

Alpine National Park



Valleys and Bluffs - car tours and walks around Wabonga Plateau, Mt Cobbler and Powers Lookout

Cascading waterfalls, clear mountain streams, wildflowers and spectacular views of the Alps are all features of the Wabonga Plateau - Mount Cobbler area of the Alpine National Park.

There is a variety of tours and places of interest for day visitors as well as those staying longer. Bushwalking, 4WD touring and camping are all popular pastimes.

Getting there and getting around

Mount Cobbler and the Wabonga Plateau area of the Alpine National Park are best approached from Whitfield. From Melbourne, Whitfield can be reached via the Hume Highway to Wangaratta or via the Maroondah Highway to Mansfield and then via Tolmie. Roads from Benalla, Mansfield and Myrtleford also provide interesting scenic routes to the area. The distance between Melbourne and Whitfield is 260 kilometres.

Car touring

Before you go:

- check road and track conditions before setting out on 13 1963.
- vehicles, including trail bikes, are restricted to formed roads. Vehicles must be fully registered and drivers licensed.

Many roads and tracks are closed seasonally during the colder, wetter months for environmental and safety reasons.

By 2WD

Some areas of interest that are easily accessible to day visitors touring by car are Powers Lookout, Paradise Falls, Little Falls and Lake William Hovell on the edge of the Alpine National Park.

❶ Powers Lookout (20 km from Whitfield or 45 km from Mansfield)

This rocky escarpment high above the King Valley was the hideout of Harry Power, a notorious but 'gentlemanly' bushranger of the 1860s. Power reputedly befriended a young Ned Kelly before leading him into a life of crime from which there appeared to be no turning back.

There are two lookout points providing sweeping views of the surrounding mountain and valley landscape. The first lookout has wheelchair

access. A short walk with a series of ladders takes the visitor to a viewing platform at the northern most point of the rocky outcrop. It is easy to imagine why Power chose this site for a hideout.

There is also a 20 minute return walk to a waterhole amongst rocky ledges. Stories of Harry Power, his exploits and final demise are detailed on the information board. Toilet and picnic facilities are provided at this site.

❷ Paradise Falls and Little Falls (17 km from Whitfield via Cheshunt)

Paradise Falls (30 minutes return) cascade an uninterrupted 31 metres and are best viewed in spring, early summer or after rain. The walking is easy on a well established track. Information, toilet and picnic facilities are available on site.

Little Falls (20 minutes return) are a pretty 17 metre drop. The start of the walk is 2.4 km back along the road from Paradise Falls.

❸ Lake William Hovell (20 km from Whitfield)

If time permits, Lake William Hovell, whilst not in the park, is nestled scenically amongst the mountains of the upper King River. Boat launching and picnic facilities with views of the catchments spillway, are available.

If you have a 4WD

Seasonal road closures apply in these areas

❹ Sandy Flat and Top Crossing Hut (Sandy Flat is 30 minutes from Lake William Hovell. Top Crossing Hut is 20 minutes from Sandy Flat)

The track fords the King River in several places so take care, especially after rain when the river can become impassable. Campsites can be found on the grassy flats beside the King River with toilet facilities at Top Crossing Hut and Sandy Flat.



5 The Razorback and King River Valley

For extended 4WD day trips from Sandy Flat continue north along Sandy Flat Track, east on Long Spur Track, and then south on Stockyard Track and Burnt Top Tracks. Superb views can be seen from the Razorback (along the Burnt Top Track) looking toward Mt Cobbler and the Buckland Spur.

From Burnt Top Track continue driving to the Pineapple Flat Camping Area on the quiet upper reaches of the King River. Follow the King Basin Road south-east to King Hut. From here it is possible to return to Whitfield via the Cobbler Plateau or travel on to Mansfield via the Speculation Road and Circuit Road below Mt Stirling. Craigs Hut is accessed from the Circuit Road.

