

BMWDCM Bright & Area

April 2020

This is a bushfire relief trip. The agenda can be adjusted at the time. The intent is to support the local businesses. These notes have a sample of possible drives and some other information.

CONTENTS

CAR WASHING	2
TWO-WAY RADIOS	2
ACTIVITIES IN BRIGHT AND SURROUNDS	3
BRIGHT MAP	4
98 OCTANE FUEL	5
HOSPITAL/MEDICAL	5
TAWONGA GAP, MT BEAUTY & FALLS CREEK	6
MOUNT BEAUTY / TAWONGA RURAL LOOP TO BRIGHT	8
MYRTLEFORD & LAKE BUFFALO	9
MOUNT BUFFALO	9
BEECHWORTH & YACKANDANDAH TRIP	10
BEECHWORTH TOWN MAP	11
BEECHWORTH & YACKANDANDAH ROUTE MAP	12
LONG TWISTY ROAD TRIP OPTION – BRIGHT – OMEO – TALLANGATTA - BRIGHT	13
ROUTE MAP FOR OPTIONAL LONG DRIVE	15
BRIGHT - MELBOURNE	16
OPENING HOURS	17
GETTING THERE	17
THINGS TO SEE AND DO	17
MOUNT BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK	17
BE PREPARED AND STAY SAFE	20

CAR WASHING

There is a car wash beside Woolworths in the main street.

The BP service station at 12 Delaney Avenue has coin-operated, self-serve carwash facilities.

TWO-WAY RADIOS

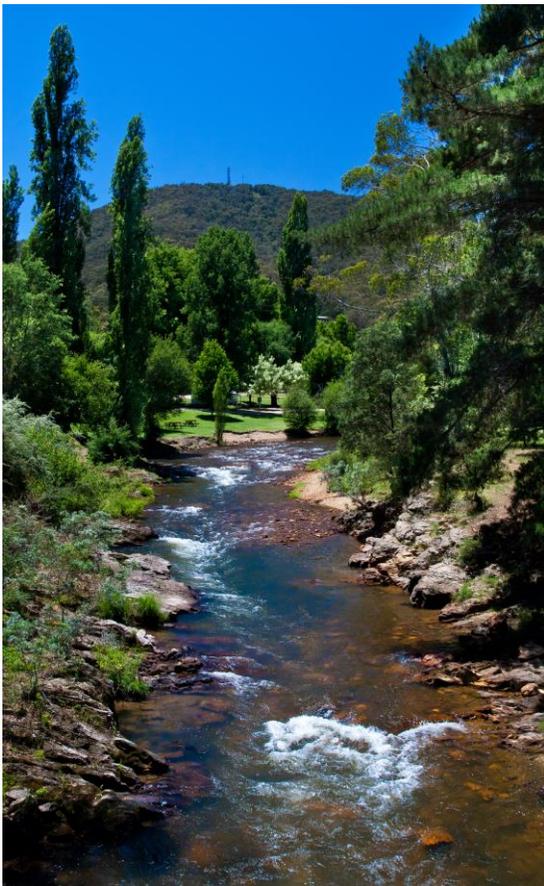
We'll be using channel 17

Remember that everything you say on a radio is public and can be heard by anyone in the vicinity

If you're in the middle of a sizable group, please relay messages from the back or front, as radios often have limited range, especially in mountainous regions.

If you need something repeated, "say again" is the best way to indicate this

Remember to recharge the radio each night, unless it has separate batteries.



Ovens River at Bright

This information is from 2018 – use at your discretion!

Food

Restaurants and cafes and Bright hotels

Self-catered

Lunch or dinner at the Wandiligong Pub <https://www.thewandipub.com/>

Bright Cafés with 4.5 or 5 stars on TripAdvisor (and >20 reviews)

Gum Tree Pies (5 stars)

Sixpence Coffee (5 stars) – coffee shop

Cherry Walk

Blackbird Café

Coral Lee

Food Wine Friends

Café Velo

What You Eat

Dumu Balcony Café

Bright Restaurants with 4.5 or 5 stars on TripAdvisor (and >20 reviews)

Tomahawks (5 stars)

Walker Bros Wine Bar

Wandiligong (Wandi) Pub

Shimla (Italian and Indian)

Grape & Grain Bar (Australian, Mexican, Spanish)

Birbante Pizzeria & Cellar Door

Bistro Aliment (French, Australia)

Rok Salt Fish & Chippery (fast food, seafood)

Other Activities

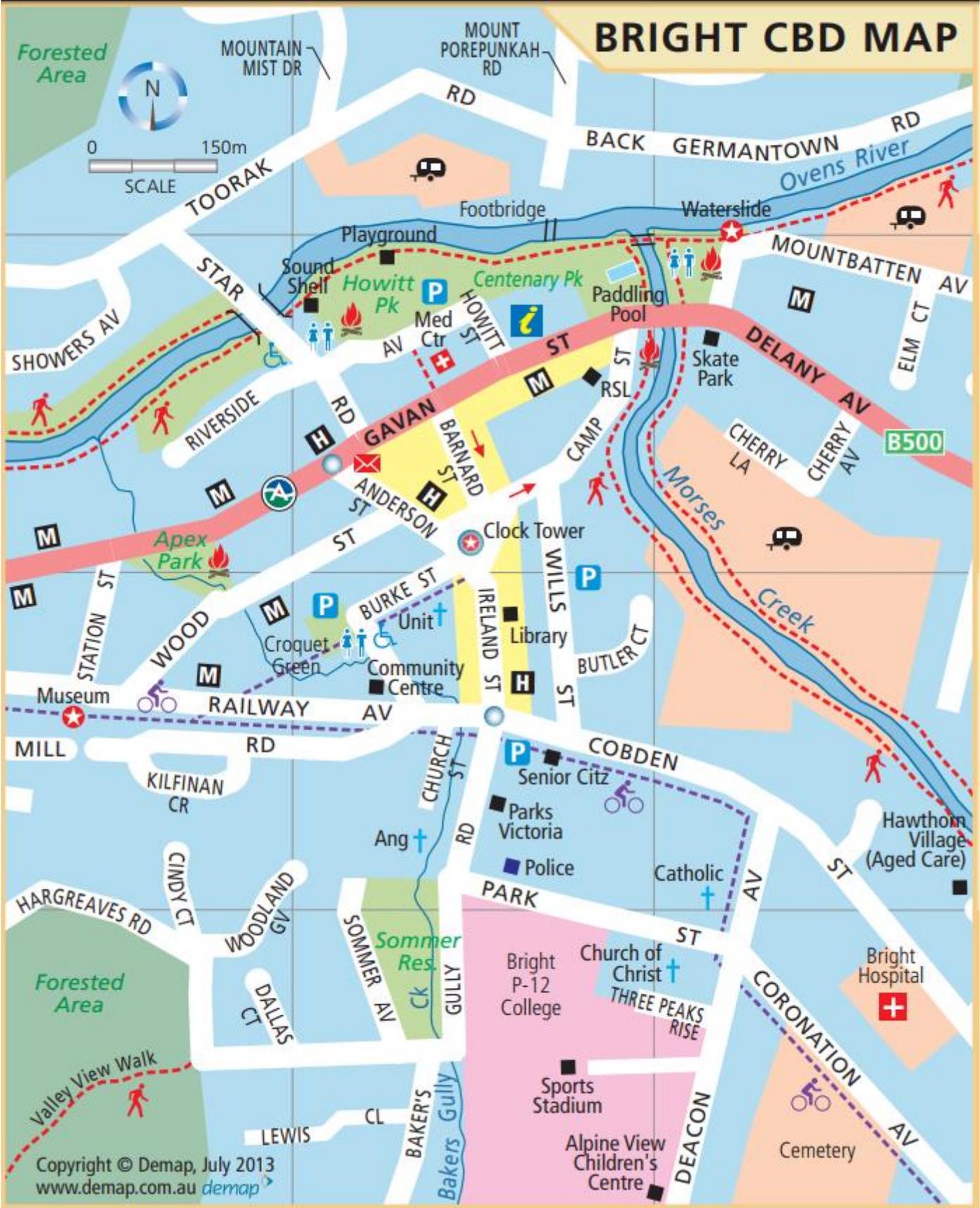
1. Markets perhaps on the Sunday
2. Cycleway/rail trail, with restored Bright railway station. Bright Museum near the station.
3. Canyon Walk, a riverside walk downstream from Bright town centre. Includes cuttings for gold-mining water races.
4. Historic towns: Myrtleford (nearby), Beechworth (further but larger), Yackandandah (further and small but less touristy).
5. Historic tobacco shed in Myrtleford
6. Platypus at dusk in Bright's old water supply dams
7. Craft shops and tourist shops in Bright.
8. Wandiligong historic town (5 minutes from Bright)

Wandiligong

Wandiligong was the site of a small gold rush during the mid-1850s which saw the town's population climb to over 2,000. The whole town is now registered with the National Trust as a classified landscape.

