

## **CHERRY WALK**

This is a delightful amble along the Ovens River virtually in the town of Bright. The name of the walk comes from the Cherry family which lost six children to diphtheria in an epidemic in 1871.

Distance	6 km return
Duration	Approximately 2 ½ hrs
Grading	Easy
	No climbing

Recommended Map:

Use the map included in this booklet.

### **Getting to the start**

Go to the junction of Morses Creek and the Ovens River, just east of the shops in Bright.

### **Walk Description**

The walk begins in the park at the confluence of Morses Creek and the Ovens River. It follows the south bank of the Ovens River for about 3 km and then crosses via a footbridge to the north bank. The return trip is mostly along the river bank to the start.

The Ovens is a beautiful stream and it is a delight to walk along it, especially with a variety of exotic trees as well as some native forest in places. Much of the Ovens Valley upstream of Bright was dredged for gold up until the forties. The dredging turned the floor of the valley upside down and left very poor soil. Pine trees have been planted in many places and they thrive in the conditions. It is also possible to see the irregular nature of the terrain where the dredged material was put back.

### **Cautions**

Nil

## **BRIGHT CANYON WALK**

This is a delightful walk along the Ovens River, and is all the more remarkable because it is virtually in the centre of Bright

Distance	3 or 6 km return
Duration	1 or 2 hrs
Grading	Easy
	No climbing

**Recommended Map:**

Use the map included in this booklet.

### **Getting to the start**

From the Pinewood Hotel in Gavan Street, go north to the Ovens River.

### **Walk Description**

This walk closely follows the Ovens River with its beautiful clear water and rounded stone bottom.

Begin on the southern side of the Ovens River and follow a foot-track downstream. The track crosses a number of small bridges over deep cuttings that were made by miners to remove excess water from their workings a little way from the river. After about 1.5 km cross by footbridge to the northern bank and return along the river. The track here looks down into a small canyon that is used by many people in the summer to float along using air mattresses for support. The river in this section is flowing in rock, whereas in most other parts it has a bottom consisting of rounded stones.

When the starting point is reached, there is an option to continue upstream for another 1.5 km to a footbridge. This bridge is then used to cross to the south side and return along the southern bank of the river to the starting point.

### **Cautions**

Nil

## **APEX LOOKOUT**

The lookout offers good views of Bright and also the Alps.

Distance	6 ½ km
Duration	Approximately 2 ½ hrs
Grading	Easy/medium 350m climb

### **Recommended Map:**

Use the map included in this booklet.

### **Getting to the start**

Start from the Star Hotel in the centre of Bright.

### **Walk Description**

From the hotel, go north, crossing the Ovens River by bridge. Turn west along the Back Porepunkah Road for about 300m until the junction of the residential area and the pine forest on the north side of the road (near pylon 54). Follow a vehicle track heading generally north and east, mostly climbing, until after about 2km a five-way junction of roads is reached.

From here, follow the ridge to the east, climbing steadily until Apex Lookout is reached after about 1km.

There is a good view from the lookout over Bright and to the adjacent mountains.

### **Cautions**

The track back from the lookout is quite steep in parts.

## **BRIGHT TO WANDILIGONG**

This is a delightful walk along the Morses Creek valley which has been classified by the National Trust for its landscape significance. It includes the beautiful historic mining village of Wandiligong.

Distance	15km
Duration	Approximately 5 hrs
Grading	Medium
	Level walking

### **Recommended Map:**

Use the map included in this booklet.

### **Getting to the start**

The walk begins in the centre of Bright near the Morses Creek bridge.

### **Walk Description**

The walk begins by following the west bank of Morses Creek upstream through magnificent parkland until the Dougherty's road bridge when we cross to the eastern bank of the creek. If the weather conditions are right there will be many hang-gliders and parasails operating off the top of the hill to the west. They land right alongside the main road and they are worth watching for a short time.

With some minor deviations the walk follows the creek bank to Alpine Park, which has toilets and is an attractive place for a break. After the park the track continues along the west bank of Morses Creek until the confluence of Growlers Creek where it continues to follow Growlers Creek for a short distance before returning to Alpine Park via the main street of Wandiligong. In the town are numerous historic buildings dating from the 1850s. Very few towns have a more picturesque setting than Wandiligong. The beautiful valley in which it is sited and the well maintained buildings and gardens combine to make it a particularly attractive place.

