



NARBETHONG
WILLIAM

FALLS



**WATERFALL
SERIES**

WILLIAM FALLS

CONTRIBUTORS

Travis Easton
(Author of Melbourne Waterfalls - www.telp.com.au)
National Library Australia

Anthony Carr
Allan Layton
Kathie Maynes
Donovan Wilson
David & Debbie Hibbert

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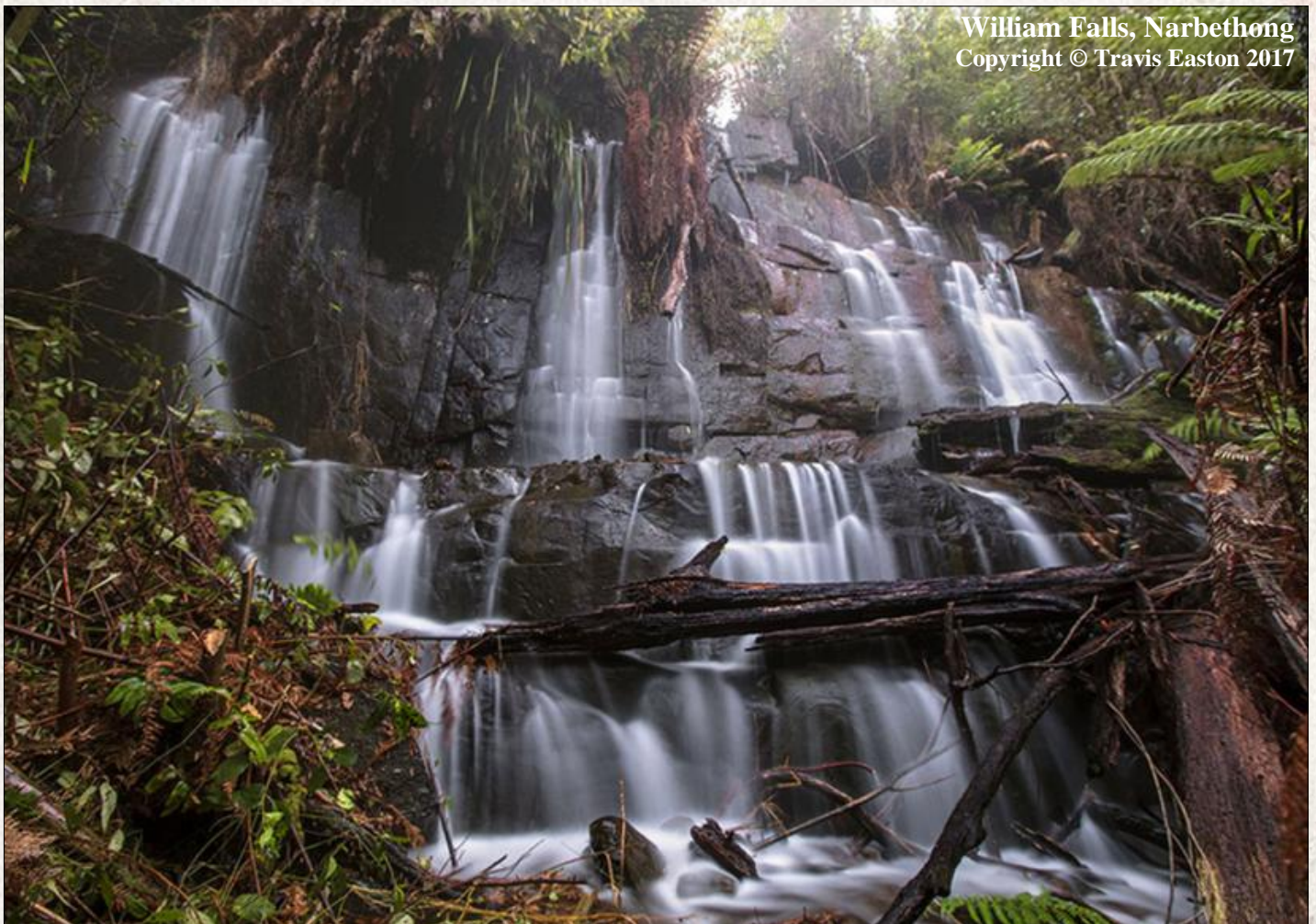
ESPLASH

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

Name: William Falls
Location: Narbethong
Rediscovered: 28 August 2017
Drop: 8.5 m
GPS: S37.497689, E145.614642

William Falls is a medium sized waterfall briefly described in a news article in 1907 and then lost until rediscovered by waterfall expert Travis Easton on 28 August 2017.



