

# The Bundian Way

## Draft Walkers' Maps and TrackNotes

John Blay  
April 2019

I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the route and all Elders, past, present and future, and the work and support of the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council. Although the walking route described here has a powerful historical basis it has been adapted to provide the safest way for the environment and modern walkers. Further changes will likely as not be made, under changing circumstances such as flood, fire and better knowledge. Aboriginal artefacts are to be found all the way along the route:- **please leave them where they lie**. They are an important part of the story for future generations.

IMPORTANT: The following notes are a draft, distributed for comment and elaboration by anyone who has walked parts of the route. The Bundian Way has not been officially opened as yet, and these draft notes are step towards this happening. Many formalities have yet to be dealt with. Although some camping places have been indicated, few have any facilities, like toilets, fresh water or shelter as yet. But hopefully soon.

If you are tired and don't want to go on, primitive bush camping is permissible in public lands along the route, preferably fifty metres away from the track itself.

These notes are prepared on the basis that a distance of some ten to fifteen kilometres is a comfortable distance to walk in a day, all the more so when there are many gorgeous places and walks to one side or another that are worth investigating. Even though these notes begin in Kosciuszko National Park, the way can be walked in reverse from the coast. Individual walks can begin anywhere or go for one or two days at a time. The Kosciuszko National Park has important guidelines and suggestions for Back Country camping at:

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety/alpine-safety/kosciuszko-back-country-camping>

### Important Notes

The maps and draft track notes will be of limited visual quality. The low definition email version is of especially low quality and fuzzy. The higher quality downloadable version is somewhat better. It might be of sufficient home print quality for purposes of the walk. I suggest you download all the relevant free topo maps from:- <https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/etopo.html> Their names are at the top of each reproduction. Print versions can be purchased from newsagents and maps stores for about \$17.00 each. With about 25 relevant maps this is an expensive and weighty option.

This collection of maps for the Bundian Way are preliminary, and aimed to get feedback on the route, which is not officially open as yet. For this to happen all the relevant government agencies will have to approve the route, ideally in concert through the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Councils' Bundian Way Advisory Committee.

This booklet is designed to assist further, more detailed mapping, and to get feedback. Contributions are welcome to John at [sefproject@netspeed.com.au](mailto:sefproject@netspeed.com.au). The topographic maps used are identified by name at the top of each map and comprise the 2018 edition of topographic maps available free on the SIX website at:- <https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/etopo.html>

The information provided here is general and is to be followed at your own risk. Bushwalking experience is essential. There are no backup emergency services if you get into trouble.

The high country is so beautiful at any time of day but can be seen at its most dramatic at the beginning or end of the day, but especially during the springtime when the Alpine flowers are at their best. But please bear in mind that it is also dangerous. Snow and blizzards are possible at any time of year.

### Key:



Topographical Map name at top in red.



The Bundian Way walking route is marked blue. It generally follows old trails or roads.



Red circles indicate starting points or general campsites for day walks.



Blue arrow: North

The information here is general. Note that unfortunately the maps do not correspond with the route, which regularly runs on to another map. Unfortunately the neat rectangles of the maps don't correspond with the walking track.

Generally along the Bundian Way there will be many dangers that include exhaustion. There will seldom be any mobile phone reception. Expect none. Perhaps carry an ePirb or satellite phone. Aim for self-sufficiency, allowing for extra time on each leg. Water will be a problem at the dry times of year, and a high-quality filter would be invaluable. Respect even the spiders and snakes.



# Map One

## (PERISHER VALLEY)

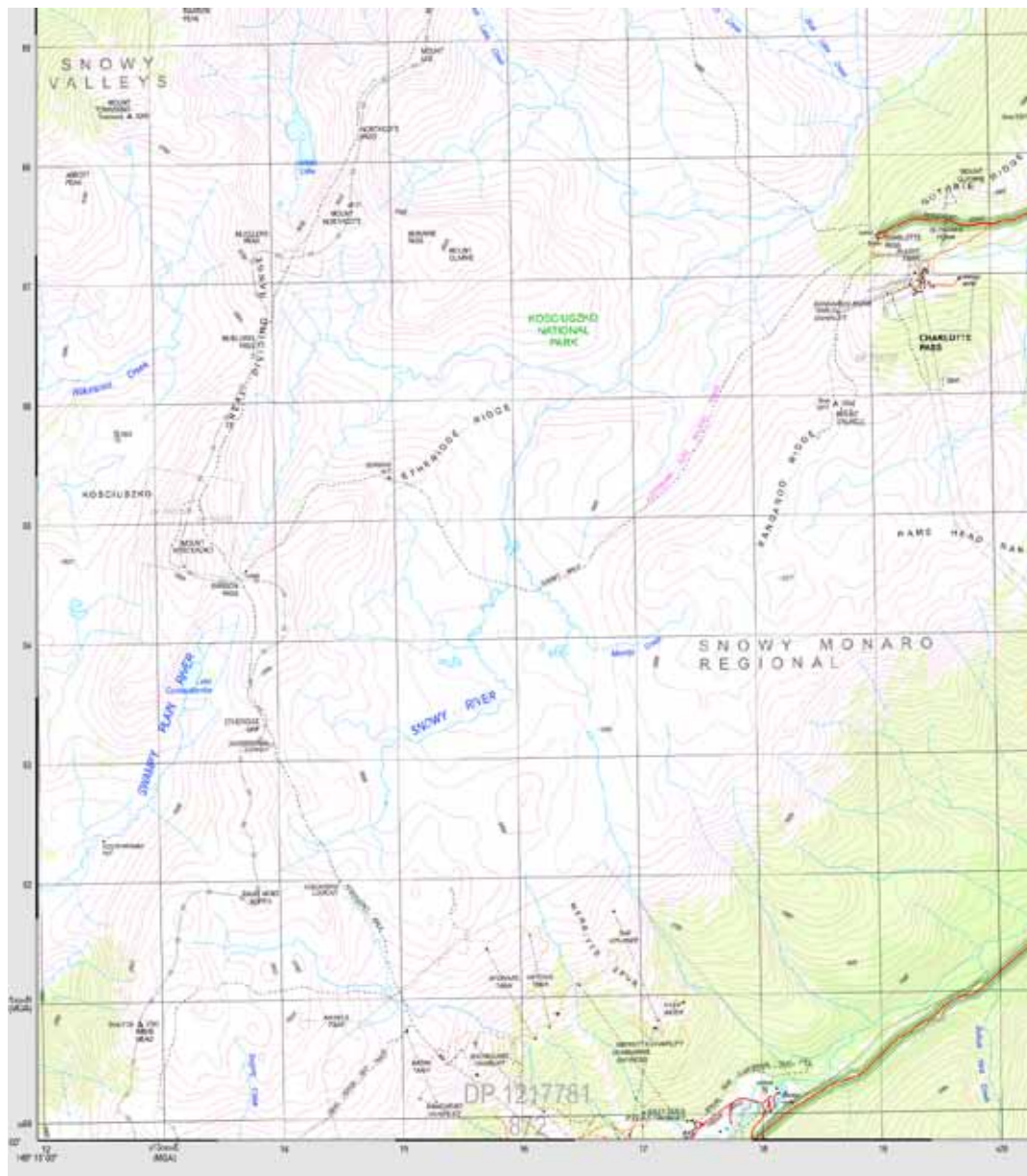
### High Country Introduction

No starting point is given. For symbolic purposes many will want to begin their walk from the top of the Australian continent at Mt Kosciuszko. Walkers could start at Charlottes Pass or Thredbo, using the chairlift. Or even the very demanding and difficult walk from Geehi Flats. For many this will mean camping overnight in the high country, otherwise it is a very difficult and long walk to near Dead Horse Gap where there are no camping facilities.

