

Kurth Kiln Regional Park



Visitor Guide

Kurth Kiln Regional Park, covering 3,500 hectares, contains a range of forest types and other interesting features awaiting exploration. Located a short distance east of Melbourne, the park is mostly known for its kiln used during the Second World War to make charcoal for gas producer units fitted to motor cars. The park is popular for picnicking, camping, nature walking and horse riding.

Location and Access

Kurth Kiln Regional Park is 65 km east of Melbourne. You can get there via Launching Place Road or Beenak Road, Gembrook. Kurth Kiln Picnic Ground and Camping Area is 7 km north of Gembrook.

History

Kurth Kiln was built during the Second World War to make charcoal. It was developed and patented by Professor E. E. Kurth of the University of Tasmania.

Most of the charcoal was used in gas producer units fitted to motor cars to produce a combustible gas as a substitute for petrol which was heavily rationed during the war. Display boards around the kiln explain the process used to produce gas.

The cottages nearby housed the early workers and their families and at a later stage, Forest Commission crews.

Things to see and do

Picnicking

Several picnic grounds have fire places, tables and toilets, making them ideal for picnics or a breath of fresh air. Refer to map overleaf for locations.

Camping

Camping is recommended at Kurth Kiln Camping Area.

Walking

Walking is the best way to get to know the park and there are several tracks with a variety of walks for all groups. Information on walks is available at the Kurth Kiln Picnic Ground.

Bike riding

There are good opportunities for mountain bike riding on 'Horses Walker and Bicycle Only' designated tracks.

Horseriding

The park has many kilometres of tracks suitable for horse riding. A horse corral is located at Scout Camp Track.

Plants and wildlife

The park has several plant communities ranging from Mountain Ash forest and riparian forest to shrubby foothill forest and swamp heathland. These support a rich flora and contain the rare plant Long Pink-bells, Tall Astelia and Brickmakers Saw-sedge.

The diversity of plant life attracts a range of wildlife including wombats, Swamp Wallabies and Echidnas.

There is also a diverse mammal population active mostly at night. They include possums, Yellow-bellied Gliders, Sugar Gliders and Greater Gliders that glide for up to 100 metres from tree to tree.

Bush Rats and Antechinus (marsupial mice) may be spotted scuttling about on the forest floor.

Birdlife is active. Keep a lookout for lyrebirds, honeyeaters, parrots and Kookaburras. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, currawongs and butcherbirds.

Community Involvement

The management and preservation of Kurth Kiln Regional Park is actively assisted by voluntary community groups called 'Friends of Kurth Kiln' and 'Gembrook Flora and Fauna Group'. Regular working bees are held to maintain the natural values of the forest.



For further information

Parks Victoria
 Information Centre
Call 13 1963
 or visit the
 Parks Victoria website
www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away with you for recycling & disposal

All native plants & animals are protected by law.

