



ELEPHANT

ROCK



**NATURE
TOURISM
SERIES**

ELEPHANT ROCK

CONTRIBUTORS

State Library Victoria
Department of Environment & Primary Industries (DEPI)
(James Cowell, David Bowdern, John Steer)
Alexia Boland (WinTV News)

Ron Cooper
Sandra Cumming *(Source of two early photos)*
Travis Easton
Rod Falconer *(Source of first early photos)*
John Horn
Marcus Horn *(Re-discoverer)*
Lawrence Hood
Chris Lees
Leisa Lees
Allan Layton
Kathie Maynes
Kelly Petersen
Bob Reed
Peter Tate
David & Debbie Hibbert

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Elephant Rock.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

Name: Elephant Rock
Location: Rubicon State Forest
Size: Large
Status: Rediscovered - 20th April 2013
Height: 550 m above sea level
GPS: -37.339080, 145.866122

Elephant Rock is a large granite rock located in the Rubicon State Forest. It was a major tourism attraction up until it was lost to the history books after the late 1930s.



Elephant Rock

Courtesy Sandra Cumming &
Courtesy State Library Victoria.
Photographer Lin Cumming

Elephant Rock is a large natural rock formation extending from the southern side of a steep bank, in the Rubicon State Forest. An article in *The Age* newspaper in 1926, states that the area was: *'one of the most famous beauty spots in Victoria - the Fern Glade of surpassing loveliness, shaded by the massive Elephant Rock, a huge monolith.'*

It is likely that the original track to Elephant Rock started at the site of an Historic Township and was cut through bushland. This track took the walker through an area known as the Fern Grotto (or Fern Glades), then it is likely the track slowly gained elevation and eventually met up with Elephant Rock.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

The attraction fell out of the history books circa 1926 and it has been suggested that the track to the rock was never re-established after the 1939 bushfires burnt the area, destroying all the mills in the Rubicon Ranges and killing 12 timber workers.

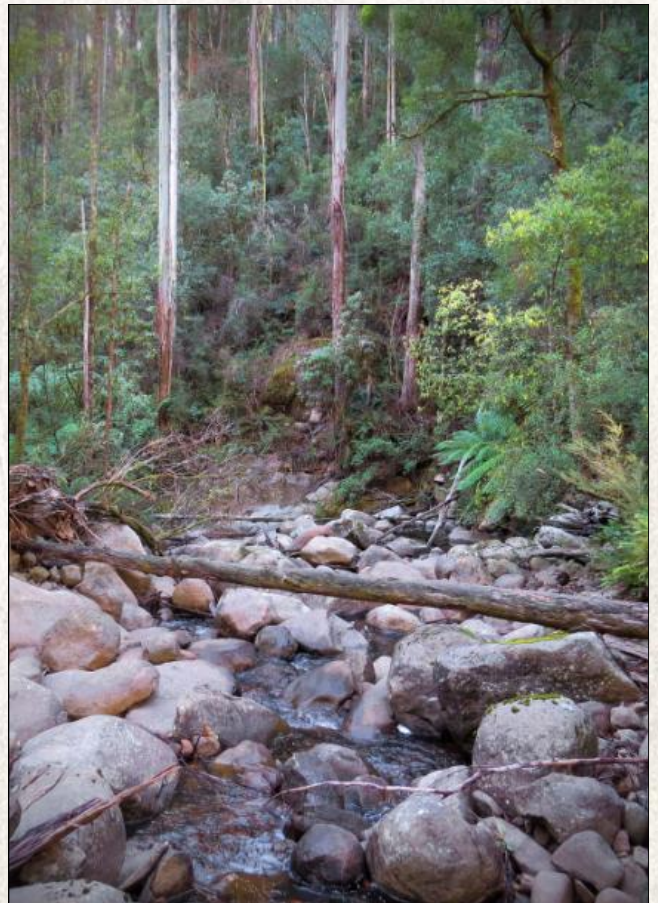
In 2009 Artworkz (a small volunteer and non-profit Tourism and Heritage Group) discovered the existence of the rock from photographs from local contributor (Rod Falconer). The images taken by his Grandfather J.P. Campbell, were the first indicators to us that the rock had once existed as a tourism attraction. Rod and Artworkz Creator David Hibbert, commenced searching for the rock shortly after this discovery. David then found more information about the rock and brought all facts together in this free public factsheet.

Sandra Cumming was another early contributor to the Artworkz Project and two of her father's photographs also identified Elephant Rock. The discovery of two maps loosely pinpointing Elephant Rock's location immediately refined the search area. All initial searches up until this point had wrongly focused on the Snobs Creek Area.

Around this time, Historian and Artworkz Editor Lawrence Hood released Issue Two of the *'Historic Times'* Newspaper. A reproduction of an article from The Age in 1926 referencing Elephant Rock was included in the newspaper, in the hope of generating interest to perhaps lead to its rediscovery. Though this was not the case.

As Artworkz grew, Ron Cooper joined the Elephant Rock search effort. His position at the Local *'Alexandra Friends of the Library Bookshop'* gave him great scope to publicise its existence. Ron was able to talk to a large number of locals and discovered many solid leads, though none bore fruit. Elephant Rock continued to allude every effort to find it. The team turned to satellite imagery with no result, and no current maps noted its position. At this point we really needed feet on the ground to slowly reduce the search area.

In 2011 David met Kelly Petersen, who was amazed at the rock's existence. He actively searched in the ranges, though again no result was forthcoming. A further connection with Chris Lees



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

in early 2012 again saw another capable bushwalker scouring the area. However yet again, the rock was not found. Efforts continued with individuals and groups searching the area when time allowed.

In early 2012 David connected with DEPI Ranger James Cowell, who spoke in turn with other contacts he had to try and discover more information. Efforts were fruitless and the rock was to remain hidden. Some wondered at this point if it had fallen or would simply never be found?

This factsheet was central to our efforts as it presented the magnificent rock to the public and induced interest with whoever saw it. David Hibbert was hoping that at some point the factsheet would end up in the exact right hands. This occurred in April of 2013, when local Allan Layton attended his first Artworkz History Cafe at the Alexandra Library.

Allan found out about the existence of the rock and was immediately captivated. David emailed Allan a copy of the factsheet who upon receiving it, quickly passed it onto other interested friends. One of those was local Rubicon identity and Rubicon Historian John Horn.

John had worked in the Rubicon area for most of his life, yet knew nothing of Elephant Rock. He passed on the information to his son Marcus who also works in the Rubicon Ranges. Marcus quickly put his father's and his own local knowledge to work, and came up with a possible area interest.

On 20 April 2013, Marcus Horn (right) ventured solo into the bush and two hours later had made history by re-discovering one of Rubicon's significant tourism attractions - Elephant Rock!



A few days later David Hibbert received confirmation via Allan Layton of the discovery, though with no names, photograph or GPS location, David decided to continue searching until more information was forthcoming. On the following Saturday (27 April) Artworkz Founders David and Debbie Hibbert again ventured into the bush in search of the illusive monolith. After walking along a river for around 90 minutes, Debbie slipped and fell onto rocks and then rolled into a deep section of river. She was drenched and sustained injuries that ended the day's activities. Once she was able, an immediate exit was made. This was to be the first of two minor injuries received during the search for the rock.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

On 1 May, David Hibbert received another email from Allan Layton with a picture of what was believed to be Elephant Rock attached. We were very excited and although an inspection by the Artworkz team would be required before we could publish the find, it all looked extremely promising.

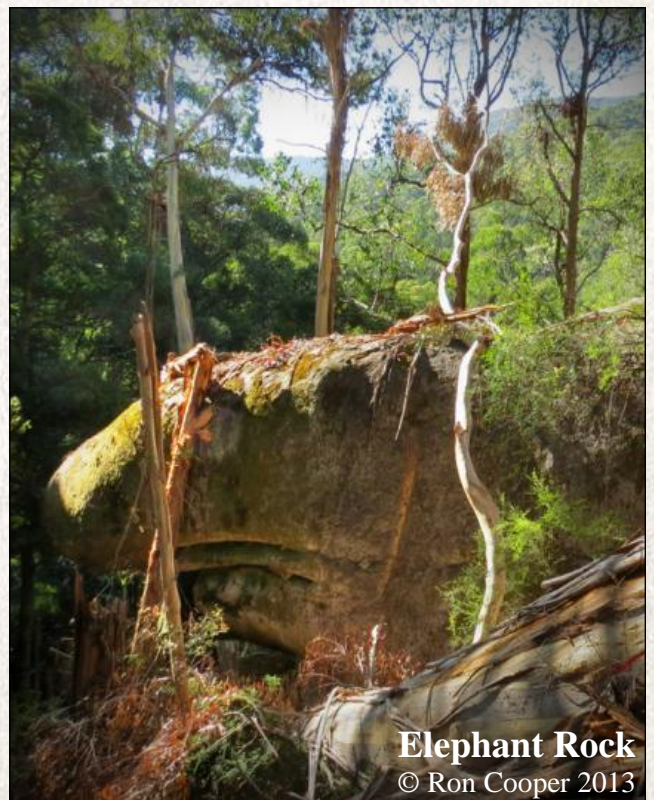
On 5 May 2013, Marcus Horn and his father John took Ron Cooper, Chris Lees and David Hibbert to the rock's location and the team were able to confirm with confidence that this was in-fact the lost Elephant Rock. David's wife Debbie and Kelly Petersen were unable to attend, even though they had both spent considerable time looking for the rock.

