

## **More Walking Tracks**

**Sue Mount**

As Tarooma is bounded by the sea on one side and steep bush on the other there are endless opportunities for taking long or short, difficult or easy walks to suit all capabilities, and all walks provide a variety of beautiful views.

There is good walking along the foreshore, and official access into the bush up the Truganini Park track. There are several reserves which can be visited for picnics. As well as these public walks there are fire trails and general tracks leading into the bush which, although they go through private land, the general public has not been prevented from using them. Hopefully if walkers continue to take care of the area this generous attitude will be maintained.

### **Apex Foreshore Track**

**History:** There has been a track running along the Tarooma Foreshore for many years, but in 1972 the Apex Club decided to upgrade this path by widening and levelling it so that it could be used by more people. This work was done voluntarily by several groups over

1972-73. Work started at Tarooma Beach, went past the Tasmania Department of Sea Fisheries Marine Research Laboratories at Crayfish Point, gradually extended northward to Seaview Avenue, and finally reached Belhaven Avenue. The track has been maintained several times over the years. It is planned to complete the short section to Beck's Beach and possibly to extend around to Dixon's Beach and on to Retreat Beach. The Kingborough Council has started work with people employed under the Commonwealth Employment Project scheme to improve the track from Illawong Crescent to the Fisheries Laboratories. The section between Tarooma Beach and Nubeena Crescent will be made accessible to wheelchairs and prams by careful levelling and spreading brown gravel.

**Description:** It is possible to commence the track from its northern end at Melinga Place. From there the track winds in and out, just above the rocks. This section has not yet been widened and in places is narrow and slippery. The track can also be joined via a right-of-way which leads from the bottom of Belhaven Avenue.

The track rises and widens as it heads towards the right-of-way from Norwood



*Looking north across the Apex Foreshore Track where it passes the pebbly inlet at the end of Seaview Avenue.*

PHOTO CARL WOOD.

Avenue, and then down onto the pebbly inlet at the end of Seaview Avenue. There private gardens have been extended to the water's edge. The track then passes through the open grassy area of Kelvedon Park, below the soccer ground. After Nubeena Crescent most people would hurry past the chemical smell of the sewerage treatment works. However, it is worth pausing to look at the permanent collection of seabirds which feed around the outlet and which has included a brown domestic duck in their midst.

Ironically the track past the sewerage treatment works leads to the most attractive section of the walk which looks down onto the water and rocks, through the lacy branches of casuarinas on the track's edge. Swinging around the corner of Crayfish Point, below the Fisheries Laboratories, a spectacular view of the Alum Cliffs and Bruny Island opens up. The Fisheries' jetty and pumping station is on the left. While the public may not walk on the jetty, it is used regularly as a launching pad for a large group of cormorants.

The Apex track finishes at the Taroona Beach, beside Batchelor's Grave. This walk makes the coastal area accessible to all. The several right-of-ways allow walkers to tailor the length of their walk to their fitness level.

It is possible to extend the walk in both directions by using the beach and rocks. To the south one will be able to link up with the start of the Alum Cliff walk by joining it at the right-of-way to Illawong Crescent. To the north at low tide, Lower Sandy Bay can be reached by clambering at some stages over rocks and under boat ramps. Although there are several right-of-ways onto the rock foreshore, they are not marked at the beach access points and so it is impossible to distinguish them from private paths.

### **Truganini Park Track**

**History:** This beautiful track and park eventuated from the wish of Mr Doug Lowe, who was Deputy Premier from the 31st March till he became Premier on the 1st December 1977, to erect a memorial to the Aboriginal people, and Truganini in particular. The plan was formulated at a time when Truganini's remains were to be cremated. Mr Lowe commissioned Tasmanian sculptor Stephen Walker to design a memorial below the Mount Nelson Signal Station.

However when Stephen Walker realised that the adjacent bush was public land, he felt that a park would be a far more appropriate memorial. His objective was to keep the bush much as it has always been, as a quiet reflective place where visitors can walk or sit and be able to look back in time and obtain some feeling of the past all around them.

