

# NAMADGI WALKS

## ***CRITERIA FOR WALKS INCLUDED***

1. *Day walks or shorter in Namadgi National Park.*
2. *Generally on walking track, bush-track (worn foot pad), vehicle track or open country where navigation is generally not required.*
3. *No off-track walks that may require navigation skills are included.*
4. *Generally relevant 1:25,000 maps are not mentioned but Park Service brochures are.*
5. *Mostly easy to moderate walks; grading generally due to height climbed and steepness.*
6. *Includes distance to start (from NVC for southern Namadgi, Piccadilly Circus for Brindabellas, and junction of Corin Rd and Tidbinbilla Rd for starts along Corin Rd), walking distance and assessed grade of walk (sometimes with reasons). Highlights of walk included in text (ie views, features, etc).*
7. *Length of descriptive text generally kept to less than 200 words with maximum of about 250 words (there is one slightly longer).*

Initial draft descriptive text for walks by Mike Smith (although Mike Bremers and Christine Goonrey provided initial text for one walk each which has been modified by Mike Smith).

# NAMADGI WALKS

## HONEYSUCKLE CREEK TO NAMADGI VISITORS CENTRE

This walk is along the concluding section of the Walhalla, Victoria to Canberra, Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT). It is all on formed walking or bush vehicle tracks. This walk starts from the Honeysuckle Creek Campground, about 18-km from the NVC, near the site of the now demolished tracking station. The initial section of this walk goes to the Booroomba Rock carpark where a side trip could be undertaken [*see Booroomba Rocks walk*]. It then continues downhill to Bushfold Flats where a short diversion could be made to the now reconstructed Reed's Hut (this was severely damaged in the 2003 bushfires and demolished). This is a good place to turn around if a return walk is intended. The walk continues along Bushfold Flat on a vehicle track and then up and over the northern shoulder of Mt Tennent on walking track. At the shoulder there is a sign-posted Tee Junction. The walking walk continues along the left (east) fork. Straight ahead (south) the walking track continues to the Mt Tennent summit road. If time and energy allows this could be taken as a side trip to the summit for views across Canberra and Namadgi. The walk continues down the eastern side of Mt Tennent, sometimes steeply, past Cypress Pine lookout to finish at the Namadgi Visitors Centre (NVC). A car shuffle between the Visitors Centre and Honeysuckle Campground is required to undertake this walk.

- Walking distance - about 14-km
- Grade – Moderate due to distance and climbs involved.

## BOOROOMBA ROCKS

This walk starts at the Booroomba Rocks Carpark some 3-km along a gravel road branching off the Apollo Road at about 18-km from the NVC. A formed walking track from the carpark leads to the top of Booroomba Rocks for views into the Blue Gum Creek area of Namadgi and the Tuggeranong Valley. Be warned this walk has a steep 200-m plus climb. The platform top of the rocks is a good place for a rest break with a view. Rock climbers can often be seen scaling the 200-m high granite cliffs of Booroomba Rocks. Time could be spent exploring along the length of the rock platform. Care should be taken near the edge of the rock cliffs especially where children are involved.

- Walking distance - 4-km return
- Grade – Moderate due to steep climb

## ORRORAL RIDGE

Orroral Ridge, often referred to as the 'Ridge of Stone', overlooks the Orroral Valley and has numerous interesting large rocky (granite) outcrops. Access to the ridge is from the Honeysuckle Creek Campground at the site of the now demolished tracking station, 19-km from the NVC, along a 3.5-km unsealed road to a parking area on the ridgeline. Some of the rock outcrops along the ridge have been given colloquial names by the bushwalking fraternity; 'Cloisters' (0.5-km south-east of the parking area), 'Belfry' (a further 0.5-km south-east), 'Legoland' (0.5-km north-west of the parking area) and 'Sentinal Rocks' (a further 1-km north-west). Well worn bush-tracks lead to all these rock outcrops. It is interesting to explore the in and outs of the rocky outcrops including overhangs and what could be described as tunnels. Several of the outcrops, 'Legoland' in particular, have flattish rock shelves with spectacular views to the southern parts of Namadgi across the Orroral Valley. There are many other rock outcrops in the vicinity which are worth a look. Return along the same bush-tracks.

