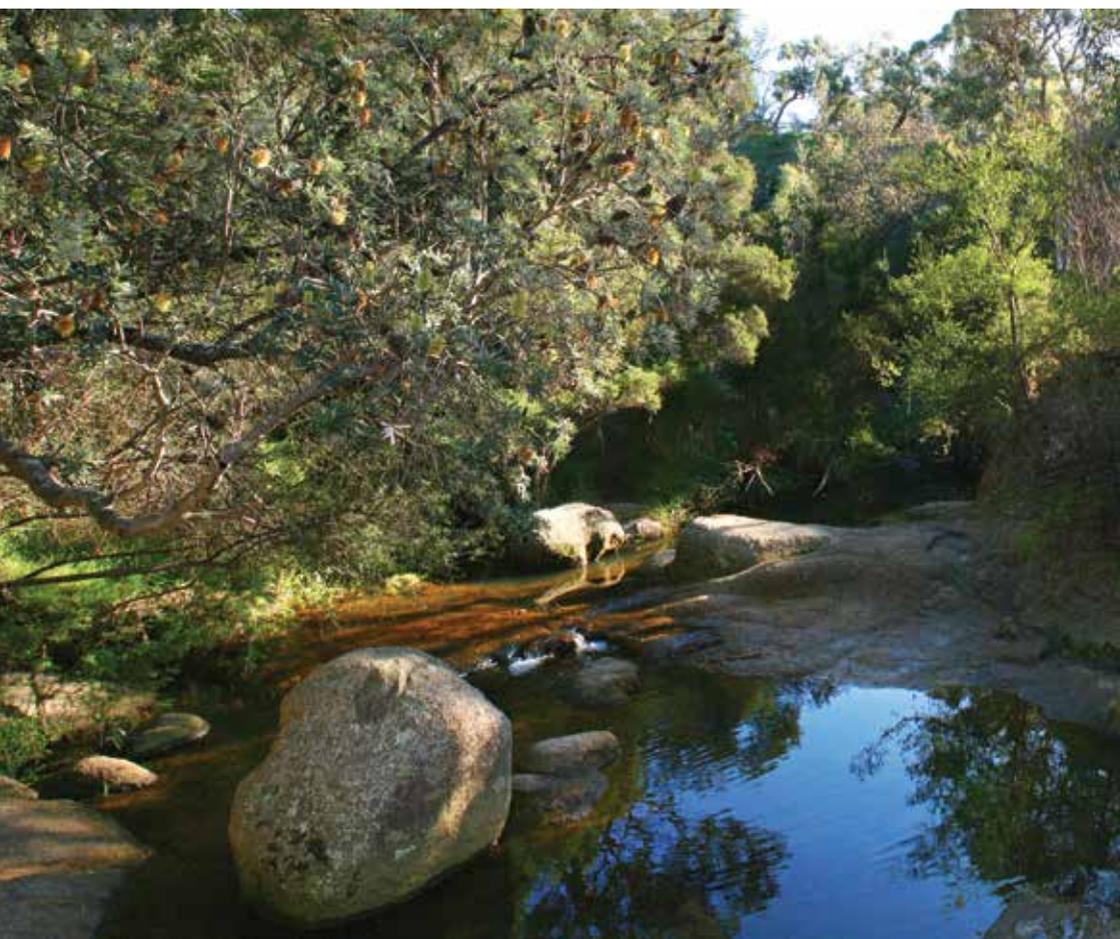


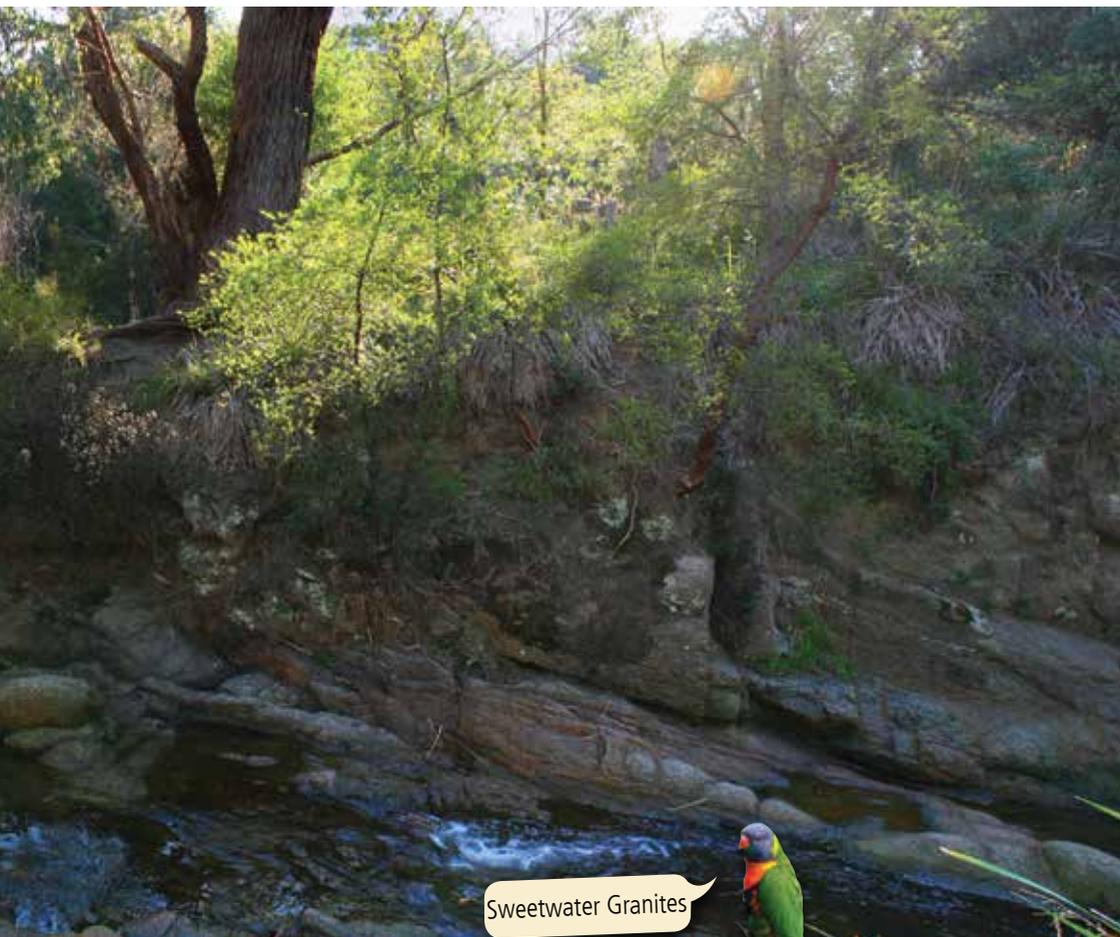
Natural Reserves within Frankston City



opportunity » growth » lifestyle







Sweetwater Granites





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Introduction

Natural reserves

We are very fortunate to have a wide variety of natural reserves within the Frankston municipality, providing a diversity of habitats not only for indigenous wildlife but for our international visitors, the migratory birds. A reserve is also a precious place for people, where we can escape the stresses of modern life and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of nature. They are priceless places of recreation and inspiration for the local community.

Of particular pride to the community is the Frankston Foreshore, having won numerous environmental and design awards over the years. All Frankston's reserves provide active and passive recreation opportunities in wetland, foreshore or natural bushland settings for the whole community to enjoy.



Natural reserves which are excellent wildlife habitats are protected by international agreements or government policies. The Seaford Wetlands is protected by an international Ramsar agreement in order to provide a safe habitat for migratory water birds. Our two largest reserves, Langwarrin and Pines Flora and Fauna Reserves are managed by Parks Victoria to protect all of the indigenous plant and animal species. Our creek reserves at Kananook Creek, Boggy Creek, Lower Sweetwater Creek Reserve and Upper Sweetwater Creek Reserve are excellent habitats while also providing natural corridors allowing wildlife to travel between habitats.

Vegetation in the reserves ranges from almost pristine to somewhat disturbed, needing assistance to return to a more natural state. Studio Park Reserve and Bunarong Park Reserve are examples of bushland of high natural value which is relatively untouched. The

best Coast Banksia Woodland near Melbourne is located

at Seaford Foreshore Reserve, while Paratea Reserve has an excellent example of grassland indigenous to the region. Restoration work in very disturbed sites such as Tangenong Creek Reserve and Belvedere Bushland Reserve is providing improved habitats for native animals.

Frankston's cultural history

The Mayone Balug clan of the Boon Wurrung language group have been the traditional custodians of this area since time immemorial. Living sustainably on abundant plant and animal resources, the first people employed land management practices that ensured their continued survival for tens of thousands of years.

European settlement in the 1830's had a devastating impact on Boon Wurrung lifestyle, with broad scale land clearing, the introduction of agricultural stock, pest plants and animals and the denial of access to 'Country' for hunting and cultural purposes. The additional effects of new

diseases, skirmishes with settlers and the abduction of Boon Wurrung women by sealers meant that the native population was decimated in a very short time following the settlement of Melbourne.

Today the local people are the descendants of some of those women relocated to Tasmania to work for the seal hunters.

Is it too late?

Today, over 65 per cent of Victoria's bushland has been cleared. It is essential to protect the remaining indigenous flora and fauna in the Frankston area, some of which are already rare and threatened. Unfortunately for some species it may be too late due to reduced habitat and unwelcome visitors.

The threatened New Holland Mouse was last recorded at Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve in 1984. Action is being taken to prevent the disappearance of other species. For example, a recovery team is working to protect the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot in the Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve. In Paratea Reserve two stands of the rare White Sallee Gum, a lowland form of the Snow Gum, are now also protected.

Unwelcome intruders

Encroaching environmental weeds such as the introduced Blackberry or the native Coast Tea-tree, which invades inland areas away from the coast, change indigenous bushland habitats.

Foxes and domestic pets are also unwelcome visitors to the reserves as they eat the native animals, in particular small mammals, birds and lizards. They also transport weed seeds into the reserves on their paws and coats. It is essential cats are kept out of the reserves and dogs, where permitted, must keep kept on leads at all times. Council has a cat curfew in place between dusk and dawn.



Introduction continued...

Share the care

Frankston City Council is actively committed to protecting the indigenous flora and fauna of the municipality. New land is being acquired for future reserves or being added to existing reserves. The natural reserve rangers work to remove major environmental weeds, foxes, domestic pets, litter, and take preventative action against erosion, pollution and the threat of fire. They actively encourage bush regeneration and help to educate the local community.

Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and the Environmental Protection Agency work together with Council to look after the environmentally sensitive areas. The care of the reserves ideally needs to be shared with the community to promote a sense of collective responsibility for the preservation of these precious remaining pockets of bushland and native wildlife.

Friends Groups

Friends of the reserves are local volunteers who, in partnership with Council, work to improve the environmental health of the reserves. In regular working bees they propagate new plants, restore degraded sites, remove environmental weeds, replant with indigenous plants and provide greater accessibility for the public. Friends groups welcome newcomers and are a great opportunity to meet new friends and contribute to the conservation of our local natural environment.



For details about these groups, contact Frankston City Council on 1300 322 322 or visit: frankston.vic.gov.au



And finally...

It is hoped this booklet will encourage you and your family to visit and explore these natural reserves. In the following chapters you will learn more about our local natural history, the area's indigenous flora and fauna and come to a greater appreciation of Frankston City's outstanding remaining areas of natural environment.

Through this growing awareness we seek to work with the community to protect our precious reserves and their inhabitants for future generations to cherish and enjoy.



How you can help

- Remember all indigenous plants and native animals are protected in the reserves.
- When visiting the reserves, keep to the walking tracks to prevent trampling fragile plants, spreading weeds and causing erosion.
- If dogs are permitted, always keep them on a lead in order to protect native wildlife. This also restricts their scent to pathways, prevents the spread of weeds and the trampling of fragile plants.
- Please always take your rubbish home with you.
- If you live near a natural reserve, ensure environmental weeds in your garden do not invade the reserve. Never throw green waste over the fence into the reserve as this leads to more weeds escaping and upsetting the natural balance. Keep a cleared area on your side of the fence so weeds or garden plants cannot encroach into the reserve.
- Always keep your pets within your home's boundaries. In particular, residents are required by Local Law to keep cats at home between dusk and dawn.
- Plant indigenous species in your garden to provide habitat for wildlife. Visit Frankston's Indigenous Nursery.
- Join a local friends group or consider starting one in your local reserve.



Frankston's Geological Story

For its relatively small area, Frankston City must surely have more natural diversity than any other municipality of comparable size.

It has beautiful and varied coastal vegetation, two creek courses of quite different character, a wetland of international significance, red-gum plains, and heathlands and woodlands which include representation of almost all the flora and fauna species of the wider Mornington Peninsula region.

To these natural features can be added Olivers Hill, which boasts the best panoramic view of Port Phillip Bay from anywhere on the bay's coastline.

All this variety is primarily due to the area's remarkable geological history and characteristics.

