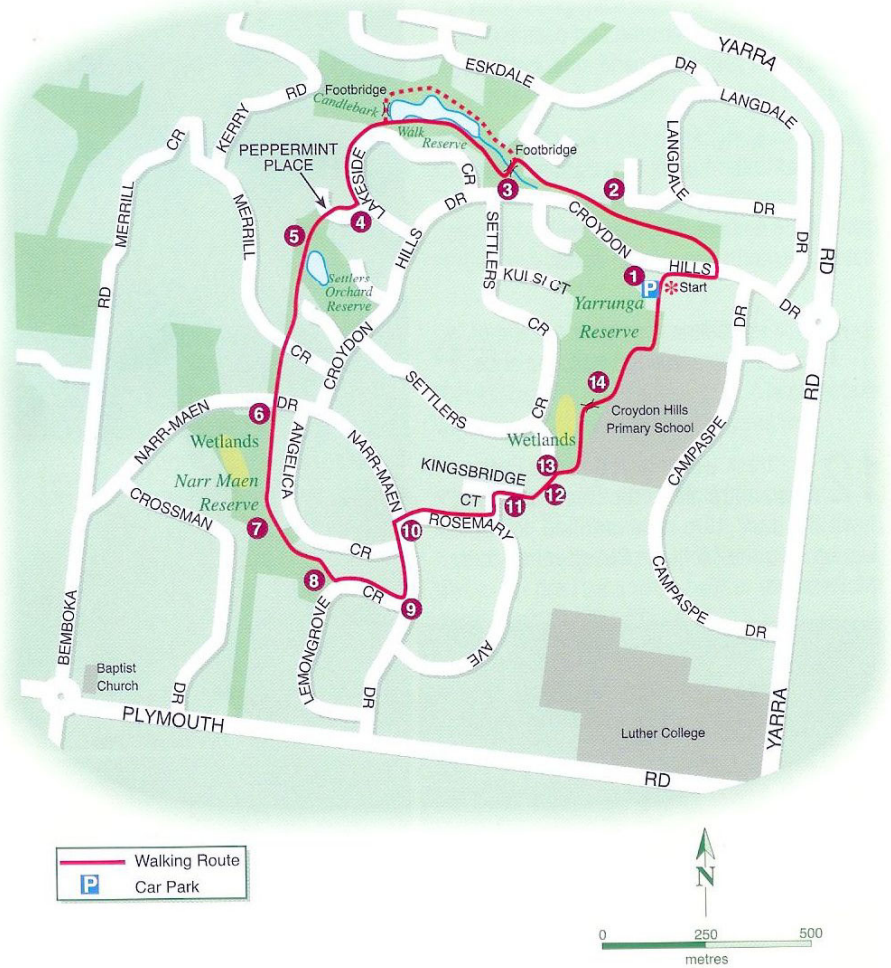
Croydon Hills Walk



Croydon Hills Walk

3.1km | **50mins** | **Scenic Walk**

Level of Difficulty **Moderate** – Some moderate grades
Level of Accessibility **Poor** – Gravel paths with moderate grades and road crossings

Start at Yarrunga Community Centre on the corner of Croydon Hills Drive and Barwon Court.

Smiths orchards prior to subdivision 1985

The square mile bordered by Yarra, Plymouth and Bemboka Roads was purchased by Henry Wilmot Smith in 1871. In 1881 he and his eldest six sons commenced the first fruit orchard in the district.

The dams on the orchard have been turned into lakes. Earlier they were used to irrigate the orchard, and they also served as swimming pools. Local scouts had swimming and lifesaving lessons on the property.

1 Start at Yarrunga Community Centre and proceed east along Croydon Hills Drive, and cross over road to path in reserve.

2 Follow path through bushland, past playground, across the gully, staying on north side of the creek.

3 Turn left over footbridge then right to follow southern side of the lake, then right into Lakeside Crescent.

4 Turn right into Peppermint Place.

5 Near the bottom of the hill turn left along a gravel track with a lake on the left.

6 Continue straight ahead and uphill, cross over Merrill Crescent and Narr Maen Drive. (In 1939, bush fires came to this area.)

7 Continue on the track through Narr Maen Reserve and along the rear of the houses.

8 After passing the wetland, veer left and continue along to the playground at Lemongrove Crescent.

Oliver Smith and his son loading the fruit, about 1935. The fruit mostly went to the Croydon Cool Store which was fully operating by 1920.

9 Turn left into Narr Maen Drive for a short distance.

10 Turn right into Rosemary Avenue.

11 Turn left into Kingsbridge Court, and then turn right at the 'T' intersection.

12 Turn left into the short downhill track between houses No. 13 and 15.

13 Follow the path to the right alongside the wetland between the pine trees.

14 After crossing the bridge, head towards the tennis courts and the Yarrunga Community Centre.

In earlier days the bushland surrounding this area abounded with wild flowers, including numerous orchids, pink wild Boronia, Clematis, pink and white Heath. The water birds still enjoy the area around Yarrunga Reserve and the Community Centre.