



Coast and Caves Precinct: Mount Richmond



Mt Richmond was named after Richmond Henty, one of the first European children born in the Portland area. It is an extinct volcano surrounded by low, flat land.

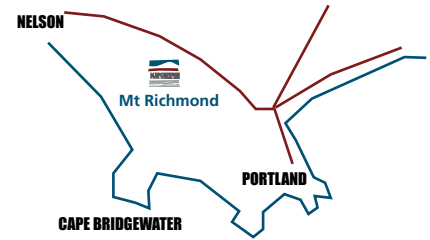
The mountain itself consists not of basalt but of a porous rock called tuff which was formed when volcanic ash gradually hardened over two million years ago. Apart from the occasional outcrops of basaltic tuff near the summit, the volcanic geology is almost entirely buried by dune limestone and sand blown inland long ago from Discovery Bay. Noted for its flora and fauna, the park is covered with forest, open heath, and scattered swamps.

Vegetation gradually became established on Mt Richmond, and many hardy native plants now grow successfully on the infertile sandy soil. About 450 species of plants have been recorded in the park, including 50 orchid species. Correas, heaths, wattles and bush peas provide spectacular colours in spring, but there are plants flowering in Mt Richmond at almost any time of the year.

The well-drained soils near the summit support a forest dominated by brown stringybark with small pockets of manna gum. Further down the slopes, the main eucalypts are shiny-leaf peppermint and swamp gum (common in the picnic area) with an under-storey of grass trees, heath and many colourful annual and perennial plants. The wet heathlands are dominated by swamp paperbark.

The national park was established in 1960, and its varied habitats support a wide range of wildlife including eastern grey kangaroos, koalas, red-necked wallabies, echidnas, and the southern potoroo.

There are no creeks on Mt Richmond - rainwater fills depressions to form swamps and wet heathlands which are favoured habitats for many birds and other animals.



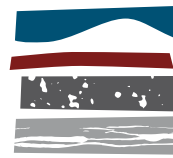
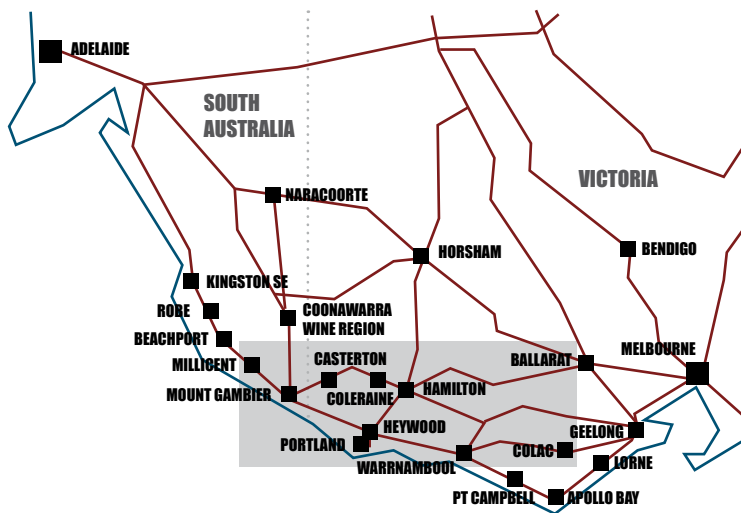
How to get there?

Mt Richmond is 20 kilometres northwest of Portland and adjacent to the Portland – Nelson Road. Access is via a sealed road all the way to the summit and lookout tower.

Things to do:

- A variety of walks are available, including:
- Benwerrin Nature Walk - one hour.
- Noels Walk - one hour (the last section is fairly steep).
- West Walk - one hour (may be wet in places in winter and spring).
- Ocean View Walk - one hour (views of Cape Bridgewater and Discovery Bay).
- The park is ideal for a picnic lunch. Public toilets, barbecues, picnic tables, a water tank and information board are provided in the picnic grounds.
- A look-out tower at the summit gives spectacular views of Discovery Bay, Cape Bridgewater and Cape Nelson.
- Camping is not permitted in the park. Sites are available in Nelson, Portland and nearby Swan Lake.





