

WALK TITLE: BLACK RIVER
WALK NO: 15
DISTANCE/TYPE: 12 kms / return walk
DURATION: 7 - 8 hours
GRADING: Medium / Hard
ASCENT/DESCENT: 810 / 810 metres



PATH: Residual logging track, foot track, occasional benched miners track. Steady descent to Black River, steady ascent on return.

This walk along a section of McMillans Walking Track, will take you to one of the most serene and isolated spots in the Victorian high country at the picturesque Black River. To get there, we walk through delightful, cool, temperate Alpine Ash forest and dry sclerophyll forest dominated by Messmate and Red Stringybark. We walk along a benched track, supported in places by dry stone walling, and pass trees containing blazes, evidence of the work of McMillan's work gang in 1864.

WALK DESCRIPTION: From Lazarini Spur Track, turn left onto an old, overgrown logging road following red triangular McMillan Walking Track markers. This section of MMWT was cleared and rejuvenated in 2019. The track initially commences in Alpine Ash forest, but quickly moves into dryer vegetation dominated by several gum species before verging into typical dry sclerophyll forest dominated by Messmate Stringybark, Red Stringybark, and Peppermints. Several bushfires have ravaged the area over the past 20 years and there are often dense areas of Acacia understory.

Follow the walking track southwest, descending along the crest of a spur for 3km, we pass some large trees with old blazes reputedly created by McMillan's original work party back in 1864. The walking track eventually leaves the spur and heads southeast, crossing some gullies where there are benched sections of miners track and dry-stone walling also constructed by McMillan's crew. This leads onto another spur which descends southwest. The benched track doubles back to the northwest, crossing more gullies, then descends into the Black River. This is the lunch stop before the return journey back up the way we have come. Sturdy footwear, gaiters and poles are recommended. Walkers should also become prepared for alpine weather and carry appropriate clothing and adequate water.

GETTING TO THE START: From the entrance to the Licola Wilderness Village, turn **LEFT** and proceed 39km up the Licola-Jamieson Road to the junction with Lazarini Spur Track on the left. The road is unsealed about 12km beyond Licola. Turn left along Lazarini Spur Track for approximately 3.5km to the junction of an old logging road. The beginning of the walk is signposted "McMILLANS WALKING TRACK", on the left. Vehicles can be parked here along Lazarini Spur Track.

Distance from the Licola Wilderness Village to the start of the walk is 43 km.

