

A photograph of a stone culvert tunnel. The tunnel is constructed from dark, rough-hewn stones and has a semi-circular arch at the top. The floor is also made of stone and appears to be a path or a dry streambed. At the far end of the tunnel, there is a bright, overexposed opening, likely leading to a body of water or a bright outdoor area. The lighting is dramatic, with the interior of the tunnel being dark and the opening being very bright.

THE BIG

CULVERT



HERITAGE
SERIES

THE BIG CULVERT

CONTRIBUTORS

Joshua Hibbert
Denis Martin
Kathie Maynes
David & Debbie Hibbert

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

THE BIG CULVERT, MARYSVILLE

Name: The Big Culvert
Location: Marysville Woods Point Rd
17 km from Marysville
Built: Early 1870s
GPS S37.55879 E145.87366

The Big Culvert in Marysville is one of our District's wonders. Constructed 1870, it remains the oldest functioning culvert in our district. It is also the only one that is an historic tourism feature.



The Big Culvert archway was constructed in the early 1870s as part of the Government's quickly expanding road system improvements for the area. The Big Culvert (the largest of the culverts built in the area at this time) was made from local granite likely sourced from Mount Arnold by German settler George Koehler. He was skilled in the masonry craft and it is said that he also operated a local hotel.

The culvert continues to carry water under the roadway through the granite archway to this day. Although the rocks are covered in moss, they are largely the same as when they were first laid in the 1870s. The Culvert continues to support heavy vehicles that operate daily on the Marysville Woods Point Road.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

THE BIG CULVERT, MARYSVILLE

The Culvert is 2 kilometres from the Historic township of Cambarville which has a small park and picnic area. Cambarville is also one of the starting points for a casual walk into the old growth forest to witness and touch one of the highest trees in Victoria.

The Big Tree is a tall Mountain Ash, which lost 25 metres from its canopy during a storm. Other natural features located near the Culvert include Cora Lynn Falls, Cumberland Falls and Sovereign View.

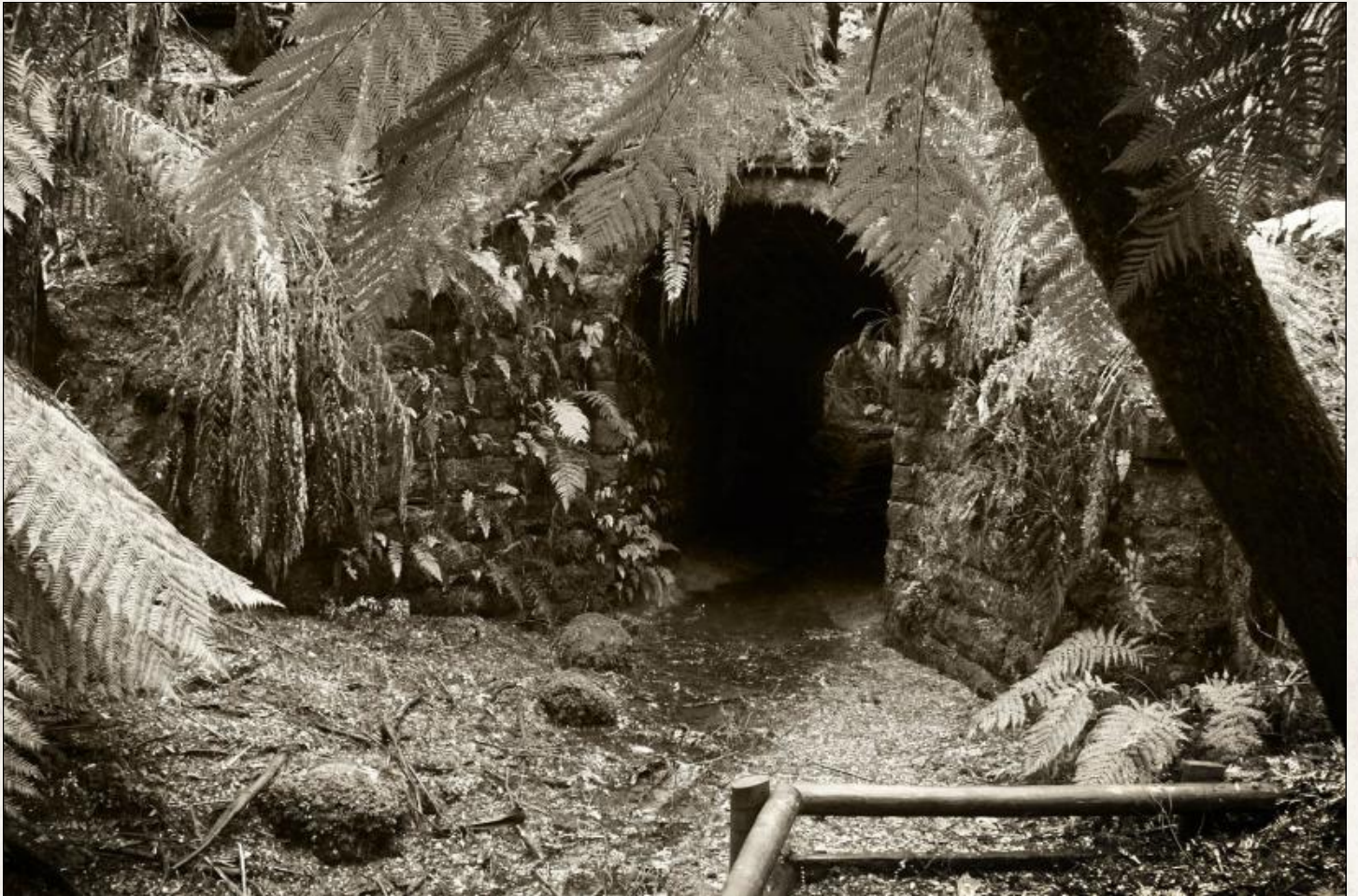
The area around the Big Culvert was severely damaged during the Black Saturday Bushfires, yet the area at the Culvert avoided burning. The information board also survived the firestorm largely unscathed and continues to supply information to visitors.