Five hundred million years ago, none of eastern Australia existed — the whole area was sea. Sediments washed into this sea from ancient land to the west, and eventually hardened into sedimentary rocks, which were subsequently folded, uplifted and eroded to form the underlying bedrock of the area. Glimpses of this can be seen in road cuttings mainly in the eastern and south eastern parts of Frankston City, recognisable by the steeply tilted strata of sandstones and mudstones.

About 370 million years ago, molten rock material (magma) forced its way into these rocks from deep in the crust; it slowly cooled and solidified to form granite. This is now clearly exposed mainly on the beach at the foot of Olivers Hill and in the base of the Sweetwater Creek valley (e.g. 'The Granites').

About six million years ago, the sea again encroached on the area, and on its retreat, there was deposition of sands and gravels (forming the Baxter Sandstone) now capping much of the southern part of the municipality. This rock has been hardened by the sea to give the dark red-brown rocks along our southern coastline. It is also recognisable in Wallace Reserve (formerly referred to as 'red-rock' reserve), where it was quarried.

During an arid period when sea-level was low within the last million years, sheets of sand were blown from the west, forming large inland dunes trending from northwest to southeast. These cross the eastern parts of our area, and are particularly significant because the pale infertile sand carries the species-rich and floristically colourful heathlands and woodlands of the Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve, Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve and Bunarong Reserve, as well as other smaller areas.

In terms of the present landscape, the most significant event was the movement on a major fault-line (the Selwyn Fault) which elevated the whole Mornington Peninsula and lowered the area of the bay. This fault crosses our area from Olivers Hill in a north easterly direction towards Carrum Downs, clearly visible as one approaches Frankston from the north along the freeway. The uplift of the southern Frankston area caused Sweetwater Creek to cut its present gorge.

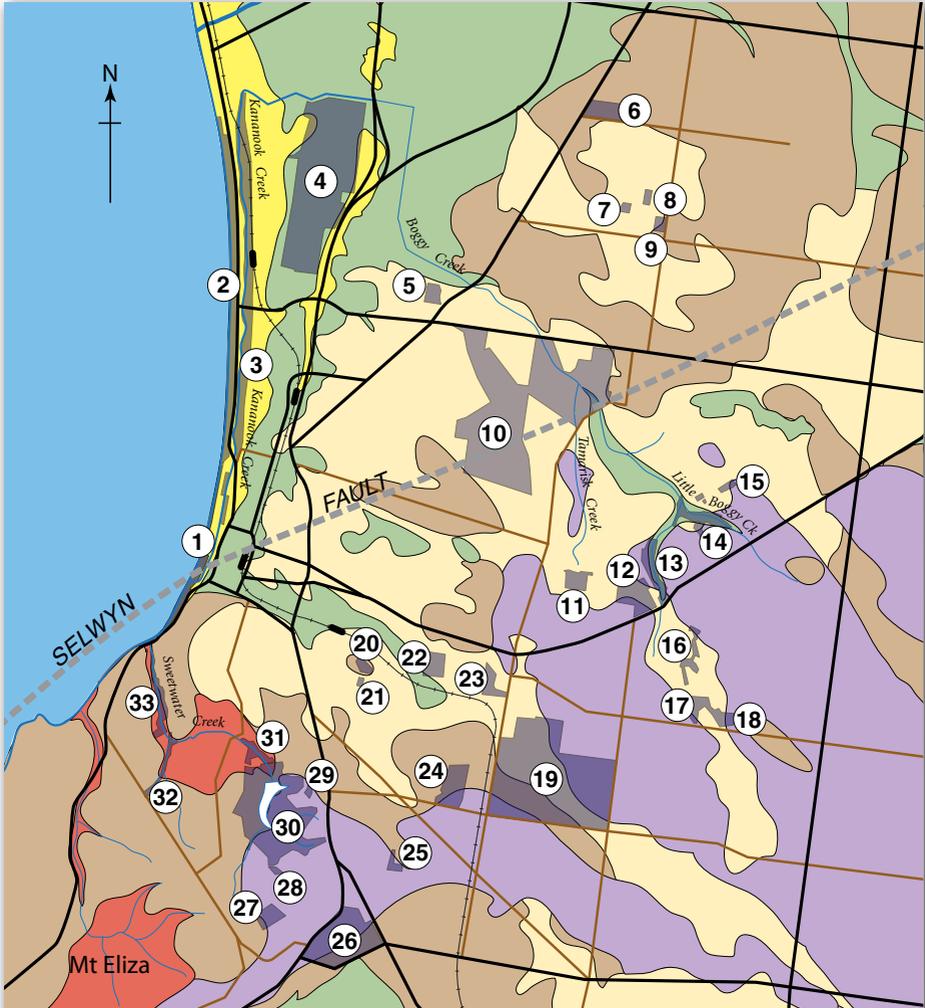
In contrast, the lower (northern) side of the fault carries Kananook Creek as well as the Seaford-Carrum Wetlands, which is the remnant of the formerly extensive Carrum Carrum Swamp.

The final significant feature is the long dune which runs just inland, parallel to the present Seaford-Carrum coastline and was formed only thousands of years ago. This provided the original course for the railway and main road from Melbourne to Frankston. The dune becomes very obvious, even in central Frankston, once one is aware of what it is. It is responsible for the present course of Kananook Creek.

Frankston City is indeed fortunate to have natural reserves associated with all these geological features.

You can read about their special characteristics in the following sections of this book.

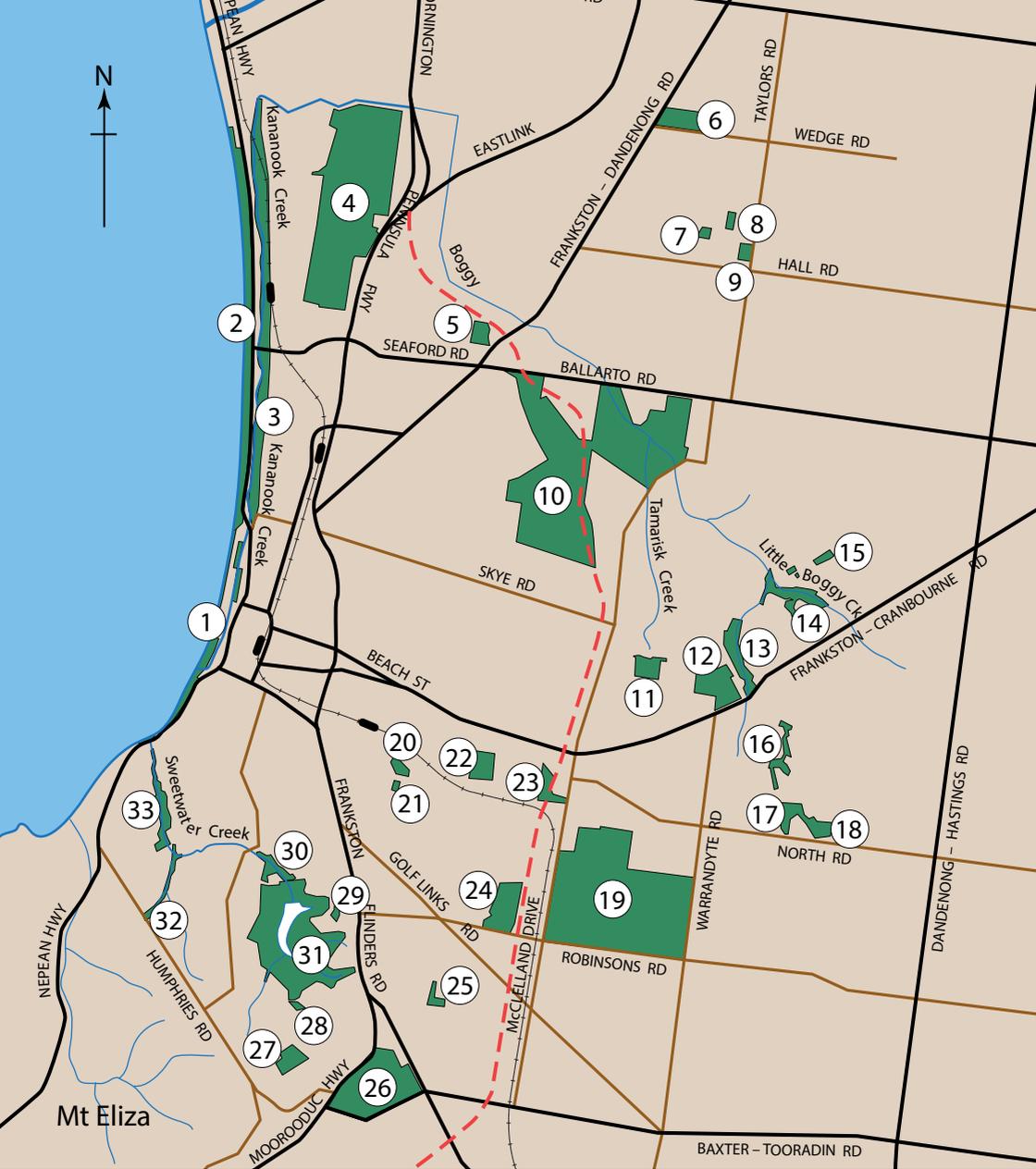
We hope you will feel inspired to visit these beautiful and precious natural reserves and to help us preserve them for future generations.



SIMPLIFIED GEOLOGY OF THE FRANKSTON AREA

LFC 2009/2

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Folded and faulted layers of sandstone and mudstone, about 480–415 million years old (Ordovician–Silurian) forming bedrock Granite, intruded in molten form into the sandstones/mudstones about 370 million years ago (Devonian), later exposed by erosion Reddish sandstone ('Baxter Sandstone') from sands deposited in near-coastal floods about 5 million years ago (Early Pliocene) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheets and dunes of pale sands blown across the region in the last million years, now carrying heathlands in reserves Coastal dunes formed in the last few thousand years, supporting coastal plant communities; a barrier effect produced wetlands Alluvium deposited in swamps, wetlands and along stream courses; swamps now largely dry since artificial draining |
|---|--|



Legend

-  Main road
-  Road
-  Creek / water
-  Natural Reserve
-  Train line
-  Future Peninsula Link Freeway

Safety Tip

In case of emergency ring 000 and quote the nearest emergency marker number.

Emergency markers occur at:

- Frankston Foreshore (page 13)
- Seaford Foreshore (page 15)
- Kananook Creek (page 17)
- Seaford Wetlands (page 19)
- The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve (page 23)
- Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve (page 29)
- Baxter Trail (not featured)

Map of reserve locations

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6	Carrum Downs Recreation Reserve wetland	
7	Oakwood Reserve	
8	Banjo Reserve	
9	Wilton Reserve (under development)	
10	The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve	22-23
11	Studio Park Reserve	24-25
12	Lloyd Park Reserve	
13	Pindara Reserve	
14	Little Boggy Creek Reserve	26-27
15	Gumnut Bushland Reserve	
16	Monique Reserve	
17	North Road Reserve (under development)	
18	Stringybark Reserve	
19	Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve	28-29
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33	Lower Sweetwater Creek Reserve	42-43



Reserves highlighted in bold are featured throughout this booklet

Frankston Foreshore Reserve

Frankston Foreshore stretches from Long Island tennis club south to Kackeraboite Creek and boasts a mix of coastal recreational development and natural dune and cliff top vegetation. The foreshore has won numerous awards in recent years and is regarded as one of Port Phillip Bay's most beautiful beaches.

History

From early European settlement, Frankston developed as a small fishing community with a boat building industry based at Kananook Creek. When the railway line to Frankston opened in the 1880s, the beach became a popular seaside destination for day-trippers. These days the beach continues to be a well-loved place of recreation year round for locals and visitors alike.

Because of this popularity, there is more strain than ever on the foreshore with its fragile sand dunes and coastal vegetation. Local volunteer group, Frankston Beach Association, has been working with Frankston City Council for approximately 40 years to restore the coastal vegetation along the foreshore. This ongoing work helps create a safe habitat for wildlife, and protects the natural bushland and fragile coastal ecosystems for everyone to enjoy.

Results of this partnership include the major replanting of indigenous species and the construction of new fencing and paths to protect the foreshore from further disturbances. An award-winning boardwalk, providing spectacular coastal views, now stretches along the foreshore for over a kilometre from the foot of Olivers Hill to the Frankston Life Saving Club.

Things to see

Indigenous plants

The fore dunes are covered in salt tolerant plants, such as Hairy Spinifex, an indigenous grass, and sedges such as Knobby Club-rush, which are able to survive the constant exposure to salt spray and wind. Their roots help to bind the fragile dunes together to enable less hardy plants to become established on the landward side, including Coast Tea-tree, Coast Banksia, White Correa and Coast Daisy-bush.

Native animals

The coastal vegetation provides important habitat for a diverse array of birds and lizards. Honeyeaters such as the New Holland Honeyeater and Eastern Spinebill can be seen amongst the coastal flowers feeding on the nectar. Lizards including the Common Blue-tongue Lizard and skinks scurry about the dunes under the protection of the coastal scrub.

