

Bush Biking @ Chiltern



Share the Magic...

Welcome to Chiltern and the Chiltern - Mt Pilot National Park

Welcome to a new and exciting cycling adventure. You are just 275 km northeast of Melbourne on the Hume Freeway and the Melbourne-Sydney rail link. You are 34 km north of Wangaratta (Melway ref: 522 E6) and the iconic Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. And you are about to enjoy something the canny locals have known about for years.

More than 21,565ha of bush is yours to discover. The tracks shown in this brochure are an introduction to the greatest stand of Box-Ironbark forest in Australia with routes identified for your riding pleasure. Where else in Australia might you ride along a bush track and see a rare Regent Honeyeater or a Brush-tailed Phascogale, or reminders of the gold-mining era amidst wildflowers and wetlands?

Chiltern itself is a unique town of approximately 1400 residents. It is distinguished by its historic streetscape of well-preserved brick and timber buildings dating back to the 1850s. The National Park encompasses the low hills surrounding the town of Chiltern and protects a diversity of flora and fauna species within the Box-Ironbark forest. This National Park also contains areas of archaeological and cultural significance along with many relics of the area's pioneer gold and mining heritage. Networks of roads link these areas and create an easily accessible and beautiful landscape for cycling enthusiasts of all abilities.

Now they are yours to explore...

Where to stay in Chiltern

Members of Chiltern Tourism & Development Inc.

Chiltern Colonial Motel
1-7 Main Street
Chiltern Vic 3683
Tel: 03 5726 1788
Email: stay@chilterncolonial.com.au
Web: www.chilterncolonial.com.au

Lake Anderson Caravan Park
Alliance Street
Chiltern Vic 3683
Tel: 03 5726 1298
Email: lapark@bigpond.net.au
Web: www.lacaravanpark.com.au

The Lineman's Cottage
Main Street
Chiltern Vic 3683
Tel: 03 5726 1300
Email: info@linesmancottage.com.au
Web: www.linesmancottage.com.au

Mulberry Tree B&B
28 Conness Street
Chiltern Vic 3683
Tel: 03 5726 1277
Web: www.mulberrytrechiltern.com.au

Rose Cottage B&B
Conness Street
Chiltern Vic 3683
Tel: 03 5726 1878
Email: leeraymond@bigpond.com

Mount Pilot Tourist Farm
373 Toveys Road
Chiltern Vic 3683
Tel: 03 5726 1655
Email: mtpilotfarm@hotmail.com

Mountain Bike Rides in Chiltern - Mt Pilot National Park

All rides start from the Chiltern Visitor Information Centre at the corner of Alliance Street and Main Street, Chiltern. Distances stated are for the complete ride, returning to the start. The majority of each ride is on formed gravel roads but some sealed secondary roads are used where extra care will be needed. The Rating of each ride is based on the fitness required. ★ = very easy ride; ★★ = moderate with some hills; ★★★ = more difficult with longer hills; ★★★★ = lots of hills, requiring good fitness.

Ride Name & Description

BARAMBOGIE

Total Distance: 36km
Sealed surface: 10km

A moderately challenging ride on open roads with some long gradual ascents and descents. The heavily treed summit of Mt Barambogie (480m) can be accessed via a very steep and rocky track. ★★★

CALLITRIS

Total Distance: 16km
Sealed surface: 4km

A quiet sheltered ride through low hills and Ironbark forest. Picturesque Winter or Spring ride when trees and shrubs are flowering. ★★★

CHILTERN VALLEY

Total Distance: 20km
Sealed surface: 9km

An interesting tour of the landscape and heritage features west of Chiltern, including Donchi Hill Lookout, Chiltern Valley machinery museum shed and Chiltern Mine Dams No.1 and No.2. Birdwatching at Dams. ★★

GRAND TOUR

Total Distance: 38km
Sealed surface: 9km

A challenging and rewarding circuit of the hill tops and heritage sites of the Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park. Magnificent views of Chiltern and surrounds from track to Skeleton Hill (350m); top of Hill is on private property. ★★★★★

HONEYEATER

Total Distance: 24km
Sealed surface: 7km

A tour south of the freeway visiting Honeyeater Picnic Area & Dam and Attreys Reef through Ironbark and White box forests. Keep an eye out for Tree goannas and wildflowers. ★★★

MAGENTA MINE

Total Distance: 15km
Sealed surface: 4km

A gentle ride visiting the well known Magenta Mine site and the Indigo Goldfields cemetery. Good ride when trees are flowering - keep an eye out for Regent Honeyeaters and Swift Parrots. ★★

MOUNT PILOT

Total Distance: 40km
Sealed surface: 8km

A long and interesting ride through farms along Black Dog Creek and into Blakely's Red gum and Black Cypress-pine forests. The summit of Mt Pilot (544m) provides a spectacular view of the whole area. The forest was burnt in the bushfires of 2003 and has recovered very well. Yeddonba Picnic area, rock art site and interpretive walk are well worth a visit. ★★★★★

