

# **CARROW BROOK SLOG - MOUNT ROYAL NATIONAL PARK**

## **Track Notes**



**ABOVE: Scene from the Carrow Brook Slog**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Mount Royal National Park is accessed via Singleton, on the New England Highway. From Singleton follow Bridgeman Road past Lake St Clair and then onto Mount Royal Road. The national park is about 50km north of Singleton. Mount Royal Road is followed until the Youngville Camping Area is reached. This makes a good base for exploration of the national park. There are several sections of the road to the Youngville picnic and camping area that are in a bad condition, yet are still passable with a little common sense for all vehicles.

There are some that suggest a circuit route through the park by linking up with Cassels Road, however the National Parks and Wildlife Service says that the Cassels road is not suitable for 2WD vehicles and is open only for actual residents of the area.

It should be noted that it does snow at times in the Winter months in Mount Royal National Park, so visitors should be prepared for it. There is also a lot of rain, especially in the summer months.

## **2. TRACK NOTES:**

The Carrow Brook Slog is one that I have aptly named, for a slog it is. Another name for it could be the Carrow Brook Bush Bash (I think you get the picture now). This walk is not for the faint-hearted for a number of reasons. The trail used to descend the mountain is becoming very overgrown in parts and can be easily lost. It can be hard going at times just to get through the vegetation and that on the way down. Of course there is also the climb back up, which really does take it out of you.

You may now be asking, 'is the walk worth it then?' As much as you will complain about the actual walk once you have completed it, anyone that loves wilderness will adore this walk. Some of the scenery is breath taking. There is also the very real possibility of seeing a Platypus in its natural environment (which in itself makes the trip worthwhile).

The walk begins from near the Youngville Camping Area, just a few metres further up the road at the closed gate on a fire trail. The walk follows the fire trail down to Carrow Brook and another fire trail back up. The walk will take around 6 hours to complete. Be prepared for this walk by taking plenty of water and by wearing long clothes to prevent the many minor scratches that would be suffered otherwise.

The descent continues by way of the heavily mulched fire trail for around an hour. You will experience areas where the trail is becoming very overgrown and the track difficult to distinguish. Once at the bottom you quickly come upon a creek, which is followed downstream. This will involve rock hopping or a bit of bush bashing, depending on how wet you are prepared to become.

Be sure to be on the lookout for Platypus in the pools of this stream (I have seen them here). Approach quietly and you may see one. This will be especially so in the early morning. You will soon come across a junction with another stream, which may also be followed in the same manner. How far downstream you go is up to you, but there are some beautiful scenes along both streams.

To return to Youngville you need to retrace your steps along the stream, looking for a fire trail on your left. This will lead back up the slope, approaching Youngville from below the camp area. This climb is a difficult one, going uphill for what seems forever. Eventually you will arrive back at the campsite.

### **3. MAP:**

There will be a need to purchase the following 1:25 000 topographic map:

Carrabolla 9133-I-S