

Restoring Koala Habitat Activity, Saturday 20th of April

You are invited to help remove tree-guards on the Yanakie Isthmus in preparation for planting more trees for koalas later in the year.

The original habitat, along with its population of koalas, was lost about 100 years ago when the early settlers cleared the area for farming. Since 2018, Friends of the Prom have been planting eucalypts in this area - so far, we have planted 690 trees around the former airbase, all protected from grazing animals (deer, kangaroos, wallabies, wombats and rabbits) by sturdy steel mesh guards.

The tree-seedlings were propagated from local seed at the Friends of the Prom Nursery in Tidal River and the tree-guards constructed by volunteers from materials paid for by Victorian government grants.

Many of the trees we planted earlier are now big enough to survive without the help of the tree-guards so that their guards can be removed and re-used for planting the next lot of trees. The tree-guards were designed to be removed easily from existing trees.

Activity details

Date: Saturday 20 April 2024

Meet: 9:30am at the wildlife viewing area (on the left-hand side of the Wilsons Promontory Road, 13 km in from the Park entrance gate). You can locate this on Google maps as the start of the *Prom Wildlife Walk*.

Duration: Expected to be finished by 3:00 pm

Bring: Your own food and drink; gloves and eye protection (sunglasses, glasses or safety glasses) but we will have some available on the day if you forget. All tools and equipment for removing the tree-guards are provided by Friends of the Prom.

Wear: Clothes suitable for changeable Prom weather including wet-weather gear and strong footwear. Wearing gaiters is advisable as protection from snakes.

Site conditions: We can drive our cars close to the site on a management track. The work will require some walking, but the distance will be no more than a few kilometres (at most) and the site is flat.

Type of work: We will form into several teams to remove the guards. The work involves selecting suitable trees, releasing the tree-guard from its steel tethering post, and bending back the guard's steel prongs to enable it to be sprung apart and removed from the tree.

Toilet facilities: None available at the worksite – be prepared to use the surrounding bush.

Free camping: Parks have offered free camping for volunteers on Friday and Saturday nights at the Stockyards campsite. No booking required for volunteers. Bring your own camping gear, food and cooking gear.

Registering: Register on ParkConnect (<https://www.parkconnect.vic.gov.au/>) – Parks Victoria's online volunteering portal.

Working with Children Check: All volunteers in Victoria's national parks must now have a valid *Working with Children Check*.

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