

William Ricketts Sanctuary

William Ricketts Sanctuary is the perfect setting for the blending of the natural and spiritual realms. It is a place of beauty and tranquillity displaying sculptures of Aboriginal figures set in the natural environment of the Dandenong Ranges.

This Sanctuary is a testament to one man's philosophy, William Ricketts, who believed that the natural environment is entrusted to us all and by nurturing the earth, we nurture life.

A brief history of William Ricketts

Born in Richmond, Victoria in 1898, William Ricketts settled permanently in Mt Dandenong in 1934.

From 1912 to 1920 William had developed artistic skills in playing the violin, crafting jewellery and clay modelling.

From 1949 - 1960 he made frequent trips to Central Australia to live with the Pitjantjatjara & Arrernte Aboriginal people whose tradition & culture inspired his sculptures.

In 1970 he took his largest works to India where he stayed for two years. During his trip, William discovered a spiritual empathy with the people of India, spending some time at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry (a world renowned spiritual centre).

All the sculptures in the Sanctuary are made of kiln fired clay, which has been fired to 1200 degrees centigrade, then placed in the forest scene. The flowing water represents the flowing essence of life.

William died in 1993 at the age of ninety-four.

William's Philosophy

William was a naturalist who was concerned at the mass destruction of the environment and its habitats over many years.

Rather than living cells creating individual life forms, William's philosophy was that everything that exists on earth is the making of one life, which everything fits into.

Life is love

William wrote passionately about his life philosophy:

"Life is Love. All you to all me, for being part of nature we are all brothers to the birds and trees.

Will you then join with us in the sacredness of beauty, because at our highest we are part of the beauty of the world, we know we are part of its Creator and Designer and so in this expression of our minds and hearts and hands we give back to God what emanates from God.

Each one of us is a transformer of Divine Power and when love finds form in sculpture and music we are richly blessed because through such we can reach God. The only way to retain love for oneself is to give it abundantly to others, so your brother William Ricketts hopes you will share and enjoy all these things with me. Let this be our prayer.

May we consecrate the Australian bush and speak both for and of it as poems of God. May the power of abundant living be so great in us, and our God-given imagination so quickened, that, having read this message we become crusaders in the supreme quest of true beauty.

Man is nature's masterpiece, therefore claim your inheritance by giving her the co-operation you owe."

William Ricketts

How to get there

William Ricketts Sanctuary is located on Mt Dandenong Tourist Road Mt. Dandenong. Melways Ref: 66 G1

The Sanctuary can also be reached by taking the Mt Dandenong bus (No. 688) from the Croydon Station to the William Ricketts Sanctuary bus stop.

Sanctuary hours

Open Daily 10am to 4.30pm (except Christmas Day, days of Total Fire Ban or for major works).

If your window of opportunity to visit the Sanctuary is limited, please call 13 1963 on the day of your planned visit to confirm it is open.

Entry fees apply. Children under 10 years old are free of charge.













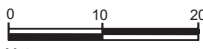
Photography


Visitors are able to take photos for personal use only. Commercial photography is highly restricted in respect of William Ricketts' wishes which reflect the philosophy of the Sanctuary.

