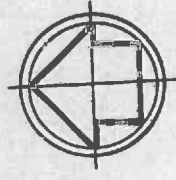
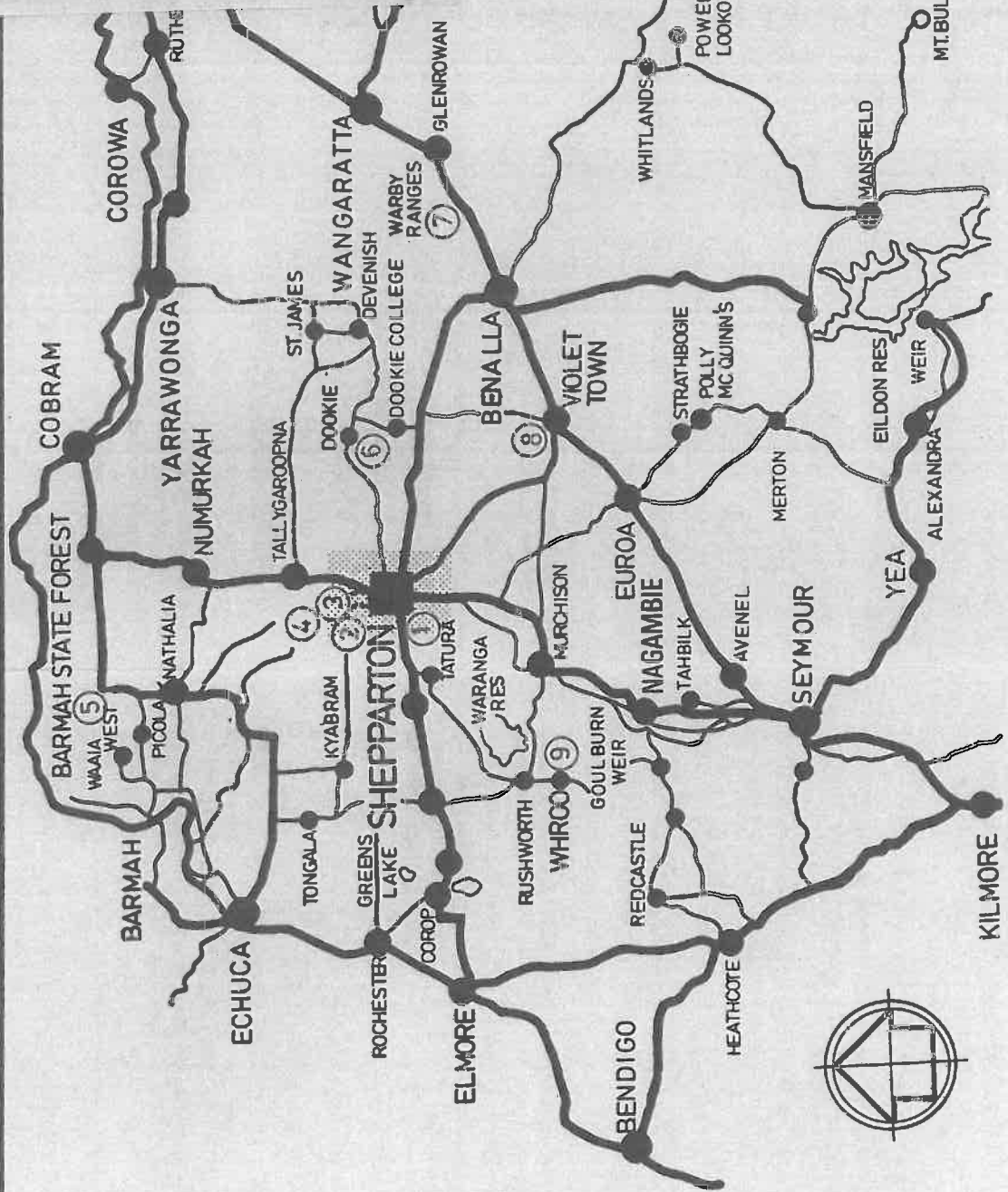




SHEPPARTON ADVENTURE CLUB INC.

