

Experience Bendigo Outdoors

Parks & Forests Map



BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity is defined as the variety of plants, animals and micro organisms living in a variety of habitats that form an ecosystem.

BENDIGO'S BOX-IRONBARK HERITAGE

Bendigo is surrounded by Box-Ironbark forests and bushland parks that are dominated by eucalypts and wattles. The low stony hills and poor clay soils support a wonderful variety of wildflowers and animals.

What is a Box-Ironbark tree? There is no such thing! The Box Ironbark name is derived from the association of box eucalypts and ironbark eucalypts that grow together in this environment.

Overstorey: Red Ironbarks with deeply furrowed trunks along with patches of Red Stringybark stand tall on ridge tops where not much else can survive. Further down the gentle sloping hills, where soil improves, are Yellow Gum (*ban-napp*), Grey Box (*boolderj*) and Red Box (*tee-ring*) Eucalypts. Occasional patches of low spindly Blue, Green and Bull Mallee also occur in the region. Mallee bush predominates to the north of Bendigo surviving in the harshest of soils.

Understorey: The forest understorey contains a wealth of showy flowering shrubs dominated by wattles (*wy-kalk*), which set the bush ablaze in winter and spring with a rich golden colour. The Whirrakee wattle is largely restricted to the Bendigo region and is completely covered in blooms when flowering.

Wildflowers: There are an extensive and fantastic variety of wildflowers in the district. These range from the delicate orchids such as the Waxlip, Tall Greenhood and Duck Orchid (*orchid-bom*) to hardy resilient plants such as the Gorse Bitter-Pea or Egg and Bacon bush.

Environmental values: The hollows (*knar-noran*) in box or ironbark trees and their fallen limbs provide homes for many tree dwellers, such as possums, tuans, birds and reptiles. The variety of bedrocks and soils create alternative conditions for diverse species. The Box-Ironbark forests are home to over 350 native plants and animals that rely on this environment for their habitat.

Treading Lightly

The vegetation throughout Bendigo is quite diverse. It may be hard and prickly, or soft and bright, but many of the plants are quite fragile and small.

Throughout the text in this brochure traditional names and places of the Dja Dja Wurrung language are noted in brackets next to the common name.



- Provide for recreation and tourism
- Provide sources of timber and non-timber products

EUCALYPTUS OIL

The smell of crushed gum leaves is a uniquely Australian aroma and eucalyptus oil a distinctly Australian product. Although there are over 600 different species of Eucalyptus trees in Australia, not all are suitable for the production of commercial eucalyptus oil. Blue Mallee has high levels of the compound ' cineole ' that makes the oil appropriate for medicinal use. The Blue Mallee gums are abundant in the Whipstick, Kamarooka and Wellsford forests north of the City. Mallees are small trees and can be recognised by their smooth ribbony bark, spreading open to an umbrella like crown and several trunks originating from an underground woody stock. The cutting of bush mallee is permitted in State Forests but not in National Parks. What largely remains of the flourishing 'eucy' trade today are the rusting foundations of distilleries. An example of this is the *Gunyah* (meaning shelter) picnic ground (C4) on the site of an old Forest. Commission's eucy plant in the Wellsford State Forest.

HONEY PRODUCTION

The Box-Ironbark forest is very important in the production of honey (*Chee-noyne*). Bee pollination occurs throughout all public land around Bendigo and provides Australia with substantial amounts of honey produce.

BURKE AND WILLS



The Burke and Wills party left Royal Park, Melbourne on the 20th August 1860. The expedition travelled towards N.S.W on their journey to the Gulf of Carpentaria. Along the expedition, Burke and Wills camped at three places in Bendigo's bushlands, which can be found on the map. They stayed at the original *Mia Mia* Hotel (D7), Matherson's Hotel - Knowlesy (E5) and crossed the Campaspe River at Barnamdown by punt (floating barge) (D4). They reached the Gulf of Carpentaria on the 11th of February 1862.

On their return they arrived at the advanced depot in South Australia on the Cooper Creek 21st April 1862 to find that the depot party had left only nine hours earlier. Utterly exhausted they attempted to reach Mt Hopeless 150 miles south but Burke, Wills and Gray died leaving King the only survivor. King lived with the Aborigines until rescued by Alfred Howitt on the 15th of September 1862.

