



DANDONGGADALE

FALLS



**NATURE
SERIES**

DANDONGADALE FALLS

CONTRIBUTORS

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HISTORIC FACTSHEET

HISTORY

Name:	Dandongadale Falls
Location:	Mount Cobbler
Type:	Large single drop Waterfall
Height:	255 metres
View:	Roadside view only

The tallest single drop waterfall in Victoria. It is located on the Dandongadale River, 800 m walk from Lake Mount Cobbler and the Mount Cobbler Camping Ground on the Cobbler (Wabonga) Plateau.



Dandongadale Falls is located on the edge of Cobbler (Wabonga) Plateau in Victoria's Alpine National Park, near the townships of Cheshunt and Whitfield. The falls are the tallest waterfall in Victoria at 255 metres and the second tier is the highest free falling tier of any waterfall in the State, measuring 129 metres. The falls is also the third tallest waterfall in Australia, only behind Wallaman Falls in Queensland (268 metres) and Wollomombi Fall in New South Wales (260 metres). It also has the tallest starting elevation of the three waterfalls (1126 metres), making it the highest tall waterfall in the country and the only one to have two significant companion falls (one on either side).

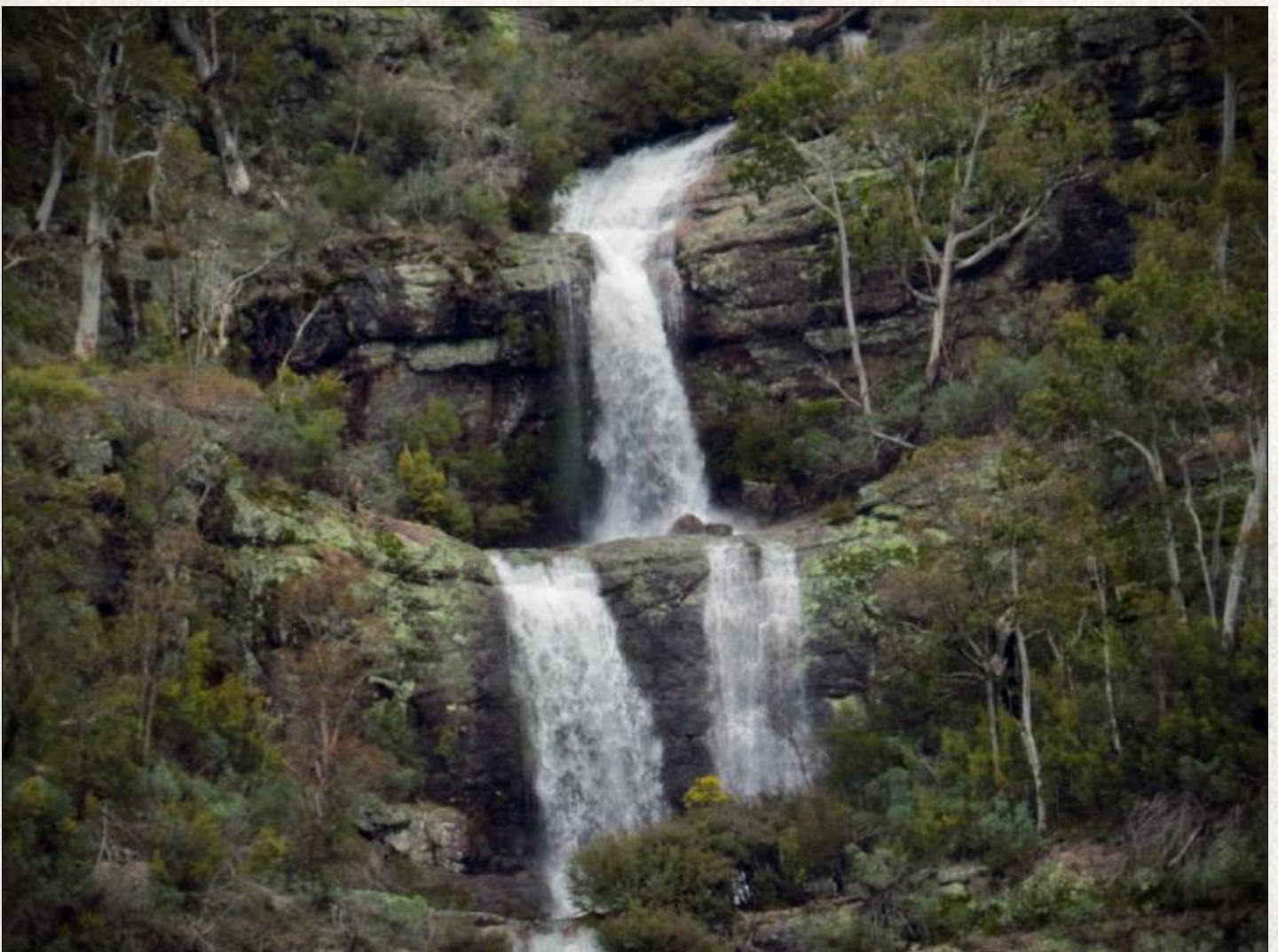
HISTORIC FACTSHEET

HISTORY

The water supplying the Falls originates in Lake Cobbler from where it spills over successive cascades in a series of significant drops, culminating in the final drop over the escarpment to 255 metres below.

Because Dandongadale Falls is fed by a relatively small catchment area on the Cobbler Plateau, the flows over the Falls vary greatly. They are seasonal, with stronger flows during winter and during the spring thaw. However, the flows can be low to non-existent during the summer months and during times of drought.

The viewing area for the falls and plateau is located roadside around two kilometres below Lake Cobbler and the view is partially unobscured by trees. It is recommended that you take a camera with a powerful zoom as the falls are a long way away.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

AUSTRALIAN TALLEST WATERFALLS

FIRST

WALLAMAN FALLS

Type - Fall
Fall - Horsetail 268 M
Top Elevation - 542 M

This is generally considered as being the tallest waterfall in Australia and is therefore the tallest waterfall in Queensland.

These falls have an extra cascade component, though it is considered too far away from the main falls to be included in the height measurement. Hence these peak out at 268 metres.

The tallest waterfall in the world is Angle Falls in Venezuela at a 979 Metres.

Image on following pages.



SECOND

WOLLOMOMBI FALLS

Type - Fall
Fall - Cascade 260 M
Top Elevation - 929 M

This is generally considered as being the second tallest waterfall in Australia and the tallest in New South Wales.

Although there is some argument as to whether the upper cascades should be included. If these are, then these would be the tallest waterfall in Australia at 424 metres.

See more at the Australian Government Geoscience Australia website **here**.

Image on following pages.



THIRD

DANDONGADALE FALLS

Type - Fall
Fall - Horsetail 255 M
Top Elevation - 1126 M

This is generally considered as being the third tallest waterfall in Australia and the tallest waterfall in Victoria.

This area is significant as there are three waterfalls side-by-side, which are evident in the wetter months. No other area can claim one of the tree tallest waterfalls, beside two other significant calls, making this unique.

Although others often claim to be taller. We have found no other waterfall that can substantiate this claim.

Image on following pages.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

WALLAMAN FALLS, QLD

#1



Tsilikka, Wiki CCL 3.0 2016

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

WOLLOMOMBI FALLS, NSW

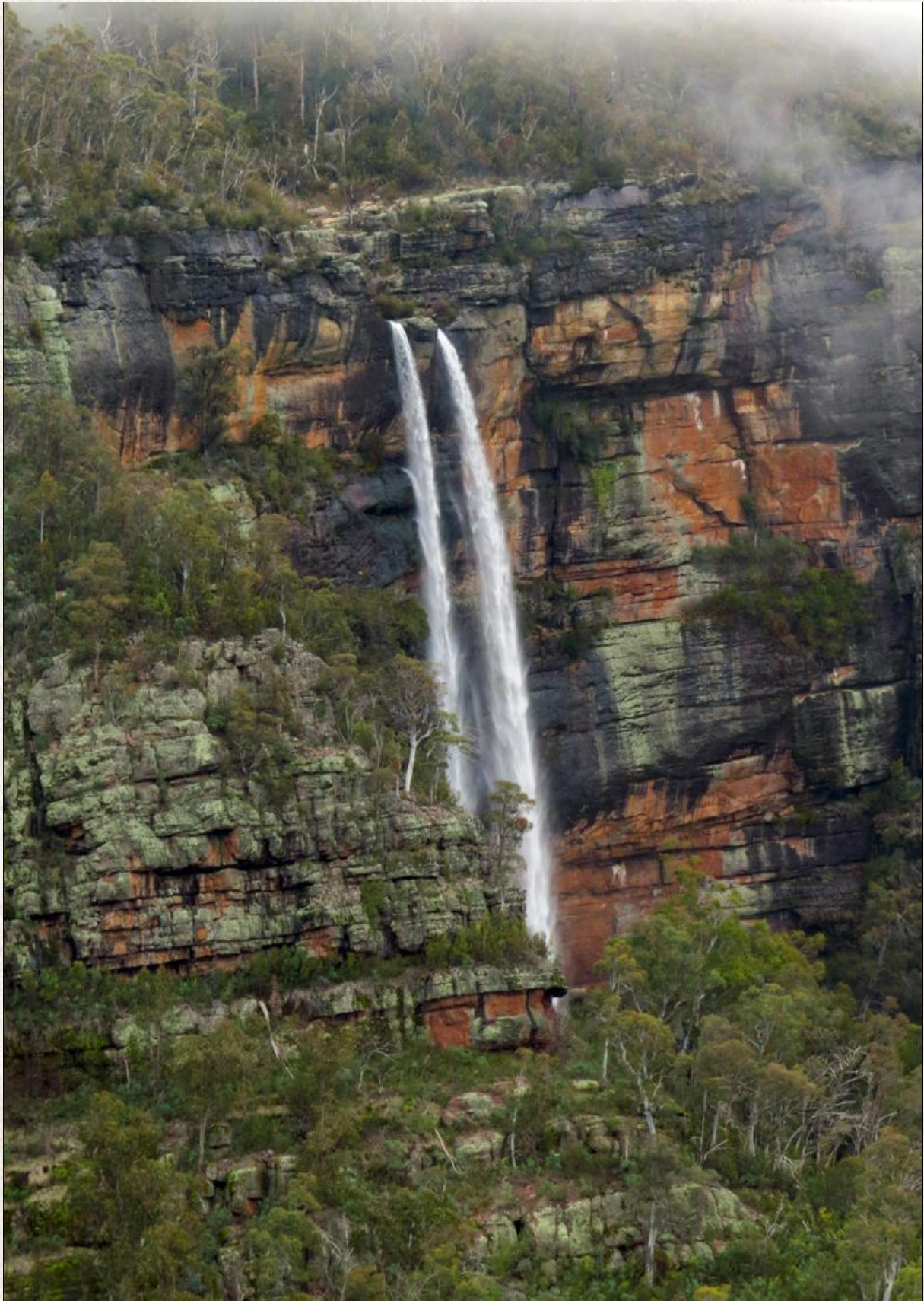
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HISTORIC FACTSHEET

