National Parks Act

Annual Report 2013

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Notes

- The Minister responsible for administering the *National Parks Act 1975* during the year was the Hon Ryan Smith MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change.
- In this report:
  - the legislation referred to is Victorian legislation unless otherwise indicated
  - *the Act* means the *National Parks Act 1975*
  - *CMA* means Catchment Management Authority
  - *DEPI* means the Department of Environment and Primary Industries and includes a reference to the former Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and, as relevant, the former Department of Primary Industries
  - *PV* means Parks Victoria
  - *the Minister* means the Minister for Environment and Climate Change
  - *the Secretary* means the Secretary to the Department of Environment and Primary Industries and includes a reference to the former Secretary to DSE.

Cover: Kara Kara National Park (photo: Parks Victoria)

Foreword

This annual report on the working of the *National Parks Act 1975* (the Act) for the year ended 30 June 2013 is provided to the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, the Hon Ryan Smith MP, for the purpose of section 35 of the Act.

The Act establishes the statutory basis for the protection, use and management of an outstanding system of national and other parks covering more than 3.45 million hectares.

The Secretary is responsible under the Act for ensuring that the parks and other areas to which the Act applies are controlled and managed in accordance with the Act. Parks Victoria is responsible for managing those areas on the Secretary's behalf in partnership with DEPI.

Highlights relating to the parks system during the year included:

- the expansion of the parks system on 1 September 2012 by nearly 10 000 hectares with the creation of Lake Tyers State Park and additions to several existing parks

- the considerable work undertaken to gain a better understanding of our parks, to monitor them and to manage their natural and cultural values, including a large program to combat the threats posed by invasive plants and animals

- the three major fires which affected nearly 70 000 hectares in the Alpine, Grampians and Lower Glenelg national parks, as well as the considerable work to implement the statewide program of planned burning on public land, including parks

- the work undertaken to recover from the impacts of the floods of previous years

- the signing of the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans native title settlement agreement on 28 March 2013, which, in particular, provides for the granting of Aboriginal title over and joint management of lands in four parks in north central Victoria

- the tenth anniversary, in November 2012, of the creation of Victoria's system of marine national parks and marine sanctuaries.

A particular focus in 2012–13 was implementing the government's commitment to encouraging more people to visit and enjoy our world-class natural tourism attractions while maintaining important environmental safeguards:

- the Minister released guidelines for tourism investment of significance in national parks, following the government's response to the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission's inquiry into Victorian tourism

- legislation was introduced into Parliament to provide for leases of up to 99 years for sensible and sensitive tourism proposals in various areas managed under the Act

- the government announced a $7 million investment in the Mount Buffalo Chalet to refurbish the original building and provide a day visitor centre and potentially a café and to make the site ready for future investment as the opportunity arises

- significant works to upgrade essential services were undertaken at the Quarantine Station in Point Nepean National Park, and an expression of interest process commenced for appropriate private sector investment in the Quarantine Station

- there was investment in visitor facilities in parks elsewhere (several supported by funding from the Victorian Bushfire Recovery Fund) to enable visitors to better enjoy the park experience.

I would also like to highlight the extent of collaborative management and community involvement in a wide range of park management activities during the year.

Finally, I thank all those staff and volunteers involved in the parks program over the year for their ongoing commitment to the long-term protection and management of these magnificent places.

Adam Fennessy
Secretary to the
Department of Environment and Primary Industries

Contents

A representative parks system

Areas managed under the Act

As at 30 June 2013, there were 139 areas with a total area of more than 3.45 million hectares managed under various provisions of the Act. Appendix 1 lists the areas and Appendix 4 shows their location.

The 139 areas comprised:

- 124 areas (3 450 755 ha) listed on schedules to the Act
  - 45 national parks (Schedule Two)
  - 3 wilderness parks (Schedule Two A)
  - 26 state parks (Schedule Two B)
  - 5 coastal parks, 3 historic parks, 1 nature conservation reserve, 8 regional parks and Haining Farm (Schedule Three)
  - 3 marine and coastal parks, 2 marine parks, 1 marine reserve, 1 national heritage park and 1 nature conservation reserve (Schedule Four)
  - 13 marine national parks (Schedule Seven)
  - 11 marine sanctuaries (Schedule Eight)
- 15 non-scheduled areas (4442 ha) to which particular provisions of the Act apply.

The Act also defines the following areas within particular national parks:

- 19 wilderness zones (Schedule Five) within 7 national parks (see Appendix 1)
- 22 remote and natural areas (Schedule Six) within 12 national parks (see Appendix 1)
- 4 designated water supply catchment areas within the Great Otway, Kinglake and Yarra Ranges national parks.

Changes to the parks system

On 1 September 2012, nearly 10 000 hectares were added to the parks system. In particular, Lake Tyers State Park (8645 ha) was created and 1125 hectares were added to 10 parks under the Act.

Lake Tyers State Park, most of which was formerly Lake Tyers Forest Park, includes the coastal forests surrounding Lake Tyers as well as Mt Nowa Nowa and the scenic Boggy Creek gorge immediately north of Nowa Nowa township. It also contains warm temperate rainforest and significant faunal values and has high Aboriginal cultural significance. The park offers opportunities for bush camping, picnicking, walking, scenic driving and fishing, and provides access to the waters of the lake.

The additions to existing parks are summarised in Table 1. Most of the additions were areas of former freehold land with significant conservation values that were acquired or donated for inclusion in various parks. Some also included redundant sections of adjoining government road.

Management planning

As at 30 June 2013, there were approved management plans covering all or parts of 42 national parks, 3 wilderness parks, 25 state parks, 17 other parks and reserves, 13 marine national parks and 11 marine sanctuaries.

During 2012–13, work progressed on several large planning projects involving multiple parks:

- the draft management plan for the Greater Alpine national parks (which covers the Alpine, Baw Baw, Errinundra, Mount Buffalo and Snowy River national parks, Avon Wilderness Park and Tara Range Park as well as several areas not under the Act) was further developed pending input from the new Alpine Advisory Committee
- the draft management plan for parks and reserves in Victoria's far south-west (including the Cobboboonee, Lower Glenelg, Mount Eccles and Mount Richmond national parks, Cape Nelson, Dergholm and Mount Napier state parks, Discovery Bay Coastal Park and Discovery Bay Marine National Park as well as several areas not under the Act) was finalised for public consultation
- preparatory work was carried out ahead of management planning commencing for a range of parks and other areas in the River Red Gum area (including Barmah, Gunbower, Lower Goulburn, Murray-Sunset (part) and Warby-Ovens national parks, Leaghur State Park and Gadsen Bend, Kings Billabong, Murray-Kulkyne and Nyah-Vinifera parks).

In addition:

- the management plan for the newly named Kara Kara National Park was submitted for final approvals

- the *Marine Protected Areas Program Plan 2012–2014* was completed and is guiding implementation of management activities in marine national parks, marine sanctuaries and other marine protected areas

- the master plan for Point Nepean National Park, completed last year for consideration by government, was finalised and released

- a discussion paper was released containing options for changes to the areas currently available for dog walking in the Mornington Peninsula National Park.

Other planning relating to parks included:

- Port Campbell National Park and Bay of Islands Coastal Park – community consultation to assist the preparation of the Shipwreck Coast Master Plan, which covers the two parks, in partnership with Corangamite and Moyne Shires and Tourism Victoria

- Dandenong Ranges National Park – finalising the Lower Ferntree Gully Picnic Area Precinct Plan, which proposes modifications to the car park and entry points to resolve critical traffic circulation and congestion issues

- Grampians National Park – commencing the Grampians Peaks Trail Master Plan in partnership with Grampians Tourism, local councils and Tourism Victoria

- Great Otway National Park – finalising traffic management and visitor safety planning at Point Addis and Urquharts Bluff

- Murray-Sunset National Park – site planning for the Pink Lakes precinct, with the aim of better managing the increasing number of large camper trailers and RVs which are placing pressure on the fragile vegetation on the lake shores.

Table 1 – New park areas

Park	Area (ha)	Summary description
Alpine NP	398 ha	Two purchased areas and adjoining government roads: • 264 ha on the Wabonga Plateau including dry forest and woodland • 134 ha on the Bennison Plains near Mt Tamboritha including alpine and sub-alpine communities.
Chiltern-Mt Pilot NP	77 ha	Purchased area on Howlong Rd north-east of Chiltern containing remnant box-ironbark forest and a largely native grass ground cover. Several small areas of Crown land along Old Coach Road.
French Island NP	109 ha	Two purchased areas: • 68 ha north of Tankerton with swamp scrub and heathy woodland, including a breeding area for the White-bellied Sea Eagle • 41 ha near Red Bluff with sand heath, wet heath and swamp scrub.
Grampians NP	91 ha	Purchased area on the Ledcourt-Heatherlie Track including very high quality plains grassy woodland and freshwater meadow wetland.
Kinglake NP	35 ha	Two areas on Bald Spur Road: one donated by the late Ms Karma Hastwell (27 ha), the other purchased (8 ha).
Lower Goulburn NP	12 ha	Purchased inlier north of Hancocks Bridge Road with riverine vegetation and a large number of very old trees.
Mitchell River NP	113 ha	Purchased inlier north of the Mitchell River Access Road including grassy woodland and lowland herb-rich forest.
Mornington Peninsula NP	0.3 ha	Four blocks of coastal vegetation on Cape Schanck Rd purchased in the 1980s.
Warby-Ovens NP	94 ha	Purchased area containing woodland communities on the western side of the Warby Range and adjoining government road.
Gippsland Lakes CP	196 ha	Purchased area at the south-western end of the park with vegetation of the South East Coastal Plain. Small areas of adjoining unreserved Crown land and government roads.

CP   Coastal Park
NP   National Park

Managing natural and cultural values

Natural values management

The State of the Parks 2007 report, together with Parks Victoria's Levels of Protection framework, provide a basis for setting strategic priorities in environmental management in areas managed under the Act. On-ground works are prioritised in order to protect the highest environmental values at greatest risk. Examples of projects in the various environmental management program areas are provided below.

Threatened species

Parks Victoria works with DEPI, research partners and community organisations to protect threatened species. Table 2 contains examples of projects undertaken in relation to threatened species management.

Table 2 – Threatened species projects

PV Region	Project
Western Victoria	Grampians NP – The University of Melbourne and Museum Victoria undertook a study of the post-fire distribution and ecology of the Smoky Mouse following the February 2013 fires. This followed the November 2012 discovery of a large population in the Victoria Range.
	Little Desert NP – Volunteers from the Friends of the Little Desert and the Australasian Native Orchid Society planted more than 400 Metallic Sun-orchids in the park as part of the Wimmera CMA's Orchid Conservation Project.
Northern Victoria	Mallee parks – In partnership with the Victorian Malleefowl Recovery Group, Parks Victoria continued monitoring the level of breeding activity of the Malleefowl, which are currently unusually abundant following several years of good rainfall.
	Chiltern-Mt Pilot NP – Around 40 captive-bred Regent Honeyeaters were released into the park in April 2013. Radio transmitters were attached to about 25 of the birds.
	Heathcote-Graytown NP – As part of the co-operative Yellow Gums and Goldfields Project, nest boxes for marsupials including the Sugar and Squirrel Gliders and the Brush-Tailed Phascogales were installed in the Whroo region, including in the park.
	Terrick Terrick NP – Ecological grazing, burning and mechanical slashing techniques were applied in the nationally threatened Northern Plains Grassland community to provide an optimal diversity of habitat to support a range of flora and fauna species.
	Wyperfeld NP – The Major Mitchell's Cockatoo and its nest sites were monitored at its breeding stronghold in the park. Four purpose-built nest boxes were installed as a trial.
Eastern Victoria	Alpine NP – A collaborative project to protect the Shaw Galaxias, one of Australia's rarest fish, was undertaken in the upper reaches of the Macalister River. It included installing a temporary barrier and removing more than 700 trout from above the barrier.
	Mount Lawson SP – A collaborative survey found that the March 2011 floods in the Upper Murray region benefited one of our rarest frogs, the Booroolong Frog.
	Wilsons Promontory NP – The recovery of fish and crayfish species following the fire and flood events in 2010–11 was monitored. There was also a post-flood assessment of threatened orchids.
Greater Melbourne	Mornington Peninsula NP – In partnership with Birds Australia and Friends of the Hooded Plover, Parks Victoria monitored and protected nesting sites of the Hooded Plover on the park's ocean beaches. Of 20 nests and 45 eggs, four chicks hatched and two chicks fledged.
	Woodlands HP – In partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia, 24 Eastern Barred Bandicoots were released into a predator-proof enclosure.

