

Things to know BEFORE VISITING

Access for Dogs:

Please keep your dog on a leash at all times. Dogs are welcome in the garden surrounding the homestead, but are not permitted in bushland areas where signed.

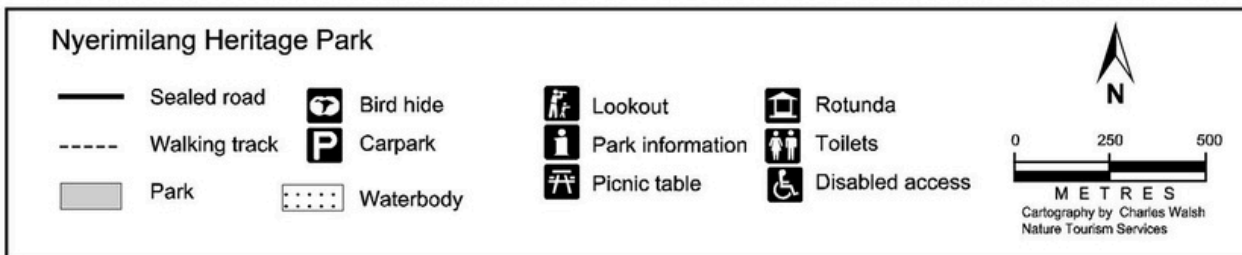
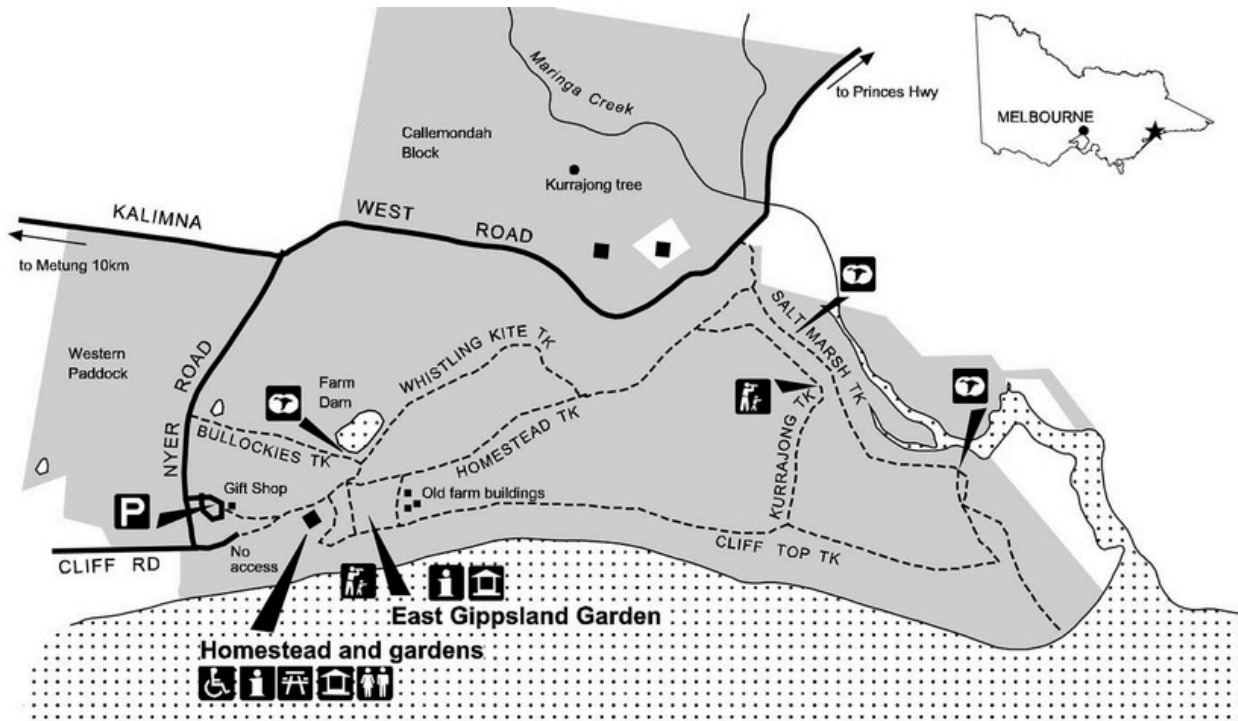
Accessible features

- Accessible toilets are available in the park grounds and homestead area.
- The gardens, picnic areas, and spaces around the homestead are generally easier to access and suitable for visitors with limited mobility.

Opening Hours:

Whilst the park itself is always open for visitors to enjoy, opening of the homestead and the Friends shop is left entirely up to volunteers. They try to be present as many days as they can but this is not always possible.

