



SNOWS CREEK

FALLS



WATERFALL SERIES

SNOBS CREEK FALLS

CONTRIBUTORS

State Library Victoria
Murrindindi Library Services

Shannon Carnes
James Cowell
Sandra Cumming
Travis Easton:
(Author of Melbourne Waterfalls - www.telp.com.au)
Rod Falconer
Ted & Val Hall
Lawrence Hood
Allan Layton
Leisa Lees
Kathie Maynes
Ken Nash
John & Maureen Norbury
Kelly Petersen
David & Debbie Hibbert

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INTRODUCTION

Name: Snobs Creek Falls
Previously: Niagara Falls
Location: 5.7 km from Snobs Creek
Drop: 110 metres (360 feet)
GPS: S37.30391 E145.88824

Snobs Creek Falls was previously called Yarram Falls and Niagara Falls, and was once referenced as the 'Great Falls of Australia's Niagara'. At this time it was considered to be Alexandra's most important and spectacular tourist attraction.

The Upper Snobs Creek Falls

This viewing position is no longer accessible



In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the Snobs Creek Falls were known as 'Niagara Falls' and 'Alexandra Falls' and were considered the most important tourist attraction in the Alexandra district. It was also referred to as the 'Snobb's Creek Falls' in the *Alexandra Standard* and on at least one George Rose Postcard.

At that time a walking track led from the camping area (located further downstream near where the highway is today) to the 'Lower' Falls. The track then continued to the 'Upper' Snobs Falls and then the Banyarmbite Cascades, located further upstream again.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

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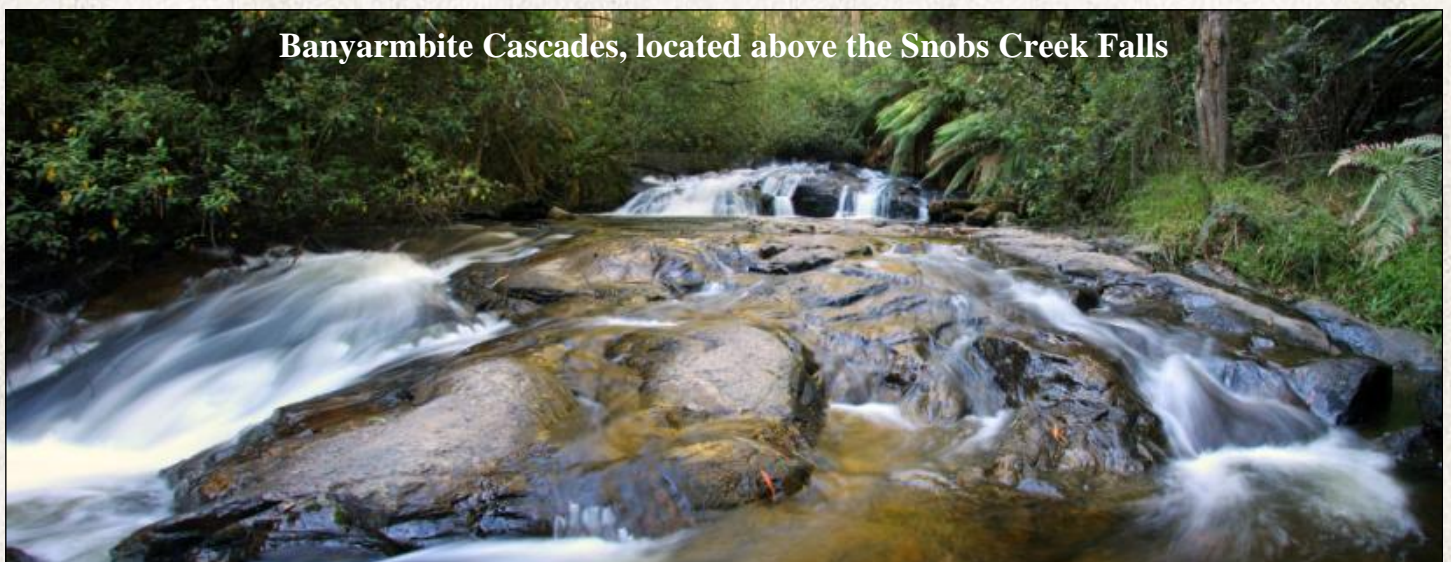
The track was maintained by the Shire of Alexandra, included a system of stairs cut into the steep hillside, and gave access to the entire complex.

The track was lost to the bush after the devastating 1939 bushfires, the same time that the track to Rubicon's Elephant Rock was also lost. Rubicon's Elephant Rock was eventually rediscovered by Marcus Horn and the Artworkz team in May 2013 after three years of searching for the illusive monolithic rock.

Snobs Creek was originally called Cataract Creek and was renamed Snobs Creek. A *snob* (old English word for boot maker) ran a business nearby.

In 1881, Snobs Creek was considered as a source for a gravity-fed drinking water scheme for Alexandra, though this enterprise was abandoned due to costs. By 1909, Snobs Creek was being considered for electricity generation, though eventually it was the Royston and Rubicon Rivers that were selected in the 1920s.

'The view at Lower Snobs Creek Falls is comparable to that of the lower section of the mighty Steavenson Falls in Marysville, and is truly awe inspiring.'



Banyarmbite Cascades, located above the Snobs Creek Falls

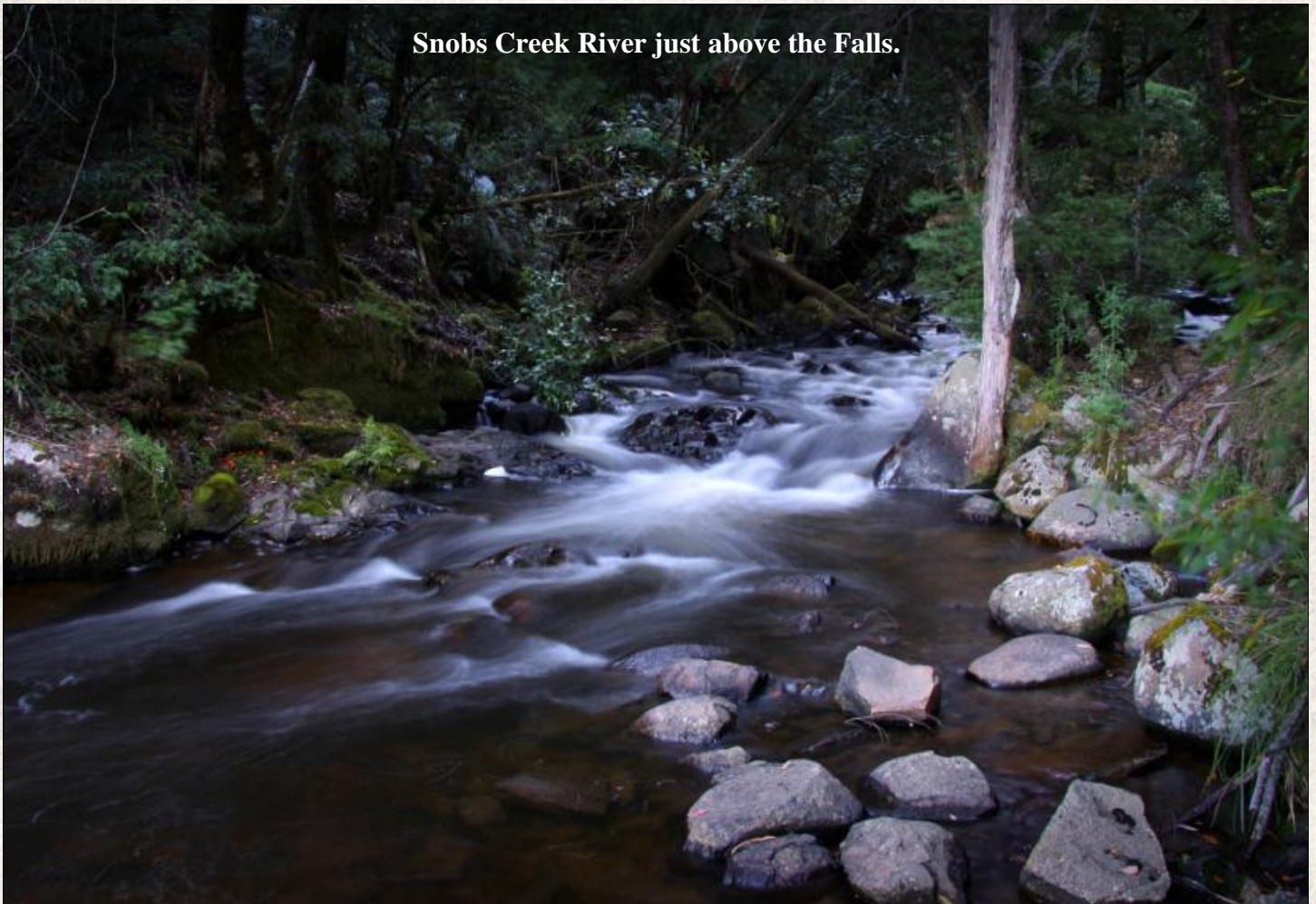
HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

Snobs Creek is a tributary of the Goulburn River and they meet at the small township of Snobs Creek, 5.7 km below the Falls. Snobs Creek is popular with fishermen and those taking a break at the very basic picnic area, located beside the Snobs Creek Bridge on the Goulburn Valley Highway.

Beside the Steavenson Falls at Marysville, the Snobs Creek Falls complex is our District's largest and most impressive example of a forest waterfall. The Snobs Creek Fall's carpark is located 5.7 km south of the Goulburn Valley Highway on the Snobs Creek Road, which is sealed for the first 3.5 km. The gravel section is of a good grade.

Snobs Creek Falls curve around the steep valley as it drops 67 metres through three sections (upper, middle and lower). The falls is positioned on a fault line inside the Cerberian Cauldron - a huge dormant volcanic cauldron located close to Melbourne. No volcanic activity has been recorded in the cauldron European settlement.



Snobs Creek River just above the Falls.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION



Snobs Creek Falls carpark in 2009.

There are three distinct Falls in the Snobs Creek Falls complex:

- **Banyarmbite Cascades (Previously Snobs Creek Cascades)**
Located 200 metres above the Upper Falls and pictured on page four.
- **The Upper Falls (Snobs Creek Falls)**
Pictured on page three from the viewing platform which was closed after the 2010 Father's Day Floods.
- **The Lower Falls**
Pictured on the cover of this factsheet.

NOTE: Safe access to the Lower Snobs Creek Falls is not currently possible.



The viewing platform previously located 80 metres below the top of the Upper Falls was closed in 2010 after it was damaged during the 2010 Father's Day flood event. In October 2012 a new steel viewing platform extending out from the top of the Upper Falls was opened to the public to replace the former viewing area.

A photograph of a waterfall cascading over rocks, with lush green foliage on the left side. The image is used as a background for the top section of the document.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

Artworkz has a number of early photographs of the Falls taken around the early 1900s, however it was not until June 2013 that we saw our first modern day photograph of the Lower Falls. This was supplied by a friend of Artworkz and was taken in August 2012.

Today the Banyarbite Cascades are easily accessible via a small number of steps leading from the car park to the Cascade's viewing platform. The new Upper Snobs Creek Fall's steel viewing platform is accessed via a short walk from the car park on an established track.

In mid 2021 the Falls were closed to the public and new steel fencing to both the Cascades and the Falls, as well as a new steel Cascades viewing platform were installed. The Falls were reopened just before the start of the September School Holidays which commenced on 20 September.

OUR HIDDEN MEMORIALS

STOBS CREEK FALLS MEMORIAL PLAQUE

This viewing position is no longer accessible.

**TOO SOON - TOO YOUNG
ELISHA'S WARMTH AND VITALITY
WILL LIVE ON IN THE HEARTS
OF THOSE SHE TOUCHED IN HER
SHORT BUT HAPPY LIFE**

This plaque was removed when the centre viewing platform was closed in 2010



TIMELINE

BASIC TIMELINE OF EVENTS



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

- 1858** A wood etching of the Falls appeared in the Illustrated London News. Reference to this was announced in the South Australian Register on Wednesday 9 February 1859.
- 9 February 1859** Snobs Creek was referred to as 'Yarram Creek' in the South Australian News on 9 February 1859.
- 29 January 1862** An illustration titled 'Snobs Creek' and with a dated this day was created. The creator was renown painter Eugene Von Guerard.
- August 1868** Immediately following the first election of members of the Alexandra Roads Board (the initial body which was to become the Alexandra Shire Council), the Editor of The Standard called for the construction of a water supply from the Snobs Creek to provide a reticulated water system for Alexandra. (Alexandra township at the time was supplied from very unreliable sources, from UT Creek and wells.) However only days later, the Editor withdrew his support realising that at an estimated cost of 4,000 pound it was beyond the capacity of ratepayers to fund.
- June 1881** The Shire Council voted against commissioning a detailed survey for a gravity water supply system for Alexandra township from the Niagara Falls (the survey would have cost between 50 and 100 pound). Such a water supply scheme was estimated to cost around 9,000 pound (estimate was based on a brief survey) and Council was of the opinion that they could not afford it. So therefore they concluded that a detailed survey was unnecessary.
- 27 June 1885** Julian Thomas (The Vagabond) author of the *Picturesque Victoria* Newspaper series, wrote one of three reports that connected him to the townships of Marysville, Alexandra and Yea. The three pieces were Published by Gordon and Co. in the *Alexandra Standard* in 1885. One of these offered great insight into his trip to the Falls and back. The Falls



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were at that time called the Niagara Falls.

6 November 1891

A newspaper report in the *Alexandra Standard* spoke of how the Niagara Falls (now known as Snobs Creek Falls) were to be renamed The Alexandra Falls.

19 May 1899

F. L. Billinghurst (taken from *The Wombat*) in *The Standard* was glowing about the Falls in the area. He wrote: 'A favourite picnic spot of the Alexandrans is the Niagara Falls, some 12 miles distant, where the Snobs Creek, a very respectable volume of water, takes a series of drops aggregating some 350ft., the first drop being at least 60 ft, and then rushes away through masses of shrub and fern to empty itself into the Goulburn.'

19 August 1904

The *Alexandra Standard* reprinted an article from the *Collingwood Tribune* about a one-day pushbike trip from Melbourne to Alexandra, followed by a trip to Snobs Creek Falls the following day. It also mentions a camping ground one and a half miles below the falls.

22 February 1907

The *Alexandra Standard* reprinted an article from the *Riverine Herald* describing a 'round trip' - train from Spencer Street to Alexandra, visits to Snobs Falls and the 'recently discovered' Rubicon Falls. Car to Marysville (Steavenson Falls) thence Black Spur to Healesville and train to Melbourne.

1909

In relation to electricity generation, from the early 1900s thought was being given to harnessing the water of the Snobs Creek. In 1909 an American electrical expert by the name of Bradford was quoted as being surprised with the vastness of the Snobs and Rubicon Falls and that the power offered by these rivers had not been harnessed.

August 1911

The Shire Engineer Mr J T Noble Anderson submitted a proposal for a power plant to provide Alexandra with



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electricity, however as '...no suitable water power can be obtained closer than either the Snobs Creek or the Rubicon, and such schemes are always liable to interruption...' He recommended that a steam and/or diesel powered plant be first constructed in Alexandra and to be followed by a hydro plant at a later time.

Circa 1912

Elephant Rock mentioned in the Tourism publication *Peaks & Plateaus*.

23 August 1912

Mr Beatge, an Engineer with the Alexandra Butter Factory and an expert in electricity advised the Progress Association of options for powering Alexandra. In respect to hydro power he concluded '...Snobs Creek and Rubicon Falls Scheme, the distance away being so great, the consequent loss of power in transmission would be so considerable that the limited consumption of current would not warrant the Council undertaking the work. In addition, the cost of copper wire alone for that distance would be prohibitive.' (Alexandra *Standard*, Friday 23 August 1912).

December 1912

The Progress Association meeting received correspondence of a grant of 100 pound for the opening up of the tracks to Rubicon and Snobs Creek falls.

14 November 1913

The condition of the roadway to Snobs Creek Falls was raised at a Alexandra Council meeting. A costing of 10 pound was stated as being required to repair the road. The *Standard* reported this and spelt Snob's with a double 'B' (Snobb's).

November 1921

Shire of Alexandra Councillors resolved 'That the roads to the Snobs Creek and Rubicon Falls be put into repair.'

6 January 1922

The Alexandra *Standard* mentioned the camping ground near Snobs Creek Falls, suggesting it was still in use at this time.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

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1922

The State Electricity Commission (SEC) investigated the hydro-electric potential of the Rubicon Forest (surveys and water flow measurements). A scheme was planned using the waters of the Rubicon and Royston Rivers and Snobs Creek to supply power to both Melbourne and the State's North-East Region. Further design work established that the stations on the Rubicon and Royston could be quite a bit larger than originally thought, and together with the Sugarloaf Station, this meant that the Snobs Creek station could be deleted from the scheme!

This was most fortuitous from the visual aspect - the Snobs Creek Power Station would have required a diversion weir or small dam upstream of the Falls, leading water via an aqueduct or raceline to a point near the top of the Falls where it would enter a steeply falling pipeline to the Power Station sited on the valley floor below the Falls. Thus the Falls would have stopped flowing except during the wettest months of the year, as for the remainder of the year the water would be bypassed around the Falls! (Exactly as happens with Rubicon & Royston Falls.)

30 September 1927

An article in the *Alexandra Standard* highlighting the Rubicon Hydro Scheme rated the future output of the future Snobs Creek Power Station as compared to the other local power stations. It stated: *'The horse power generated at the different stations will be-Rubicon, 10,000 ; Sugarloaf, 9,000 ; Snobs Creek 5,200 ; Lower Rubicon, 3,500 ; Royston, 1,000. Excellent progress is being made with the work of erecting the power station at Rubicon (Tin Hut), and a considerable amount of heavy plant has already been placed in position. A magnificent view of the country is obtained when ascending the haulage on a truck. At the top a wonderful panorama meets the eye, the Strath bogie ranges forming the back ground.'* (*Alexandra Standard*, Friday 30 September 1927).



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

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- 1948** The Falls were still being referred to as 'Niagara Falls on Snobs Creed' in the 1948 Municipal Directory.
- 11 January 1990** Twelve year old Elisha Ross fell to her death from rocks at the top of Snobs Creek Falls. A plaque erected at the middle viewing platform. (This area was closed to the public in 2010 and the plaque removed). It had read:
- Too soon - Too Young
Elisha's warmth and vitality
will live on in the hearts
of those she touched in her
short but happy life*
- February 2010** Artworkz commenced work on this factsheet.
- October 2011** An article appeared in the *Alexandra Standard*, highlighting the poor state of the Snobs Creek Falls.
- June 2012** Artworkz released their free Snobs Creek Falls brochure. This brochure makes up one of nearly 200 local tourism brochures freely produced by Artworkz.
- 21 August 2012** The Lower Falls were visited and pictures taken by a local. These are amongst only a handful of known images taken of the Lower Falls in recent times.
- October 2012** The Upper Fall's area was re-opened after being closed since the Father's Day Floods of 2010. A new steel platform built beside the top of the Upper Falls now replaces the viewing platform below the top of the Upper Falls. Previously steps took the viewer down 50 metres to an area where you could look back up to the Falls and take flowing waterfall photographs (such as seen in this factsheet).
- 26 September 2012** The *Alexandra Standard* published a story on the upgrades



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

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to the Upper Falls area.

June 2013

We received our first modern day photograph of the Lower Falls from Department of Sustainability and Primary Industries Ranger James Cowell. We were amazed at the natural beauty and magnificence of the Falls. From the photograph, it became evident that like Elephant Rock, another important tourist attraction had disappeared from the Tourism Calendar in our district around the time of the 1969 bushfires. From the moment of receiving this photograph, we started planning for a trip into the Lower Fall's area to conduct a professional photoshoot.

10 July 2013

The first professional photoshoot by the Artworkz Team was conducted of the Lower Snobs Creek Falls. It was noted by a team member standing before the Falls that they were 'awe inspiring' and certainly as magnificent as the lower area of the Steavenson Falls in Marysville. The trip to this area was hazardous. While a small section of the original trail was located near the falls, it was badly overgrown and in extremely poor condition. It was not considered useable for access.

13 July 2013

Issue 64 of the locally produced free Electronic Tourism Magazine (eSplash) was published with photographs and video of the Lower Fall's area. A companion factsheet was also released that contained even more photographs and information. It is believed that these are the first freely published photographs and video of the Snobs Creek Lower Fall's in over nine decades and possibly the first ever photographic comparison between Steavenson Falls in Marysville and the Lower Snobs Creek Falls. The eSplash also linked to the updated free Artworkz Snobs Creek Falls factsheet.

19 July 2013

Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) sent in an illustration of the 'Snobs Creek' dated 29 January



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

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1862. The creator's signature appears to be 'Benyarrambite' which was seen on a later photograph (found in this factsheet). It is possible this person actually discovered the Lower Falls area. Either way, they were one of the earliest white people to ever see it.

20 July 2013

David Hibbert brought an original print taken from a wood etching of the Falls appeared in the Illustrated London News. Reference to this illustration being published was announced in the South Australian Register on Wednesday 9 February 1859.

December 2013

Kelly Petersen and David & Debbie Hibbert purchased a beautiful postcard of Lower Snobs Creek Falls. It is one of the best examples of the beauty of this lower falls. The print was published in the next available eSplash (eSplash80 - January) and placed into the this Factsheet.

21 August 2014

Stephen Handbury and David Hibbert found the original track that led from the top carpark area to the lower Falls (Niagara Falls). During this recognisance trip, we estimate the width of the Falls as the base at being between 16-18 metres. We were also able to access a large rock on the river and take a series of images for further promotional purposes. The lower Falls first Geocache was hidden during this trip by Stephen Handbury at a location near the bottom falls area.

21 August 2017

Vicnames accepted the suggestion by Travis Easton of 'Banyarmbite Cascades' for the cascades above Snobs Creek, previously referred to by Artworkz as Snobs Creek Cascades.

25 August 2017

Published eSplash180 with an article on Snobs Creek Falls.

