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المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية



Joseph Harris Park
Bay-Park Scout Camp

INTRODUCTION TO BAY-PARK (Joseph Harris Park)

The Bay-Park Scout Park, also known as Joseph Harris Scout Park (J.H.P.), is located in Australia, in the State of Victoria. It consists of an area of 35 hectares of bushland on Mount Martha which is 80km, or 1 hour's drive, south of the CBD of Melbourne (capital of Victoria). It is on the Mornington Peninsula and approximately 1.5km from the eastern shoreline of Port Phillip Bay. The site was bequeathed as to be used for Scouting purposes on 6th January 1932, to the Scouting Movement by a local landholder named Joseph Harris. He was one of the first members of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens and used the site for experimental planting of trees prior to them being planted in the Melbourne Botanic Gardens. No public transport is available in the immediate vicinity, but Bay-Park (J.H.P.) is served by good quality public roads.

Since that initial bequest, Bay-Park (J.H.P.), which officially bears the name of our benefactor, has been progressively developed with accommodation, conference and training facilities, camping sites, numerous features such as a lake, bush chapel, environment area, Memorial Gates, a cottage for live-on-site Rangers, activity shelters, a range of fixed and temporary activities for young people – especially for, but not limited to, Scouts of all ages. The facilities are also made available for use by approved organisations from outside Scouting by prior arrangement with the Rangers on behalf of the Bay-Park (J.H.P.) Management Committee.

The Park is well timbered with native trees and a variety of indigenous and introduced vegetation. There is a significant stand of pine trees on the North Western side which is a remnant of earlier settlement and farming days, but the majority of other trees is indigenous to the area.

The accommodation, camping and activity sites are scattered throughout the site among the trees so that there is visual separation between them. All the facilities are interconnected by a 3.5km long network of single lane gravel tracks and are secured with a 1.8m high perimeter chain wire fence incorporating vehicle access gates spaced at intervals. 240V mains power is connected to all accommodation, major activity locations and shelters.

Town water (potable) is reticulated by gravity from a buffer storage head tank at the elevated eastern end of the site, which in turn is fed from the external street mains via a break tank and pump, with water level control. Most toilets are flushed using rainwater harvested from on-site roofs.



Figure 2. Jamboree Shelter

1. A natural area.

- Several significant undeveloped areas of Bay-Park (J.H.P.) form natural habitat for native flora and fauna.
- These areas, together with the Environmental Area, combine to provide Scouts with an interface to the natural world.
- Several areas within the Park encourage unstructured play and exploration – particularly towards the north western end between the Storm and South huts.

2. Environment education.

- The Environment Area provides botanical knowledge and experience which can be guided or self-guided. This, coupled with other elements to be developed in future youth/volunteer projects, support elements of the World Scout Environment Programme.
- An information shelter adjacent to the entrance to the Environment Area is planned to display not only a description of its content and purpose but also a brief insight into, and comparison with, the nature of other S.C.E.N.E. Centres around the world. Demonstrating that this S.C.E.N.E. is not an isolated facility.

3. Environmental Management.

- From time to time, arborists are called in to the site to remove tree branches which could pose a hazard to Scouts and other visitors to Bay-Park (J.H.P.). These branches are normally put through a chipper and the resulting material is used to enrich planting areas.
- Care for the standing vegetation is emphasised by the selection of campsite locations and only brought timber (or selected fallen timber collected for fire management) being permitted for use in campfires.

- Removal of invasive weed material which encroaches on indigenous plants is carried out on an as required basis – an activity which Scouts participate in as part of service and environmental activities.
- Responsible disposal of classified rubbish off-site to approved Government or Local Council facilities is an on-going operation. Campers are encouraged to take their rubbish away with them. This is rarely successful hence the use of specialist contractors after the material has been sorted.
- Being aware and prepared for the hot summer bushfire season and taking precautions with firebreaks and preventing accumulation of fuel.
- Nesting boxes for birds and possums are attached to trees where they are of use to the local fauna.

Location (Macro location)

Hearn Rd,

Mount Martha

VIC 3934 Australia

[https://www.google.com/maps/place/Joseph+Harris+Park+\(Bay+Park\)/@-38.2909423,145.0016829,683m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x6ad5dad562c0a563:0xf0456760531d0b0!8m2!3d-38.2909423!4d145.0038716](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Joseph+Harris+Park+(Bay+Park)/@-38.2909423,145.0016829,683m/data=!3m2!1e3!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x6ad5dad562c0a563:0xf0456760531d0b0!8m2!3d-38.2909423!4d145.0038716)