Morses Creek runs through Wandiligong and features a walking track which follows the course of the river all the way to Bright. Wandiligong's gold history can be explored at "The Diggings" which is accessed via Centenary Avenue. "The Diggings" was the site of extensive mining and has been beautified with walking tracks and several footbridges across both Morses Creek and Growlers Creek. Wandiligong has a large living hedge maze. Several walks in Wandiligong show the visitor the beautiful heritage valley and its history, including the Wandi Wander, Royal Bridge Walk and The Diggings Walk with its Chinese Swing Bridge.





98 OCTANE FUEL

(Omeo)		Independent service station with self-serve machine for fuel. No 98 octane.
Bright	BP Caltex United?	12 Delaney Avenue (also coin-operated self-serve car wash) 76 Gavan Street (main road), 7am-7pm 1 Anderson Street (corner Great Alpine Road)
Mt Beauty	Caltex Caltex	1 Lakeside Ave, 6am-9pm 233 Kiewa Valley Highway, Tawonga South, 7am-7pm
Tallangatta	BP Caltex	13 Towong Street (which passes for the main road of the town) 21 Towong Street, 7am-7.30pm
Mansfield	BP Caltex (Shell)	145 Mt Buller Rd just near the Eastern end of town 2 Chenery St, 24 hour (Bonnie Doon, West of Mansfield)

HOSPITAL/MEDICAL

Town	Name	Address	Phone	Services	Notes
Bright	Bright Hospital	Cobden St	5755 0100	Urgent/acute care etc	
	Bright Medical Centre	115 Gavan St	5750 1000	GP	
Tallangatta	Tallangatta Health Service	25 Barree St	02 6071 5200	Accident & emergency (small)	
Myrtleford	Myrtleford Hospital	30 O'Donnell St	5751 9300	Urgent/acute care etc	
Mt Beauty	Mount Beauty Hospital	1-3 Hollonds St	5754 3500	Urgent/acute care etc	

Summary

Bright – Mt Beauty	30 km
Mt Beauty – Falls Creek	32 km

Take the twisty road through Tawonga Gap, stopping on the descent at Sullivans Gap for the view over the Mt Beauty valley to Mt Bogong (Victoria’s highest peak).

Mt Beauty has a Community Market on the first Saturday of each month. There is also the Alpine Fudge Factory, bakery and normal village shops.

Each way: 32km, 50 minutes

Enjoy the superb, twisty road up to Falls Creek to the views over the lake.

Option: On the way back down, if it has been raining recently, a walk of 1.5km (40 minutes return) takes you to the modest waterfall at Fainter Falls. (Formed track with hills and no steps. Clearly sign posted once you’re on the track, which starts opposite the car park.)

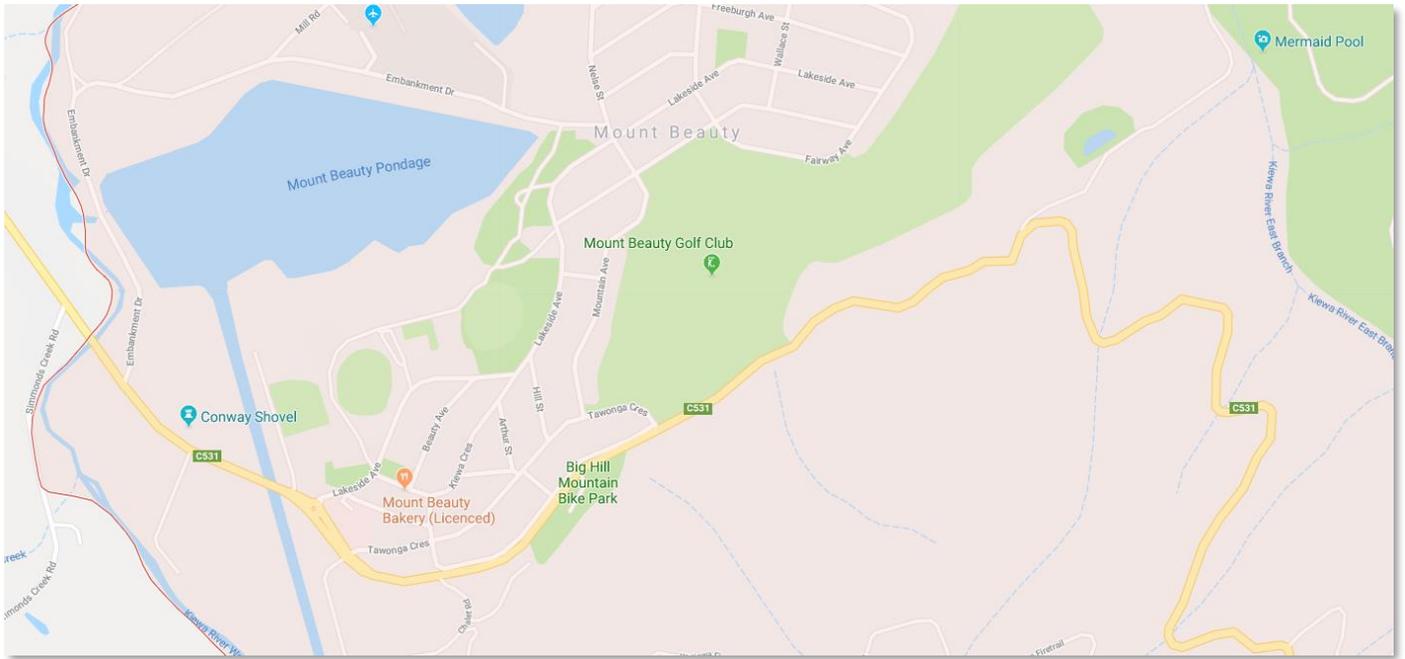
Option: On the way back down, Turn Right into the village of Bogong (Bogong Alpine Village) for a view of the small lake and maybe some photos.

