

Latrobe Walking Tracks:

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1. Introduction:

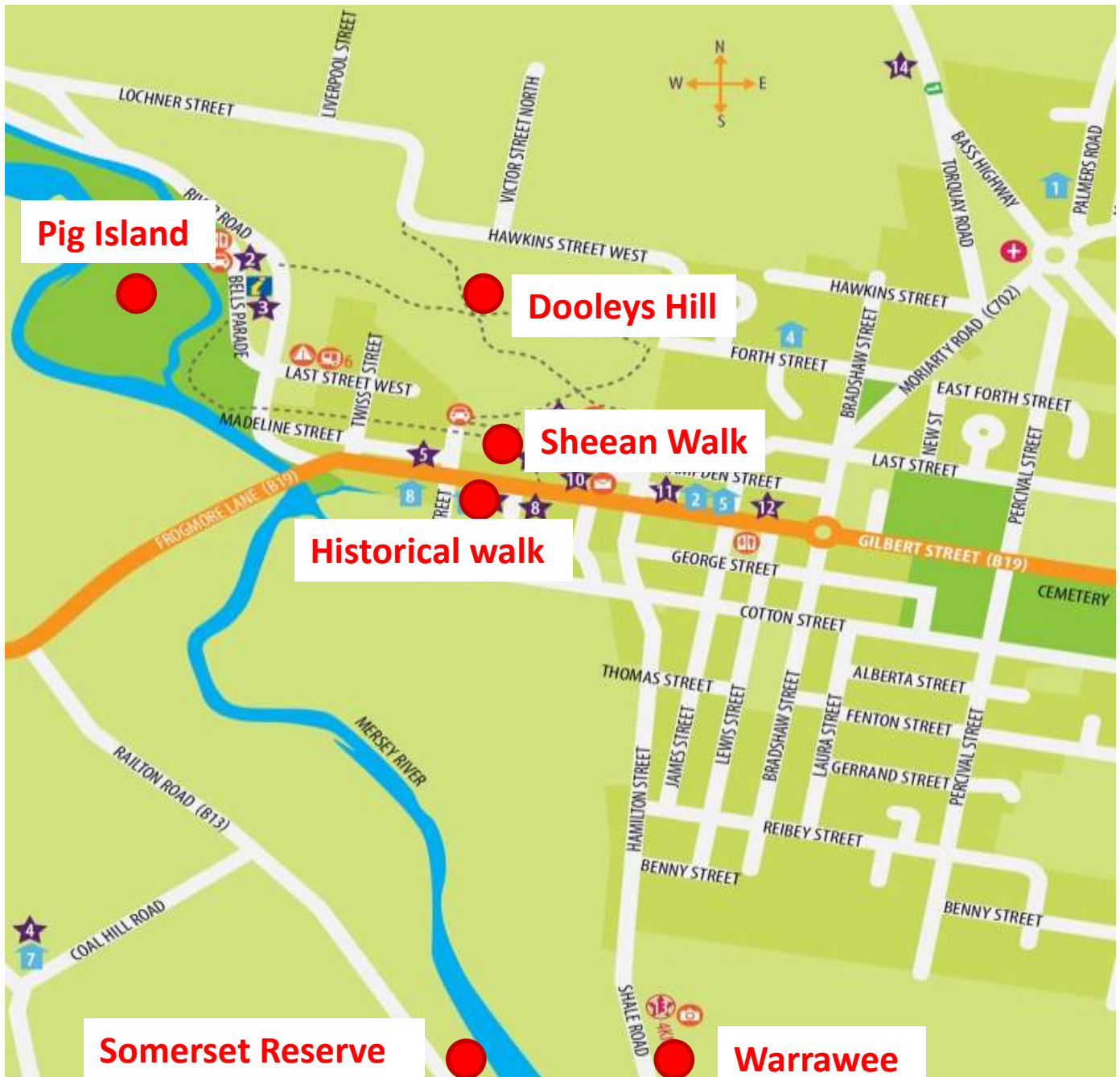
Latrobe Council committed \$19,500 in its 2012-13 budget for track completion, improvement of signage and infrastructure and for promotion relating to walking tracks in the Latrobe township area.

This document will provide a scoping report of works required and cost. The works include:

- directional and interpretative signage on tracks and at trail heads;
- a brochure-type Walking Track Guide and electronic version of that guide on the Latrobe Council website and www.latrobetasmania tourism website; and
- track improvements where required.

