

# RAWSON WALKS LIST – OCTOBER 2004

**1 Thomson Bridge to Poverty Point Bridge and return – 13 km. Easy/Medium**  
Beautiful river, valley walk to historic Poverty Point Bridge.

From Thomson River Bridge we proceed north on the walking track on the western side of the Thomson River to the Poverty Point Bridge joining the Alpine Walking Track and cross to the eastern side of the Thomson. Then proceed south, turning just before Thomson and follow the track on the side of the Stringers Creek Valley. This takes us into Walhalla. All of the tracks and the Poverty Point Bridge are based on the remnants of the railways used to carry timber for fuel and structural support in the gold mines.

The Walhalla Goldfields Railway train can be taken from Walhalla to Thomson Station (be sure to check travel times – approx. 20 minutes on train), then walk south-west along the former railway line, the Walhalla-Erica Rail Trail, to the Platina Station adjacent to the junction of the road to Coopers Creek. Take a diversion down a steep slope about 1.3 km from Thomson to view one of the entrances to the Horseshoe Ben Diversion Tunnel (aka the Chinese Tunnel) on the Thomson River. Then climb back to the old railway bed and proceed to Platina.

This walk involves a car shuffle involving 8 km of travel with vehicles being left at Thomson and Platina.

**2 East and West Tyers River Walks – 11 km. Easy/Medium**  
A beautiful riverside walk on disused railway lines.

Starting at the parking area at Tyers Junction, walk into Caringal Scout Camp and towards the East Tyers River via the outdoor chapel. Follow the track along the old railway line to Nelsons Mill and return (7 km). Walk through the scout camp area to the West Tyers River and follow the railway line track upstream to where the bridge across the river is missing (2 km). Return from this point. If you wish, the river can be crossed on logs about 20 metres downstream from the bridge site. The railway track continues upstream to Western Tyers. Tyers Junction to Western Tyers is 4 km.

**3 Knotts Siding, Erica, Mathiesons Rd, Coopers Creek – 15 km. Easy/Medium**  
Sections of the disused Moe/Walhalla Railway included. Lovely views of farmland and forest.

From Knotts Siding, walk along old railway line to Erica Hotel then Mathiesons Road to the south end. Veer right on to a vehicular track that runs around the bottom of the farms, crosses Jacobs Creek then heads east uphill to the junction of the Walhalla-Tyers Rd and the road to Coopers Creek. Walk to Coopers Creek township then follow the Coopers Creek Road to Platina Station. Return to Knotts Siding along the old railway line. Returning from Coopers Creek to Knotts Siding via Micahs Track shortens this walk to 13 km.

This walk starts at Knotts Siding approximately 1.7 km south of Rawson on the Walhalla-Tyers Road.

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#### **4 Rawson, railway line, Erica – 13 km. Easy/Medium**

Includes part of Moe/Walhalla disused railway line. Forest and roadside walking. Lovely views.

From Rawson, walk along Old Depot Road to the far end of the caravan park, turn south along the town boundary and follow vehicular tracks down across Coopers Creek to the Walhalla Road. Cross the road and descend about 150m to the railway line. Turn right and walk along the railway line into Erica. Return to Rawson along the verge of the Moe/Walhalla Road.

#### **5 Edwards Reef & Morning Star Water Wheel – 12 km. Medium**

A rugged yet scenic walk.

The walk starts from Edwards Reef and descends via road and track to Store Point on Donnellys Creek. From here we traverse along a narrow walking track following the Morning Star Creek before making a short descent to view the Morning Star Water Wheel nestled in a beautiful steep gully. The wheel is upright and intact and is surrounded by remnants of the mine it was built for. There is much history of mining and early settlements in this rugged but spectacular country and makes for a very rewarding walk. After viewing the wheel we backtrack to return to the cars.

We travel approximately 22 km north of Walhalla via Binns Rd, McEvoy's Track and Donnellys Creek Track to Edwards Reef. These roads are gravel but quite suitable for 2 wheel drive vehicles.

As the weather can change very quickly it is vital that all walkers are equipped with coats, hats, sunscreen as well as water and lunch.

#### **6 Erica, Thomson Bridge to Rawson – 13 km. Easy/Medium**

Includes sections of the disused Moe/Walhalla Railway line with forest and road walking. Splendid forest all the way. Some farm views.

This walk involves a car shuffle from Rawson Village to Erica Oval (5km one way). Starting at Erica Oval, walk along the street beside the second hand goods shop in Henty St, walk Henty Street to the end then the track along the edge of the farmland downhill to Jacobs Creek. Cross Jacobs Creek, turn right uphill to the railway line, turn left. Walk up the Old Depot Road to Rawson.

