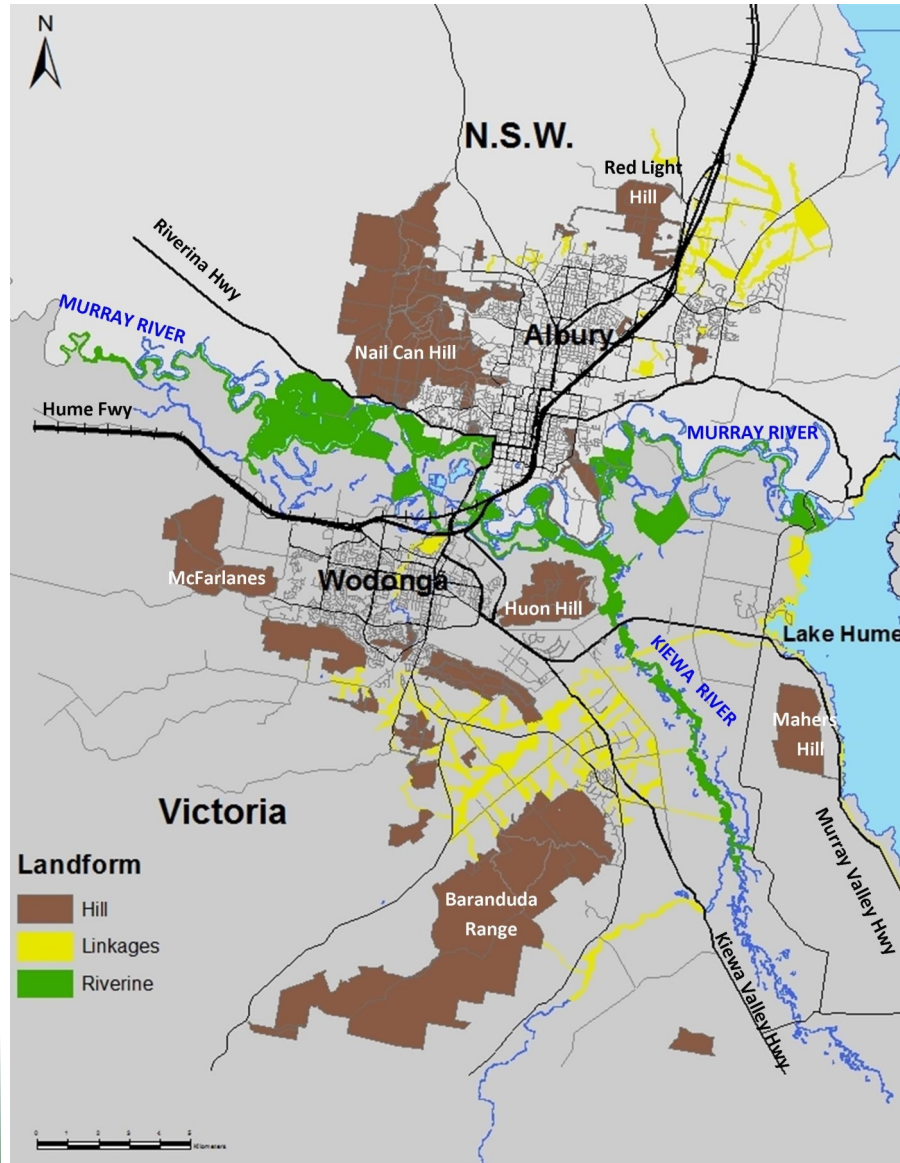


## Swainsona Nature Trails



<b>Grade:</b>	Medium
<b>Distance:</b>	0.6 km
<b>Time:</b>	30 minutes
<b>Gradient:</b>	Gentle slope
<b>Path:</b>	Single trail

**Highlights:** Nestled in a secluded bushland setting, this patch of bush is one of Wodonga's best kept secrets, especially the flowering bush peas and wildflowers during spring.

