



### Suitable for

Active Families	✓
Seniors & Strollers	
Pleasure Walkers	✓
Super Striders	✓
Circuit	✓
Seating	
Dogs Welcome	
Trail Type	Natural Heritage with Historic Places



### Walk Overview

A delightful walk through a special habitat and suitable for all members of an active family. This is a trail best experienced in summer given the muddiness of the trail after rain. Keep your eyes open—it is easy to get lost and for this reason it is best walked with a friend.

### Time

1.5 hrs

### Distance

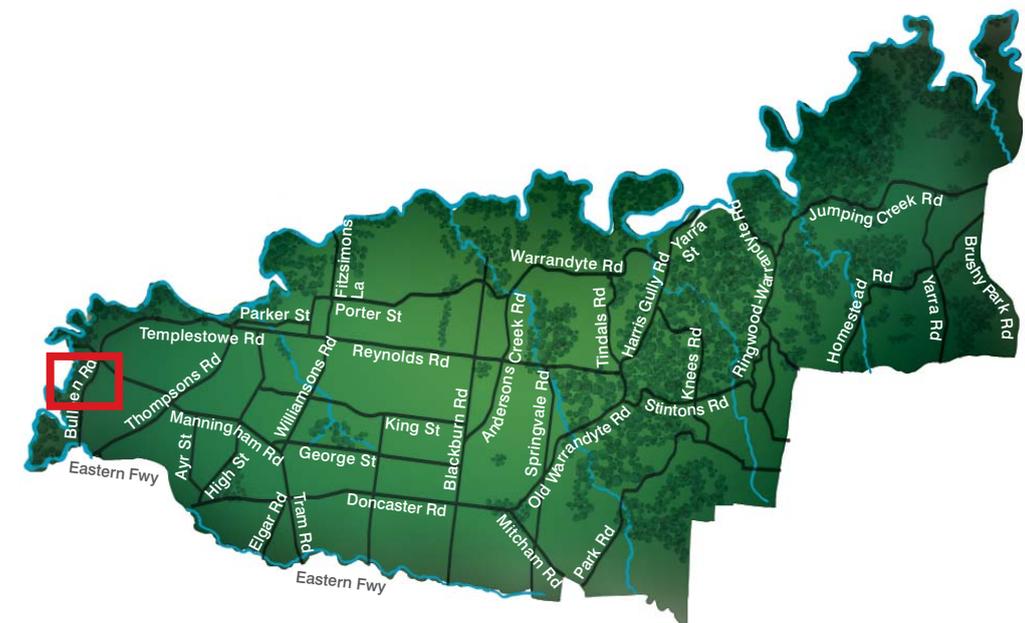
4.5 kms

### Difficulty

Medium

### Accessibility

Unsuitable



### Location

Start and finish Bulleen Park, 175 Bulleen Road, Bulleen.

### Melway Reference

32 C10

### Public Transport

**Metlink:** t 131 638

[www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au](http://www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au)

**Ventura Buses:** t 9488 2100

[www.venturabus.com.au](http://www.venturabus.com.au)

### Parking

Bulleen Park, 175 Bulleen Rd, Bulleen. Drive to the last carpark located next to a playground and the Yarra River.

## Billabong Song

Bolin Bolin Billabong Walk

### Manningham City Council

699 Doncaster Road

Doncaster Victoria 3108

t 03 9840 9333 f 03 9848 3110

e [manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au)

[www.manningham.vic.gov.au](http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au)

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Your walk takes you through riverine habitat, along narrow dirt paths and into the sacred domain of the Bolin Bolin Billabong. Giant River Red Gums shade each step and the stillness of the billabong is mesmerizing. This is a very special place imbued with strong spiritual association for Indigenous people. It is likely you will hear kookaburras and possibly see lizards and turtles. Watch for snakes in summer. There is Indigenous interpretation signage to one end. All this and you are within 'coo-ee' of busy Bulleen Road.



### Facilities

Drinking fountain, playground

Bolin Bolin Billabong is managed by

**Parks Victoria:** t 131 963

### Hazards

Beware of deep water

Beware of snakes in summer

Track prone to flooding in places

Muddy and slippery in places.



