A magnificent panorama, obvious vegetation changes, wildflowers and distinct geological features make the Yerrabi Track a special Namadgi experience. This moderate 4 kilometre (2 hour) return walk along a rocky bush track, begins at the Boboyan Trig car park on Boboyan Road (35 kilometres south of the Namadgi Visitor Centre). The track meanders through forest, swampy grassland and an exposed hilltop, ending at a rocky outcrop with sweeping views.

### Mountain flora

The four main vegetation communities on the walk are influenced by exposure to the sun, cold, moisture and soil types.

#### 1. Peppermint forest

The first part of the track down to the swampy grassland is exposed to the hot afternoon sun and strong north-west winds. These conditions 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 (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 colder air into the frost hollow at the bottom of the slope make it very difficult for trees to survive in the swampy grassland. 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 grasses 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 more dense, and the trunks thicker than in the Peppermint forest—the result of being sheltered from the prevailing winds, hot afternoon sun and extreme temperatures during 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. 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. Another significant Aboriginal site in the southern part of Namadgi is the Yankee Hat rock art site.

**Animals**

The vegetation types along the 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. Wombats also live here, building large burrows and leaving their characteristic cube-shaped scats. 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 Tor Viewpoint.

The zone of contact

Two distinctive geological formations meet at the ‘zone of contact’ which is just beyond Boboyan Trig. To the east are sedimentary rocks that were laid down on the sea bed around 450 million years ago. They consist mainly of quartz-rich sandstone and some beds of siltstone and shale. To the west is Namadgi’s more characteristic granodiorite (an igneous rock similar to granite) formed when molten rock was forced up into the sedimentary rock 40 million years later. Over time, the granodiorite has become visible as the softer sedimentary rocks have eroded away.

**About Namadgi National Park**

Namadgi National Park was declared in 1984 making 2014 the 30th anniversary of the declaration. Consisting of 106,095 hectares, 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**

- The weather can change quickly at any time of year so be prepared with suitable clothing.
- Bring food and water.
- Wear comfortable, sturdy walking shoes.
- Bring binoculars and a camera.
- Advise someone of your plans and use the walk registers.

**Leave no trace**

**Leave your pets at home.** Domestic pets are prohibited as they disturb native animals and other park visitors.

**Carry it in, carry it out.** There are no bins so please take all your rubbish home for disposal and recycling.

**Leave animals, plants and rocks where you find them.** Each has its place in the delicate balance of nature.

**Use a fuel stove.** They are quicker, cleaner and better for the bush. Open fires are not permitted in Namadgi National Park. Fires are permitted only in fireplaces provided at campgrounds and picnic areas. The nearest fireplaces are at Glendale and Orroral picnic areas. Ensure fires are completely extinguished. Total Fire Bans prohibit all fires (wood or gas) including fuel stoves and gas barbecues. Fire danger signs indicate what fire restrictions are in place.

**Got to go?** Use a toilet or take a walk at least 100 paces away from waterways. Dig 15 centimetres with a trowel, then cover waste with soil. The nearest toilets are located at Mount Clear campground.

**Respect heritage sites.** Please do not collect, deface or damage Aboriginal or European cultural heritage artefacts or sites. Stay on track. Even if it’s muddy or dusty, don’t widen tracks. Motorised vehicles are not permitted beyond public roads, car parks or locked gates.

**A camping permit** is available from the Namadgi Visitor Centre and is required for overnight camping in the Cotter Catchment (Bimberi Wilderness) portion of Namadgi National Park. Namadgi also has three established camping grounds at Orroral, Honeysuckle and Mount Clear.

**Further Information**

Namadgi National Park Visitor Centre Naas Rd, Tharwa ACT 2620
Phone (02) 6207 2900 or Canberra Connect: 13 22 81
Email: namadginationalpark@act.gov.au
Website: www.tams.act.gov.au
The Yerrabi Track was established by members of the National Parks Association (NPA) of the ACT in 1987.
Website: www.npaact.org.au
Boboyan Valley

Sentry Box Mountain 1727m

Yaouk Peak 1725m (NSW) Sentry Box Rock 1673m Mt Gudgenby 1739m Unnamed peak in Scabby Range c.1735m

Bogong Creek

Mt Kelly 1829m Yankee Hat 1558m Yankee Hat 1447m (lower peak)

Mt Burbidge c.1730m

Mt Namadgi c.1782m

Granite tors

Heights are approximate for some mountains that have not been surveyed accurately.

Panorama from Tor Viewpoint