Kallista & Sherbrooke

Locality Overview

Kallista and Sherbrooke are low density residential areas in the Dandenong Ranges. They are located within the heavily forested areas of the Ranges, approximately 35km south-east of Melbourne.

Both Kallista and Sherbrooke are attractive townships, nestled within the Sherbrooke Forest, which is part of the Dandenong Ranges.

There are 1,843 residents in the communities of Sherbrooke and Kallista, at the time of writing. Detailed demographic profiles of Sherbrooke and Kallista are available from the Yarra Ranges Council website at http://yarraranges.vic.gov.au

The Crimson Rosella
**Historical Context**

Kallista was originally known as South Sassafras until 1925 when it was renamed. The Post Office opened in Kallista around 1902 and a telephone exchange was installed in 1923.

The townships of Kallista and Sherbrooke emerged with the growth of the timber industry in the Dandenongs. Several large homes were built in the 1920s and the 1930s following the establishment of Burnham Beeches and the Alfred Nicholas Memorial Garden.

Weekenders and holiday homes started to move in, in the 1920s as the early settlers started to subdivide their farm blocks. The Great Depression of the 1930s saw an influx of people buying up the weekend cottages from Melbournians who could no longer afford to keep them.

Retired sea-captain, Robert W Graham is thought to be one of the early settlers of Sherbrooke in the late 1800s. He named the area after his Canadian birthplace. He constructed a log hut from hand-cut wood using horizontal slab wall construction, an adobe floor, weatherboards and a sapling/shingle roof. The log hut, Merrimu, is still standing today.

**Transport Options**

Kallista is connected to both Belgrave and Lilydale by a bus service (663) that stops at townships along the way including The Patch, Monbulk and Silvan. The service runs at least hourly during peak times with a more limited service on Saturdays.

Sherbrooke is serviced by a different bus service that connects it to both Belgrave and Upper Fentree Gully train station and surrounding townships. The service from Belgrave train station (694) stops at Sherbrooke on route to Mt Dandenong between 6-7 times daily.

Victorian taxis operate within prescribed taxi zones. The urban area of Yarra Ranges sits within the Metropolitan Taxi Boundary. Both Kallista and Sherbrooke sit within the Metropolitan Taxi Boundary. There are several taxis in operation in the area outside the Metropolitan Taxi Boundary these generally cover the Yarra Valley, Upper Yarra and Hills districts.

**Retail and Tourist Overview**

Kallista is a small, quaint village offering a limited range of shops and businesses to local residents and tourists. It services the daily needs of residents and provides a number of interesting shops and dining options for tourists and visitors.

Both Sherbrooke and Kallista have a strong tourist economy with large numbers of people visiting the numerous retreats, restaurants and reception centres.

Grants Picnic Ground is a popular tourist spot to view Sulphur-Crested Cockatoos, Crimson Rosellas, Galahs and the Australian King Parrot.
Community Facilities & Services

There are a small number of community services and facilities in Kallista and Sherbrooke. Kallista Primary School services the surrounding areas and Kallista Community House provides a range of programs. The Community House also provides childcare for the local area.

Kallista and surrounding areas are also serviced by a General Practitioner, Kallista Kindergarten and a Post Office.

Residents wanting to access a greater range of services and facilities need to travel to Belgrave or Monbulk.

Environmental Characteristics

Kallista and Sherbrooke are largely surrounded by the Dandenong Ranges National Park. In 1987 Sherbrooke Forest, Doongalla Reserve and Ferny Gully National Park were combined to form Dandenong Ranges National Park. Covering 3215 hectares, the park plays an important role in protecting a population of famous lyrebirds and other fauna, as well as protecting the forests and fern gullies of the Ranges. The Dandenong Ranges reaches a height of 633 meters above sea-level and the area experiences high rainfall. The combination of high rainfall and rich volcanic soils renders the soil fertile and the ranges covered in vast tracts of forests, fern gullies and swamp lands.

The ranges around Kallista and Sherbrooke comprises of remnant tall mountain forests. The Dandenong Ranges National Park is noted for its Mountain Ash forest and the occurrence of cool, temperate rainforest. This rainforest is listed as endangered and is protected by the State’s Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

The age of the existing forest varies, with some areas estimated to be about 250 years old, with younger stands dating from the time when various sections have been burnt in the past. The ‘old growth’ forests provide a very important habitat for wildlife. The Ranges also supports a range of significant plants such as the Slender Tree-fern and the Summer Spider Orchid. There are also inaccessible and undisturbed fern gullies which make this area of high botanical significance, whilst also providing an important wildlife habitat.

The Ranges has a rich wildlife with 130 native bird species, 31 native mammals, 21 reptiles and nine amphibian species recorded in the area. The Yellow-bellied Gliders and tiny Feather-tail Gliders live in and around Kallista and Sherbrooke. There is also the Superb Lyrebird, the Swamp Wallaby, the Powerful Owl and Sooty Owl found in the area, which highlights the important conservation value of the Ranges.
References and Further Reading

- Invicta Bus Services http://www.invictabus.com.au
- Menzies Creek Primary School (1982). Menzies Creek, A History
- U.S Bus Lines Timetable