

Mount Buffalo National Park

Visitor Guide



Approaching Mount Buffalo, few people could fail to be impressed by the spectacular granite cliffs rising before them. Crisp fresh air, giant tors, deep gorges, tumbling waterfalls, Snow Gum woodlands and masses of summer wildflowers all combine with views of the nearby Alps.



Opening hours

Mount Buffalo National Park is open every day, including weekends and public holidays.

Getting there

Mount Buffalo is 325 kilometres, three and a half hours' drive north-east from Melbourne along the Hume Highway. Either take the Snow Road exit just before Wangaratta or continue along the highway to the Great Alpine Road (B500) exit.

Watch out for native animals, especially early in the morning and at dusk. Take care driving during winter. The main road is often snow-covered from McKinnons Corner through to Cresta Valley. Snow chains must be carried and fitted when and where directed by road signs during the declared snow season.

The Reservoir, Lake Catani and Horn roads are unsealed and can become dusty and rough. These roads are closed during winter or following periods of heavy rain. The Horn and Reservoir Roads are not suitable for caravans.

Things to see and do

During summer, enjoy bushwalking, canoeing, swimming, picnicking, sightseeing and cycling. Rock climbing, abseiling and hang gliding challenge the adventurous visitor.

Over winter, snow blankets most of the plateau and attracts cross-country skiers to marked trails with tobogganing and snow play at Cresta Valley and Dingo Dell. A café operates at the Dingo Dell Day Visitors Centre, check website for operating times.

Walking

There are over 90km of tracks traversing pristine subalpine plant communities and unique landscapes. The tracks are generally well-defined and signposted. Maps should be carried at all times. Please keep to formed tracks.

Short walks

1. George Heritage Walk – 2.5km, 1 hour one way

This self-guided walk starts in the George Day Visitor Area opposite the Mt Buffalo Chalet and leads to many spectacular lookout points. Interpretative signs describe the area's history and beauty through the eyes of local pioneer, Guide Alice.

2. Dicksons Falls Nature Walk – 4km, 1.5 hours return

This walk starts on the east side of the road opposite Cresta Valley carpark. Subalpine plant communities and masses of wildflowers are a highlight in summer.

3. Lakeside Walk – 3km, 1 hour circuit

Lake Catani is best seen from this circuit track as it passes through several different plant communities. The walk can be accessed from various points around Lake Catani.

4. View Point Walk – 4km, 2 hours return

Access to this walk can be from the Gorge Catani Track or Underground River Track. There are great views of the Buckland Valley from the lookout.

5. Eurobin Falls Track – 1.5km, 45 minutes return

This track climbs past the Ladies Bath Falls and onto Lower Eurobin Falls, then continues up to the base of the Upper Falls. Please remain on the track.

6. Rollasons Falls Track – 4km, 1.5 hours return

Start at Rollasons Falls Picnic Area. Turn left at the intersection for the Upper Falls lookout or right for the Lower Falls and rock pool. There is a short steep section at the end.

7. Gorge - Catani Track – 4km, 1.5 hours return

This easy track links the Gorge, campground and Lakeside Day Visitor Areas through strands of Alpine Ash and is suitable for cycling.

8. Underground River Track – 2.5km, 2 hours one way

From the lower Gorge carpark, this track leads to Billsons and Haunted Gorge lookouts and onto the Underground River. Continue to link up with the View Point Nature Walk. Do not enter the Underground River Cave without an experienced guide and appropriate equipment.

9. Monolith Track – approximately 1.8km, 1 hour one way

Monolith Track can be accessed from the carpark opposite the Park Office, from the Gorge carpark or from the VicRoads sheds. The Monolith offers 360 degree views of the plateau. Return or continue along one of the other tracks mentioned.

10. Lake View Track – 2km, 45 minutes return

This track starts near the VicRoads sheds and ends at a large rock slab giving fine views of Lake Catani below and across the Alps.