William Falls is a medium sized waterfall rediscovered by Victorian waterfall expert Travis Easton on 28 August 2017 after being lost for 110 years. It is located 300 metres from Little Wonder Road, just north of Narbethong, on Williams Creek in the Black Range State Forest. Thanks to an application by Travis, on 6 September 2017 Williams Falls was officially accepted by the official Victorian Register of Geographic Names (VicNames) as 'William Falls', under their modern naming convention.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

There is currently no easy access to William Falls, so those wishing to visit this lovely picturesque waterfall will need to walk through steep bush to do so. The walk is of hard grade and is recommended for experienced bushwalkers only. Correct bush attire is essential and ensure you always let someone know of your travel plans.

History

Very little is known about William Falls apart from it being mentioned in the 26 December 1907 issue of the *Melbourne Punch*, along with the black and white photograph (right). In all, there were three relevant statements in that issue, with each providing more information. One mention references Williams Falls and the Lucknow Guesthouse and the other two reference the Lucknow Guesthouse. All three are reproduced later in this factsheet.

After the 1907 publication, the Falls faded from public knowledge. All efforts by ArtworkzHeritage, the history arm of Artworkz, has failed to unearth anyone who knew of the Falls. Likewise, efforts to uncover any other evidence of the Falls from historic records has



THE WILLIAMS FALLS.
The Newly Discovered Waterfall near "Lucknow,"
Narbethong.

Melbourne Punch
Thursday 26 December 1907
Courtesy National Library Australia

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INTRODUCTION

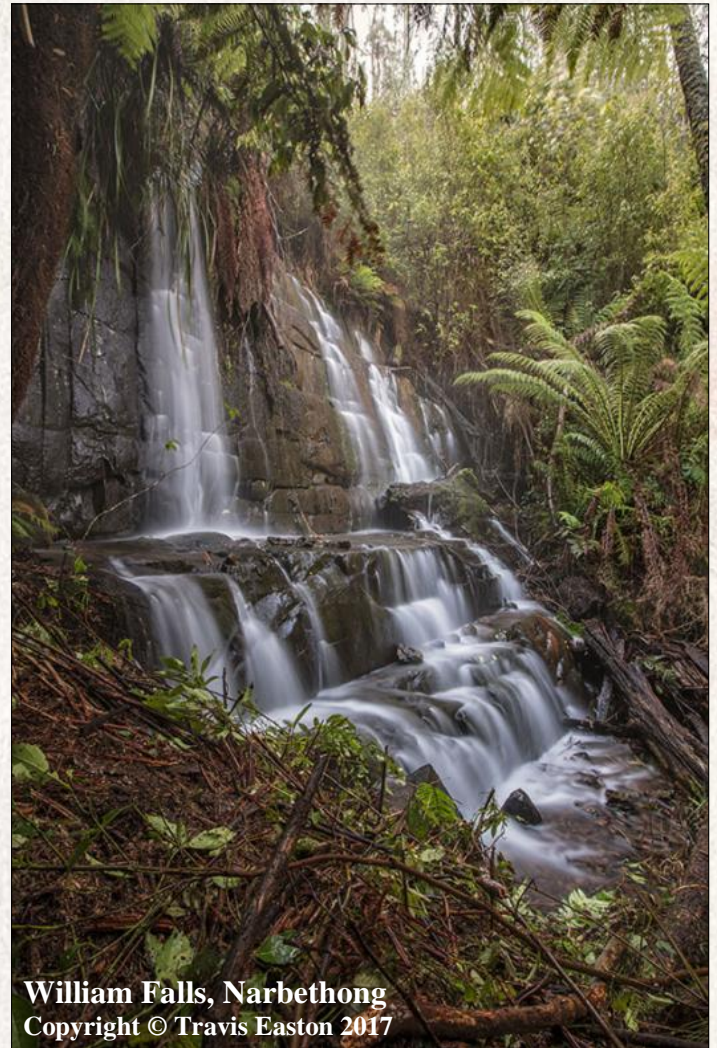
proven fruitless. From our perspective at this time, William Falls had become lost to the tourism industry after 1907 until they were rediscovered by Travis Easton in August 2017.

