

L A T R O B E

# Walking Tracks Guide

Dooley's Hill



Sheean Walk



Warrawee  
Forest Reserve



Pig Island



Henry Somerset  
Orchid Reserve



Historic  
Walk



1.



# Dooley's Hill Walking Tracks



Image: Peter Tonelli TasNature

## Distance:

Tracks range from 500m to 6km, 5mins - 3hrs  
See below

## Grade:

Easy to medium

## Attraction:

Birdlife



## White Goshawk

A virtually white version of the more common brown goshawk *A. fasciatus*, these shy and endangered raptors are occasionally seen hunting or traversing the closed coastal forest along Dooley's Hill. Their alarm call is a repeated, rapid distinct high shrill-chatter. Their food consists of small mammals and birds, usually caught on the ground.

## Distance and time:

- Bells Parade to Kings Park via Kookaburra Trail: 35 mins.
- Boobook Fairy Wren loop: 10 mins.
- Dooley's Hill loop from King's Park, via Boobook, Bronzewing and Kookaburra trails: 40 mins.
- Dooleys Hill loop from Bells Parade, via Kookaburra, Bronzewing and Kookaburra trails: 1 hour.

## Track details:

Tracks are formed gravel paths suitable for all weather and all footwear. Firetail Trail and Fairy Wren Trail are relatively flat while all other tracks feature moderate climbs. Kookaburra Trail is moderately steep for short distance at Bells Parade end.



Blue Fairy Wren

## How to get there:

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

## Attractions:

The secret to the Dooley's Hill walking experience is to look up, and occasionally, just stop, wait quietly for a few minutes, and listen. That's when the true gems of the hill emerge – the birds. Dooley's Hill is a favourite haunt of several local bird species. From the firetail who mates for life, to the beautiful fairy wren who lives with its family for most of its life, to the reclusive southern boobook. Interpretative signs on the trails explain the local birds' lives and loves.

2.

# Sheean Walk

## Distance:

Bells Parade to Gilbert Street: 15 mins, 770m

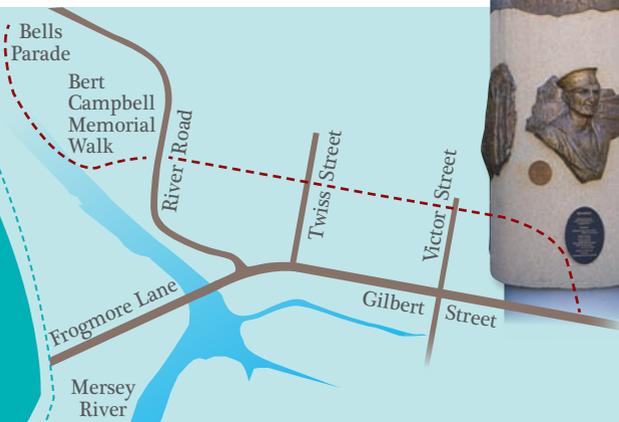
Return: 30 mins, 1.4km

## Grade:

Easy

## Attraction:

History



## How to get there:

Sheean Memorial Walk entry off Gilbert St (opposite Station Square), or on River Rd (next to caravan park).

## Track details:

The entire walk is a formed bitumen path on a former railway line. It is suitable for all weather and all footwear.

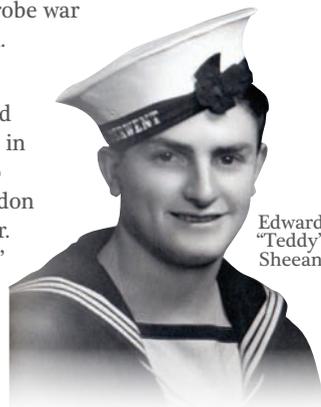
## Attractions:

Plaques along this tree-lined memorial walk provide fascinating insights into the major conflicts and missions Australian defence force personnel have been involved in, including World War 1, World War 2, the Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam and Korean conflicts and 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 while en route to support Australian operations in Timor. Enemy bombers and fighters came from all directions. Two explosions rocked the Armidale and the order was issued to "Abandon Ship". 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 anti-aircraft gun and shot down one and damaged two other attacking aircraft.

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

He has a Royal Australian Navy Collins Class Submarine named after him.



Edward  
"Teddy"  
Sheean

3.

# Warrawee Forest Reserve

**Due to flood damage, Warrawee Forest Reserve is currently closed.**

## Distance:

Shale Trail loop:  
2.6km, 40mins return

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

## Grade:

Easy to medium

## Attraction:

Platypus Sightings



The platypus closes its eyes, ears and nostrils when under the water. It finds prey by using its sensitive bill.

To see platypus, stand or sit quietly near bushes on the river bank, don't use a torch or camera flash, and above all, have patience!



## Track details:

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:

The Warrawee Forest Reserve boasts a 5km walking track and two parklands with barbecues and tables. The parklands and walking track were created by local volunteers from disused quarries and rubbish dumps.

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. Warrawee is also home to the rare giant freshwater lobster, the grey goshawk, bats in the warmer months, bettongs, echidnas and other fauna.

It is a key place in local history and remnants remain of the first electricity generation site 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, and foundations of former water supply infrastructure.

4.

# Pig Island



**Distance:**

850m, 40 minutes loop

**Grade:**

Easy

**Attraction:**

Nature

Mersey River

River Road

Bells Parade

Pig Island



**Track details:**

The track is mostly on formed paths with some grassed areas. Track is suitable for walks in all weather though can be extremely wet in winter. Solid footwear recommended. Parts of the track have an uneven surface over tree roots and some parts can be waterlogged after rain or king tides.

