

# CRESWICK WALKS



## Where to start your walk

1. Creswick of the Lindsays Arts Trail
2. Calmbeem Park Circuit Walk
3. Park Lake Circuit Walk
4. St Georges Lake Loop
5. La Gerche Gully Loop Walk
6. School of Forestry Loop

## Acknowledgement of country

We would like to acknowledge and pay our respects to the Dja Dja Wurrung as the traditional owners of the land we live and work on. On this land, the Dja Dja Wurrung have performed age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. We acknowledge their living culture and the unique role they play in the life of this region.

Whether you're up for a gentle stroll or an energetic hike, Creswick has it covered! Step back in time with a walk through the town's heritage streetscape, navigate your way around the local lakes, or tackle the more challenging forest trails.

Use the QR codes provided in this brochure to access a Google map for each walk.



Visit  
**Hepburn** Shire

Creswick Visitor Information Centre  
41-43 Albert Street, Creswick  
Phone: (03) 5345 1114  
Open 7 days 10am to 4pm  
Updated: 6/7/2026



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Daylesford Regional Visitor Information Centre  
98 Vincent Street, Daylesford  
Phone: 1800 454 891  
Open 7 days 10am to 4pm  
[www.visithepburnshire.com.au](http://www.visithepburnshire.com.au)



## 1 Creswick of the Lindsays Arts Trail

**Distance: 7.3 kilometres (walk/drive) | Grade: Easy**

Enjoy a fascinating step back in time by following the *Creswick of the Lindsays Arts Trail*. Creswick was the birthplace and home for the Lindsay family, many members of which achieved fame and notoriety in the field of the arts. Norman Lindsay was a famous painter, and also wrote 11 comic novels, and illustrated 30 other books. Sir Lionel Lindsay was a printmaker; Sir Daryl Lindsay was director of the National Gallery of Victoria and a water colourist; Ruby Lindsay was an illustrator; and Percy Lindsay was both a painter and a distinguished art teacher.

The Arts Trail highlights the sites and buildings in Creswick that had significance to the Lindsays. At each site there is a description explaining why each site was important to the family. Many include QR codes, allowing you to access further information on your mobile device.

Start the trail at the Creswick Visitor Information Centre (corner of Victoria Street and Albert Street), where you can pick up a separate walking tour map and guide.



Follow in the footsteps of the Lindsays. Image: Visit Victoria



## 6 School of Forestry Loop

**Distance: 2 kilometres | Time: 40 minutes | Grade: Easy**

A Royal Commission in 1897 declared the Wombat 'a ruined forest'. To control its regrowth and possible exploitation, the Victorian government created a Forests Department and in 1910 the Victorian School of Forestry was founded at Creswick. Its aim was to train people to manage and regulate activities in the state's forests.

To learn more, set off on foot from the Visitor Information Centre towards the Town Hall, head east along Water Street, cross Creswick Creek, and enter the School of Forestry grounds. Today, the heritage campus is part of The University of Melbourne and visitors are welcome. The historic grounds offer plenty of lovely spots for a picnic.

At the end of the drive is gracious Tremearne House (circa 1881), which features a red brick facade and ornate fretwork. Veer left and walk uphill until you reach the grand Tudor-style Old Creswick Hospital. Head back downhill on the road that passes the other side of Tremearne House, then exit the Forestry School grounds and return to the town centre. If you are visiting on a Saturday, you could end your walk with a visit to the Creswick Museum (inside the old Town Hall).

