

Herman's Hill Nature Walk

BIG DESERT STATE FOREST

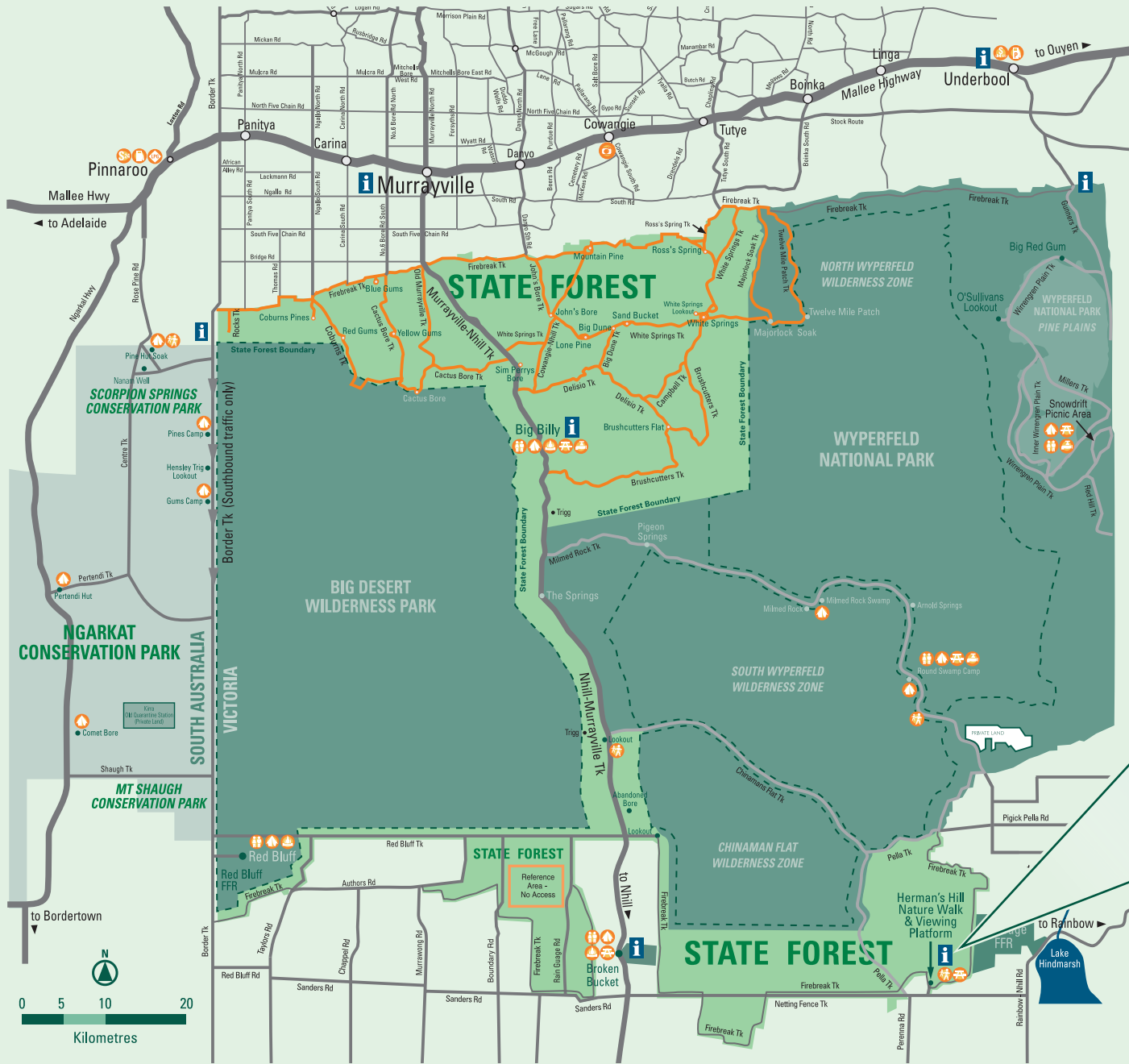


Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

FOREST FIRE
MANAGEMENT



Mallee State Forests & Parks



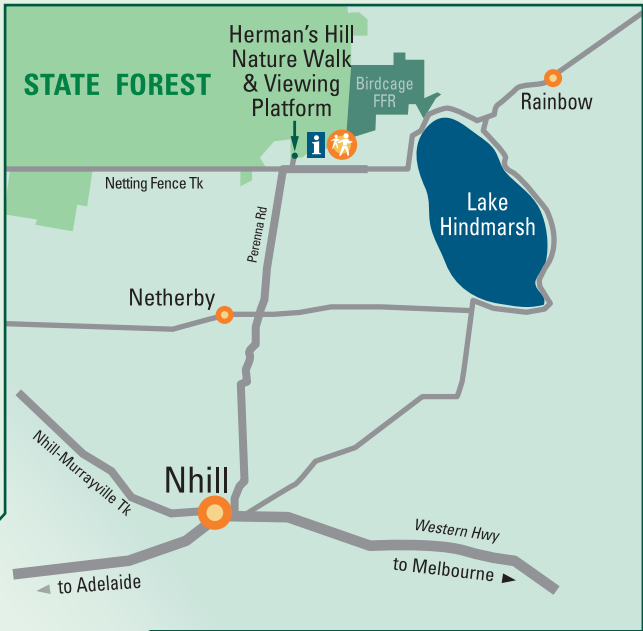
SERVICES & SUPPLIES

Rainbow is 33 kilometres north-east of Herman's Hill and offers visitors accommodation and fuel.

