



Wright Forest



Visitor Guide

Located above the Wattle Creek valley between Avonsleigh and Cockatoo, Wright Forest is the perfect place for exploring natural bushland. A variety of walking tracks meander through its serene setting and offer fantastic vantage points to wave to Puffing Billy. This 161 hectare reserve consists of remnant native eucalypt forest and features significant wildlife and vegetation.

Picnic Facilities

Wright Forest has a secluded picnic ground on Bailey Road amongst peppermint and stringybark eucalyptus trees - an excellent setting for a picnic lunch or wood fired barbeque.

Portable barbeques are not permitted at this site as there is no running water available to extinguish coals. Please only use fireplaces provided.

Walking Tracks

There are several walking tracks throughout the forest from the short nature walk to extended half day walks. A network of walking tracks also link Wright Forest to Emerald Lake Park and the town centre of Cockatoo.

The Puffing Billy Railway line was restored in October 1998 from Emerald Lake Park to Gembrook. When visiting Wright Forest be sure to listen for the trains or watch them pass.

Birdlife

Numerous native bird species inhabit Wright Forest including parrots, rosellas, kookaburras, wrens, honeyeaters and pardalotes. Uncommon birds such as Gang Gang Cockatoos and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos can also be seen.

Many of the native birds that live in Wright Forest are extremely vulnerable to the hunting skills of introduced animals such as foxes, dogs and cats. You can assist in protecting our wildlife by having pets de-sexed and keeping them indoors at night.

Widespread clearing of remnant native bushland and competition from introduced species has led to the decline and local extinction of some native bird species such as Wonga Pigeons, Superb Lyrebirds, Helmeted Honeyeaters and Satin Bowerbirds.

Mammals

Possums and gliders can be observed at dusk emerging from the tree hollows where they nest during daylight hours. Wallabies and echidnas can sometimes be seen if the observer remains unnoticed by these extremely shy creatures.

Bats can be spotted at night flying low over pathways and tracks utilising their echolocation skills to navigate and locate insects.



Flora

Over 75 species of native plants exist in Wright Forest. The cool moist conditions within the sheltered creek gullies support a diverse range of flora, including a stunning collection of ground storey fern species, shaded overhead by numerous tree ferns.

The upper storey consists of magnificent Mountain Grey Gums and wattle species. A wide variety of flowering shrubs survive in the creek gullies such as Hazel Pomaderris, Snowy Daisy-bush, Christmas Bush, Kangaroo Apple and Tree Lomatia.

Contrasting the fern gullies of Wright Forest are the dry northern slopes and ridges. Shrubby foothill forests of peppermints and stringybark eucalypts overshadow the dense variety of understory shrubs including Spike Wattle, Bushy Hakea, Hairpin Banksia and numerous species of the superb orchid family.