31 October 2018

During an Artworkz breakfast the day after her talk at the final HistoryCafe for 2018, Dr. Ruth Pullin showed us an

A photograph of a waterfall cascading over rocks, surrounded by lush green foliage. The image is used as a background for the top section of the page.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

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image of a painting by Eugene von Guerard titled *Steavenson Falls* and dated 1863. We instantly recognised the painting as Snobs Creek Falls (which was originally called Bunyarrambite Falls). This was confirmed when it was realised it was almost identical to one of two sketches of Snobs Creek Falls that he sketched during his trip along the Goulburn River in 1862 (shown in this factsheet). Ruth later reported this to the State Library of New South Wales, who own the painting.

September 2021

New platforms were installed over the previous months and the Falls was re-opened by the weekend preceding the start of the September School Holidays which commenced on 20 September. The new metal fencing and upper platform at the Cascades replaced older wooden fencing and a wooden platform.

GALLERY

RELATED IMAGERY

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



The earliest known illustration of the Snobs Creek Falls - published in the London Illustrated News in 1858. The print was taken from a wood carving. Local David Hibbert purchased this print on 20 of July 2013.

Illustrator unknown - Courtesy David Hibbert 2013

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Dated 1963, this painting was incorrectly labeled *Steavenson Falls*, by the State Library of NSW until the error was pointed out in 2018. The painting was based on this sketch dated 29 January 1862.

The second earliest known illustration of the Lower Snobs Creek Falls - dated 29 January 1862. Of note is the signature which appears to read 'Bunyarrambite'. Interestingly, a photograph later in this factsheet bears the name 'Ben Yarrabite'. Bunyarrambite is actually the name of the Parish, and remains in use today. Snobs Creek was referred to as 'Yarram Creek' around this time.

South Australian News - 9 February 1859

Illustrator Eugene Von Guerard. Courtesy State Library of New South Wales and James Cowell 2013.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY

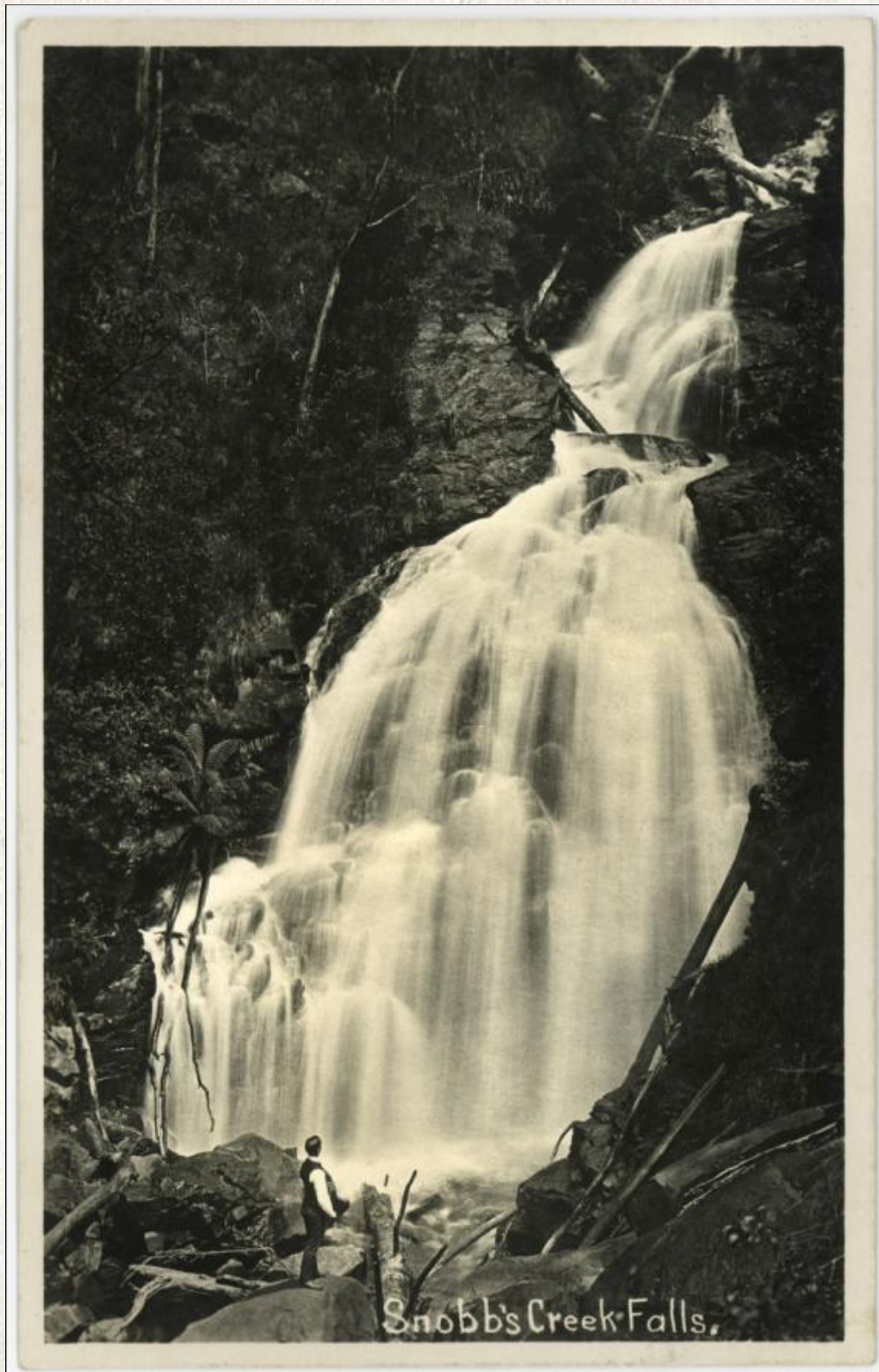


The first photograph showing Snobs Creek with its name spelt 'Snobb's'

Courtesy State Library Victoria

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



The second photograph showing Snobs Creek with its name spelt 'Snobb's'

Courtesy Kelly Petersen & David & Debbie Hibbert 2013

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Snobs Creek Falls referred to as 'Thornton Falls' circa 1909

Shirley Jones Postcard Collection - Courtesy State Library Victoria

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Snobs Creek Falls circa 1910

Courtesy Tony Ballino 2012

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Colourised version of the previous photo of Snobs Creek Falls circa 1910, sold as postcards by the Victorian Railways (Victorian Railways Tourist Series).

Courtesy Tony Ballino 2018

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



**A photograph taken in 1911 during a trip to the Rubicon Ranges and the Snobs Creek Falls.
This was a part of the track used to access the bottom of the Falls.**

Photograph courtesy Rod Falconer 2010



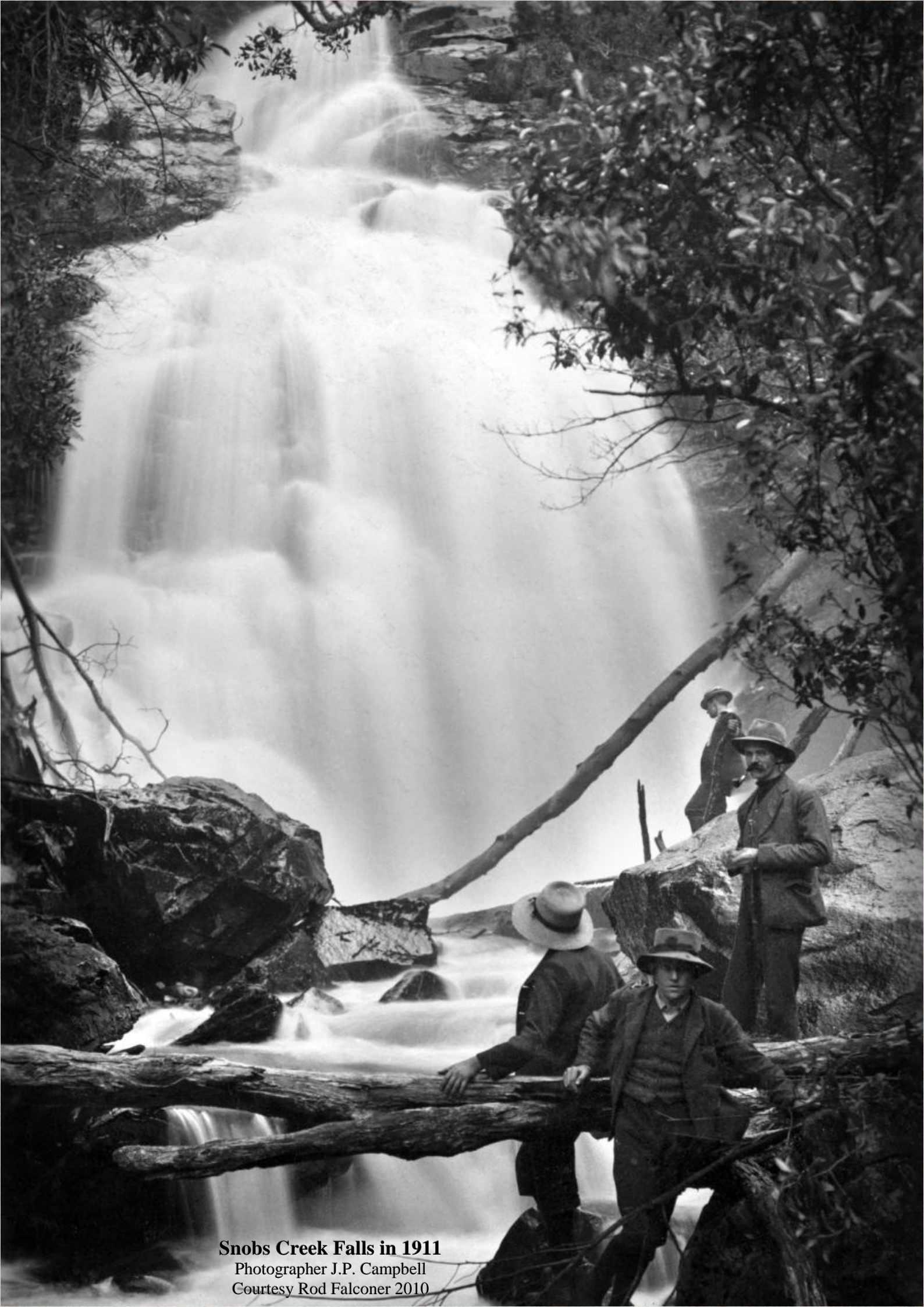
UPPER FALLS

The only falls viewing
area open today

MIDDLE FALLS

The top of the Lower
Snobs Creek Falls,
which continue
below this point

LOWER FALLS



Snobs Creek Falls in 1911

Photographer J.P. Campbell

Courtesy Rod Falconer 2010

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



**A photograph taken in 1911 during a trip to the Rubicon Ranges and Eildon Areas.
This included visiting the Snobs Creek Falls.**

**At this time the area was accessible via a track from further down the Snobs Creek. This track
and therefore access to the Lower Falls were lost around the time of the 1969 bushfires. As a
result all tourism to the Lower Falls ceased.**

**In 2010, the viewing area just below the top Upper Falls was closed after the
walking track was damaged during the Father's Day flood event.**

**As of 2013, viewing this magnificent Falls is only possible from the top of the Falls area.
The Lower Falls (pictured) is not accessible.**

Photographer J.P. Campbell
Courtesy Rod Falconer 2010

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Snobs Creek Falls postcard image. The postcard was mailed in 1911.

Courtesy Tony Ballino 2020

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



*Ben Yarnabla Falls
Chorinton near Alexandra Va*

This is a photograph of the middle section of the Snobs Creek Falls

Courtesy State Library Victoria 2013



A picnic party on the way to the Lower Snobs Creek Falls circa 1920

See the next page for this same party at Niagara Falls.

Courtesy Sandra Cumming & State Library Victoria - Photographer Lin Cumming



The track into the Lower and Upper Snobs Creek Falls and Cascades circa 1920

Courtesy John & Maureen Norbury 2013



Upper Snobs Creek Falls photograph taken from the track circa 1920

Courtesy State Library Victoria - Photographer Rev George Cox

A picnic party at the Lower Snobs Creek Falls circa 1920
Access to the bottom of the Falls from the walking track (which started downstream) was
closed to the public over 50 years ago. The reason for this closure remains unknown.

Courtesy Sandra Cumming & State Library Victoria - Photographer Lin Cumming





Snobs Creek Falls circa 1920 taken from the track from the bottom to the top of the Falls

Courtesy Sandra Cumming & State Library Victoria - Photographer Lin Cumming

Sitting on rocks at the top of Snobs Creek Falls circa 1920

Courtesy Sandra Cumming & State Library Victoria - Photographer Lin Cumming





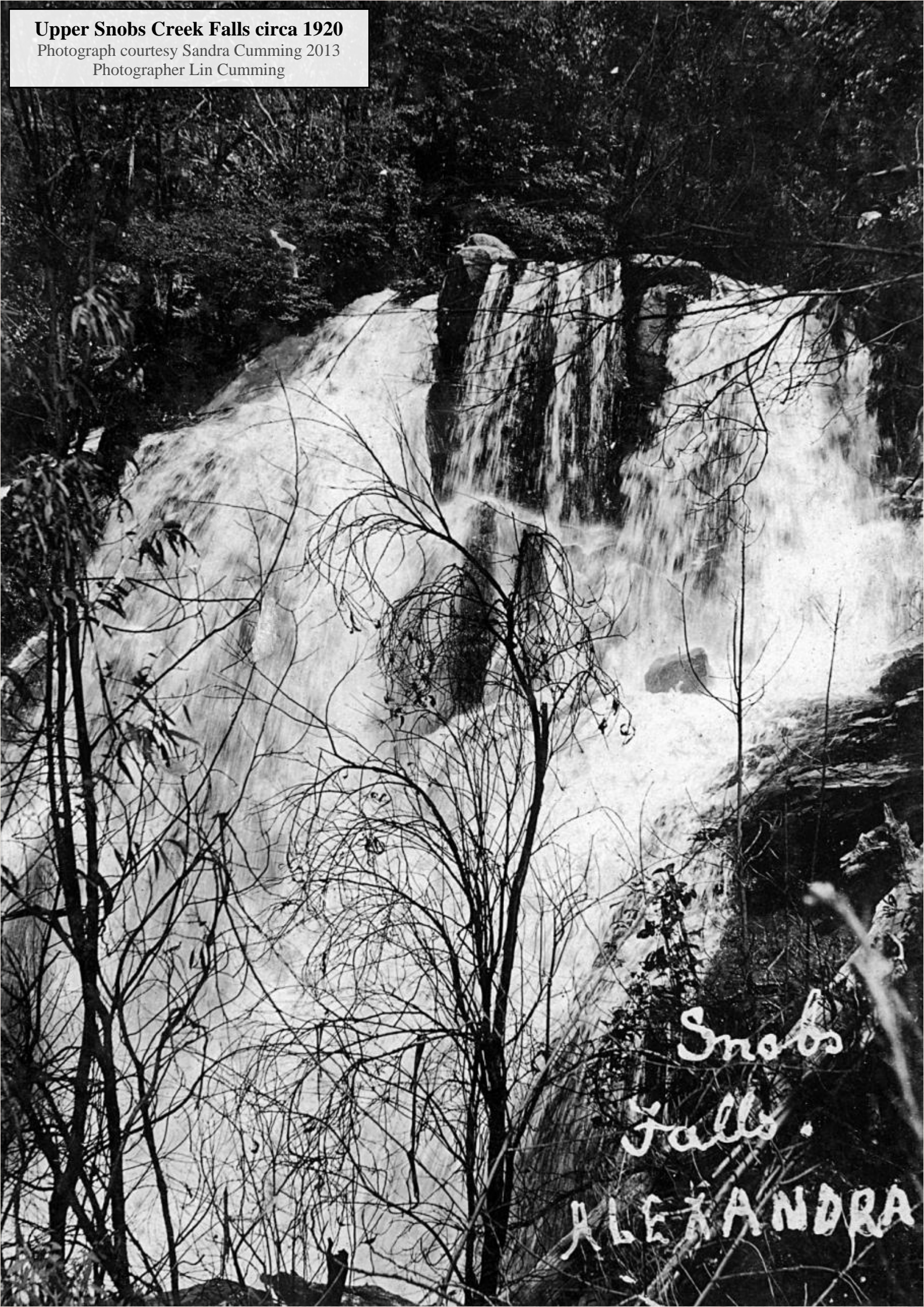
Sitting on rocks at the top of Snobs Creek Falls circa 1920

Courtesy Sandra Cumming & State Library Victoria - Photographer Lin Cumming

Upper Snobs Creek Falls circa 1920

Photograph courtesy Sandra Cumming 2013

Photographer Lin Cumming



Snobs
Falls.

ALEXANDRA



Upper Snobs Creek Falls circa 1920

Photograph courtesy Sandra Cumming 2013

Photographer Lin Cumming

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Snobs Creek Falls circa 1920

Courtesy Sandra Cumming & State Library Victoria

Photographer Lin Cumming

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Sitting on the rocks at the top of the Snobs Creek Falls circa 1920

Courtesy Sandra Cumming and State Library Victoria.
Photographer Lin Cumming

**People have lost their lives falling from this waterfall
Please abide by warning signs at all times**

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY

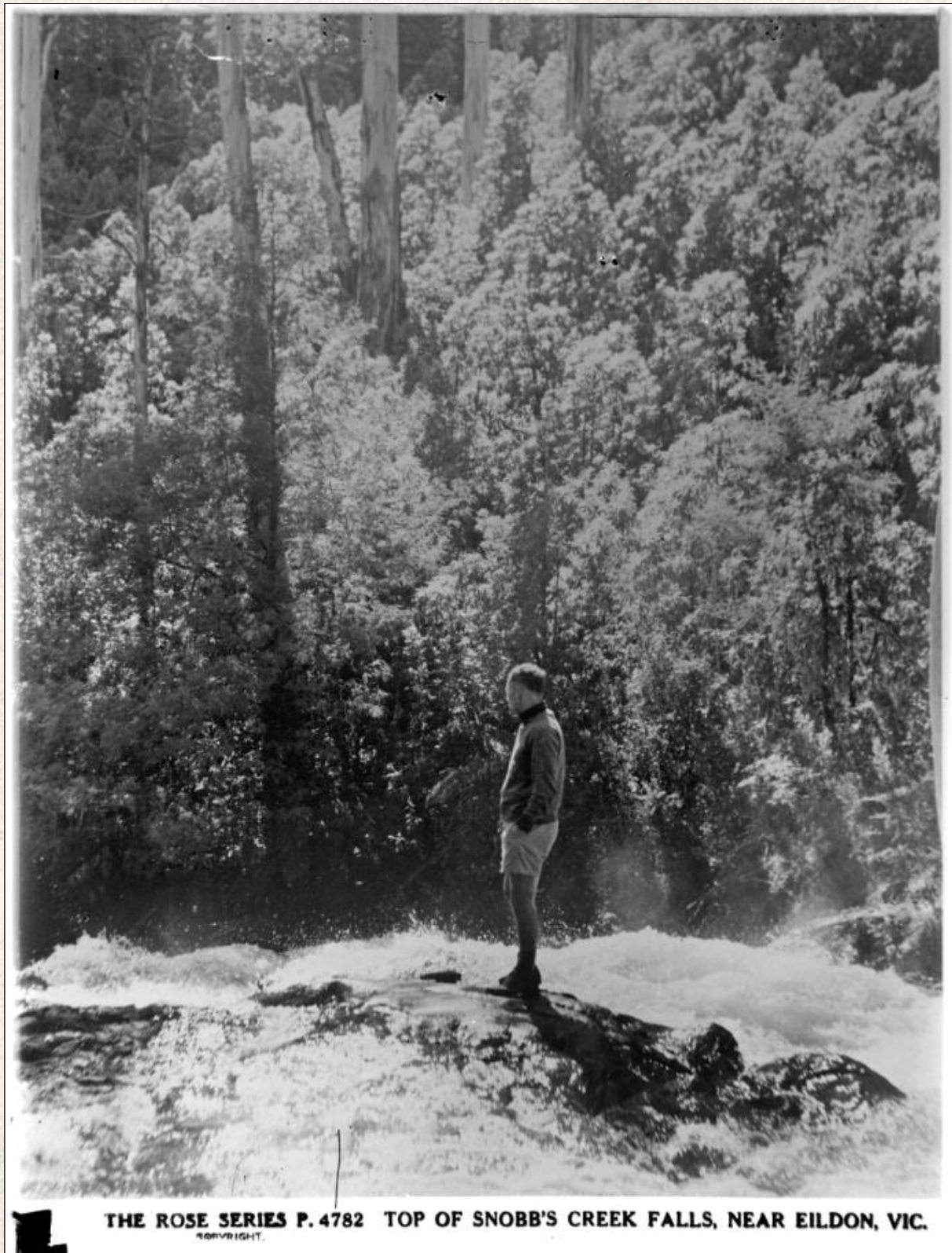


Val's Postcard showing Snobs Creek with its name spelt 'Snobb's' circa 1940

Photographer H. J. Vallance - Courtesy Ted & Val Hall 2016

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



A George Rose Postcard showing Snobs Creek with its name spelt 'Snobb's'

Courtesy State Library Victoria

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



A George Rose Postcard of Upper Snobs Creek Falls with its name spelt 'Snobb's'