#### **7 Rawson to Walhalla 13 km. Easy/Medium**

Walk includes train ride between Thomson Station and Walhalla (be sure to check train times prior to your walk). Fabulous train ride with glorious scenery.

Walk from Rawson down the Old Depot Road to the Thomson Bridge (3.5 km). Catch the train to Walhalla. Walk back to Rawson along the Alpine Walking Track, Mormon Town Track and the Old Depot Road.

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## **8 Rawson, Platina, Horseshoe Tunnel, Platina, Rawson – 14 km. Easy/Medium**

Visit to historic mining era tunnel at Thomson River. Attractive forest scenery.

From Rawson walk along Old Depot Road for about 1 km then take the track south, then south-east, to the Walhalla Road. Walk down the Coopers Creek Road to Platina Station. Follow the track across the slope eastwards, then walk down the foot track to the Thomson River to the outlet of Horseshoe Tunnel. Walk the bed of the river upstream to the tunnel inlet then climb the foot track to the railway line walking track. Turn right to Thomson Station, cross the road bridge and turn sharp left and walk north-east up the Mormon Town Track before turning right when you reach the Alpine Walking Track. Follow the Alpine Walking Track to reach Walhalla, taking in spectacular views along the way. Walhalla Goldfields Railway train can be caught back to Thomson Station (be sure to check travel times). Walk north up Old Depot Rd to finish the walk at Rawson.

The walk will start and finish at Rawson.

## **9 Thomson Bridge, Horseshoe Tunnel, Platina, Rawson – 12 km. Easy**

Includes sections of the disused Moe/Walhalla railway line. Beautiful forest and visit to historic mining era tunnel at Thomson River.

Starting at Thomson Bridge, walk the disused railway line to the top of the first long incline. Descend to entrance of Horseshoe Tunnel, walk around the bed of the Thomson River to tunnel outlet then climb up to Platina Station. Follow railway line to Erica.

This walk commences at Thomson Station and finishes Erica. Car shuffle is required between Thomson Bridge and Erica. The distance to travel by car is 10 km.

## **10 Marble Quarry – 10 km. Easy**

Forest walking along rugged terrain.

The walk follows north along a 4 wheel drive track to reach a bluff overlooking the Thomson River and from here follows a walking track to reach Marble Quarry. Back track to the starting point.

The walk is through forest typical of this area and shows how rugged the terrain is along parts of the Thomson River. A considerable amount of marble was sourced from here to be winched out and transported to many and varied sites after processing.

Start at track C22 off Cowwarr to Walhalla Rd involving 10 km car travel from Rawson.

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## **11 Rawson to Erica through headwaters of Hotel Creek – 17 km. Medium**

Excellent views of farmland and forest around western edge of Erica.

From Rawson walk along the main road to Parkers Corner then follow Shanahans Lane down to Hotel Creek. Continue on the road and take the first track to the left. After about 300 m turn left on the start of the route that follows the private property boundary around the west of Erica to the Moe-Walhalla Rd. A short way along the track, look for an indistinct foot track that leads about 100 m to a view of the waterfall. Return to the vehicular track and head downhill. From here, past Muries Mill to the north-west extremity of the private property, careful navigation is required as there are more tracks than maps show. Follow the track southwards along the private property boundary to the Moe-Erica Rd. Turn left to Erica. Follow the disused railway in a north-easterly direction to Platina. Head north crossing Walhalla Rd and continue up Old Depot Rd to finish at Rawson.

This walk commences and finishes at Rawson.

## **12 Moondarra Pipeline Walk – 13 km. Easy/Medium**

Picturesque walk on the west side of the Tyers River, south of Moondarra Reservoir.

The walk starts on the south side of the Moondarra wall and follows the Pipeline Track downstream in the Tyers River Valley. Cross over Boola Road and continue to the left into Cannon Park Scout Camp. Walk in and do the circuit of the scout camp and return to the Pipeline Track. Turn left and walk about 750m then turn right uphill on to a 4 wheel drive track. Walk to Boola Rd, turn left for about 250m then right on to Boyds Creek Track. Walk along Boyds Creek Track to the Pipeline Track, turn left and walk back to Moondarra Reservoir.

## **13 Wirilda Track – 15 km. Medium/Advanced**

An excellent walk down Tyers River Valley, south of Moondarra Reservoir. Great views of the river from narrow foot tracks along the steep-sided valley.