Places/Sites of Interest

- Magenta Mine:** A picnic area and informative display explaining the history and workings of this once very productive gold mine. Also a good place to look for woodland and forest birds. (see Interpretive storyboard)
- Honeyeater Picnic Area & Cyanide Dam:** A pleasant picnic area next to a small dam. Koalas and kingfishers are often seen in this area. Information about the flora and fauna of the National Park is provided. (see Interpretive storyboard)
- Green Hill Dam:** Small wildlife dam on the edge of the park that is a noted bird watching site, especially mornings and evenings.
- Attreys Reef:** A small mining area and dam with signed walking track behind a Rest Stop on the Hume Freeway (southbound). No need to ride on Freeway; toilets and BBQs at Rest Stop.
- Indigo Goldfields Cemetery:** A total of 58 people are known to have been buried in this tiny cemetery in the middle of the forest before it was decided that the ground was too rocky. The first death on the Indigo Goldfields on 4 November 1858 was newborn Francis Nicholls, followed two days later by 34 year old miner Joseph Turner. (see Interpretive storyboard)
- Tuan Camp Site:** Good woodland bird watching area. Camping permitted.
- Donchi Hill Lookout:** The forest in this area has changed considerably since 1858. The original open woodland trees were cut down for mine construction, fencing and firewood and subsequent regrowth has produced a forest of straight trees growing close together with sparse understorey. Picnic table and fireplace provided.
- Chiltern Valley No.2 Dam and Bird hide:** The largest wetland in the area, this old mine dam is home to a significant number of waterbirds including Brolgas, Ibis, Egrets, Herons and others. There is a picnic table and a bird hide provided for closer viewing.
- Chiltern Valley Museum:** An open display of artefacts and information about the former village of Chiltern Valley during and after the gold mining era.

- Major Mitchell Cairn:** Major Mitchell passed this site on his explorations from Sydney to Portland on 17 October 1836. Imagine what the landscape would have looked like then!
- Frog Hollow:** A small wetland and old dam which is the site of an early gold crusher. Some old bits of machinery still visible. Picnic table.
- Blackball Mine Dam Reserve:** A small wetland amongst some beautiful Red gums. Part of the Chiltern Walking Path network. (see Interpretive storyboard)
- Chiltern Valley No.1 Dam:** A large old mining dam which is now an excellent bird watching area. Black swans and other waterbirds are regulars. Picnic table and BBQ.
- Skeleton Hill:** The top of this hill is on private land. There are good views of Black Dog Creek valley and Mt Pilot to the south, the Town of Chiltern and the National Park to the north from the park boundary. Origin of the name is uncertain but it is an important cultural heritage site.
- Old Pioneer Cemetery:** This cemetery was closed in 1881. Over 1000 people are buried here. Headstones go back to the 1870's. This cemetery was on the old road to Eldorado. (see Interpretive storyboard)
- Barambogie Springs and Reservoir:** Originally the Chiltern water supply, these natural springs are at the edge of an old pine plantation and are a good place to look for birds, including owls in the early evening.
- Mt Barambogie:** A forest of Stringybark, Red Box and Blakely's Red Gum as well as large granite boulders cover the top of this hill, although there is a trig point, so there must have been a view at one time. The summit is accessible via a very rough track which is not well signposted.
- Mt Pilot:** A 300m walk up from the parking area, the open, rocky summit of Mt Pilot is definitely worth a look. In the Spring, the wildflowers are spectacular. BBQ and picnic tables at the parking area.
- Yeddonba Picnic area:** An Aboriginal rock painting of a Thylacine is visible along this very interesting cultural heritage interpretive trail (1.5km). Picnic table and BBQ.

Mountain Bike Code

Stay on roads and obey signs:

Stay on formed roads and tracks made for four wheeled vehicles, including 'Management Vehicles Only' roads unless they are specifically closed to bicycles. Some tracks are subject to seasonal closure to prevent damage, so please obey closure signs.

Ride in control at all times:

Out of control riders are a danger to themselves and others. They can also discredit mountain bike riding by scaring people and damaging the trails.

Respect the rights of others:

Other road users have the same rights as you, so let them go about their activities without interference. Always give horses right of way. Some horses are easily frightened by bicycles. Be alert for signs of horses (hoof prints or droppings), and watch for them on bends and crests.

Abide by any other regulations:

In summer, check for fire regulations if you are camping.

Wear a bike helmet:

By law, a bicycle helmet must be worn when riding on roads, bike paths, bike lanes, shared and segregated footways and in other public places such as recreational parks.

Be prepared for a fun ride!

Before commencing your ride, consider your level of fitness and allow sufficient time to complete the ride. Ensure your bicycle is in good working order and you have a tyre repair kit and pump. Take a mobile phone and a list of emergency numbers, sufficient water and food and a small first aid kit including sunscreen.



