

Murrindindi Scenic Reserve - Camping

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The Murrindindi Scenic Reserve

Situated in the northern end of the Toolangi State Forest, the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve provides excellent opportunities for recreational activities such as camping, bushwalking, picnicking, horse riding, fishing and mountain biking. The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is responsible for managing the reserve. The Murrindindi River is suitable for bathing and paddling, but is generally not deep enough for swimming or canoeing.

The reserve encompasses 815 hectares of mixed species forest of the lower reaches of the Murrindindi River and its surrounds. The area comprises a variety of environments, which include tumbling waterfalls, soaring Mountain Ash and damp fern-filled gullies. The reserve is a very popular camping venue with approximately 100 campsites scattered along several kilometres of the banks of the Murrindindi River. Most sites and their surrounds are flat and provide reasonable access for people with disabilities.

Getting there

It is possible to reach the Reserve from two directions:

From Healesville - drive 13km along Myers Creek Road toward Toolangi, then turn right into Sylvia Creek Road and travel approximately 21km through majestic Mountain Ash forest to the reserve.

From Melbourne - travel along the Melba Highway to the intersection of Murrindindi Road just before Devlins Bridge. Turn right and drive 10 km to the Reserve.

Can I take my dog?

Dogs are not allowed in any part of the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve.

People with impaired vision are generally exempt from the restrictions placed on dogs in forest areas.

What facilities are provided?

Whilst in some areas of State forest, there are serviced campsites, generally State forest camping areas have minimal facilities. Typically campsites will offer basic pit toilet facilities, picnic tables, fireplaces and low level interpretation, however some will offer a clearing and little else. For this reason it is best to be self-sufficient and come prepared. There are seven separate camping areas, one with flushing toilets, whilst the rest have pit toilets.

Do fees apply? Must I book a site?

Modest fees of \$5/car/night are payable for camping in the reserve. Please ensure you purchase your camping permit from the permit box situated near the Suspension Bridge Camping Area (see map) *before* you set up your camp. All the revenue raised from these fees is held in a trust fund and reinvested in maintaining the facilities within the reserve.

Camping is on a first-come first-served basis and no bookings are required, but early arrival may be advisable during peak periods and at popular locations. A ranger patrols the area on a regular basis.

Where can't I camp?

Camping is not permitted outside of designated camping areas or within 20 metres from any stream, lake or reservoir (unless otherwise signposted by DSE).

These limitations are in place to protect significant and environmentally sensitive areas, for your safety, to minimise potential conflict with other users (particularly day visitors), and to prevent soil erosion. It is very important that campers cooperate with DSE staff to ensure compliance in these matters.

Minimal impact camping

Forests are special places, but to remain so they need your help. To protect the delicate environs of the forest, we need to 'tread lightly' in the bush to minimise our impact on the natural environment.

Here are some basic rules you should follow:

- Camp in an existing campsite rather than create a new one and camp at least 20 metres from any stream, lake or reservoir.
- Where fixed fireplaces are provided, they must be used. In areas where no fixed fireplaces are provided, fires must be in a pit at least 30cm deep and no more than 1m in diameter.
- Do not dig trenches around tents. With modern tents, this is unnecessary, particularly if you choose a well-drained or raised site.
- Use toilets where they are provided. In areas without toilets, bury toilet waste in a 15 cm deep hole at least 100 metres away from campsites and watercourses.

- All native plants and animals are protected. Do not cut down or damage standing trees or vegetation.
- Take your rubbish home. Don't burn or bury rubbish. If you have the misfortune to come across other people's rubbish, do the bush a favour and take it out with you too.
- Use only dead fallen wood. Standing trees, even dead ones are a home for wildlife and a part of the scenery. Do not cut down or damage standing trees or vegetation.
- Firewood is in short supply in many areas. Gather firewood well away from your camp and use it sparingly, keep it small and be conservative in your use of fuel or better still, bring your own. Where possible, use a lightweight stove for cooking.
- Take care with fire – observe all fire regulations and Total Fire Ban days. Use existing fireplaces rather than create your own. Ensure fires are safe and that they are completely extinguished when you leave.
- Keep to the track. Drive your vehicle only on roads that are open to the public. Bikes and horses are generally not permitted on walking tracks. Please observe access signs and help protect the reserve.
- All vehicles and trail bikes must be fully registered.
- All native birds and animals are protected. Firearms are not permitted within the reserve.
- Protect water quality - wash up at least 50 metres away from streams and avoid using soap (use gritty sand and a scourer instead).
- Leave campsites tidy.
- Respect the rights of others. Don't use generators or play amplified music.
- Keep your party small. Ideally, less than eight people.

- Go off peak.

For more information

Call the Toolangi Office of the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Ph 5962 9203, or visit the Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre.

Visit DSE's website

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>
then select "Forestry".

The Murrindindi Scenic Reserve is managed primarily for the protection of the environment and provision of recreation. Other areas of the State Forest are managed for a wider range of uses including timber production, catchment protection, recreation and conservation. If you are interested in how State Forests are managed, the current Central Highlands Forest Management Plan can be viewed on the Department's website on the Internet at <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au> then select "Forestry", then select "Publications".

Note: Please refer to the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve-Walking tracks (FS0009) for Walking Track notes.

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