

# Yarra Ranges National Park



## O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail

Nestled above the floor of the Upper Yarra Valley, the O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail follows the historic open channelled O'Shannassy Aqueduct, meandering through pristine forest that has been protected for nearly 100 years for water harvesting. The trail stretches 30 kilometres through mature fern gullies, creeks and plantations and offers spectacular views of the valley below.



Have fun, feel great and spend time with family and friends while exploring the aqueduct trail by bike

The aqueduct trail offers an excellent opportunity to relax in a peaceful environment while enjoying a walk, riding your bike or studying nature. There are fantastic picnic, sightseeing and photo opportunities available. Bring your binoculars and camera and take advantage of the fantastic bird watching opportunities.

### Planning your walk

The O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail extends from Parrot Road near Woori Yallock to the O'Shannassy Weir in East Warburton.

The trail provides for short, medium and long distance walks and rides with several access points available. The three metre wide hard surface is shared by walkers and bike riders.

For a longer hike, the trail can be linked to the popular Warburton Rail Trail at several locations.

Most of the trail is gentle and is ideal for the whole family and people of limited experience or mobility. There are some steep sections, including access from the valley floor, that are more challenging and moderate fitness is required. Individuals should take care and adhere to advisory signage.

Organising car shuffles can be a useful way to maximise your walking experience.

### Be Safe, Be Prepared

Before you put on your walking boots to explore this outstanding trail, plan ahead. Know your entry and exit points.

- Be self-sufficient with drinking water
- Carry enough food for your walk
- On longer walks carry warm and wet weather clothing, just in case
- A hat and sunscreen are essential
- Always wear sturdy footwear
- Plan your walk and ensure you return from walking well before dusk
- Depending on your carrier, mobile phone coverage may be limited in some areas along the trail
- Be alert! Snakes, leeches and wasps are all a part of the bush environment
- Supervise children at all times
- Avoid walking on days of high fire danger

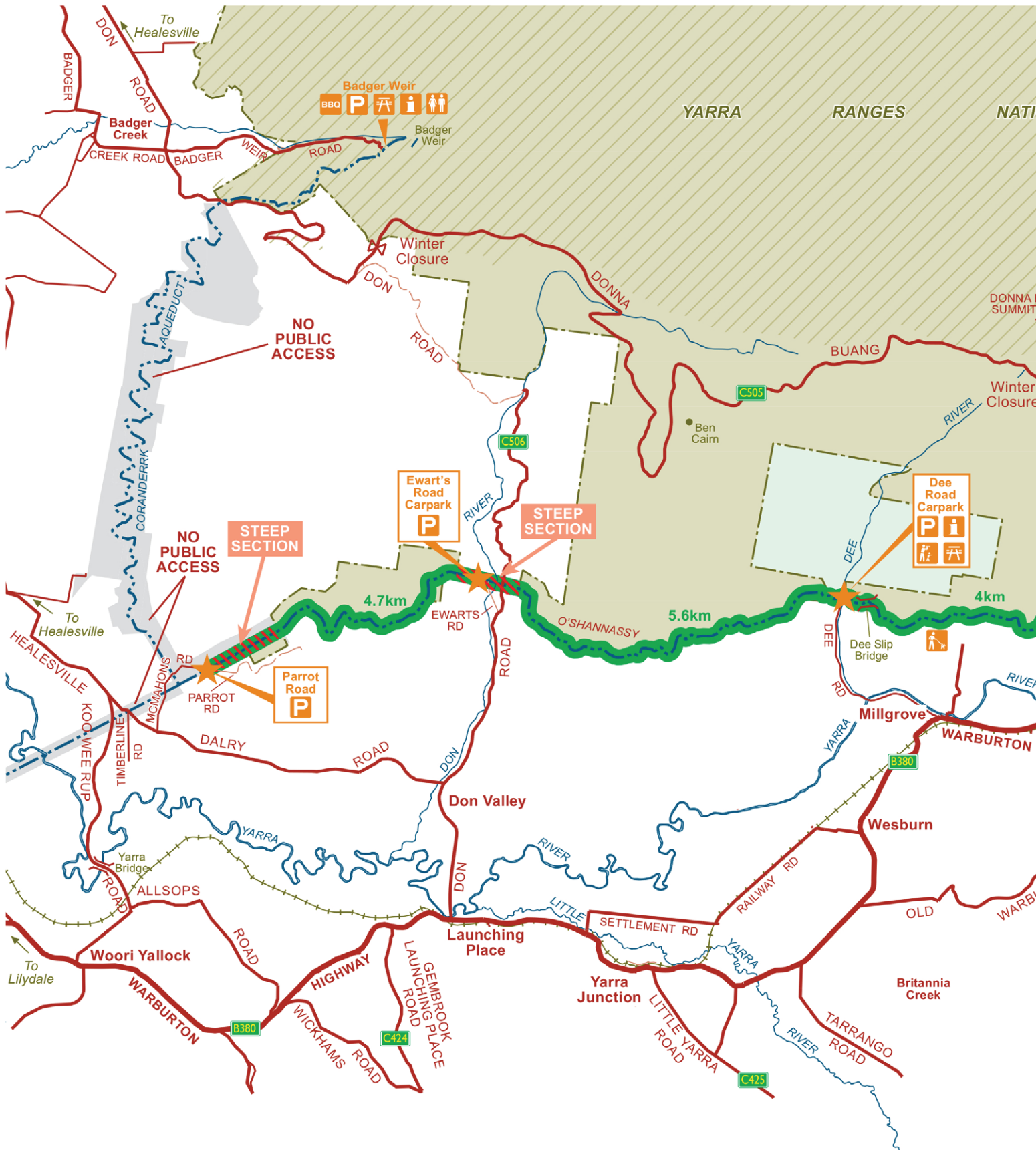
### Be fire ready and stay safe

**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 by calling **13 1963** or visit **[www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.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** or visit **[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)**.