A large number of photographs from different angles were taken and the team then sat on the rock and had a small lunch thanks to Chris Lees, who had the foresight to bring smoked salmon and biscuits - a fitting end to a three year search. It is considered unlikely this rock feature will even be re-opened to the public, due to safety concerns. Though thanks to all those involved in its search and subsequent discovery, you can now see it in this factsheet.

Interestingly, during the entire period we were searching for Elephant Rock, we didn't find anyone who had knowledge of this rock or its location. We have since learnt that contributor Travis Easton was aware of it from old tourism brochures. We also learnt that some confused Elephant Rock with Monkey Rock (also known as Judge Rock) a large rock which sits on the Rubicon Haulage high above the Rubicon Power Station. Even local identity Roy Heap, who started work on the Rubicon Hydro Scheme as a young man in 1945 and worked there all of his working life, was unaware of the rock and was surprised when shown the photographs old maps in 2011.

For all intents and purposes, Elephant Rock had been lost to the Victorian Tourism Industry, the media, the emergency services, Parks Victoria, Vic Forests, and the Department of Environment and Primary Industry. (DEPI).

On 14 August 2017, Elephant Rock was added to the VicMap data thanks to a submission by Travis Easton.



Elephant Rock
© Ron Cooper 2013

TIMELINE

BASIC TIMELINE OF EVENTS



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

- 1911** Multiple photographs of Elephant Rock were taken by prominent photographers J.P. Campbell and local Alexandra photographer and businessman Lin Cumming (Lindsay Gordon Cumming).
- Circa 1912** Elephant Rock mentioned in the Tourism publication Peaks & Plateaus.
- 5 February 1915** The Seymour Express published an article entitled "Trip to the Rubicon" in which a reference is made to a river discovered near their camp hut called Elephant River. It is presumed likely that this name was given as Elephant Rock is located upstream of this river.
- 1920** A hand drawn map was published with Elephant Rock marked on it.
- 1935** A map was published with Elephant Rock marked on it. This map is identical to the hand drawn district map published in 1920 and is an indication that the rock was still public knowledge at that time. The map was originally printed between 1909 and 1911.
- Circa 1936** Elephant Rock's location was lost to the bush. In our best estimates, this occurred sometime after 1936. It has been speculated that it may have been lost after the 1939 bushfires that devastated the area.
- 2003** Nigel Sinnott published a book called 'Place Names of the Alexandra, Lake Eildon and Big River Area of Victoria'. In it, Nigel lists Elephant Rock, though only mentions that it appeared on early tourism maps.
- April 2009** Artworkz was formed after the 2009 bushfires to help fill the gaps in local tourism and quickly decided to build a free modern electronic tourism platform. Artworkz is a non-profit group of local volunteers who are passionate about the area. Our efforts are partly based around reconnecting people with our districts heritage - which has in many areas has largely been lost. Our free eSplash eMagazine is a tourism and heritage based publication with a world-wide readership.
- December 2009** Artworkz publish first newsletter, which become known as the 'eSplash' eMagazine in 2010. The eSplash would later be responsible



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

for breaking the news of the re-discovery of Elephant Rock. It also played an important role throughout the search for the rock by alerting readers of the rock's existence and the search for it.

- 2009** Artworkz first re-discover the existence of Elephant Rock from two photographs of the rock taken at Rubicon in the early 1900s. These photographs were taken by prominent Australian Photographer J. P. Campbell. The photographs were discovered after Snobs Creek local Rod Falconer allowed Artworkz access to digitise his Grandfather's photographic collection for use in our free District Heritage Projects. Photographer J.P Campbell's factsheet can be downloaded [here](#).
- 2010** Rod Falconer and David Hibbert conduct the first field trip to look for Elephant Rock. The search area was initially in the Snobs Creek Area.
- 2010** Local Sandra Cumming gave us access to her father's photographic collection, many of which are now freely available on the State Library Website. Amongst these images were two images of Elephant Rock taken circa 1911. Lin Cummings Factsheet can be downloaded [here](#).
- 2010** Two old hand drawn maps of the Rubicon Ranges showed the approximate location of Elephant Rock were discovered. As a result all efforts shifted from the Snobs Creek area to the Rubicon Ranges. While the maps helped, they did not pinpoint the exact location.
- Late 2010** Local Ron Cooper started attending the Artworkz History Cafe and took on the Elephant Rock mystery with great enthusiasm. Using his position as a volunteer at the Alexandra Friends of the Library Bookshop, he asked people and sought information about the rock.
- September 2010** Artworkz released their first '*Historic Times*' Heritage Newspaper. Editor Lawrence Hood included an article that mentioned the rock's existence.
- Early 2011** This Artworkz Factsheet was created. It included all available information, photographs, a newspaper article and two old maps.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

Like all factsheets, it grew as things developed and new information became available.

October 2011

Artworkz begin field trips to locate Elephant Rock in the Rubicon State Forest Area, using new information found on two old maps found on the State Library Website. Team members who conducted these early searches included Kelly Petersen, Ron Cooper and David & Debbie Hibbert.

30 December 2011

David spoke with DEPI (Department of Environment & Primary Industries) Ranger James Cowell who tried to locate the rock. David sent him the factsheet with the maps. James mentioned how campers along the Rubicon Road camping grounds would love a walk to a monolith rock.

2012

People searching for the rock now included Kelly Petersen, Lloyd Foster, Chris Lees and David & Debbie Hibbert.

Early 2013

A second old newspaper article was found by local historian Leisa Lees which added more intrigue to the mystery of the lost monolithic rock.

March 2013

David spoke with DEPI (Department of Environment & Primary Industries) Manager David Bowdern regarding Elephant Rock. He was keen to have it found and saw potential in its rediscovery.

6 April 2013

Local Historian Allan Layton first attended the monthly Artworkz History Cafe and found out about our search for Elephant Rock. We sent him the factsheet which he then sent on to a friend (John Horn). Local John Horn spoke to his son Marcus about this discovery and Marcus decided to find the rock using their local knowledge.

20 April 2013

Marcus Horn ventured up into the Rubicon Ranges looking for Elephant Rock. He discovered Elephant Rock after just two hours of searching. He photographed the rock for identification purposes.

23 April 2013

We received first word that the rock may have been found via an email from Allan Layton. It read:

'It has been found!'



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

I showed the factsheet to a friend, who has as long an association with Rubicon as I (nearly 45 years). He passed the factsheet over to some others, who have traversed that area quite often over recent past years.

They were quite intrigued, and one of them knew of a likely search area where there was exposed rock.

He has since found it, overgrown but recognisable. I have been given the rough area where it is, but unfortunately no info as to how close (or otherwise) to the river.

They are planning a trip of 3 or 4 of them in the near future. Till they can do that I'd like to keep it a bit under wraps, so that it remains 'their' find, until we have better evidence.

I have impressed on my contact the need for GPS coordinates and photos. I will talk a bit further with them and see if we can get something for you before the next History Cafe.'

No additional information was supplied at this time.

30 April 2013

Debbie and David Hibbert venture into the Rubicon Ranges to again try to locate the lost Elephant Rock. A series of two falls by Debbie cause injury which ended the search. This was the first injury sustained by a search member.

1 May 2013

David received an email from Allan Layton with an attached photograph of Elephant Rock. The email read:

'Hi David,

This has come to me via a circuitous route, but it looks like it doesn't it ?

Allan

PS. Haven't got GPS coords, but hope that they noted them !'

4 May 2013

Allan Layton spoke at History Cafe regarding the discovery of Elephant Rock and the photograph was shown to those in attendance on the big screen. Allan informed us that local, Marcus Horn had been the one who had discovered the rock. Allan later came out for lunch with some of the group and we talked about the discovery and looked at maps.

4 May 2013

David received a call from John Horn regarding Elephant Rock. He



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

offered to help our group walk to the rock's location. We took him up on his offer and organized a trip for the following day (Sunday).

5 May 2013

Locals, Marcus Horn, John Horn, Ron Cooper, Chris Lees and David Hibbert set out at 9.30 on a trip to confirm the discovery of Elephant Rock, first made by Marcus Horn two weeks earlier. The team used tracking equipment to trace our steps and establish a GPS location. Ron fell and injured his shoulder during the walk, hindering his movement later in the day and requiring further medical attention.

- The rock was confirmed by photographic alignment with the older photographs taken at Elephant Rock in 1911.
- The rock was confirmed as being intact.
- No sign of the original track to the rock was found.
- The area was overgrown with one fallen tree laying on the rock.
- Ron Cooper was 69 years old at the time of the walk, and spent over 6 hours in the bush (an amazing effort). He injured his shoulder at the start of the trek, though continued on regardless.

6 May 2013

The appropriate organisation was made aware of the rocks confirmed existence and its exact location.

17 May 2013

With approval, Artworkz first published information regarding the discovery of Elephant Rock in their free electronic Tourism, Arts and Heritage eMagazine called the eSplash.

4 June 2013

Win News ran a story on Elephant Rock. WinTV Reporter Alexia Boland and cameraman Lee interviewed local historians Allan Layton and Leisa Lees regarding the discovery of Elephant Rock and the lost Cathedral Caves. The story even made the early promos for the news.

19 June 2013

David Hibbert heard second hand that a deer hunter at Yea told an Artworkz contributor (Bob Reed) that he knew where the rock was all along and that it was never lost to him. We are not aware of who this was, though we did always suspected someone would know of its whereabouts and that they would likely be a fisherman or hunter.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

14 August 2017

Thanks to the efforts of Travis Easton, Elephant Rock was accepted onto the VicMap Register as an official location.

