



Walks & Trails Guide



A life lived outside

BRIGHT • MYRTLEFORD • MOUNT BEAUTY • HARRIETVILLE

visitbrightandsurrounds.com.au

Emergency

Police, Ambulance, Fire	000
SES	132 500

Health Services

Medical Centres

Bright	03 5750 1000
Mount Beauty	03 5754 3400
Myrtleford	03 5751 9900

Hospitals

Bright	03 5755 0100
Mount Beauty	03 5754 3500
Myrtleford	03 5751 9300

Information

VicRoads- Road Closures	131 170
The Bushfire Enquiry Line	1800 240 667
Parks Victoria	131 963

Visitor Information Centres

Bright - Alpine Visitor Information Centre

- A** 119 Gavan Street, Bright
- T** 1800 111 885
- W** visitbrightandsurrounds.com.au

Myrtleford - Visitor Information Centre

- A** Post Office Complex, Great Alpine Road, Myrtleford
- T** 03 5755 0514
- W** visitbrightandsurrounds.com.au

Mount Beauty - Visitor Information Centre

- A** 31 Bogong High Plains Road, Mount Beauty
- T** 1800 111 885
- W** visitbrightandsurrounds.com.au

Parking is available at the start or near the start of each walk listed.

Days of Code Red Fire Danger

Please note on days of forecast Code Red Fire Danger Rating, the Department of Sustainability and Environment and Parks Victoria will close parks and forests (including state forests and National parks) in the relevant weather district for public safety. For bushfire information please call the Bushfire Enquiry Line on **1800 240 667**.



Important Information and Cautions

Weather conditions can change rapidly in alpine areas. Snowfalls and blizzards can be experienced at any time of the year.

Be prepared with:

- Wind and waterproof jackets
- Warm clothing- hat, gloves and strong footwear
- First aid kit for longer walks
- Energy food and enough water for the day
- Compass and relevant topographical map

Let someone know before you go and ensure you check road conditions before setting out. Many roads and tracks are closed seasonally during the colder, wetter months for environmental and safety reasons.

For more comprehensive information on the Mount Buffalo National Park and these walks please refer to 'Mount Buffalo National Park; Visitor Guide to the Great Granite Plateau' Parks Victoria Park Notes before visiting. These notes outline important information regarding weather conditions and general cautions specific to the Park and can be viewed at

parks.vic.gov.au

For more information on walking tracks in our area:

National Parks

Visit **parks.vic.gov.au**

Dinner Plain & Hotham

Look for the 'Mt Hotham & Dinner Plain Tracks & Trails' guide, go to **visitdinnerplain.com.au**, or pick up the 'Dinner Plain Track Notes' from the Visitor Information Centre.

Falls Creek

See the 'Falls Creek Self-Guided Walks Trail Guide' or visit **falls creek.com.au**



pg. 4

Bright | The walking tracks of Bright are picturesque and showcase the beautiful township, rivers, forests and wildlife of the area. There are many short walks which will show you the natural beauty of Bright and Surrounds.

Porepunkah | Porepunkah, a small town located 6 kilometres from Bright, hosts several small shops and a hotel, with the central feature, the magnificent Ovens River.

Wandiligong | Historic Wandiligong, located 6 kilometres south of Bright, is registered with the National Trust as a classified landscape.



pg. 17

Harrietville | This charming village is based at the bottom of Mount Feathertop and Mount Hotham. Harrietville still possesses remnants of gold mining times gone by.



pg. 24

Myrtleford | Nestled in the Ovens Valley with Mount Buffalo providing a dramatic backdrop, Myrtleford is a flourishing commercial centre and a hub for the timber, hops and grazing industries.





pg. 33

Mount Beauty | Sitting in the wide picturesque Kiewa Valley, Mount Beauty is the perfect base for your outdoor activities.

Tawonga | A peaceful community with an emphasis on nature, enjoy fishing and swimming or take a walk and enjoy all the town has to offer.

Bogong Village | Nestled in the foothills of the mountains, Bogong Village is the perfect escape.



pg. 44

Dinner Plain | When the snow melts, the warmer weather promises spectacular colours from blooming wild flowers on display, breathtaking vista views, mountain bike riding, bush walking and an adventure playground.

National Parks

pg. 53

Mount Buffalo National Park | Offering walking opportunities for almost all levels of fitness and experience on a remarkable mountain.

Alpine National Park | Offering a wide variety of walks with the walking season lasting from early November to late May.



PLEASE NOTE

The maps contained in this brochure may not be suitable for navigation purposes for all walks. It is advised that the appropriate Parks Victoria Park Notes and/or Land Victoria topographic maps be obtained prior to undertaking any of the listed walks within Mount Buffalo National Park and Alpine National Park.

Legend



Walk Information Signs



Toilet



Picnic Table and/or Shelter



BBQ



Drinking water



Cycling



Playground

Grading Information

Walks in this brochure have been graded using the Australian Walking Track Grading System. Please see each walk for specific grading details.



Grade 1



Grade 2



Grade 3



Grade 4



Grade 5

Bright

Canyon Walk

4 km / 1.5 hours return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track with some obstacles, short steep hills and occasional steps. Clearly sign posted.

Starting from Howitt Park head towards the Star Road bridge. The track on the northern bank of the Ovens River has steep steps and may be difficult for people with limited mobility. The track on the southern bank from Howitt Park to Canyon Lane is sealed and wheelchair friendly (Grade 1). For a longer loop, continue past the two suspension bridges to the railway bridge and return along the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail.

Otherwise, cross either of the suspension bridges to create a short or long loop. The short loop is easy and accessible for prams. Interpretive signs highlight the local history of this area. This walk takes you past a small canyon carved by the Ovens River and water races dug by early miners. Watch for birdlife and wildflowers especially in spring.



Bright Township

Cherry Walk

6 km / 1.5 hours return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track with gentle hills and occasional steps. Clearly sign posted.

Starting from Howitt Park this walk is named after the Cherry family of which descendants still live in the area. Head east towards the Rotary Waterslide in Centenary Park then follow the southern bank of the Ovens River to the suspension bridge at the end of Hawthorn Lane, and cross the bridge to the northern bank.

Continue to the second suspension bridge, cross and return along the southern bank. Interpretive signs have been placed along the track at regular intervals. A comprehensive Landcare brochure detailing local flora corresponds with numbers found along the track and can be picked up from the Alpine Visitor Information Centre, Bright.

Bakers Gully Reservoirs

0.5 or 1 km / 30 to 45 mins return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track with gentle hills and occasional steps. Clearly sign posted.

Park at the information shelter approximately 1.3km up Bakers Gully Road. Follow the walking track that leads from the information shelter then follow the signs to circle one or both reservoirs. The first reservoir was built in 1892 and the second in 1916 to provide a permanent supply of water to the township of Bright, the railway station and trains. The reservoirs no longer provide water to Bright but they do offer a peaceful place for walking.

Canyon Walk



Longer Loop

4.9km / 1.5 hour return

Canyon Walk



Shorter Loop

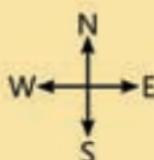
2.5km / 0.5 hour return

M-M Rail Trail



Murray to Mountains Rail Trail

83km from Bright to Wangaratta



Benne

Bright to

5.5km from

Wandi Walk

6 km / 2.5 hours return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track with some obstacles, short steep hills and no steps. Sign posted.

This track follows Morses Creek from its confluence with the Ovens River in Howitt Park, Bright through to Alpine Park in Wandiligong. With tracks on both sides of Morses Creek for much of the way and numerous crossing points over the creek, Wandi Walk provides a chance to see the evidence of goldmining activity as well as rocky gorges, rapids and quiet secluded swimming holes. The track from Howitt Park follows Morses Creek south under the Great Alpine Road and through the Bright Holiday Park to Hawthorn Lane Bridge. From here the track passes Pioneer Park Recreation Reserve to Dougherty's Bridge. After crossing Coronation Avenue the track continues on the eastern bank of Morses Creek before crossing at a swing bridge and finishing up at Alpine Park in Wandiligong.



Morses Creek, Wandiligong

Apex Lookout Walk

3 km / 2 hours return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track, some obstacles, short steep hills with occasional steps. Sign posted.

Park at Quinn's Gap 1.5km up Mt Porepunkah Road. Walk a short distance up the gravel vehicle track to the east until meeting the Apex Lookout walking track which is signposted. The steady climb rewards you with views of Mount Feathertop (1922m), Mount Fainter (1833m) and Mount Bogong (1986m), the highest peak in Victoria.

Huggins Lookout Walk

1.5 km / 1 hour return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track, some obstacles, very steep with occasional steps. Sign posted.

This walk can be accessed from either McFadyens Lane (off Bakers Gully Road) or from the corner of Deacon Avenue and Zivan Court. The track winds its way steeply up the side of the valley and rewards the walker with beautiful views over Bright and up the Ovens River towards Porepunkah. Return on the same track. Please note there is no access to McFadyens Lane via Zivan Court.

Murray to Mountains Rail Trail



No bushwalking experience required. Well-formed, flat track with no steps. Clearly sign posted.

This popular bike and walking track is ideal for all visitors. The fully sealed track spans 80 kilometres between Bright and Wangaratta with many tributaries along the way into Milawa, Beechworth, Wandiligong and surrounding townships. The Trail is perfect for all, being mainly flat and allowing visitors to choose their distance. Facilities are located at varying points along the track.



Murray to Mountains Rail Trail, Porepunkah

Bennetts Trail

10 km / 2 hours return



No bushwalking experience required. Sealed track with gentle hills and no steps. Clearly sign posted.

Start in the centre of Bright and head a short distance down Burke Street along the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. Turn east down Railway Avenue and then south onto Bakers Gully Road before turning east into Park Street, before the school.

Walk or cycle along the widened footpath and trail to Alpine Park, Wandiligong. On the way you will pass by the historic Bright Cemetery, the Mystic Flight Park (landing site for paragliders) and travel alongside picturesque Morses Creek.

