



Hepburn Regional Park

Visitor Guide

A real treasure, this park nestles around the famous mineral springs townships of Daylesford, Hepburn and Hepburn Springs. Rich with natural springs and relics from the gold mining era, the park abounds with opportunities for bushwalking, mountain bike and horse riding, picnicking and nature study.



White-browed Scrub Wren

'.....bushland treasures are yielded to the keen eye and sharp ear of the silent walker'

The golden days

The township of Hepburn was named after Captain John Hepburn, one of the first European settlers in the area, who made his home in Smeaton in 1836. The surrounding hills were denuded by miners following the discovery of gold at Daylesford in 1851. The park's regrowth forest now hides the scars left by 'gold fever'.

The hillsides are dotted with relics, mineshafts and rock retaining walls. Please remember that these relics are fragile and unstable, so for your own safety, and their protection, stay on the walking tracks.

Many of the water races or channels dug by the miners to bring water to their workings now form the Tipperary Walking Track.

What to do and see

Walking: A network of walking tracks provide for walking throughout the park. The Tipperary Walking Track offers a host of walk options, and for more adventurous walkers the Great Dividing Trail passes through the park

Picnics: There are several picnic areas in the park. Wood barbecues are provided at most, and electric barbecues are available at Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve and Sailors Falls.

Camping: You can camp for short stays at Mt Franklin where toilets, fireplaces and washing water are provided. Other areas within Hepburn Regional Park are not available for camping.

Mountain Bike and Horse Riding: A great way to see the park on the many tracks available, but remember that bicycles, horses and walkers do not always mix. *Check the map for details.*

Fossicking: Panning for gold along Sailors Creek is a popular pastime in the park. All adults must hold a current Miners Right to engage in fossicking. Remember to fill any holes made and leave the area as you found it. Relics must not be disturbed or removed and are protected by law.

Annual Swiss-Italian Festival

This festival is held in Daylesford and Hepburn Springs in May. Many Swiss and Italian miners made their way to the diggings during the gold rush and their influence remains in their descendants, distinctive architecture and local culinary delights.

A haven for plants and animals

Trees: Most of the park supports a fairly dry open box, peppermint and stringybark eucalypt forest. The more southerly areas are damper and carry a taller forest of Messmate and Candlebarks -along with peppermint gums, a favourite food for koalas.

Wildflowers:

Spring wildflowers make a colourful display with Victoria's floral emblem, the pink or white belled Common Heath, frequently found growing under eucalypts.



Victorian Common Heath

Birds: Common birds include White-browed Scrub Wrens, Grey Currawongs, Crimson Rosellas, White-throated Tree-creepers and Yellow Robins. The Rufous Fantail and Satin Flycatcher visit the gullies seasonally.



Parks Victoria Ranger
David Foster

"Victoria has all the outdoors you could wish for - mountains, forests, beaches, and bushland, all preserved in our parks. Our natural landscapes have been here longer than anyone knows, and together we can make sure they're here forever".

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

Further Information contact

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

Parks Victoria Office &
Landcare Centre PO Box 3
Daylesford Rd
Creswick 3363
Tel: (03) 5345 1352

Daylesford Visitor Information
Centre 100 Vincent St.
Daylesford 3460
Tel: (03) 5348 1339

Miners Rights: Natural
Resources & Environment
Information Centre
Level 2,
State Govt. Offices,
Cnr Mair & Doveton Sts
Ballarat 3350
Tel: (03) 5333 6782
8.30 am-4.30 pm Mon-Fri

Caring for the environment

Help us care for our parks
and reserves by following
these guidelines

All native plants and
animals **are** protected

Firearms are not
permitted in the Park

Dogs must be kept on a
leash at all times

Fires may only be lit in
the fireplaces provided
No fires including
barbecues may be lit on a
day of **Total Fire Ban**
Daylesford is in the
Central Total Fire Ban
District

Do not camp within 20
metres of waterways

Please take your rubbish
with you when you leave

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

Do not disturb or remove
any historic relics or
artefacts

Mammals:
Koalas and
kangaroos are
common,
although they
can be difficult to
locate.

Black-tailed
Wallabies
although not easily
seen, are common
residents and
frequent the gullies
of the park.