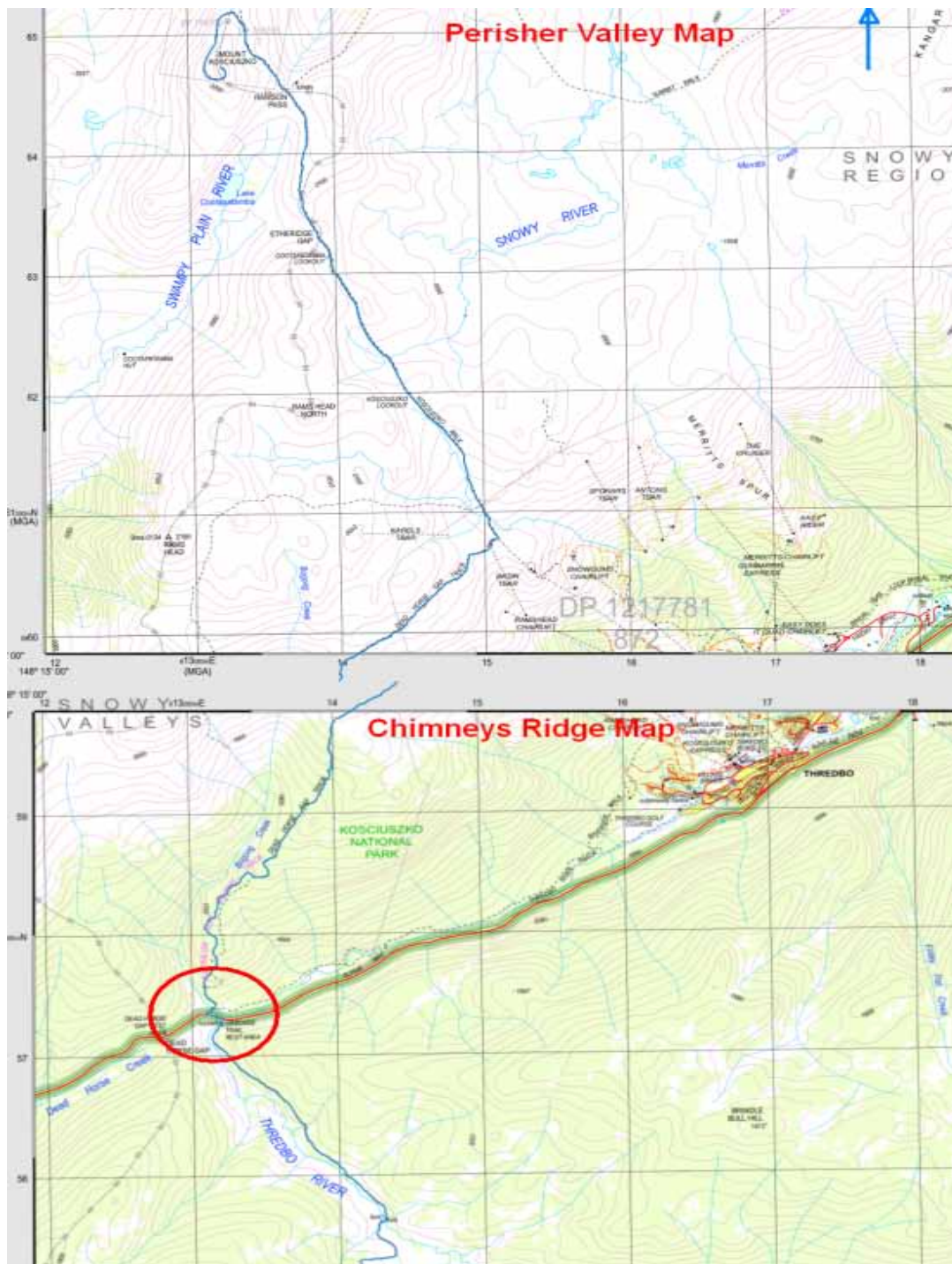
Any camping should be undertaken well away from tracks. No fires. Leave the place as you found it. Camping in the high country is an amazingly beautiful experience but there are many dangers. Blizzards can sweep down at any time without warning, even in mid summer. Respect the wildlife.

This map introduces the wider high country and has no suggested routes or camping places. There are many ways to approach Targangal (Kosciuszko). The two most convenient are using the chair lift from Thredbo or from Charlottes Pass (twice the distance). Other ways include the steep walk from Geehi Flat or via the Australian Alps Walking Track from the north. This route corresponds with the Bundian Way until the Tin Mine Huts. These routes would require finding a campsite well before the Dead Horse Gap parking area on the Alpine Way, which is also a potentially easy start point for the walk.

Various routes and facilities are mapped at: [https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/parks/southern/Kosciuszko\\_National\\_Park/4KosiGuide2012Maps.pdf](https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/parks/southern/Kosciuszko_National_Park/4KosiGuide2012Maps.pdf)







## Map Two

(PERISHER VALLEY and CHIMNEYS RIDGE maps)

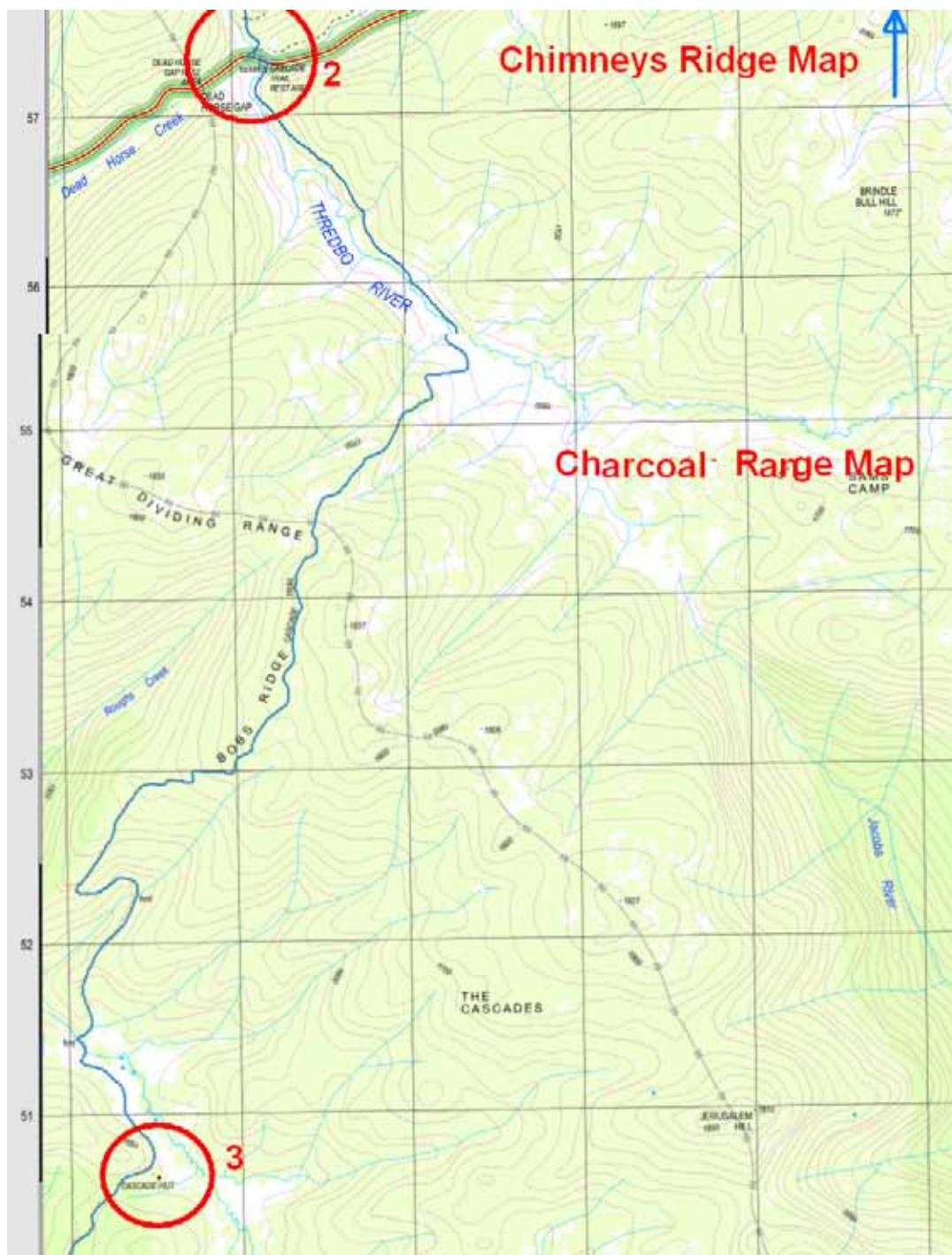
The second Leg shows the route from the high country to Dead Horse Gap, where there are no formal camping places. Bush camping is possible on snowgrass well away from the made track, say above the headwaters of the Snowy River or below Cootapatamba. See the parks website for more info. It would be best to make camp a kilometre or so before the Gap itself and before the info booth and parking, or some distance beyond it. One alternative is to stay the night in Thredbo and walk the hour along the Thredbo River Track to begin at Dead Horse.

There is virtually no mobile telephone reception through the next twelve days of the walk. Reception cannot be counted upon anywhere along the way, but, occasionally, from the very highest peaks, a signal might be found.

Full route of the Bundian Way walking route from Kosciuszko to the Coast



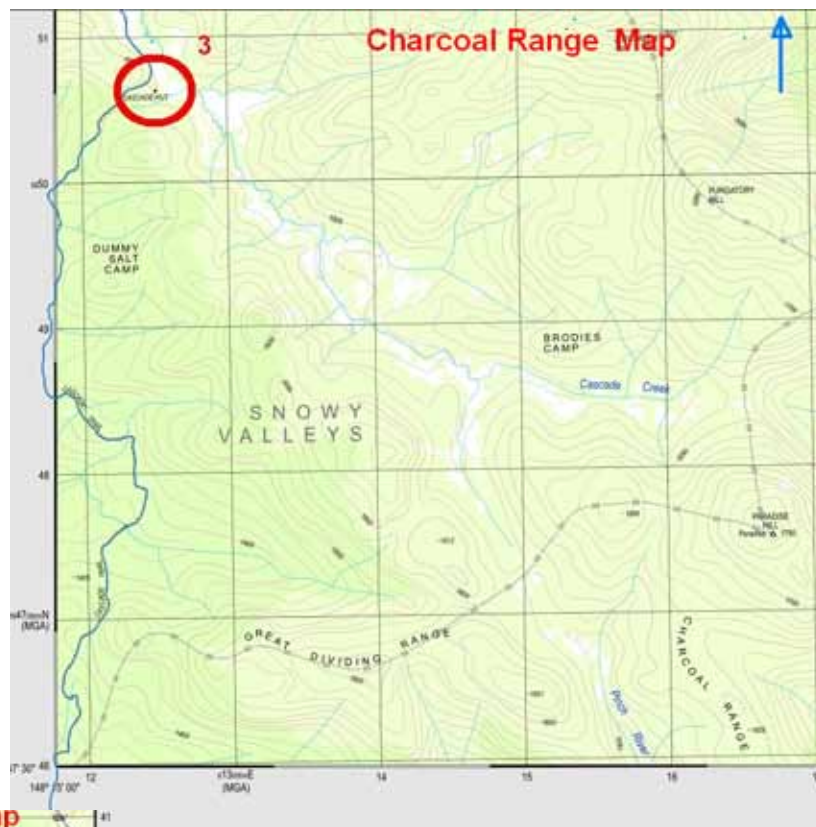




## Leg Three

(CHIMNEYS RIDGE TOPO MAP)

The route from the Gap to Cascade Hut follows an old management vehicle track into the Pilot Wilderness. Wildflowers along the headwaters of the Thredbo River are dramatic in springtime and along the treeless plain known as the Big Boggy. It crosses Bob's Ridge and the Great Divide through white sallee/snowgum woodland. Parts of this forest were burnt in the 2003 bushfires and are still in recovery. White stags of the trees burnt but regenerating are obvious. There are delightful spots along the Cascade Creek. You don't camp in the hut, but nearby. Toilet. Watch for speeding mountain bikers.