Healthy Parks
Healthy People®



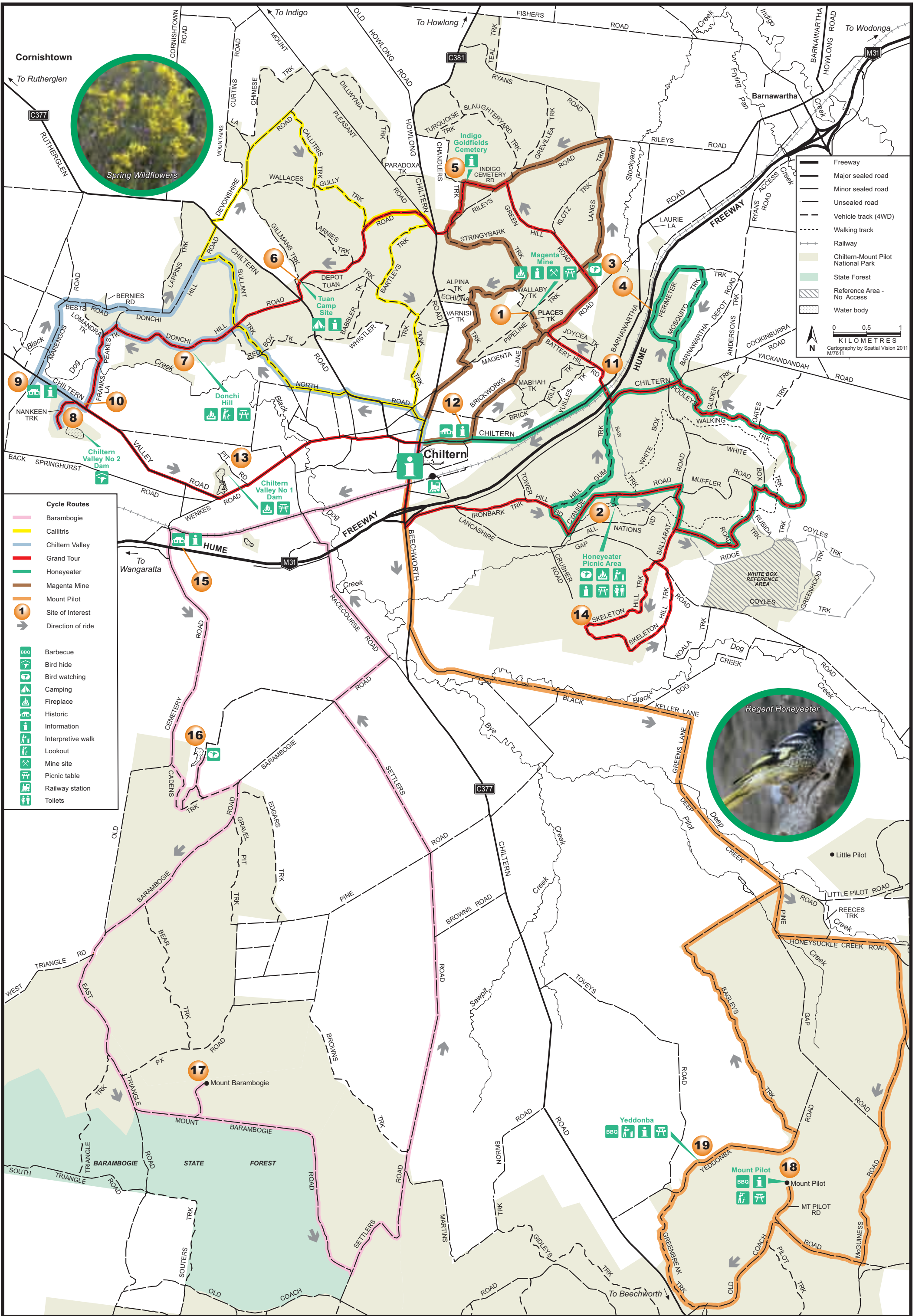
Chiltern
Share the Magic



Thank you. This brochure was produced with funding from Parks Victoria through their Healthy Parks - Healthy People initiative as part of Indigo Shire Council's Community Strengthening program.

Disclaimer: While the information contained in this publication has been prepared with all due care for the benefit of the user, Parks Victoria does not warrant or make representations in relation to the accuracy.

For further information: www.chilternvc.com



Cornishtown



Spring Wildflowers

Legend:

- Freeway
- Major sealed road
- Minor sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Vehicle track (4WD)
- Walking track
- Railway
- Chiltern-Mount Pilot National Park
- State Forest
- Reference Area - No Access
- Water body

0 0.5 1
KILOMETRES
Cartography by Spatial Vision 2011
M/7611

Cycle Routes

- Barambogie
- Callitris
- Chiltern Valley
- Grand Tour
- Honeyeater
- Magenta Mine
- Mount Pilot

Site of Interest

- 1

Direction of ride

Amenities:

- BBQ
- Bird hide
- Bird watching
- Camping
- Fireplace
- Historic
- Information
- Interpretive walk
- Lookout
- Mine site
- Picnic table
- Railway station
- Toilets



Regent Honeyeater

Little Pilot

Yeddomba

Mount Pilot

MT PILOT RD