- Walking distance - about 6-km (2-km south-east and 4-km north-west) visiting all 4 outcrops.
- Grade - Easy

## HONEYSUCKLE CREEK TO ORRORAL VALLEY

This walk is along a vehicle track, originally a bush track that was upgraded to link the Honeysuckle Creek and Orroral Tracking Stations which are now demolished. It can be done as a return walk,

down and back as given in these notes or one way which requires two positioned vehicles. The walk starts some 3-km from the Honeysuckle Creek camp-ground (19-km from the NVC) at a locked gate on a side road just off the unsealed road the Orroral ridge-line. The walk along the vehicle track which is part of the Australian Alps Walking Track [AAWT] is essentially downhill to the Orroral River. Along the way there are good views across the Orroral Valley as well as some interesting rock tors. Towards the valley and off to the left is an interesting rocky peak colloquially known as the either Orroral or Cathedral Rocks. From the Orroral River, which is bridged, the former Orroral Tracking Station now a picnic area can be seen and accessed either across country or around the roads (longer). Return to the start by the same route which involves a steep climb up the track of about 350-m.

- Walking distance - about 5-km each way, 10-km return.
- Grade – Moderate due to steep climb on return

## **HORSE GULLY AND DEMANDING HUTS**

This walk starts near the Mt Clear camping ground at the locked gate on the Naas Valley Fire Trail about 46-km from the NVC. A detailed self-guided walks brochure entitled 'Naas Valley to Horse Gully Hut' is available from the NVC. It is a return walk along the Naas Valley Fire Trail. On the way the walk passes the modern Mt Clear horse yards and twice fords the Naas Creek, which could result in wet feet. A turnoff at about 6km leads to Demanding Hut which is some 200-m off the fire trail. This small hut of galvanised iron was built in the 1940's. Return to the fire trail and continue a further 2-km, passing the burnt remains of cattle yards, to Horse Gully Hut. This bigger hut also of galvanised iron was also built in the 1940's adjacent to the site of an earlier 1890's hut. There is little evidence of this earlier hut except the stones of chimney. Along the way the fire trail passes through forests of tall eucalypts, Ribbon Gum, Manna Gum, Peppermint and Candlebark. Also Black Sallee which mainly front frost hollows and boggy ground. Return to the start back along the fire trail.

- Walking distance - about 16-km return
- Grade – Moderate-easy

## **LONG FLAT**

This walk starts near the Mt Clear camping ground at the locked gate on the Naas Valley Fire Trail about 46-km from the NVC. The walk starts along the Naas Valley fire trail but shortly after it crosses Grassy Creek takes a right hand turn onto the Grassy Creek Fire Trail. After passing another locked gate '*Potters Chimney*' all that remains of an old hut is seen across the creek. This could be visited as a side trip. On leaving Grassy Creek the fire trail climbs and zigzags steeply until it reaches higher ground. It continues on past the comical '*Sam Aboud's Dunny*' a 1960s outdoors toilet bowl and cistern, now no longer working. After crossing a swampy clearing further on the fire trail climbs some more and then used to traverse the Long Flat, a grassy, boggy frost hollow, however it now follows an adjacent ridgeline to the Mount Clear Fire Trail at the ACT/NSW border. A side trip could be made into the Long Flat. From the border return by the same fire trail route or alternatively follow the border fence north-west for about 4.5-km until the head of Grassy Creek is reached, indicated by a dilapidated gate in the border fence. There is a fire trail on the NSW side of the fence being followed but this is in private property. Leave the fence and follow the lightly timbered grassy clearing/creekline northwards back to the Grassy Creek Fire Trail and thence back to the start.

- Walking distance - about 18-km either as a circuit or a return from the Mount Clear fire trail.
- Grade – Moderate-hard due to its length and some short steep climbs.

