

Dinner Plain Track Notes



Dinner Plain

Pure High Country

Carmichael Falls Walk



2km return (1.5hrs) Grade 3 Walking Track

Heading off from the Dinner Plain 4WD Track on the southern border of Dinner Plain village, this clearly marked trail, within the Alpine National Park, descends through Snow Gum forest to a viewing platform overlooking the picturesque Carmichael Falls.

Dropping 25 metres over basalt cliffs, the falls are in the headwaters of Precipice Creek and the Dargo River, among the many waterways feeding the major catchments arising at the Dinner Plain plateau. The actual falls are in fact two falls side by side at the confluence of the Precipice and Dinner Plain Creeks which rise in the alpine bogs of the Dinner Plain Village.



Sir Thomas Gibson Carmichael. Image courtesy State Library of Victoria.

History

The falls were named for the Governor of Victoria Sir Thomas Gibson Carmichael who visited the then unnamed falls in 1911 and was reportedly so struck with their beauty, his guide, Charles Rundell, sought official permission to name them in his honour.

Flora & Fauna

Snowbound in winter, the track down to the falls is often wet underfoot making it a perfect warm season walk when wildflowers such as the Pale Vanilla Lily – *Arthropodium milleflorum* - and Grass-Trigger – *Stylidium graminifolium* - plants are in bloom.

Look out for evidence of the local Common Brown Wombat – *Vombatus ursinus* - their unmistakable square-shaped scats are left as calling cards on mounds and rises and can be seen along the trail.

Dinner Plain Village



Lyrebird - Image courtesy Parks Victoria . Photo, Christian Pearson

Visitors may also be lucky enough to hear or even encounter Lyrebirds near the falls area. The Superb Lyrebird - *Menura novaehollandiae* - is native to Australia. A large ground-dwelling species in the moist forests of south eastern Australia, the Lyrebird is renowned for its outstanding abilities as a mimic, able to imitate other birds, animals and even man-made sounds like chainsaws and tractors. Adult male lyrebirds display an ornate tail, with special curved feathers that take the shape of a lyre.



Image courtesy Sue Coultie

Be Prepared

The best months for walking in the alpine environment are from November through to April, however, weather conditions can change rapidly, and snowfalls and blizzards can occur at any time of the year. (*The Bushwalking Season is from the November Melbourne Cup Weekend to mid May.*)

Be prepared with:

- Wind and waterproof jackets
- Warm clothing – hat, gloves, sunglasses, and strong footwear
- Food and water
- First aid kit and sunscreen
- Map and compass
- Check the weather forecast before departing
- Let someone know where you are going
- Mobile phone (reception in some areas)

Caution

Bushfires have damaged snowgums, which are now regenerating but dead branches are shedding with the new growth. High wind days may result in falling limbs and branches. It is not recommended to use the track on windy days. Please be aware that snakes are active during warmer months.



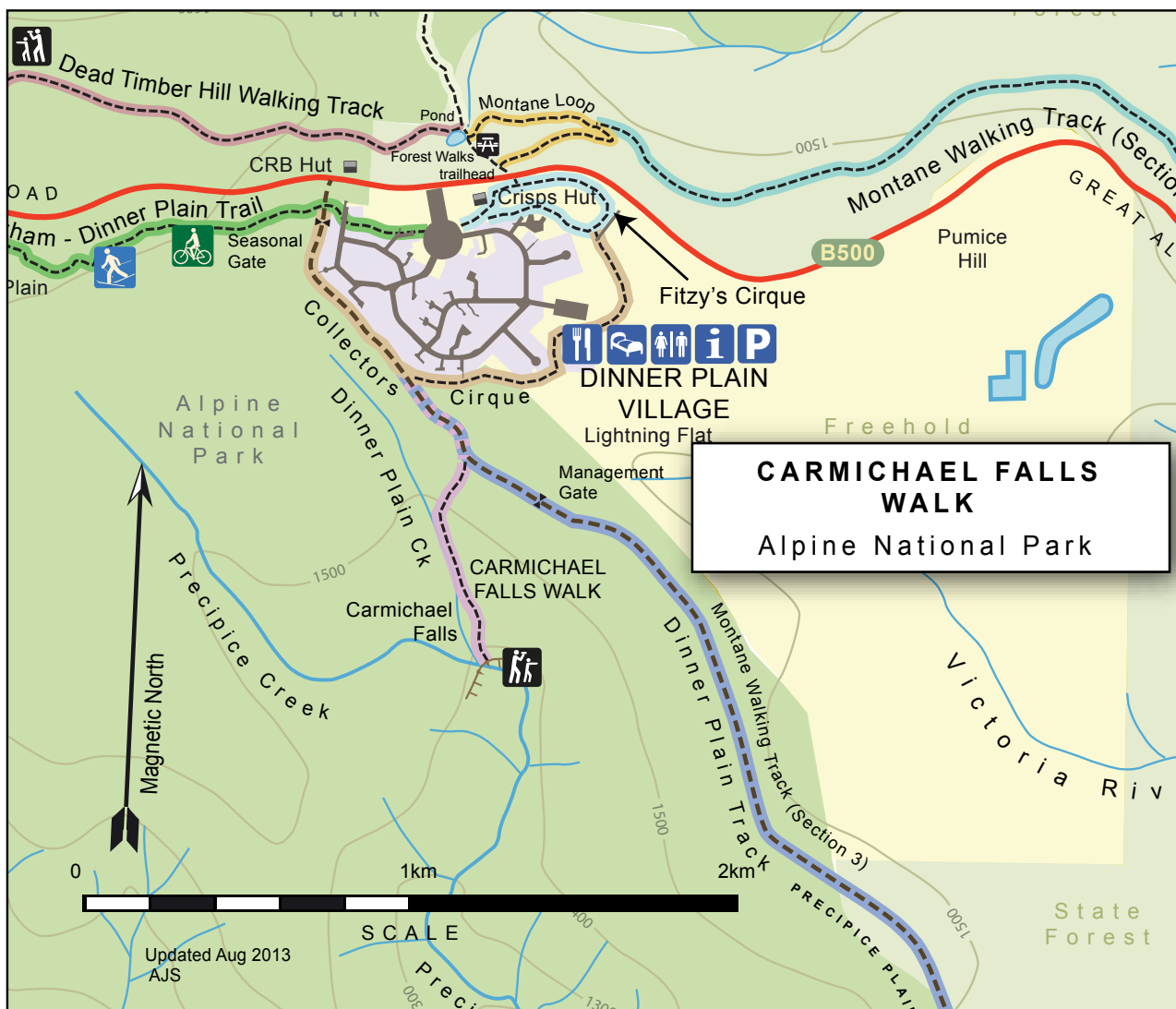
Carmichael falls Walk

Grade of Walk:	Grade 3, as per <i>The Australian Walking Track Grading System</i>
Distance:	2km return
Time:	1.5 hours
Gradient:	Some gradual steep sections
Quality of Path:	Mostly formed track, with some obstacles
Steps:	Occasional steps
Experience required:	Some bushwalking experience recommended

For more information on Dinner Plains Tracks & Trails, visit www.visitdinnerplain.com.au.



Alpine Shire



Dinner Plain Village - Alpine Shire