DANDONGODALE FALLS, VIC

#3



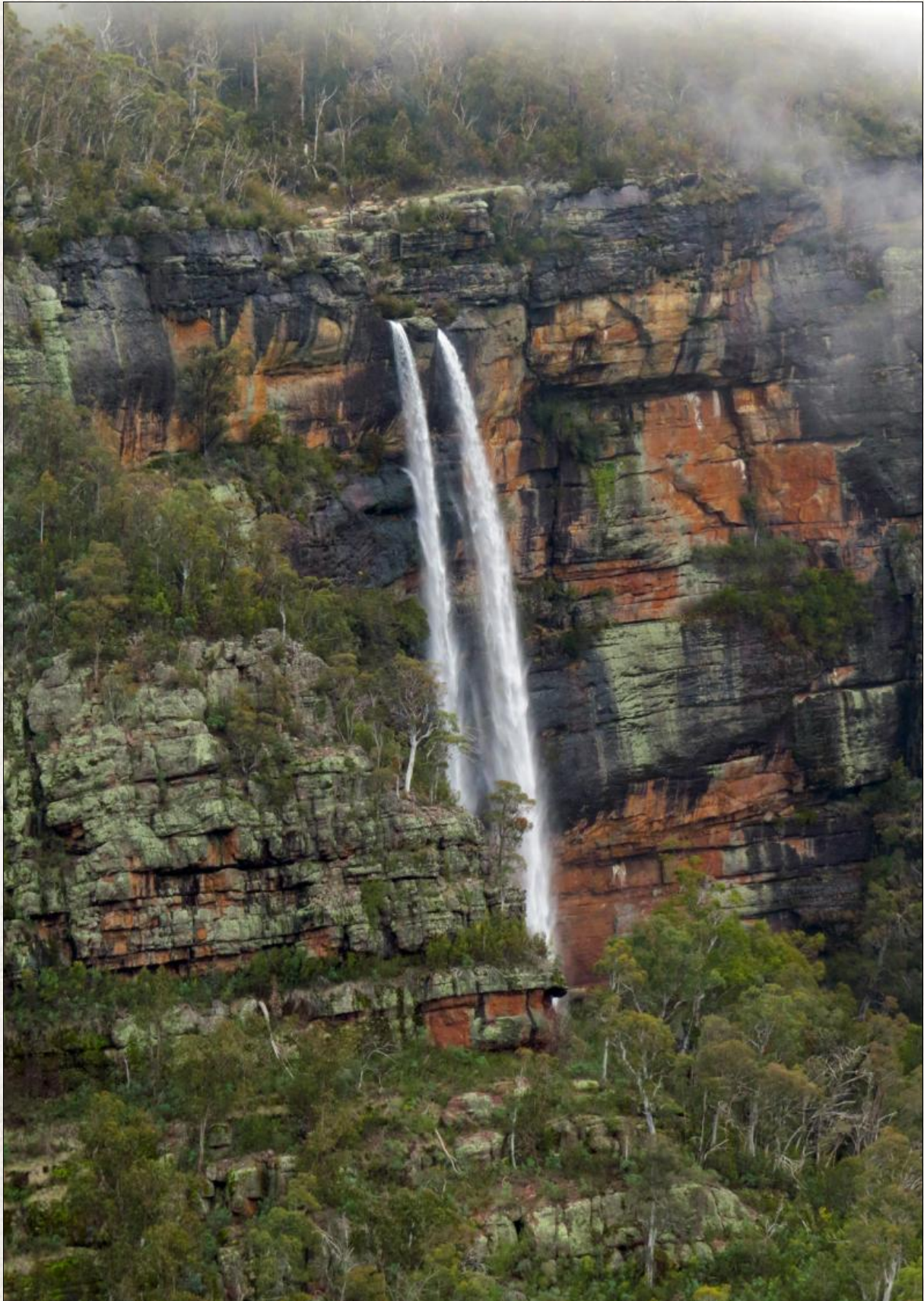
HISTORIC FACTSHEET

LEFT FALLS



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

MIDDLE FALLS



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

RIGHT FALLS



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

Circa 1870

Dandongadale Falls was discovered.

Unknown

A section of the Dandongadale River was dammed just above the Falls. A road was most likely put in at this time, though access to the lake is also possible from another track.

21 January 1990

Dandongadale Falls was measured by land surveyor Alan Monger in conjunction with members of the Benalla Bush Walking Club. It was measured at 255.2 metres (837 feet). The first sheer drop was measured at 129 metres (423 feet). (Facts from the book '250 Victorian Waterfalls' by Ray Barber and Ian Wacey).

24 August 2013

Artworkz conducted a photoshoot at Dandongadale Falls.

September 2013

Artworkz published a feature on the Falls, highlighting their importance.

4 January 2016

Artworkz conducted a photoshoot at Dandongadale Falls and Lake cobbler - located just above the falls.

28 May 2016

Ten man team (nine climbers and a photographer) visited Dandongadale Falls. The climbers descended the right falls to the ledge where the water passes behind a huge rock ledge. They investigated the cave area and made history as one of the few teams of climbers to ever descend to the ledge.

10 January 2017

Aerial footage of the Centre Falls showing the status of the drops, was taken by Steven Handbury.





HISTORIC FACTSHEET

THE BENNIE FAMILY HISTORY

Since the 1860s, the Bennies family have been synonymous with the Whitefield area, with James Alan Bennie being the first Bennie child actually born in Whitfield (1895).

James served with the Australian Army in France and Belgium, and in 1919 bought a large block of land adjoining Mount Typo, where he built his home Rivermount.

The Bennie's were known in the high country for the friendship and hospitality and Rivermount became a landmark institution.

The Bennie family were often relied upon for the great knowledge of the High Country, and provided and food supplies for visitors to the area in the early to mid 1900s.

Bennies wife died in 1962, and James Bennie passed away in 1968. The Rivermount Homestead burnt the ground after vandals lit it.

Today the area around the old property of Rivermount is a beautiful river side camping area called Bennies.

It includes a a bridge over the Rise River which is crossed on the way to Dandongadale Falls via Whitfield.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

KELLY GANG AND THE FALLS

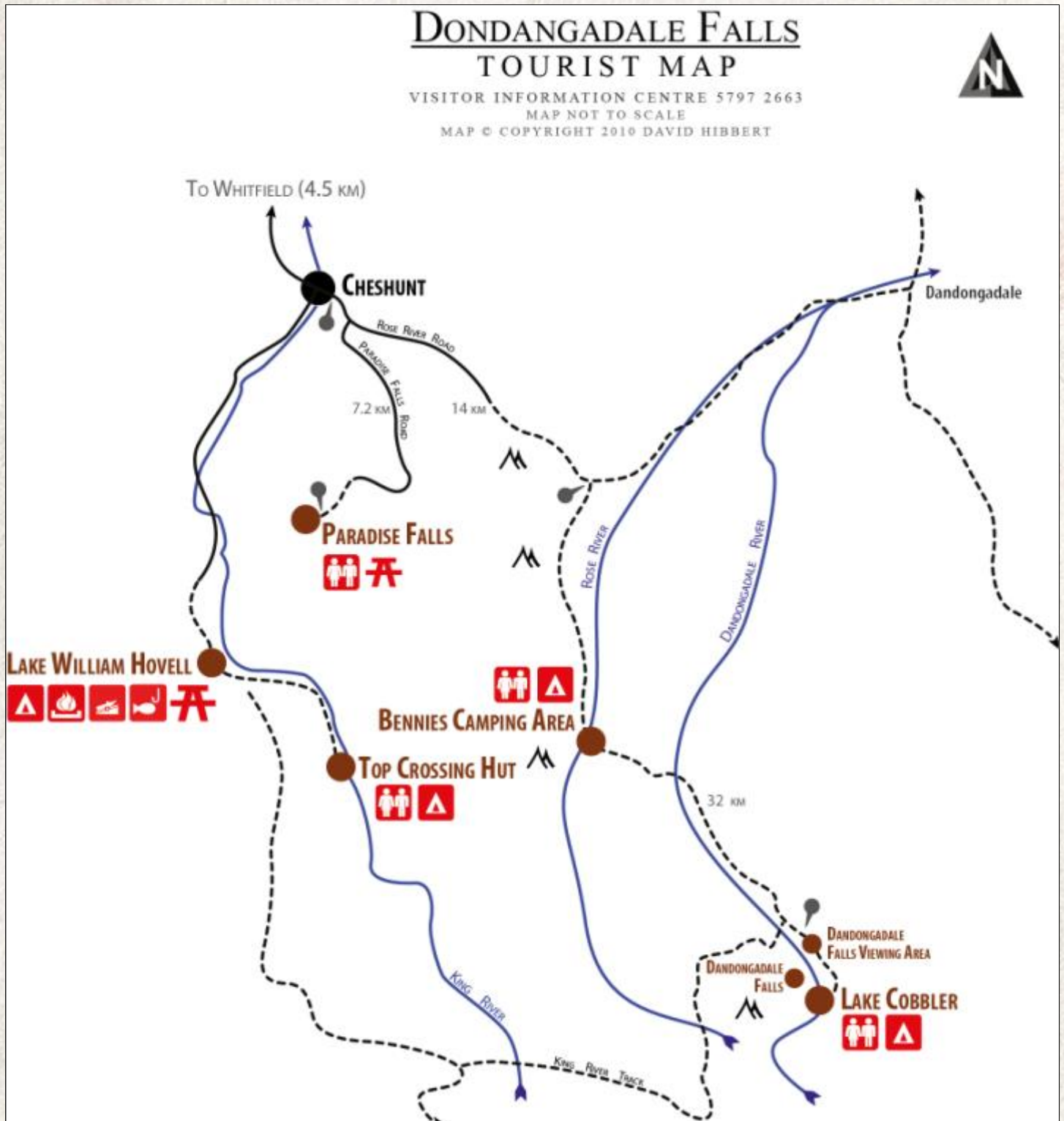
Lost with Police.

About the year 1879 a party of Police arrived at Dandongadale and asked for a supply of mutton. The party comprised 13 troopers in charge of Sergeant STEELE and Inspector PARNELL, searching for the KELLY gang. No mutton being available, Mr WEST offered to help the Police find some wild cattle. Twelve or fourteen miles of steep country were covered without sighting any cattle. The party had crossed the Rose River and were ascending a steep grade when one of the two Police pack-horses fell and broke its shoulder. The horse had to be shot and the Police commandeered Mr WEST's packhorse. Camp was set up at a place called Bull's Head Flat, so named because a bullock's skull had been set up on a stump there. Mr WEST and two Wangaratta troopers named McHENRY and GIBSON explored a little creek, to be rewarded by the sight of a white bull. They followed the beast, confident that he would lead them to a 'camped' mob of wild beasts. Sure enough, the mob was located, and the two troopers dismounted, stalked the cattle and fired a shot that wounded an old cow, which, Mr WEST said, was the poorest in the mob. However, that cow had a big calf, which Mr WEST, who had not dismounted, singled out. He always carried a revolver, to which if desired a long barrel could be screwed, and he shot the calf after a short chase. Having obtained the needed meat, Mr WEST announced his intention of leaving for home, but the Police insisted that he guide them over to the Buffalo River. It was new country to Mr WEST, but he took them over Hunch-back (now Mount Cobbler), where the Dandongadale river had its source at an immense spring and a 200-ft waterfall, under which a horseman could ride and emerge dry. They crossed a ridge and followed a wild cattle pad and smashed through undergrowth down to a creek, but no one knew whether it was Whisky Creek, Brandy Creek or Badger Creek. They found a creek flat 20 or 30 acres in area entirely encompassed by precipitous cliffs, and there they encamped. A policeman expressed the opinion that if alluvial gold was to be found the flat would be the place for it to collect. Mr WEST said he often intended to go back there in after years to look for gold, but had never done so. To return to the story, the party had to ride along the bed of the creek to leave the flat. They followed the stream for some four miles and suddenly realised they had been 'bushed' when they emerged on the Dandongadale river at a point they had left two days before! At that time there was not one settler along the Rose River from Buffalo to the Puzzle Ranges between Whitfield and Mansfield...