## **BRAYSHAWS HUT TO WESTERMANS HOMESTEAD**

Brayshaws Hut was built around 1903 and is the only timber slab hut remaining in the area. It has a wooden shingle roof overlain at some stage with galvanised iron sheeting. Westerman's Homestead built around 1916 is of slightly more modern timber and galvanised iron roof sheeting construction. Both huts have been restored by the Kosciuszko Hut Association. A brochure entitled 'The Settlers Track' is available from the NVC to cover this walk. The walk starts at the informal parking area along the Boboyan Road near Brayshaws Hut some 45-km from the NVC. After inspecting the hut follow the walking track west along the foothills until it drops down to some old yards and sheep dip on Grassy Creek. On the way there are the remains of a drop log fence off to the left of the track but they are difficult to pick amongst the other fallen timber. The walking track continues north-west then west eventually crossing Grassy Creek to the 1939 Waterhole Hut, a galvanised iron, dirt floored stockman's hut, and its nearby yards. From here the walking track follows a fire-trail back east to Westerman's Homestead. On the hillside south-west of Westerman's Homestead there is a fenced enclosure with two graves. From the homestead the walking track returns north-east to Brayshaws Hut and the carpark.

- Walking distance - about 9-km round trip excluding any side trips.
- Grade - Easy

## **OLD BOBOYAN HOMESTEAD**

Boboyan Homestead, apparently a substantial dwelling, was built around 1900 but later deserted, vandalised and then demolished in 1971. All that remains is homestead stone chimney which has been renovated by the Kosciuszko Hut Association. The walk starts at the locked gate on the southern end of the Old Boboyan Road, about 0.7-km off the Boboyan Road and 43-km from the NVC. Proceed along the old road until the chimney is sited to the left on a slight rise near a bend in the road. The homestead site is worth exploring, apart from the chimney there are other remains, including stone paving, a dam in the adjacent creek, a well, an orchard and some graves up the hill but which are difficult to locate. Further up the road are some yards. Apart from the homestead there are good views on the walk of the surrounding hills, mountains and the valley. Return to the locked gate by the same route. The walk could be extended by following the old road up the valley for a long or as little as required. Further up the valley are the ruins of Lutons Crutching Shed but this is located off the Sams Creek Fire Trail which is off the Grassy Creek Fire Trail which leaves the old Boboyan Road about 3-km from the Boboyan Homestead. A map is advised if this is attempted

- Walking distance - about 4-km return to and from Boboyan Homestead.
- Grade - Easy

## **YERRABI TRACK**

Yerrabi is the local aboriginal word for walk. The Yerrabi walking track up Mount Boboyan was established in 1987 by the NPA in association with the Park service. A more detailed brochure entitled 'Yerrabi Track' is available from the NVC for this walk. The walk starts from a sign-posted carpark off the Boboyan Road some 36km south of the NVC. The walking track initially descends through Peppermint Gum forest to the swampy grasslands at Little Dry Creek then climbs to Boboyan Trig through Mountain and Snow Gum forest. Although there are good 360-degree views from here the track continues on, past a geological zone of contact between sedimentary rocks to the east and granite to the west, down through rocks to a rock platform known as the Tor Viewpoint which has sweeping views west across Namadgi. Return to the carpark by the same route. This short walk can be combined with other activities in the area such as the Shanahans Mountain short walk a further 4-km along the Boboyan Road.

- Walking distance - about 4-km return.
- Grade - Easy but with a 160-m climb.

## **SHANAHANS MOUNTAIN TRACK**

This walk starts at a sign-posted carpark slightly off the Boboyan Road some 40-km from the NVC. It is along a formed walking track which steadily climbs through Mountain and Snow Gum forest to the top of Shanahans Mountain where there are sweeping views east across the Naas Valley to the Mount Clear and jagged Tinderry Ranges beyond. The walking track continues south along the flattish summit edge before it doubles back lower down to rejoin the track up from the carpark. This short walk can be combined with other activities in the area such as the Yerrabi Track walk back about 4-km along the Boboyan Road.

- Walking distance - about 4-km return.
- Grade – Easy but with about a 100-m climb.