Blue Plaque Walk

1 km / 40 mins

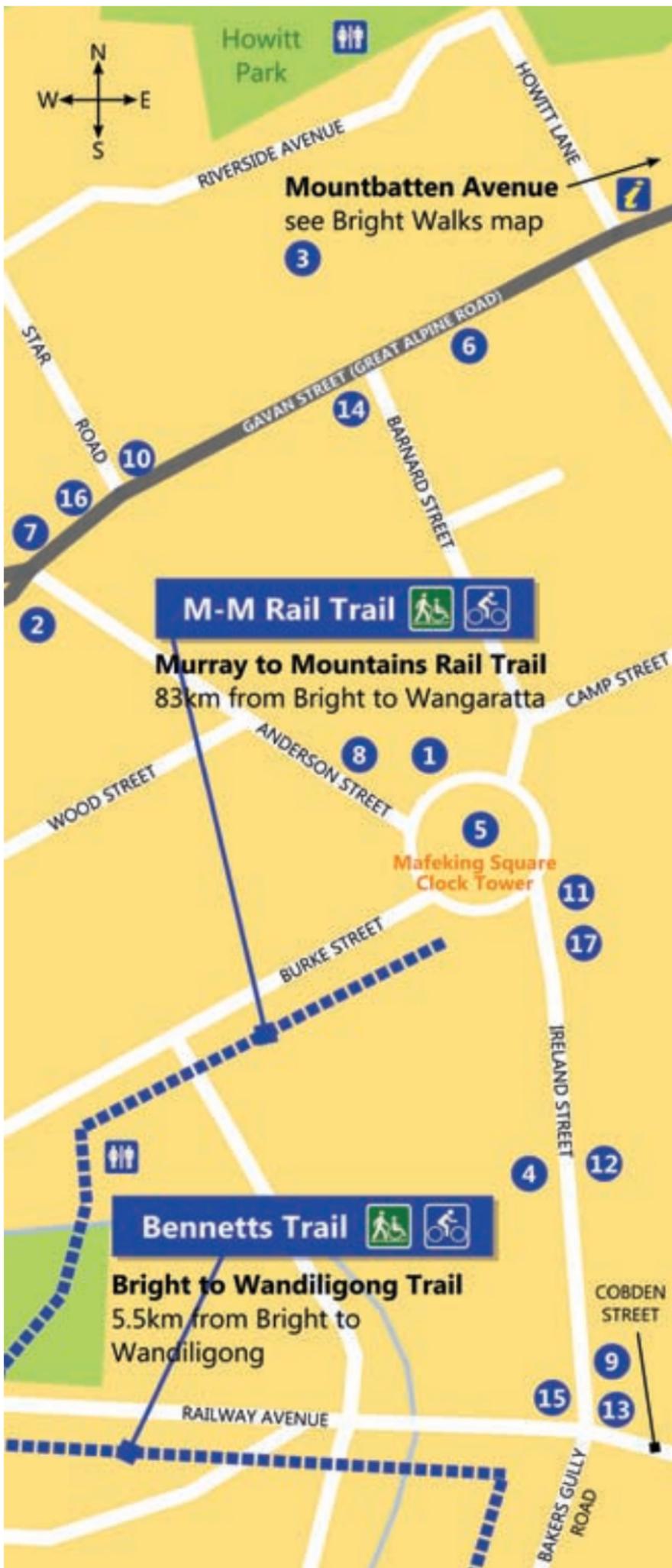


No bushwalking experience required. Township walk.

Start from your desired point in town and make your way around Bright looking out for the blue plaques providing information about the most significant historical sites in the town.

For number references please see map on page 11.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Alpine Hotel | 10 Leslie's Tourist Home |
| 2 Bank of Australasia | 11 Lewis' Store |
| 3 Bright Brewery | 12 Library |
| 4 Buckley's Store | 13 Oriental Hotel |
| 5 Clock Tower | 14 Post Office First |
| 6 Doctor's Surgery | 15 Shire Office (First) |
| 7 Grigg's Blacksmith | 16 Star Hotel |
| 8 Howell's Coachworks | 17 Victoria Hall |
| 9 Kiewa House | |



Porepunkah

Porepunkah River Walk

2.5 km / 45 mins return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track with some obstacles and occasional steps. Sign posted.

Start at Riverside Park and head east along the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. Cross at the old Porepunkah Bridge and continue along the track to the suspension bridge crossing the Ovens River.

Cross the bridge and return via the track on the north side of the Ovens River before reaching the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. Along the way enjoy the views of the Ovens River while looking out for evidence left behind from the gold mining era. You can return to Riverside Park via the Rail Trail.



Riverside Park, Porepunkah



Rail Trail, Porepunkah



Picnic at Porepunkah

Wandiligong

The Diggings Walk

2 km / 1 hour return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed, flat track with occasional steps. Clearly sign posted.

There are many starting points for walks in the Diggings area. The main starting points are the Chinese Bridge car park off Centenary Avenue and at the Royal Bridge on the Royal Bridge Track. The Diggings loops take you through some of the former goldfields of Wandiligong.

This area has been subjected to almost every type of mining. The first diggers in the 1860s sluiced for alluvial gold with gold pan, sluice box and cradle. Deep mine shafts were then sunk to locate deep leads of gold bearing rock. Dredging was undertaken in the area between 1905 to 1914.

For letter references please see map on page 15.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| A Chinese Bridge | E Junction Mine |
| B Swingbridge Picnic Area | F The Adit |
| C Lardis Picnic Area | G The Diggings Picnic Area |
| D Bird Hide | H Chinese Pavilion |



Bennett's Trail, Wandiligong

Morses Creek Walk



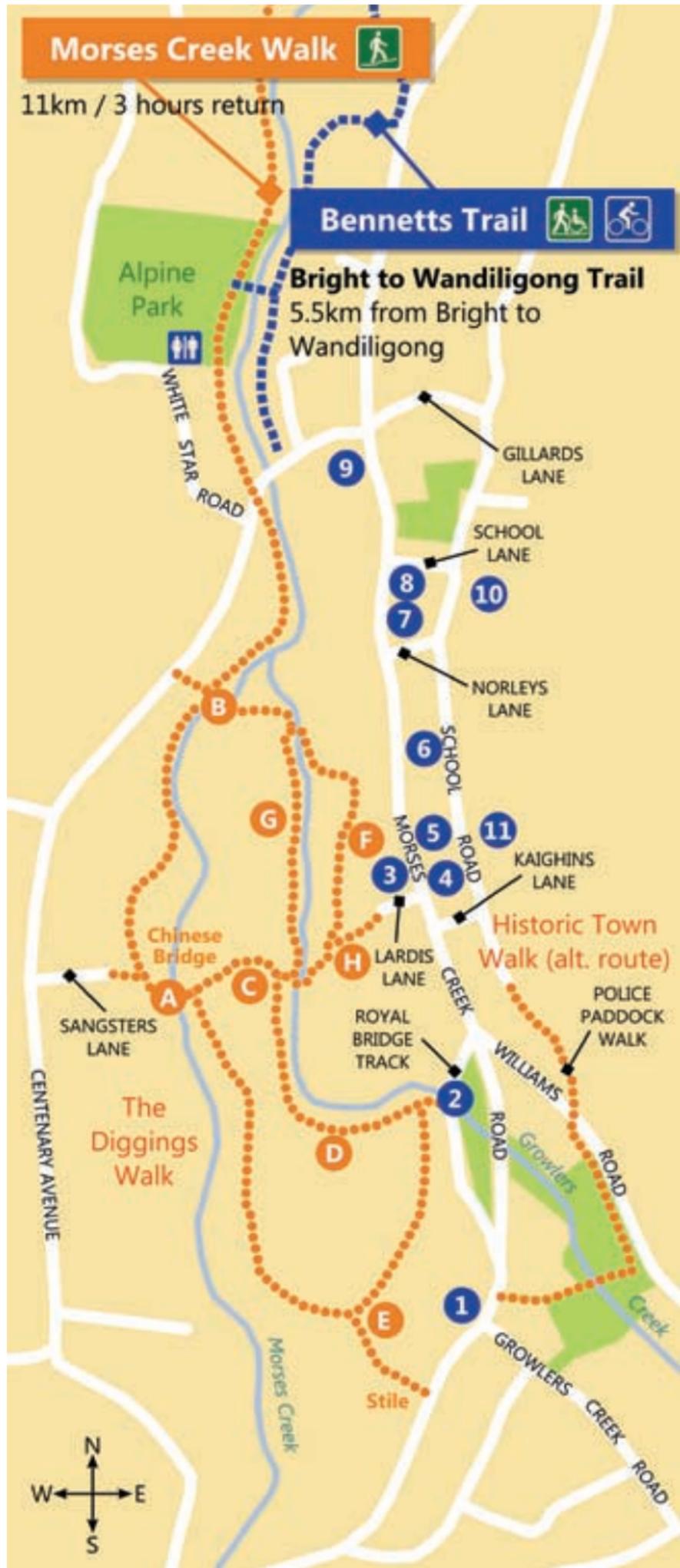
11km / 3 hours return

Bennetts Trail



Bright to Wandiligong Trail

5.5km from Bright to Wandiligong



Historic Town Walk

3 km / 1.5 hours return



No experience required. Well-formed track with some hills and no steps.

Start at the Wandi Pub (Mountain View Hotel) on Morses Creek Road, opposite Growlers Creek Road. Walk north on Morses Creek Road and turn left onto Royal Bridge Track. Cross the bridge and continue back onto Morses Creek Road as far as the Manchester Unity Public Hall, passing the original Post Office, General Store, the former Public Library and a number of historic churches.

Return to the start of the walk the same way or extend your walk by taking the steep (Grade 3) route up Gillards Lane to School Road. Turn right onto School Road and pass the beautiful Wandiligong Primary School and St Peters Catholic Church to Kaighins Lane where you can turn right back to Morses Creek Road.

An alternative return route is to continue past Kaighins Lane onto Police Paddock Walk and down a rough bush track to Williams Road (this track is steep and may be slippery). Turn left and walk along Williams Road looking out for a small park on the right, cross Growlers Creek via a small bridge in the park and climb up the track which brings you out opposite your starting point.