HP   Historic Park
NP   National Park
SP   State Park

Invasive plants

The control and management of invasive plants remains one of the top priorities for natural values management. Depending on the nature and extent of the threat, responses are implemented to either eradicate or contain invasive plants in order to protect natural and cultural assets.

Invasive plant programs in 2012–13 were delivered across 80 000 hectares in areas managed under the Act. Appendix 2 lists the targeted species where an area of more than five hectares was recorded as being treated for the purpose of controlling or eradicating that species. Table 3 contains examples of the control programs undertaken during the year.

Many key projects were delivered collaboratively by Parks Victoria, DEPI, CMAs and community groups. The federal government's Caring for Our Country initiative also provided financial assistance.

Table 3 – Invasive plant control programs

PV Region	Program
Statewide	Good Neighbour Program – This program treated 6400 hectares to control weed infestations in 32 parks which may impact on private land and where cross-tenure control can be achieved. It focused on highly invasive weeds – Serrated Tussock, Blackberry and Broom – that have the potential to impact agriculture.
Western Victoria	Glenelg Eden – 87 hectares of new and emerging weeds were treated in Cobboboonee and Lower Glenelg NPs and Discovery Bay CP. A new system was created which will assist in guiding, mapping and monitoring weed control works in the future.
	Otway Eden – 653 weed infestations covering 463 hectares were treated on public land including the Great Otway and Port Campbell NPs. Forty-one weed species were treated within the project area, ranging from individual plants to infestations covering hectares.
	Grampians NP – Conservation Volunteers Australia and Parks Victoria collaborated on a project to eliminate satellite populations of introduced Sallow Wattle in the park. The project was facilitated by the dedication of 8708 volunteer hours.
Northern Victoria	Box-ironbark parks – Chiltern-Mount Pilot NP, Paddy's Ranges SP and Castlemaine Diggings NHP – 700 hectares were treated in these parks for Blackberry, Bridal Creeper, Cape Broom and Gorse (depending on the park).
	Box-ironbark parks – Kara Kara NP and Kooyoora SP – The threatened Jericho Wire-Grass was protected from Horehound infestations and a new weed for Victoria, Dandelion Crepis.
	Mallee parks – Hattah-Kulkyne, Murray-Sunset and Wyperfeld NPs – Control programs focused on established weeds such as Caltrop, Common Prickly Pear, Horehound and Paterson's Curse (depending on the park).
	River Red Gum parks – Barmah, Gunbower and Warby-Ovens NPs and Leaghur SP – more than 2600 hectares of established weeds such as Blackberry, Paterson's Curse, St John's Wort and Sweet Briar were treated (depending on the park).
Eastern Victoria	Protecting the Best – This co-operative initiative with the East Gippsland CMA focuses on eliminating priority weeds that threaten high value areas of Victoria's Eastern Highlands, Far East Gippsland and New South Wales. It aims to develop integrated, landscape-scale, tenure-blind strategic works programs which, in 2012–13, treated Beach Daisy, Blackberry, Cape Broom, Greater Lotus, Hawthorn, Ragwort, Slender Thistle and St John's Wort in the Alpine, Coopracambra, Croajingolong, Errinundra, Mitchell River and Snowy River NPs (depending on the park).
	Alpine NP – The Alps Intensive Management Program treated 8236 hectares for infestations of Blackberry, English Broom, Grey Sallow, Soft Rush, Spear Thistle, Sycamore Maple and Water Forget-Me-Not. This included treating 1300 hectares of alpine peatlands with the help of volunteers, as well as 250 hectares of outlier infestations in creeks flowing off the Bogong High Plains.
	Alpine NP – Hawkweeds were the target of a collaborative project Involving Parks Victoria, DEPI, Falls Creek Alpine Resort and Falls Creek Ski Lift Company. Excellent progress was made with Orange Hawkweed, and there was progress in delimiting and controlling the other two hawkweed species.
Greater Melbourne	Urban Fringe Weed Management Initiative – Dandenong Ranges NP and Arthurs Seat SP – Boneseed, English Holly, English Ivy, Sweet Pittosporum and Sycamore Maple were controlled (depending on the park).

CP   Coastal Park
NHP   National Heritage Park
NP   National Park
SP   State Park

Invasive animals

In 2012–13, invasive animal management projects were implemented across approximately 1 million hectares in areas under the Act. Species targeted included cats, deer, feral cattle, foxes, goats, horses, pigs and rabbits. Appendix 3 lists the species and the areas managed under the Act that were targeted during the year.

The long-term, landscape-scale programs based on effective control methods and threat responses continue to provide benchmarks for invasive species control in Victoria. These include the ongoing landscape-scale fox control programs – Glenelg Ark, Grampians Ark, Otway Ark and Southern Ark (East Gippsland) – which continued to deliver fox control across a significant number of parks, and the new Central Highlands Ark control program. Flagship projects in the Alps, Grampians and Mallee have led to habitat improvements. Table 4 contains examples of the work under these and other invasive animal control programs.

There were several innovations developed through collaborations with key partners. This included developing a pilot aerial shooting program with the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service and engaging with the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Victoria) (SSAA) to develop a more strategic approach to the association's contributions to invasive animal control.

The SSAA assisted in pig control in Barmah National Park, and a project commenced there to better understand, and effectively use, volunteer hunters. SSAA volunteers removed 477 goats from In Murray-Sunset National Park.

The development of strategies to manage the impacts of horses in the Alpine and Barmah national parks progressed, with community consultation on wild horse management issues and concerns for the Alps commencing late in 2012. At Barmah, Parks Victoria and the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, as co-chairs, worked with the community-based Barmah Horses Advisory Committee to develop a Barmah Horse Management Program. This involved furthering the understanding of the social and heritage values of horses at Barmah and their impact on environmental and cultural values. The work will inform the development of a strategy to manage the impact of the horses in the park.

Partner agencies and stakeholders were engaged to progress the development of a transparent approach to the management of the impact of deer that balances the need to address environmental impacts of deer while continuing to provide deer hunting opportunities and quality experiences.

Native animals

Programs to manage the impact of overabundant kangaroo and koala populations in several parks continued with the support of key stakeholders, including independent technical advisory committees.

Foot and aerial surveys of kangaroos were completed in woodland habitat in the Hattah-Kulkyne, Murray Sunset and Wyperfeld national parks. Population densities remained below target densities as an ongoing effect of the previous drought conditions.

The following activities occurred in relation to koalas:

- French Island – a contraceptive implant program has replaced relocation practices. This year 222 female koalas were implanted with contraceptives and released back onto French Island. A tree condition assessment program was also begun with the University of Melbourne. Signs of recovery are now being seen in Manna Gum habitat

- Great Otway National Park – contractors and the community monitored koala populations in suitable habitat areas, with koala habitat in the park showing severe canopy defoliation

- Mount Eccles National Park – 160 female koalas were caught and 137 treated with contraceptive implants and released back into the park. The annual population survey has shown that the population of 4873 koalas has remained relatively stable since 2006. A tree condition assessment has shown the trees remain in poor condition.

Table 4 – Invasive animal control programs

PV Region	Program
Statewide	Good Neighbour Program – This continued to deliver benefits at the interface between various parks and private land and implemented 43 projects across 180 000 hectares in 23 parks, with a strong focus on fox and rabbit control.
Western Victoria	Glenelg Ark – This fox control program covered a multiple-tenure area of 91 000 hectares, including Lower Glenelg, Cobboboonee and Mount Richmond NPs and Discovery Bay CP. In those parks an area of 51 000 hectares was baited for foxes. Research was undertaken to understand fox and feral cat prey species using scat and gut analysis.
	Grampians Ark – This landscape-scale fox baiting program was implemented across 240 000 hectares of public land (Grampians NP, Black Range SP and state forest) and 30 000 hectares of adjoining rural land in the Victoria Valley. Almost 1700 fox baits were taken from 1048 bait stations across the project area. In response to the bushfires in the Victoria Valley, the program was expanded to protect remnant populations of small mammals that persist in the fire-affected area.
	Grampians NP – New fox trapping techniques to protect Brush-tailed Rock Wallabies were tested.
Northern Victoria	Central Highlands Ark – This landscape-scale fox baiting program commenced in October 2012 and includes Lake Eildon NP, Yarra Ranges NP (Greater Melbourne Region) and Cathedral Range SP.
	Mallee Rangeland Recovery – This rabbit control program treated 108 443 hectares in Hattah-Kulkyne, Murray Sunset and Wyperfeld NPs.
	Murray-Sunset NP – Helicopter surveys for goats occurred for the first time to help improve goat control efforts.
Eastern Victoria	Alpine NP – Alps Intensive Management Program – Controlling wild horses and fallow deer and filling information gaps to inform future management of these species covered 86 992 hectares. A total of 219 horses were removed from the park during the year – 198 from the eastern Alps and 21 from the Bogong High Plains.
Greater Melbourne	Warrandyte SP and Woodlands HP – Integrated rabbit control techniques, including baiting ripping and implosion, were applied at these parks to provide a sustained reduction in rabbit impacts.
	Dandenong Ranges NP – Fox baiting was undertaken to protect the Superb Lyrebird.
	French Island NP – A control program removed 130 cats and 84 goats, protecting the heathland habitat of the endangered Long-nosed Potoroo and numerous bird species.

CP   Coastal Park
HP   Historic Park
NP   National Park
SP   State Park

Ecological fire

Further progress was made towards determining appropriate long-term ecological fire regimes through the development of landscape-scale fire ecology and risk assessments. This information is used throughout Victoria as a component of integrated bushfire risk landscape planning, which informs strategic-level fire management and operational-level fire operations plans. A significant number of parks across the state are now covered.

The development of fire-related conservation objectives for the Greater Grampians landscape (including the Grampians National Park and Black Range State Park) and the Barwon-Otway landscape (including the Great Otway National Park) will provide the ecological basis for future fire management planning.

A risk-based landscape-scale fire management modelling case study, which was undertaken in the Otways, is being extended across the state through DEPI-led bushfire risk landscape teams. This provides strategic-level ecological input into fire management planning.

Ongoing monitoring programs examining the effects of fire regimes on biodiversity occurred in various parks across the state (see *Monitoring*).

Water

During 2012–13, the majority of Victoria's rivers, wetlands and floodplains were subject to another year of average to wet conditions. Some systems experienced natural flooding, providing the opportunity for plant and animal populations to recover after the extended and severe drought experienced since 1997.