Six tracks have been identified for inclusion in the Latrobe Walking Tracks Guide:

- Dooleys Hill walking track network;
- Pig Island;
- Warrawee and the Big Bend River walk;
- Sheean Memorial Walk;
- Latrobe Town Historical Walk;
- Henry Somerset Reserve.



This diagram shows the location of the walking tracks to be included in the Latrobe walking Trails Guide.

A similar map (but done by a graphic Design professional), will appear on the front cover of the walking Trails brochure.

2. Summary of works:

1. Erection of directional, entry and interpretation signage
2. Track construction and improvement
3. Development of A5 Latrobe Walking Tracks Guide brochure
4. Development of online brochure for latrobetaustralia.com website

2.1 Signage required:

- 9 x Interpretation plaques (single post)
- 3 x entry boards 750mm x 1500mm (double post)
- 1 x board 440mm x 590mm (no post)
- 1 x board 200mm x 750mm (no post)
- 17 x double-sided fingerpost directional signs (single post)
- 4 x single-sided fingerpost directional signs (single post)
- 43 poles

All signs will:

- Be in the Latrobe maroon theme.
- Directional and interpretative signage will feature a small silhouette image of a person walking, in keeping with the Port Sorell walking track theme
- Fingerpost directional signs and entry boards will all be digitally printed all-weather laminate on metal board or metal fingerpost sign (as relevant) mounted on steel pole(s)
- Interpretative signage will be all-weather digitally printed laminate flush-mounted onto face of 3 metre railway sleepers dug 1.5 metres into the ground and stood vertically.

2.2 Signage examples:

Track entry sign example:

Example illustrates construction and colour, though sign wording will vary

Entry signs will be erected at Dooleys Hill Tracks (Bells Parade entry and Kings Park entry and at Bells Parade entry to Sheean Walk



Directional sign example:

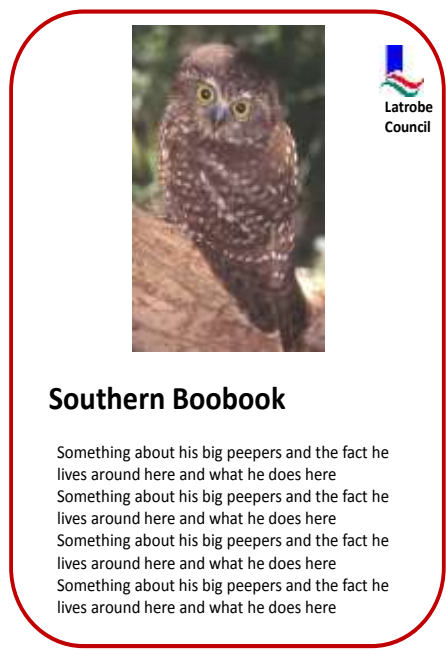
Actual sign will be maroon, not green; emblem will be walker, not maple leaf; content will say destination, time & arrow.



Interpretation sign example:

Weatherproof aluminium plate set into face of railway sleeper.

White with maroon border, council logo, image of subject, about 50 words of text in medium-sized type



2.3 Trackwork:

- Presently about 3-6 visitor groups a day to Latrobe Visitor Information Centre (LVIC) request an activity for an hour or two, before they get on the Spirit of Tasmania that night. LVIC volunteers encourage them to Dooleys Hill or one of the municipality's other walks. However, the short but obscured journey from LVIC to the existing start of the Dooleys Hill track is confusing to those not from Latrobe. An extension of the Dooleys Hill track across the grass on the Bells Parade side of River Rd would assist in directing visitors to the Hill. It is proposed to put a hard-surface track from the carpark beside the LVIC 75 metres to the existing start of the track. An alternative route (50 metres) from

the car park at the north end of Bells Parade (by the rotunda), across the grass to near the existing track start by River Rd, is shorter, but would not take walkers directly to and from the LVIC. It would however, encourage visitors to walk from the LVIC along Bells Parade to get to the walking track start.

- If more visitor traffic is to be encouraged to Pig Island, consideration should be given to improving the track surface in two sections – a 48m section on the north-west corner in which users must presently negotiate exposed tree roots (a trip hazard) and a 100m section that is regularly inundated at king tides and during storm flooding, making the track impassable. Due to cost, this may be considered in a future stage.
- No track work is required at Warrawee, Sheean Memorial Walk, Gilbert St historic walk, Tasmania Trail or Henry Somerset Reserve.