*Excerpt taken from article Wangaratta Chronicle
Wednesday October 9, 1935
Courtesy National Library Australia.*

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

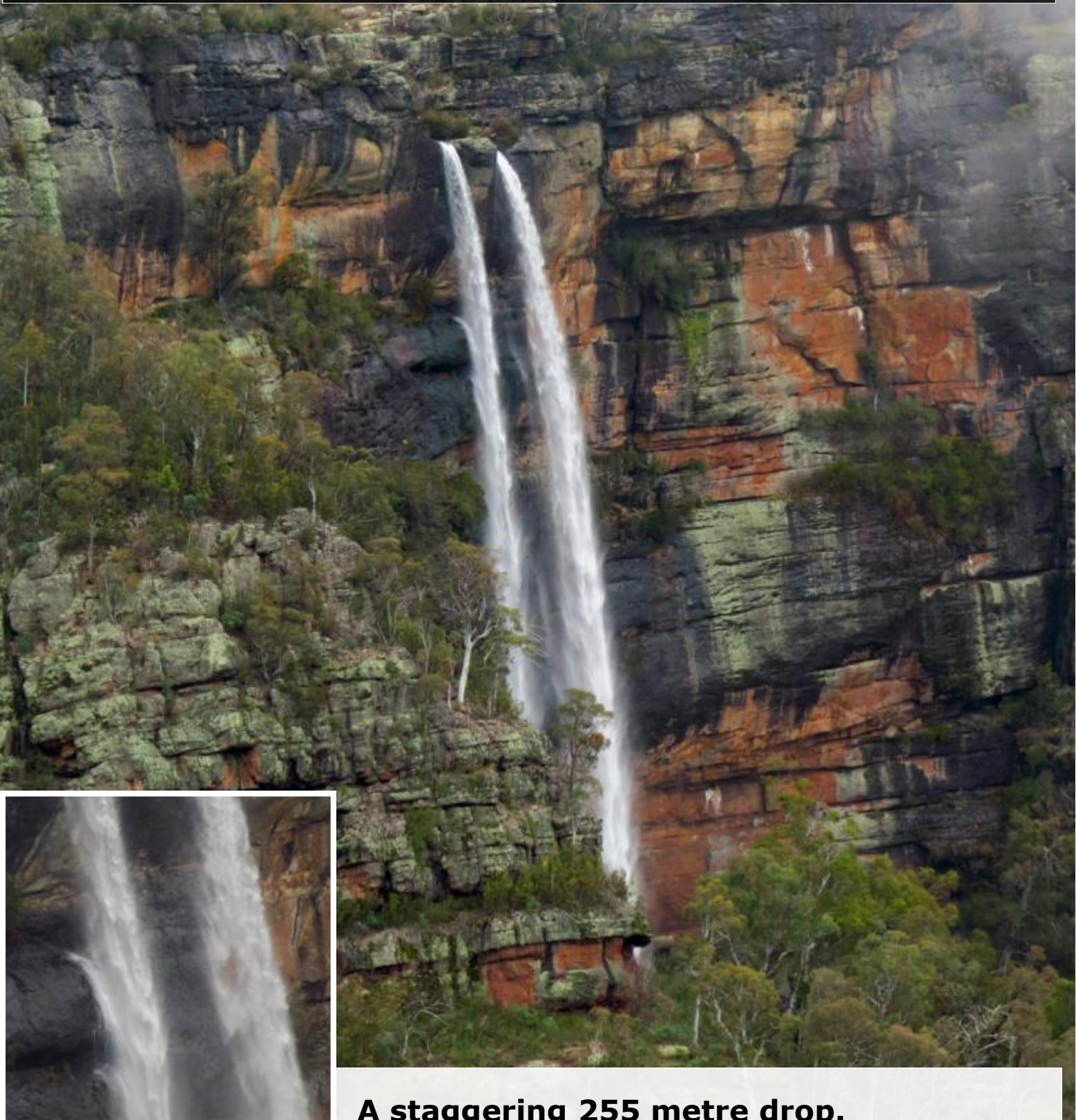
MAP



eSPLASH
MEDIA
MENTIONS

DANDONGADALE FALLS

THE HIGHEST SINGLE DROP WATERFALL IN VICTORIA - 2013



A staggering 255 metre drop.

Dandongadale Falls near Whitfield, are the highest single drop Waterfall in Victoria, and the third highest in Australia. The easiest access is via Mansfield, though a 4x4 is recommended in the wetter months.

Dandongadale Falls drop over a quarter of a kilometre.



The centre single drop Falls.







The Falls are located just outside our District, making it a perfect Daytrip destination.





There are three Waterfalls dropping from the Wabonga Plateau. All three are spectacular during the wetter months. Ensure you have a camera with a long zoom lens to best capture these spectacular Falls.

The Falls can only be viewed from the road to Lake Cobbler. There is sufficient room for 4-6 vehicles.





A close-up of the bottom section of centre Falls. The bottom is not visible.





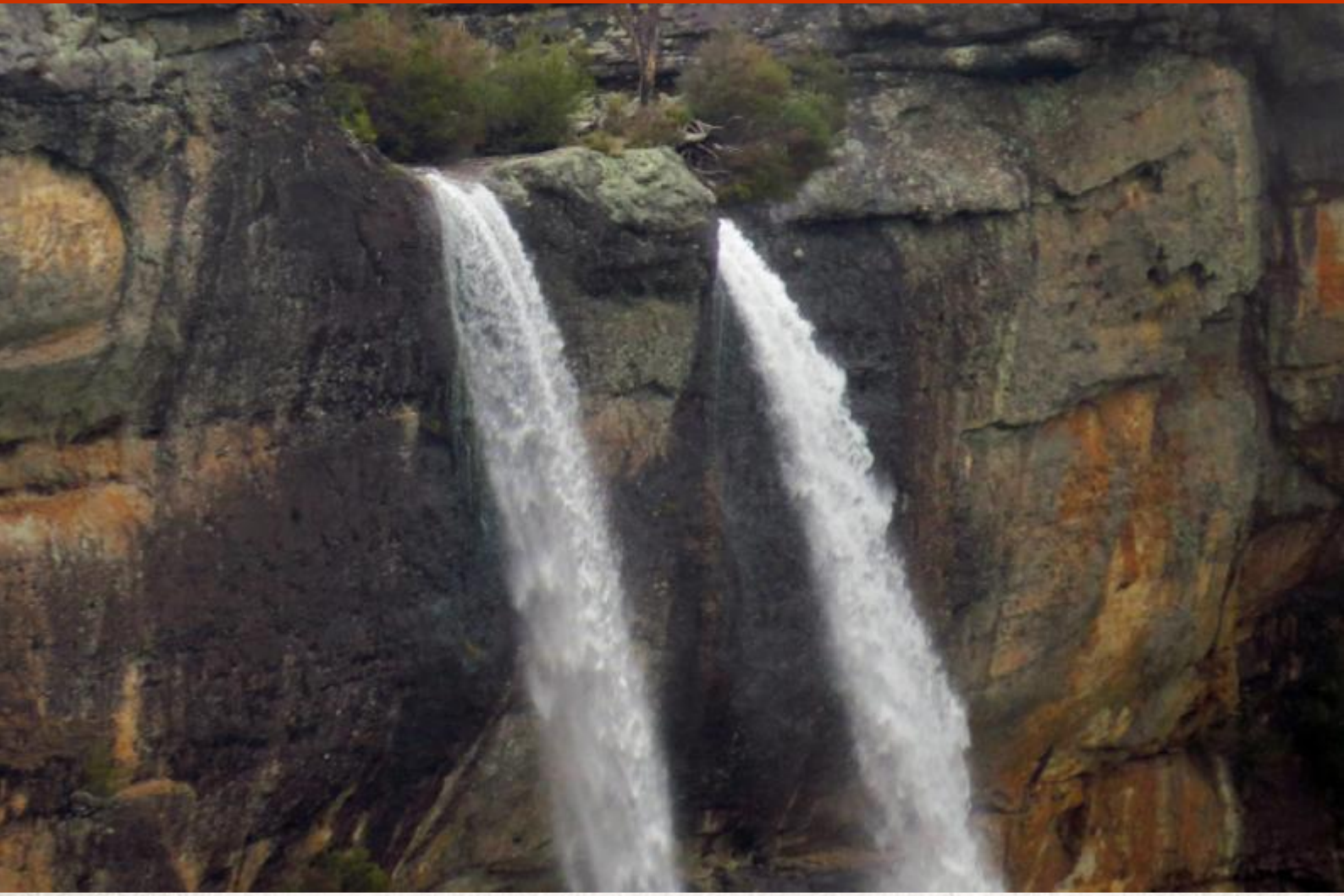
A camping area is located at Lake Cobbler, just a few kilometres further up the track from the Fall's viewing area. Click on the link for the Parks Victoria website detailing the Camping Area.



(Top) The top of the right Falls. (Bottom) The inversed staircase.



The section of the right Falls near the top.







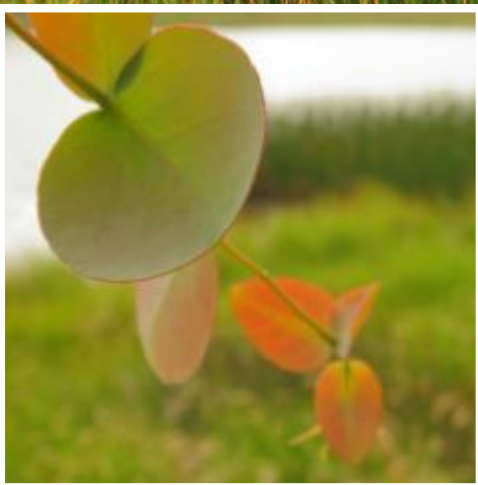
(Top) Rose River, taken from one of the bridges. (Bottom) Valley view on the way up.



(Top) Valley view on the way up. (Bottom) A non-native we found in thick bush.