Black Wallaby

Places of Interest

The Blowhole

This artificial diversion tunnel on Sailors Creek was built by gold miners around the early 1870s. A tunnel through the spur was cut to redirect water flow from the original creek line. The soil in the dry creek bed was then sluiced for gold. It is now an impressive sight when the creek is in full flow. Two short loop walks can be undertaken by following the spur above the tunnel or through the diggings area.

Mineral Springs

Natural mineral springs abound in the area. The park has mineral springs at Sailors Falls, Tipperary Springs, Golden Springs and Argyle Springs. Adjacent to the park are the Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve and Lake Daylesford / Central Springs. Some of the springs have hand pumps; others are free flowing pipes.

Mount Franklin

Mount Franklin, or Lalgambook, as it is known by the Dja Dja Wrung people, offers fine panoramic views from the summit via a short walk from the picnic area.

Located 8 km north of Daylesford and 2 km off the Daylesford-Castlemaine Road, the sheltered crater of Mount Franklin is an ideal setting for a picnic or short term basic camping.

Mount Franklin is a fine example of a breached scoria cone. The breach, through which the road now enters the crater, is thought to have been caused by a flow of lava breaking through the crater rim. Lava from Mount Franklin and other volcanoes in the area filled valleys and buried the goldbearing streams that became the renowned 'deep leads' of the gold mining era.

Finding your way

Hepburn Regional Park is 110km north-west of Melbourne via the Western Freeway (M8 National). Follow the Daylesford-Ballan Road after taking the exit from the freeway. Melway reference 527 C2.

Exploring the Region

In the surrounding area you can enjoy a part of Victoria's past and relax with family and friends. Parknotes are available for most of these parks.

Buried Rivers of Gold Heritage Trail

Beneath the rolling hills of this district are long buried underground streams - full of gold!! This car based tour passes the underground mining operations which won wealth for some beyond their wildest dreams.
Booklets are available at the Creswick Museum.

New Australasian Mine

In the early 1880s the New Australasian Mine was the site of great wealth and prosperity, having tapped a rich gold bearing deep lead. Today the site is remembered as being the place of Australia's largest gold mining disaster when 22 men lost their lives underground.

Anderson's Mill at Smeaton

On the banks of Birch's Creek at Smeaton, the four storey bluestone flour mill and grounds make a delightful scene. Built and operated by the Anderson family from 1862 to 1959, it remains an important landmark well worth a visit. The Mill building is open 12 to 4pm Sundays, and there is a pleasant picnic area.

Daylesford Museum and Historical Society

Opening times 1.30-4.30 pm Sat, Sun, School and Public Holidays. 100 Vincent St, Daylesford.



Rousouf Fantail

Mount Beckworth Scenic Reserve

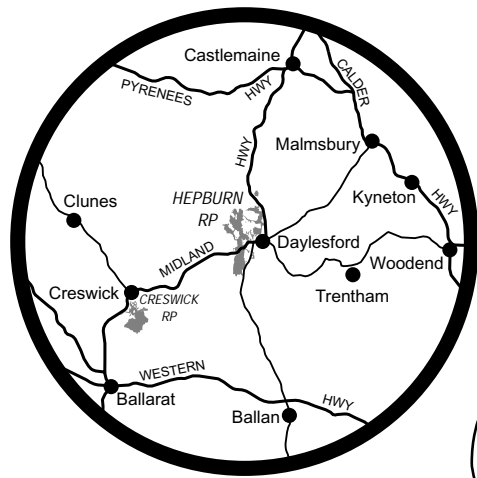
A lone pine tree on the granite peak is a landmark across the district, and the slopes of Mount Beckworth contain an abundance of native plants and wildlife, especially during the September-October spring wildflower season.

Creswick Regional Park

Centrally located between Ballarat and Daylesford, this park embraces the hills once roamed by the artistic Lindsay family. Today you can explore the park on a variety of short and longer walks, picnic by the tranquil St Georges Lake or just simply relax in the peaceful park.