For number references please see map on page 15.

- 1 Wandi Pub (1864)
- 2 Royal Bridge
- 3 Post Office (1885)
- 4 General Store (1860s)
- 5 The Miners Find
- 6 Wesleyan Methodist (now Uniting) Church (1878)
- now a private residence
- 7 Holy Trinity Anglican Church (1865)
- now a private residence
- 8 Public Library (1878)
- 9 Manchester Unity Hall (1874)
- 10 State School No. 275 (1877)
- now Wandiligong Primary School
- 11 St Peters Catholic Church (1903)
- now a private residence

Harrietville

Tronoh Dredge Walking Track

1.4 km / 30 mins return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track with gentle hills and steps. Sign posted.

Begin your walk from the Tronoh Dredge Hole car park off Feathertop Track and head either way around this man-made lake. The dredge hole was created by the Tronoh Dredge which was one of the world's largest electric powered mechanical dredges.

The dredge worked 24 hours a day, 6 days a week between 1946 and 1954. It passed through 156ha of land on the river flats up to a depth of 40 metres. Gold dredging operations in the past were not required to repair the damage they caused, with pines planted to reclaim some of the dredge tailings more recently.

Charlie Miley Walk

3 km / 1 hour return



No bushwalking experience required. Flat, formed track with no steps. Limited signage.

The walking track heads off from Charlie Miley Road (named after a world champion axeman from Harrietville) in the Clarrie Keating Memorial Park. The walking track starts at the end of Charlie Miley Road, and is flanked by rubble from Chinese gold diggings. When you reach the small bridge on the west branch of the Ovens River, complete a loop by turning left into Lyrebird Gully Road and then left into Mill Road (once Harrietville's town centre), or return the way you came.



Riverside Walk, Harrietville

Riverside Walk

0.5 km / 15 mins return (short)

1.6 km / 45 mins return (long)



No bushwalking experience required. Well-formed, flat track with no steps. Clearly sign posted.

Start at the Museum in Pioneer Park. For a short loop walk south along the east branch of the Ovens River to Feathertop Lane. Turn right and continue to the Great Alpine Road and then turn right again back to Pioneer Park. For a longer loop continue along the Ovens River to Bon Accord Track. Turn right and continue to the Great Alpine Road, turn right back to Pioneer Park.

Washington Creek via Bon Accord Track

8 km / 3 hours return



Bushwalking experience required. Formed track with steep hills and some obstacles. Sign posted.

Starting at the end of Bon Accord Track, the Bon Accord Spur takes you to Mount Feathertop via the Razorback Walking Track. Though this walk is only recommended for experienced walkers, the first section of this track is a fantastic walk on its own. The track will guide you along the east branch of the Ovens River to the confluence of Washington Creek. Return the way you came. For more information on the full walk please see Bon Accord Track on page **68**.

Bungalow Spur Track

Please see page **68** for more details



Starting on Feathertop Track, off the Great Alpine Road, the Bungalow Spur Track takes you to Mount Feathertop via Federation Hut. For more information on this walk please see Bungalow Spur Walking Track on page **68**.

East Ovens River Track

13 km / 3.5 - 4 hours return



Some bushwalking experience recommended. Formed track with some obstacles and gentle hills. Sign posted.

Starting at the Tronoh Dredge, the track runs east of the Bon Accord Track along the Ovens River. Follow the east branch until the end and return the way you came. Please note there are river crossings along the track.



Tronoh Dredge, Harrierville



Myrtleford

Reform Hill

The Reform Hill lookout provides visitors with views of the Ovens Valley, Mount Buffalo and the Victorian Alps. There are three different tracks around the hill with significant monuments along the way.

Reform Hill Monument Track

1.6 km / 1 hour return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track with some obstacles, short steep hills and occasional steps. Sign posted.

The return walk to the lookout begins at the J.A. Jones Memorial Reserve on the eastern edge of town adjacent to the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. Nearby, Paul's Gold Battery stands adjacent to several gold mining adits (tunnels) into Reform Hill. Ascend the Reform Hill Monument Track to the T-intersection then turn left to visit the Hume & Hovell Memorial.

From here it is possible to take two different routes to the lookout, both approximately equal in distance. A large loop can be formed by combining all three tracks. The Reform Hill lookout provides visitors with views of the Ovens Valley, Mount Buffalo and the Victorian Alps. Crops of hops, vineyards and pasture give the valley its patchwork appearance.



Reform Hill Lookout overlooking Myrtleford to the West

Reform Hill Mining Loop Track

1.1 km / 1 hour return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track with some obstacles, short steep hills and occasional steps. Sign posted.

After leaving the Memorial, a steep track will take you past the entrance to the Reform Mine and an old ventilation shaft, which once serviced the Reform Mine. The track continues in a southerly direction where more sheltered conditions enable tree species such as Red Box and Long-leaf Box to flourish. The track then turns north onto a straight and moderate climb to the summit. Rest stops are provided along the way.

Reform Hill Lookout Track

1.1 km / 1 hour return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track with some obstacles, short steep hills and occasional steps. Sign posted.

After leaving the Memorial, this walk takes you to the north above the Reform Mine entrance. Along this walk you will see the town's old water storage basin (1934) which has long since been replaced. This small reservoir held water that was gravity-fed into town. The climb follows the drier northerly aspect of Reform Hill to the lookout.

*For number references please see map on page **26 - 27**.*

- A** Hume and Hovell Monument
(erected 1924 to celebrate 100 years of exploration)
- B** Reform Mine main shaft and ventilation shaft
- C** Original Myrtleford Reservoir
- D** Reform Hill Lookout

M-M Rail Trail



Murray to Mountains Rail Trail
83km from Bright to Wangaratta

Rotary
Park

Ovens River Trail



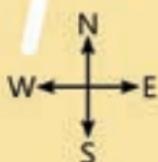
5.6km / 1 hour return

Ovens River

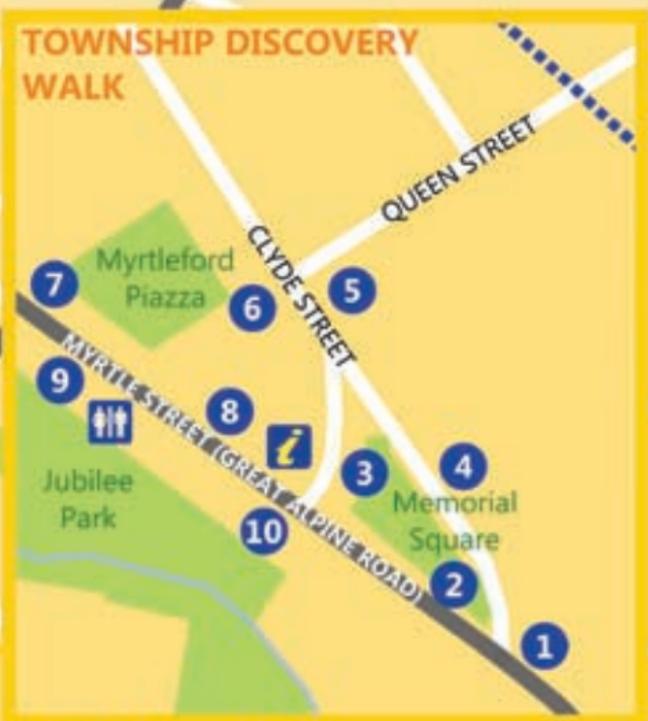
**MYRTLEFORD TOWN
CENTRE MAP**

Apex Park

RC Macn
Recrea
Reser



TOWNSHIP DISCOVERY WALK



Reform Hill State Forest

Numerous walking tracks



Ovens River Loop

5.6 km / 1 hour return



No bushwalking experience required. Sealed, flat track with no steps. Clearly sign posted.

This scenic sealed loop can be started from within the Myrtleford township or be included as an addition to the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. The main portion of the loop runs from Rotary Park to Apex Park and follows the Ovens River closely as it passes through native bush and crosses the river twice. There are several good locations for a riverside picnic and the trail is perfect for warmer weather with good shade along the river section of the loop.



Ovens River Loop, Myrtleford

Murray to Mountains Rail Trail



No bushwalking experience required. Well-formed, flat track with no steps. Clearly sign posted.

The Murray to Mountains Rail Trail runs through Myrtleford in the 80 kilometres between Bright and Wangaratta. The Trail is perfect for all, being mainly flat and allowing visitors to choose their distance. Facilities are located at varying points along the track.



Tobacco Sheds, Myrtleford

Discovery Trail

0.5 km / 30 min return



No bushwalking experience required. Township walk.

The Myrtleford Discovery Trail is a series of panels, sharing every aspect of Myrtleford life via maps, photographs, touring suggestions, things to see and do and lively tales tall and true. The trail begins at the Visitor Information Centre on the Great Alpine Road, look out for the tall stainless steel panels.

For number references please see map on page 27.

- 1 Walking Tracks
Reform Hill State Forest
- 2 Sergeant Albert David Lowerson VC
Myrtleford War Memorial, Australia remembers
- 3 Hops - The Key Flavour of Beer
Tobacco - Myrtleford's Golden Leaf
- 4 Our Place - A Festival of Events
- 5 Adventure Out- Take a Walk or Ride a Bike
- 6 Significant People and Places
The Beginning of a Township
- 7 A Community rising to the Challenge
Throughout history, and into the Future
- 8 Explore and Experience
The Centre of it All
- 9 Abundant Produce and Cool Climate Wines
The Great Alpine Road
- 10 Lake Buffalo
Mount Buffalo National Park

Historic Walk

1.8 km / 45 mins



No bushwalking experience required. Township walk.

This walk highlights the significant historical aspects of Myrtleford and will take you around the town discovering what once was a thriving gold mining town.

For number references please see map on page 32.

1 **The Old School Museum**

The Frank Vale Tablet: In recognition of his untiring efforts for State School 955 (1890-1910) a tablet was unveiled to honour the Head Teacher Frank Vale in November, 1924.

