

## 5. Visitor use at Dandenong Ranges National Park

### Aim

Students will understand that a diverse range of opportunities is available to people visiting Dandenong Ranges National Park, and analyse visitor data.

### Materials

- Map of Dandenong Ranges National Park (see DRNP Parknote provided in this education resource kit. The Parknote is also available online via [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au) Click on Publications).
- Road map of Dandenong Ranges.
- Pens/pencils.
- Resource sheet 5: Who's visiting where in the park?

### Activities

1. Using the maps of the park and Dandenong Ranges area, locate the following townships and facilities.

#### Townships

Belgrave	Ferntree Gully
Kallista	Kalorama
Mt Evelyn	Mt Dandenong
Olinda	The Basin
Sassafras	Sherbrooke
Silvan	Upper Ferntree Gully

#### Major facilities and features

Mount Dandenong Tourist Road  
 Sherbrooke Falls  
 Olinda Falls  
 Doongalla Homestead  
 Grants picnic ground  
 Fern Tree Gully picnic ground  
 Sherbrooke picnic ground  
 Living Bush Nature Walk  
 1000 Steps and Kokoda Trail  
 One Tree Hill Track  
 Lyrebird Track  
 One Tree Hill  
 Hardy Gully Nature Trail  
 Tree Fern Track  
 Margaret Lester Forest Walk  
 The park's Education Centre

2. Based on their location and facilities, which areas of the park do you think would be most popular?
3. Referring to the visitor data table in Resource sheet 5, which are the four most popular sites?
4. Why do you think some activities are restricted to certain parts/areas of the park? For example, why are there no picnic facilities in the Mt Evelyn unit of the park?
5. What tasks and issues does this number of visitors and their activities create for the people who manage the park?
6. In what ways could visitors and their activities impact on each other during their visit to the park?
7. Why do you think Parks Victoria does not provide rubbish bins in this park? Do you think this is a good idea? Explain.

#### **Links to Section 1**

See also Section 1 of this education resource kit, in particular:

Parks and SOSE

7. How many people visit Victoria's national parks?
8. What do people do in areas managed by Parks Victoria?



## 5. Who's visiting where in the park?

The Dandenong Ranges National Park is a popular visitor destination. The main attractions at the park are tall forests, wildlife and the wonderful scenery. The most popular destinations in the area include not only the national park but also Mt Dandenong Observatory, Puffing Billy, National Rhododendron Garden and various restaurants, art galleries and gardens.

The major activities within Dandenong Ranges National Park include nature appreciation, picnicking, bushwalking, jogging, bike riding and horse riding.

The estimated yearly visitation to the park and its surrounds is approximately 2.1 million visitors a year. Most visitors come to the park between 10 am and 3.00 pm.

In the past tourism within Dandenong Ranges National Park has not been well coordinated. Efforts are being made to minimise the impact of tourism whilst providing visitors with high standard facilities and quality experiences. Visitor data is being collected to help park managers make informed decisions about park facilities and visitor management.

### Picnic Grounds

Picnic ground	BBQ	Shelter	Toilets
Ferntree Gully Picnic Ground	Electric	●	●
One Tree Hill	Gas	●	●
Doongalla Homestead	Wood		●
Doongalla Stables Site	Wood	-	●
Sherbrooke Picnic Ground	Gas	-	●
O'Donohue	Gas	-	●
Grants Picnic Ground	Gas/Wood	●	●
Olinda Falls Picnic Ground	Wood	-	●
Valley Picnic Ground	Wood	-	●
Eagle Nest Picnic Ground	-	-	-

Note: Rubbish Bins are not provided.



**Vehicle and Visitor Estimates for the Year 2000/2001**

Location in or near DRNP	Av. Daily Vehicles	Total Vehicles	Av. Daily Visitors	Total Visitors
Doongalla	34	12,275	91	33,143
Eagle Nest Picnic Ground	12	4,415	31	11,291
Ferntree Gully Picnic Ground	148	54,054	527	192,398
Grants Picnic Ground	377	137,462	1,538	561,274
Olinda Falls Picnic Area	16	5,825	43	15,728
One Tree Hill Picnic Ground	50	18,263	135	49,310
Sheffield Road	2	604	4	1,631
Sherbrooke Picnic Ground	80	29,349	217	79,242
Valley Picnic Ground	9	3,203	24	8,648
<b>Totals</b>				
DRNP	728	265,450	2,610	952,665
Outside DRNP (Kalorama Park, Mt Dandenong Observatory, RJ Hamer Arboretum)	869	317,057	2,705	987,502
<b>All Locations</b>	<b>1,597</b>	<b>582,507</b>	<b>5,315</b>	<b>1,940,167</b>
<b>Non-Vehicle Visitation</b>				
Walk in visitors and cyclists			410	150,000
<b>Totals</b>				
All Locations	1,597	582,507	5,725	2,090,167
<b>Additional Figures</b>				
Sherbrooke Falls Track			177	64,481
Thousand Steps Track			144	52,532

**Annual Site % of Visits**