Courtesy Toy Ballino 2017

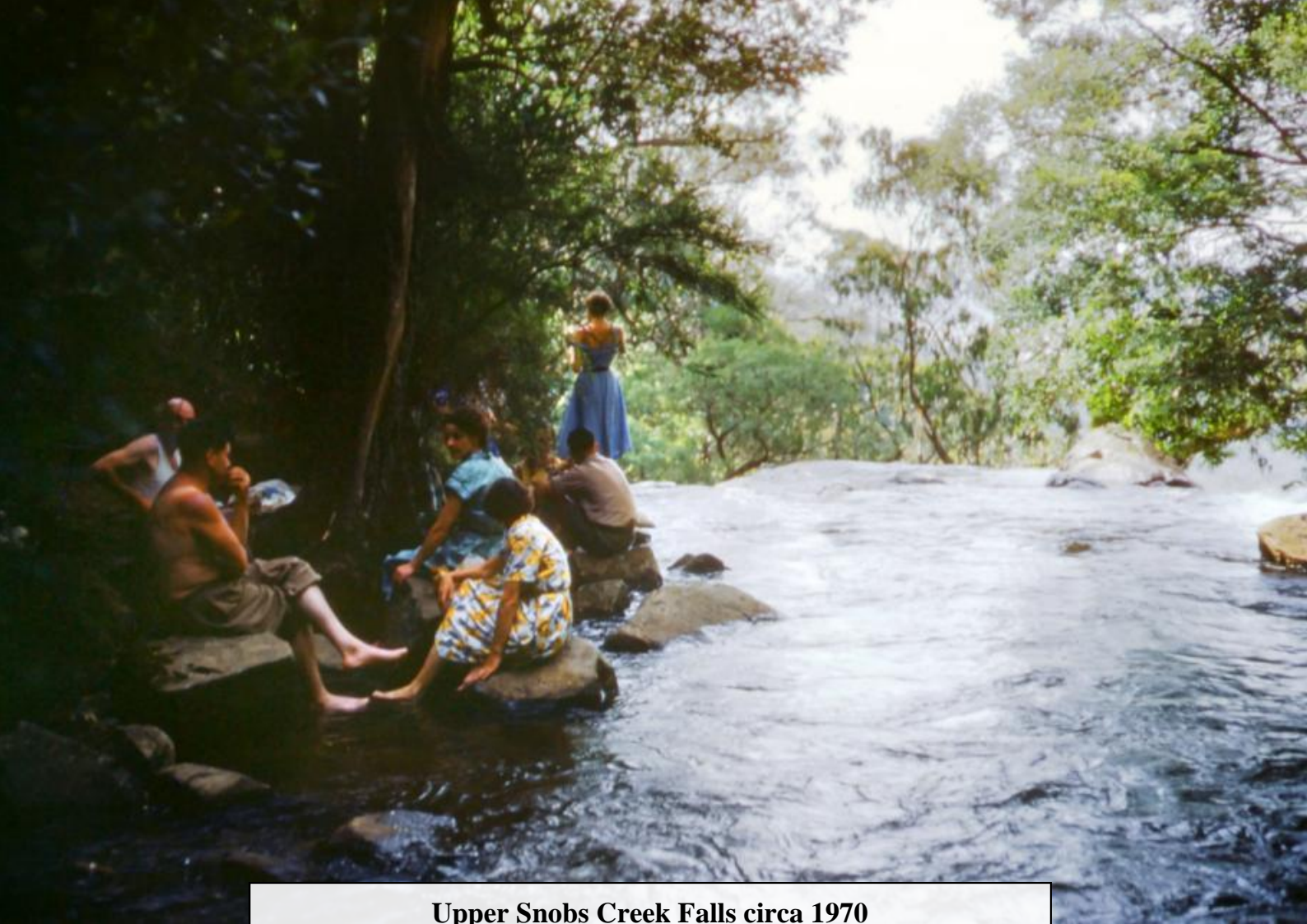
HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



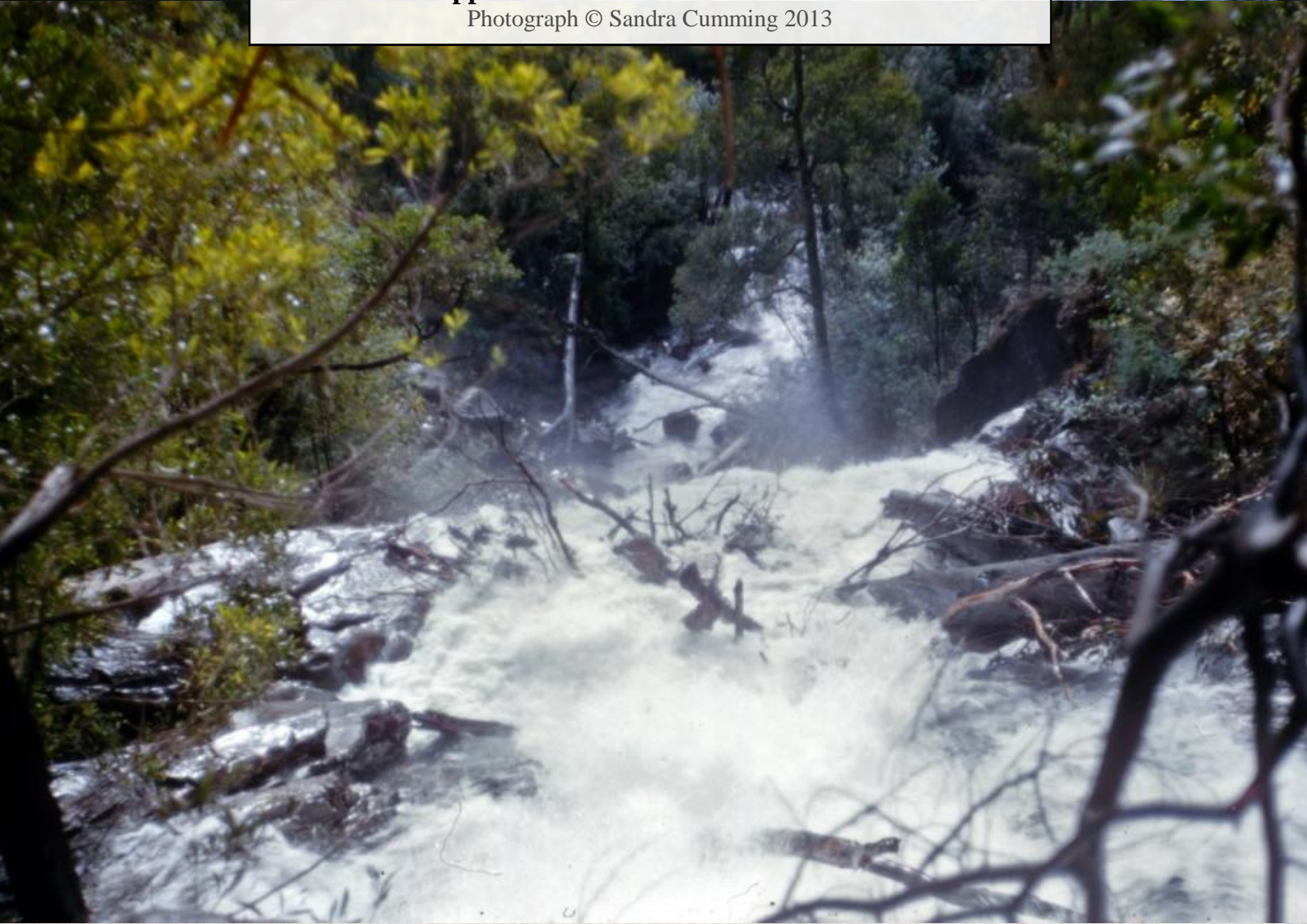
The snaking track between the Lower and Upper Snobs Creek Falls circa 1960

Photograph © Ken Nash 2013



Upper Snobs Creek Falls circa 1970

Photograph © Sandra Cumming 2013



Upper Snobs Creek Falls circa 1970

Photograph © Sandra Cumming 2013



Upper Snobs Creek Falls circa 1970

Photograph © Sandra Cumming 2013



Upper Snobs Creek Falls circa 1970

Photograph © Sandra Cumming 2013



This viewing platform was closed 2010



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Image taken in 1911 during a trip to the Rubicon Ranges and the Snobs Creek Falls

Photograph courtesy Rod Falconer 2010

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Snobs Creek Falls upper platform as seen from the road in July 2017

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



New Snobs Creek Falls Cascades platform just after it reopened on 19 September 2021.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Snobs Creek Falls just after it reopened on 19 September 2021 with new steel railing on the steps down to the viewing platform.

NEWSPAPERS

RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

THE SHAMROCK.

Having a frontage to Grant-street of 54 feet, also, at the rear, a frontage to Bailey-street of 54 feet, with a depth of 330 feet, and a splendid right-of-way; containing—

Billiard and dining rooms 18ft x 24ft, commodious bar, 3 parlours, 5 bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom, &c., all brick and plastered walls. Also,

Detached cottage, containing 3 rooms, laundry, and washhouse.

Four-stall stable, with loft and store-room attached

Loose boxes, carriage and cart houses, grooms' rooms, and all necessary and handy buildings for carrying on the business of a licensed victualler.

Also,

The Household Furniture and Effects, comprising—

Double and single iron bedsteads, mattresses

Pillows, blankets, sheets, stands

Ward, dining tables, looking glasses

Carpets &c., sofas, couches, chairs, tables

Oil lamps, mirrors, fenders, fireirons, china

Glass, earthenware, and all culinary utensils

Three 600gal. tanks, water cart, tip dray and harness

Set of double harness, garden and stable implements.

To residents in our immediate district, this magnificent and well-known hotel requires no descriptive pen of the auctioneer, it having been established for the last 18 years, and always doing a good trade, situated in the most central part of that thriving township of Alexandria, which must become the terminus of a branch line passed by the Government in the last Railway Bill. This property is an especial advantage to commercial and other travellers.

In view of the near approach of the railway, with the picturesque scenery surrounding the pretty town of Alexandria, including the Niagara Falls, which excel anything in this colony, rolling hills and lovely dells, with Mounts Juliet, Torbreck, and the far famed Cathedral in the distance, such charming landscapes and healthy country would be difficult to find, and eventually must become the resort of tourists with their friends and families in search of sport, health, and recreation, vide "Vagabond's" descriptive papers in "Argus" of scenery and surroundings approaching Alexandria via Yarra Track.

Terms at sale.

Alexandra Times
Friday 22 May 1885
Courtesy National Library Australia

The Niagara Falls are said to 'excel anything in this colony'

Alexandra Times
Friday 22 May 1885
Courtesy National Library Australia.

DR. DOBSON AND THE ALEXANDRA FALLS.

A PLEASANT TRIP.

The following letter appeared in Wednesday's *Argus*:—Sir,—With your permission to describe a pleasant way of seeing some of our best scenery, which may be useful to the visitors who are now in our midst, and also to many of our own people who may be unaware of it. I have just returned from making a trip, and I would like to describe my experience of it. The first thing to do is to get to Alexandra. To accomplish this you have to leave the Spencer-street railway station at 7.20 a.m., and stop at Tallarook. Thence you branch off by the Yea and Mansfield line, and travel by one of the prettiest railway lines in Victoria. The line skirts the Goulburn river for miles, and those who admire scenery should sit on the left hand side of the carriages to get the best views. On arriving at Alexandra-road station the excursionists, on my lines, will get out and take a seat in one of the vehicles, which will drive him to Alexandra, about four miles off. About half way from the station to Alexandra you cross the "Ridlington Gap," and there the traveller should induce the driver of his conveyance to stop for some minutes to let him enjoy the grand view which in fine weather is displayed to his sight. I have seen no view like it in Victoria. It is now many years since I first saw this view, which is in the province which I represent in the Legislative Council, and I have gazed upon it on several occasions since, but each visit makes me appreciate it more thoroughly. You see range behind range of hills; the landscape is bounded by a bold outline of splendid mountains, and to the right hand stands out in striking prominence the rugged outline of the "Cathedral Mountain." There are two good hotels in Alexandra, and I do not propose to advertise either. The charges are moderate and the fare good. The next day is the crowning day of the trip. Hire a vehicle—an easy master in Alexandra—and visit the absurdly-named Niagara Falls. This name is altogether ridiculous and tends to lessen the appreciation of really lovely falls. I believe the name is to be altered to that of the "Alexandra Falls," and they are worthy of a Royal godmother. A drive of about thirteen miles along a splendid road, which passes through the Goulburn Plains, some of the finest land in the colony, brings you to a point where you turn off to the right, into a fair bush track, not dangerous, but the driver must keep his eyes about him, or he may get into difficulties. About two miles of this bush track brings you to a small flat on the "Snob's Creek," and there you must

leave your conveyance. Wicked enthusiasts told me that it was only half a mile's walk to the falls from that point, but whatever the measured mileage may be, it is equal to a good two miles walk on the level. After strolling along this walk for some time, on turning a corner of the path you suddenly see the falls high above you, leaping down from among the gum trees. It was wrong to call these falls Niagara, because Niagara is simply a fall but on a gigantic scale. These falls combine both the fall and the cataract, and from my amateur estimate, I believe the drop to be from 200ft. to 300ft. I have seen many of the falls in Europe and yet, in its way, I cannot name one which has pleased me more. Possibly the Gigachuck in Switzerland, on a reduced scale, would convey a fair idea of its beauty to your travelled readers. There is a regrettable absence of fern-trees, but nevertheless the foliage which surrounds the falls is luxuriant, and gives the necessary depth of shade to throw up into pleasing contrast the vivid white of the water dashing in the sunlight. I sat and gazed at it with delight, it was such a thing of beauty, which, we know, is a joy for ever. But having gazed your fill you have to get back to Melbourne—so we drive back to Alexandra to pass the night there and make an early start next morning for the long drive to Healesville. We had talked of starting at 7 a.m., but the hospitality of the Alexandra folk rendered that an impossibility before 2 a.m. and we did not get away till 10 o'clock—far too late as it turned out. Here again you have another lovely drive through the valley of the Acheroon and Little River and right under the crags of the Cathedral Mountain. Passing through Buxton you reach Marysville, one of the most picturesque townships in Victoria. Here the Stevenson Falls may be seen, and would have been seen by our party had we only started in time. But as we were business men, and had to be in Melbourne early next morning, we had to omit this attractive number in our programme. At Narbethong we had tea, and the daylight left us before we reached the top of the Black Spur—probably the most lovely and most characteristic bit of scenery in Victoria. I will not describe our trouble in the descent. We were in a four-in-hand coach, and the driver asked us to walk at the steepest part of the descent. The night was pitch-dark, and had it not been for the aiding arm of a friendly Legislative Assembly man I don't know how I, with feeble sight, could have arrived at the bottom of that three-mile hill road. How I mentally cursed the layman who recommended us of these three hours at Alexandra. Early education suggested to me the lines of the excellent Dr Watts:—

"Tis the voice of the sluggard, I heard him complain,
'Confound it! you've woken me; don't do it again.'"

I heartily wished that we had rushed his bedroom, tumbled him head first into his bath, and generally roused him up at half-past six, and then our trip would have been perfect. But as it was we got to Healesville a little after 10, and next morning were in town by half-past 9 a.m.—Yours, &c.,

Nov. 2

J. STANLEY DOBSON.

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A TRIP TO THE FALLS.

[BY M. P.]

Of the many beautiful spots which Nature has bestowed upon the district of Alexandra probably not one equals that of the falls, and the holiday seeker who leaves the district without paying them a visit misses a sight which for beauty and grandeur cannot be excelled in any other portion of the colony. On Sunday last this popular resort was selected for a day's outing by a number of young people including Misses Harris, Trewin, Magee, Hermiston (2), and Miss Reed, Messrs. A. Allardyce, Hermiston, Magennis, Wood and Power. As the sun pierced through the fleecy white clouds it was evident the weather was to be of the made to order sort. A start was made about 8 o'clock in three traps, while some preferred to ride. From the top of Mount Pleasant, looking backward, a fine view is obtained of the town, with its tree lined streets, while in front is plainly seen the winding course of the Goulburn with farms on either side and the clear blue mountains in the distance. The pretty and substantial new Eildon bridge is soon reached, but is disfigured by the skeleton of the old bridge, which after about 26 years duty resigned from active service at the request of the shire council. The pasture appears to be very good in the road side paddocks, and in some places the grass is exceptionally heavy. Leaving the main road (and a fine road it is too) we turn to the right and reach the first crossing of Snob's creek, which is a clear and rapid stream rushing from the wilds and darkness of the gullies in the mountains. The horses are glad of a refreshing drink, and we (feeling a little dust in our throats) follow their example, while one person tried something just to take off the chill. Lofty steep mountains are now on either side of us, and from this point right through the narrow valley to the falls is to be found an endless variety of the most picturesque Australian scenery. Continuing our course between two branches of the creek, the eye is relieved by the many varieties of vegetation which flourish in luxuriance. Bush-ropes, creepers, and trailing vines interlace and hang from one tree to another, forming a canopy, while in the shade beneath, tree ferns, maiden fern, and moss grow in luxuriance and abundance. As we proceed the scenery increases in beauty. Here and there tiny streams sparkle as they cross the track, their banks being covered with musk and native mint. A noticeable feature for this time of the year is the display of wild flowers; honeysuckle and heath are everywhere to be seen, which, together with the blossoming of the lightwood, fill the air with the sweet-

est of odours. On reaching the furthest point of driving the horses are taken out and cared for. Something (not our watches) tells us that it is somewhere near dinner time. Mr. Magennis has the "billy" boiling in the shortest time on record. The young ladies are extremely active, and in a few minutes have a cloth covered with most tempting dainties, sandwiches, cakes, fruits and other delicacies too numerous to mention. Miss Harris and Mr. Magennis undertook to look after our wants, and were kept very busy. After dinner a start is made for the falls, the noise of which can be heard a great distance off. A cut track brings us to the bottom of the falls. Here we pause, and gaze on a great body of water rushing in three leaps over a precipice about 358 feet high and falling into a rocky basin with terrific force, the whole presenting a whirling and foaming mass, and is spanned by a rainbow. To enable the visitor to reach the top steps have been cut in staircase fashion, so we find no difficulty in reaching the summit, where we rest ourselves, being fanned by a cool breeze and clouds of spray. Away to the North can be seen the farms, orchards, and wooded hills of Thornton, appearing very beautiful from the continued lights and shades thrown upon them by a windy sky. Having gathered a choice selection of ferns, etc., we retrace our steps and make for the buggies, knowing well that there are yet plenty of good things hidden in the back-ets. After doing full justice to the refreshments a second time, we make a start for home, but were stopped on the road by Miss Essie Robinson, who informed us that tea was ready and who would not allow us to go without having some. Not to comply with the generous request of this gentle and popular young maiden would be a most grievous sin. Having enjoyed a cool glass of milk and tasted Miss Robinson's cookery in the shape of the many nice things before us, we thanked our young hostess and made another start for home, which was reached about 8 o'clock thus ending one of the most enjoyable days in our lives, and to nature loving people we would advise them to come to Alexandra where there are plenty of holiday resorts for them in the mountains.

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 17 January 1896
Courtesy National Library Australia

Niagara Falls described

Alexandra Standard
17 January 1896
Courtesy National Library Australia



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NEWSPAPERS

SNOB'S CREEK FALLS, ALEXANDRA

By a "Contributor" in the *Collingwood Tribune*

Reprinted in the *Alexandra Standard*

...The worth host informed us that he had arranged a picnic to Snob's Creek Falls for next day, and at 8.30 a.m. one of our old friends in the shape of a four horse Cobb's coach pulled up. We struck along the Wood's Point-road and being one of the visitors was accommodated with a box seat. The panorama that unfolded itself was worth a very long journey to see. I cannot understand people going out of Victoria to look for grandeur of scenery, when within eighty miles of Melbourne, such magnificently grand views as the Cathedral Mountains, the Blue ranges, etc., are available. After winding our way for about fourteen miles in and out amongst the mountains, we suddenly turned off the main road sharply to the right, up a gorge, down which flows the famous Snob's Creek. I endeavoured to discover the origin of the name, but could not, however. The creek may safely utter "What's in a Name?", because the entrancing beauty of the stream makes one forget the ugly name.

After doing full justice at the camping ground to the good things provided by Mrs. Hutton, we started for a mile and a half climb to the Falls. I confirm that I was a bit skeptical at starting. I have heard so much of falls in country towns, and have been disappointed when I saw them. But after walking nearly a mile and suddenly turning a shoulder of the mount, I looked and away coming out of the tops of the highest trees a huge bend of silver roared and tumbled and spirited. As I moved nearer and nearer, the greater the wonder grew, and the full beauty of the picture unfolded itself slowly.

I stood gazing at and drinking in the numerous points of beauty, but I was rudely awakened with "have a whisky!" But on trial, I found that the clear waters of the creek were much nicer than the whisky. Still it is not advisable to drink it without a little spirit.

I was enchanted with the whole place ; ferns in profusion everywhere, mountain springs all about you, thick forest, steep mountains, and nature's organ, rolling, groaning, sighing and leading one to express a wish that the city, with its bustle, was entirely a think of the past.

Any of our tired business men who are fond of trailing the fly on the surface of the ripples, will also be rewarded with some very fine trout, and in a year or two, do not be surprised to hook a good salmon. A local, Izaak Walton, informed me the salmon were becoming plentiful ; as for trout, the streams are full. For a holiday it would be difficult to find a more ideal place, scenery every changing, shooting plentiful and fishing good. Hot days, perhaps, but one wants a good pair of blankets at night for the braking air, 1700 feet above Melbourne, is cold.

Alexandra Standard

Friday 19 August 1904

Courtesy National Library Australia 2017

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

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BY F. L. BILLINGHURST.

Extract from "The Wombat."

The locality is out of the beaten track, and but little visited except by the ubiquitous "commercial," and yet it is one of the most charming spots in Victoria, lovely river valleys alternating with wooded hills, developing at no great distance into veritable mountains, such as Mount Torbreck, 4,300 ft.; the Cathedral, 2,200 ft., and so on. Down the sides of these hills come little brawling trout streams, the water ice cold on the hottest day, and the banks one mass of ferns, from the stately tree fern to the modest but lovely maidenhair, which grows like a weed everywhere. A favourite picnic spot of the Alexandrans is the Niagara Falls, some 12 miles distant, where the Snobs Creek, a very respectable volume of water, takes a series of drops aggregating some 350 ft., the first drop being at least 60ft, and then rushes away through masses of shrub and fern to empty itself into the Goulburn. Space will not permit me to dilate upon the various beauty spots of the neighbourhood, such as the Acheron and the Rubicon with their noisy waters, Crystal Creek with its huge bushes of coral fern, the Goulburn itself with its fringe of wattles, which must be seen in bloom to be appreciated; suffice it to say that with a clean little town, first-class hotels, lovely scenery, and within reasonable distance of Melbourne, the place is deserving of much more attention from tourists than it receives. One of the most popular circular trips in the colony should be the following:—Melbourne to Healesville by train, Healesville over the Black Spur by coach to Marysville, where there is some magnificent scenery, and two or three days can be well spent, Marysville to Alexandra by coach, and thence back to Melbourne by train.

