



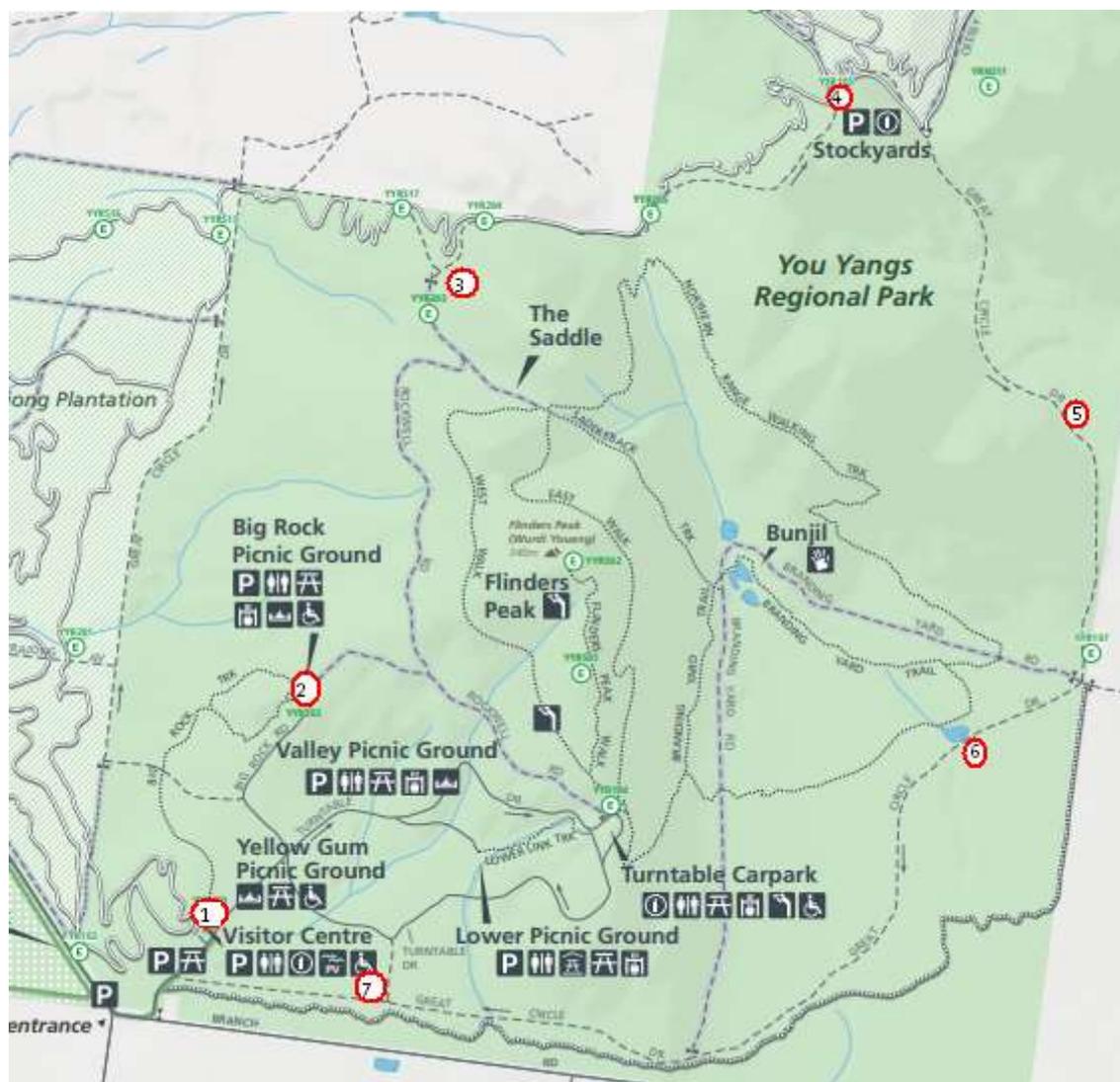
Great Southern BioBlitz

Trip Planner No 6

The You Yangs

This plan outlines a suggested site visits covering a day's surveying activities around The You Yangs. The sites selected include known areas of natural history interest and habitat or species biodiversity. The eight locations can be covered in a day, however GSB participants may wish to spend more time at specific sites while omitting others listed. Along the journey, additional roadside stops can be made for quick exploratory walks into surrounding national park bushland.

