

# Birrarrung Park

## Visitor Guide

Sited at the confluence of the Plenty and Yarra Rivers, this 33ha park was an important meeting area for the Wurundjeri people. It is now a significant component of the Yarra Valley Parklands and has two large ephemeral wetland areas.

### Access to the park

Pedestrian access is available from various points at all times.  
 Vehicle entry is available from Templestowe Road, Bulleen. (Melway 32 H4). The gates are open 8am - 5pm every day. During daylight saving in the peak summer period the gates are open until 8pm. An automatic gate allows exit from the park at any time after closing.  
 24 hour car parking is available.  
 Dogs are permitted in Birrarrung Park, but must remain on a leash at all times.

### Facilities and activities

- Several wood barbecues (wood is provided), picnic tables and a shelter are available. Fires are permitted only in barbecues provided, but you are welcome to bring your own gas barbecue.
- Birrarrung has a single toilet block that is wheelchair accessible.
- An adventure playground is available for children
- 2.8 kilometres of flat bitumen trails are suitable for skating, cycling and walking.
- View the plentiful waterfowl from the wetlands observation deck.



Common Brushtail Possum. © MT

### History

The name Birrarrung is derived from an Aboriginal name for the Yarra River 'Bay-ray-rung' meaning 'River of Mists'. Stone chips, flakes and an axe head found in the park are remnants of large gatherings of Aboriginal people. Because of the constant threat of flooding, residential and industrial development did not occur at this location. The predominant land use was small-scale cattle grazing and horse agistment as well as seed farming. The park was opened to the public in 1984.

### Yarra Valley Parklands

In 1929 it was recognised that rapid urban development in Melbourne after the 1880s had resulted in a lack of parklands to meet community needs. Finally in 1971 the state government announced the 1430ha Yarra Valley Park as a vital wildlife corridor and natural recreational space for Melburnians. The parklands now form a significant 'backbone' of interconnecting trails, linear parks, wetlands and waterways throughout the metropolitan area. The ongoing effort revegetating the parklands, mostly with the aid of valued community groups planting about 30,000 trees per year, has seen the return of a number of significant wildlife species.

### Flora and fauna

This part of the Yarra Valley is primarily classed a 'Riparian Floodplain Woodland that features River Red Gum and wetlands.

The wetlands at Birrarrung provide habitat for a variety of birdlife and also frogs. As part of the natural cycle, wetlands occasionally dry out completely and the wildlife disperses temporarily. Rare birds, such as the Australasian Bittern, have been seen at Birrarrung. Kookaburras and Boobook Owls are regularly seen in the park.





















Kookaburra. © MT

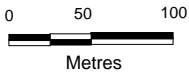
### Groups

Organised groups of over 50 people require a permit from the Yarra Valley Parklands office. A permit details park regulations and guides appropriate activities but does not preserve any space in the park for exclusive use. There is an area in the Porter Street Picnic Ground of Westerfolds Park available for exclusive bookings.