# Goulburn Valley Walks and Outdoor Activities



- ① VICTORIA PARK LAKE AND RIVER WALK - SHEPPARTON
- ② GEMMILL'S SWAMP AND GOULBURN RIVER WALK
- ③ REEDY SWAMP WALK
- ④ LOCH GARRY WALK
- ⑤ BARMAH FOREST WALKS AND CANOE TRAIL
- ⑥ MT. MAJOR SCENIC DRIVE AND BIKE RIDE
- ⑦ PINE GULLY NATURE WALK (WARBY RANGE STATE PARK)
- ⑧ BIKE RIDE FROM SHEPPARTON TO VIOLET TOWN
- ⑨ WHROO FOREST WALK

# 1 VICTORIA PARK LAKE & RIVER WALK (Shepparton)

**DISTANCE/HOURS:**  
2 km with optional extensions.  
15 kms with 2 km sections.

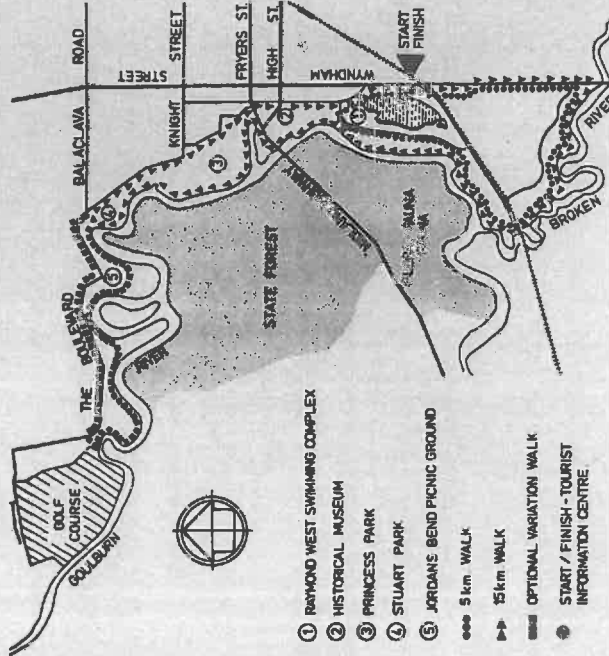
**FEATURES:**

River Red Gums, largest chlorinated swimming pool in the southern hemisphere. Easy walk in the heart of Shepparton.

**WALK DETAILS:**

Victoria Park Lake is the focal point of this walk. It was originally a swamp and was transformed into a 100 acre lake in 1929 with the use of horse teams. Tearooms, BBQ facilities and pleasant picnic areas are all located around the lake. To the south the Goulburn River can be followed to its confluence with the Broken River. To the north is the Historical Museum and Princess and Stuart Parks.

A pleasant variation to this walk is to continue further north along the river to the Jordans Bend picnic ground and Golf Course, returning via the Boulevard where some of Shepparton's finer homes are located.



# 2 GEMMILL'S SWAMP / GOULBURN RIVER WALK

**DISTANCE/HOURS:**  
5 km/2½ to 3½ hours round trip.

**FEATURES:**

Gemmill's Swamp is a significant wet land area with large numbers of water birds including pelicans, ibis, swans, egrets and ducks. The walk also takes in a section of the west bank of the Goulburn River and a large area of red gum forest.

**PRELIMINARY INFORMATION:**

Mooroopna is five kilometres west of Shepparton. Once in Mooroopna take the turnoff to Echuca. Immediately north of the Mooroopna Scout Hall on the right hand side of the road is the J.A. Douglass Reserve, which is the suggested starting point for the walk.

Picnic tables and barbecues are available at two spots along the Goulburn River which have been marked on the map. The whole of the walk is within the flood plain of the Goulburn River and from time to time sections of the walk will be flooded. Unfortunately, a number of barbed wire fences in this section between McFarlane's Road and the J.A. Douglass Reserve have to be negotiated. It is hoped that most of these fences will shortly be removed. A few strategically placed walk markers (to be supplied by courtesy of the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands) should be erected in the near future.