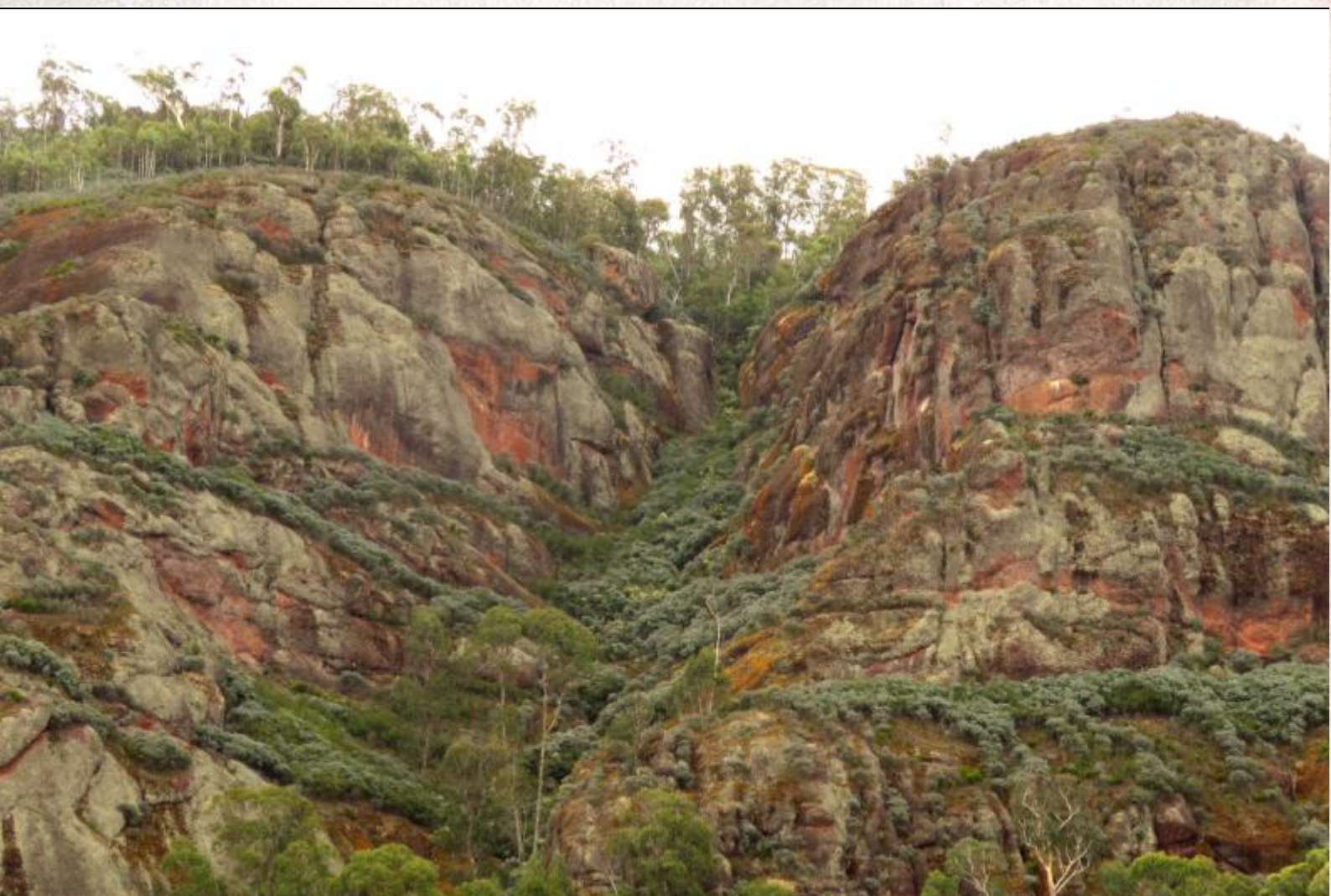
LAKE COBBLER

ABOVE THE HIGHEST SINGLE DROP WATERFALL IN VICTORIA



The beautiful Lake Cobbler.

Lake Cobbler is found just above Dandongadale Falls on the Wabonga Plateau near Whitfield. Access to the lake is 4x4 only and has a lovely camping area and picnic hut built 1986 by the Wangaratta 4WD Club.











Dandongadale Falls located just below Lake Cobbler.

Dandongadale Falls are not always spectacular. This visit was during summer and lacked significant flows, even though it was after moderate rain. The plateau was however beautiful.



Lake Cobbler, above Dandongadale Falls.

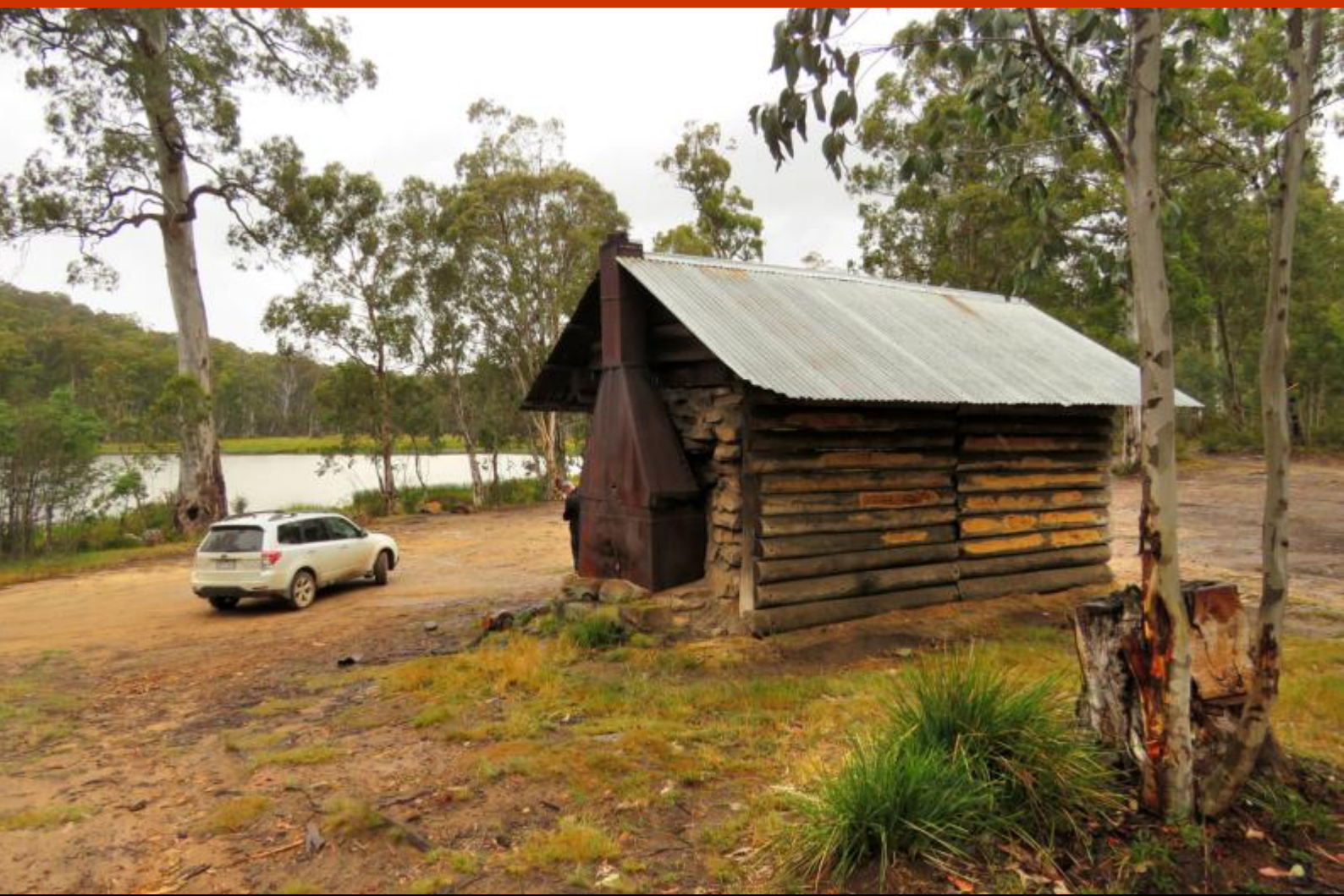




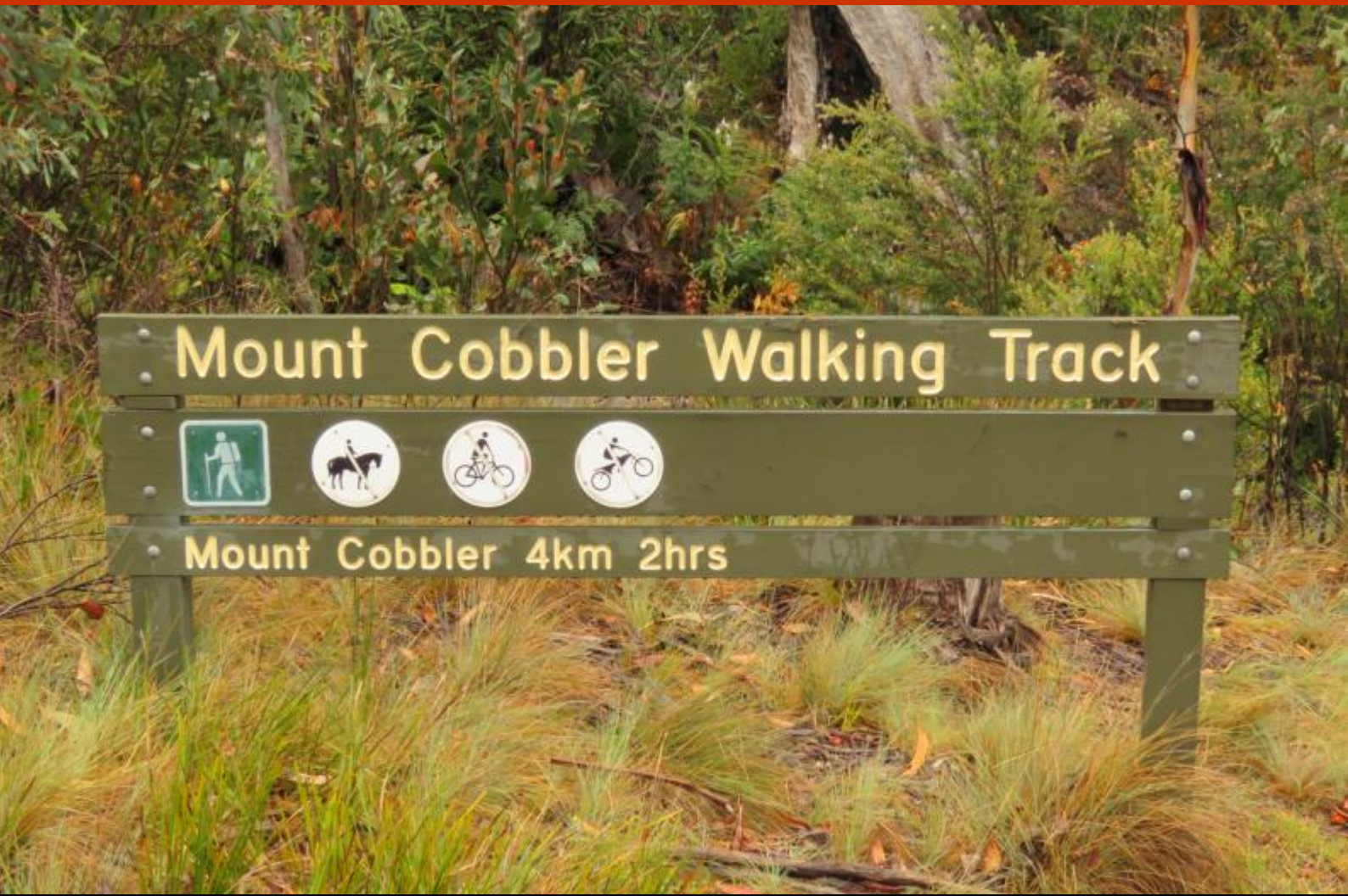
Lake Cobbler. (Inset) Wildflower.



Lake Cobbler hut. (Inset) Colourful tree bark.



Lake Cobbler hut.



Mount Cobbler Walking Tack

4 km - 2 Hours

A 'Mount Cobbler Walking Track' begins at the camping area and hut and takes the walker through lovely bushland. Near the start of the track is a small creek crossing which is especially beautiful after rain (see following pictures). The track is surrounded by wildflowers which are abundant during spring and early summer. Note that this track does not go to the edge of the Wabonga Plateau. Great care should be taken as the track and rocks are slippery when wet.

If you are trekking to the edge of the plateau, please be aware that this area is extremely dangerous and is not recommended for inexperienced hikers or children. Stay on the tracks at all times and avoid getting close to the edge or rocky outcrops. Take care with your footing and ensure you have appropriate footwear and clothing at all times. Always let someone know of your travel plans.

A number of geocaches are located in the area for geocachers to enjoy.



Walk Track creek crossing. (Inset) Exoskeleton.



Walk Track creek crossing.