As the walk returns by much the same route, it is possible to cut it short to suit the needs of the participants.

### **Cautions**

Nil.

## **THE BIG WALK**

An excellent walk from the bottom to the top of Mt Buffalo or vice-versa. (Description is for up)

Distance	9.0 km <u>one way</u>
Duration	Approximately 5 hrs
Grading	Hard
	1040m climb

### **Recommended Map:**

Mt Buffalo Forest Activities Map 1:30 000 published by Rooftop Mapping Services

### **Getting to the start**

Drive towards Mt Buffalo and stop just short of the Gatehouse.

### **Walk Description**

After crossing Eurobin Creek, the track climbs steeply for about 2km (340m vert.) through pleasant forest. When you cross the main road for the second time there is an opportunity to start there, thus avoiding the initial climb. In this vicinity is some beautiful tall forest. Near the fourth road crossing you come to Mackey's lookout which offers excellent views. Immediately after this the climbing starts again, this time across the face of open granite. As you approach the gorge there are some spur tracks that should be taken as they give spectacular views over the Buffalo Gorge. Crystal Brook is crossed by bridge about 600m before reaching the Chalet. Trout can often be seen below. There are toilets in the car park at the chalet and also in the main building near the café. Lunch, coffee etc can be purchased at the café and eaten indoors or outside.

If you haven't been to Mt Buffalo before, make sure that you visit Bent's Lookout adjacent to the car park. Also worth a visit is the launching ramp for hang-gliders that is at the far end of the car park. The crimson rosellas in the car park will sit on your hand if you take some bird-seed with you, but be warned – they are carriers of psittacosis which can be fatal. Wash your hands before eating.

### **Cautions**

Part of the walk (especially after Mackey's Lookout) is across sloping granite. Good boots are required to prevent slipping. Some of the lookouts have huge drops, but they are fenced (except near the

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hang-glider launching ramp). See also the comments above on psittacosis.

## **THE BACK WALL**

This is a delightful walk through snow gums, granite tors and open frost hollows, terminating at the Back Wall where there is an excellent view.

Distance	11 km return
Duration	Approximately 4 hrs
Grading	Easy/medium 240m climb

### **Recommended Map:**

Mt Buffalo Forest Activities Map 1:30 000 published by Rooftop Mapping Services

### **Getting to the start**

Drive up Mt Buffalo and continue driving south (that is take the right fork just after you reach the plateau level – the left fork goes to the chalet) until you reach the Cresta Ski Area. (If the bitumen runs out you have overshot it by about a km). The track begins about 100m north of Mt Buffalo Lodge, formerly known as Tatra Inn.

### **Walk Description**

The walk begins in an open grassy area but soon gets into areas of snow gum and big granite boulders. The snow gums were burnt in 2003 and are slowly recovering by growing off their roots stocks. The route is well sign-posted. As you can see from the map there is an alternative route that can be used. The signage suggests that the easternmost route is difficult but there is not much difference between the two.

At the back wall there is an excellent view to the south and west. Mt Cobbler and many other peaks can easily be identified.

### **Cautions**

When the back wall is reached you will see why it is named as such. There is a very steep drop and no protection. However it is easy to walk to the furthest accessible point without going too close to the steep drop.

## **SOUTH BUFFALO VIEWPOINT**

This is an easy walk through snow gums and grass plains, with spectacular granite formations & views, terminating at South Buffalo Viewpoint

Distance 8 km return

Duration Approximately 3.5 hrs

Grading Easy  
120m climb

### **Recommended Map:**

Mt Buffalo Forest Activities Map 1:30 000 published by Rooftop Mapping Services

### **Getting to the start**

Drive up Mt Buffalo and continue driving south until you reach the Cresta Ski Area Car-park. The track starts right at the junction of the main road and the car park.