To the naturalist, of course, such a district as I have described offers a large field of research, and I look forward to doing a good deal of work, but I find it a mistake to take up too many lines at once, so am confining myself at present to the birds. [Captain Billinghamurst then gives a lengthy list of the birds inhabiting this district.]

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 19th May 1899
Courtesy National Library Australia

Niagara Falls described

Alexandra Standard

19 May 1899

Courtesy National Library Australia

ALEXANDRA SHIRE COUNCIL

The following reports were dealt with at the last council meeting:—

Engineer's Report.

Re application of Lands Department for sale of road between Allots 22 and 23, parish of Alexandra—This road is not likely to be used as the main traffic would use the U.T. road to township.

The road leading to Snobb's Creek falls, off main road, requires attention. This work should be undertaken as early as possible to allow of tourist traffic; approximate cost £10.

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 14th November 1914
Courtesy National Library Australia



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HOLIDAY RESORTS.

ALEXANDRA.—Ideal for Camping Out.

The caravan holiday maker, the camper-out or the one who prefers the comfort of good accommodation all find Alexandra an ideal place for the spending of an outdoor vacation. The drive over the Blacks' Spur is one of the attractions of a trip that is rich in scenic offerings. Alexandra is one of the oldest townships in Victoria, and has for many years been highly favored as a hill resort. Artists by the score have derived inspiration and material from the expansive views and fascinating glimpses obtained at the numerous eminences or along the banks of the rivers Goulburn and Acheron.

The walker, whether a long-distance enthusiast or one who prefers to dawdle by the way, does not exhaust the possibilities of this neighborhood with one visit. The nearest points from which commanding views of a wonderful countryside are obtained are Reservoir Hill, only a mile from the township, and McKenzies Hill, less than two miles distant. From Brooks's Cutting, which also involves a walk of two miles, one of the most arresting views of the Goulburn and Acheron valleys, with the dominating Cathedral Peak in the distance, is obtained. To scale Mount Prospect is a more laborious undertaking, but one within the capacity of most people, and from this height the tourist looks out over the Cathedral Mount, beyond which opens up a vista of range after range, seemingly interminable, and certainly impressive to the man whose normal vision is restricted to one block of a city's buildings.

Farther afield are the falls on Snob's Creek, fourteen miles from the township, and attainable, except for the last two miles, by car. These are higher, and sometimes exceed in volume the famous Rubicon Falls, although in the minds of most visitors the latter are the more beautiful. The Rubicon Falls are reached through the Rubicon Forest, and a tour to them makes one of the best outings among a wealth of attractions. After a drive of fifteen miles it is necessary to walk along the east branch of the tempestuous river. On this walk the tourist passes through one of the most famous beauty spots in Victoria—the fern glade of surpassing loveliness, shaded by the massive Elephant Rock, a huge monolith. The falls complete a picture which for sheer natural beauty is not excelled.

Drives along the valley of the Goulburn River or along the course of the Acheron, fishing in any of the numerous pools and streams, shooting and aimless rambling make up the holiday of the visitor to Alexandra. Many camping grounds have been reserved along the banks of the rivers, and these are freely used by holiday makers who seek a few days or weeks of the real outdoor life amid the prettiest surroundings conceivable.

Snobs Creek Falls, Rubicon Falls, Rubicon Fern Glades and Elephant Rock

The Age

12 December 1926

Courtesy Google News



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During the past two weeks a large number of holiday-makers visited the Alexandra district. A particularly strong contingent of campers was located along the Goulburn and Acheron rivers. The various beauty spots claimed attention from tourists. The Rubicon Falls and Snob's Creek Falls were visited by numerous parties. Snob's Creek Falls present a particularly fine waterfall effect, being of great height and veiled in softest beauty. Some dead timber about the Falls could, with advantage, be removed, and a shelter shed at the camping ground would be an improvement.

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 6th January 1922
Courtesy National Library Australia

Snobs Creek Falls described as being a 'particularly fine waterfall effect, being of great height and veiled in softest beauty.'

The camping ground below the Falls is mentioned as is a suggestion of improving the ground by building a shelter shed.

Around Alexandra

Rubicon and Royston Falls.—These are reached (via Thornton) through the Rubicon Forest. In the Rubicon falls—and also in the cascades and rapids which mark the tempestuous course of the east branch of the Rubicon—we have true waterfalls, which, unlike most Australian falls, add force and grandeur to the mere physical charm of beauty.

Snobs Creek Falls.—These are reached by branching off at the sign post on the main road at Upper Thornton. The falls are beautiful in all but name. In summer they present the finest of the typical waterfall effects, being of great height. They surpass either of the Rubicon falls in height and volume.

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 6th February 1925
Courtesy National Library Australia

'In summer they present the finest of the typical water fall effects, being of great height. They surpass either of the Rubicon Falls in height and volume.'



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Snobs Creek Falls.

Mr. Mackrell, M.L.A., has informed the Shire Council by letter that a grant of £100 had been made for Snobs Creek Falls road. If increased facilities for making the falls accessible to campers are to be made, the Council will have to give consideration to sanitation. Hundreds of cars containing campers visited the district at Easter, and no supervision whatever was undertaken by the Council, as the local Board of Health. If the Falls reserve is turned into a caravan park, and the local Water Trust later on go on with a suggested gravitation water supply scheme to Alexandra, it is quite evident the two will conflict, and the camping ground will have to be closed.

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 27th May 1938
Courtesy National Library Australia



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PICTURESQUE VICTORIA - AROUND ALEXANDRA
BY THE VAGABOND
(From the Argus)

(Snobs Creek Falls section is bolded)

The best view of Alexandra is from the hill above the town on which the hospital is situated. From thence one surveys the settlement, prosperous-looking and substantial, the shire-hall alone being sufficient to give an imposing appearance to the place. The trees in the streets and around the houses pleasantly tone down the vagaries of architecture. The flats and hill-sides surrounding the amphitheatre are verdant after the late rains. The course of the road winding through the gap from Yea can be traced, as well as the course of the river. The mountain backgrounds are all clothed in primal forest and scrub. Peace, plenty, and prosperity reign in this valley. Population is here too, for as far as the eye can reach all around, on the hill slopes and up to the tops of the ranges, the land, I am told, has been selected. Even the scrubby country it is found will keel one and a half sheep to the acre. The Upper Goulburn Valley is like the Colac district in that it combines the highest qualities of the picturesque with fertile soil and climate. I should like to own it.

The churches do not make much of a show at Alexandra. These are Episcopal, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and Wesleyan. I have the pleasure of meeting the Revs W. Jennings and T. B Swift, who supervise the spiritual wants of the members of the two former denominations.

They are friends of friends of mine, the latter gentleman coming across from across the Pacific. The Catholic Church, ministered to by father O'Hanlon, of Mansfield, is at present only a spiritual body. It has no temporal habitation. The old wooden building has just been blown down. We pass it en route to the hospital, a mere heap of planks. I think, as I look at these, of the day when, standing on the verandah of the hotel at Charters Towers during a tornado, I saw the Catholic Church on the hill opposite, go down like a house of cards. Father Hennebery was at that time praying that "all vagabonds" might be cursed, and if the building in which I was to lecture had been destroyed, I presume it would have been styled a "judgment." His mission was spoilt at the Tower through this. We pursue our way to the hospital. This is a rather primitive wooden building. It contains twelve beds, but only four patients are here at present. The lack of funds is sadly perceptible. The fifteen members of committee do all they can with their limited means at their disposal. But this institution is really in very impoverished circumstances.

As before pointed out, there is not around Alexandra a wealthy community as in the West. There is no one here who can afford to give their £100 or £50 cheques to a charity. The Government subsidy to this has been reduced from £200 to £100 a year. And in this matter I think the inhabitants have just cause of complaint.

With a mining population around, at a distance from the railway, and the next hospital being at Mansfield, 35 miles away, the Alexandra Hospital should certainly receive more support than it does.



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The free library and reading room is an institution they are proud of at Alexandra, I have to visit this, escorted by Mr. Hardly, the president, and "Our Joe," the honorary secretary. This building cost £600 to erect. The library contains 700 volumes, and the reading-room is well supplied with periodical literature. It is only open during three nights in the week. These nights have come to be considered events to lighten the daily toil. Everyone using the reading-room is required to record his name in the visitors' book. Last year the attendance was 4,293, showing that this institution is well appreciated. Other means of relaxation are provided at Alexandra by a capital amateur brass band, a highly efficient body of musicians, possessing good instruments and neat uniforms. I am very much surprised, as well as delighted, to find such an organisation here. The way in which one of the members wrestles with an enormous brazen serpent, which encompasses his body, commands my highest admiration. Of course, there is a cricket club here, which has a good ground, enclosed by a picket fence. Alexandra also possesses a racing club and a racecourse, and an agricultural society and show-grounds. Likewise a bicycle club, and a rifle club of 42 members, who, with their president, Mr. Whiting, are ready to shoot straight in defence of their native hills. There is a good rifle-range near the town. Other public necessities here are supplied by the cemetery, in which I feel I could rest peacefully, and the police camp. At the latter there are two smart troopers, under the command of Senior constable Irvine. An occasional fire is the only thing to trouble them. Superintendant Montfort is in charge of the division.

I have great pleasure in meeting that gentleman here for the first time. It is at wonderful instance of the smallness of this earth that out of a company of eight assembled in this out-of-the-world spot in social intercourse, two, the president of the shire and myself, are American citizens ; air Montfort was in his youth for a considerable time in the States ; and my old friend, Major King, who turns up here, and " Our Joe." have both visited, and retain most pleasant recollections of the land of the free and home of the brave. The eagle spreads its wings slightly on this occasion. Scotland and Ireland for once are nowhere. But the consensus of opinion is that American experiences fit a man to be the best of Australians. This is proved by the fact that my dear friend, Monsieur E. A. Pesoli, who resided in the United States for 18 years, was the most popular representative France has had in the colonies. His life in the Great Republic taught him to understand our people. By "our" I mean Australian. As a 16 year old colonist I now claim that title.

Alexandra is in itself a pleasant place ; it is most picturesque in its surroundings, and situated as it is 750ft. above the sea, is essentially healthy. For a decade the average yearly rainfall was 26 inches, and there is a never-failing supply of water in the streams around. But Alexandra also claims to be the centre of beautiful scenery, which tourists in Victoria have all yet neglected and passed by. The "boss" is the Niagara Falls. This is the first visit. The president of the shire, Councillor Baker, from Birmingham, and the editor of "The Standard" escort me thither. A stout wagon and pair of horses are brought to the door. I say "goodbye" to Newman, who driven back to Lilydale, taking with him my best wishes to Mr. Watt. Travellers in my footsteps who will get Driver Newman to escort them through the Acheron Valley to Alexandra will not be disappointed. But here I no longer require the buggy, for the citizens take me in hand and "put me through". We drive along the old Woods Point road, east by south, and over the ridge from which one obtains a different, but as beautiful, a view of the valley than from the other side coming in from Marysville. We pass Mr. George Lamont's Mount Pleasant station to the left, and cross the Goulburn by a good bridge. Here the river is broad, with long



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reaches, sandy bars, and snags and drifts of logs, reminding me of many a stream in the New World. The banks are shaded with mimosa and acacia, and in the deep pools large fish are to be found. It is a lovely drive. In this late summer's morning the temperature is charming. There seems a lilt of pleasure in the air. We rejoice with Nature. Life is worth living to-day. And this drive is all the more pleasant, that we have pleasant converse together.

With Mr. Carlson I exchange reminiscent of his birth place on the Hudson ; with "Our Joe," of Notts and the Trent; and with Mr. Baker, of Birmingham and the black country, of George Dawson and "Bob" Brettle, of John Bright and the "Tipton Slasher," otherwise James Perry, of J. S. Wright and Morris Roberts, of Lords Stamford and Dudley, and the Russell's of Westbromwich Hall. "Do you know that Dampier, he who has the two little girls, married a Miss Russell? I always go to see him when in Melbourne," says Mr. Baker. I tell him that it is rather curious this question should be put to me respecting an old friend and partner, and that the two little girls are getting big girls now, one of them playing ingénues in my own pieces.

As we drive along we catch occasional glimpses of the Goulburn, in places as broad and as deep as at Murchison. If properly snagged, and a few sand-bars cleared, I think this might have been utilised for purposes of navigation. To the left are the fertile flats through which the Rubicon flows. Here and there are small holdings. In the Goulburn Valley, 16 miles on each side of the river upwards from Alexandra, there are 31 settlers occupying larger or smaller holdings. oats, wheat, peas, pigs. and potatoes are raised here. This is a thoroughly British community. Of course, there are Chinese gardeners at Alexandra. " John" is the only man who will grow a cabbage in the country. It is objected that his ways are not always nice, but certainly they cannot be worse than the method the Brighton gardeners have of piling empty fruit cases on the top of their loads of "fertilisers" with which they weekly return from town. Bill the boss farmer on the Rubicon is an enterprising and typical John Bull. Away on the hillside, Mr. R. W. Wightman has his dairy buildings and homestead. Eighty cows are daily milked here ; the result - cheese. Two miles further on he has another homestead and farm. As with my friends the Wylies, at Kelvin-grove, Mr. Wightman has been blessed with sons and daughters who have proved a most efficient aid to him. Here at this second station Miss Wightman shows us over the farm buildings, including one of the grandest barns I have seen in Australia, stored with oats, and peas, and wheat. The land in this valley will produce 28 bushels of wheat to the acre, the average being 25. The return from this is 40 to 84 bushels, and from peas 70 bushels. There is an enormous stack of straw in Mr. Wightman's yards. "What is to be done with this?" I ask. "Oh, nothing. The pigs and horses and cattle call pull out what they like ; but it doesn't pay to cut it up into chaff - it costs too much for carriage. If the railway were at Alexandra it would be a different thing." I think of how precious chaff is on the Lower Murray end Darling, and yet, owing to the lack of means of transit, it does not pay to transport it from here. Much of the produce raised on these flats is converted into pork. Pigs are running about here, almost as numerous as in the West.

The tourist who has time will halt at the Rubicon Hotel, seven miles out from Alexandra. Here is the crossing of the Rubicon River, rising in the Cerberean Range in the south. There are some romantic freestone cliffs to be inspected, and a good quality of building stone is to be found near the junction with the Goulburn. But no one wants to build here as yet, except with weatherboard.



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The settlement here is called Thornton, and possesses a post office and state school. But we are bound to-day to see the great falls of Australia's Niagara. We pass Thornton and Eildon, and are 12 miles out from Alexandra when we cross one more river, the swift-flowing creek which rises in the south on the slope of Mount Torbreck, which towers 4,999ft. above sea level. This was at first called "Cobbler's Creek," and then "Snob's Creek," but the inhabitants, with a better perception of the fitness of things than the people of Marysville, declined to perpetuate such matters, and christened it Niagara, and as such it is now known on the Government maps. Near the creek is the house of Mr. Charlesworth, and his son Oscar kindly volunteers to accompany us as guide to the falls, which are five miles off in the bush. We drive through a luxuriant scrub for about two miles, and then unhitch and tie up the horses and cross the stream on a fallen log. The waters here are embowered with verdure, foliage as beautiful as anything I have seen in the South Seas. Dancing along full of life, this stream sings a song of gladness; it inspires and yet soothes one. Pan speaks to me. I would that I had here with me all those who faint and grow weary in the strife for existence in the cities, who feel that they are but a drop in the great sea of humanity - a drop too many sometimes - to whom the present has no joy and the future is clouded. Here they would listen, and learn the lesson the waters sing, and care would slide away. I feel that I could sit on this log until nightfall, until the canopy of heaven above is star-spangled with "eyes glistening with heavenly tears over the little lot of man." And then I should go home happier and better.

Have I an instinctive warning of what is before us that I am thus in love with the stream, and would tarry on its banks? Already I feel a sinking, but it is not of the spirit, and is shared in by my companions. The commissariat has gone astray. To one who never breakfasts this is a consideration. When we - fly like - climbed round those rocks in the Bridgewater caves, I, with the ancient squatter, thought the lunch should have been hereafter. Here, at the Niagara Creek, we all feel that lunch would be a righteous thing before going further. At first the path is easy enough, over a flat with great tussocks of grass, from which there is nothing to be feared but snakes. But I resemble St. Patrick in that all creeping things avoid me. The serpent never shown up when I am around. Wallabies hop along before us; beautiful butterflies flit through the air. The sinking does not affect us as yet. For some distance one could ride along here, and I should certainly advise all visitors to do so. For half way the trouble commences. The steep hillside along which we climb is covered with stones, and rocks, and fallen timbers. Insect-like, we have to scale and crawl around these. You slip on the dry grass and bark your shins and hold on by the tussocks, and take every opportunity of sitting down and admiring the beauty of the valley below. On the other side of the stream the hill rises like a wall clothed with dense scrub from summit to base. At its foot the river flows midst a belt of light wood and musk, and acacia and mimosa, showing glimpses here and there of whirling rapids over moss-covered rocks. It is as lovely as the Upper Hopkins, of which it somewhat reminds me. Upwards and onwards I toil helped by willing arms until we reach a thicket beyond which there is the mighty roar of many waters. We push through this, I thinking that it would be much easier to be careering over the sands of the Soudan on a camel. Oscar gives me his hand and hails me up on to a rock, and there I lie panting on the edge of the Niagara Falls, a foaming torrent of water, which shoots down from 150ft above us to 150ft below.



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My first thought here is that Hannibal was indeed a mighty general, in that he never separated himself from his commissariat. My second, that the term Niagra is a misnomer. The Wannon Falls only in Australia, except perhaps, the Falls of the Herbert, which I have not seen, have any resemblance to that mighty wonder of nature between Erie and Ontario. My third impression is that this immense body of water, which with musical rush comes tumbling, tossing, and sliding over granite rocks from the table land which it is collected from the mountains around, is the most beautiful thing in the way of waterfalls I have seen in this country. *Finis coronat opus!* All my trouble and toil and hard work in the journey thither, are rewarded by this crown of nature's beauty. After all, water, moving water, gives the greatest charm to any landscape. Brunton Stephens says, in *Convict Once*:-

"Give me the beautiful rush of any river, its ever renewing
Life and intensity, song, dance, and revel by night and by day."

Waters sing ever a different tune. Sleeping in the Cataract of the Clifton house, on American and Canadian shores, or meditating on the Sisters, or in the midst of the Cave of the Winds with many doubts as to the safety of one's footing, or compassed by the whirl of waters and the sun-tinged clouds of spray in Terrapin Tower, Niagara always gave me a feeling of awe. It is such a wonderful embodiment of the calm, irresistible force and power. It impressed me with a strange *cultus*. This Australian Niagara, enormous as is the rush of water, sings, however, only a song of life and festivity. It speaks in laughter and whispers hope of the joyous possibilities of existence. Here the Greek love of more physical life itself, a pure pleasure in one's being seizes me. This is the best of all possible worlds! Let the future take care of itself. With Horace I can say.

*"Ille potens sui
Laetusque deget, cui licet in diem
Dixisse vixi"*

On this occasion I am that man! Fate cannot harm me.

This is the best of all possible worlds! But this portion of its surface which surrounds the Niagara Falls, county of Anglesea, State of Victoria, Dominion of Australia, will, I hope, be improved in the future. I say today "I have lived," and I am happy in that this feast of the picturesque has been provided for me after the toil we have had in getting hither. But I think we might possibly be just as happy if the road had not been quite so rough, if a track were made here as from Marysville to the Minne-ha-ha Falls, and it were thus practicable to ride to the foot of Niagara. A tract of land should be set apart here for a Government reserve, not only for the enjoyment of the people of Alexandra and neighbourhood, but for all the holiday population of Victoria. This should be done at once before it is too late, before the fee-simple of the land passes into private hands. And as Government aid was given to Marysville in the making of a road to the Falls, the people of Alexandra have a right also to claim assistance in clearing the path to their Niagara. If His Excellency the Governor and some of his Ministers will visit this spot, they will not only, I am sure, be delighted as I am,



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but will appreciate my suggestions. What a charming luncheon place there could be made here! When I mention this there is a sinking amongst my companions. A small quantity of adulterated cold water alone supports exhausted nature. But at all events we can rest and be thankful for a time whilst the waters swirl past us in fantastic forms which seem ever varying, and defy the eye to truthfully analyse their shape. There is an ever moving kaleidoscope from the height above, which Mr. Carson has scaled, as becomes a citizen of the Empire State. In seething sheets and in knots of foam, and in white tumbling masses, the water shoots down to the rapids of the river below. Luxuriant masses of ferns grow to the very brink and on the granite boulders which intercept the falls. It is as beautiful as Montmorency. We are silent, and content to rest and feel the loveliness before us. And when at last we descend to the bottom - our Birmingham member swearing this is the grandest sight he has ever saw, but still he will never come here again till a track is made - we only find that the beauty is increased, the finest view is from the base. It is a hard task scrambling down these cliffs, but all my friends are ready to assist the old *padre*. I never knew a Trentman to fail me? The road back, the flat being reached, is easier than when coming, and we have a pleasant journey into town, and well-earned refreshment in good company lightens labour.

Mr. Allardyce comes early in the morning to drive me down the left bank of the Goulburn, that I may see the surroundings of Alexandra form another point of view. The president of the shire again adds the weight of his official position to the party. We cross the long narrow bridge, and tarry for a short time at Riversdale. This is one of the oldest homesteads in the east. The house is covered in creepers, and in the garden there are English fruit trees as large and productive as you would find at "home." The lines of Mr Allardyce are east in a pleasant place. On this station there is considerable amount of horse-breeding, but also much land is under cultivation. The thick stubble shows where there have been food crops of wheat and oats. Some of the land along this valley should be as well suited for hops as in Gippsland or on the Watts. There is plenty of water everywhere, and force for irrigation purposes could be obtained from the Niagara Falls, where there is so much power fruitlessly expended. We halt at Whanregarwen, formerly one of the many properties of Mr. Hugh Glass, now belonging to Mr. McCrae. The homestead here is a brick building, with a flat roof, in the Eastern style. There is a fine garden on the bluff overlooking the river flats. Here is the largest ivy trees in Victoria. It is quite 33ft high, having grown round and above an old stringy bark gum stump till it is one thick mass of leaves and branches. One cannot see Alexandra from here ; but Mount Prospect, 1,600ft high, which shelters the township, shows its site. On the other point of the compass are Mounts Cunningham and Nebo. In 12 miles of this Goulburn Valley below Alexandra there are 50 settlers, big and little, from the old Canadian fisherman who owns an island in the river to the squatters of Riversdale and Whanregarwen. Formerly the whole of the lands on the Upper Goulburn were occupied by two stations ; now some hundreds are supported here, and they tell me - and with a good show of reason - that hundreds more could be comfortably settled if they had but railway communication. I record with pleasure that here the squatters and the farmers live together in the greatest peace and harmony.