The Big Culvert area after the bushfires, in early 2010.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

THE BIG CULVERT, MARYSVILLE



The Big Culvert after the bushfires, in early 2010.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

THE BIG CULVERT, MARYSVILLE



The Big Culvert 2010.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

THE BIG CULVERT, MARYSVILLE



A brick at The Big Culvert 2011.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

THE BIG CULVERT, MARYSVILLE



The Big Culvert 2010.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

THE BIG CULVERT, MARYSVILLE



The Big Culvert 2015.

Photograph © Denis Martin 2015.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

THE BIG CULVERT, MARYSVILLE

THE BIG CULVERT

First blazed in 1862, the Yarra Track was a more direct route for travellers, miners and their supplies to the newly opened goldfields around the town of Woods Point. As the town grew the Yarra Track needed improvements and road building contracts were let in 1861. Clearing work commenced and by 1867 the road gangs were operating around nearby Mount Arnold.

Contracts were issued to William Ellinger in 1869 for construction work between Mount Arnold and the Cumberland Creek. One of these was for the construction of five culverts, the largest of which became known as **The Big Culvert**. It is believed that a German settler by the name of George Koehler, who operated a hotel nearby, worked as a surveyor using granite cut from Mount Arnold. The culverts were completed by 1871.

Apart from minor repairs to damaged capping stones, **The Big Culvert** remains today as it was for over 130 years. The soundness of the original structure is evident from the ease with which it supports heavy trucks that use the road today. It is a monument to the skill and ingenuity of the men who carved the Yarra Track through the often barely accessible forests of the Great Dividing Range.

Woods Point picnic area is a beautiful picnic area, which has toilet and shelter facilities. It can be reached by following the Woods Point road just 1km to the east. A walk around the **Cumberland Reserve** and the beautiful Cumberland Way which includes Victoria's tallest tree, start from this picnic area.

ABOUT OUR PARKS

Parks and Reserves were established in Victoria from the 1850s onwards. Our oldest National Parks, Mount Buffalo and Wilsons Promontory, have now been protected for over 100 years.

Victoria's Parks and Reserves system consists of 36 National Parks, three Wilderness Parks, 31 State Parks, 22 other Parks, over 30 Metropolitan Parks and over 2500 Conservation Reserves, which together represent nearly four million hectares.

Throughout the world there is growing recognition of the vital contribution parks make to a healthy environment, to the health of individuals and to a healthy society. Victorians are very fortunate to have inherited a world class network of Parks and Reserves, now accounting for more than 16% of Victoria's land mass.

YARRA RANGES NATIONAL PARK

Established in 1994, Yarra Ranges National Park extends from the headwaters of the Yarra River to Marysville and Healesville. The Park's vast 70,000ha are home to some of Australia's tallest and oldest trees.

This information is based on good and best current practice. Contacted for the purposes of this factsheet.