**WALK DETAILS:**

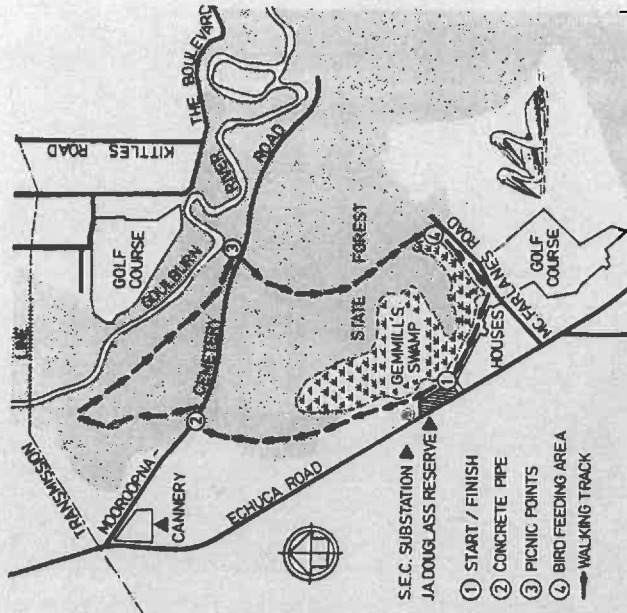
At the northern end of the J.A. Douglass Reserve (adjacent to the SEC sub-station) is an access to the swamp.

Follow the track north along the edge of the swamp until it meets the Mooroopna Cemetery Road. Turn right and after about 100 metres the road crosses a concrete pipe where a side track leads off to the left. This track after some distance will meet and swing back along the Goulburn River. Continue along the track until it rejoins the Mooroopna Cemetery Road. A short diversion to the left will bring you to a good lookout over the river, complete with picnic table and barbecue. Retrace your steps and take the first track to your left (just a few metres after the point

Road). This track returns to the swamp near its southern end and eventually joins McFarlane's Road. At the bird feeding area on McFarlane's Road, leave the road and follow the edge of the swamp back to the J.A. Douglass Reserve.

**OPTIONS:**

Continue south east along the Mooroopna Cemetery Road and take the walk through to Shepparton.

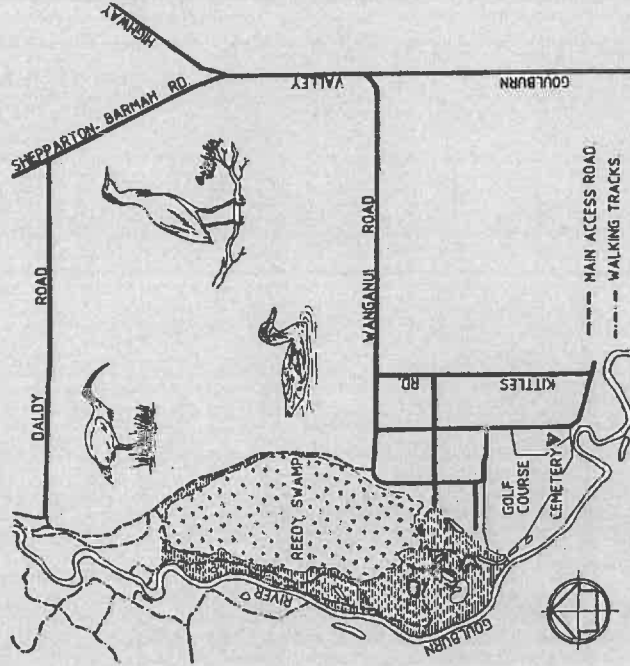


The best times to visit the swamp are early morning and dusk when the native wildlife will be most active. It is suggested to avoid the duck shooting season. A pair of binoculars is recommended.

### WALK DETAILS:

Park near the gate and walk north along the track, following the course of the swamp.

On the western side of the swamp you may wish to detour to the Goulburn River which is a stronghold for the Murray Cod. There are over 100 bird species in this area including a sizeable ibis rookery which is visible from the banks. From the time you enter the swamp you will be surrounded by Yellow Box, Grey Box and River Red Gums which line the track.



## 3 REEDY SWAMP WALK

**DISTANCE/HOURS:**  
7.5 km/2.5 hours

### FEATURES:

Large wetland area including extensive reed beds harbouring abundant bird life.

### PRELIMINARY INFORMATION:

Drive north from Shepparton Post Office along the Goulburn Valley Highway for 3.8 km and turn left into Wanganui Road. Turn right just after the Kaiela Fisheries and Wildlife Centre onto the track which leads into the swamp.