Re-discovery by Travis Easton

On 6 August, waterfall enthusiast Anthony Carr emailed Travis Easton an advertisement mentioning 'Williams Falls', assuming he already knew of them. But Travis did not, so a search began. Travis conducted his own research, including asking local history group Artworkz if we had any knowledge of the natural attraction. We did not, so Travis commenced planning a trip.

His first investigative trip was halted when an accident on the Black Spur resulted in a road closure. A successful second trip on 21 August 2017 saw him investigating the forest area around where he considered the waterfall was most likely to be found. Then on 28 August 2017 his research and planning paid off! Late in the afternoon he rediscovered William Waterfall and took a series of photographs and measurements of the site. Travis then emailed a photograph showing his discovery and basic measurements to Artworkz, who commenced work on an educational factsheet.

A week later, on 4 September 2017, Travis and good friend Donovan Wilson attended the waterfall to further investigate and photograph the area. It was not until two months later that Artworkz conducted their first photoshoot of the area (8 October 2017). We also found the waterfall to be a beautiful natural water feature on a gorgeous creek, surrounded with lush attractive forest.





HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

For our trip, we parked on the side of Little Wonder Road and descended for around 20 minutes down the ridge, following the sound of falling water. We met Williams Creek at the top of William Falls and after a few minutes of careful descent, we were standing at the base of the Falls.

Visiting William Falls

Because the Falls have only recently been re-discovered, the hike to the Falls has a high degree of difficulty. The waterfall is not currently recognised as a local tourism attraction, so there is no marked starting point, track or track markers and no signage at the Falls. Those wishing to visit the Falls will need to rely solely on GPS data and maps and their bush skills.

While we supply coordinates to the falls, please do not attempt this walk unless you have a high level of competency in thick unforgiving bush, the correct clothing and footwear and a supply of food and fresh water. There is no mobile coverage at the Falls, so again, ensure you let someone know of your travel plans.

GPS Locations

Park on Little Wonder Road: S37.498028, E145.612194
William Falls: S37.497689, E145.614642



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INTRODUCTION

The Naming of Williams Creek and William Falls

While the falls were named Williams (with an 's') in the 1907 news article, as are the nearby Williams Lane and the Williams Creek on which the falls are located, in keeping with modern day naming conventions, the falls are registered as 'William Falls'.

While it is logical to conclude that the waterfall was named after someone with the surname 'Williams', it is not known how the naming came about, or who it was named after. The naming was never officially adopted and was never broadly used. What we do know is that during the late 1800s and early 1900s there were numerous people in the Narbethong area who shared the 'Williams' name, and they worked in various occupations.

For instance, Mr A Williams is mentioned in the local media in April of 1905 after he won the 18 inch standing block and the 15 inch underhand events at wood chopping. However he is not currently considered noteworthy enough to have had the creek and waterfall named after him. The Electoral Roll tells us that there was an Arthur Williams and a Henry Williams in the area in 1906, but little is known about either of them. A contractor by the name of Ernest R Williams was in the area by 1915, however Williams Falls had already been mentioned in the media by this time.

While we may never know for sure who Williams Falls was named after, we do suggest three noteworthy considerations below:

1. William Williams (William Snr)

According to newspaper reports, William Williams Snr was living at Narbethong by 1895 and was still in the area in 1905 when he was listed on the Electoral Roll. He was an active participant in local affairs, a learned man, and someone who was well regarded in his local community.

After having his earlier land resumed by the Metropolitan Board of Works as part of the water reserve for the Maroondah Dam, William Williams Snr was granted a licence for eight acres of land in the Parish of Narbethong in March 1895. Later that year, in October



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1895, we find him objecting to Mr Roche taking metal from Old Marysville Coach Road, which also served as the access to a block of land he owned and intended to build upon. This places William's block South-East of the hotel.

