



Alpine National Park

– *our mountain heritage*

Walks around Howitt, Snowy Range & Tali Karng

Walking is one of the best ways to discover the variety and beauty of the alpine environment. The walks described in this leaflet are just a selection from many possibilities. The best walking period lasts from early November until late March; the area is usually snow covered during winter and early spring. Always carry and know how to use a map and compass and be prepared for sudden changes in the weather.

How far, how fast?

In good weather along a track, a fit person can cover 3–4 km an hour. Remember to make allowances for long steep climbs, heavy packs, photography and rests. Let someone know before you go.

Take care!

All visitors and especially walkers, should realise that weather conditions can change rapidly in mountain and alpine areas. Snowfalls and blizzards can be experienced at any time of the year, so always be prepared with:

- wind and waterproof jacket
- warm clothing – woollen hat, gloves and sunglasses
- strong footwear
- high energy food and water
- first aid kit, and
- map and compass.

Please keep to marked or defined walking tracks.

Setting up camp

There are numerous ideal sites in the area for dispersed bush camping without facilities. Sites with basic facilities are:

For bush walkers

- Macalister Springs, fuel stove only area
- Tali Karng, fuel stove only area –larger groups are asked to register at the Heyfield office.

For car based campers

- Wellington River, 9km along the river beginning 10km north of Licola – toilets at sites 1, 7, 8, 13, and 16
- Horseyard Flat, beside the Moroka River
- Wonnangatta Valley (4WD only), near the historic site of the Homestead.

The walks

These scenic walks take in a full range of alpine landscapes:

1. Mt Howitt (14km, approx 5 hours return)

2. Bryce Gorge (8km, approx 2.5 hours return)
3. Moroka Gorge (12km, approx 8 hours return)
4. Tali Karng.

Other publications

For more details and extensive coverage of the Alpine National Park see the following maps and publications:

- Vicmap 1:50 000 series Howitt – Selwyn, Tamboritha –Moroka, Dargo Plains –Cobungra & Crooked River
- The Australian Alps Walking Track & Alpine National Park by John Siseman (Pindari Publications)
- The selection of parknotes on the Alpine National Park produced by Parks Victoria.

Around Mt Howitt

The Mt Howitt Walk

(14km, approx 5 hours return)

The walk starts at the carpark on the Howitt Road, 81km north of Licola via the Tamboritha Road. The first 5km passes through pleasant Snow Gum woodlands and small, open snow grass plains. The memorial Vallejo Gantner hut near Macalister Springs was built in 1970 as a refuge for bushwalkers. It has a unique copper clad inclined 'A' frame design.

Beyond the hut the track follows a narrow ridge, with spectacular views into the headwaters of the Macalister River (west) and Wonnangatta River – Terrible Hollow (east).

After a climb of 0.5km the Australian Alps Walking Track is reached. Turn left, it is only a fairly short walk across alpine herbfields to the open rolling summit of Mt Howitt and Howitt West Peak. The view from here is one of the best in the Victorian Alps; nearby the jagged Cross Cut Saw, The Razor, The Viking and Mount Speculation, and in the distance Mount Buller to the west, Mount Buffalo to the north and Mount Feathertop to the north-west.



Parks Victoria Ranger

"Victoria has all the outdoors you could wish for – mountains, forests, beaches and bushland, all preserved in our parks. Our natural landscapes have been here longer than anyone knows, and together we can make sure they're here forever."

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July 2000

For further information contact

Parks Victoria Information Centre
13 1963
or visit our website
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Parks Victoria Heyfield Office
ph (03) 5139 7777

Caring for the environment

Help us care for our parks and reserves by remembering these guidelines

Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park.

Please do not disturb or remove any native plants animals or rock formations.

Vehicles including trail bikes may only be driven or ridden on formed roads open to the public, and must be fully road registered. Drivers and riders must hold a current license.

Always check fire danger forecasts. No fires, including stoves, may be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban.

Take your rubbish home with you. Most rubbish will not burn or rot.

Do not pollute streams and rivers with refuse, detergents or human wastes. Wash up well away from streams.