### PRELIMINARY INFORMATION:

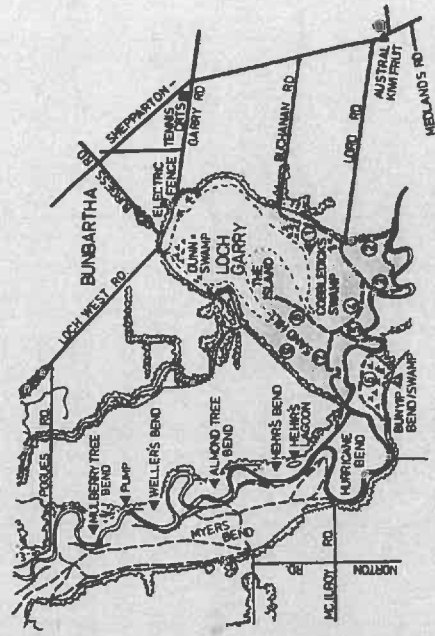
Loch Garry is approximately 20 kilometres north of Shepparton along the Nathalia Road. Turn west at the Bunbartha tennis courts and proceed over the levee bank to the edge of the Loch where the walk commences. BBQ and picnic facilities are available. A visit during Duck Season is inadvisable.

### WALK DETAILS:

The walk extends around a horseshoe shaped lagoon and through the wetlands and surrounding forest. It is best to walk on the roads and well worn tracks that completely surround the lagoon. The many hollow gum trees provide ideal nesting sites for a large number of bird species. The White-bellied Sea-Eagle has been sighted over the swamp. An alternative exit is available from the southern end via Lord Road 16 km from Shepparton (opposite Austral Kiwi Fruit).

The Loch, built in 1924, is surrounded by levee banks and forms a key part in the Goulburn River flood mitigation scheme. The spillway on the western side of the Loch is opened when the river reaches 10 metres at Shepparton, allowing large quantities of water to be released over farming land.

The area is also an ideal site for beginner paddlers with the chance to explore narrow channels through the reeds.



- ① COBBLECK TRACK
- ② BUNYIP TRACK
- ③ HAIR PIN BEND TRACK
- ④ HAIRLOW TRACK
- ⑤ NECK BEND TRACK
- ⑥ BUNYIP TRACK
- ⑦ HAIRLOW TRACK (CENT'D)
- ⑧ ISLAND TRACK
- ⑨ LOCH TRACK (ON PRIVATE PROPERTY)

## 4 LOCH GARRY WALK

**DISTANCE/HOURS:**  
12 km/4 hours round trip

### FEATURES:

Picturesque lagoon surrounded by forest of River Red Gum, Yellow and Grey Box. Extensive reed beds make this an ideal habitat for waterbirds. Camp sights are scattered along the Goulburn River.



# 5 BARMAH FOREST WALKS AND CANOE TRAIL

## DISTANCE/HOURS:

- (i) Lakes Loop, 4.5 km/2 hours with Broken Creek Loop extension, 7.5 km/3 hours.
- (ii) Budgee Creek Canoe Trail, 4 hours

## FEATURES:

An open Red Gum forest offering varied walks along lake and river frontages. The area contains Aboriginal archeological sites as well as different vegetation types and a variety of bird life.

## PRELIMINARY INFORMATION:

The township of Barmah is approximately 65 kilometres north of Shepparton travelling along the Nathalia Road: Entry to the Dharinya Visitor Centre is 9 kilometres north of Barmah. The Centre contains Aboriginal and early white settlers' historical and cultural exhibits and provides live-in educational facilities.

