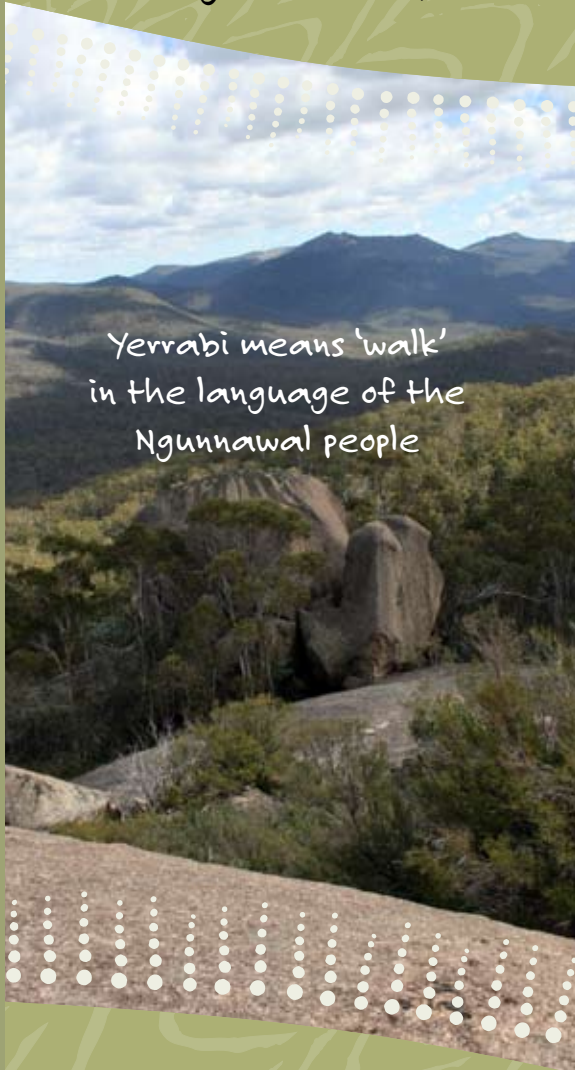




Ngunnawal people  
welcome you to  
namadgi national park

namadgi



Yerrabi means 'walk'  
in the language of the  
Ngunnawal people

## Yerrabi Walking Track



ACT  
Government



Healthy Parks  
Healthy People

A magnificent panorama, obvious vegetation changes, wildflowers and distinct geological features make the Yerrabi Track a special Namadgi experience.

This moderate 4 km (2 hrs) return walk along a rocky bush track, begins at the Boboyan Trig car park on the Boboyan Road (35 km south of the Namadgi Visitor Centre). The track meanders through forest and swampy grassland before passing Boboyan Trig and ending at a steep, rocky outcrop with sweeping views.

### Mountain Flora

Four main vegetation communities are evident on the walk. All are influenced by the exposure to sun, cold and moisture, as well as differing soil types.

#### 1. Peppermint Forest

The first part of the track from the car park to the swampy grassland is exposed to the hot afternoon sun and

strong north-west winds. These combine to dry the soil, retarding plant growth and favouring the hardy Broad-leaved Peppermint. To avoid drying out, eucalypt leaves have a high oil content which can be seen as tiny dots when held up to the light. Snow Gums and Mountain Gums are also present. This forest is more open and lower than the Mountain Gum forest further along the track.

#### 2. Swampy Grassland

Wet soil and drainage of cold air into the frost hollow at the bottom of the slope make it very difficult for trees to survive. However, the Black Sallee, distinguished by olive-green or bronze coloured bark, has adapted to the harsh conditions and grows here along with an understorey of snow grass and wildflowers including Trigger Plant.

#### 3. Mountain Gum/Snow Gum Forest

Beyond the swamp, a taller, more complex forest of Snow Gums and Mountain Gums grow on the east-facing slope. Here the canopy is higher and denser and the trunks thicker than in the Peppermint Forest. These characteristics are the result of being sheltered from the prevailing winds, hotter afternoon sun and the extreme temperatures of summer and winter. The area is thus more moist, favouring plant growth and survival.

#### 4. Hill Top

At the top of the hill, there is an abrupt change to a stunted, shrub community with grasses and a few Snow Gums barely holding on. Here exposure to the wind from every direction (cold and bleak in winter and searing in summer), contributes to the severity of the conditions. Due to wind erosion, the soils are thin and rocky. Shrubs such as tea-trees can avoid the worst effects of the wind because of their low and relatively dense growth form. This hill top is also recovering from the combined effects of the 1983 and 2003 bushfires.