After a pleasant drive of 12 miles through fertile country, the magnificent pair of chestnuts proving worthy of their breeding, we strike the Yea road, and halt at Molesworth. This embryo township consists of a state school, and the Punt Inn, an establishment which also includes the store and post-



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NEWSPAPERS

office. This charming little hostelry, which, if situated elsewhere, say at Fernshawe, would be highly popular. But it has already been discovered as a quite country resort by some Melbourne visitors. It contains a number of private rooms, and no less than four pianos. There is a good garden, in which an intelligent magpie hides everything he can steal, and the only thing one requires there is *The Argus*. I tell Mrs. James that I could manage to exist with only three pianos in a house, if a daily newspaper were sullied instead. On the hill facing the highway is a house of Mr. Francis, which commands an extended view of the valley. All around there are small holdings. Deposits of cobalt have been found within a mile, and some day may add to the prosperity of Molesworth. Lunched and refreshed, we drive back, crossing the Goulburn, and calling first at Cathkin, Mr. McKenzie's station. Here is the proposed junction of the railway line to Mansfield running up the valley of the Colonial Creek. It is from hence that there is to be the branch to Alexandra. We follow the course of the main road, past many a little homestead, and also past roadside pubs, left stranded here after the waves of prosperity during the mining rush, struggling feebly for existence.

But I am happy to say we also pass a good State school, and the children going homewards, well fed and contented looking, attest the prosperity of their parents, who have selected and settled in this neighbourhood. Ex bullock drivers, teamsters, splitters, miners - hard workers are all these agriculturalists in the Upper Goulburn. They prosper exceedingly here, and are especially blessed with a bountiful rainfall; and there is a never failing supply of water in the streams. There seems to be water everywhere. On the banks of the brooks grey cranes and red-crested water-hens are plentiful. I have not seen these since I was on New Zealand. Two miles out from Alexandra I am shown the stump here it is proposed to locate the terminus of the railway. At this the citizens are wroth and indignant. I am shown how, by a slight deviation, it could be easily carried on into the town. The Shire of Alexandra has a special survey made for this propose, and they back the opinion of their engineer against that of the Government official, and Mr. Carlson offers to take the contract to complete this extension for a sum which, if private railroads were allowed here, would ensure its being at once made.

I am altogether very sorry for these badly used people of Alexandra until we reach a deep cutting in the hill. Then we dismount and climb the banks, and the whole grandeur of the Upper Goulburn Valley lies before us, The Cathedrals, Mount Torbreck, the Cerberean Range dominating the distant horizon, the river, the plains, the township nestled in the hillside below, all combine to make up such a charming picture that I am glad there is no railway here as yet, or I should miss much of this beauty. Then we drive on, and complete our round of both banks of the Goulburn, returning into Alexandra past many fertile gardens, country homesteads, and pleasant resorts of the people.

The Argus
Saturday 27 June 1885.

eSPLASH MEDIA ARTICLES

ARTICLES FROM THE eSPLASH eMAGAZINE

THE NEW PLATFORM

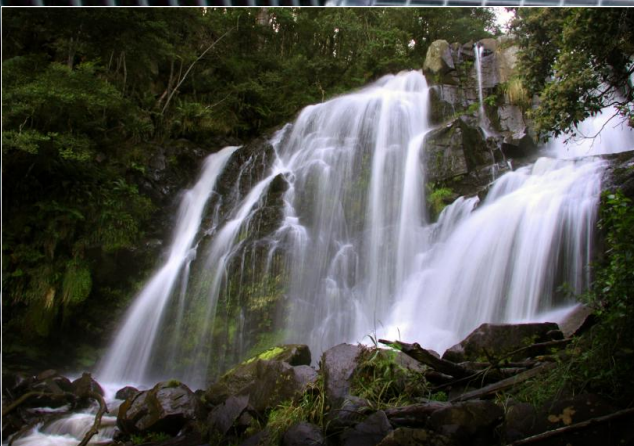
NEW PLATFORM
COMES AT A LOSS

OCTOBER 2012

The new platform at Snobs Creek Falls offers the visitor a new perspective of the Falls, though sadly the ability to walk down beside the Falls and photograph the beautiful waters (below) has been lost. This is regretful, as it was these majestic scenes that have long been the drawcard of the Lower Falls. Earlier this century it was possible to walk to the bottom of the Falls.

Snobs Creek Falls was previously called 'Niagara Falls', and was once referenced as the

'Great Falls of Australia's Niagara'.



SNOBS CREEK FALLS

FORMERLY KNOWN AS NIAGARA FALLS & ALEXANDRA FALLS

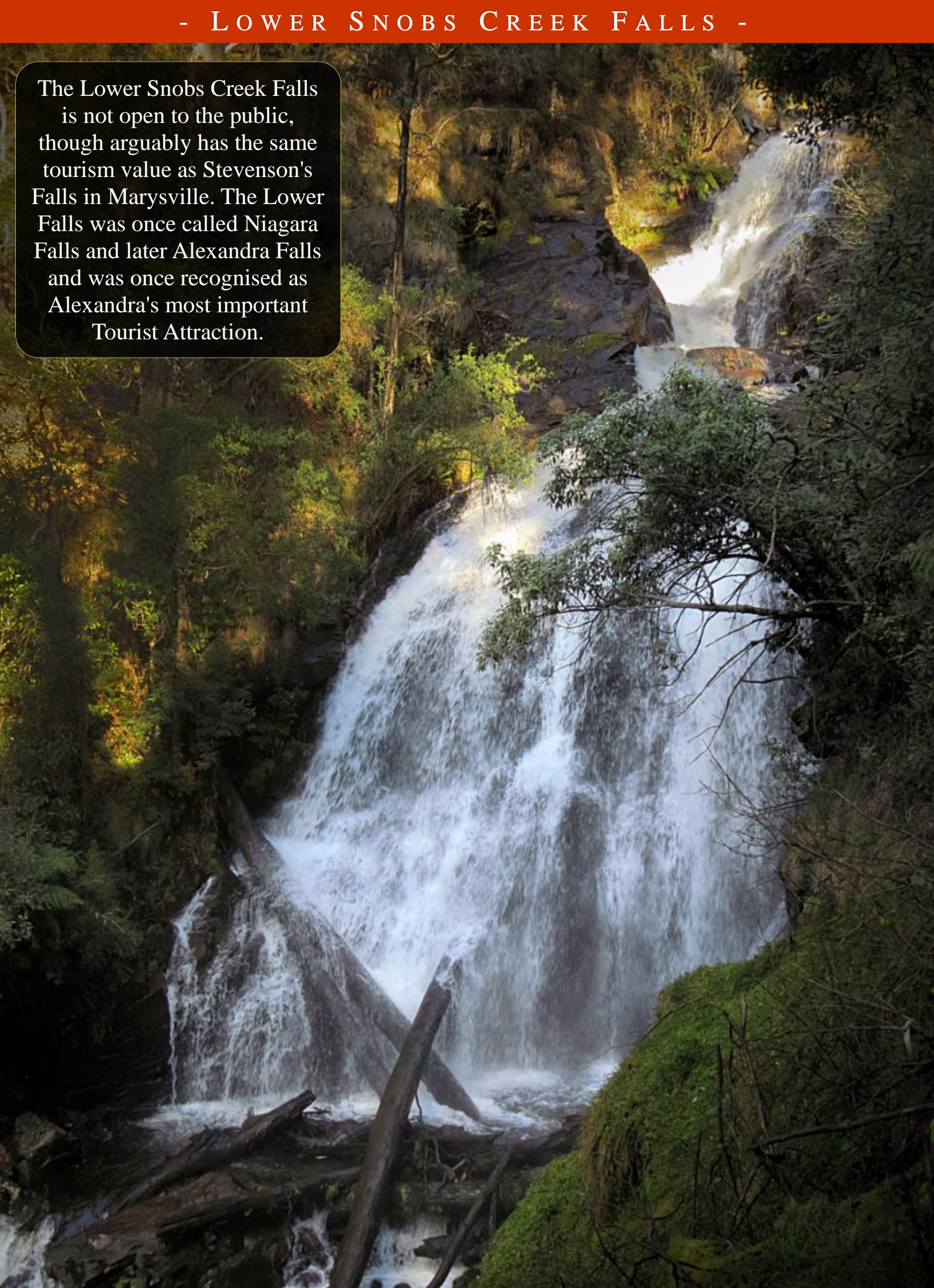
PUBLISHED 13 JULY 2016 - ESPLASH64



An adventure in beauty and splendour.

From the top viewing area at Snobs Creek Falls (pictured above) only a small section of the larger Falls can be viewed. Today we are presenting the Falls as most people will not have seen them...

The Lower Snobs Creek Falls is not open to the public, though arguably has the same tourism value as Stevenson's Falls in Marysville. The Lower Falls was once called Niagara Falls and later Alexandra Falls and was once recognised as Alexandra's most important Tourist Attraction.



- LOWER SNOBS CREEK FALLS -



The inaccessible Lower Snobs Creek Falls July 2013

- LOWER SNOBS CREEK FALLS -



The inaccessible Lower Snobs Creek Falls July 2013

STEAVENSON FALLS

These two photographs were taken from similar angles and distances as much as was possible. This comparison is not designed to compare water flows or looks, rather simply to show that the Lower Snobs Creek Falls is a gem of luxurious splendour that is in wanting of easier public access - as was possible in the late 1800s through to the late 1930s.

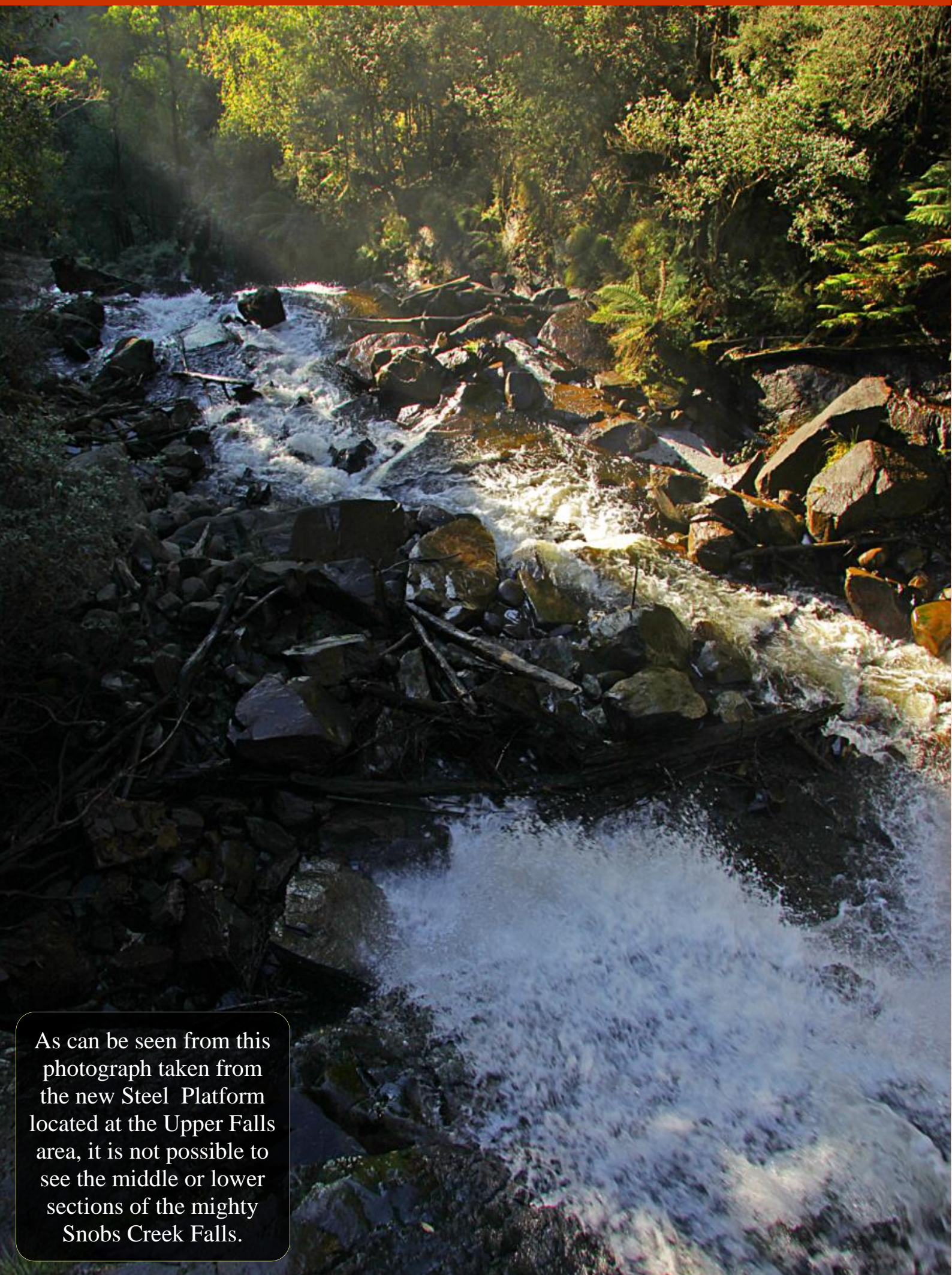
LOWER SNOBS CREEK FALLS



- THE VIEW FROM THE NEW STEEL PLATFORM -



The view from the new viewing platform opened in 2012



As can be seen from this photograph taken from the new Steel Platform located at the Upper Falls area, it is not possible to see the middle or lower sections of the mighty Snobs Creek Falls.

- UPPER SNOBS CREEK FALLS -



The pathway to the Upper Snobs Creek Fall's steel viewing platform

- SNOBS CREEK FALLS -



Snobs Creek Falls from Taylors Road, Eildon

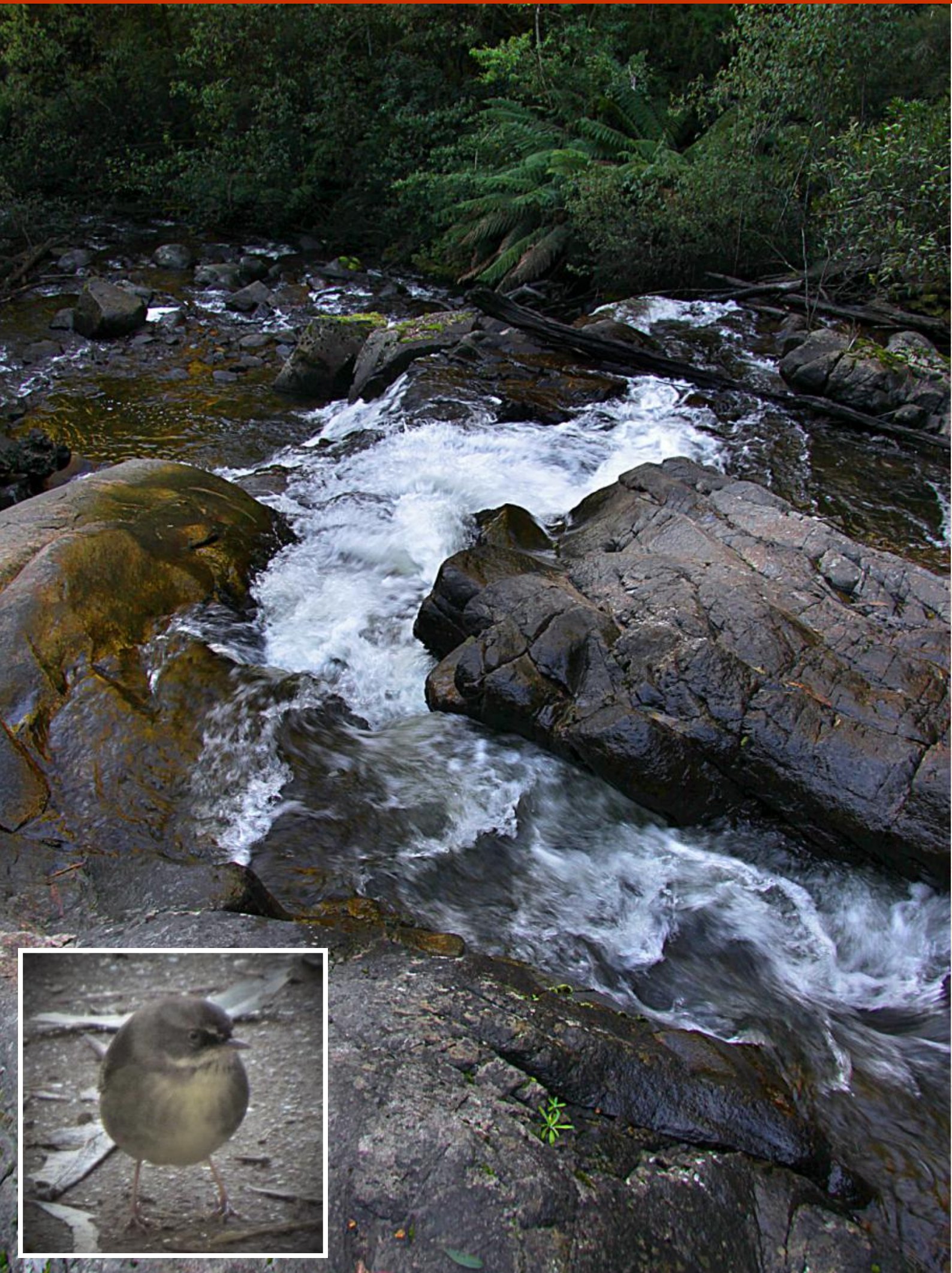


- BANYARMBITE CASCADES, ABOVE THE FALLS -



Access to the Cascades requires a short 30 second walk from the carpark

- BANYARMBITE CASCADES, ABOVE THE FALLS -



The flows in Snobs Creek are good, ensuring that photographic opportunities abound

- BANYARMBITE CASCADES, ABOVE THE FALLS -



Looking downstream from the Cascades Viewing Platform

BUNYARRAMBITE WATERFALLS, NEAR MELBOURNE.

In the Illustrated London News of the 23rd of October last is a representation of the above falls with a description of the same. A more lengthened account of them appeared in one of the Melbourne papers of March last, and was reproduced in the Argus of the 2nd inst. It reads as follows:

"Having often heard of the romantic beauty of these falls, and the wild magnificent scenery of the country around, I resolved on visiting the spot, and started accordingly on Thursday morning last, from Eldon, Mr. Thorn's station, on the River- Goulburn, about 80 miles from Melbourne, a little after Sunrise, in company with one whose thorough knowledge of the bush rendered his presence almost indispensable on such an expedition. The morning was fine, the sun shone forth with Unusual brilliance, and the face of Nature was refreshed with a copious shower which had fallen on the previous night. The horses having been got in, after the usual amount of coursing round the paddock, and the saddles adjusted, we mounted and set off. The first spot worthy of remark on the route was the River Goulburn. At the spot where we crossed there was no punt or bridge, the track being merely used by cattle; but bush horses are not particular, and we pushed boldly for ward. The river at this spot is very wide, and flows over a clear pebbly bed, here and there studded with masses of rock. The mimosa and other beautiful trees hang ever the margin of the stream, and anon dip their wavy branches in the pure and beautiful water. After crossing the Goulburn, we struck right on through the bush. Flights of beautiful white cockatoos, with their sulphur crests, soared above the summit of the forest trees, and filled the air with their discordant sounds, while here and there a black cockatoo relieved the rather monotonous flight of the white brethren. After riding for two or three miles we came upon the Yarram Creek which we had received directions to follow up, as if would lead us to the falls. The creek was altogether different from the chain of

muddy holes or dry channels on bestow the name. The water was like crystal, and the bed was rock. The banks were lined with lemon plants, and others too blossoms and flowers diffused the crept from tree to tree and hung while wild raspberries, with proved useful as well as difficult, indeed so much so that were tempted to dismount and to tether and leave them the spot. After an hour's work in of granite, and pushing our way luxurious plants, we reached the falls. The sight appeared grand thundering sound of the waterfall was loud indeed. The height from feet. The glittering spray, the over the ledges of granite, and thundering sound, till at last they reached the depth below. High mountains rose on either side, and seemed to frown grandly on the scene. We still pursued the ascent, our former difficulties seemingly : increasing ; but at last we reached the summit. The length of many of the fern tree leaves could not have been less than seven or eight feet. Several specimens of the lyre bird have often been seen near the spot, while herds of kangaroos and several emus, together with other inhabitants of the forest, gladly fly for shelter to its refreshing shade. But the aborigines have an utter horror of the spot. No amount of persuasion will induce them to visit it. They have imbibed the idea that it is the abode of some demon who seeks destruction and death. The falls are situated near Mount James, on the Yarram Creek, on the station of John Aitken, Esq.



which we are accustomed to beautifully dear, and transparent formed of gravel and pieces of fern-trees, mask plants, mimosas, numerous to mention, but whose finest fragrance. The wild vine the branches with fair festoons, abundance of delicious fruit, ornamental. We found the road on more than one occasion we lead our horses along, and finally altogether, when about a mile from clambering over immense blocks through thickets of the most spot which commanded a view of in the extreme. We had heard the for some distance back, but now it top to bottom appeared about 300 more solid body of water dashed fell from crag to crag with

thundering sound, till at last they reached the depth below. High mountains rose on either side, and seemed to frown grandly on the scene. We still pursued the ascent, our former difficulties seemingly : increasing ; but at last we reached the summit. The length of many of the fern tree leaves could not have been less than seven or eight feet. Several specimens of the lyre bird have often been seen near the spot, while herds of kangaroos and several emus, together with other inhabitants of the forest, gladly fly for shelter to its refreshing shade. But the aborigines have an utter horror of the spot. No amount of persuasion will induce them to visit it. They have imbibed the idea that it is the abode of some demon who seeks destruction and death. The falls are situated near Mount James, on the Yarram Creek, on the station of John Aitken, Esq.

