

WALKING THE GRAMPIANS

Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park

Federation Weekend

21-22 October 2000



Hosted by
The Dandenong Valley Bushwalking Club Inc.

FORWARD

A 'Federation Week-End' is an opportunity for members and visitors of all Federation member bushwalking clubs to meet each other and make new friends, enjoy nature and go bushwalking together.

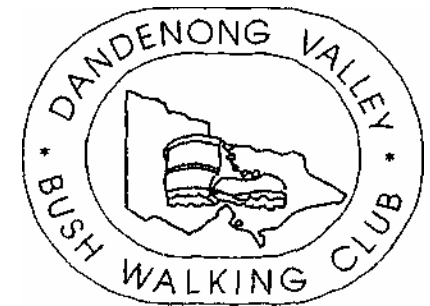
This years 'Federation Week-End' is hosted by the Dandenong Valley Bushwalking Club at the Grampians National Park, with assistance from members of some local clubs.

The Dandenong Valley Bushwalking Club hope that you enjoy the large variety of walks listed in this publication.

The Dandenong Valley Bushwalking Club Inc aims to encourage bushwalking and other associated outdoor activities. A good quality mix of activities which comprise base-camps, cycling, skiing, social events and different grades of bushwalks, which all form part of the clubs program published twice a year. Members also receive "Packchat", our newsletter published quarterly. Meetings are held every 2nd Thursday of the month, (except January), at 8.00 pm at Essex Park Community Centre, 16 Essex Park Drive, Endeavour Hills. Mel way Map 90 K3

For further information please contact:-
Dandenong Valley Bushwalking Club Inc.
PO Box 288
Dandenong.
Victoria. 3175

Or visit our website at:-
www.vicnet.au/~dvbc



Walk notes and sketch maps in this booklet are intended as a guide only. Walkers should consult appropriate maps for more accurate information. Suggested maps are the VICMAP series "Northern Grampians" and "Southern Grampians".

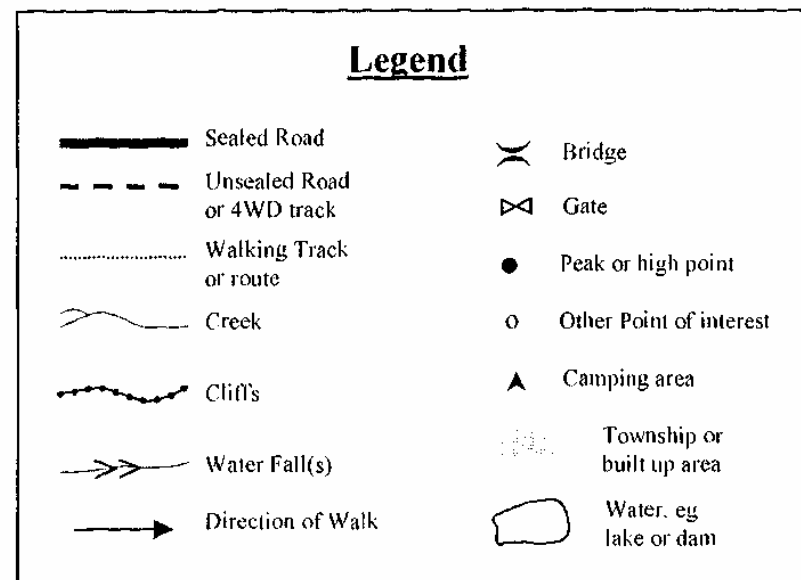
Dandenong Valley Bushwalking Club Inc.
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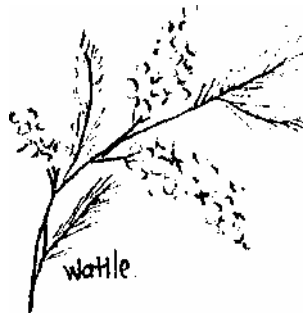


WALKERS RESPONSIBILITIES

Bushwalking can be an enjoyable experience, whether you are walking alone or in a group. More and more people are realizing the pleasure of walking in more remote, as well as more established areas of our natural environment. The Grampians National Park offers both of these extremes. However, your enjoyment of being outdoors relies on others showing respect to you and to the environment that you are in. Equally so, the enjoyment that others will experience will rely on your behaviour and conduct.

For this reason we have outlined some basic rules and guide lines that everyone should understand and observe, so that all of us can appreciate the experience of walking in the more remote areas of Australia.

1. Keep group sizes small where possible.
2. Respect flora and fauna Minimize any damage or disturbance that your presence may cause.
3. Be courteous to other walkers around you, it makes their day and yours more enjoyable.
4. Stop at all intersections and track junctions, wait for the group to catch up so people do not take the wrong track.
5. Always walk on the track. If there is a walking track, use it.
6. Carry adequate food and water. On warmer days carry extra water and drink ample amounts.
7. Wear strong comfortable footwear and carry wet weather gear, personal first aid kit and sunscreen at all times.
8. Always bury human waste at least 150 cm deep and at least 100 metres from any watercourses.
9. Carry out all rubbish. If you bring it in, then take it out.
10. When walking in a group, respect the leaders judgement, he or she is considering the entire groups welfare, not just yours.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many of our bushwalking companions and colleagues have contributed to this years 'Federation Week-End'.

For the Year 2000 bushwalking calendar, this event was organized by the "Dandenong Valley Bushwalking Clubs Federation Committee. The Committee members being:- Helen Coventry, Wayne Emmins, Derek Grantham, Graham Kneen, Wilma Koolhof and Garry Van Dijk.

We wish to thank Helen Coventry as well as Chris and Tim Rounds for the art work through-out this booklet. Also Joan Horton for arranging the usage of several tents and other equipment for the week-end.

Also, a big thank you to all those Dandenong Valley Bushwalking Club members who contributed to 3 week-ends of exploring walks in the Grampians, to make up the Walks Program for the 'Federation Weekend'.

We also owe thanks to several local clubs, who have given their time to assist with researching and leading walks for the Federation Weekend. Thank you to:-

Paul Briody) Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club

Max Carter)
Greg Dryburgh) Grampians Bushwalking Club
Joy Harrington)
Stewart Hutchison)

Dianne Drake
Carolyn Farrar
Margaret Farrar) Warrnambool Walkers
Coralie Ginn
Linda Haynes
Herb Morrow

Chris Dunmill) Wimmera Bushwalking Club
Steve Knoll

Thanks also goes to the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs, Prue Daley from Parks Victoria, Janet Witham from the Halls Gap Historical Society, Kay Harris from Brambuk Living Cultural Centre and the Australian Red Cross for their support with this 'Federation Week-End'.

BullacesGlen

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians O 17

Grade: Easy

Time: 2 Hours

Distance: 3 Kms

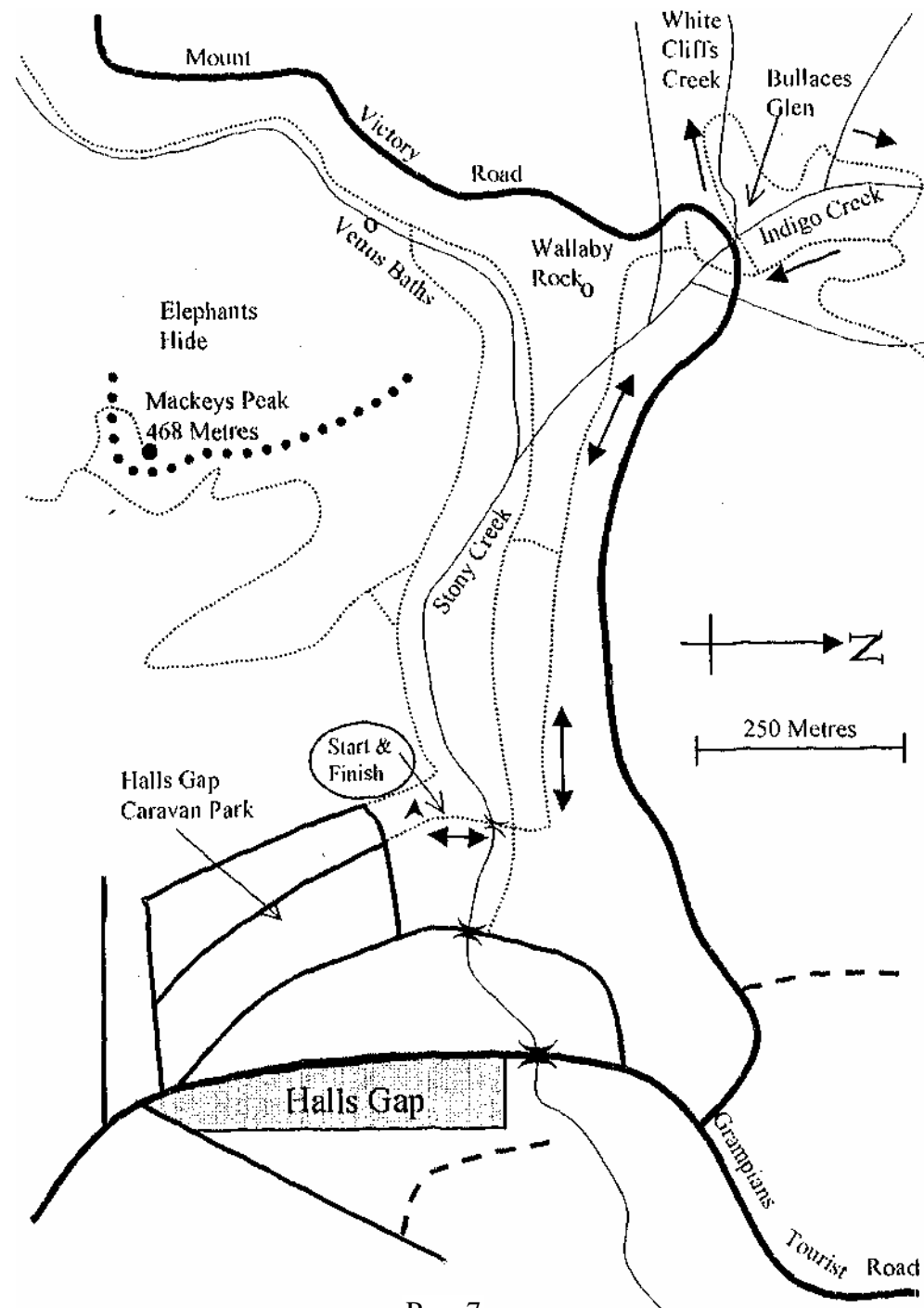
How to get there:

The walk can start from the information board at the Botanical Gardens near the Halls Gap Caravan Park. From the northern end of the caravan park walk over the bridge and past the information board to the start of the sign posted track.

The Walk:

Follow this track for about 300 metres, then turn right onto an unsigned, narrow and rough foot track heading in a North Westerly direction. Climb steadily till reaching a T-intersection, turn right, then 30 metres away come out on to the Mount Victory road. Cross over the Mount Victory Road, Bullaces Glen track starts immediately opposite. Note that current maps indicate that the Bullaces Glen Track starts and finishes at different points on the Mount Victory road. The circuit now starts at a junction on the initial track in.

Follow this narrow track in for 100m to a T-intersection, turn left, climb steadily then contour round the steep slopes through tall eucalypt forest and across fern filled gullies. After crossing over Indigo Creek, 200m further on a track junction is reached. The track to the left goes to Chatauqua Peak but at this point you will turn right, returning you down a rocky track towards Mount Victory Road to retrace your steps to the start.



Chatauqua Peak

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians N 17

Grade: Eiasy **Time:** 4 Hours **Distance:** 6 Kms

How to get there: The walk can start from the information board at the Botanical Gardens near the Halls Gap Caravan Park. From the northern end of the caravan park walk over the bridge and past the information board to pick up the start of the track.

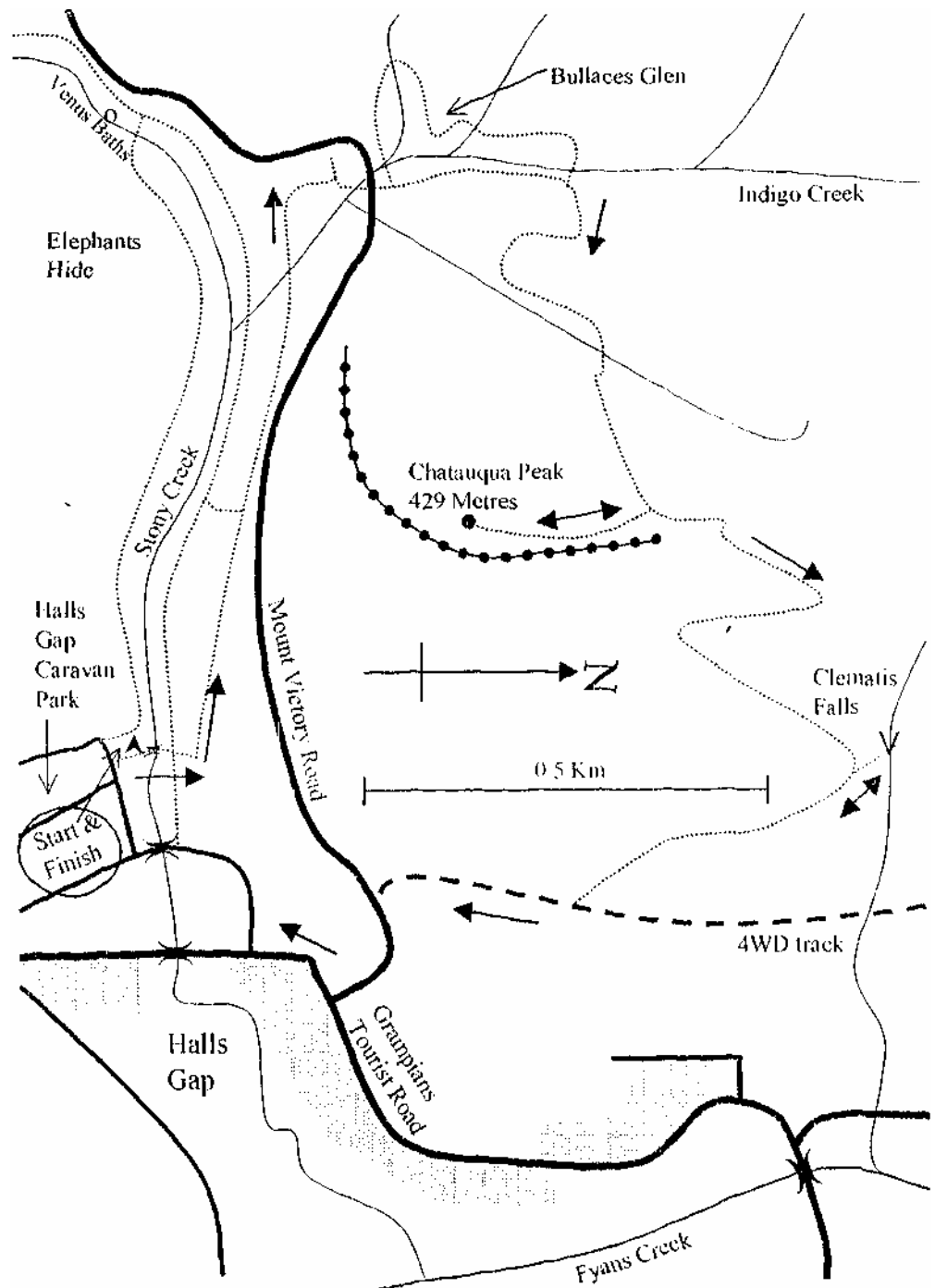
The Walk:

Follow the track for about 300 metres, then turn right onto an unsigned, narrow and rough foot track heading in a North Westerly direction. Climb steadily till reaching a T-intersection, turn right then 30 metres away come out on to the Mount Victory Road. Cross over the Mount Victory Road, Bullaces Glen track starts immediately opposite. Note that current maps indicate that the Bullaces Glen Track starts and finishes at different points on the Mount Victory road. The circuit now starts at a junction on the initial track in.

Follow this narrow track in for 100m to a T-intersection, turn left, climb steadily then contour round the steep slopes through tall eucalypt forest and across fern filled gullies. Aficr crossing over Indigo Creek, 200m further on a track junction is reached. Turn left to start (lie climb to Chatauqua Peak, following the track for about 1 km, then up to a saddle just below Chatauqua Peak.

From there it is a 400 metre rock and boulder scramble, difficult at times but generally pretty easy. At one point exposure to the drop to the valley floor is encountered, however this is easily negotiated. The scramble is rewarded with excellent views of Halls Gap and Lake Bellfield, as well as the Mount William, Serra and Mount Difficult Ranges.

Retrace the route back to the main track and turn right to descend down into the valley until a walking track is encountered on your left. This track is about 100 metres long and leads to the base of Clematis Falls. There is not always water flowing over the falls, however the green and mossy rocks and waterfall face are quite attractive. Go back to the walking track, turn left and continue down to a 4WD track, turn right and head in a southerly direction through light forest, keeping eyes open for koalas in the trees. The track ends at the sports oval on the Mount Victory Road and from there simply follow the road back to Halls Gap



Heatherlie Quarries

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians N 1 1

Grade: Easy **Time:** 2 Hours **Distance:** 1 Km

How to get There: Drive north from Halls Gap, turning left onto the Halls Gap Mount Zero Road. Drive along this unsealed road for about 14 kms till the Heatherlie Quarries is reached, turn left at a cross road and drive the last 400 metres in to the quarries.

The Walk:

Heatherlie Quarries was the source of rock for Victoria's Parliament House, as well as several other notable buildings in Melbourne. This quarry was once very active, with its own railway spur to transport the much sought after rock to its final destinations. The township/settlement of Heatherlie resulted from the lucrative quarry. Now, with the quarry closed and township deserted, the area is a fascinating place to explore and learn about the history of Heatherlie and its quarry. In spring there is a superb display of wildflowers in this area including many orchids.



Hollow Mountain Artists Walk

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians I 3

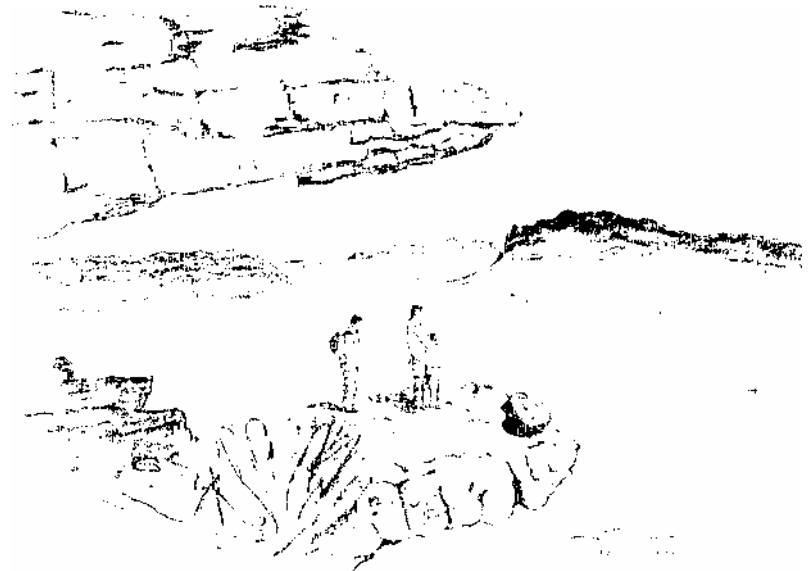
Grade: Easy **Time:** 6 Hours **Distance:** 2 Kms

How to get there: Drive north from Halls Gap, turning left onto the Halls Gap Mount Zero Road, driving about 20 kms before crossing over the Glenorchy Roses Gap Road and continuing on for another 12 kms along the Halls Gap Flat Rock road till you arrive at the Hollow Mountain Camping Ground.

The Walk:

Not so much of a walk but an excuse for the artists among us to go somewhere special and sketch, draw, paint, photograph etc. the scenery around Hollow Mountain. The idea is to take as much time as you want to capture the beauty of this northern section of the Grampians National Park.

The stark and eroded sandstone rock outcrops of this region allow for some stunning scenery, with adequate vegetation, bird life and wildflowers to add even further interest. It is hoped that those who come along will share their ideas and interests, though there is plenty of room to wander off and sketch or photograph in solitude BYO materials.