## For further information

Call Parks Victoria on **13 1963**  
or visit [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

Yarra Valley  
Visitor Information Centre  
The Old Courthouse  
Harker Street  
Healesville 3777  
Tel: (03) 5962 2600

## Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park  
by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish with you for  
recycling and disposal

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

Keep to tracks for your own safety  
and to protect soils and vegetation

The aqueduct has wheelchair  
standard access to most areas

Fires are not permitted along the  
O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail.  
O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail is in  
the **Central, North Central and  
North East Total Fire Ban  
Districts.**

## Healthy Parks Healthy People

Visiting a park can improve  
your health, mind, body and  
soul. So, with over four million  
hectares of parkland available  
to Victorians, why not escape  
to a park today!



## A rich heritage

The forests surrounding the weir have been managed  
for water harvesting for nearly 100 years, providing an  
invaluable water source and contributing to the supply  
of approximately 50% of Melbourne's water.

In its prime, the gravity fed O'Shannassy Aqueduct  
delivered 90 million litres a day to the Surrey Hills  
Reservoir. The development of the Yarra-Silvan  
conduits in the early 1950s reduced the requirement  
for the aqueduct.

Following its completion in 1914, the aqueduct  
experienced several failures, two of which occurred  
between Dee Road, Millgrove and Yuonga Road,  
Warburton. The construction of an open steel flume  
section of channel and the picturesque Dee Slip Bridge  
remain today and serve as a strong reminder of the  
challenges the aqueduct faced.

In 1997, the channel and surrounding area was  
decommissioned by Melbourne Water and bestowed  
to Parks Victoria in 2005 for inclusion into the Yarra  
Ranges National Park.

## Plants and animals

The natural forest of Mountain Ash, Tree ferns and  
cool temperate rainforest surrounding the aqueduct  
provides a haven for many native animals. A keen eye  
and ear will discover Kookaburras, Eastern Rosellas,  
Lyrebirds, Superb Fairy-wrens, magnificent Yellow-  
tailed Black Cockatoos, Wallabies and Echidnas.

Prior to 2009, 80 per cent of the O'Shannassy  
catchment was 'old growth' with many Mountain Ash  
trees over 100 years old. Around 93 per cent of this  
area was burnt during the devastating Black Saturday  
fires of February 2009. Although the forest has been  
transformed into young stands, it continues to deliver  
valuable water to our reservoir system.



Superb Fairy-wrens are frequently seen foraging along the  
edge of the trail

## Further afield

While you are here, take some time to explore the  
scenic wonders and culture of the Yarra Valley.

The township of **Warburton** is one of Melbourne's  
most recognised rural destinations and should not be  
missed. Call in for supplies and explore the many  
cafés, restaurants, shops and landmarks.

Enjoy the **Rainforest Walk** on the southern slopes of  
Mount Donna Buang with its spectacular observation  
platform.

For the more adventurous, take the **Mt Victoria** trail  
link to the summit of Mount Donna Buang with  
exceptional views of the national park, Alps and the  
city of Melbourne from the observation tower.

**Upper Yarra Reservoir Park** is located at the  
uppermost point of the Yarra River accessible to the  
public. Picnic facilities and camping grounds amid  
eucalypt bushland and spectacular scenery make a  
visit here a memorable experience.

**Discover Victoria's gold mining heritage** - Located  
between East Warburton and Upper Yarra Reservoir  
Park, the Little Peninsula and Big Peninsula Tunnels  
highlight the area's rich goldmining heritage.

## Accommodation

Pre-book your accommodation. The popular camping  
ground at Upper Yarra Reservoir Park can be used as a  
base for extended visits to the Yarra Ranges National  
Park and the wider region. A wide range of  
accommodation is available in nearby towns along the  
Warburton Highway.

Camping is not permitted along the aqueduct.

## How to get there

The start of the O'Shannassy Aqueduct Trail is around  
70 kilometres from Melbourne. Follow the Maroondah  
Highway through Lilydale and turn onto the  
Warburton Highway. From Lilydale travel 25 minutes  
to Woori Yallock, turn left towards Healesville on the  
Kooweerup-Healesville Road for 5 minutes, turn right  
into Dalry Road then left onto McMahons Road to  
Parrot Road.

If you are on foot or bicycle you can take the Lilydale  
Warburton Rail Trail from Lilydale to Woori Yallock.  
Alternatively car parking is available at Ewerts Road via  
Don Road at Launching Place, Dee Road at Millgrove or  
Yuonga Road via the Doona Buang Road from  
Warburton.

June 2013

Printed on Australian-made 100% recycled paper