The Bills Horse Trough: This trough stood on the roadside opposite where the RSL Hall stands in Smith Street, to service horses in coach and transport work. Annis and George Bills had several horse troughs built and installed around Melbourne about the time George retired in 1908. The RSPCA made George a Life Governor in 1924 and after his death in 1927 the residue of his estate was left for providing horse troughs and for prevention of cruelty to animals.

2 **The Linden Tree, Albert Street**

The Linden (Lime) tree has been on this site since the 1860s, when it was visible in photographs of the original "Myrtle Creek Store". It saw the demolition of this old store and the erection of "Thomas Mathieson's Store", which still stands today.

3 **The Uniting Church** (formerly Methodist)

A memorial window honouring the loss of four cousins, two Matthews and two Willoughby men in World War 1 (Greater Love hath no Man....) dominates the entrance to the church; nearby a plaque commemorates the new church building in 1958.

4 **The A.D. Lowerson V.C. Memorial Square**

5 **The Fire Brigade Training Track** (see plaque)

6 **The Post Office**

Opened in 1971, this is Myrtleford's third post office on this site.

7 **St Paul's Anglican Church & Rectory Fence**

A stained glass window at the front of the church commemorates the death of Theatre Nursing Sister Alice O'Donnell who lost her life on the Hospital Ship "Centaur" when it was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine off Brisbane on May 14, 1943. To record Myrtleford's 100th anniversary in 1954, the Anglican parish joined in celebrations by erecting a stone fence which included a marble stone recognising the event.

8 **The CWA Hall** *(now Presbyterian Church)*

The CWA was at the forefront of rural women's affairs and played a vital role in developing facilities for infant welfare in the town. For 33 years, until 1959 the Infant Welfare services of the town were provided through the CWA Hall.

9 **The Lone Pine** *(see plaque)*

10 **The Former Myrtleford Co-Store**

After five years in Robertson street, the Co-Store established itself on this site in 1927, selling groceries, hardware and clothing.

11 **Soldier's Memorial Hall & Supper Rooms**

After World War 1, the hall was erected after much local fundraising in 1925. In 1936, extensions, a stage, and supper rooms were added.

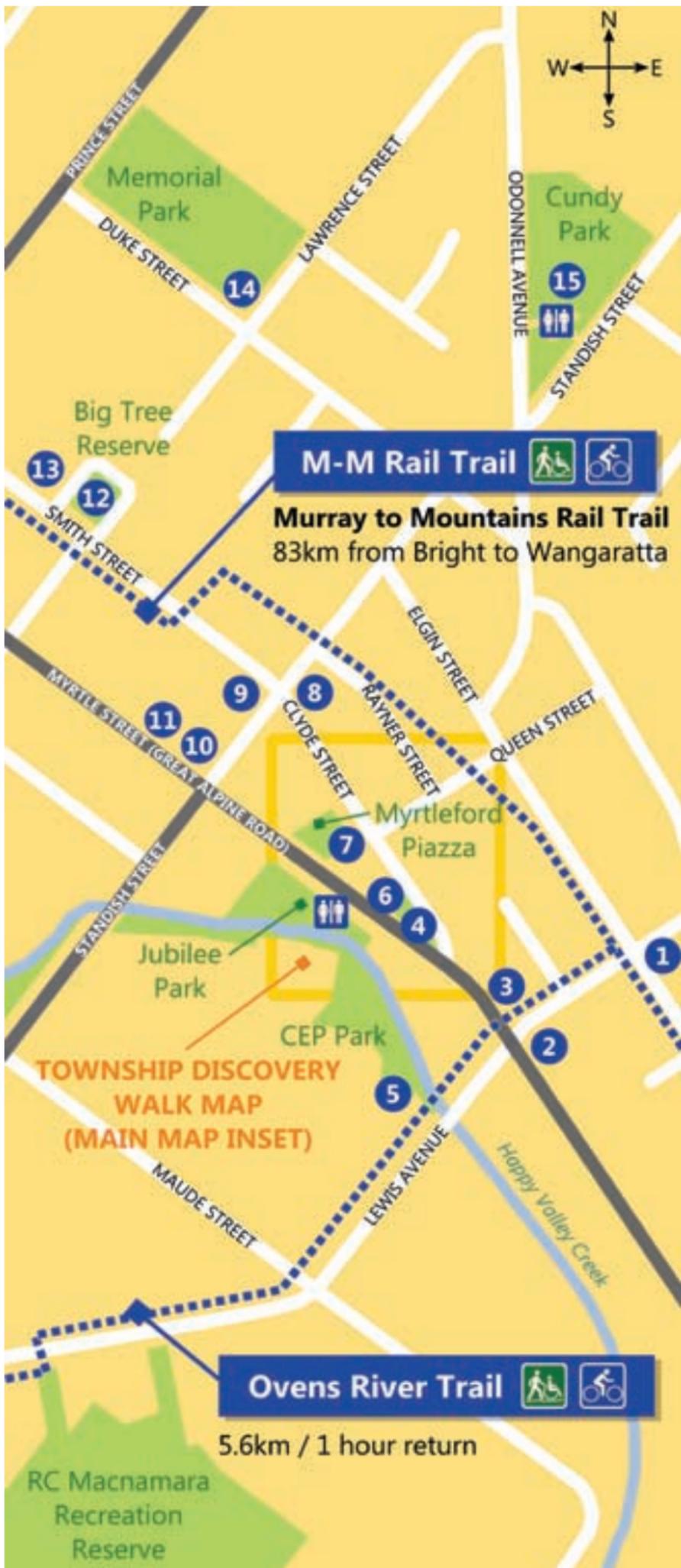
12 **The Big Tree**

One of the oldest in the district, this tree is said to have been the meeting place of aborigines prior to contact with Europeans and for a short time after 1837. The other "big tree" on the corner of Myrtle and Prince Streets enabled men and women to assemble separately under trees which were in close proximity to one another.

13 **Senior Citizens Centre** *(see plaque)*

14 **Memorial Park** *(two brass plaques sit under the elm trees at the southern end of the oval)*

15 **Cundy Park** *(see plaque)*



Mount Beauty

Pondage Walk

3 km / 45 mins return



No bushwalking experience required. Well-formed, flat track with no steps. Clearly sign posted.

Start from the Lakeside picnic and playground area and walk north towards Embankment Drive following the path around the pondage wall. Follow the track over the spillway and continue along over the Tail Race Channel bridge and you will be behind the Secondary College, the tennis courts, the Primary School, past the oval and back to where you started. A pleasant walk with lovely views in all directions.

Mermaid Pool & Rock Pool Walk

1.2km / 20 minutes return



No bushwalking experience required. Well-formed track with no steps and gentle hills.

Take the first road to the right off Damms Road (Rock Pool Road) and continue until reaching the car park. Walk the bush track 250 metres into the Mermaid Pool, a beautiful swimming hole ideal for families, and continue along the track another 400 metres to the Rock Pool. Return the same way or follow the track along the river from the Mermaid Pool.



Mermaid Pool

Survey Track / Pole Track

4.5 km / 2 hours return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track with some obstacles, short steep hills and occasional steps. Sign posted.

The Survey Track is a shared walking and mountain bike track that commences opposite the Mount Beauty Golf Course Club House in Tawonga Crescent. Park at the top of Tawonga Crescent or at the Big Hill Mountain Bike Park, if doing the full loop that includes the Pole Track.

The Survey Track is the original route to Bogong Village and provides views over the east branch of the Kiewa River as it winds upwards, through dry forest and areas of wildflowers to a hairpin turn on the Bogong High Plains Road called 'Cranky Charlie'. A couple of fire trails have to be crossed, look for the restart of the track on the other side.

On reaching Cranky Charlie either return the way you came, or cross the Bogong High Plains Road and walk up West Kiewa Road for approximately 500m to where the Pole Track branches off to the right. Pass through the gate and descend back down to Mount Beauty to a second gate then join the Aqueduct Track to return to the Big Hill Mountain Bike Park.

This return route offers great views over Mount Beauty and the Kiewa Valley. The track may also be done in reverse, along the Pole Track from the Big Hill Mountain Bike Park, turning around when you have had enough. This scenic route is a shorter alternative to the full loop.



View from Survey Track, Mount Beauty



Mount Beauty Gorge Walk

Mount Beauty River Walk

4 km / 1 hour return



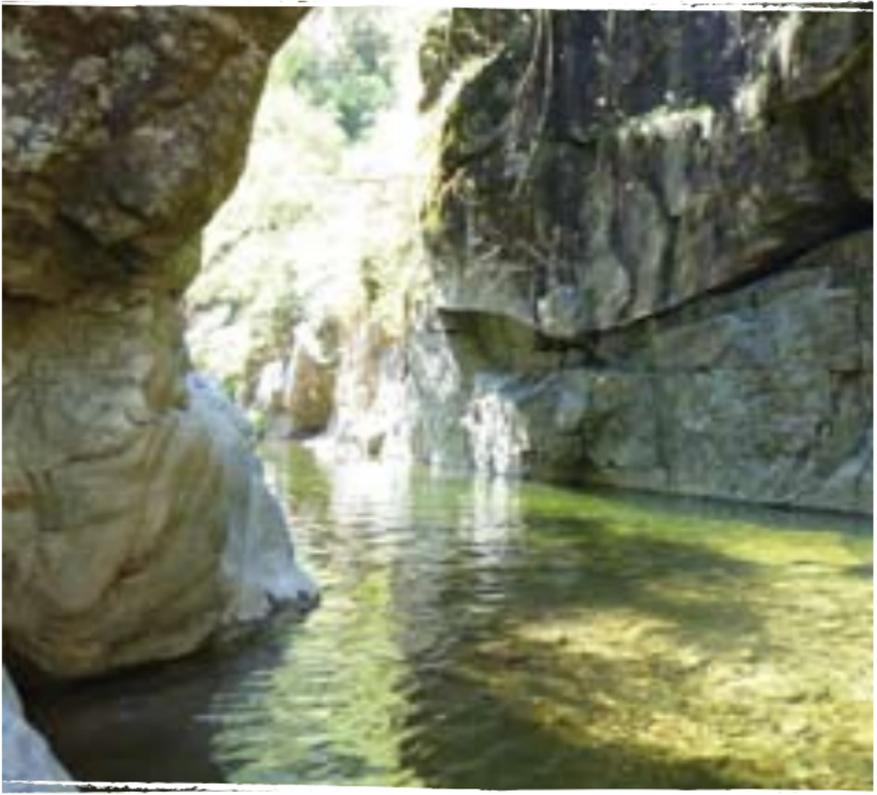
No bushwalking experience required. Flat well-formed track with no steps. Clearly sign posted.