GALLERY

RELATED IMAGES

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY

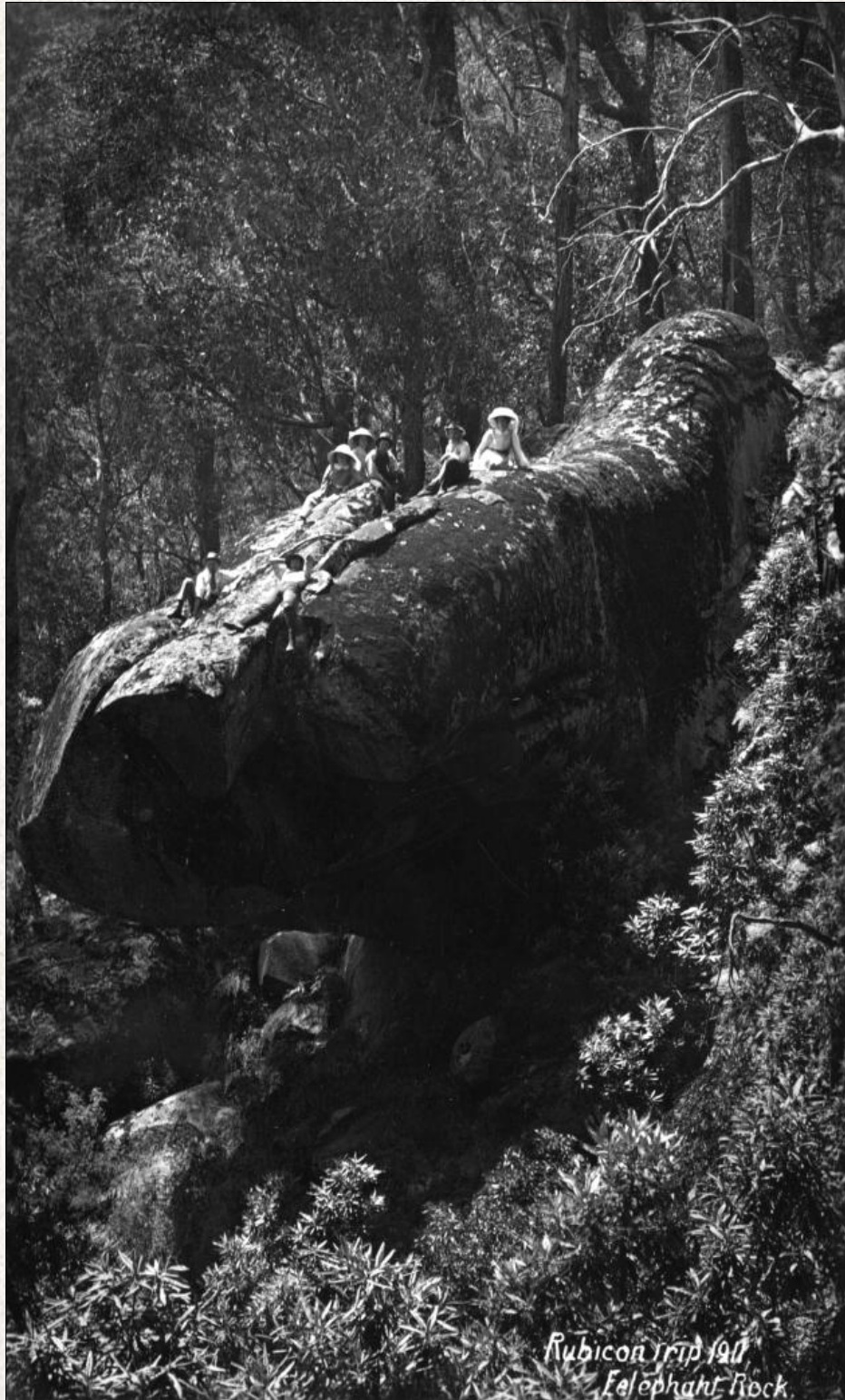


Elephant Rock photographed in 1911 by prominent photographer J.P. Campbell

Photograph courtesy Rod Falconer
Photographer J.P. Campbell 1911

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Elephant Rock in 1911

Photograph courtesy Rod Falconer
Photographer J.P. Campbell 1911

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Elephant Rock circa 1911

Photographer Lin Cumming
Courtesy Sandra Cumming & Courtesy State Library Victoria

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



On the way to Elephant Rock in 1911

Photographer Lin Cumming
Courtesy Sandra Cumming & Courtesy State Library Victoria

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Fern Grotto, on the way to Elephant Rock in 1911

Photographer J.P. Campbell
Courtesy Rod Falconer

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Rubicon Trip 1911. - The Pilot to Elephant Rock.

On the pathway to Elephant Rock in 1911

Photographer J.P. Campbell
Courtesy Rod Falconer

NEWSPAPERS

RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

ONLY KNOWN NEWSPAPER MENTIONS

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

although in the minds of most visitors the latter are the more beautiful.

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 it is necessary to walk along

the
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. 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.

Trip to the Rubicon

Replete with Stirring Events and Thrilling Adventures.

(By one of the Team.)

We all got back to the camp in time for dinner, after which it was a kind of "free and easy" till 4 p.m., some went out on an exploring expedition, others amusing themselves in various ways. The explorers were successful, as the Boddy was attracted to the water, when he suddenly came across the Elephant River, which he says is much larger than the Rubicon. It flows through delightful country so far as scenery is concerned, and many parts must be swarming with trout.

Seymour Express

Friday 5th February 1915

Courtesy National Library Australia

Elephant River.

This mention of a river called Elephant River, may have relevance to Elephant Rock.

Seymour Express

5 January 1915

Courtesy National Library Australia.

The full two part article
can be found below:

Part 1 Part 2

Rubicon Fern Glades and Elephant Rock

The Age

12 December 1926

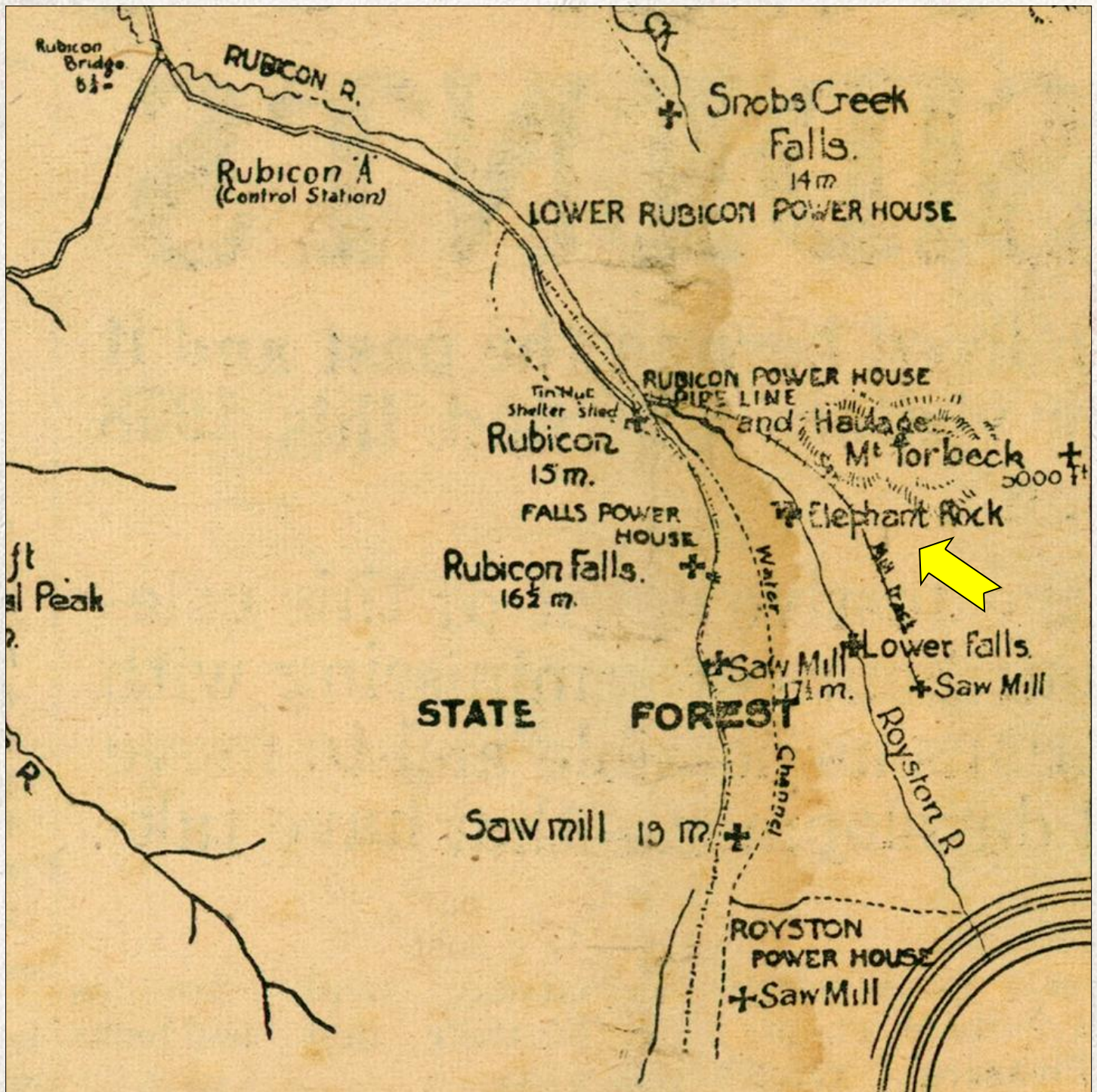
Courtesy Google News 2013

MAPS

RELATED EARLY MAPS

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

MAP

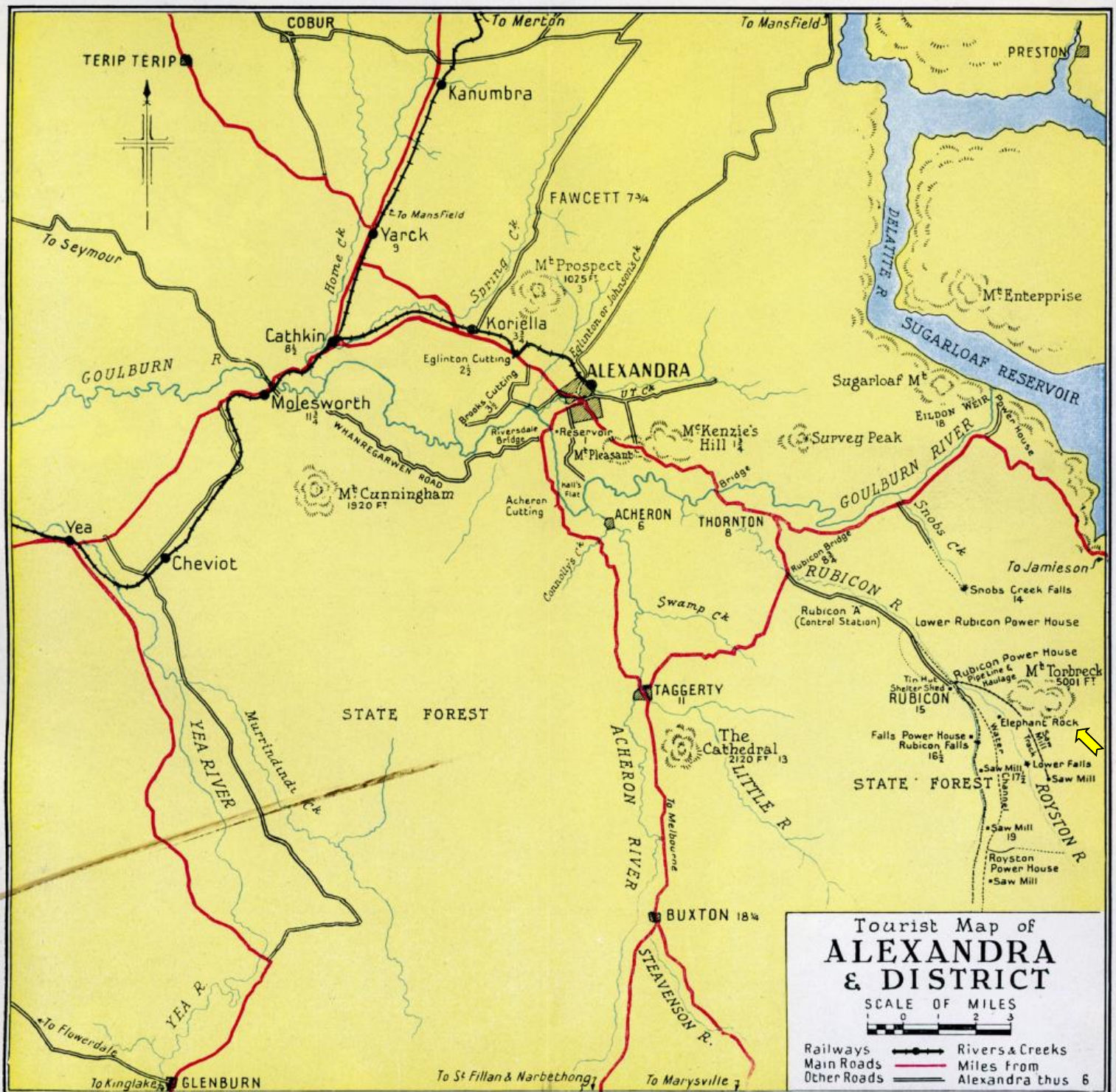


An Alexandra & District map showing Elephant Rock in the Rubicon State Forest. This is a copy of the previous map, used by the Alexandra & Yea Standard in 1935. The original map was first published between 1909 and 1911 based on advertising on the side of the map.