Please do not disturb them in any way

Firearms are prohibited

Dogs must be controlled on a leash

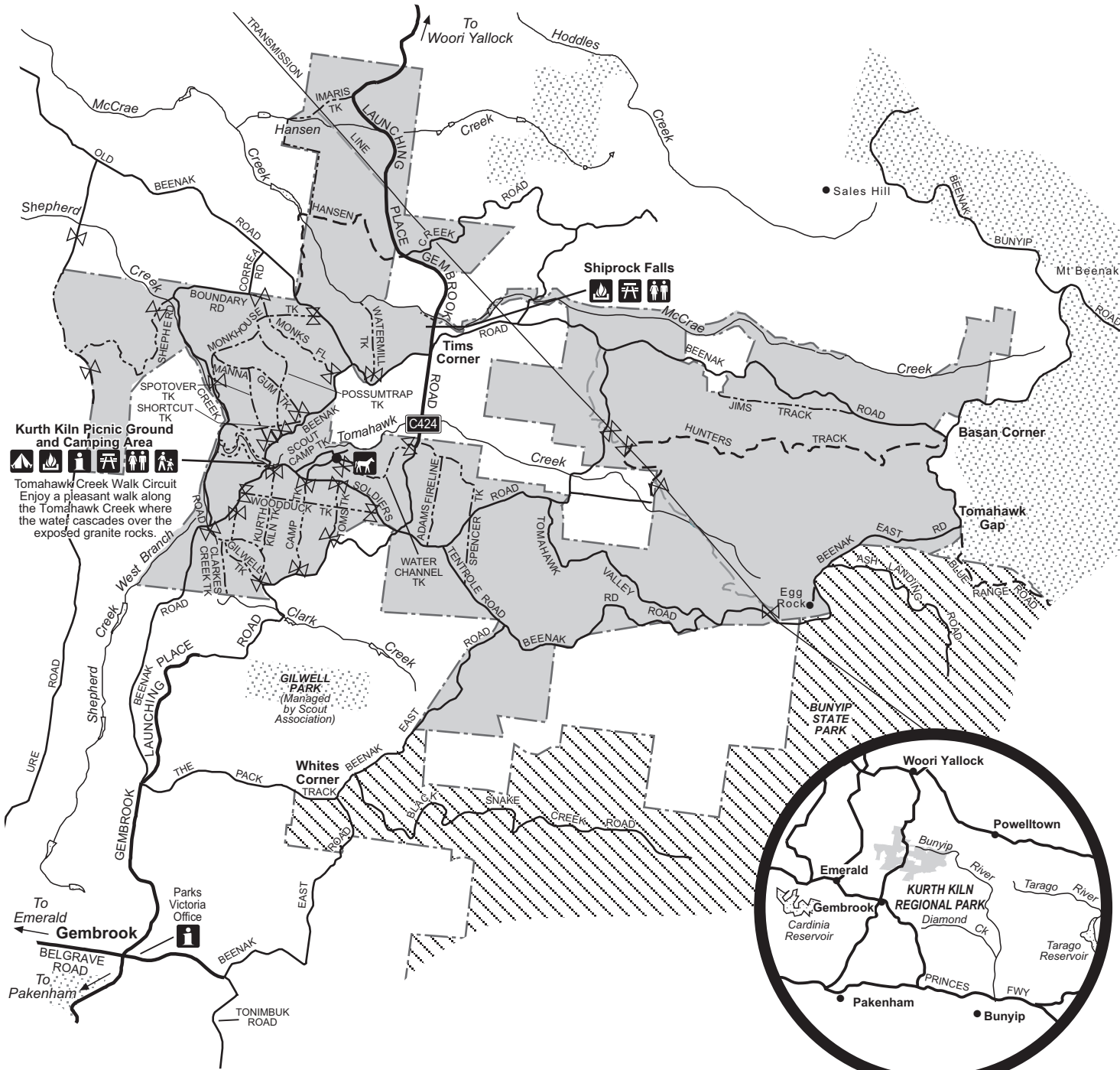
Light fireplaces in the fireplaces provided in the picnic and camping areas. No fires may be lit on Total Fire Ban days

Keep to the constructed paths

Observe signs for 'management vehicles only', 'walkers only' and 'horses, walkers & bicycles only'

All roads and tracks in the park are public roads. Vehicles and motorbikes must be road registered and drivers and riders must be licenced

Horse and mountain bike riding is permitted on roads and designated tracks, but is not permitted on 'walkers only' tracks or in picnic areas.



Kurth Kiln Picnic Ground and Camping Area

 Tomahawk Creek Walk Circuit
 Enjoy a pleasant walk along the Tomahawk Creek where the water cascades over the exposed granite rocks.

Kurth Kiln Regional Park

- Sealed road
- Surfaced road
- 4WD track
- Management Vehicles Only Track
- Shared Horse/Cycle/Walk track
- Walking track
- Gate
- Regional Park
- Other Park
- State Forest

Recreational Facilities

- Camping
- Family Walk
- Fireplace
- Horse corrals & unloading area
- Park information
- Picnic table
- Toilets

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 METRES
 Cartography by Spatial Vision 2007 M/6493

MELBOURNE
 POWELLTOWN
 EMEERALD
 GEMBROOK
 PAKENHAM
 BUNYIP

Parks VICTORIA

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