## Leg Four

(CHARCOAL RANGE and DAVIES PLAIN MAPS)

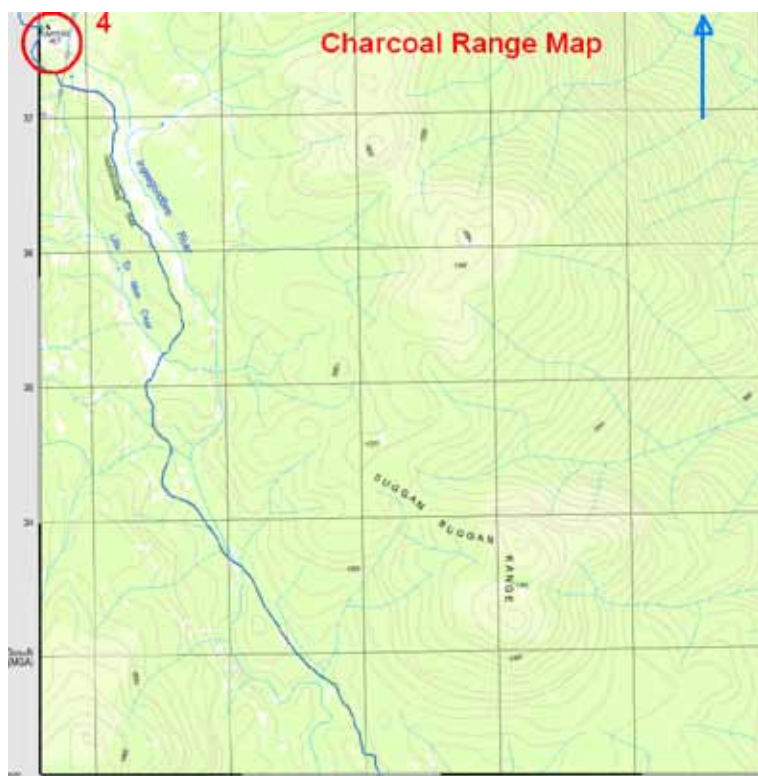
Crosses the borders of various maps between Cascade Hut and the Tin Mine and Carters Huts. It's a big walk but worthwhile, as you move further away from civilisation through a variety of landscapes: alpine ash, mountain gum, white sallee and grasslands.

Plenty of water in the delightful Ingegoodbee River. Toilet.

It's an exciting area for walkers and an extra few days here is recommended. A walk to the nearby Alpine summit of The Pilot is recommended (DAVIES PLAIN and SUGGAN BUGGAN). As is a walk to the NSW-VIC border on the Murray River, a trickle, at Cowombat Flat. On the way back a detour along the crest of a ridge to overlook Tin Mine Falls, the longest drop in all the national park, and the Murray Gorge.







## Leg Five

(DAVIES PLAIN and SUGGAN BUGGAN)

The varied walk mostly through mountain gum forest follows the trail to a bush camp of your choosing near the Ingegoodbee River. Plenty of good spots beside permanent water.



## Leg Six

(SUGGAN BUGGAN)

This leg is exciting and challenging. While you can follow the management trail beside the ruins of Freebodies Hut to the Pinch, my preferred route follows the ancient trail across the river and along a trail that follows the crest of the range through forest to its junction with the track near the crest of the Pinch, where it dips suddenly towards the junction of the Pinch and Snowy Rivers. The steep grades of the Nine Mile Pinch are challenge to every muscle. Old cattlemen followed this ancient Aboriginal route while taking their beasts to market. The route eventually flattens out beside the Moyangul (Pinch) River. There are numerous good campsites along the river, perhaps the best during off season are north of the river not far from tables and toilets, and not far across the Barry Way to good Snowy River swimming holes.





## Leg Seven

(SUGGAN BUGGAN)

Although the route here generally follows the Barry Way road, a precipitous way from Jindabyne via Ingebyrah, there is plenty of interest during the walk. The oldest route takes the lowest route beside the river rather than following the road over the steep hill with renowned lookout upriver. Plenty of spots to rest or swim. There are plenty of good campsites at the Sandy Creek Crossing, and along the riverside parts of Sandy Creek Trail.

On the northern side of the Snowy you come into Byadbo, undoubtedly the most challenging part of the Bundian Way. It lies in rain shadow, therefore you're unlikely to find water there, and sufficient water must be carried to see you through the desert-like conditions. Therefore I suggest pressing on as far into Byadbo as possible before camping. Perhaps even eat dinner beside the Snow and then continue before camping for the night. Plenty of white box and cypress pines to be seen. I've suggested a few possible campsites and would recommend the one on Sheepstation Creek. When you leave the Sandy Creek Trail at the crest of the tall ridge, you follow the ancient route down to and along the usually dry Sheepstation Creek.





## Leg Eight

(SUGGAN BUGGAN and TOMBONG)

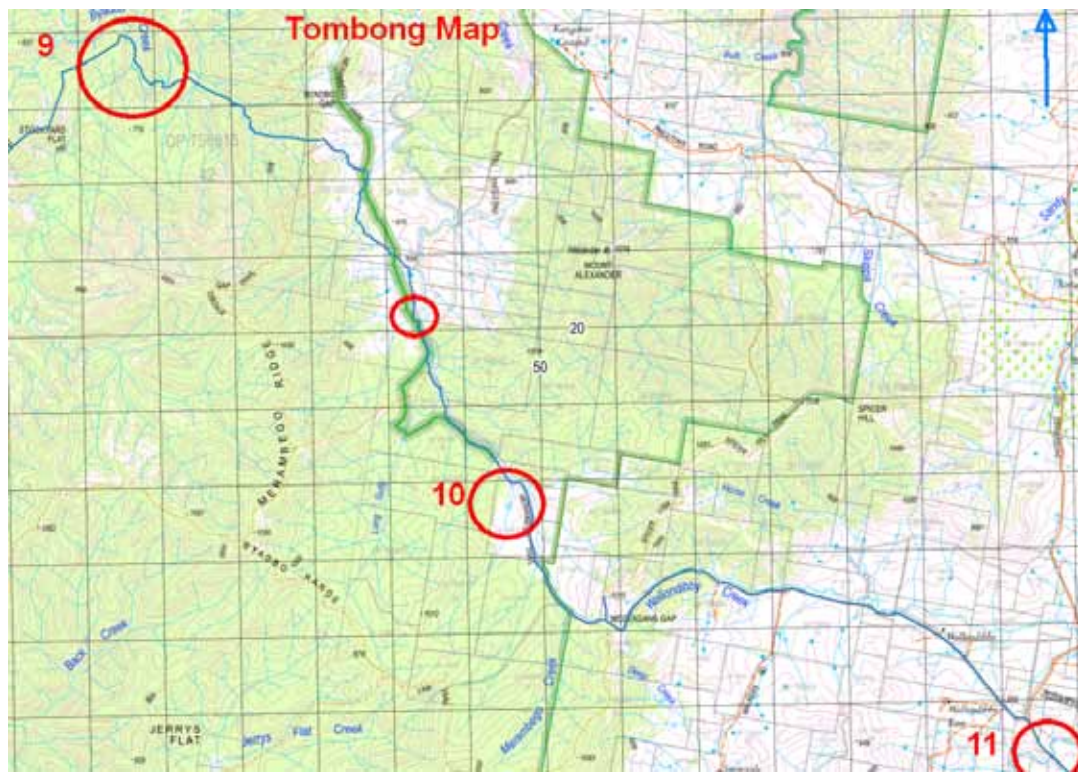
The route is clear until the junction between Sheep Station and Joe Davis Creeks. Here there are options. One is to walk all the way along the Sheep Station to the head of the stream and the divide with Right Hand / Horse Creek. The other option, my preferred one, is to walk up the crest

of the ridge overlooking the Sheep Station and follow it generally to the divide with Horse Creek. The views from the crest of the ridge are panoramic and unrivalled. It's not hard walking, shorter, with the same climb. During the extended dry the overpopulation of horses has meant a proliferation of horse trails and over-grazing that will lead to erosion and weeds. The creek is already infested with briars. Don't trust horse trails to take you anywhere special. There are many dead horses.

From the saddle you go up the ridge towards the top of the hill marked •1219 metres following a very old trail. Tend towards the northerly aspect. Halfway up there's a campable flat called The Lookout. At the top you hit the Biddi / Byadbo Fire Trail, Walk south for about 150 metres, then head south westerly along the crest of the ridge to Byadbo Flat, and the site of the old Edbo Station. Here, in the creek beyond the grasslands, there's a good chance of finding fresh water. In dry times there might be no water for a few more days. It's country that can be challenging for even the most experienced bushwalkers.

