

Improvement and Sustainable Management of the Kongwak Pioneer Reserve

Launched in March 2014, the Improvement and Sustainable Management of the Kongwak Pioneer Reserve successfully worked to improve and sustainably manage the Kongwak Pioneer Reserve, by:

- Preserving the significant flora and fauna within the Reserve;
- Increasing visitor awareness of the Reserve and its biodiversity values through the development of signage within Kongwak;
- Increasing environmental education within the Reserve through the development and installation of interpretive signage; and
- Improving the access, facilities and passive recreation opportunities for visitors through the construction of a walking track that links with the existing tracks in the Reserve.

The Kongwak Hills Landcare Group has partnered with the South Gippsland Shire Council, Kongwak Community Group and the Kongwak CFA, receiving funding from the Bass Coast Landcare Network Public fund to enable works to be undertaken at the Reserve.



Background

The Reserve is an area of approximately 41 hectares of significant remnant native vegetation overlooking the town, with well laid out walking tracks waiting to be explored. The Reserve is an important example of intact vegetation from the western flank of the Strzeleckis. Apart from some blocks of native vegetation to the southwest and northwest (between 300 metres and 3 kilometres away) there is very little native vegetation in the surrounding landscape. The Reserve is home to an abundance of wildlife, including wallabies, koalas, wombats and owls and a diverse range of native vegetation.

The Reserve is regarded as a great asset, not only for residents of Kongwak and South Gippsland, but also for all who visit the area because of its position and its native flora and fauna. Local residents are proud of the Reserve with many contributing time and labour to

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keep the Reserve in a condition that enables locals and visitors to enjoy the native flora and fauna.

Ecological Significance

The Reserve supports four Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs): Lowland Forest, Damp Forest, Riparian Forest and Tall Marsh.. It should be noted that Damp Forest in the region is classed as endangered and Lowland and Riparian Forests are classed as vulnerable.

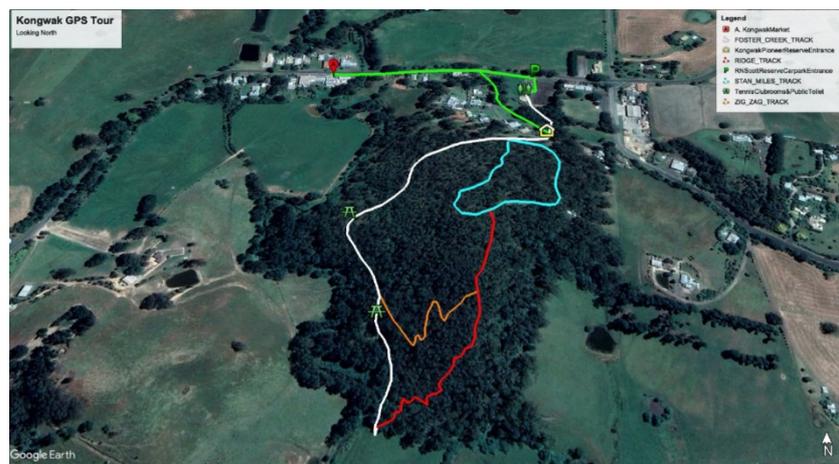
There is significant flora within the Reserve with 70 indigenous native plant species. One of these species, Cobra Greenhood (*Pterostylis grandiflora*) is listed by DSE as rare. There are two other plant species of regional significance: Shade Raspwort (*Gonocarpus humilis*) and Kopata (*Pelargonium inodorum*).

The Reserve is likely to provide suitable habitat for the following threatened fauna species, which have been recorded within an approximate 4 km radius of the Reserve: Azure Kingfisher, Eastern Pygmy-possum, Giant Gippsland Earthworm, Gippsland Burrowing Crayfish, Glossy Grass Skink, Glossy Ibis, Growling Grass Frog, Lace Goanna, Nankeen Night Heron and the Southern Toadlet.

Achievements

New tracks were completed within the Reserve, with a 'Voices of Kongwak' audio tour, information paddles at strategic locations, upgraded information bay, fresh maps and brochures, as well as new picnic tables, a logo and a Facebook page to help raise awareness of the Reserve.

