

Young's Creek picnic area is situated approximately 15 kilometres north of Orbost. It is perfectly located for that short drive out of town to enjoy a quiet picnic or a relaxing stroll along one of the walking tracks. Horse riders and cyclists are most welcome and can enjoy the scenery as they ride one of the many quiet bush tracks leading to the picnic area.

The picnic area is nestled amongst Southern Mahoganies and Stringybarks on the edge of Young's Creek. As the picnic area is located in State Forest, dogs and horses are permitted in this area. A tethering rail is provided for horses and there is plenty of water in the nearby creek. Picnic tables, barbeques and a toilet are provided, but all litter must be taken away with you when you leave.

### How to get to Young's Creek

The most direct route to Young's Creek picnic area is to travel north through Orbost and turn right onto the Bonang Road. Follow the Bonang Road for 6.3 kilometres to where 4.5 Mile Track begins. Turn right onto 4.5 Mile Track and travel for 2.3 kilometres where you will then reach Storers Track. At this intersection turn right onto Storers Track and travel in an easterly direction. Storers Track gradually descends and crosses Young's Creek. Once over the bridge, cars can be parked in the cleared area directly opposite the picnic area.

If you are cycling or horse riding there are several other routes to choose from. Turn right down South Boundary Road, and then left up Stock Track, Sheep Track or Break Neck Track, which will bring you onto either 4.5 Mile Track or Storers Track (all tracks have moderate slopes).

### History of the site

The Young's Creek picnic area is located on the site of an old sawmill, once owned and operated by L.E. & H. Williams, dating back to the early 1920's. The mill was eventually sold, dismantled, and the machinery transferred to a sawmill at Cabbage Tree Creek. Although native vegetation has reoccupied the site, close inspection will reveal items of old sawmill debris. The old steam engine at the edge of the car park is the remains of the mill's former power plant. This portable steam engine was constructed in Leiston, Suffolk, in England.

### Walking tracks

There are currently three walking tracks that all begin at the picnic area. The first track takes you to the Young's Creek waterfall, the second is a short loop track through the forest and the third is a longer track that will take you to the historic reservoir wall on Young's Creek.

#### 1. Young's Creek Waterfall Walking Track

Skill Level: Basic Fitness Level: Average  
0.6 km return (15 mins)

The walking track to the falls begins at the back of the picnic area and gently winds its way downstream to the top of the Young's Creek waterfall. Here the creek surges over a rock face to plunge into a large pool some 13 metres below. From the top of this rock face the track descends into a ferny gully and then to the base of the falls where Kanuka and Teatree are growing in abundance.

#### 2. Forest-Loop Walking Track

Skill Level: Basic Fitness Level: Average  
0.8 km return (20 mins)

The forest-loop walking track begins just west of the car park area. This walking track will take you through a picturesque forest dominated by Stringybarks, Southern Mahoganies and Grey Gums. The forest understorey is varied and includes Treeferns, Lilly Pillies and Pittosporums. Three small bridges will take you across lush green gullies before heading up onto drier ground where the forest becomes open and the vegetation increasingly sparse.

#### 3. Young's Creek Reservoir Walking Track

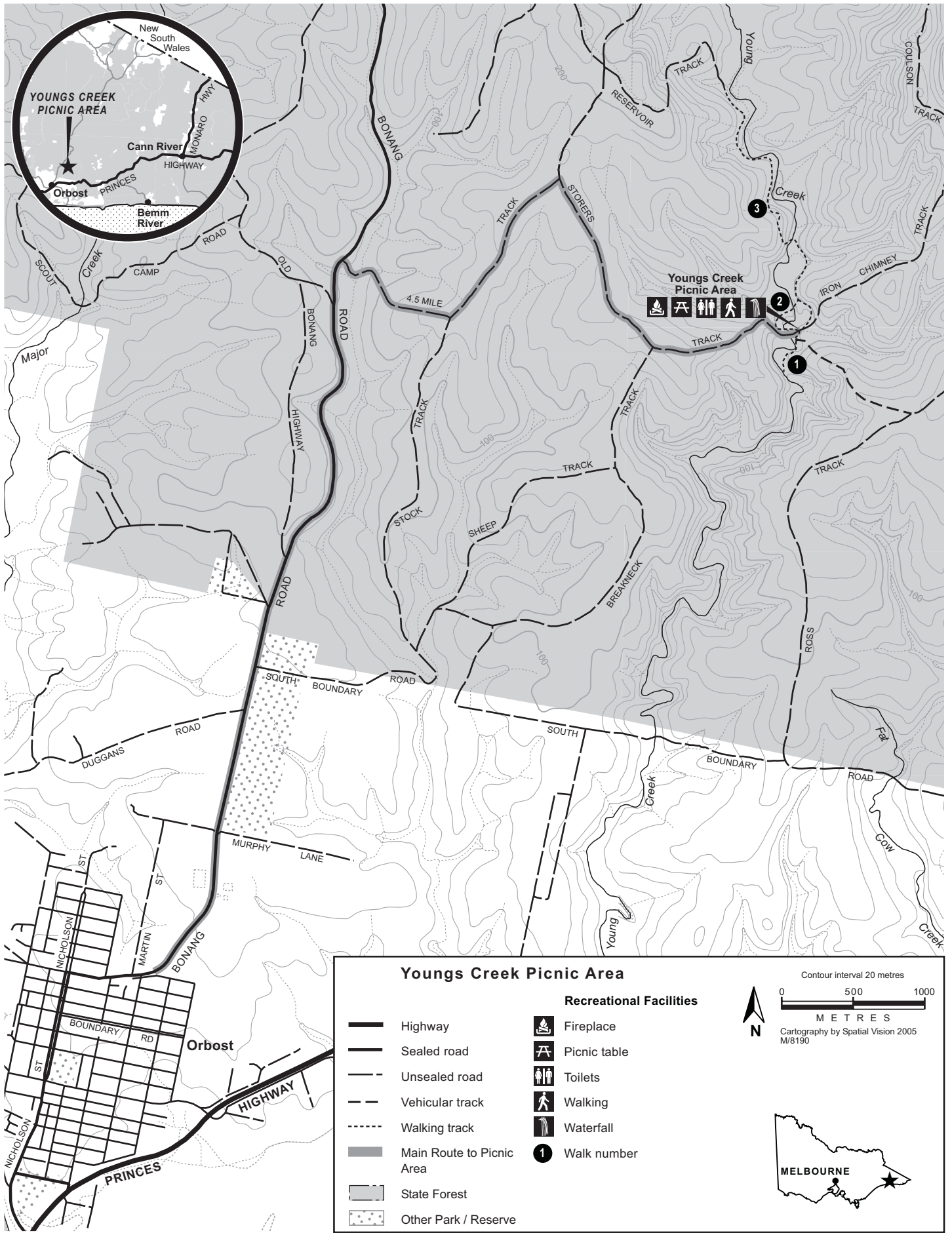
Skill Level: Basic Fitness Level: Average  
4.6 km return (2 hours)

The walking track to the reservoir begins just west of the car park area. The track passes through eucalypt forest and some warm temperate rainforest on Young's Creek. The rainforest has a closed canopy, keeping the sunlight out and creating cool conditions beneath. The reservoir was commissioned in 1918 to supply the Orbost Township with water. The reservoir wall stands 7.8 metres high and the pondage held up to 118 megalitres of water. The reservoir is no longer in use but the wall is still standing and can be viewed from the viewing platform.

### For more information

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forest. For further information contact the DSE office at Orbost on (03) 5161 1222 or DSE's Customer Service Centre on 136 186. Alternatively you may like to view the Department's website on the Internet at: <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>

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