

Federation Walk -- Newbury to Lyonville Springs -- October 2023

Would you like a copy of this Lyonville Springs Walk Sheet? Just click on the QR Code here. Don't worry they are held on my personal website. John W.



Starting the walk on a road leading to the Lerderderg gorge town of Blackwood, it is appropriate that you can stand under a Blackwood wattle



A bitter pea or the *Daviesia ulicifolia* is one of a group of plants that often have host **bacteria** in their roots within structures called **root nodules**. Like many Australian plants growing in tough places, they don't actually have leaves



This slightly prickly bush is a Wattle or specifically *Acacia verticillata*. Acacias were once thought to grow in Africa and Australia, but a Conference in Melbourne in 2011 recognized that *Acacias* are mostly found in Australia.



What has been scratching this Red Stringybark (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*)? It is probably an introduced deer. Pigs are also possible. What do you think?



Apart from being Victoria's floral emblem this beautiful heath (*Epacris impressa*) comes in a variety of shapes and forms. To extract from Vic Flora .. "An extremely variable species with respect to leaf size, flower colour, habit, flowering time and regeneration strategy. A survivor!



Gahnia sieberiana or the Red-fruit saw-sedge is an Australian plant that appears only to germinate after bushfire. Its seeds are a food source for skipper butterfly. You will notice that this sedge loves to grow in wet places. Look at the leaves closely.



Built in 1880 at the height of Victoria's golden prosperity, this bridge carried passengers and freight between Woodend and Daylesford. The timber was soon extracted by a Mr. Lyon, and now we have the regenerating forest to enjoy as we walk part of the Domino Trail



Mechanics Hall -- Over 1200 mechanics' institutes were built in Victoria and just over 500 remain today, and only six still operate their lending library services. These halls filled and extraordinary social function. Of course the competition was the pub.



Although much of the millable timber was cut out by the end of the 1890s, the remnants of the forest regrew. Now the dominant tree is the "Manna Gum" *Eucalyptus viminalis*. This smooth-barked tree is interspersed with Peppermint and Stringybark Eucalyptus.



A newspaper article from August 1915 notes that “From the analysis it should prove valuable for its medicinal properties, and it has added value of being extremely palatable”. Have a drink. What do you think?



In June 2021, this part of Victoria experienced some of the most severe storms in decades. Large sections of the Wombat State Forest were blown down. What percentage of the trees were removed? The hill beyond has interesting geology. It is only 4.5 million years old.



The genus name is derived from the **Ancient Greek** words *come* ("hair") and *sperma* ("seed"), and relates to the seeds bearing tufts of hair. This is a showy climbing plant that often grows at the side of the track. Look closely to the flowers remind you of another plant in this forest?



Gold mining was never particularly extensive in this area, but the geological maps do show “leads” which indicate alluvial or placer mining. Quartzite is often associated with gold. It is worth noting that in 2020, the world's largest gold producer was China, followed by Russia and Australia. We still have it!



If you are interested in kinky sex .. then try studying this weird plant .. it is a *Chiloglottis* orchid. We are too embarrassed to go into details, but have a look at this Wikipedia article!
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiloglottis>

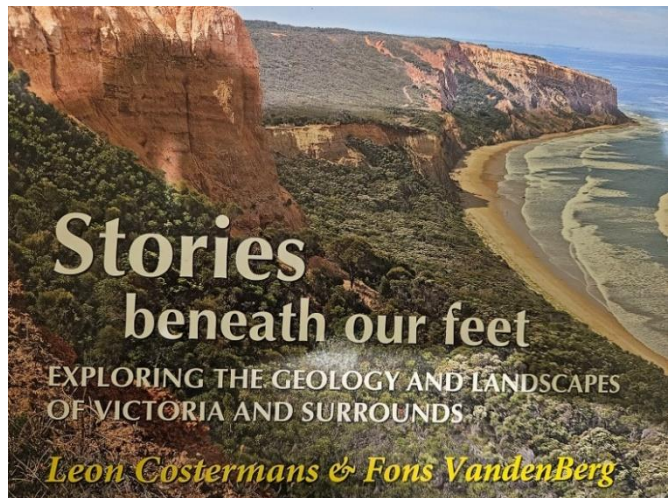


Geological History of the Walk

5.8 Million years ago, a significant extrusion of magma pushed into the ancient rocks just north of Lyonville Spring. How do we know? The geologist used a sophisticated radiometric technique. Blue Hill, visible from the start of the walk was dated to a similar age. Our walk travels through geological time scales from recent to 4 million years to 450 million years ago.










To extract from Costermans and VandenBerg in “Stories beneath our feet” “ -- “One Cenozoic eruption point on the Divide (south of Trentham) warrants particular mention: Blue Mountain 873 m and aged about 6 Ma, is older than any we have seen so far (which are mostly less than 3 Ma in age). This hill, together with nearby Mt Wilson (863 m) and Babbington Hill (830m), form a cluster of eruption points similar in age and rock type to Camels Hump and Hanging Rock Just out of Trentham (a little to the north of the Divide) are the well-known Trentham Falls on the Coliban River, clearly displaying the eroded edge of a lava flow.

This whole forested area is regarded as a raised dome, called the Trentham Dome, with non-volcanic high point more than 800 m above sea level.”



Copies of this walk sheet are held on <http://scitech.net.au/outdoored>.

Birds You Might See or Hear

<p> Bird Guide</p> <p>← Australian Golden Whistler <i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i></p> 	<p>Laughing Kookaburra <i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i></p> 
<p> Bird Guide</p> <p>← White-throated Treecreeper <i>Cornobates leucophaea</i></p> 	 <p>Stellarium</p>  <p>Avenza Maps</p>  <p>PK Birds</p>  <p>PeakFinder</p>

We use PK Birds to guess and then listen to the birds we hear in this forest.

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Apps On Our Devices

Stellarium

... if you
are out
late at
night!



Avenza Maps ...

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Maps for Bushwalking Victoria's annual state-wide get-together. FedWalks 2023 is in October 2023 and is based from Trentham a short distance NE of Melbourne. Trentham was first settled by gold prospectors in the 1850s and later developed for its timber resources from the surrounding Wombat State ...

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