

RUBICON

FALLS



**NATURE
SERIES**

RUBICON FALLS

CONTRIBUTORS

Courtesy State Library Victoria.

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INTRODUCTION

Name: Rubicon Falls
Location: Rubicon River
Rubicon State Forest
Significance: One of the larger waterfalls
found in our district

The Rubicon Falls is located near the top of the Rubicon Range on the Rubicon River. It was once a major tourism attraction, though lost popularity in the mid 1900s.



**Rubicon Falls during a wet
weekend in July 2013**

© Allan Layton

Rubicon Falls were discovered in 1905 by a party investigating the timber potential of the Rubicon forest prior to commencing sawmilling operations. Shire Engineer W Muntz and Cr John Leckie JP commented at the time that the Rubicon Falls were:

... better than either the Steavenson or Snob's Creek Falls, which are ranked amongst the finest waterfalls in the Commonwealth.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

They soon became a popular tourism attraction and it was common for tourists to visit the Rubicon area, sleeping in huts and tents at the bottom of the ranges (where camping grounds now exist). They would then visit Elephant Rock and the Rubicon Falls by foot, a trip that followed an established track and took most of the day.

It is believed that the Falls became less popular as a result of the 1939 bushfires, but it is also likely that the establishment of the Rubicon Hydro Scheme in 1926 had an impact after water was diverted away from the river above the Falls and returned to the river below the Falls - thereby reducing their visual impact.

The Falls are especially beautiful after a heavy soaking rain, though the closure of the seasonal track to motor vehicles during the wetter months (up until 2016) made visiting the Falls harder.

Then in 2016 the Rubicon Road was permanently closed to all motor vehicles due to ongoing track-slips. The Falls can now only be accessed by foot via a 2.9 km hike up Rubicon Road.



Rubicon Falls circa 1914
Courtesy National Library Australia

TIMELINE

BASIC TIMELINE OF EVENTS



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

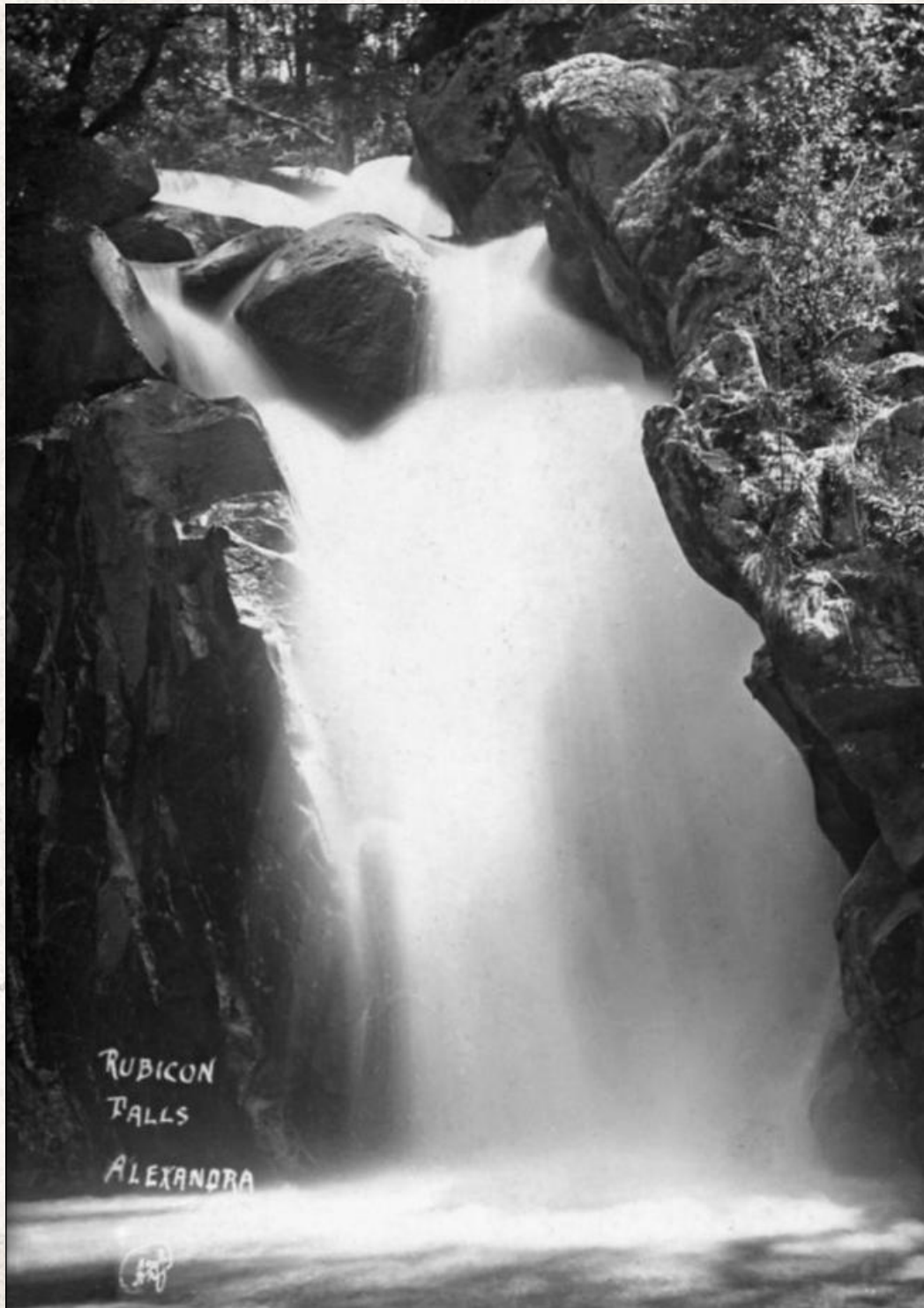
- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1905 | Rubicon Falls was discovered in 1905 by a party investigating the timber potential of the Rubicon Forest prior to commencing sawmilling operations. |
| 15 November 2009 | Artworkz conducted their first photoshoot of the Falls. |
| 18 March 2013 | Artworkz conducted their second photoshoot of the Falls. |
| 14 July 2013 | Allan Layton conducted a photoshoot of the Falls. |
| 21 July 2013 | Artworkz conducted their third photoshoot of the Falls. |
| 2016 | Rubicon Road permanently closed to traffic during the warmer months due to significant and ongoing road slippage. |
| 20 June 2013 | Artworkz commenced work on this factsheet. |