2.4 Brochure:

- 8-page A5 full-colour semi-gloss brochure (3000 copies), comprising cover, 2-page spread on Dooleys Hill, and one page for each of the other trails.
- Each page to feature a track map, picture, information on how to get there, grade & standard of track, interpretation information; and a highlight box of one particularly interesting feature on that trail

2.5 Online brochure:

Electronic version of the printed Guide. The graphic art that is used as a PDF file for printing, is converted to as SWF file and uploaded to the www.latrobetasmania.com website.

This is the type of electronic brochure in which you can click on the arrow to flick pages.

3 Proposed budget:

Revenue:

Latrobe Council budgeted item = \$19,500

Expenses:

a) General:

Tourism & Economic Development Officer – labour = 40 hours @ \$41.73/hr = \$1669

TOTAL: = \$1669

b) Signage:

9 x Interpretation plaques (single post, metal) = \$343

3 x entry boards 750mm x 1500mm (double post) = \$520

1 x board 440mm x 590mm (no post) = (inc in \$520 price above)

1 x board 200mm x 750mm (no post) = \$55

17 x double-sided fingerpost directional signs (single post) = \$840

4 x single-sided fingerpost directional signs (single post) = \$145

Poles: 32 steel posts @ \$49.50/post = \$1584

Struts, brackets & caps = \$480

Plastic directional arrows = \$30

Total signage materials cost: = \$3997

Council labour & equipment for installation: @\$50/sign for 29 signs = \$1450

@ \$100/sign for 3 signs = \$300

Total signage labour cost = \$1750

SIGNAGE TOTAL = \$5747

c) Trackwork:

Bells Parade (Dooleys Hill to Axeman's carpark):

Cement stabilised gravel footpath 75 metres @ \$110/m = \$8250

Dirt-surface 30m extension to existing Dooleys Track = \$120

TRACKWORK TOTAL: = \$8370

d) Marketing/promotion:

Brochure:

9 x images for brochure & Dooleys Hill interpretation signs = \$450

Graphic design = \$200

Printing: 3000 x 8-page A5 full-colour brochures = \$1380

Total: = \$2030

Online content:

Graphic design (conversion of print brochure to electronic) = \$50

QR Codes = \$50

Total: = \$100

PROMOTION TOTAL: = \$2130

4 Dooleys Hill:

4.1 Signage required (Dooleys Hill):

Four types of signs are required on this track network:

- Information boards (including small amount of informative literature plus track map) at main entries at Kings Park and Bells Parade
- Fingerpost signs at secondary entry points on Forth St, Last St, Victor St and Hawkins St West
- Directional signage at track junctions
- Interpretative panels along tracks

Dooleys Hill

- Entry signs
- Interpretation signs
- ◇ Directional signs



4.1.1 Signage in detail:

Location	Position	Type	Content	Cost
Gilbert St	Entry to Kings Park carpark	Fingerpost (double-sided)	"Dooley Hill walking tracks" (and arrow)	
Kings Park	At Kings Park picnic area entry gate or on north side of Kings Creek footbridge	Aluminium panel	"Dooleys Hill walking Tracks" Map of tracks, showing name & time & grade	
Bells Parade entry	East side of River Rd at Bells Parade carpark	Aluminium panel	Identical to Kings Park sign: "Dooleys Hill walking Tracks" Map of tracks, showing name & time & grade	
Forth St entry	Intersection of Forth St and Monaghan St	Metal fingerpost	"Dooley Hill walking tracks" (and arrow)	
Last St entry	Trailhead on Last St	Metal fingerpost	"Dooley Hill walking tracks" (and arrow)	
Victor St entry	Trailhead on Victor St	Metal fingerpost	"Dooley Hill walking tracks" (and arrow)	
Hawkins St West entry	At intersection of Forth St and Twiss St North	Metal fingerpost	"Dooley Hill walking tracks" (and arrow)	
8 x interpretation panels		Plaque on plastic, metal or wood bollard	See below	
5 x directional signs at path intersections		Fingerpost or wooden	See below	

Entry signage (Dooleys Hill) in detail:

- River Rd (board sign)
- Kings Park (board sign))
- Forth St
- Last St/William St corner
- Victor St
- Hawkins St West

The Kings Park and River Road entry signs have been quoted as 750mm x 1500mm panel signs. They will include a track map and basic information such as times and track difficulty.