Return to Bright over Tawonga Gap, or head further North to cross the range on Running Creek Road (C534) to Ovens and enter Bright along the Great Alpine Road (B500)

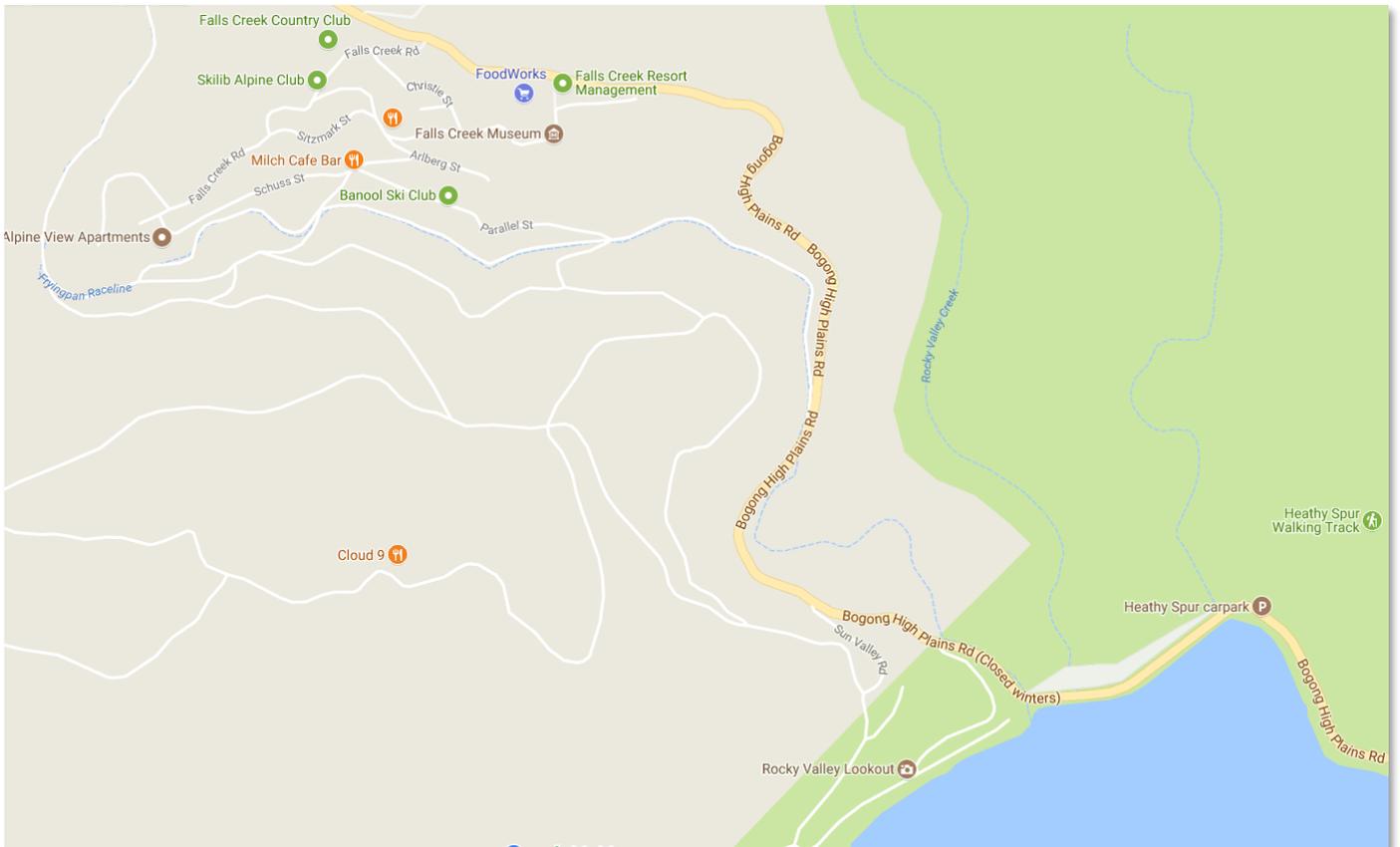


km	Instruction	Notes
Bright to Mount Beauty		
	Head East out of Bright along Great Alpine Road (B500)	
~20 km	Turn Left onto Tawonga Gap Road (C536), signposted to Mt Beauty	Targa 2: Tawonga Gap 14km
21.3 km	At T intersection, Turn Right onto Kiewa Valley Hwy (C531) Signposted to Tawonga South, Mt Beauty & Falls Creek	Sullivans Lookout is about 1km past the summit of the pass, well signposted.
3.5 km	Arrive in Mt Beauty. See Map below.	
Mount Beauty to Falls Creek		
	Leave Mt Beauty travelling East up the big hill on Bogong High Plains Road (C531)	When returning, radar trap location on speed limit entry into Mt Beauty Targa 3: Falls Creek 28 km
32 km	Arrive in Falls Creek. See Map over the page.	