Two years later, in February 1897, he was conducting a Church of England funeral service, confirming he was a Godly man and a lay preacher. In May 1905 we find that a Rev. W Williams assisted at a wedding of Mr Walter Herbert Robinson (youngest son of Mr Henry Robinsons, of Thornton Station) and Miss Una Scott (only daughter of the Vicar of Alexandra, held at Alexandra). It is possible that this could be William Williams Snr of Narbethong, though this is yet to be confirmed. Further, for the sake of avoiding confusion, a Rev. W A Williams served at St Johns Church, Alexandra from 1828 to 1931.

2. William Ernest Williams (William Jnr)

Another candidate is William's son William Ernest Williams. In May 1900 we learn that William Jnr had already passed the examination and selection for the Bushmen's Contingent for the Boer war, having left in March as part of the Third Contingent to South Africa. The timing indicates he was serving in the Second Boer War (a war fought between 11 October 1899 and 31 May 1902).

In an article published in the *Alexandra Standard* in May 1900, we are told that his father (William Snr) had an excellent photograph of his son William Jnr serving in South Africa. The same newspaper article makes mention of the horse presented to him (William Jnr) by the Public of Alexandra for active service in South Africa. The decision to gift the horse to Private Williams Jnr was decided by a committee who had met at the Alexandra Shire Hall in early 1900. William Jnr later described the gifted horse in a letter to his parents (and published in the *Alexandra Standard*) as 'a beauty', and went on to say that he was 'delighted with him'.

In January 1901 we learn that Trooper William Williams arrived back at Narbethong from South Africa. He had been invalidated, arriving back in Australia on 5 January 1901. In July 1901 William Jnr wrote to the Editor of the Argus newspaper regarding Returned Soldiers in a letter that was both long and well written.

In a letter dated 25 September 1901, sent to *The Argus* and signed 'Ex Trooper—W E Williams, Narbethong', William Jnr wrote about the lack of employment for



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Returned Soldiers. He wrote a further letter dated 30 September 1901 to *The Argus* highlighting the plight for returned soldiers who were struggling to secure meaningful work.

In December 1901 William Jnr was granted license for 406 acres of land in the Parish of Granton. In January 1904 William Jnr wrote a letter to the Shire of Healesville regarding the work he had done to the Narbethong Road, arguing his remuneration was too low. In August 1906 a reference is found regarding an old resident of Narbethong (Patrick Duggan) being lost in the bush and last being seen at William's selection, around six miles from Narbethong. In December 1907 we learn that the 2400 acre 'lot 128' in the Parish of Narbethong was located between the southern boundary of Granton (in the Victorian State Forest) and the Acheron River and Fishers Creek, excluding blocks owned by Baldwin, Williams and Atcheson.

In March 1918 Williams Jnr wrote a letter of complaint regarding the need for a road to his property in the Parish of Granton. He also referenced the need for a bridge over Stony Creek and how he had written to the Shire three times in five months. Stony Creek is in the modern day Granton Plantation, where Williams Creek is also found. Stony Creek joins Bullyard Creek north west of St Fillans, which then joins the Acheron River near the old Lucknow farm (now Valley Farm).

Whilst continuing to work the 406 acre farm, William jnr was also working as a journalist in Melbourne by the outbreak of World War I. After enlistment in December 1914, he served at Gallipoli as a Sergeant with the 3rd Light Horse Brigade and was invalided home in June 1916. Living in Camberwell, he unsuccessfully contested the Evelyn electorate in the 1920 state election. He stood as representing farming interests, including the need for a railway from Healesville to Narbethong. He was later elected unopposed to Healesville Council (which covered the Granton, Marysville & Narbethong parishes at the time.) Sadly he took his own life in 1921.

3. Mary Ann Lawrence Williams

A final candidate for the naming of Williams Falls is Mary Ann Lawrence Williams, wife of early Narbethong resident Charlie Williams.

Mary was born in England in 1828 and arrived at Geelong, Australia on with her first



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husband Henry Edward Gordon Close on 1 November 1852. They settled in Narbethong (then named Nar-Be-Thong) in 1868 and it was later reported that from the time of her arrival, she never journeyed outside of the district. Her first husband Henry Edward Gordon Close died in 1868 and Mary was eventually granted probate of Henry's estate in May 1874. According to Births Deaths and Marriages, she married her second husband Charles Williams on 1 January 1870.