Due to the possibility of severe conditions here, there are several maps here with alternative campsites.





## Leg Ten

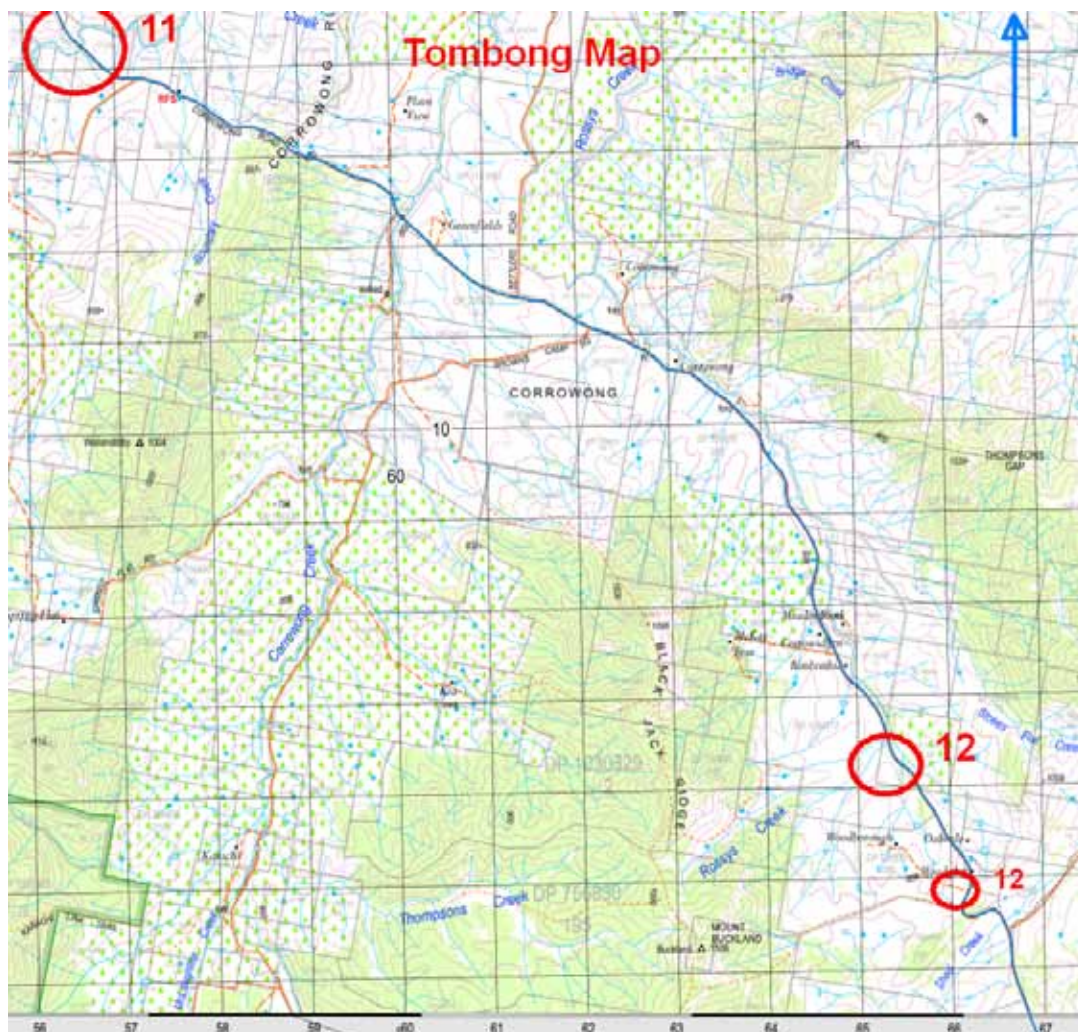
(TOMBONG)

Once you cross the Byadbo Gap and come out of the Wilderness Areas and into the Merambego grasslands, the first likely water might be near the long-gone homestead, beside the creek crossing ford to Prestons Fire Trail. Further water might be available near Darrewarra campsite and at the springs a few kilometres upstream near the Merambego dam at (10). The grasslands are rich in flora and fauna. Watch for the wedgetail eagles that soar overhead.

## Leg Eleven

(TOMBONG)

The route is straightforward after Merambego. The dirt road eventually gives way to bitumen. As you come out of Kosciuszko National Park near McGuigans Gap, at the crest of the ridge, there is a track leading upwards. After about a 100 metres there is an extraordinary view of all the country on the way to the high country. Simply breathtaking! The route leads through the old Wollondibby Station, and eventually to Sandy Creek Travelling Stock Reserve where there is camping beside a creek that regularly has water.

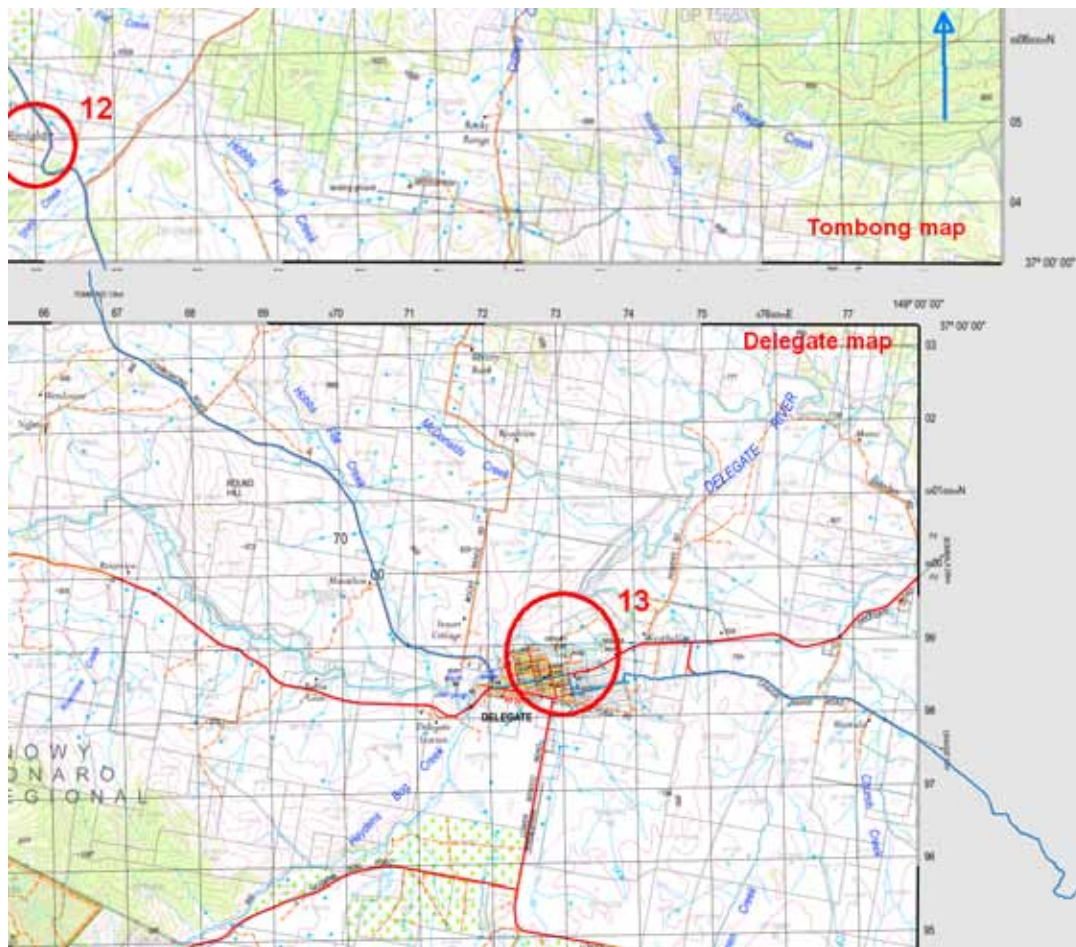


## Leg Twelve

(TOMBONG)

It is a delightful walk along the little used country road through Corrowong to the old Union Travelling Stock Reserve. We have now come into the delightful ribbon gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) woodlands. Another kilometre or so on is the old Woodglen school site that might be available for accommodation (Check with DPA beforehand on 02 6458 8388).