6 Lake Cobbler (48 km from Whitfield)

Very rough 2WD access as far as Bennies in dry weather only

A scenic drive passing through the picturesque farming valley of the Rose River, riverine forest and foothill bushland before ascending to the subalpine woodlands of Lake Cobbler. You will pass by the impressive pink sandstone and conglomerate slopes of Mt Typo and Bennies, a quiet bush camping area beside the Rose River. This camp is named after Allan Bennie who ran fishing trips for walkers and horse riders. The last section of road provides dramatic glimpses of the Dandongadale Falls (Victoria's longest falls with a 255m drop), tumbling off the Cobbler Plateau.

Return the same way or take the Little Cobbler Track to the remote King River area. Please keep to formed roads.



Short walks (see also 'Car touring')

- 1 Paradise and Little Falls
- 2 Gold Mining Trail (1 km, 30 mins return)

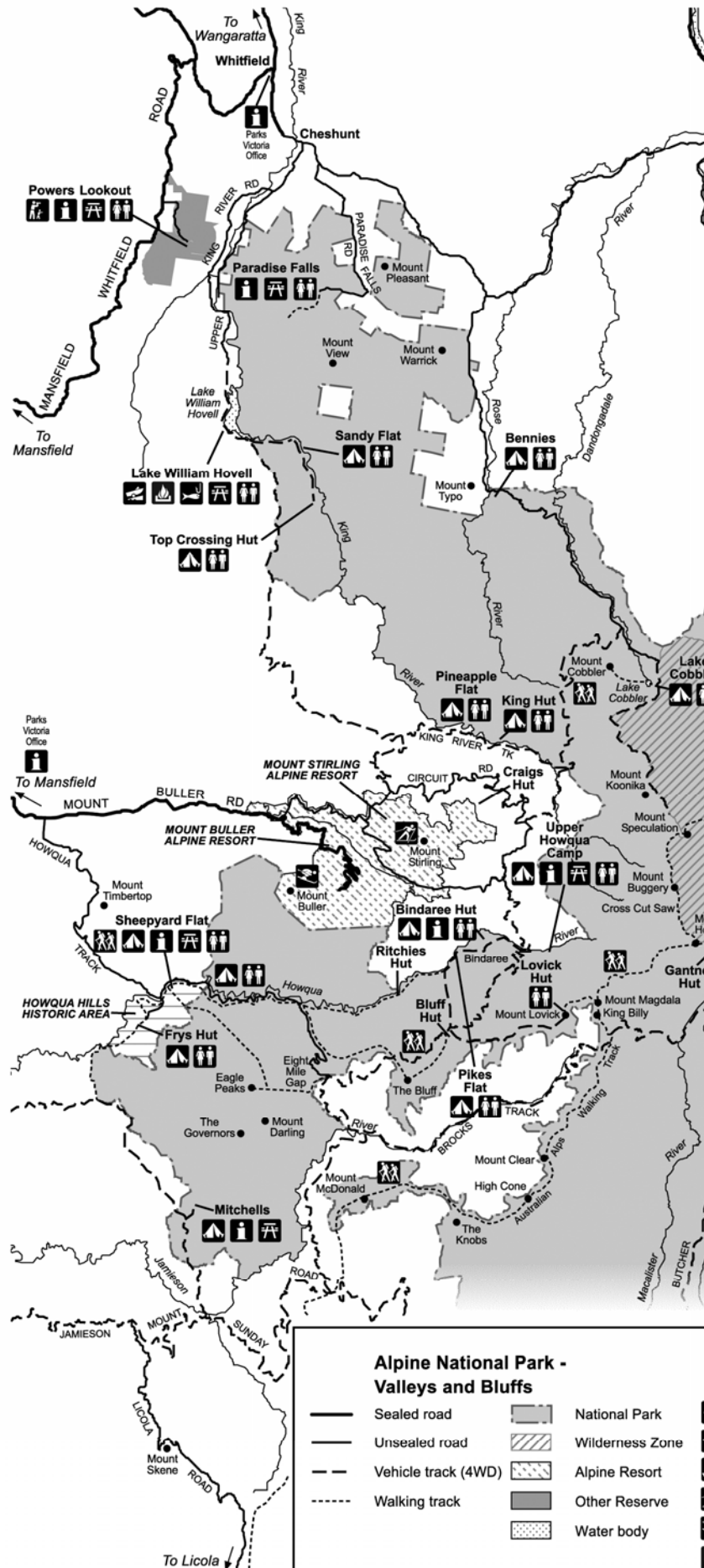
This walking track is part of the 'Mining Tracks of Eastern Victoria' and was established in 1897 as a link for miners travelling between Tolmie and Buckland goldfields.

