

# Dandenong Ranges National Park



## Visitor Guide

The Dandenong Ranges National Park is conveniently located on the doorstep of Melbourne and covers an area of approximately 3500 hectares. Over one million visitors are attracted to the park each year, enjoying a variety of recreational opportunities, flora and fauna. Bushwalk through a forest that contains the tallest flowering plants in the world, the Mountain Ash. Picnic with the melodious songs of the Superb Lyrebird in the background, discover rare orchids and marvel at the tree ferns with their link to ancient Gondwanaland.

### Location & access

The National Park is located about 35km east of Melbourne and there is easy access to the southern areas via Belgrave and Upper Ferntree Gully Railway stations. Bus services stop at both railway stations.

US Bus lines operate services from Belgrave to Emerald and Olinda on Monday to Saturday. Mount Dandenong Passenger Services buses leave from Croydon and meet the US Bus Lines services at Mount Dandenong and provide a connection to Belgrave and Upper Ferntree Gully Monday to Saturday. Phone 13 1638 for a timetable.

### Things to see & do

The national park is a great place for a variety of outdoor activities including bushwalking, picnicking, photography, nature study and car touring. Certain tracks are approved for cycling and horse riding – separate information is available on these activities.

### Picnics

See the inside map for the locations of numerous picnic areas within the park. All are accessible by car. All contain free electric or gas barbecues except Valley and Eagles Nest Picnic Ground at Olinda and the Stables and Homestead Picnic Grounds at Doongalla.

Picnic tables are included at all sites except Eagles Nest Picnic Ground, with shelters situated at Ferntree Gully, One Tree Hill and Grants Picnic Grounds.

Toilets are located at all sites with disabled access available, except at Eagles Nest Picnic Ground.

### Interpretive walks

These walks lead from Grants Picnic Ground (Melway 75 K4) and contain interpretive signs to introduce you to the surrounding forest:

- **Hardy Gully Nature Walk (700m, easy)**

This walk takes you back in time to ancient origins; remnant Cool Temperate rainforest which is threatened throughout the world.

- **Margaret Lester Forest Walk (300m, easy)**

The Margaret Lester Forest Walk has been especially designed to offer those with limited mobility the opportunity to experience the beautiful forest.



Adults and child walking 6/10

### Self guided walks

These walks have numbered posts providing details on the surrounding forest (separate park notes are available on [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)):