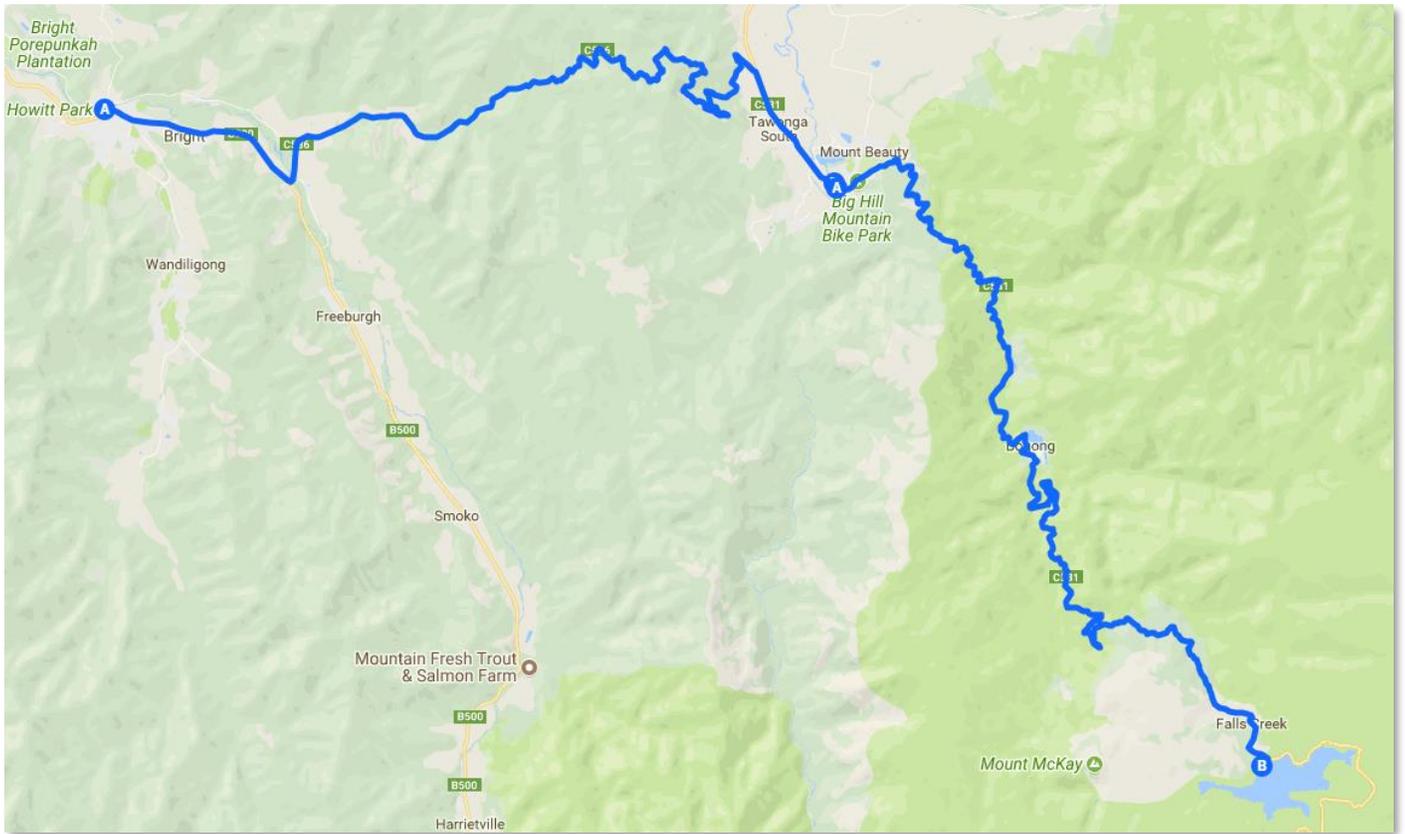
Mount Beauty



Falls Creek



Overall Route

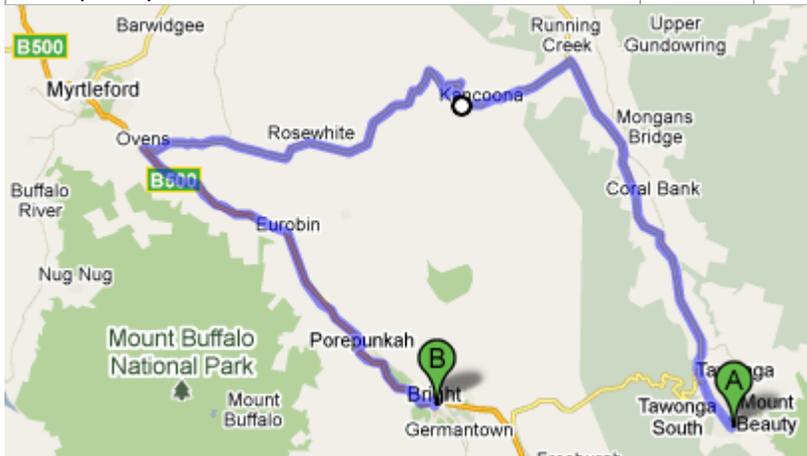


MOUNT BEAUTY / TAWONGA RURAL LOOP TO BRIGHT

Drive time: 1¼ hours

Distance: 85 km

1. From Mt Beauty, head north on Kiewa Valley Hwy (C531)	26 km	
2. Turn left at Running Creek Road, continue onto Happy Valley Road	34 km	
3. At Ovens, turn left onto Great Alpine Rd (B500)	26 km	



MYRTLEFORD & LAKE BUFFALO

Picnic at Lake Buffalo

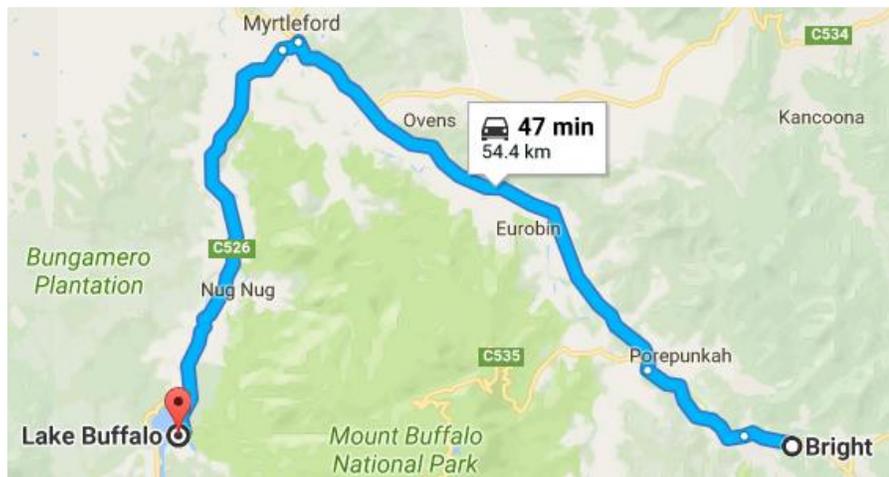
Each way: 55km, 45 minutes

Take the Great Alpine Road (B500) North-West to Myrtleford.

In Myrtleford, Turn Left onto Buffalo River Road (C526) signposted to Lake Buffalo.

The picnic area is on the left just before crossing the dam wall. There are barbecue facilities and toilets.

The park is maintained by the regional water company, Goulburn-Murray Water.

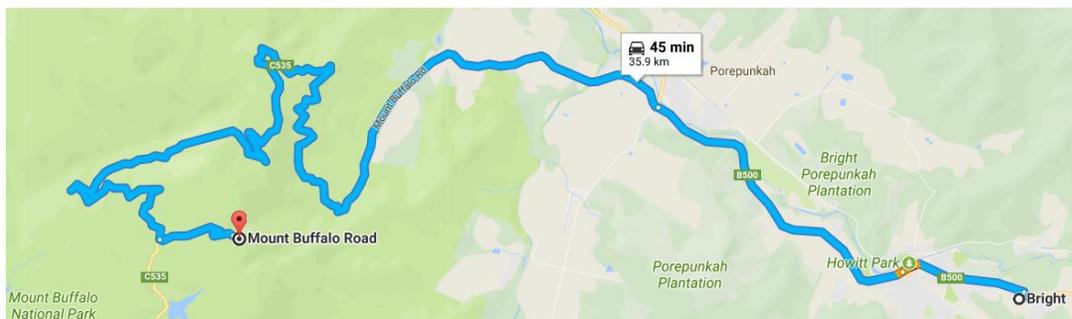


MOUNT BUFFALO

Each way: 36km, 45 minutes

Great twisty hillclimb to spectacular views over the Ovens valley. The lookout area is often used as a launching place for hang-gliders. There are short walks to nearby lookouts too.

The historic Mt Buffalo Chalet is undergoing restoration. There might be a café operating there, but there's another further "inland" across the mountain-top plateau (along more twisty road).



To get to Mount Buffalo, head West through Bright. At Porepunkah, at the big roundabout, go straight ahead, signposted to Mt Buffalo.

The Mount Buffalo Visitors' Guide is at the end of this booklet.

Beechworth Historic Precinct

On the main road into town. Includes:

- Beechworth Historic Courthouse
- Robert O’Hara Burke Memorial Museum
- Ned Kelly Vault
- Telegraph Station
- Powder Magazine

Beechworth Bakery

The original of the wide-spread franchise. Upstairs is usually quieter and has a balcony.

Or enjoy one of the other cafés in town.

Gardens of Mayday Hills

There are three walks through the extensive gardens of this former lunatic asylum. The gardens are one of the National Trust’s top five collections of planted trees in Victoria

Pick up the Beechworth Treescape Group’s brochure from the George Kerferd Hotel.

Old Beechworth Gaol

Guided tours at 11am and 1pm. No self-guided tours.

Beechworth Historic Park

Just to the West of the town, with a scenic one-way road through the park, bitumen at first with possibly a dirt section at the end. There are some walks in the park but I recommend driving through first.

Lake Sambell

Relax around Lake Sambell, just East of the centre of town. Picturesque small lake in the remains of a mine or gold diggings, from memory. There is a small, rather disappointing Chinese gardens at the South-Western end of the lake.

Chinese Burning Towers at Beechworth Cemetery

The cemetery is on the Northern fringe of town – we passed it on the way into Beechworth. There is a large Chinese section from the gold rush era, dominated by historic Burning Towers.

Town Map

A map of Beechworth is on the next page.
The legend for the map is on the right →