Courtesy National Library Australia

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

MAP

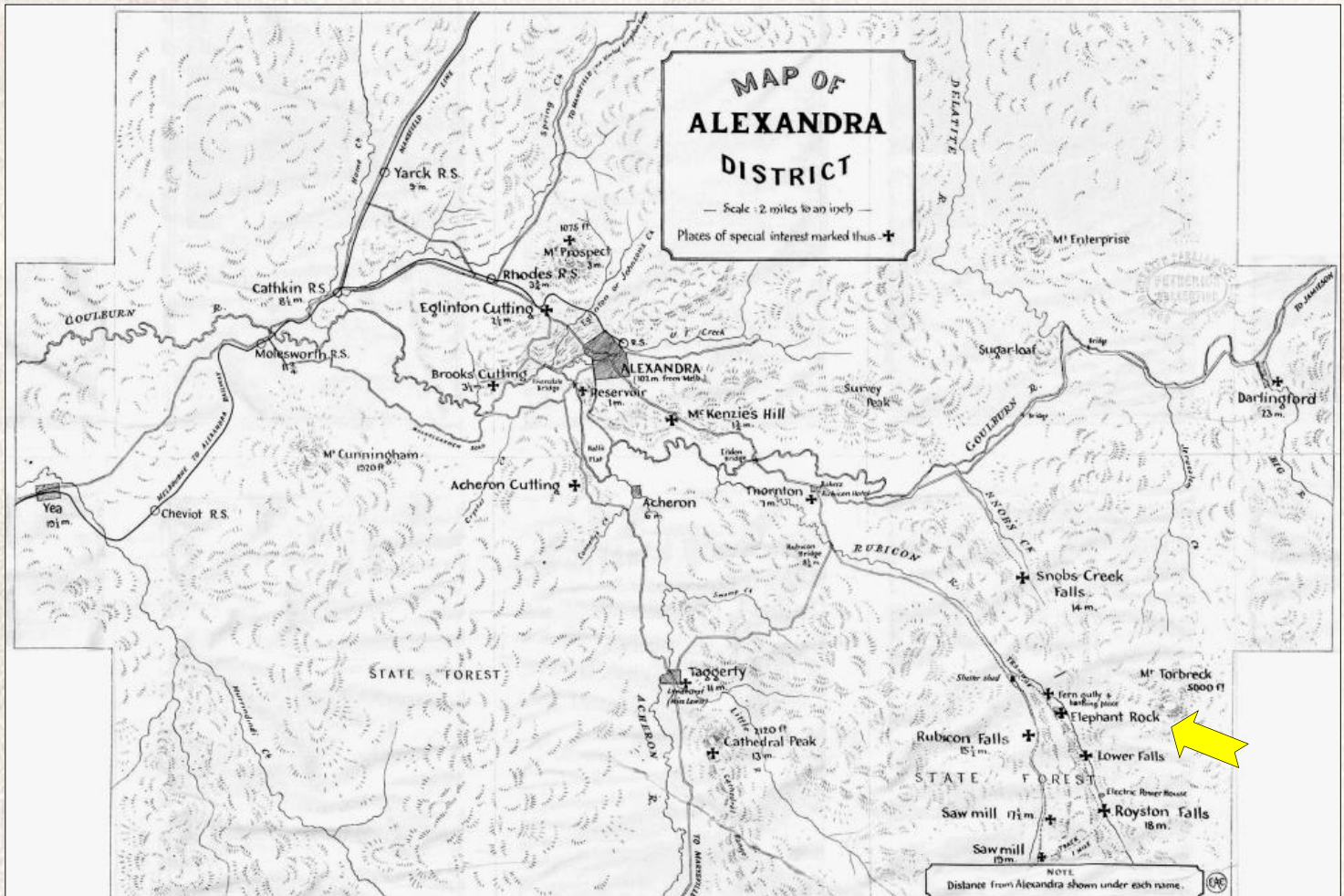


A tourist map from the 1950s. Elephant Rock is still located on this map

From an old 1950s Alexandra Brochure, courtesy Lloyd Foster 2012

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

MAP



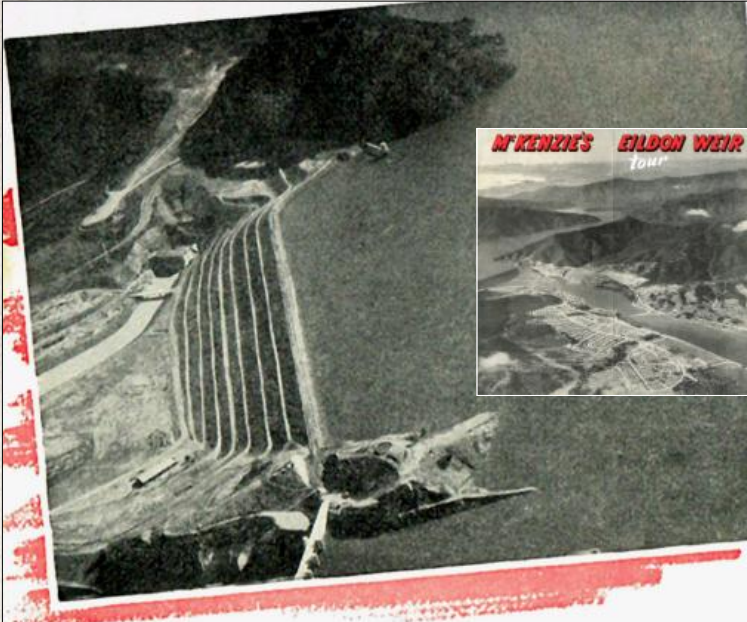
Alexandra & District map in 1935

Of special note is the inclusion of Elephant Rock in the Rubicon Ranges

Courtesy National Library Australia
Alexandra & Yea Standard

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

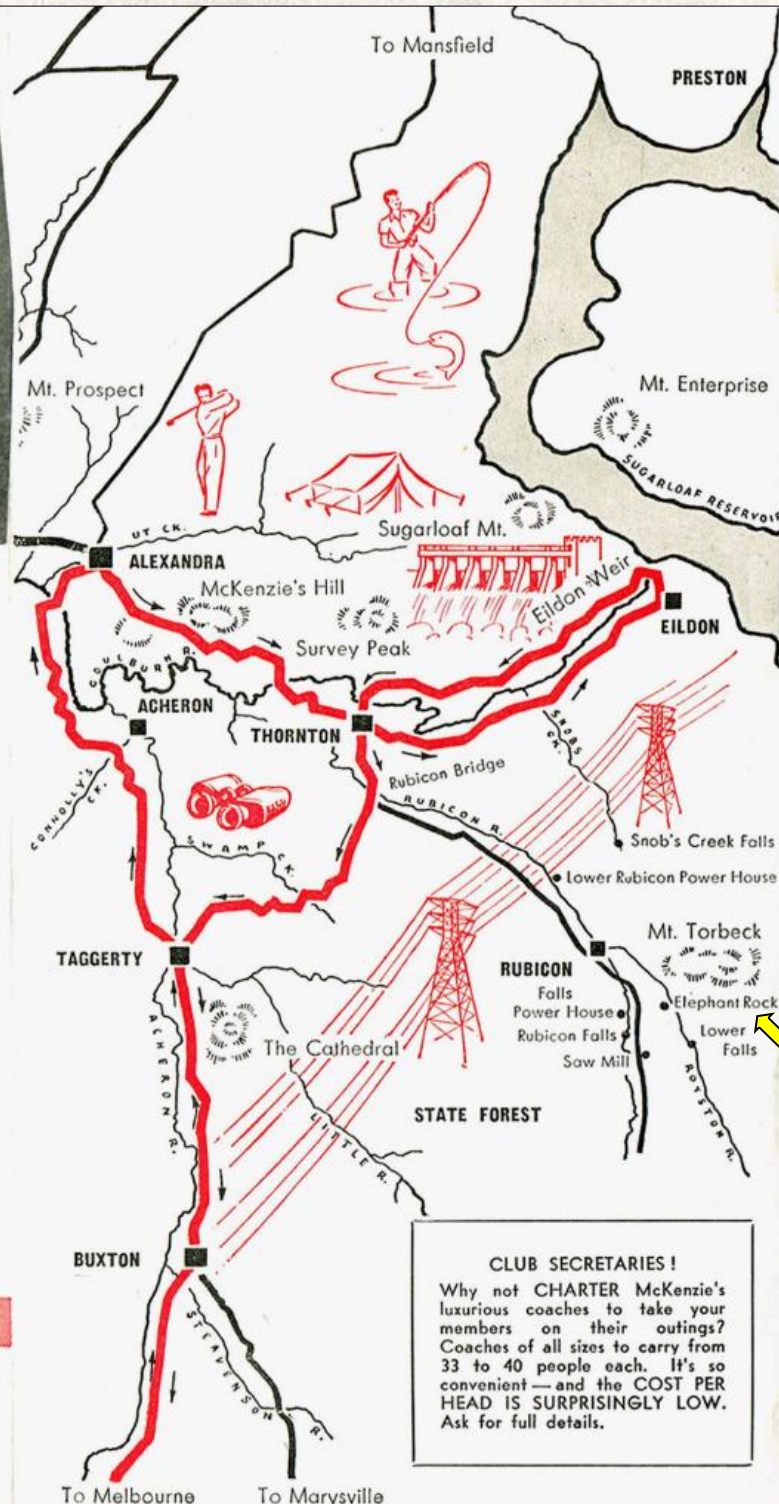
MAP



- ★ The Big Eildon Dam has created a vast reservoir—the largest body of fresh water now stored on the Australian Continent, with a shoreline of 300 miles and a capacity (750,000 million gallons)—six times that of Sydney Harbour.
- ★ Located at the junction of the Delatite and Goulburn Rivers in the Victorian Highlands, it ranks with the world's greatest engineering works and was planned and designed by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission of Victoria. The Utah Construction Company of the U.S.A. directed the skill and labour of Australians who built the Dam in 4½ years—well ahead of schedule. Irrigation and electric power production from the waters of the Reservoir will contribute to the prosperity of the Nation generally and to Victoria in particular.
- ★ The round tour from Melbourne to view this mighty harnessing of nature's forces winds through 200 miles of the beautiful mountain scenery of this State. Every mile of the picturesque Maroondah Highway through Healesville and over Blacks' Spur on the Great Dividing Range reveals the grandeur of the Australian scene.
- ★ After travelling through Narbethong, nestling at the foot of the Range, the visitor passes through, in turn: Buxton—pretty township in the shadow of Mount Cathedral; Taggerty—the junction where the road to the Dam branches away from the Highway; Thornton and so on to Eildon.
- ★ After luncheon a closer inspection of the Dam is made from the top of the Wall and—if time and circumstances permit—a brief boat trip may be enjoyed.
- ★ The return journey is made via Alexandra—well known in the early days of the State for its gold mining activities, but now the centre of an area devoted to the Agricultural, Pastoral and Timber Industries.
- ★ After a further stop for afternoon tea, a truly memorable journey is concluded with the return to Melbourne.

For further details consult:

McKenzie's Tourist Services Pty. Ltd., 53 Barkers Road, Kew
Phone: WM 6264 (3 lines) - After Hours: WB 5209
Or our Agents:



A tourist map (inset) from the mid 1950s. Elephant Rock is still located on this map

From inside page of old brochure from 1950s
Courtesy Tony Ballino 2012

eSPLASH MEDIA ARTICLES

ARTICLES FROM THE eSPLASH eMAGAZINE

ELEPHANT ROCK

RE-DISCOVERED BY MARCUS HORN 20TH APRIL 2013



Re-discovered

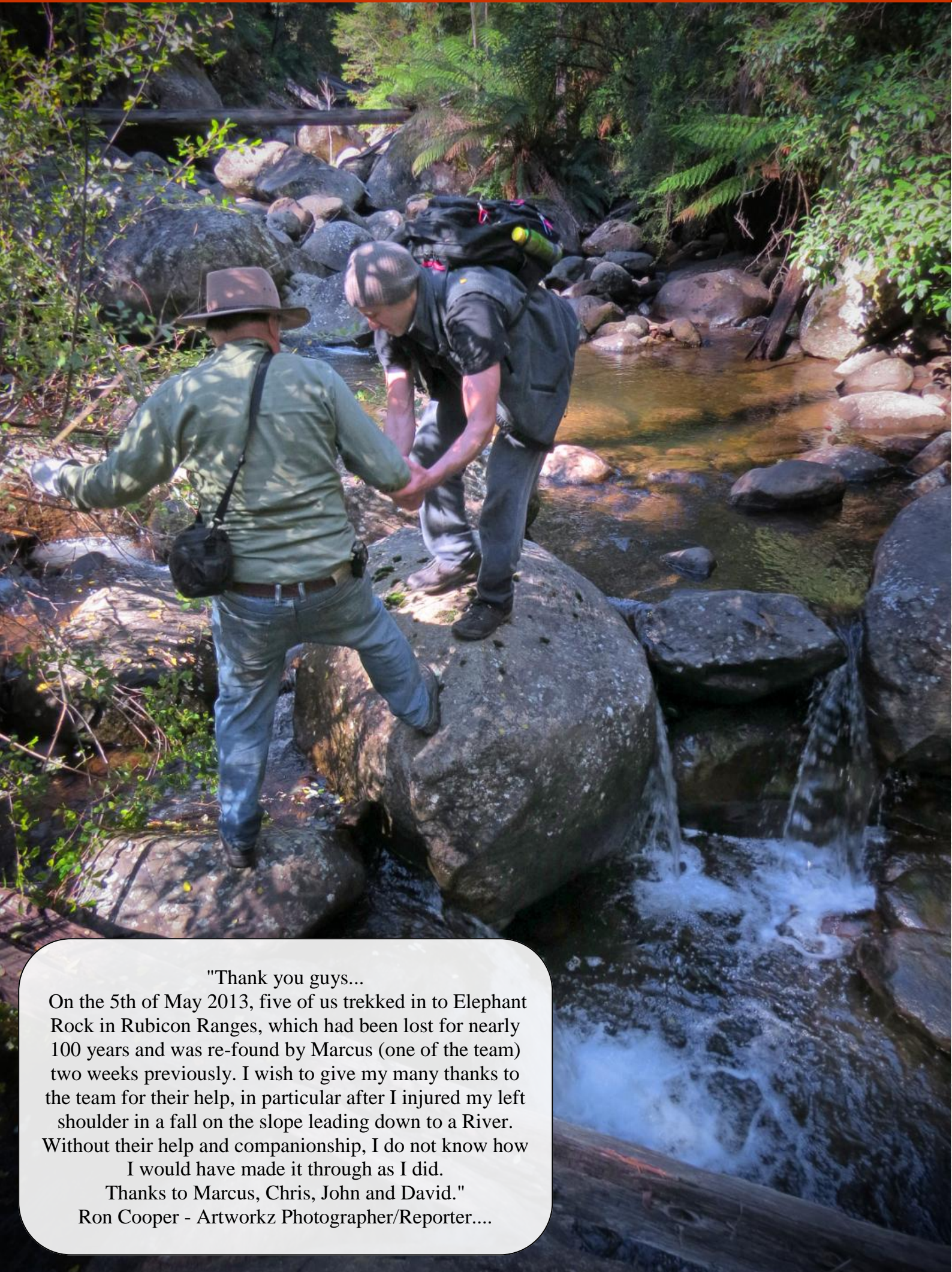
After three years of searching, Artworkz are happy to announce that Rubicon's Elephant Rock has been re-discovered by a local adventurer.