### **Walk Description**

The start of the walk takes you through unburnt snow gums behind Mt Buffalo Lodge (formerly known as Tatra Inn). This is one of only a few spots on the plateau not burnt in the 2003 fires. The track gradually climbs a ridge to the lookout. It crosses delightful little grass plains and sphagnum bogs separated by glades of snow gums & granite formations such as split peak. Half way along the track is a good spot for a break on a granite rock shelf with spectacular views back to the Hump and the Rocky Creek Valley. The last section of the walk meanders through the heath up a rocky track to the view point. There are spectacular views across the Rose River Valley to Mt Cobbler and left to the Back Wall and the Horn. Return on the same route.

### **Cautions**

If exploring the granite formations at the end of the look out, take care on the exposed cliff lines.

## **MOLLISON'S GALLERIES**

The walk to Mollison's Galleries is one of the longest on the Buffalo Plateau, but it is well worth doing. Mollison's Galleries are actually a series of huge boulders that overlook the Buffalo Valley and Lake Buffalo a long way below.

Distance	16 km return
Duration	Approximately 6 hrs
Grading	Medium/hard 300m climb

Recommended Map:

Mt Buffalo Forest Activities Map 1:30 000 published by Rooftop Mapping Services

### **Getting to the start**

Once you have reached the buffalo plateau, continue on past the left turn to the chalet, past the park ranger's office, and Reservoir Road is on the right about 200m past the ranger's office. It is about a kilometre from the chalet turn-off. Reservoir Road is good gravel. It is about 3.5 km to the reservoir where there is parking and a shelter. Because the walk is already long, it is essential to begin at the reservoir and not walk there from the sealed road.

### **Walk Description**

The walk to Mollison's Galleries is gently undulating, and has some good viewing points of the Buffalo Plateau - in particular from Eagle Point. It passes through snow-gum and alpine ash forests, rocky areas and snow-grass plains. Mollison's Galleries are a series of huge boulders that can be explored at lunch-time. There are good views to the west of the plateau and down on Lake Buffalo far below.

The return walk is via the same route, although there is an alternative route possible to the west of the reservoir.

### **Cautions**

At Eagle Point, normal care is required on the ladders.

## Mt McLeod

This is a fairly long walk to Mt McLeod, which is on the northern end of the Buffalo Plateau overlooking the Ovens Valley.

Distance	17 km return
Duration	Approximately 6 hrs plus lunch
Grading	Medium hard 300m climb

### Recommended Map:

Mt Buffalo Forest Activities Map 1:30 000 published by Rooftop Mapping Services

### Getting to the start

Drive up Mt Buffalo, take the right hand option at the fork where the left leads to the chalet. The road to the reservoir is on the right about 0.7 km further on past the Parks Office but before the sheds that house the snow clearing equipment. It is a good gravel road that follows Crystal Brook.

### Walk Description

Most of the walk is on a 4WD track but there are two exceptions. About 300m from the start (at the track junction) there is a foot track to the right that is clearly signposted. It is advisable to take this track because it avoids a climb and a descent of about 140m, and the track is more pleasant walking through open forest. The foot track trends gently downhill for a bit over a kilometre before rejoining the 4WD track.

The 4WD track is gently undulating but gradually gains about 100 m of altitude before it reaches the Mt McLeod walk-in camping area, which is in a nice open grassy area. There is a toilet just past the camp-site. Up to this point the walk has been through a variety of open forest. In the case of the larger trees, Manna gums and the like, it is hard to see that they were burned in the 2003 fires. The snow gums have obviously been burnt, but they are recovering by shooting off their root-stock so that they look quite good.

From the camping ground there is a climb of about 150m to the trig on Mt McLeod and towards the end it involves rock scrambling.

Walkers will need boots with a good grip and at least some tolerance for looking down steep slopes. However, there are no surprises and walkers can simply go as far as they feel comfortable. The views on the way up are nearly as good as those at the top anyway. It is

possible to see Myrtleford and Porepunkah from most places, and if you know where to look, Lake Mokoan near Benalla, and the Mt Stanley fire tower near Beechworth.

**Cautions**

The last part of the walk involves rock scrambling, but is reasonably easy for most people.

## **EUROBIN CREEK TO ROLLASON'S FALLS**

Distance	12 km return
Duration	Approximately 4.5 hrs
Grading	Medium+
	500m climb

### **Recommended Map:**

Mt Buffalo Forest Activities Map 1:30 000 published by Rooftop Mapping Services

### **Getting to the start**

Drive towards Mt Buffalo and stop just short of the Gatehouse.