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Wright Forest

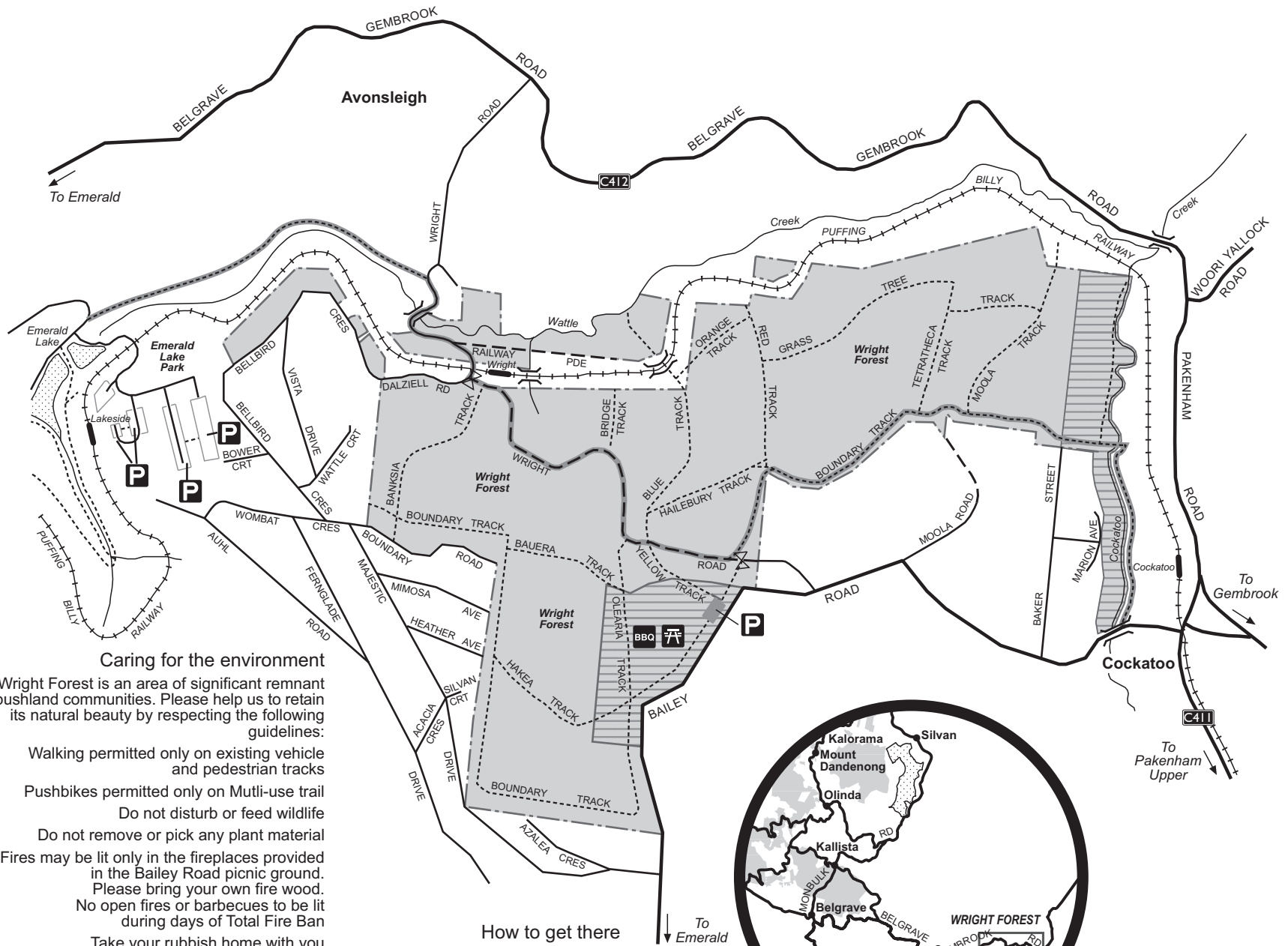
- Major road
- Minor road
- Walking track
- Multi-use Trail (Bicycles and walkers only)
- Forest area
- Area managed by Shire of Cardinia
- Gate

Recreational Facilities

- Barbecue - Wood
- Carpark
- Picnic table

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METRES
Cartography by Spatial Vision 2008 M/6648

Parks
VICTORIA

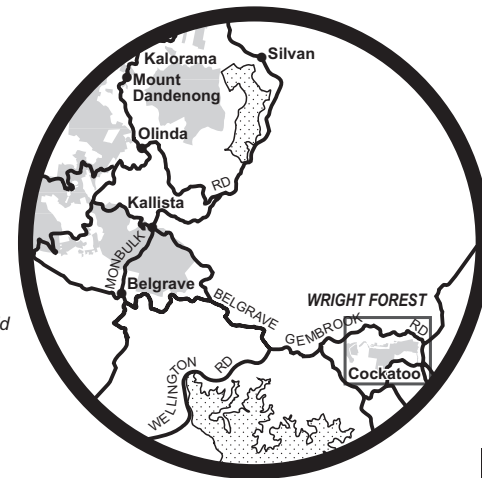


Caring for the environment
Wright Forest is an area of significant remnant bushland communities. Please help us to retain its natural beauty by respecting the following guidelines:

- Walking permitted only on existing vehicle and pedestrian tracks
- Pushbikes permitted only on Multi-use trail
- Do not disturb or feed wildlife
- Do not remove or pick any plant material
- Fires may be lit only in the fireplaces provided in the Bailey Road picnic ground. Please bring your own fire wood.
- No open fires or barbecues to be lit during days of Total Fire Ban
- Take your rubbish home with you
- Dogs are permitted only along vehicle tracks and must be restrained on a leash at all times
- Camping is not permitted
- Horsingriding and motorbikes are not permitted
- Vehicle access into Wright Forest is not permitted

Friends Group
The management and preservation of Wright Forest is actively assisted by a voluntary community group, called "Friends of Wright Forest and Wattle Creek". Regular working bees are held to maintain the natural values of the forest

How to get there
Wright Forest is situated 45 km east of Melbourne near the township of Cockatoo. Approach from Emerald along the Belgrave-Gembrook Road turning right into Wright Road. Alternatively, Wright Forest can be approached from Cockatoo on Bailey Road.



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