

Olinda Creek Walking Track

Track Notes

The Olinda Creek Walking Track is located within the Dandenong Ranges and extends from Silvan Reservoir Park in the east, to Mt Evelyn in the west.

Passing through many different vegetation types from dry open forest areas to spectacular fern-filled gullies, the walking track provides an ideal setting to experience the sights, sounds and smells of Australia's bush. You may even meet some of the forest's inhabitants along the way!

About Silvan Reservoir Park

Silvan Reservoir Park was developed in the 1930's to offer visitors recreational opportunities beside the newly constructed water storage reservoir. It has since developed into one of the major tourist attractions within the Dandenong Ranges.

Silvan is ideal for picnics and barbeques in the shade of the delightful Cypress trees and shelter of shingle-roof rotundas. The park provides vast open areas for sport, views of the reservoir and an adventure playground.

In the Summer months you can sit on the open lawn areas and watch the sunset over Mt. Dandenong, taking in the fresh mountain air.

Where to start

The Olinda Creek Walking Track commences at Stonyford Road, Silvan, in the Overflow (24 hour) Carpark opposite Silvan Reservoir Park (Melway Map 120 H11).

Distance: 5.6 kilometres from Silvan to Mt Evelyn.

Duration: Approximately 2 hours one way.

Grade: Moderate to gently undulating terrain with some moderately steep sections. Gravel surface.

If you are commencing the walk from Mt. Evelyn, park your car at the Mt. Evelyn Recreation Reserve and access the track via Tramway Road. Refer to the map overleaf or Melway Map 120 C3.

Track notes

As you leave from Silvan and slowly wind your way along the start of the track, one becomes captivated by the many types of ferns and understorey plants covering the forest floor.

Beneath the towering fire scorched Messmate and Mountain Ash eucalyptus trees, you wonder what it

would have been like during the raging 1939 Black Friday fires.

The vegetation changes substantially as you cross over the old aqueduct line (marked by the cleared area) and enter the Olinda Creek valley below.

Quite suddenly the air becomes cooler, the trees are taller and the understorey plants are greener as fern trees become more abundant.

The wildlife in this area is quite diverse. If you walk quietly you may be lucky enough to see an Echidna. Look for areas at the side of the track where they have been foraging and scratching for ants.



Short-beaked Echidna

Many different types of birds live in this forest. To catch a glimpse, sit or stand quietly on the bridge and listen for the Spotted Pardalotes or watch them racing from bank to bank across the slowly running water of Olinda Creek.

From here you will wind your way up to and along the Pipe Track Road, which takes you to Mt. Evelyn. Along the track are silver water valves connected to a water pipe underground. This pipe transports water from Silvan Reservoir to Preston, where it is distributed for domestic consumption.

On your walk notice the different vegetation on the higher, drier and more rocky slopes from the greener vegetation encountered in the fern gullies.



Parks Victoria Ranger
David Foster

"Victoria has all the outdoors you could wish for- mountains, forests, beaches and bushland, all preserved in our parks. Our natural landscapes have been here longer than anyone knows, and together we can make sure they're here forever."

For more information call the Parks Victoria Information Centre on **13 1963**

or visit our website at <http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au>



Short walks

Two short enjoyable walks form part of the Olinda Creek Walking Track route that commence from the Overflow (24 hour) Carpark.

Messmate Walking Track

Distance: 1.4 kilometres.

Time: 30 minutes return.

Grade: Moderate, gravel surface.

Features: Natural forest and wildlife.

Grey Gum Walking Track

Distance: 2.3 kilometres.

Time: 1 hour return.

Grade: Moderate, gravel surface.

Features: Natural forest and wildlife.

How to get there

Silvan Reservoir Park is 50 kilometres east of Melbourne, in the Dandenong Ranges near Mt. Evelyn. Approach from Stonyford Road via Monbulk Road (Melway Map 120 H11).

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Other parks in the area to visit:

R.J. Hamer Forest Arboretum
(Melway 122 A8).

Dandenong Ranges National Park, Olinda (Melway 66 K2).

Kalorama Park (Melway 52 J9).

Kays Picnic Ground
(Melway 124 D3).

Caring for the environment

Help us look after the park by remembering these guidelines:

Do not disturb or remove native flora and fauna.

Remain on the track at all times.

Dogs are only permitted within the picnic grounds of Silvan Reservoir Park and must be kept on a leash at all times.

Please take your rubbish home with you.

Camping is not permitted within the park.

No trail bikes, pushbikes, or mountain bikes along walking track.

Please don't just throw this Parknote away. Keep it, return it for others to use, or recycle it.