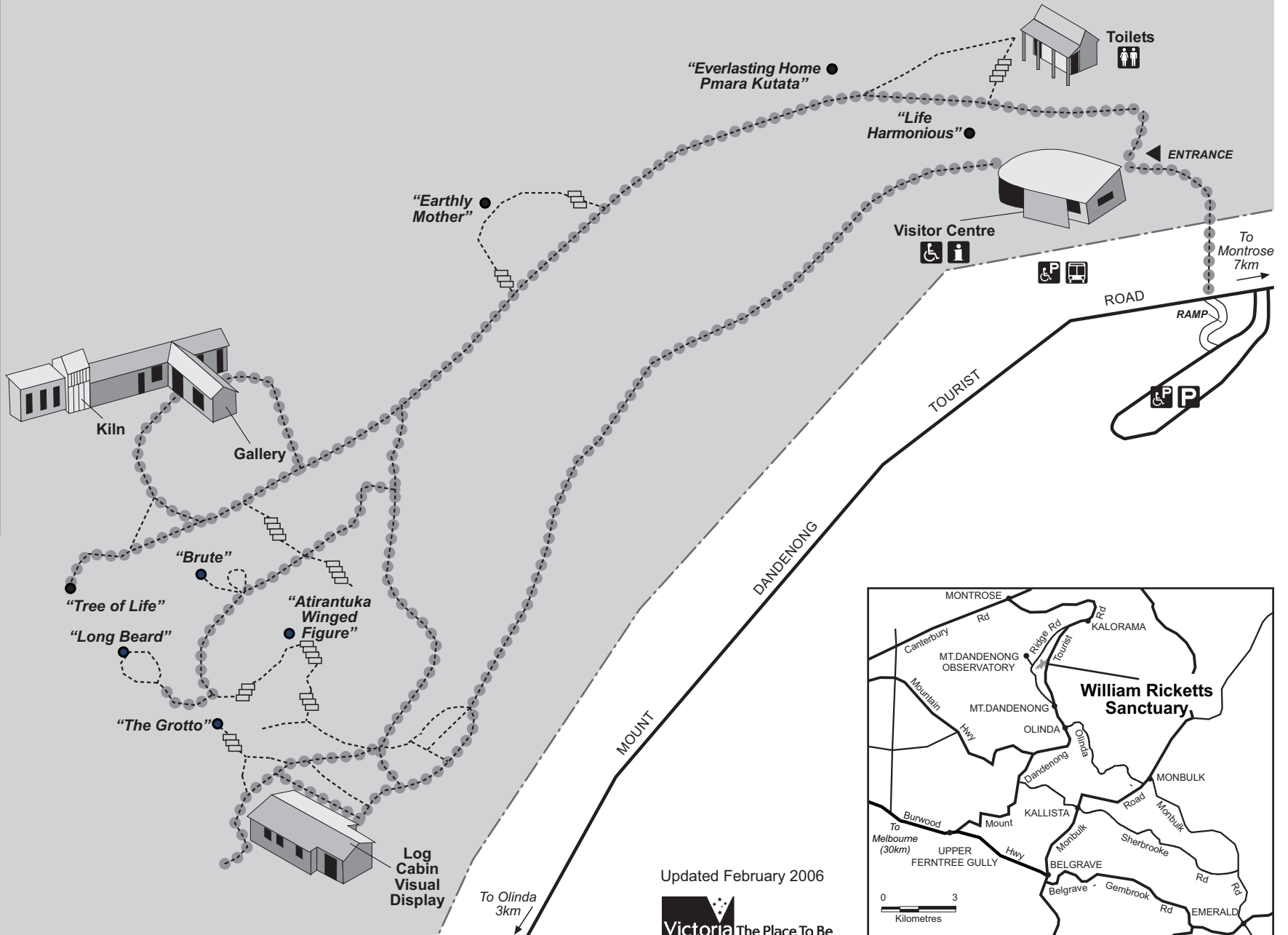
Photographic mementos, books and souvenirs are available for purchase at the Sanctuary.



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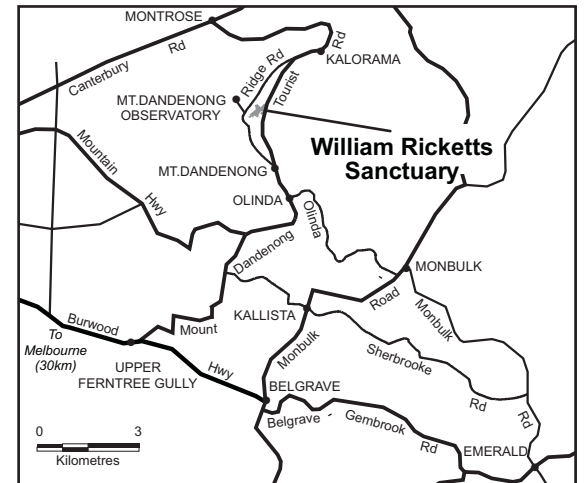
-  Sealed road
 -  Walking path
 -  Access suitable for visitors with limited mobility
 -  Sanctuary
 -  Sculpture Location
 -  Stairs
 - Recreational Facilities**
 -  Bus Parking / Bus stop
 -  Information
 -  Parking for people with disabilities
 -  Toilets
 -  Toilets for people with disabilities
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 Map updated February 2006



Caring for the environment

- Please respect the Sanctuary by remembering these guidelines:
- Dogs are not permitted in the Sanctuary
 - Eating, drinking or smoking are not permitted
 - Please take all rubbish home with you
 - All native plants and animals are protected



Updated February 2006