LOOKING AFTER THE PARK

To help us preserve this special area please observe these rules:

- leave dogs and other pets at home
- firearms are not permitted
- light fires ONLY in fireplaces provided
- no fires at all are permitted on Total Fire Ban days
- all native plants, birds and animals are protected and must not be disturbed or removed
- take all rubbish with you when you leave

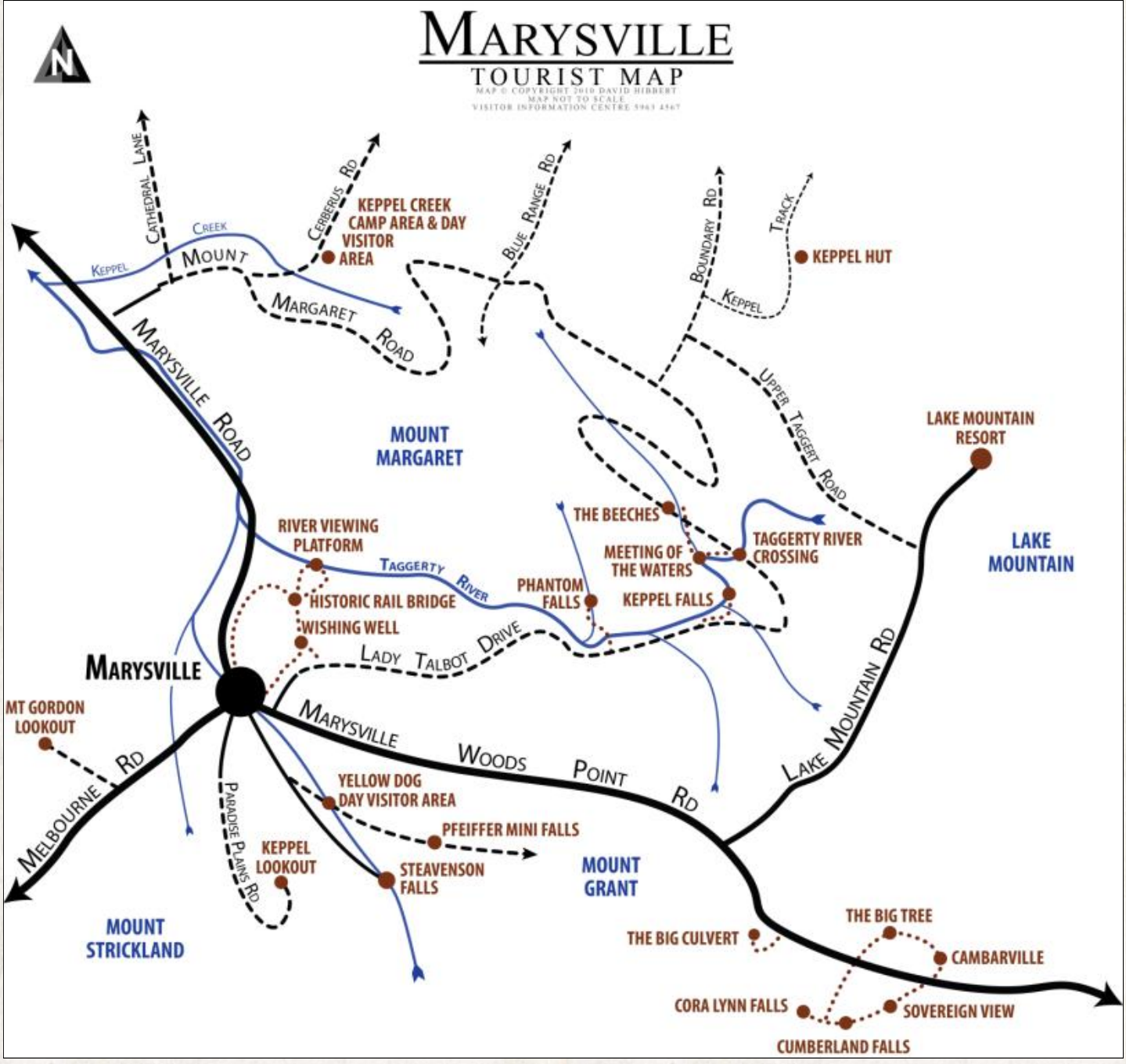
CATCHMENTS
Large areas of Yarra Ranges National Park function as water catchment, contributing more than half of Melbourne's water supply. To ensure the purity of the water supply no public access of any sort is allowed in most of these catchment areas.

Please take notice of signs stating Entry Prohibited. By doing so you are helping to protect Melbourne's pure water, which is the envy of the world.

The Big Culvert 2010.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

MAP





Artworkz

Serving the Community