

## MT ST GWINEAR TO ERICA CAR PARK

### WALK 3

<b>Distance</b>	16 km
<b>Duration</b>	6 hours
<b>Grading</b>	Hard



### **Walk Description**

The walk is gently uphill from the Mt St Gwinear car park for about 4 km to the Australian Alps Walking Track at the Rock Shelter. From there, the track undulates through Snow Gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*, subspecies *acerina*) woodland, with one patch of Myrtle Beach (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*). There are some long climbs in places.

We pass an old hut site that was established during the Depression by the Victorian Tourist Bureau but was destroyed in the 1939 wildfires. The trees we walk through are all regrowth from that fire.

After we pass Mt Erica, we descend steeply to Mushroom Rocks, a group of granite boulders with one pair that looks just like a giant mushroom. As we descend the trees gradually change from Snow Gums to Alpine Ash (*Eucalyptus delegatensis*) and Shining Gum (*Eucalyptus nitens*) then Mountain Ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*). Just past the Rocks we pass a few Tingaringy Gums (*Eucalyptus glaucescens*). The last section of the track traverses a magnificent stand of Mountain Ash, Shining Gum and some pure stands of Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), all 75 years old, having regenerated naturally from the devastation of the 1939 wildfires.

This walk is graded hard and is above the snow line so be prepared for cold weather.

### **Getting to the start.**

After car-pooling, we travel up the Thomson Valley road and leave some cars at the Mt. Erica Car Park and others at the Mt. St. Gwinear Car Park, where the walk begins. The total distance involved is about 33 km car travel from Rawson, including the car shuffle.



Snow Gums