LOCAL WILDLIFE

Bendigo's Parks and Forests have a diversity of wildlife including birds, reptiles, mammals and amphibians. Many of these are nocturnal animals so, unless you are in the forest at night it is unlikely to see them at all!



Echidna (*Yool-a-nil*)

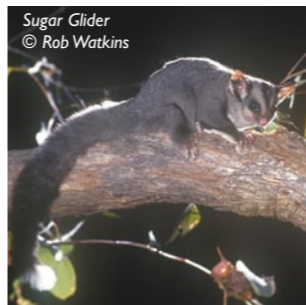
The Echidna can be seen in Bendigo's Parks and Forests, often near old tree trunks. The Echidna feeds on ants, termites and other insects. When threatened it burrows directly downward into the soil with all four legs, leaving only its spikes or quills showing above the surface.

Migrants

Visitors to the forest include the Swift Parrot (*my-erre*), Rainbow Bee-eater (*berring-a*) and the Sacred Kingfisher. The Swift Parrot is an endangered species with less than 1000 pairs remaining. The parrots breed in Tasmania between October and January. They generally migrate to Victoria for Autumn and Winter to feed on the plentiful supply of nectar from the winter flowering box and ironbark trees.

Blue Tongue Lizard (*Wallup*)

The Blue Tongue Lizard can grow to 60cm in length. When threatened it puffs up, sticks its blue tongue out and hisses. It eats insects, worms, snails, flowers, fruits and berries. It spends most of its time sunning itself and eating. They have been known to live up to 20 years of age. They give birth to 6-12 young.



Sugar Glider (*Knoore-Kye*)

These territorial, arboreal (tree dwelling) marsupials have two thin membranes joining the fifth finger to the first toe acting like wings. This allows them to glide from tall trees to distances up to 50 metres. At night they are most active. The Sugar Glider grows to 17-20cm.

Brush-Tailed Possum (*Tuan*)

The Tuan is smaller than a possum and about the same size as a sugar glider, approximately 10-20cms in body length. It has a long black tail like a feather duster (14-20cms) and spends all day in a tree hollow, coming out at night to feed. Insects and small invertebrates in trees or on the ground are its food. Tuans are very secretive but may be seen at night in forested areas where there are hollows.

Owls

Owls hunt at night, eating mice, small reptiles and small mammals. They are clever acrobats, swooping and twisting as they fly through trees, chasing after prey with huge legs and talons outstretched ready to pounce. The Barking Owl, Boo Book Owl (*karook*) and the Powerful Owl are found in the Bush around Bendigo. These owls have yellow eyes that provide excellent night vision for hunting. The Powerful Owl is the largest owl in Australia. It is a territorial bird, which requires approximately 1000 hectares of suitable habitat for its survival.

Eastern Grey Kangaroo (*Goo-ra*)

The Eastern Grey Kangaroo prefers an open forest with grassy clearings. This marsupial is one you will most likely see grazing in paddocks or hopping through the forest in groups.

Swamp Wallabies (*Jhin-Bong-Gooere*)

Wallabies are much smaller than kangaroos and usually hop around solo. You can see them in the local Forests and Parks.

- Exploration and mining (with approval from the Minister for Environment).
- Apiculture/bee keeping on licensed sites.
- Prospecting and gemstone-seeking without disturbing primary uses or historic or cultural sites.

Please respect the rights of other park users. Tread lightly and leave no trace of your visit. This ensures that the park will continue to delight many generations to come.

STATE FOREST

State Forests continue to provide for a range of active uses including timber production, apiculture, exploration and mining and many recreational pursuits. They are managed to optimise public benefit by enabling a range of economic and recreational uses to occur in an environmentally sustainable manner. Activities permissible in State Forests:

- Camping and picnicking.
- Mountain bike riding (on formed roads).
- Horse riding (on formed roads).
- Responsible dog walking.
- Fossicking and prospecting (with a Miner's Right).
- Licensed and registered trail bikes only on established vehicle roads open to public.
- Car touring.
- Hunting (with licensed firearms).
- Orienteering and firearms.

WALKING TRAILS

There are many walks available ranging in length and fitness levels. These vary from short half hour strolls to overnight hikes.

O'Keefe Rail Trail: Is a linear trail linking the township of Axedale with the centre of Bendigo. This is a shared walking and cycling trail with some horse riding. This trail follows the old Heathcote to Bendigo railway line, which was opened in 1888. Two areas of interest that the trail passes are the Bendigo Field Naturalists Flora Reserve and the Axedale cemetery. The cemetery contains remnant native grasses (*Booyrn*) and wildflowers that our urban cemeteries can no longer boast.