### **Walk Description**

Rollasons Falls, the gem on Mount Buffalo we all pass by

Although Rollasons is only a 2km walk from the road, halfway up Buffalo, we will start from the park entrance. The first two km are fairly steep, rising 350m in about two km, walking through abundant fern gullies to a fire track. From here the going is easier with views over the Ovens Valley. There is a short section of road to walk (400m) before we descend to Rollasons Falls. There's the upper and lower falls, the latter being a good swimming hole once you have scrambled down to the water's edge, so bring the togs and enjoy. The trip should take about 4 and half hours, including a swim and lunch

### **Cautions**

The final hundred or so metres to the Falls has a steep drop off with soft edges and is not recommended for very young children

## Eagle Point via Og, Gog and Magog

Distance	10 km return
Duration	Approximately 4 to 5 hrs
Grading	Medium 200m climb

### Recommended Map:

Mt Buffalo Forest Activities Map 1:30 000 published by Rooftop Mapping Services

### Getting to the start

Once you have reached the buffalo plateau, continue on past the left turn to the chalet, past the park ranger's office, and Reservoir Road is on the right about 200m past the ranger's office. It is about a kilometre from the chalet turn-off. Reservoir Road is good gravel. It is about 3.5 km to the reservoir where there is parking and a shelter.

### Walk Description

Start and end at the reservoir. The walk commences by retracing 200m of the vehicle trip and turning north up the Mt McLeod Road. About 200 m up this road there is a marked track to the west. The track winds uphill to the turn off to Og, Gog, Magog. Gog and Magog were legendary giants taken as prisoners to Britain in ancient times. They served as porters at a palace that once stood on the site of London's Guildhall. Og, an antediluvian giant who escaped Noah's flood seems to have joined them there. There is a good view over the plateau from the rocks named after the giants. The track then heads out to Eagle Point; it is an easy and pleasant ramble. From the top of Eagle Point there are views to Lake Mokoan, near Benalla, 70km to the west, and to the rugged bluff of Mt. Cobbler about 50km to the south. Return to the reservoir via the route out or by turning south as shown on the map.

### Cautions

There are fixed metal ladders which must be climbed for the view at Eagle Point.

## Dickson's Falls

This is a short but delightful walk along Dickson's Creek to the falls.

Distance	3 km return
Duration	Approximately 1 hr
Grading	Easy 60m climb

Recommended Map:

Mt Buffalo Forest Activities Map 1:30 000 published by Rooftop Mapping Services

### **Getting to the start**

Drive up Mt Buffalo and continue driving south (that is, take the right fork just after you reach the plateau level – the left fork goes to the chalet) until you reach the Cresta Ski Area. (If the bitumen runs out you have overshot it by about a km). The track begins about 100m north of Mt Buffalo Lodge, formerly known as Tatra Inn.

### **Walk Description**

The walk begins in an open grassy area but soon gets into areas of snowgum. It is generally level as you follow along Dickson's Creek. One of the delights of the creek is the number of trout in it. These can be seen if you approach each hole quietly. When the falls are reached there is a spectacular view over the Buckland Valley lying below. It is this view that makes the walk worthwhile.

### **Cautions**

Nil

## The Corral

This is a short walk in an area of Mt Buffalo that has numerous large rock features.

Distance	2 km return
Duration	Approximately 1 ½ hrs
Grading	Easy+
	100 m climb

### Recommended Map:

Mt Buffalo Forest Activities Map 1:30 000 published by Rooftop Mapping Services

### Getting to the start

Drive up Mt Buffalo and continue south once the plateau is reached. Once past Lake Catani, the road climbs steadily until The Cathedral is reached. The track to the Corral is roughly opposite. There is an extensive parking area and also toilets (for the rock climbers who climb The Cathedral and The Hump).

### Walk Description

The track climbs steadily, rising about 100m in 250m until the ridge between Le Souef Peak and The Sentinel is reached. This is a good spot to admire the ruggedness of the surroundings before dropping about 30 m and ascending the same amount to Corral Peak. There are other tracks that can be used to explore this area. If you do not want to climb the peaks there are huge granite outcrops that can be explored by walking around and under them.

From the vantage points high up there are good views to the east.