Environmental water was delivered to wetland and river systems that are part of, or neighbouring, areas managed under the Act, including Boals Deadwood in Barmah National Park. This watering was undertaken through a broad partnership involving the Victorian Environmental

Water Holder, DEPI, catchment management authorities, water corporations, Parks Victoria, the Murray Darling Basin Authority and the Commonwealth Government. The program is integrated with river, wetland and catchment management activities to achieve targeted ecological outcomes.

After years of planning, major structural works at Hattah Lakes (Hattah-Kulkyne National Park) were completed. These will enable the efficient use of environmental water and maximise ecological benefits. Works also commenced at Lindsay–Wallpolla Islands (Murray-Sunset National Park) and Hipwell Road (Gunbower National Park), with all site-specific infrastructure funded through the Murray Darling Basin Authority's Living Murray Environmental Works and Measures Program.

Work associated with the phase-out of grazing from streamsides in the new river red gum parks continued, in particular the negotiation of agreements with various licensees to erect government-funded fences and off-stream water systems and commencing to implement those works.

Marine values

A number of previously established projects continued to improve the knowledge-base that underpins management of Victoria's parks and reserves (see *Natural values monitoring* and *Natural values research*).

Surveys undertaken during the year resulted in a significant increase in our knowledge of the state's two largest marine national parks:

- Twelve Apostles Marine National Park – Scientists from Museum Victoria, Deakin University and Parks Victoria undertook a comprehensive underwater biological survey in the park. The survey, along 20 kilometres of coastline, revealed rare sightings of hundreds of species. Scientists documented this diverse underwater world with thousands of images and hundreds of hours of spectacular video footage

- Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park – Deakin University and Parks Victoria completed a project which mapped the seafloor in the park using some of the most advanced seafloor mapping technology in the world. The project filled a major gap in our knowledge of the underwater features of the park.

There was also research to inform management of the Northern Pacific Seastar in the Tidal River estuary in Wilsons Promontory National Park. Parks Victoria staff worked with licensed tour operators and volunteers to remove Northern Pacific Seastars when they were discovered at Pope's Eye in Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park.

Updated reports on marine natural values, which were completed last year for all marine national parks and marine sanctuaries using new information gathered through Parks Victoria's research and monitoring programs and other sources, were finalised for publication and released.

Work undertaken to improve compliance relating to marine national parks and marine sanctuaries included:

- a review of existing signs and other tools to communicate the boundaries of all marine national park and marine sanctuaries to the public, particularly boaters and fishers. This resulted in the development of improved and more targeted signage for boat ramps and other key access points and, in sheltered waters, installation of in-water piles to better mark the boundaries of the protected areas

- an assessment by Parks Victoria working with Fisheries Victoria of marine compliance issues and opportunities and the development of an integrated compliance plan. Included as a part of the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide App is a new feature to allow users to locate the nearest marine national park or marine sanctuary.

Natural values monitoring

DEPI's Forests Monitoring Program provides a platform to meet reporting obligations, support future policy and management decisions and assess the health and condition of Victoria's forests and parks. During the year, monitoring plots were established and measured at sites across Victoria's forests, including 18 in parks managed under the Act, bringing to 99 the number of plots now established in 38 parks under the Act.

Parks Victoria's Signs of Healthy Parks monitoring program systematically monitors biodiversity assets, and threats to those assets, at targeted locations across the parks system. Monitoring undertaken during the year under this program included:

- identifying selected species of threatened and other native wildlife in the Alpine, Chiltern-Mt Pilot, Churchill, Coopracambra, Croajingolong, Dandenong Ranges, Errinundra, French Island, Grampians, Great Otway, Hattah-Kulkyne, Kinglake, Mount Eccles, Mornington Peninsula, Murray-Sunset, Point Nepean, Terrick Terrick, Wyperfeld and Yarra Ranges national parks, Reef Hills and Warrandyte state parks, Cape Conran Coastal Park and Lysterfield Park

- assessing the condition of native vegetation in parks including the Alpine, French Island, Hattah-Kulkyne, Little Desert, Mount Eccles, Murray-Sunset, Terrick Terrick and Warby-Ovens national parks and Lake Albacutya Park

- work to better understand the level of invasive plant infestation in parks including the Dandenong Ranges, Grampians, Lower Glenelg, Murray-Sunset, Port Campbell and Warby-Ovens national parks

- monitoring invasive animals such as foxes, rabbits, goats and deer in the Alpine, Cobboboonee, Coopracambra, Croajingolong, Errinundra, Grampians, Great Otway, Hattah-Kulkyne, Kinglake, Lower Glenelg, Murray-Sunset, Wilsons Promontory, Wyperfeld and Yarra Ranges national parks, Black Range State Park and Cape Conran Coastal Park

- monitoring *Phytophthora cinnamomi* in Brisbane Ranges and Warby-Ovens national parks

- monitoring native fish in Hattah-Kulkyne and Murray-Sunset national parks.

Monitoring undertaken in marine national parks and marine sanctuaries included:

- the subtidal reef monitoring program in Point Addis Marine National Park, at Popes Eye in Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park and in Beware Reef, Eagle Rock, Jawbone, Merri, Point Cooke and Ricketts Point marine sanctuaries

- the intertidal reef monitoring program in Bunurong, Point Addis and Port Phillip Heads marine national parks and Barwon Bluff, Jawbone, Mushroom Reef, Point Cooke, Point Danger and Ricketts Point marine sanctuaries

- surveys for the Northern Pacific Seastar in Tidal River (Wilsons Promontory National Park), Shallow Inlet Marine and Coastal Park, Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park and Refuge Cove (Wilsons Promontory Marine Park)

- rock lobster pot surveys conducted as part of a pilot study linked to the subtidal reef monitoring program in Merri Marine Sanctuary

- the Sea Search community-based monitoring program, for which new monitoring methods and guidelines were developed. The program was re-launched in late spring/ early summer 2012 and was conducted in eight marine national parks and marine sanctuaries

- the Reef Life Survey community-based monitoring program in Port Phillip Heads Marine National Park and Beware Reef Marine Sanctuary.

Natural values research

Research authorisations

Research, study and investigation in areas on the schedules to the Act are authorised under section 20 or 21A of the Act, sometimes in conjunction with a permit under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, the *Reference Areas Act 1978* or the *Wildlife Act 1975*.

A total of 216 research permits were issued during the year, 124 of which were new permits and 92 were renewed permits. These enabled research to be carried out in 108 parks (a permit may cover more than one park) or in all parks if required (28 permits). Those parks for which 10 or more permits were issued (in addition to the 'all parks' permits) were: Alpine (32), Croajingolong (16), Dandenong Ranges (13), Grampians (18), Great Otway (30), Hattah-Kulkyne (11), Kinglake (14), Mornington Peninsula (14), Mount Buffalo (16), Murray-Sunset (14), Snowy River (13), Wilsons Promontory (15) and Yarra Ranges (19) national parks and Bunyip State Park (15).

Examples of the research authorised under the permits include:

- activities associated with observing the spatial ecology of fishes in Discovery Bay, Point Addis and Twelve Apostles marine national parks and Merri Marine Sanctuary for the purpose of investigating seascape ecology and linking seafloor characteristics to biological communities

- the taking of flora and soil within several parks in eastern Victoria for the purpose of investigating the anatomy, ecology and morphology of the *Banksia spinulosa* complex

- the capture, release and taking of tissue samples of threatened crayfish species within the Dandenong Ranges, Grampians and Lower Glenelg national parks for the purpose of developing a long-term conservation strategy for endangered crayfish

- the use of detector dogs and the collection of scats in Great Otway National Park for the purpose of detecting the Tiger Quoll

- the capture and radio tracking of feral goats in Hattah-Kulkyne and Murray-Sunset national parks for the purpose of investigating the population ecology of goats in the northern Mallee.

Research programs

The research program managed by DEPI with the University of Melbourne's Department of Forest and Ecosystem Science continued. This program is investigating the impacts of fire (natural and managed), climate variability/ change and forest management regimes on water quantity and quality, biodiversity values, carbons assets, other social and economic values, and the vulnerability and resilience of Victoria's public forests, including those in parks.

The Active Forest Health Program in the new River Red Gum parks includes an ecological thinning trial in Barmah National Park to assess whether ecological thinning can maintain or improve forest health and suitable habitat characteristics. Parks Victoria and DEPI are working with the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service to implement the trial in this park as well as in the new Murray Valley national parks in New South Wales (see also *Interstate cooperation*). This year a detailed scientific rationale and monitoring program were developed and pre-thinning monitoring undertaken. The project is subject to further assessment under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

There was no grazing in the Alpine National Park during the year under the research program to assess the effectiveness of fuel and bushfire risk management in Victoria's high country using strategic cattle grazing. The Federal environment minister's decision to refuse to consent to the research under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* was upheld by the Federal Court.

Parks Victoria's Research Partners Program continued to support and facilitate applied research collaborations with universities and other institutions, gathering critical information to underpin an evidence-based approach to decision-making and further improve park management. In 2012–13, there were 13 new projects established relating to areas managed under the Act. Table 5 contains examples of these projects.

Table 5 – New research projects

PV Region	Project
Multi-region	A review of threats and management needs for the protection of the Hooded Plover across the state, which considered all areas under the Act where this species occurs.
Western Victoria	Grampians NP – two projects examining the responses of aquatic and terrestrial fauna to fire and flood and identifying critical refuge habitats to enable fauna to recover after major environmental disturbances.
	Grampians NP – a Bioscan project undertaken in partnership with the Museum of Victoria to improve our knowledge of fauna in areas of the park that had not previously been well surveyed.
	Marine national parks and marine sanctuaries – research to collect a time series of photos of intertidal habitats in parks and sanctuaries on the west coast to help track environmental change and inform management.
Northern Victoria	Barmah, Gunbower, Hattah-Kulkyne and Murray-Sunset NPs – research to examine the resilience of flora and fauna to major drought periods.
	Gunbower NP – research to better understand how fire and flood patterns in the park have changed following European settlement.
Eastern Victoria	Alpine NP – two projects focusing on improving surveillance and management of hawkweeds and willows, which pose a major threat to biodiversity in alpine and sub-alpine ecosystems.
	Wilsons Promontory NP – a project examining the abundance of grazing species and how they influence vegetation recovery following fire on the Yanakie Isthmus.
	Wilsons Promontory NP – a study at Kanowna Island of one of the largest Australian Fur Seal breeding populations in Victoria.
	Wilsons Promontory MNP – a research project to carry out hydro-acoustic sonar mapping of the park to help fill the largest remaining gap in marine mapping for the marine national parks and marine sanctuaries.

MNP   Marine National Park
NP   National Park

The Research Partners Program also supported on-going terrestrial and marine research projects commenced in previous years. These included those with statewide relevance as well as those focused on particular parks, including:

- three projects examining the impact of fire in the Alpine, Great Otway and Heathcote-Graytown national parks
- two projects looking at the restoration of aquatic and riparian ecosystems
- research to improve our understanding of the relationships between the main threats to, and their impacts on, the condition of estuaries and nearby marine national parks and marine sanctuaries
- research to evaluate the feasibility and application of adaptive management approaches to restoring semi-arid woodland vegetation in Wyperfeld National Park and conserving the Malleefowl in Murray-Sunset and Wyperfeld national parks

- an evaluation of the effectiveness of techniques for preventing spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* in Brisbane Ranges National Park
- research to improve understanding of the relationship between koala browsing and tree condition to improve management of koalas and tree health in French Island National Park.

Post settlement cultural heritage

Projects relating to the management of post settlement cultural heritage occurred in parks across the state. Table 6 includes examples of the projects worked on during the year. Heritage was a key focus for the marine program this year.

