

Lyrebird Forest Walk

Location: 3.3 kilometres north of Mirboo North on the Strezlecki Highway

Distance: 4.8 kilometre walk or shorter 3km route

Facilities: Picnic tables at car park and situated at the end of river walk, adjacent to the bridge. Benches have also been installed at 4 other locations.

Wheelchair Access: At the car park and to a point 0.75km along Little Morwell River Walk.



The Lyrebird Forest Walk is an easy one and a half hour bushwalk through native forests typical of the South Gippsland region. Signs on the main highway indicate the entrance to the car park and picnic area where the walking track begins and ends. Initially the track follows the Little Morwell River for one kilometre through characteristic gully vegetation of tall eucalypts with a thick understorey of scrub and ferns. Reaching open farmland which is private property, the path follows the edge of the forest, passing vegetation typical of the drier slopes and ridges. The trees are smaller and different species to those in the gullies and the forest is generally more open on the upper slopes. Halfway up the hill a secondary link track to Coral Fern Gulley will take the bushwalker back to the car park by a shorter 3km route. The main track continues until a gravel road is reached. Follow this for one kilometre until a well marked turn directs walkers back into the forest towards the car park.

The Superb Lyrebird is often seen in patches of dense scrub along the track. Fully grown it is about the size of a large chicken. The male has a set of ornate tail feathers which it spreads in display when performing on its mound in the forest. Early settlers likened the shape of these feathers to that of the lyre, an ancient stringed instrument.

The Lyrebird is noted for its ability to imitate the calls of other birds, and can also reproduce the sound of car horns, chain saws and other man-made noises. A female Lyrebird produces one egg per year and she is the only one to care for the chick. Lyrebird numbers have been reduced by land clearing and predators but still thrive in the scattered areas of native forest around Mirboo North. Other birds commonly sighted include: White-throated Treecreeper, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Scarlet and Eastern Yellow Robin, Brown Thornbill, Grey Shrike-Thrush, Laughing Kookaburra and the Crimson Rosella.

Trees and conspicuous plants along the Lyrebird Forest Walk include: Mountain Grey Gum, Brown Stringybark, Messmate Stringybark, Silvertop, Yertchuk, Blackwood, Saw Banksia, Common Heath, Soft Tree-fern and Austral King-fern.

Some of the native animals to be seen are the Wombat, Koala, Black Wallaby, Short Nosed and Long Nosed Bandicoots, Swamp Rat, Greater Glider, Feathertail and Ringtail Possums, Echidna, Platypus and little Brown Rat. Most of these are nocturnal in habit.