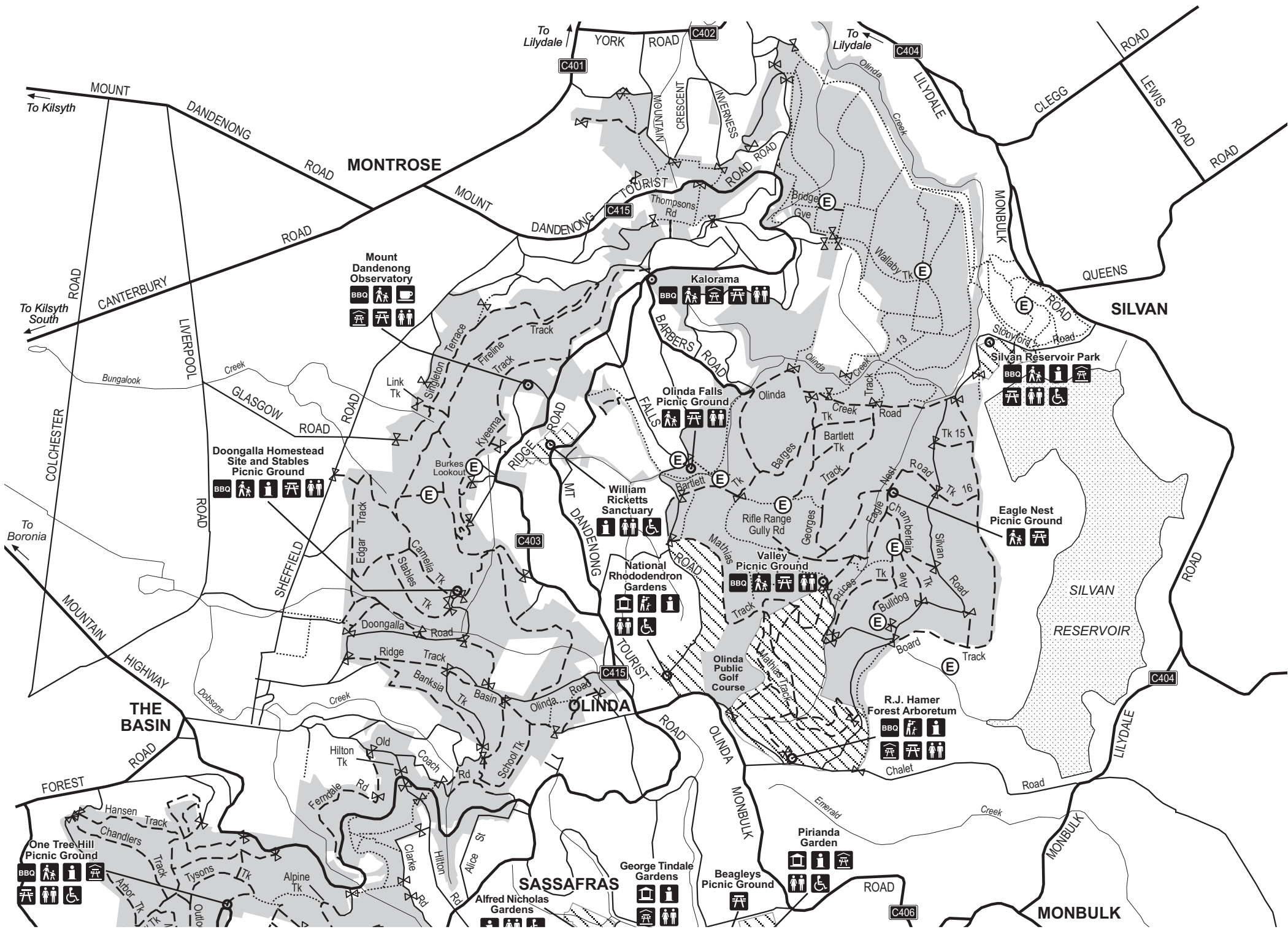
- **Stonyford Creek Nature Trail (800m, easy)**