By 23 December 1875 Charlie was advertising accommodation in *The Argus*, under the title 'Switzerland of Victoria', Nar-be-thong. The property was described as being between Black Spur and Marysville, and the advertisement also stated that the property had good furnishings and that board was optional. The 20 acre property was located on the northern outskirts of Narbethong, which was in the parish of Granton. This was just a few hundred yards from the Black Spur Inn, which still operates to this day. In 1878 Charlie of Nar-be-thong applied for a licence (under section 19, 47, 49 and 56 of the Land Act 1869), which was approved (Government Gazette, Monday 9 September 1878). Sadly in April 1884 Mary's second husband Charlie died.

Locally, Mary was known as a tireless worker for the community. She was an enthusiastic worker for the Red Cross and made innumerable articles for soldiers serving overseas. She was well known in the District, serving as the Post Mistress at Narbethong for 34 years (making her one of the longest serving post-mistresses in Victoria). Narbethong was connected by telephone to Healesville from at least 1894. One of her most proudest moments was meeting the then King (Duke of York) during his Royal visit to the district in 1901.

Mary died at Narbethong on Tuesday 24 August 1920 (aged 92) after falling ill. Dr Hutchinson of Healesville was summoned and attending to her needs leading up to her unfortunate death. It was reported that up until this time she had been blessed with remarkable health, as well as possessing all of he faculties until her end. When Mary passed aged 92, she had lived at Narbethong for 40 years. She was buried on Wednesday 25 August, the day after her passing, after a service was conducted by Rev. T Wilkinson of the Church of England.

TIMELINE

BASIC TIMELINE OF EVENTS



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

- Circa 1907** William Falls was discovered. It was referenced on 26 December 1907 as being 'newly discovered'.
- 26 December 1907** Three relevant statements appeared in the one issue of the *Melbourne Punch* newspaper. One statement referenced William Falls and the Lucknow Guesthouse, while the other two gave further information about the Lucknow Guesthouse and its location.
- 6 August 2017** Waterfall enthusiast Anthony Carr emailed Waterfall Expert Travis Easton a link of 'The Williams Falls' presuming that he would know of them. He did not.
- 14 August 2017** Travis Easton contacted Artworkz to see if we knew where 'Lucknow' and Williams falls were, as per the caption on the 1907 picture of said falls, printed in the *Melbourne Punch*.
- 21 August 2017** Travis Easton conducted an initial search of the area to try to work out the most likely location for the falls.
- 28 August 2017** The William Falls was rediscovered by waterfall expert Travis Easton during an afternoon search along Williams Creek for the falls.
- 30 August 2017** Artworkz commenced work on this factsheet.
- 2 September 2017** Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) made aware of Williams Falls.
- 4 September 2017** Travis Easton and Donovan Wilson conducted another photoshoot at William Falls.
- 6 September 2017** William Falls was accepted by VicNames as the official name for the waterfall after being submitted by Travis Easton.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

7 October 2017

Artworkz conducted a photoshoot of William Falls.

13 October 2017

The eSplash183 was published and featured the discovery of William Falls by Travis Easton as its main feature.

GALLERY

RELATED IMAGERY

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



**William Falls at Narbethong on 28 August 2017 on the day
they were re-discovered by Travis Easton**

Photograph © Travis Easton 2017

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



William Falls on 4 September 2017

Photograph © Travis Easton 2017

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



William Falls on 4 September 2017

Photograph © Travis Easton 2017

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

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William Falls on 4 September 2017

Photograph © Travis Easton 2017

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William Falls on 4 September 2017

Photograph © Travis Easton 2017

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William Falls on 4 September 2017

Photograph © Travis Easton 2017

NEWSPAPERS

RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NEWSPAPERS



THE WILLIAMS FALLS.

The Newly Discovered Waterfall near "Lucknow,"
Narbethong.