Nhill is 138 kilometres south of Big Billy Bore and offers visitors accommodation and fuel.

Murrayville is 33 kilometres north of Big Billy Bore and offers accommodation as well as emergency services.

Pinnaroo is approximately 60 kilometres north-west of Big Billy Bore via Murrayville. It is a larger township than Murrayville and offers visitors accommodation and fuel.



Information

- Water
- Toilet
- Camping
- Fireplace
- Tables
- Limited Services
- Bushwalking / Sightseeing
- Petrol / Diesel
- Gas
- 24hr Service
- Historic
- 4WD Track

HERMAN'S HILL

Herman's Hill nature walk and viewing platform can be found in the Big Desert State Forest, approximately 40 kilometres north of Nhill.

Enjoy the easy 3-kilometre nature walk and learn about a diverse ecosystem of native plants and animals. Pack a picnic and enjoy the view from the top of the hill, stay to explore for the afternoon then soak up an amazing Mallee sunset from the viewing platform.

Along the nature walk you'll see an array of native trees including Casuarinas, Callitris, Melaleucas and iconic Mallee Eucalypts, Aboriginal bush food plants such as quandongs, and depending on the time of year, striking wildflowers and orchids may be in bloom.

At the top of the hill is the viewing platform which was developed by the local community with support from students of Nhill College. It offers scenic views of Lake Hindmarsh, the vast landscape of the Big Desert and surrounding farmland.

Herman's Hill is named after a Herman Strauss who lived just south of the nature walk. The name was adopted by students of the now closed Perenna School, because they could see Mr Strauss's homestead from the highest point of the hill.

TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Forest Fire Management Victoria acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Big Desert area - the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk peoples. Through their cultural traditions, Aboriginal people maintain their connection to their ancestral lands and waters, which stretches back over tens of thousands of years. The soaks and springs in the area were a valuable resource supporting agriculture, trade and habitation.

The Traditional Owners are represented by the Barngi Gadjin Land Council, who were recognised in a 2005 Native Title Consent Determination. As part of this Determination, there is a suite of Settlement Agreements which recognises the rights, interests and contribution of knowledge from the Wotjobaluk Nations into the management of this area.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Phone: 136 186
www.ffm.vic.gov.au

MORE TO EXPLORE APP

Download the More to Explore App for comprehensive information and interactive maps on what to see and do in Victoria's three million hectares of state forest.

www.ffm.vic.gov.au/more-to-explore

In case of an emergency, call 000. Parks and state forests will be closed on Code Red Fire Danger days. For the latest emergency information, download the VicEmergency App.



NO FIRES ON DAYS OF TOTAL FIRE BAN

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Authorised by the Victorian Government,
Cnr of Koorlong Avenue and Eleventh Street Trample

Produced - June 2019

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THE NATURE WALK

You should allow 1-2 hours to complete the walk, following the marked track.

Start at the carpark and follow the walking track north-west. It is an easy walk of approximately 3 kilometres, with points of interest and rest stops along the way.

When you have enjoyed the view from the hill and signed the visitors' book beside the information station, you can either choose to walk back along the trail or walk along the 4WD vehicle access track.

Vehicle access to the viewing platform is 4WD only. If you are short on time, drive the track north from the carpark until you find the sign marking the final 100-metre walk up the hill. To turn your vehicle around, proceed eastwards along the track for 500 metres where you will find a turning area.

ENJOYING YOUR WALK

- Make sure you carry plenty of drinking water and wear a hat and sunscreen. Plan your trip around the weather as temperatures can be extreme in summer.
- Keep to the defined tracks.
- Leave nothing but foot prints and take nothing but pictures.



Understorey plants

Enjoy the beautiful array of wildflowers during spring.



Lizards

Keep an eye out for sunbaking lizards along the walk. How many different species can you count? (Western Blue Tongue Lizard)



Malleefowl

If you are quiet, you may hear the soft cluck or booming call of the Endangered Malleefowl. The Malleefowl is a large ground-dwelling bird that builds a metre-high mound of leaf litter and sand to lay its eggs into. The heat generated by the rotting leaf litter incubates the eggs.



Orchids

Mallee orchids are seasonal and usually visible from July to October, depending on rainfall. When they bloom they are spectacular! (Sun Orchid)



Mallee Eucalypts

Instead of a single trunk, Mallee trees have multiple stems that rise from a large base from an underground trunk called a lignotuber (Mallee stump). They use the lignotuber to regenerate after fire.