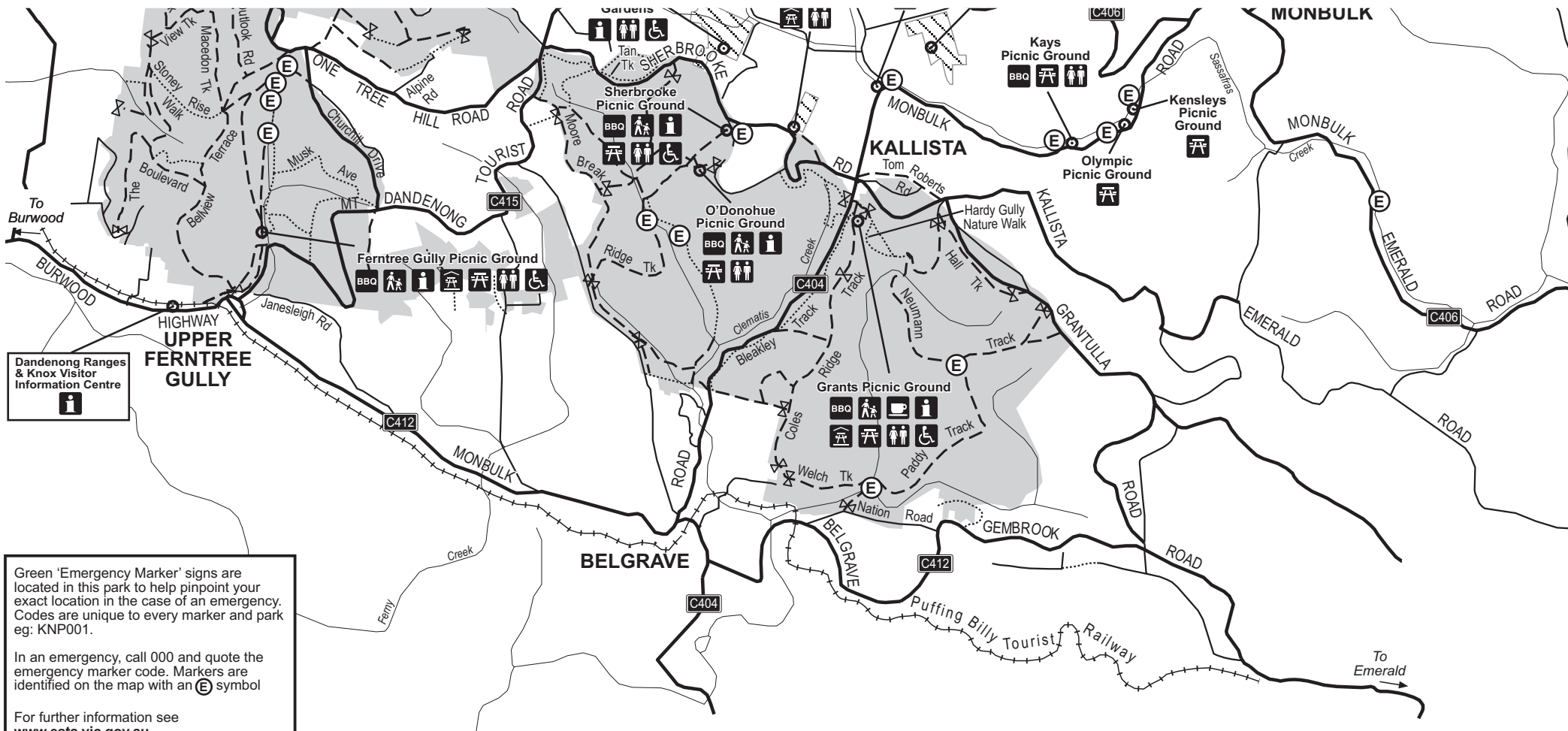
This lovely loop walk is in Silvan Reservoir Park (Melway 120 H11).

- **Living Bush Nature Walk (3km, moderate to steep)**

This challenging loop walk leads from the Ferntree Gully Picnic Ground (Melway 74 H5).







Dandenong Ranges & Knox Visitor Information Centre

Green 'Emergency Marker' signs are located in this park to help pinpoint your exact location in the case of an emergency. Codes are unique to every marker and park eg: KNP001.

In an emergency, call 000 and quote the emergency marker code. Markers are identified on the map with an **E** symbol

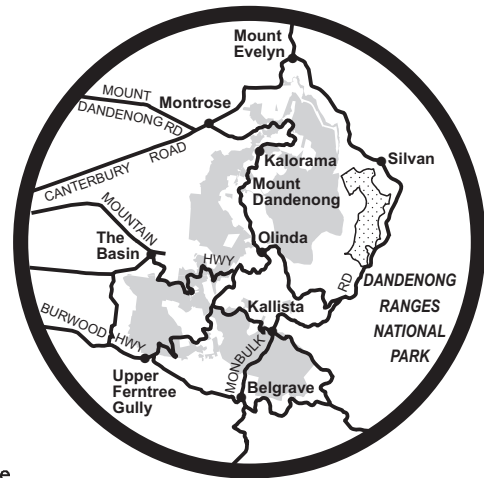
For further information see [www.esta.vic.gov.au](http://www.esta.vic.gov.au)

**Emergency Marker**  
Call 000 and quote  
**ABC 123**

### DANDENONG RANGES NATIONAL PARK

	Main Road		National Park		Barbecue		Park information
	Minor Road		Other parks and reserves		Family walk		Picnic shelter
	Park Vehicle Track		Water body		Gazebo		Picnic table
	Walking Track		ESTA Emergency marker		Kiosk		Toilets
	Railway line				Lookout		Toilet for disabled
	Gate						

Cartography by Spatial Vision 2010 M/6431  
  
**Parks**  
VICTORIA



Updated May 2010

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## For further information Short walks

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre  
Call 13 1963

or visit the

Parks Victoria website  
[www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

### Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away with you for recycling & disposal

All native plants & animals are protected by law.

