

Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park



Visitor Guide

Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park (21,636ha) is located between Beechworth and the low hills surrounding Chiltern and includes the striking Mt Pilot Range and Woolshed Falls. The park protects a Box-Ironbark forest with a diverse range of natural and historic landscapes.



The Regent Honeyeater is Endangered in Victoria and a regular visitor to the area
Illustration John Las Gorges

Plants and animals

The park consists of predominantly open eucalyptus forests of Red Stringybark, Blakely's Red Gum, Grey Box and Mugga Ironbark. Prolific spring wildflowers include wattles, orchids, lilies, bush peas and many other native species.

Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park contains the highest number of mammal, bird and reptile species recorded at any Box-Ironbark site. Over 200 bird species have been recorded in the park including threatened woodland species such as the Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, Turquoise Parrot and Square Tailed Kite.

Eastern Grey Kangaroos can be seen grazing during late afternoon and Black Swamp Wallabies are often observed darting out from rocky outcrops.

Enjoying the park

Well formed vehicle tracks throughout the park provide access to a variety of short or day-long walks and are suitable for cycling, horse riding and car and four-wheel drive touring.

The park also provides excellent opportunities for wildlife photography and environmental studies.

Prospecting is permitted in designated areas. Prospectors must hold a current Miner's Right. Refer to the Prospecting Guide for more information

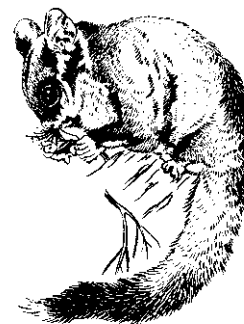
Caution: *There are many old mine shafts in the area, so please stay on the marked tracks.*

Facilities

There are a number of established picnic sites located throughout the park. Reedy Creek is a popular area for campers and prospectors.

Camping and accommodation are available in the nearby historic towns of Chiltern and Beechworth.

Squirrel Glider



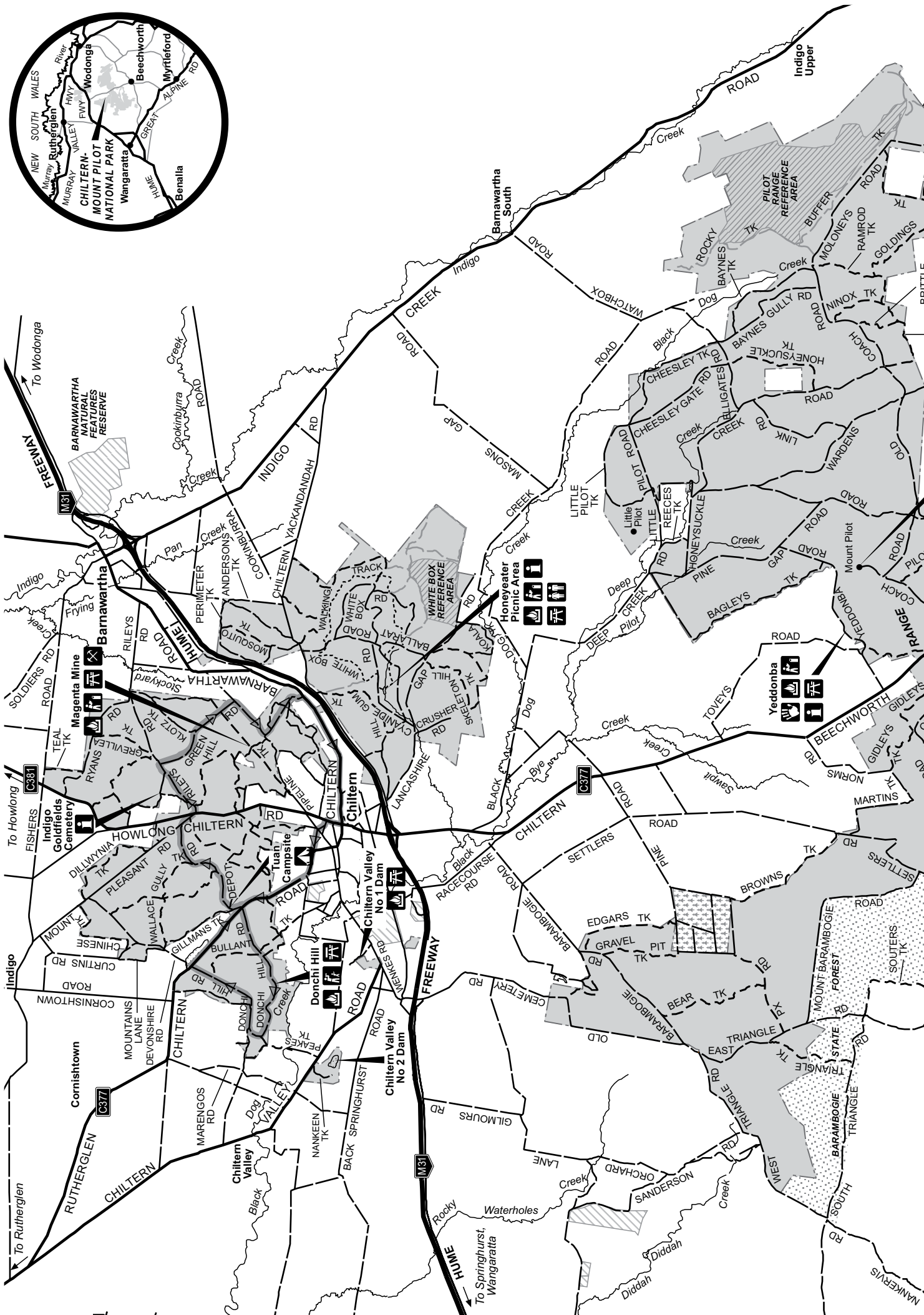
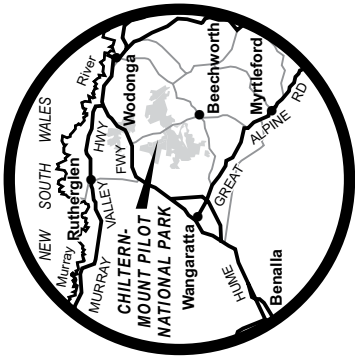
A variety of tree dwelling mammals including the Tuan (Brush-tailed Phascogale), Squirrel Gliders, Sugar Gliders and Feathertail Gliders seek out small hollows for breeding and shelter. The common Brushtail and Ringtail Possums are also found in the park.

