

## Getting there

The Whipstick Loop Walk starts and ends at the Jack Cann Reserve. It is located approximately 1.5 hours from Melbourne and approximately 40 minutes from Ballarat. The walk is also easily accessed from the towns of Daylesford, Trentham and Woodend.



## Whipstick Loop Walk

Grade of Walk <sup>1</sup> :	Grade 3
Distance:	Circuit 5.0km
Time:	2 hours return
Gradient:	Short steep hills
Quality of Path:	Formed track, some obstacles
Quality of Markings:	Sign posted
Steps:	Occasional steps
Experience required:	Some bushwalking experience recommended

This walk is situated in the Wombat State Forest and traverses part of the Great Dividing Trail but then loops down around Whipstick Creek through some beautiful open eucalypt forest, to bring you back to your starting point at the Jack Cann Reserve.

Along the walk there is historical evidence of various types of mining with both vertical and horizontal shafts. All of the mining in the area was conducted by hand in very difficult conditions. There is a fenced area with a viewing platform along the track, where you can safely view one of the old mine shafts. Take the time to look and appreciate the extent of works undertaken but for your safety, please stick to the track.

Further along the trail you will also get to walk along the remnants of a water-race, Miners hand dug these trenches to direct water both to and from their mine workings. At one section of the track a boardwalk has been constructed around an old tree through which the miners once diverted the water course. There is also evidence of a structure that once spanned the creek that may have been a tramway or bridge foundations.

## Flora and fauna

The predominant overstorey vegetation in the area is a mixture of Narrow-leaf Peppermint (*E.radiata*),

Candle Bark (*E.rubida*), and Messmate (*E.obliqua*), along with some magnificent examples of Blackwood (*A.melanoxydon*). Ecosystems vary in species composition depending on topography, climate and soil. There are a number of significant species that inhabit and use the Wombat State Forest. They include the Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*), Brush-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatfa*), and Yarra Gum (*E.yarraensis*). Within the Wombat State Forest, areas have been set aside for the protection of special biological values significant to these and other species or ecosystems.

## Picnic facilities

Picnic facilities, car parking and public toilets are available at the Jack Cann Reserve.

## Looking after forests

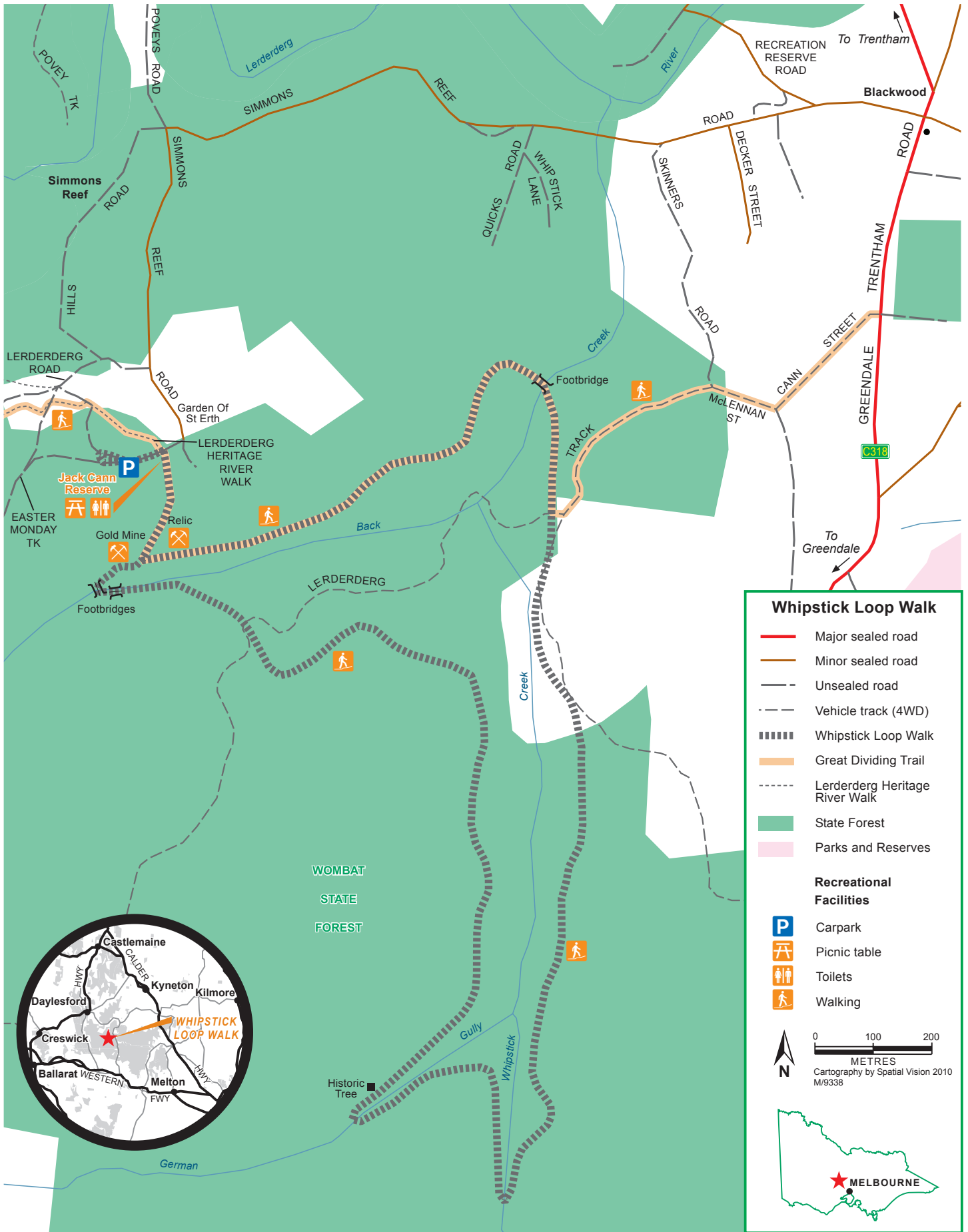
- Don't disturb native plants and animals
- There is no rubbish collection service, so please take your rubbish home. If you have the misfortune to come across other people's rubbish, do the bush a favour and take it out with you too.
- Dogs are allowed in State forest but must be under direct control at all times and are expected to be on a leash in picnic and camping areas or when near other visitors.
- Take care with fire- observe all fire regulations and Total Fire Ban days. Use existing fireplaces and ensure fires are safe and that they are completely extinguished when you leave.

## For more information

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forest. For further information contact DSE's Customer Service Centre on 136 186 (TTY: 1800 122 969) or visit DSE's website at <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/forests>

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on how walks are graded, visit [www.dse.vic.gov.au/walking](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/walking)



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