Please do not disturb them in any way

Light fires only in fireplaces provided. Firewood is not supplied – please bring your own

Portable solid fuel barbecues and the use of heat beads are not permitted

No fires may be lit on days of Total Fire Bans and no barbecues are permitted on days of Total Fire Bans

Firearms are prohibited

Wildlife feeding and handling is not permitted

Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park

Observe parking signs and park gate closing times

Walks that start and finish from the Sherbrooke Picnic Ground (Melway 75 G2):

- **Sherbrooke Falls (2.4km, easy to moderate)**
- **Sherbrooke Loop (4.8km, easy to moderate)**

Walks that start and finish from the Doongalla Homestead and Stables Picnic Grounds (Melway 66 D5):

- **Stables Track Loop (1.9km, moderate)**
- **Channel 10 Track/Camellia Loop (3.6km, moderate to steep)**

Walk that starts and finishes at the Ferntree Gully Picnic Ground (Melway 74 H5):

- **1000 steps/Kokoda Track Memorial Walk (3km loop, moderate to steep)**

Walk that starts and finishes from Olinda Falls Picnic Ground (Melway 66 K2):

- **Olinda Falls (300 metres, steep)**

To vary the route you can return via Mechanics Track to make a loop walk.



## Long walks

Walk that starts and finishes at Grants Picnic Ground (Melway 75 J4):

- **Eastern Sherbrooke Forest Walk (7.1km loop, moderate to difficult)**

Walk that can be undertaken from the Ferntree Gully Picnic Ground (Melway 74 H5) or the Mt. Dandenong Observatory (Melway 52 E12):

- **Western Trail (13.2km, moderate to steep)**

Walks that start and finish at Valley Picnic Ground Olinda (Melway 122 C5):

- **Valley to Eagle Nest Loop (3km, moderate)**
- **Valley Walk (6.5km, steep)**

## History

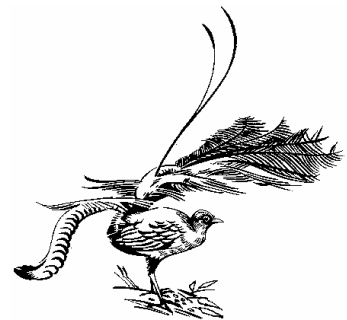
The Dandenong Ranges were created around 300 million years ago from volcanic eruption. The Wurundjeri Aboriginal people lived in the area and had an intimate knowledge of the native plants and animals, enabling them to obtain vegetable products, including roots, leaves, stalks, fruits, gums and resins.

Settlers moved into the foothills in the early 1850s, clearing the forests. In the 1860s the area became the retreat of the wealthy, and then the general population with the introduction of the motor car. In 1882 land was reserved as a site for public recreation and in 1927 the area was declared the Ferntree Gully National Park.

On 13 December 1987 the Dandenong Ranges National Park was proclaimed, amalgamating Ferntree Gully National Park, Sherbrooke Forest and Doongalla Estate. Then in 1997 Olinda State Forest, Mt. Evelyn and Montrose Reserve were formally added to the national park.

## Flora & fauna

A resilient eucalypt species and a major feature of the Dandenong Ranges are the majestic Mountain Ash trees (*Eucalyptus regnans*). These are the tallest flowering plants in the world! They can be found growing throughout the Sherbrooke Forest. Some of the trees, situated in major creek gullies, are up to 250 years old.



More than 350 species of native plants have been recorded in the park. There are also over 130 native bird species, 31 species of native mammals, 21 reptiles and 9 amphibians that inhabit the park. Most of the mammals are nocturnal (active at night).

## Being a volunteer

There are plenty of opportunities to help 'Care for the Environment' within Parks Victoria. If you are interested and can offer a few hours please contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 and they will assist you in locating your nearest Friends Group.

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