Splitters Falls

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians N 18

Grade: Easy

Time: 2 Hours

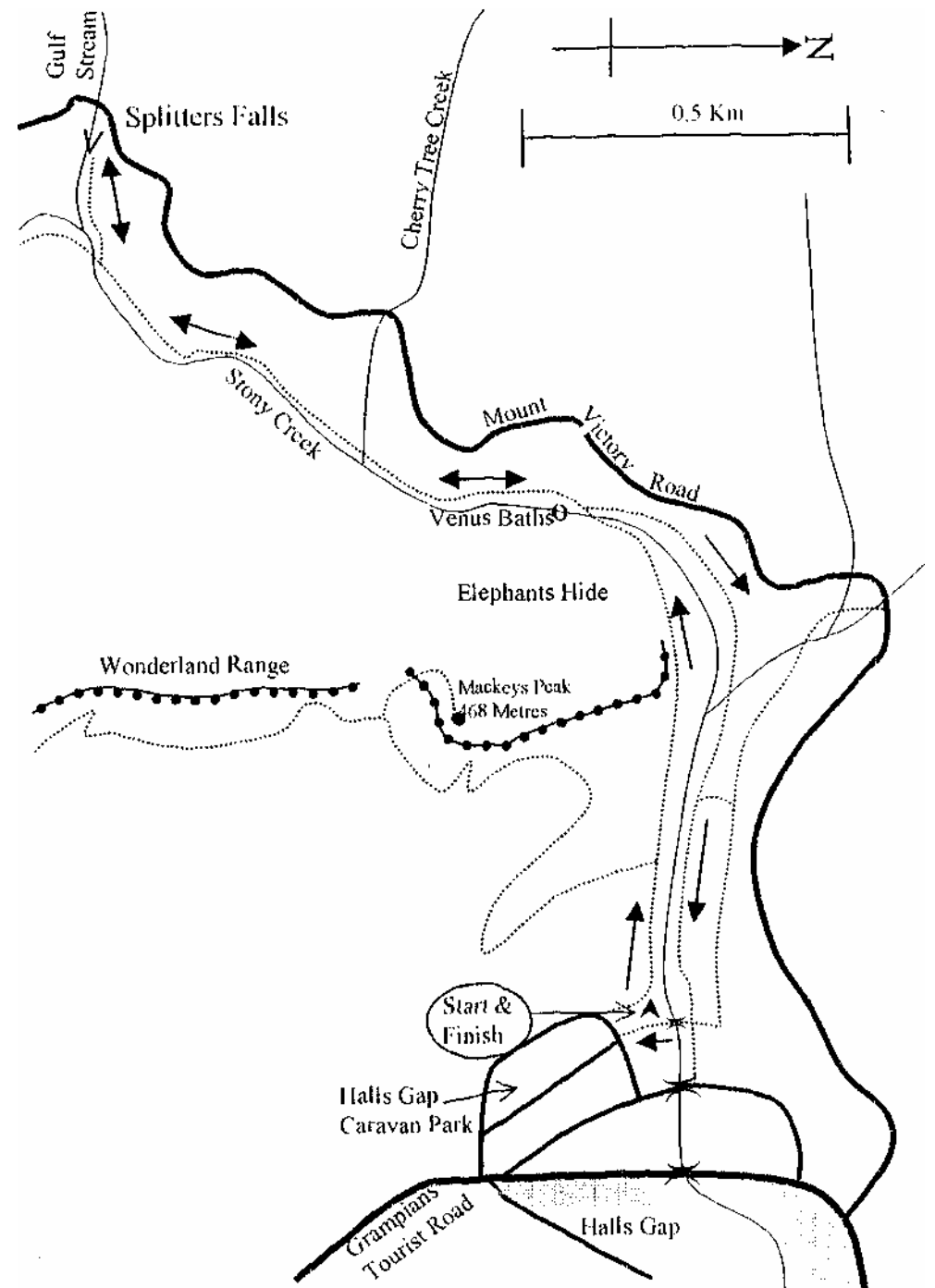
Distance: 4 Kms

How to get there: The walk can start from the northern end of the Halls Gap Caravan Park.

The Walk:

Follow a wide gravelled footpath upstream towards Venus Baths along Stony Creek, through this picturesque creek valley with its towering rock formations and sandstone cliffs. Venus Baths are a series of rock pools found at the base of the Elephants Hide. Cross over the creek and turn left up towards the Wonderland Picnic Ground.

The track becomes a little more rocky now, walking up for over 1 km till reaching the side track off to the right to Splitters Falls. Enjoy some time at the falls in a secluded gully before returning back along the same track. Back at Venus Baths follow the main track along the creek, instead of crossing over the bridge, keeping the creek on your right. Return to the caravan park via the Botanical Gardens and over the creek via a bridge.



Teddy Bear Gap

Map Reference: VICMAP Southern Grampians N 30

Grade: Fasv/Medium **Time:** 4 Hours **Distance:** 7 Kms

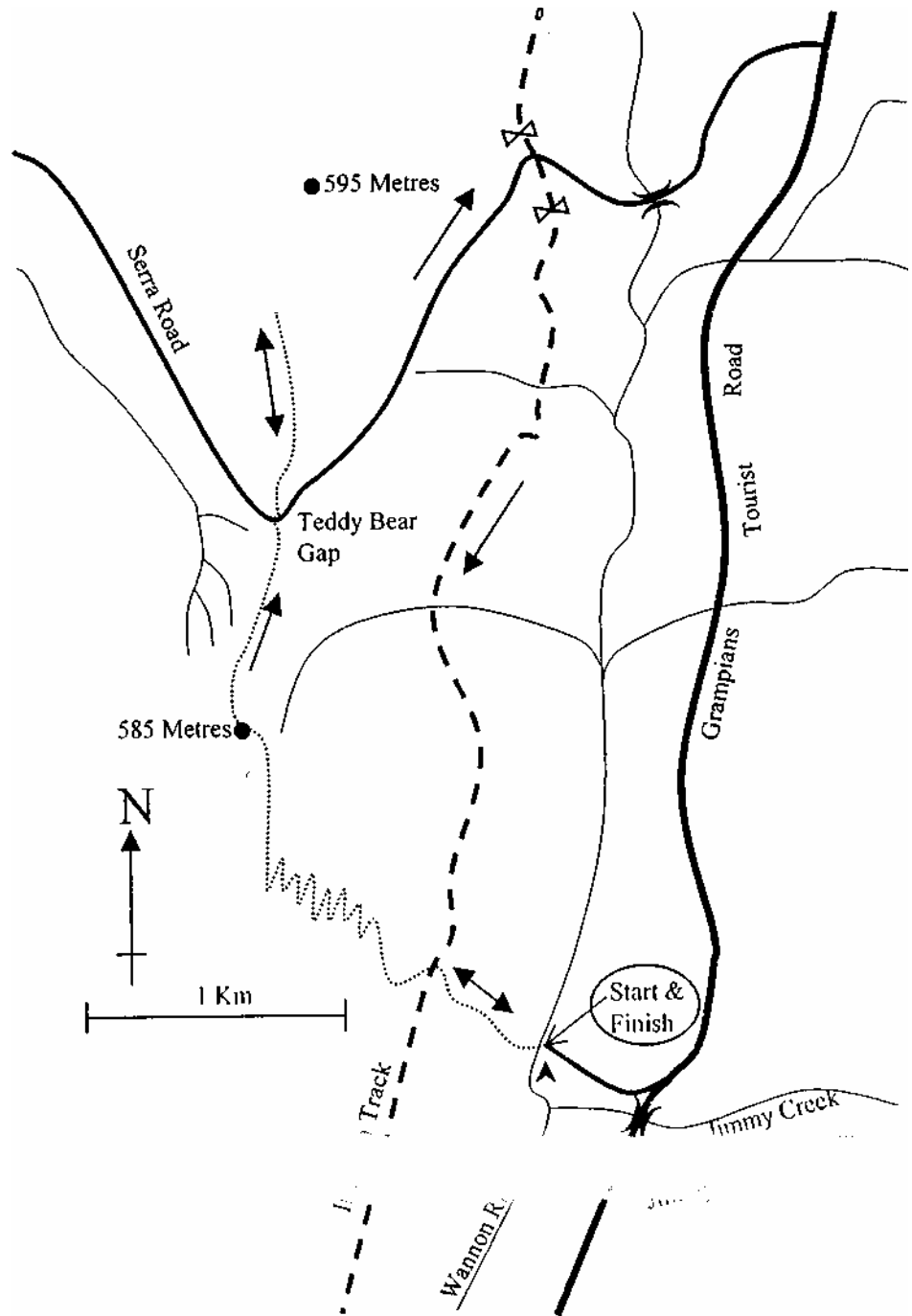
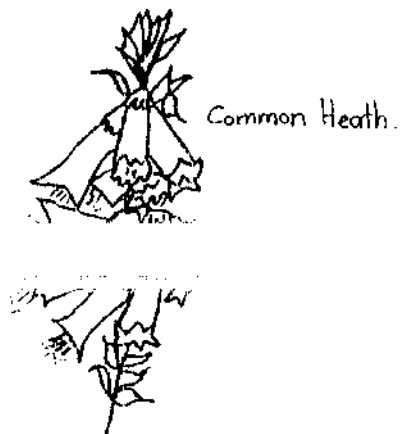
How to get there: From Halls Gap drive south along the Grampians Tourist Road for 20 Kms till you come to Jimmy Creek. There is a small road on the right, just before the Jimmy Creek bridge. Turn right here and park the cars at the camp ground at the end of this road, some 300 metres along.

The Walk:

Begin the walk from the western end of the camp ground, crossing over a foot bridge over the Wannon River. Walk up a short distance till the Ingleton Track (4WD track) is encountered. Cross over and continue up a steep climb to gain some altitude and reach the top of the range. Follow the ridge in a northerly direction for about 1.5 Kms. finally descending down into Teddy Bear Gap on the Serra Road.

Cross over the road and continue following the walking track north for a while till eventually the track begins to peter out and it gets quite difficult to go any further. The views along here are the main attraction as well as taking the time to admire the wildflowers along the way.

Return along the same trail back towards the Serra Road, turning left and walking along this main road for a short distance till you reach the Ingleton Track. Once you reach the Ingleton track, turn right and walk down the Ingleton Track through open forest till the walking track is again encountered and turn left, walk down to the Wannon river, over the bridge, and back to the cars.



Boronia Peak

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians P 17

Grade: Medium **Time:** 4 Hours **Distance:** 9 Kms

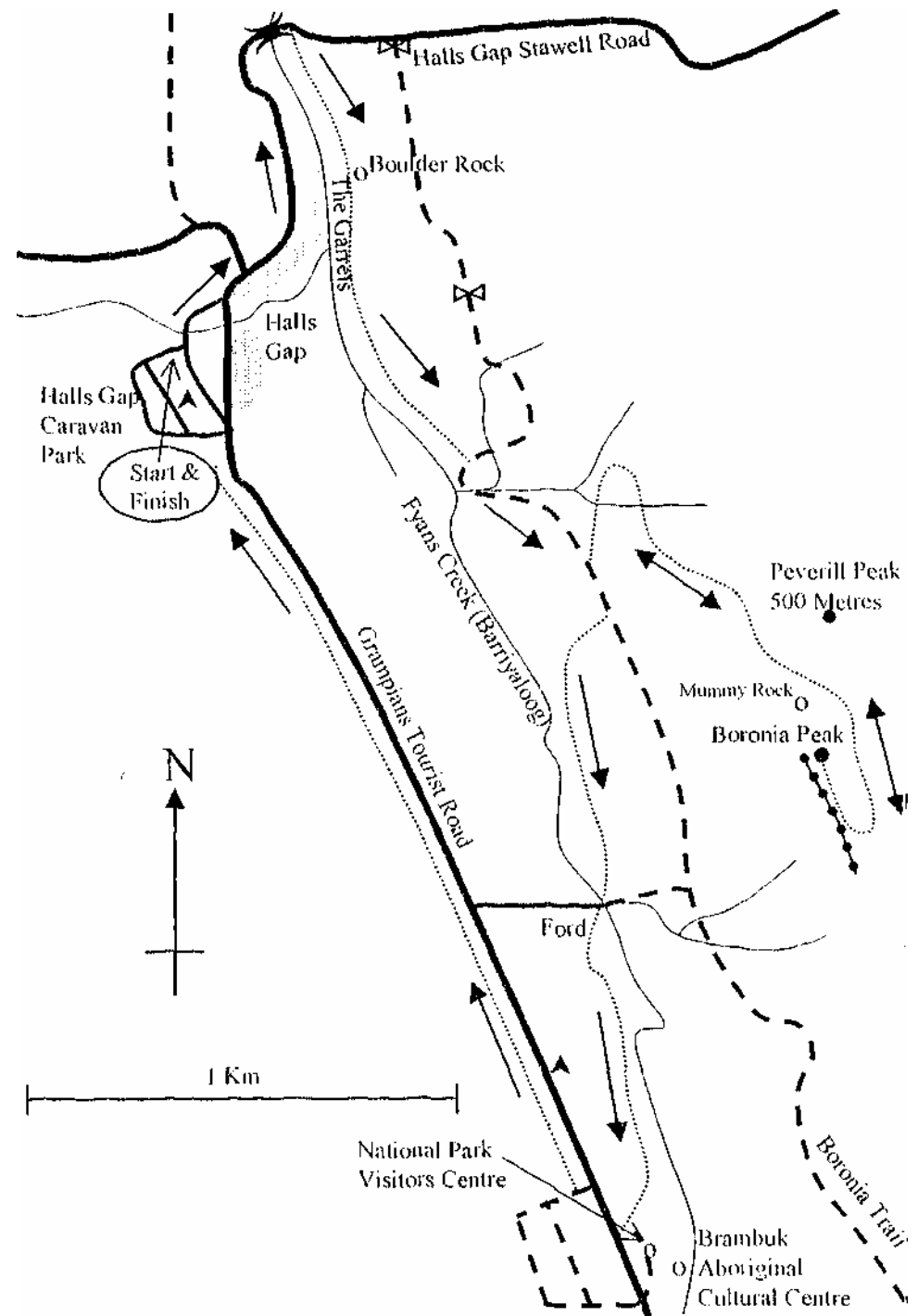
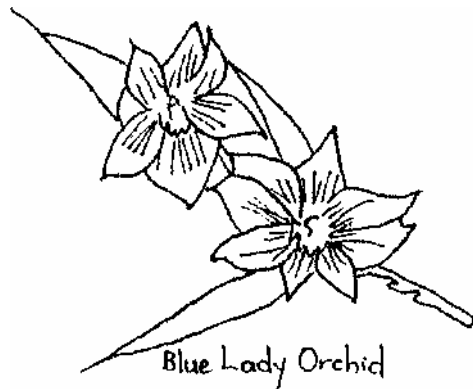
How to get there: The walk starts and finishes at the Halls Gap Caravan Park.

The Walk:

From Halls Gap camping ground walk north along Grampians Tourist Road, cross over the bridge (Fyans Creek), and on the right pick up the walking track along 'The Garrets'.

This is a pleasant flattish walking section following the creek in tall eucalypt forest. Walk along this track for about 20 - 30 mins, veering right onto an unsealed road until you reach the Boronia Peak Track on the left. The walking track up to the peak is approximately 2 kms and pleasant walking, with changing views of the valley and wildflowers on the side of the track.

Near the top the track opens out to a rocky sandstone outcrop with spectacular views overlooking the Grampians National Park, Halls Gap and views out towards Stawell and Ararat. After admiring the views from Boronia Peak, return back down the track to the Boronia Track Junction and continue left along the 4wd track for about 5 - 10 mins, until you meet up with a track on the right that crosses Fyans Creek and continues onto the National Park Visitors Centre and Brambuk Living Cultural Centre. This is a lovely spot to rest in the gardens and lots of history and information to absorb. From here, return to Halls Gap along the walking track that follows the Grampians Tourist Road.



Bovine Creek

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians P22

VICMAP Southern Grampians P23

Grade: Medium **Time:** 8.5 Hours **Distance:** 14 Kms

How to get there: From the Halls Gap Caravan Park drive south on the Grampians Tourist Road to reach Borough Huts on your left (approx 9 kms). Leave one car here. Continue further along the Grampians Tourist Road until you reach Mount William Road on your left, (approx 3 kms). Turn left into Mount William Road and park cars around here.

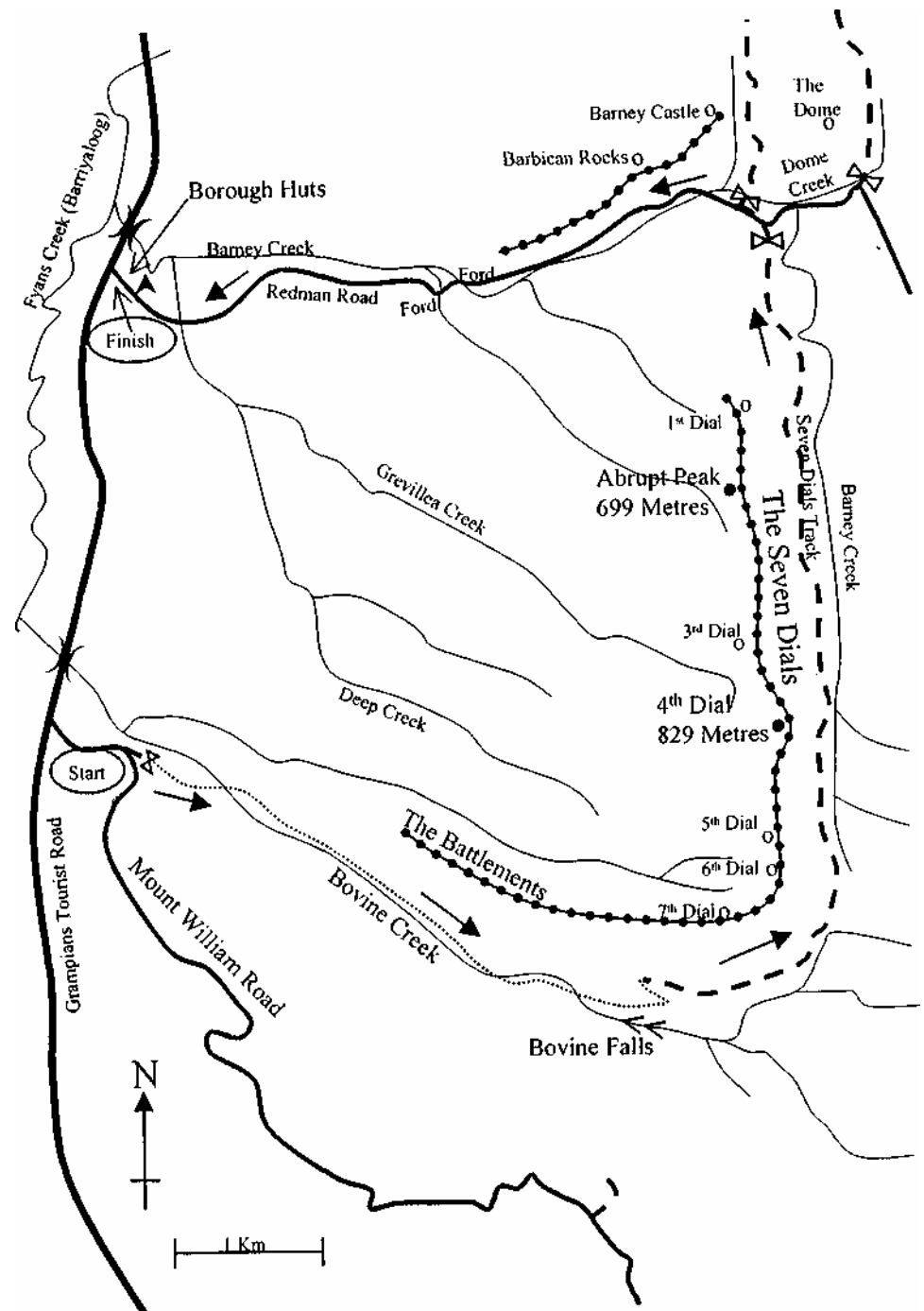
The Walk:

The start of the walk begins 50 metres on the left from the intersection of the Grampians Tourist Road and Mount William Road. Start between 2 gate posts and follow the track along Bovine Creek, through dark ferny glades, crossing the creek many times over stepping stones. To begin with, the track is indistinct and partially overgrown.

After many more creek crossings you will see The Battlements on your left and then the track broadens at the point of several large fallen trees and a land slip. Walk around the land slip and rejoin the track, about 50 metres upstream. The track climbs left and away from the creek and Bovine Falls is off to the right, but unseen and inaccessible.

Continue to the junction of Bovine Creek and Seven Dials Track (4WD) where you could have a lunch break or wait until you reach the highest point of the walk near the 7th Dial. From the 7th Dial, continue north, walking through dry sclerophyll forests, passing 6th, 5th, 4th, 3rd Dials and Abrupt Peak on your left. Stop to admire the views at a Lookout Point on the track giving good views of Barneys Castle and the valleys beyond. After passing the 1st Dial, the track joins Redman Road.

Turn left at Redman Road and continue west towards Borough Huts passing Barbican Rocks on your right. As a point of interest, a short detour (approx 200m) from Redman Track to view the Stawell Water System Flume, built in 1875 and of great historical value. Continue to the end of the Redman Road at Borough Huts where you are to pick up the car for the car shuffle and return back to Halls Gap Caravan Park.