The creek, after flowing seven or eight miles, joins the Goulburn. The nearest - home station is that of Archibald Thorn, Esq., of Eldon, on the banks of the Goulburn. No one after visiting such a beautiful and romantic spot can say that Victoria has no scenery. The whole country from the Murray to the Goulburn abounds in scenery grand in the extreme, which, were it transplanted to the Highlands of Scotland, the Cumberland or Westmoreland of England, or the Killarney of Ireland, would rivet the attention and admiration of thousands upon thousands. We cannot boast of mouldering watch-towers, or ruined abbeys, or moss covered castles; those hoary monuments of antiquity belong not to this land ; but still the scenery of Victoria, as depicted by Guerard and others, must surely draw the attention of many accustomed to Nature's loveliest scenes in the land they have left.'

FALLS ON THE NIAGARA CREEK, MOUNT TORBRECK.

Few are aware that there is a Niagara fall in this country, of course, not to be compared for a moment with its namesake, but still of sufficient grandeur to render it noteworthy. This fall occurs near the head of the stream which rises in the Mount Torbreck ranges, between the Rubicon and Jerusalem rivers. Any traveller passing that way, or parties in search of the picturesque, will find the locality about seven miles from Jones's Hotel, on the Darlingford road, or about twenty miles from the township of Alexandra.

The fall is a double one, making a descent of about 200 feet altogether, the width at top about forty feet, but varying, on account of the irregular formation of the rock, which forms the bed of the stream. It will give some idea of the dimensions of the falls to be told that their roar may be heard five or six miles off. The beautiful engraving of this wild and romantic scene is from a photograph by Mr Walter, who has devoted him self for years entirely to the landscape branch of photography, and many of the views of Australian scenery which have appeared from time to time in our pages, have been the result of his labors. Considering how far distant from civilisation many of the localities are which Mr Walter has visited in the course of his professional occupation, and also the almost inaccessible character of some the localities, especially to a man burdened as our artist is, with a heavy and cumbersome apparatus, the first feeling is one of wonder "how he managed to get there." Nor is the wonder lessened when we learn that Mr Walter travels alone, with this apparatus and 'tent upon his back - the whole weighing about fifty pounds - that, he sleeps at squatters stations, in shanties, or under a gum tree, according to circumstances, and that he supplies himself with such provisions as he can procure by the way.

The journey in the course of which he took the view of the Niagara Falls, occupied him eleven weeks. He walked the whole way from Anderson's Creek to Mount Buller, the most western culmination of the Australian Alps, and had to cross all the intervening ranges - the Great Dividing Range, between the Caledonian diggings, and Muddy Creek, the Black Ranges between the Murrindindi and the Goulburn, and finally the Puzzle Ranges, between Alexandra and Mansfield.

His enthusiasm for his art may be gathered from the facts that his journey was performed in very stormy weather ; that he penetrated to places inaccessible to vehicle or horse, and only penetrable to human foot, after considerable clearances had been effected in the thickets by means of a tomahawk ; that he scrambled for days over rocks and ravines, through tangled undergrowth and swollen creeks, in order to get the nearest and best views. Mr Walter deserves the highest praise for his exertions in so ably illustrating the romantic and the picturesque which nature has scattered so lavishly around us, and not the least important result of the publication of the views which he has so success fully taken, will be to direct the lovers of nature to places hitherto unknown, where they will be able to gratify their admiration to the full.

*From a photograph by C. Walter.
Illustrated Australian News
Monday 23 March 1868
Courtesy National Library Australia.*

AMAZING LOWER SNOBS CREEK FALLS

As highlighted by the Illustrated Australian News Home Readers in 1868



FALLS ON THE NIAGARA CREEK, MOUNT TORBRECK.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY C. WALTER.

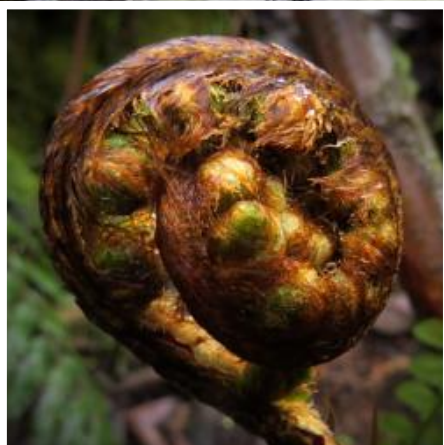
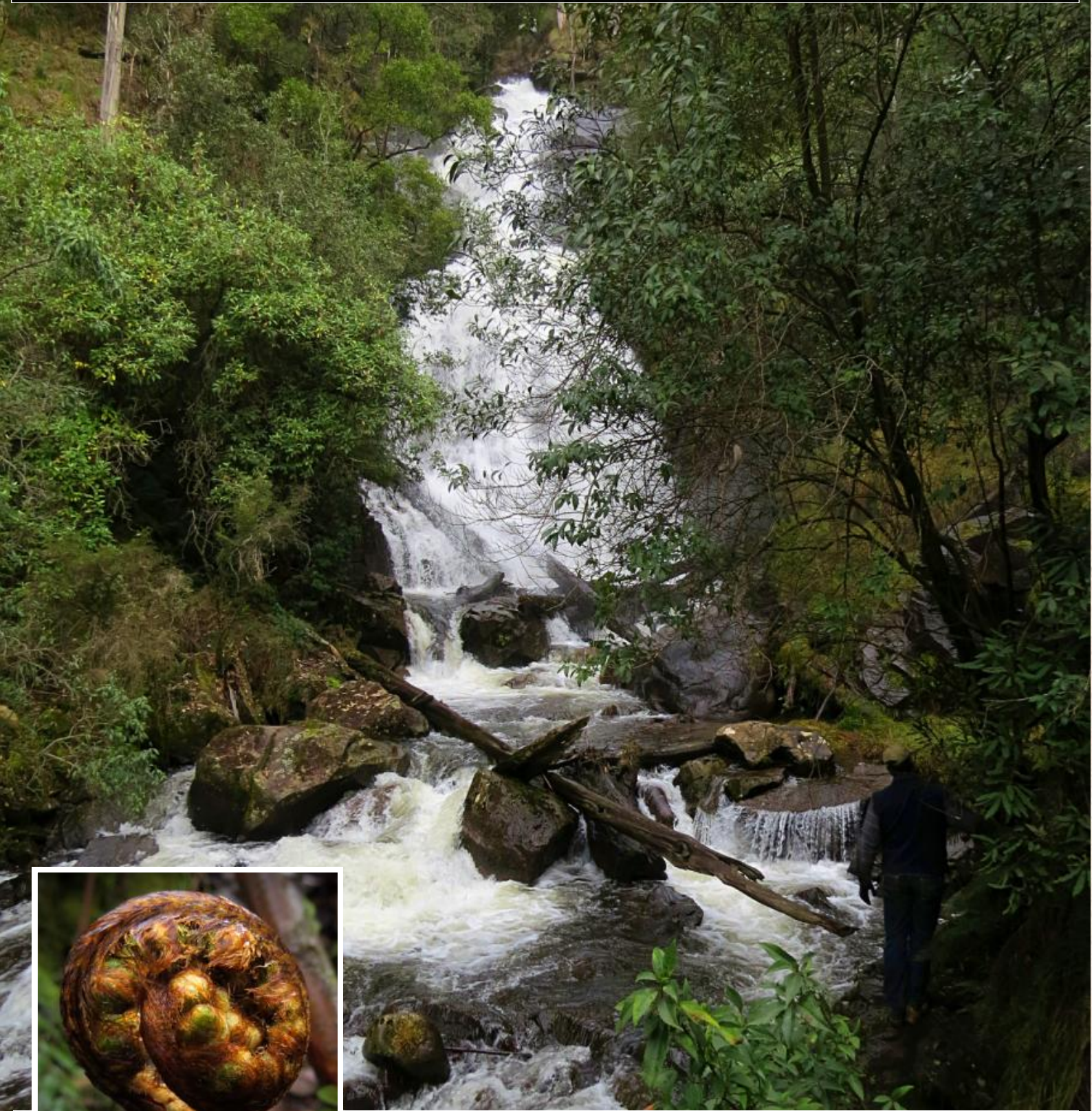
- BANYARMBITE CASCADES, ABOVE THE FALLS -



Banyarmbite Cascades, situated 200 metres above the Snobs Creek Falls

NIAGARA FALLS

CURRENTLY KNOWN AS LOWER SNOBS CREEK FALLS - PUBLISHED 19 SEPTEMBER 2014

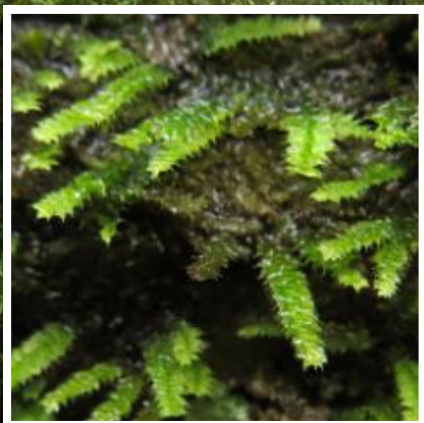


The splendor of Niagara Falls.

This huge and powerful waterfall attraction is the most significant in our district and is finally drawing visitors to our area again. The original tracks to the site were lost around the 1950s for reasons unknown.



Ensure you wear appropriate clothing and footwear as this area is very dangerous. Let others know of your travel plans and always take someone with you.



- THE VIEW FROM A LARGE ROCK -



Looking downstream



A TRIP TO THE FALLS.

[BY M. P.]

Of the many beautiful spots which Nature has bestowed upon the district of Alexandra probably not one equals that of the falls, and the holiday seeker who leaves the district without paying them a visit misses a sight which for beauty and grandeur cannot be excelled in any other portion of the colony. On Sunday last this popular resort was selected for a day's outing by a number of young people including Misses Harris, Trewin, Magee, Hermiston (2), and Miss Reed, Messrs. A. Allardyce, Hermiston, Magennis, Wood and Power. As the sun pierced through the fleecy white clouds it was evident the weather was to be of the made to order sort. A start was made about 8 o'clock in three traps, while some preferred to ride. From the top of Mount Pleasant, looking backward, a fine view is obtained of the town, with its tree lined streets, while in front is plainly seen the winding course of the Goulburn with farms on either side and the clear blue mountains in the distance. The pretty and substantial new Eildon bridge is soon reached, but is disfigured by the skeleton of the old bridge, which after about 26 years duty resigned from active service at the request of the shire council. The pasture appears to be very good in the road side paddocks, and in some places the grass is exceptionally heavy. Leaving the main road (and a fine road it is too) we turn to the right and reach the first crossing of Snob's creek, which is a clear and rapid stream rushing from the wilds and darkness of the gullies in the mountains. The horses are glad of a refreshing drink, and we (feeling a little dust in our throats) follow their example, while one person tried something just to take off the chill. Lofty steep mountains are now on either side of us, and from this point right through the narrow valley to the falls is to be found an endless variety of the most picturesque Australian scenery. Continuing our course between two branches of the creek, the eye is relieved by the many varieties of vegetation which flourish in luxuriance. Bush-ropes, creepers, and trailing vines interlace and hang from one tree to another, forming a canopy, while in the shade beneath, tree ferns, maiden fern, and moss grow in luxuriance and abundance. As we proceed the scenery increases in beauty. Here and there tiny streams sparkle as they cross the track, their banks being covered with musk and native mint. A noticeable feature for this time of the year is the display of wild flowers; honeysuckle and heath are everywhere to be seen, which, together with the blossoming of the lightwood, fill the air with the sweet-

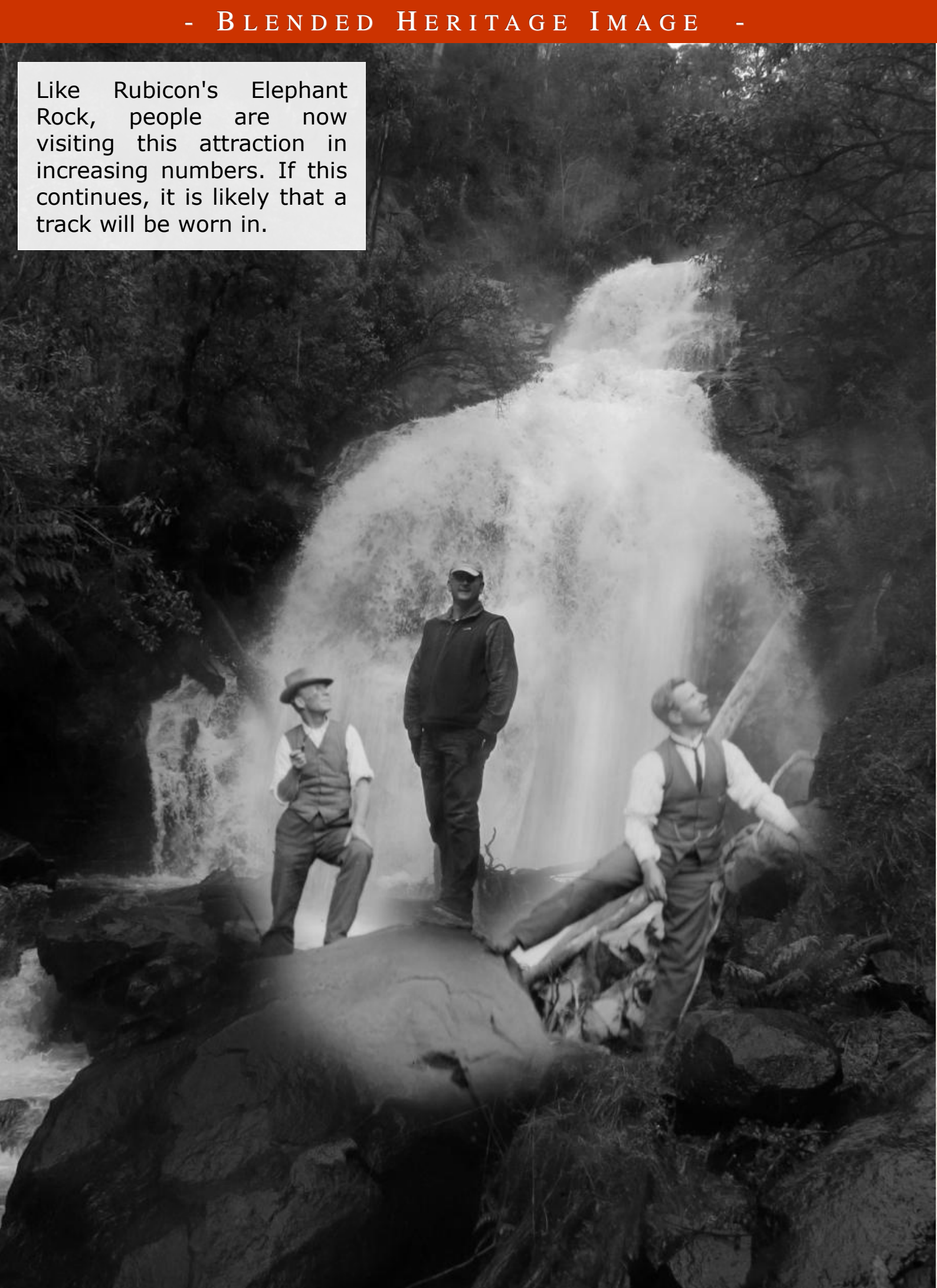
est of odours. On reaching the furthest point of driving the horses are taken out and cared for. Something (not our watches) tells us that it is somewhere near dinner time. Mr. Magennis has the "billy" boiling in the shortest time on record. The young ladies are extremely active, and in a few minutes have a cloth covered with most tempting dainties, sandwiches, cakes, fruits and other delicacies too numerous to mention. Miss Harris and Mr. Magennis undertook to look after our wants, and were kept very busy. After dinner a start is made for the falls, the noise of which can be heard a great distance off. A cut track brings us to the bottom of the falls. Here we pause, and gaze on a great body of water rushing in three leaps over a precipice about 358 feet high and falling into a rocky basin with terrific force, the whole presenting a whirling and foaming mass, and is spanned by a rainbow. To enable the visitor to reach the top steps have been cut in staircase fashion, so we find no difficulty in reaching the summit, where we rest ourselves, being fanned by a cool breeze and clouds of spray. Away to the North can be seen the farms, orchards, and wooded hills of Thornton, appearing very beautiful from the continued lights and shades thrown upon them by a windy sky. Having gathered a choice selection of ferns, etc., we retrace our steps, and make for the buggies, knowing well that there are yet plenty of good things hidden in the baskets. After doing full justice to the refreshments a second time, we make a start for home, but were stopped on the road by Miss Essie Robinson, who informed us that tea was ready and who would not allow us to go without having some. Not to comply with the generous request of this gentle and popular young maiden would be a most grievous sin. Having enjoyed a cool glass of milk and tested Miss Robinson's cookery in the shape of the many nice things before us, we thanked our young hostess and made another start for home, which was reached about 8 o'clock thus ending one of the most enjoyable days in our lives, and to nature loving people we would advise them to come to Alexandra where there are plenty of holiday resorts for them in the mountains.

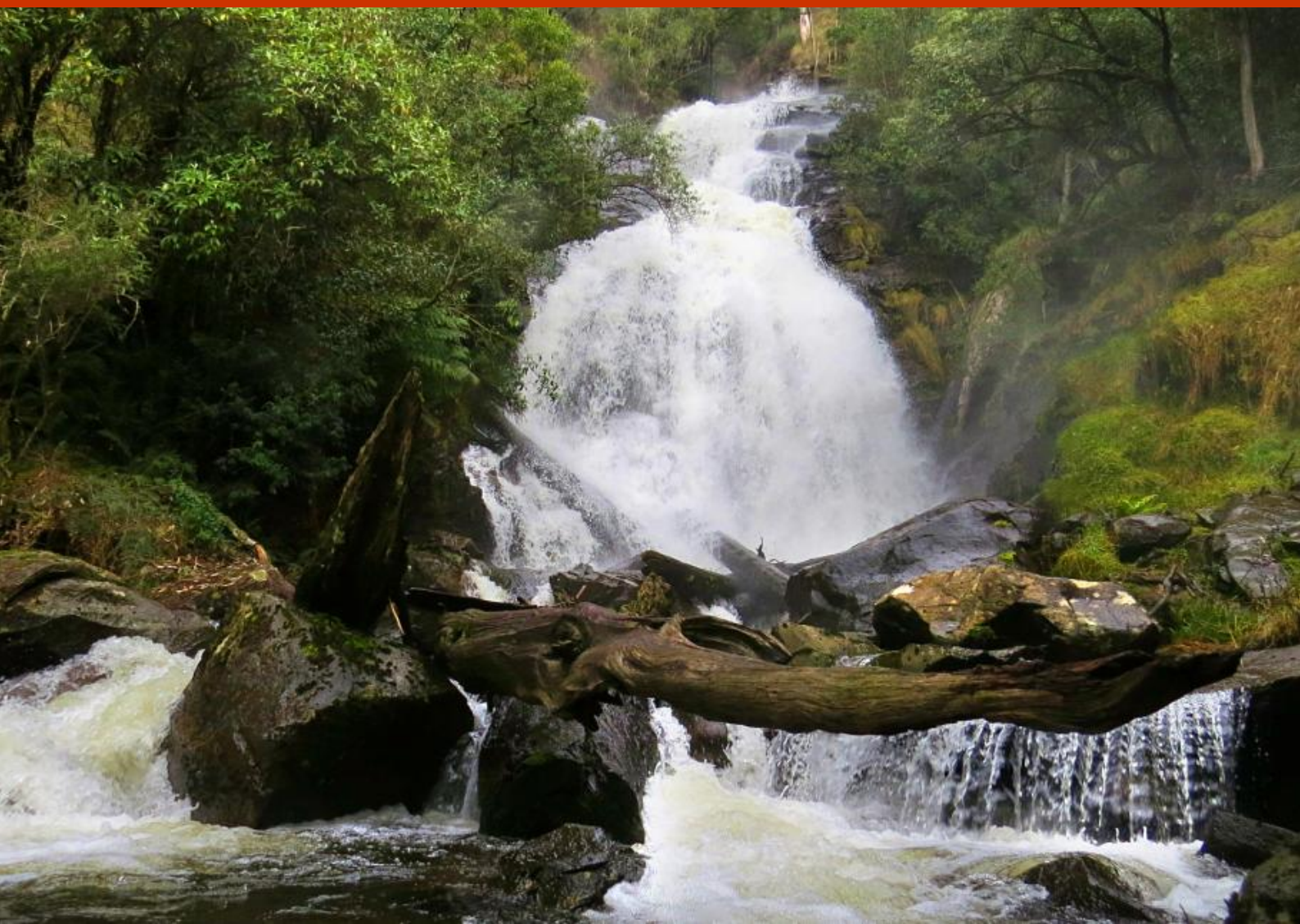
Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 17 January 1896
Courtesy National Library Australia



Press for newspaper article.

Like Rubicon's Elephant Rock, people are now visiting this attraction in increasing numbers. If this continues, it is likely that a track will be worn in.





The size and width of this huge Falls is lost when viewing the Falls from photographs. The actual force of the water at the bottom is unlike anything I have experienced before in our area. This waterfall is truly amazing and worthy of its historic title of '*Niagara Falls*'.

There has been a significant increase in the amount of visitors to the Lower Falls since Artworkz began publishing their existence. A visitor from Melbourne is keen to visit the Lower Falls and is also spreading the word about their beauty. The discovery of another section of a track is further helping walkers in accessing the Lower Falls, yet it is still a hard and dangerous journey.

Finding the old tracks is important for visitors, as the old track offers a better descent than descending off the side of the roadway - which people have been doing recently. The old track can be found if you look closely, though does not remove all the hardship. It is still hard walking near the Falls.

FEATURED PANORAMA

Photographer © David Hibbert



This panorama was taken with an iPhone5 during a group trip to the Lower Snobs Creek Falls in the Rubicon Ranges during a lovely afternoon a few weeks ago. It was one of two trips that week that groups visited the Lower Falls that we are aware of.