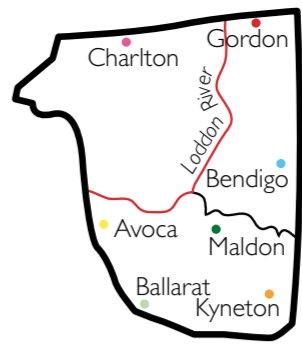
Great Dividing Trail: Offers four fantastic walks for people to experience in the natural beauty, Aboriginal and gold rush heritage of Victoria. The trail links the old gold rush towns together and all can be accessed by train. You can walk from Bendigo to Ballarat, via Castlemaine and Daylesford, along the Great Dividing Trail. The *Leanganook* Track between Castlemaine and Bendigo, is 58kms long. *Leanganook* is the name for Mt Alexander in the Dja Dja Wurrung language. (Maps are available from Visitor Information Centres).

Bendigo Bushland Trail: This trail circles the City of Greater Bendigo in predominantly bush land settings. The trail passes through urban parks and other public land settings. For more information see the urban map and look for 'Rex' the echidna.

Horse Riding: Is permitted in State Forests and along the O'Keefe Rail Trail. Some horse riding is permitted on formed roads and vehicular tracks open to the public in the Greater Bendigo National Park and the Bendigo Regional Park. Please remain on formed tracks.

ABORIGINAL CULTURE

Before European settlement this region was known as Jaara Jaara country. It was inhabited by the Jaara Jaara people who belonged to and formed a part of these lands. The tribe consisted of sixteen clans, each speaking different dialects of the Dja Dja Wurrung language.



Jaara Jaara Boundary/Derril



Wedge-Tailed Eagle © Lechman Transparencies

The Jaara Jaara people believe Burjil is the creator spirit who created all the land, the animals, the plants and the people. Burjil now embodies the Wedge-tailed Eagle.

Totemism also created balance for all animals, simply because a single species could not be eaten by every member of the tribe and each person's hunting regime would vary so as to not over-hunt a single species. Wedge-tailed eagles, crows and several species of bat still inhabit the Parks and Forests around Bendigo.

HUNTING AND GATHERING

Hunting for large game was the man's role in providing for his family. Women (*Larook*) focused on gathering plant foods and smaller animals. The children learnt to track animals [echidnas, lizards and possums (*bun-nar*)] from a young age (2-3) along with where to find, collect and prepare plants that have edible parts [yam daisy (*murnong*), wattle seeds and native cherry]. These and other plant and animal food sources can be found throughout the Bendigo bushland.

OTHER TRADITIONAL USES OF BUSH RESOURCES

- Greybox (*boolderj*) - honey (*chee-noyne*), coolamons (*bark dish*), shields, firewood, shelter.
- Cherry Ballart (*pol-ite*) or Native Cherry (known to Aboriginal kids as - Lolly Tree) - edible berries (at certain time of year).
- Ironbark - firewood.

CYCLING

Bendigo has some fantastic rides through bush land that are suitable for a wide range of cycling ability. An extensive network of roads and trails provides a diverse range of opportunities for road and mountain bike experiences. All cyclists must use formed roads and tracks open to the public in Greater Bendigo National Park, Bendigo Regional Park and State Forests. Specific brochures and information exist for many of the bike trails and networks around Bendigo.

REGIONAL TOURS

Want to try something a bit more challenging? Try one of the loop rides around the region going out as far as Castlemaine. These rides are for the experienced cross country cyclist. They may be a bit longer but some of the scenery on the way is well worth it. Check out the 'Regional Tour' brochure for specific information.

WINERY TOURS

With several well established and award winning wineries in the area, you could try a wine tasting tour. Each tour is reasonably long but there's plenty to quench your thirst with on the way. Again a specific brochure on this gives more information.

LAKE EPPALOCK (D6)

Lake Eppalock is an artificial lake that was constructed by State Rivers and Water Supply Commission (now Goulburn Murray Water) in 1960-62. This lake is Bendigo's major recreational area for water sports, including sailing, boating, skiing, canoeing, swimming, fishing and just relaxing and enjoying the view. Drought conditions may affect your visit to this area so please call the Bendigo Visitor Information Centre before planning your trip. Call (03) 5444 4445.

