

The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve

The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve is a significant remnant area of bushland on the Mornington Peninsula surrounded by the developing suburb of Frankston. As such, it is of conservation importance and represents a unique passive recreational and educational asset in the greater metropolitan area of Melbourne.

Location and access

The 108ha Reserve is 40km south east of Melbourne, about 3km north east of the Frankston Central Business district. Access is via walking tracks on Tamarisk Drive, Excelsior Drive and Warrawee Circuit (see maps): Melway Reference - 100 C8.

History

Very little is known of Aboriginal activity in the area other than the use of the Springs as a source of freshwater by the Bunurong people. In the 1920's it was planned to plant the whole area between Ballarto Road, Dandenong Road, McClelland Drive and Skye Road with pine trees. Only about 120ha was planted, though in the 1950's some of the remaining land was set aside for housing development. A proposal in the 1970's to sandmine the remaining bushland met with community uproar and the Eureka flag was raised on Trig Point (the site from which the Frankston area was originally surveyed) and the area claimed for the people of Frankston. Community action also helped prevent the area being subdivided in 1989 and the Flora and Fauna Reserve is now zoned as public open space.

Things to see and do

The Reserve is ideal for recreation activities such as nature study, photography and walking. Walk to the Trig Point for expansive views of the Reserve, Port Phillip Bay and the Dandenongs. A network of tracks allows visitors to walk to most features of the Reserve.

Wildlife

The Reserve is a very important habitat for native fauna, particularly small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Southern Brown Bandicoots, Swamp Wallabies, Echidnas, Brushtail and Ringtail Possums are present but are often hard to find as they are not all active during the day. The Reserve is also a potential habitat for the endangered New Holland Mouse. Over 100 different bird species have been recorded including honeyeaters, waterbirds, birds of prey and parrots. A number of significant species have been recorded, among them the Painted Button Quail, Brush Bronzewing, Latham's Snipe and Swift Parrot.

Plants

Much of the vegetation in the Reserve is remnant heathland with Silver-leaf Stringybark and Black Sheoak woodland. It is still in a reasonable natural condition and contains many species of plants now rare on the Mornington Peninsula. Native orchids are a highlight of the many wildflowers which mainly bloom in spring. Rabbit Ears, Dwarf Greenhood and the not so common Common Spider Orchid are some of the orchids to be found among the 170 or more plant species recorded.

Careful management and community involvement will be required to protect native species from the threats posed by weeds, rabbits and unplanned fires. Foxes, cats and dogs threaten native wildlife.



THE PINES FLORA AND FAUNA RESERVE

Further Information

Parks Victoria
Information Line
Ph: 13 1963
www.parks.vic.gov.au

Parks Victoria District Office
Hinton Street
Rosebud 3939

P.O. Box 400
Rosebud 3939

Ph: 03 5986 8987

Caring for the environment

Help us look after this Reserve by remembering these guidelines:

Take your rubbish home with you

Keep to the formed walking tracks

Dog regulations apply.

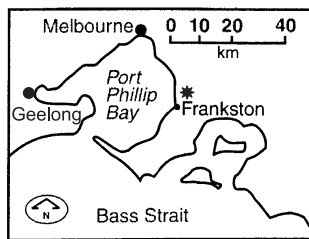
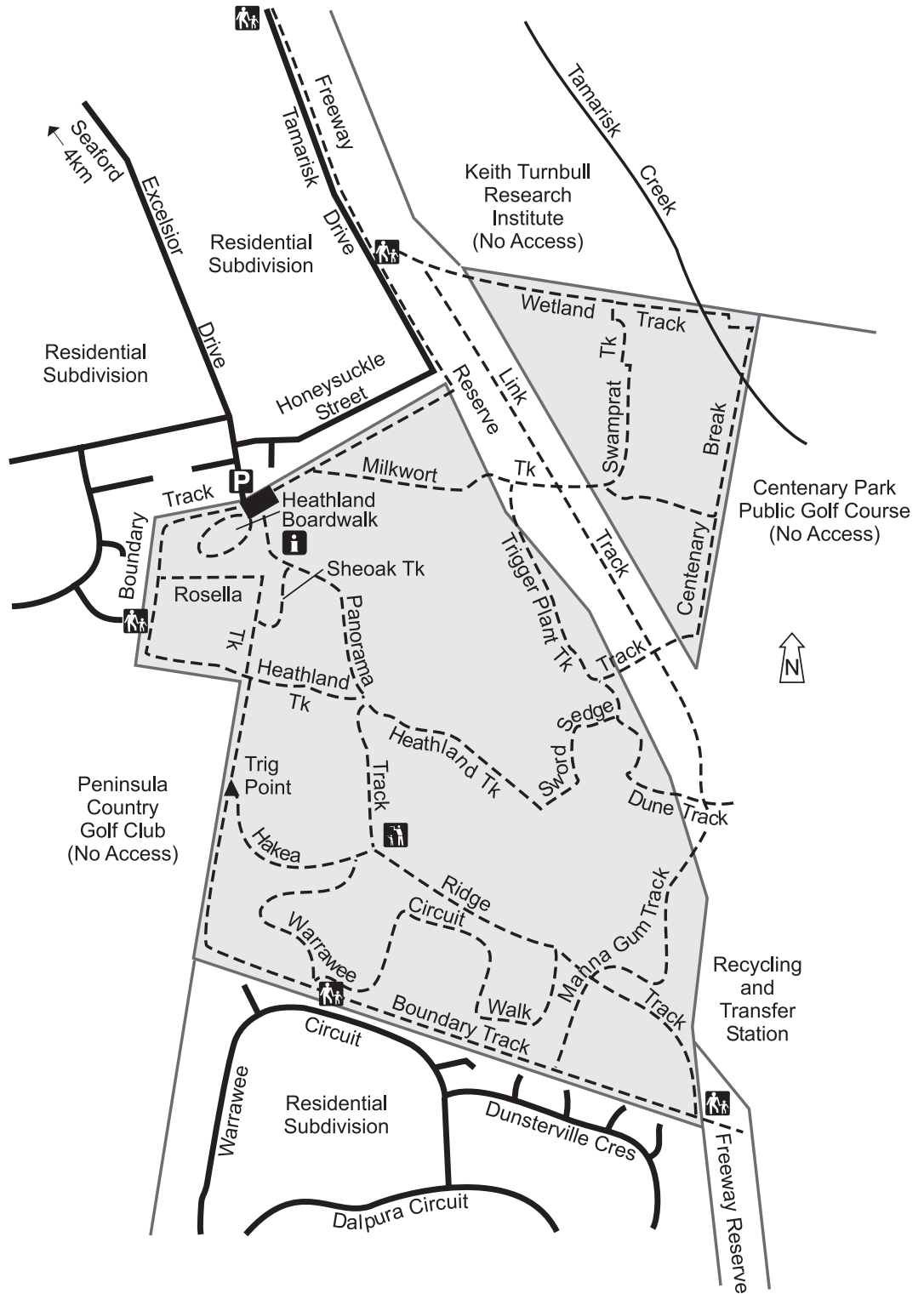
Contact Park Office 131963 before bringing a dog into the Reserve

In areas where dogs are permitted, they must be on a leash at all times

Firearms are not permitted in the Reserve

All native plants and animals are protected

Leave the Reserve as you found it



LEGEND

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- RESERVE BOUNDARY
- VEHICLE ROAD
- WALKING TRACK
- PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
- CAR PARK AND MAIN ENTRANCE
- LOOKOUT
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