Fingerpost signs are deemed sufficient at the other four entry points as these are secondary entry points likely to be only used by locals, who would not require the full information required by visitors.

Visitors are most likely to use the entry points at Bells Parade and Kings Park and would require information such as track map and track times, thus information boards are proposed for these two entry points.

Directional signage (Dooleys Hill) in detail:

8 x directional signage at intersections (signs denote destination, time and directional arrow)

1. (fingerpost) Dooleys Hill Walking Trails ← Back: Dooleys Hill Walking Trails →
2. (board) Dooleys Hill Walking Trails: image, trail map, trail titles, distance, grade
3. (fingerpost) Blackwood Trail walking track (Kings Park 5mins, Bells Parade 30mins)
4. (board) Dooleys Hill walking Track: Kings Park 40 mins. Same info as Sign 2
5. (fingerpost) Dooleys Hill Walking Track: Kings Park 15 mins, Bells Parade 15 mins
6. (fingerpost) Dooleys Hill Walking Tracks: Kings Park 10 mins ↖ Bells Parade via ↗

Ridge Track 20 mins

7. (fingerpost) Dooleys Hill Walking Tracks: Kings Park 5 mins, Bells Parade 40 mins
8. (board) sign at Bells Parade carpark

(Peter Tonelli suggests trail names reflect local birdlife: e.g. Blue Wren Track; Bronze-wing Track; Firetail Track; Boobook Track; Gosshawk Track)

4.1.3 Interpretation panels (Dooleys Hill) in detail:

9 x interpretation panels are proposed for various points along the main trails, to add interest to the walking experience.

Information about local fauna has been provided by Mr Peter Tonelli for free, for use on the interpretation signage.

These interpretation signs are proposed to be one of three options:

Steel post 1.2m high with angled weatherproof plaque on top (almost as cheap as sleepers, less sympathetic to surrounding environment)

3m railway sleeper embedded on its end to a depth of 1.5m with a rebated flush-faced weatherproof plaque fixed to the face. (using timber sleepers would be more fitting with the surrounding environment than steel or plastic signs, and are cheapest option, but have a life of 10 years).

Recycled plastic bollard with weatherproof plaque affixed to face (most expensive option)

4.2 Trackwork required (Dooleys Hill) in detail:

- It is proposed to build a path from the Dooleys Hill trail head at River Rd, across the grass verge on the Bells Parade side of River Rd, to the carpark beside the visitor

centre. This path should be a hard-formed surface. Gravel (or similar) is preferred to concrete as it is in keeping with the natural feel of the precinct, surrounding paths, and is cheaper than concrete or other. The path must cross an open drain on Bells Parade. The route options are:

- South route: a 110m formed gravel track (\$12,100) with 7m footbridge (\$18,000) to provide most direct route from LVIC to Dooleys Hill track
- North route: a 60m formed gravel track (\$6600) with pipe and gravel crossing (\$12,000) over open drain to carpark at northern end of Bells Parade (adjacent to rotunda)
- Existing Dooleys Hill tracks are in adequate condition (with exception of beginnings of washout on one 20m section at Bells Parade entrance to Dooleys Hill track).
- There are adequate seats placed periodically along the main tracks.

4.3 Brochure/web content (Dooley's Hill):

Map: (sourced) *chris: track names must be added to map for brochure*

Distance and time:

- *Kings Park Track to William St: 500m (5 mins)*
- *Kings Park to Bells Parade via Dooleys Track (35 mins)*
- *Blackwood Trail to Ridge Track via Lucinda's Track and return via Dooley's Track (40 mins)*
- *Around Dooleys Walk: Kings Park to Twiss St via Dooleys and Ridge Tracks; follow Twiss St to River Rd (follow road) and return via River Rd and Sheean Memorial Walk, 6km (3 hours)*
- *Dooleys Track, Blackwood Trail, Kings Park Track 800m (10 mins)*

Track grade and details: *Grade: Easy to medium.*

Tracks are formed gravel paths suitable for all weather and all footwear. Kings Park Track is relatively flat while all other tracks feature parts of moderate steepness.

How to get there:

There are entry points at Bells Parade, Kings Park off Gilbert St, plus Victor St, Forth St, William St and Hawkins St West.