Canoeing

Enjoy a paddle on the lakes, Coliban River, Campaspe River (D5) or the Barnamdown Rapids. (D4)

Fishing

The fishing is superb here with fish ranging from Golden Perch, Redfin to Murray Cod and Trout. Lake Eppalock is stocked by Fisheries Victoria and the local Angling Club.

OTHER PLACES TO FISH

There are numerous fishing spots along the Campaspe River from the Spillway to Elmore and beyond. These include Russell's Bridge (D5), Barnamdown Bridge (D4), English's Bridge (D4) and Avonmore Bridge (D3).

- Cumbungi (*boo-reetch*) - food, dilly bags, strung.
- Sugar trees (*buk-kup*) - spears, food.
- Quartz (*bay/karap*) - cutting stone, carving stone, ceremonial stones.
- Greenstone - stone axe (*barr-eeek*).
- Wattles (*Wy-kalk*)= flour, sweetener; water catcher (dew drops) and gum (*djoodj/olenut*) to secure instruments.

PRESENT DAY

The Dja Dja Wurrung language group are descendents of the Jaara Jaara people who are traditional owners of this land. There are many Aboriginal people in the Bendigo region from many tribes, some have moved here and others that had been gathered into the Franklinford Mission Station found their way to the Bendigo region. The Aborigines that grew up learning Jaara Jaara culture but were not in the Jaara Jaara bloodline are custodial people. Today, part of the struggle to regain Aboriginal culture is finding and confirming personal identity within the cultural boundaries and genealogy. These past disadvantages have affected the present day lifestyle of the Aboriginal people of Bendigo.



Scar Tree © Martin Downs

KNOWN SITES

There are many physical remnants of Aboriginal culture found throughout Bendigo, however many go unnoticed to the untrained eye. Along the roadsides you may spot some scar trees. Try and guess what the removed bark would have been used for: 30cm or larger would have been used to make coolamons (bark dish) and war shields, anything bigger would have been a canoe tree. You may also notice mounds that were used for cooking that are usually found near natural water sites.

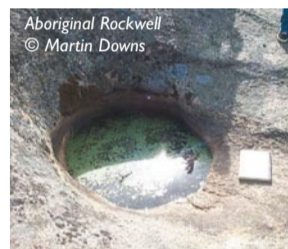
Others sites that indicate Aboriginal occupancy include:

- Axe mines
- Grinding grooves
- Stone arrangements
- Birthing trees
- Marker Trees (grafted trees)
- Rock wells (below)

"The known sites are sacred and very special to the Jaara Jaara people. If you come across a site such as this, please don't touch anything. Take a photo, but please only leave your footprints behind. There have been cases of vandalism so please help build up the trust between us so this wonderful culture can be shared with others".

(Brien Nelson, Jaara Elder and Parks Ranger)

Aboriginal sites are protected by law.



Aboriginal Rockwell © Martin Downs

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND OTHER BROCHURES ON THE BENDIGO OUTDOORS

Go to

- Bendigo Visitor Information Centre, at the Old Bendigo Post Office, 51-67 Pall Mall, Bendigo 3550. Or call (03) 5434 6060 or free call 1800 813 153.

- Heathcote Visitor Information Centre, in High Street in Heathcote (03) 5433 3121.
- Parks Victoria & Department of Sustainability and Environment - Bendigo Office located at: Corner of the Midland Hwy & Taylor St, Epsom or call the Department of Sustainability and Environment on (03) 5430 4444.

Websites

The Great Dividing Trail: www.gdt.org.au
The City of Greater Bendigo: www.bendigo.vic.gov.au
Parks Victoria: www.parkweb.vic.gov.au
Department of Sustainability and Environment: www.dse.vic.gov.au