### Cautions

Climbing any of the peaks in this area requires rock scrambling and hence care is needed as well as footwear with a good grip.

## Mt Dunn and Macs Point

This is an excellent walk with lots of variety and two viewpoints

Distance 9 km

Duration Approximately 4 hrs

Grading Easy/Medium

Climb 150m gradually plus 100m steeply up Mt Dunn

### **Recommended Map:**

Mt Buffalo Plateau Forest Activities Map, 1:30 000 by Rooftop Mapping Services.

### **Getting to the start**

Drive up Mt Buffalo, take the right hand option at the fork where the left leads to the chalet. The road to the reservoir is on the right about 0.7 km further on past the Parks Office but before the sheds that house the snow clearing equipment. It is a good gravel road that follows Crystal Brook. Drive to the parking area at the end near the reservoir.

### **Walk Description**

In little more than a kilometre after leaving the cars at the reservoir, we reach the turnoff to Mt Dunn. There is a relatively steep climb of 100m to reach the top, but the view is one of the best on the Buffalo Plateau.

The walk then continues on through Snow Gum and Mountain Gum forest as we first descend and then ascend about 100m to cross a small valley. Thereafter the walk is fairly level. We pass the Giant's Causeway with its spectacular rock formations, and continue on past a few small snow grass plains to Macs Point. This does not require a climb as the ground drops away steeply below it, allowing a good view to the west into the Buffalo Valley.

The final leg of the walk mostly follows the Rocky Creek 4WD Track as it passes through numerous snow grass plains and Snow Gum forest.

### **Cautions**

The ladders at Mt Dunn require the usual amount of care.

## **MT BUFFALO – VIEW POINT**

An easy but interesting walk with a mixture of interest including lovely tracks, the underground river and a great view over the Buckland Valley.

Distance	7-8 km
Duration	Approximately 3.5 hrs
Grading	Easy
	180m climb but gradual

### **Recommended Map:**

Mt Buffalo Forest Activities Map 1:30 000 published by Rooftop Mapping Services

### **Getting to the start**

We will be starting at a delightful picnic spot on the main road, overlooking Lake Catani.

### **Walk Description**

The walk follows a foot track along the northern edge of Lake Catani, and then crosses Eurobin Creek just below the wall of Lake Catani. We then climb slowly to the View Point from where we get a good view over the Buckland Valley far below.

We retrace our steps for about 800 m and join another foot-track that takes us past the underground river on the way back to the chalet where the walk finishes. There is a climb out of the valley where the underground river is located but we will take it slowly.

The return trip back to the cars will depend on the group but is likely to follow the track back around the Monolith.

The tracks are all typical of Mt Buffalo plateau with beautiful vegetation and massive granite rocks.

### **Cautions**

Nil.

## Mt Dunn CIRCUIT

A longer circuit walk in the reservoir area, along very nice foot-tracks with two viewpoints en-route.

Distance	10.0 km
Duration	Approximately 5 hrs
Grading	Medium+ 300m climb

### **Recommended Map:**

Mt Buffalo Forest Activities Map 1:30 000 published by Rooftop Mapping Services

### **Getting to the start**

The road to the reservoir is on the right about 0.7 km further on past the Parks Office but before the sheds that house the snow clearing equipment. It is a good gravel road that follows Crystal Brook. Drive to the parking area at the end near the reservoir.

### **Walk Description**

Except for about half a kilometre of fire-trail, this walk is all on foot tracks that traverse a range of rocky terrain, snow gum forest, taller forest, and open snow grass plains.

The walk begins at the reservoir. We will walk back a couple of hundred metres to the Mt McLeod Road, turn north for about 300m and then join a signed foot track to the west towards Mollison's Galleries. About a kilometre along the track we come to a branch to Og, Gog and Magog, a group of rocks that can be climbed (only a small rise) for a good view across the plateau.

After the climb to the top we continue on, taking care not to follow the Mollison's Gallery track until we reach the Rocky Creek 4WD track which we follow for 100m before turning right to follow a foot track for several km until we reach the foot of Mt Dunn.

Those who still have energy can climb the 100 m to the summit for excellent views of the plateau, although that will not be possible if the ladder continues to be inaccessible. When we return to the track at the foot of Mt Dunn, it is only another kilometre or so to the start point.

