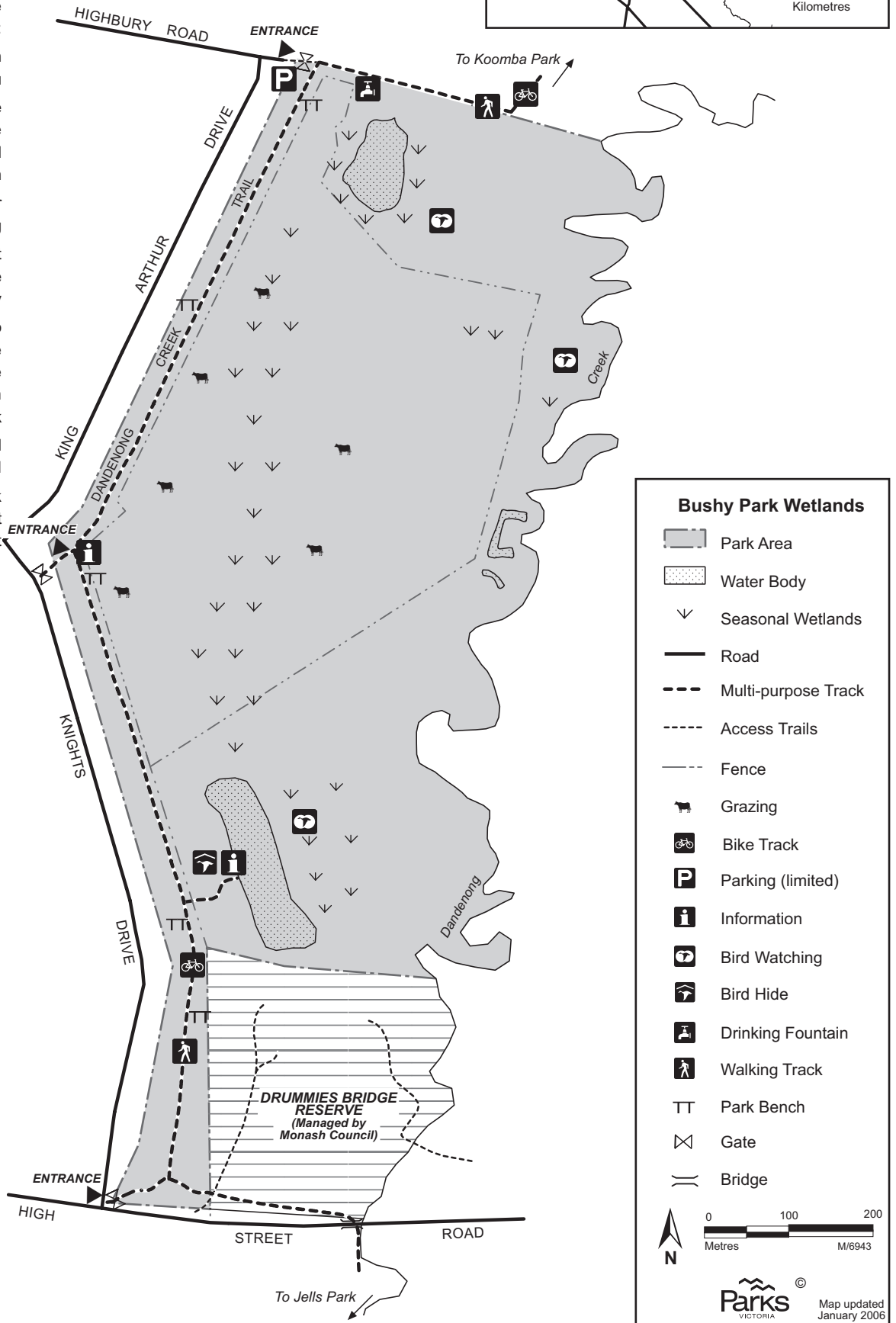
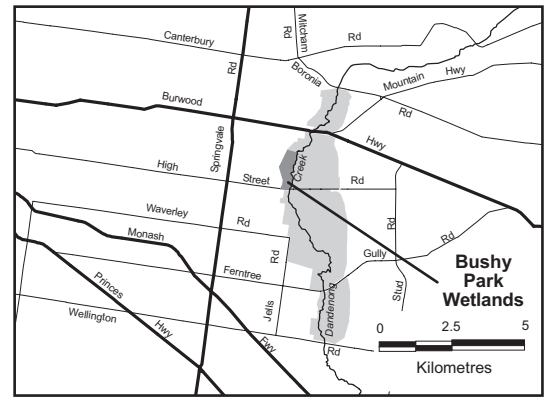
For further information

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

Caring for the environment

Help us look after this park by remembering these guidelines:

- Please take all rubbish home with you
- Dogs are restricted to the multi-purpose trail, where they must be restrained by a leash
- Please clean up after your dog
- Dogs and cats are not permitted in the wetland sanctuary
- Horses are restricted to Drummies Bridge Reserve and the agistment area on the east of Dandenong Creek in Bushy Park
- All native plants and wildlife are protected
- Please don't throw this park note away. Keep it, return it for others to use, or recycle it



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