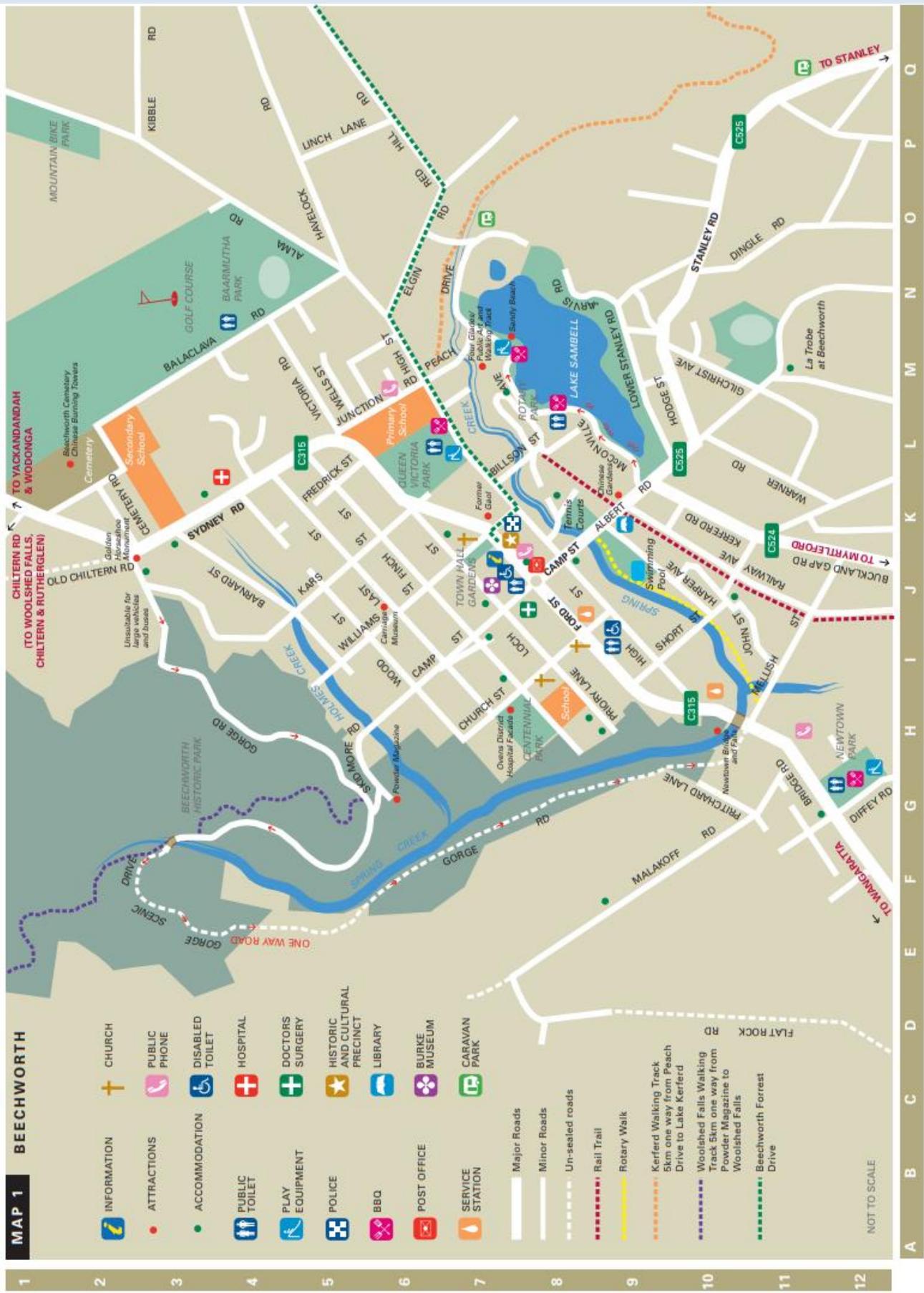
ATTRACTIONS

G6	POWDER MAGAZINE
J3	GORGE SCENIC DRIVE
H10	NEWTON BRIDGE AND FALLS
H7	OVENS AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL FACADE
K7	BEECHWORTH HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PRECINCT
J7	ROBERT O'HARA BURKE MUSEUM
J6	CARRIAGE MUSEUM
K7	FORMER HM PRISON
K9	CHINESE GARDENS
J2	GOLDEN HORSESHOES MONUMENT
L2	BEECHWORTH CEMETERY AND CHINESE BURNING TOWERS
M7	FOUR GLADES/ PUBLIC ART AND WALKING TRACK
M8	LAKE SAMBELL SANDY BEACH

PARKS / LAKES

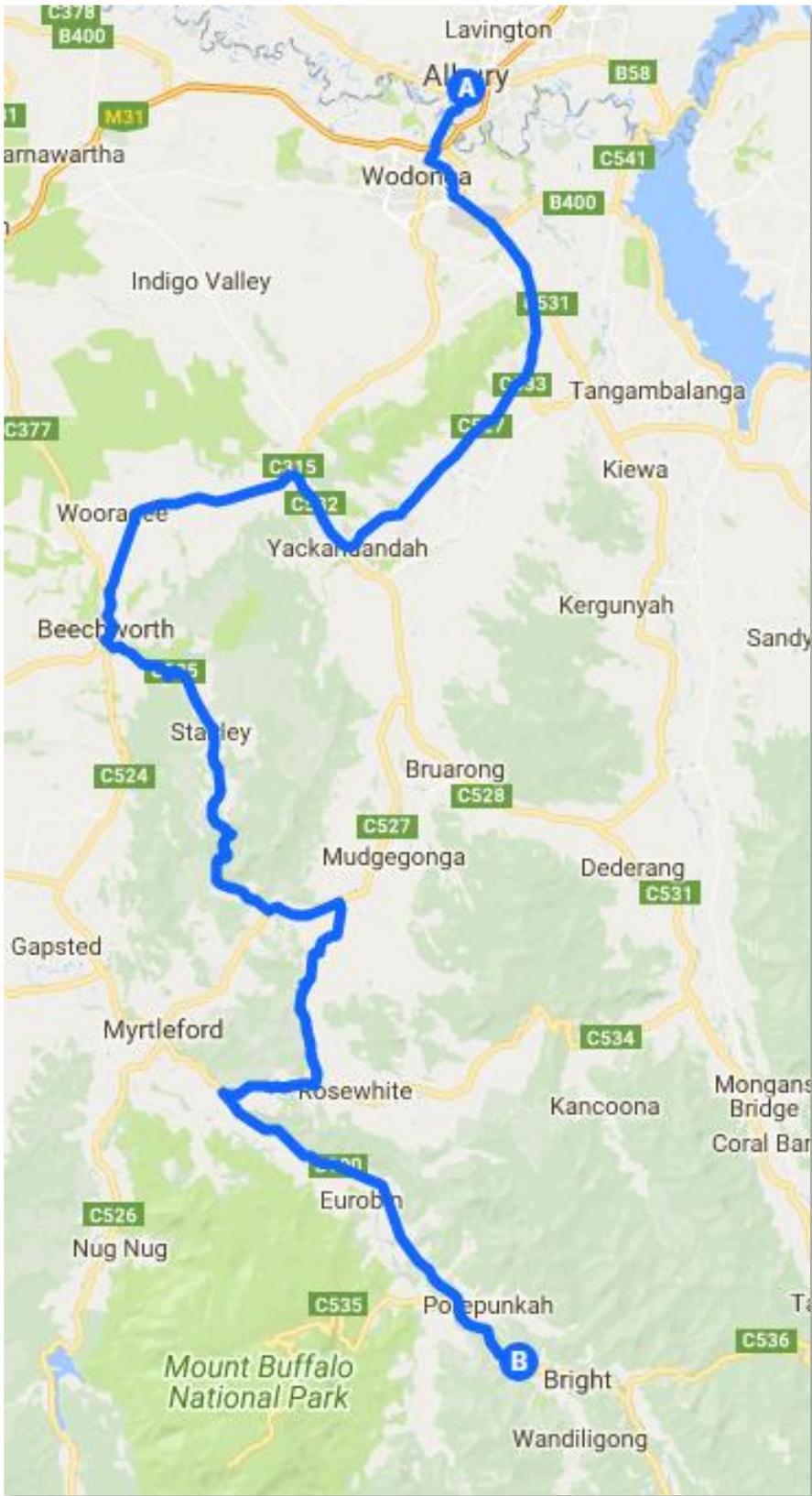
G2	BEECHWORTH HISTORIC PARK
J12	NEWTON PARK
L8	ROTARY PARK
M8	LAKE SAMBELL
N4	BAARMUTHA PARK
L6	QUEEN VICTORIA PARK
P1	MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK
H8	CENTENNIAL PARK

BEECHWORTH TOWN MAP



BEECHWORTH & YACKANDANDAH ROUTE MAP

Here's a map from an old trip from Albury to Bright through Beechworth. You can use it to drive a nice backroute to Beechworth.



LONG TWISTY ROAD TRIP OPTION – BRIGHT – OMEO – TALLANGATTA - BRIGHT

Distance: 483 km
Duration: 6½ hours plus stops

Summary

Bright - Omeo	110 km
Omeo – Mitta Mitta	114 km
Mitta Mitta - Tallangatta	57 km
Tallangatta - Bright	103 km

We travel over Mt Hotham, which will be cold. Have appropriate clothing available.

There is no 98 octane fuel available between Bright and Tallangatta. Not much fuel of any sort, actually ☺, just businesses selling petrol on the side in Omeo and Mitta Mitta with self-serve machines.