Through meetings, working bees and chats within the community, there have been collective benefits for Landcare and the community including school connections, stronger links within the local community, and Landcare being seen as an integral and positive part of the community. See the links below to download the audio tour and track maps.





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Kongwak Pioneer Reserve Audio Tour and track Maps

The Kongwak Group has developed GPS track maps and an interactive tour of the Kongwak Pioneer Reserve which includes informative podcasts about its history and the flora and fauna within the reserve.

You can download and install GeoTour on your smartphone or tablet and walk through the reserve whilst listening to the podcasts.

[Click here to download the Geotour](#)

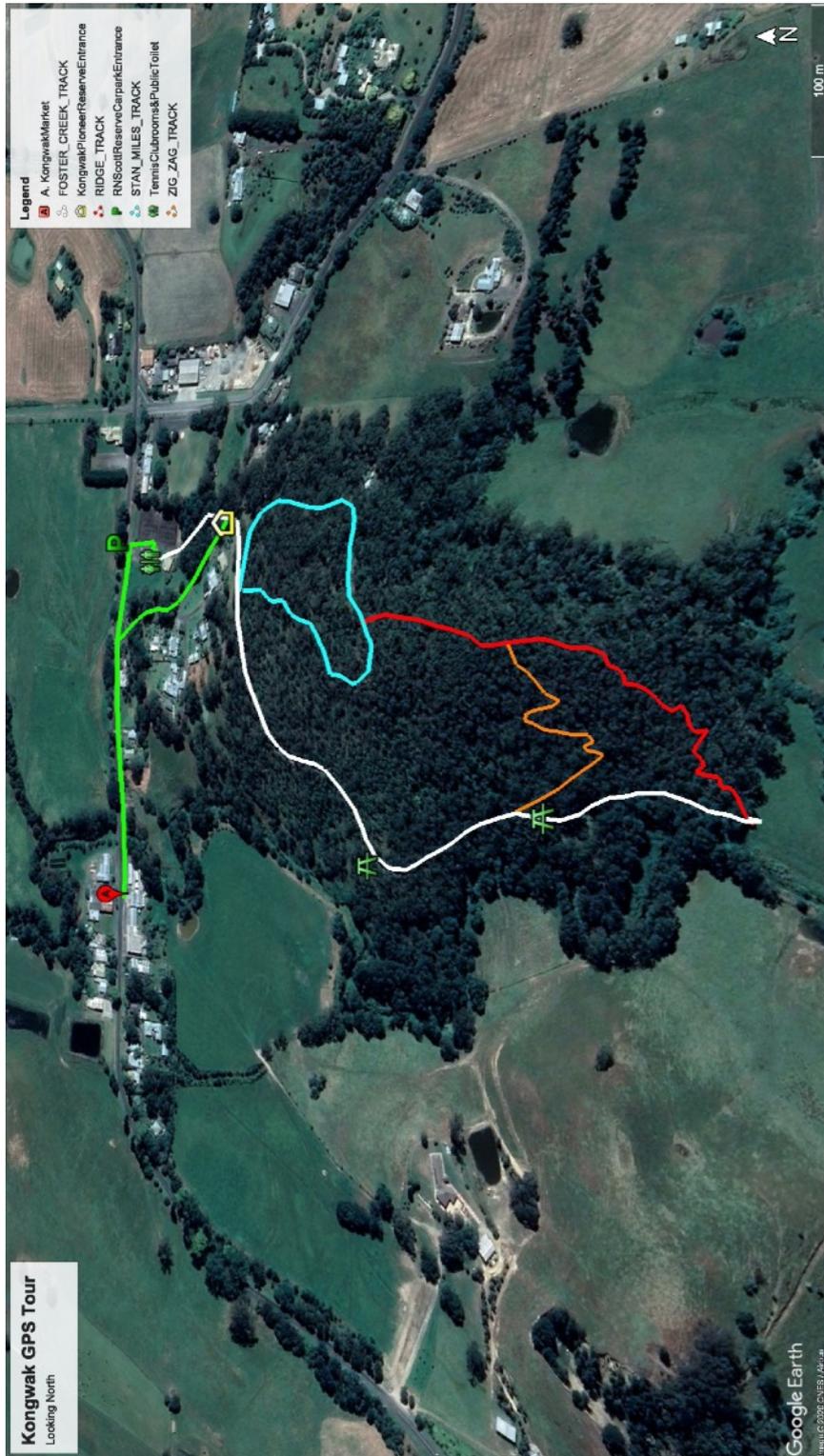
Alternatively you can download the .kmz file for Google Earth or Google Earth Pro