Revised April 2000

MAP A



To Newstead Maryborough

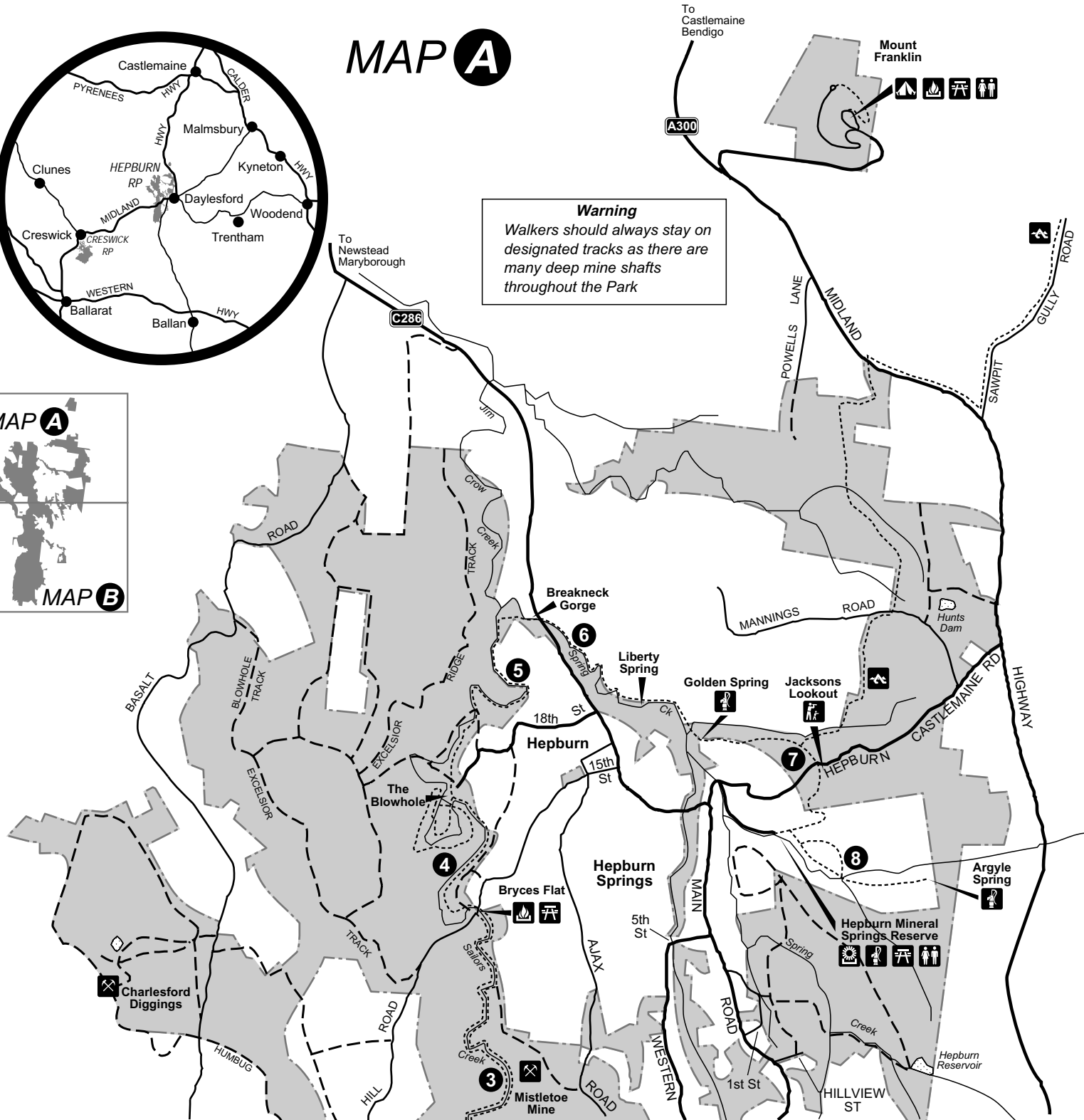
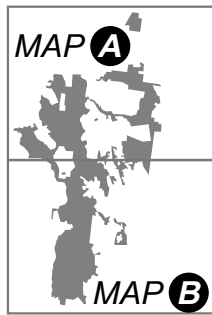
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To Castlemaine Bendigo

Mount Franklin

Warning
Walkers should always stay on designated tracks as there are many deep mine shafts throughout the Park



Tipperary Walking Track
The Track runs from picturesque Lake Daylesford to the Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve, following Sailors Creek and Spring Creek through foothill forest for most of the way. The 16km track can be walked in five to six hours and is mostly level to gently undulating and is quite easy walking.