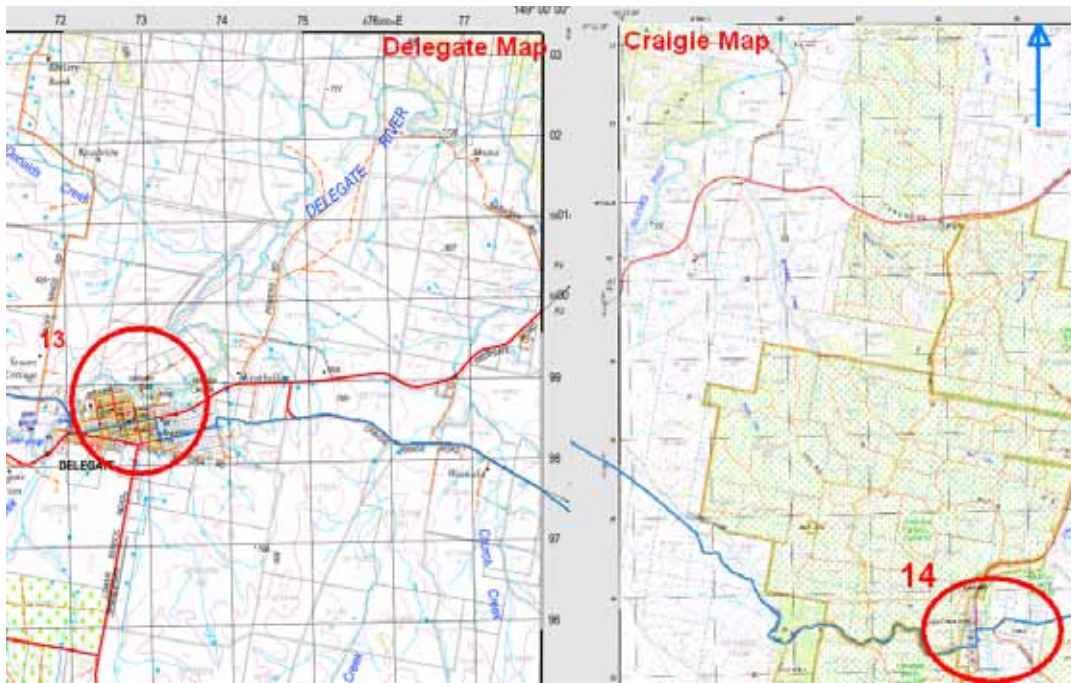


## Leg Thirteen

(TOMBONG and DELEGATE)

This walk leads through varying topography to the township of Delegate, halfway to the coast. Just before the town on the ridge-crest a few hundred metres on the left are the Delegate Rocks with their viewing platform. The Bundian Way is laid out before you as it passes through the Delegate plains.

After a few weeks on track Delegate is the great oasis, with a hotel, camping area and shops, located halfway along the route to the coast. It even has phone reception. A visit to the Bundian Way Aboriginal Art Gallery is essential. The historic township is friendly and offers an amazing range of accommodation and hospitality.

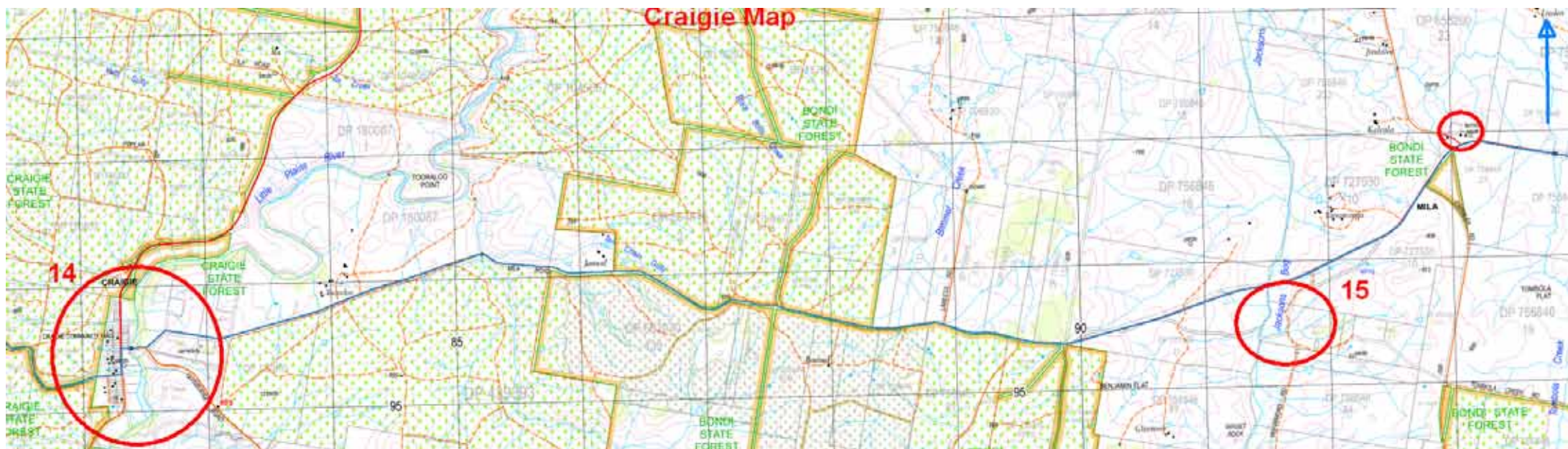


## Leg Fourteen

(DELEGATE and CRAIGIE)

The way easterly leads over the Irondoon Range towards the old gold mining village of Craigie. Near the crest of the range extraordinary views reveal Delegate Hill in the context of the Delegate Plains. Across the ridge, the view, when not obstructed by pine plantations, reveals the eastern edge of the Monaro and the rugged Coolangubra Range. Camp beside the bridge or at the Craigie Hall. Old diggings beside the river suggest the days when thousands of gold diggers crammed the flats. It became a Chinatown with joss houses until fires destroyed all at great cost of life. In early mornings and late afternoons, the river reveals its considerable platypus population.

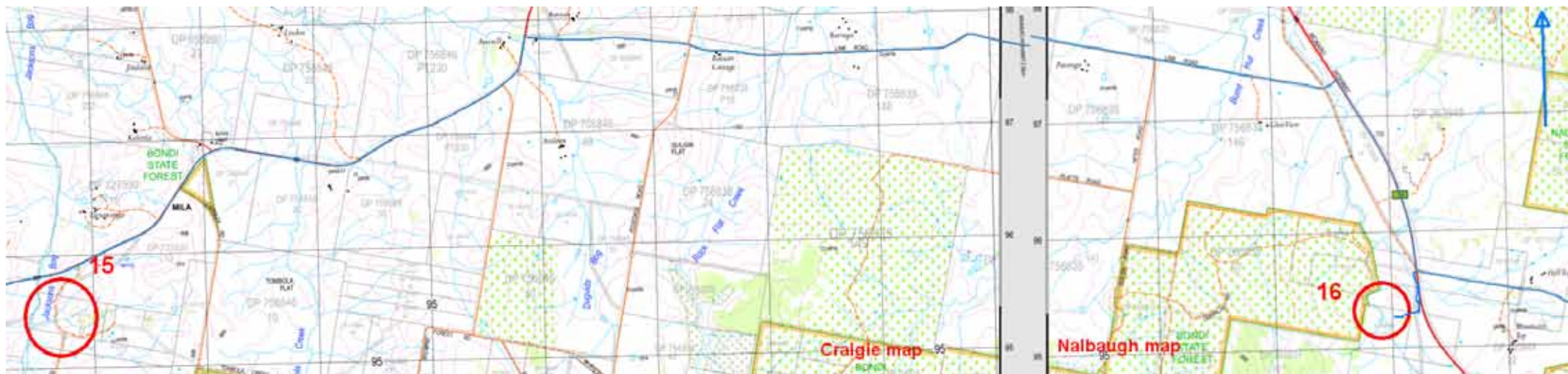




## Leg Fifteen

(CRAIGIE)

The way now passes through a succession of Aboriginal landscapes on the edges of pine plantations. Remnant stands of narrow-leaf peppermints still occupy the ridge-tops. Below lay grasslands. The road here is also today a seldom-used country road. Campsite is at the old Mila TSR, not far south of the road after crossing Jacksons Bog. Potentially, also, the old Mila Country Club house might be available for use. (Beforehand, speak with DPA on 02 6458 8388).

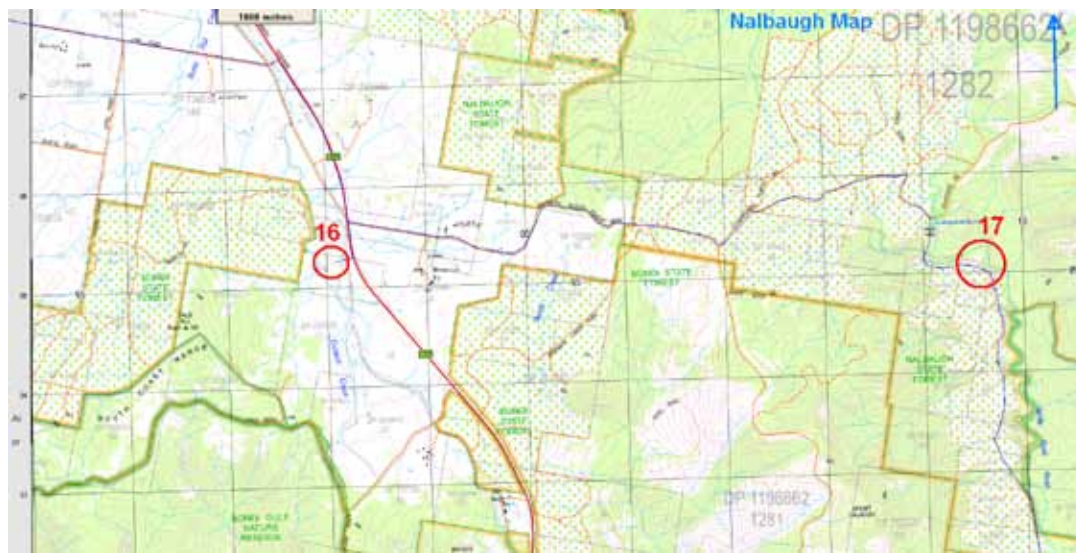


## Leg Sixteen

(CRAIGIE and NALBAUGH)

The next destination lies on the flatlands of Gulgin, which lie below a renowned bare hill perched on the south-eastern edge of the Monaro. Many important Aboriginal sites lie in the vicinity, and provided access to the Coolangubra Range which overlooks the site. Our destination is the Bondi or Bundian Springs TSR, which include an important yamfield site. It lies about a hundred metres off the Monaro Highway about 1.5 kilometres south of the Mila Link Road, almost opposite the Southern Access Road. Water here is available from the swamp or one of several peaty dams.