Further Reading

- Bridley, Anne. (1991) Birds of the Bendigo District. Bendigo Field Naturalists Club (BFNC).
- Calder, M. (2002) Victoria's Box-Ironbark Forests. Victoria National Parks Association, Melbourne.
- City of Greater Bendigo & Bendigo Native Plant Group Inc. Indigenous Plants of Bendigo - A Gardeners Guide to Growing & Protecting Local Plants.
- Cleary, Jane & Leamon, Evelyn (1988) Wildflowers of Bendigo.
- Costermans, Leon. (1996) Native Trees and Shrubs of South Eastern Australia. Lansdowne Publishing.
- Cusack, Frank, Bendigo: A History, William Heinemann, Melbourne, 1973.
- Franklin, D. Lindner, J. and Robinson, J. (1991). Eucalypts of the Bendigo District. (BFNC).
- Menkhorst Peter & Knight Frank. (2001). A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia. Oxford.
- Morrison, Edgar. (1971) The Loddan Aborigines. Tales of Old Jim Crow.
- Orr, Rodney. (1995) The Orchids of Bendigo. BFNC
- Shield, Jennifer, M. (2001) Spiders of Bendigo and Victoria's Box Ironbark Country. BFNC.
- Triggs, Barbara. (2002) Tracks, Scats and other Traces - A field guide to Australian mammals. Oxford University Press.
- Tully, John. (1988) Dja Dja Wurrung language of Central Victoria. Including place names.

Acknowledgements

This project acknowledges the co-operation and support from the National Indigenous Cadetship Program, The City of Greater Bendigo, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Parks Victoria, and La Trobe University Bendigo.

This map guide promotes the recreational use of our surrounding bushland parks and reserves in a responsible and sustainable manner. This map will guide you through and around some of Bendigo's natural and cultural features that are waiting to be discovered. Take time to stop, look, listen, touch and smell the bush as you walk through it, picnic in it, relax and be delighted by it. You can access the area by tracks of varying standards and levels of signage.

Tread lightly and drive carefully. If necessary use extra maps to ensure a safe return.

BIODIVERSITY



One Tree Hill
Greater Bendigo National Park
Rebecca Phillips

WITNESS THE WILDLIFE

In the Greater Bendigo National Park, Bendigo Regional Park land and State Forests.

- Others include
- Crooble Nature Reserve (E5)
- Lyell State Forest (C6)
- Pilchers Bridge Nature Conservation Reserve (C6)
- Shelbourne Nature Conservation Reserve (A5)
- Spring Plains Nature Conservation Reserve (F6)
- The Sugarloaf Nature Conservation Reserve (D5)
- Wilsons Hill Nature Conservation Reserve (A5)



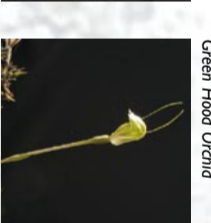
Tuan
Mike Calder

DISCOVER THE WILDFLOWERS

- Axedale Flora Reserve (D5)
- WILDFLOWER DRIVES
- Camp Road (B4)
- Flagstaff Hill (B4)
- Snylark Road (B4)



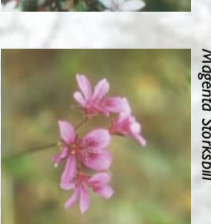
Wax Up Orchid
Jeremy Isdorek



Green Head Orchid
Jeremy Isdorek



Bendigo War Flower
Gail Davener



Magenta Starshell
Gail Davener



Pink Falls
Gail Davener

CULTURAL HERITAGE

- OLD MINING SITES
- Pink Cliffs Historic Reserve (Heathcote) (F6)

HISTORIC SITES

- Burke and Wills Campsites (D7, E5, D4)
- Burke and Wills River Crossing (D4)
- Howitts Campsite (C6)

CAMPASPE RUN MUSEUM ELMORE (E3)

On your way north, step back in time and visit this agricultural and historical museum. It also provides an insight into Aboriginal culture and art.

EUCALYPTUS DISTILLERIES

Relics of old Eucalyptus distilleries can be seen at the Guryah picnic (C4) grounds. Shadbolt's Picnic Area (B4) within the Whipstick section of the Greater Bendigo National Park is also a former Eucalyptus distillery site. Remnants of infrastructure and operational layout can still be traced at this site, now a passive recreational area within the park.

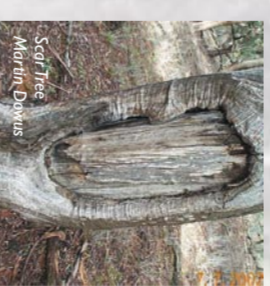
ABORIGINAL CULTURE

Many Aboriginal sites are not exposed to many people to ensure that they can be protected and conserved. Keep your eyes peeled for scarred trees along roadsides, several have been spotted on the path of the Calder Highway near Ravenswood (B6). Whilst driving through Harcourt (B6) there is a large dead tree bearing a scar in the centre of town. All sites bear silent witness to the land that was once solely occupied by the Jarra Jarra people.