### Be Prepared

Sun protection recommended

Carry water

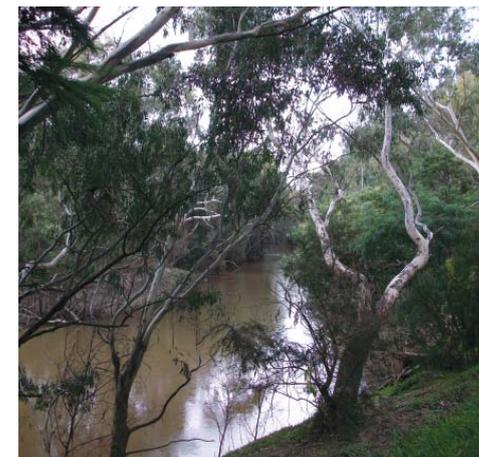
Carry camera

Good walking shoes are recommended.

### Days of total fire ban

Check the fire risk warning before embarking on this walk:

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)



### Additional Walks

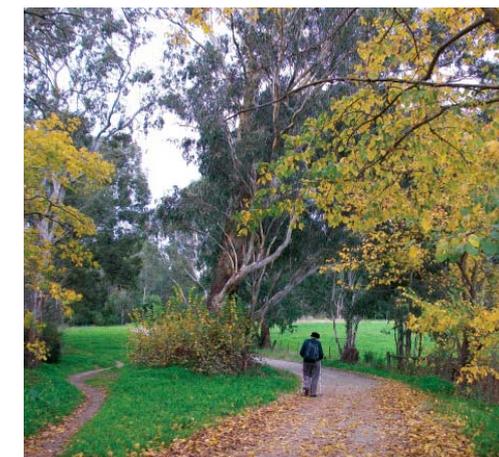
There are 20 walks in the series to choose from. If you liked this walk, you might like the ones listed below:

### Art, Artists and Ancient Trees

Banksia to Heide Park Walk

### 100% Special

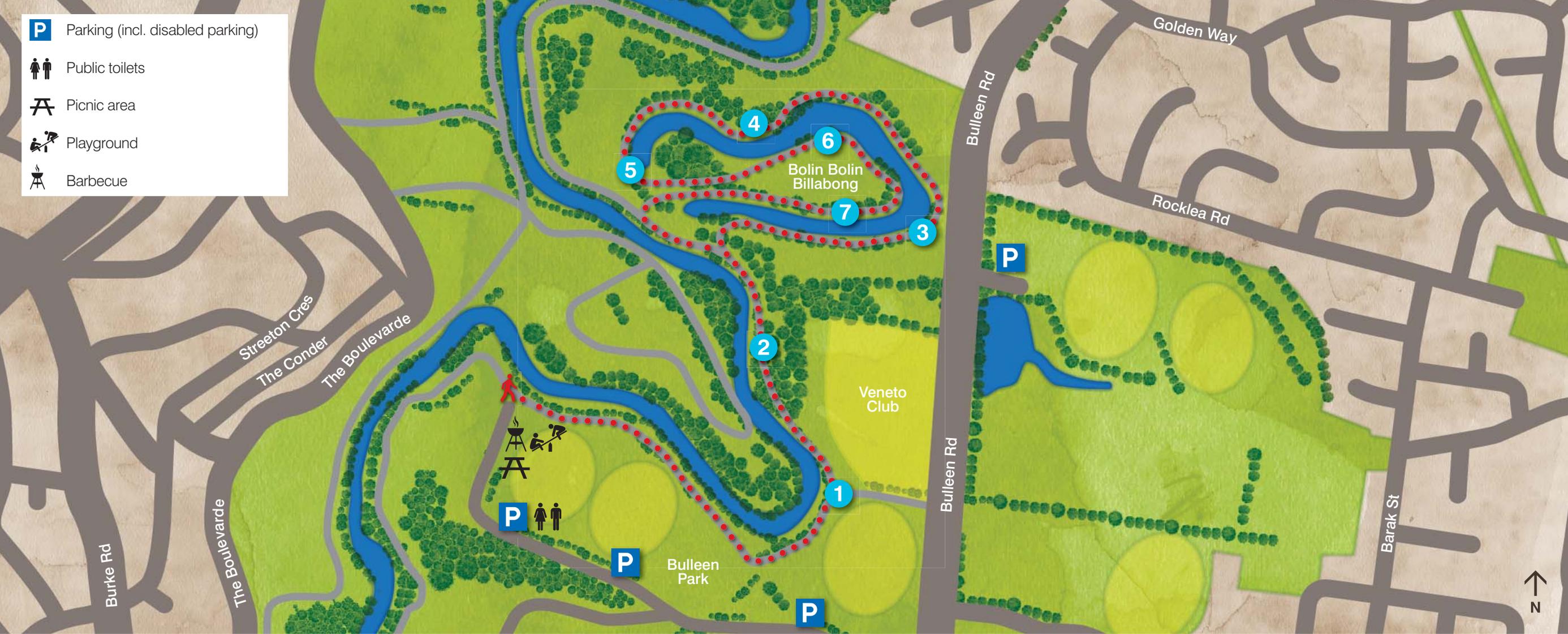
The 100 Acres Walk



### Wheelchair Access

We have developed three walks specifically for wheelchairs. Look for **A Wheel Pleasure** pamphlet.

