

WALK TITLE: WONNANGATTA VALLEY OVERNIGHT
WALK NO: 17
DISTANCE/TYPE: 17 kms / one way – overnight Sun & Mon
WALK DURATION: 7 hours
GRADING: Medium / Hard
ASCENT/DESCENT: 170 / 1,090 metres
PATH: Foot track and 4WD track



A walk through spectacular alpine plains and forest, with magnificent views across the mountains and down into the Wonnangatta Valley. This walk is supported by the Macalister 4WD Club which will transport our food and camping supplies down into Wonnangatta. On Sunday, explore the history and remains of the Wonnangatta Station area and the nearby cemetery.

WALK DESCRIPTION: Start walking from the Bryces Gorge picnic area. Take the signposted track towards Guys Hut. After 1 km note an interpretive sign about Guys Hut, then visit the old, restored hut. Take the signposted track towards Conglomerate Falls and Wonnangatta. After about 1.5 km the track splits. Take the left track towards Wonnangatta. The track is fairly level, with tussock grass and scattered snow gums. For a while the track is overgrown and frequently indistinct as the course follows a shallow valley beside the Conglomerate Creek.

Crossing the creek headwaters, continue heading N/NE until reaching the 1,400m contour. Here the foot track becomes benched as it winds its way down towards the Dry River far below. This could be a suitable spot for morning tea. The switchback track trends NE for 2 – 3 km before bending back NW until near the bottom of the descent. Cross a small creek and follow the track eastward, parallel to the Dry River. From the west, the Bicentennial National Trail merges with our track. The track crosses the Dry River at a ford, with stepping stones. After crossing a deer hunters' campsite, the track becomes a 4WD track, with easy walking. After about 4 km we will meet the vehicles from the Macalister 4WD Touring and Social Club. The combined group will set up camp together for the night. In the morning we will have the opportunity to explore the Wonnangatta Station area, before being driven back to our cars via the Zeka Spur Track.

Please note the walk profile – it is fairly level to start, then has a continuous, moderately steep descent to the Wonnangatta River. There are sections where we will be walking off-track, and parts of the track is narrow, with prickly bush encroaching from the sides. Sturdy boots, long pants and gaiters are recommended, unless you like scratched knees! Walking poles can be very helpful. We will camp overnight beside the river, returning to our cars Monday morning, but only day packs need be carried as the Macalister 4WD Touring and Social Club members will collect our gear and bring it to the camp site.

GETTING TO THE START: From Licola Wilderness Village, turn right out of the gate and, crossing the Macalister River, immediately turn left. Follow Tamboritha Road to Arbuckle Junction (46kms), veer left onto Howitt Road, pass Snowy Plains airfield to Bryces Gorge car park on the right. The road is unsealed beyond Wellington River (22kms). There is ample parking and a toilet available. 67kms.