Melbourne Punch
Thursday 26 December 1907
Courtesy National Library Australia

The Williams Falls near Lucknow, Narbethong

Melbourne Punch - Thursday 26 December 1907
Courtesy National Library Australia 2017



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NEWSPAPERS

Some of our readers doubtless know the joys of salmon fishing, that king of sport the lagging minutes of expectancy, as gracefully the tempting "fly" kisses the surface of the restless stream, or perchance alights above the eyes of some proud monarch of the pool, the momentary gleam of silvery scales, the sudden rush, the jerk, and the whirr of the reel, as the good rod bends to the taut line whistling through the rings! What happy moments do these days recall? and yet again what chagrin, when, maybe, by some false step, a broken line flies in the rodsman's face. Though every attempt to acclimatise this beautiful fish in Australia has failed, remarkable success has marked the introduction of the English trout, and the most ardent disciple of Sir Isaak Walton could scarce complain of the fishing to be had in some of our streams. Without going a long journey, the river Acheron, beyond Narbethong, probably offers better sport than any other stream, and enthusiastic fly-fishers will welcome the news that they may secure a quiet retreat on the banks of this favourite stream, with the prospect of good baskets of the "speckled beauties."

Mr. Joseph Yeates, of "Lucknow," some three and a-half miles beyond Narbethong, advertises in this issue, and any of our readers interested should not fail to "cast him a line."

Melbourne Punch
Thursday 26 December 1907
Courtesy National Library Australia

The Williams Falls near Lucknow, Narbethong

Melbourne Punch - Thursday 26 December 1907
Courtesy National Library Australia 2017



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NEWSPAPERS

FISHERMEN!

ARE YOU IN SEARCH OF ENGLISH TROUT?
If so, drop a line to

J. Yeates, "Lucknow," Narbethong,
AND ARRANGE FOR A GOOD DAY WITH "THE
SPECKLED BEAUTIES."

Melbourne Punch
Thursday 26 December 1907
Courtesy National Library Australia

The Williams Falls near Lucknow, Narbethong

Melbourne Punch - Thursday 26 December 1907
Courtesy National Library Australia 2017

eSPLASH
MEDIA
ARTICLES

ARTICLES FROM THE eSPLASH eMAGAZINE

WILLIAM FALLS

NARBETHONG - 17 OCTOBER 2017

PUBLISHED ESPLASH183 - 13 OCTOBER 2017

DEPARTMENT:

DELWP

MINISTERS:

LISA NEVILLE

NATALIE HUTCHINS

RICHARD WYNNE



An amazing re-discovery of an old gem

On 28 August, Victorian waterfall expert Travis Easton re-discovered Williams Falls after it was lost to the community for 110 years. He made a second trip on 4 September 2017 and took this amazing photograph which he shared with us.



WILLIAM FALLS

Narbethong

William Falls is a medium sized waterfall rediscovered by Victorian waterfall expert Travis Easton on 28 August 2017, after being lost for 110 years. It is located 300 metres from Little Wonder Road, just north of Narbethong, on Williams Creek in the Black Range State Forest.

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There is currently no easy access to William Falls, so those wishing to visit this picturesque waterfall will need to walk through steep thick bush to do so. The walk is of hard grade and is recommended for experienced bushwalkers only. Correct bush attire is essential, let someone know of your travel plans and avoid hiking on days of high fire danger.

History

Little is known about William Falls apart from it being mentioned in the 26 December 1907 issue of the *Melbourne Punch*, along with the black and white photograph shown on the previous page. In all, there were three relevant statements in that issue, with each providing more information. One mention references Williams Falls and the Lucknow Guesthouse and the other two reference the Lucknow Guesthouse. All three are reproduced in our factsheet for your easy viewing.

After the 1907 advertisements were published, Williams Falls faded from public knowledge. All efforts by ArtworkzHeritage, the history arm of Artworkz, has failed to unearth anyone who knew of the Falls. Likewise, efforts to uncover any other evidence of the Falls from





historic records has proven fruitless. From our perspective at this time, William Falls had become lost to tourism after 1907, until rediscovered by Travis Easton in August 2017.

Re-discovery by Travis Easton

On 6 August, waterfall enthusiast Anthony Carr emailed Travis Easton an advertisement mentioning 'Williams Falls', assuming he already knew of them. But Travis did not, so a search began. Travis conducted his own research, including asking local history group Artworkz if we had any knowledge of the natural attraction. We did not, so Travis commenced planning a trip.

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For our trip, we parked on the side of Little Wonder Road and descended for around 20 minutes down the ridge, following the sound of falling water. We met Williams Creek at the top of William Falls and after a few minutes of careful descent, we were standing at the base of the Falls.