11. Chalwell Galleries Track – 1.7km, 1 hour circuit

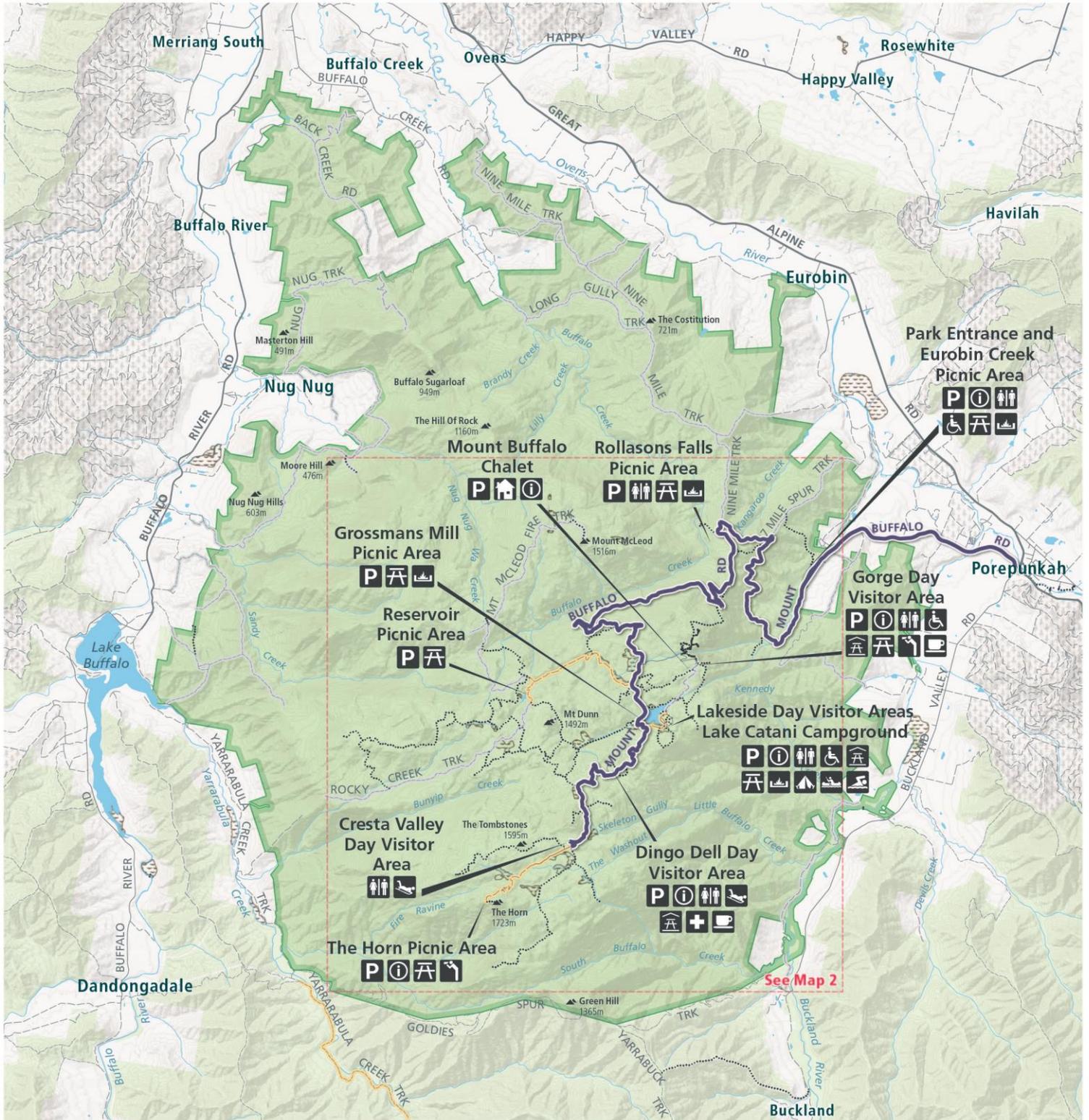
A natural adventure playground, this walk starts near the Lake Catani Campground and passes through snow gums and up to a jumble of large granite rocks forming impressive passages. The climb through the galleries is steep, narrow and challenging at times, suitable for those comfortable with heights and confined spaces.