The Falls were incredibly powerful on this day and amazed people with their beauty and power.

The descent to the Falls is dangerous, as the walking track from just below the top carpark area has not been maintained and is only partially useable.

PRESS FOR A LARGER VERSION

WRITERS SPOT

Anonymous

WAITING ON NIAGARA

We waited quietly at Spenser Street, for our train to attend
And we waited as the clanking train, swayed its way to its end
We waited at the station, for Stillman's coach to take us where
The Alexandra Shamrock had us waiting, for our dinner, dessert and bed

We waited for our breakfast, and waited for English tea
We waited on the tourism coach, to take us to the trees
We waited as it made its way, past Thornton and onto Snobs
Where we waited on our tour guide, who was waiting for his dogs

Then at last our wait was gone, our procrastination sublime
As we took in the majesty of Niagara Falls, and her mighty line
All that was told was now seen true, her splendour mighty done
Falling down from heaven, where us mortals stood to watch her run

We sat under the mighty scene, and crossed the rocks below
To get a better vantage point, for the photographer to capture the show.
And all the time I was reminded how, by way of simple means
A good wait is often needed, so life's reward can be gleaned

When the day was all but spent, none were ready to withdraw
But Baudwicks Rubicon Hotel was awaiting us, and the chef's final call
A hearty dinner to mark the end, of a day worth its weight in gold
Where nature meets our wanting soul, where beauty and purity is sold

We left for the station as the new day broke, not wishing the train to come
For this splendid country with her endless charm, had left us all undone
And the locals made us welcome much, as they lived in paradise
Never too greedy to share its magical charm, with their city counterparts

Anonymous

UPPER SNOBS CREEK FALLS

SNOBS CREEK - PUBLISHED AUGUST 2017

DEPARTMENT:

DELWP

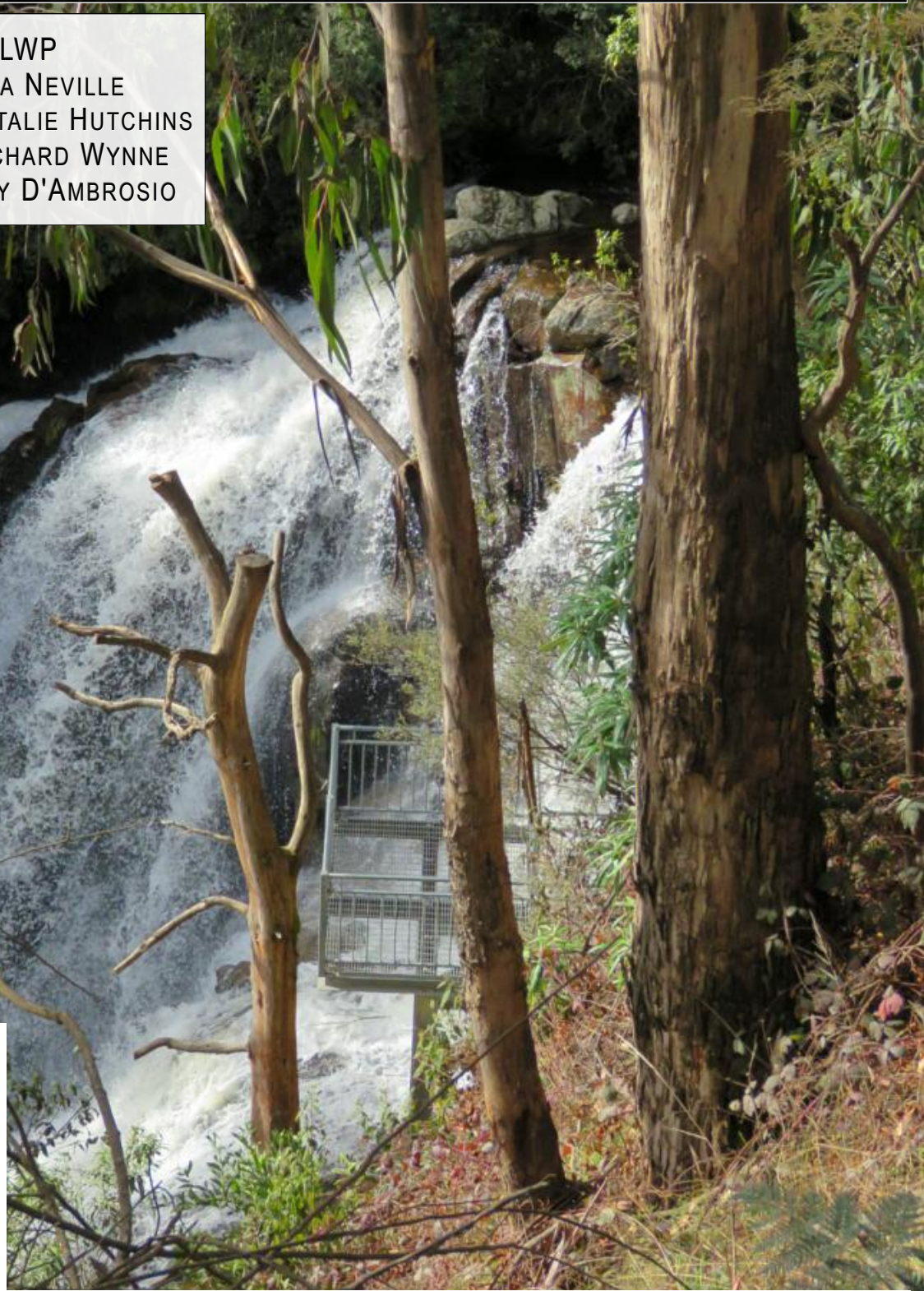
MINISTERS:

LISA NEVILLE

NATALIE HUTCHINS

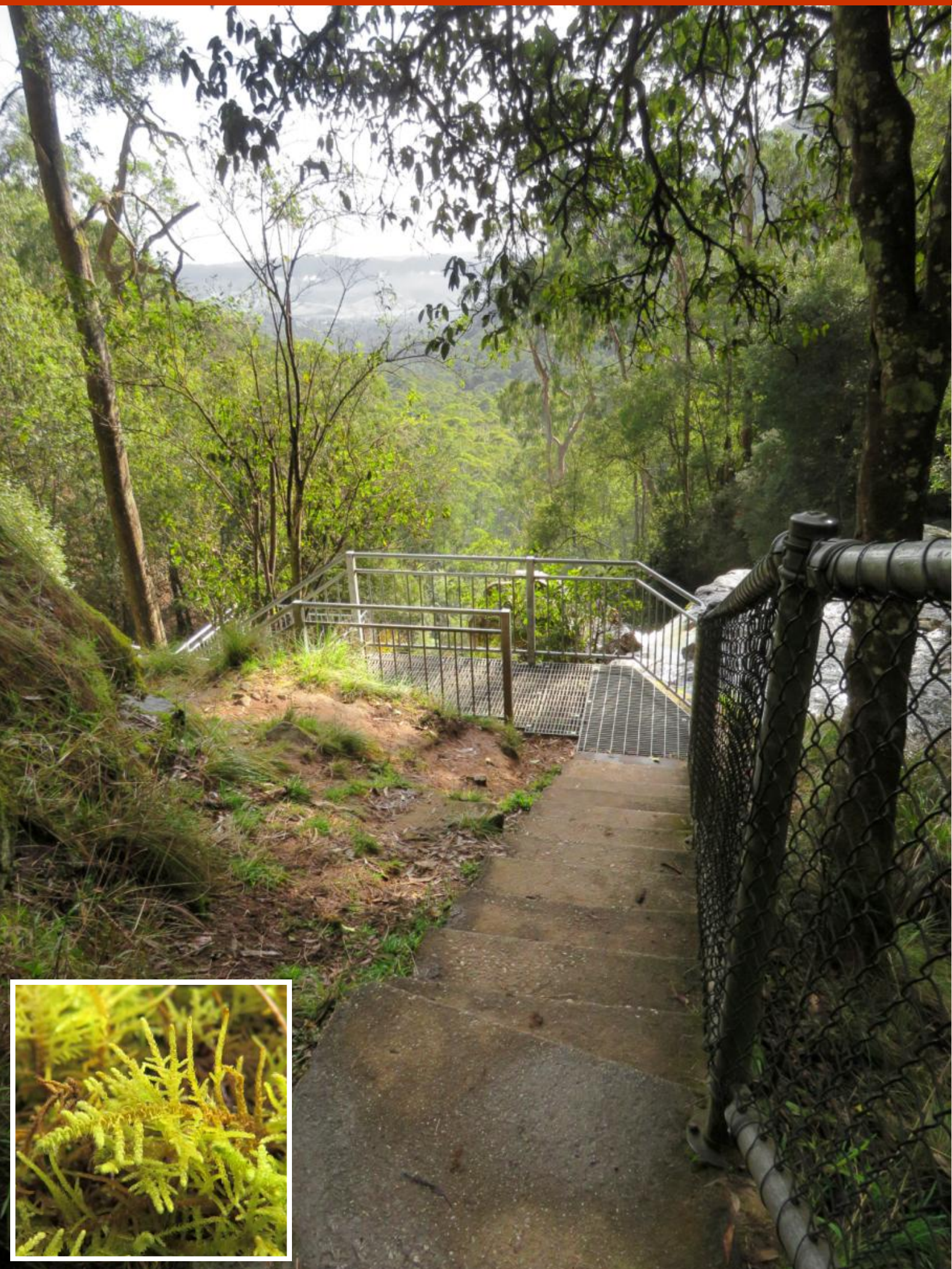
RICHARD WYNNE

LILY D'AMBROSIO



Waterfall Season

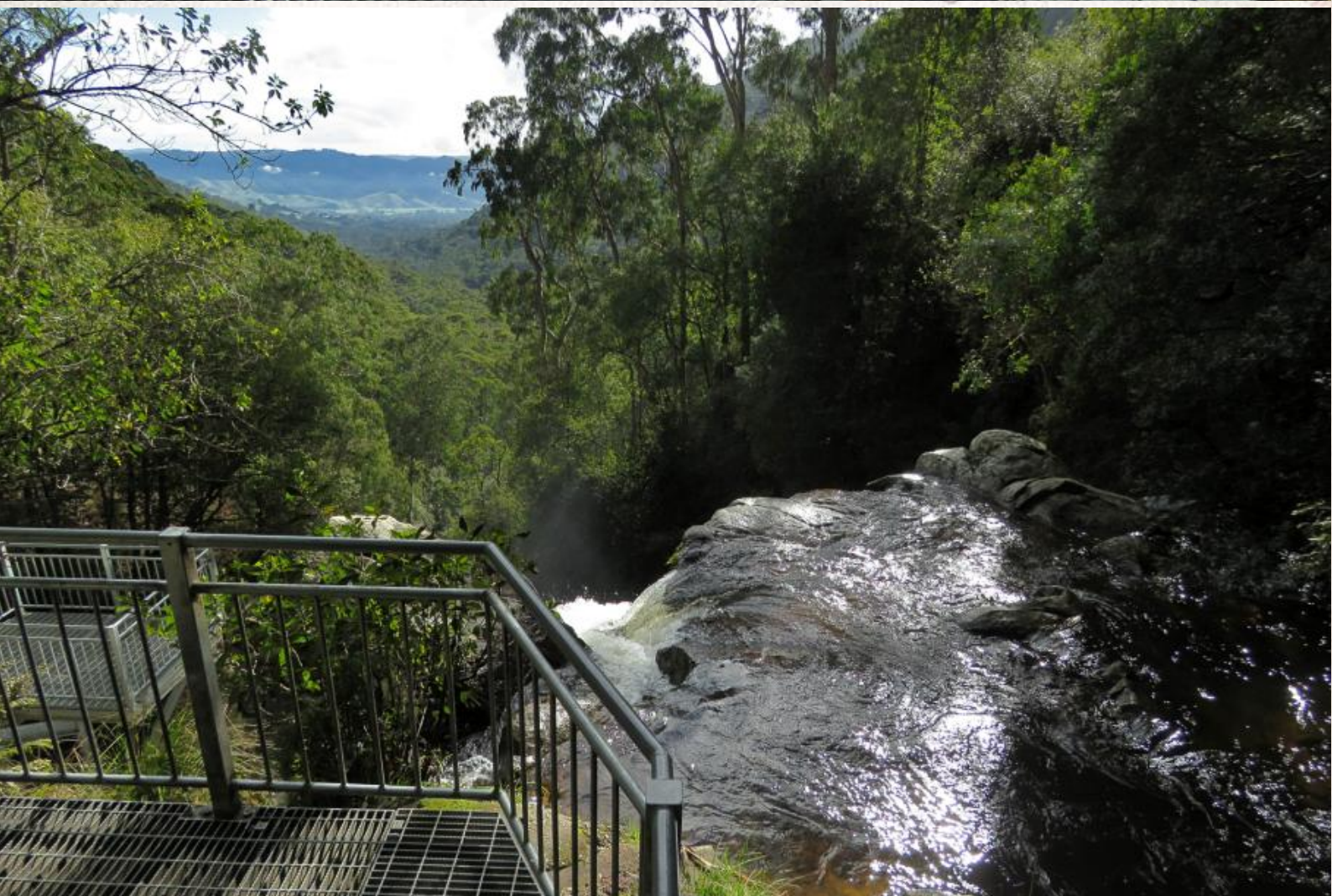
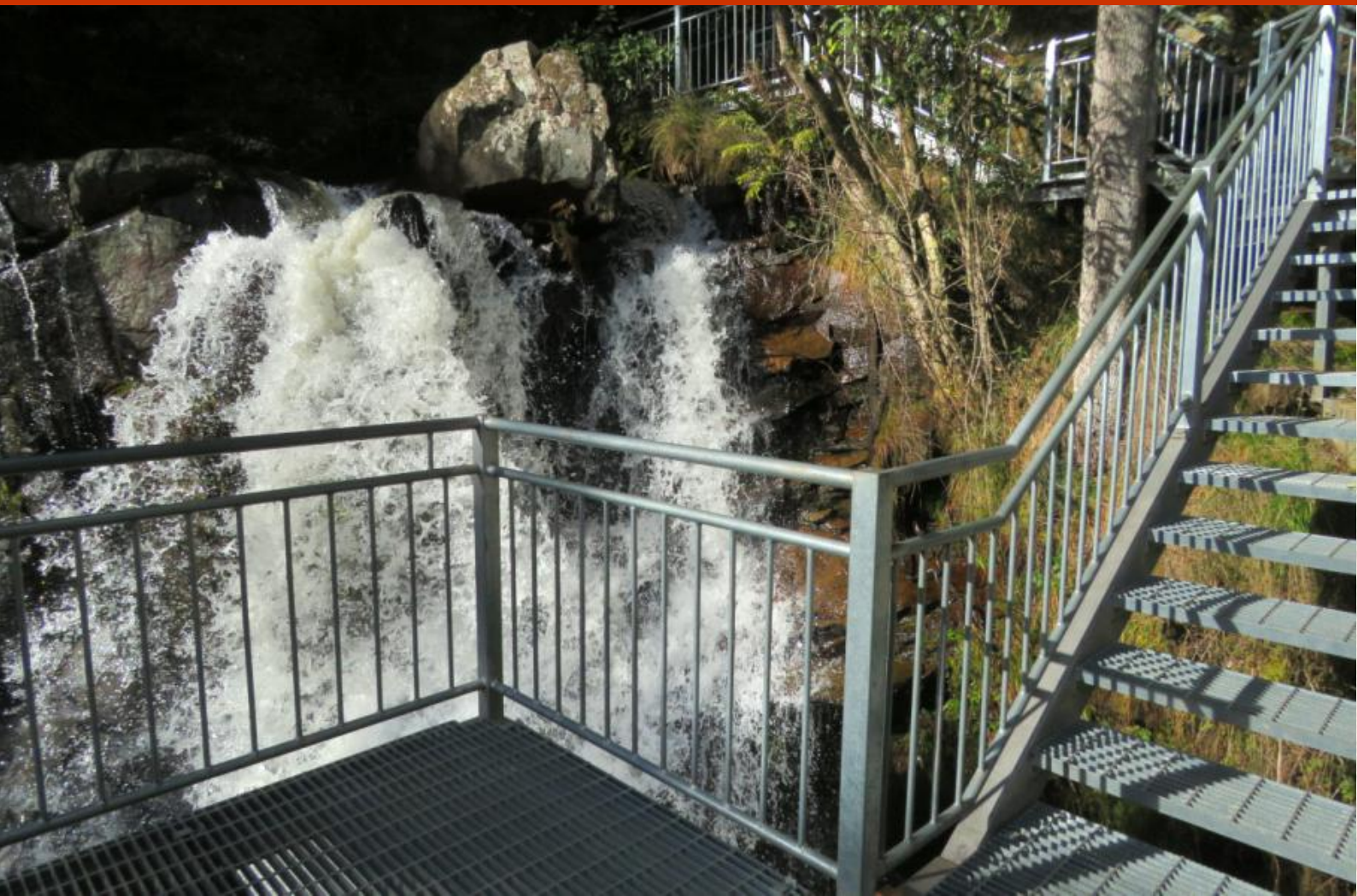
With waterfall season upon us, and an abundance of water in our rivers and streams, I wanted to visit some of our waterfalls. This lovely winter's day was the perfect time for a visit to Snobs Creek Falls.



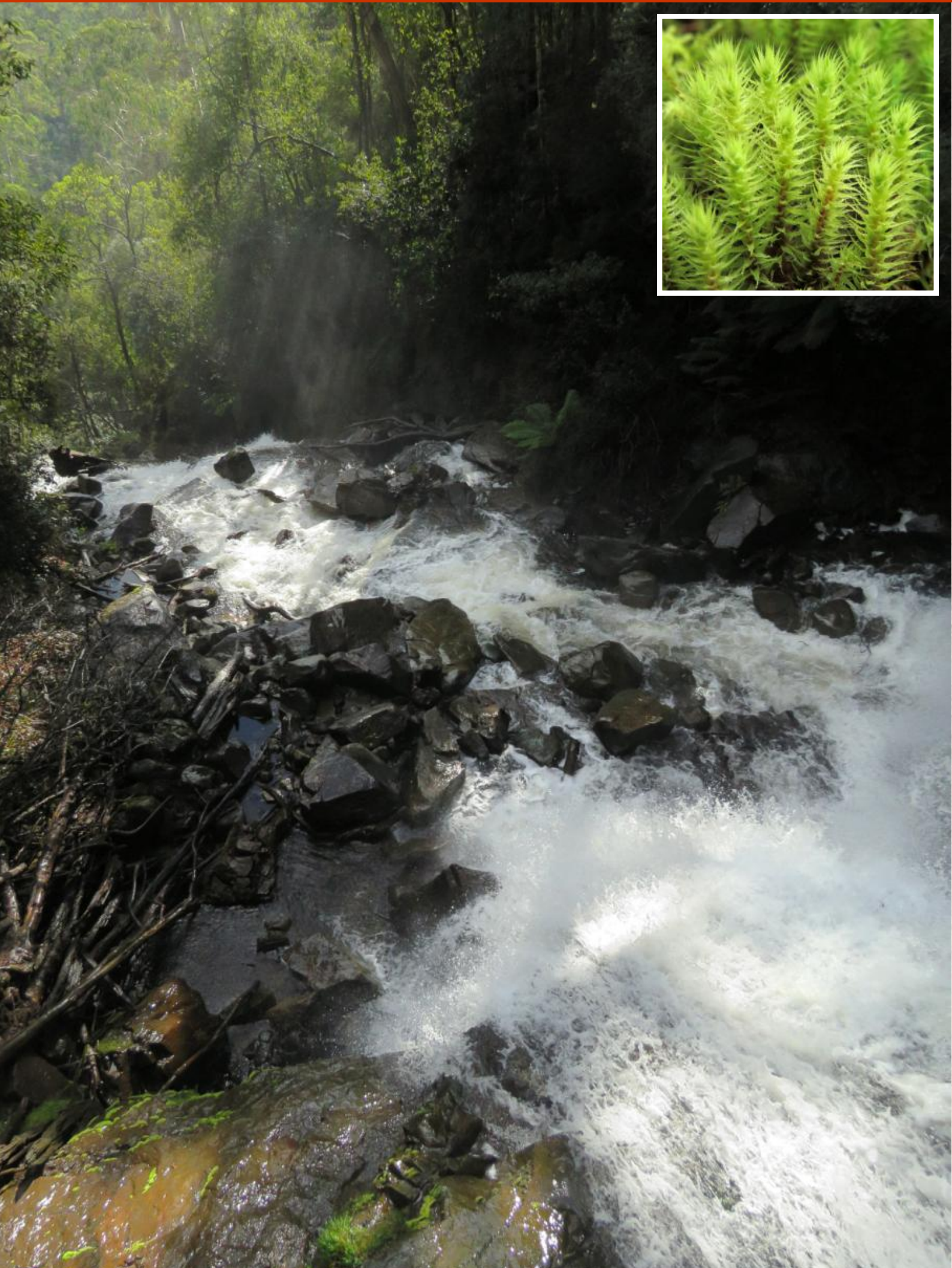
The stairs to the Upper Snobs Creek Falls viewing platform

