



Mornington Peninsula National Park

Greens Bush

Situated between Arthurs Seat and Cape Schanck on the Mornington Peninsula and only 80 kilometres from Melbourne, Greens Bush is the largest remnant of bushland on the Peninsula. Surrounded by farmland, this island of native forest is a wildlife haven.

Peaceful surroundings and the natural beauty of the bush make the area excellent for walking, picnicking and observing nature. Explore the walking tracks that weave through Greens Bush and discover the many different vegetation communities in the park - from eucalypt forests to fern gullies, heathlands and grasslands.



Parks Victoria Ranger

"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**

Short Walks

From Baldry Crossing (Melway map 254 G6)

- **Short Circuit, 1.6 km**

A short but rewarding walk that takes you through eucalypt forest. Peppermint, Messmate and Manna Gum are the dominant overstorey species.

- **Longer Circuit, 3.6 km**

This track weaves further into the forest. There are several creek crossings, and the green, moist fern gullies are a welcome contrast to the drier forest.

From Long Point Road

- **Long Point Circuit, 4 km**

Beginning at the end of Long Point Road (Melway map 259 G6) this walk passes through eucalypt forest with a bracken understorey before opening out to give a view across grasslands and gullies of Coast Banksia and Blackwood.

A longer walk

- **Two bays Walking Track, 8.9 km**

This longer walk, an excellent way to see Greens Bush, is a link in the 26 km bush corridor from Dromana to Cape Schanck. There are several highlights along the trail - eucalypt forest mixed with spectacular stands of grasstree (the taller grasstrees may be over 200 years old), pockets of tea-tree thicket alive with birds, picturesque fern gullies and open grasslands.

A home for wildlife

Birds on the forest floor, in the scrub, in the tree canopy... there is lots of birdlife in Greens Bush. Look for wrens, honeyeaters, parrots and birds of prey such as the Black-shouldered Kite and Wedge-tailed Eagle.

In the early morning or at dusk, you can often see kangaroos feeding in the open grasslands. Black Wallabies prefer the forest and are well camouflaged in the shadows with their darker coat. However, most of the mammals in the park are nocturnal.

As the light fades, listen for the soft twittering of Ringtail Possums or Sugar Gliders. The Little Forest Eptesicus Bat makes a higher-pitched call as it searches for insects, usually eaten on the wing.

A public appeal

In 1926 the Green family purchased 900 hectares of land, and although they used it for farming, much of the natural bushland was retained. Extensive clearing occurred over the Mornington Peninsula, and the National Trust, recognising the conservation value of Greens Bush, listed the area as classified landscape in 1974.

In 1975 the State government purchased 500 hectares from the Green family with the intention of creating a park. Funds were limited, and in 1986 a public appeal was launched by the Victorian Conservation Trust to buy the remaining area. Over \$1.3 million was raised and following purchase, Greens Bush is now part of Mornington Peninsula National Park.

The invader

Some of the native plants of Greens Bush are dying because of a microscopic fungus, Cinnamon Fungus or *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. People can unwittingly transmit the fungus by going through infected areas and picking up spores on their shoes or on vehicle tyres or horses' hooves. This is why some parts of Greens Bush have been closed to visitors.

Caring for the park

To ensure this unique area is protected, please:

- observe "Area Closed" signs.
- keep to formed walking tracks and avoid wet areas (Cinnamon Fungus spores can be transported in soil and in water).
- do not collect plant or animal specimens as all plants and animals are protected by law.
- bring a bag and take any rubbish away with you.
- leave your dog at home. Dogs can disturb other visitors and wildlife, and are not permitted in Greens Bush.




Further Information






Further information on Mornington Peninsula National Park is available on 5986 9100 or 13 1963. www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

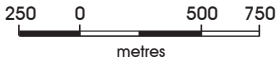
April 2004

GREENS BUSH - HIGHFIELD

Mornington Peninsula National Park

-  Picnic area
-  Gate
-  National Park

-  Sealed Road
-  Unsealed Road
-  Management Vehicles, Walkers, Bicycles and Horses only
-  Walking Track No Bicycles or Horses
-  Creeks



Cinnamon Fungus is attacking native plants, destroying their roots. Please keep to the defined walking tracks so that the fungus is not spread accidentally.

