

SUMMIT LOOP WALKING TRACK 5km walk



From the south side of the [Car Park](#) the track rises steeply for 200m before levelling to a gentle incline to the summit. Initially it is a wide gravel track, but beyond the summit it becomes a very pleasant narrow walking trail.

Although predominately Snow Gum woodland, Alpine Ash (also called Woollybutts) and Mountain Hickory Wattle seedlings are also abundant.

All were severely impacted by the 2009 fires but strong signs of recovery are now clearly visible.

[Identify the regrowth](#)

You can distinguish between the two eucalypts and the wattle by their trunks, their regrowth forms and also their leaves.

[Snow Gums](#) are mostly multi trunked and are now showing basal regrowth at the base of these trunks, These trees also regenerate by casting seed and small seedlings can also be seen in amongst the now abundant

grasses.

[Alpine Ash](#) are single trunked, large eucalypts with a classic tree shape. There is no regrowth apparent on any of these trunks as they are killed by fire and their only method of regrowth is via seed cast during the fire. Look carefully and you will find these seedlings, and then see if you can locate the parent tree the seed came from. One theory is that the tree will cast seed as far as 2 or 3 times its height.

[Mountain Hickory Wattle](#), these seedlings have appeared in abundance since the fires, they fulfil a very important role as a legume, attaching nitrogen in the soil. Their current domination will not last as other vegetation becomes re-established.

The easiest way to distinguish these 3 different seedlings is to look at their leaf veins.



Alpine Ash or Woollybutt
Hickory Wattle

Veins from the centre to edge
off centre, closer to

Snowgum

Veins running lengthwise

Mountain

Main vein
one edge

Some other plants you will see along the way:



Soft Crane's Bill *Geranium potentilloides*
Derwentia derwentiana



Prickly Starwort *Stellaria pungens*



Derwent Speedwell

As the grade of the track starts to ease, you'll see a large wombat hole on your right. These animals fared better than most during the fires as they could use their network of tunnels to 'go to ground', although they were very hungry for the first winter.



Look out for Flame Robins along the way. While many bird populations suffered during the fires, the Flame Robin appears to be an exception; they can quickly colonised burnt areas, foraging for insects in open areas where ground cover plants have been burnt.

This yellow flower is not a weed, regarded as one. It can be since the fires and is known as a opportunistic after a fire, it will abundant as it gets more



even though it is often found all around the area fireweed in that it is very no doubt be less competition.



linearifolius

Fireweed Groundsel *Senecio*

As you approach the summit the regrowth on the ‘rock garden’ area is varied and abundant, some of the common plants are mint bush, alpine shaggy pea and creeping fan flower. Spring 2011 should see even more wildflowers here than last year.

Trigger plant *Stylidium graminifolium*



Alpine Mint Bush *Prostanthera Cuneata* Alpine shaggy-pea *Podolobium alpestre* Creeping Fan flower
Scaevola hookeria

As the track approaches the summit there is a signposted detour to the Marysville Lookout, a 300m walk will take you to a view of Marysville and even Melbourne on a clear day. Retrace your steps back to the main track and continue to the summit.



The trig point marks the actual [Summit](#) at a height of 1432m. This is a reminder of early survey work in Victoria. Stand at the trig point and look eastwards towards [Alps Lookout](#) and you will see a swathe cut through the bush. This was done in the 1970's to clear a line of sight from the Lake Mountain summit to Matlock as part of the Victorian Geodetic Survey. The development of the GPS has now made these techniques obsolete.

The summit is also the site of the tower for the area Emergency Services Communication Network as well the Resort communications.



From the [Summit](#) take the track signposted to [Alps Lookout](#). The track now becomes a pleasant stroll through Snow gum woodland and rock outcrops.

The [Alps Lookout](#) offers a wonderful view of the Victorian Alps on a clear day and also a view of Jubilee Ridge where a small section of the resort escaped the fire. This is the location of the few Leadbeaters Possums known to have survived the fires. Parks Victoria have undertaken a supplementary feeding program over the last two winters for these few survivors, to improve their long term chances of survival.

As you continue along the track you will see an abundance of seedlings of the long leafed wax flower , this is a beautiful flowering shrub and hopefully these may be large enough to flower next spring.

Further along seedlings of the rough coprosma can also be seen

Then as you approach a small alpine bog you will see regrowth of Alpine Pepper, this does not appear to have seeded at all, but has regrown on the remnant burnt plant.



Long leaf Wax flower *Philothea myoporoides*
Pepper *Tasmannia Xerophila*

Rough Coprosma Coprosma hirtella

Alpine

You will soon see the sign to [Sherlocks Lookout](#), a 150m deviation from the track will take you to a great rest spot with a picnic table and views towards Melbourne. Retrace your steps back to the track and follow the signs to [Taggerty Lookout](#), another great rocky outcrop to stop for a drink or lunch.

Taggerty Lookout offers great views of Marysville and the Melbourne CBD on a clear day.

From here the track meanders across the plateau and back up to the [Summit](#), from there retrace your steps back to the car park.

[Remember from Sherlocks Lookout back to the Summit you are on shared path so keep a lookout for cyclists.](#)

From [Sherlocks Lookout](#) it is also possible to continue on down to the Snowy Hill Car Park along the alternative route if you

mountain bike trail. This is an alternative route if you can arrange a car shuttle back to the Resort



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Displays of regrowth photos have been exhibited in the main foyer, drop in and have a look or head to the bistro for a coffee.