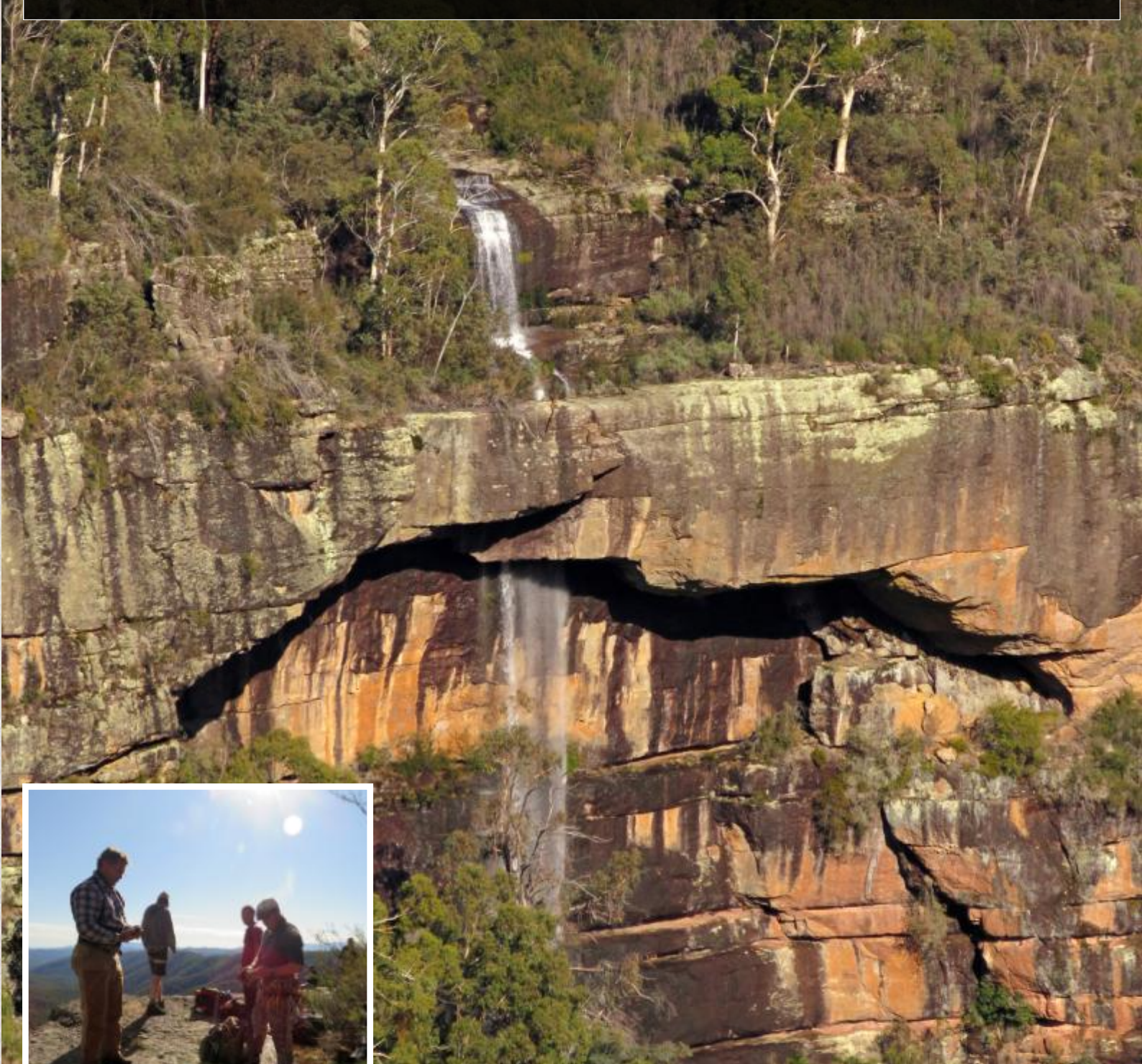






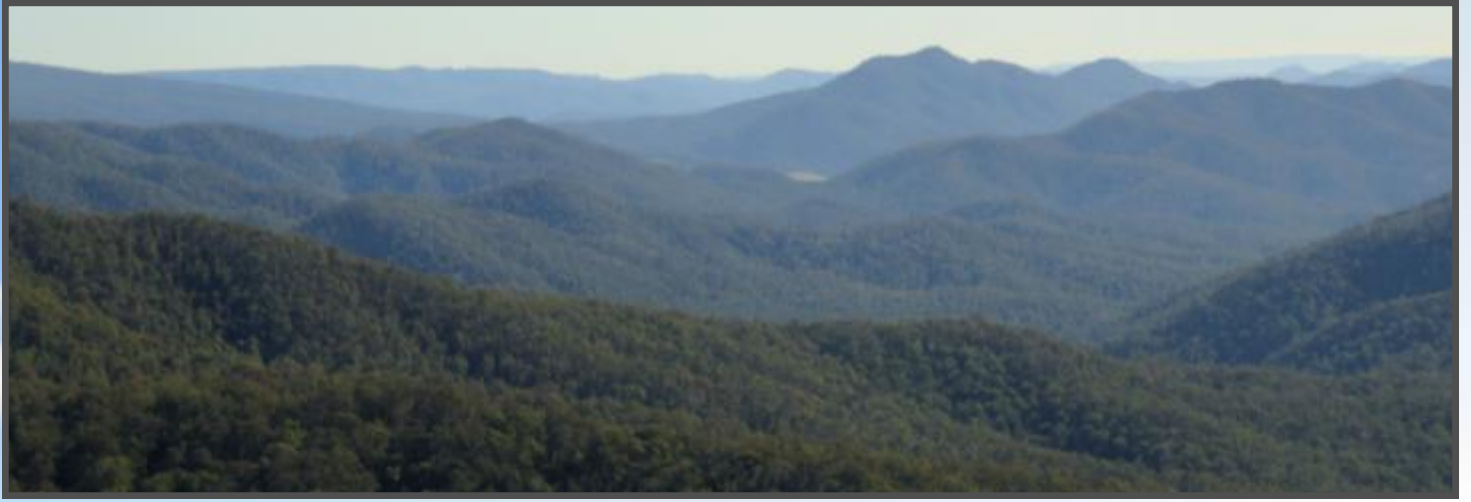
COBBLER PLATEAU WESTERN FALLS

BESIDE DANDONGADALE FALLS - 28 MAY 2016



Beside Victoria's highest waterfall

On 28 May 2016 a group met at Lake Cobbler on the Cobbler (Wabonga) Plateau, to descend the Western Falls (beside Dandongadale Falls) to where the water appears to fall through a hole in a huge rock ledge. I attended to take photographs.

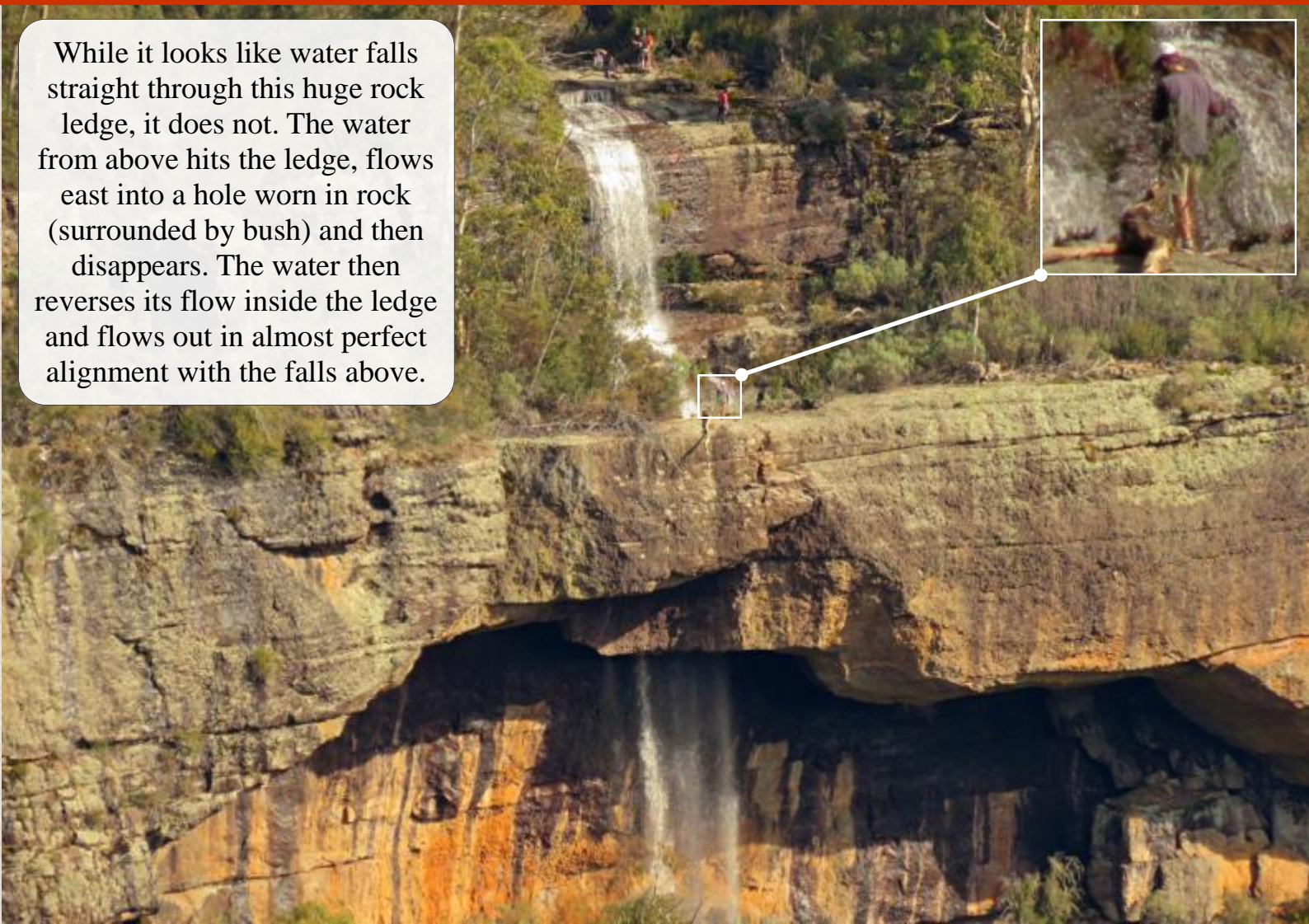




A climber (top left) on the way to the top of the Western Falls.



While it looks like water falls straight through this huge rock ledge, it does not. The water from above hits the ledge, flows east into a hole worn in rock (surrounded by bush) and then disappears. The water then reverses its flow inside the ledge and flows out in almost perfect alignment with the falls above.



The team successfully descended to the enormous rock ledge, however plans to descend over the ledge to the valley below were abandoned due to a lack of time. I took photos of the climbers from a roadside viewing area located over 920 metres away.

Access to the top of the main (Centre) Dandongadale Falls is via a 800 metre walk along a track heading north from Lake Cobbler Hut. Lake Cobbler is 34 km from Whitfield and the gravel road is reasonable grade, however a 4x4 is recommended, especially when it is wet.



(Top) Eight of the nine members of the team. (Bottom) Team members on the rock ledge.





(Top) Inside the cave and behind the falls. (Bottom) Climbing. Photos © Mitchell Hibbert.

