

Experience

a fascinating journey

The Heart of Gippsland

14 - HISTORIC TREE STUMPS

Mountain Ash stumps from trees 80 metres high. Trees like this were typical of forests cleared for settlement in the early 1900s.

15 - DRYSDALE'S MORNINGSIDE

The first 'Morningside' burnt down after a prosperous year. One of the sons, James was a builder and he came home and built the second 'Morningside' which was a larger house with five bedrooms.

16 - MOUNT TASSIE

At 750 metres, this is the highest point in the Strzelecki Ranges. The name is said to be derived from the fact that in clear conditions Strzelecki Peak on Flinders Island, Tasmania can be seen from it.

17 - MRS HEALEY'S HOME

Jim Healey's family selected this land and his wife Kara, was Victoria's first female ranger. She was caretaker at Tarra Valley from 1951 - 1963. She identified many plants and fungi and had one named after her.

18 - TARRA VALLEY HALL

The hall and school operated here in the early decades of the 20th Century.

19 - MILES PROPERTIES

The Miles family selected properties in this area. Early photos show the large amounts of fallen trees.

20 - PATTINSON'S SAWMILL

The Pattinson family operated a sawmill here in the early 1950s.

21 - VALLEY VIEW

This community and first school was called Upper Tarra Valley. A Post Office and dance hall operated here for a while. The local hall was moved to Devon North.

This interpretive signage project, which included the publication of "Triumph Over The Heartbreak Hills" by Rhonda Shingles with the assistance of Federation funding was achieved by the Balook & District Residents Association in conjunction with the Wellington Shire.

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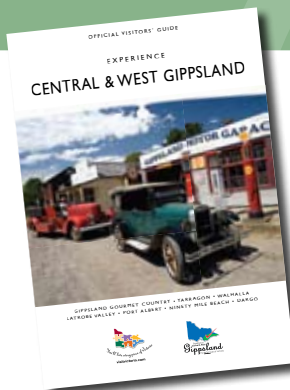
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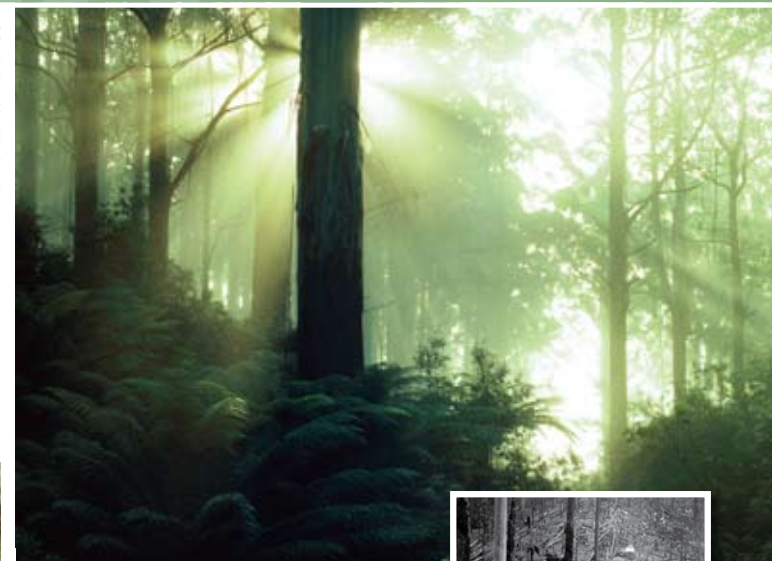
Cover: Tarra Bulga National Park - Photo courtesy of Craig Campbell. Discover Balook is a joint project of the Wellington Shire and Balook and District Residents Association.



DESIGN: TIMOTHY SHINES/SPACE MEDIA AU

Discover Balook

And the Pioneer Trail in the Strzelecki Ranges



The Heart of Gippsland



The Pioneer Trail

Take time to meander along the Pioneer Trail, enjoy a picnic, or explore the scenic drives. In the Visitor Centre, an audio-visual display describes the diverse plants and animals in the park and takes you back to yesteryear when European settlers lived under harsh conditions in the Strzelecki Ranges



Discover Balook

1 - ARTHUR LANYON'S HUT

Arthur was the first Park Ranger after the formation of National Parks in 1958. He lived in a house on this property owned by J. Wills. Local people built his hut for him after the Wills house was burnt down.

2 - C.R.B. HOUSES

During the 1940s and 1950s the Country Roads Board owned four houses for employees who maintained the roads in the district. Severe climate and geographic conditions made this a difficult job.

3 - BALOOK SCHOOL

Built in 1915 and closed in 1966. The first school at Balook operated in Mr. Draffin's home. Later it was held in the Public Hall and then Drysdale's home. The existing school buildings were built in 1915. It closed in 1966. It is now a camp operated by Westall Secondary College.

4 - SITE OF RIGGS SAWMILL (Pictorial)

The Cook's later operated it. In the 1940s Rigg's operated a sawmill down this road. Several mill workers' houses were situated there. Later in the decade, Cooks purchased the mill and T. Danaher managed it, supplying timber to their Melbourne timber yards.

5 - BALOOK GUEST HOUSE

The Guest House opened in 1934 and catered for travellers, with accommodation and meals. It has had many name changes and at one time operated a seven hole golf course, post office and telephone.

6 - SITE OF SAM WILLS HOME

Sam & Edna Wills made their house on this site during 1940 - 1950. Edna came into the area as a teacher, married and stayed to raise a family. She also recorded some of the history of the area.



This photograph of the Duff family shows that the logging business in the early 1900s was certainly a family affair including the youngest member baby Kevin Duff. It also demonstrates the size of the enormous trees found at that time in the Balook region.



Bill Duff transferred his mill from Jeeralang to Balook in 1944. The mill used timber grown on the level land above the mill and winched logs from the steep valley below the mill.



7 - SITE OF ORANA GUEST HOUSE AND BALOOK HALL (Pictorial)

On this site the Ficks and later the Campbell family operated a guest house, post office and petrol station. At one time the petrol station had the highest output in the area. On the adjoining site was the Balook Public Hall used for dances and church. After the Hall blew down a tennis court was constructed.

8 - HAZEL DELL

Hazel Dell was the home of the Cook family from 1886. These selections were licensed under certain conditions e.g. a small annual rental and improvements of £1.00 per annum.

9 - Site of Wattle Ridge Riding School

This riding school provided a bush experience and equestrian instruction for young riders from the local area, around Australia and from overseas. It was operated by the Appleton family during the 1960s

10 - SITE OF KJERGAARD HALL BUILT IN 1914 (Pictorial)

The Kjergaard Hall was built in 1914 on land selected by Mr. Hans Kjergaard and named in his honour. A Lending Library as well as the Blackwarry West/Kjergaard School operated here from 1914 - 1923. The Hall was burnt down in 1931.

11 - SITE OF FIRST BLACKWARRY POST OFFICE

The first Blackwarry Post Office was conducted on this site and run by the Daniels family from 1911 - 1950.

12 - SITE OF SECOND BLACKWARRY POST OFFICE

On this site the Blackwarry Post Office was conducted by the Oliver family from 1950 until it closed in the 1960s.

13 - DUFF'S SAWMILL SITE (Pictorial)

Bill Duff transferred his mill from Jeeralang to Balook in 1944. The mill used timber grown on the level land above the mill and winched logs from the steep valley below the mill.



Fallen timber making its way to Duff's Mill for the next process.



A typical scene in the timber regions of Balook was the Miles family with their team of horses harnessed and ready to travel. The family home is in the background.