

Bunarong Park

Situated on ancient sand dunes formed during the Ice Age, Bunarong Park is a wonderful place to enjoy great views of Port Phillip Bay, wander along tracks through remnant heathland, and learn about the local environment, geology and Aboriginal history.

Geology

Bunarong Park is located on the Cranbourne Sands, a series of parallel sand dunes which stretch from Frankston to Cranbourne, (see pages 9-10). The sands are easily disturbed and erosion is present in many areas in the reserve.

History

Bunarong Park is named after the Boon Wurrung people who originally lived in the Frankston area. Aboriginal stone implements found in the 1940s suggest that it was used as a campsite. At 90 metres above sea level, it is an excellent vantage point for the tribe to view the surrounding area.

Saved from becoming a site for sand extraction in the 1960s, it was later declared a reserve in 1978. To protect it from the housing developments and preserve it for future generations it was made a park in 1983.



Things to see

Indigenous plants

A rich, yet fragile heathland community has established on the infertile upper slopes of the sand dunes, while eucalypt woodland grows in the more fertile soils on the lower slopes. Over 100 indigenous species are found in the reserve including heathland species, Heath Tea-tree, Green Sheoak and Tassel Rope-rush. The eucalyptus woodland is dominated by species such as Swamp Gum and Narrow-leaf Peppermint.



Native animals

Bunarong Park is a very isolated habitat, yet home to, or visited by, over 50 species of birds including thornbills, cuckoos, parrots, honeyeaters and wrens. Many nest in the woodland around the edge of the park and visit the heathland to feed on insects and flower nectar.

Ringtail Possums, Short-beaked Echidnas and several different species of lizards, snakes and amphibians are present in the park.

Things to do

Two walking circuits wind through the eucalyptus woodland in the gullies and lead up to the open heathland vegetation at the highest point. A lookout platform now provides a perfect place to stop and admire the view of Frankston City and Port Phillip Bay with glimpses of the city.

Birdwatching, photography and nature study are popular activities.



It is important to protect the indigenous bushland at Bunarong Park as its native animals are isolated, with no connecting bushland corridors to other habitats.



FACT BOX

Location: Frankston

Melway Ref: 103 A6

Area: 9.3 ha

Elevation: 90 metres above sea level

Special features: Remnant heathland, views

Best flowering time: Mid winter to early summer

Birds: 50+ species

Walking tracks: 2 km

Walking time: ½ hour

Pets: Not permitted

Managed by: Frankston City Council

Information: ☎ 1300 322 322