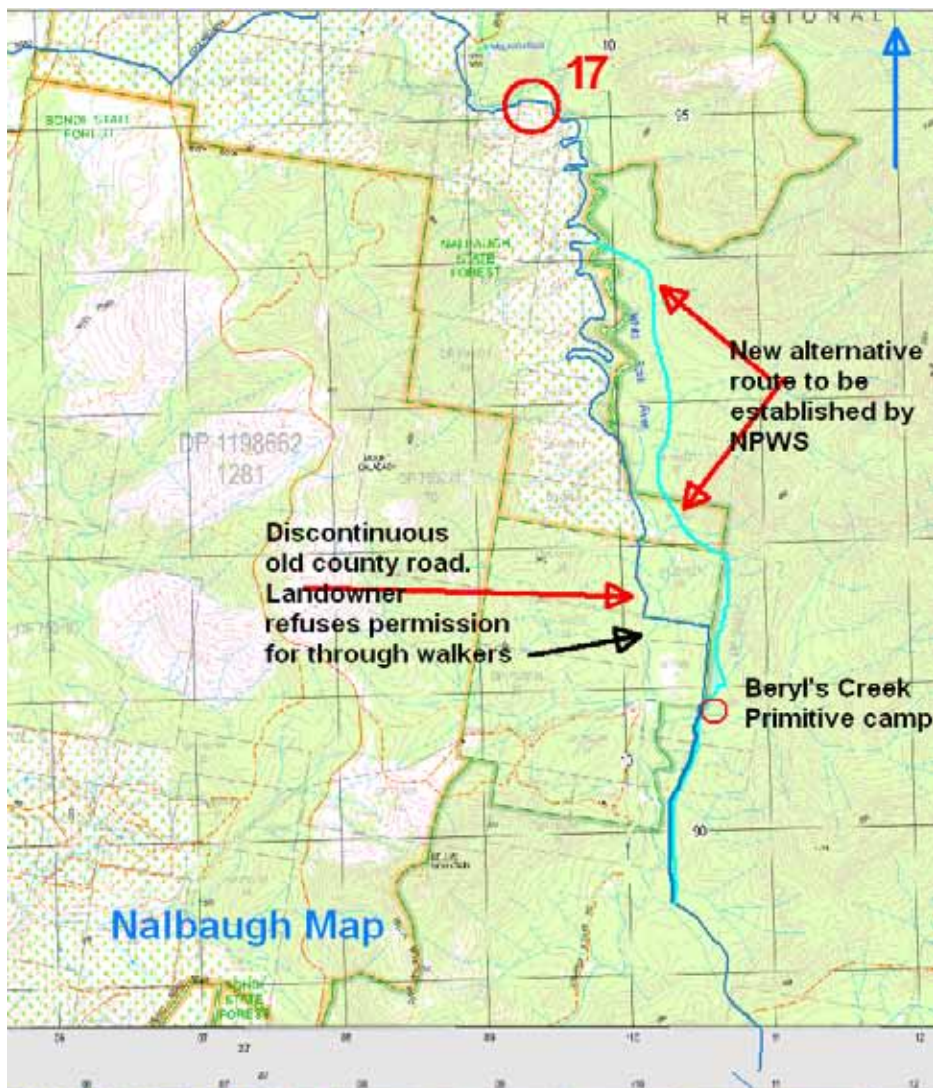




## Leg Seventeen

(NALBAUGH)

We now progress down the Bundian Pass through rich country for the old Aboriginal people and pass beside the old Nalbaugh Falls into what was once tall forestlands, now planted to pine. We pass below the granite formation known as White Rock, part of the Nalbaugh Plateau, a very remarkable mesa. This was the old route to country near Nungatta, Genoa and Mallacoota. Camping sites beside the White Rock River are quite idyllic. Pine plantations of Nalbaugh State Forest lie to the west and east of the river we enter South East Forests National Park.

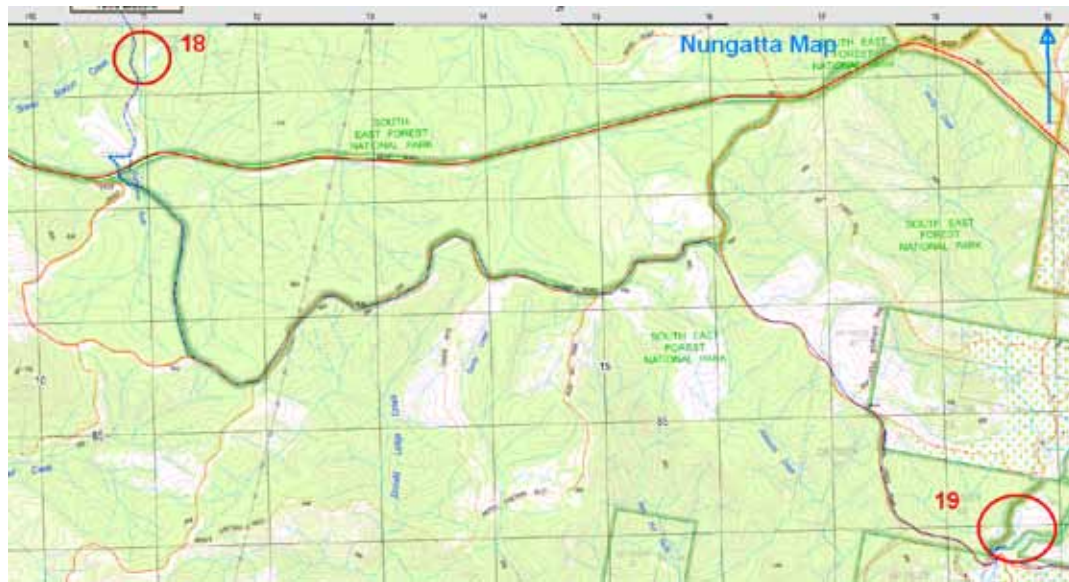


## Leg Eighteen

(NALBAUGH and NUNGATTA)

The old Bundian Pass followed a reserved county road beside the river before it crossed the stream via stone culverts and headed towards a gap in the ridge to the south-east. Unfortunately a draftsman in the Lands Department in the 1920s omitted about fifty metres of the road reservation and the small tract passed into private hands. Farmers lived here and provided hospitality from about the 1830s, the current owner however reserves privacy and will not allow access through the small parcel. Therefore national parks are making an alternative route available that passes from the campsite to the east of the private land. At Beryl's Creek there is a potential primitive campsite. The route eventually meets up with the historic Bundian Pass route, and crosses a gap into Sheepstation Creek where we can camp in woodland near the creek.

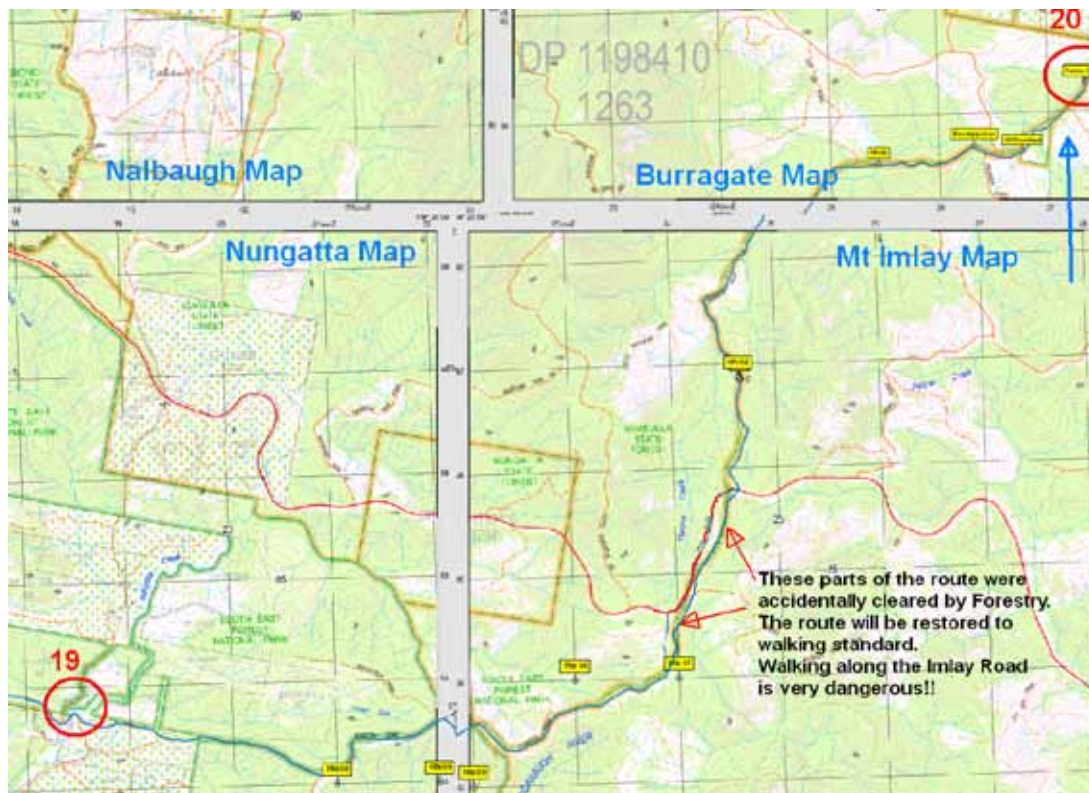




## Leg Nineteen

(NUNGATTA)

We cross the creek via a stone crossing, apparently made by old bullockies to stop their wagon wheels sinking in the soft soil, and pass very important ancient Aboriginal sites. We pass a quarry bulldozed for gravel to make the Imlay Rd. During works the sites were bulldozed but remain important because they were the first big Aboriginal sites recognised in a forest setting. Views from the top of the hill. The route continues beside Surveyors Creek, along a short distance of Haighs short Cut Road, and then follows the disused Bondi or Rockton Road. The track might seem uninteresting but on either side there are some attractive forest places, all the way to Nungatta Creek where the campsite lies on flats overlooking the creek about a hundred metres upstream. Downstream, Nungatta Station was settled very early and after years of cooperation with the Aboriginal people, a massacre took place there in about the late 1900s.