When open, the homestead can be visited between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.



Nyerimilang Heritage Park

HOMESTEAD



visiteastgippsland.com.au
#loveeastgippsland

History of NYERIMILANG HERITAGE PARK

The land that is now Nyerimilang Heritage Park has a rich history that reflects the changing use of the Gippsland Lakes region over more than a century. From a private retreat to farmland and eventually a protected public park, Nyerimilang's story mirrors the broader development of East Gippsland.

The property was first owned by Mr Murray in 1884. It was later transferred to Frank Stuart, a Melbourne businessman who built a home on the site as a base for fishing and shooting holidays at the nearby Gippsland Lakes. The scenic location overlooking the lakes made it an ideal retreat for recreation and relaxation, attracting visitors who wished to enjoy the natural beauty and abundant wildlife of the area. During the early 1920s, his son Frank Stuart Jr. expanded the homestead and further developed the surrounding gardens. With its landscaped grounds, sweeping views, and elegant homestead, the property became a comfortable country estate where he lived in style. The household included housemaids and a gardener who maintained the gardens, lawns, and grounds that visitors can still enjoy today.

When Frank Stuart Jr. died in 1936, his widow generously donated the property to the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland. The estate was then used as a Boys Training Farm, where young men could gain practical experience in farming and rural work while receiving guidance and education in a supportive environment. This period reflects the property's transition from a private holiday residence to a place with a broader community purpose.

In the 1940s, the property was purchased by William Buckland, often referred to as "the quiet millionaire." Buckland occasionally used Nyerimilang as a holiday retreat, enjoying its peaceful setting and impressive views across the lakes and surrounding countryside. After his death in 1964, the property was bought by Jack Ramsdell, who operated it as a cattle stud for several years, continuing the area's long agricultural tradition.

Recognising the cultural, historical, and environmental significance of the property, the Government of Victoria purchased Nyerimilang in 1976 to preserve it for the public. Today the park is managed by Parks Victoria and remains an important heritage and recreation site where visitors can explore historic buildings, gardens, and natural landscapes.

Inside the historic homestead, visitors can explore a display highlighting the history of Nyerimilang as well as the natural resources and heritage of the Gippsland Lakes region. A collection of reference materials for further study is available in the homestead library, which is usually open to visitors every Wednesday. It is recommended that visitors phone the Nyerimilang Homestead prior to their visit to confirm that the library is open.

FAUNA & FLORA

The natural landscapes of Nyerimilang Heritage Park support a rich diversity of native plants and wildlife. The park features a mix of open grasslands, native bushland, wetlands, and landscaped gardens that create important habitats for many species.

The semi-formal gardens and lawns surrounding the homestead contain an interesting collection of both exotic and native plant species. Majestic Gippsland Blue Gums and Coast Grey Box trees dominate the cliff tops, providing shade and dramatic views across the landscape. These towering trees contrast with the marshland vegetation found in the valley of Maringa Creek, where wetland plants thrive in the moist environment.

Nyerimilang is also well known for its birdlife and attracts many different species throughout the year. Visitors may see honeyeaters moving through the woodland canopy, while the nearby waters of the Gippsland Lakes provide habitat for black swans and pelicans. Birds of prey are also commonly seen soaring above the park's open areas.

For birdwatching enthusiasts, the park features three dedicated bird hides, offering excellent opportunities to quietly observe wildlife in their natural environment. With its varied habitats and peaceful surroundings, Nyerimilang Heritage Park provides a wonderful place to experience the unique flora and fauna of East Gippsland

WALKING TRAILS

Whistling Kite Track (0.75 km - 10 mins one way)
After a grassland walk, the track passes through various forest types. The Whistling Kite, a large brown hawk, nests in the tall Blue Gums that surround this short walk.

Homestead Track (1.1 km - 25 mins one way)
The original entrance to Nyerimilang Homestead was via this track from Maringa Creek crossing. Leaving the homestead, the track gently descends through moist gully vegetation to swamp, then salt marsh.

Cliff Top Walk (1.7 km - 30 mins one way)
The meandering, mostly level track affords the visitor panoramic views of the nearby lake system and Bass Strait beyond.

Kurrajong Track (0.75 km - 10 mins one way)
This track is a link between Cliff Top and Homestead tracks. The Kurrajong, an evergreen native tree, is most obvious on the northern end of this track.

Salt Marsh Track (1.2 km - 25 mins one way)
The track is from the Kalimna West road to Reeve Channel. The salt marsh environment surrounding the tidal Maringa Creek gives way to the sandy shoreline of the lake system.