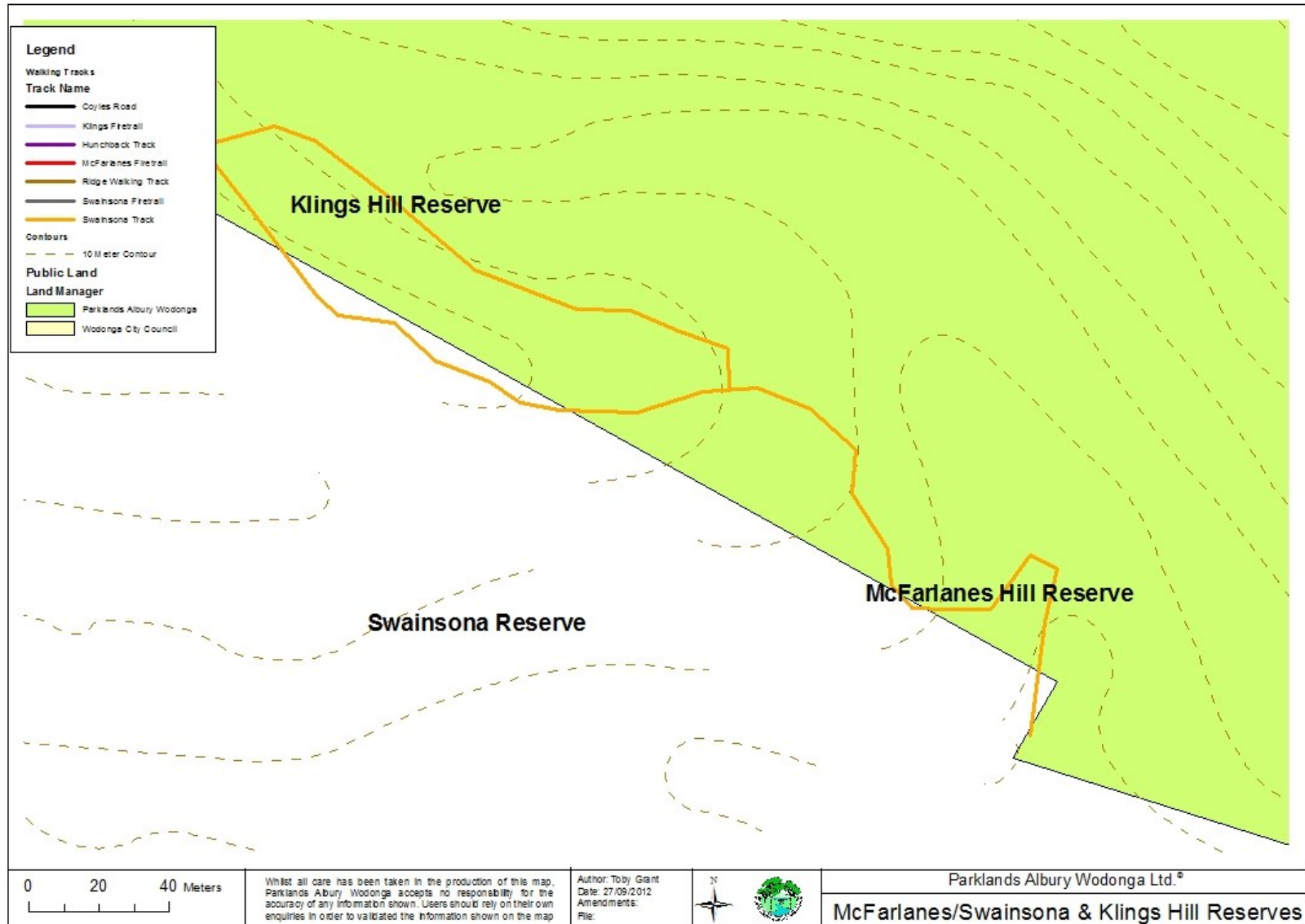
**Take care:** to not visit during high fire risk and total fire ban days in summer.

**Start / finish / park:** at the small Swainsona carpark off Felldtimber Creek Road. Walk in an anti-clockwise direction, following the single track uphill. Detour to two platforms that look out over a large gully into magnificent remnant bush.

Return via the overgrown fire trail, taking in the sheer size of the Stringybark trees.



## Swainsona Nature Trails





# Things to look out for...

## **Swainsona Pea**—*Swainsona galegifolia*.

One of two known populations of Smooth Darling or Swainsona Pea in Victoria is located within this reserve. This spectacular perennial understorey plant is listed as threatened and is being managed to increase the local population and prevent further decline.



**Diverse wildflowers**— The reserve is known for its diverse herb or ground layer, with a succession of wildflowers blooming in spring. Look down for sweet scented chocolate lillies (pictured), orchids, several species of native geranium, ferns in wet and dry nooks, native water herbs like water-pepper and a range of native grasses such as wallaby, spear and weeping grass.



**Nest Boxes** Many native animals rely on tree hollows for shelter and raising young. Where no large hollow bearing trees remain, boxes can provide interim homes for threatened species including the Squirrel glider and Tuan. The nestboxes in this reserve are monitored regularly and occupancy recorded to a citizen science database.



## **Stringybark**—*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*

Red Stringybark trees are a feature on the slopes of this reserve. Named for their thick rough bark, they provide nectar for insects and birds. The bark is used traditionally to make string for fishing nets and tools.



## **Threatened Plants**

Habitat assessments undertaken in 2017 indicated several threatened flora species could exist within the reserve. In particular there is potential for the Crimson Spider Orchid *Caladenia concolor* (pictured), Clover Glycine *Glycine latrobeana*, and Woolly Ragwort *Senecio littoralis* although these have not yet been observed. Please let us know if you see them!



Photo: Dr Robert Fleming Flickr

## **Reptiles**

Look out for some of the threatened and uncommon reptiles that live in this reserve. Lace Monitor (pictured), Woodland Blind Snake, Dwyer's Snake, Olive Legless Lizard, Eastern Stone Gecko and Burton's Snake-lizard have all been recorded here.

