

Paratea Reserve

With a rich and diverse flora, Paratea Reserve is a haven for many birds. The aboriginal word Paratea, meaning 'pretty flowers', describes the reserve perfectly, particularly in spring.

It is renowned for being one of the best intact remnant indigenous grasslands in the Frankston area.

History

Two sections of pristine bushland, once known as Clipperton's Reserve, were purchased from the Clipperton family in 1929 and 1932.

During the 1960s, Paratea Pre-School was built in the southern section of the reserve. The archery club — Bowmen of Frankston — used another section for over 20 years, until their relocation to Baxter Park in 1986.

In 1981, it became a reserve to protect the flora and fauna, and it was named Paratea in 1986.

Things to see

Indigenous plants

Over 130 indigenous plant species have been recorded in the reserve, including many eucalypts such as Narrow-leaf



Peppermint and the rare White Sallee. White Sallee is the lowland form of Snow Gum and is particularly precious because of its link to the Grey-crowned Babbler, a bird



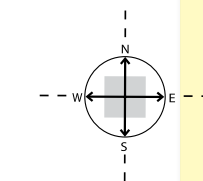
currently facing extinction on the peninsula due to loss of habitat.

The prickly shrubs which form the middlestorey, such as Hedge Wattle, Prickly Moses and Sweet Bursaria, provide the little bush birds with a safe refuge from predators.

During spring the understorey contains many colourful lily and pea flowers, trigger plants and wildflowers such as Pink-bells. A carpet of Kangaroo Grass is sprinkled with wallaby grasses and sedges.

Native animals

Many birds can be seen at Paratea Reserve; nesting, resting or feeding. The year round residents include the Eastern Yellow Robin and the Grey Fantail, and various thornbills and honeyeaters.



It is home to a number of native mammals, such as the Brushtail Possum which nests in the tree hollows and the Short-beaked Echidna which prefers the grassy areas to dig for insects. Sugar Gliders make their homes in hollows high in the trees and snakes and lizards also live in the reserve.

Things to do

There is an interesting walking track around the larger northern section of the reserve, passing close to a stand of White Sallee. The southern section has a track running straight through it, from Paratea Avenue to Rosedale Grove.

Birdwatching, photography and nature study are popular activities.

FACT BOX

Location: Frankston South

Melway Ref: 106 E3

Area: 7.6 ha

Special features: Wildflowers, White Sallee, remnant indigenous grassland

Best flowering time: Late winter to early spring

Birds: 80+ species

Walking tracks: 2 km

Walking time: ½ hour

Pets: Not permitted

Managed by: Frankston City Council

Information: ☎ 1300 322 322

It is vital to protect the indigenous grassland at Paratea Reserve to ensure the diversity of flowers and birds and maintain the high natural value of the area.

