



Mount Worth State Park

Visitor Guide

Situated on the western rim of the Strzelecki Ranges, Mount Worth State Park encompasses 1040 hectares of Mountain Ash forest and regenerating native bush. Whether picnicking on the banks of Moonlight Creek or taking a stroll along one of the many walking tracks Mount Worth is a relaxing destination for day visitors.

Location and access

Mount Worth State Park is situated approximately 125 kilometres south east of Melbourne. The park is reached from the Princes Highway at Warragul by following the Warragul – Korumburra Road, Grand Ridge Road and McDonalds Track. Alternatively the park can be reached from Darrum via the Darrum – Allambee Road and the Allambee Estate Road. Roads throughout the area are narrow and winding with gravel surfaces but offer marvellous scenery with panoramic views across the Latrobe Valley to the Great Dividing Range.

Remnants of history

Between 1860 and 1862, Surveyor George McDonald and his small team surveyed and cut a track through the thick forests of the Strzelecki Ranges from Lang Lang to Moe. Intended as a stock route, the track was rarely used due to the lack of permanent water on the ridges. Mount Worth is the highest point on the track.

During the 1870s selectors pegged out blocks on McDonalds Track, toiled to clear a paddock and build a hut out of bush timbers. The early settlers had to contend with short milking seasons, cold winters, noxious weeds, thick scrub and extreme transport difficulties. During the 1920s, twelve timber mills operated on the slopes around Mount Worth to strip it of its valuable timber. Relics of the timber industry remain in the park including saw dust heaps, an old mill boiler and the formation of tramways used to haul timber to and from the mills.

The Warragul Field Naturalist Club and the Shire of Warragul were instrumental in having the park created to protect an example of the wet forests originally widespread in the Western Strzelecki Ranges. The park now encompasses 1040 hectares of reserved forest and former dairy, potato and pig farms.

A haven for plants and animals

Mount Worth State Park protects a remnant of the forests that once covered the western Strzelecki Ranges. Tall wet forests of Mountain Ash, Mountain Grey Gum and Blackwood grow on the hills and slopes. Soft Tree-ferns and Rough Tree-ferns flourish within the sheltered gullies. The cool moist conditions support a number of rare plants including Nettle Brake, Slender Tree-fern and Skirted Tree-fern.

The park also features Silver Wattle and Blackwood as well as Daisy Bush, Dogwood and Tree Everlasting. A major program of planting Mountain Ash, Mountain Grey Gum and Manna Gum is in progress to restore pastures to forest.

So far nearly 135,000 seedlings have been planted and other areas directly seeded.

Birdlife is abundant within the park. Lyrebirds scratch about amongst the leaf litter, while forest canopy provides food and nesting areas for the Crimson Rosella, King Parrot, Olive Whistler, Grey Butcherbird, Tawny Frogmouth and the rare Sooty Owl. The park is also home to such animals as the Common Wombat, Swamp Wallaby, Brush-tailed Possum, Feathertail Glider, Brown Antechinus and Platypus.



Common Wombat

Walking

A network of walking tracks radiate from the Moonlight Creek picnic area. Raincoats and boots are a wise precaution as you are in a wet mountain forest with an average rainfall of about 2000mm.

1. *Giant's Circuit* – 1.8 kilometres, 1 hour return.

Commencing at the Moonlight Creek picnic area this trail follows the route of a timber tramway through Mountain Ash Forest and fern filled gullies. Interpretative signs provide an excellent introduction to the plants and wildlife of the park. This lovely walk includes the impressive Standing Giant, a huge Mountain Ash with a girth of 7 metres and probably 300 years old.

2. *Moonlight Circuit* – 8.5 kilometres, 3 hour return.

Commencing at the Moonlight Creek picnic area, this walk combines Moonlight Creek Track and Moonlight Divide Track to form a walking circuit. It is a strenuous walk suitable for more experienced walkers. The Moonlight Divide Track climbs steeply to the ridge and leads through regenerating Mountain Ash forest with a dense understorey of Dogwood, Daisy Bush and Blackwood. Openings in the forest canopy provide views to Mount Worth and across the park to neighbouring farmland. Moonlight Creek Track follows a trickling mountain stream through lush fern gullies, to the sites of old timber mills. Seymours mill is marked by a huge sawdust pile situated high above the creek.



Parks Victoria Ranger

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Caring for the environment

Please help us care for our parks and reserves by remembering these guidelines:

All native plants and animals in the park are protected.

Please keep to designated walking tracks to avoid becoming lost.

Bins are not provided within the park. Please take your rubbish home.

Camping is not permitted in the park.

Cats and dogs are not permitted within the park.

Fires may only be lit in the fireplaces provided. No fires to be lit on days of total fire ban (Eastern District).

Walking (cont'd)

3. *Gardiners Mill Track* – 1.5 kilometres one way, 1 hour return.

This walk is an extension of The Giant Circuit and takes you through regenerating Mountain Ash forest and along the tree fern lined Clark Creek.

4. *Maslins Mill* - 800 metres one way, 40 minutes return.

Commencing at the far end of the Moonlight Creek picnic area this track meanders through forest of Mountain Ash and Blackwood to Maslins's Mill site. Suitable for people with limited mobility.

Picnicking & accommodation

The grassy flats and tree ferns at Moonlight Creek provide a delightful setting for a picnic. Tables, fireplaces and toilets are provided. Camping is not permitted within the park, however campsites can be found south on the park on the banks of the Tarwin River. These are accessible from the Allambee Estate Road. Hotels, motels and caravan parks are available within Warragul, Korumburra and Moe.

Farm stay accommodation is available in Yarragon and Allambee.