Things to do

The Visitor Information Centre, located near Frankston Pier, at the end of Pier Promenade, is a central place from which to base your activities. There is ample car parking, with toilets, a children's playground, picnic tables and barbecues. Fishing off the Frankston Pier is a popular activity. A boat ramp and trailer parking is available. The impressive Landmark Bridge is a focal point of this attractive precinct.

From here, you can walk south along the boardwalk to Olivers Hill and return along the beach.

This walk could be extended by crossing Nepean Highway at Liddesdale Avenue to enter

It is important to protect the coastal vegetation at Frankston Foreshore as it is a wildlife corridor, safe haven for birds and reptiles and a highly valued place of recreation for people from Frankston and beyond.



REMEMBER

Please help by keeping off the dune areas and keeping your dog on a lead at all times. Please also clean up after your dog for the sake of other visitors and the environment.

Sweetwater Creek Nature Reserve. Alternatively, head north from the Visitor

Information Centre, and admire

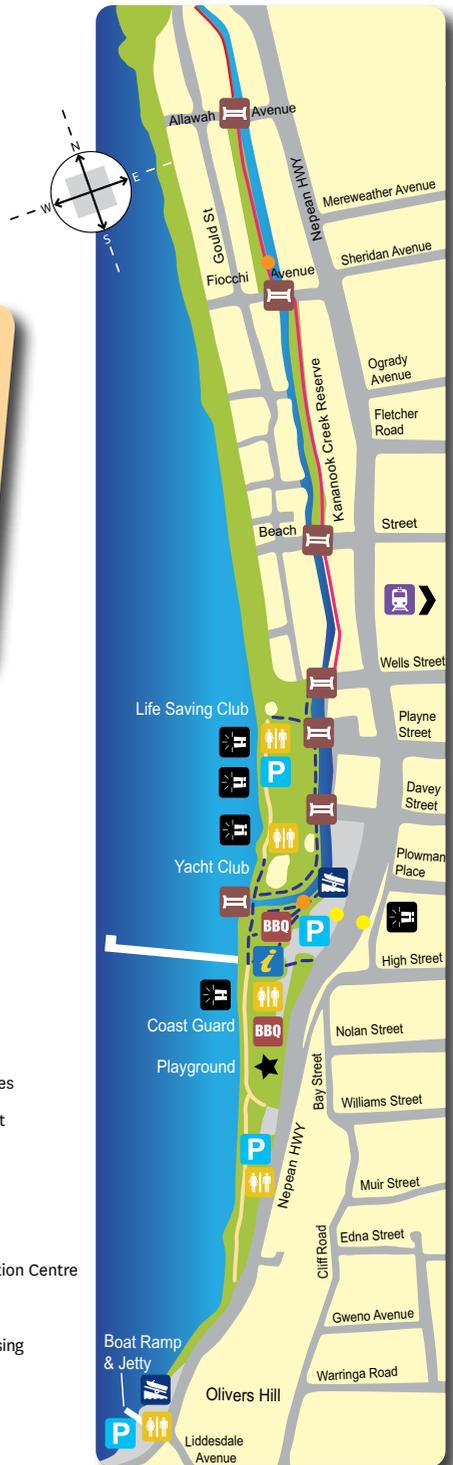
the stunning sea views as you cross Landmark Bridge to the new Frankston Yacht Club building. Take either the dune boardwalk, or follow the creek along Kananook Creek Boulevard, which will bring you to Wells Street and the Life Saving Club. You can extend this walk by continuing north along either Gould Street or Kananook Boulevard, joining up with the Kananook Creek Trail at Beach Street. Follow this delightful scenic trail beside the creek, crossing several historic footbridges, as you wind your way towards Seaford.

FACT BOX

Location: Frankston
Melway Ref: 99 D10, 102 B4
Area: 18 ha
Special Features: Boardwalks, clean beach
Walking tracks: 1km + 2km
Walking time: ¼ hour + ½ hour
Pets: Dogs on leash permitted; restrictions apply between December 1 and March 31
Managed by: Frankston City Council
Public toilets available
Information: ☎ 1300 322 322



-  Boat Ramp
-  Public toilets
-  Public barbecues
-  Public transport
-  Parking
-  Bridge
-  Lookout
-  Visitor Information Centre
-  Playground
-  Pedestrian crossing
-  Canoe launch
-  Walking Trail
-  Boardwalk
-  Shared user pathway



Seaford Foreshore Reserve

Seaford Foreshore is one of the oldest reserves in the Frankston area. It has a five kilometre stretch of parallel dunes with remnant indigenous coastal vegetation – creating an important habitat for many birds and reptiles. It shelters one of the best beaches on Port Phillip Bay and has the finest example of Coast Banksia Woodland in Melbourne.

Because of its great natural beauty, it is an extremely popular area of recreation for the local community. However it is vital to recognise the fragility of the indigenous bushland and dunes; they form an important and precious wildlife corridor that provides safe haven for many native birds and reptiles.

History

The foreshore was set aside for public use in 1873 and re-reserved in 1987 for the purposes of conservation and recreation. In 1909 a small pier with a large pipe was built to pump seawater into Kananook Creek to flush through the polluted waters. The pipe was dismantled in 1953 but the pier still remains, a relic of times gone by. The Friends of Seaford Foreshore worked in the reserve for many years regenerating and replanting indigenous species and removing environmental weeds.



It is important to protect the indigenous bushland and dunes at Seaford Foreshore as it is a wildlife corridor and safe haven for native fauna.

Things to see

Indigenous plants

Only very resilient grasses such as Hairy Spinifex and Blue Tussock-grass survive on the coastal fore dunes, which are exposed to the wind and salt spray. Their roots help bind the fragile dunes together, enabling other plants like Coast Tea-tree, White Correa and Coast Daisy-bush to survive. On the secondary dunes closer to the road we find a delightful Banksia Woodland, dominated by Coast Banksia and Coast Beard Heath.

Native animals

Seaford Foreshore is rich in birdlife, with over 100 species either living in or using the reserve on their way to Kananook Creek or Seaford Wetlands. Fourteen species, including the Eastern Yellow Robin and Yellow Thornbill, have been observed to breed in the coastal vegetation, while Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos having been absent for decades have returned to regularly feed on seeds and hunt for grubs. More lizards can be found here than in many other regions in Victoria. Of particular interest is White's Skink which is no longer found in the inner urban areas of Melbourne, having once been common.



Things to do

A five kilometre walking track runs parallel to the beach through the coastal dune vegetation from Keast Park to Mile Bridge.

A return walk is possible through Kananook Creek Reserve which runs parallel to the foreshore on the other side of Nepean Highway. Swimming, fishing, walking and birdwatching are popular activities at the beach. Picnic tables, toilets, natural play spaces and barbecues are available at the pier car park and Keast Park.

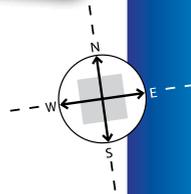


FACT BOX

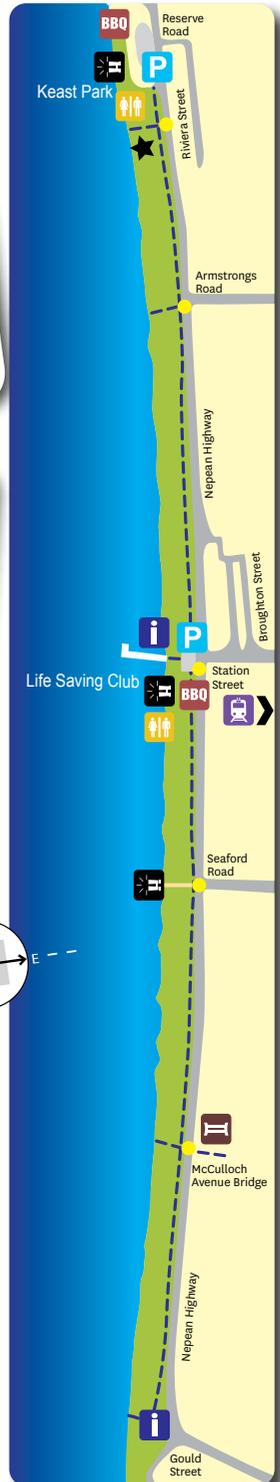
Location: Seaford
 Melway Ref: 99 D3
 Area: 57 ha
 Special features: Remnant Coast Banksia woodland, beach, birdlife
 Birds: 110+ species
 Walking tracks: 5 km
 Walking time: 1¼ hours
 Pets: Dogs on lead permitted; restrictions apply between December 1 and March 31
 Managed by: Frankston City Council
 Information: ☎ 1300 322 322



Please make sure you keep off the dunes and keep your dog on a lead at all times, to help protect this fragile and beautiful area.



-  Bridge
-  Playground
-  Public toilets
-  Public barbecues
-  Public transport
-  Parking
-  Lookout
-  Information
-  Pedestrian crossing
-  Walking Trail
-  Boardwalk



Kananook Creek Reserve

Kananook Creek runs parallel to the coastline linking Seaford Wetlands to Frankston Foreshore. Greatly disturbed by past development, today the creek is in much better condition and is home to many indigenous plants and animals. It is one of Frankston's most beautiful natural environments, providing a unique and picturesque place for people to commune with nature in the midst of our urban landscape.

History

Kananook Creek was an important source of fish and eels for the local Boon Wurrung people. There is still evidence of their activities along the banks of Kananook Creek. A plaque, located near the mouth of the creek, commemorates a meeting in 1803 between a party of 14 aborigines and the first white visitor, Charles Grimes.

Kananook Creek was a natural outlet of the Carrum Carrum Swamp, which lay behind the coastal dunes from Mordialloc to Frankston. To reclaim the land for agriculture in the 1870s, Patterson River was cut to drain the swamp. As a consequence, water supply into Kananook Creek was reduced and water quality became poor. Today the water quality is maintained by pumping saltwater into the creek from Patterson Lakes.

From early settlement, Kananook Creek was the centre of the fishing and boat building industries upon which Frankston was founded. In the early 1900s most of the reserve north of Mile Bridge and on the eastern side of the creek was subject to sand mining. Some of the dunes were mined out and indigenous plant communities destroyed.

The Kananook Creek Association (KCA) was formed in 1970 by a group of local residents who have worked tirelessly in conjunction

with Frankston City Council and Melbourne Water on a systematic restoration program for the reserve.

Volunteers have spent countless hours over the years working to restore the bushland and creek environment in the reserve. As a result of their efforts, the reserve is once again becoming a beautiful natural area that provides habitat for local flora and fauna, and a place of peace and relaxation for the local community. In 1996 the reserve received Land for Wildlife Status.

Things to see

Indigenous plants

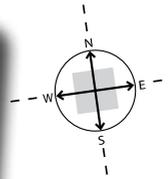
Kananook Creek Reserve follows an old dune system parallel to the creek. A variety of plant communities with over 200 indigenous species can be found in the reserve. The common trees are Coast Banksias, Sheoaks and Swamp Gums, with a middlestorey of Coast Tea-tree and Coast Beard-heath and an understorey, including sedges and rushes. Swamp Paperbark is abundant on the floodplains.

Native animals

Many native animals have been recorded in the reserve, including 15 species of fish and crustaceans, many frogs and lizards, flying foxes and microbats. In the Banksia trees you may spot Rainbow Lorikeets or honeyeaters feeding on the nectar while in the evenings you may see or hear the active Brushtail Possums. The Common Blue-tongue Lizard can be found in amongst the ground litter. Some of the 60 recorded bird species make the creek their home, while others such as water birds visit on their way to the coast or Seaford Wetlands. Commonly seen are the Black Ducks, White-faced Herons, Cormorants and Spoonbills.

FACT BOX

Location: Frankston, Seaford
 Melway Ref: 99 D7, 99 D8, 102 C1
 Area: 43 ha
 Special features: Kananook Creek, birdlife
 Best flowering time: Late winter to early spring
 Birds: 60+ species
 Walking tracks: 7.5 km
 Walking time: 2 hours
 Pets: Dogs on lead permitted
 Managed by: Frankston City Council and
 Melbourne Water
 Information: ☎ 1300 322 322



Things to do

Take some time to explore the natural beauty of this sometimes hidden, beautiful creek reserve.

The 7.5 kilometre Kananook Walking Trail follows the creek from the mouth at Frankston Pier to Eel Race Road. This walk can be extended at the northern end of the reserve either by visiting Seaford Wetlands, one kilometre to the east, or Seaford Foreshore Reserve, 500 metres to the west. You can come in or out of the walking trail at many points along the path as it intersects local roads.



Alternatively, at the southern end of the reserve lies Frankston Foreshore, where you can continue along the scenic boardwalk beside the coast.

One of the most enjoyable ways to experience the creek is to canoe an easy 7.5 kilometre (2 hours) along the navigable waterway. There are several canoe launching points along the creek – Eel Race Road, Riviera Street, Station Street, McCulloch Avenue, Fiocchi Avenue – and there is a boat ramp near the creek mouth.

It is important to protect the bushland and maintain the water quality at Kananook Creek to ensure a healthy creek for the fish, a wildlife corridor for native animals and a safe haven for birds.