### Aboriginal Significance

Natural rock overhangs, such as those formed on the boulders below Tor Viewpoint, were used as shelters by Aboriginal people. The Birrigai Rock Shelter at Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve for example, was occupied 21,000 years ago. Traditional pathways from the valleys to the mountains were followed for ceremonial and trading purposes and in the search for seasonally available food such as the Bogong Moth. Other significant Aboriginal sites in the southern part of Namadgi include the Mt Namadgi stone arrangements and Yankee Hat rock art site.



Mountain Gum Forest (left),  
Bulbine Lily (above).

## Animals

The vegetation types along the Yerrabi Track provide habitat for a broad array of birds, mammals reptiles and invertebrates. The Red-necked Wallaby, which has a reddish rump and back, can be seen here during summer. Look for wombat burrows and cube-shaped scats around the swampy grassland.

Birds are more evident during the warmer summer months. Some birds migrate to lower altitudes during winter, but the Crimson Rosella and Gang-gang Cockatoo can be seen all year round. Lyrebirds are most likely to be heard in winter and spring in the forest below the tors.

## The Zone of Contact

Two distinctive geological formations meet at the Boboyan Trig. To the east lie sedimentary siltstones, shales and sandstones laid down at the bottom of a sea over 400 million years ago. To the west is Namadgi's more characteristic granite, formed when molten rock was forced up into the sedimentary rock fifty million years later. The granite has become visible as the softer sedimentary rocks have eroded away. The 'zone of contact' is very evident just past Boboyan Trig and is marked by a small plaque on the east side of the track.

## About Namadgi National Park

Namadgi National Park was declared in 1984. Consisting of 106,095 ha, it protects native plants, animals, habitat and cultural heritage. The park takes its name from the Aboriginal word for the ranges in the south-west of the ACT. Namadgi is also part of the Australian Alps National Parks, a network of parks across Australia's high country in the south-east of the continent, that are managed cooperatively and consistently across land management agencies.

## Suggestions for Walkers

- Bring food and water.
- Wear comfortable, sturdy walking shoes.
- Bring binoculars and a camera.
- The weather can change quickly at any time of year so be prepared with suitable clothing.

## Further Information

Namadgi National Park Visitor Centre Naas Rd,  
Tharwa ACT 2620  
Phone (02) 6207 2900  
Enquiries: Phone Canberra Connect on 13 22 81  
Email: namadginationalpark@act.gov.au  
Website: www.tams.act.gov.au

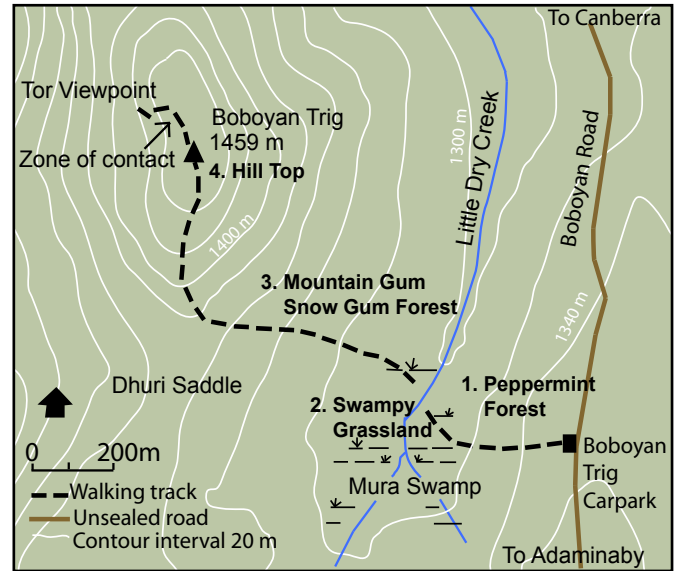
NPAACT Website: www.npaact.org.au  
Produced by Parks and Conservation Service (PCS), Department of Territory and Municipal Services.

The Yerrabi Track was established by members of the National Parks Association of the ACT in 1987. For a more comprehensive 'nature notes' booklet, contact the NPA of the ACT.



2011

# Yerrabi Track 4 km return Moderate Grade



The rounded shapes of the granite boulders are due to a combination of physical and chemical weathering. Expansion and contraction of the boulders causes 'onion-skin' weathering where the outer surface separates from the main bulk in thin layers. Often boulders are undercut to produce natural shelters such as the one below Tor Viewpoint.



The Trigger Plant has an interesting way of distributing pollen. Its sensitive column or trigger is reflexed behind the petals. When an insect visits the flower, the trigger is released in a hammer-like action to coat the insect with pollen, or, when the stigma is receptive, to receive pollen.