Table 6 – Post settlement cultural heritage projects

PV Region	Project
Multi-region	Marine protected areas – Mapping of maritime heritage assets, development of a database to record their location and production of a series of marine heritage digital stories for Parks Victoria's YouTube channel.
Western Victoria	Great Otway NP (Cape Otway Lightstation) – A range of conservation and repair works were completed on the historic buildings and site, including the lighthouse lantern, the lightkeepers' cottages, telegraph station and timber fences.
Northern Victoria	River Red Gum parks – A land use history research project was completed to help inform management planning, assist with park interpretation and help the development of relationships with Aboriginal people and the broader community.
	Castlemaine Diggings NHP – A cultural landscape mapping project identified and mapped high concentrations of historic features in the park. This information will be used in fire management and to better manage the protection and interpretation of these high value heritage areas.
Eastern Victoria	Alpine NP – Repairs and maintenance at Moroka and Wallaces huts were undertaken in association with Victorian High Country Huts Association volunteers.
	Alpine NP – Substantial effort was made to protect historic huts from the Alpine bushfires in January 2013. Westons Hut was wrapped in a fire retardant wrap, a bare earth perimeter was created around it and the surrounding grass was brushcut. Dibbins Hut was also wrapped, and Blairs Hut was sprayed with fire retardant foam.
Greater Melbourne	Point Nepean NP – An ongoing buildings maintenance program to preserve the Quarantine Station's many historic buildings continued alongside the completion of specific conservation projects to the 1840's Shepherds Hut, Quarantine cemetery fence, quarantine boundary fence and crematorium.

NHP   National Heritage Park
NP   National Park

Managing fire and flood

Fire

Bushfires

The 2012–13 bushfire season was above average. The major single cause of bushfires starting in areas managed under the Act was lightning, and most of the fires starting in parks burnt less than one hectare.

DEPI recorded bushfires affecting more than 75 000 hectares under the Act during the year. Most of that area relates to three fires:

- the Kentbruck Portland Nelson Road Fire, which started on 4 January 2013 as a result of a suspected vehicle accident and burnt an area including approximately 10 500 hectares of Lower Glenelg National Park
- the 2013 Harrietville Alpine Fires, which were started by lightning on 21 January 2013 and burnt an area including approximately 31 000 hectares of the Alpine National Park
- Following the fires, significant storm activity caused erosion to areas that were most severely burnt, resulting in landslips, significant tree fall and sedimentation in major waterways and catchments. Some of the area burnt has now been burnt three times since 2003
- the Victoria Valley Complex Bushfire, which resulted from several fires started by lightning on 14 February 2013 joining and which burnt an area including more than approximately 26 000 hectares of the Grampians National Park.

Planned burning

As part of the 2012–13 statewide planned burning program, DEPI recorded 130 burns completed in areas under the Act, treating 83 414 hectares of land. The largest areas treated were in Murray-Sunset (14 670 ha), Croajingolong (9121 ha), Little Desert (4615 ha), Alpine (4182 ha and 3906 ha) and Lake Eildon (3017 ha) national parks. The *Ecological fire* section of the report contains further information on ecological fire management.

Melbourne Bushfire Protection Program

Established in 2009, the Melbourne Bushfire Protection Program seeks to improve bushfire preparedness on Melbourne's urban-bushland interface in areas including the Churchill, Dandenong Ranges, Mornington Peninsula, Organ Pipes and Point Nepean national parks, Arthurs Seat and Warrandyte state parks, Lysterfield Park, Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve and Woodlands Historic Park.

Works undertaken during the year under the program included:

- the creation of 27 kilometres of new fuelbreaks and the upgrading of 35 kilometres of existing fuelbreaks
- the upgrading of a further 35 kilometres of roads and tracks to improve access for fire management purposes.

Monitoring

Monitoring programs examining the effects of fire regimes on biodiversity continued in parks across the state. These included pre- and post-fire monitoring, the Landscape Fire and Environmental Monitoring Program and HawkEye, which aim to improve fire preparedness while reducing impacts on biodiversity. The key areas for the HawkEye program continued to be East Gippsland, the Otways and the Mallee.

Recovering from fire

Visitors were encouraged back to Kinglake National Park after the 2009 Black Saturday fires following the completion of works to restore visitor facilities at Jehosaphat Gully and Masons Falls.

Work commenced in autumn 2013 to re-seed about 2000 hectares of Alpine Ash forest in the Alpine National Park that was burnt during the 2013 Alpine Fires.

Flood recovery

There was further significant progress made in recovering from the severe floods of 2010–11. Nearly all damaged assets in the affected parks across the state are now either repaired or replaced.

Parks Victoria conducted cultural and heritage surveys and assessments of all affected areas and implemented priority rehabilitation projects in the Grampians and Wilsons Promontory national parks and along the Murray River in Barmah and Murray-Sunset national parks. This involved detailed consultation with Traditional Owner groups, many of which were engaged to undertake the surveys and rehabilitation works.

At the Grampians National Park, several flood recovery projects are nearing completion. These have significantly boosted our knowledge of priority threatening processes and the status of significant species post flood. The projects included:

- the inspection of 70 Aboriginal heritage sites with Traditional Owners to determine the impact of the January 2011 floods and the subsequent development and implementation of a program of works
- the completion of the Venus Baths Loop Walk and the re-opening of the Five Cascades Walk linking Venus Baths to the Wonderland carpark; this marked the completion of the Wonderland Loop Walk.

At Wilsons Promontory National Park, works included the repair and reinstatement of retaining structures, drainage and road formations. Repairs to the Mt Oberon Road, Telegraph Track and Summit Road were completed. The Loo-Ern boardwalk and the pedestrian bridge at Tidal River were repaired after almost being totally destroyed in 2011.

Floods in north-eastern Victoria in February 2012 and storms in southern Victoria in June 2012 affected numerous parks, resulting in several areas being closed for much of the year. There was considerable work undertaken to repair or replace park assets and facilities in affected parks.

Encouraging visitors and tourism

Enhancing visitor enjoyment and tourism

A particular focus during the year was implementing the government commitment to providing greater opportunities for visitors to enjoy the state's wonderful natural environment while maintaining important environmental safeguards.

In March 2013, following the release of the government's response to the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission's inquiry into Victorian tourism, the Minister released guidelines for tourism investment opportunities of significance in national parks.

In May 2013, the government introduced legislation to provide for lease terms of up to 99 years for appropriate tourism developments in specified land under the Act (see *Legislation*).

In May 2013, the Minister announced two important initiatives relating to the future of the Mount Buffalo Chalet and the Quarantine Station precinct in Point Nepean National Park:

• the government's decision to proceed with a $7 million redevelopment of the chalet. This involves refurbishing the original building and providing a day visitor centre, information centre and potentially a cafe, and demolishing some buildings. Works during the year included the removal of asbestos

• the commencement of a 10-week expression of interest process for appropriate private sector development of the Quarantine Station precinct.

The preferred tenderer for the development of a new chairlift in Arthurs Seat State Park continued to work with Parks Victoria and the local council in developing the detail of the proposal for a new all-weather gondola.

Works were carried out across the state to improve visitor and tourist access and enjoyment while maintaining park values and reducing risks. Table 7 contains examples of projects worked on during the year, in addition to those referred to elsewhere in the report (see *Post settlement cultural heritage management, Fire recovery* and *Flood recovery*).

Licensed tour operators

Tour operators are licensed to run organised tours and recreational activities for profit on Victorian public land. As at 30 June 2013, 321 operators were licensed to operate in areas under the Act.

Visits to parks

The Visitor Number Monitor is a biennial survey covering a sample of visitors from Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and overseas. The statewide monitor was introduced in 2001 to record the number of visits to national and state parks and to report on change and trends in park visitation. The latest survey, conducted in 2012–13, found that there were an estimated 34.8 million visits to national and state parks.

There was high occupancy of campgrounds across the state, particularly at Lake Eildon and Wilsons Promontory national parks and Cape Conran Coastal Park. Lake Eildon National Park recorded its highest occupancy ever.

Information, interpretation and education

Information, education and interpretation services in relation to areas managed under the Act were provided to encourage visits, manage risks in parks, increase knowledge and understanding of parks and biodiversity and encourage visitors to develop a stronger connection with their environment.

Information was again provided to the public through Parks Victoria's 24-hour information service (13 1963), the Parks Victoria website and Park Notes.

Activities during the year included:

• the delivery by Parks Victoria of face-to-face education and interpretation programs to more than 19 220 visitors (adults and children) in areas under the Act, including programs at Dandenong Ranges, Point Nepean and Wilsons Promontory national parks

• the addition of additional material focusing on alpine and marine environments on Parks Victoria's online student learning resource

• Junior Ranger activities for children of primary school age during school holidays. These were held in eight areas under the Act, with 5763 children and parents participating

• a Kids Teaching Kids event at Point Nepean National Park with 230 students throughout the Mornington Peninsula attending.

Table 7 – Visitor facility projects

PV Region	Project
Multi-region	Wilsons Promontory NP, Cape Conran CP and Lysterfield Park – Provision of additional opportunities for those with disabilities (children's beach wheelchairs at the first two parks and trailrider chairs at the third).
Western Victoria	Grampians NP – Renewal of lookouts at various locations and upgrading of walking tracks forming part of the first stage of the Grampians Peaks Trail.
	Great Ocean Walk (Great Otway and Port Campbell NPs) – Completion of nearly 30 km of track upgrading or realignment and commencement of the Great Ocean Road pedestrian underpass at Gibsons Steps and the link track to extend the walk to finish at the Twelve Apostles Visitor Centre.
	Great Otway NP – Upgrading of facilities at Aire River, Johanna Beach and Parker River, upgrading of the steps at Erskine Falls and replacement of several pedestrian bridges.
Northern Victoria	Greater Bendigo NP – Repairs to the lookout tower at One Tree Hill.
	Kara Kara NP – Safety upgrade of the historic Upper Teddington Reservoir dam wall.
	Lake Eildon NP – Road repairs and improvements to Lakeside Road.
Eastern Victoria	Alpine NP – Completion of improvements to the walking track between Falls Creek and Mt Hotham, including new camping platforms and toilet facilities at Cope Hut and Dibbins Hut.
	Cape Liptrap CP – Upgrading of the toilets at Bear Gully.
	Mitchell River NP – Opening of a new viewing lookout over the Mitchell River Gorge at Billy Goat Bend, road repairs and improvements.
	Morwell NP – Construction of new toilets at Fosters Gully.
	Mount Buffalo NP – Upgrading of various walking trails.
	Tarra-Bulga NP – Completion and opening of two new viewing platforms at Corrigans suspension bridge and Cyathea Falls.
Greater Melbourne	Arthurs Seat SP – Upgrading of the waste water treatment system for the summit toilet block.
	Dandenong Ranges NP – Completion of works to establish the Kokoda Memorial Wall and to upgrade the Lyrebird Track to form a loop walk with the Kokoda Track Memorial Walk.
	Point Nepean NP – A major works program upgrading roads, car parks and essential services infrastructure to support the redevelopment of the Quarantine Station site (see also *Post settlement cultural heritage*).

CP   Coastal Park
NP   National Park
SP   State Park

Partnering with Traditional Owners and the community

Traditional Owner partnerships

DEPI and Parks Victoria continued to implement joint and co-operative management arrangements with various Traditional Owner groups.

Joint management

A highlight of the year was the signing of the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans native title settlement agreement on 28 March 2013. This provides for the granting of Aboriginal title over, and for joint management of, Greater Bendigo National Park, most of Kara Kara National Park, and Kooyoora and Paddys Ranges state parks in north central Victoria.