Fishing, boating, birdwatching and photography are also popular activities. Picnic tables can be found at Beach Street, Fiocchi Avenue, Long Island, Station Street and Riviera Street.



- Public transport
- Parking
- Bridge
- Canoe launch
- Pedestrian crossing
- Train line
- Walking Trail
- Nature Trail

See page 13 for continuation of Kananook Creek Reserve to the south.



Seaford Wetlands Reserve

Edithvale and Seaford Wetlands is an internationally significant habitat for a diversity of birdlife, including a number of rare and endangered migratory water birds from as far afield as Siberia. The remnant wetland areas are the largest remaining natural wetlands of their type in the Port Phillip and Westernport basins.

Geology

Edithvale and Seaford Wetlands are remnants of the Carrum Carrum Swamp which was a shallow marine estuary until the sea level fell around 7000 years ago. The abundance of fossil shells under the silt provides evidence of the recent change from sea to swamp. Originally the swamp stretched from Mordialloc to Frankston, covering over 4000 hectares. However it was drained in the late 1880s to reclaim land for agriculture and housing.

The remaining wetlands perform a vital function in filtering and purifying water from Boggy Creek, Eel Race Creek and stormwater runoff before flowing into Port Phillip Bay.

History

Archaeological evidence suggests Carrum Carrum Swamp was an important site for the local Boon Wurrung people. The swamps were a rich source of food, including fish and eels, and were used for a ceremonial and meeting place. Some experts believe the former Carrum Carrum Swamp was comparable to the Northern Territory's famous Kakadu wetlands in its rich diversity of wildlife.

Over a century after the swamps were drained, the area was set aside as the Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands Environmental Area. It was listed on the 1990 Register of the National Estate due to its importance as the main remnant

of the former Carrum Carrum Swamp. In 2001 it was declared a Ramsar* site to conserve habitat for migratory water birds. The Friends of Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands have worked tirelessly with Frankston City Council on weed control and replanting the woodland areas.

Today the wetlands are used for recreation by the public, environmental education by the local schools and rangers, and for scientific research. *Ramsar site – see glossary at back of book

Things to see

Indigenous plants

Some of the plant communities found in the wetlands are threatened in Victoria, including Brackish Aquatic Hermland, Tall Marsh and Plains Sedgy Wetland. Some areas of the wetlands are brackish as they were part of a sea floor whilst other areas have mainly fresh water. The variation in salinity of the wetlands leads to a diversity of plants with over 50 indigenous species. Common Reed, rushes, sedges and aquatic herbs such as Water Ribbons provide excellent habitat for the birds. The surrounding woodland areas have beautiful 300 year old River Red Gums, which are very rare in the Frankston area.

Native animals

Approximately 190 bird species have been recorded in the wetlands, 16 of which are classed as threatened by the State and Federal Australian governments. There

are over 100 types of water birds, many of which are totally reliant on the wetlands for their habitat.

This includes 18 migratory waders covered by international treaties,



including the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. Usually seen in flocks, they arrive from September to feed in the wetlands during the Australian summer and return to Siberia in April to breed.

Some of the water birds are easy to spot as they feed either in the open water (e.g. grebes and cormorants) or on the muddy shores, (e.g. Double - Banded Plover).

Others prefer the cover of the dense reed beds and rushes such as the threatened Australasian Bittern and Latham's Snipe, which is protected by the Japan Australia Migratory Birds Agreement (JAMBA). Swamp Harriers can be seen flying low over the reeds hunting small animals.

The wetlands are also home to reptiles, frogs, eels and indigenous fish, along with resident possums in the surrounding eucalypt trees.

Things to do

The wetlands are well known for superb birdwatching opportunities. There is a viewing platform near Austin Road and a good viewing point at the end of Mona Street.

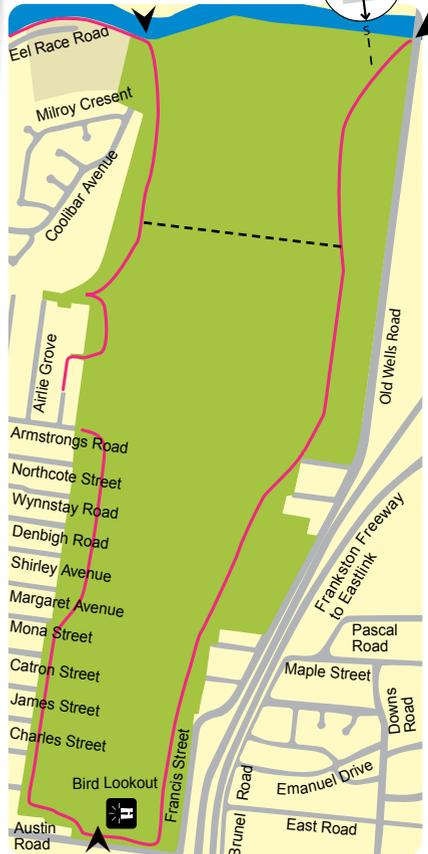
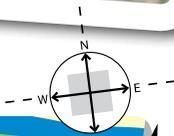
A bird hide is located on Edithvale Road as is Melbourne Water's Edithvale-Seaford Wetland Education Centre melbournewater.com.au

A cycle/walking trail extends around most of the perimeter of the wetlands. Picnic tables are available at various locations. To extend your walk, Kananook Creek Reserve and Seaford Foreshore are about one kilometre and 1.5 kilometres, respectively, west of the reserve.

It is important to protect the indigenous vegetation at Seaford Wetlands to provide a safe haven for the internationally significant birdlife, protect the water quality and provide a drought refuge for native animals.

FACT BOX

- Location: Seaford
- Melway Ref: 97 G12, 99 G1
- Area: 180 ha
- Special features: Birdlife, wetlands, River Red Gums
- Best birdwatching period: October to March
- Birds: 190+ species
- Walking tracks: 5 km
- Walking time: 1¼ hours
- Pets: Dogs on lead permitted
- Managed by: Frankston City Council and Melbourne Water
- Information: ☎1300 322 322



- Public transport
- Lookout
- Entrance
- Walking Trail
- Shared user pathway

Seaford Station
20 min walk

Belvedere Bushland Reserve

Belvedere Bushland Reserve is an island of nature managed by Frankston City Council and bounded by houses and a freeway. An important reminder of what Seaford was like before development, this unique heathland vegetation is becoming increasingly rare within the Frankston area and must be protected for its value to both people and wildlife.

History

The reserve is on Crown Land which was once the proposed site of a school. Previously known as Ti-Tree Reserve, named after the road on its western boundary, its name was changed in 1999 when Frankston City Council took over management of the reserve.



Things to see

Indigenous plants

Many different indigenous plant species can be found at Belvedere Bushland Reserve. An open forest of Coast Manna Gum provides a canopy for the shrubby heathland plants such as Prickly and Heath Tea-



tree, Common Heath, Wedding Bush and Guinea Flowers. Amongst the bracken, in the understorey, are many different species of sedges and rushes. In recent years fire has been used as a management tool to shape the vegetation throughout the reserve, so keep an eye out for the flush of green shoots and wildflowers as the bush regenerates after fire. Amongst the fire affected areas traditional bush foods, such as the Native Parsnip, shoot up from the ashes.

It is important to protect the indigenous bushland at Belvedere Bushland Reserve as it provides habitat for wildlife and a natural corridor between other bushland areas.





Native animals

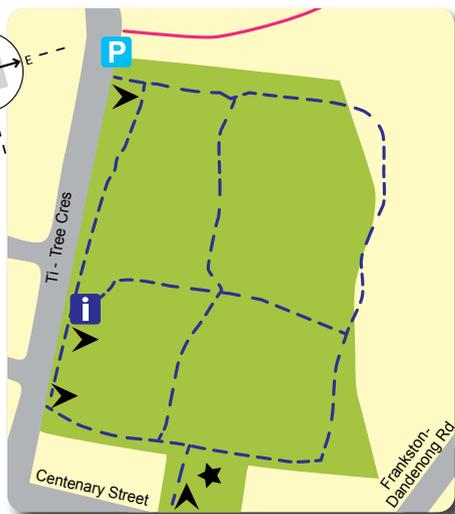
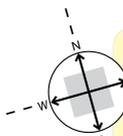
Brushtail and Ringtail Possums live in amongst the eucalyptus trees in the reserve, alongside microbats nestled in small cracks and tree hollows. Lizards and snakes find their homes amongst the grasses and shrubs with only a tell-tale rustle through the undergrowth to give away their location.

Birds are regular visitors in the heathland vegetation, feeding on nectar and insects.

Things to do

A peaceful haven in the midst of suburbia, Belvedere Bushland Reserve is a quiet, natural

area for strolls along the informal tracks, taking the dog for a walk (on a lead) or nature study.



-  Parking
-  Information
-  Entrance
-  Playground
-  Walking Trail
-  Shared user pathway

FACT BOX

Location: Seaford

Melway Ref: 100 A3

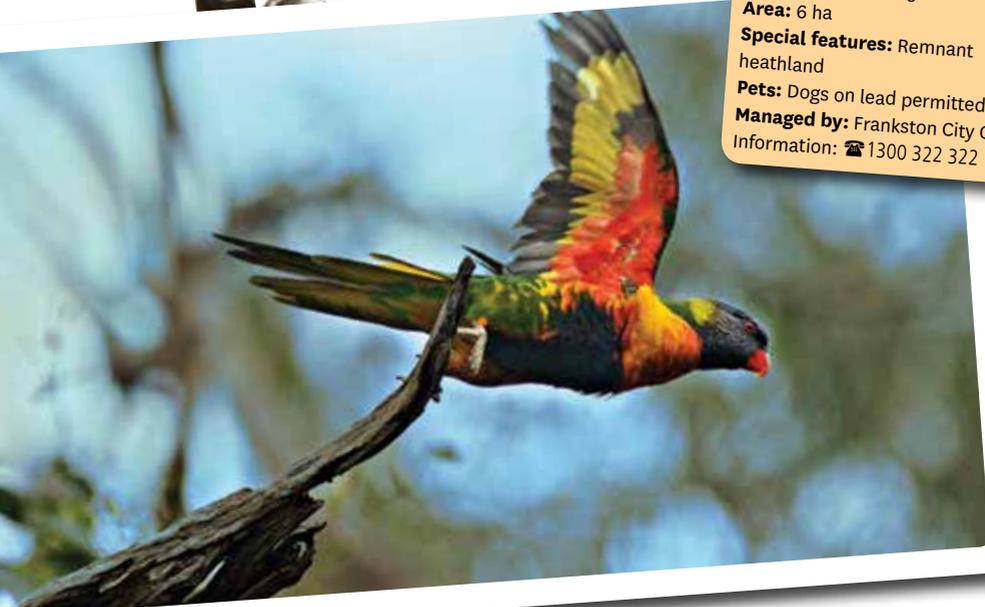
Area: 6 ha

Special features: Remnant heathland

Pets: Dogs on lead permitted

Managed by: Frankston City Council

Information: ☎ 1300 322 322



Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve

The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve is an important area of remnant heathland; a protected site for indigenous flora and fauna, some of which are considered to be rare or threatened. It is one of the last remaining habitats for some species, such as the endangered New Holland Mouse and the Southern Brown Bandicoot, which need the cover of the dense heathy vegetation for their survival.

It is a precious area of nature in the midst of our urban landscape. Walk through the remnant indigenous bushland and stop at the lookout to enjoy stunning panoramic views of Melbourne, Port Phillip Bay and the Dandenong Ranges.

Geology

The reserve is located on the Cranbourne Sands, a series of parallel sand dunes, formed thousands of years ago, and stretching from Frankston to Cranbourne and beyond (see pages 9-10). The reserve is crossed by two creeks, Tamarisk Creek and Boggy Creek, but flow in these is irregular.

History

The local Boon Wurrung people used the local springs at the reserve as a source of fresh water for thousands of years. Much of the natural bushland in Frankston North was cleared in the early 1900s for pine plantations and yet again in the 1950s for housing development.

Since the 1970s, strong, sustained community action has helped to protect this area as the last substantial piece of land with indigenous bush left in Frankston North. The original reserve of 108 hectares was established in 1989 and in 2006 was increased to 220 hectares using Crown Land.

Things to see

Indigenous plants

The combination of sand dunes, springs, swampy areas and creeks create a mosaic of different plant communities at the reserve.