TOP OF THE EASTERN FALLS

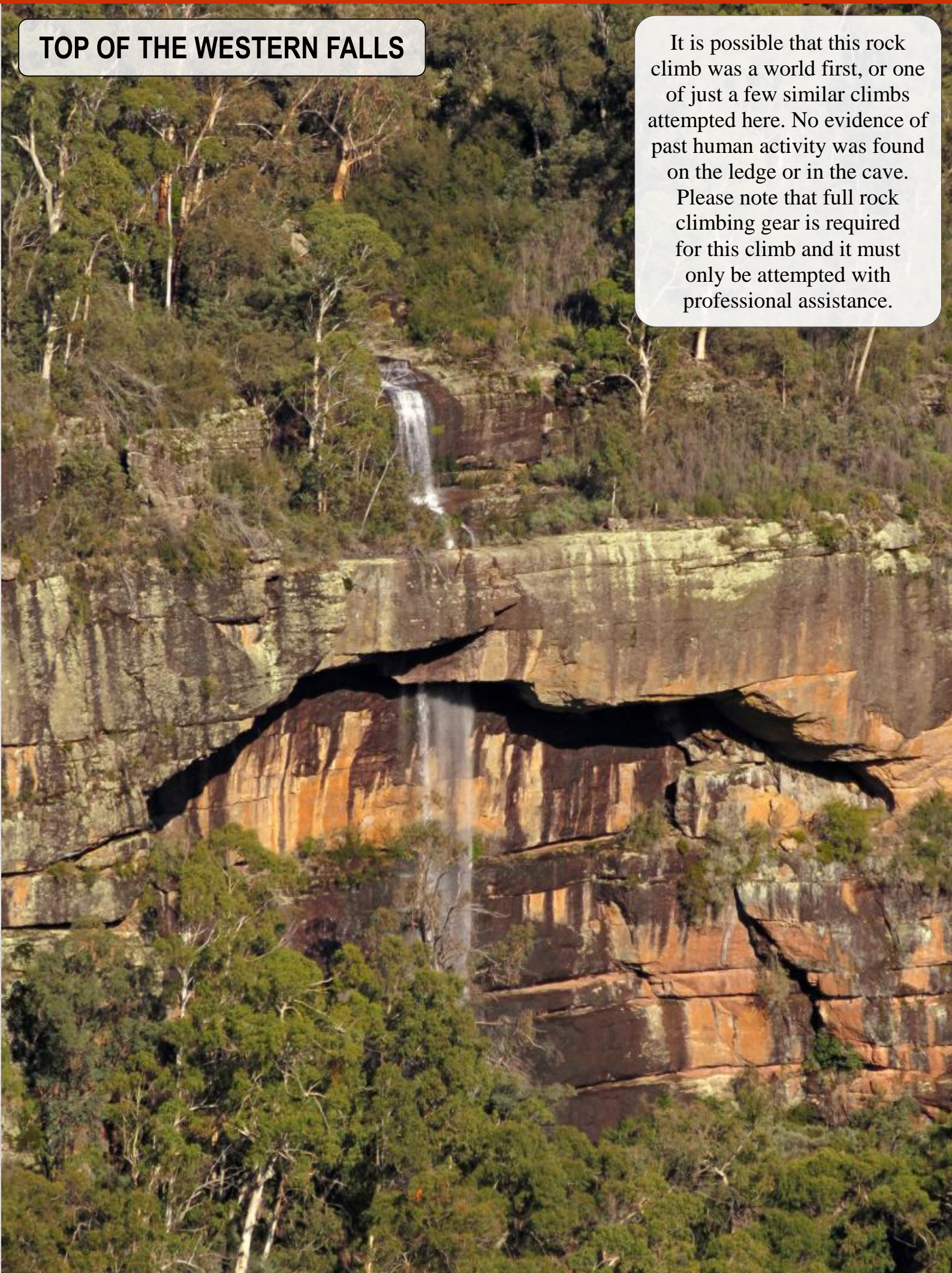


CENTRE FALLS - Dandongadale Falls



TOP OF THE WESTERN FALLS

It is possible that this rock climb was a world first, or one of just a few similar climbs attempted here. No evidence of past human activity was found on the ledge or in the cave. Please note that full rock climbing gear is required for this climb and it must only be attempted with professional assistance.



The ledge is visible here with water passing through it.

DANDONGADALE FALLS

MOUNT COBBLER - 23 OCTOBER 2021



Dandongadale always impresses

My wife and I recently headed deep bush after she expressed interest in revisiting this outstanding waterfall. With the highest single drop of any waterfall in Victoria, and being one of three waterfalls on the plateau, it never ceases to impress us!



Lake Cobbler Road view on the way to Lake Cobbler

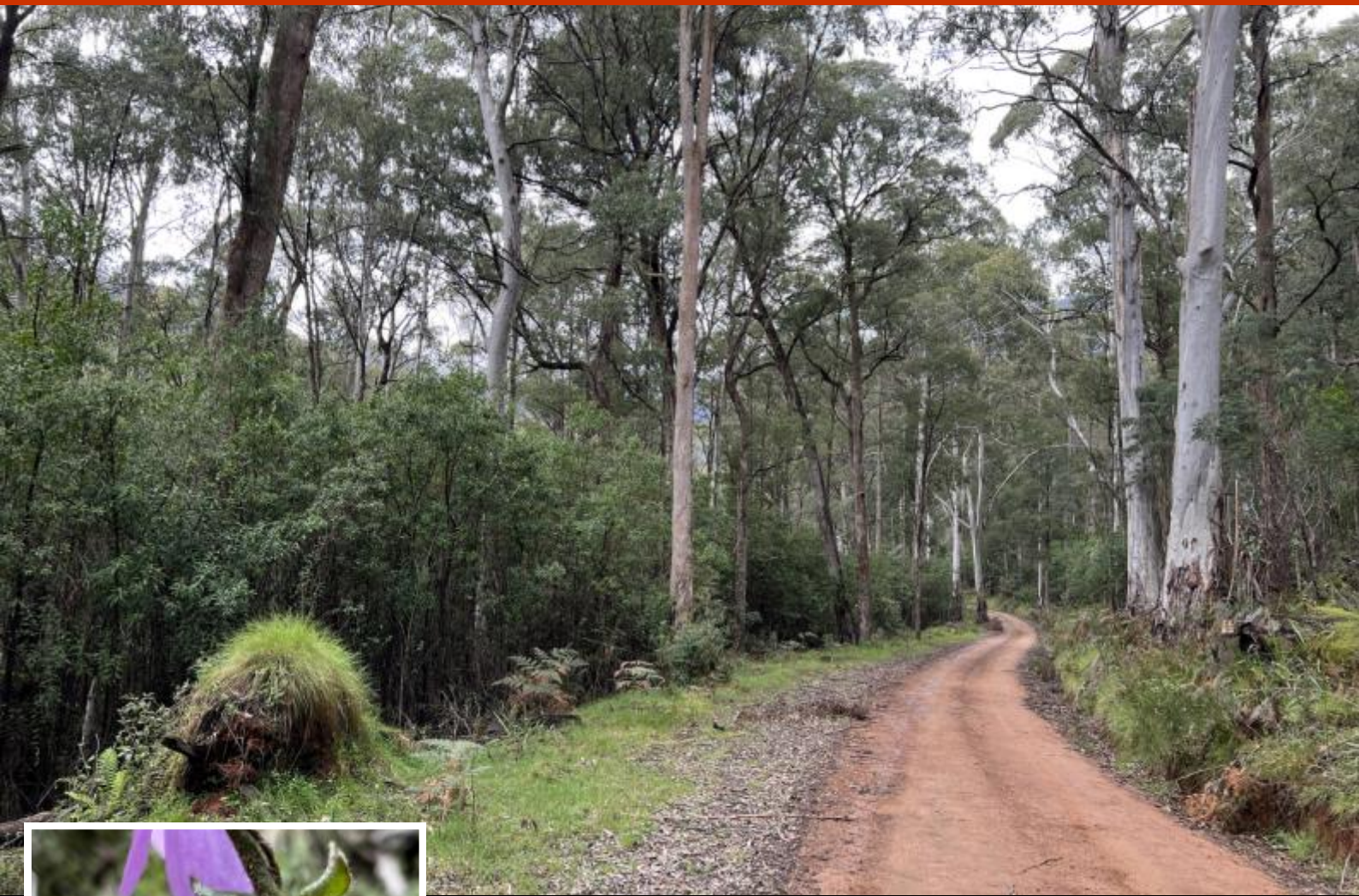
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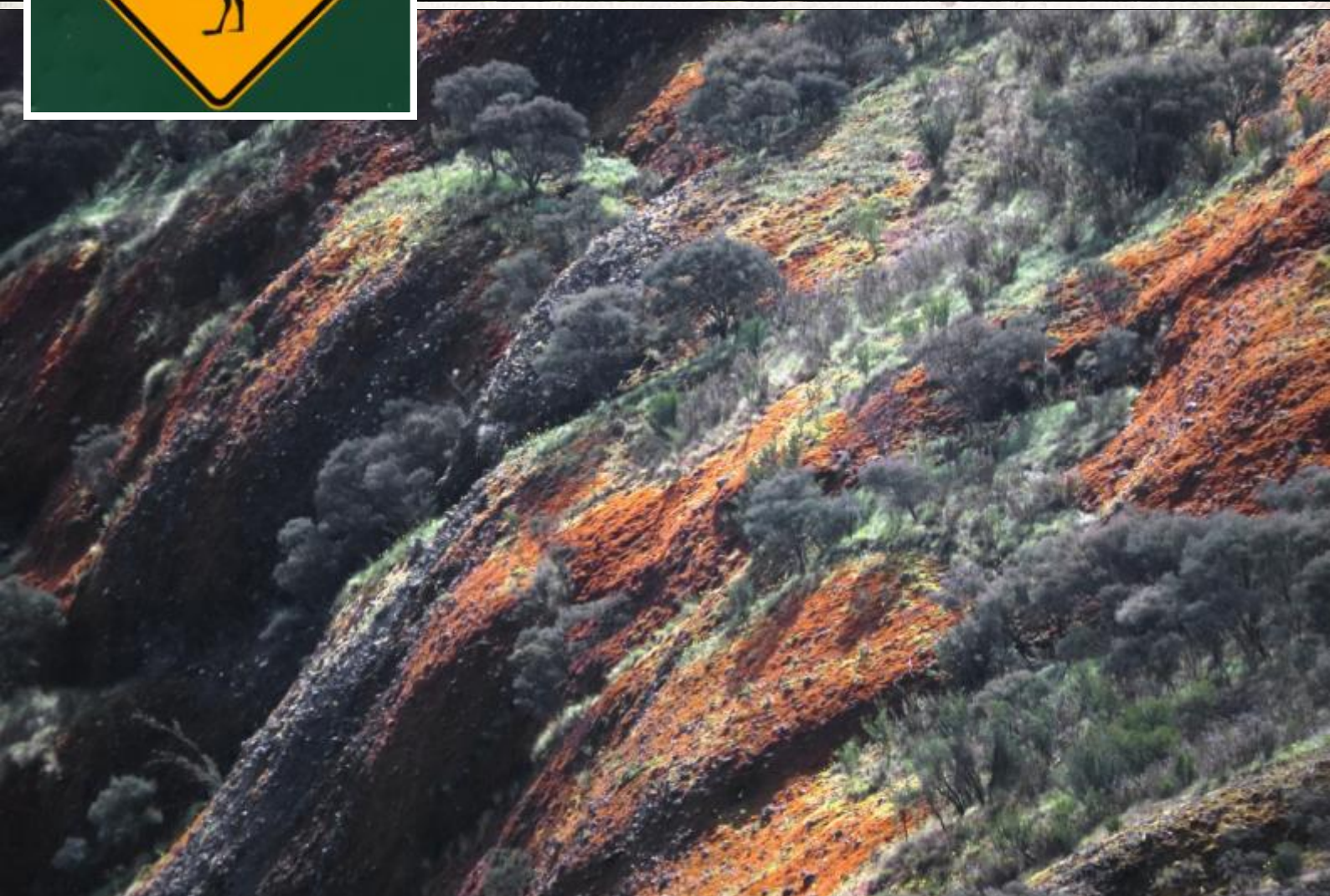