Planning your walk

If you don't wish to walk the whole length of the track you can plan walks of shorter distance and duration. Between Lake Daylesford and Bryces Flat the track exists on both sides of Sailors Creek providing opportunities for loop walks of various lengths.

Access Points, Times and Distance

Note: Times quoted for walks are one way times, at a moderate pace without allowances for rests, and are intended as a guide only.

Remember: Wear sturdy footwear and carry at least 1 litre of drinking water in the warmer months.

1 Lake Daylesford - Twin Bridges:

1.3km - 20 minutes
Start at the Central Springs Reserve at the outlet of Lake Daylesford. On your way sample the Central, Hardhills and Sutton Springs and then pick up the narrow footpad that follows Wombat Creek. Cross the footbridge near the carpark to return to Lake Daylesford. If you want to continue to Twin Bridges picnic area take extreme care when crossing the highway.

2 Twin Bridges - Tipperary Springs:

2.3km - 40 minutes
Begin at Twin Bridges picnic area and cross the footbridge or follow the track along the road embankment. Both tracks follow Sailors Creek to Tipperary Springs where the spring can be found near the footbridge. Cross the footbridge to return to Twin Bridges.

3 Tipperary Springs - Bryces Flat:

3.3km - 1 hour
The walk to Bryces Flat can be undertaken by crossing the footbridge at Tipperary Springs, climbing the short set of steps, and following the track signs. Alternatively follow the track near the toilet block along the east side of Sailors Creek to Bryces Flat.

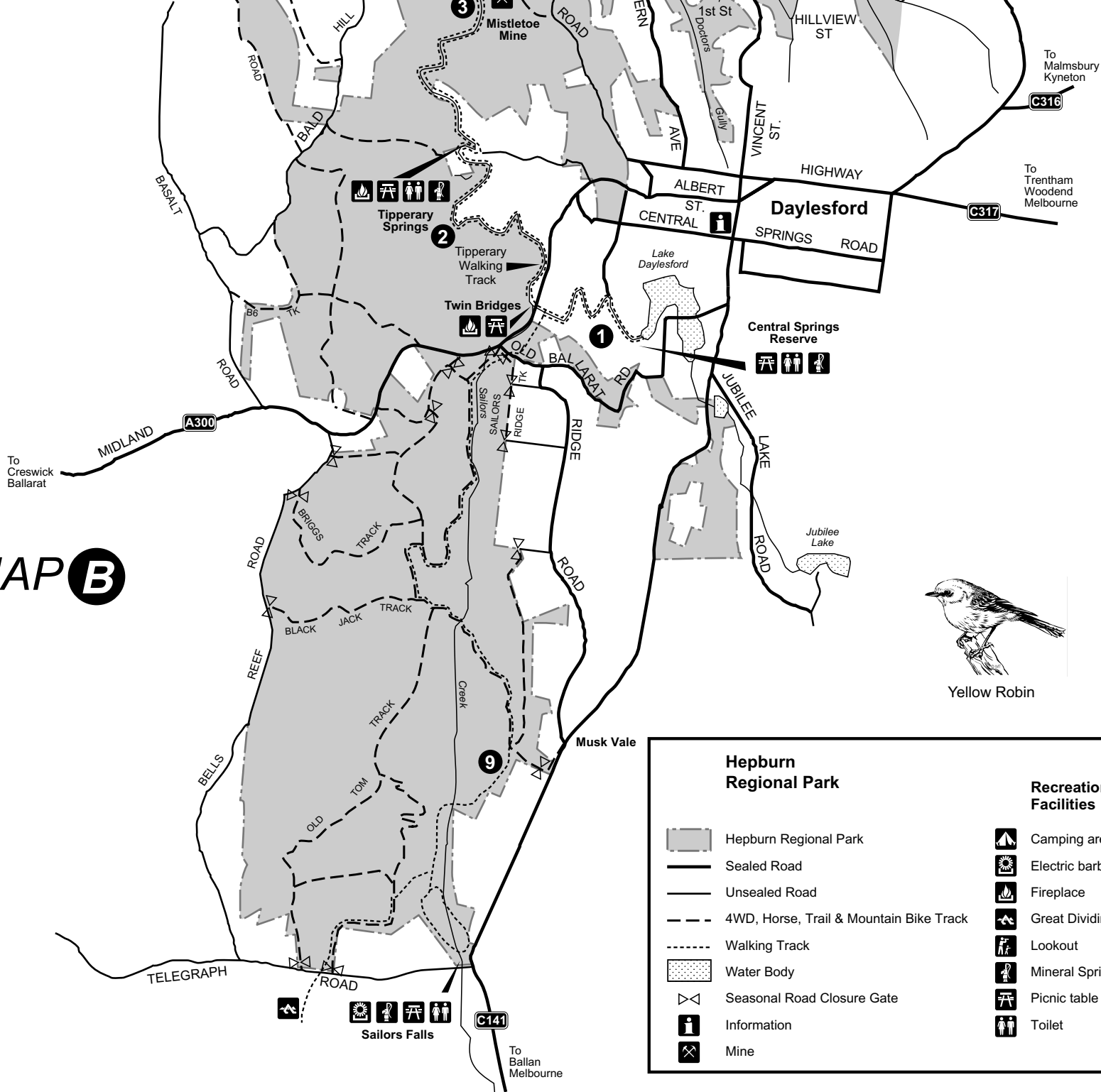
4 Bryces Flat - The Blowhole:

1.7km - 30 minutes
Cross the footbridge at Bryces Flat picnic area and follow the signs. Take care when crossing Bald Hill Road and then continue on to The Blowhole. View the diversion tunnel or undertake the short loop walks while you are there.

5 The Blowhole - Breakneck Gorge:

3.1km - 1 hour
Begin near the carpark and follow the track into the drier northern section of the park. Pass close to the Hepburn Recreation Reserve before leaving Sailors Creek to follow Spring Creek. Take care when crossing the Newstead Road bridge that spans Breakneck Gorge.

MAP B



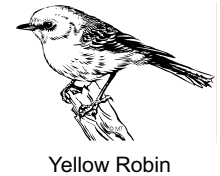
6 Breakneck Gorge - Golden Spring:
2.2km - 40 minutes
Follow the track on the north side of the bridge back towards Hepburn Springs. Take the short detour down to Liberty Spring and Spring Creek (mineral water is not available here). Return to the main track and continue on to Golden Spring to sample the water.

7 Golden Spring - Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve (via Jackson's Lookout)
2.8km - 50 minutes
Start at the end of Golden Spring Ave. and follow the track beside Womens Gully before climbing through the foothills to the Hepburn-Castlemaine Rd. Cross the road with care and make the short detour to Jackson's Lookout. Splendid panoramic views are offered from the tower. Retrace your footsteps to the walking track and continue on to the reserve.

8 Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve - Argyle Spring
1.4 km - 25 minutes
The walk starts from the reserve carpark or from Wyuna Spring. Follow Argyle Gully past Mother Goose mine. Return via the same track.

9 Sailors Falls - Twin Bridges
6.5 km - 2 hours
Start at Sailors Falls picnic area and follow the track to the mineral spring. Continue on to the track intersection and turn right to head toward Daylesford. Follow orange trail markers and sign posts along vehicle tracks to Twin Bridges. Be prepared to get your feet wet in winter.

Mountain Bikes and Horse Riding
Many opportunities exist for exploring the Park. A network of old mining and logging tracks can provide riders with many challenges in a great forest setting. Suitable tracks are shown on the map.
Please Note: The Tipperary walking track is for bushwalking only and bikes and horses are not permitted.



Hepburn Regional Park

- Hepburn Regional Park
- Sealed Road
- Unsealed Road
- 4WD, Horse, Trail & Mountain Bike Track
- Walking Track
- Water Body
- Seasonal Road Closure Gate
- Information
- Mine

Recreational Facilities

- Camping area
- Electric barbecue
- Fireplace
- Great Dividing Trail
- Lookout
- Mineral Spring
- Picnic table
- Toilet

Cartography by Parks Victoria 1999