The track starts at the commencement of Embankment Drive off the Bogong High Plains Road at the entrance to Mount Beauty. This sealed track crosses the Pondage spillway and then meanders along the west branch of the Kiewa River all the way to Pebble Beach.

Enjoy lovely views across the farmlands and towards Mount Bogong with the track perfect for walking or riding. For good swimmers, there is a long deep pool at the turn around point.



Pebble Beach, Mount Beauty



The Gorge, Mount Beauty

Mount Beauty Gorge Walk

2.8 km / 1.5 hours return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track with some obstacles, short steep hills and occasional steps. Sign posted.

Start the walks from the Big Hill Mountain Bike Park, off the Bogong High Plains Road on the right side, heading towards Falls Creek. Walk uphill along the Aqueduct Track behind the large holiday apartments, follow the signposted track for 1km to a swing bridge over the West Kiewa River. To get to the adit/shaft and the canyon, plus get great views of the Gorge, cross over the swing bridge and walk uphill, you will come across a swimming hole and another 100m up the river.

The adit was dug in the 1950's to help with the construction of the Kiewa Scheme. During summer, when the rocks are dry in the river bed, it is possible to walk, wade and swim upstream for 400 metres to an impressive canyon. It is not advisable to do this last section if the rocks are wet and slippery. The last section of the canyon is best attempted in the late afternoon when the sun shines on the water.

Mount Beauty River Walk



4km / 1 hour return

Pebble Beach

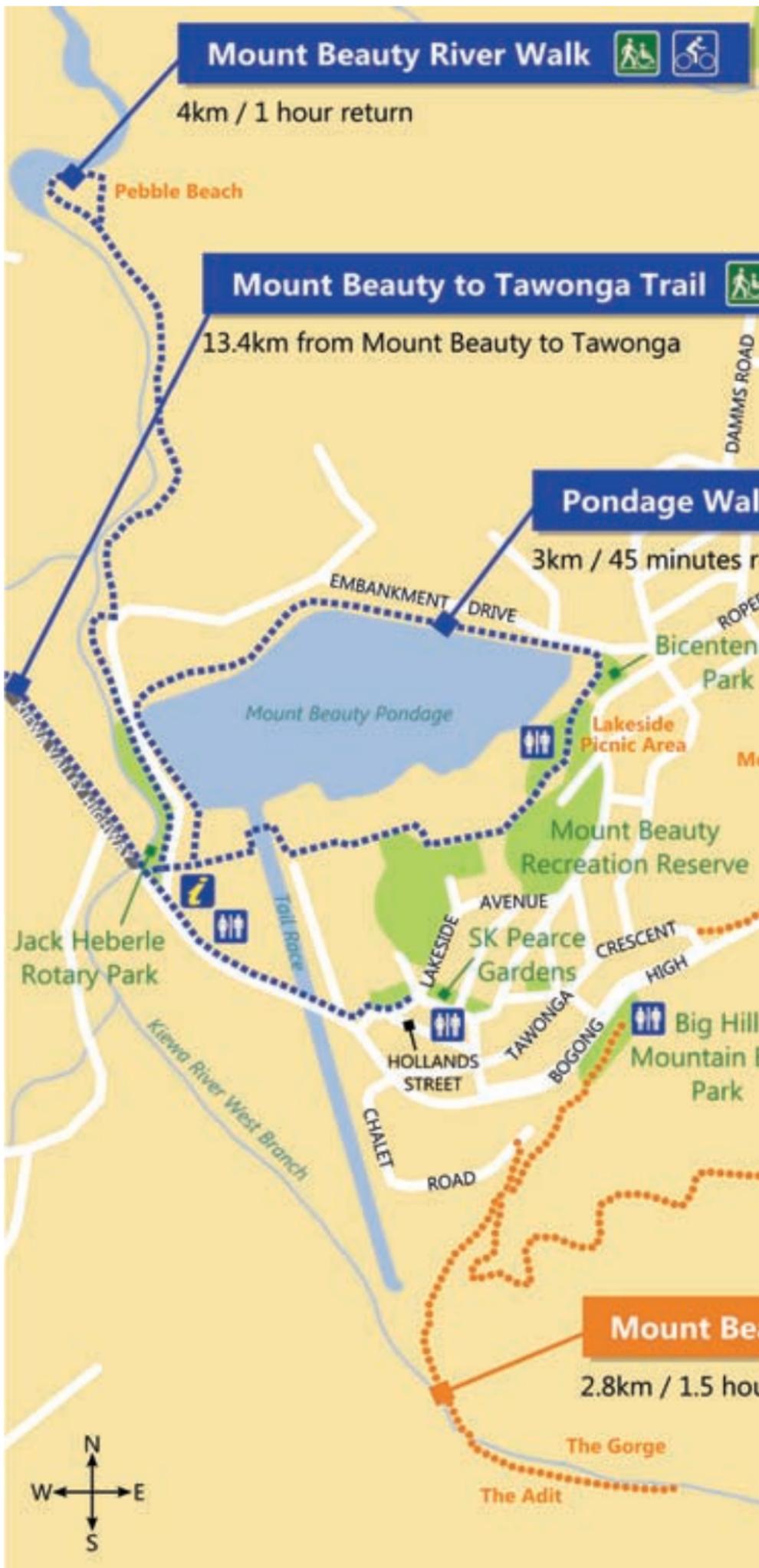
Mount Beauty to Tawonga Trail



13.4km from Mount Beauty to Tawonga

Pondage Walk

3km / 45 minutes return





Tawonga

Mount Beauty to Tawonga Walk

13.4 km / 3 hours return



No bushwalking experience required. Well-formed track with no steps and gentle hills.

This walk connects Mount Beauty, Tawonga South and Tawonga passing a lookout which provides impressive views across the Kiewa River valley to Victoria's highest peak, Mount Bogong (1986m). This walk can be started at any point between Mount Beauty and Tawonga.

Fisherman's Walk

1 km / 40 mins return



No bushwalking experience required. Well-formed, flat track with no steps. Clearly sign posted.

Start at the picnic ground next to Ryders Bridge. The walk takes you south alongside the Kiewa River towards Mount Beauty. This area is popular with locals for swimming during the warmer months. Located 100 metres from the bridge along the riverbend is a fantastic swimming hole.



Kiewa River, Tawonga



Kiewa River, Tawonga

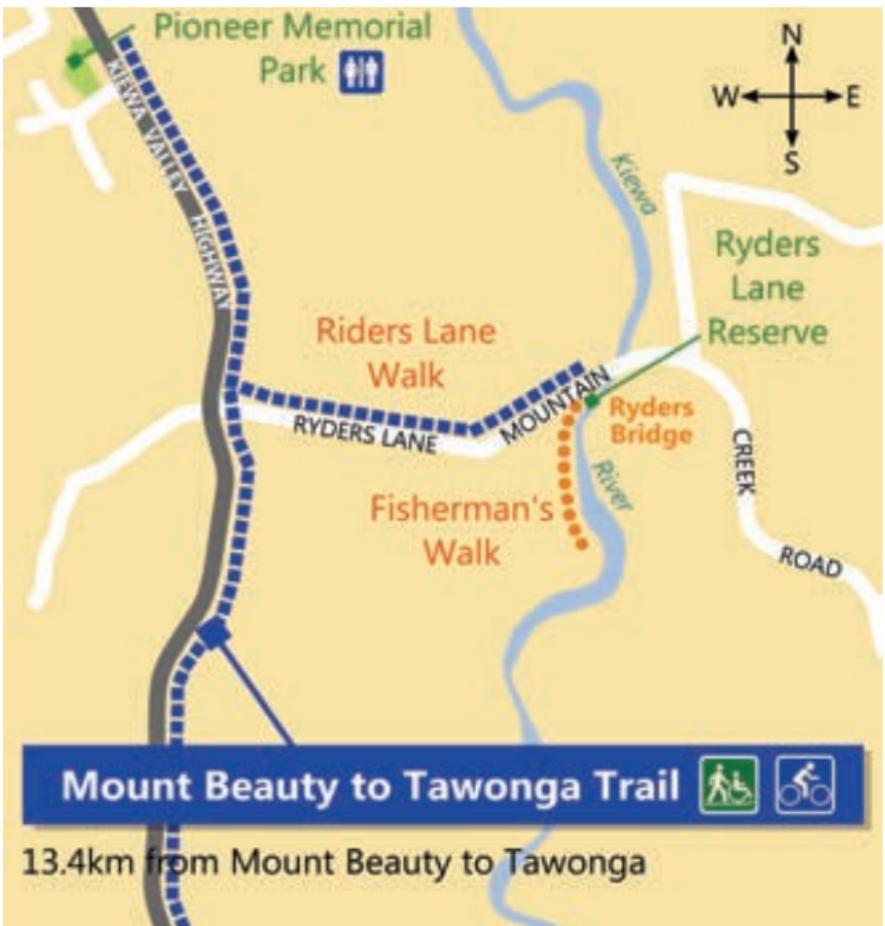
Ryders Lane Walk

2.5 km / 50 mins return



No bushwalking experience required. Well-formed track with gentle hills and no steps. Clearly sign posted.

This walk connects the Mount Beauty to Tawonga Walk to the Fisherman's Walk via Ryders Lane. Turn onto Ryders Lane from the Kiewa Valley Highway and walk down to the picnic ground on the Kiewa River at Ryders Bridge.



