



Footsteps Holidays Pty. Ltd.
PO Box 1014,
Camberwell Vic. 3124

VICTORIAN WALK OF THE MONTH

Location: Dividing Range Toolangi

Number 2 - Toolangi
Melway 510Q12, VicMap Toolangi 7922-1-1
Starting Point: Spraggs Road VicMap ref. 638448

Standard: Easy - 12 Km. Allow about 4.5 hours, for a relaxed walk including lunch stop.

Footwear: Boots with good profile advisable, bush tracks may be muddy.

Best Time of year: Winter, Spring, Autumn.

Highlights: An uphill walk to begin with, levelling out and descending through an old logged area into Toolangi. Good views over the Toolangi area and the surrounding ranges.

Altitude: Starting point 400m - highest point of the walk 630m.

Facilities: There are no public toilets or refreshment facilities on the walking route, a detour into Toolangi will bring you to the Singing Gardens of C. J. Dennis, where refreshments are available, further along the road to Healesville, snacks are available from the general store.

Approach: From Melbourne, Melba Highway through Yarra Glen to the Toolangi turn off at the top of the Divide. Look out for Springwater Garden Nursery on the left and shortly after, you will see Spraggs Road also on the left. The road junction here covers a large area, so there is plenty of room to leave your vehicle on Spraggs road, either below the highway or near the Yea River.

The Walk: Walk up the hill on Spraggs Road taking time to enjoy the delightful views as you gain height, the road levels out and you pass some agricultural buildings on the left. The high bank on the right now opens out giving view of a large cultivated field. At the top edge of this field Blowhard Road will be seen, the start of which is amongst a group of large gum trees on Spraggs Road, at this point the road looks more like a farm track. Walk along Blowhard and into the bush. The road passes over a gully, continuing more steeply between a large coop of regenerating forest. The corner is reached with the road levelling out and leading into a narrowing valley containing some very old gum trees. A small bank rising in front of you as the road makes a sharp right hairpin turn will reveal a dam, an almost idyllic setting for a short stop or early lunch.

Continue walking up Blowhard Road to the next hairpin bend. This bend is almost visible from the dam as the road goes straight up hill. On reaching the corner take care to locate the correct track you must now follow. As you approach the corner head for the unmarked opening in the bush slightly to the right – do not take the named left hand track, as doing so will lead you down on the wrong side of the hill. The unmarked bush track you will follow retraces an old overgrown logging track. Look out for the old log stage, where timber was rolled onto horse drawn jinkers. A local landowner re opened the track as a horse trail a few years ago. The track leads initially into thick bush, gradually giving way to less dense trees and as you descend,

Footsteps Holidays Pty. Ltd.
PO Box 1014,
Camberwell Vic. 3124

views will open up revealing the scattered pastures and farms of the Toolangi area. Descend by the fence line and follow the trail through the scrub until you see a road entering from the right. The trail joins the road near the gateway, proceed through the gateway onto the little road where there are some houses and a council depot. Follow the road (Cherry Road) down and cross the Yea River. At the road junction you can turn left into Toolangi for the facilities.

At this point the quickest way back to your vehicle would be along the main road to the right. However, the suggested route is to continue ahead on Cherry Road to the top of the small rise then join Old Toolangi Road. Turn right here, walking down past the timber mill and turn right again to re join the highway. Walking on the wide verges will keep the traffic at a safe distance until you reach the starting point and your vehicle on Spraggs Road.

Feedback: Please let me how you enjoyed the walk and if the information given was sufficient – send your email to info@footstepsholidays.com.au

Alex Passmore.