

Marysville State Forest

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Marysville State Forest is located approximately 1.5 hours drive north east of Melbourne. The area is renowned for its lush eucalypt forests, clear streams and spectacular waterfalls. The forest provides excellent opportunities for recreational activities such as bushwalking, camping, picnicking, scenic driving, bird watching and fishing.

Location and Access

From Melbourne, follow the Maroondah Hwy through Healesville and the Black Spur, before turning right just past the township of Narbethong towards Marysville.

History

The discovery of gold in the area in the mid 1800's resulted in a need to find a better route to the gold fields from Melbourne. Marysville, named after Mary Steavenson, wife of John Steavenson, the Assistant Director of Roads and Bridges at the time, became an established settlement on the Yarra Track, on route to Woods Point.

Maurice Keppel, from Ireland, was one of the first landholders in the newly surveyed town in 1864. He and his wife ran the successful Keppel's Australian Hotel. Two of their sons, John and Jerry, established a farm and opened up the surrounding high country. The Keppel lease was one of the longest held in the high country.

What facilities are provided

Day visitor areas are located at Steavenson Falls Scenic Reserve, Taggerty River, Yellow Dog, Murray Pass and Keppel Creek Picnic Area.

There are a small number of camping opportunities within Marysville State forest, at Keppel Creek Camping Area, Anderson Mill and Keppels Hut. There are facilities to cater for horse riders at Anderson Mill and Keppels Hut.

The adjacent Big River State forest, about 30km east of Marysville, provides numerous bush camping sites along the Big River. These campsites have fireplaces and some have toilets. All camping areas are available on a first-come first-served basis and no bookings are required, but early arrival is advisable during peak periods.

Things to see and do

There are a number of walking trails within a short distance of the township of Marysville to suit a variety of fitness and skill levels, including short picturesque walks to more challenging day walks. More detailed information about these walks can be found in the Marysville Trails brochure.

Steavenson Falls

The falls were opened to tourists in 1866, and drop a total of 84 m in three stages into the Steavenson River valley. The falls are an easy walk from the carpark and are accessible by wheelchair users. The gravelled paths and falls are floodlit between dusk and 11pm.

Keppels Hut

Keppel Hut was established after the 1939 fires on a grazing lease held by John and Jerry Keppel. The hut accidentally burnt down in 1983 and was rebuilt with the help of local community groups and DELWP. The hut was again completely destroyed in the Black Saturday fires of 2009 and subsequently rebuilt. Horseyards, a toilet, picnic table and fireplaces are provided. Keppels Hut Tk is 4WD only and is seasonally closed (see 'Seasonal Road Closures' overleaf).

Keppel Lookout

Keppel Lookout offers spectacular views along the Cathedral Range and down the Acheron valley. The Lookout can be accessed on foot via the steep, 11 km long Keppel Lookout Trail. For the less energetic, Keppel Lookout is accessible by car. From Marysville's main street, turn south at the roundabout up Lyell St and continue onto Paradise Plains Rd, past the town reservoir (1.4km). Mopoke View looks out over the valley to the south of Marysville (4km). At the top of the climb, turn left onto Keppel Lookout Rd (4.7km) and continue until you reach the carpark (5.5km).

Lady Talbot Forest Drive

Lady Talbot Forest Drive is named after the wife of Sir Reginald Talbot who was the Governor of Victoria from 1903 to 1908. Passing through various forest types characteristic of the Central Highlands, the drive offers scenic views of the mountains, cascades and fern gullies. The drive begins approximately 500m east of the town's centre, off the Marysville-Woods Point Rd.

Campfire guidelines

Campfires are permitted, provided the following guidelines are observed:

- **Campfire safety** – Use fireplaces where provided. The fire must be attended at all times by a person with the capacity and means to extinguish it. For solid fuel fires, the ground and

airspace within 3m of the outer perimeter of the fire must be clear of flammable material. Ensure the fire is extinguished with water before leaving. **If it's cool to touch it is safe to leave.**

- **Campfires are prohibited on days of Total Fire Ban.** This ban does not apply to a person preparing meals on a gas or electric appliance that has been designed and commercially manufactured exclusively for cooking provided:
 - the ground and airspace within 3m of the appliance is clear of flammable material
 - when in use and alight, the appliance is in a stable position and attended by an adult who has the capacity and means (minimum of 10 litres of water on hand) to extinguish the fire.

It is your responsibility to know if a Total Fire Ban is declared. If in doubt, do not light a campfire.

Forest use guidelines

- There is no rubbish collection service so please take your rubbish home.
- Dogs are allowed in State forest but must be under direct control at all times and are expected to be on a leash in picnic and camping areas or when near other visitors.
- Motor vehicles including motorcycles must not be driven off formed roads or on walking tracks. All vehicles must be registered and drivers licensed.
- Use toilets where provided. At some sites hand washing facilities and toilet paper may not be supplied. Come prepared.

Firearms

Normal firearm laws apply in State forests.

- A licence is required and firearms must be registered.
- It is prohibited to shoot on, from or across roads.
- Use of firearms in camping areas is prohibited.

All native birds and animals are protected by law. State forests are popular recreation areas. Take special care with firearms.

Camping - Minimal impact

To protect the delicate environments of the forest, we need to 'tread lightly' in the bush to minimise our impact on the natural environment.

