

VICTORIAN WALK OF THE MONTH

Location: West Gippsland

Number 9 – Poowong North – Circuit Walk

Melway 612T9, VicMap 8021-2-4 Poowong

Starting Point: Poowong North Hall, VicMap ref. 945601

Standard: Easy 15.5 Km. Allow 5 hours, for a relaxed walk including lunch stop.

Footwear: Comfortable shoes or boots.

Best Time of year: Spring for wild blossom, great at other times of year.

Highlights: Easy, an undulating walk on minor roads, offering good views over the contoured dairying countryside of West Gippsland.

Altitude: Starting Point 150 – highest point of the walk 220 – lowest point of the walk 85m at the second Lang Lang River Bridge.

Facilities: There are no public facilities on this walk – nearest at Poowong Township (by the sports oval in Drouin Road) – 8Km. (NB there are facilities at Poowong North Hall, but these were out of commission in November 2008)

Approach: From Melbourne

South Gippsland Highway and exit via Nyora (C434) to Poowong, or Princes Freeway to Drouin – exit at Robin Hood and take C431/432 to Poowong. Poowong North Hall is approx. 8km NNE of Poowong. Take the Drouin road from the township to Timms Road (3.2km) and follow this to Poowong North Hall, which will be on your left. If travelling via the Princes Freeway and Drouin, look out for the Timms Road junction, which will be on your left about 23km after leaving Drouin on C432.

Parking: You can park in the shade near the Hall.

Warning: Watch out for local farm traffic on the minor roads and faster moving vehicles on the section of the Korumburra – Drouin Road.

The Walk:

From the Hall walk to your left along Timms Road for 100m then right into Allchins Road, then after 350m right again into O'Mearas Road. The road passes a number of farm buildings and rises gently to its highest point at a bend close to a dairy farm. This is the highest point of the walk. Enjoy the views from the ridge as you walk along O'Mearas Road as you gradually descend to a small junction; (ignore McNallys Road) bear left and left again and walk down the hill into Olsens Road. Olsens Road is a sheltered road following by a creek and you walk along this delightful little valley for 3.5 km at which point the road turns sharply up right and down to the Lang Lang River. Just before the bridge you may notice the alignment of the former Strzelecki to Koo-Wee-Rup Railway, built to serve the local farming community – this section had closed by 1941. After the bridge the road rises to the junction with the Korumburra – Drouin Road, where you turn left. Please take care and watch for occasional traffic on this main road. After 1.3km turn left into Standfields Road. Walk up and over the low summit and down to the second Lang Lang River Bridge, the lowest point of the walk. The road rises to a higher summit with some farm buildings and a sharp bend, then it is straight on to Timms Road, turn left here and after another 1.2km you will return to your vehicle at Poowong North Hall.

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 – January 2009.