12. Old Galleries Track – 1km, 30 minutes circuit

The Old Galleries is a shorter walk through the awe-inspiring rock formations of Mount Buffalo. The loop returns along the main road.

Mount Buffalo National Park

Map 1

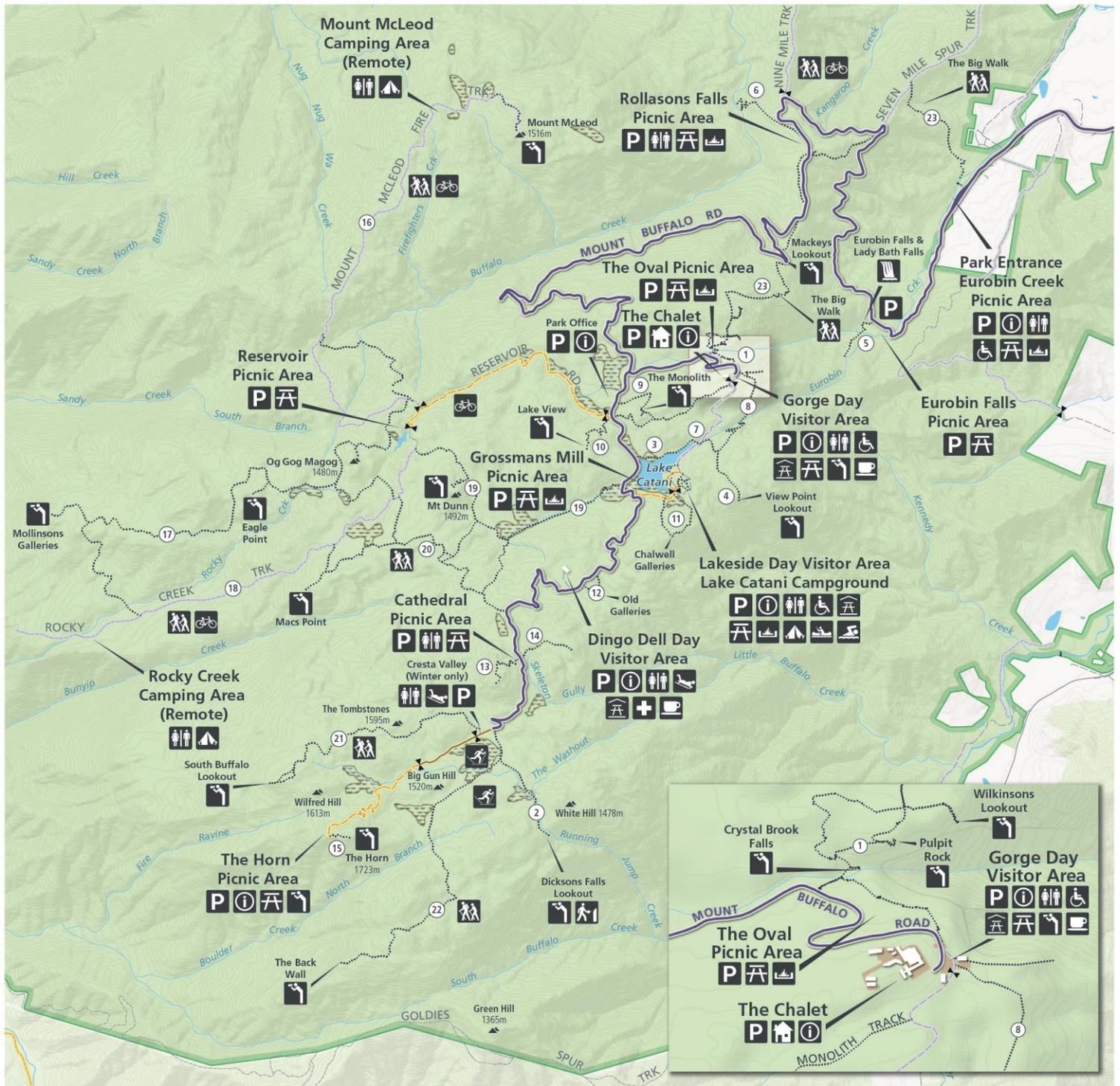


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|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| P Parking | Sheltered area | Mt Buffalo Road | Seasonal closure |
| Information | Heritage building | Highway | Minor river |
| Toilets | Café | Main road | Creek / stream |
| Disabled access | First-aid | Sealed road | Mount Buffalo National Park |
| Picnic table | Swimming | Unsealed road | State park |
| Fireplace | Canoeing | 4WD | Plantation |
| Lookout | Tobogganing | Walking track | Waterbody |
| Camping area | Mountain / hill | Mgmt. vehicles only | Area subject to inundation |



Mount Buffalo National Park

Map 2 — Great Granite Plateau



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|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| P Parking | Café | 1 Short / long walks | Management vehicles only |
| i Information | First-aid | Gate | Seasonal closure |
| Toilets | Self-guided walk | Mountain / hill | Minor river |
| Disabled access | Hiking | Mt. Buffalo Road | Creek / stream |
| Sheltered area | Cross-country skiing | Highway | Mount Buffalo National Park |
| Picnic table | Tobogganing | Main road | State park |
| Fireplace | Canoeing | Sealed road | Waterbody |
| Camping area | Swimming | Unsealed road | Area subject to inundation |
| Lookout | Cycling | 4WD | |
| Waterfall | Heritage building | Walking track | |



13. Cathedral - Hump Track – 2km, 1 hour return

Starting at the Cathedral Picnic Area, the track leads past the spectacular Cathedral and onto the Hump summit for the views of Cresta Valley and the Horn.

14. Le Souef Plateau Track – 3.5km, 1.5 hours return

