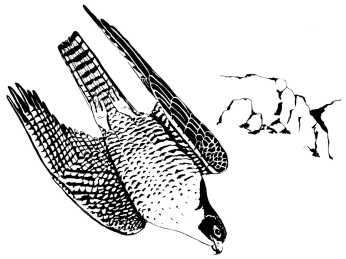
parknotes

Mount Arapiles - Tooan State Park

Visitor Guide

"Welcome to one of Australia's best rock climbing areas. Mt Arapiles is a spectacular feature rising sharply from the Wimmera plains and is part of the Mount Arapiles - Tooan State Park. Created in 1987, the 7475 hectare park is valuable for nature conservation, with 14% of the State's flora species represented in the Mount Arapiles section alone." - *Ranger in Charge, Peter Hawker*



Peregrine Falcon

Returning each year during the spring nesting season, the birds are most vulnerable to disturbance by humans - one of the biggest threats to their breeding success.

Caring for Country

Through their rich culture Indigenous Australians have been continually connected to this Country, Mt Arapiles-Tooan State Park for tens of thousands of years.

Members of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk communities welcome and remind us that these sites are part of Australia's heritage, and ask that visitors respect these sites when visiting them. All cultural sites are protected by law.

Parks Victoria recognises this connection and acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Communities of Victoria.

Enjoying the park

Rock climbing

Mt Arapiles is widely regarded as the top rock climbing area in Australia and is world renowned. More than 2000 routes have been developed on the many cliffs, crags and pinnacles, presenting variety and challenge to climbers of all levels of experience. The climbs are featured in a variety of commercially available climbing guides.

Rock climbing can be a hazardous sport and should only be undertaken by climbers with experience and training, or under the guidance of skilled and qualified instructors.

Walking

Walking is a great way to discover the park. Marked walking tracks feature some spectacular views, catering for a range of fitness levels and time constraints.

Driving and cycling

The vehicle track circling the Mount is suitable for cycling and driving, and is a good spring wildflower walk. In winter only the eastern end of the track is opened to vehicles.

Peregrine Falcon - a special bird

This speedy bird of prey is currently in low numbers and under threat in Victoria. Please check carefully to ensure that there are no nest sites close to any planned climbs. Sites are easily recognised by white streaks on the rockface below ledges. *At Mt Arapiles, there are usually notices stating where falcons are nesting. Stay at least 50m away from nests.*

Facilities and accommodation

Camping is only permitted in Centenary campground. There are fireplaces, picnic tables, water and toilets, but no showers.

Hotel accommodation is available in Natimuk, and there is a caravan park at Natimuk Lake 4km north of the township.

Location and access

The park is 320 km northwest of Melbourne and 440 km from Adelaide. Take the Western Highway to Horsham, then west along the Wimmera Highway through Natimuk. Access to the Tooan Block is via minor roads.

Public transport is available with connecting service to Natimuk - call 136 196 for option.

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For more information call the **Parks Victoria Information Centre** on **13 1963** or visit our website at **www.parkweb.vic.gov.au**

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Parks VICTORIA

Rich human history

For thousands of years Mount Arapiles and its surrounding plains provided the local tribes with food, water, tools and shelter. A number of archaeological sites in the area testify to this rich lifestyle.

Traditionally the mountain is known as Dyurrait.

The arrival of the first European squatters saw the traditional lifestyle of Victoria's Indigenous people severely affected.

Despite the impacts, the local Indigenous community were able to remain on country due to a locally placed mission and the ability to work for the settlers. Many people from this community still live in the area today.

Fires and Firewood

Collection of firewood is prohibited in the park. Please bring your own wood, or preferably a gas or fuel stove. Wood fires are not permitted in the park during the fire danger period from 1st November to 30th April. Gas or fuel stoves are recommended. They are permitted year round (except on days of Total Fire Ban).

Plants and animals

Mt Arapiles is a meeting place sharing the climatic features of the northern part of the State and geological characteristics more common to the south, as in the Grampians.

Geology, climate and soils combine to create habitats for a variety of plants and animals. Most of the Arapiles plateau is covered by low open forest of Long - leaved Box in association with some Bulokes and White Cypress - pine trees. The forest below the plateau hosts birds such as New Holland Honeyeaters, Crimson Rosellas, Bronzewing Pigeons and Brown Treecreepers

Western Grey Kangaroos and echidnas may also be seen.

The Tooan block contains a wide variety of woodland tree species and is home to the threatened Malleefowl.

Throughout the park, wildflowers make a colourful display during spring. About 500 species of native plants occur in the park, some of which, like Rock Wattle and Skeleton Fork - fern, are rare or endangered.