Lunch

The Mitta pub in Mitta Mitta (see map →) has meals, and is a good place for lunch with a lovely outdoor section at the rear overlooking the river. The Mitta Store across the road from the pub sells petrol (not 98 octane), take away food (hot chips, home-made pies and sausage rolls, fresh sandwiches, cakes) and coffee from a roaster in Albury. There is a park on the waterfront of Snowy Creek, just behind the pub.



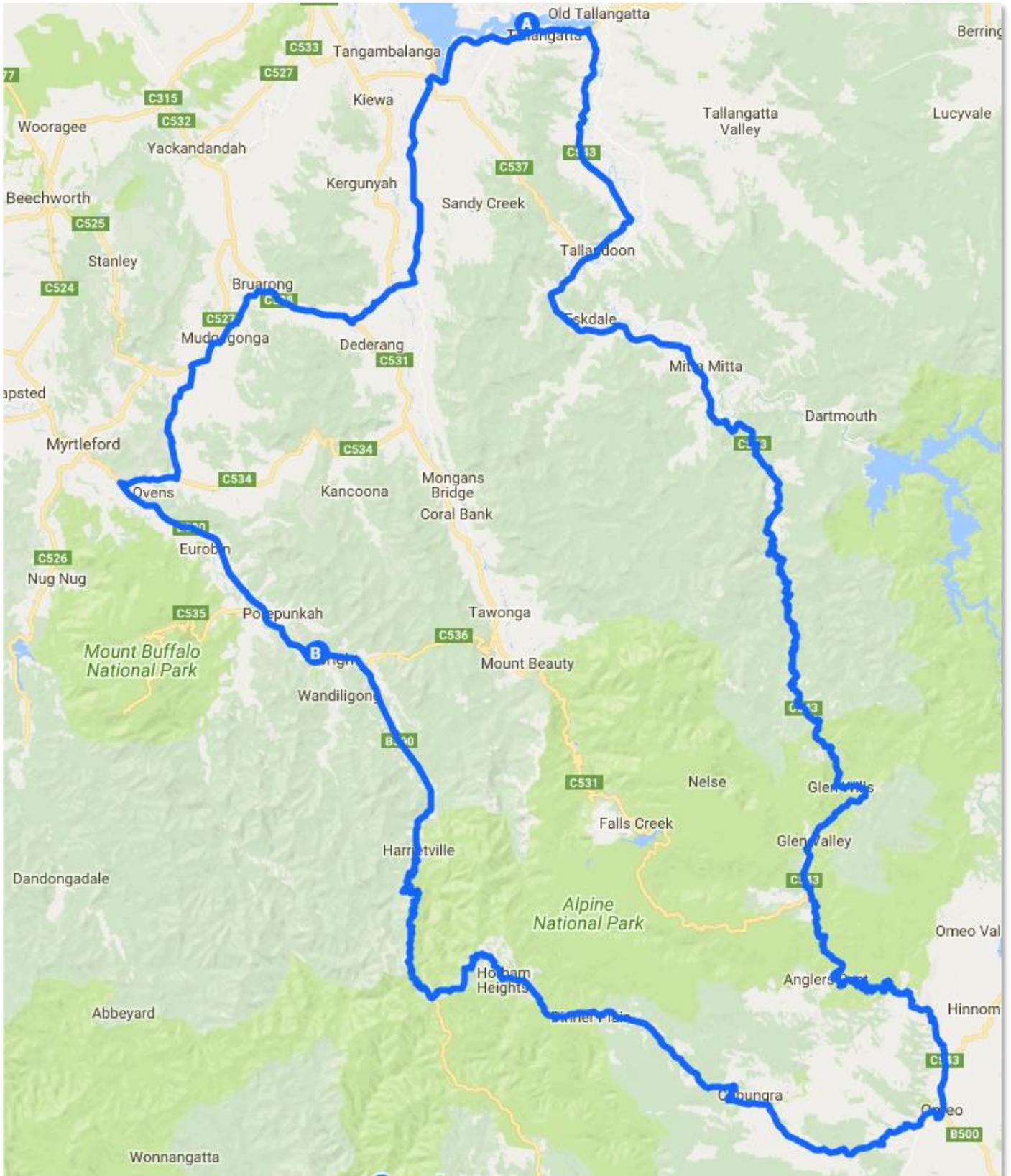
km	Instruction	Notes
	Leave Bright heading East along Great Alpine Road (B500) and continue through Mt Hotham to Omeo	
110 km	In Omeo, travel through the main shopping area ☺. Continue straight ahead where the B500 turns right. You are now on the Omeo Highway (C543)	<i>I've read on a motorbike forum that the 80km/h section of the Omeo Highway to Anglers Rest is heavily policed, at least at times.</i>
114 km	Mitta Mitta. Stop for lunch, or continue on Omeo Hwy	
	<i>The Lockhart's Gap road (C537) is a short-cut if we don't want to go all the way into Tallangatta and if you have enough fuel to get back to Bright! The C537 is also a nice BMW road.</i>	
~28 km	Lockharts Gap turnoff If going to Tallangatta,, continue Straight Ahead. <i>If using Lockharts Gap,</i> <i>Turn Left onto C537, signposted to Dartmouth,</i> <i>Travel 21.4 km</i> <i>then rejoin at Step 10 below.</i>	<i>Lockharts Gap cuts 25km off the trip and includes a few kms of winding road.</i> <i>We may need to go to Tallangatta just to refuel. No more fuel until Bright – 113km from turn-off.</i>
~47 km	At T intersection, Turn Left onto Murray Valley Hwy (B400) signposted to Wodonga	

km	Instruction	Notes
4.4 km	Turn Right onto Towong Street East, signposted to Tallangatta. <i>See Tallangatta Map on the next page.</i>	
	Leave Tallangatta heading West on Murray Valley Hwy	
~11.5km ~450m ~150m	Turn Left onto Kiewa East Road (C533), signposted to Tamgamgalanga (really) (see map → entering from right) Turn Left onto Lockharts Gap Road, signposted to Dartmouth & Omeo Turn Right onto Gundowing Road, small signpost probably to Gundowing (Turn Left onto Gundowing Road if you're coming from Lockharts Gap)	
19.3 km	Turn Right onto Boyd Road (no signposts) and cross the Kiewa River	Measure this distance!
2.3 km	Straight Ahead to merge onto Kiewa Valley Hwy (C531)	
4.9 km	Immediately after Glen Creek, Bear Right then Turn Right onto Dederang Road (C528), signposted to Yackandandah	
8.4 km	Bear Left onto Tunnel Gap Road, signposted to Myrtleford	
8.1 km	At T intersection, Turn Left onto Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road (C527), signposted to Myrtleford	
3.2 km	Turn Left onto Carrolls Road, small signpost "Carrolls Rd" etc	
11.7 km	At T intersection, Turn Right onto Happy Valley Rd (C534)	
5.4 km	At T intersection, Turn Left onto Great Alpine Road (B500), signposted to Bright	
19.5 km	At the roundabout in Porepunkah, Turn Left to continue on Great Alpine Road (B500)	
	Continue through Bright to Delaney Lodge	

Tallangatta



ROUTE MAP FOR OPTIONAL LONG DRIVE



BRIGHT - MELBOURNE

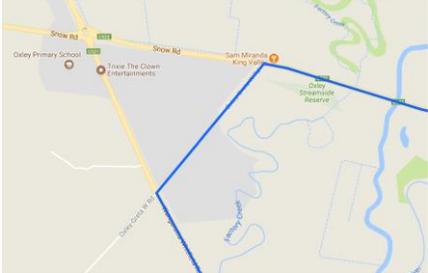
Distance: 320 km to Lilydale

Duration: 4 hours plus stops, to Lilydale

Summary

A relaxed departure and gentle cruise to Whitfield. An excellent road over the ranges to Mansfield, then a boring cruise through Yea back to Melbourne.

