



Walking in Mt Disappointment // GLENN TEMPEST

## Glenn Tempest discovers woodland, ridges and waterfalls on a walk that is anything but a disappointment.

As a considerable portion of this walk follows unmarked ridges and rough creek beds, it should only be undertaken by experienced walkers. A walking pole could be very useful. Avoid this walk after heavy rain when the creeks may be flooded. On some maps Strath Creek Falls are referred to as Murchison Falls.

Disappointment (in the nearby Mt Creek and Diggers Gully will one day receive the environmental protection it so badly deserves. Gold was discovered in the area in the early 1850s and there is still some evidence of mining found along the trail.

This walk is situated on the drier northern slopes of the plateau was later to become an important source of timber for a

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# Strath Creek & Diggers Gully



OUTDOOR ACTIVE

trail 02 | STRATH CREEK AND DIGGERS GULLY, VIC | 11km/5hrs

### FACTFILE

Mount Worth State Park, VIC

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.

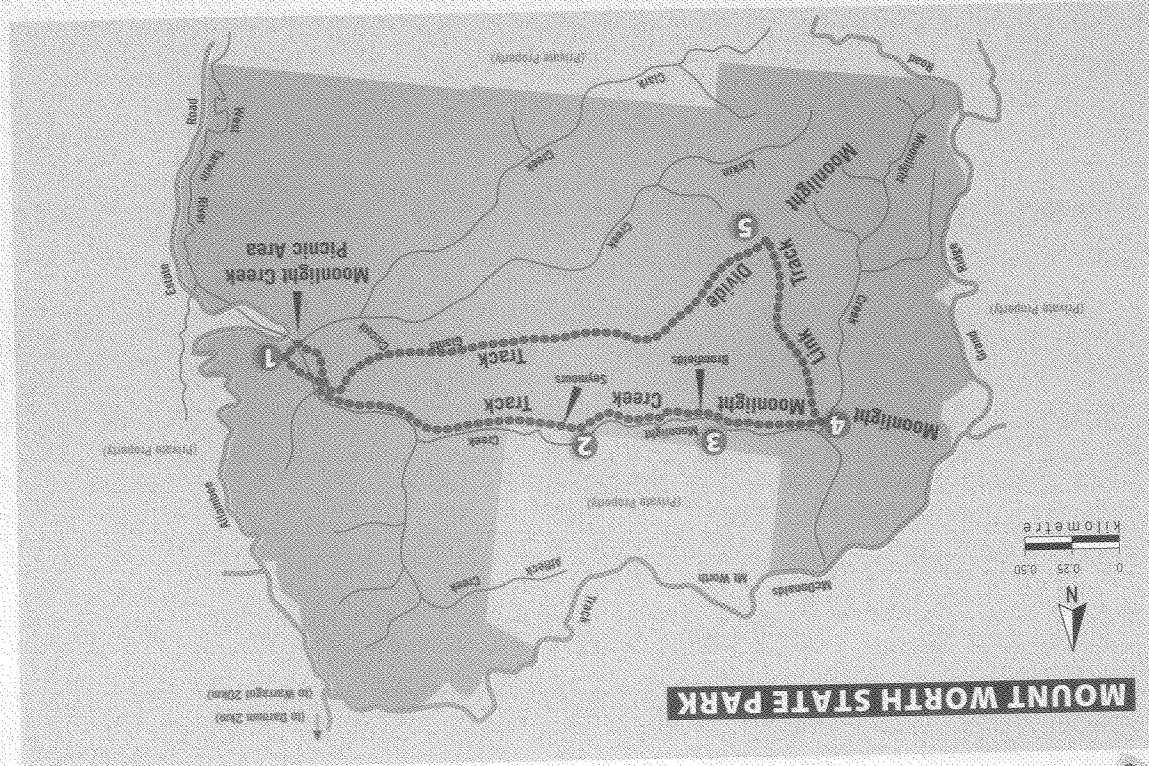
Maps: Vic Map Mount Worth 1:25,000

Accommodation: Although camping is not allowed in the park you can 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 specialty stores which makes for an interesting coffee stop.

Getting There: From Melbourne head approx 100km west on the Princes 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 to 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: Gippisland Heritage Information Centre at Moje: 03 5127 3082 or www.gippislandtourism.com.au



**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 luxuriant tree ferns. Along the way you will pass the site of Maslins Mill and a two kilometres along, indicates the location of Seymour's Mill. After passing the next mill, Bloomfield's, things being to return on). Listen for the shrill call of a black cockatoo or a hybrid rehearsing its repertoire, but don't expect to hear the soothing sounds of gungfing water, as the creek bed may be totally dry.

