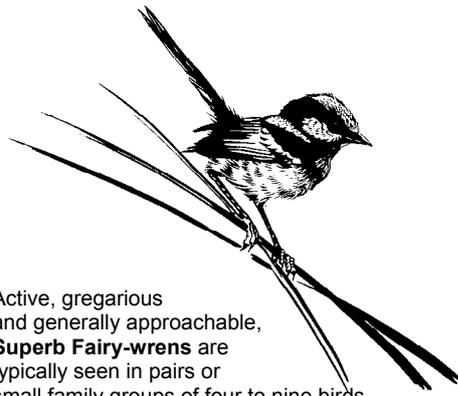


Leaghur State Park



Visitor Guide

Leaghur State Park protects some of the most significant Black Box wetland and woodland communities in Victoria. Visitors can enjoy and experience its natural and cultural values in the midst of a largely agricultural landscape.



Active, gregarious and generally approachable, **Superb Fairy-wrens** are typically seen in pairs or small family groups of four to nine birds

The Victorian Government increased the size of the Leaghur State Park by including the Appin State Forest and Leaghur Wildlife Reserve into the State Park, in June 2010 to protect and enhance the River Red Gum forests in Victoria.

River Red Gum forests have high natural, cultural and economic values. These forests are coming under increasing pressure from climate change, drought and reduced water flows in the northern rivers.

Protecting this precious environment relies on balancing the economic and recreational activities with preserving its natural beauty and values.

Exploring the park

The 2022 hectare park offers many opportunities to relax and enjoy the peaceful bushland and its interesting history.

Car touring - A leisurely drive following the scenic route marked on the map overleaf is a fantastic way to begin exploring the park.

Picnicking - Pack a picnic or have a barbecue and enjoy a relaxing time with family and friends in the picnic areas near the main entrance and at Lake Meran.

Walking - Go for a walk through the Black Box woodlands and quietly observe Whistling Kites, Brown Falcons, Superb Fairy-wrens and many other birds soaring high above the wooded and wetland areas.

Keep an eye out for wallabies or kangaroos grazing on the open plains at dawn and dusk.

A diverse and colourful history

Early settlers found the Black Box had limited value as sawn timber and harvesting was limited. Today, fine old trees survive, with much of the habitat still intact. You may discover scar trees and oven mounds - reminders of the Aboriginal people who hunted here, and of settlers seeking materials for shelter. Over 100 archaeological sites have been recorded to date.

Dairy Track is a reminder of the farmers who travelled this track to deliver fresh cream to the Appin dairies, while wild oats and other weeds suggest that the Red Plain was once used for cropping.

The park has a rich history of stock grazing and scattered settlement, although little evidence remains of three early homesteads built in the park.

Stands of non-indigenous eucalypts and other trees planted in 1950 (experimental plantation) and in 1972 (to enhance the entrance) are a notable feature at the main entrance and picnic area.

The ebb and flow of flooding

Flooding can occur in winter and spring, replenishing the park with vigorous growth and resulting in rich, stunning wetlands.

Flooding is essential for the continued health of the Black Box communities. The optimum frequency of flooding is considered to be once every four to ten years during the winter and spring months. Excess flooding regimes appear to favour River Red Gum and Lignum, but can lead to the death of Black Box.

The park has a number of small floodways and channels that flow during the wetter months and enter Lake Meran to the north, reducing long term water detention times.

Please note, seasonal closure of tracks will be implemented to minimise damage during flooding.

December 2010

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For further information

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

Parks Victoria
 Kerang Office
 26 Wellington Street
 Kerang 3579
 Tel: (03) 5452 1860

