



# R.J. Hamer Arboretum



## Visitor Guide

An arboretum is a place in which a collection of trees and shrubs is cultivated under natural conditions for scientific and educational purposes. The R.J.Hamer Forest Arboretum was named for the premier of Victoria of 1972 – 1981, Sir Rupert Hamer. The arboretum was originally established to provide an area for passive recreation (walking and picnicking) within an environment of varied specimens chosen for their interesting flowers and foliage.

Such a mixture of trees has been characteristic of garden development within the Dandenongs. The arboretum has been designed around a forest formation, where each species is represented by an irregular shaped patch of trees, about a half-hectare in area. This is different from the original concept of an arboretum, where individual trees are displayed as isolated specimens.

### Thing to see and do

R.J.Hamer Arboretum provides a wonderful area for recreation or relaxation. Visitors can enjoy quiet contemplation of the magnificent view, the social atmosphere of a traditional Australian barbecue, or walk along the numerous tracks.

### Seasonal highlights

#### Summer

From the majestic gums and oaks, to the ornamental willows and birches, they are all at their best in the summer.

#### Autumn

A rich array of autumn colours provide spectacular views. From the fiery red, oranges and crimsons of the liquid ambers and maples, to the subtle paling of the deciduous conifers.

#### Winter

The tranquil resting of the deciduous trees, contrasted with the early flowering species offer viewing delight.

#### Spring

The flowering beauty of so many species in the arboretum create a kaleidoscope of colours worthy of many international gardens

### History

The site is a small portion of the original Dandenong & Woori Yallock State Forest, which was proclaimed some 130 years ago. With fertile soil and a high rainfall, the area originally

carried a good quality mountain-type forest of eucalypts, with ferns well established along the gullies and creeks. However a succession of fires destroyed the original trees, leaving the area covered by scrub and bracken.

As part of post World War II plans to improve Victoria's timber supplies, softwoods were planted on the area during the period 1948-1955. Ornamental deciduous trees and conifers were included to provide scenic variety, especially along roadsides. Virtually all of these plantings were destroyed by the disastrous fires of January 1962.

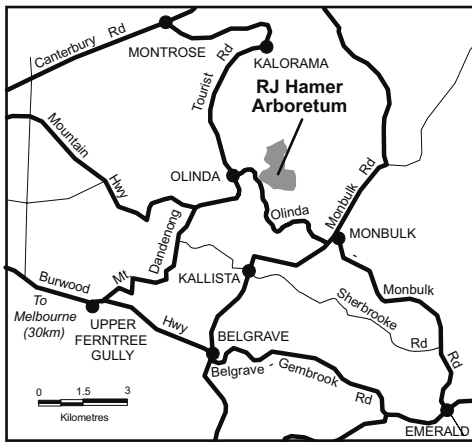
After the fire, a proposal to establish a Forest Arboretum on the site was widely supported and received government approval in 1970.

The area was cleared of scrub and the first stage of planting undertaken in 1976, consisting of some 60 hectares and 100 different species. The major plantings were completed in 1978. By then nearly 200 different species had been implemented within the arboretum, including a wide range of deciduous trees.

Fire protection has been an integral part of development within the arboretum. Its location on the upper north facing slopes of the main east west ridge, is an area of high strategic importance for fire protection. Therefore, a major consideration of the arboretum's establishment was the pattern of roads and tracks, and the reduced inflammability of most of the species being planted, to substantially impede a fire and allow fire fighting.

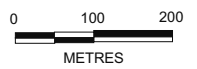
### Dogs

Dogs are allowed in the arboretum but **only if kept on a leash**. Please respect others use of the arboretum by cleaning up after your dog. Note that the arboretum is surrounded by **National Park – where your dog is not allowed**, so please observe the boundaries of the property.