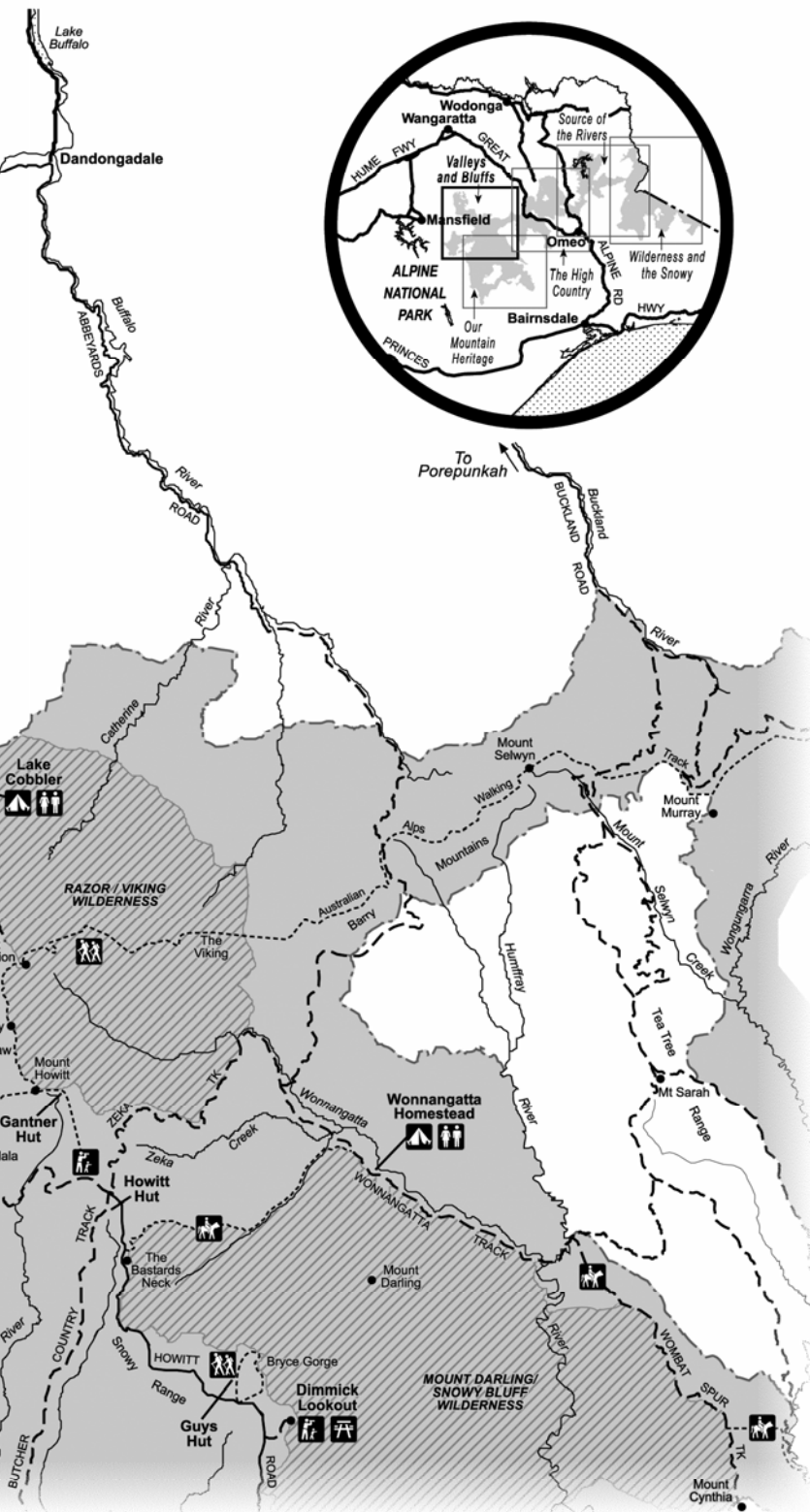
Powers Lookout is another great location for short walks.