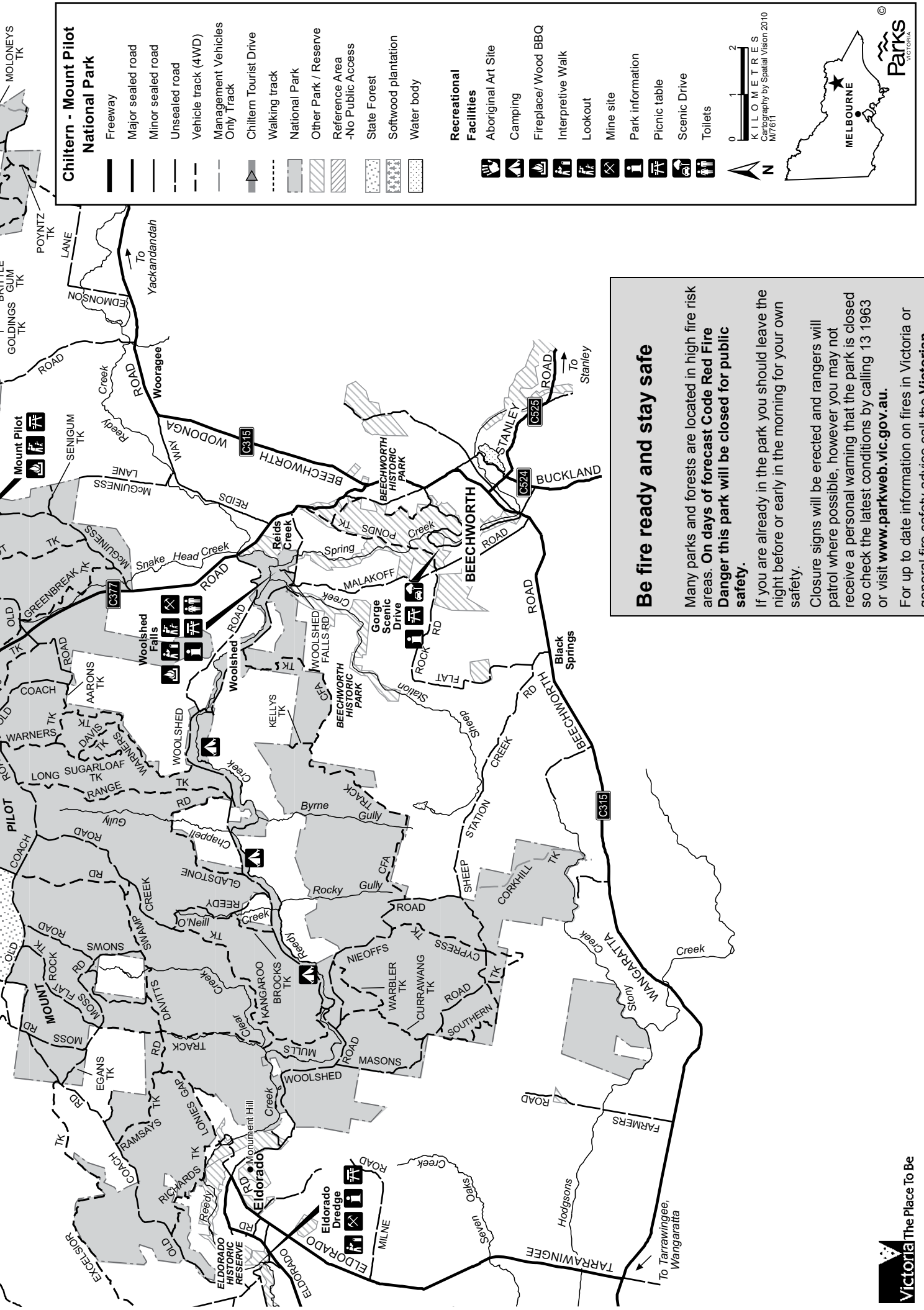
In January 2003 a wildfire burnt approximately 7,000ha of the park. The natural regeneration and recovery of the native vegetation and wildlife will be a significant feature of the park landscape for some years to come.

