

WELCOME TO TOOLANGI

Just over an hour from Melbourne CBD, Toolangi State Forest offers an opportunity to escape the daily grind of the city and discover some of what the Central Highlands has to offer. Take a stroll along Wirrawilla rainforest boardwalk, be soothed by the sounds of the forest and stand in awe as you look up at one of Victoria's largest and oldest trees, the Kalatha Giant.



Photo by Ian Moodie



Scan QR Code to learn more about saving the Fairy Possum from extinction.

Majestic Mountain Ash trees tower above prehistoric ferns. Streams of snowmelt meander through pristine rainforest gullies. Teeming with life, this forest supports an abundance of unique and endangered flora and fauna, including wildlife such as the endangered Fairy (Leadbeater's) Possum, Sooty Owl and Greater Glider. All this, right on Melbourne's back door step.



Toolangi State Forest is traditional country of the Taungurong people, and Toolangi means 'place of tall trees' in the language of these Traditional Owners.



Photo by Melanie Erler

FOREST ISSUES



Photo by Brent Lukey



Scan QR Code to learn more about these forest issues.

The township of Toolangi is surrounded by beautiful native forest. Spared from the devastating effects of the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires, Toolangi State Forest is undoubtedly one of Victoria's most important unburnt forest ecosystems. **Unfortunately, this ecosystem is still under immense pressure from logging, mostly to produce cheap copy paper.**

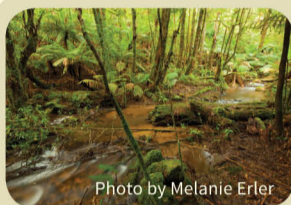


Photo by Melanie Erler



Scan QR code to learn more about the positive alternatives.

EthicalPaper

Fire is a natural and necessary process within these forest ecosystems, however clearfell logging increases the chance of bushfires, which burn hotter and larger than they would naturally. Protecting our forests from logging is important to protect against the increasing threat of bushfires.

Victoria's forests are among the most carbon dense on the planet! They keep the climate in balance by absorbing huge amounts of carbon from the atmosphere and storing it in wood and soil. This process limits the amount of greenhouse gases expelled into the atmosphere and generates clean air. Also, these forests provide fresh and clean water for millions of Victorians every year as they are our natural water catchments.



Photo by Bette Devine

This is *your* forest and we hope you have enjoyed exploring it. These special places are under immense pressure. This forest is being logged primarily for woodchips to make cheap office paper. The animals you have seen are losing their habitat.

Being part of the solution is easier than you think.

ETHICAL PAPER – By signing the Ethical Paper Pledge your company or organisation will be making a commitment to use office paper that does not destroy our native forests. Signing the Pledge is an excellent way to show that your organisation is committed to a sustainable future for Australia.

Visit: www.ethicalpaper.com.au

VOLUNTEER – By volunteering you'll be joining a growing movement of passionate people taking action for our forests.

Visit: www.wilderness.org.au/volunteer

DONATE – By making a tax-deductible donation you'll be helping to protect our beautiful, natural wilderness for future generations.

Visit: www.wilderness.org.au/donate



Produced by campaigners and volunteers at the Wilderness Society, Victoria, with assistance from local Toolangi residents. Printed March 2014 on 100% post-consumer recycled paper. The Wilderness Society makes no guarantee as to the accuracy, completeness, currency or reliability of the information in this pamphlet and accepts no liability for any injury or damage resulting from your trip. Travel Safe.

There is an exciting new development to remedy these problems: the **Great Forest National Park**.

This multi-tiered parks system in the Central Highlands includes the precious Toolangi State Forest. It will be created for bush users and bush lovers alike.



Stretching from Kinglake through to the Baw Baws, and north-east up to Eildon, the Park will host a range of activities such as bike riding, bushwalking, bird watching, four-wheel driving, camping, zipline tours and much more.

The Great Forests National Park is an investment for the long-term because it will benefit our forest ecosystems, the economy, and us. It will be a Park system that protects and maintains important ecosystem functions critical for our way of life.

DISCOVER TOOLANGI STATE FOREST

Easily navigable, well signposted dirt roads allow you to explore the wonders of the forest at your own leisure. Boardwalks allow you to step into the heart of the rainforest. If you are feeling adventurous you can wind your way along one of the many walking tracks. Don't forget to pack a picnic lunch, as there are ample sites with parking, picnic tables and toilet facilities. Allow a full day for this tour.