The walk starts from Moondarra Reservoir Picnic Ground by warming up on the Wirilda Nature Trail (constructed by a local Aborigine work project). Then down to Moondarra Dam wall for some good views of the spillway and surrounds. The walk continues on the Wirilda Track, which starts on the east side of the dam, and follows the Tyers River with more good views until we meet track W12 and ford the river. We then follow the Pipeline Track past the scout camp at Carrs Bridge, then up to a viewpoint overlooking the gorge. We return to the bridge and pick up an old 4 wheel drive track (slightly overgrown) which after a steep climb opens up on top of the spur. Meeting Boola Rd we turn left, then right into Boyds Creek Rd past Smileys gate, then down to the Pipeline Track. We follow the Pipeline Track north to the bottom of the dam wall and river outlet, then climb up the steps to finish where we started at Moondarra Reservoir picnic ground.

This walk starts and finishes at Moondarra Reservoir picnic ground, which is 23 km from Rawson.

In parts this walk is on slippery, narrow track and we recommend that you carry Tevas/runners to change into for the knee deep river crossing.

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- 14 Rawson, Thomson Bridge, Poverty Point, Fingerboard Spur – 19 km. Medium/Advanced**  
This walk includes historic Poverty Point Bridge, sections of the Alpine Walking Track and beautiful tall forest.

From Rawson, walk along Old Depot Road down to the Thomson River. Follow the riverside track upstream to Poverty Point Bridge then the Alpine Walking Track up Fingerboard Spur to the Thomson Valley Road. Cross the road then turn left along the Pipeline Track parallel to the road. Turn left into Happy Jack Road and walk around it to Old Depot Road then back to Rawson.

This walk commences and finishes at Rawson.

- 15 Rawson, Coopers Creek, Platina – 15 km. Easy/Medium**  
An extremely picturesque walk on a variety of tracks. One of the most attractive walks in the area.

From Rawson walk beside Moe-Walhalla Road to Knotts Siding then follow the Walhalla-Tyers Road to Micahs Track. Turn left into Micahs Track for about 100m then turn right on an old timber tramway that - by taking the left branch after about 1 km - meets Coopers Creek Road at Boola Boola Winery. Turn left in from the road and walk downhill on a track that goes to Coopers Creek township. Walk past the Coopers Creek Hotel, over Cooper Creek and turn right down to the ford on the Thomson River. Return to Coopers Creek Track, turn right and walk uphill to Platina Station. Turn left and walk along the disused railway line to Knotts Siding. Walk up the Moe-Walhalla Road to Rawson.

The walk commences and finishes at Rawson.

- 16 Walhalla to Britannia Creek – 14 km. Easy/Medium**  
Picturesque view of the township of Walhalla and surrounding areas.

Starting near the Long Tunnel Extended Mine turnoff in Walhalla, climb up to Walhalla Cricket Ground. Follow the Cricket Ground Track north to the main road via Maiden Town Track. After crossing the main road follow the Britannia Spur Track alongside Britannia Creek to turn left at the track junction into Mormon Town Track and follow this south and south-east towards Western Hill. Before reaching Western Hill take the right hand track heading south-west, which is still Mormon Town Track, and follow it to reach the Australian Alpine Walking Track. Turn left and walk east back to the starting point.

Drive approximately 9 km and park at Walhalla.

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## **17 Walhalla to Black Diamond Mine – 10 km. Medium**

Spectacular views of Walhalla.

Starting from the Walhalla Camping Area take a set of steps to the northern side of the camping area up to the railway which is the start of the Australian Alpine Walking Track. Turn left onto the track and walk along the Australian Alpine Walking Track, looking down on the Walhalla township. Take a track heading up a spur to the right, beyond the township. Follow this track over Western Hill to meet Britannia Spur Track which leads to Black Diamond Mine, slightly to the right of the track. Continue on this track and turn right at the Aberfeldy to Walhalla Road and walk back to the starting point at the camping area.

Start at Walhalla camping area at the northern end of the township. This walk involves 9 km car travel from Rawson.

## **18 Aberfeldy River Plane Wreck – 10 km. Medium (Significant climbs)**

A lovely walk, exploring the site of a Second World War plane crash, with views of Mt Erica and Mt Baw Baw.