Portion of the 300m climb mentioned at the top is up Mt Dunn (100m) which can be avoided if desired.

**Cautions**

If they are accessible, the ladders at the top of Mt Dunn require normal care.

## **THE TWINS**

This is an excellent walk near Mt St Bernard which is about 10 km on the Bright side of Mt Hotham. The views from the top are spectacular.

Distance	6 or 10km return
Duration	Approximately 3 or 4hrs
Grading	Medium+
	400m climb

Recommended Map:

Dargo Plains – Cobungra 8323-N, 1:50 000

### **Getting to the start**

Drive up Mt Hotham Road and stop at the Dargo turn-off.

### **Walk Description**

The walk begins at the junction of the Dargo Rd with the Mt Hotham Road. A 4WD track is followed past the rope tow used by Wangaratta Ski Club, which has a lodge nearby. After about 2km, you leave the 4WD track to climb on the Alpine Walking Track. The climb is very steep, but as it is less than 300m rise, it can be taken quite slowly. Towards the top the trees disappear altogether. After reaching the first peak it is a relatively flat walk to the main peak with the trig beacon on it. From here there are completely unobstructed views in every direction. The return path can be via the same route or it is possible to use the track to the north and make a loop to join the original track.

### **Cautions**

There are no concerns other than the steep slope.

## Mount Tabletop

This is a lovely high plain walk to Mount Tabletop where there is a steep cliff below and wonderful views.

Distance	10.0 km return
Duration	Approximately 4 hrs (Including leisurely lunch)
Grading	Easy/Medium 200m climb out, 180m climb back

### **Recommended Map:**

Dargo Plains-Cobungra 1:50 000

### **Getting to the start**

Drive past Mt Hotham and stop at JB Plain which is about 1.8 km before the Dinner Plain village.

### **Walk Description**

Begin walk at JB Plain car park (GR 195024)

Stroll south along flat, snow grassed, open, JB plain along defined track for approx 1km.

Enter snow gum tree line and follow sign posted track past a couple of old cattle mustering enclosures prior to steep 100m drop (over 300m distance) to valley floor.

Continue down gentle slope, crossing a couple of small creeks and wander along valley floor in open savannah, paralleling sometimes marshy water course, before beginning gentle rise towards base of Mt Tabletop.

Short, sharp, slog (160m climb over 1.3 km) to top of Mt Tabletop. 500m stroll along ridge to escarpment and views of area.

Much ooh-aaring at views, Leisurely lunch and return via same route.

JB Plain- 1600 m above sea level.

Mt Tabletop- 1593 m above sea level.

### **Cautions**

At the time of writing, lack of rain indicates there may be no water along the track. (water **has** been available from creeks on last 3 visits). At the top of Mt Tabletop there are steep drops off to the side but they are not a hazard if reasonable care is taken.

Road from Harrietville to JB Plain is well made but very steep and winding.

## **MT FEATHERTOP**

This is one of the best alpine walks in Victoria.

Distance	19 km + 3 km for ascent
Duration	Approximately 8 hrs
Grading	Medium/hard
	150m climb en-route plus 200m to summit

### **Recommended Map:**

Bogong Alpine Area 1:50 000

### **Getting to the start**

Drive to Diamantina Hut about 2km west of Mt Hotham Village.

### **Walk Description**

This is an excellent walk because the first part is along the Razorback ridge with excellent views all the way. In front is the imposing summit of Mt Feathertop, beckoning the walker along. Mt Feathertop, especially from this aspect, looks like a real mountain. The Razorback ridge is more or less level for most of the way until the final ascent.

Near Federation Hut the track leads off to the summit. It is a 200m climb all of which is above the tree line.

The view from the top is spectacular and extends for 360 degrees.

What makes it special is that it is different in every direction.

The route back to Harrietteville follows Bungalow Spur. Looking at the map it appears difficult but in fact the track follows an old bridle track that is perfectly graded and makes for easy walking.

This is a long walk but well worthwhile

### **Cautions**

There is no water readily available without having to go well out to the way.

This is an alpine walk and it is essential to carry a waterproof jacket and some warm clothing.

## **MT LOCH AND SPARGO HUT**

Mount Loch and Spargo Hut can be visited as two separate walks but for convenience they are combined in the following description.