TRAVELLING SAFELY

- Drive slowly and be aware that during weekdays logging trucks will be using the roads which can throw up a lot of dust
- Roads may become boggy in heavy rain
- Not all areas have mobile phone coverage
- Natural hazards occur within forest environments
- Check for road closures and fire warnings in summer
- For injured wildlife call Wildlife Victoria on **1300 094 535**

Toolangi State Forest

- SELF-DRIVE MAP -



Photo by Karena Goldfinch



EXPLORE AND DISCOVER
THE MAGIC OF THE FOREST



Photo by Brent Lukey



Scan QR code to read about the 'Sylvia Creek' court case.

5. SYLVIA CREEK LOGGING COUPE Notice how you feel as the lush forest ends abruptly giving way to a clearfelled logging coupe. Logging the forest in such a destructive fashion ensures that little flora or fauna survive. The natural cycles of the ecosystem are halted, impacting on wildlife, water, air quality and community. In 2011, passionate and committed locals rallied to fight for the protection of this particular patch of forest. Toolangi residents, conservationists and volunteers from around Australia continue to fight for the protection of Toolangi's tall trees. Drive on to Kalatha Road to visit one of the remaining giants.



Photo by Kiri O'Connor

6. KALATHA GIANT Look out for the orange 'Kalatha Giant Tree Walk' sign. The tree is a short walk from there. The Kalatha Giant has survived several major fires in its lifetime, and also escaped the logging that took many of the trees that had germinated in the forest around it so many centuries ago. The immediate area around the tree is now protected and the tree has become a popular tourist attraction. Take an easy stroll along the boardwalk to learn more about the forest ecosystem and the giants within. Return down Kalatha Road and continue onwards to stop 7.



Scan QR code to read the surprising story of the Superb Lyrebird.

Photo by 'Melburnian', Wikicommons

7. BLOWHARD ROAD As you travel along this road, stop off to soak up the breathtaking surroundings. This valley has remained relatively untouched and has a wealth of giant trees, and native flora and fauna. Drive slowly as you may encounter Swamp Wallabies and Superb Lyrebirds foraging along the roadside. The interconnectivity between all life in this forest is everywhere and **we are also part of this ecosystem.**



These forests provide us with so much. If they go out of balance, the air we breathe and the water we drink are adversely affected. At the end of Blowhard Road, turn left into Spraggs Road and left again into Healesville-Kinglake Road to drive through Toolangi on your return to Healesville and home.

