

# VICTORIAN WALK OF THE MONTH

**Location: Dividing Range – Central Highlands**

**Number 8 – Metcalfe East – Pastoral Circuit and Turpin Falls**

**Melway 609, VicMap 7723-1-2 Edgecombe**

**Starting Point: Langley School, VicMap ref. 770830**

**Standard:** Easy 14.5 Km. Allow 5 hours, for a relaxed walk including lunch stop.

**Footwear:** Comfortable shoes or boots.

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

**Highlights:** Easy, mostly level walking on minor roads and tracks with few undulations, offering clear long views over delightful pastoral countryside around the Campaspe River.

**Altitude:** Starting Point 495 – highest point of the walk 495 – lowest point of the walk 380m at the base of Turpin Falls.

**Facilities:** There are no public facilities on this walk – nearest at Kyneton – 10Km.

**Approach:** From Melbourne

Calder highway to Kyneton, take the second exit from the freeway on the northern side of the town. At the roundabout turn right and cross over the freeway into Edgecombe Road heading towards Redesdale and Heathcote. After travelling approx.10km on this road you will find Langley School situated at a minor cross road, turn right into Parsell Road and park near the school.

**Parking:** You can park in the shade near the school.

**Warning:** Take care crossing the highway, at the start and end of your walk.

## **The Walk:**

From the school cross back over the main road. Take Manns Road on your right immediately after crossing the highway. This beautiful, narrow tree lined lane gradually descends for a kilometre, then after a small creek rises, veering right to the junction with Metcalfe East Road. Turn left and walk up to the high point of the road near “Craigelachie” farm at the junction with McKnights Road and enjoy the broad valley views.

Continue along and downhill to Rogersons Bridge. The Campaspe is slow moving here and the river bed is choked with willows; look for the remains of an earlier bridge on the river bed on your left. Continue to the junction with Shillidays Road and turn right, the road bears right after about a kilometre then, take the right fork to the Turpin Falls parking area. A narrow footpath leads down to a large pool at the base of the falls, a cleft in the overlying basalt rock. This location makes an excellent place for lunch or even a swim! Retrace your steps to the junction with Metcalfe East Road and continue past the road end to the crossroads.

Metcalfe East today is little more than a collection of farm buildings mainly of the rustic variety. However, a closer inspection will show many more ruins and just beyond the crossroads at Hodges Road ( on older maps marked as Metcalfe East Post Office Road ) you may notice the track

alignment of the former Kyneton and Redesdale Railway. In former times, there would have been a station, goods loading sidings and passing loop at this point.

At the crossroad turn left and walk the 2.5km to the end of Hodges Road – you will see some more relics of the railway in the field to your right. Turn left at Boundary Road and walk down to Hodge's Bridge, returning back over the Campaspe. In these years of drought, it is worth noting the high water mark in 1904, the sign is on the south side of the west abutment.

The route continues up the rise and around the corner. Shortly past the bend look out for the Boundary Road easement in the field below on your left. There is a hand written sign hanging on the wire fence: "Stock on Lane, Keep Shut". Take care not to damage the wire fence and replace any wire you may need to unhook, your walk continues up the hill before you. Over the rise the grassy path meets with the formed Boundary Road, this leads you directly to Langley School and your vehicle.

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)

Alex Passmore – September 2007