Longer day walks

- 3 Bennies Walking Track (12 kms, 4 hours return)

The walking track from Bennies Camp follows an old bridle trail to the remains of an old Forestry Commission Hut. The track meanders through open forest along the Rose River, finishing at Wild Horse Gap Track. Here there are a couple of grassy areas near the river suitable for camping. A medium walk, with moderately steep sections.





4 Mt Cobbler (10 kms, 3.5 hours return)

Mt Cobbler is an exposed, rocky alpine summit, so be prepared for the onset of cold, wet and windy conditions at any time of the year. From the camping area at Lake Cobble the walking track enters the forest and dips into a moist creek gully, before starting the steady and sometimes steep climb to an open snow plain area. At the 'T' intersection turn right (north) to Mt Cobbler peak. The other walking track returns to a 4WD track across the Cobbler Plateau. The walk to the summit is well worthwhile for both the views and wildflowers you will encounter along the way. A moderate walk with some steep sections.

Overnight hiking in the Razor - Viking Wilderness

The Razor - Viking Wilderness is a large area of remote rugged undisturbed land. There is no vehicle access into or within the Razor - Viking Wilderness. Likewise, there are no signposts or walking track markers. Here visitors need to be well equipped, self reliant and experienced in navigation; and prepared to meet nature on its own terms.

5 Mt Cobbler to Mt Speculation

A remote walk along an indistinct footpad links the Cobbler Plateau with Mt Speculation. Mt Koonika can be included in this hike. Alternatively (if you have a 4WD) drive along the Mt Speculation Road to Camp Creek on the edge of the wilderness. Many extended walks can be undertaken from the Mt Speculation area.

6 Australian Alps Walking Track

The Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT) passes over the summit of Mt Speculation on its long mountainous journey from Walhalla to Canberra. To the south the AAWT traverses the jagged Crosscut Saw whilst to the east plunges into the heart of the Razor - Viking Wilderness. Please contact Parks Victoria for updated information before hiking in this remote area.

On horseback

Explore and enjoy the mountains and valleys of the Alpine National Park on horseback, especially in the King River area. Restricted times and group sizes apply so please refer to the 'Alpine National Park - Horseriding' park note for further details and special conditions

Fishing

The major streams and rivers such as the King and Rose Rivers together with Lake William Hovell provide good fishing opportunities in this area. Check your Fishing Guide for trout seasons and freshwater cray regulations and ensure that you hold a current Victorian fishing licence.

Tour guides

A number of licensed tour operators provide activities in the area. Contact Tourism Alliance Victoria for details on (03) 9650 8399 or visit their website www.tourismalliance.com.au

Recreational Facilities	
	Boat ramp
	Bushwalking
	Camping
	Cross country skiing
	Downhill skiing
	Fireplace
	Fishing
	Horse riding
	Bicentennial National Trail
	Lookout
	Park information
	Picnic table
	Toilets

MELBOURNE

Parks Victoria

For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre

Call 13 1963

or visit our website at

www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Park Office

Whitfield Rd, Whitfield 3733

Phone 13 1963

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Dogs and other pets are not permitted

Please do not disturb or remove any native plants, animals or rock formations

Vehicles, including trail bikes may only be driven on formed roads open to the public, and must be fully road registered.