**How to get there:**

Go to the Axeman's Hall of Fame on River Rd (western end of Latrobe). Cross the footbridge at the Bells Parade entry gates.

**Attractions:**

This was the site of the first port in North-West Tasmania and was the region's key trading point from 1826 until the early 1900s.

Today, it is lined on one side by Bells Parade with its magnificent promenade of English trees, and natural wetlands on the other. It is a good place to view platypus and estuarine wildlife. The port, slipyards and commercial centre that once existed here are captured by interpretation at Bells Parade.

Floods, farming, drainage, weed infestation, deforestation and flood levee construction has significantly changed the island since those days but a long-term rehabilitation program being undertaken by two exceptionally committed local volunteers, Ron and Phil Hedditch, is re-establishing saltwater and freshwater wetlands, and wildlife.

Latrobe was once the third largest town in Tasmania and biggest in the north of the island. By the 1880s, it had a population of almost 2000 people, a hospital, three newspapers, many inns and hotels, a local brass band that is now the oldest continuously operating brass band in Australia, and a ship building facility on what is today Pig Island. The town was once so important the English cricket team played a tour match in Latrobe, in 1888.

5.

# Henry Somerset Orchid Reserve

## Distance:

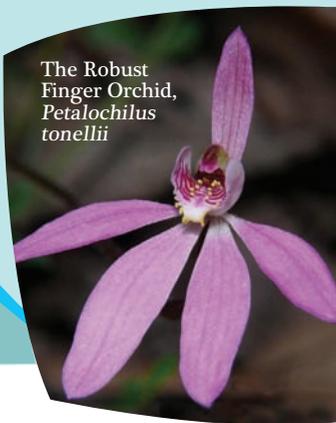
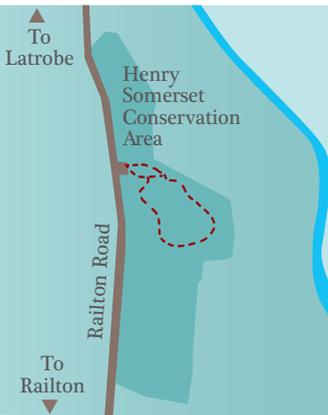
Approx. 1km,  
45mins return

## Grade:

Easy

## Attraction:

Orchids



The Robust  
Finger Orchid,  
*Petalochilus  
tonellii*



Salmon  
Sun Orchid,  
*Thelymitra  
rubra*

Slender  
Beard Orchid,  
*Calochilus  
gracilimus*

Images:  
RetiredAussies.com

## Track details:

Flat, good surface.

## How to get there:

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

## Attractions:

This reserve is the most significant orchid reserve in Australia and features several species found nowhere else. Orchids are choosy about their food and 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. 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.

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.

6.

# Historic Walk



Bells  
Parade

Scan this QR Code  
to see information on  
each historic attraction



**Distance:**  
2km return,  
1.5hrs

**Grade:**  
Easy

**Attraction:**  
Historic Buildings

## Track details:

The entire walk follows 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.

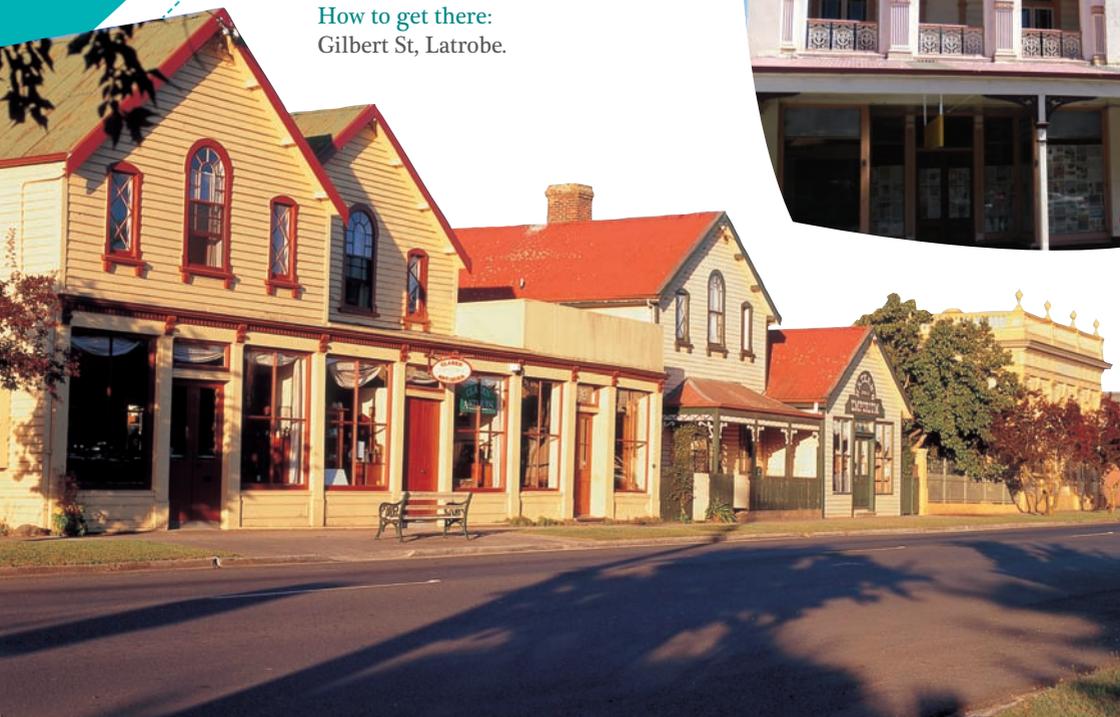
Gilbert Street

William Street

Bradshaw Street

Cotton Street

Hamilton Street





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