This walk involves some significantly steep climbs, over 700m in total, with some off track and slippery sections balanced with easy walking on roads. From Binns Road and Plane Track Junction start walking Plane Track North to reach Dry Gully Track. Head west beyond the gate and follow Plane Track for 200m to a marker on the south side where a short trail leads down a steep slope to the plane crash site. Few remnants remain, however a small part of the plane is nailed to a tree about 20m from the main track with a plaque below it. Return to Plane Track and walk down it to Aberfeldy Bridge Camp Area, then follow the Walhalla-Aberfeldy Road south for 205 kms to locate Landys Gully. Follow west down the spur to the north of the gully. At a stone cairn deviate slightly left along a prominent track which is now on the southern slope of the spur. At the bottom of the spur we reach remnants of a mine close to the river. Back track to the road, continuing east for about 300m until the road swings south then leave the road and climb east up the gully via 2 mine shafts near the head of the gully to reach the main road at the top of the gully. Turn left onto the road to get back to the starting point, about 700m away.

Take Binns Rd turnoff, which is approximately 10 km north of Walhalla township, turn right and after 3 km reach “Plane Track” on the left. This is the start of the walk. Total distance from Rawson is 26 km – allow 40 minutes.

## **19 The Narrows to Erica Weir and O’Shea Mill – 10 km. Medium (Including 1 river crossing)**

Walk involves approximately 15km car travel from Rawson with scenic forest walking and some scrub-bashing.

Travel up the Thomson Valley Road to the Narrows and leave the cars to walk up a gentle spur to the weir. Move on to the Firebreak Track (part of the Alpine Walking Track) and proceed towards Rawson until we reach the Tyers River East Branch. Continue north from O’Shea’s Mill site along the Alpine Walking Track, returning to cars.

It is suggested walkers bring gaiters and have clean socks, towel, etc. at the cars – also bring coats, water and lunch.

Start and finish at The Narrows involving approximately 15 km car travel from Rawson.

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**20 Collins Siding, Tyers Junction, Nelsons Mill – 18 km. Medium (Some scrub bashing)**

A beautiful walk following disused riverside railway line.

Starting from Collins Siding walk along the disused railway line heading north-west to where it meets the Moe-Walhalla Road just north of the houses. Follow the railway track past Collins Mill site. Cross Hotel and Middle Creeks then walk south to meet Telbit Road. Continue north-west along this road to reach Tyers Junction. From Tyers Junction follow Tyers River north-east past Caringal Scout Camp to reach Nelsons Mill. Return to Tyers Junction by cutting across to Monettes Mill Road and walking south-west to reach the finish point.

This walk commences at Collins Siding and finishes at Tyers Junction.

**21 Walhalla, Maiden Town, Cricket Ground – 15 km. Medium/Advanced**

Beautiful views over charming Walhalla, gold mining ruins and tall forests.

From Stringers Park in the main street of Walhalla, walk up Churchill Road the Old Coach Road to Pig Point. After visiting Pigs Point continue up Old Coach Road to Maiden Town Track and turn left. Walk along Maiden Town Track through Maiden Town to the track that passes Tubal Cain. Turn left and cross the east branch of Stringers Creek and walk up to the Cricket Ground Track. Turn left and follow the ridge to Walhalla Cricket Ground. Walk the foot track down into Walhalla.

Drive to and park in Walhalla – approximately 9 km.

**22 Wirilda, Tyers River, Moondarra Pipeline Track – 16 km. Medium/Advanced**

Walk includes part of the Wirilda Track in the scenic Tyers River Valley below Moondarra Reservoir.

An accurate map is essential for the Wirilda Track. The walk starts in the carpark/observation area at Moondarra Reservoir. Walk along the road over the Reservoir wall to a point about 300m east of the wall to the start of the Wirilda Track. Follow the Wirilda Track until it joins Track W-3. Continue along W-3 through the gate, turn right downhill to the pipeline road then turn right again (NW) down the pipeline road to the ford at the Tyers River. Cross the river and follow the pipeline road for about 500m then turn right into Cannon Park Scout Camp. Walk to the Tyers River around the camp and return to the pipeline road. Turn right and follow the pipeline road back to Moondarra Reservoir.

**23 Walhalla, Cricket Ground, Britannia Creek and Mormon Town – 16 km. Medium**

Views over Walhalla. Attractive tall forest.

Starting near the Long Tunnel extended mine in the main street of Walhalla, climb up to Walhalla Cricket Ground. Follow Cricket Ground Track north to the main road via Maiden Town Track. Cross the main road and follow Britannia Spur Track alongside Britannia Creek, turn left at track junction on to Mormon Town Track, follow towards the Thomson River to the Alpine Walking Track. Turn left and follow this track into Walhalla to the Long Tunnel Mine.

An optional detour on the Alpine Walking Track to Poverty Point Bridge and back adds 7 km, making the total walk 23 km.

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- 24 Walhalla, Thomsons Bridge, Coopers Creek, Happy Go Lucky – 15 km. Medium**  
Views of Walhalla and uses parts of Alpine Walking Track, disused Erica/Walhalla railway line and fords the Thomson River at Coopers Creek.

