

18. DAYLESFORD FORESTS, LAKES AND FALLS

Grade: *Medium* | Length: *19.0 km* | Duration: *5.5 hrs*
Style: *circuit* | Total uphill: *400 m* | Gradient: *>10% for short hills*
Path: *generally formed tracks with some rough surfaces*

Introduction

This walk begins at Lake Daylesford, an artificial lake created in 1930 at the site of the Wombat Flat Diggings where gold was mined heavily in the 1850s. The walk follows the Lerderberg Track and affords an extended view of Daylesford from Cornish Hill. The track passes mullock heaps from disused mine shafts as it follows the route of the old Daylesford-Ballarat railway line to Jubilee Lake. The walk continues through the Wombat Forest and farmland to Sailors Falls which offers mineral springs and a cool lunch shelter. The return journey through the Hepburn Regional Park on the Goldfields Track gives much evidence of the gold rush era.

Getting there

From the Base (Hepburn Primary School) follow Main Road east and south about 4 km to Daylesford. Go straight ahead through the second roundabout on the corner of Central Springs Road and continue down King Street for about 500 m and turn right into Bleakley Street for about 450 m to the Lake Daylesford car park.

Preparations, Precautions & Hazards

Boots should be worn due to the rough bush and 4WD tracks with several creek crossings. Cross the Ballan-Daylesford Road at Sailors Falls with caution. There are old mine shafts and a steep track descent where poles are recommended. Some clay tracks could be slippery after rain.

Facilities

There are toilets, tables and spring water at Lake Daylesford, Jubilee Lake, and Sailors Falls environs.

Walk Description

Start the walk at Lake Daylesford (Grid Reference (GR) 465627) and follow the trail on the south-western side of the lake and walk along the dam wall turning north onto the Peace Mile track. Continue around the Lake for 1 km turning left up the steep footpath track to join the Ballan-Daylesford Road. Turn left, cross the main road and walk to the Cornish Hill Lookout (GR 472627) via Stanbridge Street, Argus Road and Orford Street. Follow the Great Dividing Trail (distinctive markers with yellow tops and black directional arrows) for 150 m to a T junction and turn right continuing along the vehicle track for another 200 m to where the trail turns right. After crossing a creek/gully follow the track up the hill past a huge mullock heap to an access road. Turn left and walk briefly uphill and turn right to walk along the old railway easement passing grand entrances of several 'retreats'. Continue past the Strawbale retreat for about 400 m to where the Great Dividing Trail leaves the railway easement on the right and descend 50 m to a water race. Turn left (south) and follow the track for 500 m to the Jubilee Lake Bridge (GR 474608). Continue south along the race to the Jubilee Lake viewing platform. This is a good spot for a break and admiring the lake which was constructed in 1860.

After the break follow a sealed road to Lake Road and turn right and cross the road. There is an unsealed track 50 m on the left on the continuation of the railway easement. Walk on the Wombat Forest track (south) for 1 km to where the signposted Great Dividing Trail leaves the rail trail easement to the left. Stay on the easement heading south for a further 1.2 km and walk a short distance up to a gas pipeline easement (GR 470586). Follow the Star/Paddock Track south for almost 1 km to a major track crossroads (GR 471577). Turn west and continue through two open gates along Manna Gum Road which becomes Shanahan Lane at the junction with Foxs Lane on the right. Walk on to the Ballan-Daylesford Road and when you can see traffic in both directions cross the road to the well signposted Sailors Falls recreational area (GR 450579). This is a suitable place for lunch.

After lunch leave the falls, head 300 m along Sailors Creek on the Wallaby Track and across the bridge to Sailors Falls Mineral Springs. Follow the water race north for 450 m to join the Goldfields Track. Turn right and walk down the gully for about 700 m to the junction with the Three Lost Children Walk (GR 451589). Continue along the gully until reaching a vehicle track. Turn left and start walking back towards Lake Daylesford via the well signposted Goldfields Track in a north-westerly direction for about 1.2 km, ignoring any turnoffs. Cross Sailors Creek heading right at the Y track junction downhill for 170 m to cross Old Tom Creek. Head uphill on the track which turns east and becomes Black Jack Track and then turns onto a northerly direction. After 2 km leave Black Jack Track and continue to follow the signposted Goldfields Track down the Sailors Creek Valley. After 230 m cross Sailors Creek for a brief steep climb and flat stroll to Old Ballarat Road (GR 453623). Turn right and walk 100 m along the road turning left onto Goo Goo Road. Continue past the big house then down the track for 130 m to a signposted walking track junction (GR 455626). Turn right (east) and follow the water race along Wombat Creek past the Sutton No.1 Spring and the Central Springs Reserve and up the bitumen track past the spillway to rejoin Lake Daylesford at the start of the walk.

This Walk Sheet describes a bushwalk, part of Bushwalking Victoria's Federation Walks 2015 program in the Daylesford and Hepburn Springs area on 24-25 October 2015. The host clubs for this event are Bayside Bushwalking Club and The Great Dividing Trail Association. Bushwalking Victoria, the host clubs, their members and walk leaders cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions or changes to the circumstances on which this information is based, nor can they accept responsibility for any loss or injury sustained by any person using this Walk Sheet.

Bushwalking Victoria: www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/

Bayside Bushwalking Club: www.baysidebush.org.au/ Great Dividing Trail Association: gdt.org.au/

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Maps

Vicmap Topo 1:25000 A0
7723-3-N DAYLESFORD NORTH
7723-3-S DAYLESFORD SOUTH

Vicmap Topo 1:30000 A4
7723-3-4-2 7723-3-1-3
7723-3-3-1 7723-3-2-4

GDA94 / MGA Zone 55

Walk Surfaces	
Road	
Vehicle Track	
Foot Track	
Off Track	
Walk Route	



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