## **BRANDY FLAT HUT**

Brandy Flat Hut is relatively new timber walled and iron roofed hut built in 1979 as a bad weather refuge. To walk to this hut park at the locked gate on the access road to the Park Service's Glendale Depot, 21.5-km from the NVC and take the marked walking track on the eastern side of the road. Alternatively follow the road past the locked gate and depot which is the Brandy Flat Fire Trail. The walking track joins the fire trail after about 1.5-km. Follow the fire trail to the hut which is sited in the trees on the southern side of a small clearing. It is quite obvious. There is a short steep climb of 120-m on the fire trail shortly after it crosses Reedy Creek. On the walk there is good mountain and valley scenery in the Booth and Billy Ranges. Return by same route. It is possible to extend the walk past the hut by following the Brandy Flat Fire Trail south to the Boboyan Road or north on the Gudenby Creek Fire Trail to Caloola Farm but this would considerably lengthen the walk and require a car at each end or a car shuffle.

- Walking distance - about 8.5-km return Glendale to Brandy Flat Hut
- Grade - Easy

## **YANKEE HAT PAINTINGS**

The Yankee Hat paintings are aboriginal art on a rock (granite) overhang or shelter at the base of what is known as Little Yankee Hat Mountain. The walk starts at the car park on the Old Boboyan Road at the locked gate to what was the area of the Boboyan Pines (now being rehabilitated/regenerated) 32.5-km from the NVC. There is a formed walking track including a bridge over Bogong Creek to the art site. The aboriginal art is protected by a raised walkway and railing. Please remain behind the railings away from the sensitive paintings. Return to car park by same route. A brochure entitled 'Yankee Hat Rock Art Site' is available from the Park Service which gives more details of the walk and the aboriginal art itself.

- Walking distance - about 6-km return
- Grade - Easy

## **BENDORA ARBORETUM**

The Bendora Arboretum was established in 1940 as one of a series of high country experimental plantings for possible commercial production purposes. It contains 55 softwood tree species (pines, larch, spruce, etc). The arboretum survived the 2003 bushfires which destroyed most other arboretum in the Brindabellas. The turnoff to this arboretum is about 9-km along the unsealed Mount Franklin Road from Piccadilly Circus. The road (Chalet Road) to the arboretum is closed at a locked near the turnoff. The walk to the arboretum is along a gravel road which passes the old galvanized iron Bendora hut, a shelter hut constructed during the establishment of the arboretum. An interesting time can be spent wandering around the tree species in the arboretum. Return by same route.

- Walking distance - about 3-km return
- Grade – Easy

## **MOUNT AGGIE**

The short climb to Mount Aggie, named after Agnes Franklin a pioneer from nearby Brindabella Valley, commences at a small carpark at Aggie Gap some 17.5-km from Piccadilly Circus along the unsealed Mt Franklin Road. The unformed track climbs about 100-m generally along the ACT-NSW

border up to the open Mt Aggie summit. It passes through snow gum forest and open woodland. The summit lookout is on a rock platform slightly west of the track which continues north from the summit. The summit gives superb views of the mountainous regions of Kosciuszko National Park to the west and south of the ACT. Care should be taken at the lookout as it is unfenced and the ground falls away steeply. Return to carpark by same route. This walk could be combined with a walk to Mount Franklin or Mount Gingera.

- Walking distance - about 2-km return
- Grade - Easy

## **MOUNT FRANKLIN**

This walk starts at the carpark just off the unsealed Mount Franklin Road about 19-km from Piccadilly Circus and some 2.5-km further on from Aggie Gap. As you would expect Mount Franklin commemorates the Franklin family who were pioneers of the nearby Brindabella Valley. The walk starts at the locked gate at the carpark and follows an old road to the summit, with a steady climb of about 190-m which is steep in places. On the way it passes the recently built Franklin Shelter which replaced the old 1938 Canberra Alpine Club Ski Lodge lost in the 2003 bushfires. Also on the way up is a cleared area off to the east which was originally a ski run. The remains of an Austin A40 car, which was used to power a primitive ski tow at the ski run, can be seen in this area. From the summit trig there are good views in most directions; to the west across Namadgi and Canberra and to the north glimpses of Burrinjuck Dam can be seen. About 500-m further on is another cleared ski run area. Return to the carpark by the same route.