Starting at the Cathedral carpark, the track leads you up onto the Le Souef Plateau, where you can explore a hidden and secluded section of Mount Buffalo, including the Sentinel and Mahomets Tomb.

15. The Horn Track – 1km, 40 minutes return

This track takes you to the highest point on Mount Buffalo, 1723m, with 360 degree views of the plateau and the Alps at the summit.

Medium and long walks

These longer walks take you to more remote areas of the park. Some of these walks may be unmarked and difficult to find in some conditions, so independent navigation devices are recommended. Use the map to link walks together to create longer circuit walks.

16. Mount McLeod Track – 16km, 6 hours return

Starting near Reservoir Picnic Area, the track leads to the most remote part of the park, North Buffalo Plateau. As an alternative route, try the Mount McLeod Shortcut track. Remote camping is available and can be used as a base for exploring the plateau.

17. Mollisons Galleries Track – 18km, 6 hour circuit

Start on Mount McLeod Track turning left after 300m. Detour to Og Gog & Magog and Eagle Point along the way. The track ends at the rocky outcrop of Mollison's Galleries providing views into the Buffalo River Valley. An alternative return route is available via the Rocky Creek loop track.

18. Rocky Creek Track – 13km, 4 hours return

From the Reservoir this management vehicle track links in with Long Plain, Macs Point and Mollisons Galleries Tracks, terminating at the remote Rocky Creek Campground.

19. Long Plain Track to Mt Dunn – 6km, 2 hours return

Reach Mount Dunn via this picturesque track starting near Lake Catani. The first 1.5km is flat walking along the creek then gently starts climbing up to Mt Dunn.

Other tracks and destinations can be accessed from Mt Dunn. Use the map to create your own walking adventure by linking tracks.