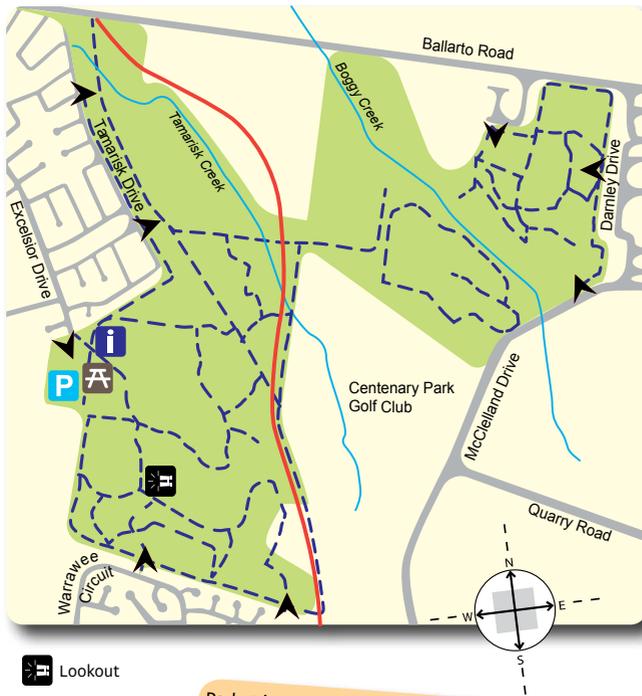


The low-growing heathland is composed of Heath Tea-tree and many other smaller shrubs including Silver Banksia, Spike Wattle, Green Sheoak and Common Heath. Coast Manna Gum is also found in the heathland. At lower levels, Narrow-leaf Peppermint and Black Sheoak join the Manna Gum. Scented Paperbark and Swamp Paperbark occur in the poorly drained areas, such as along Boggy Creek.



Native animals

The diversity of habitats and the large size of the reserve make it an important sanctuary for many different native animals, particularly small mammals. The resident Swamp Wallabies and Short-beaked Echidnas are active during the day while Southern Brown Bandicoots and Sugar



Gliders are nocturnal. Snakes are present in the reserve so walkers should keep a lookout on the tracks.

Over 100 species of birds have been recorded, including many honeyeaters, waterbirds, parrots and birds of prey like the Tawny Frogmouth. The Red and Little Wattlebirds are common in the surrounding eucalypts while the White-eared Honeyeater is often found in the heathy vegetation.

Things to do

Surrounded by over 200 hectares of bushland at the reserve, it is easy to feel a sense of remoteness and disbelief that you are so close to suburbia.

An extensive network of walking tracks provides access to the lookout for spectacular views over Port Phillip Bay and Dandenong Ranges. Alternatively, there is a short one kilometre boardwalk through the damp heathland near the Excelsior Drive car park. Birdwatching, walking, photography and nature study are popular activities in the reserve.



Parks Victoria manages the reserve with the help of the Friends of The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve. Regular working bees monitor and improve habitat for Southern Brown Bandicoots and control the spread of environmental weeds.



- Lookout
- Entrance
- Information
- Picnic table
- Parking

- Walking Trail
- Creek
- Future Peninsula Link Freeway

FACT BOX

Location: Frankston North
Melway Ref: 100 C9
Area: 220 ha
Special features: Remnant vegetation, threatened species
Best flowering time: Spring
Birds: 100+ species
Walking tracks: 1+ km
Walking time: 1+ hours
Pets: In areas where dogs are permitted they must be on a lead
Managed by: Parks Victoria
Information: ☎ 1300 322 322

Studio Park Reserve

Studio Park is a beautiful area of natural bushland directly adjoining the McClelland Gallery + Sculpture Park. It has almost untouched natural bushland, providing an excellent habitat for many species of indigenous fauna and flora.

History

The local Boon Wurrung people would have passed through this area in search of food and water.

At the turn of the 20th Century the land was part of the Corlett orchard farm. In the 1920s Harry McClelland, a prominent local artist, bought 40 acres and built a studio where he lived and painted. In the 1960s, his sister Nan bequeathed half of this land to the public, in his honour, to become a centre of art and learning, now the McClelland Gallery + Sculpture Park. The other half of the land was donated to the former Shire of Cranbourne for the community to enjoy.

Things to see

Indigenous plants

Studio Park has rich and diverse vegetation with over 100 indigenous plant species recorded and a variety of threatened remnant plant communities.



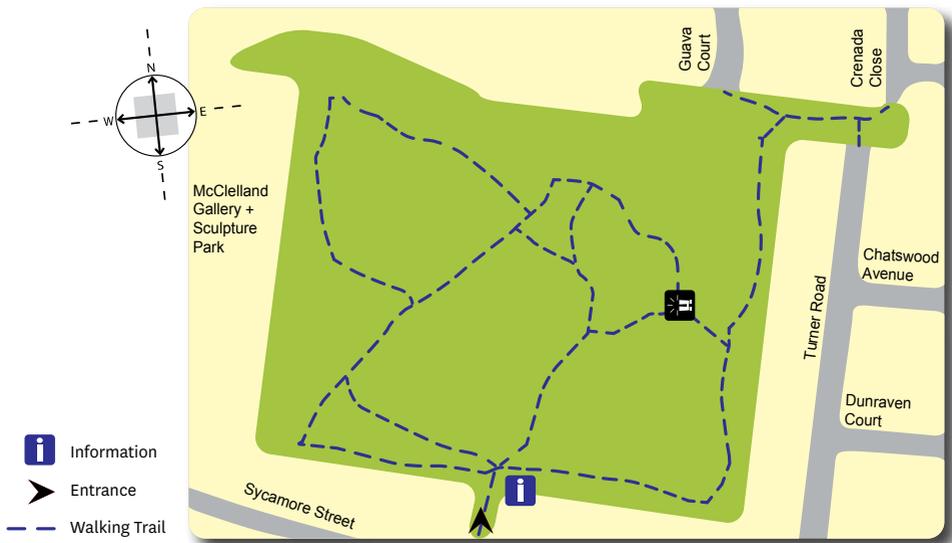
On the sandy hilltops, low-growing heathland is dominated by Heath Tea-tree and Silver Banksia, while Scented and Swamp Paperbarks, Prickly Tea-tree, and various sedges and rushes can be found in the swampy areas.

The low open woodland areas have a canopy of Coast Manna Gum with a diverse understorey, including Common Heath and a range of orchid species.

Native animals

The diversity of plants in the park attracts many insects and over 40 bird species. Honeyeaters are abundant, feeding on nectar in amongst the flowering heath. Eastern Yellow Robins feed on insects and Eastern Rosellas prefer eating grass seeds.





Small mammals take advantage of the variety of plants and insects on offer. Brushtail and Ringtail Possums can be found in the trees eating fruit and leaves, while Swamp Rats prefer eating grass and sedge stems.

The resident bats generally eat insects, and the Short-beaked Echidnas capture ants and termites with their long, sticky tongue. Snakes are present in the reserve so it is important visitors keep to the tracks provided. Swamp wallabies quietly hide in the thick undergrowth.

Things to do

There is a network of tracks in the park with a boardwalk through the swampy areas. It is a quite place for walking, jogging or observing nature. Enjoy the art exhibitions and sculpture collection in the natural setting of the nearby McClelland Gallery + Sculpture Park on McClelland Drive.

It is important to protect the indigenous bushland at Studio Park as it is a precious habitat for native animals that can act as a link between other nearby bushland areas.



FACT BOX
Location: Langwarrin
Melway Ref: 103 G3
Area: 8.1 ha
Special features: Threatened remnant bushland, McClelland Gallery + Sculpture Park nearby
Best flowering time: Late winter to early spring
Birds: 40 species
Walking tracks: 1.6 kms
Walking time: 1 hour
Pets: Not permitted
Managed by: Frankston City Council
Information: ☎ 1300 322 322

Little Bogy Creek Reserve

Little Bogy Creek Reserve is an area of great natural beauty – an environmental gem in the midst of suburbia.

Home to a wide variety of native animals, it is a highly valuable natural corridor that links habitats. The creek is also very important as it flows into nearby environmentally sensitive waterways and wetlands.

History

Originally Bogy Creek flowed into the Carrum Carrum Swamp before this area was drained in the 1880s. Now it flows into Eel Race Creek before reaching Port Phillip Bay. The Friends of Langwarrin Outdoors and Waterways (FLOW) was established in 2016 and coordinates working bees and clean up events.

Things to see

Indigenous plants

The reserve is home to many different plant communities, ranging from those beside the creek to swamp and heathland with some eucalypt trees. Plants like Scented Paperbark, Scrambling Coral-fern and sedges grow along the creek.

The swamplier areas are covered in Swamp Paperbark, Prickly Tea-tree and the occasional Swamp Gum. In the drier heathland areas there are Tree Everlastings and Silver Banksias.

Native animals

Birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects are abundant here, though their survival is not guaranteed and care must be taken to ensure their habitat is protected. For example, the locally threatened Varied Sword-grass Brown Butterfly depends on the swampy areas of the creek for breeding and feeding.

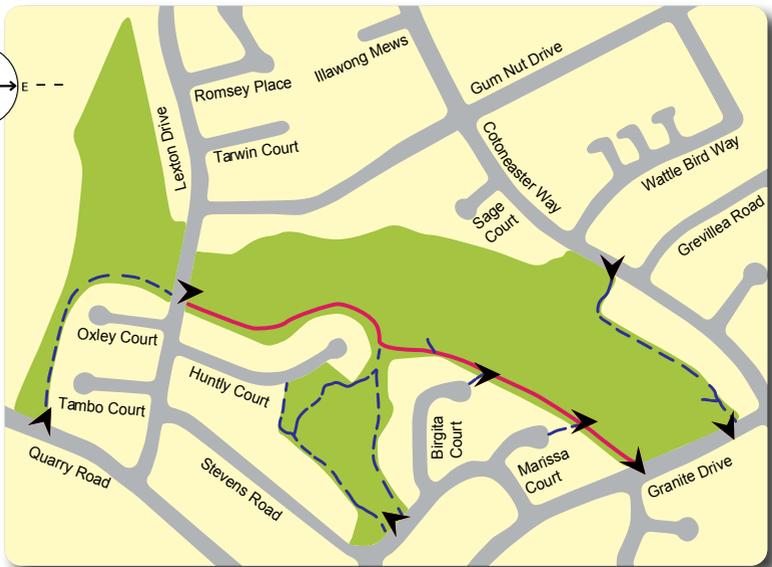
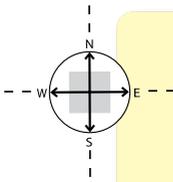
Many birds can be seen at the reserve, including the Eastern Yellow Robin, which prefers the protection of the thick understorey of the heathland.



Things to do

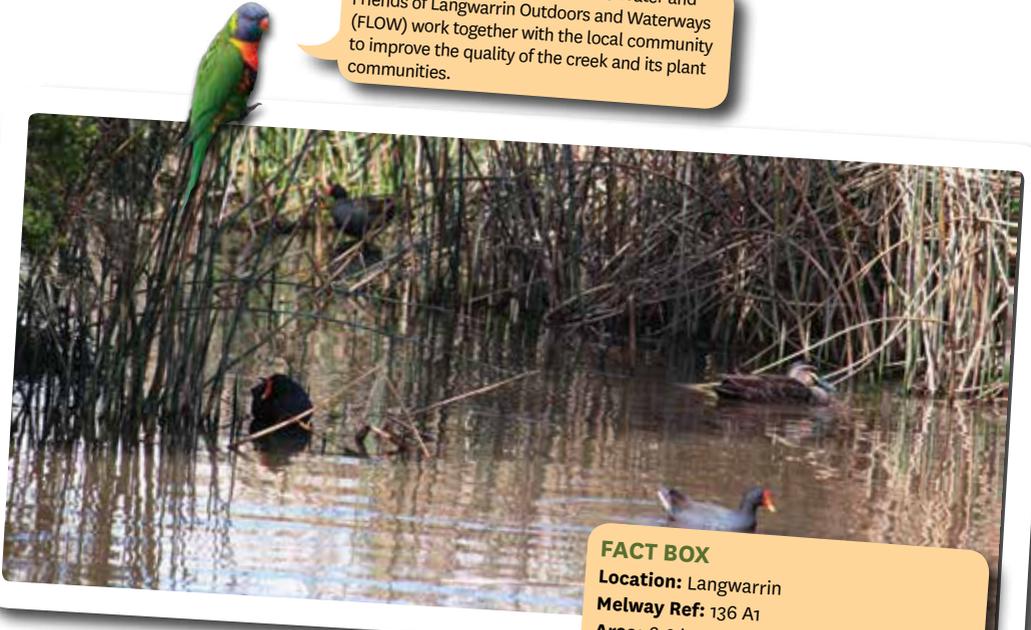
The reserve has walking tracks on either side of the creek between Granite and Lexton drives, which form a circuit. Walking and nature study are popular activities.





- Entrance
- — — Walking Trail
- — — Shared user pathway

Frankston City Council, Melbourne Water and Friends of Langwarrin Outdoors and Waterways (FLOW) work together with the local community to improve the quality of the creek and its plant communities.



FACT BOX
Location: Langwarrin
Melway Ref: 136 A1
Area: 6.6 ha
Special features: Creek, Scrambling Coral-fern
Walking tracks: 1.5 km
Walking time: ½ hour
Pets: Dogs on lead permitted
Managed by: Frankston City Council and Melbourne Water
Information: ☎ 1300 322 322

There are resident families of ducks and moorhens which are delightful to watch, but please do not feed them as their health depends on a natural diet of native plants, seeds and insects.

Dog walking is also popular but it is essential dogs are kept on leads at all times.

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.