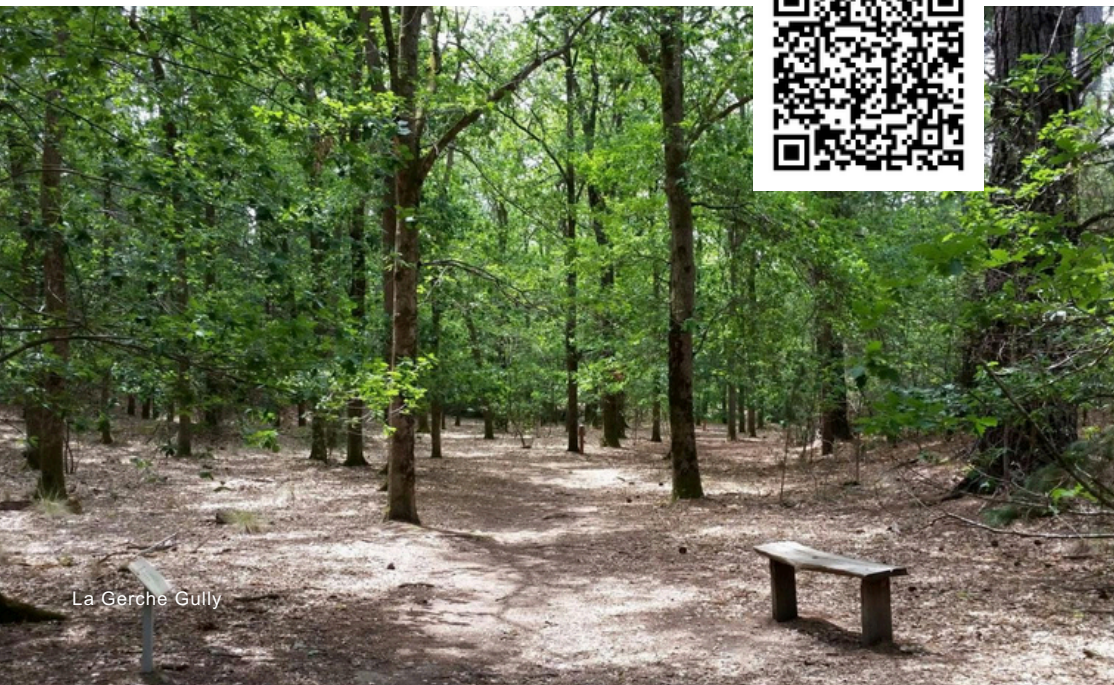
## 5 La Gerche Gully Loop Walk

**Distance:** 4.4 kilometres | **Time:** 60 minutes | **Grade:** Moderate

Located on the outskirts of Creswick, you can access the La Gerche Gully Loop Walk from Sawpit Road off the Midland Highway. Park in the designated area and follow the fence line to the left of the gates to the old nursery (now a Parks Victoria depot). You'll pass some relocated 19th century stables, before setting off along this well signposted gravel track. It meanders through a forest of various species of conifers from the Canary Islands, Austria, California, Corsica, and Scotland. Watch out for raised tree roots, which can act as a tripping hazard. Further on, the 120-year-old Oak Gully is a delight!

When forest bailiff John La Gerche came to Creswick in 1882, he found what was described as a 'lunar landscape'. Three decades of gold mining had stripped the once forested Wombat foothills bare – which La Gerche called 'a great slaughter of trees'. In 1887, he selected sheltered Sawpit Gully as the site for a nursery and plantation to grow exotic ornamental and commercial tree species. The south facing slopes were declared perfect for rearing pines, while the gully floor was set aside for oaks. Today, the oak trees are particularly spectacular in autumn.

Halfway along the trail you'll cross an extension of Sawpit Road and pass the *Pinus radiata* mother tree – the source of Victoria's softwood pine industry.



La Gerche Gully



Calembeen Park



Map

## 2 Calembeen Park Circuit Walk

**Distance:** 1.3 kilometres | **Time:** 45 minutes | **Grade:** Easy

Calembeen Park Circuit Walk is a gentle (for the most part) walking/cycling trail with a wide gravel surface. Starting at the top end of Cushing Avenue, the trail forms a figure of eight around the park's gorgeous twin lakes. The walk at the back is quite steep and can be slippery, so take care if you're doing the full loop.

Spectacular displays of water lilies and plentiful birdlife make this a worthwhile spot for a wander. It's a place the whole family will enjoy; the lakes are stocked with trout, and there are BBQs, picnic areas, and toilet facilities. Swimming is encouraged, but exercise caution with young children.

Back in 1911, this was a series of abandoned mine workings, which were deemed as a suitable place to establish a swimming hole. Known as 'the pool' by locals, tyre magnate Sir Frank Beaurepaire once commented that Calembeen was Victoria's finest inland swimming basin. Over the decades, the swimming and diving facilities hosted many carnivals and attracted hundreds of visitors to the area.

**Please note: While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication and its associated maps, Hepburn Shire Council disclaims any liability for any error, loss, or other consequence that may arise from the reader relying on any information in this publication.**



Park Lake



### 3 Park Lake Circuit Walk

**Distance: 1 kilometre | Time: 30 minutes | Grade: Easy**

Situated just to the north-east of Creswick's town centre, decorative Park Lake offers another opportunity for a scenic walk. This lake features some small islands and a fountain and is home to yet more birdlife. You can extend your walk around the lake by exploring the parkland along the hillside above – known as Park Lake Gardens Reserve. Here you'll find picnic areas and BBQs, toilets, and a historic rotunda.

Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, director of Melbourne's Botanic Garden in the mid-19th century, had a hand in the design of Park Lake and the botanical reserve in 1888. Both were used for socialising well into the 20th century. Public gatherings took place in the gardens and there was a rowing club where wealthy miners enjoyed boating on Sundays. The Friends of Park Lake was formed in 1999 to restore the reserve to its original design.

### Tips for safe walking

- Wear suitable walking shoes and lower leg protection.
- Carry plenty of water, a hat, and sunscreen.
- Always inform friends or family of your plans and estimated time of return.
- Keep to designated paths and stairways.
- Keep dogs on a lead for their own protection.
- Obey all safety and track closure signs.

### 4 St Georges Lake Loop

**Distance: 2.2 kilometres | Time: 35 minutes | Grade: Adventurous**

This short but challenging loop around St Georges Lake – a few minutes' drive east of the town centre – is filled with memorable moments. The path largely follows the shoreline, and some sections are narrow and relatively steep. The plethora of picnic spots, abundance of birdlife, and beautiful views along the way makes this walk well worth the effort.

Start at the main carpark (where you'll find toilets) and head off in an anti-clockwise direction. When you reach the south-east end of the lake, use the bridge to cross Creswick Creek. There's a great picnic spot here and a boardwalk that extends over the lake. Keep an eye out for the gold-topped posts that designate the Goldfields Track route through Koala Park (Creswick Regional Park) and on towards Daylesford.

Continuing around the far side of the lake, you'll enter a tranquil pine forest. It's an undulating walk with some steep pinches, but before long the terrain evens out at the western dam wall. Here you could detour briefly to view the outfall, which can be a roaring torrent after heavy rain.

St Georges Lake began life as a mining dam for the Creswick State Battery, which crushed quartz to extract gold well into the 20th century. It was one of many government-built dams that supplied sluice-water to mine operations.



St Georges Lake