GALLERY

RELATED IMAGES

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY

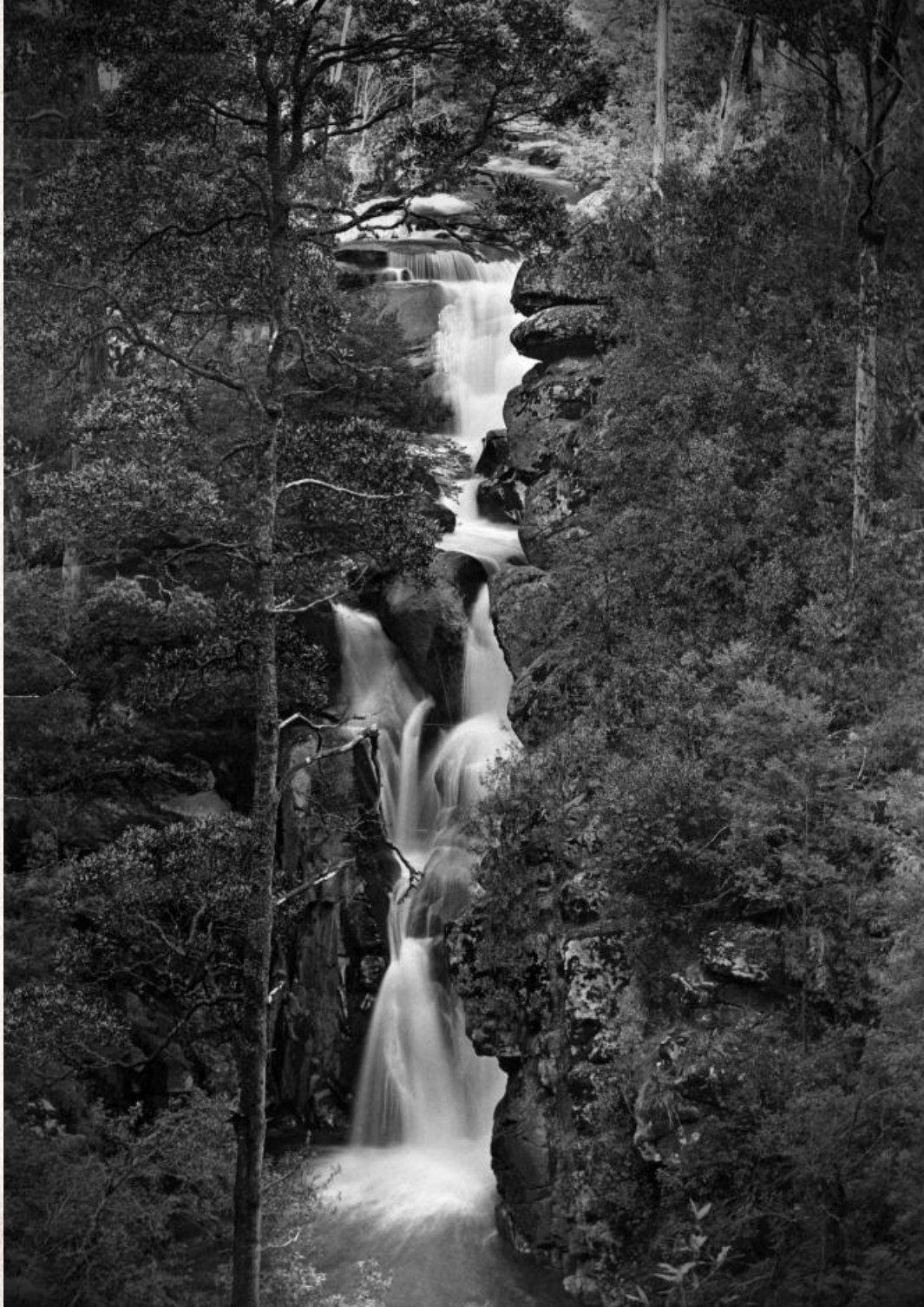


Rubicon Falls circa 1910

Courtesy Tony Ballino 2013

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



New Falls Alexandra - Rubicon Falls circa 1911

Photographer JP Campbell - Courtesy Rod Falconer 2012

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Oddfellows Picnic at Rubicon Falls 1913