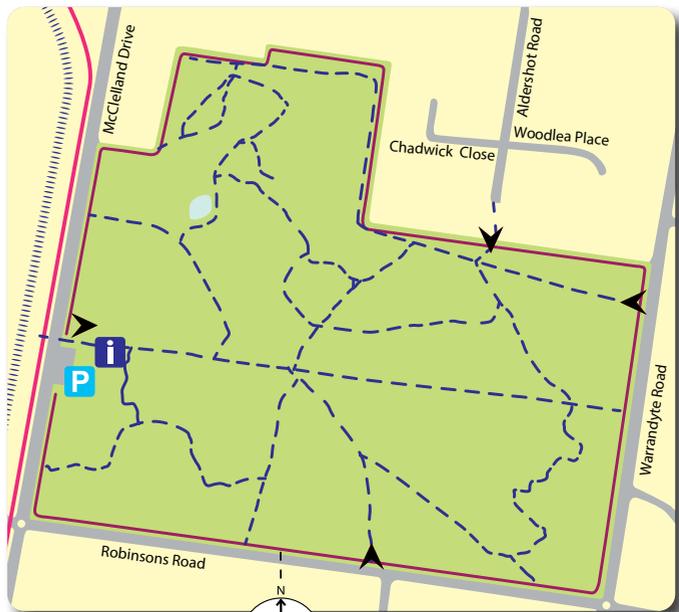
Snakes are present in the reserve so please watch out and keep on the tracks provided.

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.

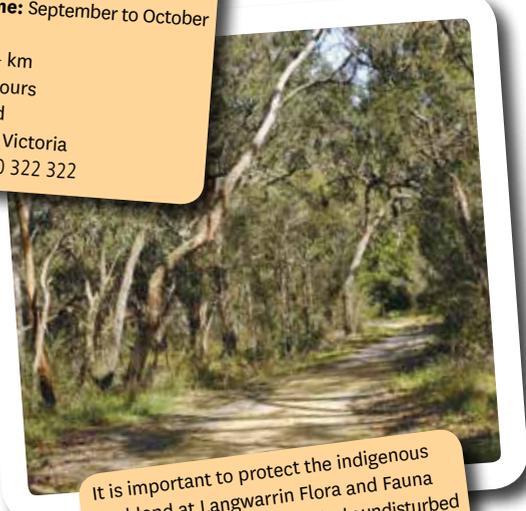
There is a great variety of walks, but be aware some tracks are seasonally closed. The reserve is particularly busy with walkers and joggers on the weekends and holidays.

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.



Wallace Reserve

Wallace Reserve is an example of a highly valued neighbourhood reserve, where the local community has worked together with Frankston City Council to restore the bushland environment. Today this beautiful reserve contains pockets of natural indigenous bush for wildlife habitat, large grassy areas for recreation, and space to enjoy a break from the noise and bustle of urban life.

History

In the past the land, now known as Wallace Reserve, was used as a gravel pit and a rubbish depot. From the 1920s to 1960 it was managed by Frankston High School, with students planting a pine plantation, some of which still stands today.

In 2005, Friends of Wallace Reserve was formed to restore the small remnants of bushland. Regular working bees focus on controlling the spread of weeds and revegetating the area with indigenous plants.

A community oriented group, the friends work closely with Chisholm Institute of TAFE and Frankston Heights Primary School with the support of Council Rangers.

The horticultural students at Chisholm Institute regularly help out with planting and weeding. Local primary school students are involved in planting days and guided walks through the reserve, and Girl Guides and disabled groups also participate in the friends group activities.



Things to see

Indigenous plants

Pockets of indigenous plant communities are returning to the reserve. Of particular note is the grassy woodland area with an



understorey of Weeping Grass, Spiny-headed Mat-rush and Variable Sword-sedge and an overstorey of Narrow-leaf Peppermints.

It is wonderful to see areas of indigenous vegetation gradually re-establish with the assistance of the volunteers.

Native animals

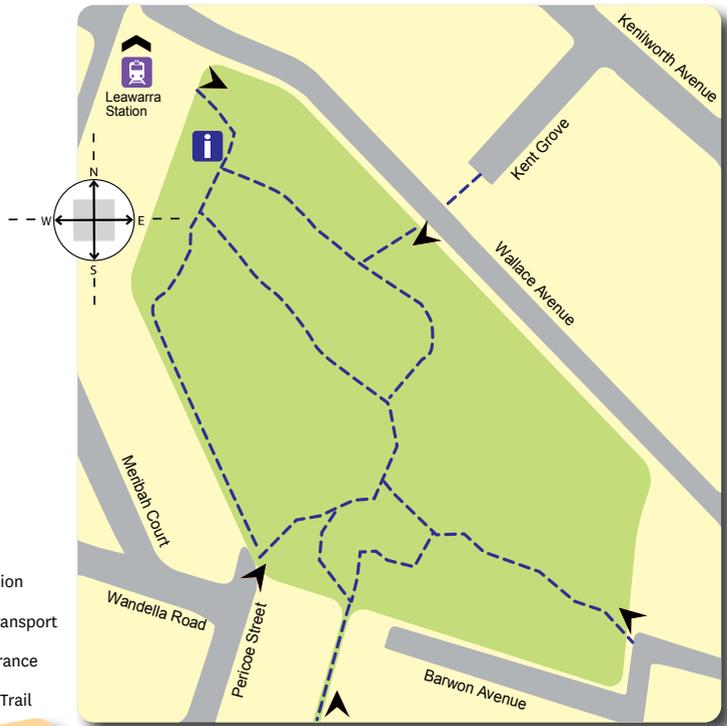
Brush-tail and Ring-tail Possums have made their homes in the bushland areas whilst an occasional koala has been seen moving through the reserve. Native birds are returning to the restored bushland areas and the pine forest is likely to be a suitable habitat for cockatoos and other large parrots.

Things to do

The reserve is a great place for walking through the bushland or taking the dog for a walk. The wide grassy areas are ideal for picnics or family activities.

The Friends of Wallace Reserve is a community and family-orientated group and all ages are welcome to join.

-  Information
-  Public Transport
-  Mainentrance
-  Walking Trail



FACT BOX

Location: Frankston

Melway Ref: 102 J6

Area: 3.7 ha

Special features: Regeneration of disturbed area, strong community involvement

Walking tracks: 1 km

Walking time: ¼ hour

Pets: Dogs on lead permitted

Managed by: Frankston City Council

Information: ☎1300 322 322



It is important to protect the indigenous bushland at Wallace Reserve to provide a safe habitat for native animals in an urban area.



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.

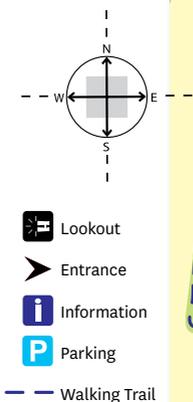
Ringtail Possums, Short-beaked Echidnas and several different species of lizards, snakes and amphibians are present in the park.



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

Paratea Flora and Fauna Reserve

With a rich and diverse flora, Paratea Reserve is a haven for many birds. The aboriginal word Paratea, meaning 'pretty flowers', describes the reserve perfectly, particularly in spring.

It is renowned for being one of the best intact remnant indigenous grasslands in the Frankston area.

History

Two sections of pristine bushland, once known as Clipperton's Reserve, were purchased from the Clipperton family in 1929 and 1932.

During the 1960s, Paratea Pre-School was built in the southern section of the reserve. The archery club — Bowmen of Frankston — used another section for over 20 years, until their relocation to Baxter Park in 1986.

In 1981, it became a reserve to protect the flora and fauna, and it was named Paratea in 1986.

Things to see

Indigenous plants

Over 130 indigenous plant species have been recorded in the reserve, including many eucalypts such as Narrow-leaf



Peppermint and the rare White Sallee. White Sallee is the lowland form of Snow Gum and is particularly precious because of its link to the Grey-crowned Babbler, a bird currently facing extinction on the peninsula due to loss of habitat.



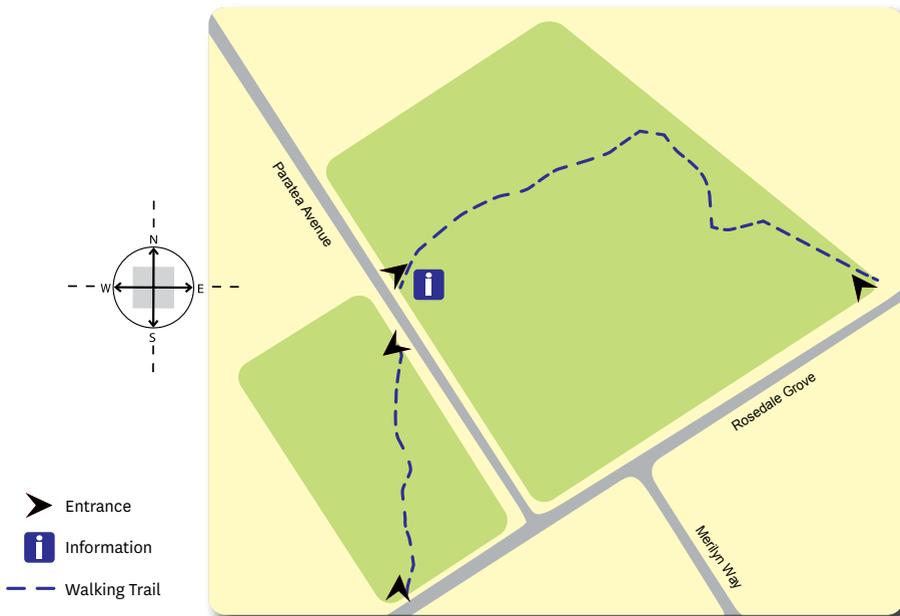
The prickly shrubs which form the middlestorey, such as Hedge Wattle, Prickly Moses and Sweet Bursaria, provide the little bush birds with a safe refuge from predators.

During spring the understorey contains many colourful lily and pea flowers, trigger plants and wildflowers such as Pink-bells. A carpet of Kangaroo Grass is sprinkled with wallaby grasses and sedges.

Native animals

Many birds can be seen at Paratea Reserve; nesting, resting or feeding. The year round residents include the Eastern Yellow Robin and the Grey Fantail, and various thornbills and honeyeaters.

It is home to a number of native mammals,



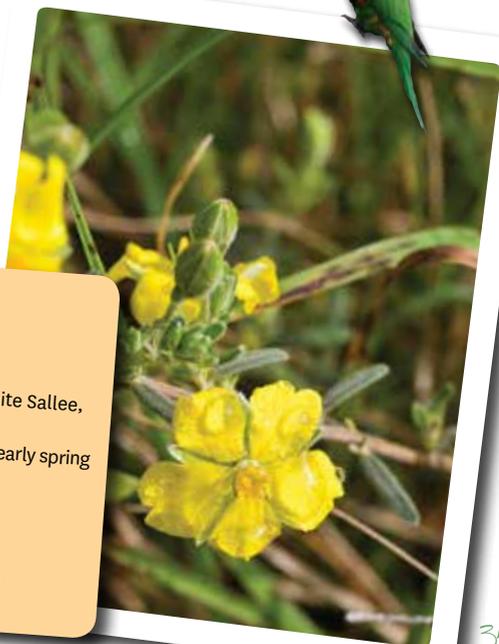
such as the Brushtail Possum which nests in the tree hollows and the Swamp Rat which prefers grassy areas to dig for plant roots. Sugar Gliders make their homes in hollows high in the trees and snakes and lizards also live in the reserve.

Things to do

There is an interesting walking track around the larger northern section of the reserve, passing close to a stand of White Sallee. The southern section has a track running straight through it, from Paratea Avenue to Rosedale Grove.

Birdwatching, photography and nature study are popular activities.

It is vital to protect the indigenous grassland at Paratea Reserve to ensure the diversity of flowers and birds and maintain the high natural value of the area.



FACT BOX
Location: Frankston South
Melway Ref: 106 E3
Area: 7.6 ha
Special features: Wildflowers, White Sallee, remnant indigenous grassland
Best flowering time: Late winter to early spring
Birds: 25 species
Walking tracks: 2 km
Walking time: ½ hour
Pets: Not permitted
Managed by: Frankston City Council
Information: ☎ 1300 322 322

Casuarina Reserve

At Casuarina Reserve, a careful balance between nature and recreation has been created. A small bushland area has been regenerated not only for wildlife habitat but to display indigenous species which are suitable to plant in local home gardens.

With a grassy area, playground and picnic tables, this reserve is a popular place of recreation.

History

In 1991, only 50 indigenous plants species were recorded in the reserve as environmental weeds had overgrown the bushland area. During the next eight years, a small group of local residents, Friends of Casuarina Reserve, revegetated the area with indigenous plants.

For such a small reserve, Casuarina Reserve now supports a surprising diversity of over 130 indigenous species. You will find many examples of plants you can use in your own garden.

Things to see

Indigenous plants

There is a canopy of Narrow-leaf Peppermint, with an occasional Swamp Gum. Tea-trees, wattles, native grasses

and lilies are abundant. There are several species which are rare in the region, such as Branching Bluebell, and other species which are locally rare, such as Cranberry Heath and Small-flower Mat-rush.