- Be careful of camping under trees. Trees can drop their limbs at any time (particularly during high winds).
- Do not dig trenches around tents. With modern tents, this is unnecessary, particularly if you choose a well-drained or raised site.
- Protect water quality – wash up at least 50 metres away from the river and avoid using soap (use gritty sand and a scourer instead).
- Leave campsites tidy – Take your rubbish home.

Safety information

- On Code Red Fire Danger Rating days, parks and State Forest are closed to the public. Do not enter parks or forests on Code Red Days. If you are already there when a Code Red day is announced, you should leave the night before or early in the morning. For more information contact DELWP (see below).
- Be responsible for your own safety. Be aware of extreme weather events, carry your own first aid kit and let someone know before you go.

- The forest was severely impacted by bushfire in 2009. Visitors are advised to avoid the forest in very wet or windy weather when hazards may be increased.

Seasonal road closures

Some roads within the forest are seasonally closed each year from the Thursday after the Queen's Birthday holiday through to the Thursday before Melbourne Cup. This is to protect track surfaces and the environment, and for public safety. Road closures may be extended beyond these dates, depending on weather conditions. These closures are enforced by a gate. Contact DELWP for more information on road closures.

For more information

The Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forest. For further information contact DELWP's Customer Service Centre ☎ 136 186 (TTY: 1800 555 667) or visit DELWP's website at <http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au>

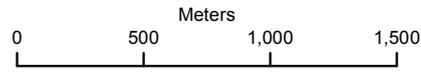


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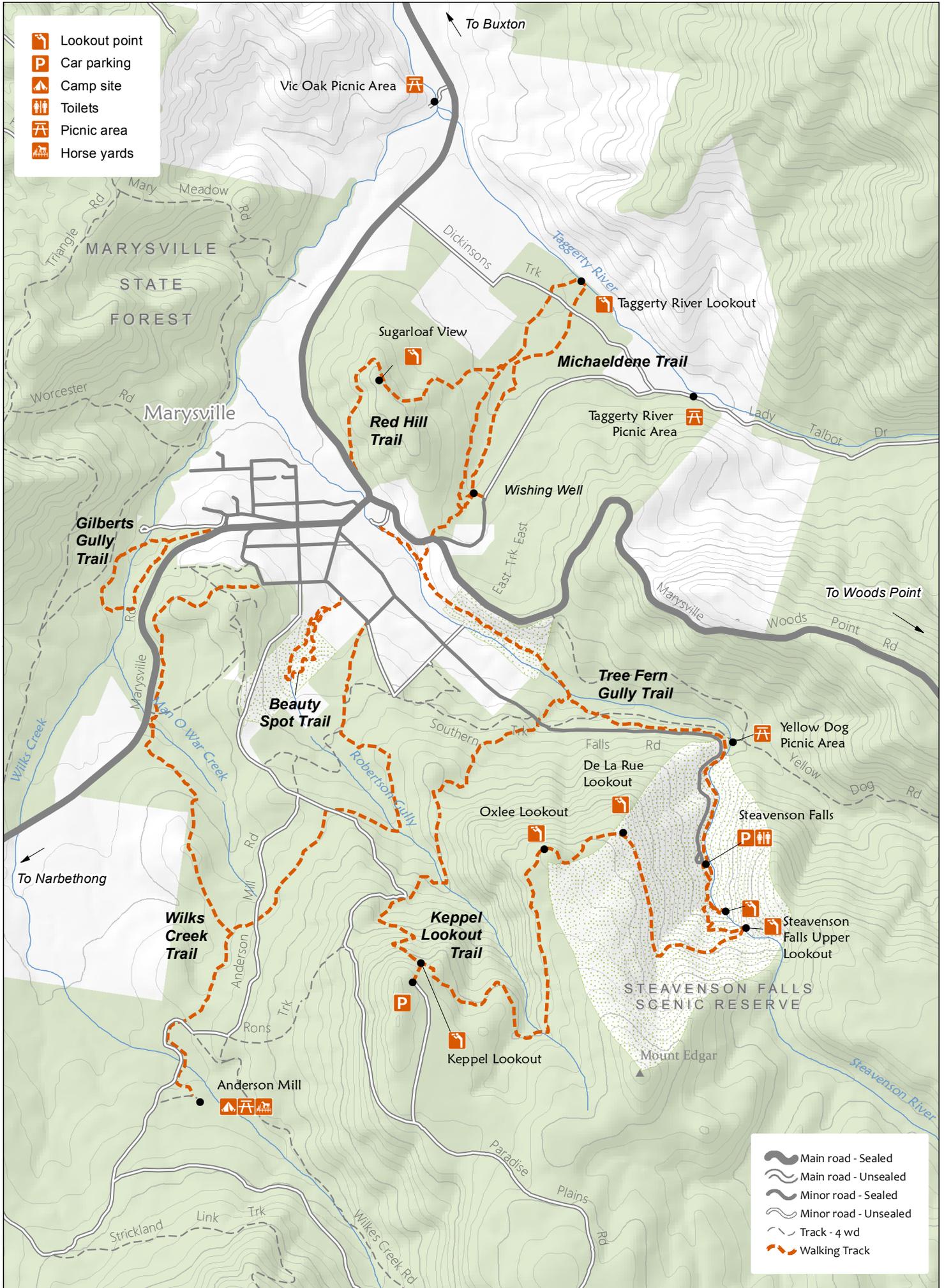
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Marysville State Forest - Walks

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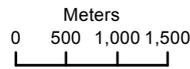


Forest Notes Map
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Marysville State Forest - Drives

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