Courtesy State Library Victoria

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY

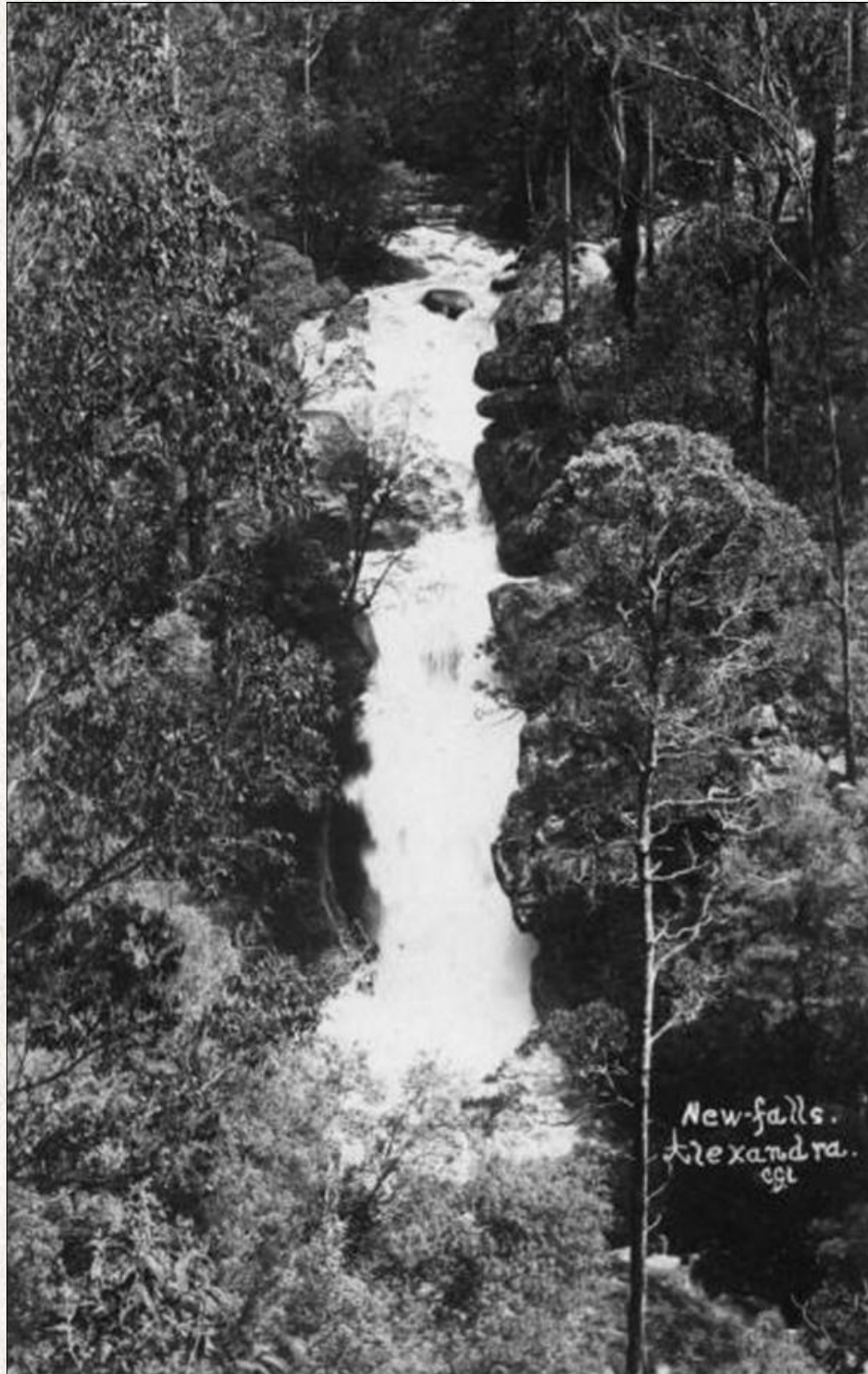


Rubicon Falls circa 1914

Photographer Rev George Cox - Courtesy State Library Victoria 2012

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



New Falls Alexandra - Rubicon Falls circa 1915

Photographer CGL - Courtesy Tony Ballino 2013

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Rubicon Falls circa 1919

Courtesy Kathleen Chanter

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Rubicon Falls circa 1920

Photographer Lin Cumming - Courtesy Sandra Cumming and State Library Victoria 2012