- A PERFECTLY FORMED GRANITE SPHERE -



A river served as a track for us to walk along for some of the time





"Thank you guys...

On the 5th of May 2013, five of us trekked in to Elephant Rock in Rubicon Ranges, which had been lost for nearly 100 years and was re-found by Marcus (one of the team) two weeks previously. I wish to give my many thanks to the team for their help, in particular after I injured my left shoulder in a fall on the slope leading down to a River.

Without their help and companionship, I do not know how I would have made it through as I did.

Thanks to Marcus, Chris, John and David."

Ron Cooper - Artworkz Photographer/Reporter....

- CHRIS LEES MOVING UP THE RIVER -



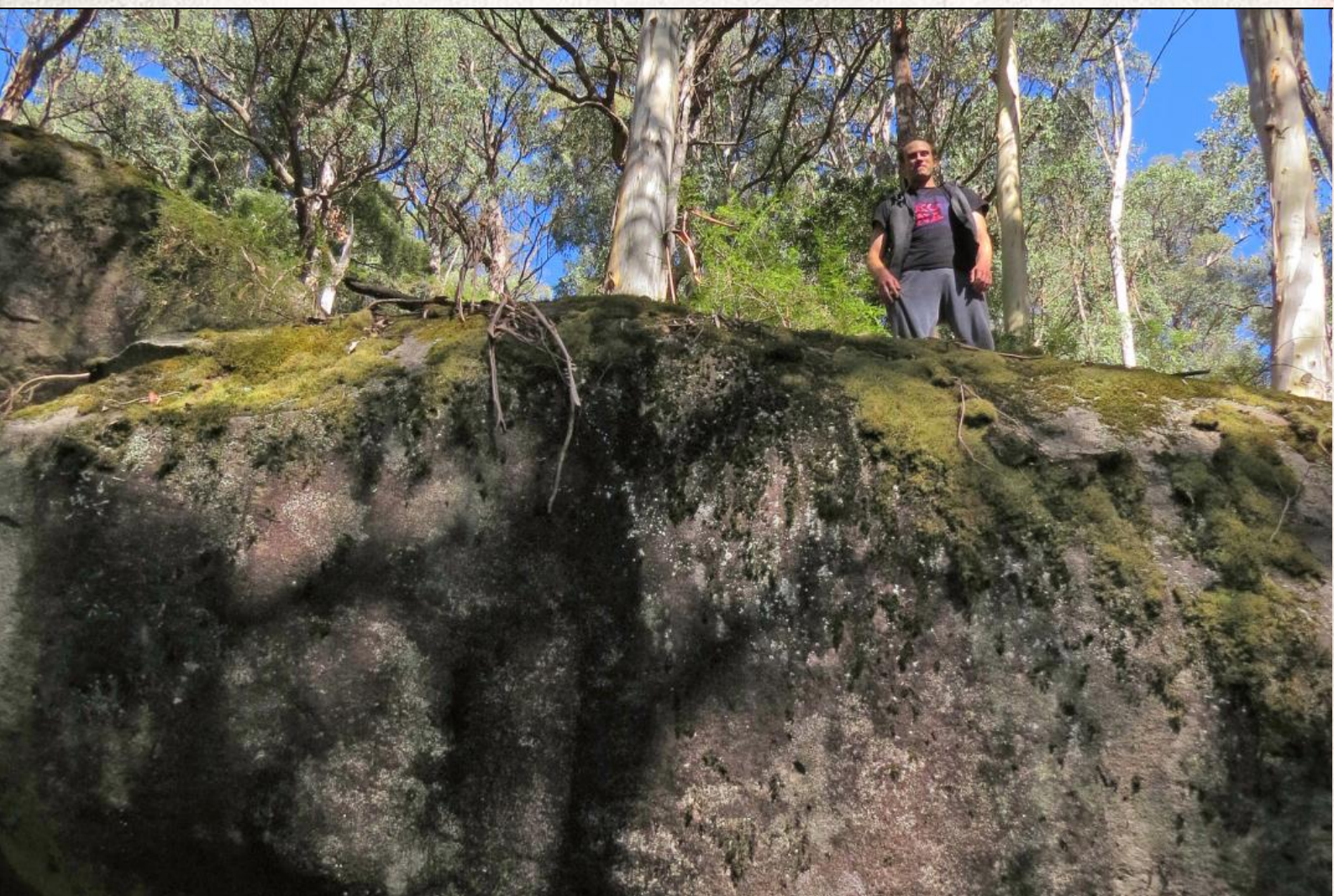
Chris later wore two backpacks to help an older walker

- CLIMBING UP TO ELEPHANT ROCK -

Taken by
Marcus on
the day he
re-discovered
the rock.



Photograph © Marcus Horn 2013



The bottom image is of Marcus on Elephant Rock from below

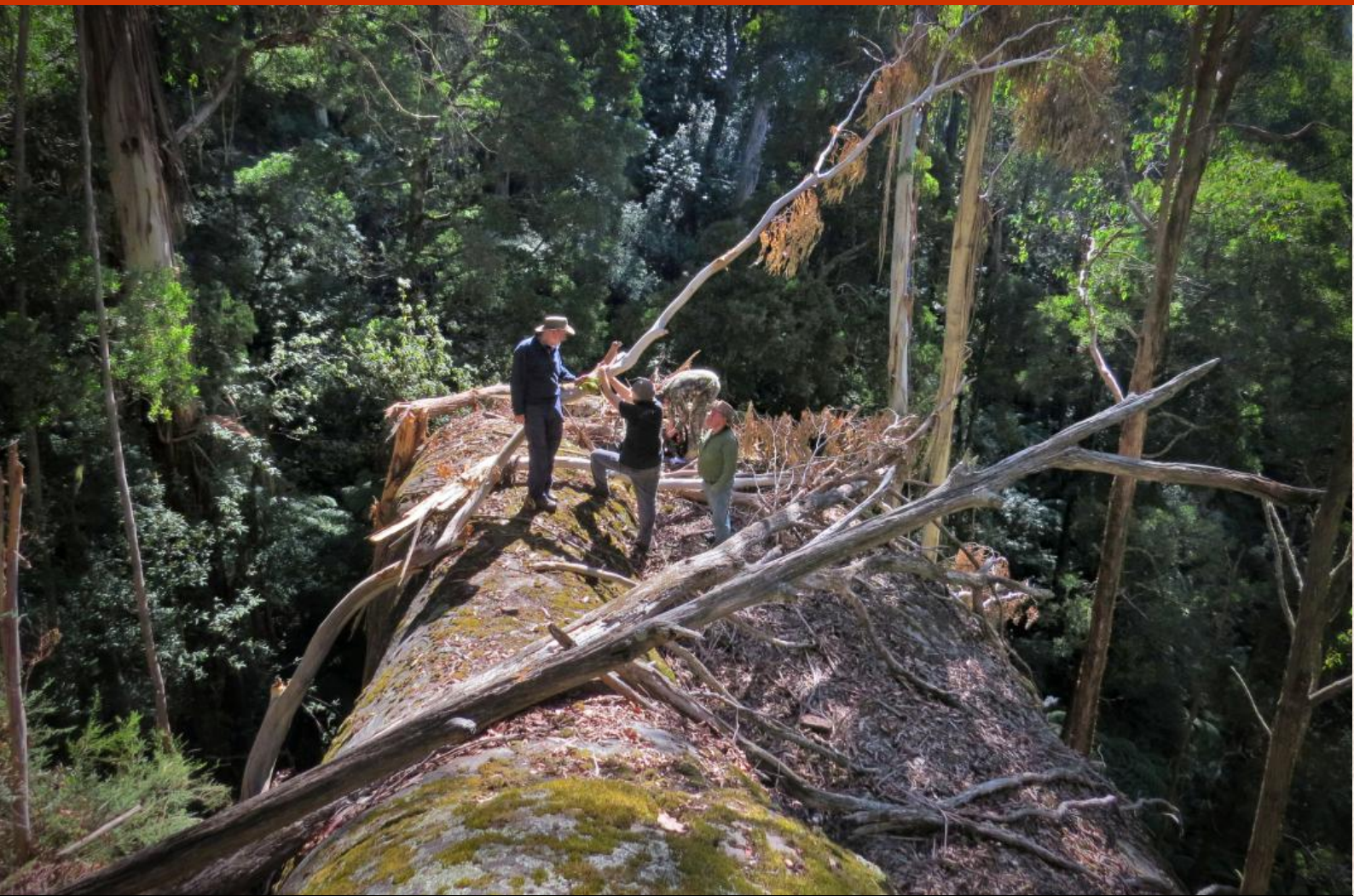
Local Marcus Horn discovered the rock on Saturday 20th April 2013, after hearing of its existence only days before.



