



# Mount Martha Boardwalk

## and tracks in the Balcombe Estuary Reserves

Immerse yourself in nature with an easy stroll along one of Victoria's biodiversity gems – the Mount Martha Boardwalk. Nestled in a wetland sanctuary beside Mount Martha Village, just 60 kms from Melbourne's CBD, the Boardwalk is part of 3.5 km of bushland tracks that meander along Balcombe Creek from the coast to the Nepean Hwy and on to The Briars.

Listen to the frogs croaking and the wrens chirping as you amble beneath a canopy of majestic paperbarks; feast your eyes on soaring silver banksias and tiny correas; keep your eyes peeled for a graceful egret at the water's edge, a shy echidna, or a burrowing swamp rat ... and learn about biodiversity along the way from helpful signs and interpretive boards provided by BERG Mt Martha—[www.berg.org.au](http://www.berg.org.au).

Use your smart phone or internet enabled tablet to access the **Yellow Robin Audio Trail**...and find out more about the beautiful natural environment as you walk along the Boardwalk Children can listen to Wally the Wallaby talk about birds, bats, butterflies, burns, bark beds...and much more.

Young children might prefer the five post **Dragonfly Audio Trail**, located in the popular Old Campground area of the Reserves. It aims to introduce budding environmentalists to the ecology of this unique area...and challenges them to use their eyes, ears and sense of smell along the way! This audio guide has five child-focussed topics : Feathered Friends, Monotreme Madness, Underwater World, Lazy Lizards and Creatures of the Night.

### ABOUT THE RESERVES

The Balcombe Estuary Reserves were declared in 1987 and cover 44 hectares. Traditional owners, The Boonerwung people, called the Balcombe Creek area Tji'tjin'garook – the voice of frogs! The network of paths and boardwalk was established by the Rotary Club of Mount Martha in 1987.

### WHAT IS BERG MT MARTHA?

BERG is a friends group formed in 1997 to preserve and restore the bushland of the Balcombe Estuary Reserves at Mt Martha. Its work is supported by Mornington Peninsula Shire, Melbourne Water and numerous government and non-government agencies and funding bodies.



To find out more about the Reserves and their flora and fauna, visit the BERG Mt Martha

### FLORA AND FAUNA

Be amazed by the diversity of species that have made their home in the largest and most intact estuary on the east of Port Phillip Bay!

**Plants**...Look out for plants like native orchids, tiny ground hugging herbs, flowering Wattles, Correas and Hibbertias, Swamp Paperbarks and She-oaks and the stately Manna Gums and Coastal Banksias that have survived the spreading Coastal Tea-tree.

At the saline fringes, you'll see aquatic herb field species like Swamp Crassula, Creeping Brookweed, Shiny Swamp-mat and Chaffy Sawsedge, Knobby Club-sedge, Australian Salt-grass and Beaded Glasswort. Notice the reed beds, dominated by Phragmites and Juncus.

Take special care of our rare or threatened species in the reserve, including the Cherry Ballart, Chaffy Saw-sedge, Grassland Cranesbill, Knobby Club-sedge, and Coarse Twine-rush.

**Birds**... Watch out for the many tiny birds that dip and dive inside the scrub: Robins, Whistlers, Wrens, Flycatchers, Yellow Robins, Pardalotes, Grey Shrike Thrushes, Finches, Mistletoebirds, Fantails, Thornbills and Honeyeaters. Check out our larger birds too: Frogmouths, Kookaburras, Goshawks, Rosellas, Lorikeets, Magpies, Ravens and, recently, large flocks of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos.

There's a host of Wetland birds that love the estuary for its changing water levels, rich food supplies, and thick reeds for nesting and roosting. Can you spy a Cormorant, Pelican, Duck, Rail or Crane; a member of the Water Fowl family such as a Swamphen, Moorhen or Coot; or a graceful Ibis or Heron, including the Nankeen Night Heron? You might also be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of a Great Egret or Royal Spoonbill – two birds of special significance here in Victoria.

**Reptiles** ... Look carefully amongst the fallen logs and understory plants that may be sheltering a Common Scaly-foot, Tree Dragon, several varieties of Skink, Blotched Blue-tongue, Lowland Copperhead or a not so friendly Tiger Snake.

**Mammals**...our picturesque Melaleuca scrub is home to Echidnas, Brushtail and Ringtail Possums, Sugar Gliders, several Micro Bat species, Swamp Rats digging burrows and even the occasional Koala.

**In the water**...if you study the logs and reeds in the of Balcombe Creek and its estuary you might see a Short-finned Eel; Common, Spotted, Broad-finned, or (the nationally threatened) Dwarf Galaxia; Southern Pygmy Perch, Small-mouthed Hardyhead, Flat headed Gudgeon, Blue-spot and Bridled Goby, Yellow-eyed Mullet, Greenback Flounder and Smooth Toadfish.

Listen carefully and you can you hear the voices of our diverse and cheeky frog population.

Species include the Common Froglet, Southern Bull Frog, Spotted Marsh Frog, Southern Brown Tree Frog, Verreaux's Tree Frog and the State-significant Southern Toadlet. If you are very lucky, you might see a Common Long-necked Tortoise surfacing for air, or a lost penguin.

### HOW TO GET HERE

Melways Ref: Map 144 – Ref. K11

It's easy. Catch a train from Melbourne to Frankston and then a bus to Mount Martha Village via The Esplanade or take a drive along the new Mornington Frankston Freeway.

The Boardwalk is flat, wheelchair accessible, and an ideal adventure for families, dog walkers, strollers and runners.

### PARKING

A free car park is located in Mirang Ave.



**LEGEND**

- Main Walking Track (2.45km)
- Minor Walking Tracks
- Footbridge
- Creek Underground
- Parking
- Toilets
- Leash-Free Areas
- Ovals
- Liz Barraclough Birdhide
- Yellow Robin Audio Trail
- Dragonfly Audio Trail

**HELP US CARE FOR THIS SPECIAL ENVIRONMENT**

Keep to walking tracks - take care not to damage fragile creek banks.

Remember that all native plants and wildlife are protected.

Please do not remove logs or ground material that provide habitat for native fauna.

Keep dogs on a lead and remove droppings. Cats and other pets are not permitted.

A recreational fishing licence is required to fish from platforms along the creek.

**JOIN US and help preserve the beautiful Balcombe Estuary Reserves**

Support our work by becoming a member of BERG Mt Martha

OR

Join our enthusiastic team planting indigenous species and removing pest plants and invasive weeds.

Contact BERG Mt Martha at [info@berg.org.au](mailto:info@berg.org.au)

0447 160 288

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



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↓ TO THE BRIARS