Where toilets are not provided, bury your toilet waste at least 100m from water or camp sites.

Use a portable stove instead of lighting a fire, especially above or near the treeline.

Fuel Stove only area
Due to vegetation damage and visual scarring, no campfires are to be lit within 1km of Tali Karng or Vallejo Gantner Hut (Macalister Springs).

Enjoy a visit to a hut but do not use them for accommodation. Always carry a tent.

Choose a firm, dry, well drained campsite at least 20m away from any watercourses.

Leave the park as you find it.

Around Bryces Gorge

The Bryces Gorge Circuit (8km, approx 2.5 hours return)

The walk starts at the carpark on the Howitt Road, 23.5 km north of Arbuckle Junction (46.5 km north of Licola via Tamboritha Road). From the carpark follow the well defined track across open snow plains for about 1.7km to the waterfall on Pieman Creek. The best view is from a lookout about 50m below the main track.

Return to the main track and continue around the clifftops of Bryces Gorge for 1.5km to Conglomerate Falls. From the falls the track follows Conglomerate Creek through Black Sallee woodlands and across open plains to a junction with the Wonnangatta Track. Guys Hut is reached after a further 3km through groves of Snow Gums. Built in 1940, the hut is an excellent example of bush architecture and well worth a visit. Continue 1km south east from the hut to the carpark.

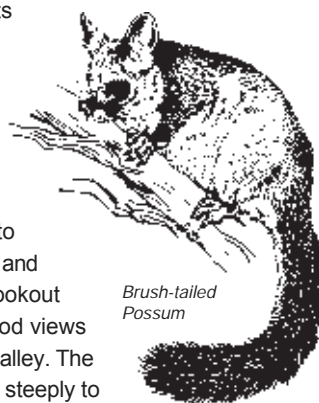
Around Moroka Gorge

The Moroka Gorge Walk (12km, approx 8 hours return)

A reasonable level of fitness is required as there are a couple of steep descents/ascents along the route. Walking in the steep rocky terrain of the gorge is much slower than along tracks and trails. Be alert for high river levels and fast flowing water which can make the Gorge hazardous. If you have limited time, walk to the first waterfall or the lookout point along the eastern section of the track.

From Horseyard Flat, the track crosses the Moroka River by a footbridge and heads north through pleasant open river flats.

The track meets the Moroka River at the first waterfall – an ideal stopping point. From there it climbs to the escarpment and follows it to a lookout which gives good views of the Moroka valley. The track descends steeply to the river, passing through Lummican Gully. There is no formal track beyond this point but following the river downstream brings you to three spectacular waterfalls and the narrow gorge proper (dry weather only). This involves some rock hopping and should not be attempted when the river is high.



Brush-tailed Possum

Around Tali Karng

Tali Karng, 'the hidden lake', was formed at least 1500 years ago by an enormous rockslide. You can appreciate the size of the rockslide in the boulder strewn Valley of Destruction downstream of the Lake.

1. McFarlane Saddle – Wellington Plains – Tali Karng

(12km each way, 4 hours to Lake, 5 hours out)

The easiest route to the Lake begins at McFarlane Saddle carpark on the Moroka Road, 60 km from Licola. The walk follows a well defined track across Wellington Plains for 9km before reaching Gillios Track branching off to the south. This track is about 3km long, and although steep is well graded down to the Lake. An alternative is the Spion Kopje Track, which branches off the Wellington Plains track after 6km and rejoins it again about 250m above Gillios track. This route, although more difficult and slightly longer, is more scenic.

2. Wellington River – Clive Lanigan Track – Tali Karng

(17km each way, 7 hours to Lake, 6 hours out)