-  Parking (incl. disabled parking)
-  Public toilets
-  Picnic area
-  Playground
-  Barbecue



**Your walk begins at the farthest carpark in Bulleen Park. Gates are open all day but locked at night. Your path begins next to the play equipment.**

*Turn right on the sealed path and follow it to the entrance of the Bolin Bolin Billabong walk.*

**1** This is the beginning of the area known as Bolin Bolin Billabong. There is sculpture and signage here. You will find yourself in the shady domain of very old River Red Gums, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*. We are lucky to have such reminders of life before European arrival. These grand trees are welcome habitat for many of our arboreal mammals and birds such as gliders, possums and parrots.

Other trees in this area include Swamp Paperbark, *Melaleuca ericifolia* which has a peeling ‘paper’ quality to the bark and grows in and around the billabong, and Silver Wattle, *Acacia dealbata* which burst into full golden colour in the cold heart of winter.

*Take the little track that begins close to the sign by the Yarra.*

**2** You might find the path boggy, but that is to be expected. Bolin Bolin Billabong is part of a larger network of billabongs and swamps that occur for several kilometres. The movement of a very curvy river, such as the Yarra River forms billabongs over thousands of years. The outside bend in the river’s curve is usually the fastest flowing while the inner curve slows the flow. Sediment is pushed up against this inner bank by the faster currents. This forms a beach that builds with time.

When intense rains come and the river is high and fast flowing this beach of sediment forces the water to find a new way around. Eventually, through erosion or other natural forces, the river favours this new shortcut. The old bend continues to collect silt eventually forming a barrier that prevents the river taking its original course. The isolated loop becomes a billabong.

*Continue along the track staying to the left until you come to a Y intersection with a track leading off to your right. Take this and turn right again when it T intersects. This takes you to the beginning of the interpretation signage for Bolin Bolin Billabong.*

**3** Interpretation signage about Bolin Bolin Billabong begins here with a welcome to country. Follow the signs as they tell the story of the Indigenous people of this place and why Bolin Bolin Billabong remains sacred and special to them. Please respect their generosity in sharing their story—take only pictures, leave only footprints.

**4** The Bolin Bolin Billabong is a highly sacred site to the Indigenous Wurundjeri people. Great ceremonies were held here between April and May with more than 1,000 people attending. Ceremonies lasted for four to five weeks and a plentiful food source was needed. The Bolin Bolin Billabong was part of a larger network of billabongs all offering a healthy supply of eel. As you walk in the footsteps of Indigenous ancestors you might feel their spirit and understand why this place remains so special.

*Look for a crossroads in the tracks. To your right will be a triangular shaped tiled inlay that identifies the entrance to the Bolin Bolin Billabong. To your left is the track you want to take.*

**5** Wetlands like the Bolin Bolin Billabong are incredibly important to the health of the landscape. They hold water, which nourishes the surrounding terrain, they improve water quality by removing pollutants, they provide habitat for hundreds of animals and reduce the impact of floods.

*Head into the inner sanctum of the billabong.*

**6** Stop for a moment to absorb the atmosphere. It is likely your party is the only one walking here and the isolation and quiet can be unnerving. Imagine the site filled with the sounds of corroboree or people excitedly spearing eel or simply sharing a story. Ceremonies were important in strengthening ties within the Wurundjeri and other clans of the Kulin Nation. Goods were traded, initiation ceremonies conducted, disputes settled and marriages arranged.

**7** The billabong abounds with wildlife whether you can see it or not. The stagnant water is a perfect breeding ground for frogs, fish, wader birds, yabbies and insects. This in turn attracts animals that feed on such species—lizards, snakes, turtles, bats and birds. Other animals found here include wallabies, wombats, possums, and gliders. Look for evidence of their presence while keeping a watchful eye on the waters—azure kingfishers are known to quickly swoop down and grab a tasty morsel.

*Stay to the right of the path. When you come to a T intersection turn left. This returns you to the entrance. At the ceramic inlay turn left and retrace your steps to your starting point.*

**This finishes your walk. Time to relax and plan your next adventure.**