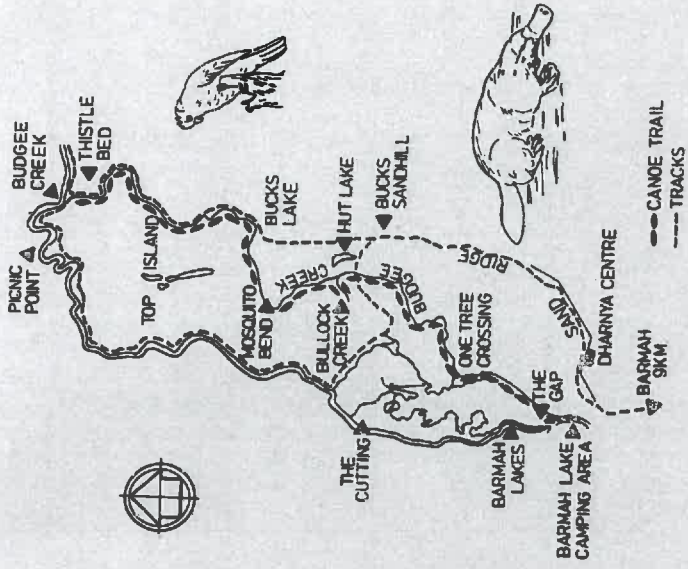
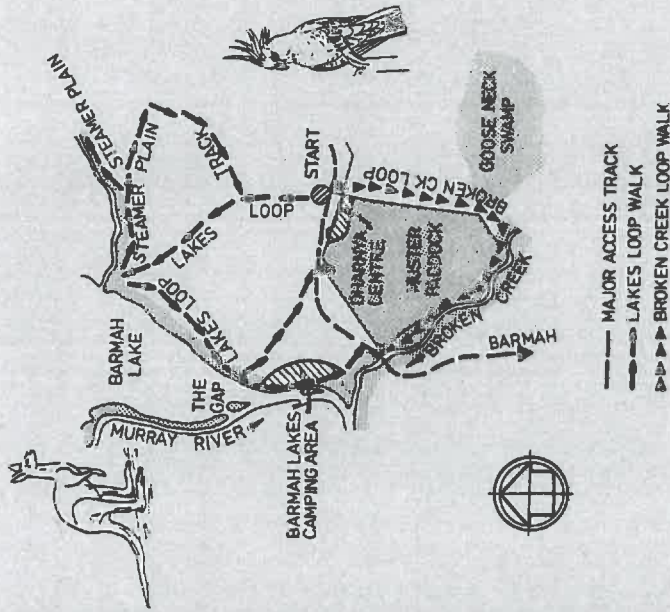
The walks described may be unpleasant at the height of summer and flooding may make the tracks impassable.

## WALK DETAILS:

The Lakes Loop and Broken Creek Loop walks commence at a small carpark on the Sandridge Road, 50 metres north of the residential entrance to the Dharinya Centre. Proceed through the mature and regrowth River Red Gum forest where ringbarking was quite extensive. Follow the edge of the Barmah Lake which floods in the wet season and where water levels are quite noticeable on some of the giant Red Gums. Continue along the track through the swamp grass and cumbungi reed until the Murray River and Lakes Camping Ground are reached where a swim can be enjoyed. A number of tracks may be followed through the forest to return to the starting point.

The Broken Creek Loop walk continues on from Lakes Loop through the Barmah Lakes Camping Area. Follow the Broken Creek upstream to Gooseneck beyond Rices Weir, which was once a haven for Magpie Geese. Skirt around the edge of the Muster Paddock to return to the starting point and the Dharinya Centre.

Throughout both walks you will be accompanied by cockatoos ("the watchdogs of the bush"). Cattle and kangaroos may cross your path.



## CANOE TRAIL DETAILS:

The Budgee Creek flows south out of the Murray River near Picnic Point and re-enters the Murray via Barmah Lake. It is possible to canoe the full length of the creek when river conditions are right, usually over most of summer.

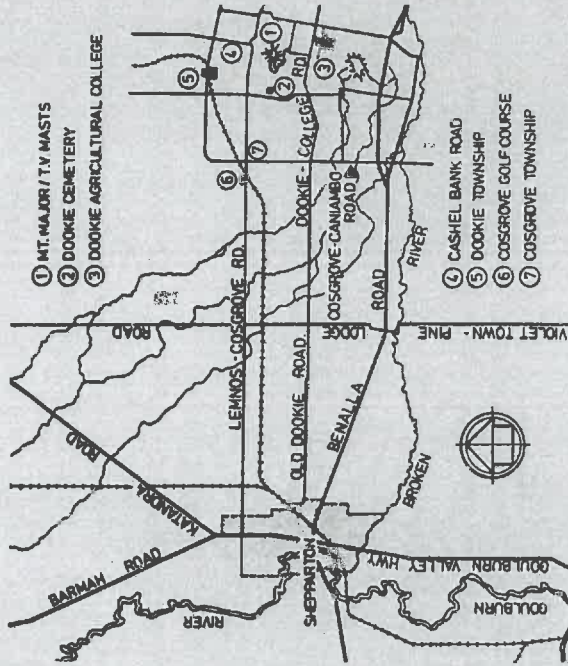
Put in at Budgee Creek near Thistle Bed where the creek is quite narrow and fast-flowing. At Bucks Lake the creek widens out into a more placid stream and the interesting birdlife is more apparent on the wetlands of the State Park. A pull out point is at Bullock Creek, where lunch can be taken and occasional platypus sighted. Proceed on to the Barmah Lakes and pull out on the Murray River at the Barmah Lake Camping Area.