Distance	12.5km	Mt Loch only 7km
Duration	6 hrs	Mt Loch only 2 ½ hrs
Grading	Medium	Mt Loch only Easy
	350m climb	Mt Loch only 230m

### **Recommended Map:**

Feathertop 8324-3-2; scale 1:25 000 or Bogong Alpine Area 1:50 000

### **Getting to the start**

Drive via Harrietville up the Great Alpine Road and stop just one kilometre short of the Mount Hotham Village. Park at Mount Loch car park.

### **Walk Description**

This walk starts at 1800 metres, and Mount Loch, the highest point on the walk is 1860 metres. The high altitude demands proper wet weather gear and warm clothing as weather conditions can change rapidly. Participants should be prepared for potential white-out and therefore carry a whistle and compass.

From Loch car park, there is a three and a half kilometre walk through alpine heath to the summit of Mount Loch where there are good views. The Spargo Hut group will then follow the Alpine Walking Track to Derrick Hut which is in a sheltered location among snow gums abutting Swindlers Spur. The final section involves a 100 metre descent to Spargo's Hut, the only steep grade on the walk. Depending on weather conditions, lunch can be taken at either of the two huts. The return is via the Alpine Walking Track back to the car park.

### **Cautions**

As this is an alpine walk, it is essential to carry a water-proof jacket and warm clothing as the weather can change from pleasant to horrible in a very short time. Fog is also possible so the group should have a compass.

## **DIBBINS HUT CIRCUIT**

This is a fairly hard walk beginning high up with good views and descending to the Cobungra River and Dibbins Hut which is set in a beautiful flat by the river. The return route goes past the Red Robin Mine.

Distance	22km return
Duration	9 hrs
Grading	Hard
	650m climb

Recommended Map:  
Bogong Alpine Area 1:50 000

### **Getting to the start**

Drive up Mt Hotham and stop at the Mt Loch car-park about 2km before the Hotham Heights village

### **Walk Description**

The walk begins at the Mt Loch car-park and follows a 4WD road along a ridge towards Mt Loch. There are few trees in this area so the views are excellent. Just short of Mt Loch, we turn right on to the Alpine Walking Track, reaching Derrick Hut about 1 ½ km after the turn-off. The flowers in this area are usually very prolific. After Derrick Hut we continue to follow the ridge with good views out through the burnt snow gums. The last kilometre before Dibbins Hut drops quite steeply and those with wonky knees will find a walking pole an advantage. Dibbins Hut is set in a delightful river flat beside the Cobungra River and it is a good spot for lunch. (There is a pit toilet there).

The return route first crosses the Cobungra on a small bridge, climbs a few metres and then crosses Cobungra gap into the watershed of the East Kiewa River. We travel north-east to the Red Robin Battery and then swing southerly along a 4WD track that climbs steadily to the Red Robin Mine and then follows a fairly level ridge back to Mt Loch and then to the start at the car-park.

### **Cautions**

The descent to Dibbins Hut requires reasonable care. Also, this is an alpine walk and a waterproof jacket and warm clothes need to be carried in case of a change in the weather.

## **MT JIM**

Distance	18 km return
Duration	6 hrs
Grading	Medium (distance) 250m climb

### **Recommended Map:**

Bogong Alpine Area, 1:50 000  
Cope & Feathertop 1:25,000

### **Getting to the start**

Drive to Falls Creek and continue on following the High Plains Road to a car-park opposite Mt Cope

### **Walk Description**

From carpark cross country to old SEC track and follow to Alpine Walking Track (AWT) near SEC hut. Follow AWT past Mt Bundara to pole 333 and then to Mt Jim which is only 30m above surrounding plain. There is a good view from the top of plains and Mt Feathertop as well as other peaks.

Leave Mt Jim and pick up the Cope West aqueduct at the head of High Plains Creek and follow aqueduct to Ryders Yards. After the yards it is a short walk to falls on a tributary of High Plains Creek. Two options are available from here; follow Cope East aqueduct upstream to a saddle below Mt Cope and to cars or downstream to AWT and return via old SEC track to cars.

### **Caution**

As this is a walk in an alpine area it is important to include warm gear and waterproofs in your day-pack, as well as usual requirement for a day including compass.