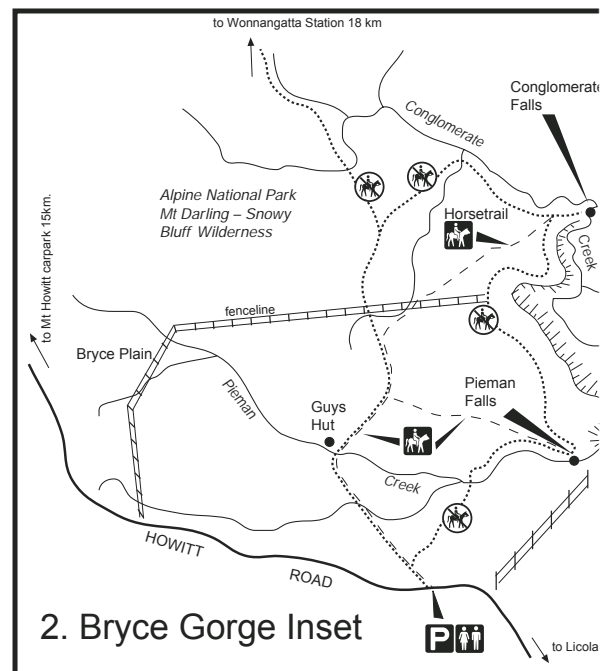
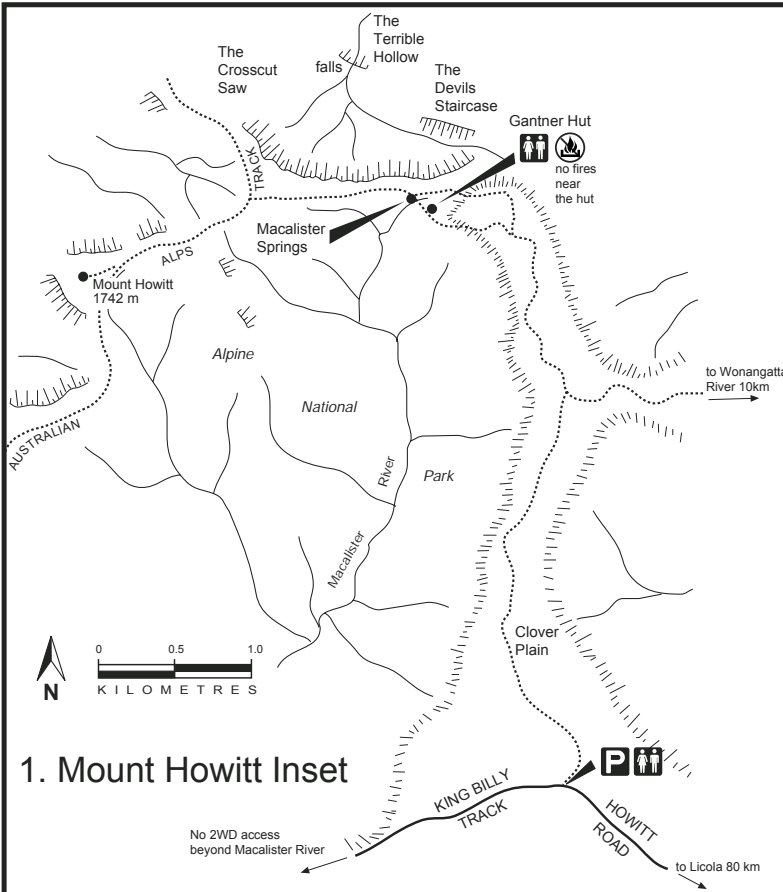
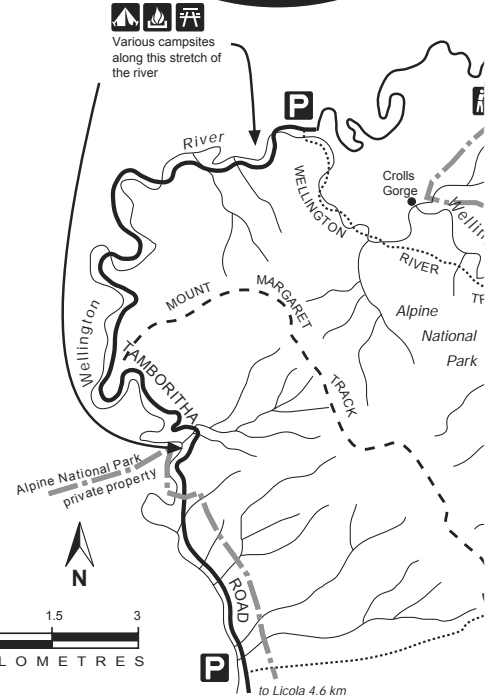
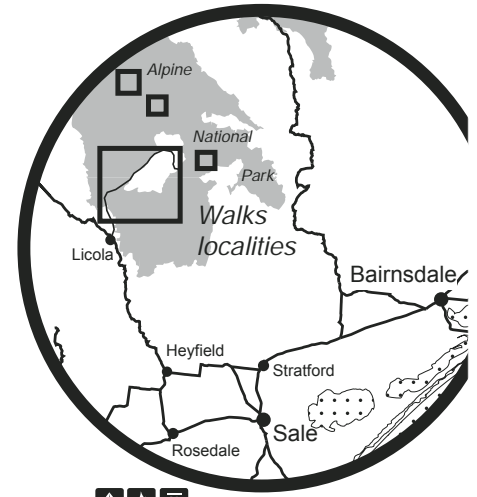
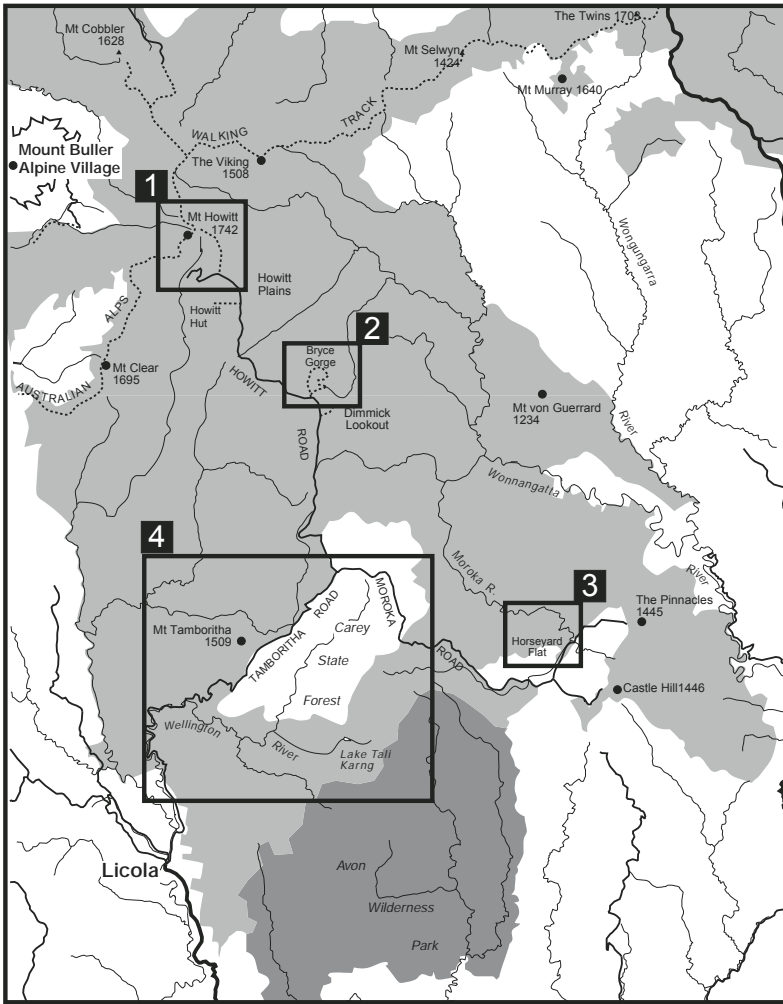
This route begins at the third bridge over the Wellington River, about 22km north of Licola. The route follows the Wellington River upstream for 17km, crossing the river 16 times. These crossings may be hazardous if the river level is high. Continue along the track until you meet a marked foot trail which climbs steeply through the Valley of Destruction and on to the Lake. A slightly longer alternative route is via Riggall Spur track up to Echo Point. From here it is a 1km walk down to the Lake.