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY

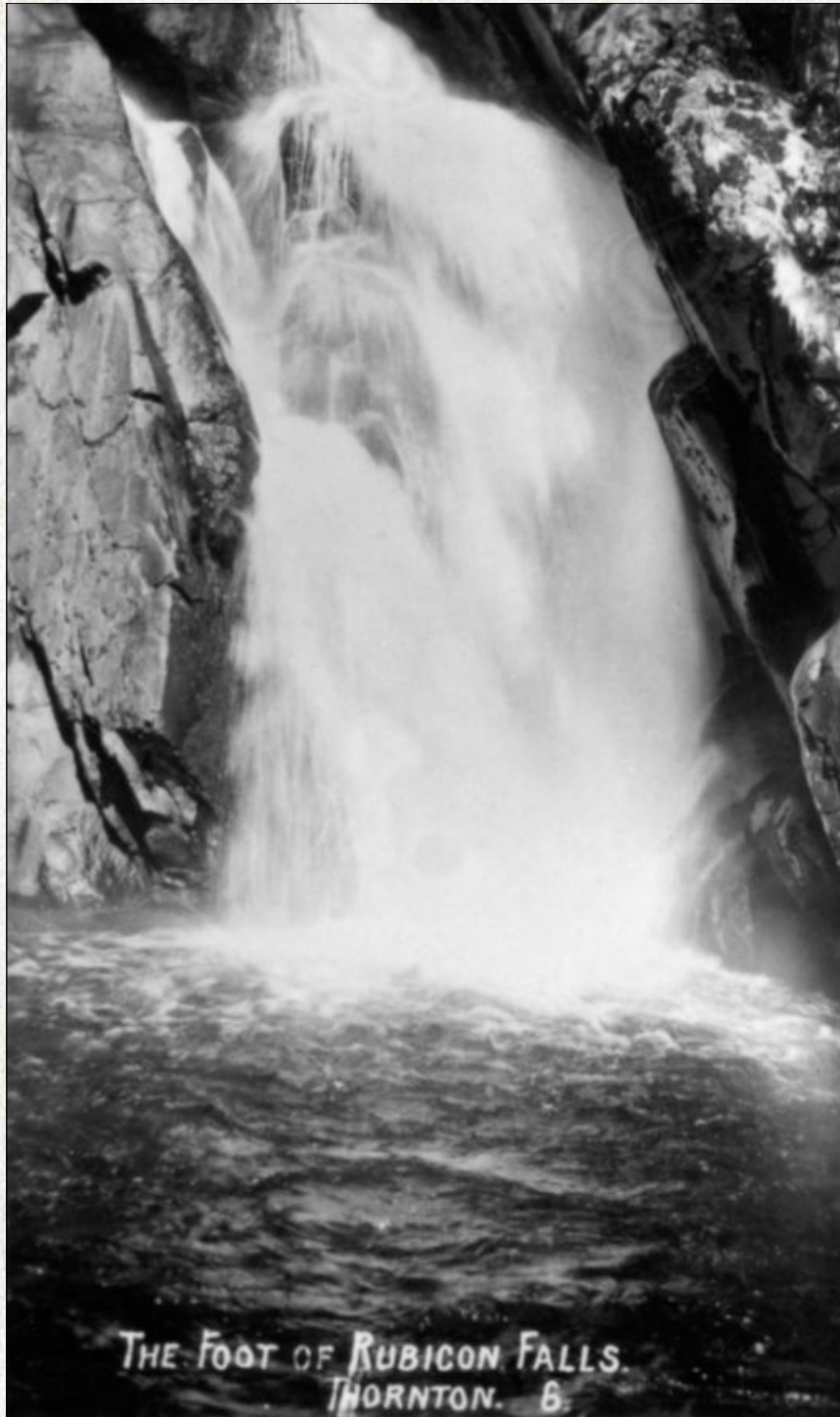


Rubicon Falls circa 1920

Photographer Lin Cumming - Courtesy Sandra Cumming and State Library Victoria 2012

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Rubicon Falls circa 1920

Courtesy Colin & Jenny Myers 2012

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Rubicon Falls circa 1920

Courtesy Tony Ballino 2016

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



THE ROSE SERIES, P. 2377
Copyright

THE RUBICON FALLS, THORNTON, VICTORIA

Rubicon Falls circa 1930

The Falls are still beautiful today, though are hard to see through the trees, and the roadway is a seasonal road, which is closed during the wetter months.

Photographer George Rose - Courtesy State Library Victoria

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Rubicon Falls circa 1940

Photographer Charlie Norbury - Courtesy John & Maureen Norbury 2013

NEWSPAPERS

RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

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 McKenzie's 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.

NEWSPAPERS

A start, in marching order, was then made for the falls proper, led by the kettle drum played by Storey. The falls were soon reached. Some of the newer bands became very inquisitive, and insisted in climbing down and up to the falls—a very dangerous feat—and the rest followed their example. The sight was well worth all the trouble. At this spot several photographic groups were taken by the artists. One of the party nearly met with a fatal accident here; it was only a miracle that he saved himself from falling over the precipice. A number of us, under the guidance of the genial "Samivel," marched on to the mill, some two miles further on, while the rest remained exploring the falls and enjoying a little trout fishing, in which they did not succeed. 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.