Briggs Bluff

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians L8

Grade: Medium **Time:** 6 Hours **Distance:** 10.5 Kms

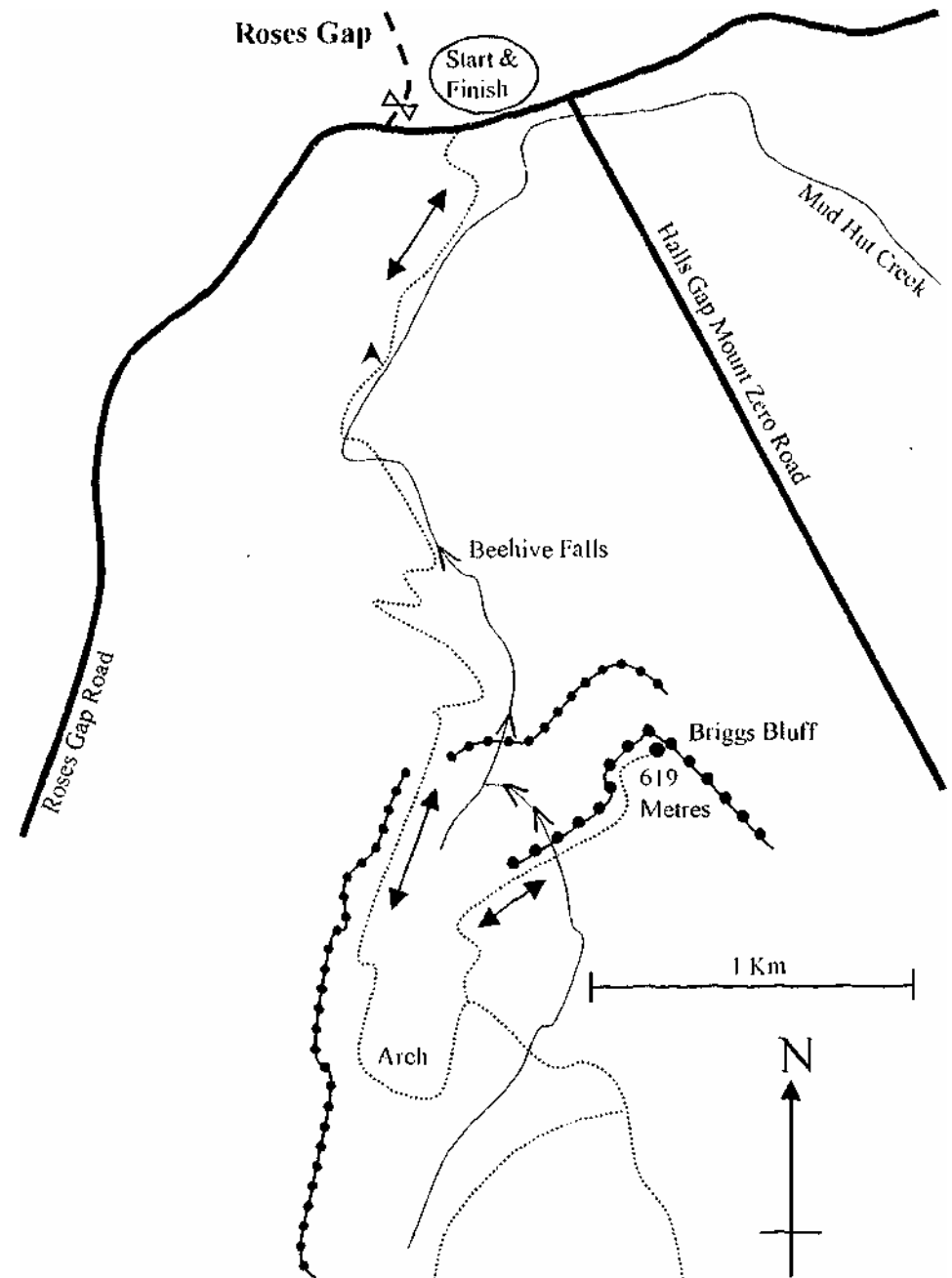
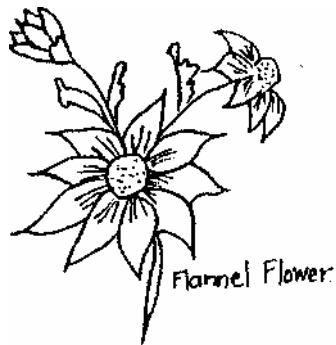
How to get there: Drive north from Halls Gap on to the Halls Gap Mount Zero Road which starts just before the bridge over Fyans Creek. Drive on this unsealed road for about 20 Kilometres till you reach a T intersection. Turn left and drive about 500 metres till the start of the walk to Beehive Falls is located on the left hand side, just before Roses Gap. There is usually enough parking here

The Walk:

From the car park pass through the gate and proceed to walk through open forest, following a good walking track along Mud Hut Creek. After about 1.2 km you will arrive at Beehive Falls, a small waterfall located in a secluded location at the base of the Mount Difficult Range. This is a good place to pause briefly though more time can be spent here on the return journey.

From here the trail begins to ascend steeply, though not for too long, onto the first plateau. This plateau is at a lower level than the main plateau but the open nature of this plateau makes for pleasant walking. The fires of January 1999 burnt out much of this area, though regeneration is well on its way. After about 1 km the trail heads up to the main plateau, past or through a rock arch and arriving at a well defined intersection.

The track out to Briggs Bluff is on the left. Head out along the plateau for about 1 Km to Briggs Bluff lookout for spectacular views over the Western Victorian plains and the Northern Grampians. The return journey simply retraces the walk up, taking you back to the cars with possibly more time to spend at Beehive Falls.



Garden of the Grampians

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians N 18

Grade: Medium **Time:** 7 Hours **Distance:** 13Kms

How to get there: The walk starts and finishes at the northern end of the Halls Gap Caravan Park.

The Walk:

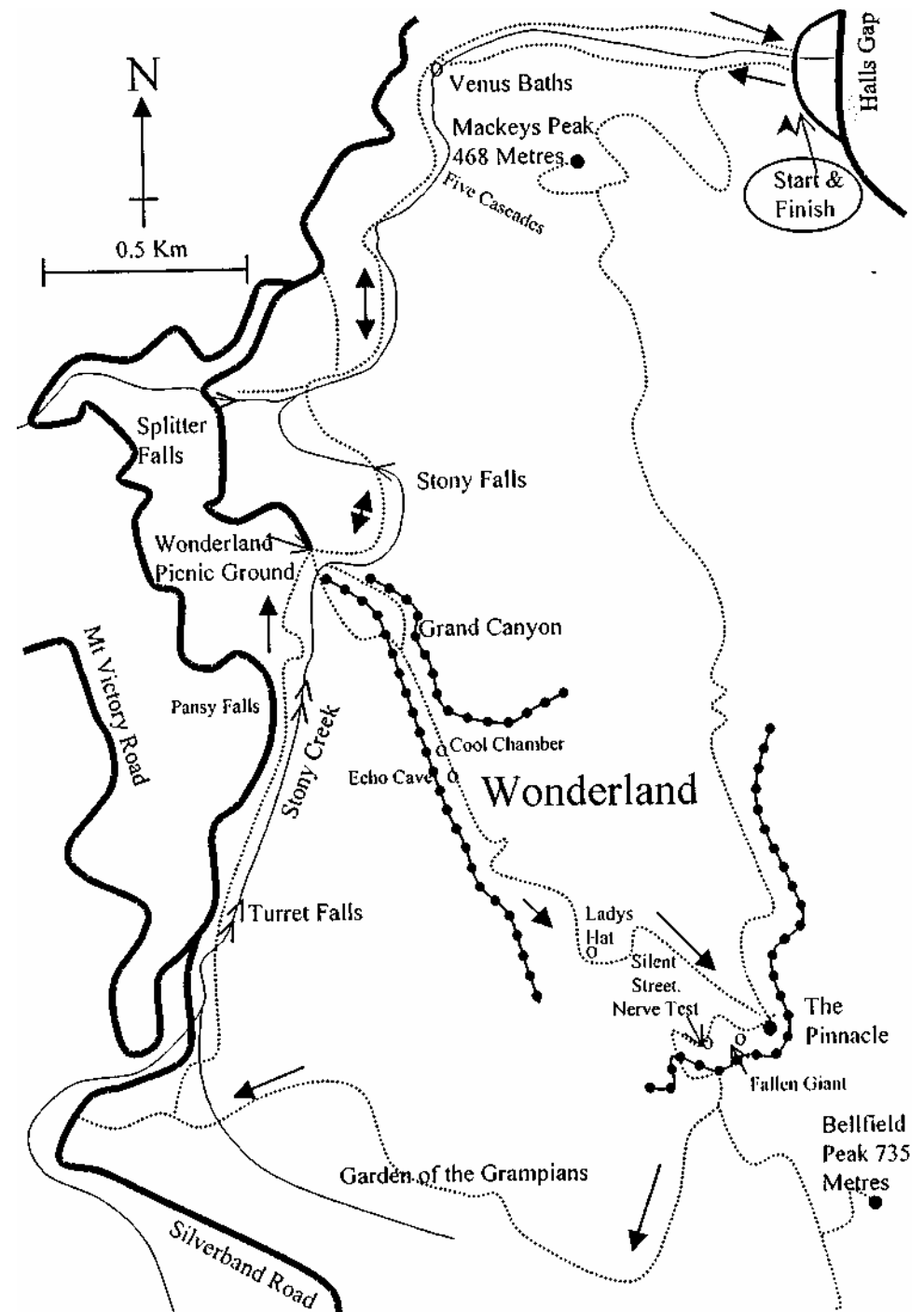
Start walk from the northern end of the caravan park and walk up towards Venus Baths. This trail will gradually ascend up through the valley to the Wonderland Picnic Ground. The beautiful valley with eucalypt forests and towering cliff faces makes for pleasant walking, though some sections are rough and rocky. Take a side trip to Splitters Falls off to your right before finally arriving at the Wonderland Picnic ground.

From here, take the track which heads in the direction of the Grand Canyon and the Pinnacle. This can be steep in places travelling over large slabs of rock, however, in most places handrails are provided. From the Grand Canyon work your way up via the Cool Chamber and Echo Cave, passing lovely wildflowers and then up between two very large slabs of rock called Silent Street. (This can be slippery when wet, and handrails are provided at the steepest sections).

From the top of Silent Street you walk up and over the rocks towards the Pinnacle for a beautiful view over looking Halls Gap and towards Boronia Peak. (A good spot for morning tea). This area is usually very busy, especially towards midday but the grandeur of this area makes up for the crowds.

Leaving the Pinnacle, head south walking past the Fallen Giant and Nerve Test through beautiful wild flowers until you come to the Devils Gap Junction. Keep right and walk through the Garden of the Grampians woodland. At the next intersection, turn right to the rocky terraces above Turret Falls. Cross Stony Creek on a board walk, through masses of coral ferns. The undulating track winds through lovely forest and via Pansy Falls back to the Wonderland Picnic Ground.

Once back at the picnic ground it is now a long descent back down the valley again, walking along Stony Creek, to Halls Gap to finish the walk.



Mackenzie Falls

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians J 16

Grade: Medium **Time:** 5 Hours **Distance:** 10 Kms

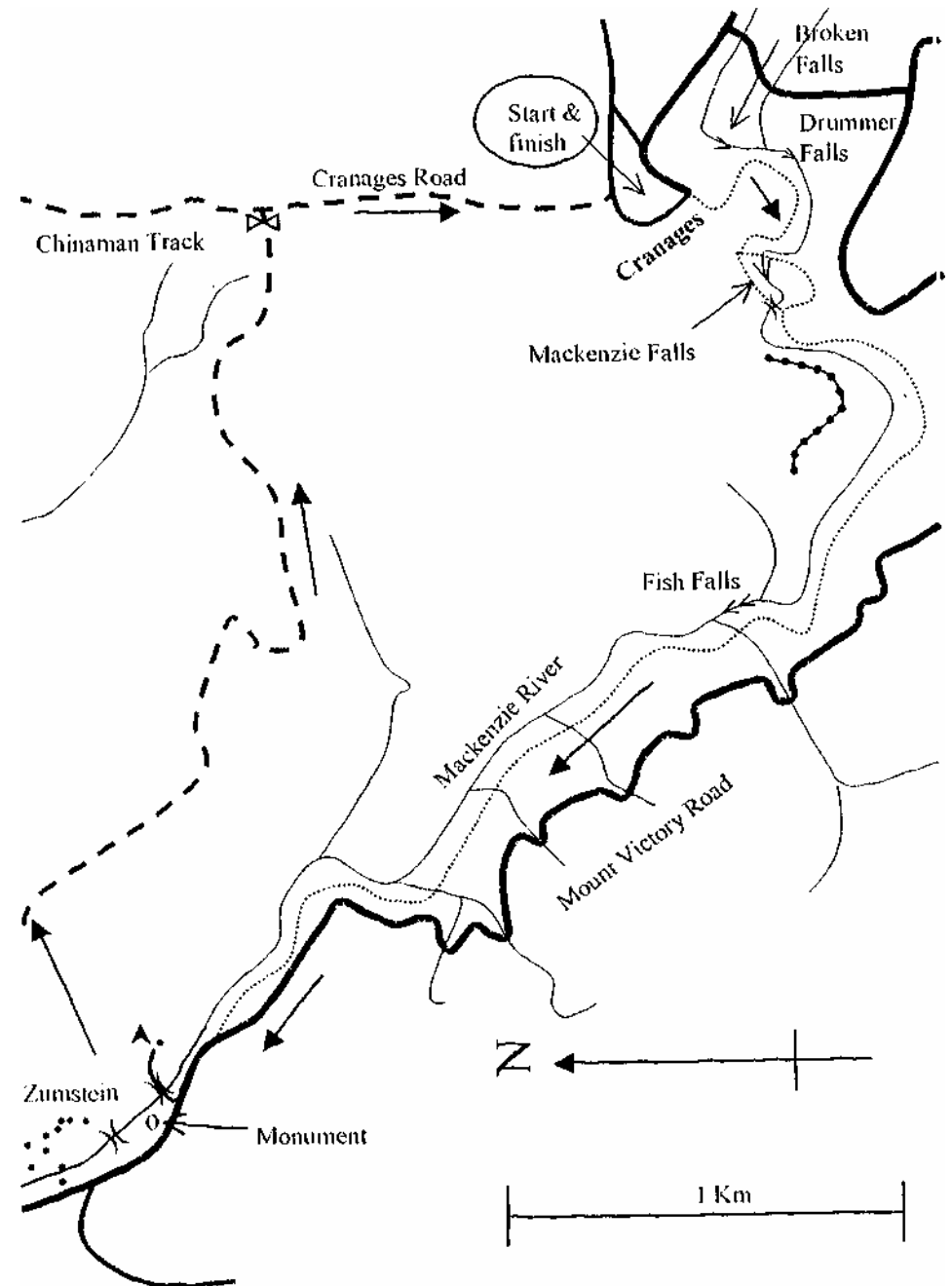
How to get there: From Halls Gap, drive west along the winding Mount Victory Road. The turn off to Cranages and Mackenzie Falls is about 17 kms, turn right and shortly after turn left to get to Cranages car park. The route is well sign posted and there is lots of parking, though it can get very busy towards midday.

The Walk:

From the Cranages car park the walk begins by following the well marked tourist route down to Mackenzie Falls. This is a well established track and very pleasant to stroll along and admire the cascades and waterfalls amongst the rocky gorge. Broken Falls and Drummer Falls are passed, each waterfall is spectacular in its own right but the Mackenzie Falls would have to be one of the best waterfalls in Victoria, with a fall of some 40 metres. It is worth while spending some time around here just to appreciate the waterfalls.

From here continue down stream for about 30 metres, being careful to stick to the lower track, and cross over to the other side (left) of the river via a new bridge and continue on down stream along a very pleasant walking track. About 1 kilometre down stream you will come across Fish Falls, also just as interesting as the other falls but very few people come here. This can be a more pleasant waterfall, simply because of the isolation.

The track continues down stream to Zumstein. The last section will be along the main road for about 200 to 300 metres. Zumstein is now an open area with several dwellings and usually lots of kangaroos. Cross over the Mackenzie River and from here walk uphill in a north easterly direction till an old 4WD track is picked up, following it to the right and up hill along a ridge line. The open forest is pleasant walking, following a power line up hill for some 3 kms till a T-intersection is reached Turn right and walk down the Cranages Road back to Cranages to complete the walk.



Mackeys Peak

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians O 17

Grade: Medium **Time:** 2 Hours **Distance:** 3 Kms

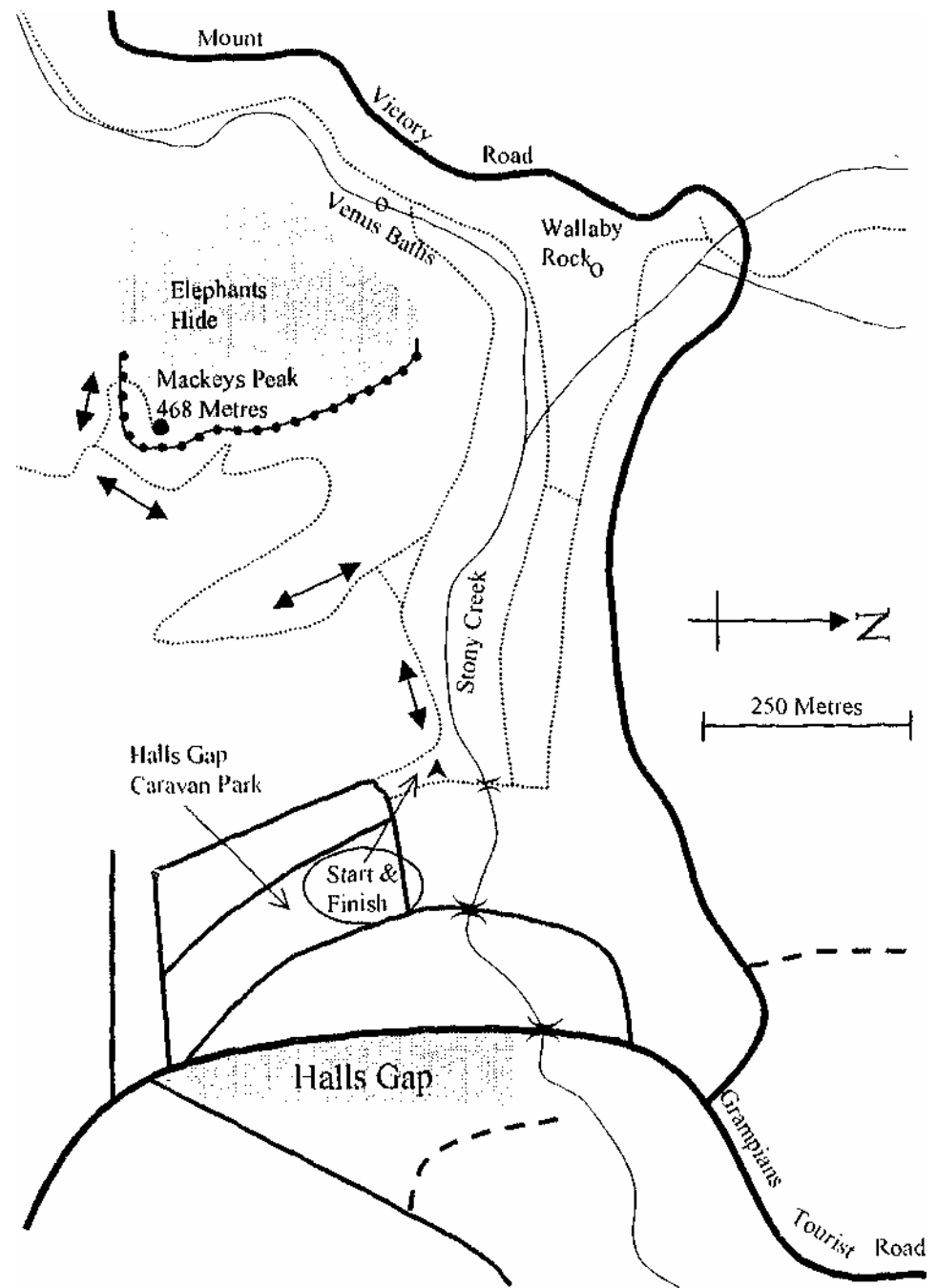
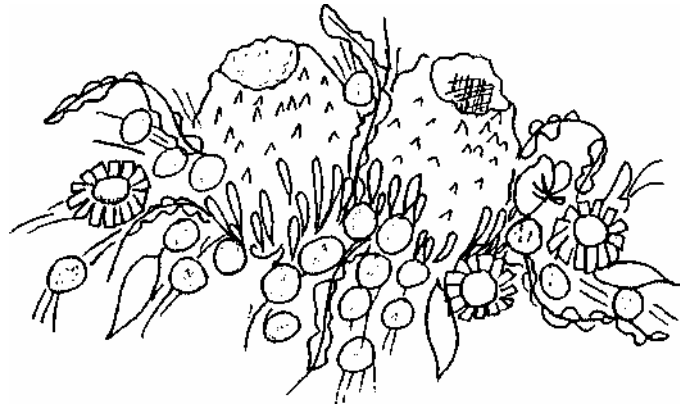
How to get there: The walk starts and finishes at the Halls Gap Camping Ground.

The Walk:

The track starts at the northern end of the camping ground near an ablution block. (Follow signs). After about 250 metres turn left and continue to climb steadily to the top. A steady climb nearly all the way to the top, so take it easy and get some great views over Halls Gap and beyond.

As the track begins to level out a track off to the right will take you to the top of Mackeys Peak, this last section gets a little steep in places but the effort is well worth the reward, for the grand views over Halls Gap and well beyond.

Return the same way to get back to the start.



Mount Rosea

Map Reference: VICMAP Southern Grampians R 26

Grade: Medium **Time:** 6 Hours **Distance:** 10 Kms

How to get there: From Halls Gap Caravan Park drive to the Rosea Camping Ground. This can be done by driving out on the Mount Victory Road for about 5 kms and turning left along the Silverband Road for 2.5 kms, or you can drive south from Halls Gap along the Grampians Tourist Road for about 7 kms and turning right into Silverband Road and driving up about 5 kms. The first option is much shorter.