DIA DIA WURRUNG PLACE NAMES

Aboriginal culture still resides within the land as well as in the place names around Bendigo. For example:

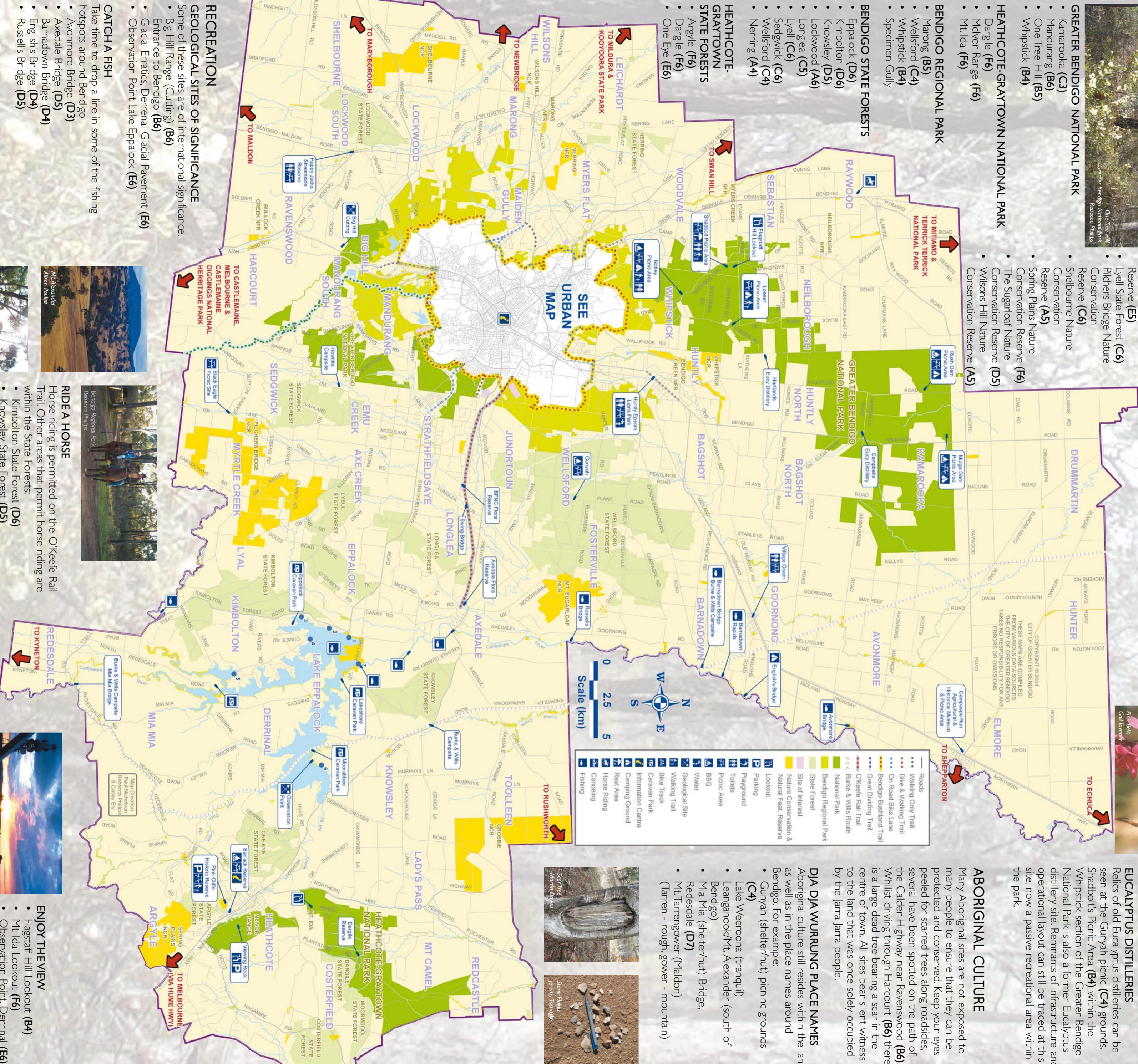
- Guryah (shelter/hut) picnic grounds (C4)
- Lake Weeroona (tranquil)
- Leanganook/Mt. Alexander (south of Bendigo)
- Mia Mia (shelter/hut) Bridge.
- Redesdale (D7)
- Mt. Tarren-gower (Maldon)
- (Tarren - rough gower - mountain)