In East Gippsland, the Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board was established. This will govern the joint management arrangements for Mitchell River, Tarra-Bulga, The Lakes and Snowy River (New Guinea Caves) national parks, Lake Tyers State Park and Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park. Four indigenous cultural rangers were appointed to work on jointly managed land.

There was significant progress towards establishing the Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board for Barmah National Park in northern Victoria. This will enable joint management to be implemented for the park in accordance with the Traditional Owner Land Management Agreement with the Yorta Yorta people.

The Yorta Yorta People were involved in a number of park management programs, including co-chairing with Parks Victoria the community-based Barmah Horses Advisory Committee to develop a Barmah Horse Management Program (see *Invasive animals*).

Co-operative management

Co-operative management arrangements are being implemented in north-western Victoria, where Parks Victoria continued to work with the Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (the representative body of the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalk Peoples) in the co-operative management of Little Desert and Wyperfeld national parks and Lake Albacutya Park.

In south-western Victoria, co-operative management arrangements with the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation are being implemented for Mount Eccles National Park through the Budj Bim Council. As the state government representatives on the council, DEPI and Parks Victoria continued to provide support to the council as a strategic advisory body with respect to Mount Eccles National Park. There was further progress in the development of the draft management plan for several parks in south-western Victoria (see *Management planning*).

Other Traditional Owner partnerships

Parks Victoria continued to work with other Traditional Owner groups across the state in the management of various parks under the Act. These included:

- in the Alps, Parks Victoria continued to involve the Traditional Owners in a range of management issues
- in southern Victoria, the Wurundjeri, Bunurong and Boonwurrung Peoples were engaged in cultural heritage assessments at various locations as part of the Melbourne Bushfire Protection Program
- at Wilsons Promontory National Park – the Boon Wurrung, Bunurung and Gunaikurnai Peoples, under a memorandum of understanding between Parks Victoria and the Traditional Owners.

Involving the community

Volunteers

Volunteers continued to make a major contribution to the management of many areas under the Act, this year dedicating almost 100 000 hours to 91 parks. Friends groups, special interest groups, individuals, educational institutions, partner organisations and corporate groups all provide invaluable support to Parks Victoria and park management.

Examples include:

- the substantial contributions by the Friends of Chiltern-Mt Pilot National Park, the Friends of the Great South West Walk and the Friends of the Prom Nursery
- the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Victoria), which was involved in invasive animal control programs (see *Invasive animals*)
- the Victorian High Country Huts Association, which helped maintain huts in the Alps (see *Post settlement cultural heritage management*).

Campground Host volunteers

In 2012–13 there were 28 Campground Host volunteers placed in peak visitation campgrounds in 11 national and state parks during the summer and Easter holiday periods. The hosts assisted field staff and were on hand to help campers.

Parks Victoria also conducted a pilot program of Roving Campground Hosts in the Great Otway National Park with Deakin University students. Six students spent time assisting Great Ocean Walk field staff, hikers and campers with information.

Parks Victoria once again partnered with Four Wheel Drive Victoria to run the highly successful 4WD Camp Host program in eight parks under the Act. In total, 56 Four Wheel Drive Victoria members participated in the program in the Alpine, Barmah, Brisbane Ranges, Croajingolong, Grampians, Great Otway, Lake Eildon and Snowy River national parks.

Conservation Volunteers Australia

Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) partners with Parks Victoria on a range of projects and initiatives that involve community engagement opportunities.

These include working with DEPI, Zoos Victoria and the Eastern Barred Bandicoot Recovery Team to re-establish a captive breeding population of Eastern Barred Bandicoot at Woodlands Historic Park. As part of this project, in 2013 CVA and Parks Victoria released 24 bandicoots into the park after successfully restoring native grasslands and eliminating predator threats.

At the Grampians National Park, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Parks Victoria collaborated on a project to eliminate satellite populations of introduced Sallow Wattle in the park. The project was facilitated by the dedication of 8708 volunteer hours.

Healthy Parks Healthy People grants

Parks Victoria's Healthy Parks Healthy People grants are available to community groups that wish to undertake projects related to areas managed by Parks Victoria. Groups work closely with local Parks Victoria staff in developing and implementing projects. Support was provided to 69 Healthy Parks Healthy People grant applications for a total value of $221 000. Table 8 contains examples of the grants.

Table 8 – Health Parks Healthy People grants

PV Region	Grant
Western Victoria	South West parks – Friends of the Great South West Walk – to carry out maintenance and other works on the Great South West Walk.
	Grampians NP – Summerday Valley Cliffcare (Victorian Climbing Club) – to repair tracks to combat severe erosion and to protect tree roots on highly trafficked sections of track.
	Great Otway NP – Cape Otway Conservation Ecology Centre – to survey over-abundant koala populations and monitor tree canopy condition.
Northern Victoria	Gunbower NP – Four Wheel Drive Victoria – to promote sustainable four-wheel driving in the national park by developing a four-wheel drive guide to the park, running a four-wheel drive event to launch the promotional material and operating a 2013-14 camp host program in the park.
Eastern Victoria	Beware Reef MS – Friends of Beware Reef Inc. – to map the Beware Reef Marine Sanctuary using side-scan sonar and to dive and ground-truth all sites of interest and prepare a diver information manual and video.
Greater Melbourne	Kinglake NP – Friends of Lyrebirds – to collect images and footage of the annual (2013) Lyrebird survey for display at the park office visitor centre to encourage future patronage of the survey and to produce an interpretive entrance sign to head the recently rebuilt Lyrebird Circuit Track at the Masons Falls picnic area.

MS   Marine Sanctuary
NP   National Park

Supporting park management

Management

Management arrangements

The Secretary is responsible under the Act for ensuring that the parks and other areas to which the Act applies are controlled and managed in accordance with the Act.

Parks Victoria, established under the *Parks Victoria Act 1998*, is responsible through a management services agreement for managing the parks and other areas under the Act on behalf of the Secretary. Various powers under the Act have been delegated to employees of Parks Victoria.

DEPI, on behalf of the Secretary, works with Parks Victoria and provides strategic policy advice to the Minister and the Secretary. Under the Act, the Director of National Parks (who is the Chief Executive Officer of Parks Victoria) provides advice to the Minister and the Secretary on the operational elements of park management.

Parks Victoria's 2012–13 business plan described the park management services and strategic priorities to be delivered for the year. Its annual report for 2012–13 provides information on its operations for the year.

There was considerable work undertaken during the year to develop a new management agreement between the Secretary and Parks Victoria, with an emphasis on a partnership arrangement.

Finance

The estimated expenditure in relation to areas managed under the Act in 2012–13 was $115 million. This includes fire management and fire recovery costs, flood recovery costs and major capital works carried out in areas under the Act. Information about DEPI's and Parks Victoria's overall financial activities is contained in their respective annual reports.

Staff

Parks Victoria manages a diverse range of areas, including all of the parks and other areas managed under the Act as well as other conservation reserves, regional and metropolitan parks and aspects of the bays and waterways in or near Melbourne.

As at 30 June 2013, Parks Victoria employed 966 full time equivalent employees. These included 329 rangers (including 16 district managers) and 169 field service officers engaged in managing areas under the Act. These included 44 indigenous staff. To meet summer peak seasonal visitor attendance at high visitation locations, 37 seasonal rangers were employed to run visitor services programs across the state, including in areas under the Act. Additionally, project fire fighters were employed for planned burning and wildfire management. Staff from DEPI also contributed to the parks program.

Legislation

Amendments to the Act

Parks and Crown Land Legislation Amendment Act 2012

This amending Act commenced on 1 September 2012. The amendments to the National Parks Act:

- created Lake Tyers State Park (8645 hectares) and added 1125 hectares to ten parks (Alpine, Chiltern-Mt Pilot, French Island, Grampians, Kinglake, Lower Goulburn, Mitchell River, Mornington Peninsula and Warby-Ovens national parks and Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park)
- changed the name of St Arnaud Range National Park to Kara Kara National Park
- provided for an extended lease term of up to 50 years for a chairlift in Arthurs Seat State Park and added to the park airspace above parts of the Arthurs Seat Road through which a chairlift would pass
- extended until 30 June 2015 the period during which firewood may be removed from sawlog harvesting residue in designated areas of Barmah and Gunbower national parks for domestic and camping purposes outside the park
- updated the references in section 40 of the Act to the plans which define Greater Bendigo National Park
- repealed several redundant provisions.

Other amendments

On 1 July 2012, the *Marine Safety Act 2010* made a consequential amendment to the regulation-making power of the National Parks Act as a result of changes in terminology.

On 1 September 2012, the *Forests Amendment Act 2012*, which primarily provided for the collection of firewood in State forest and Shepparton Regional Park for domestic purposes, amended the National Parks Act to create an offence to cut or take away fallen or felled trees in a park under the Act unless appropriately authorised.

Amending legislation

Alpine Resorts and National Parks Acts Amendment Act 2013

This amending Act, which received the Royal Assent on 23 April 2013[1], amends the boundaries of the Alpine National Park and Falls Creek Alpine Resort. In relation to the national park, the 2013 Act:

- excises two areas at Rocky Valley Dam (9.6 ha) and Sun Valley (0.4 ha) from the national park and includes them in the alpine resort

- excises an area of 11.9 hectares on the northern slopes of Mt McKay from the alpine resort and includes it in the national park.

National Parks Amendment (Leasing Powers and Other Matters) Bill 2013

This bill was introduced into Parliament on 28 May 2013. It primarily:

- amends the leasing provisions of the Act so that the Minister, after consultation with the National Parks Advisory Council, can grant leases and associated licences of up to 99 years over specified land under the Act where the purpose of any lease is consistent with the objects of the Act

- increases, from 50 to 99 years, the maximum term for leases of land (and, where relevant, associated licences) at the Mount Buffalo Chalet, Cresta Valley and Dingo Dell in Mount Buffalo National Park, the Quarantine Station in Point Nepean National Park and for a chairlift at Arthurs Seat State Park

- strengthens the regulation-making head of power in the Act with respect to various matters.

Regulations

The Subordinate Legislation (National Parks (Park) Regulations 2003) Extension Regulations 2013 were made on 18 June 2013 and extended the operation of the 2003 regulations from 24 June 2013 until 23 September 2013.

Firewood determination – Barmah National Park

On 4 March 2013, a determination of the Secretary under clause 6A of Schedule One AA to the Act was gazetted to enable the collection of firewood from various former sawlog harvesting areas in Barmah National Park, subject to conditions, for domestic and camping purposes outside the park.

Authorities granted under the Act

Leases, licences and permits

There were three leases granted under section 19(2) of the Act:

- Alpine National Park – a lease for a term of seven years to a private individual for the management and maintenance of Gardners Hut (Four Mile Hut)

- The Lakes National Park
  - a lease for a term of 20 years to Rotamah Island Bird Observatory Inc. for use of the Overstrand Homestead for research and the provision of information and education on the natural environment of the Gippsland Lakes area and for ancilliary and incidental purposes
  - an associated seven-year lease, and a licence under 19(3)(b), for use of the Wardens Cottage and adjoining land.

Table 9 lists the permits granted under section 21(1)(c)(ii) of the Act during the year. Other authorities included apiary permits granted under section 21(1)(b), tour operator licences under section 27D (see *Enhancing visitor enjoyment and tourism*) and an authority under section 30G for water supply infrastructure in Warby-Ovens National Park.