Further information may be obtained from CF & L Officers at the Dharinya Centre (phone 058) 69 3302.



College and township. A directory on the top indicates these landmarks. An old bank building below the northern slopes dates from the time when the Cashel township was a significant wine growing area.

Communication towers for Telecom, GMV6 and ABC have been erected on the top of Mt Major. Extensive tree planting has been carried out on the western slopes by Dookie College who manage the area.



## 6 MT MAJOR SCENIC DRIVE/BIKE RIDE

### DISTANCE/HOURS:

30 km/20 min drive/2 hour ride

### FEATURES:

Extensive views of the surrounding area.

### PRELIMINARY INFORMATION:

To get to Mt Major from Shepparton, head eastwards along either Old Dookie or Benalla Roads. At the Cosgrove-Caniambo Road turn into College Road and then turn left uphill into the Mt Major Access Road.

### WALK DETAILS:

Mt Major is largely undeveloped with no public facilities. A picnic/BBQ may be enjoyed followed by a wander across the top of the hills. Mt Major is of volcanic origin with a maximum height of 377m. From the top of Mt Major the Strathbogie and Warby Ranges and Mt Buffalo are visible as well as Dookie

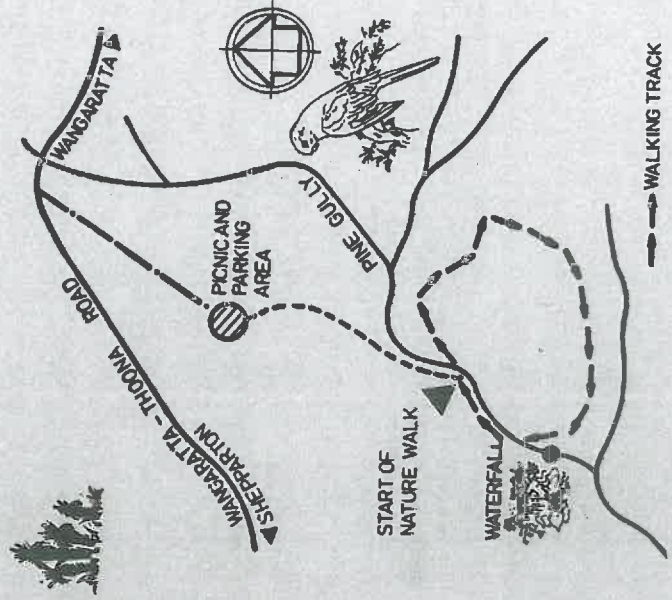
The Warbys are approximately 75 km or an hour's drive east of Shepparton. Pine Gully Nature Walk starts near the Pine Gully Picnic Area off the Wangaratta-Thoona Road.

### WALK DETAILS:

There are many excellent areas to walk within the Warby Range State Park. Because of its size the Park lends itself to day walks and the Pine Gully Nature Walk is a worthwhile introduction to these.

Significant points of interest are labelled with a number from 1 to 9 along the track. A leaflet explaining these features is available at the start of the walk. Perhaps the most notable of these features is the Spur-Wing Wattle (*Acacia Triptera*) which is found nowhere else in Victoria.

Other interesting things to see include Murray Pines (*Callitris collumellaris*), Grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea* spp) and if you're lucky, Turquoise Parrots. There is also a waterfall near the end of the walk that only runs in Winter or after heavy rains.



## 7 PINE GULLY NATURE WALK (WARBY RANGE STATE PARK)

### DISTANCE/HOURS:

2 km/30-45 minutes

### FEATURES:

A marked nature walk. Rare Turquoise Parrots and unique Spur-Wing Watties.

### PRELIMINARY INFORMATION:

Winter and Spring are the best times to visit the Warby Ranges. The creeks and waterfalls flow at this time of the year and many wildflowers appear during the Spring months.

# 8 BIKE RIDE FROM SHEPPARTON TO VIOLET TOWN

## DISTANCE/HOURS:

Day 1—50 km/4 hours  
Day 2—60 km/5 hours

## FEATURES:

Pleasant country roads, Mt Major, Dorset Hill Wildlife Park.

