



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

VICTORIAN WALK OF THE MONTH

Location: Dividing Range Wallan – Romsey Area

Number 1 - Springfield
Melway 509K10, VicMap Springfield 7823-2-4
Starting Point: Gallaghers Ford VicMap ref. 053626

Standard: Easy - 11 Km. Allow about 4 hours, for a relaxed walk including lunch stop.

Footwear: Comfortable shoes or boots, walking mainly on country roads and lanes.

Best Time of year: Winter, Spring, Autumn.

Highlights: An easy walk offering splendid views over rolling country and farmland. The walk is mostly along unsurfaced roads with wide grass verges and very little traffic. Many bird species encountered, wattles in flower at the time of my first survey in July 2002.

Approach: From Melbourne, Hume Highway exiting to Wallan, then take the Woodend - Wallan Road in the Romsey direction. Follow this road for approx. 21.5 km and look for Joyces Road on your left. Joyces is a 3 chain road, descending to Gallaghers Ford over Deep Creek, it eventually leads to Monegeetta on the Lancefield - Sunbury road. Gallaghers Ford is a good place to start this walk and leave your vehicle. The 3 chain width offering a wide verge to park on, well away from any stones thrown up by passing traffic.

Facilities: There are no public facilities at any stage of this walk.

The Walk: Walk back up Joyces Road to the Wallan Road and turn uphill to your right. There will be local traffic on this road and you may feel more comfortable walking on either of the verges. Continue up hill to the small gap in the ridge ahead and look for the track on your right. This track will take you away from the road and through some light bush, where you can enjoy the view from the fence line near to a farm gateway. The track is in effect the former roadway; it rejoins the present highway a short distance above Sheehans Lane, which will be on your left. Follow down Sheehans Lane and turn the corner into Clements Lane, walking in a northerly direction. Take Pattersons road on your left and walk up the hill to Springfield. Springfield is a rustic collection of farm and other buildings, with a large homestead seen behind the belt of pine trees to the right of Pattersons road. The walk up to Springfield offers excellent views, away over rich farming country to the Dividing Range and Mount Macedon. A good place to sit and have lunch is on the grassy bank beneath the pine trees, which also provide some shelter from the wind.

Continue past the Kilmore road junction and over the small rise where your route now turns sharply left into a narrow ravine, the waters of which flow into Deep Creek at Gallaghers Ford. Look out for the culvert as you walk down the hill and consider the amount of water that must have caused the erosion! Continuing down you rejoin the Woodend - Wallan Road, looking up to your left from this corner you will see the point where Joyces road turns down to Gallaghers Ford. Walking back to your car this way shortens the walk.

However for a more satisfying finish; when you come to the Woodend - Wallan Road turn right and walk up hill for a further 900 meters. Near the summit you will come to a lane on your left leading to some new home development, follow this lane, which runs parallel to and below the ridge, for about a kilometre. Take the turning to the left, a grassy lane running sharply down hill, right to your vehicle at Gallaghers Ford!

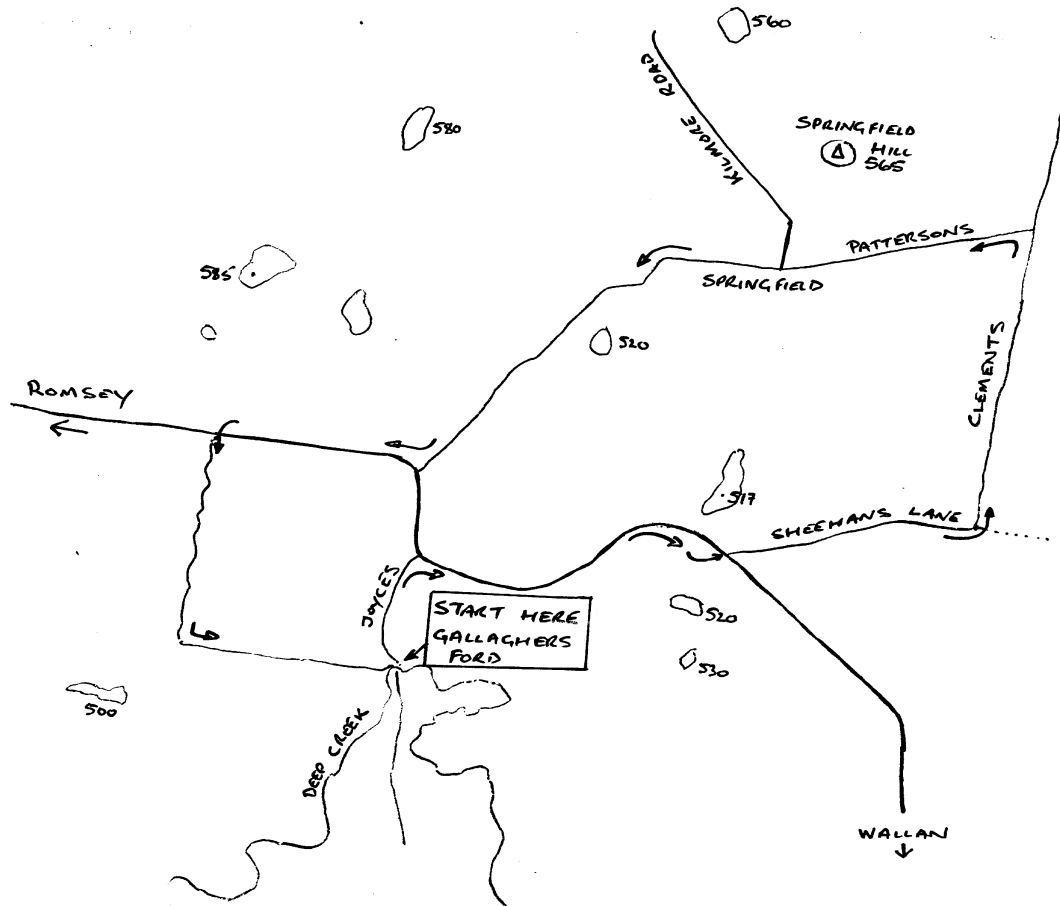
Feedback: Tell me how you enjoyed the walk and let me know if the information given was sufficient – send your email to info@footstepsholidays.com.au

Alex Passmore.



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SPRINGFIELD WALKING ROUTE



Spot heights and contours over 500 meters.

Scale 1:25000