Native animals

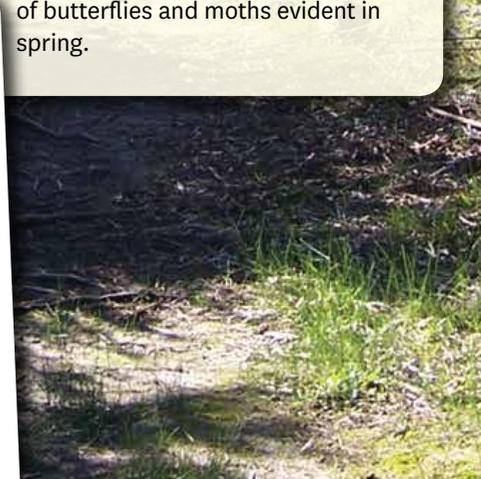
Wildlife is slowly returning to the area as their habitat is regenerated. Ringtail Possums are present in small numbers. Frogs and skinks find shelter amongst the ground litter, feeding on ground-dwelling insects. Snakes are present in the reserve so please keep to the tracks



It is important to protect the indigenous bushland at Casuarina Reserve to provide a safe habitat for native animals in an urban area.

provided.

Many birds visit the reserve to collect nectar and insects. In particular, honeyeaters such as the Eastern Spinebill and the New Holland Honeyeater are attracted to the nectar-bearing flowers of the Common Correa and the Common Appleberry. The flowers of eucalypts, wattles, tea-trees and peas attract a wide range of insects for insect-eating birds. A small family of Superb Fairy-wrens appear to live permanently in the reserve. There are also many species of butterflies and moths evident in spring.





FACT BOX

Location: Frankston South

Melway Ref: 102 F10

Area: 2 ha

Special features: Reserve with bushland and recreation area

Best flowering time: Late winter to early spring

Birds: 20 + species

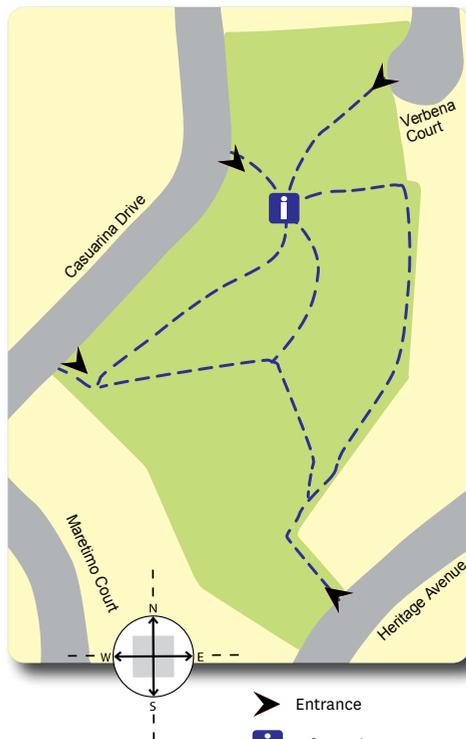
Walking tracks: 1 km

Walking times: ¼ hour

Pets: Not permitted

Managed by: Frankston City Council

Information: ☎ 1300 322 322



➤ Entrance

📍 Information

— Walking Trail

Things to do

There are walking tracks which loop through the bushland area. Picnic tables, a playground and a large, grassed shaded area make it an attractive place to relax and enjoy nature.



It is a Land for Wildlife property, a voluntary scheme managed by the Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning, to encourage and assist the provision of habitats for wildlife.

Upper Sweetwater Creek Reserve

Sweetwater Creek is a natural waterway running from above Frankston Nature Conservation Reserve to Port Phillip Bay. Upper Sweetwater Creek Reserve provides a bushland corridor along the upper section of the creek from the reservoir to Overport Road.

Enjoy the lovely views of the creek as you walk along the tracks through the remnant heathy woodland.

Things to see

Indigenous plants

There is a large range of plant communities in the reserve, from the moisture and shade-loving plants found by the creek to those which prefer the dry, sandy upper slopes.

Along the creek, the vegetation is dominated by Swamp Paperbark with a



canopy of Swamp Gums. On the upper slopes, Narrow-leaf Peppermint and Coast Manna Gums provide the canopy sheltering a wide diversity of plants.

In the remnant heathy areas, the thick middlestorey, containing mainly Prickly and Heath Tea-tree, is interspersed with

Silver Banksia, Wedding Bush and Common Heath, our state emblem. The remnant grassy areas contain a mixture of grasses, lilies, sedges and rushes.

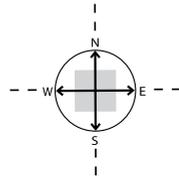
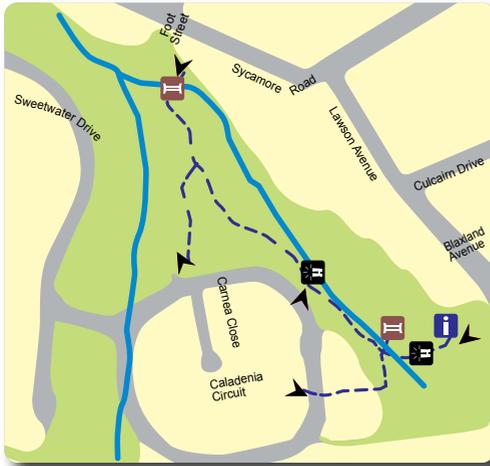


Native animals

Although there are indigenous animals living in the reserve, they are shy and may be difficult to spot during the day. Most of the animals are nocturnal, including the Brushtail and Ringtail Possums and Sugar Gliders.

Occasionally during the day a Short-beaked Echidna or a Common Blue-tongue Lizard can be found searching for food on the ground. If you are lucky you may see a Tawny Frogmouth sitting in a eucalypt tree or a Swamp Rat by the creek.





-  Lookout
-  Bridge
-  Information
-  Entrance
-  Walking Trail
-  Creek / water

FACT BOX

Location: Frankston South
Melway Ref: 102 E9
Area: 5.3 ha
Special features: Creek, remnant woodland
Best flowering time: Spring
Birds: 30+ species
Walking tracks: 1.5 km
Walking time: ½ hour
Pets: Dogs on lead permitted
Managed by: Frankston City Council and Melbourne Water
Information: ☎ 1300 322 322

Things to do

Walk along the Main Track to the Circuit and return to the Heathland Track for a short side tour through the heathland vegetation. Two foot bridges provide access from Sycamore Road and Lawson Avenue, adding an interesting vantage point from which to view the creek.

It is a peaceful reserve in which to take a quiet walk, jog or just appreciate nature.

Regular working bees are organised by the Friends of Upper Sweetwater Creek to clear invasive weeds and restore habitat by revegetating the reserve with indigenous plants.

Frankston Nature Conservation Reserve

Occupying 98 hectares in Frankston South, this reserve supports flora and fauna species which are designated as significant at regional, state and national levels. With more than 100 indigenous mammal, bird, reptile, frog and fish species recorded.

Reserved as Crown land this is a significant area of native vegetation and wildlife habitat.

Frankston Nature Conservation Reserve is not managed by Frankston City Council. Details at: parkweb.vic.gov.au or 13 19 63

FACT BOX

Location: Entrance via Jeremy Way, Frankston South
Pets: not allowed
Note: There are no toilet or rubbish facilities. Please take your rubbish with you

Tangenong Creek Reserve

This reserve, also known locally as Baden Powell Bushland Reserve, is at the head of Tangenong Creek which flows into Sweetwater Creek and Port Phillip Bay. Wander through the grassy woodland, down to the Melaleuca-lined creek and marvel at the reclamation of indigenous habitats.

History

Many local individuals and groups have worked hard over the past decade to restore natural vegetation in this reserve. A ten year plan to regenerate the gully bushland was initiated by Baden Powell Park Scout Group in 1999. Removal of rubbish, preparation of tracks and landscaping were carried out in the early stages. The continuing focus is now on the reactivation of the natural seedbed through selective removal of environmental weeds and some replanting to regenerate wildlife habitats.

Things to see

Indigenous plants

Over 60 indigenous plants, including 16 listed as Regionally Significant, are found in the reserve. Mature Sheoaks and Coast Manna Gum are abundant on the upper slopes while a middle storey of prickly shrubs, featuring Sweet Bursaria, provides a safe habitat for birds.

Spear-grass and Wallaby-grass species and Soft Tussock grass blend with an abundance

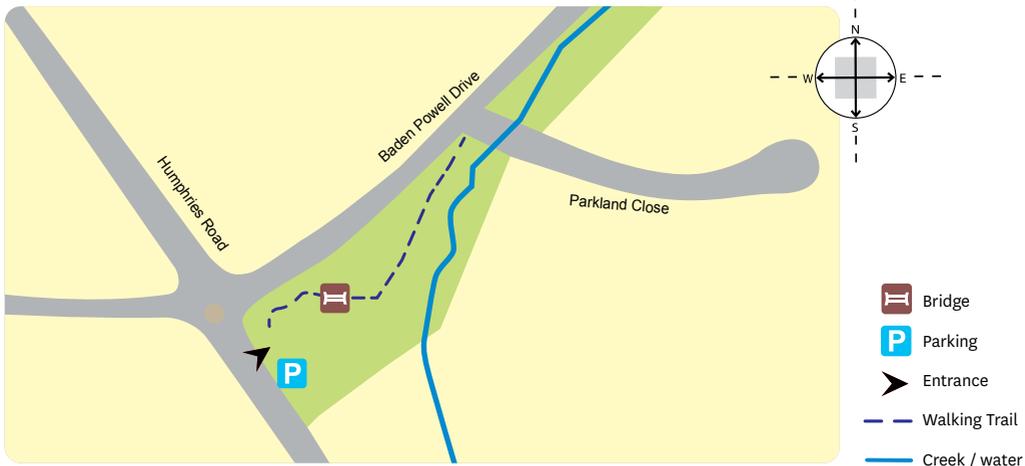
of Weeping Grass. Four species of lilies and a range of herbaceous plants, including Common Appleberry and Pale Flax-lilies, are also present in the reserve. Along the creek line a surprising



range of species, including rushes and sedges, are emerging under a canopy of Swamp Paperbark and Blackwood Wattle.

Native animals

As the reserve returns to its natural state, it will gradually attract more native animals. Brushtail and Ringtail Possums and two species of bats can be found in the trees. Skinks and Blue-tongue Lizards may be seen sunning on logs or ground litter. The moist gully and creek is a haven for a range of frog species. The raucous cackle of kookaburras is regularly heard and although infrequently seen, the White-browed Scrubwren flitters around the creek's embankments.



Things to do

A network of circular walking tracks provides the opportunity for a leisurely stroll. Take a moment to rest on the seats along the tracks or enjoy lunch at the picnic table in the open park.

Caring for the reserve

The Friends of Baden Powell Bushland Reserve work together with Frankston City Council to care for the reserve. Regular working bees focus on helping the natural environment through selective and systematic weed control.

Removal of ground weeds, located among indigenous grasses, is a focal point of their work. The control of Arum Lilies, Sweet Pittosporum and vine weeds on the creek is an ongoing task.

It is important to protect the reserve's plant communities and creek in order to provide natural habitat for wildlife and a connecting corridor to Sweetwater Creek.

FACT BOX

Location: Frankston South
 Melway Ref: 101 K10
 Area: 0.8 ha
 Special features: Regeneration of grassy woodland
 Best flowering time: Spring
 Birds: 20+ species
 Walking tracks: Short circular tracks
 Walking time: ½ hour
 Pets: Dogs on lead permitted
 Managed by: Frankston City Council
 Information: ☎1300 322 322



Regeneration area

Lower Sweetwater Creek Reserve

Sweetwater Creek is a natural habitat corridor from its south of Frankston Nature Conservation Reserve, to Port Phillip Bay. Close to the mouth of the creek lies Sweetwater Creek Nature Reserve, a peaceful oasis tucked in amongst nearby houses.

A refuge for indigenous plants and animals, the reserve is one of Frankston's hidden jewels. Visitors can walk along the paths following the creek through steep gullies, waterfalls and remnant woodland and marvel at the peace and tranquility in the midst of suburbia.

History

Narringalling, meaning 'sweet water', is the name given to the creek by the local Boon Wurrung people who used it as a source of freshwater.

Around the 1850s European settlers built huts near the creek mouth. In the late 1800s logging by woodcutters operating out of Canadian Bay resulted in the clearing of most of the eucalypts and wattles. The timber was used for the Melbourne fuel, furniture and tanning markets. The denuded areas were then invaded by Coast Tea-tree.

Neglected for many years, parts of the reserve were used as a dumping ground and became overgrown with weeds.

Volunteer group Action Sweetwater Creek Inc has worked since 1974 to clear rubbish, remove weeds, help control erosion and revegetate the creek area. Due to these efforts, the creek has again become an excellent habitat for indigenous plants and animals.

Things to see

Indigenous plants

Since 1980, much of the tea-tree has fallen or been cleared and, on the upper slopes Manna and Narrow-leaf Peppermint Gums now form a canopy for various sedges, grasses and heathy species such as Sweet Bursaria, Common Correa and Hop Goodenia. Many wild flowers also appear here like Common Heath, the state floral emblem.