## PRELIMINARY INFORMATION:

A pleasant 2 day ride along quiet country roads through flat to gently undulating farming areas. Roads are mostly sealed or good gravel without heavy traffic. BYO lunch. Accommodation is available at:

The Ellen Frances Hotel  
Cowslip Street  
Violet Town  
Phone (057) 98 1207

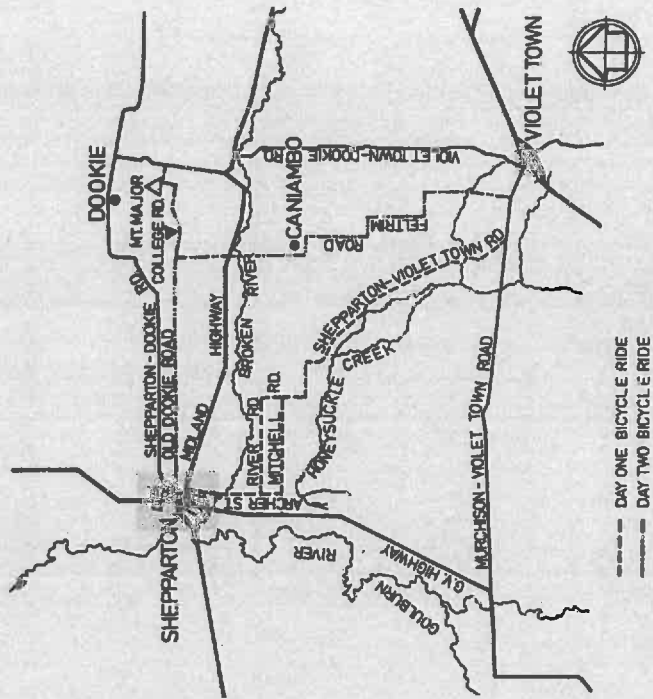
The Violet Town Hotel  
Cowslip Street  
Violet Town  
Phone (057) 98 1344

The Honeysuckle Caravan Village  
High Street  
Violet Town  
Phone (057) 98 1223

## RIDE DETAILS:

**DAY 1:** From Shepparton, ride south along Archer Street. Proceed along either River Road or Mitchell Road and then follow the Honeysuckle Creek to Violet Town (Shepparton-Violet Town Rd). There are a number of pleasant lunchstops off the road along the creek where platypus may be seen if you are lucky. Violet Town is Victoria's oldest inland surveyed town. Note the old buildings in the main street.

**DAY 2:** Ride west from Violet Town along the Violet Town-Murchison Road. Turn northwards along Feltrim Road past the Dorset Hill Wildlife Park and Caniambo. The Broken River near the bridge just south of the Midland Highway is a good lunchspot. Continue northwards along Bridge Road and cross the Midland Highway. Turn left at Old Dookie Road to return to Shepparton via the orchards. Alternatively, turn right along the Shepparton-Dookie College Road to include a 4 km climb up Mt Major for extensive views of the whole area.



# 9 WHROO FOREST WALK

## DISTANCE/HOURS:

3-4 km/2 hours

Alternatively, spend the whole day exploring the area.

## FEATURES:

A famous old gold mining area in the Rushworth Forest, with evidence of old gold workings, including the once rich Balaciava Mine. Abundant wildflowers particularly in spring with some sixty species of orchid recorded.

## PRELIMINARY INFORMATION:

Whroo is a few kilometres south of Rushworth which is about 60 kilometres south-west from Shepparton. The road from Rushworth is well signposted. Picnic facilities and visitor's information are available at the Visitor's Centre, the suggested starting point of the walk. If desired, conducted tours can be arranged through a professional guide from Rushworth who is familiar with both the history and wildflowers of the area (telephone 058 56 1612).

## WALK DETAILS:

From the Visitor's Centre there is a short loop through the Balaciava Mine, which consists of a large open cut and tunnel that are both open to the public. Hand rails and steps have been erected in the appropriate locations.

After completing the loop, head south to the Whroo cemetery which tells a stark tale of suffering and disease of the gold years. Note the number of graves of children under 4 years of age.

From the cemetery, follow the track up the hill to the Aboriginal Water Hole. After its discovery by Europeans, the opening of the water hole was greatly widened and this has allowed dirt and vegetation to collect in the opening with consequent

deterioration of the once crystal clear water. The springs which feed the water hole also supply water to the surrounding vegetation. You will notice the vigour and variety of plant life on the hill, which is probably greater than any other similarly sized area in the forest.

Good walking is also to be had in the gold workings area to the north of the Whroo/Murchison Road extending through to the Whroo Reservoir. However, walking tracks have not yet been developed in this area.

