

VICTORIAN WALK OF THE MONTH

**Location: Yarra Valley: Healesville
Number 4 - Mt. Toole-Be-Wong
Melway 612R2, VicMap Juliet South 8022-4-S
Starting Point: Below Panton Gap VicMap ref. 739262**

Standard: Easy-Medium - Distance 9 Km. Allow 3.5 hours.

Footwear: Boots with good profile - for the bush track.

Best Time of year: All year

Highlights: A short but energetic uphill walk is rewarded with magnificent views over the Yarra Valley.

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

Facilities: There are no public toilets or refreshment facilities at any stage on this walk.

Approach: From Melbourne, Maroondah Highway to Healesville, then take Don Road up to Panton Gap.

A good place to leave your vehicle is the off road area on the right hand side (left if you are heading towards Healesville) of the road about 300m below the Donna Buang Road junction at Panton Gap. Parking clear of the road way is also available around the Panton Gap junction VicMap ref. 740262.

The Walk: From the car parking space below Panton Gap, walk carefully up Don Road towards the junction and locate the bush track on the right hand side of the road about 100m from the junction.

This is the start of the track marked as “Moora Road” on VicMap and it is now grossly overgrown. However, for most of the way to the top a clear path will open in front of you and it is well worth the effort of negotiating a few minor detours around fallen trees. In parts the track is rich in leaf mould, the stomping ground for lyrebirds. The track climbs moderately most of the way, there are several level sections where one can pause to listen for bird calls in the surrounding dense bush.

A closer inspection of the trail, reveals that at one time it was a well engineered ‘road-way’. The general steepness of grade and the levelled sections indicate that this overgrown track is likely to be a former timber tramway, which once linked the Toolebewong ridge with the site of a possible saw mill in the vicinity of Panton Gap.

Near to the summit of Mt. Toolebewong, the trail suddenly bursts out onto a road leading to private property. Bear left and follow the road which then descends past some houses. At this point the bush gives way to farmed land, opening up views to the distant ranges. At the road junction continue down Moora Road for about one kilometre to enjoy magnificent views of the Yarra Valley. Retrace your steps to the road junction and turn left into Nyora Road. This road winds down off the mountain to a junction with Don Road at a point roughly 600m below your starting point.

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