

# VICTORIAN WALK OF THE MONTH

**Location: Dividing Range – Central Highlands**

**Number 3 - Trentham to Lyonville**

**Melway 609E10, VicMap 7723-2-3**

**Starting Point: Trentham Railway Station VicMap ref. 628588**

Standard: Easy - 14Km. Allow about 4.5 hours, for a relaxed walk including lunch stop.

**Footwear:** Comfortable shoes or boots.

**Best Time of year:** Winter, Spring, Autumn.

**Highlights:** An easy bush walk along the former Daylesford railway reserve and forest roads, close to the headwaters of the Coliban River on the Great Dividing Range.

**Altitude:** Starting Point 685 – highest point of the walk 757m.

**Facilities:** There are public facilities at the Lions Park in Quarry Street, or the old Railway Station in Victoria Street, Trentham.

**Approach:** From Melbourne

1. Calder highway to Woodend, then the Daylesford road C318 to Trentham.
2. Western Highway to Myrning or Greendale exits, travel up through Greendale and Blackwood on road C318 to Trentham.

**The Walk:** This walk uses part of the established Domino Trail walking route from Trentham railway station. The start of the trail is through the gate at the end of the platform. Walk by the old rails to the end of the grassy station yard, over the footbridge and along the embankment, pass through the small gate and carefully cross over the main road - Falls Road. The rails have been left in the road asphalt as a reminder of the old line's existence. All the rails have been lifted between Trentham and Lyonville and this is the last you will see of them. Your path is now on the left side the former track bed, which at this point has disappeared amongst blackberry, broom and scrub.

The Domino Trail crosses back over the track bed and is well marked through the bush, including a deviation around private land. Follow the Domino Trail to its end point, which is reached shortly after crossing Domino Creek by way of a high embankment. Here the Domino Trail exits left off the embankment making a short detour through the bush, eventually rejoining the rail trail several hundred meters further back up the trail from where you have come.

The continuation to Lyonville is along the old track bed, but extra care should be taken on this section as it gets rougher and is less manicured than before. However, the pathway in front of you is open, even through the patch of gorse you will encounter beyond the deep railway cutting! The metal from this cutting will have contributed to the high embankment over Domino Creek - one may take a moment to marvel at the miners' efforts and their gruelling handwork!

Shortly after leaving the cutting, the line descends slowly to the Coliban River. You are advised not to cross the river on the old railway bridge, as there are some gaps in the structure. Looking to your left, you will see several trails leading towards the creek bed, the Coliban is hardly a river at this point and, if you look further in the distance you will see the red earth of a bulldozed trail. Leave the former rail track by the bank on your left; follow the new path at a right angle to it for about 100 metres until you reach the bulldozed track. This track crosses the Coliban at a ford. As this location is close to the source of the Coliban, it is unlikely that water will be flowing except after heavy rain - in May 2005 the ford was totally dry. From the ford follow the road, which becomes Railway Street to the road junction with Walkers Road, Lyonville.

Turn left into Walkers Road passing several new houses on your left, at the junction take the right fork (marked as Kearney Rd on VicMap) and walk up the rise to the collection of buildings.

This is the highest point of the walk; it offers a pleasant panorama of views over the cleared farm land to the surrounding Wombat State Forest – to the southeast Blue Mountain (873m) rises distinctly, 5km away and Babbington Hill (822m) is the long backed mountain rising to the north beyond Lyonville.

Opposite the gateway to 'Babbington Park' (marked as 'Hillcrest' on VicMap) turn into the lane, which gradually descends and turn left at the bottom, follow this road back into Lyonville.

Pass the former rail alignment and bear right along the Lyonville main street passing the only significant brick building. Look out for Bremners Lane on your right, which opens up next to a former garage. The lane turns into a grassy track and after a sharp left bend you will join Messmate Road, turn right and walk to the end of Messmate Road. Bear left into Coliban Drive walk to the end, turn right and walk down to the small bridge – this is the Coliban River.

*You are now re-entering the Wombat State Forest and your route roughly follows north and parallel to the former rail line some 5 to 600 metres to the south. Care should be taken to keep to the "main" track, as there are many off shoots. However, the main track is distinguished by recent grading, in many places new stone chippings have been dumped and rolled into boggy areas.*

From the Coliban Bridge the track rises slightly and after 200m you bear left at the junction. Follow the track on rising ground, which then swings left and down rising again after a bend. After 1.5km the trail leads down to a wooden bridge over Domino Creek. Bearing left over the creek and rising over a small ridge you descend to Blue Creek and Doctors Creek. The two creeks join near here and the course of both is uncertain, as bulldozers have been at work, however the ground will look damper than elsewhere. Leaving the course of the creeks on rising ground the track re-joins the Domino Trail in 350m. This point is 1.75km from Falls Road and half an hour from Trentham Station – follow the Domino Trail markers back to the start.

Feedback: Please let me know how you enjoyed this walk and if the information given was sufficient – send your email to: [footsteps@bigpond.com](mailto:footsteps@bigpond.com)

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