Consents to public authorities

NBN Co Limited, Optus Networks Pty Limited and Vic Gas Distribution Pty Limited were declared under section 3 of the Act to be public authorities for the purposes of the Act.

Table 10 lists the consents granted under section 27 of the Act to public authorities (as defined in the Act) to carry out works, subject to conditions, in various parks.

Table 9 – Permits

Park	Permittee	Purpose
Mornington Peninsula NP	Australian Pacific Lighthouse Pty Ltd	Manage a kiosk and car park at Cape Schanck.
Mount Buffalo NP	Individual	Operate a café within Keown Lodge (Dingo Dell) and a mobile food service at Cresta Valley, Dingo Dell, the Lake Catani campground and day visitor areas, The Horn picnic ground and the picnic areas at the Gorge.
Cape Conran CP	Bush Ed	Operate and manage the Cape Conran camping precinct.
Lysterfield Park	Trailmix Pty Ltd	Manage event bookings for mountain bike and triathlon events and occupy and operate the visitor centre.

CP   Coastal Park
NP   National Park

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[1]   This Act commenced on 1 August 2013.

Table 10 – Consents to public authorities

Park	Public authority	Location / Purpose
Consents to operate and manage emergency alerting system at various locations		
Alpine NP	Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA)	Mt Benambra, Mt Tingaringy and The Pinnacles
Croajingolong NP		Miners Track
Grampians NP		Mt Victory and Mt William
Great Otway NP		Wye River
Heathcote-Graytown NP		Mt Ida
Mount Buffalo NP		Cresta Valley
Murray-Sunset NP		Morkalla North
Warby-Ovens NP		Mt Glenrowan
Wilsons Promontory NP		Mt Oberon
Yarra Ranges NP		Lake Mountain, Mt St Leonard and Mt Victoria
Lerderderg SP		Mt Blackwood
Mount Arapiles-Tooan SP		Mt Arapiles
Mount Granya SP		Mt Granya
Other consents		
Alpine NP	Towong Shire Council	Install, operate and maintain fire spotting cameras at Mt Benambra.
	VicRoads	Fall fire-damaged and fire- killed trees adjacent to the Great Alpine Road.
Dandenong Ranges NP	Shire of Yarra Ranges	Drainage works at Chudleigh Crescent.
Gunbower NP	Goulburn-Murray Rural Water Corporation	Install water infrastructure as part of the Living Murray Initiative.
		Install electricity infrastructure as part of the Living Murray Initiative.
Kara Kara NP	Central Highlands Region Water Corporation	Install, operate and maintain water pipeline.
Mount Buffalo NP	VicRoads	Decommission fuel and oil tanks and formalise existing occupancy.
Murray-Sunset NP	South Australia Water Corporation	Install the Mullaroo, Lindsay Island North and Lindsay Island South regulators.
Warby-Ovens NP	Telstra Corporation	Operate and maintain existing telecommunications facility at Mt Glenrowan.
Mount Granya SP	Towong Shire Council	Install fire spotting cameras.
Kings Billabong Park	Mallee Catchment Management Authority	Install environmental regulator.
Castlemaine Diggings NHP	Coliban Regional Water Corporation	Install and maintain a sewer pipeline.
Corner Inlet MCP	South Gippsland Water Corporation	Operate and maintain two existing waste water pipelines.

MCP   Marine and Coastal Park   NHP   National Heritage Park
NP   National Park   SP   State Park

Consent to earth resource activities

The Minister's consent under section 40 of the Act to the granting of a work authority associated with a pre-existing quarry on Bambra Road in the Great Otway National Park was tabled in both houses of Parliament on 5 February 2013 and was subsequently not disallowed.

Enforcement

There were 28 individuals successfully prosecuted in the courts during the year for committing 45 offences under the Act (23) or the National Parks (Park) Regulations 2003 (22).[2] Most of the offences related to possessing or using a gun or other weapon (16), interfering with vegetation (8), bringing a dog into a park (8) and vehicles in prohibited or restricted areas (6).

There were 343 infringement notices issued during the year in relation to prescribed offences against the Act (52) or the National Parks (Park) Regulations 2003 (291). These included offences relating to dogs (155) and using recreational fishing equipment in a marine national park or a marine sanctuary (51).

In addition, there were 37 warnings issued, including for various offences in marine national parks and marine sanctuaries (25) and for bringing a dog into a park illegally (6).

Interstate cooperation

Australian Alps Cooperative Management Program

The *Memorandum of understanding in relation to the cooperative management of the Australian Alps national parks* (MOU) covers eleven parks and reserves in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales and Victoria. In Victoria, these are the Alpine, Baw Baw, Mount Buffalo and Snowy River national parks and Avon Wilderness Park. The purpose of the MOU is to promote cross-border cooperation in the protection and management of this highly significant conservation area.

The Australian Alps Cooperative Management Program operates under the auspices of the Australian Alps Liaison Committee. The committee seeks to provide land managers with appropriate technical tools and sound scientific advice in management reports and strategies to assist in achieving the objectives of the MOU in delivering best practice land management across the region. Parks Victoria represents Victoria on the committee.

Highlights of the program during the year included:

- a forum involving scientists and managers that coalesced the work of academic research with operational challenges relating to management of biodiversity at a landscape scale. A partnership between the National Environment Research Program funded Landscapes and Policy Hub and the AALC has provided a foundation for scientists and managers to collaborate
- a two-day gathering of field staff to consider the latest issues in invasive plant management, the focus being on control techniques for Ox-eye Daisy, an emerging threat to the Alps
- the preparation of a statement on the cultural and spiritual values of the Australian Alps commenced in collaboration with Traditional Owners, to support the Australian Alps National Heritage listing
- the development of a suite of Australian Alps e-publication tools, including on-line touring maps and iPad service displays at three alps visitor centres
- a gathering of technical experts in walking track management from both within agencies and external stakeholders to help deliver best practice.

River Red Gum Adaptive Management Science Advisory Committee

This committee, which comprises ten members (chair, deputy chair, a policy representative from each state and six independent scientists), was formed under New South Wales legislation following the establishment of new river red gum parks in Victoria and New South Wales to encourage a sharing of knowledge and expertise and provide quality assured scientific advice to government on the management of the river red gum forests. The objectives of the committee include providing a scientific program to underpin the active forest management of the river red gum parks and reserves in both states (see *Natural values research*).

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2   The numbers refer to the numbers of successful prosecutions during the year regardless of when the offences took place.

Advisory bodies

National Parks Advisory Council

The National Parks Advisory Council is appointed under section 10 of the Act. Its main functions are to advise the Minister generally in relation to the administration of the Act and on particular matters in relation to that administration on which its advice is sought by the Minister. The council also provides advice on any proposed excision from a park which the Minister refers to it and on the granting of certain leases and consents for earth resource activities. The council's 2012–13 annual report provides information on the council and its activities during the year.

The council comprises the Secretary (or his or her nominee), the Director of National Parks (who is the Chief Executive Officer of Parks Victoria) and eight non-government members.

The terms of appointment of the eight non-government members expired on 19 April 2013, at which time the membership of the council was as follows:

Convenor: Dr Charles Lane

Members: Mrs Heather Gee
            Mr John Gray
            Mr Gary Howell (Secretary's nominee)
            Dr Bill Jackson (Director of National Parks)
            Mr Lance Jennison
            Dr Brian Martin
            Dr Philip Moors AO
            Dr Mary-Jane Rogers
            Dr John Sherwood

Alpine Advisory Committee

The Alpine Advisory Committee is constituted under section 32AF of the Act to assist with the development of a management plan for the Alpine National Park.

The following were appointed to the committee on 15 June 2013:

Convenor: Mr Ewan Waller AFSM

Members: Ms Trudy Anderson
            Dr Peter Attiwill AM
            Mr Geoff Burrowes
            Mr Chris Commins
            Mr Philip Davis MLC
            Mr Stephen Dingwall
            Mr Andrew Dwyer
            Mr Mervyn McGuire
            Mr Ronald Moon
            Mr Russell Mullett
            Mr David Packham OAM
            Mr Peter Roper
            Ms Christa Treasure
            Mr Walter Wright

There were also several non-statutory advisory groups involved in the management of various parks.

Appendix 1 –
Areas managed under the National Parks Act

A   National parks (Schedule Two)

	National park	Area (ha) 30 June 2012	Addition (ha)	Area (ha) 30 June 2013
1	Alfred	3 050		3 050
2	Alpine	661 375	398	661 775
3	Barmah	28 505		28 505
4	Baw Baw	13 530		13 530
5	Brisbane Ranges	8 865		8 865
6	Burrowa-Pine Mountain	18 400		18 400
7	Chiltern-Mt Pilot	21 560	77	^21 650
8	Churchill	271		271
9	Cobboboonee	18 510		18 510
10	Coopracambra	38 800		38 800
11	Croajingolong	**88 500		**88 500
12	Dandenong Ranges	3 540		3 540
13	Errinundra	39 870		39 870
14	French Island	**11 050	109	**11 160
15	Grampians	168 145	91	168 235
16	Greater Bendigo*	17 324		17 324
17	Great Otway	**103 195		**103 195
18	Gunbower	9 330		9 330
19	Hattah-Kulkyne	49 975		49 975
20	Heathcote-Graytown	12 700		12 700
21	Kara Kara#	13 990		13 990
22	Kinglake	23 175	35	23 210
23	Lake Eildon	27 750		27 750
24	Lind	1 370		1 370
25	Little Desert	132 647		132 647
26	Lower Glenelg	26 430		26 430
27	Lower Goulburn	9 310	12	9 320
28	Mitchell River	14 250	113	14 365
29	Mornington Peninsula	**2 680	0.3	**2 680
30	Morwell	565		565
31	Mount Buffalo	31 020		31 020
32	Mount Eccles	8 375		8 375
33	Mount Richmond	1 733		1 733
34	Murray-Sunset	664 810		664 810
35	Organ Pipes	153		153
36	Point Nepean	**575		**575
37	Port Campbell	**1 830		**1 830
38	Snowy River	114 600		114 600
39	Tarra-Bulga	2 015		2 015
40	Terrick Terrick	6 390		6 390
41	The Lakes	2 390		2 390
42	Warby-Ovens	14 655	94	14 750
43	Wilsons Promontory	**49 049		**49 049
44	Wyperfeld	361 770		361 770

	National park	Area (ha) 30 June 2012	Addition (ha)	Area (ha) 30 June 2013
45	Yarra Ranges	77 190		77 190
	Total – National parks	**2 905 217**	**929.3**	**2 906 162**

*   Parts of Greater Bendigo NP extend only to 100 metres below the land surface.
**   Area includes the area of the national park located beneath a marine national park.
\#   Known as St Arnaud Range National Park prior to 1 September 2012.
^   Reflects a recalculation of the area of the park.