Starting from Coopers Creek, near Thomson River Ford, the walk follows a 4 wheel drive track to Platina to join the railway line. Access the Horseshoe Tunnel inlet before climbing up to the railway line and walk north to reach Thomson Railway Station. Crossing the road bridge, walk north up Mormon Town Track and turn right when reaching the Alpine Walking Track and follow this to reach Walhalla. After enjoying the views coming into Walhalla township, walk south on Bruntons Bridge Road over Cemetery Hill and via Happy Go Lucky Mine walk via Coopers Creek Track to cross the Thomson River Ford (about knee deep) and turn left to walk back to the cars at the starting point.

The river crossing is between calf and knee deep with quite solid footing and has been put at the end of the walk to avoid walking any distance in wet boots and socks. However as tracks along the way could be muddy it is suggested that walkers bring gaiters and have clean socks, towel, etc. at the cars. Remember to bring coats, water and lunch.

Drive from Rawson approximately 6 km towards Walhalla before turning right at Platina/Coopers Creek Rd and leave the cars near the ford on Thomson River.

- 25 Platina, Walhalla, Happy Go Lucky – 12 km. Medium (some off track/scrub bashing)**  
An interesting walk with excellent views of the Walhalla township and surrounding area.

Starting from Platina north, head east on the railway line to access the horseshoe tunnel inlet before climbing up to the railway line and walk north to reach Thomson Railway Station. Cross the road bridge and walk north up Mormon Town Track and turn right when the Alpine Walking Track is reached. From Walhalla township walk south on Bruntons Bridge Road over Cemetery Hill and via Happy Hill Pearson to reach Happy Go Lucky Picnic Area. Then walk via 3 other mine sites on the western side of the gully. Climb to the top of Stockriders Spur and continue west along the spur for 500m until the spur drops down then south-west to cross the Thomson River in the bypassed horseshoe section (about knee deep) and turn left to walk back to Platina start point. The river crossing is between waist and knee deep with quite solid footing. The crossing has been put at the end of the walk to avoid walking any distance in wet boots and socks. As the tracks along the way could be quite muddy it is suggested that walkers bring gaiters and have clean socks, towels, etc. in the car. Remember to bring coats, water and lunch.

Drive from Rawson approximately 6 km towards Walhalla before turning right at the Platina/Cooper Creek Rd and leave cars near Platina junction with the tramway walking track.

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## ALPINE WALKS

**All of these walks are at an elevation above 1100 metres. In these areas, snow can occur at any time of year and snow on the Baw Baw Plateau is relatively common in Spring and Autumn. For all of these walks, full alpine, warm and waterproof clothing must be carried. If in doubt, check with your leader.**

- 26 Mt St Gwinear, Mt St Phillack, Mustering Flat Circuit – 15 km. Easy/Medium/Advanced**  
Wonderful alpine scenery, especially Mustering Flat.

The walk starts from the carpark and climbs gradually to reach Mt St Gwinear summit at 1514m altitude. From here we walk on to Mt St Phillack, we then turn around and descend back to the carpark. Although most of the walk is among snow gums and other eucalyptus, the summit is fairly exposed to the elements and the weather can change very so it is vital that all walkers are equipped with coats, hats, sunscreen as well as water and lunch.

- 27 Mt Erica, Mushroom Rocks – 10 km. Easy/Medium/Advanced**  
The loveliest mountain walk in Victoria. This walk is a must.

From the top of Mt Erica Road, follow the Alpine Walking Track to Mushroom Rocks then to the summit of Mt Erica. Return the same way, visiting a ski hut.

Elevation above 1100 m. appropriate clothing must be carried.

- 28 Mt St Gwinear to Mt Erica via Alpine Walking Track – 16 km. Medium**  
Superb alpine scenery, mountain views and views of the Latrobe Valley.

From the Mt St Gwinear car park we gradually climb to the Mt St Gwinear summit. We continue walking towards Mt Baw Baw before turning left at a rock shelter and joining the Alpine Walking Track. From here we continue along the Alpine Walking Track on the plateau towards Mt Erica. On reaching Mt Erica summit we begin descending via Mushroom Rocks to finish at Mt Erica carpark.

We travel approximately 15 km up the Thomson Valley to leave some cars at Mt Erica car park and others at Mt St Gwinear car park where the walk begins. This involves approximately 30 km car travel from Rawson, including a car shuffle.

As this walk is in alpine terrain the weather and conditions can change very quickly, therefore it is vital that all walkers are equipped with coats, hats, sunscreen as well as water and lunch.

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