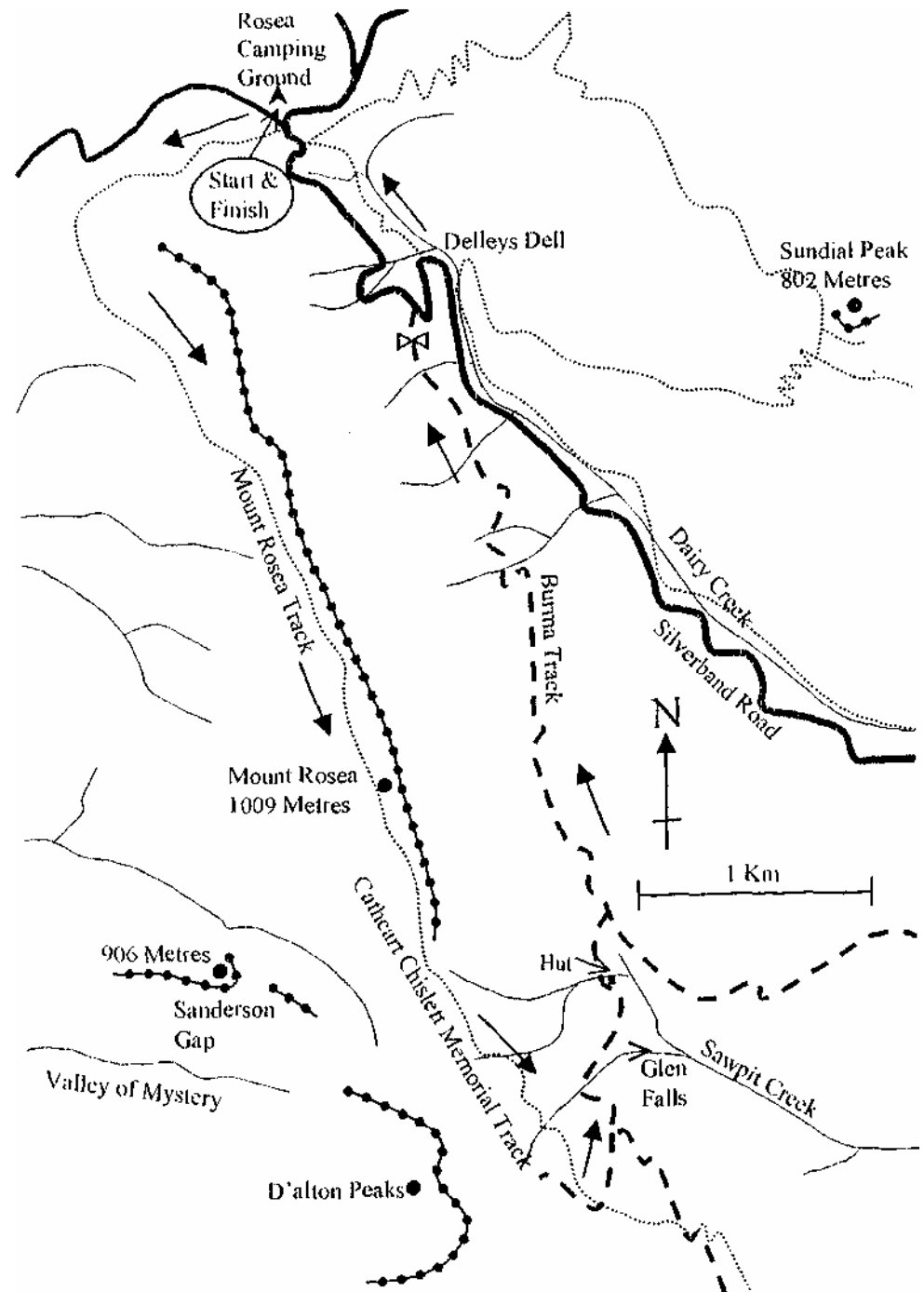
The Walk:

Starting from the camping ground a track leads off south-west from the road junction. (West side of Stony Creek Rd). It is a steady climb with well defined red markers on the rocks on the way up. The old track went up via the Grand Stairway and Eagle Rock, this track is now closed. A new track takes you around further to the west and then south to skirt around this section. You meet the old track further along, as you near the top of the range.

Continue walking south until you come to a track junction to Mt Rosea on your left. This last part of the climb is up a sloping, rock-strewn plateau. Mt Rosea is a delightful spot for lunch with virtually 360 degree views.

Leaving Mt Rosea, return to track junction, turn left to go down the hill until the track joins a 4WD track. Turn left and shortly after, at an intersection, turn left again to follow the Burma Track and you will pass the small Burma Hut on your right that maybe of interest to look at. Continue along the Burma Track through lovely forest until you reach a locked gate, just before joining onto the Silverband Road.

At the Silverband Road, turn right and go 200-300m down to Dellys Dell to join a ferny track up the valley of Dairy Creek, back to Mount Rosea Camping Ground and back to the cars.



The Sundial Walk

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians O 20

Grade: Medium **Time:** 7 Hours **Distance:** 12 Kms

How to get there: Drive south from Halls Gap along the Grampians Tourist Road for about 4 Kms to a car park at Lake Bellfield, near the dam wall. There is plenty of parking there.

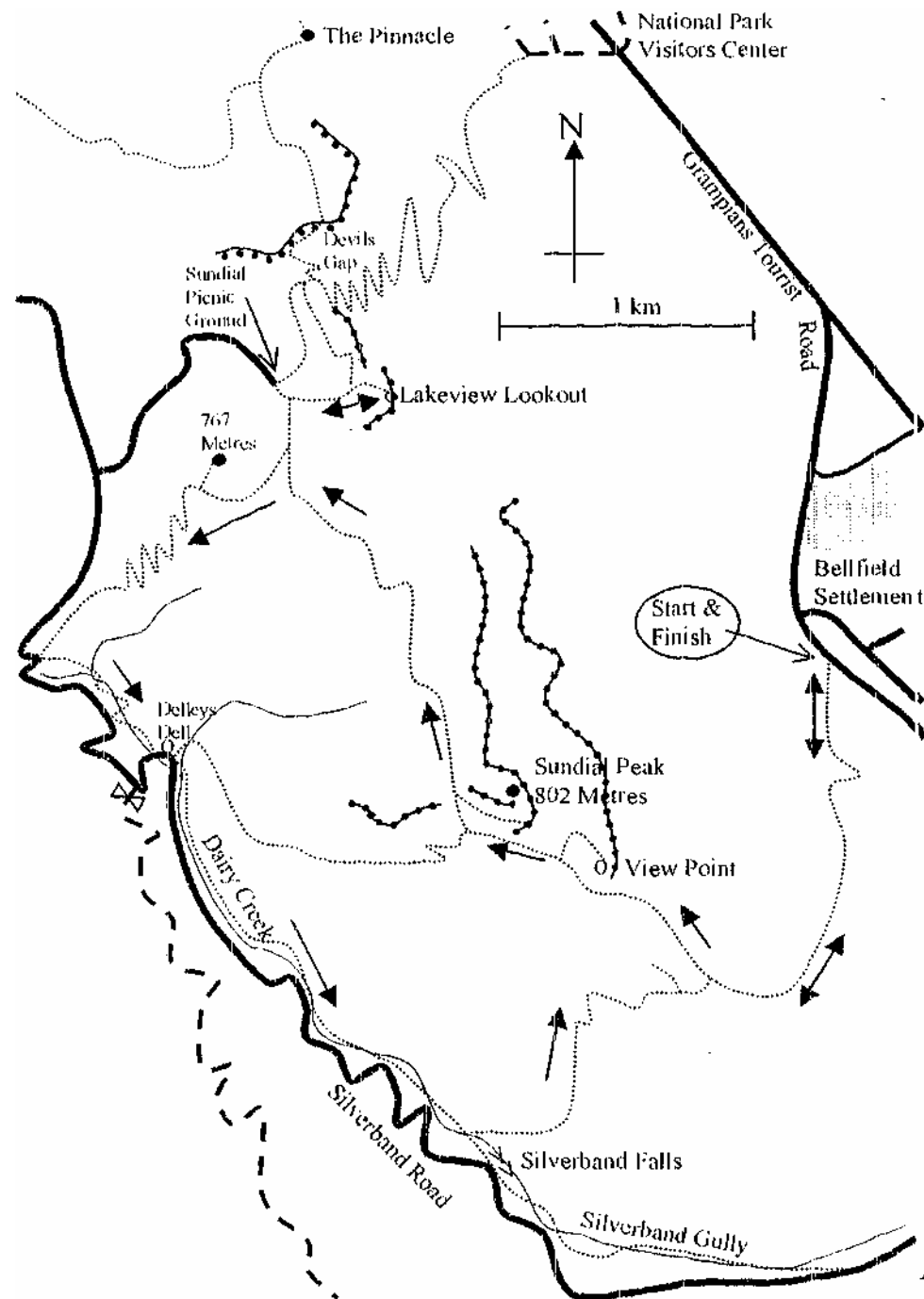
The Walk:

Cross over the Grampians Tourist Road and pick up the well defined track that gradually ascends to the south. Follow this track as it curves around to the west and gets steeper near the top. A short detour to the right will take you to a View Point for a break. Reluming to the main track turn right and after another 300 metres turn right again up a steep track to the top of the plateau. Take the track out to the right to Sundial Peak for a well earned rest and good views over the valley below.

Returning to the main track again and keep right to continue up north to the Sundial Picnic Ground, turning right just before reaching the picnic ground and heading out to LakeView Lookout. After another break and views of the valley below, return to the picnic ground, turning left on the same track that you came up on and after about 200 metres turn right down towards Delleys Dell and Silverband Falls. The track zig zags down to the Silverband Road, before heading off to the left and finally to Delleys Dell.

Continue along the track beside the road, ignoring the track off to your left. This is a gradual descent along Dairy Creek, through some of the best fern gullies in the Grampians, as well as stands of sclerophyll forest, till you get to Silverband Falls.

To get to Silverband Falls it will be necessary to walk along the road for a short section, not very pleasant but well worth the visit. After the detour to Silverband Falls, return to the main track and pick up the track on your right, that heads uphill, contouring around a creek gully and along, till you return to the track that was used to ascend up to the top at the beginning of the walk. Turn right here and walk down to the bottom again to the start of the walk and the cars.



Sundial Circuit

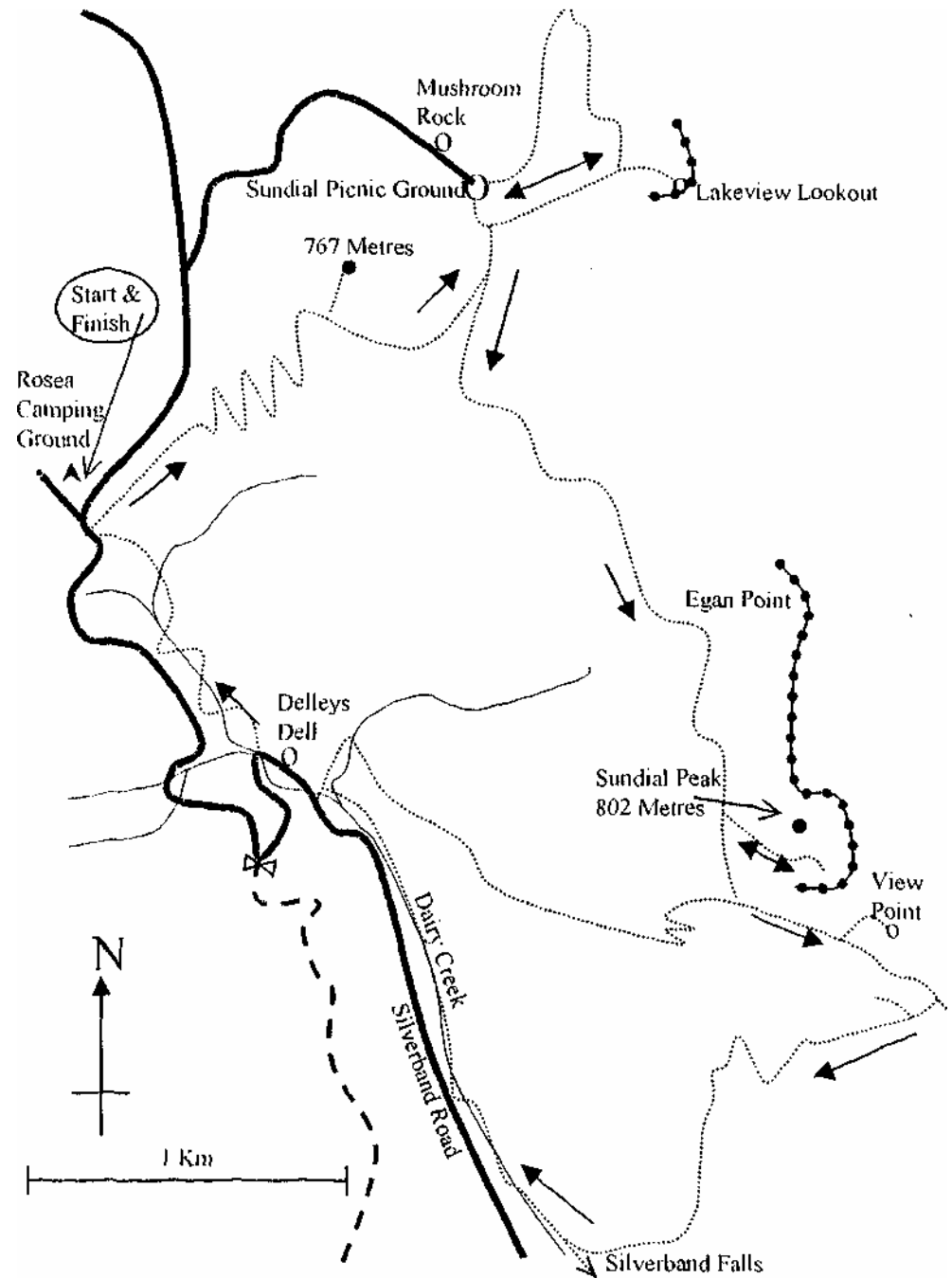
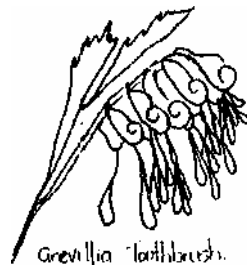
Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians O 20

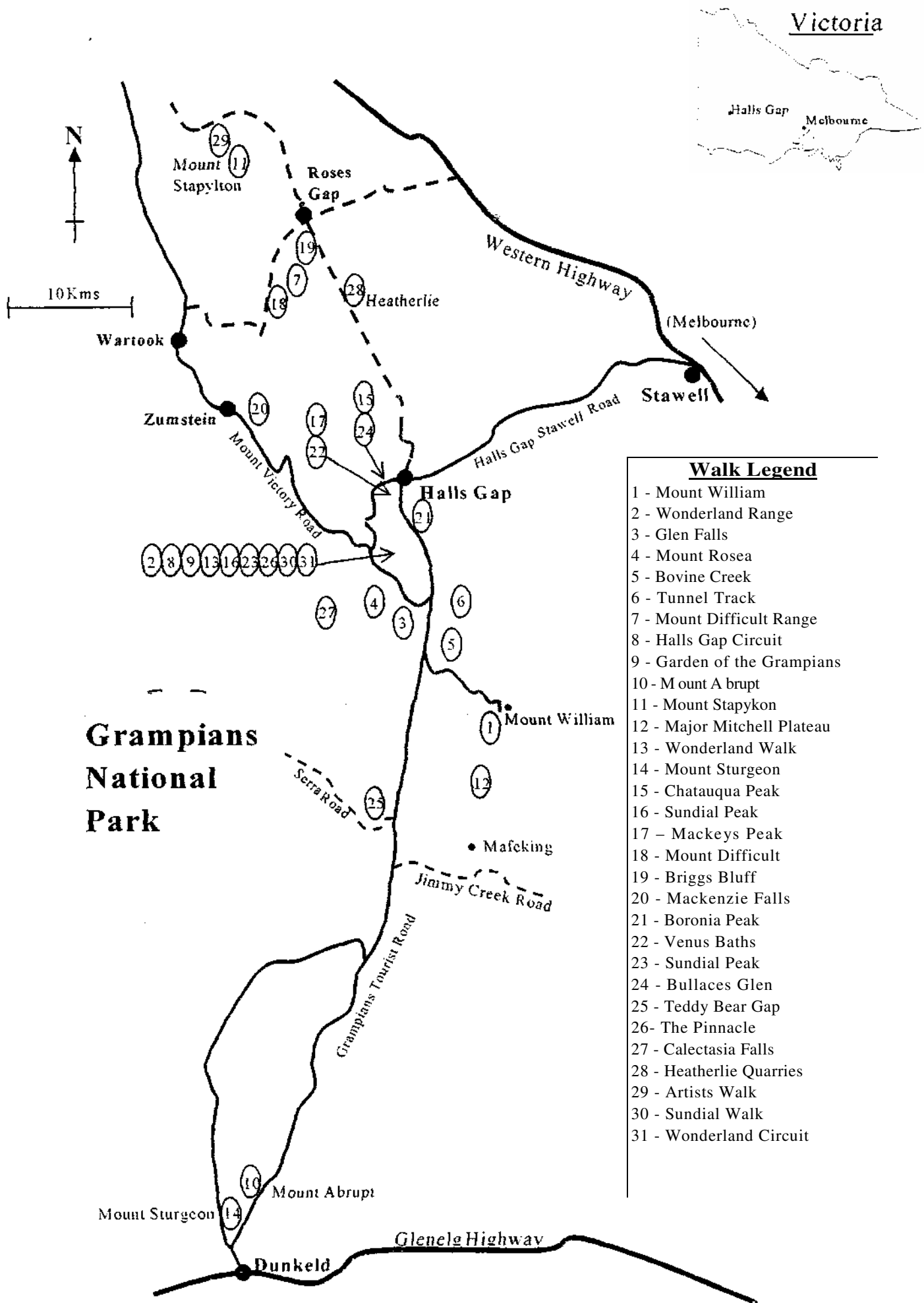
Grade: Medium **Time:** 6.5 Hours **Distance:** 10 Kms

How to get there: Drive south from Halls Gap for about 6 kms and turn right into Silverband Road. Drive up this road to the Rosea Camping area. Park cars here.

The Walk:

From the car park, cross over Silverband Road to pick up the steep walking track off to the left that leads up to the Sundial Picnic Ground, then picking up the track that goes to Lake View Lookout. Firstly walk to Lake View Lookout and then return, turning left onto Sundial Track. Follow track south to the junction of Sundial Peak and walk out to the lookout for some spectacular views. Return to Sundial track, turn left and continue on to the junction for Lake Bellfield or Delleys Dell. Take track to Lake Bellfield spending time at View Point, off to the left, along the way. At the next junction to Delleys Dell turn right. Approx. 5 minutes along track there is another junction with sign to Silverband Falls (which is a bit confusing) and take track to left which will return you to the car park near Silverband Falls. There is access to the falls by walking a little way down the road and walking down a steep goat track to the bottom of falls. This may be a 1 hour side trip with walking along a busy road so it may be better to visit here by car on the return trip after the walk. Continue along track beside creek and parallel to road to Delleys Dell, walking through some beautiful fern gullies along the way. The track continues to Mt Rosea Camping Ground, further up the road where the walk will end.





Sundial Peak

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians O 19

Grade: Medium **Time:** 6.5 Hours **Distance:** 12Kms

How to get there: Drive South from the Halls Gap camping ground on the Grampians Tourist Road (approx 2. kms) to the National Parks Visitors Centre on the left hand side of the road. There is plenty of parking here.