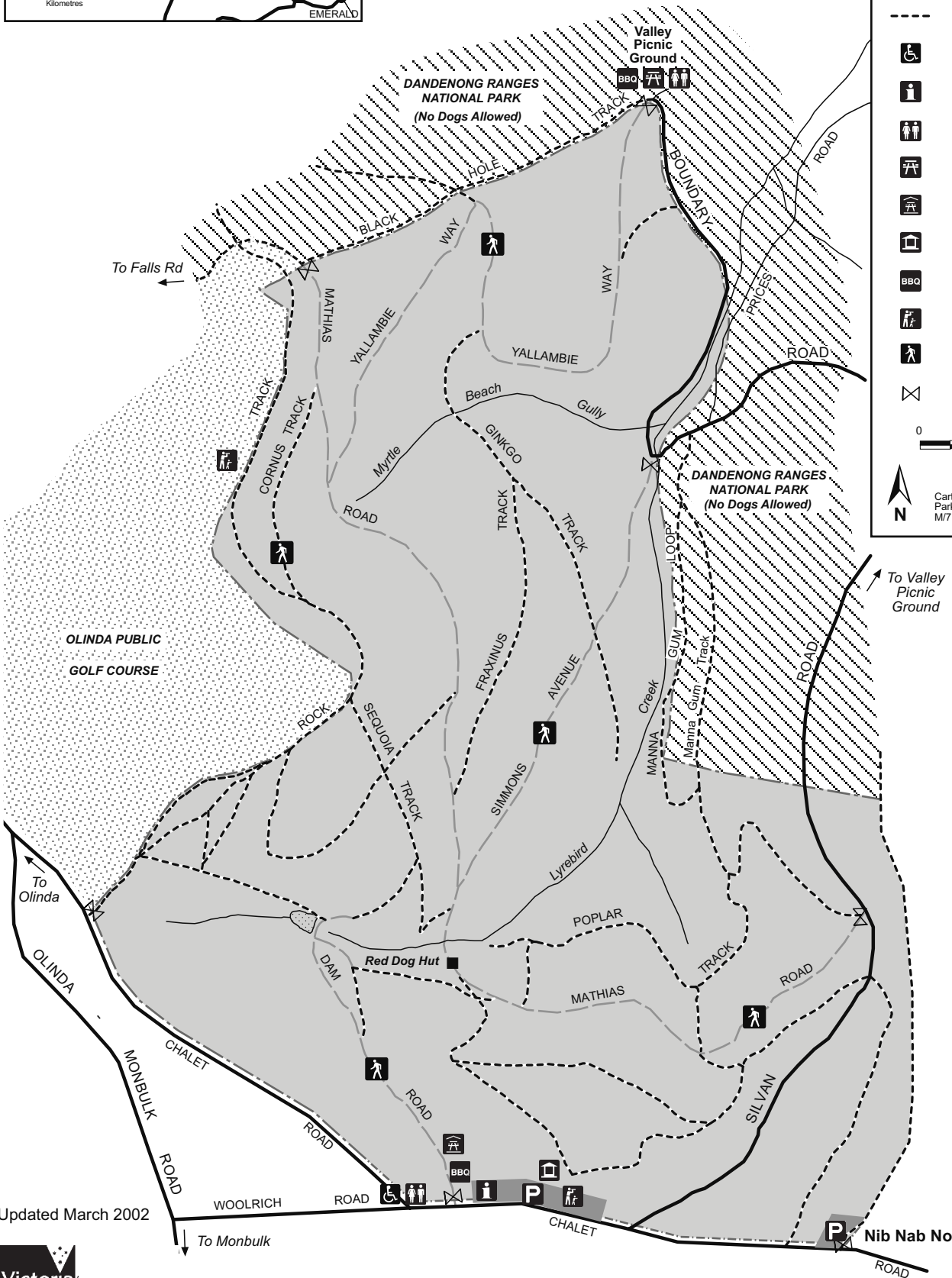


### R.J. Hamer Arboretum

- Arboretum Area (No dogs allowed past boundary)
- Water Body
- Car Park
- Road
- Walking Track (Management Vehicles Only)
- Walking Track
- Toilet for Disabled
- Park Information
- Toilets
- Picnic Table
- Picnic Shelter
- Gazebo
- Barbecue
- Lookout
- Walking Track
- Gate



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