Seymour Express
Friday 5th February 1915
Courtesy National Library Australia

Near fall over Rubicon Falls

Seymour Express, 5th February 1915
Courtesy National Library Australia

Rubicon Fern Glades and Elephant Rock

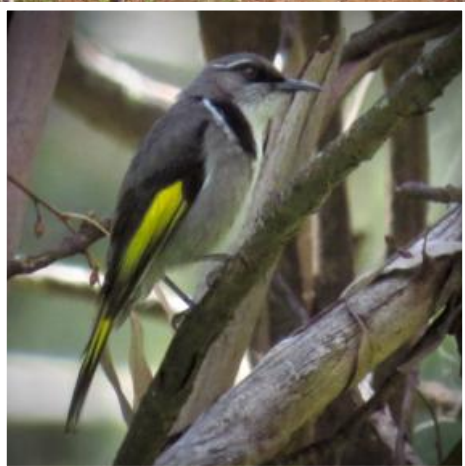
The Age
December 12th 1926
Courtesy Google News 2013

eSPLASH MEDIA ARTICLES

ARTICLES FROM THE eSPLASH eMAGAZINE

RUBICON FALLS

RUBICON RANGES
18 MARCH 2013



Where beauty and history meet

A beautiful place where the remnants of the historic Timber Tramway and the modern Rubicon Hydro Electric System sit together.





