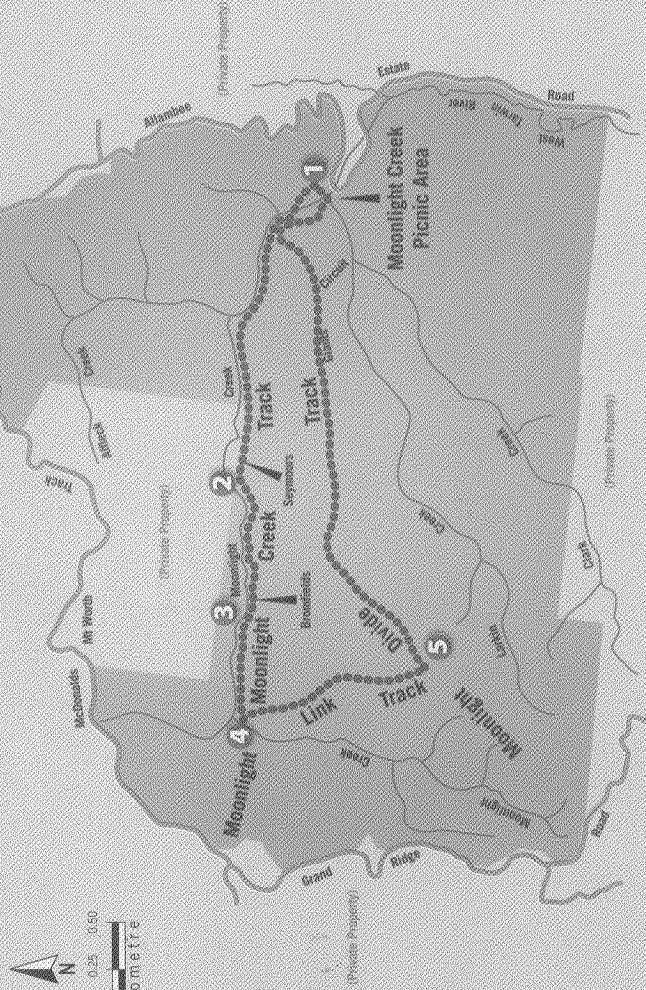


MOUNT WORTH STATE PARK



1 START/FINISH

From the Moonlight Creek picnic area follow the Moonlight Creek Trail. The trail is easy going as it twists and turns around a creek bed fringed by luxurious tree ferns.

Along the way you will pass the site of Maslins Mill and a turn off for the Moonlight Divide Trail (which you will return on). Listen for the shrill

call of a black cockatoo or a lyrebird rehearsing its repertoire, but don't expect to hear the soothing sounds of gurgling water as the creek bed may be totally dry.

2 A large sawdust pile, nearly two kilometres along, indicates the location of Seymour's Mill. After passing the next mill, Bloomfield's, things begin to

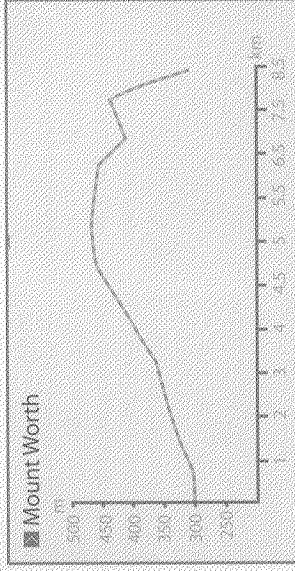
change. The previously wide easy trail starts to narrow, the tree cover diminishes and waist-high grass starts to replace the ferns. If I were a snake, I know where I would want to be.

3 Sure enough, within a few minutes, square in the middle of what now resembled a goat track, was a metre long Tiger Snake (*Motechis scutatus*). With a simple thump of my walking pole on the ground, it was gone. Snakes notwithstanding, continue along the trail until you hit a junction.

4 At the end of Moonlight Creek Track the options are either a left or right hand turn into Moonlight Link Track. The right leads to McDonalds track (a long but snake free gravel

road to the carpark) while a left turn links to the Moonlight Divide walking track and our intended route back to the carpark. From the flat of the creek, you now face a couple of hundred metres of achilles, and calf aching incline to reach the height of the ridge. Continue on for one and half km's before turning left onto the Moonlight Divide Track.

5 The Moonlight Divide track covers a wide ridge of mountain ash, gums and blackwood. For nearly three kilometres it gently undulates up and down before descending steeply, to where it runs almost concurrently with Moonlight Creek Track, back to Moonlight Creek picnic area and carpark.



FACTFILE

Mount Worth State Park, VIC

- Sweat Factor: [grid]
- Navigation: [grid]
- Technicality: [grid]

Distance: 8.5km

Time: 3 hours

Start/End: Moonlight Creek Picnic area.

Nearest Town: Yarragon to the north and Korumburra to the south

Terrain: Level hiking along the creek, with one extreme incline up to the ridge. Can be slippery when wet.

Best Season: All year.

Maps: Vic Map Mount Worth 1:25,000 topographical map

Accommodation:

Although camping is not allowed in the park you can camp to the south on the banks of the Tarwin River, stay on a farm in Allambie or Hotel/Motel/Caravan Park in Korumburra, Leongatha or Warragul.

Food/Drink: Yarragon has an array of bookstores and other speciality stores which makes for an interesting coffee stop.

Getting There: From Melbourne head approx

100km west on the Princess Freeway to Warragul. From Yarragon take the Allambie Estate Road and then take the Moonlight Picnic Area turn off. An alternative would be to take the South Gippsland Highway turning left into the Warragul Road just prior Korumburra.

Follow for 23km then turn right onto Grand Ridge Road and then after approx 10km left onto McDonalds Track past the lookouts then taking a right at the Allambie Estate Road to the picnic area turnoff.

Tourist Information:

Gippsland Heritage Information Centre at Moe: 03 5127 3082 or www.gippslandtourism.com.au



Photo: Peter Williams