[Click here to download .kmz file](#)

Scroll down to view Track Maps

Kongwak Pioneer Reserve

Track Information

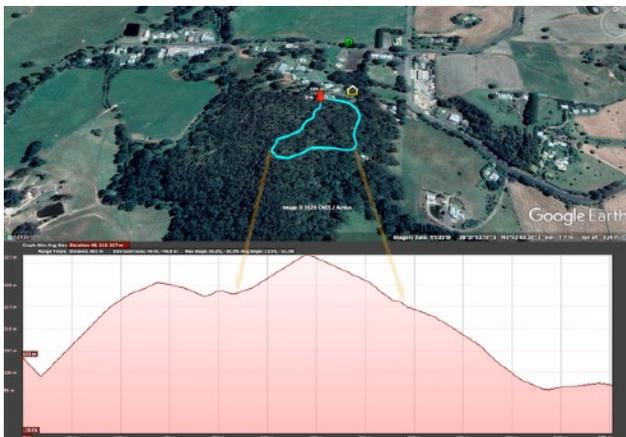


ELEVATION PROFILES



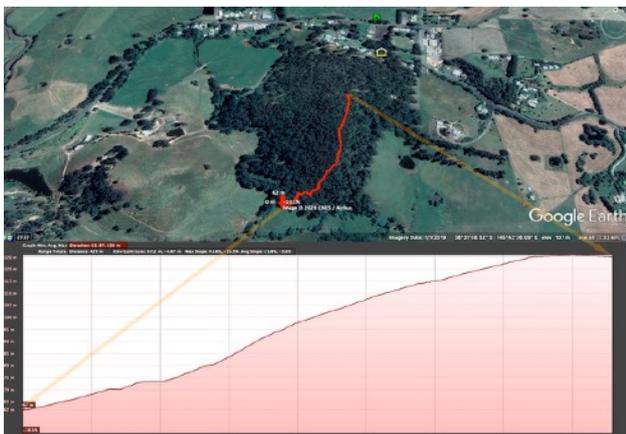
FOSTER CREEK TRACK

Distance: 884 metres
Highest point: 100m ASL
Lowest point: 62m ASL



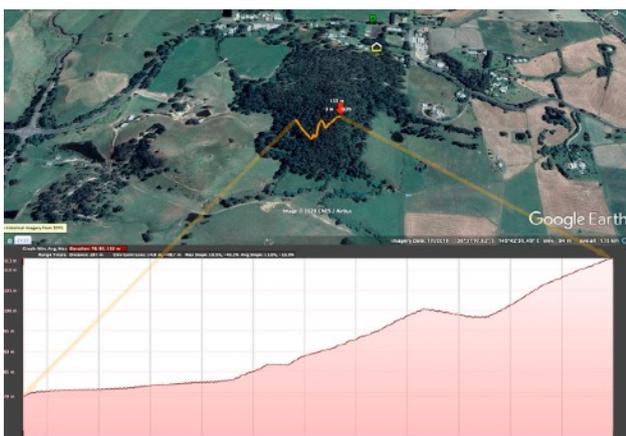
STAN MILES TRACK

Distance: 603 metres
Highest point: 127m ASL
Lowest point: 96m ASL



RIDGE TRACK

Distance: 429metres
Highest point: 126m ASL
Lowest point: 62m ASL



ZIGZAG TRACK

Distance: 287 metres
Highest point: 113m ASL
Lowest point: 79m ASL