Attractions:

Look up and listen: The Birds of Dooley's Hill

Peter Tonelli's literature about the birdlife of the hill

Highlight Box:

The white goshawk – details and image provided by Peter Tonelli

5 Sheean Walk:

5.4 Signage required (Sheean Walk):

Entry sign at Bells Parade end: 750mm x 1500mm.

Existing on-track signage adequate.

5.2 Trackwork required (Sheean Walk):

Nil. Tree roots are breaking through pavement near Victor St but this has been separately budgeted for in the 2013-14 financial year.

5.3 Brochure/web content (Sheean Walk):

Map: (sourced)

Distance and time:

Bells Parade to Gilbert St 15 mins, 770m. 30 mins return.

How to get there:

Sheean Memorial Walk begins at Gilbert St (opposite Station Square) and follows a former railway line to River Road, near Bells Parade.

Track grade and details:

Flat and easy. The entire walk is a formed bitumen path suitable for all weather and all footwear.

Attractions:

Plaques along this tree-lined memorial walk provide fascinating insights into the major conflicts and missions Australian defence force personnel have been involved in, with the first section from Gilbert Street dedicated to World War 2 campaigns. Other plaques relate to World War 1 and the Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam and Korean conflicts as well as Australian peacekeeping activities.

The main memorial on Gilbert Street has been erected in memoriam to Latrobe war hero Edward "Teddy" Sheean.

On 1st December, 1942, the HMAS Armidale came under a sustained Japanese air attack whilst enroute to support Australian operations in Timor. Enemy planes came from all directions, including nine bombers, three fighters and a float plane. Two explosions rocked the Armidale causing the "Abandon Ship" order. As the crew were abandoning, the Japanese began machine-gunning survivors in the water. Already wounded twice himself, Ordinary

Seaman Edward "Teddy" Sheean, aged 18, strapped himself into the aft 20mm Oerlikon anti-aircraft gun and shot at the attacking aircraft. Teddy shot down one aircraft and damaged two others.

Teddy kept shooting as the Arafura Sea closed over the HMAS Armidale and is credited with saving many lives.

He was posthumously Mentioned in Dispatches and had a Collins Class Submarine named after him.

Brochure highlight box:

HMAS SHEEAN was launched on 1 May 1999 and commissioned into the RAN on 23 February 2001. It is believed that this is the first Australian warship to be named for a Junior Sailor of the RAN.

Both the town of Latrobe (TAS) and the City of Armidale (NSW) are another first, sharing the adoption of HMAS SHEEAN.

6 Warrawee:

6.1 Signage required (Warrawee):

Existing signage at the entry to tracks and at intersections of tracks is adequate, with two exceptions.

1. Need a sign near the BBQs in the day parking area indicating “walking tracks 100m” and a directional arrow, as visitors may not be aware of the existence of the tracks and there is no signage in the central day use area to indicate their existence.
2. The junction of the Fern Gully Track and the River Walk does not have a sign. Such a sign needs to show the River Walk track, its distance and time, and to show a directional arrow to assist River Track users to get back to the picnic area.
“River walk 3km, 4 hours return”



● Directional signs

6.2 Trackwork required (Warrawee):

The tracks are kept in good condition by the generous volunteer efforts of Ron and Phil Hedditch and do not require upgrading.

6.3 Brochure/web content (Warrawee):

A Warrawee brochure exists but this could be replaced by the Latrobe Walking Tracks Guide, saving the Warrawee committee the time and cost. Warrawee content for Walking Tracks Guide would comprise highlights of information in existing Warrawee Guide, and all

information from existing guide would appear on the Latrobe tourism website. (The present brochure and map does not show the River Walk. This should be amended).

Map: (sourced)

Distance and time:

Fern Gully Track 2.6km, 40mins return

Fern Gully and Old Tramway Track loop, 5km, 75 mins return

River Walk from picnic area to Great Bend and Myrtle Hole: 3km return, xx hours return - to be confirmed by Ron Hedditch)

Track grade and details:

Grade: Easy to medium

The tracks are well-formed marked paths suitable for all weather. There are some uphill sections of moderate difficulty and some uneven surfaces. Solid footwear is recommended.

How to get there:

Drive or walk 3.5km from Gilbert St, Latrobe, along Hamilton Street and Shale Road to the Warrawee Forest Reserve.

Attractions:

Warrawee is a Tasmanian Aboriginal word meaning 'plenty' and within the 229ha of reserve there is plenty of flora and fauna, including several rare plant species.