Bogong Village

Lake Guy Walk

3 km / 1 - 1.5 hours return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track with some obstacles, gentle hills and many steps. Sign posted.

Park in the car park just below Bogong Jacks Tavern. The track around Lake Guy starts 150 metres north-west of the car park. Continue through the tunnel in the dam wall and follow the walking track to 'The Junction' at the confluence of the Rocky Valley and Pretty Valley Stream which then flow into Lake Guy (Junction Dam). Return past the new power station, either above it on the road, or below on the walking track beside the lake.



Bogong Village



Lake Guy, Bogong Village

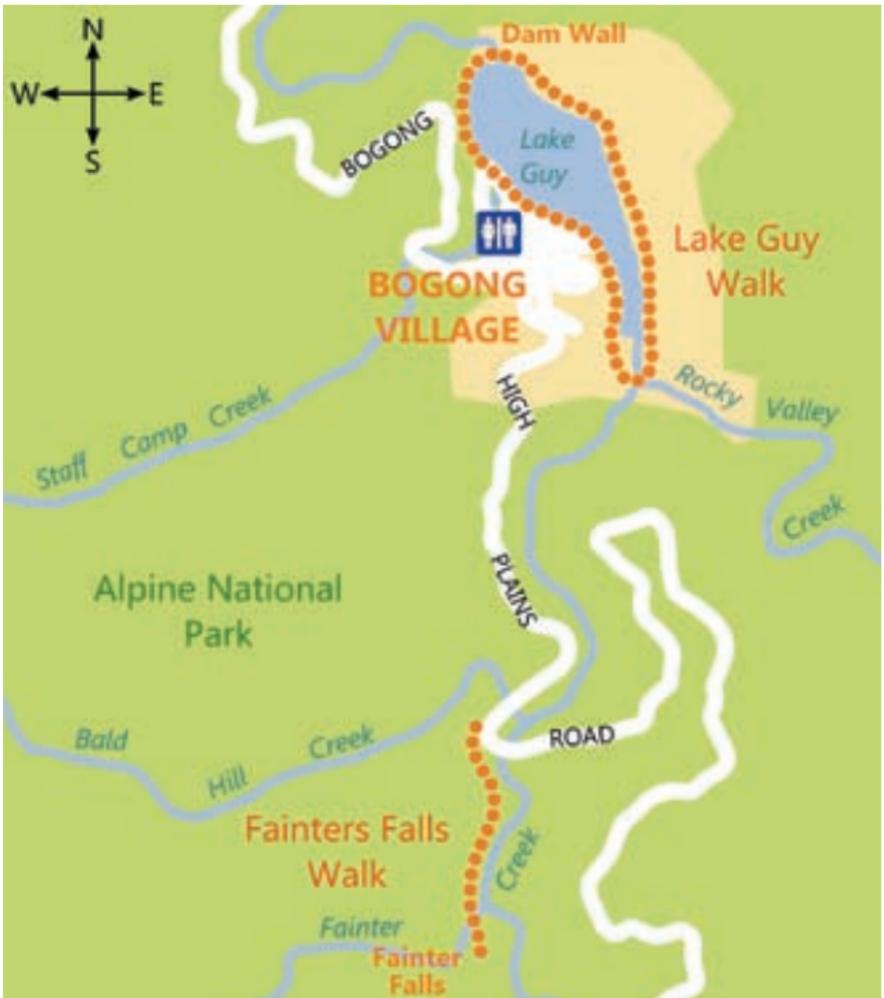
Fainter Falls

1.5 km / 40 mins return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track with hills and no steps. Clearly sign posted.

This walk is located 1km past Bogong Village, just before the Bogong High Plains Road crosses the Pretty Valley Stream. Start the walk opposite the car park. Follow the signed walking track, which provides spectacular views of the Falls and the beautiful environment beside the wild river.



Dinner Plain

Carmichael Falls Walk

2km / 1.5 hours return



Some bushwalking experience required. Mostly formed track with some obstacles, some gradual steep sections and occasional steps. Clearly sign posted.

Heading off along the Dinner Plain 4WD track, this clearly marked trail, within the Alpine National Park, descends through Snow Gum forest to a viewing platform overlooking the picturesque Carmichael Falls.

Hotham - Dinner Plain Trail

13km / 4 hours one way



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track, mostly level with some gradual steep sections and occasional steps. Clearly sign posted.

Walk or ride the multi-use trail that runs through the Alpine National Park, linking Dinner Plain to Hotham resort, Look out for the native flora and fauna and spot the resident emus at JB Plain. This trail will take you through woodland to open scenic plains that gives the high country its unique scenic views.

There are numerous areas to rest and picnic. A location to not to miss is the old cattlemen's post, JB Hut where you can also camp.. A side walk- 2km return- to Paw Paw Plain is a must for the fine views of the remote Dargo River Valley and Mount Tabletop.



Carmichael Falls

Room with a View

3 km / 1 hour return



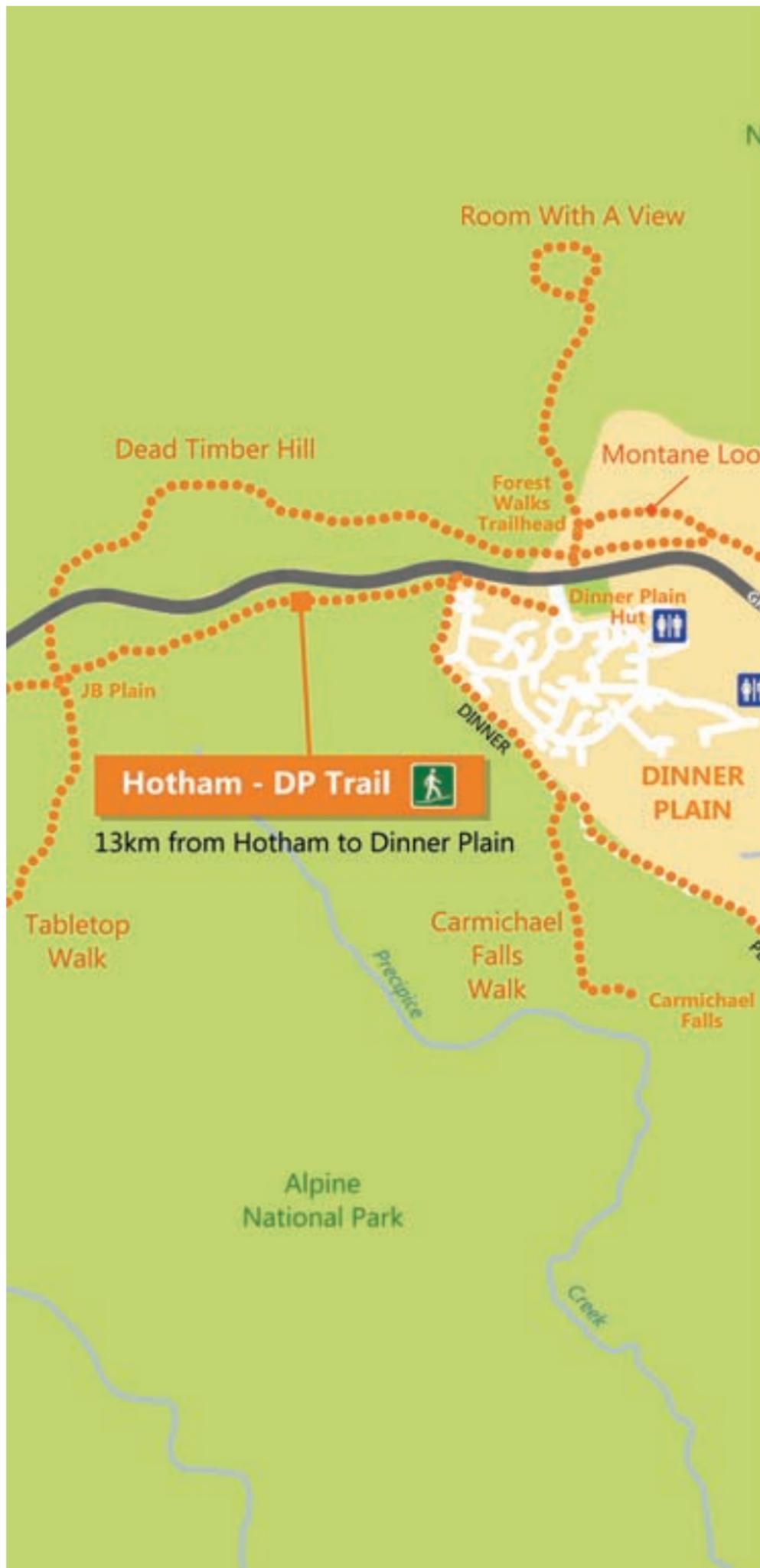
Some bushwalking experience recommended. Mostly formed track with some obstacles, gradual steep sections and occasional steps. Clearly sign posted.

A short walk from Dinner Plain, this is the first completed project by Dinner Plain Landcare group and was originally an old horse riding track. It takes you on an easy walk through the snowgum forest to an open plain with spectacular views of Mount Hotham, Mount Feathertop, Bogong High Plains and the Cobungra River, where you can take in the views over Hotham Alpine Resort.

Starting from Dinner Plain Hut, follow the track to the sign marking the crossing point to the northern side of the Great Alpine Road and the track leading to the Forest Walks trailhead. The Room with a View walk initially follows a slightly undulating trail then flattens out.

The track heads north along the eastern flanks of Dead Timber Hill. After 0.5km it drops gently down to a grassy plain and veers west to a marker that designates the track loop. Most walkers prefer to keep to the left route as it descends through snow grass and drops through the Snow Gums to a small clearing- here is the 'room with a view'.

The track loop continues north back up to the marker on the open plain from where it returns to the Forests Walks trailhead.



Hotham - DP Trail



13km from Hotham to Dinner Plain



Precipice Plain Walk

9 km / 3 hours return



Some bushwalking experience recommended. Mostly formed track with some obstacles, mostly level with some gradual steep sections on the entry and exit. Occasional steps. Sign posted.