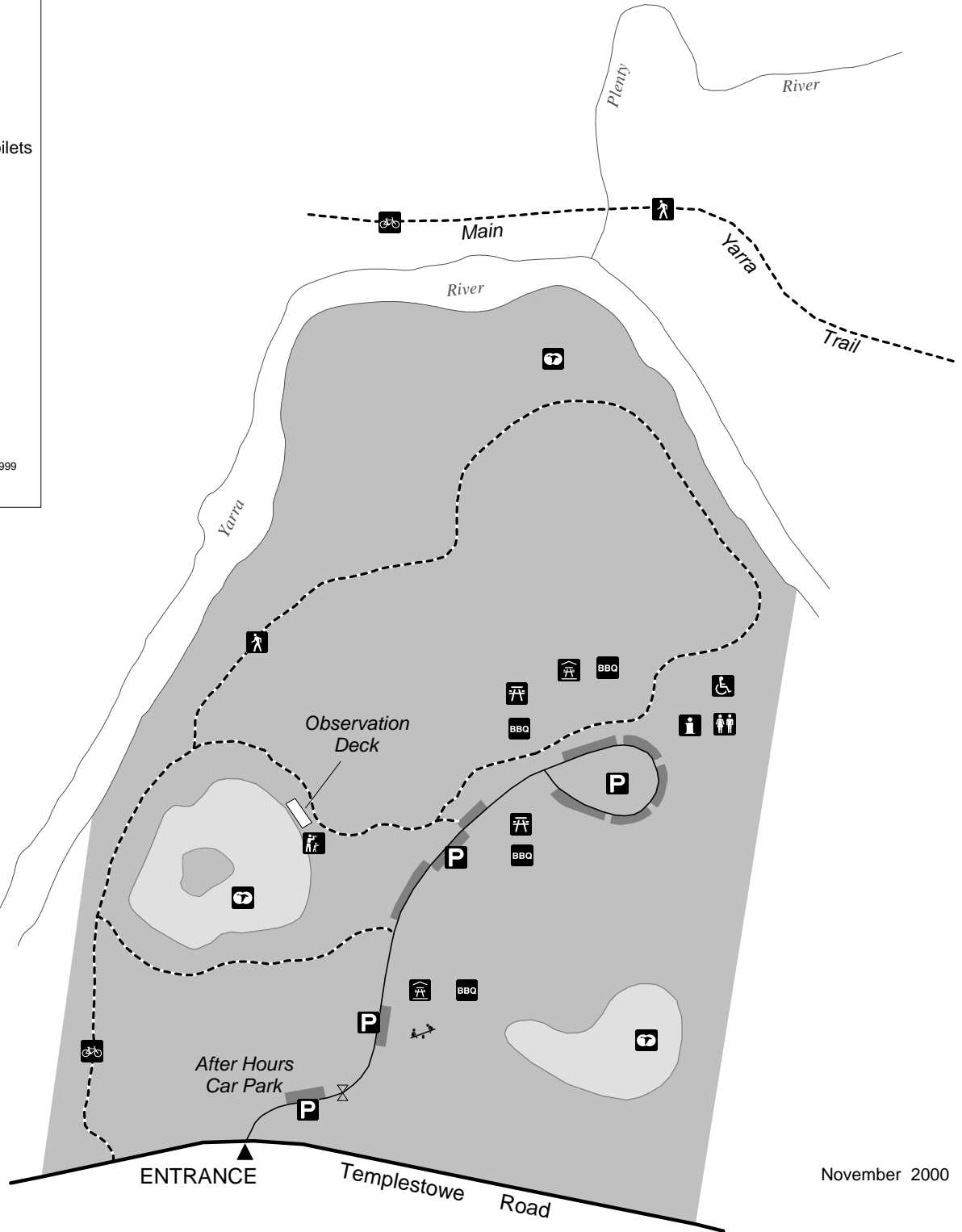
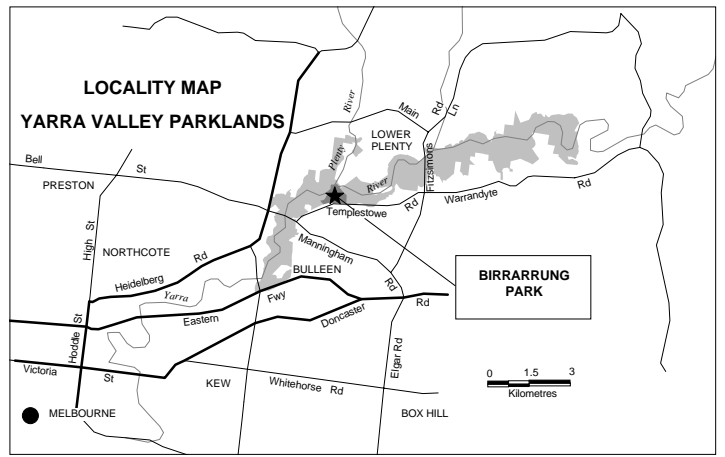


## Birrarrung Park

-  Major Road
-  Vehicle Track
-  Multi-Purpose Track
-  Park Boundary
-  Car Park
-  Water Body
-  Cycling Track
-  Walking Track
-  Bird Watching
-  Sight-seeing
-  Information
-  Toilets
-  Disabled Access Toilets
-  Picnic Area
-  Barbecues
-  Shelter
-  Playground
-  Gate



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Cartography by Parks Victoria  
Mapping Systems, December 1999  
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## Caring for the environment

Help us look after this park by remembering these guidelines:

Take your rubbish home with you

Light fires only in barbecues provided. No fires including barbecues may be lit on a day of total fire ban

Dogs are permitted in the park, but must be kept on a leash at all times

All native plants and animals are protected

Leave the park as you find it - take nothing but memories, leave nothing but footprints