Part of the upper section of the eastern Falls





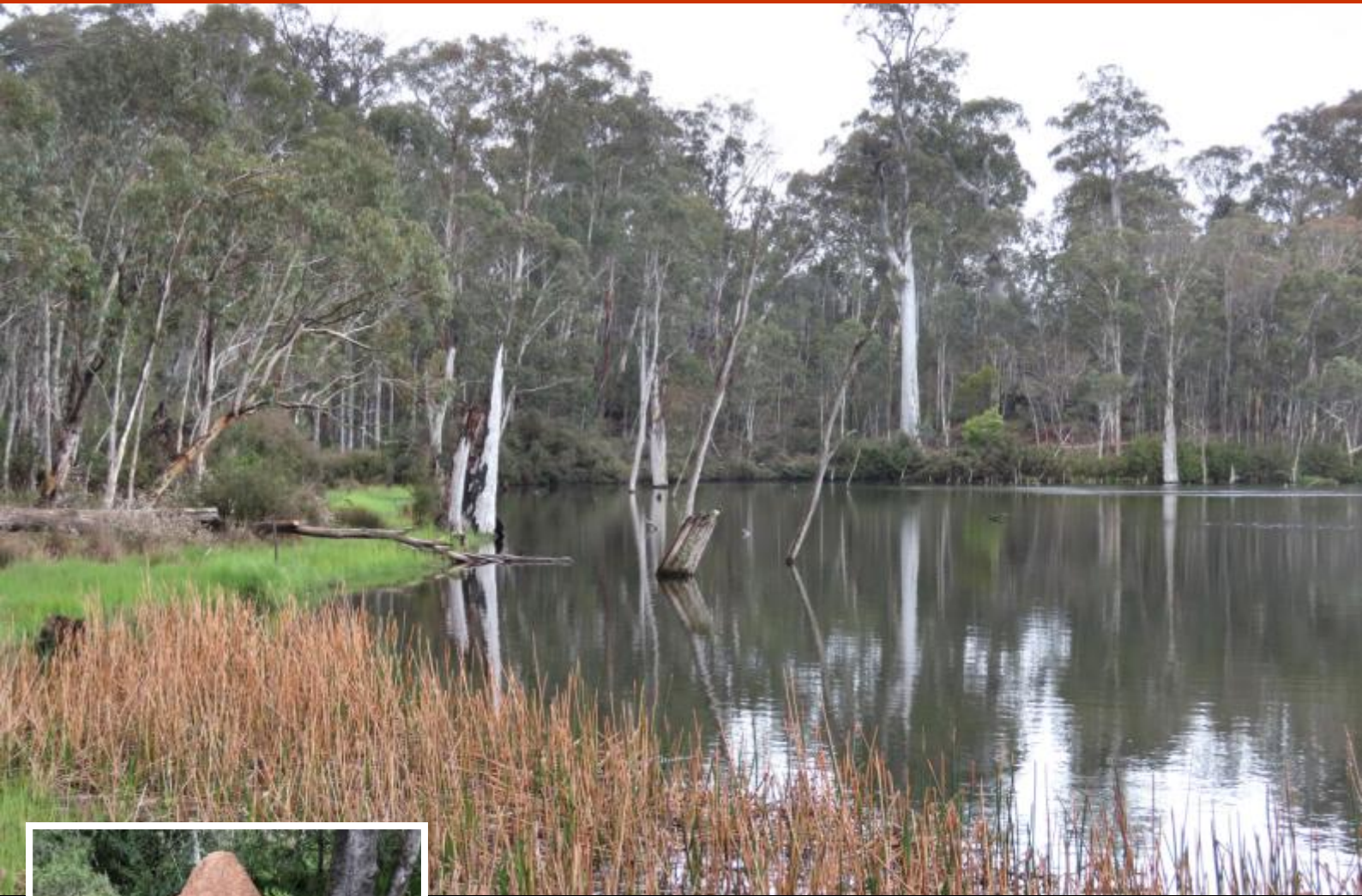






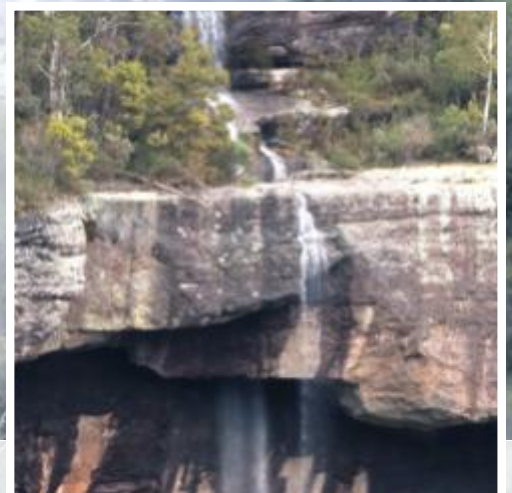
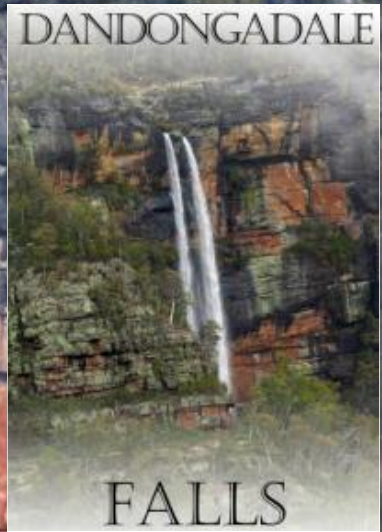
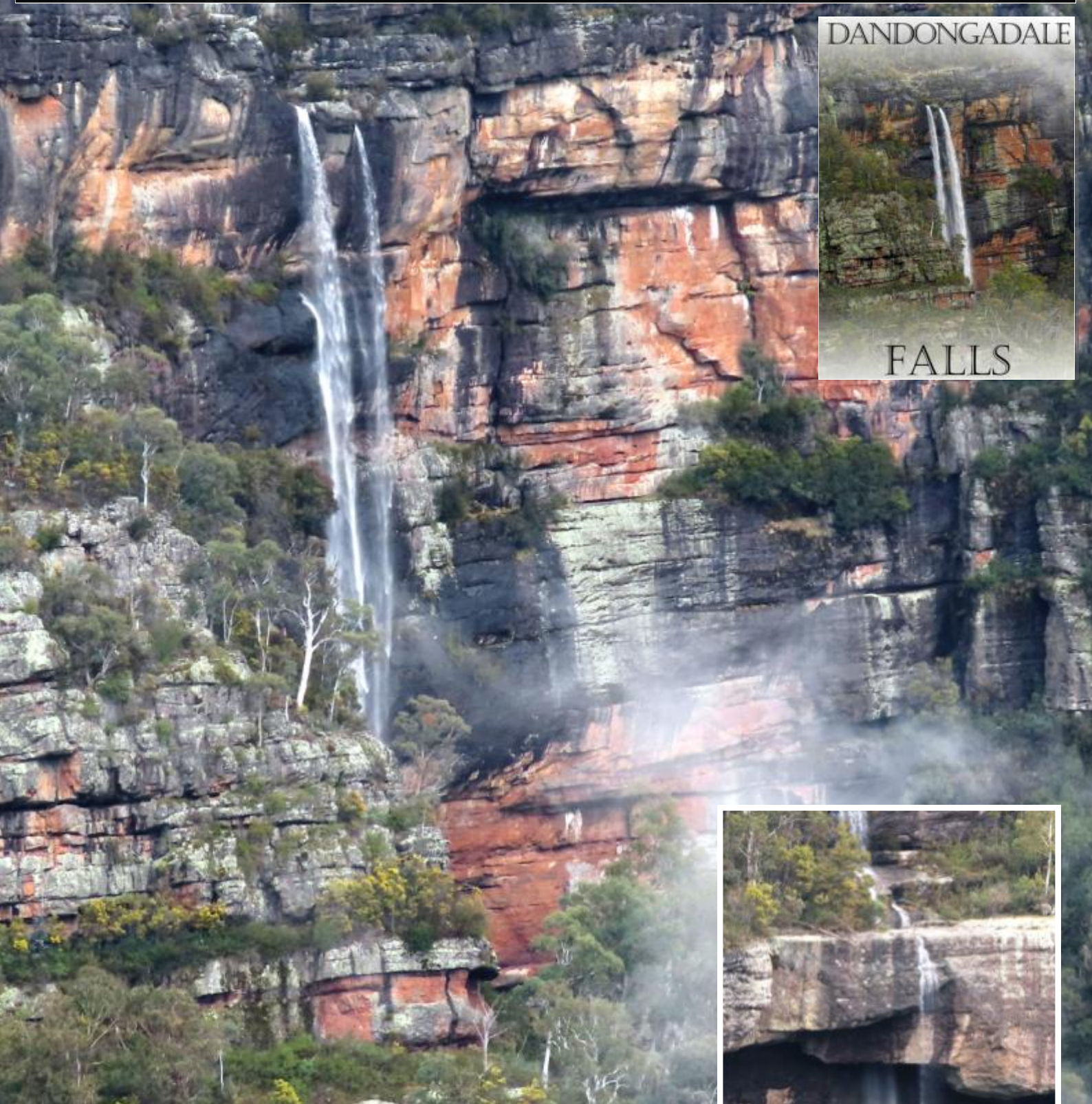