Toolangi State Forest

- SELF-DRIVE MAP -

KEY ROUTE TO FOLLOW

- SEALED ROAD
- 2WD GRAVEL RD OR TOWN RD
- ROUGHER TRACK (MAY BE 4WD)
- WALKING TRACK
- RIVER

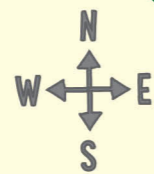
NUMBERED STOP

- TOILET
- DEAD STANDING HABITAT TREES
- FERNS
- PRIME LEADBEATER'S POSSUM HABITAT
- SUGGESTED LUNCH STOP

SOME SIGNIFICANT LOGGING COUPES



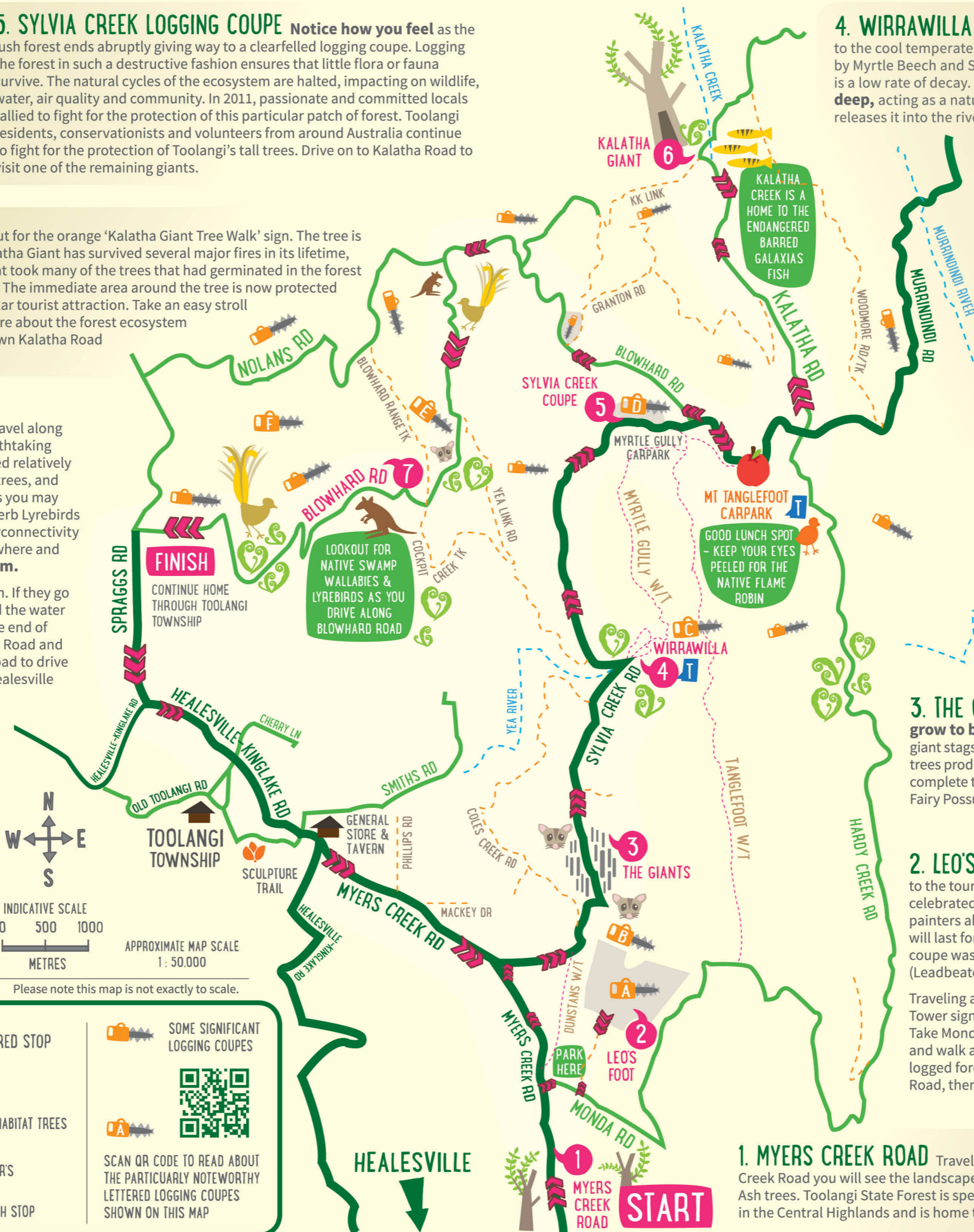
SCAN QR CODE TO READ ABOUT THE PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY LETTERED LOGGING COUPES SHOWN ON THIS MAP



INDICATIVE SCALE
0 500 1000
METRES

APPROXIMATE MAP SCALE
1: 50,000

Please note this map is not exactly to scale.



4. WIRRAWILLA WALK A large sign will indicate you have arrived. Welcome to the cool temperate rainforest! This environment is cool, damp and characterised by Myrtle Beech and Sassafras trees. The cool climate of the rainforest means there is a low rate of decay. **Organic matter on the forest floor can be up to 6 metres deep**, acting as a natural sponge as it filters the water drawn in by the forest, then releases it into the rivers that provide water for millions of Melburnians.

Logging our productive water catchments interrupts this natural cycle and costs **Melburnians 1000 litres of drinking water every second!** That's one and a half Olympic swimming pools an hour. Protecting our water catchments ensures we will have clean, fresh drinking water now and into the future.

Enjoy the Wirrawilla boardwalk circuit, taking in the sounds and scents of the rainforest, before driving onwards to the infamous Sylvia Creek forests.



Photo by Bette Devine



Scan QR code to read 'Tale of a tall tree'.



Photo by Peter Halasz

3. THE GIANTS Mountain Ash trees can live up to 400 years and grow to be over 100 metres tall! Take your time as you encounter ancient giant stags (standing dead trees) along the side of the road. Over time the trees produce hollows that the animals can live in. Given the opportunity to complete their full life cycle, these stags provide important habitat for the Fairy Possum, Sooty Owl, Sugar Glider and other native wildlife.

2. LEO'S FOOT Mount St. Leonard forms a backdrop to the tourism hotspot of the Yarra Valley and has been celebrated for generations by Australian poets and painters alike. It is now badly scarred by logging, which will last for many years to come. Leo's Foot logging coupe was once known habitat for the endangered Fairy (Leadbeater's) Possum, the animal emblem of Victoria.



Photo by Steven Kuiter

Traveling along Myers Creek Road, look for the Mt. St. Leonard Lookout Tower sign on the left then the small orange Monda Road sign on the right. Take Monda Road up the hill, park on the track to the left of Monda Road and walk along it for 250 metres to visit the expanse of the burnt and logged forest known as Leo's Foot logging coupe. Return to Myers Creek Road, then along to take Sylvia Creek Road on the right.

1. MYERS CREEK ROAD Travelling out from Healesville along St. Leonards Road and Myers Creek Road you will see the landscape change and find yourself enveloped by tall, majestic Mountain Ash trees. Toolangi State Forest is special as it is one of the last remaining pockets of unburned forest in the Central Highlands and is home to some truly massive and ancient trees.