



# Victorian National Parks Association

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 24 May 2010**

Media inquiries: Matt Ruchel on 0418 357 813

[www.vnpa.org.au](http://www.vnpa.org.au)

## VNPA Better Protection for Special Places – Central Victoria

### Overview

The VNPA identified, in consultation with local and regional groups and experts, the following 20 sites in five zones or regions. We are calling for increased investment in on-ground management of at least \$20 million per annum and better protection through incorporation in the reserve system.

- 1. St Arnaud to Beaufort Region:** 2 sites - 23,606 ha identified, includes Mt Cole State Forests, Pyrenees Range State (Central) Forest.
- 2. Maryborough to Wedderburn Region:** 8 sites 28,606 ha identified, includes Dunolly State Forest, Kingower State Forest, Bealiba State Forest, Moliagul State Forest, Tunstalls Nature Reserve, Mount Hooghly State Forest, Harvest Home State Forest, Timor State Forest.
- 3. Mid- Loddon Region:** 1 main area and 1 sub region with 7 small sites identified as part of riparian reserves, 3,333 ha includes Muckleford State Forest, Mid-Loddon Riparian Reserves.
- 4. Bendigo-Castlemaine Region:** 4 sites, 14,305 ha includes Wellsford State Forest, Upper Loddon West State Forest, Fryers Range State Forest, Crosbie Nature Conservation.
- 5. Wombat Forest Region:** 4 sites, 45,100 ha, includes four main parts of the Wombat State Forest.

### Site Descriptions at a Glance

#### St Arnaud to Beaufort Region

- 1. Mount Cole State Forest** has large Messmates and Manna Gums in the southern part, and drier woodlands of stringybark and Yellow Box in the north. Significant and threatened species such as Powerful Owl, Speckled Warbler, Square-tailed Kite and Brush-tailed Phascogale are present. *Size 8926 ha*
- 2. Pyrenees Range State Forest – Central** has vegetation of high conservation significance, with more than 200 species of plants and over 100 bird species recorded. *Size 14,680 ha*

#### Maryborough to Wedderburn Region

- 3. Dunolly State Forest** has some vegetation of very high conservation significance associated with patches of grassy woodland along gullies and creeks. *Approximate Size 7,547 ha*
- 4. Kingower State Forest** has important habitat for significant woodland birds including the Swift Parrot, and animals such as the Woodland Blind Snake, Fat-tailed Dunnart and Brown Toadlet. It also contains significant orchid species. *Approximate Size 4,690 ha*
- 5. Bealiba State Forest** is dominated by Box Ironbark Forest with small patches of rare Low Rises Grassy Woodland. It is home to threatened woodland birds, including the Barking Owl, Black-chinned Honeyeater and Swift Parrot. *Approximate Size 7,954 ha*
- 6. Moliagul State Forest** has Box Ironbark forest and small areas of other Ecological Vegetation Classes and is a habitat for the state-listed Black-chinned Honeyeater. *Approximate Size 1,396 ha*
- 7. Tunstalls Nature Conservation Reserve**, in the Avoca River catchment, is dominated by Box Ironbark but has a significant number of large old Yellow Gums and Yellow Boxes. It is a home for significant birds like the Hooded Robin, Black-chinned Honeyeater and Crested Bellbird. Barbed wire on fences in and around the reserve is a hazard to native wildlife. *Approximate size 1,637*
- 8. Mount Hooghly State Forest** (2,026 ha) is also mostly Box Ironbark forest, with significant flora including the state-listed Buloke and endangered Silky Glycine. *Approximate size 2,121 ha*

The Victorian National Parks Association is located at Level 3, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton Vic 3053.  
Phone: 03 9347 5188 | Fax: 03 9347 5199 | Web: [www.vnpa.org.au](http://www.vnpa.org.au)

As Victoria's leading nature conservation organisation we seek to protect the natural environment through national parks, conservation, land reserves, and better protection and management across the landscape.