20. Macs Point Track – 7km, 3 hours return

Start at the snow plain 300m south of the Leviathan to reach Macs Point. This track links into Stanley Rocks and Giants Causeway.

21. South Buffalo Track – 8km, 3 hours return

From Cresta Valley this track initially climbs a ridge, then meanders through Snow Gum meadows and small snow plains, terminating at the South Buffalo view point.

22. Back Wall Track – 12km, 4 hours return

Starting from Dicksons Falls Nature Walk, this walk takes you to the southernmost point on the plateau, passing Giant's Playground and ending with stunning views from the top of the Back Wall.

23. The Big Walk – 11.3km, 4-5 hours one way

The longest walk on Mount Buffalo, this track climbs from the park entrance to the Gorge Day Visitor Area. The walk highlights the unique biodiversity and geology of Mount Buffalo and provides plenty of opportunities to rest and enjoy superb view of the Australian Alps. There are opportunities along the Mount Buffalo Road to start or finish the walk.

Picnicking

A number of picnic areas around Mount Buffalo National Park offer a variety of facilities.

For the best views, visit the Gorge Day Visitor Area or the Horn.

Eurobin Creek and Rollasons Falls picnic areas enable access to fantastic waterfalls, while Grossmans Mill and the Oval picnic areas are great locations to enjoy tranquil views across the lake or breathtaking views into the Gorge and across the valleys .

The Lakeside Day Visitor Area is being developed to have tables, toilets, shelter and free gas barbeques and offers shady relief in summer. The Lake Catani jetty or beach is a great place to enjoy a cool swim or paddle a canoe.

Camping

There are unpowered car based camping sites at Lake Catani Campground open from November to April and for a short period during winter for snow camping. In the warmer months, the amenities include the stone hut, hot showers, flushing toilets, and sink areas for dishwashing and laundry. In winter, campers only have access to a pit toilet and the stone hut and need to walk or ski 1km from the closed gate on Mount Buffalo Road.

Remote, minimal impact bush camping is available at Rocky Creek and Mount McLeod campgrounds for a limited number of hikers. Pit toilets are available and fuel stoves are permitted.

Bookings are required for summer and remote camping. Book online at www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay or by contacting the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963.

Rock climbing and abseiling

A number of licensed tour operators provide activities in the area. Rock climbers are asked to complete the trip Intentions book at the Gorge prior to climbing.

Bike riding

Bikes are restricted to vehicle tracks within the park. There are great rides along the Reservoir Road and the Gorge-Catani Track.

Tobogganing and snow play

During winter there is plenty of fun to be had in the snow in designated areas at Cresta Valley and Dingo Dell.

Cross country skiing

Marked trails commence at the information board in the Cresta Valley carpark.

Hang gliding

For experienced pilots only, the launch ramp is 200 metres past the Gorge lower carpark.

Be prepared and stay safe

Mount Buffalo National Park is in the North East fire district. Bushfire safety is a personal responsibility. Anyone entering parks and forests during the bushfire season needs to stay aware of forecast weather conditions. Check the Fire Danger Rating and for days of Total Fire Ban at www.emergency.vic.gov.au. No fires may be lit on Total Fire Ban days. On Code Red Fire Danger Rating days this park will be closed for public safety. Closure signs will be erected but do not expect an official warning. Check the latest conditions at www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963.

All visitors, and especially walkers, should realise that weather conditions can change rapidly in alpine areas.

Snowfalls can be experienced at any time of the year and water can be extremely scarce, so always be prepared with:

- warm clothing
- wind and waterproof jacket
- gloves, hat, sunglasses and strong footwear
- first aid kit and sunscreen
- energy food and water
- compass and relevant topographical map

Before you go, let someone know where you are going, and when you expect to return. Check road and track conditions before you go. Many roads and tracks are closed seasonally during the colder, wetter months for environmental and safety reasons.