It is also a favoured place to see a platypus, the best time being early morning or late evening when they are most active. It is also home to the rare giant freshwater lobster, the grey goshawk, bats in the warmer months, bettongs, echidnas and other fauna.

The Warrawee Forest Reserve and Myrtle Hole development are the result of a dedicated and enthusiastic local LandCare Group. It boasts:

- 5 km walking track
- 2 parklands with barbecues and tables. The parklands and walking track were created from disused quarries and rubbish dumps.
- 3 ponds stocked with trout.

The area includes remnants of the first power generation site (first of its type in the region), the old shale works including mine shafts, remains of the shale bridge across the Mersey River, flax and paint factory, foundations of Latrobe's former water pump and reservoir made of bluestone in the shape of an upside-down pyramid.

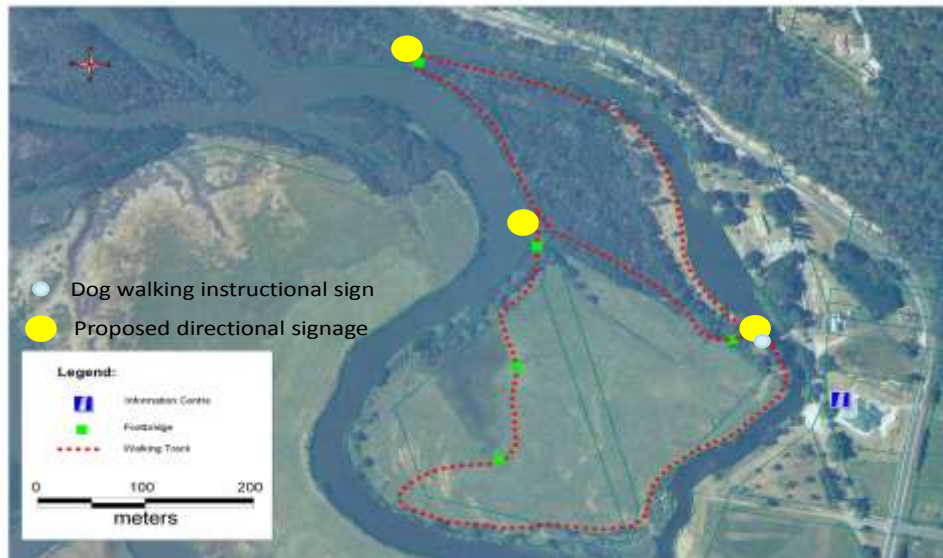
Highlight box:

The platypus:

The platypus closes its eyes, ears and nostrils when under the water. It finds prey by using its sensitive bill alone to find prey. To see platypus, wear dark clothes and move sparingly – platypus eyesight is fantastic in low light and for detecting movement. Conceal your presence using trees and bushes as a background. Platypus know the profile of their area intimately and will instantly detect shoulders and heads poking up against the horizon. Don't use torches or camera flashes. Above all, have patience.

7 Pig Island

Pig Island



7.1 Signage required (Pig Island):

7.1.1 Directional signage in detail (Pig Island):

1. At junction of “middle track” and loop track on Bells Parade side.
2. At junction of “middle track” and loop track on western side.
3. At north-west corner where a fisherman’s track tends to leave users off the loop track to a dead-end. A directional arrow would be sufficient to guide users to turn left and return towards the Axeman’s Hall.

7.1.2 Instructional signage in detail (Pig Island):

There should be a clear sign to show it is a dog walking area. This could be attached to the bottom of the existing entry sign (200mm x 750mm).

7.1.3 Directional arrows:

The first-time patron is likely to get lost on the western side of Pig Island, where the track is not a hard surface but is instead grass meandering between trees, and is indistinguishable from the other grass. Obviously, no-one can get lost on a small Island, but the confusion could be frustrating to visitors. There are some small red arrows that assist but they are small and becoming difficult to see from a distance as the trees grow in the foreground. A larger version of the red arrows, and more of them, would be adequate to guide the confused walker.

7.1.4 Interpretative signage (Pig Island):

There is insufficient funds in this budget to consider interpretative signage at Pig Island but the area would be ideal for an interpretative trail. Bells Parade has a fascinating history as a port and an interpretative signage trail focused on history could have significant interest for visitors. Further, Pig Island is an unusual mix of marine, inter-tidal and terrestrial environments; and a mix of salt and freshwater environments. This is rich fodder for flora and fauna interpretative signage. Interpretative signs denoting individual stories and facts, dotted along the track, may maximise the impact and interest.