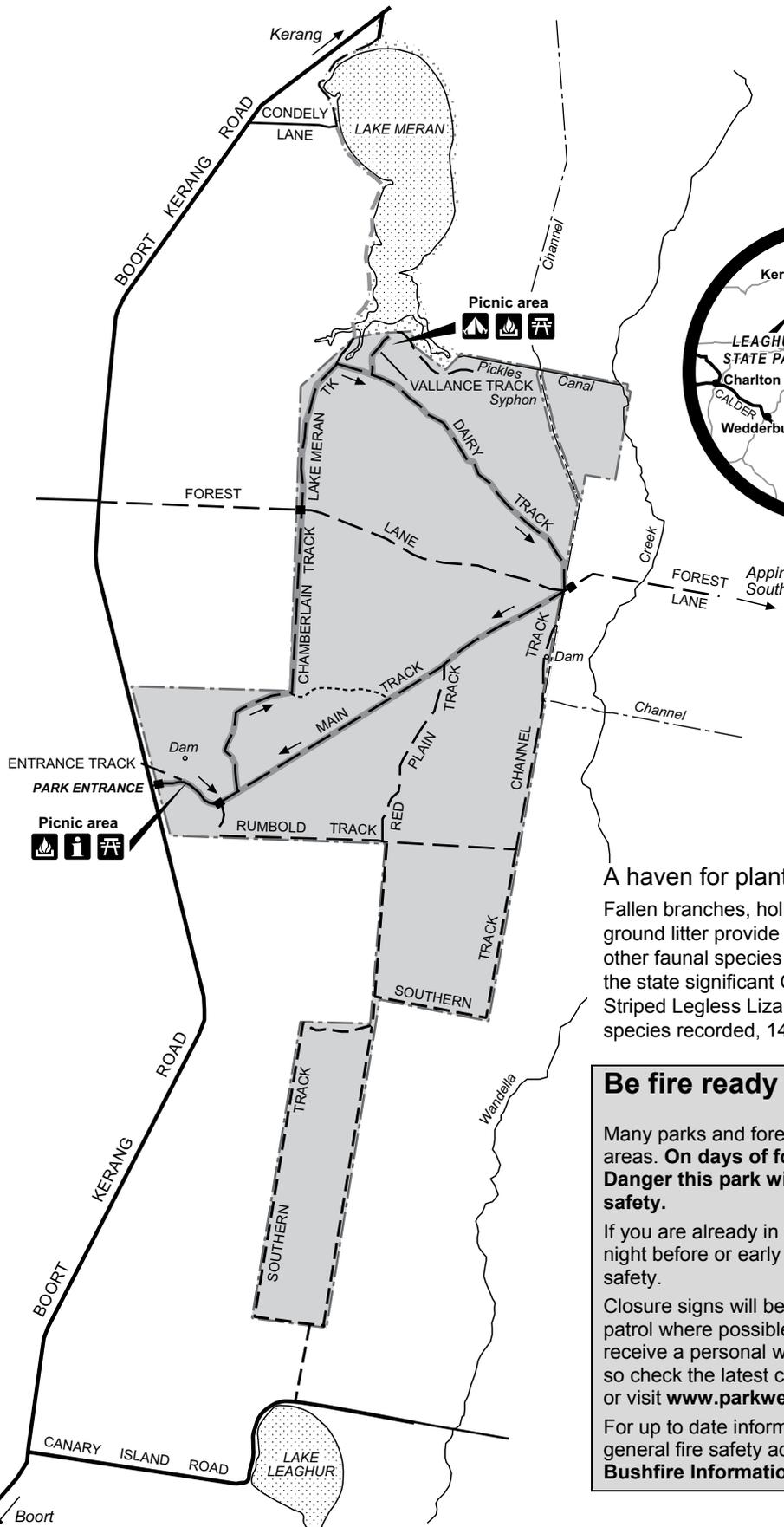
Caring for the environment

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
- Dogs and other pets are not permitted
- Firearms are prohibited
- Light fires only in fire places provided. No fires, including barbecues may be lit on a day of **Total Fire Ban**.

Leaghur State Park is in the **North West Total Fire Ban District**

- Camping is only permitted at the two designated picnic areas
- Collect only dead wood from the ground for campfires
- Vehicles, including motor bikes, may only be used on formed open roads. Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy



A haven for plants and animals

Fallen branches, hollow logs, dead trees and ground litter provide habitat for the 95 bird and 12 other faunal species found in the park, including the state significant Grey-crowned Babbler and Striped Legless Lizard. Of the 137 native flora species recorded, 14 are listed as significant.

Be fire ready and stay safe

Many parks and forests are located in high fire risk areas. **On days of forecast Code Red Fire Danger this park will be closed for public safety.**

If you are already in the park you should leave the night before or early in the morning for your own safety.

Closure signs will be erected and rangers will patrol where possible, however you may not receive a personal warning that the park is closed so check the latest conditions by calling 13 1963 or visit **www.parkweb.vic.gov.au**.

For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667**.

Leaghur State Park

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| — Sealed road | - - - MVO - Management Vehicles only |
| — 2WD - all weather road | - - - - - Walking track |
| - - - 2WD - dry weather subject to seasonal closure | — Scenic route |
| - - - 4WD - dry weather | ■ State Park |
| | ■ Other public land |
| | ■ Grid |

- Recreational Facilities**
- Camping
 - Fireplace
 - Park information
 - Picnic table