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DANDONGADALE FALLS

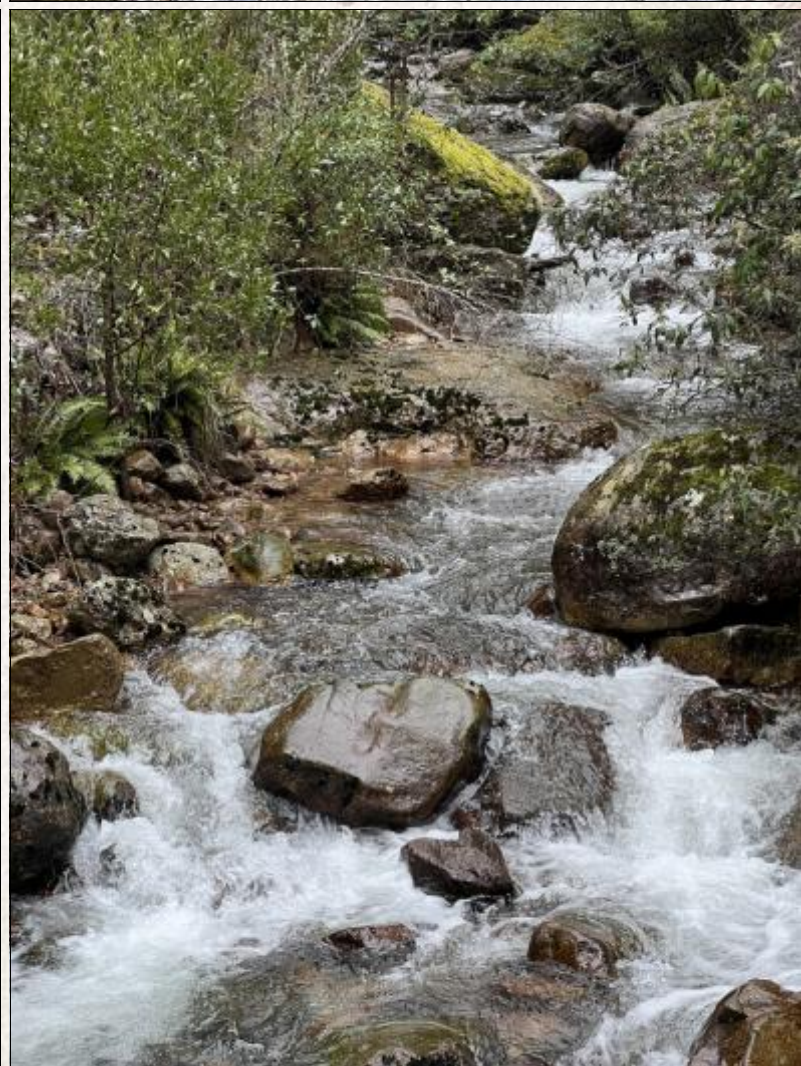
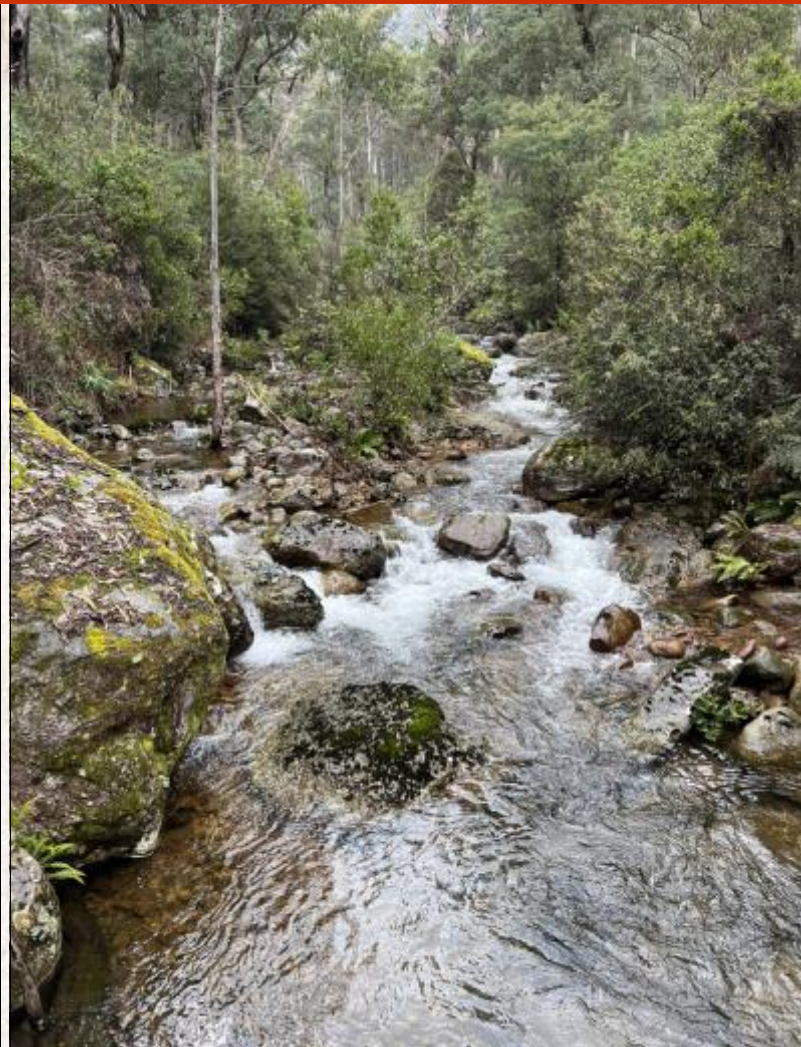
ALPINE NATIONAL PARK - AUGUST 2021

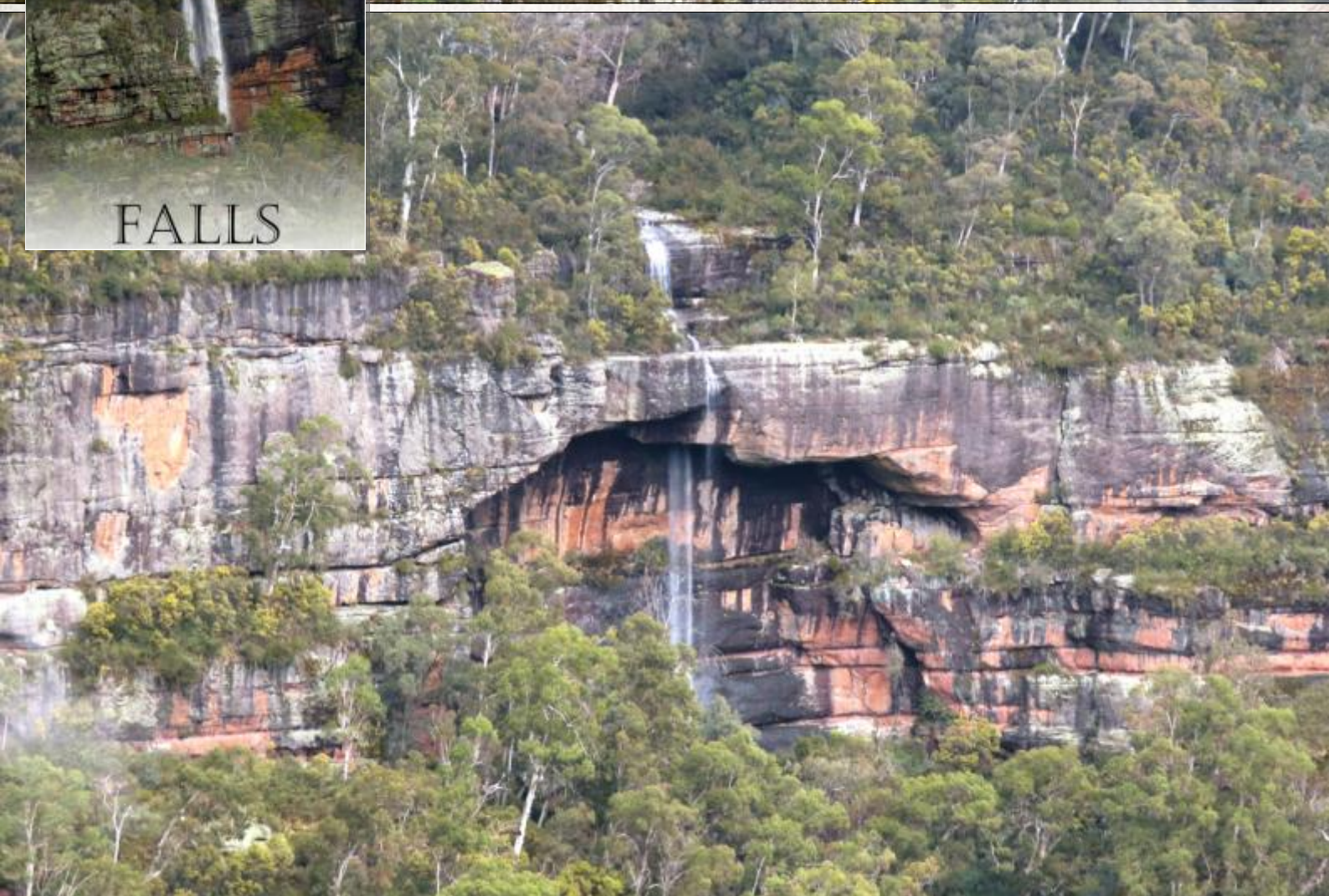
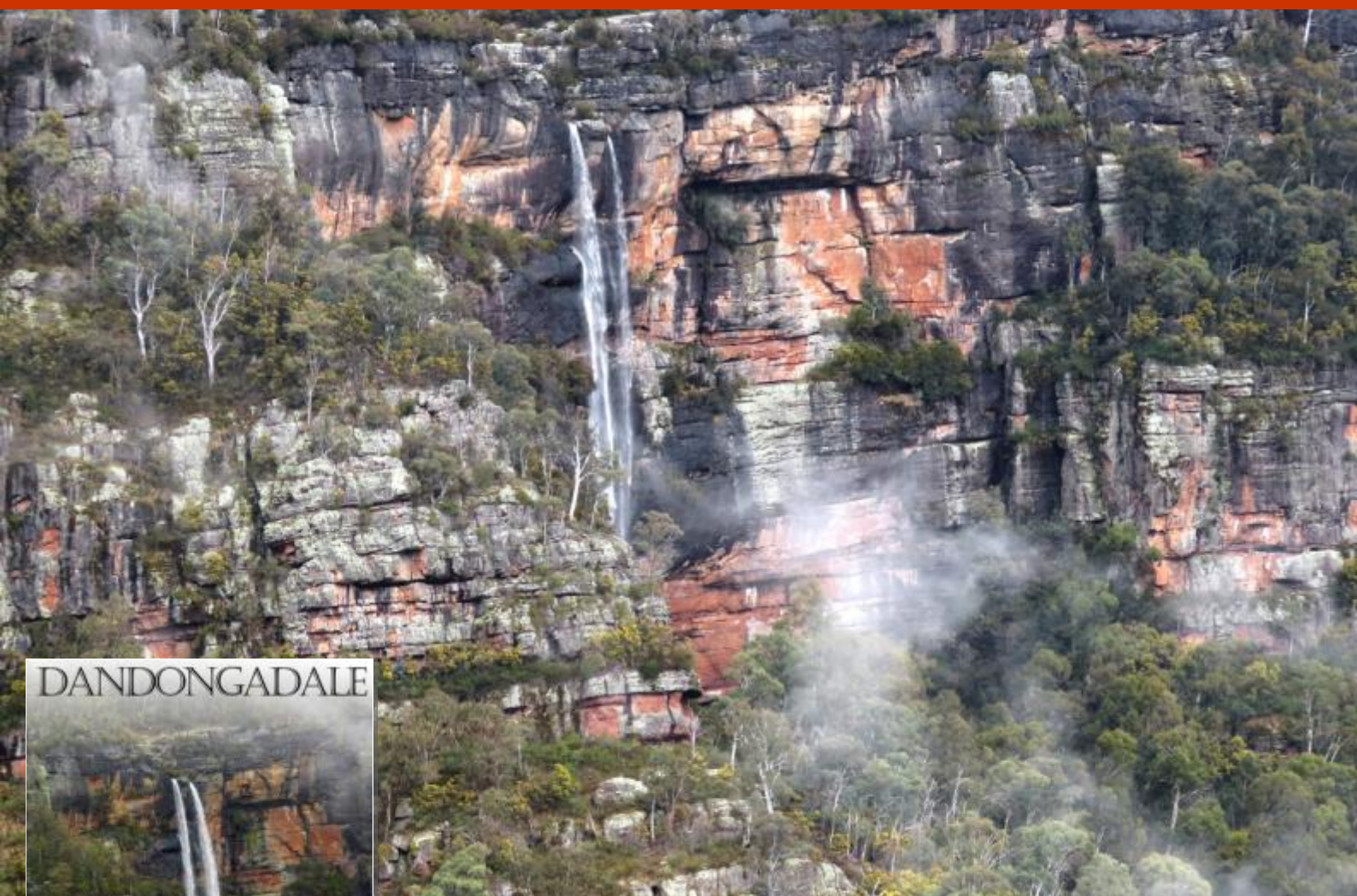


A spectacular waterfall

Recently we visited Dandongadale Falls with friends. It was a wet trip, though the weather held off for the main feature – a view of Victoria's highest waterfall and Australia's third highest single drop waterfall. Lunch at Lake Cobbler was beautiful.













Artworkz

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