

Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve

Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve is an island of natural remnant bushland and a sanctuary to many threatened species. It provides a home for half the plant and animal species indigenous to the Mornington Peninsula. Added to this is nearly a century of military history, making it a fascinating place for the whole family to visit.

Geology

Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve is located on the Cranbourne Sands, a series of parallel sand dunes, formed thousands of years ago, that stretch from Frankston to Cranbourne and beyond (see pages 9-10).

History

Archaeological evidence at the reserve, in the form of stone scatters, suggests the local Boon Wurrung people visited the area to search for food.

In 1886, the land was set aside as the Langwarrin Military Reserve for the Victorian Defence Force volunteers. For nearly a century the reserve was used by the government for various

military activities; few relics of this era remain. However, the site of a hospital for World War 1 soldiers can easily be recognised to the south east of the main entrance. The reservoir, built shortly after 1900, is located on one of the walking tracks north of Centre Break.

By 1978 the reserve was no longer required for military training and in 1981 was set aside for conservation. It was declared the Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve in 1985.

Things to see

Indigenous plants

There is a wide diversity of indigenous plants and plant communities in the reserve, as much of it is relatively undisturbed. Around 330 indigenous plant species have been recorded, many of which are of particular significance.

Parks Victoria manages Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve with the help of the Friends of Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve. Regular working bees help to control the spread of weeds and regenerate plants from the natural seed bed.

Four are listed as threatened in Victoria, including the Purple Diuris Orchid, and many others are considered rare in the local area. There are also several different types of plant community present, some of which are intact remnants of communities which are now largely lost due to clearing.

The undulating topography in the reserve, as a result of the parallel sand dunes, leads to a variety of different environments. The dominant heathland plants found on the dry, nutrient-poor sandy soils of the dunes include Coast Manna Gum, Heath Tea-tree and Silver Banksia. The eucalypt woodland communities found on the lower, less well-drained soils include Silver-leaf



Stringybark, Coast Manna Gum, Narrow-leaf Peppermint, Swamp Gum, Black Sheoak and Prickly Tea-tree. The understorey of the grassy woodland community contains many different grasses and sedges, such as Kangaroo Grass and Variable Sword-sedge.

Native animals

In the daytime you might spot a Swamp Wallaby in the shrubby understorey, or an echidna digging for ants, but most of the small mammals are nocturnal.

On fine, still days there will be an abundance of birdlife, especially in the heathlands. The rare Southern Emu-wren prefers the security of the dense heathland.

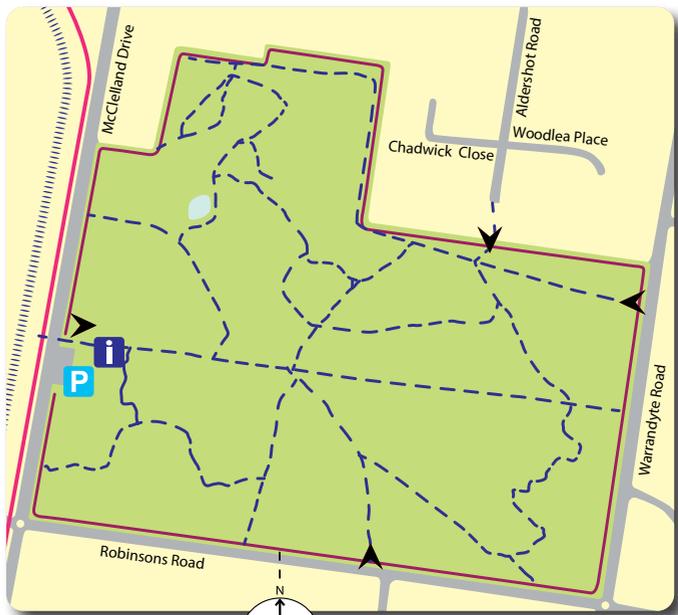
Snakes are present in the reserve so please watch out and keep on the tracks provided.

Things to do

There is a network of walking tracks which wind through the heathland and eucalypt woodland in the reserve. The Centre Break is a wide, well-made 1.5 kilometre track which runs through the centre of the reserve.

There is a great variety of walks, but be aware some tracks are seasonally closed. The reserve is particularly busy with walkers and joggers on the weekends and holidays.

Birdwatching, photography and nature study are also popular activities. Horse riding is permitted on the outer perimeter track only.



FACT BOX
Location: Langwarrin
Melway Ref: 103 C10
Area: 214 ha
Special features: Military history, remnant bushland, endangered species
Best flowering time: September to October
Birds: 90+ species
Walking tracks: 1+ km
Walking time: 1+ hours
Pets: Not permitted
Managed by: Parks Victoria
Information: ☎ 1300 322 322



It is important to protect the indigenous bushland at Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve as it is a large, relatively undisturbed and safe habitat for native animals.