Walk or bike along the Dinner Plain 4WD track to a lovely natural lookout across the remote Dargo Valley. Catch the sunset in the high country for fabulous colours in the sky.



Dinner Plain Village

Montane Loop

1.1 km / 45mins return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track with gentle hills and no steps. Clearly signposted.

The Montane Loop begins at the Forest Walks trailhead on the northern side of the Great Alpine Road from Dinner Plain village.

Follow the gravel track to the boardwalk that crosses a small alpine bog. From here the trail heads east across a grassy area which makes up the northern edge of the Dinner Plain plateau. A short boardwalk crosses a drainage line before the track gently descends down into the sub-alpine woodlands where small weathered granite outcrops can be seen.

Turnaround Rock, where the Montane Walking Track intersects with Montane Loop, is located about 400m along. At this point the track swings around and heads northwest.

Montane Walking Track

Section 1 - Dinner Plain to Slippery Pinch
6.6km, 2 hours return

Section 1, 2 & 3 - Dinner Plain to Slippery Pinch and return to Dinner Plain via Dinner Plain Track & Precipice Plain, 9km, 4 hours return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track, some obstacles, short steep hills with occasional steps. Sign posted.

Section 1 - Dinner Plain to Slippery Pinch 3.3km

The first section of the Montane Walking Track extends 3.3km below the Great Alpine Road through State Forest in an eastern semi-circle from Dinner Plain to Slippery Pinch. Walkers can return by the same route to Dinner Plain village or continue to the Victoria River and back to Dinner Plain via a further 5.8km Montane-Precipice Plain trail loop.

Section 2 - Slippery Pinch to Dinner Plain Track 3.2km

At this point the track crosses the Great Alpine Road. A small gate in the fence allows walkers to pass through. This section of the walk is under a grazing lease and cattle can be seen in the area during the summer months. The track meanders through Snow Gum dominated woodlands along the top side of the old cattle yards- built by a high country grazier in the early part of the 20th century before dropping down to sub-alpine grassland and the Victoria River.

The trail crosses the grasslands following the edge of the Victoria River before crossing over at a timber bridge and heading back into the sub-alpine woodlands through the picturesque river valley. It then climbs to the drier side of the mountain.

Section 3 - Precipice Plain to Dinner Plain Village 2.6km

On reaching Precipice Plain it is an easy 2.6km walk along the track back to the village, passing through the catchment of the Victoria River.

Tabletop Walk

14 km / 5 hours return



Bushwalking experience recommended. Mostly formed track with some gradual steep sections and occasional steps. Sign posted.

Mount Tabletop is a distinctive flat plateau linked to the Great Dividing Range by a low ridge. From JB Plain follow the old fence line south across the plains for 0.5km. From here the route is marked. After crossing the snow plains and snowgum woodland, the route drops down to Tabletop Creek and then follows a long ridge up the plateau. The track is marked to a rocky outcrop just below the summit. Return via the same route.

Dead Timber Hill

4 km / 3 hours return



Some bushwalking experience recommended. Mostly formed track with some gradual steep sections and occasional steps. Sign posted.

This walk is through an area stricken by the 2003 bushfires that is slowly breathing life again, and offers breathtaking views and unforgettable sunset vistas over Mount Hotham.

Starting from Dinner Plain Hut, follow the track to the sign marking the crossing point to the northern side of the Great Alpine Road and follow the track leading to the Forest Walks trailhead. Follow the Dead Timber Hill track to the west.

Mount Buffalo National Park

Gorge Heritage Walk

2.5 km / 1 hour return



No bushwalking experience required, formed track with some obstacles, short steep hills and many steps. Clearly sign posted.

This loop walk starts in the Gorge Day Visitor Area opposite the Mount Buffalo Chalet. Follow a series of interpretive signs that lead firstly to some of the most spectacular views of the Gorge and Crystal Brook Falls and then loop back to explore the area's history and beauty through the eyes of local pioneer, Guide Alice.

Eurobin Falls / Ladies Bath Falls

1.5 km / 45 mins return



No bushwalking experience required, formed track with some obstacles, short steep hills and many steps. Clearly sign posted.

This track climbs past the pretty Ladies Bath Falls, still popular for a dip on a warm day, and onto Lower Eurobin Falls. A steeper track continues up to the base of the Upper Falls.

View Point Nature Walk

4 km / 2 hours return



No bushwalking experience required, formed track with some obstacles, short steep hills and many steps. Clearly sign posted.

Starting from the Lakeside Day Visitors Area at Lake Catani, this walk will lead you on a journey through a series of differing landscapes, climbing up through Sub-Alpine Bogs and Mountain Ash Forests to a final lookout with fantastic views of the Buckland Valley and the distant alps.

Cathedral - Hump Track

2 km / 45 mins return



No bushwalking experience required. Well formed steep track. Clearly sign posted.

Starting at the Cathedral Picnic Area, this track leads past the spectacular granite tor of the Cathedral and on to the summit of the Hump (1695m) for fine views of the Mount Buffalo plateau, Cresta Valley and the Horn.



Ladies Bath Falls, Mount Buffalo

The Horn Track

1.5 km / 45 mins return



No bushwalking experience required, formed track with some obstacles, short steep hills and many steps. Clearly sign posted.

This track starts at The Horn Picnic Area, 2km from Cresta Valley along a well maintained dirt road. The Horn (1723m) is the highest point on the Mount Buffalo plateau and provides a 360° view of the plateau and the surrounding alps.



Echo Point Lookout, Mount Buffalo

Chalwell Galleries Track

1.7 km / 1 hour return



No bushwalking experience required. Rough, very steep track with many obstacles and steps. Sign posted.

Begin near the Lake Catani Day Visitors Area. This track passes through the 'galleries' which are a jumble of large granite rocks forming impressive passages. Please use caution as there are some tight squeezes through the galleries which do require some scrambling.



Chalwell Galleries Track, Mount Buffalo

The Big Walk

11.3 km / 4 - 5 hours one way



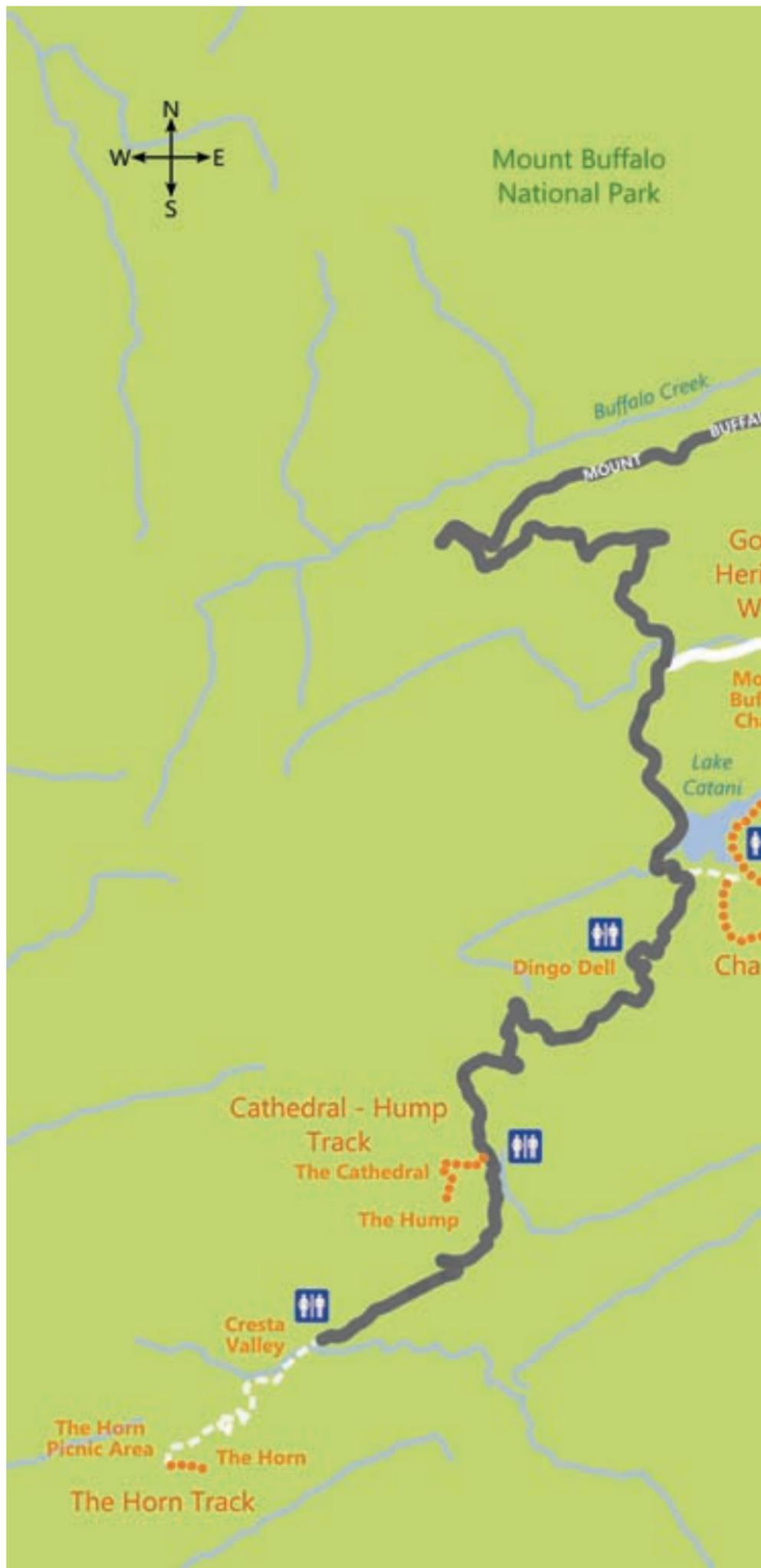
No bushwalking experience required. Rough, very steep track with many obstacles and occasional steps. Sign posted.