How to get there

Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park is 275km north east of Melbourne and 34km north of Wangaratta (Melway ref: 522 E6). Follow the Hume Freeway to the Chiltern turn off.







Be fire ready and stay safe

Many parks and forests are located in high fire risk areas. **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 the latest conditions by calling 13 1963 or visit www.parkweb.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**.

For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre
Call 13 1963
or visit the
Parks Victoria website
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Beechworth Information Centre
Ford Street
Beechworth VIC 3747
Freecall: 1300 366321

Chiltern Information Centre
Main Street
Chiltern VIC 3683
Phone: (03) 5726 1611

Wangaratta and Region Visitor
Information Centre
100 - 104 Murphy Street
Wangaratta VIC 3677
Freecall: 1800 801065

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:
Please take rubbish home with you for recycling or disposal

All native plants, animals, historical and archaeological sites and geographic features are protected by law

Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park

Firearms are prohibited

Light fires only in fire places provided. Bring your own firewood for barbecues. Gas barbecues are recommended. No fires, including barbecues, may be lit on a day of **Total Fire Ban**. Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park is in the **North East Total Fire Ban District**

It is your responsibility to know if it is a day of Total Fire Ban. If in doubt call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667**

Park closures - Be prepared to leave early as **extreme weather may cause the closure of some park areas** for public safety

Vehicles, including motor bikes, may only be used on formed open roads. Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy

Aboriginal Culture

The Dhudhuroa tribe was one of the Aboriginal groups who inhabited the Mount Pilot area. Other Aboriginal groups such as the Pangerang, Jaitmathang and Minjambuta would have passed through the area or camped in the valleys surrounding the Mt Pilot Range.

The native plants and game in these areas were plentiful. The groups also used the high country near Mt Buffalo for a short period each year to harvest the Bogong moth.

At Yeddonba you can see Aboriginal rock art. This site is of significant importance to Aboriginal people.

History

Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park was created in October 2002 to conserve and enhance what remains of Victoria's Box-Ironbark forests and woodlands.

The park has a rich gold mining heritage, with gold being discovered at Beechworth in 1852. In a short time the town was the centre of the Ovens District Goldfields. Later in 1858 gold was discovered at the nearby Chiltern and Indigo Goldfields.

Thousands of miners took up claims on the Woolshed and Indigo Goldfields. Woolshed Creek got its name from an old shearing shed that was built near the creek.



Woolshed Falls

The Woolshed Valley was the location of several events linked to the Kelly Gang of Bushrangers. On 26 June 1880 Aaron Sherrit was shot by Joe Byrne at his hut in the Woolshed Valley.

For over 100 years the forests provided timber products and recreation areas for surrounding towns.

Numerous pioneer and gold mining sites can be easily viewed in the park including the Indigo Goldfields Cemetery and Magenta Mine near Chiltern.

Other interesting places to visit

Chiltern Tourist Drive - Start along the Chiltern-Rutherglen Road and finish at Barnawartha Road east of Chiltern. Allow around 1.5 hours for the 25km trip.

Mt Pilot Lookout - Take a short walk from the car park to the 545metre summit of Mt Pilot, where you are rewarded with a 360 degree view of the surrounding countryside. On a clear day Mt Buffalo is easily recognisable on the southern horizon.



View from Mt Pilot looking north to Chiltern

Whitebox Walking Track - Start at Honeyeater Picnic Area. The 8.5km walk will take 2-3 hours and introduce you to some of the natural and historical features of the park.

Yeddonba Aboriginal Cultural Site - Situated at the foot of Mount Pilot, this heritage area provides an insight into local Aboriginal culture.

Woolshed Falls - A ten minute drive north from Beechworth provides the opportunity to view the falls, have a picnic or take a self-guided walk around the alluvial gold workings. The falls are spectacular after heavy rainfalls.

Beechworth Historic Park - There are a number of walking tracks close to Beechworth. The Gorge Scenic Drive provides spectacular views of Spring Creek and Cascades Waterfall.

Warby-Ovens National Park - Extending 25km north of the town of Glenrowan is a steep scarped range known as the Warbys. The Warbys provide excellent views, pleasant picnic spots and an outstanding variety of birdlife and wildflowers.

Murray River Park - The Murray River, with its majestic River Red Gums, sandy beaches and a large variety of wildlife, provides the ideal backdrop for camping and a range of water-based recreation.

Eldorado Historic Reserve - visit the largest, most intact gold dredge in Australia.

December 2010

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