The Walk:

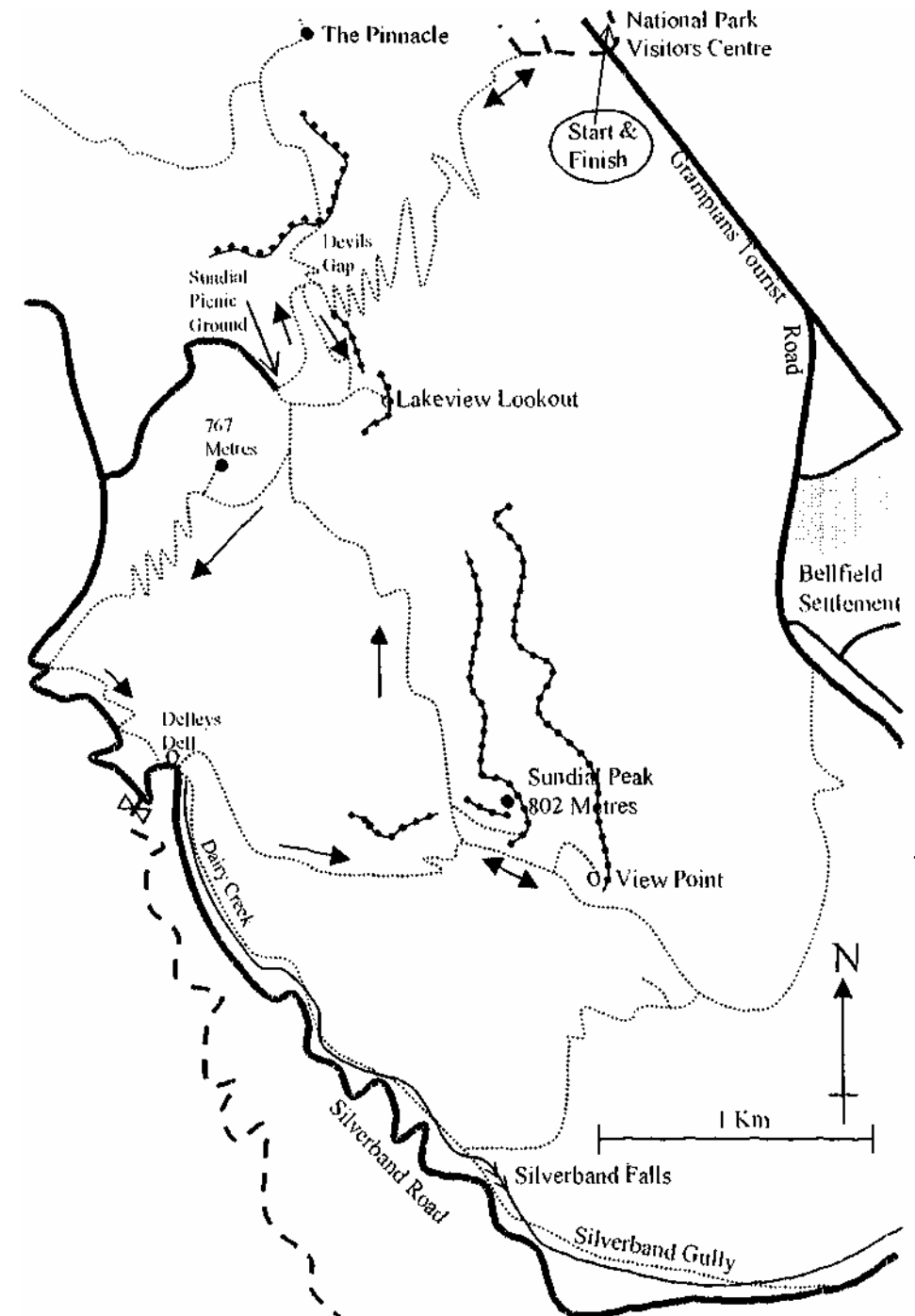
Pick up the Pinnacle Road, opposite Visitors Centre, and proceed past Scotts Road to the walking track, which goes off to the left opposite Rocky Glen Cottage. This track will take you up the escarpment to Devils Gap, a long steep haul, but not as difficult as it appears. At a track intersection on top of the escarpment, turn left and walk out to Lakeview Lookout. This could be used as an ideal and opportune excuse for a morning tea break.

Continue back from Lakeview Lookout, staying on the left hand track and turn left again just before Sundial Picnic Ground, onto the Silverband Falls Track. After only about 150 metres turn right. The track zig zags down a slope to the Silverband Road and then runs parallel to the road (on your right) crossing the creek several times to Delleys Dell.

Watch for a track junction off to the left to Sundial Peak. Take this track and follow it as it contours up hill. After about 1.5 kms an intersection is reached. The junction to the right takes you to View Point (worth a visit). After going to View point return again to the main track to Sundial Peak which goes off to the north and up hill. Just as you reach the top of this section, a track takes off to the right again and out to Sundial Peak*. Enjoy the views from this vantage point. Again return to the main track and turn right to return to Sundial Picnic Ground. This time walk via the Sundial Picnic Ground and pick up the track to Devils Gap, bypassing the Lakeview Lookout.

Once at the intersection above Devils Gap take the middle track which descends down through Devils Gap and down all the way back to the National Parks Visitors Centre to pick up the cars.

**ALTERNATIVE* After a visit to Sundial Peak return to main track, turn left back to Junction, left to View Point track (& off to View Point) and return to main track, left and left again onto 4WD track and return via Bellfield Settlement and Tourist Road to Visitors Centre and cars, then return to Halls Gap. This will add a few more kms to walk and take slightly longer to complete.



The Pinnacle

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians O 18

Grade: Medium **Time:** 4.5 Hours **Distance:** 9.5 Kms

Flow to get there: The walk starts and finishes at the Halls Gap Caravan Park. This walk can be easily done in either direction, both have equal merit. This walk description is for a clockwise direction, to get the not so interesting road section out of the way first.

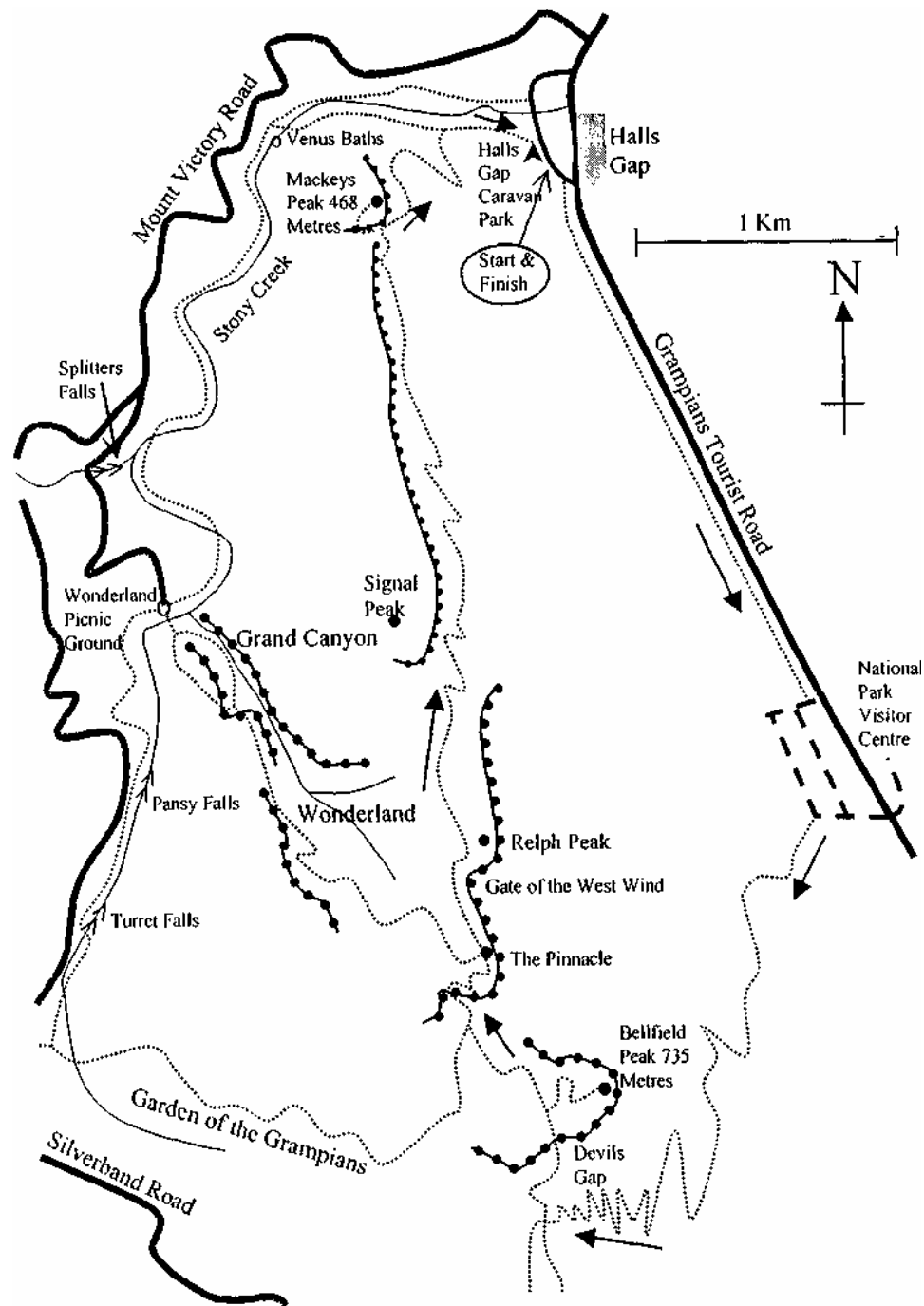
The Walk:

Starting from the Halls Gap Caravan Park, walk south along the walking track on the right hand side of the Grampians Tourist Road to the National Park Visitor Centre, approximately 2 Kms. On the right hand side, across from the entrance to the car park, follow the Pinnacle road, past Scotts Road and pick up the walking track opposite the Rocky Glen cottage.

The track climbs steadily for 1 Km, then begins a more steep and zig-zag climb for a further 1 Km until the feature known as Devils Gap is reached. From Devil's Gap, take the right hand track, north, toward Bellfield Peak and The Pinnacle. After approximately 300m a track to the East cuts to Bellfield Peak, an optional detour.

Returning to the main track, continue onto The Pinnacle. Here, linger a while to enjoy the magnificent views. From the Pinnacle continue Northward on this walking track, past Gate Of The West Wind and Relph Peak, on what is virtually a ridge track. After 1 Km, of nearly level walking, Signal Peak is reached.

From here the track, starts to descend slowly, past Point Sunshine, for another 1.5 Kms to Mackeys Peak on the left, which can be another optional side trip. From here good views are obtained over the township of Halls Gap. The track then descends steeply for 1 Km to Halls Gap to finish the walk.



Wonderland Circuit

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians N 18

Grade: Medium **Time:** 5 Hours **Distance:** 10Kms

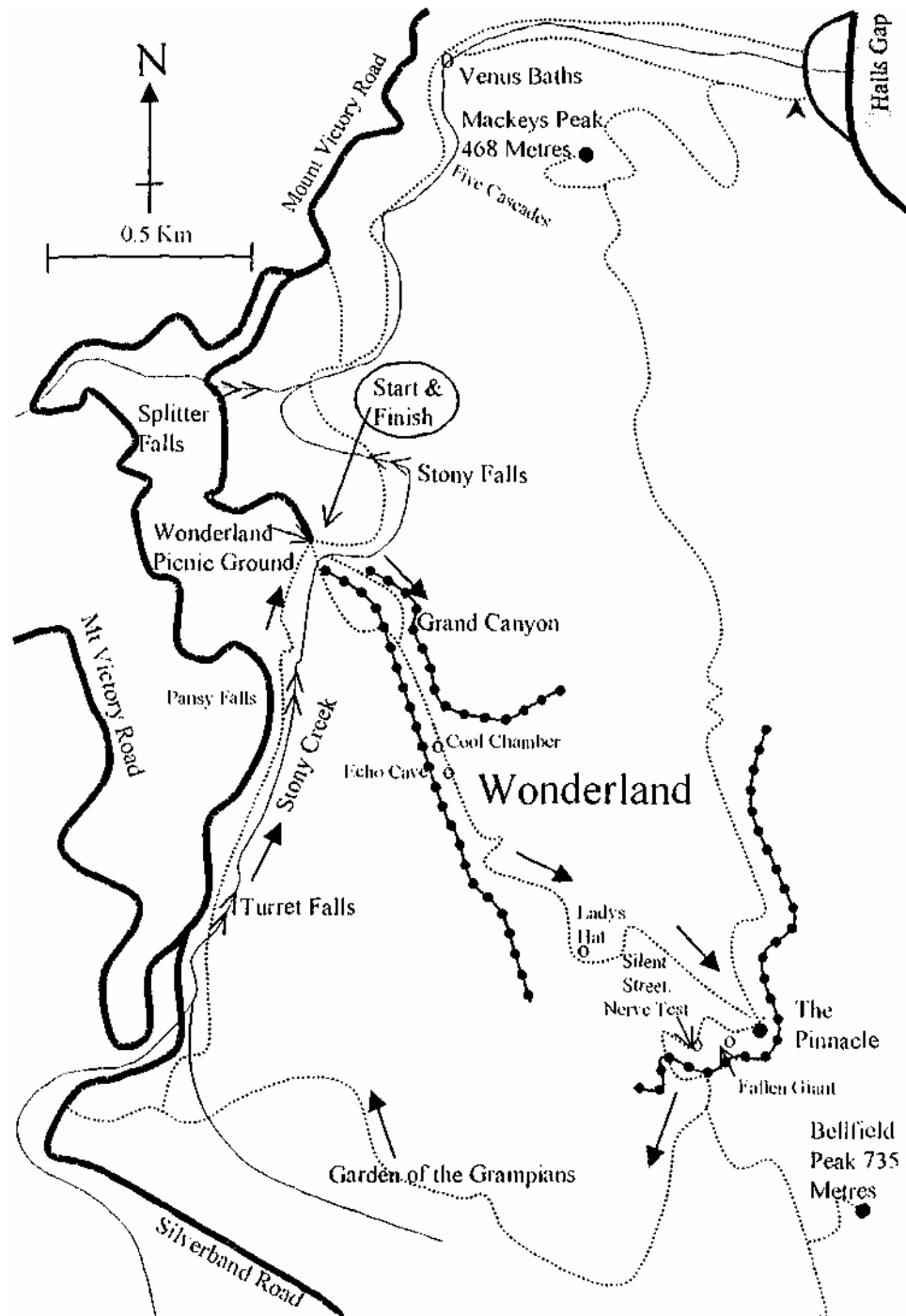
How to get there: From Halls Gap Caravan Park drive out along Mount Victory Road for about 2 kilometres and turn left to the Wonderland Picnic Ground.

The Walk:

Start walk from the Wonderland Picnic Ground in the direction of the Grand Canyon and the Pinnacle. This can be steep in places, travelling over large slabs of rock, however in most places handrails are provided. From the Grand Canyon work your way up via the Cool Chamber and Echo Cave passing lovely wildflowers and then up between two very large slabs of rock called Silent Street. (This can be slippery when wet, and handrails are provided at the steepest sections)

From the top of Silent Street you walk up and over the rocks towards The Pinnacle for a beautiful view overlooking Halls Gap and towards Boronia Peak. (A good spot for morning tea). This area is usually very busy, especially towards midday but the grandeur of this area makes up for the crowds.

Leaving The Pinnacle, head south walking past the Fallen Giant and Nerve Test through beautiful wild flowers until you come to a junction. Keep right and walk through the Garden of the Grampians woodland. At the next intersection, turn right to the rocky terraces above Turret Falls. Cross Stony Creek on a board walk, through masses of coral ferns. The undulating track winds through lovely forest and via Pansy Falls back to the Wonderland Picnic Ground



The Wonderland Walk

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians N 18

Grade: Medium **Time:** 5 Hours **Distance:** 10Kms

How to get there: The walk starts and finishes at the Halls Gap Caravan Park.

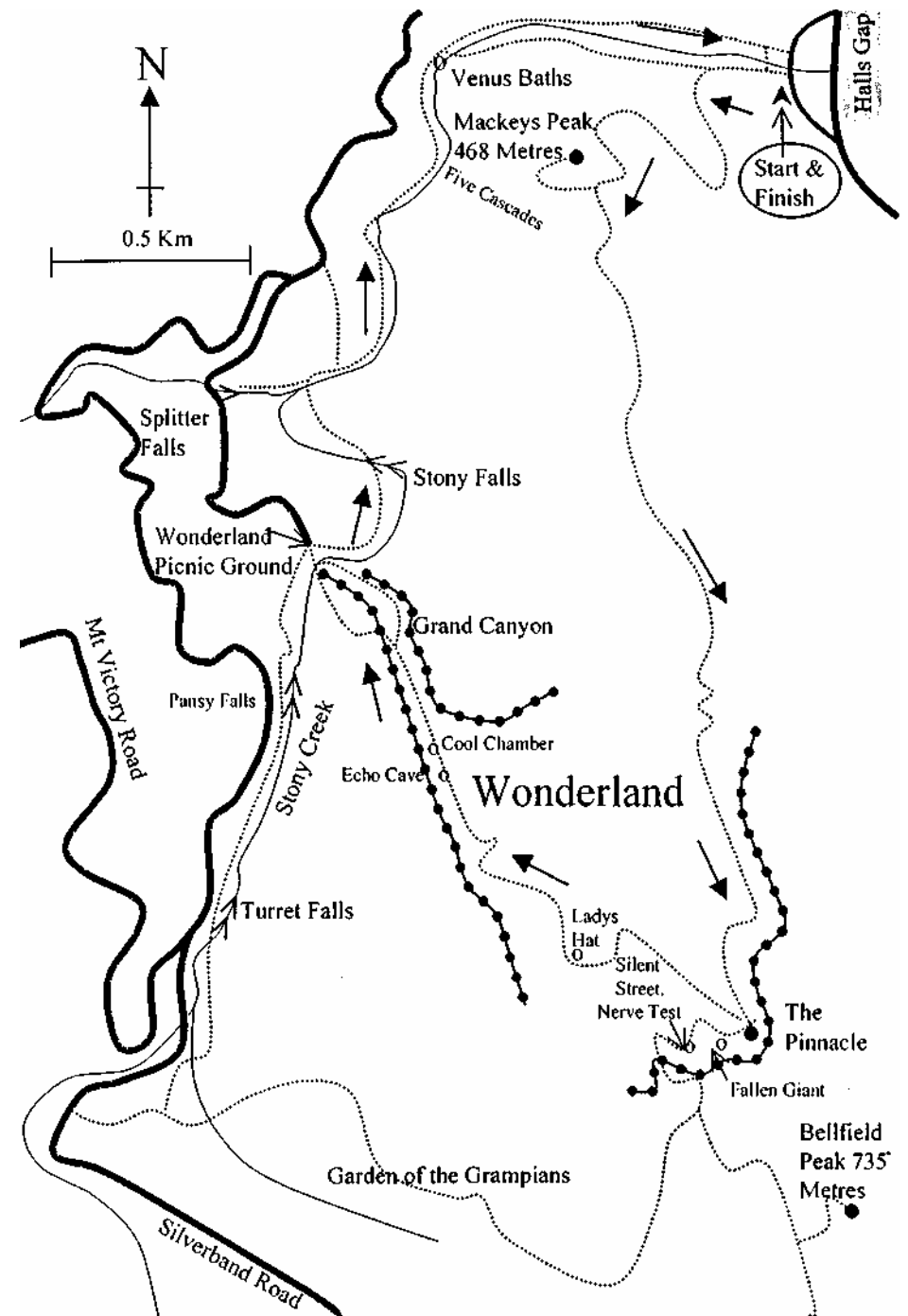
The Walk:

Beginning at the northern end of the Halls Gap Caravan Park, walk a short distance till you take the track to the left in the direction of Mackeys Peak and The Pinnacle. The track ascends through messmate forest until you reach the junction to Mackeys Peak. (As a detour this is an easy/medium rock scramble to the summit). Back at the junction, turn right to continue onto the steady uphill track to The Pinnacle, which offers plenty of opportunities for a rests and views. Upon reaching The Pinnacle, wonderful views overlooking Halls Gap, Lake Bellfield and Boronia Peak. (Maybe a good spot for lunch or a little further on near Silent Street).

From The Pinnacle, walk over the rock slabs to take the track to Wonderland Turntable that leads you through Silent Street, past Echo Cave and the Cool Chamber, then down through the Grand Canyon to the Turntable. Most of this section is walking over rock and is often slippery when wet. Some sections are steep and have handrails provided for easy access.

At the junction of the Wonderland Turntable Car Park, turn right towards the car park and down through the Guardian of the Canyon which has steel walkways and ladders climbing down through the large boulders and rocks. The track follows Stony Creek through the gorge and all the way back to Halls Gap Caravan Park. A side trip to Splitters Fall can be taken (best after rain). The track then continues through shady forest and over a rock outcrop with views of the Elephant Hide on the opposite side of the creek.

Continue following the creek past the Venus Baths where the track widens and meanders past the Botanic Garden and over the suspension bridge and back to camp.