A large pool area is visible at the bottom of the Falls







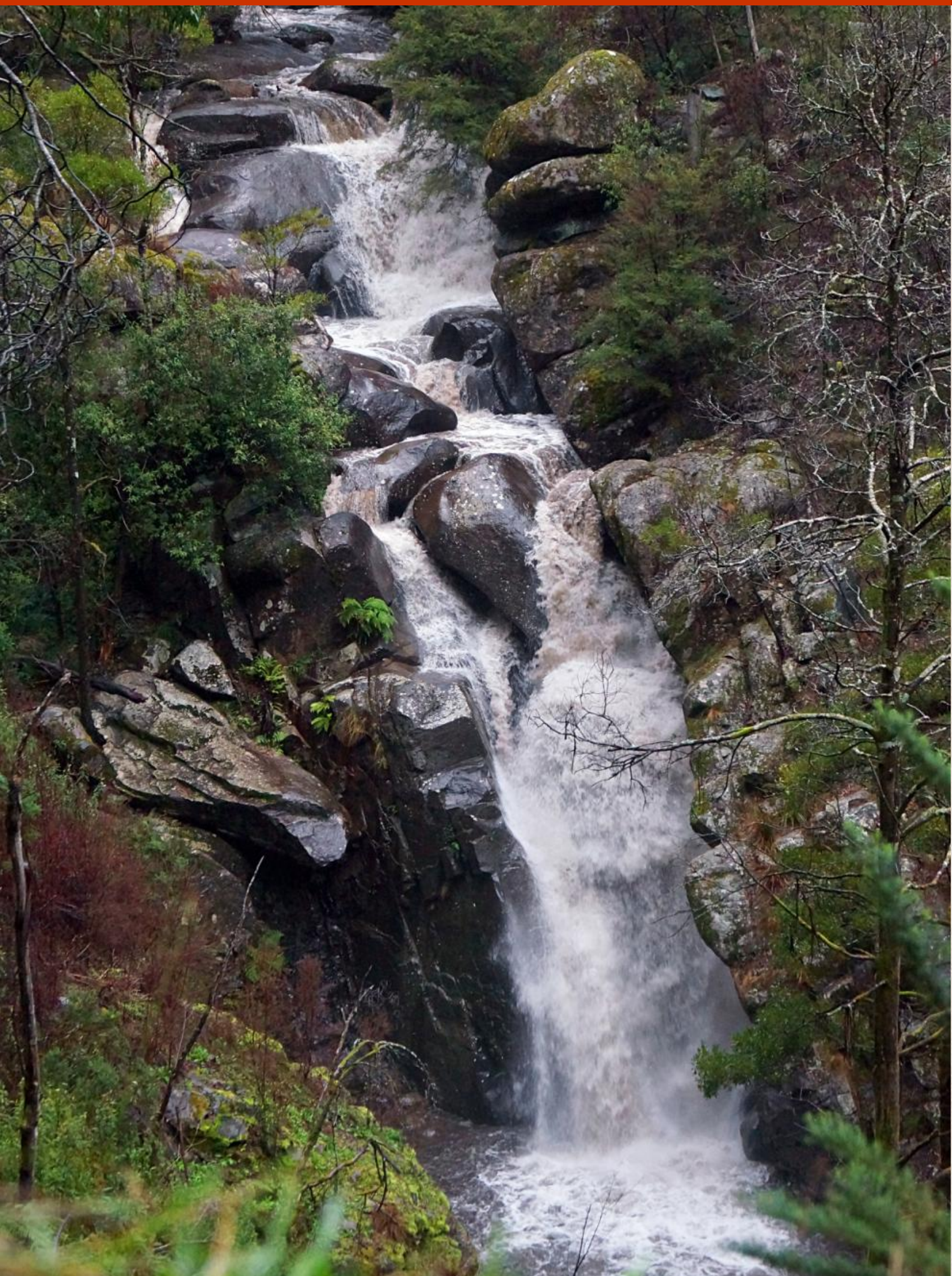
RUBICON FALLS

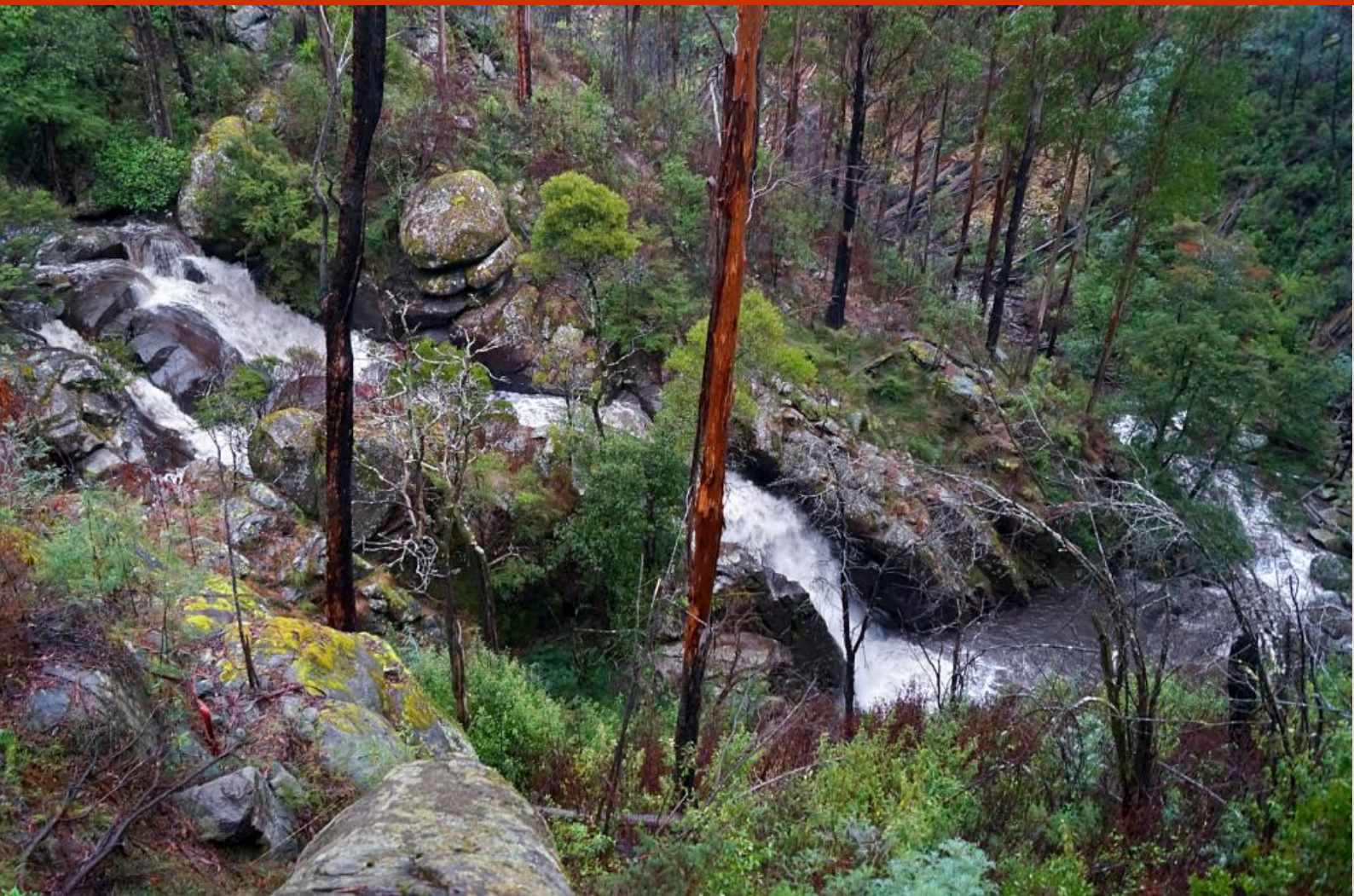
RUBICON RANGES

BY ALLAN LAYTON
14 JULY 2013

A wet weekend and a long walk was a great reward.

Seeing the Falls in full flow is rare, so when an opportunity arose, I walked to the beautiful Rubicon Falls from the locked seasonal gate.

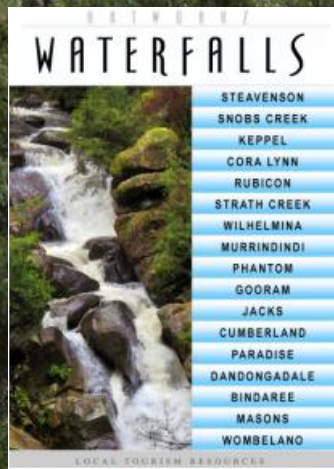






RUBICON FALLS

RUBICON STATE FOREST - 7 AUGUST 2022



A walk through nature to a stunning waterfall

Rubicon Falls is a hidden gem that we always enjoy walking into. On a wintery Sunday we started early, dressed warm and carried an umbrella just in case. We were blessed with an excellent day and beautiful views along the entire walk.

Rubicon Falls was discovered in 1905 by a party investigating the timber potential of the Rubicon forest prior to commencing sawmilling operations. Shire Engineer W Muntz and Cr John Leckie JP commented at the time that the Falls were:

... better than either the Steavenson or Snob's Creek Falls, which are ranked amongst the finest waterfalls in the Commonwealth.