For further information

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

Parks Victoria Natimuk
Tel (03) 5387 1260

Horsham Visitor Information Centre
20 O'Callaghan Parade
Horsham 3402
Tel: 1800 633 218

For further information on Barengi Gadjin Land Council contact Parks Victoria Information Centre 13 1963

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away for disposal or recycling.

No fires (including gas or fuel stoves in tents) may be lit on days of **Total Fire Ban**. Mt Arapiles -Tooan State Park is in the **North Western Total Fire Ban District**

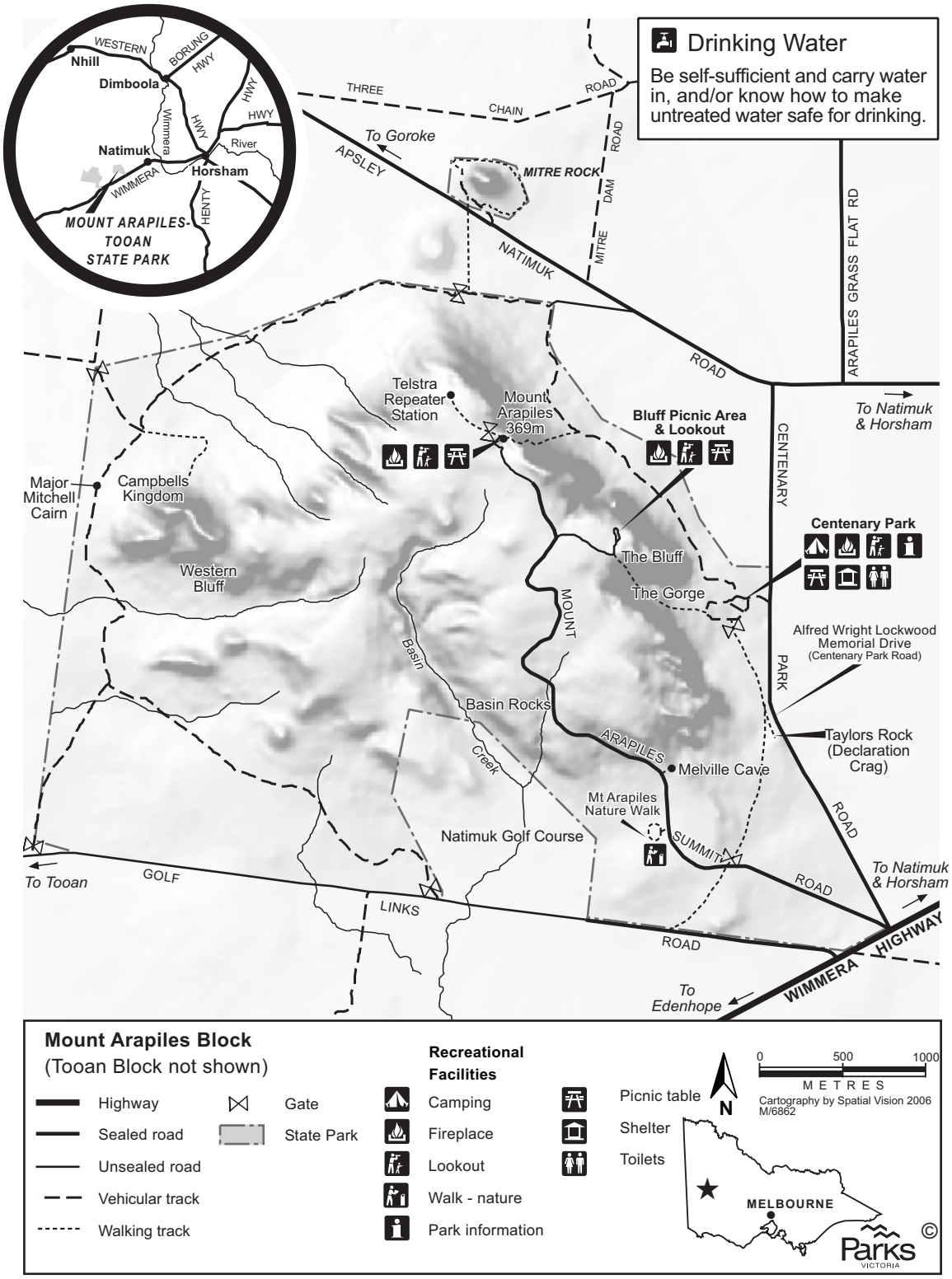
All native plants and animals are protected by law. Please do not disturb them in any way

Vehicles, including motor cycles, must not be driven off open formed roads. All vehicles must be registered and drivers licensed

Dogs, cats and firearms are not permitted in the park

Keep to the tracks, for your own safety and to protect soils and vegetation

Mobile Phones

You may not be in network range in some areas of the park. To be connected to Police, Ambulance or CFA, **key in 112 then press the YES key**

Victoria The Place To Be