

Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track



Meandering and criss-crossing the cool, clear waters of the Sassafras, Woori Yallock and Menzies Creeks is the 17 kilometre Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track. This intimate track passes through fern-filled gullies, eucalypt covered ridges and over numerous bridges and boardwalks. The walk can be undertaken from either direction, starting from the quaint little township of Sassafras, or from Emerald. You can also break up the walk into shorter sections, stopping off at any of the picnic grounds along the way. The walk is graded moderate to easy with some undulating terrain and some steeper sections.

Location & access

Sassafras Township is located 43km east of Melbourne and is reached via Mountain Highway or Mt. Dandenong Tourist Road. The nearest railway stations are Upper Ferntree Gully (8kms) or Belgrave (11kms away). US Bus lines operate regular buses from both of these railway stations.

Emerald Township, located 49 km east of Melbourne, is reached via Beaconsfield-Emerald Road, Emerald-Monbulk Road, Belgrave-Gembrook Road or Wellington Road. The nearest railway station is Belgrave and buses operate between Belgrave and Gembrook. The iconic Puffing Billy Steam Railway operates between Belgrave and Gembrook, stopping at both Emerald township and Emerald Lake.

Walkers can enjoy the opportunity of varying the experience of this walk – under their own steam by walking the forest environment one way and then returning via the Puffing Billy. There are four picnic grounds situated close to the Sassafras end of the walk. These are: Beagleys, Kays, Olympic and Kensleys. Toilets and barbecues are located at Kays Picnic Ground. Toilets are also located at Baynes Park Monbulk.

Nature surrounds you

The forest surrounding this walk consists of damp to wet hard-leaved vegetation, some of which have been disturbed by fires. The canopy is dominated by Mountain Ash, Manna Gum, Mountain Grey Gum and Messmate (eucalypt) trees. Soft and Rough Tree ferns provide protection for the more delicate fern species including Common Maidenhair as well as Rasp Fern and the King Fern.



Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo MT©

Birds around







Whether you are relaxing in the picnic grounds or taking a stroll along the walking track, keep an eye out for many native birds that frequent the area. Laughing Kookaburras, Crimson and Eastern Rosellas, King parrots and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos have all been seen in and the around the area. You may even catch a glimpse of a Superb Lyrebird darting through the dense understorey.

Night life




Nocturnal mammals such as Common Brushtail and Ringtail Possums, Sugar Gliders, Black Wallabies, Wombats and Echidna may be observed at dusk. Goannas are also occasionally sighted climbing a tree or search for food on the ground.



Picnic Grounds of the Dandenong Ranges Tourist Track

-  Major road
-  Minor road
-  Walking track
-  Park area
-  National Park
-  Gate

Recreational Facilities

-  Barbecue - Electric
-  Carpark
-  Family walk
-  Fireplace
-  Picnic table
-  Toilet

0 150 300 METRES

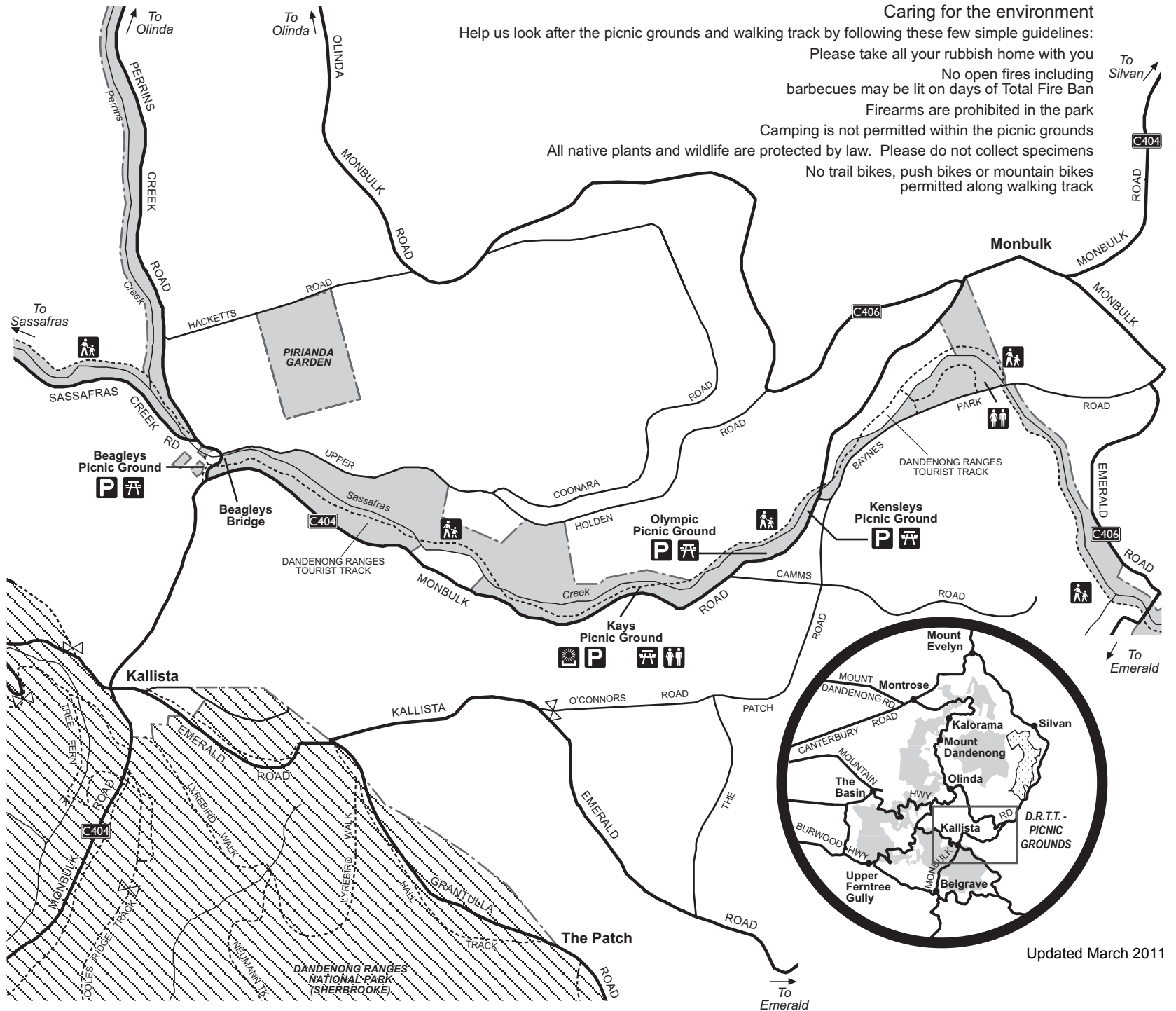
Cartography by Spatial Vision 2004 M/6647



Parks
VICTORIA

Community Involvement

The management and preservation of the creek and adjacent environment along the track is actively assisted by voluntary community groups called Friends of Sassafras Creek and 'Meander'. New volunteers welcome.



Caring for the environment
Help us look after the picnic grounds and walking track by following these few simple guidelines:

Please take all your rubbish home with you

No open fires including barbecues may be lit on days of Total Fire Ban

Firearms are prohibited in the park

Camping is not permitted within the picnic grounds

All native plants and wildlife are protected by law. Please do not collect specimens

No trail bikes, push bikes or mountain bikes permitted along walking track

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