Alternatives are via the Jamieson-Eildon Road and/or through Alexandra and Black Spur. Or simply to Glenrowan and down the Hume Freeway.

km	Instruction	Notes
	Leave Bright heading West along Great Alpine Road (B500), turning Right at the roundabout in Porepunkah, and continue through Myrtleford	
36.5 km	Turn Left onto Snow Road (C522), not well-signposted but a major road. Small brown sign to Milawa wines or something.	
33.7 km 630m	Turn Left onto Oxley-Greta West Road (opposite Sam Miranda King Valley winery) Turn Left again onto Mansfield-Whitfield Rd (C521) (If you miss the first turn, just Turn Left at T intersection at the Oxley Primary School)	
~38 km	In Whitfield, Curve Right to continue on Mansfield-Whitfield Rd (C521), signposted to Mansfield	Toilets on right in Whitfield. After you pass Tolmie and come down the mountain, the long straights are a regular radar trap area
~62 km	Continue straight ahead through Mansfield – the road becomes the B320 and then Goulburn Valley Highway (B300) through Yarck to Yea	
	Entering Yea, as soon as you cross the Yea River, Turn Left then Turn Left again onto Melba Highway (B300). Alternatively, stop in Yea and leave on the B300. Follow the B300 to Lilydale	<i>People in central and western Melbourne may prefer to take the road from Yea to Whittlesea and enter Melbourne from the North.</i>
	Suggestion: either detour to Yarra Glen at stop at the park, or stop in Lilydale to say goodbyes and head home. Or else just make our own ways home from Yea.	

Mount Buffalo National Park

Visitor Guide



Opening hours

Mount Buffalo National Park is open every day, including weekends and public holidays.

Getting there

Mount Buffalo is 325 kilometres, three and a half hours' drive northeast from Melbourne along the Hume Highway. Either take the Snow Road exit just before Wangaratta or continue along the highway to the Great Alpine Road (B500) exit.

Watch out for native animals, especially early in the morning and at dusk. Take care driving during winter. The main road is often snowcovered from McKinnons Corner through to Cresta Valley. Snow chains must be carried and fitted when and where directed by road signs during the declared snow season.

The Reservoir, Lake Catani and Horn roads are unsealed and can become dusty and rough. These roads are closed during winter or following periods of heavy rain. The Horn and Reservoir Roads are not suitable for caravans.

Things to see and do

During summer, enjoy bushwalking, canoeing, swimming, picnicking, sightseeing and cycling. Rock climbing, abseiling and hang gliding challenge the adventurous visitor.

Over winter, snow blankets most of the plateau and attracts crosscountry skiers to marked trails with tobogganing and snow play at Cresta Valley and Dingo Dell. A café operates at the Dingo Dell Day Visitors Centre, check website for operating times.

Walking

There are over 90km of tracks traversing pristine subalpine plant communities and unique landscapes. The tracks are generally welldefined and signposted. Maps should be carried at all times. Please keep to formed tracks.

Short walks

1. George Heritage Walk – 2.5km, 1 hour one way

This self-guided walk starts in the George Day Visitor Area opposite the Mt Buffalo Chalet and leads to many spectacular lookout points. Interpretative signs describe the area's history and beauty through the eyes of local pioneer, Guide Alice.

2. Dicksons Falls Nature Walk – 4km, 1.5 hours return

This walk starts on the east side of the road opposite Cresta Valley carpark. Subalpine plant communities and masses of wildflowers are a highlight in summer.

3. Lakeside Walk – 3km, 1 hour circuit

Lake Catani is best seen from this circuit track as it passes through several different plant communities. The walk can be accessed from various points around Lake Catani.

4. View Point Walk – 4km, 2 hours return

Access to this walk can be from the Gorge Catani Track or Underground River Track. There are great views of the Buckland Valley from the lookout.

5. Eurobin Falls Track – 1.5km, 45 minutes return

This track climbs past the Ladies Bath Falls and onto Lower Eurobin Falls, then continues up to the base of the Upper Falls. Please remain on the track.

6. Rollasons Falls Track – 4km, 1.5 hours return

Start at Rollasons Falls Picnic Area. Turn left at the intersection for the Upper Falls lookout or right for the Lower Falls and rock pool. There is a short steep section at the end.

7. Gorge - Catani Track – 4km, 1.5 hours return

This easy track links the Gorge, campground and Lakeside Day Visitor Areas through strands of Alpine Ash and is suitable for cycling.

8. Underground River Track – 2.5km, 2 hours one way

From the lower Gorge carpark, this track leads to Billsons and Haunted Gorge lookouts and onto the Underground River. Continue to link up with the View Point Nature Walk. Do not enter the Underground River Cave without an experienced guide and appropriate equipment.

9. Monolith Track – approximately 1.8km, 1 hour one way

Monolith Track can be accessed from the carpark opposite the Park Office, from the Gorge carpark or from the VicRoads sheds. The Monolith offers 360 degree views of the plateau. Return or continue along one of the other tracks mentioned.

10. Lake View Track – 2km, 45 minutes return

This track starts near the VicRoads sheds and ends at a large rock slab giving fine views of Lake Catani below and across the Alps.

11. Chalwell Galleries Track – 1.7km, 1 hour circuit

A natural adventure playground, this walk starts near the Lake Catani Campground and passes through snow gums and up to a jumble of large granite rocks forming impressive passages. The climb through the galleries is steep, narrow and challenging at times, suitable for those comfortable with heights and confined spaces.

12. Old Galleries Track – 1km, 30 minutes circuit

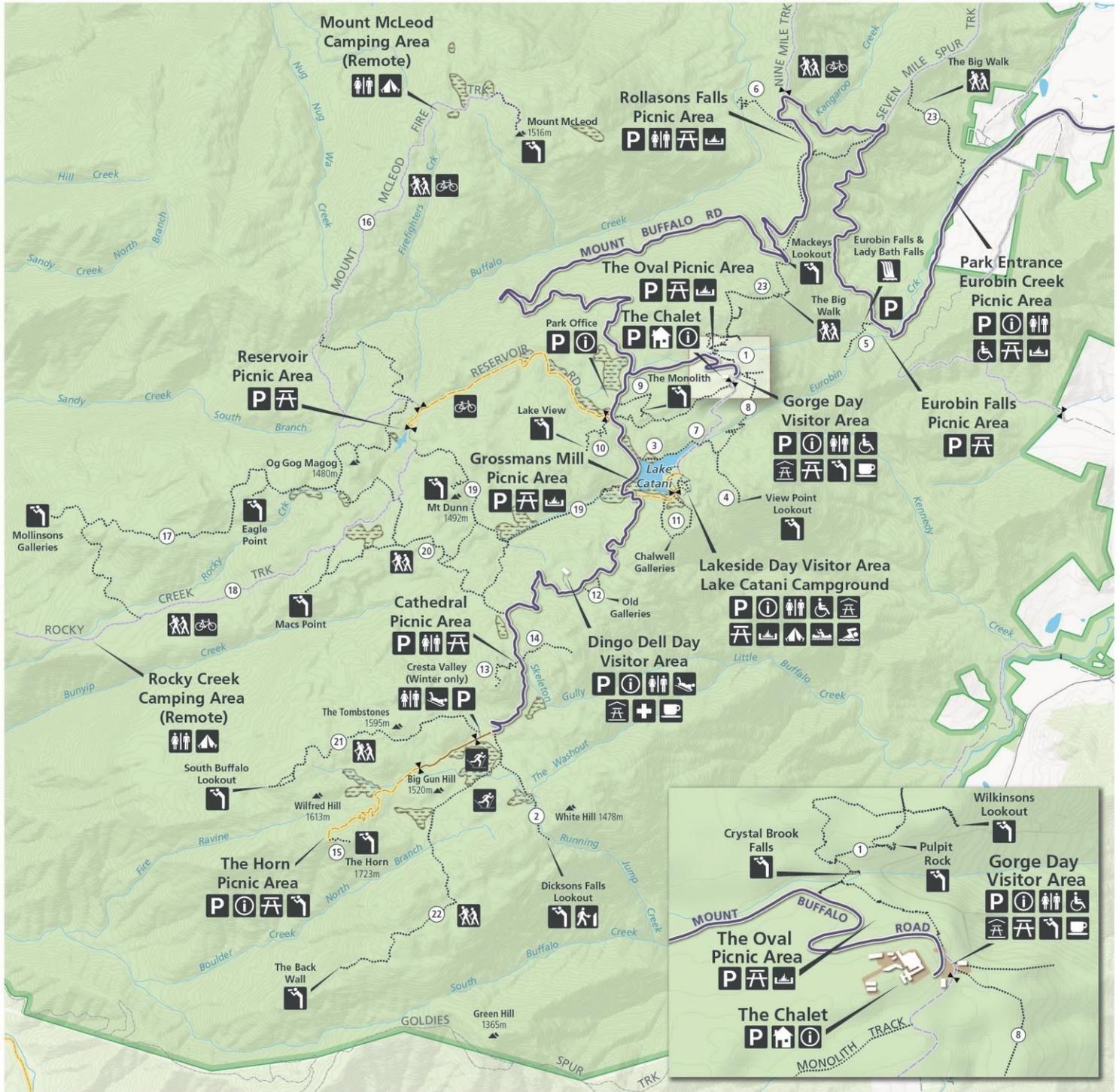
The Old Galleries is a shorter walk through the awe-inspiring rock formations of Mount Buffalo. The loop returns along the main road