Rubicon Falls soon became a popular tourism attraction and it was common for tourists to visit the Rubicon area and sleep in tents at the bottom of the Ranges in campgrounds. They would visit Elephant Rock and the Rubicon Falls by foot, a hike that followed an established track and took most of the day.

It is believed the Falls dropped in popularity after the 1939 Bushfires. However it is also likely that the establishment of the Rubicon Hydro Scheme in 1926 had an impact on its popularity as water was diverted by the scheme away from the river (just above the Falls and returned to the river below the Falls).

The track to the waterfall was permanently closed in 2016 to all motor vehicles due to ongoing track-slips. This means you will need to hike the 2.9 km up the formed track from the Rubicon Power Station (commonly called the haulage). There is no official signage along the way or viewing area with interpretive signage at the site, but it will be clear you are there when you can easily see the waterfall.

Thanks to the rocky nature of Rubicon Road, it is easier to hike to the viewing area in the wetter months. Views of the river are gorgeous and the flora and fauna is abundant along the walk. The Falls are best after a heavy soaking rain.



Always let someone know of your travel plans, wear appropriate clothing and carry food and water with you. Be aware of snakes and spiders at all times.

Camping sites are available in the beautiful Rubicon Valley.

- RUBICON FALLS -



Greenshield lichen
Flavoparmelia caperata



**Possible common
button lichen**
Buellia erubescens



Possible candy lichen
Imadophila eucalypti

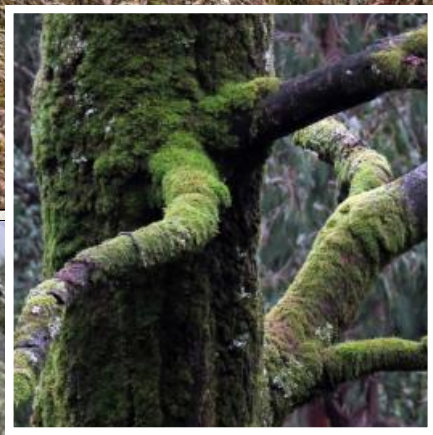
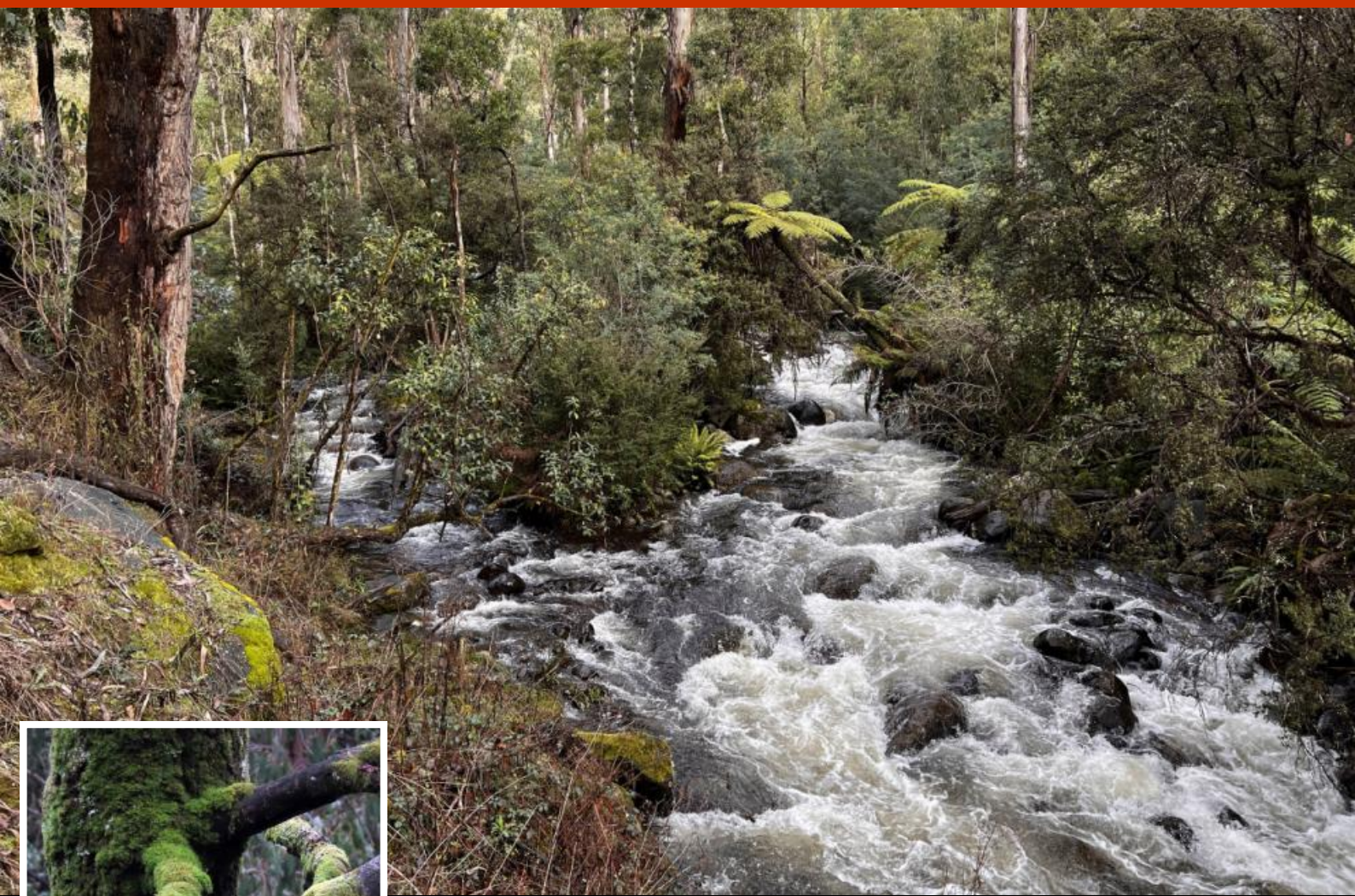