B   Wilderness parks (Schedule Two A)

	Wilderness park	Area (ha) 30 June 2012		Area (ha) 30 June 2013
1	Avon	39 650		39 650
2	Big Desert	142 300		142 300
3	Wabba	20 100		20 100
	Total – Wilderness parks	**202 050**		**202 050**

C   State parks (Schedule Two B)

	State park	Area (ha) 30 June 2012	Addition (ha)	Area (ha) 30 June 2013
1	Arthurs Seat	558		558
2	Black Range	11 700		11 700
3	Broken-Boosey	1 010		1 010
4	Bunyip	16 655		16 655
5	Cape Nelson	210		210
6	Cathedral Range	3 616		3 616
7	Dergholm	10 400		10 400
8	Enfield	4 400		4 400
9	Holey Plains	10 740		10 740
10	Kooyoora	11 350		11 350
11	Lake Tyers	–	8 645	8 645
12	Langi Ghiran	3 040		3 040
13	Leaghur	2 050		2 050
14	Lerderderg	20 185		20 185
15	Moondarra	6 330		6 330
16	Mount Arapiles-Tooan	7 470		7 470
17	Mount Buangor	2 400		2 400
18	Mount Granya	6 140		6 140
19	Mount Lawson	13 150		13 150
20	Mount Napier	2 800		2 800
21	Mount Samaria	7 600		7 600
22	Mount Worth	1 040		1 040
23	Paddys Ranges	2 010		2 010
24	Warrandyte	686		686
25	Werribee Gorge	575		575
	Total – State parks	**148 135**	**8 645**	**156 780**

D Other parks (Schedule Three)

	Other park	Area (ha) 30 June 2012	Addition (ha)	Area (ha) 30 June 2013
1	Bay of Islands CP	950		950
2	Beechworth HP	1 090		1 090
3	Cape Conran CP	11 700		11 700
4	Cape Liptrap CP	4 225		4 225
5	Discovery Bay CP	*10 460		*10 460
6	Gadsen Bend Park	1 620		1 620
7	Gippsland Lakes CP	17 610	196	17 805
8	Haining Farm	66		66
9	Kings Billabong Park	2 195		2 195
10	Lake Albacutya Park	8 300		8 300
11	Langwarrin FFR	214		214
12	Lysterfield Park	1 397		1 397
13	Murray-Kulkyne Park	4 555		4 555
14	Nyah-Vinifera Park	1 370		1 370
15	Steiglitz HP	425		425
16	Tara Range Park	7 620		7 620
17	Tyers Park	1 810		1 810
18	Woodlands HP	820		820
	Total – Other parks	**76 427**	**196**	**76 622**

CP   Coastal Park
FFR   Flora and Fauna Reserve
HP   Historic Park
*   Area includes the area of the park located beneath a marine national park.

E Other parks and reserves (Schedule Four)

	Other park or reserve	Area (ha) 30 June 2012		Area (ha) 30 June 2013
1	Bunurong MP	*1 660		*1 660
2	Castlemaine Diggings NHP**	7 585		7 585
3	Corner Inlet MCP	*18 000		*18 000
4	Deep Lead NCR (No. 1)**	1 120		1 120
5	Nooramunga MCP	15 000		15 000
6	Shallow Inlet MCP	2 000		2 000
7	Wilsons Promontory MP)			
8	Wilsons Promontory MR)	*10 000		*10 000
	Total – Other parks and reserves	**55 365**		**55 365**

MCP   Marine and Coastal Park
MP   Marine Park
MR   Marine Reserve
NCR   Nature Conservation Reserve
NHP   National Heritage Park
*   Area includes the area of the park or reserve located beneath a marine national park.
**   Castlemaine Diggings NHP and Deep Lead NCR (No. 1) extend only to 100 metres below the land surface.

F Wilderness zones (Schedule Five)

Wilderness zones are located within several national parks, as set out below. The areas of the wilderness zones are included in the areas of the relevant parks in Part A of this appendix.

	National park	Wilderness Zone	*Area (ha) 30 June 2013
1	Alpine	Mount Darling-Snowy Bluff	40 400
2	Alpine	Razor-Viking	15 700
3	Alpine	Indi	13 800
4	Alpine	Cobberas	10 000
5	Alpine	Buchan Headwaters	30 000
6	Alpine	Tingaringy	7 900
7	Coopracambra	Genoa	19 400
8	Croajingolong	Sandpatch	15 600
9	Croajingolong	Cape Howe	7 100
10	Murray-Sunset	Sunset	126 900
11	Murray-Sunset	Minook	38 700
12	Murray-Sunset	Galpunga	35 700
13	Murray-Sunset	Mount Cowra	23 500
14	Snowy River	Snowy River	27 000
15	Snowy River	Bowen	17 500
16	Wilsons Promontory	Wilsons Promontory	21 800
17	Wyperfeld	North Wyperfeld	97 900
18	Wyperfeld	South Wyperfeld	61 300
19	Wyperfeld	Chinaman Flat	29 800
	Total – Wilderness zones		**640 000**

*   No changes during the year.

G   Remote and natural areas (Schedule Six)

Remote and natural areas are located within several national parks, as set out below. The areas of the remote and natural areas are included in the areas of the relevant parks in Part A of this appendix.

	National park	Remote and natural area	*Area (ha) 30 June 2013
1	Alpine	The Governors	8 100
2	Alpine	Macalister	33 300
3	Alpine	Dandongadale	3 700
4	Alpine	Bundara-Cobungra	13 700
5	Alpine	Bogong	16 300
6	Alpine	Davies Plain	10 500
7	Alpine	Suggan Buggan	17 800
8	Alpine	Upper Snowy	11 800
9	Baw Baw	Baw Baw Plateau	6 500
10	Burrowa-Pine Mountain	Mount Burrowa	6 200
11	Coopracambra	Mount Kaye	8 100
12	Croajingolong	Rame Head	9 800
13	Errinundra	Brodribb	7 700
14	Grampians	Victoria Range	14 000
15	Grampians	Serra Range	11 200
16	Grampians	Major Mitchell Plateau	6 900
17	Little Desert	Little Desert	16 400
18	Mount Buffalo	North Buffalo	6 500
19	Murray-Sunset	South Sunset	24 000
20	Wilsons Promontory	Wilsons Promontory Islands (12)	469
21	Wilsons Promontory	Southern Wilsons Promontory	14 400
22	Wyperfeld	Hopping Mouse Hill	32 100
	Total – Remote and natural areas		**279 469**

*   No changes during the year.

H   Marine national parks (Schedule Seven)

	Marine national park*	**Area (ha) 30 June 2013
1	Bunurong	2 100
2	Cape Howe	4 050
3	Churchill Island	670
4	Corner Inlet	1 550
5	Discovery Bay	2 770
6	French Island	2 800
7	Ninety Mile Beach	2 750
8	Point Addis	4 600
9	Point Hicks	4 000
10	Port Phillip Heads	3 580
11	Twelve Apostles	7 500
12	Wilsons Promontory	15 550
13	Yaringa	980
	Total – Marine national parks	**52 900**

*   Marine national parks extend only to 200 metres below the land surface. Some partly overlay parts of other parks under the Act.

**   No changes during the year.

I   Marine sanctuaries (Schedule Eight)

	Marine sanctuary	*Area (ha) 30 June 2013
1	Barwon Bluff	17
2	Beware Reef	220
3	Eagle Rock	17
4	Jawbone	30
5	Marengo Reefs	12
6	Merri	25
7	Mushroom Reef	80
8	Point Cooke	290
9	Point Danger	25
10	Ricketts Point	115
11	The Arches	45
	Total – Marine sanctuaries	**876**

*   No changes during the year.

J   Other areas (non-scheduled)*

	Area	Section of Act	**Area (ha) 30 June 2013
1	Bald Hills BR	19B	1
2	Collins Settlement Historic Site	19B	1
3	Flinders NCR	19B	1
4	Flinders Natural Interest Reserve	19B	4
5	Long Forest NCR	19B	283
6	Lower Glenelg PPR and SLR	19B	24
7	Main Ridge NCR	19B	64
8	Moreep BR	19B	10
9	Nyerimilang Park	19B	200
10	Wychitella NCR	19B	3 780
11	Mt St Gwinear access road	19C	35
12	Commonwealth land adjacent to Woodlands Historic Park	19D	31
13	Picnic area at McKenzie's Flat (Lerderderg State Park)	19E	#
14	Blackwood Ranges Track (Lerderderg State Park)	19E	#
15	Glenample Homestead	32AA	8
	Total – Other areas		**4 442**

BR   Bushland Reserve
NCR   Nature Conservation Reserve
PPR   Public Purposes Reserve
SLR   Scenic Lookout Reserve
*   Only specific sections of the Act apply to these areas.
**   No changes during the year.
#   Area approximately 0.1 ha.

K   Summary – areas managed under the Act

	Category	No. as at 30 June 2013	Area (ha) 30 June 2012	Area (ha) 30 June 2013
A	National parks (Schedule Two)	45	2 905 217	2 906 162
B	Wilderness parks (Schedule Two A)	3	202 050	202 050
C	State parks (Schedule Two B)	26	148 135	156 780
D	Other parks (Schedule Three)	18	76 427	76 622
E	Other parks and reserves (Schedule Four)	8	55 365	55 365
H	Marine national parks (Schedule Seven)	13	52 900	52 900
I	Marine sanctuaries (Schedule Eight)	11	876	876
J	Other areas (non-scheduled)	15	4 442	4 442
	Total	**139**	**3 445 412**	**3 455 197**

L   Unproclaimed additions

As at 30 June 2013 legislation provides for the following additions to the parks system.

	Act	Section of Act	Park	Area (ha)
1	*National Parks Act 1975*	50K	Greater Bendigo National Park	*16
2	*National Parks (Amendment) Act 1989*	29(3)	Moondarra State Park	178
	Total – unproclaimed areas			**194**

*   Area will become part of the park on surrender of title to the Crown.

Appendix 2 – Invasive plant control

Appendix 2 lists the targeted species for those parks where an area of more than five hectares was recorded as being treated for the purposes of controlling or eradicating that species. Areas of less than five hectares were also treated in various parks.

Park name	Target species
Alpine NP	Blackberry, Cape Broom, Crack Willow, English Broom, Greater Lotus, Grey Sallow, Hawthorn, Himalayan Honeysuckle, King Devil Hawkweed, Mouse-Ear Hawkweed, Musk Monkey-flower, Ox-eye Daisy, Purple-top Verbena, Ragwort, Slender Thistle, Soft Rush, Spear Thistle, St John's Wort, Sycamore Maple, Tree Lupin, Water Forget-me-not, Willow
Arthurs Seat SP	Boneseed
Barmah NP	Blackberry, Paterson's Curse
Baw Baw NP	Blackberry, Bulbil Watsonia
Beechworth HP	Blackberry, Broom (*Genista* spp.)
Brisbane Ranges NP	Gorse, Serrated Tussock
Broken-Boosey SP	Paterson's Curse, Sweet Briar
Burrowa-Pine Mountain NP	Blackberry, St John's Wort
Cape Conran CP	Common Dipogon
Cape Liptrap CP	African Boxthorn, Blackberry, Bluebell Creeper, Mirror Bush, White Arum-lily
Cape Nelson SP	Myrtle-leaf Milkwort
Castlemaine Diggings NHP	Gorse
Chiltern-Mt Pilot NP	Blackberry, Bridal Creeper
Churchill NP	Boneseed
Cobboboonee NP	Boneseed, Radiata Pine
Coopracambra NP	Blackberry, Willow
Corner Inlet MCP	Cord Grass
Croajingolong NP	Beach Daisy, Blackberry, Gladiolus, Sea Spurge, White Arum-lily
Dandenong Ranges NP	Cedar Wattle, English Holly, English Ivy, Holly Fern, Sweet Pittosporum, Sycamore Maple, Wandering Jew
Dergholm SP	Paterson's Curse
Discovery Bay CP	African Boxthorn, Bluebell Creeper, Boneseed, Myrtle-leaf Milkwort, Radiata Pine
Errinundra NP	Blackberry
French Island NP	African Boneseed, African Boxthorn, Bridal Creeper, Cluster Pine, Spiny Rush, Sweet Vernal-grass, Veldt Grass
Gippsland Lakes CP	Bridal Creeper, Gazania
Grampians NP	Blackberry, Horehound, Sallow Wattle, Spear Thistle
Great Otway NP	Asparagus Fern, Bluebell Creeper, Boneseed, Coast Tea-tree, Coast Wattle, Spanish Heath, Sweet Pittosporum, Wandering Tradescantia
Greater Bendigo NP	Paterson's Curse, Wheel Cactus
Gunbower NP	Blackberry, Ground Cherry
Hattah-Kulkyne NP	Common Prickly Pear, Noogoora Burr, Paterson's Curse
Kara Kara NP	Horehound
Kinglake NP	Blackberry
Kings Billabong Park	African Boxthorn, Spiny Rush
Kooyoora SP	Horehound
Lake Albacutya Park	African Love-grass, Bridal Creeper, Caltrop
Lake Eildon NP	St John's Wort
Lake Tyers SP	Ragwort
Langwarrin FFR	Coast Wattle
Leaghur SP	Paterson's Curse
Lerderderg SP	Blackberry
Lower Glenelg NP	Blackberry, Boneseed, Cape Broom, Paterson's Curse, Radiata Pine
Lysterfield Park	Boneseed, Bridal Creeper, Paterson's Curse, Sweet Pittosporum