- Walking distance - about 3-km return
- Grade - Moderate due to steep climbs

## **MOUNT GINGERA**

The walk to Mount Gingera starts at the locked gate below Mount Ginini on the unsealed Mount Franklin Road, 25-km from Piccadilly Circus. The major part of this walk is along the Mount Franklin Road beyond the locked gate. On the way along this road is the marked turnoff to Stockyard Spur [*see Stockyard Spur walk*] and further on the timber walled, corrugated iron roofed Pryors Hut, named after Lindsay Pryor a forester who initiated the planting of various arboreta along the Brindabellas, are passed. The hut is worth a look and is a good place for a rest stop. A further 1.4-km along the road at a sharp bend to the left crossing a small creek is the track to Mount Gingera. It starts as an old 4wd track but continues soon after as more of a bush-track. It climbs relatively steeply for about 190-m through open country to the rocky summit where there are good views into Namadgi to the east, Kosciuszko National Park to the west and south and back along the Brindabellas to the north. Mount Gingera is well known for Bogong Moths in spring. Return by same route the last 2-km of which leading to the carpark is a steady uphill slog.

- Walking distance - About 13.5-km return
- Grade - Moderate due to steep climb up Mt Gingera

## **STOCKYARD SPUR**

This walk starts at the locked gate at Mount Ginini, about 25-km from Piccadilly Circus, and follows the Mt Franklin Road for about 3-km passing Stockyard Gap to the marked turnoff to Stockyard Spur. The Stockyard Spur vehicle track follows a north eastern ridgeline through snow grass, alpine ash and snow gum forest. About 2-km along the Stockyard Spur vehicle track a rocky knoll and nearby rock platform offers extensive views south-east into the heart of the national park and Mt Namadgi as well as northwards back to Mt Ginini. About 2-km further along the vehicle track at a large turning circle/helipad is the turnoff to the Stockyard Spur walking track which leads steeply down to Corin Dam

*{see Corin Dam to Stockyard Spur Walk}*. Return by the same route from here or alternatively from the earlier rocky knoll.

- Walking distance – 8 to 10-km return depending furthest point reached.
- Grade – Moderate due to some steep climbs on return trip.

*{Original words by Christine Goonrey, modified by Mike Smith}*

## **SQUARE ROCK**

This walk starts at the Smokers Gap carpark off the Corin Road about 13-km from its turnoff from Tidbinbilla Road. It is along a walking track put in and maintained by the Park service. A brochure entitled 'Square Rock Walking Track' is available from the NVC. The walking track climbs steadily passing rocky outcrops through a forest of Snow Gums and Alpine Ash. It also crosses Smokers Flat a grassy and sometimes boggy frost hollow edged by eucalypts such as Black Salleees. About 3-km from the carpark there is a track junction, the left fork goes to the Orroral Valley lookout and is well worth a side trip for the views into the valley. The straight through branch heads to the prominent granite boulders known as Square Rock. From the rock platform here there are spectacular views across forested hills and valleys to the Brindabella Mountains beyond. It is a great place to spend some time. Care should be taken near the edges of rock platforms. Return to the carpark by the same route.

- Walking distance - about 8.5-km return including a side trip to the Orroral Valley lookout
- Grade – Easy to moderate (includes some 270-m of climb)

## **CORIN DAM TO STOCKYARD SPUR**

This walk starts at the carpark on the western side of Corin Dam, the end of the Corin Dam Road off the Tidbinbilla Road. It is a steep, arduous climb of about 580-m to Stockyard Spur along a new formed walking-track with many timber steps through alpine forest. The walking track starts opposite the toilet block in the carpark. Once reaching Stockyard Spur at a new, gravel turning circle/helipad the walk then follows a vehicle track leading up to the Mount Franklin Road. About 2-km along the vehicle track up over one hill and on to another is a rock platform to the left of the track where there are great views across Namadgi to the Tinderry Mountains beyond. It is possible to continue on up the spur to visit Pryors Hut and Mount Gingera but that is not included in this walk. Return to the Corin dam carpark by the same route. Take care in coming down the steep walking track on sometimes slippery and rocky surfaces. This is not a winter walk as the track can be snow covered.