Drivers and riders must hold a current licence

Take your rubbish home

Do not pollute streams and rivers with refuse, detergents or human waste. Wash up well away from streams

Where toilets are not provided, bury your toilet waste at least 100 metres from water or campsites

Use a portable stove instead of lighting a fire, especially above or near the tree line

Enjoy a visit to a hut but do not use them for accommodation.

Always carry a tent

Choose a firm, dry, well drained campsite at least 20 metres from any watercourse

Always check fire danger forecasts. No fires (including stoves) are permitted on days of Total Fire Ban. This park is in the North-Eastern Fire Ban District

Please don't throw this park note away. Keep it, return it for others to use, or recycle it

Fires

Firewood supplies are limited in the alpine and subalpine areas. Collect firewood from State Forest or bring supplies from home. The use of camping or fuel stoves is preferred. If you need to use a fire, please keep it small and use established fireplaces. No fires, including fuel stoves may be lit on days of TOTAL FIRE BAN. Be aware that it is your responsibility to check fire danger forecasts.

Setting up camp

There are numerous ideal sites in the area for dispersed bush camping without facilities, however please do not drive over vegetation to set up your camp.

For bushwalkers

Dispersed camping is allowed, however please ensure you are at least 20 metres from any lake, river or stream. Refer to the camping guidelines listed in 'Caring for the environment' opposite.

For car based campers

Sites with facilities are:

- Bennies Camping Area (2WD access)
- Lake Cobbler (4WD access recommended - very rough 2WD past Bennies)
- Pineapple Flat (4WD access)
- King Hut (4WD access)

When camping please keep vehicles to formed tracks, and be fully self sufficient with food, water, firewood and camping equipment. Always carry a tent. Huts are for emergency use only.

Huts

There are many huts throughout the area, built by early graziers, privately for recreation or by the former Forestry and Lands Departments.

The present Lake Cobbler Hut was built in 1986 by the Wangaratta 4WD Club. The original hut was built in the early 1900s as part of the Lovick grazing licence, followed by another built by Sam Christopher and Frank Gorman who had the Cobbler grazing licence from 1929 to the 1940s.

Enjoy a visit to a hut but do not rely on them for accommodation. Please help us to look after the huts by:

- not leaving food in huts - this encourages rodents and spread of disease
- leave the hut in the same condition as you would like to find it.
- use a fuel stove for cooking - many huts have burnt down due to carelessness with open fires.

Take care!

All visitors, especially walkers, should realise that weather conditions can change rapidly in alpine areas. Snowfalls can be experienced at Mt Cobbler at any time of the year and water can be extremely scarce, so always be prepared with:

- warm clothing
- wind and waterproof jacket
- gloves, hat, sunglasses and strong footwear
- first aid kit and sunscreen
- high energy food and water
- compass and relevant topographical map.

Other publications

For more details of the Alpine National Park see the following maps and publications:

Maps

Natmap 1:100,000 Whitfield

Natmap 1:100,000 Buffalo

VicMap 1:50,000 Howitt - Selwyn

S.R & P.N Brookes maps:

1:50,000 Wabonga Plateau

1:50,000 Watersheds of King, Howqua and Jamieson Rivers

Alpine National Park park notes

Valleys and Bluffs

- around Mansfield and Whitfield

Source of the Rivers

- around Mitta Mitta, Tallangatta and Corryong

The High Country

- around Bright, Mt Beauty and Omeo

Wilderness and the Snowy

- around Benambra, Buchan and Jindabyne

Our Mountain Heritage

- around Heyfield, Licola and Dargo in the Wonnangatta - Moroka area

Horseriding in the Alpine National Park

Books

The Australian Alps Walking Track and Alpine National Park by John Siseman (Pindari Publications)

Victoria's National Parks Explorer's Guide (See Australia Guides)

Explore the Australian Alps - Car touring guide to the Australian Alps national parks by Australian Alps Liaison Committee (New Holland Press)

May 2008

Printed on Australian-made 100% recycled paper