Following one of the original routes onto the Mt Buffalo Plateau this walk climbs 1000m in 9km. The track begins at the Eurobin Creek Picnic Area at the park entrance and culminates at the Gorge Day Visitor Area.

Walkers will pass through several vegetation zones as the altitude increases while enjoying spectacular views of the Australian Alps and the Gorge from the numerous lookouts. Adequate preparation is advisable as water is limited along the track and the weather can be unpredictable.



Mount Buffalo





Alpine National Park

Mountain Creek Walks

The walks start from the Mountain Creek Picnic and Camping Area, 10.5 km along Mountain Creek Road from the Kiewa Valley Highway, Tawonga. Nestled at the base of Mount Bogong (1986m) there are several walks ranging on length, through cool moist fern-filled gullies or among drier peppermint forests on the slopes.

Mountain Creek Picnic and Camping Area is also the starting point for the most popular routes up Mount Bogong, the Staircase and the Eskdale Spur. See page **62**.

Shady Gully Nature Walk

1 km / 15 mins return



No bushwalking experience required. Well-formed track with no steps and gentle hills. Sign posted.

Starting south of the main bridge, this is an easy loop walk that provides you with a taste of the riparian forest of this area. Follow Mountain Creek which has its headwaters on nearby Mount Bogong and then cross back to complete the loop.



Tree Fern Walk

Tree Fern Walk

2 km / 1 hour return



No bushwalking experience required. Well-formed track with no steps and gentle hills. Sign posted.

This track starts north of the bridge and is a gentle meander along Mountain Creek. The track is well defined and if you would like a longer walk you can take the turn off to the Black Cockatoo Walk. (see below)



Mountain Creek Walk

Black Cockatoo Walk

2.5 km / 1.5 hours return



No bushwalking experience required. Well-formed track with no steps and gentle hills. Sign posted.

This track starts along Mountain Creek Road, past the picnic area (4WD), or can be combined with the Tree Fern Walk to create a longer loop along the banks of Mountain Creek.

Peppermint Walk

2.5 km / 1.5 hours return



No bushwalking experience required, formed track with some obstacles, short steep hills and many steps. Clearly sign posted.

The Peppermint Walk starts in the picnic area and heads off along Mountain Creek Road (4WD). After 1km, turn south and follow the track as the vegetation changes from tree ferns, sedges and tussock grasses to peppermint and blue gum forests. This is a great walk for a hot summer's day.

Mount Bogong Walks

Mount Bogong is the highest peak in Victoria (1986 metres). Climbing Mount Bogong is strenuous and a high level of fitness is required. You must also be prepared for sudden unexpected weather changes.

Staircase

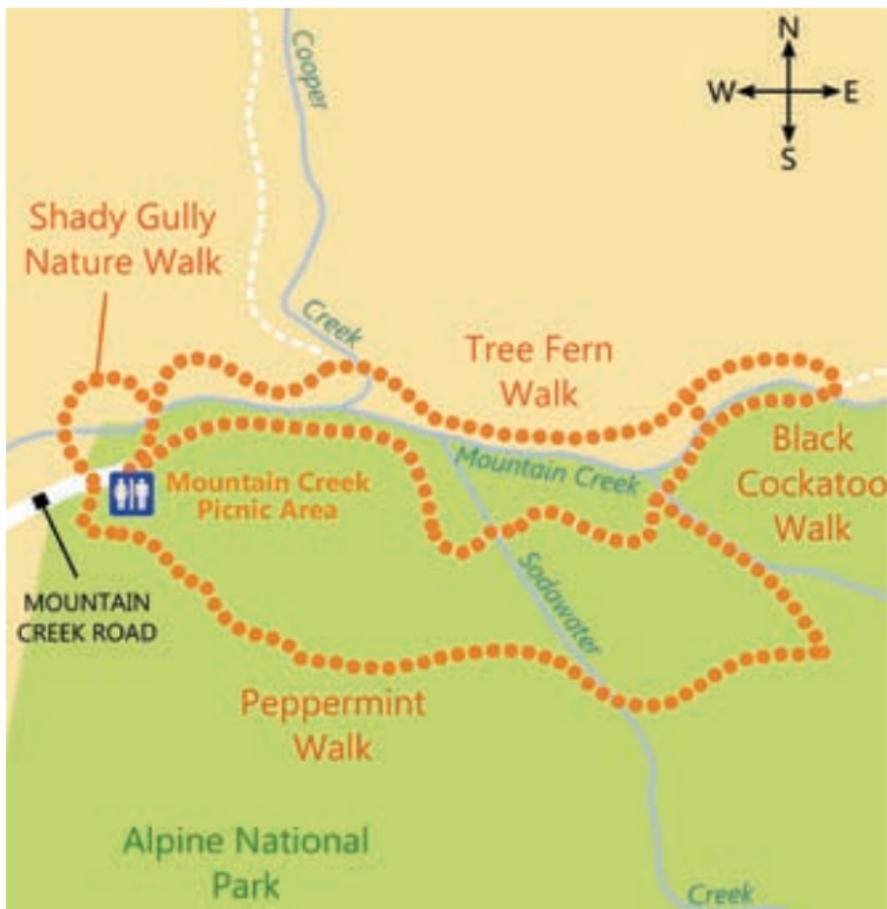
16 km / 1 day return



Experienced bushwalkers only. Rough track with many obstacles and many steps that are very steep and difficult. Sign posted.

The track to the summit begins at the Mountain Creek Picnic Area and follows a vehicle track to the foot of the Staircase Spur, where the ascent begins through a forest of Peppermint Gums. Bivouac Hut, about halfway along the climb, offers emergency shelter before the track passes through snow gums and out onto the steep rocky ridge leading to the summit plateau.

The exposed treeless plain of the summit offers little shelter in poor weather. Strong winds, fog, freezing temperatures, rain and snow are all common at this altitude. Navigation can be extremely difficult so turn back at the tree line if conditions are poor or deteriorating.



Eskdale Spur

8 km / 6 hours return



Experienced bushwalkers only. Rough, very steep track with many obstacles and occasional steps. Sign posted.

Follow the track up Mountain Creek past the bottom of the Staircase Spur for approximately 5.5 km to Camp Creek Gap. The track climbs steeply up the Eskdale Spur past Michell Hut to the tree line where the track intersects with the Granite Flat Track. Once the shelter of the snow gums is left behind the remainder of the walk is very similar to the exposed rocky ascent of the Staircase onto the summit plateau.



Mount Bogong

Bogong High Plains Walks

Discover the beauty of the Bogong High Plains with the historic huts, snowgums and wildlife on the many walks.

Wallace - Cope Heritage Trail

6 km / 2.5 hours return



No bushwalking experience required. Formed track with gentle hills and no steps. Clearly sign posted.

This interpretive trail explores the history of the high plains starting at the Wallace Hut car park. From the car park, walk the short distance to historic Wallace Hut and continue past the hut to the aqueduct. Cross the aqueduct and follow the track to the right, past the Rover Chalet and onto the Australian Alps Walking Track to Cope Hut. Follow the track from Cope Hut toward the Bogong High Plains Road and return to Wallace Hut along a spectacular section of track with fine views toward Mount Kosciusko (2228m), Australia's highest mountain.

Ropers Lookout

5 km / 1.5 hours return



No bushwalking experience required. Well-formed track with occasional steps and gentle hills.

The walk starts at the eastern end of the Rocky Valley Storage dam wall, 3km along the Bogong High Plains Road from Falls Creek. Follow the aqueduct for 1.5 km before climbing a small gully among snow gums. Ropers Lookout is a small basalt knoll with excellent views of the Falls Creek Alpine Resort and the Bogong High Plains. Return along the same route.





Cope Hut, Bogong High Plains

Mount Feathertop Walks

There are many walks around the Mount Hotham and Mount Feathertop area, with the most iconic The Razorback walk to Mount Feathertop. There are three routes to reach Mount Feathertop, described below.

The Razorback

22 km / 8 hours return



Bushwalking experience recommended. Rough, very steep track with many obstacles and occasional steps. Sign posted.

The Razorback walking track begins at the Diamantina Hut, 2.5 km on the Harrietville side of the Hotham Village. The Razorback is a high ridge linking Mount Hotham (1861m) and Mount Feathertop (1922m). The route is generally above the tree line so excellent views are available for much of the walk, however, as the ridge is very exposed it should be not be crossed in unsettled or bad weather.

The Razorback intersects with the Bon Accord Spur track about 1 km from the start and then intersects the Bungalow Spur Track 1.5 km from the summit of Mount Feathertop at a site called The Cross. The final climb to the top is steep but well worth the effort. Return by the same route or, if you have made suitable transport arrangements, walk down to Harrietville via the Bungalow Spur Track.

Ensure you are well prepared for this walk, as the weather can be unpredictable. The best time to visit Mount Feathertop is between November and April.



Bungalow Spur Track

22 km return / Time dependant on
experience & fitness



Experienced bushwalkers only. Formed, very steep track with some obstacles. Sign posted.

To reach the start of the track see the Harrietville walks map on page **21**. The Bungalow Spur Track is the most popular approach to Mount Feathertop. It is well graded and sheltered for most of its length. Near the intersection with the Razorback walking track, Federation Hut provides emergency shelter, toilets and tent sites.

Bon Accord Spur

24 km return / Time dependant on
experience & fitness



Experienced bushwalkers only. Formed very steep and difficult track with some obstacles and many steps. Sign posted.

To reach the start of the track see the Harrietville walks map on page **21**. Follow the east branch of the Ovens River for 5 km to the confluence of Washington Creek where the steep climb up the spur starts. The Bon Accord Hut ruin is 9.5 km from the start of the track. From here it is 2 km up to the Razorback, then 0.5 km to the Great Alpine Road.

The Bon Accord Spur was the route taken by walkers, horse riders and pack horses to Mount Hotham before the Great Alpine Road was built. Today it provides a pleasant walk to Mount Hotham, or it can be part of a route taking in the Razorback and Bungalow Spur. For this, an overnight camp would be necessary, the best place being at Federation Hut near the junction of the Bungalow Spur walking track and the Razorback walking track.