This could be considered for a future stage of development.

7.2 Trackwork required (Pig Island):

There are two sections of track that may be sub-standard and need review before more people are encouraged to traverse the area – especially as many visitors attracted by it being a short walk may not have appropriate footwear for an uneven and slippery surface.

1. A 48 metre section in the melaleuca stand in the north-west corner of Pig Island is covered by tree roots, which are slippery, uneven and a significant trip/injury hazard. These should be covered by an elevated boardwalk.
2. A 100 metre section on the western side is vulnerable to inundation during king tides and floods. The water can remain for days after the tides. Pig Island manager Ron Hedditch (Latrobe Landcare) says this occurs multiple times over a four-month period each year. The time of year of the inundation varies, depending on the phases of the moon and sun. Consideration should be given to an elevated boardwalk or raised path over this section to ensure all the track remains passable all year.

7.3 Brochure/web content (Pig Island):

Map: (sourced)

Distance: 850m

Time: 40 minutes loop

How to get there:

Go to the Axeman's Hall of Fame and Visitor Information Centre Bells Parade, on the Mersey River at the western end of Latrobe. Cross the footbridge at the Bells Parade entry gates.

Track grade and details:

Easy. Flat. The track is mostly on formed paths with some grassed areas. Track is suitable for walks in all weather. Solid footwear recommended though light footwear acceptable. Parts

of the track have an uneven surface over tree roots and some parts can be waterlogged after rain or king tides.

Attractions:

About 8 sentences on history of area and some of the wildlife that can be seen.

Latrobe History Room helping with history stories (e.g. Settler's Wharf, queen's morning tea; brewery, bone mill; old mill race; trading point).

Peter Tonelli assisting with flora and (frogs, snakes, birds, burrowing crayfish, platypus, water birds, fish that can be caught from Pig Island; melaleuca forests ...

Highlight box:

This estuarine island of 15.3 hectares has been significantly altered by decades of up-river hydro power generation activities and consequent reduced river flows. Floods, farming practices, drainage, weed infestation, deforestation and flood levee construction has also significantly changed the island. It is presently undergoing a long-term rehabilitation program, undertaken by two exceptionally committed local volunteers Ron and Phil Hedditch, who intend to re-establish saltwater and freshwater wetlands, and wildlife.

How to get there:

Follow the B19 north-west from Latrobe for 1km before turning left onto B13 (Railton Rd). Follow Bq13 south for about 5km. Henry Somerset Reserve carpark is on the left.

Attractions:

Orchids are flirtatious little plants, many of which engage in a sexual deception. Orchids are pollinated by insects and some species have flowers that smell and look like a female wasp. The male wasps try to mate with the flower, in the process pollinating them. These relationships are highly specific – one species of orchid will deceive just one species of wasp.

They are just as choosy about their food as their partners. Orchids rely on fungi for nutrients. But not just any fungi – usually just one type. And rare orchids often rely on an equally rare fungi.

*This reserve is home to about 50 species of orchids, and is the most significant orchid reserve in Australia. Some of the species are listed as endangered or rare. Some are endemic not only to Tasmania, but to the local area. They range from the 60cm tall Hyacinth orchid *Dipodium roseum* to the 2cm high winter helmet orchid *Corybas*.*

The orchids are best seen during the flowering season from October to December, though some flower outside this period and some don't flower every year. So seeing an orchid in this reserve could be a tiny, but very rare discovery.

Highlight box:

*After more than 30 years of this reserve, experts are still discovering new orchid species here, such as the Robust Finger orchid, *Petalochilus tonellii*, named after the reserve founder Peter Tonelli.*

9. Latrobe Historical Walk:

9.1 Signage:

No signage on buildings. QR Codes printed in Walking Tracks brochure. The QR Code for that address is scanned by phone and the information appears on the phone.

9.2 Trackwork required:

No trackwork required as will follow Latrobe town footpaths

9.3 Brochure/promotion information:

Map:

Town map (sourced)

Distance:

1.25km (2.5km return)

Time:

1.5 hrs minimum

Track grade and details:

The entire walk follows formed concrete paths and is suitable for walks in all weather and with all footwear. The walking area is flat.

How to get there:

Gilbert St, Latrobe.

Attractions:

List of_address @ QR Code for each site of interest.

Details to be put on QR Code to be confirmed with Latrobe History Society.