Note that many roads are gravel and may be rough or corrugated. Beware of cyclists in all areas of the park. Please park safely off-road at all stops. Great Circle Drive is a one-way road.





Stop	Site	Directions and highlights
1 30 min	You Yangs Visitor Centre	From the carpark, walk along Big Rock Walking Track to the intersection with Great Circle Drive, then return. Several species of eucalypt grow here. Look for bush birds, possible Swift Parrots and Tawny Frogmouths. Flowering understory plants are good for invertebrates. Koalas, echidnas, kangaroos are also possible.
2 60 min	Big Rock carpark	Walk to the top of Big Rock to see flying raptors. Rock pools host invertebrates and some ferns. Return to carpark and follow the Big Rock circuit track around the base of the rock. Thornbills, robins, honeyeaters, cuckoos, parrots, pardalotes, finches. Check crevices for lizard species. Butterflies, moths, other insects.
3 60 min	Rockwell Rd/Great Circle Drive	Return to Great Circle Drive. Travel 3.5 km, following the gravel road north then east. The road does a hairpin bend at the intersection with Rockwell Rd (closed to traffic). Park safely off the road before the intersection. Walk past the gate and follow Rockwell Rd to the intersection with Saddleback Track (the spot where the GFNC meet to pull boneseed). The hill to the south is mostly free of boneseed due to the GFNC. Explore nearby and return to the car. Bush birds, flowering plants, butterflies, reptiles can be seen, as well as Red Box, Box Mistletoe and fern species.
4 45 min	Stockyards Carpark	This carpark is the trailhead for many cycle paths. Walk northwest through fairly open woodland for about 750 m, then circle back to the south and return to the car. Slim chance of seeing Red-capped Robins, Southern Whiteface, and Speckled Warblers if lucky.
5 45 min	Eastern Boundary	Continue along Great Circle Drive and descend towards the eastern boundary. Look for a closed road intersecting from the left just before you reach the boundary, and park safely. Walk north along the closed road, exploring this dry forest area until the track peters out in an area that was mined for gravel in the past. If you are adventurous, walk west through the bush to meet up with the Great Circle Drive and return to your car. Alternatively, retrace your path back along the closed road. Look for orchids, other flowering plants, snakes, skinks, and bush birds.
6 45 min	East Flat	Continue along Great Circle Drive, past the Branding Yard Track, and stop after 300 m where there is a depression on your right that fills with water in wet years. Park and explore the wetland area, return and cross the road moving east into a more open area (East Flat) that has become choked with Cassinia plants lately. Explore, looking at various tree species, mistletoe, invertebrates, wallabies, and kangaroos. Diamond Firetail, Speckled Warbler, cuckoos, plus many other bird species.
7 30 min	Southern zone	Continue along the Great Circle Drive to where the road turns north at a right-angle bend. Pull off the road, then walk along unmade paths west towards the Visitor Centre. The large dam may host waterfowl and the nearby Sugar Gums have many honeyeaters and lorikeets. Yellow Gums may have koalas. Plants include several chenopod species.

Bring: Take along refreshment for the day's surveying, camera with spare battery, hat, binoculars, strong footwear, and sunscreen.

Recommendation: This is a sunny day trip to maximize picking up many invertebrates particularly look out for native bees, flies, and wasp when at the wildflower locations.

Supporting Information:

- [You Yangs indigenous plants](#) list by the City of Greater Geelong