3. Tamboritha Road – Mt Margaret – Tali Karng

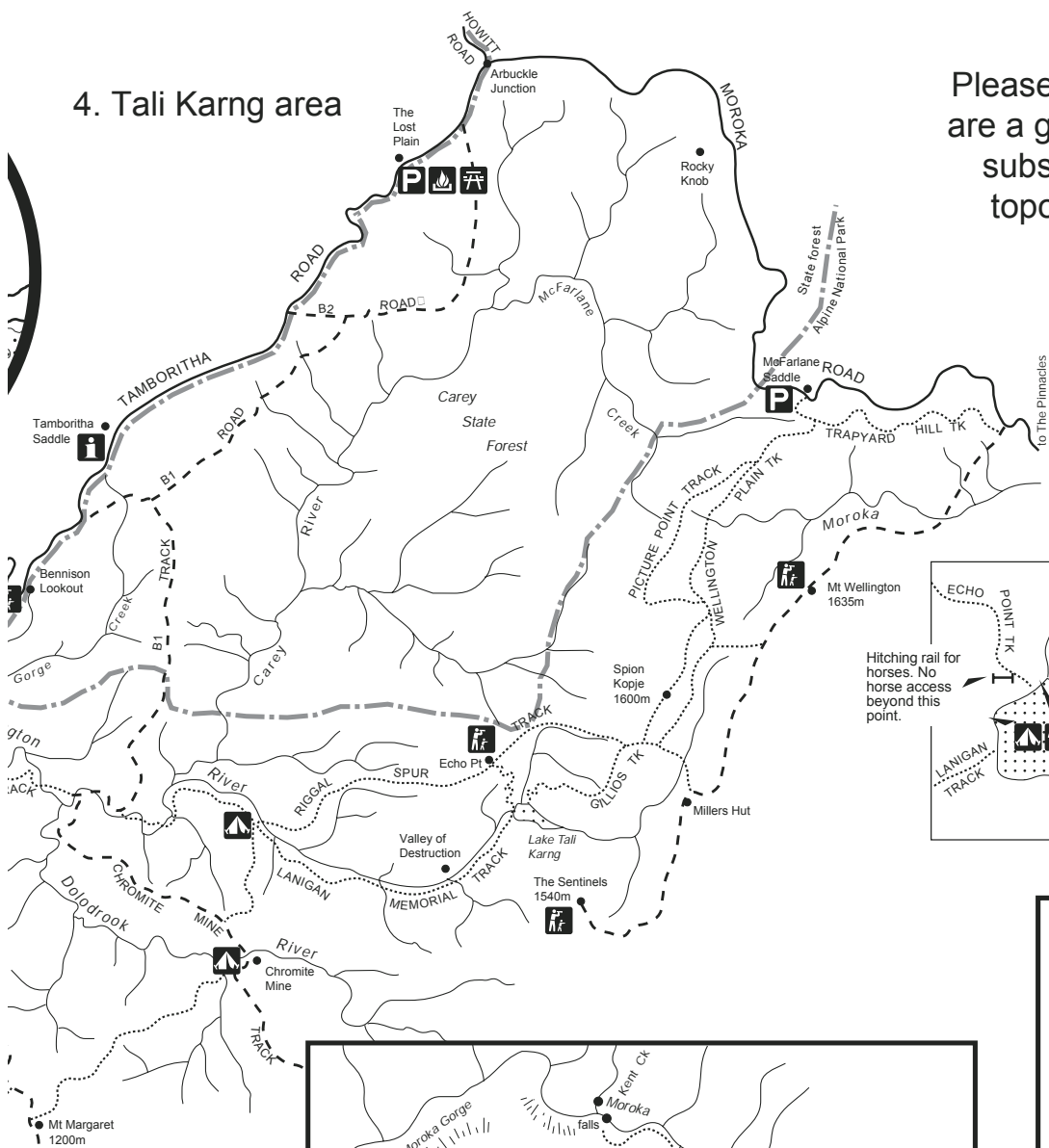
(20km each way, 10 hours to Lake, 9 hours out)

One of the most difficult routes to the Lake. Start from the Tamboritha Road approx 4km from Licola. From there climb steeply for 6km until you meet the Mt Margaret Track. Head south along this track for about 250m before turning left towards the Chromite Mine where there is a campsite and water. From here it is another 3.5km to the Wellington River via Clive Lanigan track, then on to the Lake.