Mount Difficult

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians K 10

Grade: Medium **Time:** 6 Hours **Distance:** 8.5 Kms

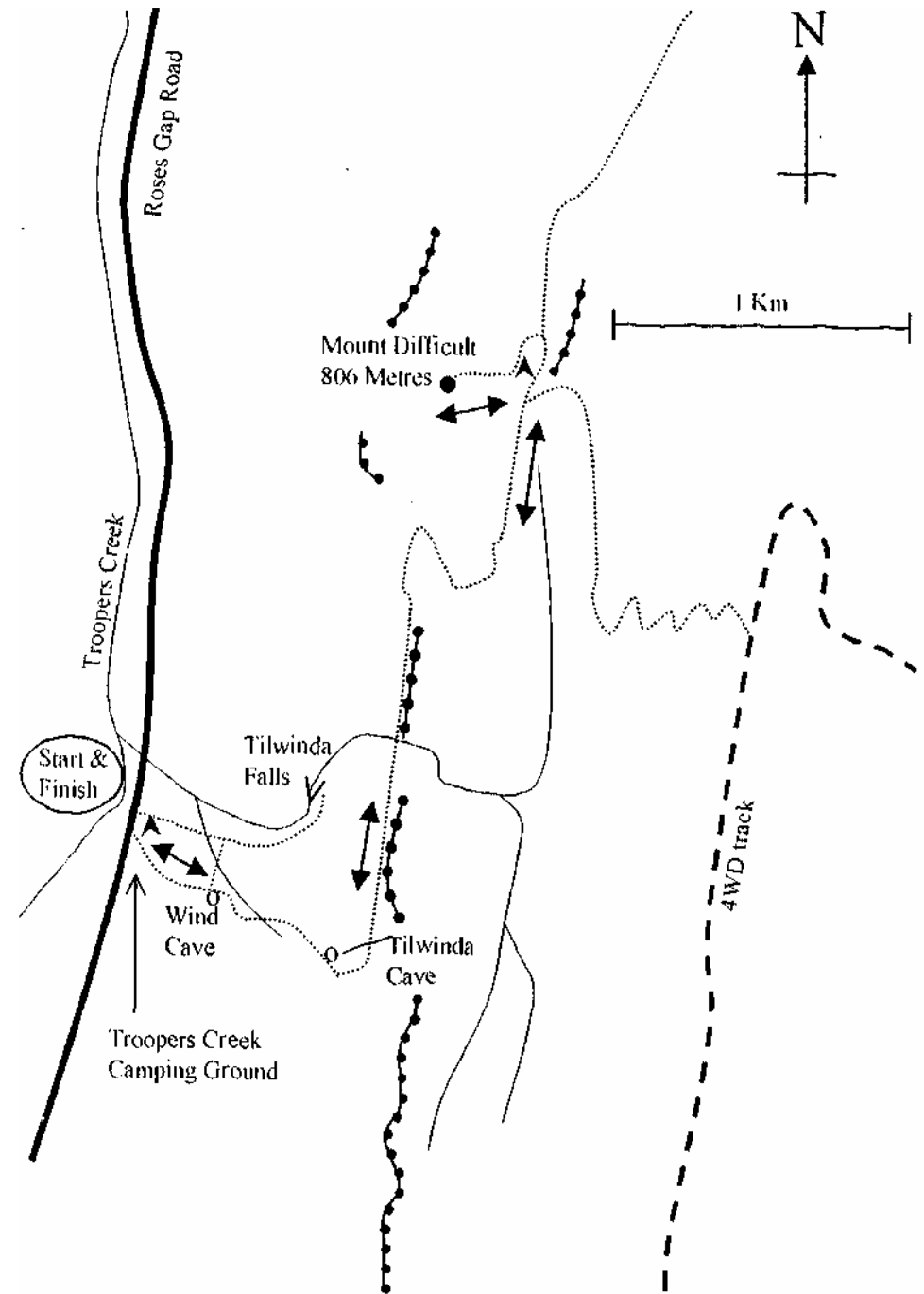
How to get there: Drive north from Halls Gap on to the Halls Gap Mount Zero Road, which starts just before the bridge over Fyans Creek. Drive on this unsealed road for about 20 Kilometres till you reach a T-intersection. Turn left and drive along the same road, past Roses Gap, for another 8 kilometres till you arrive at Troopers Creek Picnic Ground, where the walk starts. There is plenty of parking here.

The Walk:

From the Troopers Creek camping ground the start of the walk is well sign posted. Begin the walk along a flat section of track leading up to the Mount Difficult Range passing by the Wind Cave, a large eroded rock. The track leads steeply up the range for some time, finally reaching an escarpment, before heading off to the left and skirting some cliffs. This section of track along here involves some boulder hopping but it is a rewarding and most interesting walk, with opportunities for good views out to the west. Fresh water can usually be obtained from "Tilwinda" Creek as it flows over the track. The rock formations along here, eroded caves, boulders and gullies make for good exploring.

Eventually the track comes up onto the top of the Mount Difficult Range, through trees and scrub at first, leading on to a camping area. Proceed through the camping area for about 50 metres where a route, marked by a small rock cairn on your left, heads up to Mount Difficult, also known as Mount Gar. It is easy to walk straight past this point so be careful. The track is well defined as it ascends to the top. Once on top it is a pleasant place to stay for some time to appreciate the 360 degree views from the highest peak in this area, considered to be amongst the best views that you will get anywhere.

Return to the main track and return back down the same way towards Troopers Creek. Shortly after passing the Wind Cave there is a track on the right hand side. Take this track to the right to take a short cut across to Tilwinda Falls. Turn right at a T-intersection and walk up to Tilwinda Falls, exploring the area. It is possible to get to the top of the falls. Return, taking the track directly back to Troopers Creek camp ground.



Halls Gap Circuit

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians O 17

Grade: Medium/Hard

Time: 7.5 Hours **Distance:** 14Kms

How to get there: The walk starts and finishes from the Halls Gap Caravan Park.

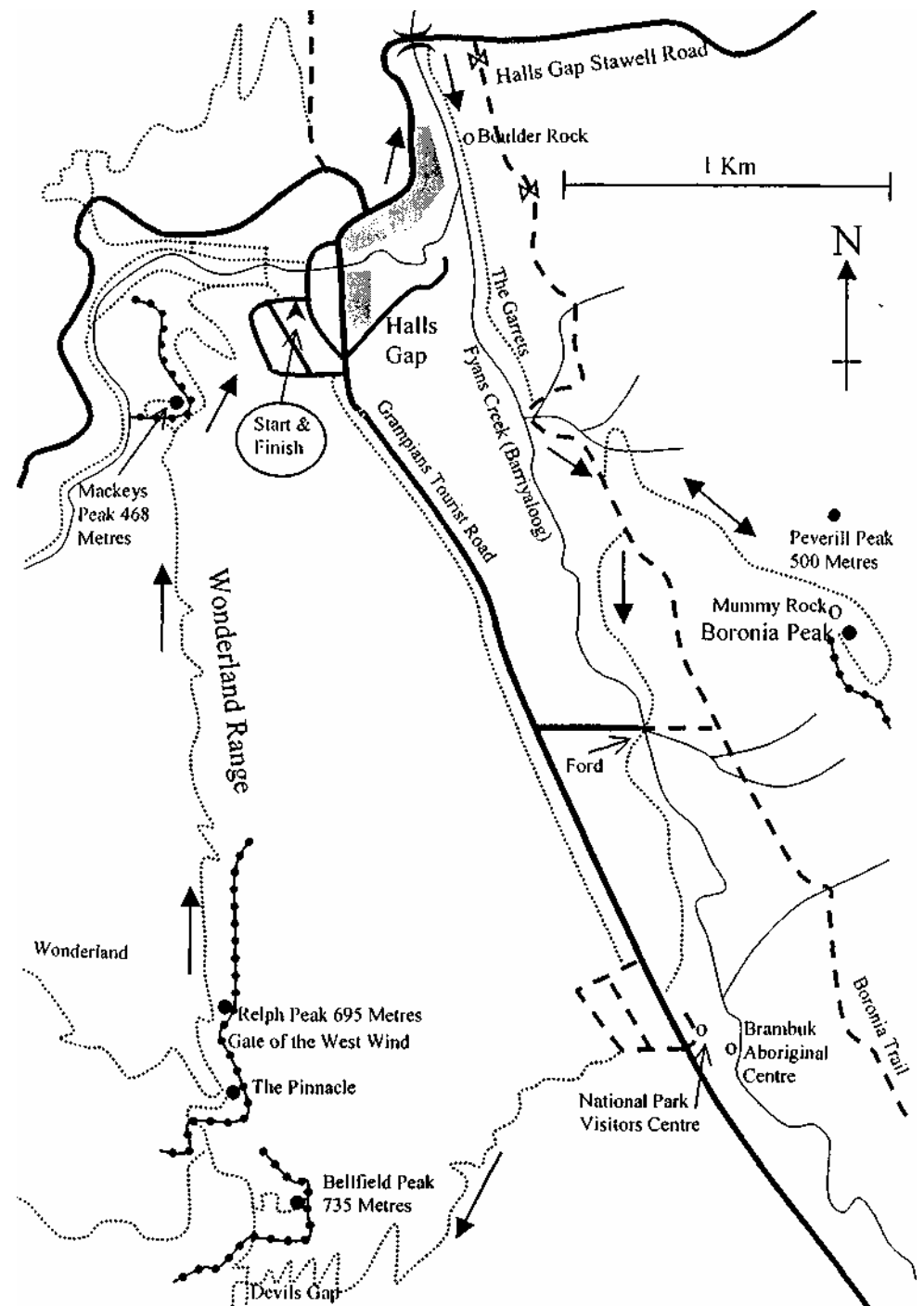
The Walk:

From Halls Gap camping ground walk north along Grampians Tourist Road, cross over the bridge (Fyans Creek), and on the right pick up the walking track along 'The Garrets'.

This is a pleasant flattish walking section following the creek in tall eucalypt forest. Walk along this track for about 20 - 30 mins until you reach the Boronia Peak Track on the left. Walking track up to the peak is approximately 2.5 kms and pleasant walking, with changing views of the valley with wildflowers and native pines on the side of the track. Near the top, the track opens out to a rocky sandstone outcrop. This is Boronia Peak, with spectacular views overlooking the Grampians National Park, Halls Gap and views out towards Stawell and Ararat.

After admiring the views, return back down the track to the Boronia Track Junction and continue left along the 4WD track for about 5 mins, until you meet up with a track on the right that crosses Fyans Creek and continues onto the National Park Visitors Centre and Brambuk Living Cultural Centre. This is a lovely spot for lunch in the gardens, (if time permits, a visit to both these centres is worthwhile).

From the Visitors Centre, cross the Grampians Tourist Road and walk up the Pinnacle Road, past Scotts Road. As the road turns to the right, opposite Rocky Glen cottage, take the start of the walking track which heads uphill towards Devils Gap. A good clear walking track with some short steep pitches but generally zig zags along the steep slope, approximately 2 hrs up hill climb to the Pinnacle. As you approach Devils Gap, many wildflowers appear along the side of the track including a variety of orchids. Take the track to the right as you come to the top of Devils Gap and continue on to the Pinnacle, with an optional side trip out to Bellfield Peak. Beautiful views from the Pinnacle looking across to Boronia Peak and Halls Gap. From The Pinnacle, follow the track off to the right heading in a northerly direction as it skirts the top of the range, before descending down past Mackeys Peak back down towards the Halls Gap Caravan Park, walking through tall eucalypt forests and a variety of colour from the many wildflowers.



Mount Abrupt

Map Reference: VICMAP Southern Grampians G 44

Grade: Medium/Hard

Time: 7.5 Hours **Distance:** 7 Kms

How to get there: Drive south from Halls Gap along the Grampians Tourist Road for about 51 kms, to the start of the Mount Abrupt walking track and leave one car here. Continue on for a further 3 kms to a small road on the right, leading to the Dunkeld Reservoir. This is just over a kilometer from the intersection with the Victoria Valley Road. Drive up this unsealed road for about 300 metres to the reservoir and park cars here to start walk.

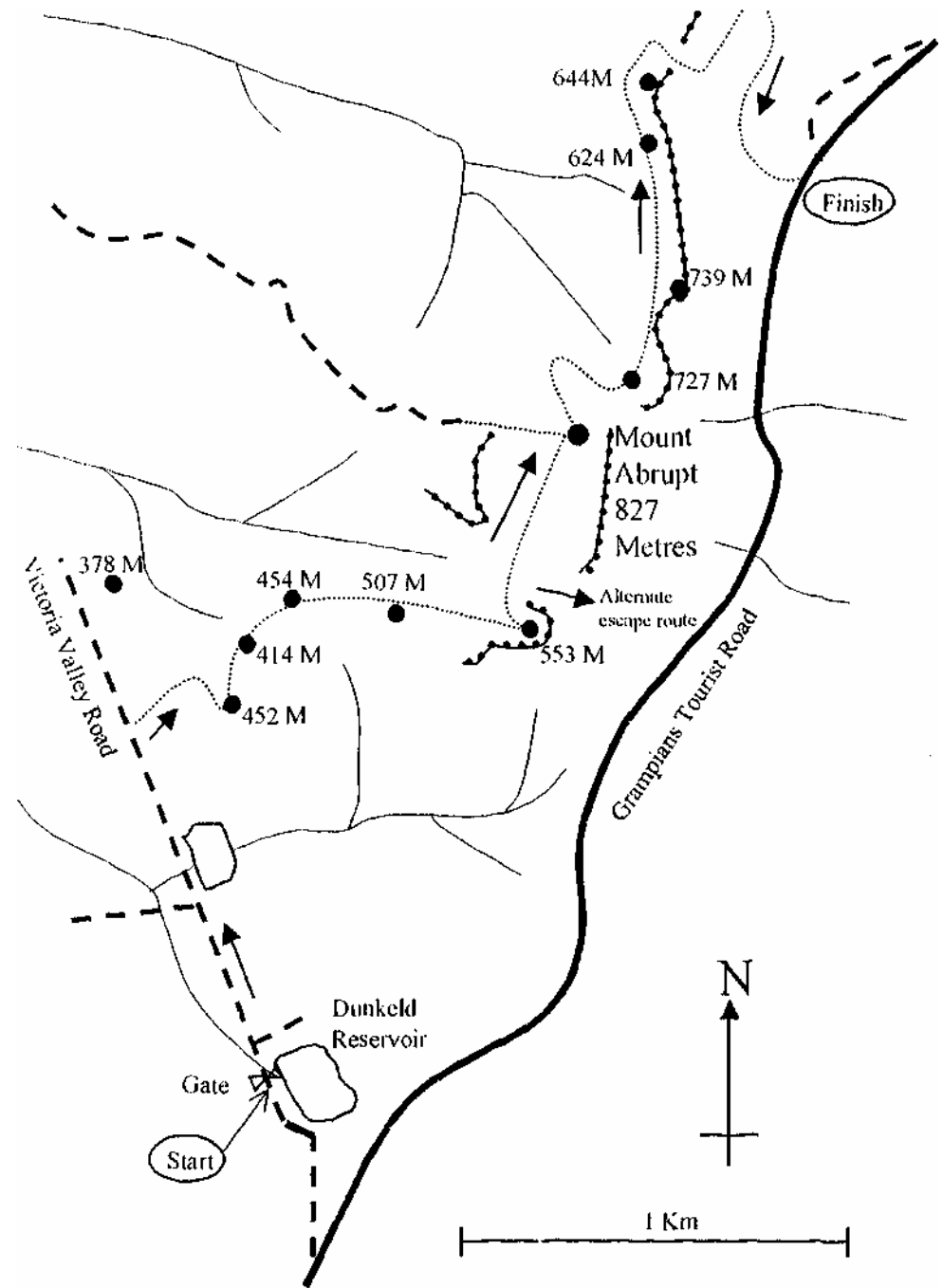
Note: The aim of this walk is not only to climb Mount Abrupt but also all the minor peaks along the way that are part of the Serra Range. This is more of an adventurous walk with some steep climbing and off track walking and it is highly suggested that walkers take gaiters, as well as full arm and leg coverage and perhaps even gloves. No doubt you should also be fit and agile.

The Walk:

The aim of this walk is not only to climb Mount Abrupt but also all the minor peaks along the way that are part of the Serra Range. This walk is more of a challenge.

At Dunkeld Reservoir follow vehicle track NNW to a white post on left after about approx. 2.0 kms from here go off track to your right (map and compass) to peaks numbers 452 / 414 / 454 / 507 & 553. Between 553 & Mt Abrupt there is an escape route down the escarpment to the Tourist Road. Otherwise follow through to Mt. Abrupt for the views.

From here pick up the walking track and head north via some more high points before descending down off the range to the road and car park to complete the walk.



Mount Difficult Range

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians K 10

Grade: Medium/Hard **Time:** 9 Hours **Distance:** 16Kms

How to get there: Drive north from Halls Gap on to the Halls Gap Mount Zero Road, which starts just before the bridge over Fyans Creek. Drive on this unsealed road for about 20 Kilometres till you reach a T-intersection. Turn left and drive about 500 metres till the start of the walk to Beehive Falls is located on the left hand side, just before Roses Gap. There is usually enough parking here, or nearby. Leave some cars here and continue along the same road for another 8 kilometres till you arrive at Troopers Creek picnic ground, where the walk starts.

The Walk:

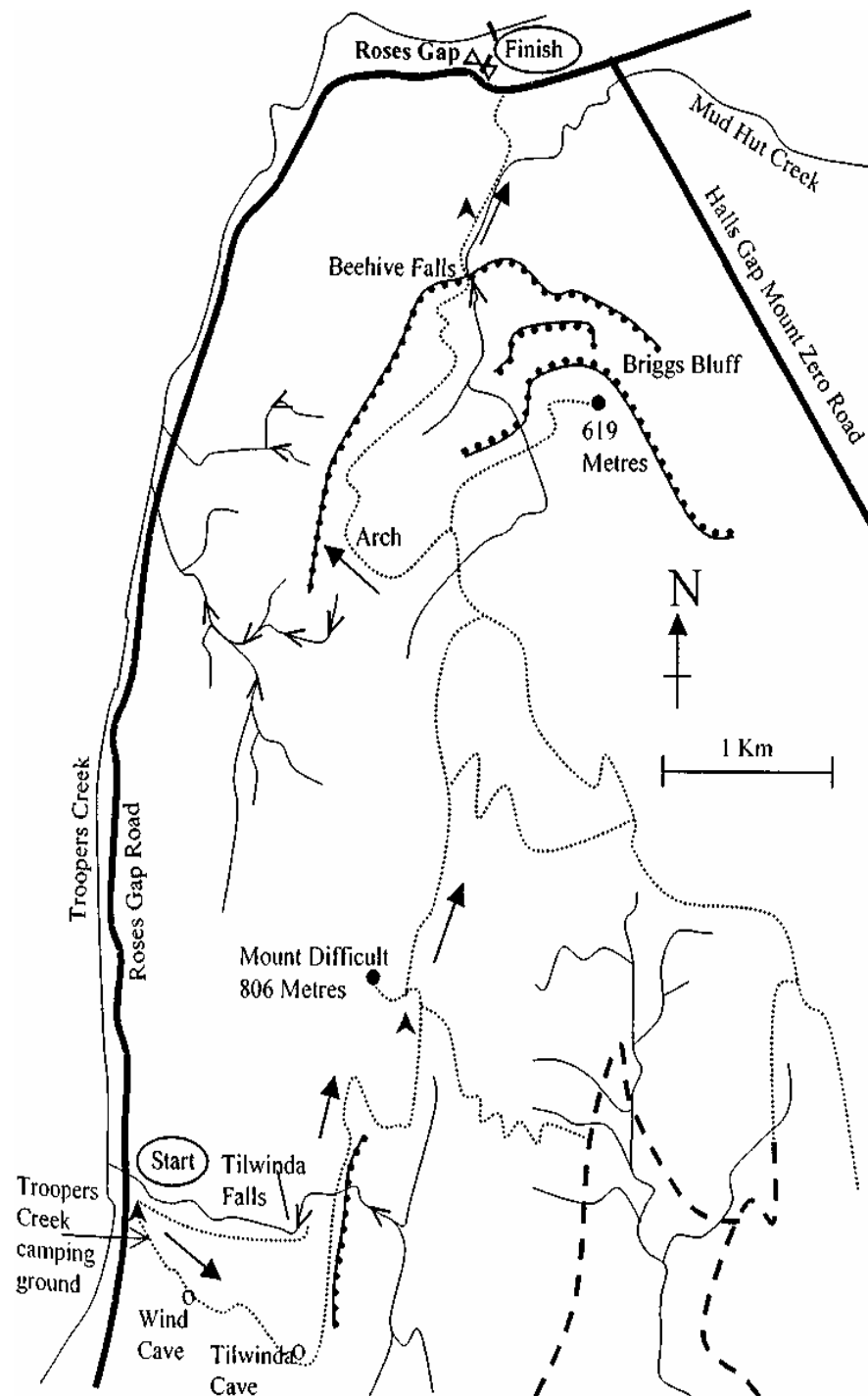
After dropping some cars off near Roses Gap, the walk starts from the Troopers Creek camping ground. The start of the walk is well sign posted. Begin the walk along a flat section of track leading up to the Mount Difficult Range passing by the Wind Cave, a large eroded rock. The track leads steeply up the range for some time, before heading off to the left and skirting some cliffs. This section of track along here involves some boulder hopping but it is a rewarding and most interesting walk. Fresh water can usually be obtained from "Tilwinda" Creek as it flows over the track.

Eventually the track comes up onto the top of the Mount Difficult Range, through trees and scrub at first, leading on to a camping area. Proceed through the camping area for about 50 metres where a route, marked by a small rock cairn on your left, heads up to Mount Difficult, also known as Mount Gar. This side trip is well worth while for the 360 degree views from the highest peak in this area.

Return to the main track and continue on along the trail heading north, this is now a lengthy section, partly through burnt out areas from the January 1999 bushfires, but the open nature of the terrain makes for great views all round. Eventually an intersection is reached, where you need to follow the main trail off to the left. Another intersection is encountered after 400 metres at which point you can do the optional side trip to Briggs Bluff, if you still have the enthusiasm and energy. Head out to Briggs Bluff for magnificent views over the plains to the north and west, before returning to the main track again.

From here continue along the main track, walking past, or through, a rock arch before beginning to descend to a lower plateau area, which continues along for some time and finally descends steeply to Beehive Falls. This is an ideal spot for a rest, a quiet and secluded locality after the more exposed Mount Difficult Range.

The last part of the walk is about 1.2 Kms along Mud Hut Creek, through open forest, back to the Roses Gap Road where some cars were left.



Mount Sturgeon

Map Reference: VICMAP Southern Grampians F 44

Grade: Medium/Hard **Time:** 6.5 Hours **Distance:** 8 Kms

How to get there: Drive south from Halls Gap along the Grampians Tourist Road for about 54 Kms to a small road on the right, leading to the Dunkeld Reservoir. This is just over a kilometre from the intersection with the Victoria Valley Road. Drive up this unsealed road part of the way to the reservoir to park the cars and start walk.