Visiting William Falls

Because the Falls have only recently been re-discovered, the hike to the Falls has a high degree of difficulty. The waterfall is not currently recognised as a local tourism attraction, so there is no marked starting point, track or track markers and no signage at the Falls. Those wishing to visit the Falls will need to rely solely on GPS data and maps and their bush skills.

Please do not attempt this walk unless you have a high level of competency in thick unforgiving bush, the correct clothing and footwear and a supply of food and fresh water. There is no mobile coverage at the Falls, so again, ensure you let someone know of your travel plans.

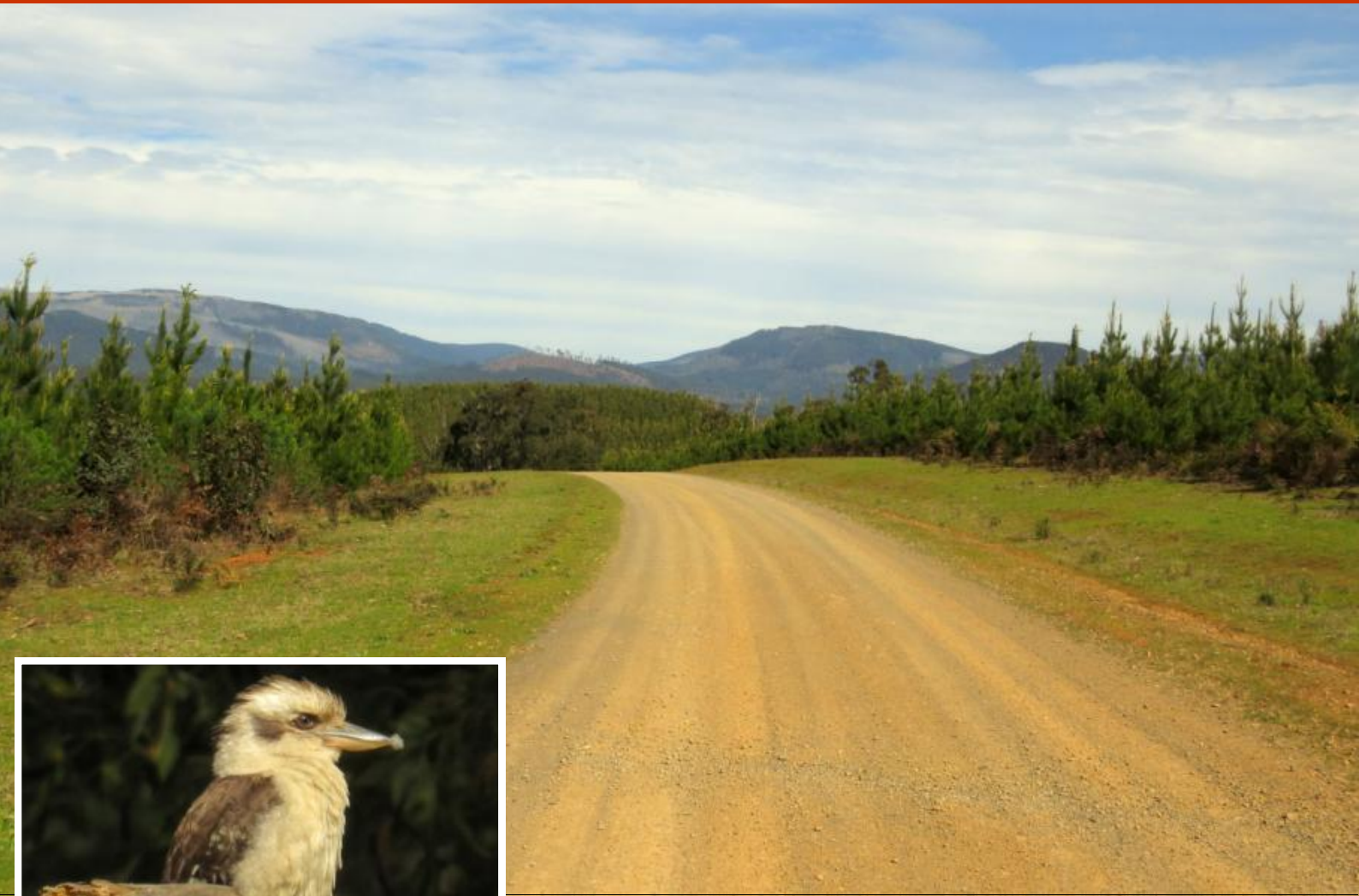
GPS locations we found useful

Where we parked on Little Wonder Road: S37.498028, E145.612194

William Falls: S37.497689, E145.614642









Step-like layers of rock

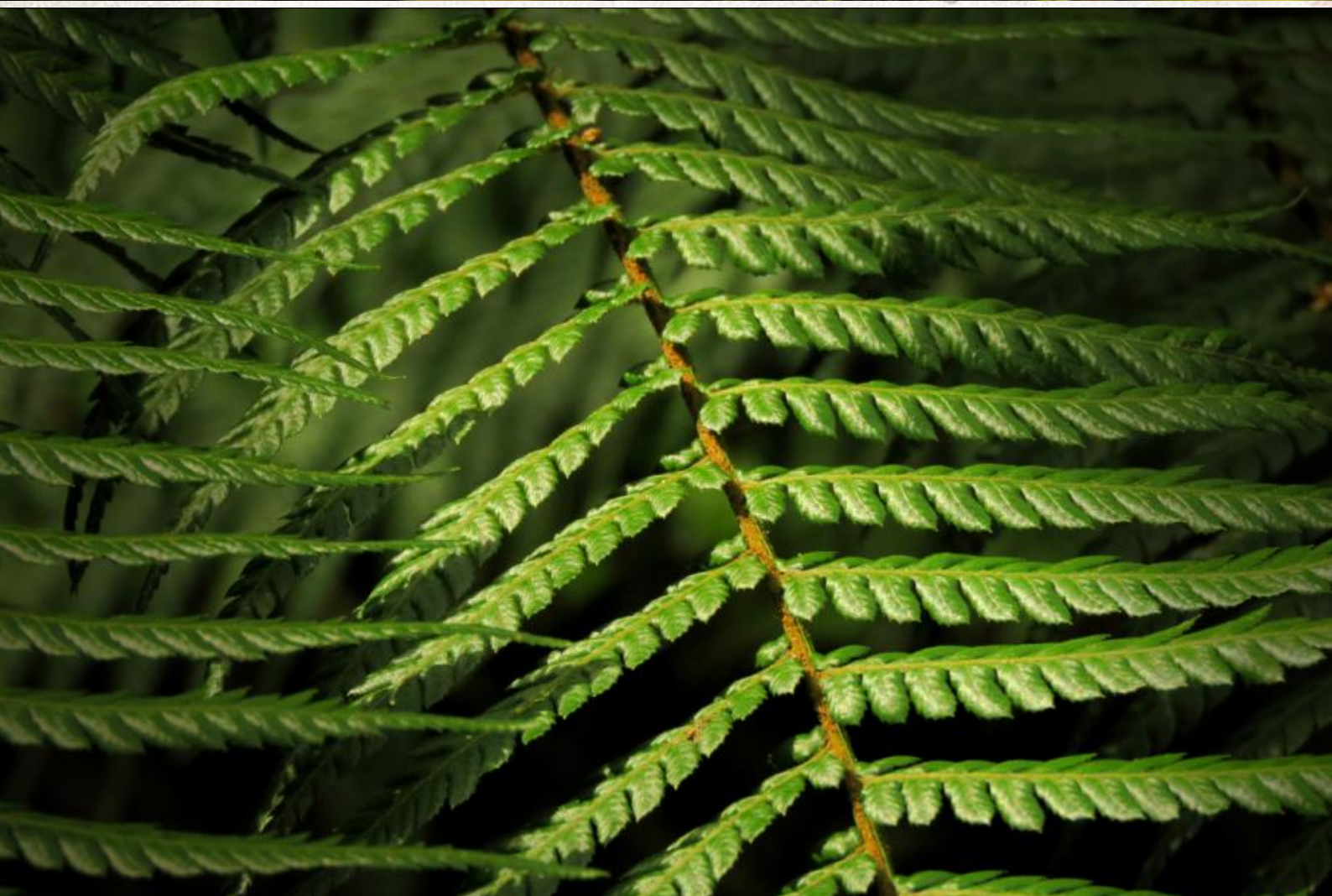


Interesting rock formation



The entrance to the Falls viewing area is under this log











Artworkz

Serving the Community