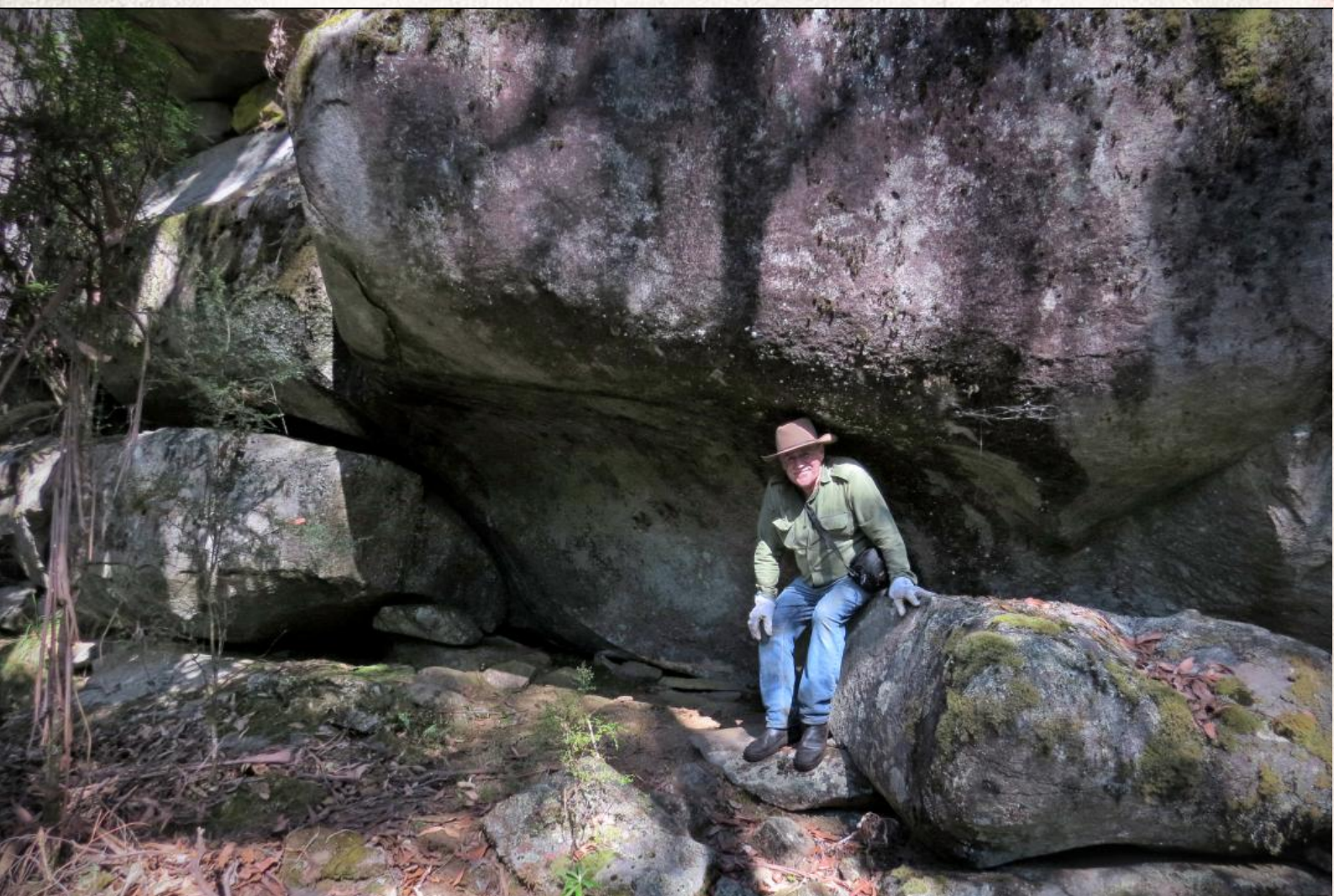
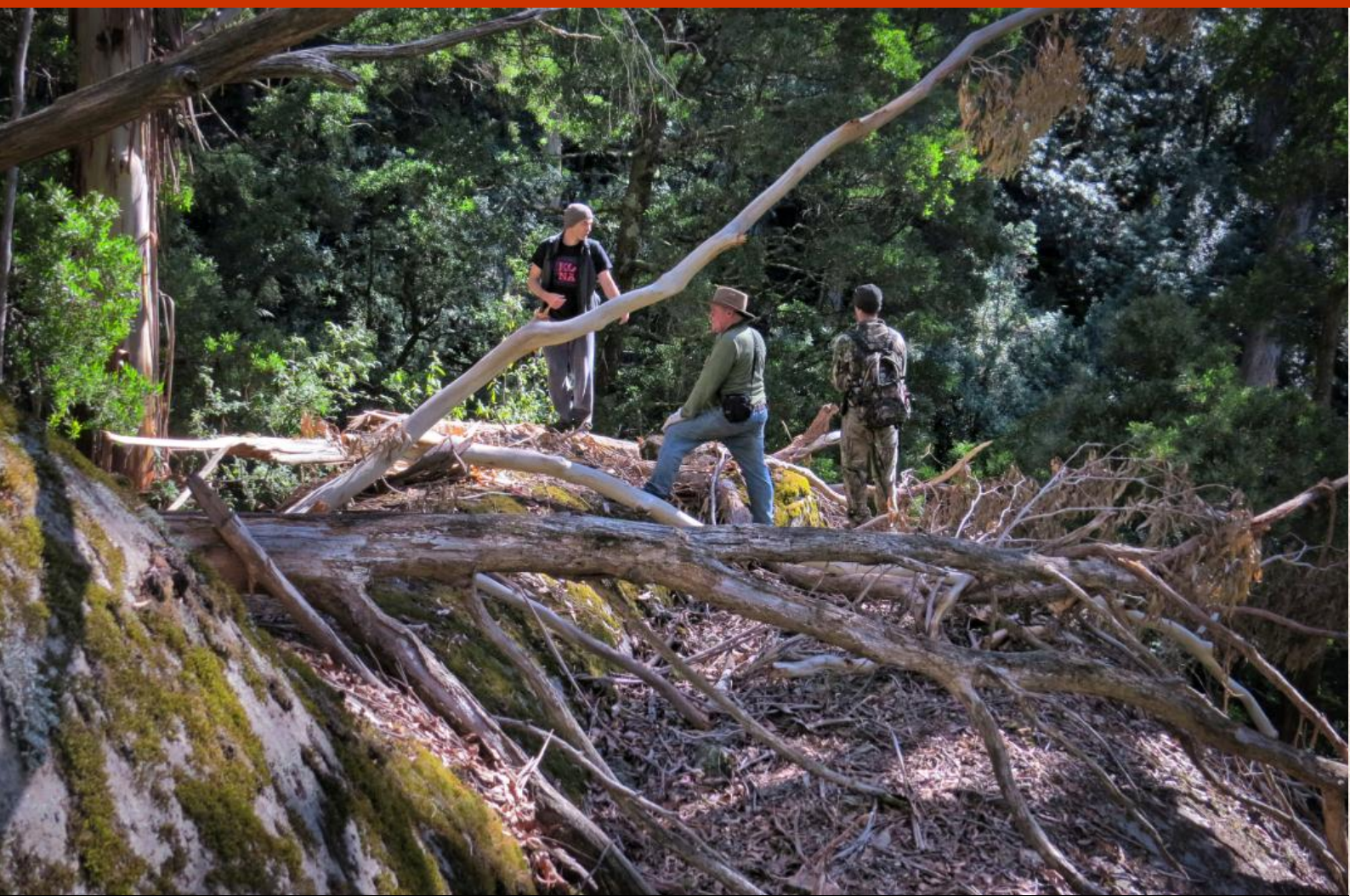
- SITTING ON TOP OF ELEPHANT ROCK -