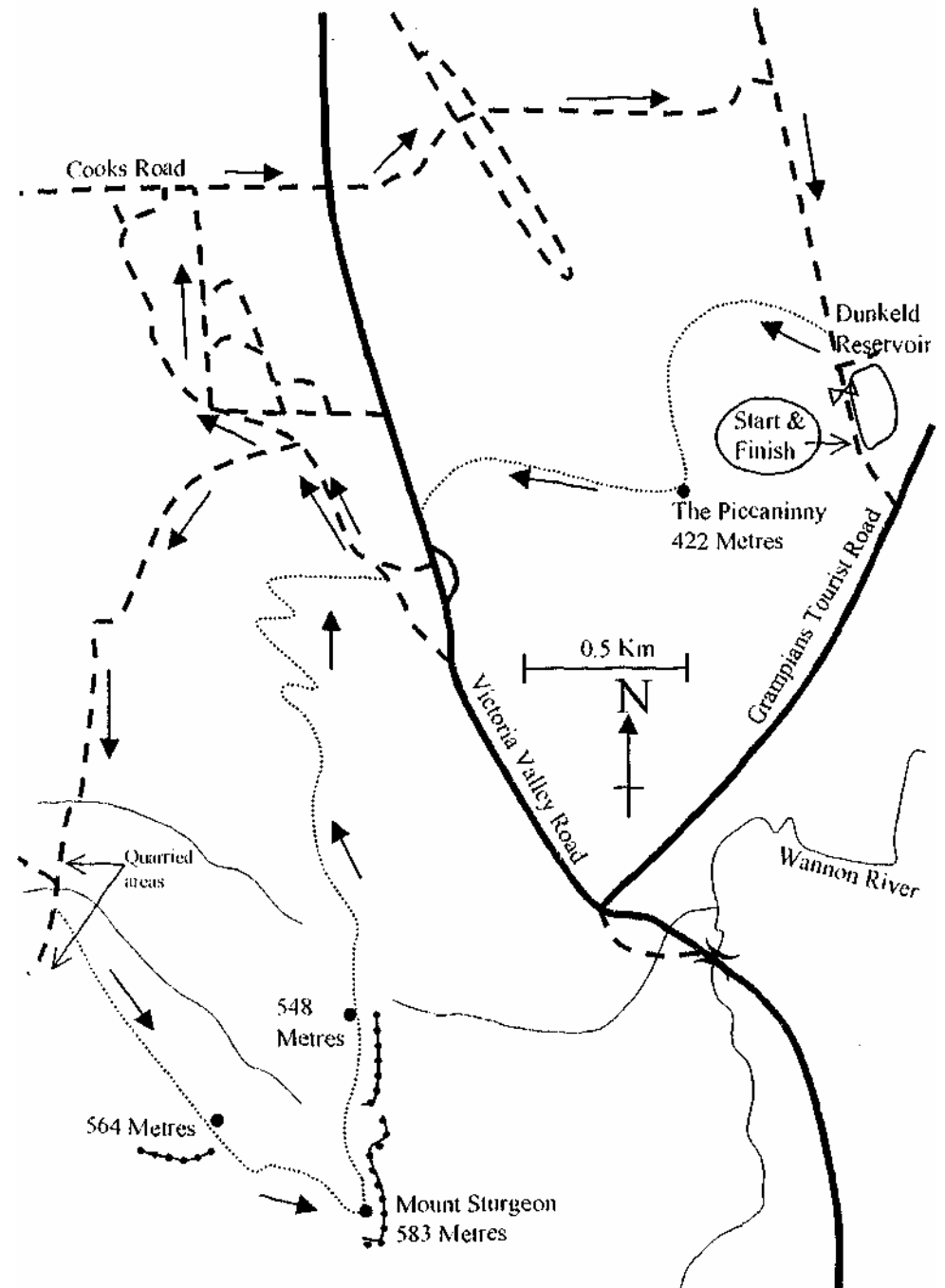
Note: There is some off track walking involved with this walk through light scrub. It is highly suggested that walkers take gaiters, as well as full arm and leg coverage and perhaps even gloves. No doubt you should also be fit and agile.

The Walk:

Begin the walk by walking up to the reservoir, then go off track in a westerly, then southerly ascent of the Piccaninny (map and compass). Once on top head west along the easiest descent and finally south west to hit the Victoria Valley Road. Turn left and pick up the vehicle track on the other side that heads in a north west direction. Follow this track for some 500 metres and keep turning left to follow the track that now goes in a south west direction. These tracks simply go around the base of Mount Sturgeon.

Walk along this vehicle track till you pass a quarried area and a track off to your right. Shortly after, take a bearing and begin walking up the side of Mount Sturgeon, steep at times till near the top, then proceed to point 564 metres. Continue around to the south east and point 583 metres and the top of Mount Sturgeon for views of the plains to the south. This is the most southerly point of the Grampians National Park. There is a historic stone wall built by the Chinese many years ago, when they were on their way to the Ballarat goldfields.

After a good rest, head in a north direction via point 548 metres on the map, picking up the walking track along the way and begin to descend off Mount Sturgeon, following the walking track all the way to the bottom. As the walking track ends at a vehicle track, turn left and follow this track that was walked previously, but this time pick up the track that heads to the north that will take you to Cooks Road. Turn right at Cooks Road and cross over the Victoria Valley Road, following the track on the other side, walking for about 1.5 kms, crossing two other tracks close together before arriving at a T-intersection. Turn right and walk back to the Dunkeld Reservoir to finish the walk.



Tunnel Track

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians R 22

Grade: Medium/Hard

Time: 7 Hours

Distance: 12 Kms

How to get there: Drive south from Halls Gap along the Grampians Tourist Road for about 11 kms till you come to Borough Huts on the left hand side and Redman Road. Turn left into Redman Road and drive past Borough Huts for another 4 kms till you reach the start of the Long Gully Track, directly opposite the Seven Dials Track. Two fords need to be crossed along Redman road and though a little rough, they are not too difficult, as long as there has not been too much rain. There is room for about 5 cars at the beginning of the walk.

About 2 kms after Borough Huts, before the fords, there is a display of the old water flume. Well worth seeing before the walk. Allow about 15 minutes.

The Walk:

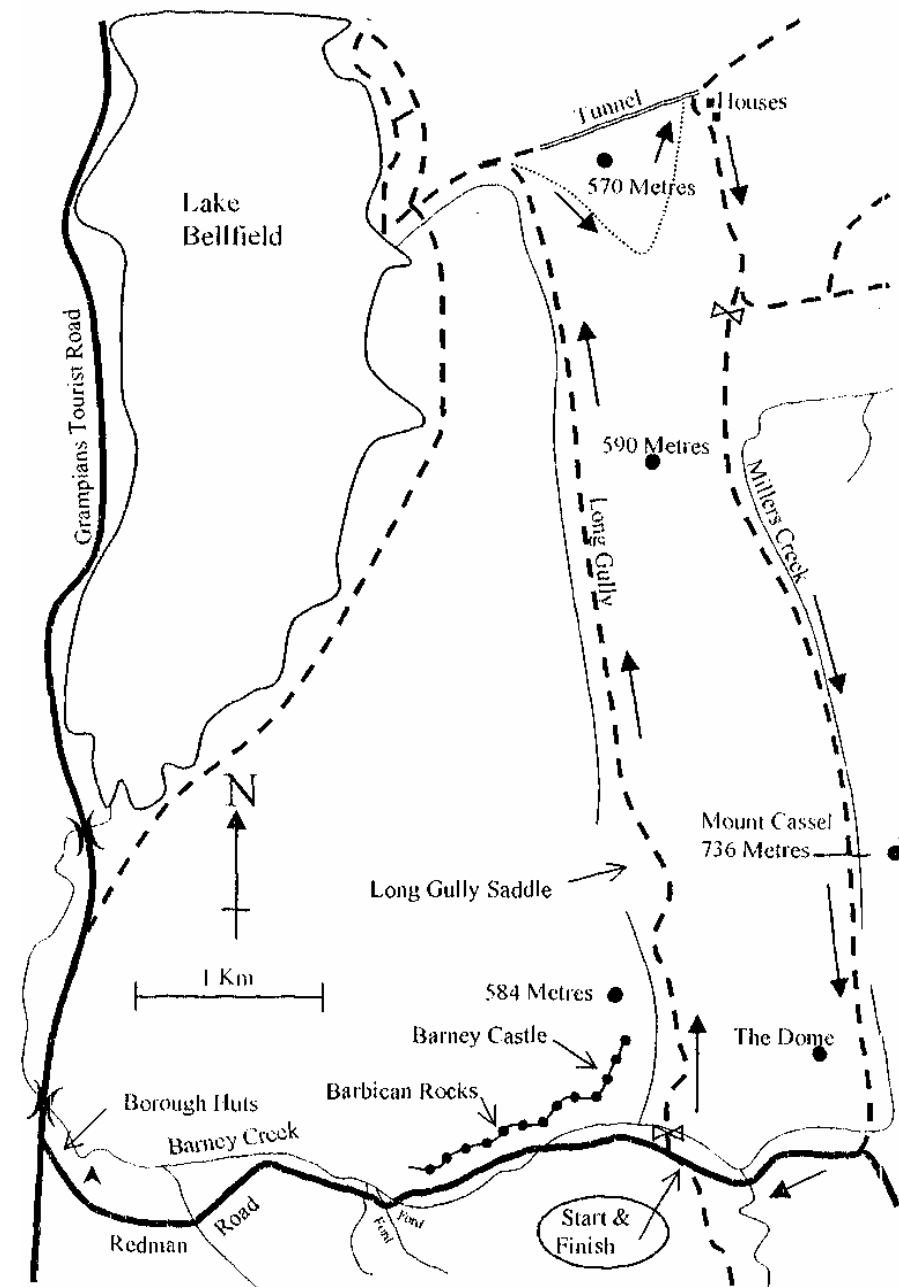
The Long Gully walk starts with a creek crossing, not far from Redman Road, followed by a gentle climb along an overgrown 4WD track. A view of a spectacular rocky outcrop, Barney's Castle, can be seen to the west. The track climbs to Long Gully Saddle along a creek bed, maybe a good spot for a morning tea break. After a pleasant descent following the narrow gully, the track passes a pipeline and rock foundations, which would have transported water to Stawell.

At the intersection with Bellfield Track (1.5 hrs), turn right and then after another 100 metres at a Y junction, take the left track climbing to the tunnel entrance (< 500m). From here take the Tunnel Track (2.4 kms, sign posted) up and over the ridge. Spectacular views of Lake Bellfield and the peaks of the Serra Range are gained along the ascent and descent, but the top is tree covered.

Continue down towards the township of Pomonal. There is a short detour to an interesting rock formation on the way down. At the end of this track there is an old hut and a signboard, with historical information regarding the engineering behind Stawell's water supply. At this point, care must be taken to pick up the correct track and not continue to Pomonal. Follow the road around and pick up the sandy track, just before the first lot of houses on the right side of the road. This leads to the 4 WD track. Follow the 4WD track uphill to a steep intersection, turn right through the National Park gates, then climb very steeply to a saddle.

From the saddle, quickly drop down and follow Millers Creek, ascending steeply again and passing the rocky outcrops of the ridgeline containing Mt Cassel. A side trip to Mount Cassel is well worth while if time permits. Rock cairns mark the start of the walking track through the scrub, up to the summit. Allow 1 hour for this return trip.

The track descends steeply, passing The Dome, which becomes more evident at the intersection with Redman Road. Good views of Barney's Castle can be seen while following Redman Road back to the cars.



Calectasia Falls

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians M 20

Grade: Medium/Hard **Time:** 5 Hours **Distance:** 8.5 Kms

How to get there: Drive south on the Grampians Tourist Road to the junction of Silverband Road, (~8Kms). Turn right and travel approximately 5 kms to the junction of Stony Creek Road, by the Rosea Camping Ground. Turn left and travel approximately 2 Kms to Rosea Track on your left. This track is a little rough so either park cars here or if you wish you can drive down the Rosea Track for about 1 km to the start of the walk, a walking track to The Bundaleer. There is minimal parking here.

Note: Since there is some off track walking involved it is advisable to take gaiters and wet weather gear, especially if it has rained in the previous few days as the bush can stay quite wet.

The Walk:

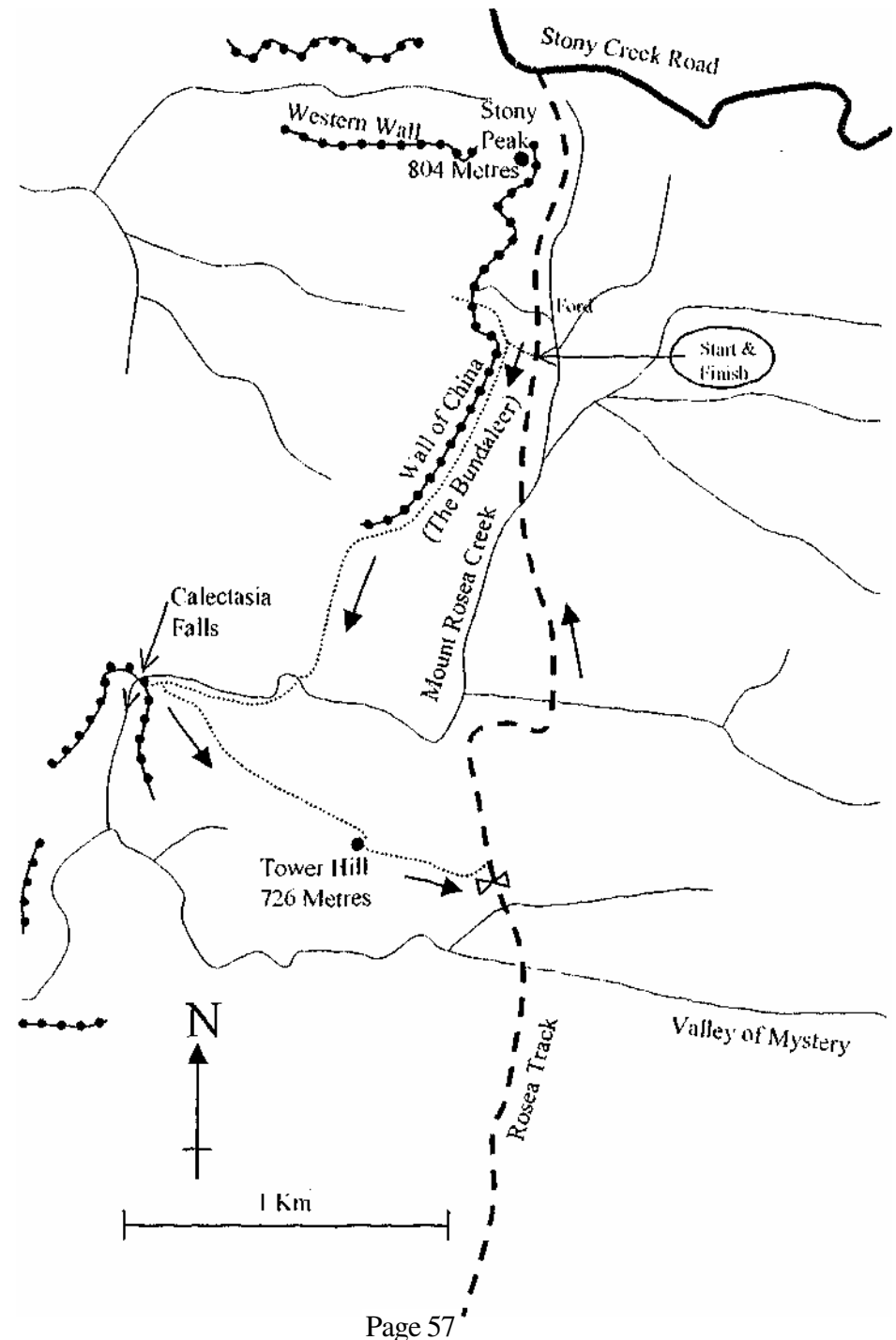
The walk commences by going up a short distance to the Bundaleer, a long rock formation with overhangs, shear rock faces and gullies. This is a fascinating area to explore. When you first near the top there is a track which heads off to the left, be careful to find the right one. Before heading off on this track you may wish to walk to the top for some views and exploration.

The track to the left leads you along the face of The Bundaleer, take your time to explore the area as you will find it quite interesting. Many rock climbers visit this area and so there are also many tracks in all directions. At the southern or south western end of the Bundaleer it may be worth while to again curve round to your right and ascend to the top, to admire the views again before descending further south.

From The Bundaleer take a bearing and head off track, SSW, to find the Mount Rosea Creek. This is less than 500 metres. Cross over the creek and head right, along a not so well defined track along the side of the creek, till you arrive at Calectasia Falls. This is a delightful spot, the views down the valley from here are superb and give a feeling of wilderness.

The amount of water flowing will decide on whether you can drop down to the base of the falls for a better view of the falls themselves. If there is too much water, then this may not be advisable.

From Calectasia Falls, pick up a walking track which heads up a spur to the south east and takes you directly up to Tower Hill. This point will give you a better view of the area, though unfortunately you cannot get to the top of Tower Hill. This is a good place for a rest before following the walking track east, down to the road. Turn left on the road and walk back about 2 kms to the cars at The Bundaleer car park, or a further 1 km to Stony Creek Road.



Glen Falls

Map Reference: VICMAP' Northern Grampians 0 21

Grade: Medium/Hard

Time: 6 Hours

Distance: 9 Kms

How to get there: Drive south from Halls Gap along the Grampians Tourist road for about 11 kms to Borough Huts, just past the end of Lake Bellfield. There is plenty of parking here. The walk starts from here, but if the creek is too high to cross then you can drive or walk back along the road for about 1 Km to the start of the Burma Track, and go in from there.

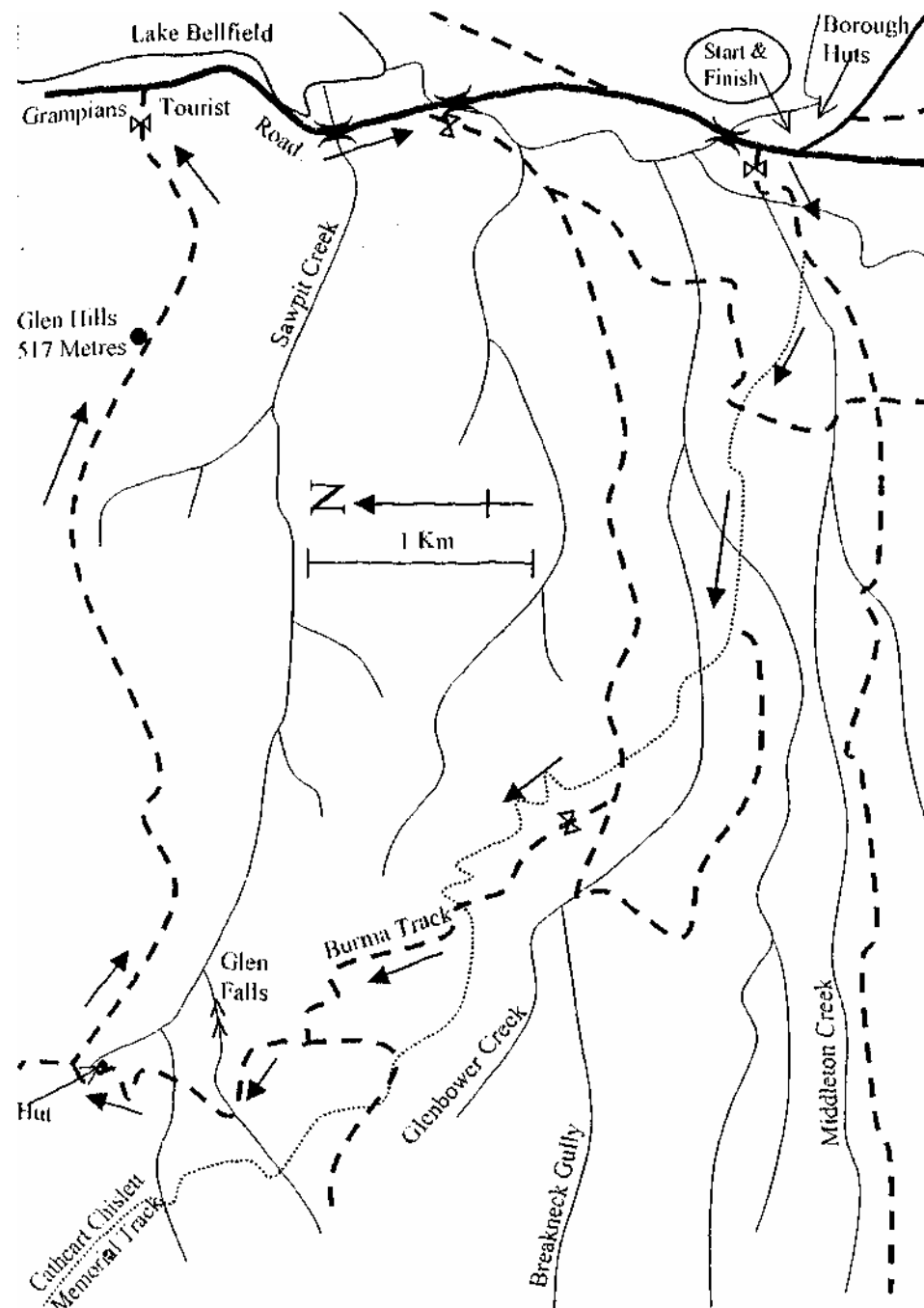
The Walk:

Commencing the walk from the Borough Huts, cross over the Grampians Tourist Road and pick up the 4WD track directly opposite. Cross over the creek and pick up the walking track on your right hand side within 100 metres and proceed along the walking track and gradually up to the Burma Track.