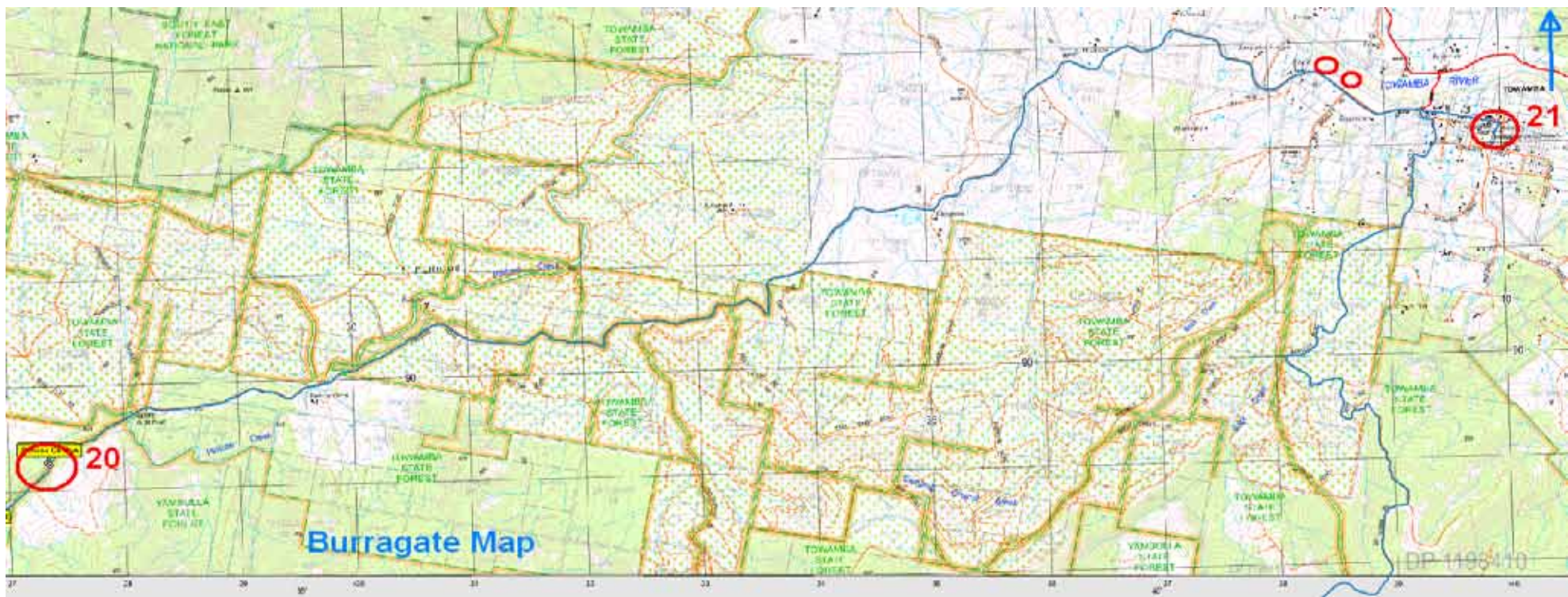
## Leg Twenty

(NUNGATTA, MOUNT IMLAY and BURRAGATE)

After Nungatta Creek the old route generally follows the Rockton Road but deviates from the newer Poole Road before its intersection with Imlay Road and runs parallel to Imlay Road before crossing it near the Pericoe Road intersection. We then follow the old Pericoe Road until about a kilometre after Falkner Road intersection, where there is a campsite not far off the road overlooking Pericoe Creek (which has running water excepting during the peak of the worst droughts).

There are various excellent little potential campsites beside the creek in tall forest settings. Traces of the various old tracks and historic stream crossings are to be seen from the bridge over Pericoe Creek.





## Leg Twenty-one

(BURRAGATE)

We continue along the Pericoe Road over several creek crossings through the State Forest and into farmland. It's a long walk but varied. About a kilometre before Towamba there is a reserve for camping beside the river. Through the village, which has no shops, there is a community centre and oval. Camping here and use of facilities is possible after contacting the progress association. The township is a very friendly, hospitable place.

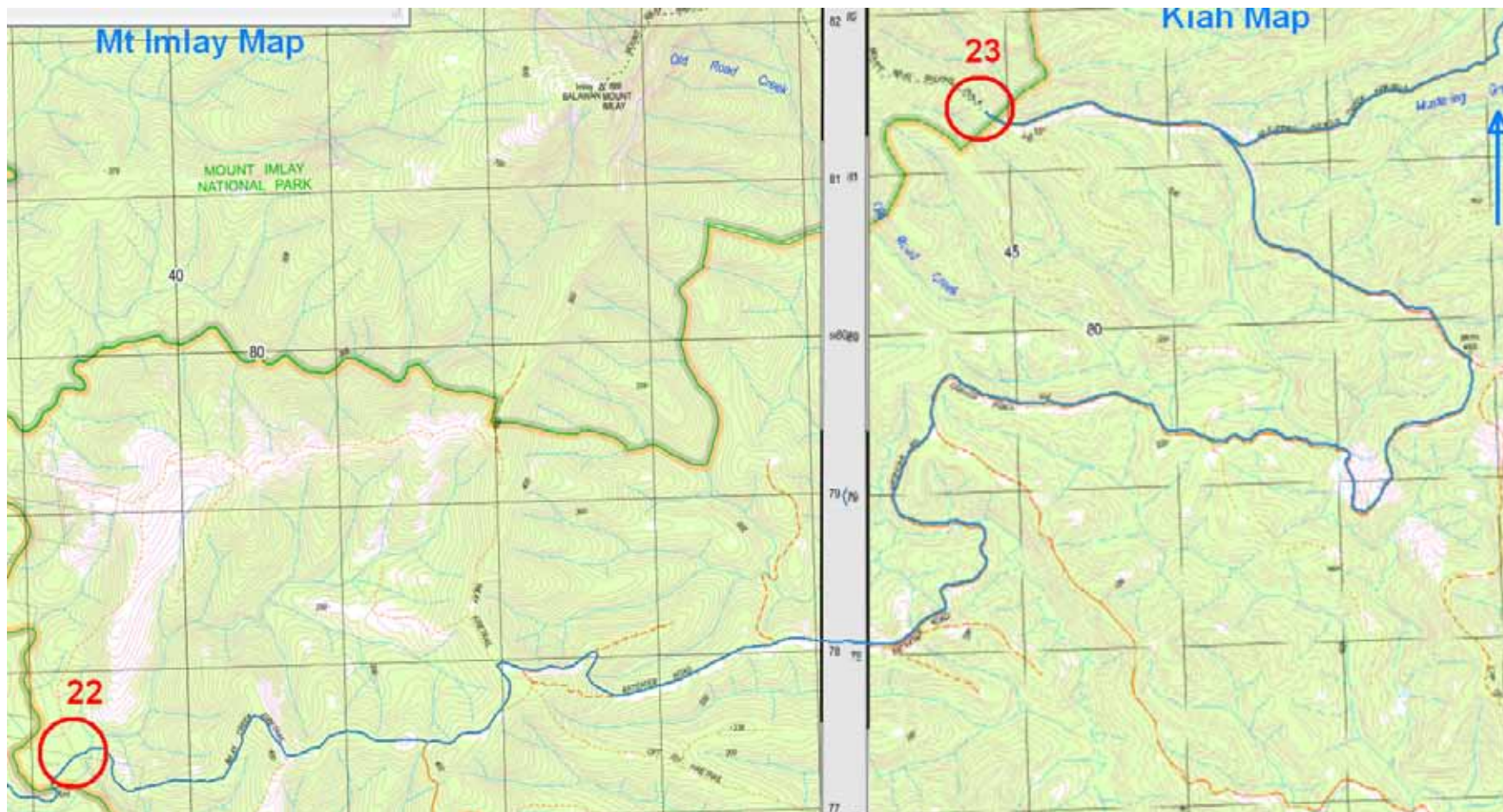


## Leg Twenty-two

(BURRAGATE)

From the western end of Towamba we follow Rodwell Road uphill for a few kilometres before turning into Beasley Rd and a succession to Nowie Rd until Black Range Fire Trail where we turn right and soon left into Harrys Tow Fire Trail to cross Imlay Creek, where if required there are various primitive campsites available. Continue uphill and then turn left into Bungan Rd. A few hundred metres before Imlay Rd, we turn left downhill into Imlay Creek Fire Trail. After a few kilometres we cross the creek and a few hundred metres up the hill we arrive at the well-appointed and designed camping place. Note that along these State Forest areas coupes are being logged regularly. Walkers are asked to respect that logging activities can be dangerous and keep a good distance away. Likewise, you should move well off the track when log trucks are approaching. The Forestry Corporation has been respectful of the Bundian Way and supports facilities along the route.