**2** A large sawdust pile, nearly minutes, square in the middle of what now resembled a goat track, was a metre long Tiger Snake (*Notechis 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.

**3** Sure enough, within a few hundred metres of aches and pains, square in the middle of what now resembled a goat track, was a metre long Tiger Snake (*Notechis 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 and carpark.

**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.

**Mount Worth**  
A line graph showing elevation in meters (m) on the y-axis (300 to 350) and distance in kilometers (km) on the x-axis (0 to 8.5). The graph shows a relatively flat start, followed by a slight dip, then a steady climb to a peak of approximately 340m at 4.5km, followed by a descent to a low of about 310m at 6.5km, and finally a slight rise to 320m at 8.5km.

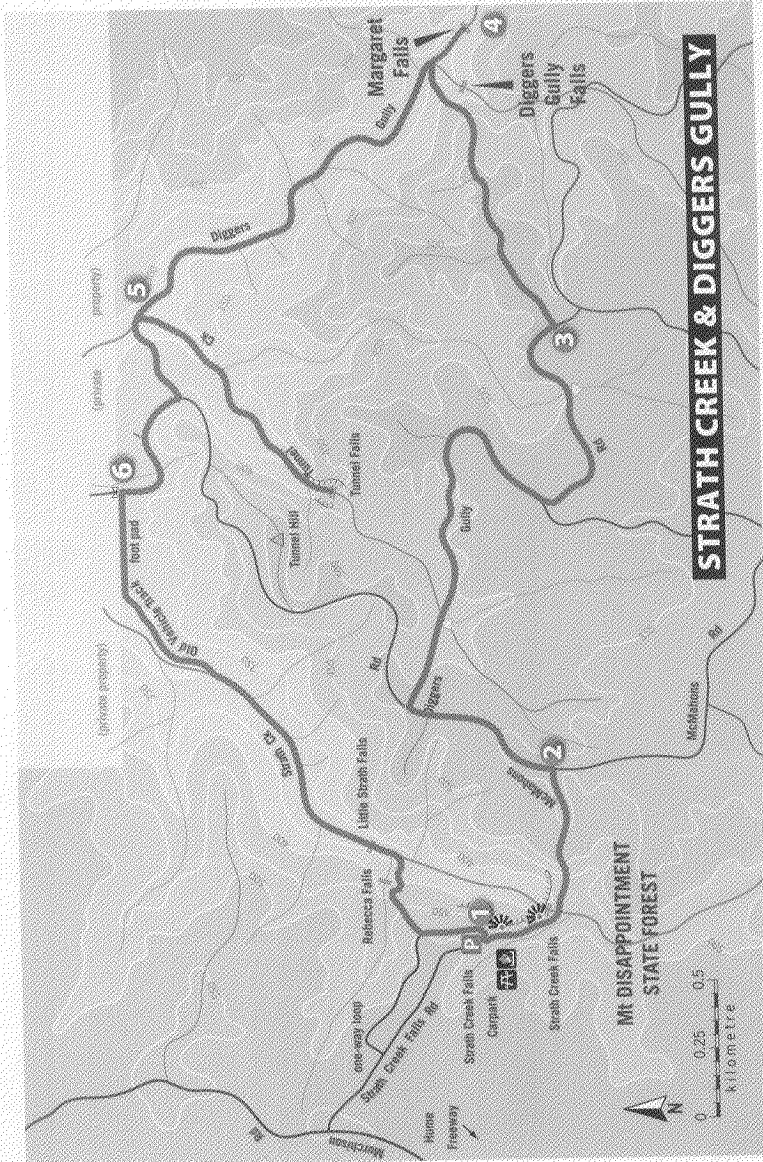


trail 01 | MOUNT WORTH, VIC | 8.5km/3 hrs

OUTDOOR ACTIVE



Where the world can take a hike this winter



**STRATH CREEK & DIGGERS GULLY**

**FACTFILE**

**Strath Creek and Diggers Gully, VIC**

**Sweat Factor** ■■■■  
**Navigation** ■■■■  
**Technicality** ■■■■

**Distance:** 11km

**Time:** 5 hours

**Start/End:** Strath Creek Falls carpark

**Nearest town:** Kilmore

**Terrain:** Mountainous, dry tall forest

**Best Season:** Autumn, winter and spring

**Maps:** Free Forest Notes from DSE, or Vicmap, Reedy Creek 1:25,000

**Accommodation:** none (camping ground nearby)

**Food/Drink:** At nearby Kilmore

**Getting there:** Follow the Hume Freeway for 62km and take the Clonbinane exit. Turn right (over the freeway), then turn left onto Spur Road and follow for almost 10km (the road turns to gravel after 7.5km) to the top of the range. Turn left along Two Tees Road and follow it for 3.3km to the intersection with Murchison Road. Turn left and continue north along Murchison Road for 2.6km, then turn right along Strath Creek Falls Road. Stay right at the next junction (it's now a one-way loop) and follow it steeply down to a car park just before the hairpin bend.