From here you can either follow the Burma Track, or cross it and continue along the walking track to pick up the Burma Track later. This section is a little steeper. If the creek at the beginning is too high then you can start the walk from the road and walk up the Burma Track. If the walking track is taken then you must return to the Burma Track as it nears the Falls.

After the last intersection of the walking track and the Burma Track you should walk about 300 metres further along the Burma Track before heading off to your right and scramble down a steep slope into the creek to see the top of the falls, then climb back up again.

From here a short walk brings us to a hut, which could make a great lunch stop. From the hut we make our way along the side of a steep slope, down the creek to the base of the falls and hopefully there will be water flowing over them. We then climb back and follow the Burma Track for a short distance, turning right to follow a four wheel drive track, over Glen Mills and a steep descent to the Grampians Tourist Road. From here, turn right, and make your way back to the cars.



Major Mitchell Plateau

Map Reference: VICMAP' Southern Grampians R 29

Grade: Medium/Hard **Time:** 8 Hours **Distance:** 15 Kms

How to get there: Drive south from Halls Gap along the Grampians Tourist Road for about 19 kms to an old vehicle track on the left, about 1 km past the Second Wannon Creek. Leave a car here for a car shuffle. Continue on for another 6 Kms to Jimmy Creek. Turn left just after Jimmy Creek and drive along the Jimmy Creek Road and the Yarram Park Road for 7 kms and turn right onto Mafeking Road. Shortly after, less than 1 km, turn left into Mafeking, now just a camping area. Ample parking here.

The Walk:

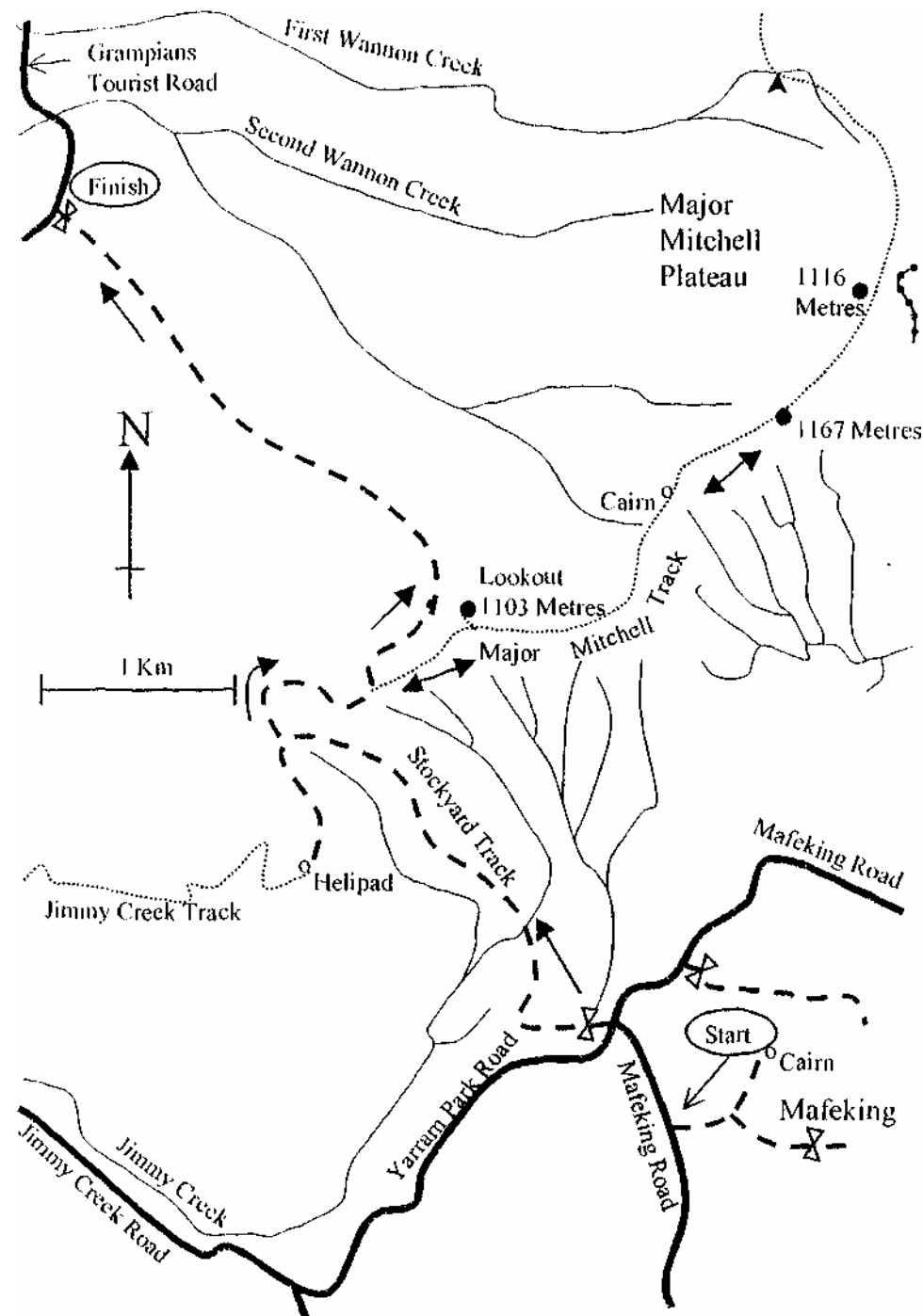
From Mafeking walk back to the intersection of the Yarram Park Road and the Mafeking Road and pick up the Stockyard track, heading in a north west direction from this intersection. Walk up this steep vehicle track, past the gate, for about 2.5 kms, till you pass the Jimmy Creek Track on your left. Continue on for another kilometre and a walking track will appear on your right. The vehicle track continues on down to the Grampians Tourist Road and is the track that you will take on your return journey, to pick up the car left there.

For now though, head up the walking track to your right and continue to gain altitude. This section is steep but short and as you get to the top of a ridge line, there is a lookout point, to stop and rest as well as appreciate the views.

Continue along this narrow, though heavily vegetated ridge line and finally ascend the last section to get to the top of the Major Mitchell Plateau. A rock cairn marks the spot to descend on the return journey. From here the choice is yours, to wander along as far as you wish or as time permits. The walking track skirts along the upper rim of the plateau, with plenty of vantage points to get views out to the east, as well as the constant views of the Grampians and the Serra Range out to the west. The variety of wildflowers up on the plateau are also surprising.

The walk now retraces the same route back down off the plateau, along the ridge line past the lookout and down to the vehicle track again. This time though turn right and walk down this track for some 4.5 kms to the car to finish the walk and do the car shuffle.

If you wish to avoid a car shuffle, then the walk can start and finish at Mafeking, retracing your steps up and down the same route.



Wonderland Range

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians O 17

Grade: Hard

Time: 8 Hours

Distance: 18Kms

How to get there: The walk starts and finishes at the Halls Gap Caravan Park.

The Walk:

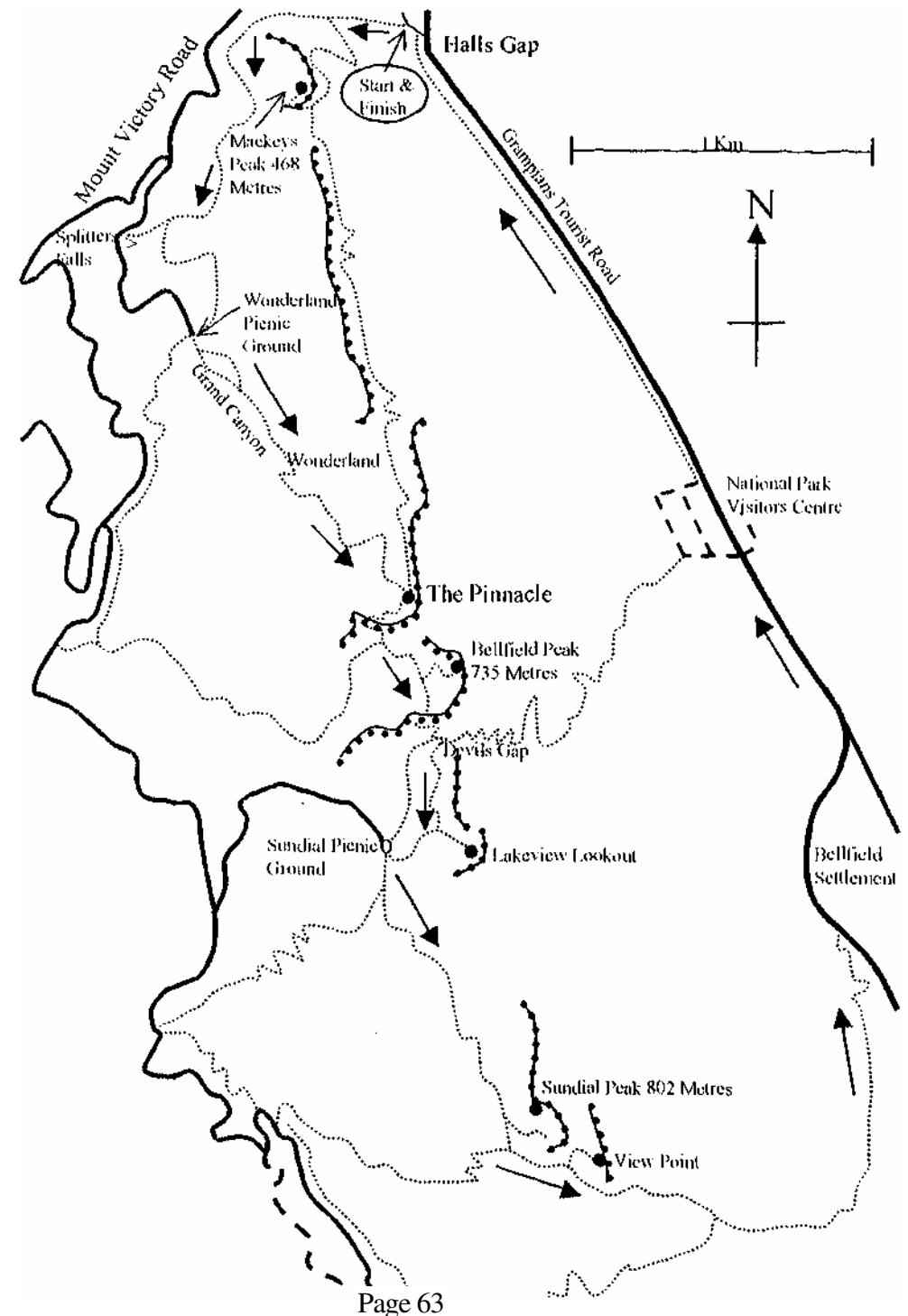
Begin by walking up towards Venus Baths and follow the walking track along Stony Creek. This is a pleasant walk up through a valley, gradually climbing in altitude. The track can be a little rocky in places and can be slow going at times. A side trip can be done to Splitter Falls, off to the right, before finally arriving at the Wonderland Picnic Ground and car park. From here the number of people on the track will increase as you are now on the main tourist track.

Take the track that leads up through the Grand Canyon to The Pinnacle. This is a superb walk and despite the possible large number of people on the track it is still an enjoyable walk to do. Continue up through the Grand Canyon, past the Cool Chamber and Echo Cave and on through Silent Street, till you finally arrive at The Pinnacle. There will nearly always be people around this point as the views are superb and the rock outcrop (fenced off for safety) is a spectacular viewing point.

After spending some time here, take the track to the south and leave most of the crowds behind, walking on to the Fallen Giant and then to the Nerve Test, named appropriately. The track now descends a short distance before another track heads off to the left, which will take you to Sundial Picnic Ground, with a side trip off to the right to Bellfield Peak. An intersection is encountered about 500 meters after the turn off to Bellfield Peak. Take the middle track to go via Lakeview Lookout. From here the track goes on to Sundial Picnic Ground.

As you approach the picnic ground, turn left, heading south. Ignore the track off to the right and continue on for nearly 2 kms. A short track off to the left will take you to Sundial Peak. Wander out for more great views, before returning to the track and continuing on, descending steeply to another T-intersection. Turn left, walk another 300 metres and take a small diversion off to the left to View Point, for the last great views of the valleys below.

After returning to the main track and turning left, begin the long descent down off the range and down to the valleys below. A track off to the right should be ignored and the ridge walk down to the valley will end on the Grampians Tourist Road. Then there is a regrettable walk along the main road for about 2kms to the National Parks Visitors Centre before finally another 2 km walk on the walking track, back into Halls Gap and the end of the walk. If you want to avoid the road walk a car shuffle could be arranged



Mount Stapylton

Map Reference: VICMAP Northern Grampians 13

Grade: Hard **Time:** 7 Hours **Distance:** 12Kms

How to get there: Drive north from Halls Gap along the Halls Gap Mount Zero Road and then along the Halls Gap Flat Rock Road till you reach the Mount Zero picnic ground. Park cars here.

Note: Some parts of this walk are on very rocky terrain or exposed ridges. Plenty of time is required as the pace will be slow going. All participants need to be very fit and agile as well as not afraid of heights. Water should be taken as there is none along the way. Some minor rock climbing is involved.

The Walk:

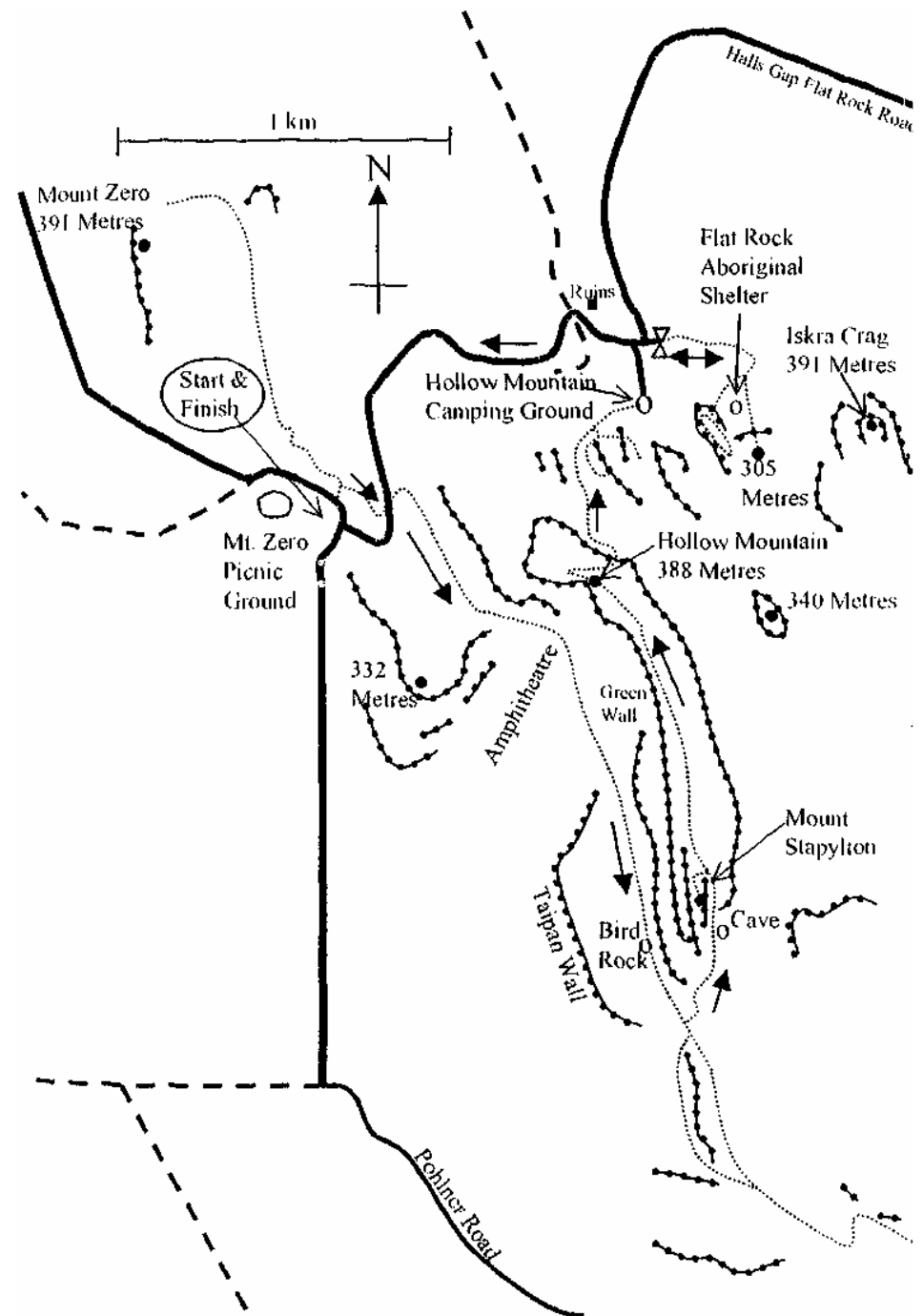
From the Mount Zero Picnic Ground take the track towards Flat Rock and proceed up this rock following painted arrows. Once on top of Flat Rock descend down the other side into a large amphitheatre surrounded by cliffs, popular with rock climbers. Continue in a south easterly direction along the base of Mount Stapylton and past Bird Rock till you reach a track junction. Turn left and begin ascending to Mount Stapylton, through a small saddle first and a gully before reaching a section where the track divides. Both tracks will get you to the top of Mount Stapylton, a personal choice for which is easier.

After doing the side trip to the top continue along the right hand pad. This section is extremely difficult for all but experienced walkers. Climb a sloping tree trunk out of the gully and continue along in a north westerly direction till you reach Hollow Mountain, staying as high as possible all the time. The ravines along the way present challenges, take care and work your way around them as best as possible.

Once at Hollow Mountain descend in a north easterly direction through some chambers, via a small hole in the ridge tops, possibly difficult to find. Once in the chamber you must work your way down a 3 meter slit to a flat ledge. From here, walk to the right and enter more chambers of the peak, working your way down through these till you come out onto the northerly side of Hollow Mountain.

From here, follow the walking track up towards Hollow Mountain Camping Ground, and to the main road before turning right to pick up the walking track towards the Flat Rock Aboriginal Shelter to explore this area at leisure.

Finally, return to the main road and either follow the road back to the Mount Zero Picnic Ground, or walk down the walking track again, south till just before Hollow Mountain and choose a route west, back to the road and back to the cars to finish the walk.



Mount William

Map Reference: VICMAP Southern Grampians R 26

Grade: Hard

Time: 10 Hours **Distance:** 17Kms

HOW to get there: Drive south from Halls Gap along the Grampians Tourist Road for about 25 Kms to Jimmy Creek. There is a small area to park cars just south of the Jimmy Creek Walking Track. Leave some cars here and return to the Mount William Road, driving up to the Mount William Car Park. Ample parking early in the day.

Note: The weather on Moun William can be quite harsh, snow is not uncommon. Appropriate warm clothing and wet weather gear should be taken or, if in doubt, come back when the weather is fine. Alternatively, in hot weather, take plenty of water as there is limited water along the way. The track can be rocky as well as wet, good sturdy walking boots are highly recommended.

The Walk:

After completing a car shuffle the walk will begin at the car park, just before the top of Mount William. Proceed past the gate and up the bitumen road for the last 1.5 kilometres to the top of the mountain. Despite the transmission towers, the views from Mount William, the highest mountain in The Grampians, are truly spectacular, looking east over the plains and west across the top of the Serra Range into the heart of The Grampians.

From here, walk south to pick up a 4WD track which heads along the ridge of the Mount William range for about 2 Kms, until the 4WD track ends and a walking track descends steeply down into Boundary Gap. Avoid a track which heads off to the east at this point and leads down to Kalymna Falls. The main track heads off up the other side of the saddle and onto the Major Mitchell Plateau. This section of track is quite steep and slow going, involving some not difficult rock climbing, but is a good excuse to rest on some of the larger rock slabs to admire the views.

Once on the Major Mitchell Plateau the walking pace picks up again and it is not long before a camp site is reached beside a small creek, with good reliable drinking water, perhaps a good spot for lunch. From here, the track follows the eastern rim of the plateau, with opportunities to get more good views out to the east along the way, admiring the numerous wildflowers that grow at this altitude, often very different from those found down in the valleys. A cairn marks the spot where the track descends off the plateau and leads to a narrow forested ridgeline, ending at a lookout point. The track now descends, steeply at first, down into open forest, arriving at a 4WD road after 0.5 Kms at which point you turn left, continue down this road for about 1 km before coming across a signed walking track on the right hand side of the road, which will take you down to Jimmy Creek Picnic Ground. It is now just a case of following the walking track down for quite some time till you arrive back onto the Grampians Tourist Road, about 500 metres north of Jimmy Creek.