- Walking distance - about 10-km return
- Grade – Moderately hard due to the climb of about 660-m in total.

## **ORRORAL CAMPGROUND TO ORRORAL TRACKING STATION**

This walk starts from the Orroral Campground some 20-km from the NVC on the Orroral Road and ends at the site of the now demolished Orroral Tracking Station at the end of the sealed road some 6-km further on. The walk is along the formed 'Orroral Heritage Walking Track' which has bridges and boardwalks as required along its length. The initial 2-km of the walk to the bridge crossing Orroral River is through eucalypt forest thereafter it continues along the open un-forested valley floor. About half way along this open valley the walking track passes the Orroral Homestead and further on some yards associated with the homestead. This 1860s homestead was restored in the 1980/90s by the NPA with assistance of the Park Service. It is well worth a look through and a good place for a rest on the veranda. There are good views along the valley of the surrounding hills, particularly Mt Orroral to the west and the 'Ridge of Stone' to the east. A car shuffle is required for this walk otherwise it will be necessary to retrace ones steps.

- Walking distance – 4.5-km one way
- Grade – Easy.

## **GEODETIC DOME (or LUNER LASER RANGER)**

This facility which was originally used for laser based measurements of the moons trajectory is no longer in operation but the domed building has been retained as a heritage feature. The walk to the Geodetic Dome starts from the carpark/picnic area at the end of the sealed Orroral Road some 25-km from the NVC which was the site of the now demolished Orroral Tracking Station. A formed walking track leaves this site heading west (past the toilet block). The track shortly crosses the, closed to vehicles, Cotter Hut Road and then follows a revegetating access road which climbs steeply up 400-m to the Dome. In the upper parts of the climb the track passes some impressive rock tors. At the Geodetic Dome site there is a fenced rock platform lookout with impressive views into and across the Orroral Valley. The domed observatory building is not open to the public. Return downhill by same route.

- Walking distance – 7-km return
- Grade – Moderately hard due to a continuous steep climb.

## **NURSERY SWAMP**

The walk to Nursery Swamp starts across the road from the Nursery Swamp carpark off the Orroral Road about 22-km from the NVC. The walking track (with some stone and timber steps) climbs some 200m often steeply to a rocky saddle (a good rest spot) before it flattens out and then descends slightly into Nursery Creek and Swamp. Stick to the main track as there are several diverging bush-tracks that lead to other areas. The walking track crosses the creek and continues along the south-western side of the swamp. It has boardwalks, logs and stepping stones in places across wet, boggy or sensitive areas. The track ends at a flattish area just above the main part of the swamp. It is a good spot for a rest and commands good views of the widening valley and surrounding hills. Return by the same way, getting good views of and across the Orroral Valley on the descent towards the carpark.

- Walking distance – 8-km return
- Grade – Easy but with a steep climb to saddle.

## **MOUNT TENNENT**

Mt Tennent looms high above the NVC where this walk starts. It is a steep walk on walking track from NVC with a climb of about 750-m over about 4-km. The first part of the walk follows the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT). Cypress Pine Lookout, about 1.5-km along the track, commands views over the Murrumbidgee Valley and is a good destination for those wanting a shorter walk. From here the track is bridged across some rocky creeks that are usually dry and then it climbs steeply. After about another 1-km at a tee junction the AAWT goes to the right and the track to Mt Tennent follows an old vehicle track to the left eventually joining the main fire trail to the summit of Mt Tennent. From the base of the fire tower there are good views to Canberra City in the north, the Tinderry Range to the south and the mountains of Namadgi to the west. Return by same route.

- Walking distance – 8-km return
- Grade – Hard due to a steep climb involved.