Scarred tree
Jeremy Isdorek



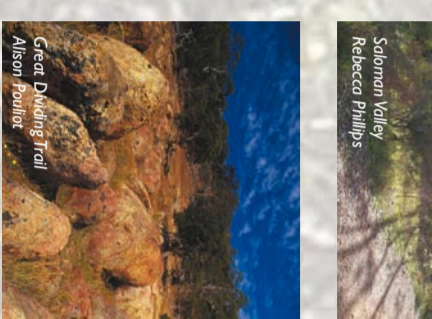
Scarred tree
Jeremy Isdorek



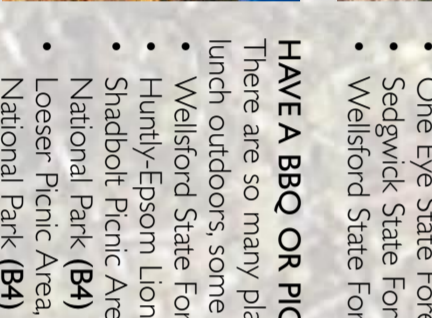
- ### RECREATION
- #### GEOLOGICAL SITES OF SIGNIFICANCE
- Some of these sites are of international significance.
- Big Hill Range (Cutting) (B6)
 - Entrance to Bendigo (B6)
 - Glacial Erratics, Derrinal Glacial Pavement (E6)
 - Observation Point Lake Epallock (E6)
- #### CATCH A FISH
- Take time to drop a line in some of the fishing hotspots around Bendigo
- Avonmore Bridge (D3)
 - Axedale Bridge (D5)
 - Barnadown Bridge (D4)
 - English's Bridge (D4)
 - Russells Bridge (D5)



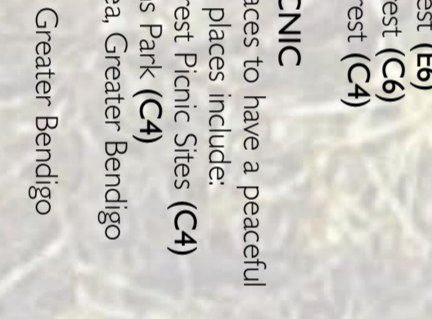
Campaspe River
(Uppermost English's Bridge)
Rebecca Phillips



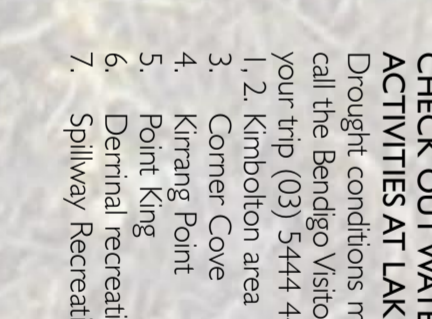
Green Dam
Aileen Fowler



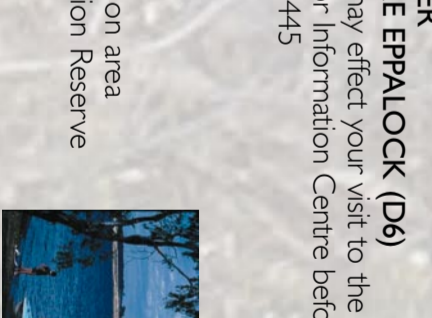
Sedgwick Valley
Rebecca Phillips



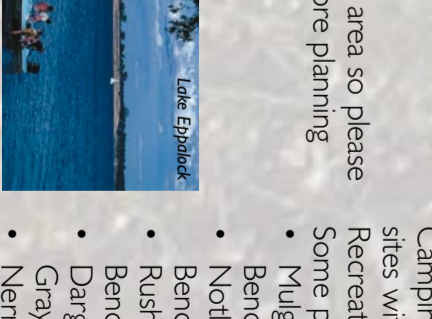
Mt. Alexander
Aileen Fowler



Bendigo Regional Park
Rebecca Phillips



One Tree Hill Lookout
Ryan Miles



Lake Epallock

- #### GO CAMPING
- Camping is permitted at designated sites within the National and Recreational Park and State Forest. Some places to camp include:
- Mulga Dam, Kamarooka, Greater Bendigo National Park (C3)
 - Nately's, Whipstick, Greater Bendigo National Park (B4)
 - Rush Dam, Kamarooka, Greater Bendigo National Park (C3)
 - Derrinal Reserve, Heathcote-Graytown National Park (F6)
 - Nerring State Forest (A4)