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**9. Harvest Home State Forest** is half Box Ironbark Forest and half a complex of other vegetation types. Significant flora species include Dainty Phebalium and Cane Spear-grass. *Approximate 2,242 ha*

**10. Timor State Forest** has mainly Box Ironbark forest, and significant woodland birds including the Swift Parrot, Spotted Quail-thrush, Hooded Robin and Red-backed Kingfisher. Threatened flora includes the Goldfields Grevillea. *Approximate size 1,379 ha*

## Mid-Loddon Region

**11. Muckleford State Forest** surrounds the Maldon Nature Conservation Reserve and is home to significant woodland bird species such as the Diamond Firetail and Powerful Owl, and mammals including Brush-tailed Phascogales. *Approximate size 3,152 ha*

**12. Mid-Loddon Riparian Reserves** are seven small reserves with high conservation significance. Some have very large and significant red gum trees and good connectivity to the surrounding landscape, and all have important indigenous vegetation and are fauna breeding sites. *Approximate size 81 ha*

## Bendigo-Castlemaine Region

**13. Wellsford State Forest** is mostly Box-Ironbark forest in the Goldfields bioregion and has a long history of logging. Most of the area is still subject to timber harvesting and other threats. It is an important habitat for threatened fauna, and has threatened plants including Ausfeld's Wattle, Dainty Phebalium, Small-leaf Goodenia, Whirrakee Wattle and Buloke. *Approximate size 7,122 ha*

**14. Upper Loddon West State Forest** is a significant link between two sections of Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park and private land to the south, which links to Hepburn Regional Park and Wombat State Forest. Tarlita Creek contains a beautiful intact gorge with an amazing array of fungi and lichen. Powerful Owls and Brush-tailed Phascogales are present, and Common Galaxias in the creek. *Approximate size 1,806 ha*

**15. Fryers Range State Forest** also links two sections of Castlemaine Diggings NHP, and has some vegetation of very high conservation significance. It contains significant historic sites including a mineral spring, Junction Town Ship at Tunnel Hill and Patten's Reef workings, and vagabond Charlie Sanger's main hut and mining area. *Approximate size 3,321 ha*

**16. Crosbie Nature Conservation Reserve** is mostly surrounded by vegetation on private land, and has good links to public land. Threatened fauna there includes the Grey-crowned Babbler, Painted Honeyeater and Powerful Owl. Ausfeld's Wattle and Buloke are among significant plants recorded. *Approximate size 2,056 ha*

## Wombat Forest Region

**17. Wombat State Forest – Main section** abuts Lerderderg State Park and has significant wetter habitats which include Sedgy Riparian Woodland and Damp Forest. It has important habitat for threatened fauna, with records for the nationally endangered Spot-tailed Quoll, vulnerable Growling Grass Frog and state endangered Masked Owl. Also present are at least 20 rare and threatened plant species. *Approximate size 31,448 ha*

**18. Wombat State Forest – Bullarto North section** is mostly of high vegetation conservation significance, and has links to Upper Loddon State Forest and other large areas of native vegetation along five creek corridors. It has important habitat for threatened fauna and rare and threatened plants. *Approximate size 5,747 ha*

**19. Wombat State Forest – West section** also has high conservation significance, with habitat for threatened fauna and rare and threatened plants including the state-listed Wiry Bossiaea, Creeping Grevillea and Satinwood. *Approximate size 5,085 ha*

**20. Wombat State Forest – North-west section** has many areas of high and very high conservation significance vegetation, and recent records for the Brush-tailed Phascogale and Common Bent-wing Bat. There are also at least three rare and threatened plant species. *Approximate size 2,820 ha*

**Please contact: Matt Ruchel, VNPA Executive Director on 0418-357-813 or 03-9347 5188 or to download summary report or full report [www.smallparksproject.vnpa.org.au](http://www.smallparksproject.vnpa.org.au)**

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