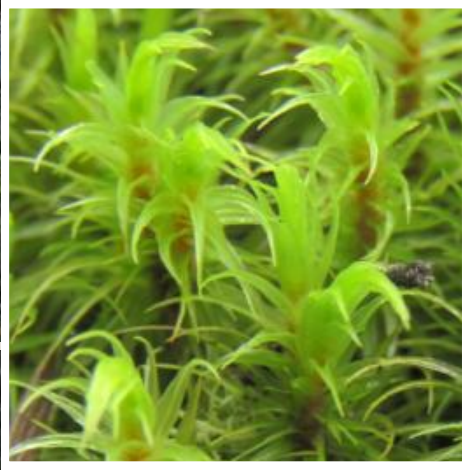


The stairs to the Upper Snobs Creek Falls viewing platform

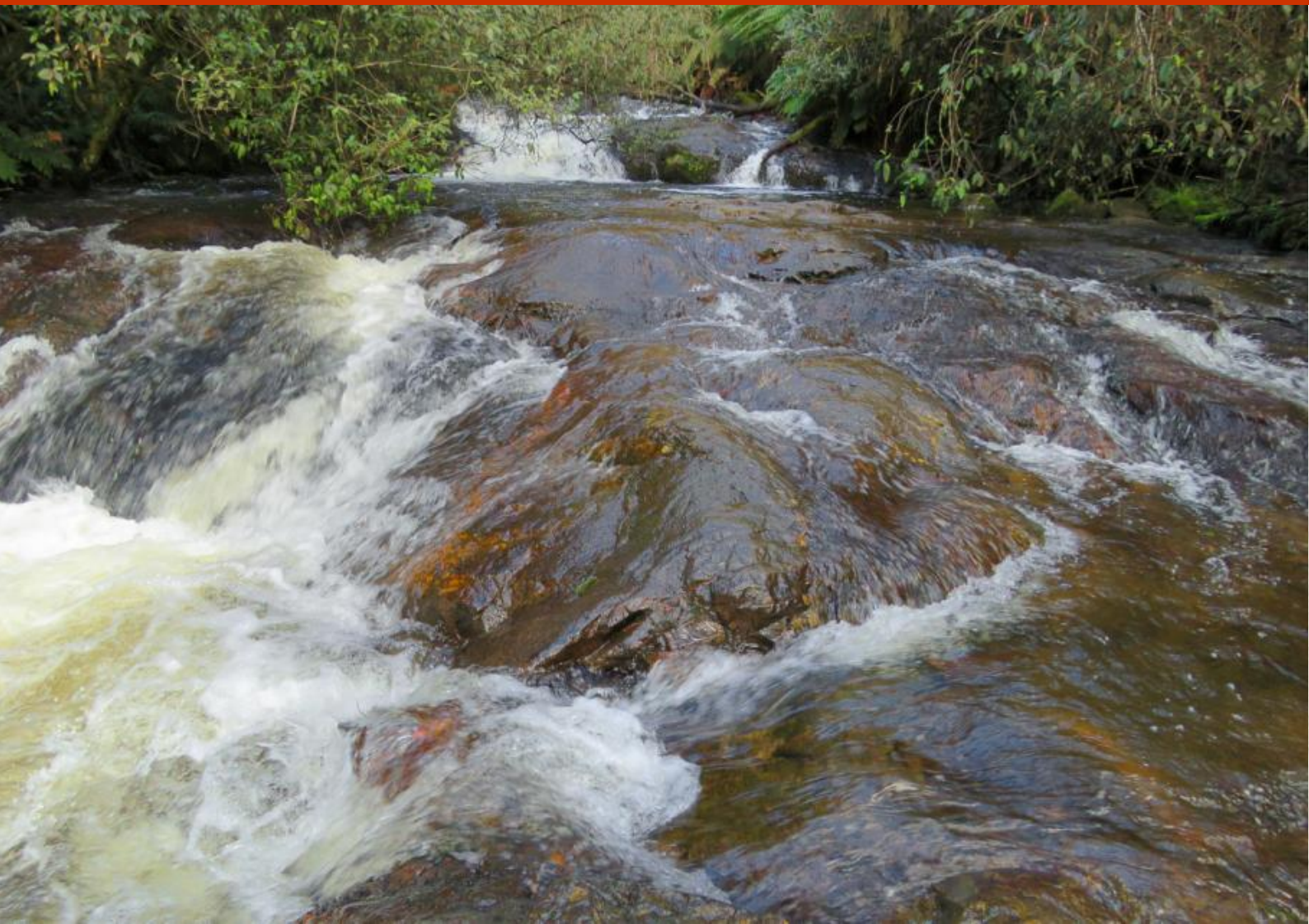


The platform area offers unique viewing angles









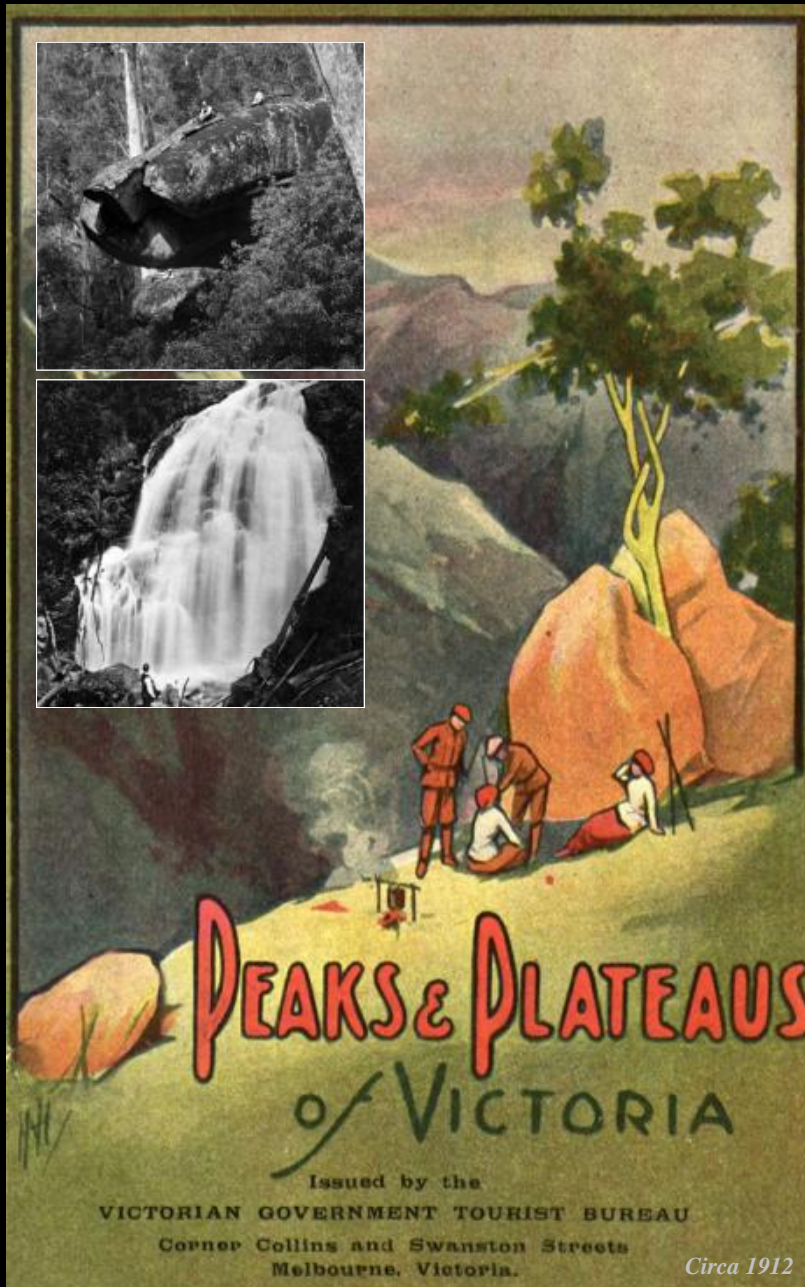
I did not have time to descend to the spectacular Lower Snobs Falls (left). Once known as Niagara Falls, this section of the falls complex compares with Marysville's Steavenson Falls, and together they represent our district's two most significant waterfall complexes. In the early to mid 1900s they gave tourists ample reason to visit our area and spend their tourist dollars. Today the Lower Falls are almost impossible to access, since both the pathway leading between the upper and lower falls and the pathway leading up the river from below the falls, have long since been lost to the bush. Pictures of these well formed tracks can be seen in our factsheet ([link on next page](#)). It is our hope that access to the lower falls may one day be re-established, though there are currently no plans for this to occur.



ELEPHANT ROCK, FERN GLADES, ROYSTON FALLS & THE MIGHTY LOWER SNOBS CREEK FALLS

- Lost to modern tourism -

These three Tourism Attractions once worked together to help establish Alexandra and District as a major Tourism Destination. Today, they are all but lost



warm summer days giving place to beautifully cool evenings. The fresh mountain air is very invigorating.

The tourist will find his wants catered for by the local store-keepers, and if he desires to go farther into the hills away from his fellows he will find good accommodation at **Thornton** on the Goulburn River, 7 miles out, or at **Taggerty** 11 miles in a southerly direction, at the foot of the Cathedral Peak, and at the junction of the Acheron and Little Rivers, fine trout streams, both of which places can be made good headquarters for sportsmen. Campers may buy or hire tents at the local stores, and will find many choice camping grounds along the banks of the Goulburn, Rubicon, Little and Taggerty Rivers, and Snob's Creek.

Those who are fond of walking may within a very few miles of Alexandra take many delightful excursions and enjoy much fine scenery. From Brooks' cutting, 3 miles out, the best view of the whole of the Goulburn Valley is obtained, while from Mount Prospect, 1,075 feet (3 miles), the scenery lover can look down upon the township and away across the Cathedral Mount, behind which range follows range as far as the vision reaches.

The Royston and Rubicon Falls, 18 and 15½ miles respectively, are reached through the Rubicon Forest, via Thornton, where the road turning off to the right is followed, and after passing the Rubicon Bridge a signpost indicates the way. The track thence to the forest is available for vehicles right up to the shelter-shed, which is beautifully situated on the bank of the river, and a little higher up is a "corral," where horses may be safely left. By traversing a track about a mile and a half in length, the tourist comes to the Rubicon Falls, set in the midst of scenery which surpasses anything else in the district. **Passing along an alternative track on the east branch of the river, one enters a fern glade of entrancing beauty; and a few hundred yards farther on towers the massive Elephant Rock, a huge monolith weighing several hundred tons, which lies over the outcrop and by a neck projects nearly 30 feet into space.**

The route to the Snob's Creek Falls (14 miles) is by the main road to Upper Thornton, the turn off being indicated by a signpost about 12 miles from the town. The Falls are about 3 miles farther on, the last half-mile being travelled on foot. They are beautiful in all but name, and here the visitor can parch his thirst in the ice-cold flow. **In summer they present the finest of waterfall effects, being of great height and veiled in softest beauty, while in winter they vie in their magnificent strength with either of the Rubicon Falls, and surpass both in height and volume.**

The Rubicon Forest is stated by experts to be the finest forest in Victoria, where countless thousands of trees await the ruthless hand of the sawmiller, and the observant visitor will be struck with their symmetry and grouping.

Ask at Tourist Bureau for free copies of the Country Hotel and Boarding House Guide.



Elephant Rock
Near Royston River
Rubicon

SNOBS CREEK FALLS

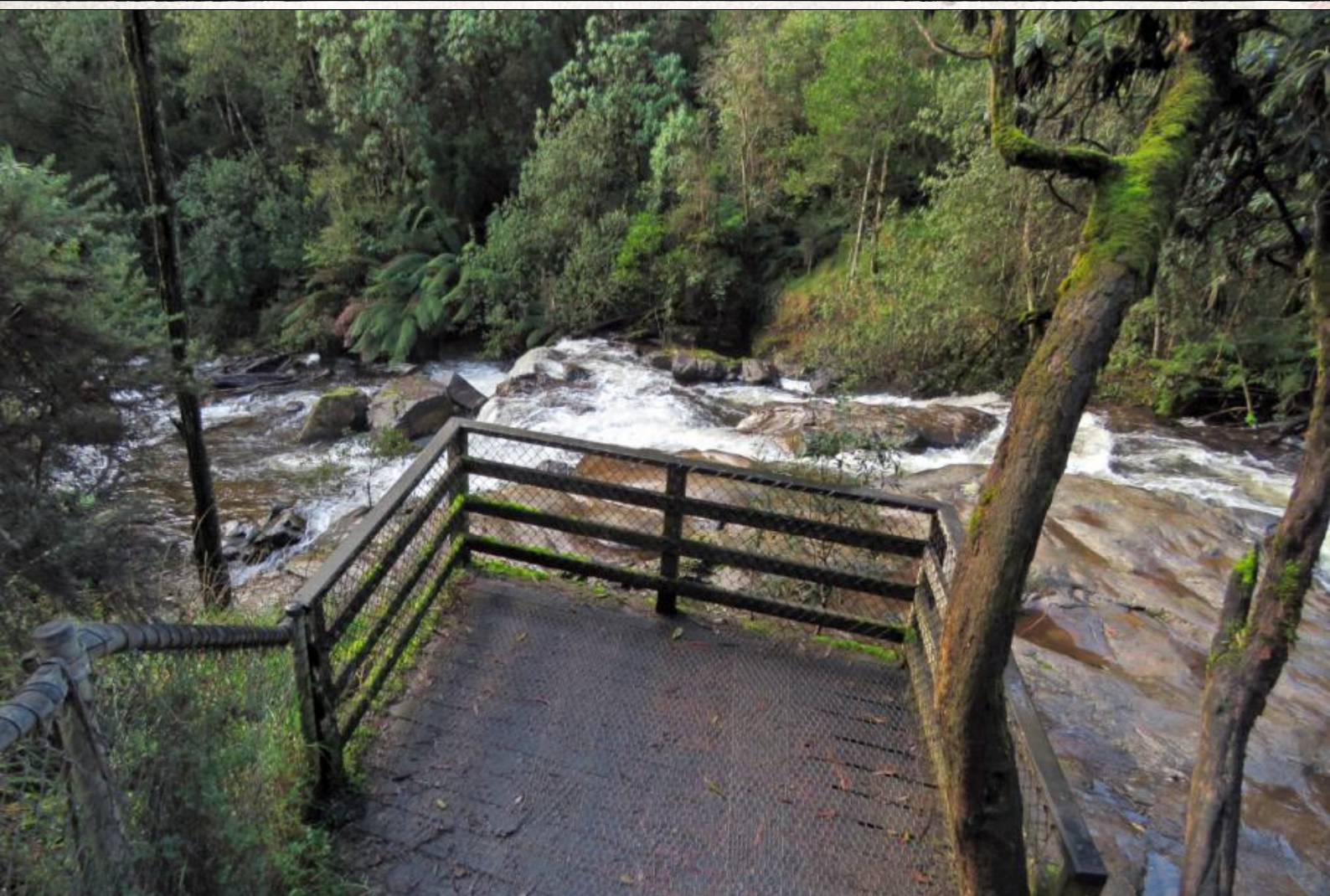
RUBICON STATE FOREST - 19 SEPTEMBER 2021

PUBLISHED 26 SEPTEMBER 2021 - ESPLASH268

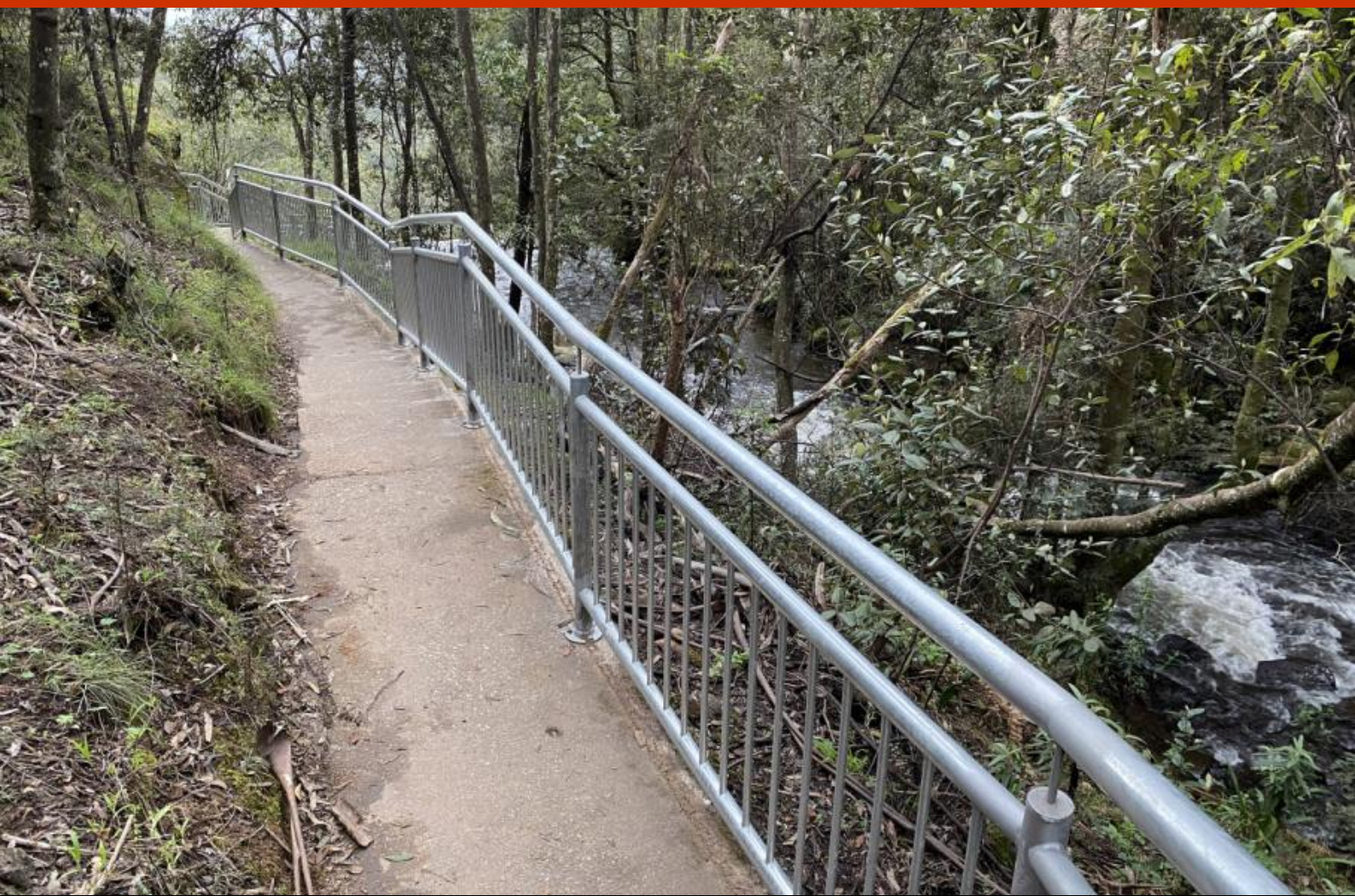


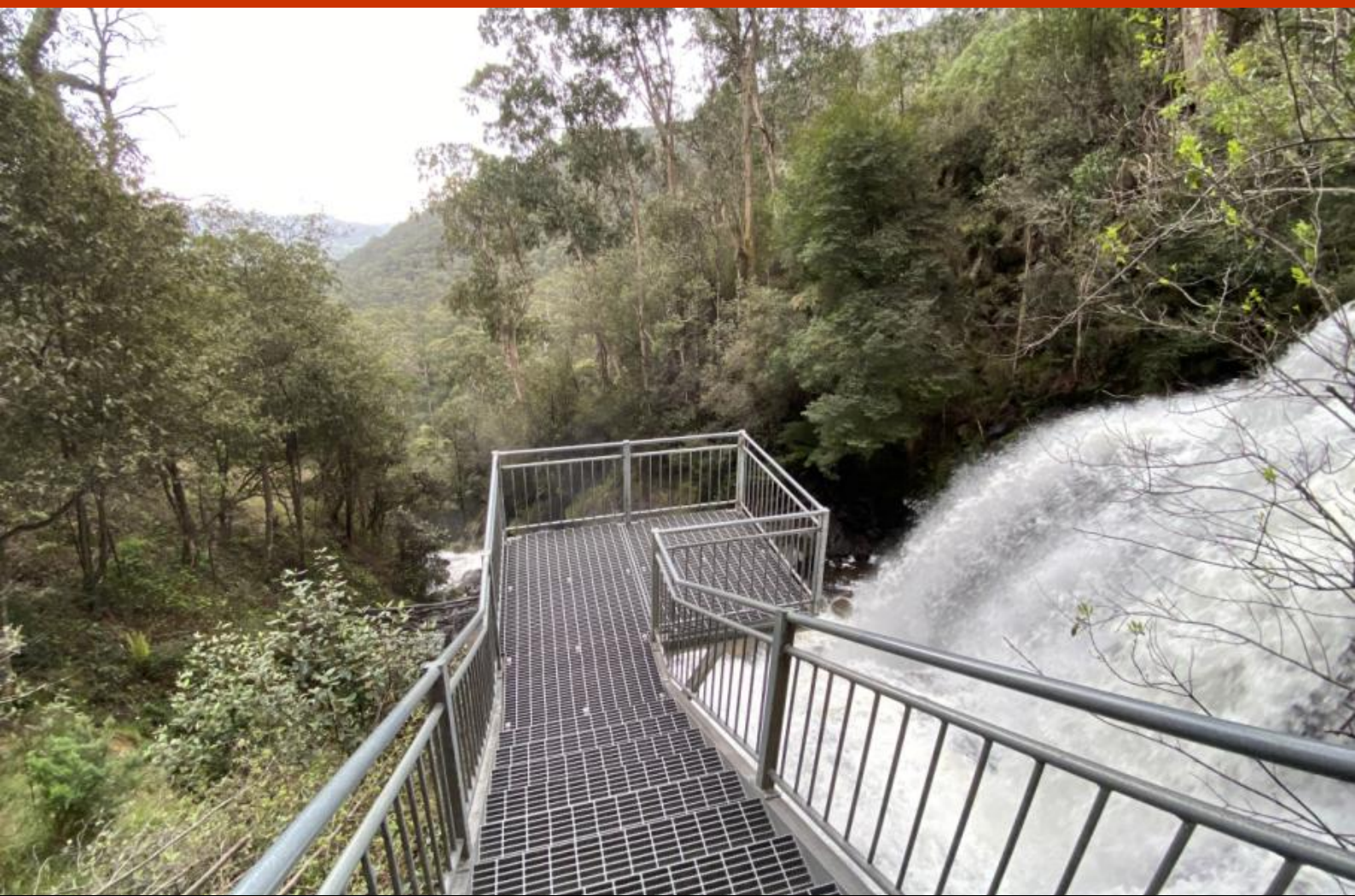
Snobs Creek Falls reopened in time for the School Holidays

After being closed for a number of months, Snobs Creek Falls has reopened and is looking beautiful. The closure allowed for the installation of replacement railing to the Falls and Cascades, as well as a new Cascades viewing platform.













Artworkz

Serving the Community

IT IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS
TO WALK BEYOND THE SAFETY FENCE