In order to create this atmosphere Alan Gray, a botanist from the Botanical Gardens, and Rick Jasprizza, a landscapist, were employed. Alan Gray did a full scale inventory of the vegetation and carried out planting at various times. Rick Jasprizza and Stephen Walker planned and worked on the track in such a way as to disturb the surroundings as little as possible and yet allow walkers to see as much as possible of the varied vegetation and birdlife. A great deal of rubbish was removed from the area and a rocky outcrop was chosen at the top of the hill to hold the memorial sculpture. This site was chosen as one can see Bruny Island from it, where Truganini had been born and bred, and where her ashes had been scattered. The Truganini Park was opened on the 8th May 1976, one hundred years after her death.

**Description:** The track starts on the Channel Highway at the boundary of the Kingborough and Hobart Municipalities, near bus stop 32. At the start of the walk a Lands Department sign board states:

#### **Truganini Reserve**

Dedicated to the Tasmanian Aboriginal People and their descendants.

The track dives immediately into the bush and follows Cartwright Creek up the gully. It is quiet, sheltered and often cool and shady as the forest closes overhead and cold air flows down the gully. The creek reflects the seasons and rainfall, changing from still, small pools to running briskly over the rocks and occasionally raging along and pouring over the track in places after heavy deluges.

A fire trail leads off to the right a short distance from the start. The track eventually crosses the creek to a picnic area, and this makes a pleasant short walk with little climbing for those looking for an easy meander. At this stage the track recrosses Cartwright Creek and leaves the gully to start a fairly steep, winding ascent. While you are struggling to catch your breath and keep those

## Sport and Recreation

knee joints moving bear in mind that some people use this track as a daily fitness run up and back.

Most of the bird life is shy and quiet, and so it is essential to make regular stops to look and listen, which is helpful to the lungs as well! For the less fit this part of the walk is quite demanding, but there are enough strategically chosen level sections to keep them going. The steepest parts have been reinforced with logs and bark to prevent erosion. At one point the track passes right through the middle of a tall blue gum tree.

As the track rises up the side of the valley, the ferns and mosses are left behind and both trees and shrubs become shorter. Near the creek the shrub canopy is over head height and it is possible to see some distance beneath it. Midway up, the track is lined by a dense wall of vegetation that restricts the view, but brings leaves and flowers closer to the walker. Near the top one can see above low shrubs and below the short eucalypts to catch glimpses of the sea and hills at every turn of the zig-zag track. One has the feeling of climbing out of a dark tunnel into open sunny parkland.

Almost at the top the track divides into two. The left fork leads to the outcrop where Stephen Walker's bronze sculpture commemorates the opening of the Park,

"Trucanini died 8 May 1876 (*sic*)  
Trucanini Park 8 May 1976 (*sic*)

Dedicated to the Tasmanian Aboriginal People  
and their descendants."

There is a levelled area in front of the outcrop, with celery-top pine benches to rest on and contemplate the magnificent views of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

The right fork leads out into the Mount Nelson Signal Station tea house. Walkers can make a choice between carrying up some lunch and enjoying it in the park, or be tempted in for the hot tea and scones at the tea house.

This walk offers the virtues of easy access, a great range of vegetation and bird life, historical interest and magnificent views. I wonder how many Taroona residents have taken advantage of this track on their back doorsteps!

The walk can be extended in several ways. It is possible to walk down through the Mount Nelson picnic area to join Churchill Avenue, Lower Sandy Bay, and either walk or catch a

bus back to Taroona, or one can walk down the ridge in front of Mount Nelson towards Folder Street and return via the fire trail. Alternatively it is possible to go down Mount Nelson road to Broughton Avenue, walk along Albion Heights and rejoin Taroona either at Atunga Street or Churchill Road. There is a small path leading down to Orana Place. As previously mentioned, all of this bush land is privately owned and access is only by courtesy of the owners.

The track and fire trails leading into the bush in the hills behind Taroona are shown on the map, but are not described in detail as access cannot be guaranteed.





# Walking Tracks & Reserves



DRAWN BY TONY MOUNT & KEN PARROTT.