

Park Update

August 2017
No 10

This Park Update provides information about reserves managed by Parks Victoria in the Ballarat Park Area.

Woookarung Regional Park

Plant and animal observations

Rangers, supported by community volunteers, held three walk-in sessions over July and early August to add new animal and plant observations to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA). Some great observations in Woookarung Regional Park were the calling of a Boobook Owl and a healthy number of Hyacinth Orchids. Also, the kangaroo population seems to be wider spread than initially thought, thanks to the detailed observations of a regular dog walker.

These official records will assist with variety of work, such as weed control and park rehabilitation, as well as park planning. Rangers are very keen to add more observations to the VBA, including orchids, insects and reptiles, and we welcome observations throughout the year.

Enfield State Park

Green Army

Parks Victoria is currently teaming up with Conservation Volunteers Australia to host a Green Army Team in the Ballarat region.



A Green Army team assisting with track rehabilitation works by removing illegal structures and rubbish from Woookarung Regional Park.

A team of ten Ballarat youths are working in Enfield State Park, and Hepburn, Creswick and Woookarung Regional Parks, supporting ranger staff to protect local waterways and important animal habitat.

Works already undertaken include walking track maintenance, installation of new signage and rehabilitation of disused parts of the park. The team will soon undertake pine wildling control in Creswick and Woookarung Regional Parks.

Illabrook Grassland Flora Reserve

This intact grassland reserve is special as most of Victoria's grasslands have been cleared for agriculture. European settlers found that Victoria's expansive grasslands were good for grazing and easy to convert for cropping.

The Illabrook Grassland Flora Reserve, however, remains rich in flora, not only grasses but many colourful varieties of orchid, daisy, pea and lily, which all flower in spring and early summer.

Aboriginal people used fire to maintain the open nature of the grasslands, stimulate the growth of useful plants and attract animals for hunting.

Last Autumn, Forest Fire Management Victoria together with Parks Victoria conducted a 11-hectare ecological burn to rejuvenate tussock grasses, create space for herbs and forbs to grow, and protect nearby communities by reducing fuel loads.

You can find this great example of native grassland on the Cape Clear-Rokewood Rd, just north of the township of Illabrook. Note: There are no facilities or vehicle access points into the reserve.

Need any further information?

For more information about our parks, or to provide feedback, please visit www.parks.vic.gov.au. You can also get in touch with us via the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or info@parks.vic.gov.au.