Native Pines

Take a close look at the pine leaves, they are tiny and wrap around the stem to conserve water. The seeds are protected within the woody cone.



Eye spy

The Big Desert is home to small mammals including the western pygmy possum, but they are a rare sight during the day. They are nocturnal and often hide in burrows for protection from heat, fires and predators.

Have a look around for echidna diggings – they are digging for ants, termites and worms. Did you know the echidna is an egg-laying mammal and has a temporary pouch for its babies, which are called puggles?



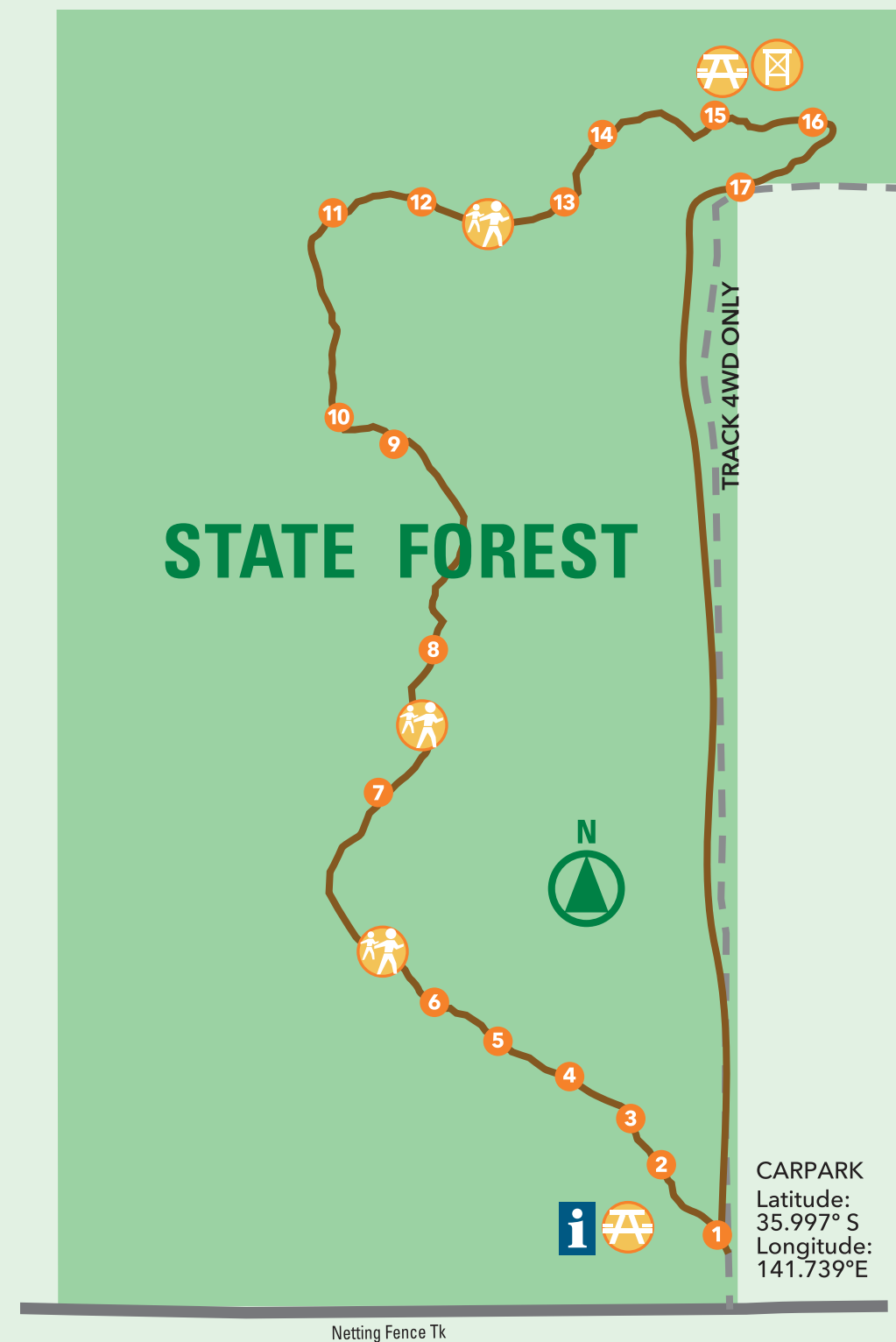
Quandongs

The quandong, often referred to as the 'native peach' is one of Australia's most versatile bush foods. Flowers form in late summer into early autumn which become fruit ready for harvest in early spring.



Trigg Point and viewing platform

The large metal stand is a Trigg Point. Trigg Points were spread throughout the landscape and positioned so that 'line of sight' could be made with neighbouring Trigg Points. Trigg Points were used as reference points for survey work, although now have largely been replaced by Global Positioning Systems (GPS).



- Information**
- Bushwalking / Sightseeing
 - Picnic Table
 - Walking Track
 - 4WD Track
 - Track
 - Points of Interest