## Leg Twenty-three

(MOUNT IMLAY and KIAH)

From the campsite, we head easterly along the Imlay Creek Fire Trail (not uphill) to Anteater Rd and then Goanna Rd. **Do not attempt to climb Balawan (Mt Imlay) from the west or south.** Much of the land uphill from the road has been logged and is not pleasant or safe to walk. Only use the made trails. Turn left into

Burrawang Rd and follow it uphill to the National Parks picnic area at the top of the road. It's a longer day's walk than usual, but from the picnic spot/camp a walking trail leads to the crest of the mountain. Along the way there is a very special display of wildflowers, not to mention the views to the coast.

I suggest putting aside a whole day for the walk to and back from the crest, about 7km, taking it easy and enjoying the proliferation. Do it whether it's misty on top or not. The boronias are positively incandescent.



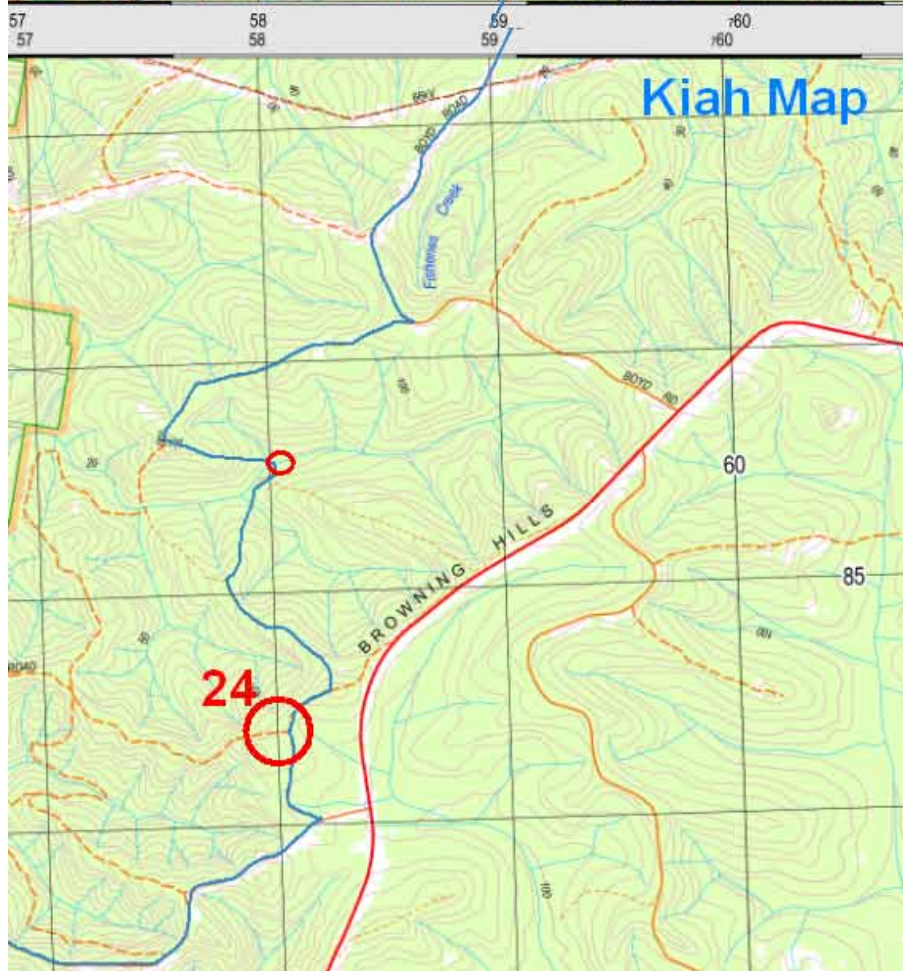
## Leg Twenty-four

(KIAH)

From the head of Burrawang Rd it's downhill almost 2km to a left turn into Mustering Ground Fire Trail. Then straight on until Upper Kiah Rd where you turn left and head easterly. About a kilometre before the Princes Highway, by exploring trails on the left, a few optional primitive-bush campsites will present. At the highway intersection you go straight across onto Shelleys Rd.

To walk all the way to the formal campsite at 24 is a long walk through the winding state forest road. If it's too far for one day's walk, level sites will be found a little distance off the road for bush camping. Various creeks cross Shelleys Rd but few if any will have running water.

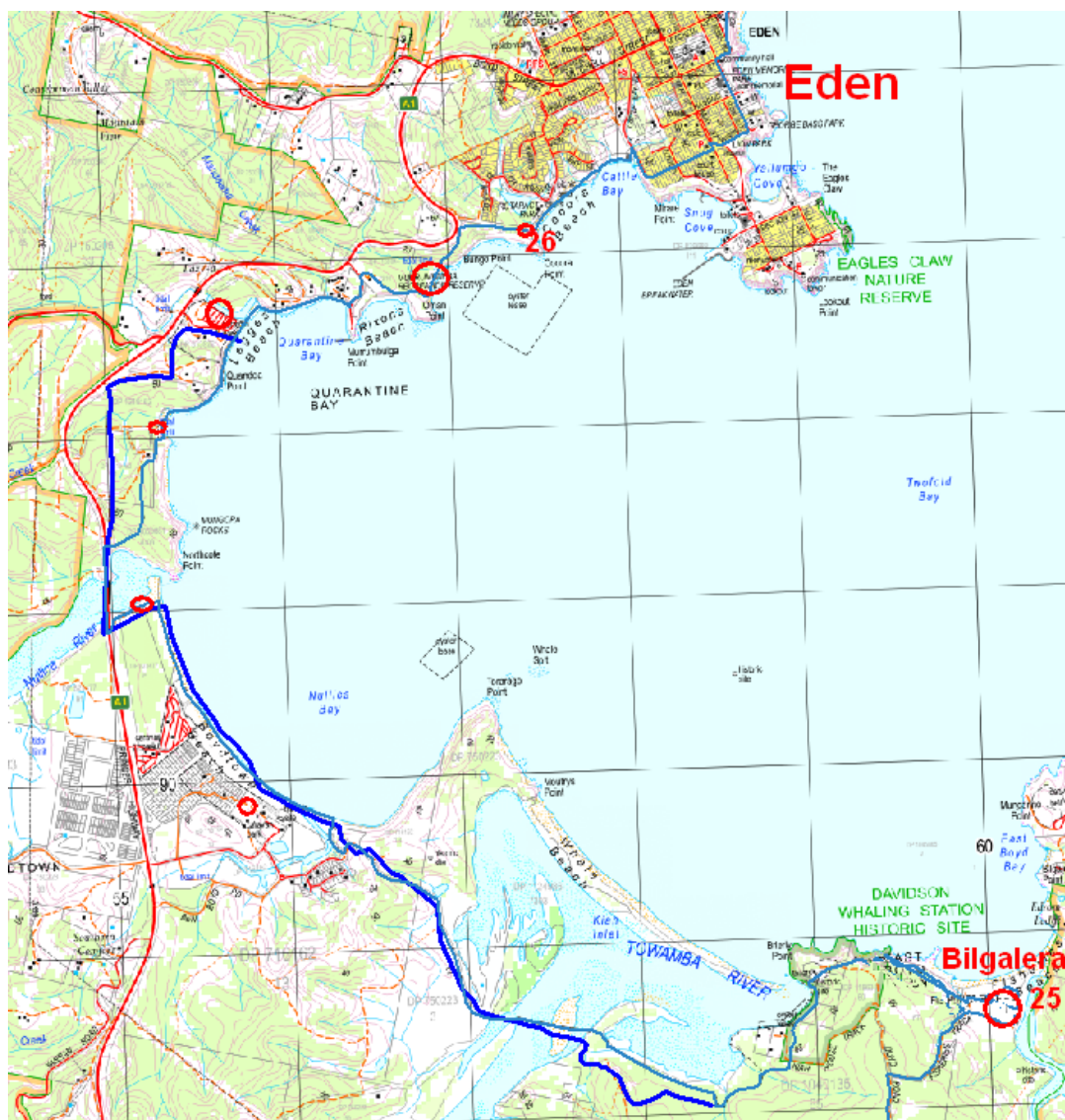




## Leg Twenty-five

(KIAH and EDEN)

Within sight of Edrom Road, turn left, then first right, and then left again where the trail leads down to a creekline and then beside the creek where there are potential bush campsites. Stay on this track a few more kilometres to the left-turn junction with Boyd Rd, and the road leads downhill towards Twofold Bay and Bilgalera. When you come onto the sandy flats above Davidson Whaling Station, turn right in the Private Property road owned by Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council. At the bottom, behind Fisheries Beach, lies the historical Bilgalera camping place, directly across the bay from Eden.



From Bilgaera, further trails lead around the bay to Eden in a day or two's walk with options of free camping, paid camping or accommodation.

From Eden it is a walk of another day or two to the camping area at Jigamy and the Monaroo Bobberer Gudu Keeping Place near Pambula Lake. These trails are currently still under construction. They will be included in Book 2 of the mapping process