**Tourist Information:** Parks Victoria, on 13 1963 or visit [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

junction shaded by tall manna gums. It is only a couple of hundred metres upstream to the base of Margaret Falls from here.

**4** Return to the creek junction and continue down Diggers Gully. There are intermittent paths on either side of the creek, which make for generally easy walking. During drier times you will find yourself wandering along the creek bed. Eventually Diggers Gully opens up, after 2km Diggers Gully reaches its confluence with Tunnel Creek (on the left). Sidestrip: A visit to Tunnel Creek Falls is well worth the effort and will take about one hour return. Follow Tunnel Creek (stay right at the creek junction) to the base of the falls. After viewing the waterfall (and its unusual rock arch), retrace your steps back to Diggers Gully.

**5** Cross Tunnel Creek and walk directly across to the base of the hill. Join a good trail and follow it left to where it soon divides. Veer right and follow it uphill, to the top of the ridge and on to McMahons Road. Turn right and follow the road downhill for 500m to a gate at where it enters private property.

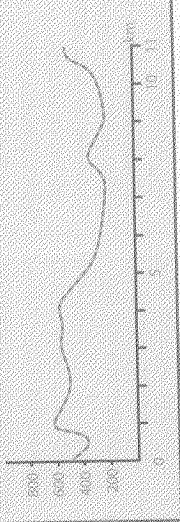
**6** Follow the path west along the fence-line, which soon joins an old vehicle track. After a short descent the track reaches Strath Creek. Turn left and follow the track upstream, which ends at a small clearing. From this point on it is necessary to walk in the creek bed up to Little Strath Falls. One hundred metres beyond this small cascade is a creek junction. Leave Strath Creek and ascend east up the steep grassy ridge immediately left of Rebecca Falls. There are various pads up this ridge and most seem to converge as you zigzag higher. Level with the top of Rebecca Falls the pad sidles right onto a less steep and more open ridge. Continue up through stringybark forest in a southwest direction to emerge at Strath Creek Falls Road. Turn left and wander down the road until you reach the carpark.

**1** **START/FINISH** A sign points the way to Strath Creek Falls. The first lookout offers the best view of the falls, which cascade almost 50m into the narrow gorge – an impressive sight when flowing. Continue to the lookout next to the falls. Leave the path here and scramble down, via a small side stream, to the creek and cross it (keeping well back from the falls). Do not cross if the creek is too deep. A fairly good

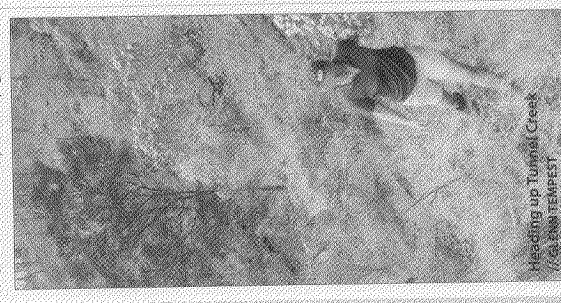
path ascends the steep open ridge on the opposite side of the creek. There are excellent views back into the gorge along the way. After a few hundred metres the trail levels out and soon reaches McMahons Road.

**2** Turn left and follow McMahons Road north for 600m. Turn right along Diggers Gully Road, and follow for 1.5km to its forked intersection with Digger Link 1 Road. Stay left on Diggers Gully Road, and follow a further 1km to the top of a small ridge, a few hundred metres past a little dam.

**3** Take the old vehicle track, which enters the forest on the left. The track slowly becomes a foot trail as it undulates over a couple of small knolls. After 600m the trail reaches a final knoll with views through the trees into Diggers Gully. The main trail heads off left down the ridge but this walk continues straight ahead along the open ridge top following a very faint path. Very quickly the ridge narrows and drops dramatically down into the valley, becoming very steep. Diggers Falls can be seen off to the right. At the bottom there is an attractive creek



Strath Creek & Diggers Gully



Heading up Tunnel Creek (DSE, Mt. Disappointment)



Julfield, Lindeman National Park

When it comes to bushwalking, Queensland is one of the greatest winter walking locations around. With its warm sunny days and clear, star-lit skies, you can travel light while exploring towering rainforests, deep gorges and deserted island beaches. Whether you fancy a casual stroll through spectacular scenery or a challenging hike that takes days to complete, you'll never tire of the terrain.

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