Mount Buffalo National Park

Map 2 — Great Granite Plateau



Healthy Parks Healthy People!



- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Parking | Café | Short / long walks | Management vehicles only |
| Information | First-aid | Gate | Seasonal closure |
| Toilets | Self-guided walk | Mountain / hill | Minor river |
| Disabled access | Hiking | Mt. Buffalo Road | Creek / stream |
| Sheltered area | Cross-country skiing | Highway | Mount Buffalo National Park |
| Picnic table | Tobogganing | Main road | State park |
| Fireplace | Canoeing | Sealed road | Waterbody |
| Camping area | Swimming | Unsealed road | Area subject to inundation |
| Lookout | Cycling | 4WD | |
| Waterfall | Heritage building | Walking track | |



13. Cathedral - Hump Track – 2km, 1 hour return

Starting at the Cathedral Picnic Area, the track leads past the spectacular Cathedral and onto the Hump summit for the views of Cresta Valley and the Horn.

14. Le Souef Plateau Track – 3.5km, 1.5 hours return

Starting at the Cathedral carpark, the track leads you up onto the Le Souef Plateau, where you can explore a hidden and secluded section of Mount Buffalo, including the Sentinel and Mahomets Tomb. **15. The Horn Track – 1km, 40 minutes return**

This track takes you to the highest point on Mount Buffalo, 1723m, with 360 degree views of the plateau and the Alps at the summit.

Medium and long walks

These longer walks take you to more remote areas of the park. Some of these walks may be unmarked and difficult to find in some conditions, so independent navigation devices are recommended. Use the map to link walks together to create longer circuit walks. **16. Mount McLeod Track – 16km, 6 hours return**

16. Mount McLeod Track – 16km, 6 hours return

Starting near Reservoir Picnic Area, the track leads to the most remote part of the park, North Buffalo Plateau. As an alternative route, try the Mount McLeod Shortcut track. Remote camping is available and can be used as a base for exploring the plateau. **17. Mollisons Galleries Track – 18km, 6 hour circuit**

17. Mollisons Galleries Track – 18km, 6 hour circuit

Start on Mount McLeod Track turning left after 300m. Detour to Og Gog & Magog and Eagle Point along the way. The track ends at the rocky outcrop of Mollison's Galleries providing views into the Buffalo River Valley. An alternative return route is available via the Rocky Creek loop track.

18. Rocky Creek Track – 13km, 4 hours return

From the Reservoir this management vehicle track links in with Long Plain, Macs Point and Mollisons Galleries Tracks, terminating at the remote Rocky Creek Campground.

19. Long Plain Track to Mt Dunn – 6km, 2 hours return

Reach Mount Dunn via this picturesque track starting near Lake Catani. The first 1.5km is flat walking along the creek then gently starts climbing up to Mt Dunn.

Other tracks and destinations can be accessed from Mt Dunn. Use the map to create your own walking adventure by linking tracks. **20. Macs Point Track – 7km, 3 hours return**

Start at the snow plain 300m south of the Leviathan to reach Macs Point. This track links into Stanley Rocks and Giants Causeway. **21. South Buffalo Track – 8km, 3 hours return**

From Cresta Valley this track initially climbs a ridge, then meanders through Snow Gum meadows and small snow plains, terminating at the South Buffalo view point.

22. Back Wall Track – 12km, 4 hours return

Starting from Dicksons Falls Nature Walk, this walk takes you to the southernmost point on the plateau, passing Giant's Playground and ending with stunning views from the top of the Back Wall. **23. The Big Walk – 11.3km, 4-5 hours one way**

The longest walk on Mount Buffalo, this track climbs from the park entrance to the Gorge Day Visitor Area. The walk highlights the unique biodiversity and geology of Mount Buffalo and provides plenty of opportunities to rest and enjoy superb view of the Australian Alps. There are opportunities along the Mount Buffalo Road to start or finish the walk.

Picnicking

A number of picnic areas around Mount Buffalo National Park offer a variety of facilities.

For the best views, visit the Gorge Day Visitor Area or the Horn.

Eurobin Creek and Rollasons Falls picnic areas enable access to fantastic waterfalls, while Grossmans Mill and the Oval picnic areas are great locations to enjoy tranquil views across the lake or breathtaking views into the Gorge and across the valleys.

The Lakeside Day Visitor Area is being developed to have tables, toilets, shelter and free gas barbeques and offers shady relief in summer. The Lake Catani jetty or beach is a great place to enjoy a cool swim or paddle a canoe.

Camping

There are unpowered car based camping sites at Lake Catani Campground open from November to April and for a short period during winter for snow camping. In the warmer months, the amenities include the stone hut, hot showers, flushing toilets, and sink areas for dishwashing and laundry. In winter, campers only have access to a pit toilet and the stone hut and need to walk or ski 1km from the closed gate on Mount Buffalo Road.

Remote, minimal impact bush camping is available at Rocky Creek and Mount McLeod campgrounds for a limited number of hikers. Pit toilets are available and fuel stoves are permitted.

Bookings are required for summer and remote camping. Book online at www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay or by contacting the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963.

Rock climbing and abseiling

A number of licensed tour operators provide activities in the area. Rock climbers are asked to complete the trip Intentions book at the Gorge prior to climbing.

Bike riding

Bikes are restricted to vehicle tracks within the park. There are great rides along the Reservoir Road and the Gorge-Catani Track.

Tobogganing and snow play

During winter there is plenty of fun to be had in the snow in designated areas at Cresta Valley and Dingo Dell.

Cross country skiing

Marked trails commence at the information board in the Cresta Valley carpark.

Hang gliding

For experienced pilots only, the launch ramp is 200 metres past the Gorge lower carpark.

Be prepared and stay safe

Mount Buffalo National Park is in the North East fire district. Bushfire safety is a personal responsibility. Anyone entering parks and forests during the bushfire season needs to stay aware of forecast weather conditions. Check the Fire Danger Rating and for days of Total Fire Ban at www.emergency.vic.gov.au. No fires may be lit on Total Fire Ban days. On Code Red Fire Danger Rating days this park will be closed for public safety. Closure signs will be erected but do not expect an official warning. Check the latest conditions at www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963.

All visitors, and especially walkers, should realise that weather conditions can change rapidly in alpine areas.

Snowfalls can be experienced at any time of the year and water can be extremely scarce, so always be prepared with:

- warm clothing
- wind and waterproof jacket
- gloves, hat, sunglasses and strong footwear
- first aid kit and sunscreen
- energy food and water
- compass and relevant topographical map

Before you go, let someone know where you are going, and when you expect to return. Check road and track conditions before you go. Many roads and tracks are closed seasonally during the colder, wetter months for environmental and safety reasons.