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Australia may be referred to as a relatively young nation, but the well-preserved ancient landscape provides many precious windows into the past. The Kanawinka Global Geopark can take you on an amazing journey through this landscape, enabling visitors to travel back in time over thousands and thousands of years.

The surface geology of South Western Victoria and South Eastern South Australia is a striking contrast of sweeping plains and spectacular mountains which are largely the product of volcanic activity. In fact, with six sites of international significance and 14 of national significance, this area is Australia's most extensive volcanic province.

The history of these geological masterpieces stretches back to the Tertiary and Quaternary eras, when great outpourings of volcanic material through vents took place. Lava flows spread evenly across the existing plains, followed valleys, flowed under water, and in some cases forced upwards into rough, stony hills called tumuli, or steeper scoria cones.

In total, the flows cover an area of some 23,000 square km, extending north to the hills beyond Ballarat, and reappearing in a small section of south-eastern South Australia. This area is known as the Newer Volcanics Province, and features nearly 400 individual eruption points, most of which occurred between 4.5 and 2 million years ago.

Many of the eruptions were witnessed by the indigenous peoples of the area who have inhabited this region for up to 45,000 years, and feature prominently in stories of the Dreamtime.

Aboriginal people also made use of the stones from the lava flow to construct channels linking the wetlands, weirs, fish-traps, wind breaks and stone huts, and excellent examples created by the Gunditjmarra people can be found around Western Victoria's Lake Condah region in particular.

Later, during the 1870s and 80s, European settlers utilised the volcanic stone cleared from the land to construct dry stone walls in order to grow crops and introduce stock. Many examples can be found surrounding Corangamite on the Dry Stone Walls Heritage Trail.

The region's spectacular and intriguing volcanic landscape also offers a range of other visitor experiences, from a 45-minute tour to the surface of Mount Gambier's Blue Lake, to the gruelling trek up Mount Schank and down to the crater floor.

In western Victoria, you can go on a chartered boat tour to Lady Julia Percy Island, which has the largest colony of Australian fur seals in the southern hemisphere. Or, take The Alan Marshall Walking Tour of Mount Noorat and the nearby township, or swim in the turquoise-coloured waters of Lake Surprise.

There are also plenty of picturesque picnic and camping spots just waiting to be discovered. Alternatively, you can take your time and spend the night in one of the numerous towns in the Kanawinka Global Geopark.

The Geopark is known as KANAWINKA GEOPARK, meaning Land of Tomorrow from the Buandik people. It is also the name of a geological fault line from Naracoorte Caves to Bass Strait at Portland and a Parish name west of Casterton about 1911 so all levels of the history, Geological, Indigenous and European are brought together in one name.

The Kanawinka Geopark was declared the 57th Member of the Global Network of National Geoparks assisted by UNESCO on June 22, 2008.



Accredited Visitor Information Centres

Victoria

Casterton

Shiels Terrace
03 5581 2070

Colac

Cnr Queen & Murray
Streets
03 5231 3730

Dunkeld

Parker Street
03 5577 2558

Hamilton

Lonsdale Street
1800 807 056

Nelson

Leake Street
08 8738 4051

Port Campbell

26 Morris Street
03 5598 6089

Port Fairy

Railway Place,
Bank Street
03 5568 2682

Portland

Lee Breakwater Rd.
1800 035 567

Warrnambool

Flagstaff Hill
Merri Street
1800 637 725

South Australia

Beachport

Millicent Road
08 8735 8029

Millicent

Mt Gambier Road
08 8733 0904

Mount Gambier

The Lady Nelson
Jubilee Hwy East
1800 087 187

Penola/Coonawarra

27 Arthur Street
08 8737 2855



Camperdown

Old Court House
179 Manifold Street
03 5593 3144

Lake Bolac

2110 Glenelg Hwy
03 5350 2204