

MARBLE QUARRY

WALK 10

Distance	8 km
Duration	3 hours
Grading	Easy



Walk Description

The start of the walk is on a jeep track that goes through an area that was clear felled many years ago (~1955?) for sawlogs and pulpwood for the Maryvale Pulp and Paper mill. The tree species are mainly Silvertop (*Eucalyptus sieberi*) and Red Box (*E. polyanthemus*). The jeep track ends about 300 metres past the turn off to the quarry, at the top of a steep fall down to the Thomson River. There are gentle downgrades along the jeep track for about 4 km. After about 300 metres from the start, the track forks; take the right hand fork. At 2.1 km the track forks again. Take the left hand track here. At 3.6 km there is a 350 metre walk along an old tramline track on the right of the jeep track, down to the quarry. While the actual quarry is small in area and not a lot remains to be seen, spend some time contemplating the remoteness of the mining site and the difficulties experienced in removing and transporting the marble. There are some boulders of black marble with clear surfaces showing many fossils. 30 metres above the quarry site is an open, unfenced shaft which is at least 20 metres deep. This should be approached with extreme caution.

The quarry was discovered in 1873. The marble was used in the William Bailey Mansion in Ballarat and also Rupertswood Homestead in Sunbury. Two lecterns in St. Paul's church, Ballarat East, and a counter top in Australia House, London, are also made from this material.

Getting to the start

After carpooling, we travel about 7 km down the Thomson Valley – Tyers road, then turn off towards Cowwarr on a rough gravel road for about 10km. At C22, a jeep track on the north side of the Cowwarr road, we park the cars and start walking down the track.



Marble at the quarry site