Greenshield lichen on a rock in the falls and two rock-based lichen species

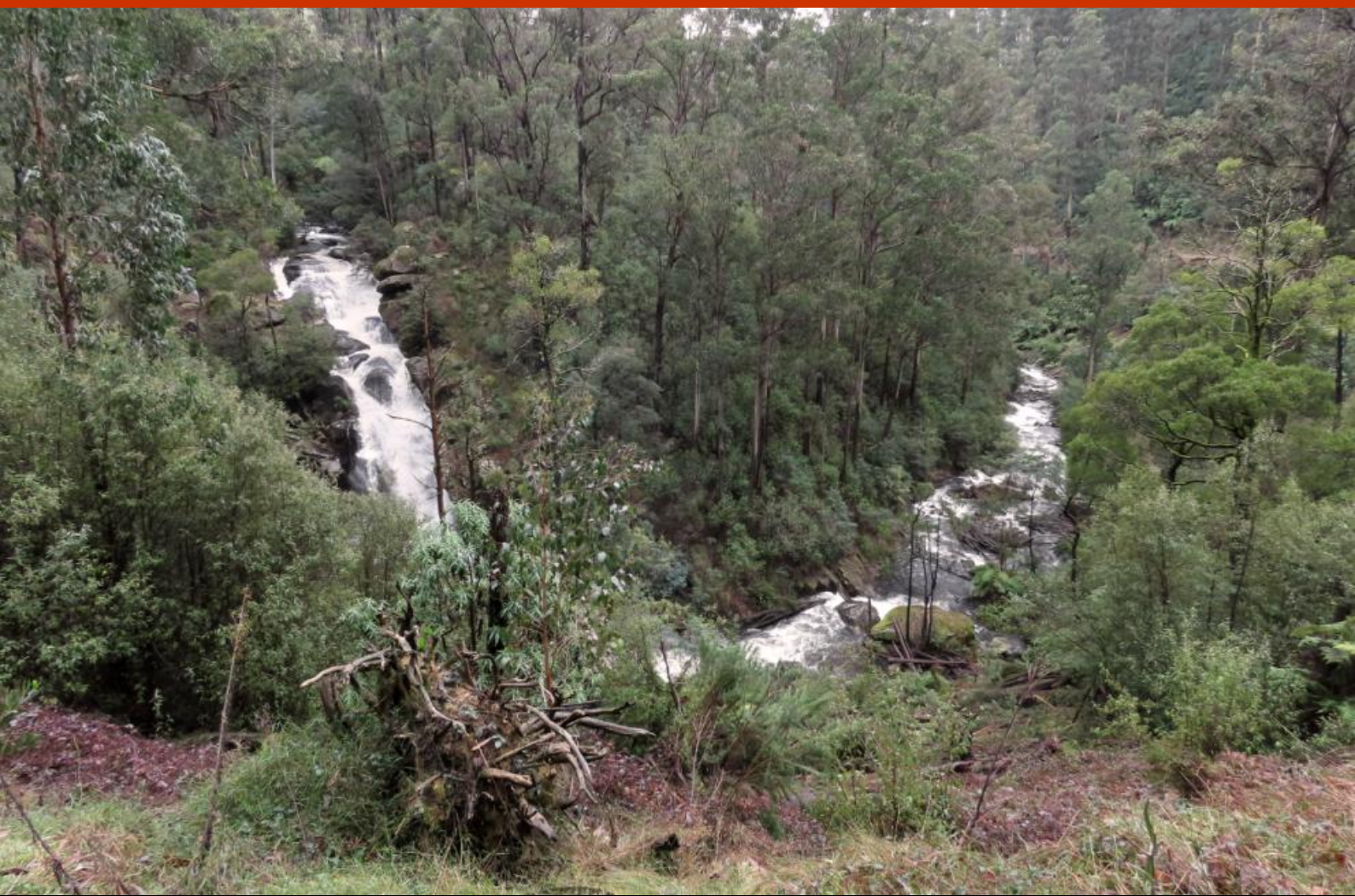
- RUBICON FALLS -



On the way up the valley we checked on the status of the Rubicon River Bridge replacement



- RUBICON FALLS -



Views from near Rubicon Falls roadside viewing area





Artworkz

Serving the Community