In the more moist areas, Swamp Gums, Blackwood Wattles and an occasional tree fern may be found, and in the swampy areas, through which a boardwalk meanders, we can see a prolific regeneration of Swamp Paperbark.

Close to Nepean Highway, coastal species like Coast Banksia and Boobialla abound. While the reserve still has weed problems, local indigenous species are becoming predominant.

Native animals

In the 1950s there were koalas, wallabies and wombats living in the area, but unfortunately few animals remain now. They have been driven out of their habitat by foxes and domestic pets.

There are many possums and skinks in the reserve. Occasionally an echidna or a Blotched Blue-tongue Lizard might be seen. Less obvious are the nocturnal resident Sugar gliders and native Swamp Rats.

Freshwater Common Galaxias use the creek for their annual migration, traveling downstream as adults to the sea to spawn and the juveniles return upstream to grow into adults.

Common birds seen here include Eastern Rosella, Rainbow Lorikeet, Eastern Yellow Robin and Red Wattlebird, which is often found feeding in amongst the banksias.



FACT BOX

Location: Frankston South

Melway Ref: 102 A5

Area: 13 ha

Special features: Creek, remnant vegetation, "the Granites"

Best flowering time: Spring

Birds: 40+ species

Walking tracks: Network of over 2.5km: main track from Liddesdale Avenue to Baden Power Drive 1.3km

Walking time: ½ hour

Managed by: Frankston City Council and Melbourne Water

Pets: Dogs on lead permitted

Information: ☎ 1300 322 322

If you take an evening stroll you may be lucky enough to see a Tawny Frogmouth or one of the many other nocturnal creatures who live in the reserve.

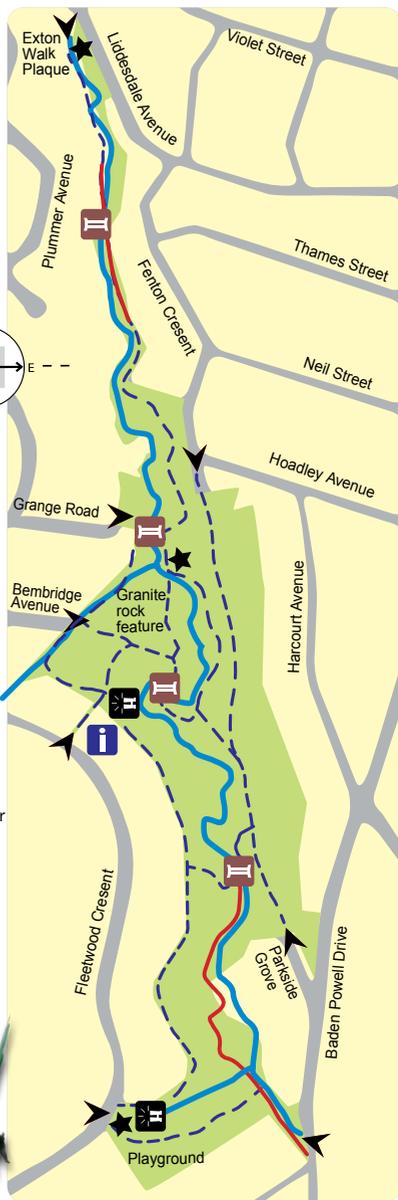
Things to do

Stroll along the picturesque walking paths and boardwalks, and enjoy views of the creek, waterfalls and bushland. Lookouts, bridges and seats provide resting points where you can stop, look and listen for birdlife and frogs.

"The Granites" is a particularly beautiful spot where the creek has carved out its path around large rocky outcrops and boulders.

You can extend your walk beyond the northern end of the reserve by crossing Nepean Highway to join the Frankston Foreshore boardwalk.

-  Lookout
-  Bridge
-  Information
-  Feature
-  Entrance
-  Trail
-  Boardwalk
-  Creek / water



It is important to protect the indigenous bushland along the creek to provide a natural wildlife habitat and corridor that connects Port Phillip bay to the Frankston Nature Conservation Reserve.



Glossary

Animal – Used in the broad sense to include all fauna such as birds, reptiles, insects and worms, as well as mammals.

Bushland – An area that has mainly indigenous plants and is relatively undisturbed by development or cultivation (e.g. Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve).

Canopy – Cover of branches and leaves formed by the crown of a tree and those around it.

Community – A particular group of plants or animals that live together (e.g. heathland).

Diversity – The many different types of plants or animals.

Environment – All the living and non-living surroundings of an animal or plant.

Environmental weeds – Plants that have invaded or changed indigenous plant communities (e.g. Blackberries). This can include plants which are native but non-indigenous, such as Sweet Pittosporum.

Environmentally sensitive – An area which will be easily affected by an environmental change (e.g. Seaford Wetlands).

Erosion – The process whereby soil is moved by wind, water or other agencies such as foot traffic. While slow erosion is a natural process, excessive erosion makes it hard for plants to adapt to the change, leaving a bare surface.

Fauna – All animals in a particular area.

Flora – All plants in a particular area.

Habitat – Where an animal or plant lives (e.g. a sand dune).

Indigenous – Native plants or animals which exist, or have existed, in a specific local area (e.g. Southern Brown Bandicoot is indigenous to the Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve locality).

Middlestorey – The middle structural level of vegetation in a plant community (e.g. large shrubs).

Native – Plants or animals which naturally exist, or have existed, anywhere in Australia.

Ramsar – The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an international treaty to protect wetlands and their resources, signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971. One of the primary aims is to safeguard habitat for migrating birds from around the world.

Rare – When only a few populations exist or are restricted to a relatively small area, but are not necessarily threatened.

Regeneration – The process of natural recovery of indigenous plant communities that have been damaged or degraded (e.g. Tangenong Creek Reserve). Natural regeneration can be assisted by weed removal.

Remnant – The intact remains of indigenous plant communities.

Revegetation – Action to establish and develop a plant cover (e.g. Frankston Foreshore).

Species – A type of plant or animal which can potentially produce its own kind.

Threatened – A species that is vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered in the wild.

Understorey – The lowest structural level of vegetation in a plant community, such as small shrubs or grasses.

Upperstorey – The top structural level of vegetation in a plant community, usually trees.

Vegetation – Plants (e.g. trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses).

Wildlife corridor – A strip of habitat which allows movement of native animals between separated habitats (e.g. along a creek line or railway line).

Fauna

Common name	Scientific Name
Australasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>
Brushtail Possum	<i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>
Common Galaxias	<i>Galaxias maculatus</i>
Double-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius bicinctus</i>
Eastern Blue-tongue Lizard	<i>Tiliqua scincoides</i>
Eastern Dwarf Galaxias	<i>Galaxiella pusilla</i>
Eastern Mourning Skink (formerly Swamp Skink)	<i>Lissolepis coventryi</i>
Eastern Rosella	<i>Platycercus eximius</i>
Eastern Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>
Eastern Yellow Robin	<i>Eopsaltria australis</i>
Grey Duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>
Grey Shrike-thrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>
Koala	<i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i>
Latham's Snipe	<i>Gallinago hardwickii</i>
Grey Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albiscapa</i>
Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>
Little Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera chrysoptera</i>
New Holland Honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris novaehollandiae</i>
New Holland Mouse	<i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i>
Rainbow Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i>
Red Wattlebird	<i>Anthochaera carunculata</i>
Ringtail Possum	<i>Pseudocheirus peregrinus</i>
Royal Spoonbill	<i>Platalea regia</i>

Flora

Common name	Scientific Name
Black Sheoak	<i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i>
Blackwood Wattle	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>
Blue Tussock-grass	<i>Poa labillardieri</i>
Boobialla	<i>Myoporum insulare</i>
Branching Bluebell	<i>Wahlenbergia multicaulis</i>
Coast Banksia	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>
Coast Beard-heath	<i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i>
Coast Daisy-bush	<i>Olearia axillaris</i>
Coast Manna Gum	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> subsp. <i>pryoriana</i>
Coast Tea-tree	<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>
Common Apple-berry	<i>Billardiera scandens</i>
Common Correa	<i>Correa reflexa</i>
Common Heath	<i>Epacris impressa</i>
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Common Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma geniculatum</i>
Cranberry Heath	<i>Astrolooma humifusum</i>
Green Sheoak	<i>Allocasuarina paradoxa</i>
Guinea-flower	<i>Hibbertia fasciculata</i>
Hairy Spinifex	<i>Spinifex sericeus</i>
Heath Tea-tree	<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>
Hedge Wattle	<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>
Hop Goodenia	<i>Goodenia ovata</i>
Kangaroo Grass	<i>Themeda triandra</i>
Knobby Club-rush	<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>
Narrow-leaf Peppermint	<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>
Native Parsnip	<i>Trachymene composita</i>
Pale Flax-lily	<i>Dianella longifolia</i> s.l.
Pink-bells	<i>Tetradlea ciliata</i>
Prickly Moses	<i>Acacia verticillata</i>
Prickly Tea-tree	<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>
Purple Diuris	<i>Diuris punctata</i>
River Red Gum	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>
Scented Paperbark	<i>Melaleuca squarrosa</i>
Scented Sundew	<i>Drosera aberrans</i>
Scrambling Coral-fern	<i>Gleichenia microphylla</i>
Sea Rush	<i>Juncus kraussii</i>
Silver Banksia	<i>Banksia marginata</i>
Silver-leaf Stringybark	<i>Eucalyptus cephalocarpa</i>
Small-flower Mat-rush	<i>Lomandra micrantha</i>



Fauna

Common name	Scientific Name
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>
Short-beaked Echidna	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>
Southern Brown Bandicoot	<i>Isoodon obesulus obesulus</i>
Southern Emu-wren	<i>Stipiturus malachurus</i>
Sugar Glider	<i>Petaurus breviceps</i>
Superb Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>
Swamp Harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>
Swamp Wallaby	<i>Wallabia bicolor</i>
Swamp Rat	<i>Rattus lutreolus</i>
Tawny Frogmouth	<i>Podargus strigoides</i>
Varied Sword-grass Brown Butterfly	<i>Tisiphone abeona</i>
White's Skink	<i>Liopholis whitii</i>
White-browed Scrubwren	<i>Sericornis frontalis</i>
White-eared honey-eater	<i>Nesoptilotis leucotis</i>
White-faced Heron	<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>
Yellow Thornbill	<i>Acanthiza nana</i>

Flora

Common name	Scientific Name
Soft Tussock-grass	<i>Poa morrisii</i>
Spear-grass	<i>Austrostipa spp.</i>
Spike Wattle	<i>Acacia oxycedrus</i>
Spiny-headed Mat-rush	<i>Lomandra longifolia s.l.</i>
Swamp Gum	<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>
Swamp Paperbark	<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>
Sweet Bursaria	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>
Tassel Rope-rush	<i>Hypolaena fastigiata</i>
Thatch Saw-sedge	<i>Gahnia radula</i>
Tree Everlasting	<i>Ozothamnus ferrugineus</i>
Variable Sword-sedge	<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>
Wallaby-grass	<i>Rytidosperma spp.</i>
Water Ribbons	<i>Cycnogeton procerum</i>
Wedding Bush	<i>Ricinocarpos pinifolius</i>
Weeping Grass	<i>Microleana stipoides s.l.</i>
White Correa	<i>Correa alba</i>
White Sallee	<i>Eucalyptus pauciflora</i>



Background Information

Further reading

- Costermans, L. 2009. *Native trees & shrubs of south-eastern Australia*. New Holland, Sydney.
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- Simpson, K., Day, N. 2010. *Field guide to the birds of Australia*. CSIRO Publishing.
- Bird Observers Club of Australia 2006. *Where to find birds around Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula*. Bird Observers Club of Australia, Nunawading, Victoria.
- Museum Victoria Field guide to Victorian fauna. A smart phone app. Visit: museumvictoria.com.au/national-apps

Contact details for government bodies that manage the various reserves:

Frankston City Council
Phone: 1300 322 322
frankston.vic.gov.au

Melbourne Water
Phone: 13 1722



melbournewater.com.au

Parks Victoria
Phone: 13 1963

parkweb.vic.gov.au

Frankston's Indigenous Nursery

7 McMannis Way (off McCulloch Avenue), Seaford; next to Seaford SES (Melway Ref 99 F8)

The indigenous nursery has a range of reasonably priced indigenous plants, well adapted to Frankston's local conditions. These plants enhance the natural environment for wildlife, are drought tolerant and provide great results in your garden with minimal maintenance. Autumn to spring is the best time to plant.

Opening hours (Autumn to Spring)

Wednesday, 9am–3pm; first Saturday of each month, 9am–1pm; or by appointment.

For more information, contact the nursery on **9768 1513** or fn@frankston.vic.gov.au

Thank you

We are grateful to:

- Leon Costermans for his invaluable contribution to this book, particularly the Geological Story, the maps featured on pages 9 + 10 and Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve photos.
- The Frankston Environmental Friends Network for their input to this book and their wonderful work in the Natural Reserves.





Seaford Foreshore





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