Park name	Target species
Mitchell River NP	Blackberry, Green Poison-berry, Ragwort
Moondarra SP	Blackberry, Flax-leaf Broom, Grey Sallow, Radiata Pine
Mornington Peninsula NP	Boneseed, Broom (Genista spp.), Myrtle-leaf Milkwort, Polygala, Ragwort, Rambling Dock, Sallow Wattle, Sea Spurge, Toowoomba Canary-grass
Morwell NP	Blackberry
Mount Arapiles-Tooan SP	Bridal Creeper, Horehound, One-leaf Cape-tulip
Mount Buangor SP	Blackberry, Early Black-wattle
Mount Buffalo NP	Blackberry, Grey Sallow, Himalayan Honeysuckle, Soft Rush
Mount Granya SP	Blackberry, Paterson's Curse, Thistle (*Cirsium* spp.)
Mount Lawson SP	Blackberry, English Broom, Paterson's Curse, St John's Wort, Thistle (*Cirsium* spp.)
Mount Worth SP	Himalayan Honeysuckle, Ragwort
Murray-Kulkyne Park	Common Prickly Pear, Noogoora Burr
Murray-Sunset NP	Horehound, Common Prickly Pear
Organ Pipes NP	Needle Grass
Paddys Ranges SP	Cape Broom
Point Nepean NP	Myrtle-leaf Milkwort, Polygala
Port Campbell NP	African Boxthorn, Polygala
Snowy River NP	Blackberry, Ox-eye Daisy, Paterson's Curse
Tara Range Park	Blackberry
Tarra-Bulga NP	Blackberry
Terrick Terrick NP	African Boxthorn, Drooping Prickly Pear
Tyers Park	Grey Sallow
Warby-Ovens NP	St John's Wort, Sweet Briar
Warrandyte SP	Blackberry, Chilean Needle-grass, Polygala, Sallow Wattle, Serrated Tussock, St John's Wort
Werribee Gorge SP	Serrated Tussock
Wilsons Promontory NP	Asparagus Fern, Blackberry, Spear Thistle, Winged Slender-thistle
Woodlands HP	Serrated Tussock
Wyperfeld NP	African Lovegrass, Bridal Creeper, Caltrop, Camel Melon, Hairy Fiddle-neck, Horehound, Paddy Melon, Paterson's Curse

CP   Coastal Park
FFR   Flora and Fauna Reserve
HP   Historic Park
MCP   Marine and Coastal Park
MNP   Marine National Park
NHP   National Heritage Park
NP   National Park
SP   State Park

Appendix 3 – Invasive animal control

Appendix 3 lists the targeted species for those parks where an area of more than five hectares was recorded as being treated for the purposes of controlling or eradicating that species. Areas of less than five hectares were also treated in various parks.

Park name	Target species
Alpine NP	Dog (feral), Fallow Deer, Goat (feral), Horse (feral), Pig (feral), Red Fox
Barmah NP	Pig (feral), Red Fox
Bay of Islands CP	European Rabbit
Black Range SP	Red Fox
Broken-Boosey SP	Red Fox
Bunyip SP	Red Fox
Cape Conran CP	Dog (feral), Red Fox
Cape Liptrap CP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
Chiltern-Mt Pilot NP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
Cobboboonee NP	Red Fox
Croajingolong NP	Red Fox
Dandenong Ranges NP	Dog (feral), Red Fox
Dergholm SP	European Rabbit
Discovery Bay CP	Pig (feral), Red Fox
Errinundra NP	Red Fox
French Island NP	Cat (feral), Goat (feral)
Gippsland Lakes CP	Goat (feral), Pig (feral), Red Fox
Grampians NP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
Great Otway NP	Red Fox
Hattah-Kulkyne NP	European Rabbit
Heathcote-Graytown NP	Red Fox
Holey Plains SP	Red Fox
Kara Kara NP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
Kinglake NP	Red Fox, Sambar
Lake Albacutya Park	European Rabbit
Lake Eildon NP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
Lake Tyers SP	Red Fox
Langi Ghiran SP	Pig (feral)
Langwarrin FFR	Red Fox
Leaghur SP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
Lerderderg SP	Pig (feral), Red Fox
Lind NP	Red Fox
Little Desert NP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
Lower Glenelg NP	Red Fox
Lysterfield Park	Red Fox
Mitchell River NP	Red Fox
Mornington Peninsula NP	Cat (feral), Red Fox
Morwell NP	Red Fox
Mount Arapiles-Tooan SP	European Rabbit
Mount Buffalo NP	Goat (feral), Sambar
Mount Lawson SP	Pig (feral)
Mount Richmond NP	Red Fox
Murray-Sunset NP	Cattle, European Rabbit, Goat (feral), Pig (feral)

Park name	Target species
Nooramunga MCP	Red Fox
Organ Pipes NP	European Rabbit
Paddys Ranges SP	Red Fox
Point Nepean NP	Red Fox
Shallow Inlet MCP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
Snowy River NP	Goat (feral), Pig (feral), Red Fox
Tara Range Park	Red Fox
Tarra-Bulga NP	Red Fox
Terrick Terrick NP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
The Lakes NP	Red Fox
Warby-Ovens NP	Red Fox
Warrandyte SP	European Rabbit
Werribee Gorge SP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
Wilsons Promontory NP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
Woodlands HP	European Rabbit, Red Fox
Wyperfeld NP	European Rabbit, Red Fox

CP   Coastal Park
HP   Historic Park
MCP   Marine and Coastal Park
NP   National Park
SP   State Park

Appendix 4 – Location of parks and other areas

National and other parks/areas

1	Murray-Sunset NP	46	Arthurs Seat SP	91	Tarra-Bulga NP
2	Hattah-Kulkyne NP	47	Main Ridge NCR	92	Morwell NP
3	Murray-Kulkyne Park	48	Bald Hills BR	93	Holey Plains SP
4	Big Desert WP	49	Flinders NCR	94	Gippsland Lakes CP
5	Wyperfeld NP	50	Flinders NIR	95	The Lakes NP
6	Lake Albacutya Park	51	French Island NP	96	Mitchell River NP
7	Little Desert NP	52	Langwarrin FFR	97	Nyerimilang Park
8	Mount Arapiles-Tooan SP	53	Churchill NP	98	Snowy River NP
9	Dergholm SP	54	Lysterfield Park	99	Errinundra NP
10	Black Range SP	55	Bunyip SP	100	Coopracambra NP
11	Grampians NP	56	Dandenong Ranges NP	101	Lind NP
12	Deep Lead NCR (No. 1)	57	Warrandyte SP	102	Alfred NP
13	Lower Glenelg NP and Cobboboonee NP	58	Organ Pipes NP	103	Cape Conran CP
		59	Woodlands HP and adjacent Commonwealth land	104	Croajingolong NP
14	Discovery Bay CP			105	Kings Billabong Park
15	Lower Glenelg PPR and SLR	60	Kinglake NP	106	Gadsen Bend Park
16	Mount Richmond NP	61	Haining Farm	107	Nyah-Vinifera Park
17	Cape Nelson SP	62	Yarra Ranges NP	108	Gunbower NP
18	Mount Eccles NP	63	Cathedral Range SP	109	Lower Goulburn NP
19	Mount Napier SP	64	Lake Eildon NP	110	Lake Tyers SP
20	Langi Ghiran SP	65	Mount Samaria SP		
21	Mount Buangor SP	66	Reef Hills SP		
22	Paddys Ranges SP	67	Broken-Boosey SP		
23	Kara Kara NP	68	Barmah NP		
24	Kooyoora SP	69	Warby-Ovens NP		
25	Wychitella NCR	70	Chiltern-Mt Pilot NP		
26	Leaghur SP	71	Beechworth HP		
27	Terrick Terrick NP	72	Mount Granya SP		
28	Greater Bendigo NP	73	Mount Lawson SP		
29	Heathcote-Graytown NP	74	Burrowa-Pine Mountain NP		
30	Castlemaine Diggings NHP	75	Wabba WP		
31	Lerderderg SP and associated leased areas	76	Mount Buffalo NP		
		77	Alpine NP		
32	Long Forest NCR	78	Avon WP		
33	Werribee Gorge SP	79	Baw Baw NP and Mt St Gwinear access road		
34	Enfield SP	80	Moondarra SP		
35	Moreep BR	81	Tyers Park		
36	Brisbane Ranges NP	82	Mount Worth SP		
37	Steiglitz HP	83	Bunurong MP		
38	Bay of Islands CP	84	Cape Liptrap CP		
39	Port Campbell NP	85	Shallow Inlet MCP		
40	Glenample Homestead	86	Wilsons Promontory NP		
41	Tara Range Park	87	Wilsons Promontory MP		
42	Great Otway NP	88	Wilsons Promontory MR		
43	Point Nepean NP	89	Corner Inlet MCP		
44	Collins Settlement HS	90	Nooramunga MCP		
45	Mornington Peninsula NP				

Marine national parks and marine sanctuaries

A	Discovery Bay MNP
B	Merri MS
C	The Arches MS
D	Twelve Apostles MNP
E	Marengo Reefs MS
F	Eagle Rock MS
G	Point Addis MNP
H	Point Danger MS
I	Barwon Bluff MS
J	Port Phillip Heads MNP
K	Point Cooke MS
L	Jawbone MS
M	Ricketts Point MS
N	Mushroom Reef MS
O	Yaringa MNP
P	French Island MNP
Q	Churchill Island MNP
R	Bunurong MNP
S	Wilsons Promontory MNP
T	Corner Inlet MNP
U	Ninety Mile Beach MNP
V	Beware Reef MS
W	Point Hicks MNP
X	Cape Howe MNP

BR	Bushland Reserve	MNP	Marine National Park	NIR	Natural Interest Reserve
CP	Coastal Park	MP	Marine Park	NP	National Park
FFR	Flora and Fauna Reserve	MR	Marine Reserve	PPR	Public Purposes Reserve
HP	Historic Park	MS	Marine Sanctuary	SLR	Scenic Lookout Reserve
HS	Historic Site	NCR	Nature Conservation Reserve	SP	State Park
MCP	Marine and Coastal Park	NHP	National Heritage Park	WP	Wilderness Park

Areas managed under the National Parks Act
30 June 2013

National or other park greater than 1000 ha

National or other park/area less than 1000 ha

Marine national park greater than 1000 ha

Marine national park or marine sanctuary less than 1000 ha

1 - 110

★ A - X

▲

N

kilometres
0   50   100   150

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