The team worked well together, and this made the trip lots of fun

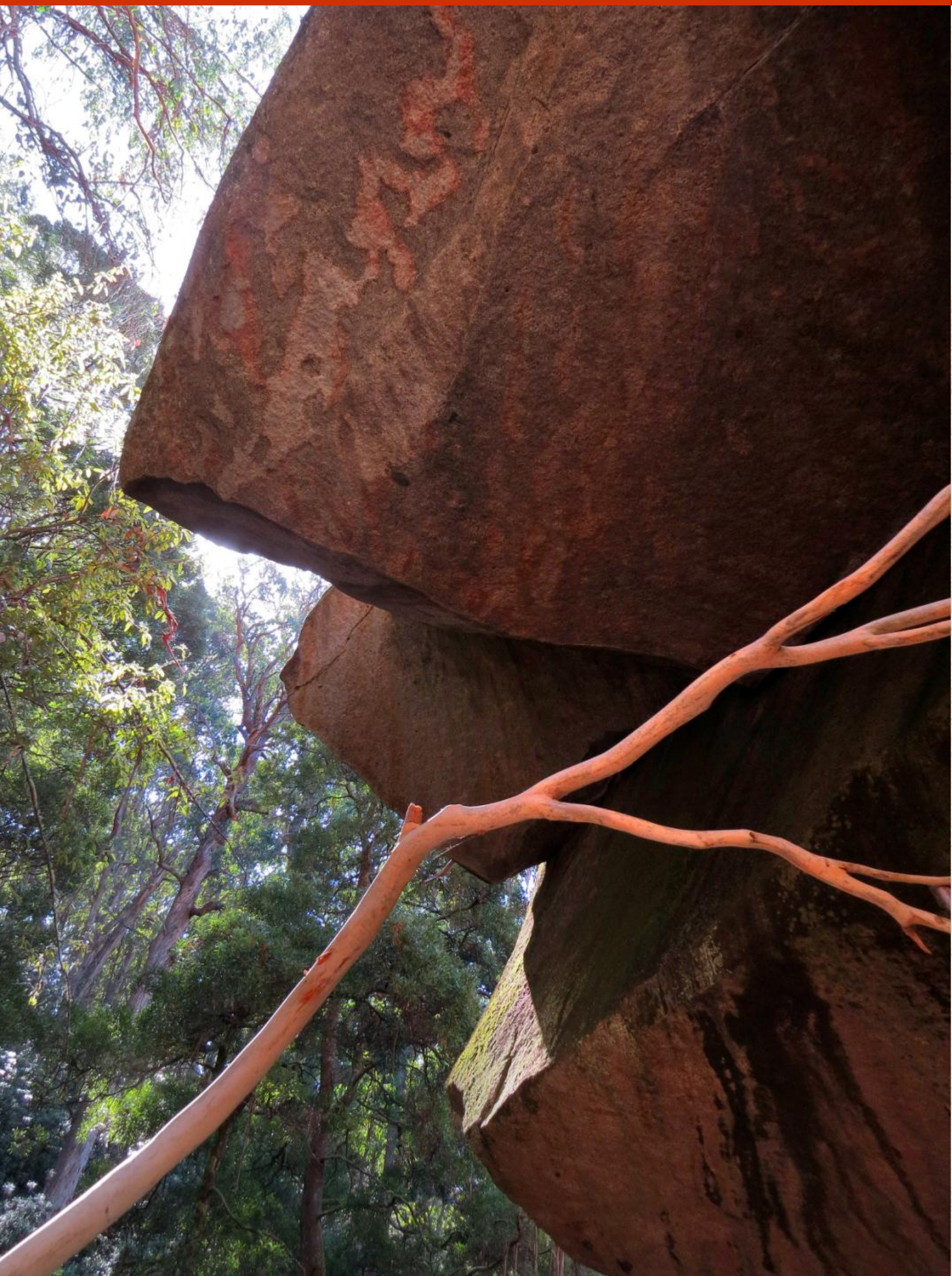


- DEAD BRANCHES LITTER THE ROCK -



The bottom view - Ron Cooper under a section of Elephant Rock

- THE MOUTH OF ELEPHANT ROCK -



Taken from beside Elephant Rock

- LOOKING DOWN FROM THE ROCK -



Photograph © Ron Cooper 2013

- A FALLEN TREE LIES ACROSS THE ROCK -



Photograph © Ron Cooper 2013





Getting into the same position was not possible because of the dense growth

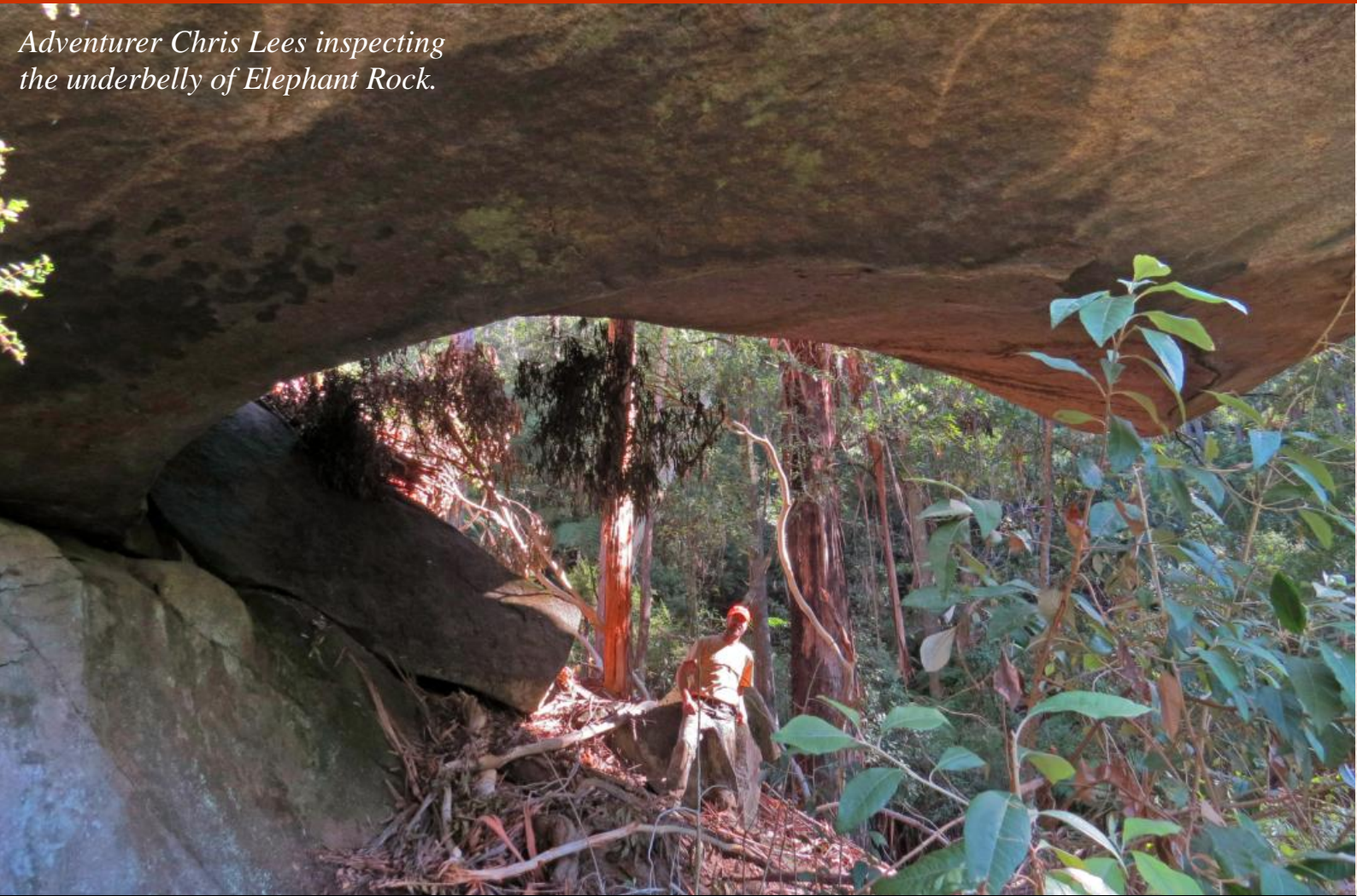
- TAKING A BREAK ON THE WAY OUT -



A well-earned break helped us to keep going. We spent around 6.5 hours in the bush.

- UNDER ELEPHANT ROCK -

*Adventurer Chris Lees inspecting
the underbelly of Elephant Rock.*



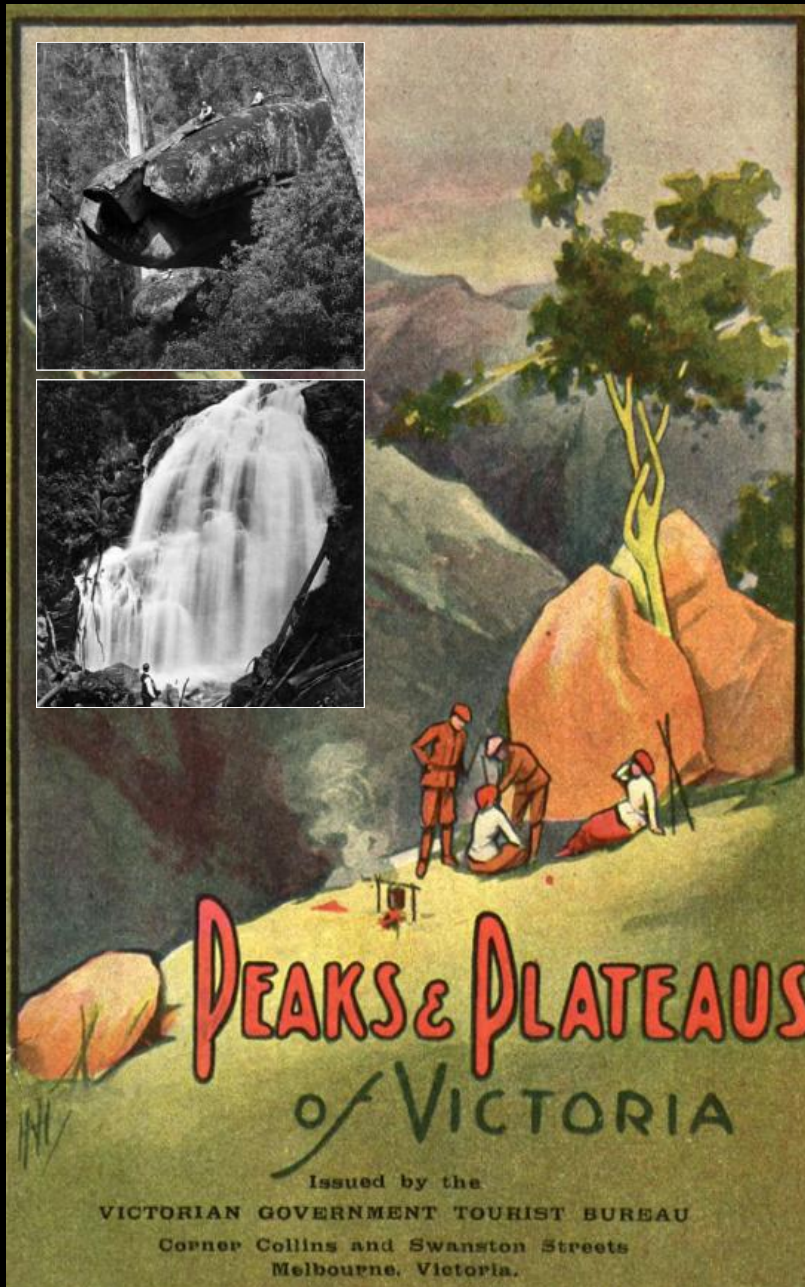
The bottom photograph is of a natural formation that caught our attention on the way out



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.



Lower Snobs
Creek Falls

Snobs Creek



Artworkz

Serving the Community

Elephant Rock.