Horsing is permitted to within 200m of the Lake on the Echo Point Track at the hitching rails near The Knoll. Horses are not permitted at the Lake or on the Clive Lanigan and Gillios tracks.

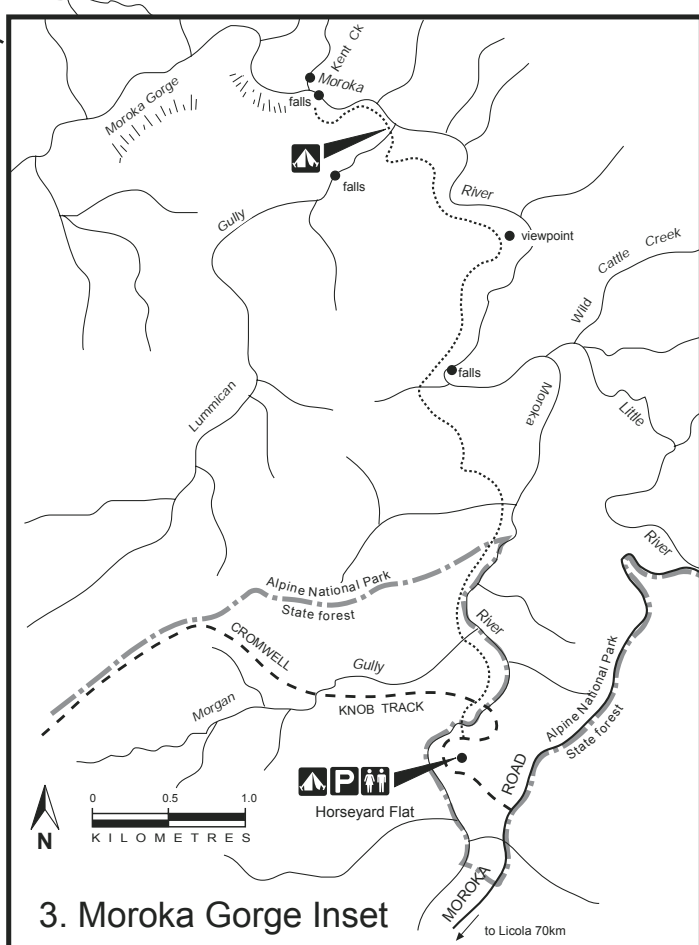
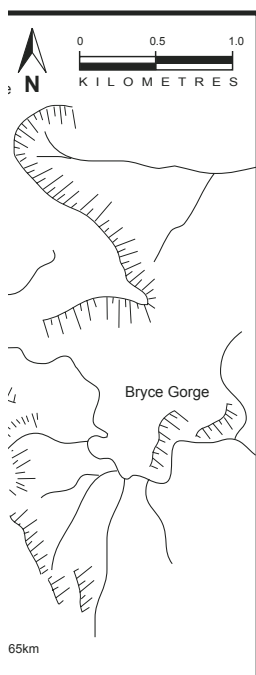
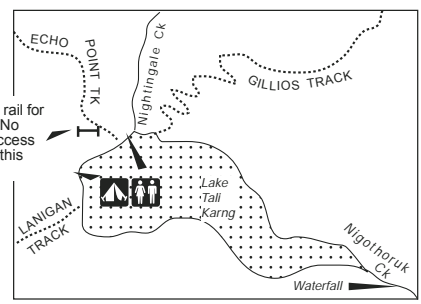


4. Tali Karng area



Please note: These maps are a guide only and not a substitute for detailed topographical maps.

Lake Tali Karng Inset



3. Moroka Gorge Inset

Walks around Howitt, Snowy Range & Tali Karng: Alpine National Park

- Major access road
- Minor access road
- Vehicular track (4WD)
- Horsetrail
- Walking track
- Park boundary
- Alpine National Park

Recreational Facilities

- Camping
- Carpark
- Fireplace
- Horsing
- Information
- Lookout
- Picnic area
- Toilets
- No fires
- No horsing



Cartography by Charles Walsh
Nature Tourism Services 00/4