

A rustic wooden outstation with a corrugated metal roof, surrounded by dense green trees and a large tree branch in the foreground.

STONE'S

OUTSTATION



**HERITAGE
STRUCTURE
SERIES**

STONE'S OUTSTATION

CONTRIBUTORS

Parks Victoria

Colin & Sarah Anderson

Ron Cooper

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Greg Goschnick

Kathie Maynes

Peter Raymond

Shez & Warren Tedford

Ron & Yvonne Turner

David & Debbie Hibbert

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INTRODUCTION

Name: Stone's Outstation
Location: Aird Inlet, Stone Bay
Lake Eildon National Park
Managed: Parks Victoria
GPS: S37.144222, E145.843639

Stone's Outstation consists of a small historic cattlemen's hut and the ruins of a stockyard which was originally built on land owned by the Stone family. They were selectors along the Devil's River.



Long before white settlement was established in the area once known as Devil's River, Aborigines occupied the surrounding hills and river flats in large numbers. However their numbers declined sharply within the first 30 years of white settlement.

Early white settlers such as the Merlo and Stone families selected land in areas now submerged by Lake Eildon or near its bank. Stone's Outstation and Stockyards are both located on land first selected by the Stone family, just above the lake's high water line.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

Stone's Outstation is located on Station Creek, around 100 metres above the high water mark of Lake Eildon. It is located in a flat clearing 50 metres from Station Creek. Stone's stockyards are located 100 metres further west from the Outstation. The site is managed by Parks Victoria and is described below in the Lake Eildon National Park Management Plan (2009 update):

DESCRIPTION: *'Stone's Outstation and stockyards near Station Creek is a well preserved site of regional or State significance. The stone fences on Steep and Pinnacle Tracks are relatively difficult to access but are an interesting feature.'*

AIM: *'Investigate the development of interpretive facilities at Stone's Outstation and Stockyards near Station Creek in conjunction with the development of an expanded day walk network in that block.'*



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

AURLO WORKING BEE

On the weekend of 18 November 2007, a large number of volunteers of AURLO (Australian Land Rover Owners) conducted maintenance on Stone's Outstation. Pictures of the working bee, their efforts and their weekend stay at the Outstation site can be found on sschmez's flickr site ([click on the button to the right](#)). The community are thankful to AURLO volunteers and all others associated with this effort.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

Access to Stone's Outstation is via a 9.7 km walk along Wallaby Bay Walk Track. This walk commences at Wallaby Bay carpark in Collier Bay and continues out of Collier Bay, past Point Cook, into Stone Bay, past School Point and on to Aird Inlet and Station Creek. The track to Point Cook is of good grade, the track beyond Point Cook to Stone's Outstation is generally medium grade, however drops to poor grade in one area when you are required to drop down eroded banks into a creek and climb out the other side. In the wet this can be very dangerous.

Access to Stone's Outstation is possible from the water for those with boats. Camping is allowed at Mountaineer Creek Camping Area located 2 km walk to the north of the hut on the south bank of Mountaineer Inlet. Access is also available via foot from Skyline Road, down towards the lake along Station Creek Track and Aird Inlet Track. Sections of this track are steep and locked gates prohibit vehicles.



TIMELINE

BASIC TIMELINE OF EVENTS



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

Mid to late 1800s

The original Stone's Outstation was constructed by the Stone family. It is likely this hut is not the current hut.

27 February 1972

Park Ranger Ron Turner pegged the start of the walking track to connect Wallaby Bay to Cook Point. The track was then put in by relief labour. In Ron's diary it stated that by 27 May 1972 - 930 yards (900 metres) of the track had been constructed.

26 July 1972

Park Ranger Ron Turner pegged the start of the walking track to connect Cook Point to School Point.

c1990

Park employee Peter Raymond made reference to Stone's Outstation in an inter-department communication. The name Stone's Outstation was adopted from this point as the official name for the hut in department communications. Previously it had been referred to as just a hut. During our discussion he also mentioned the past existence of a hut off Blowhard Spur previously known as Sunny Slopes Hut. HE recalled that the chimney with signatures was previously stored at the Fraser Park Depot.

18 November 2007

Stone's Outstation hut was upgraded by volunteers of the AURLO (Australian Land Rover Owners) huts team in partnership with Parks Victoria, Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Victorian High Country Huts Association. See first page of log book for members and comments from the team.

1997 - 2009

The Parks Victoria Lake Eildon National Park Management Plan (1997 and 2009) describes the site and site aim:

DESCRIPTION: *'Stone's outstation and stockyards near Station Creek is a well preserved site of regional or State significance. The stone fences on Steep and Pinnacle Tracks*



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

are relatively difficult to access but are an interesting feature'.

AIM: *'Investigate the development of interpretive facilities at Stone's Outstation and stockyards near Station Creek in conjunction with the development of an expanded day walk network in that block'.*

15 January 2011

An unknown team of volunteers did basic work on the hut in association with the Victorian High Country Huts Association.

22 April 2015

Artworkz photoshoot. Access was by boat - thanks to Ian Faulks.

23 April 2015

Artworkz commenced work on this factsheet.

29 April 2015

A geocache went live at the site - making history as the first geocache ever located at the historic outstation.

9 November 2016

Mud Map from Peter Raymond added.

2016

Initial planning for the restoration of the hut was conducted by Parks Victoria in conjunction with the Victorian High Country Huts Association and the Idlers 4WD Club of Victoria.

13–19 March 2017

Stones Outstation was restored by Parks Victoria in conjunction with the Victorian High Country Huts Association and eight volunteers from the Idlers 4WD Club of Victoria.

14 May 2017

Artworkz Photoshoot. Access was via boat - thanks to Colin and Sarah Anderson.

GALLERY

RELATED IMAGERY

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Aird Inlet, Stones Bay 2015

Boat secured at Aird Inlet April 2015



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Aird Inlet, Stones Bay 2015

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Eastern Grey Kangaroo grazing on the lake's edge and near the hut

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



A wombat near the hut

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



No fires please

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

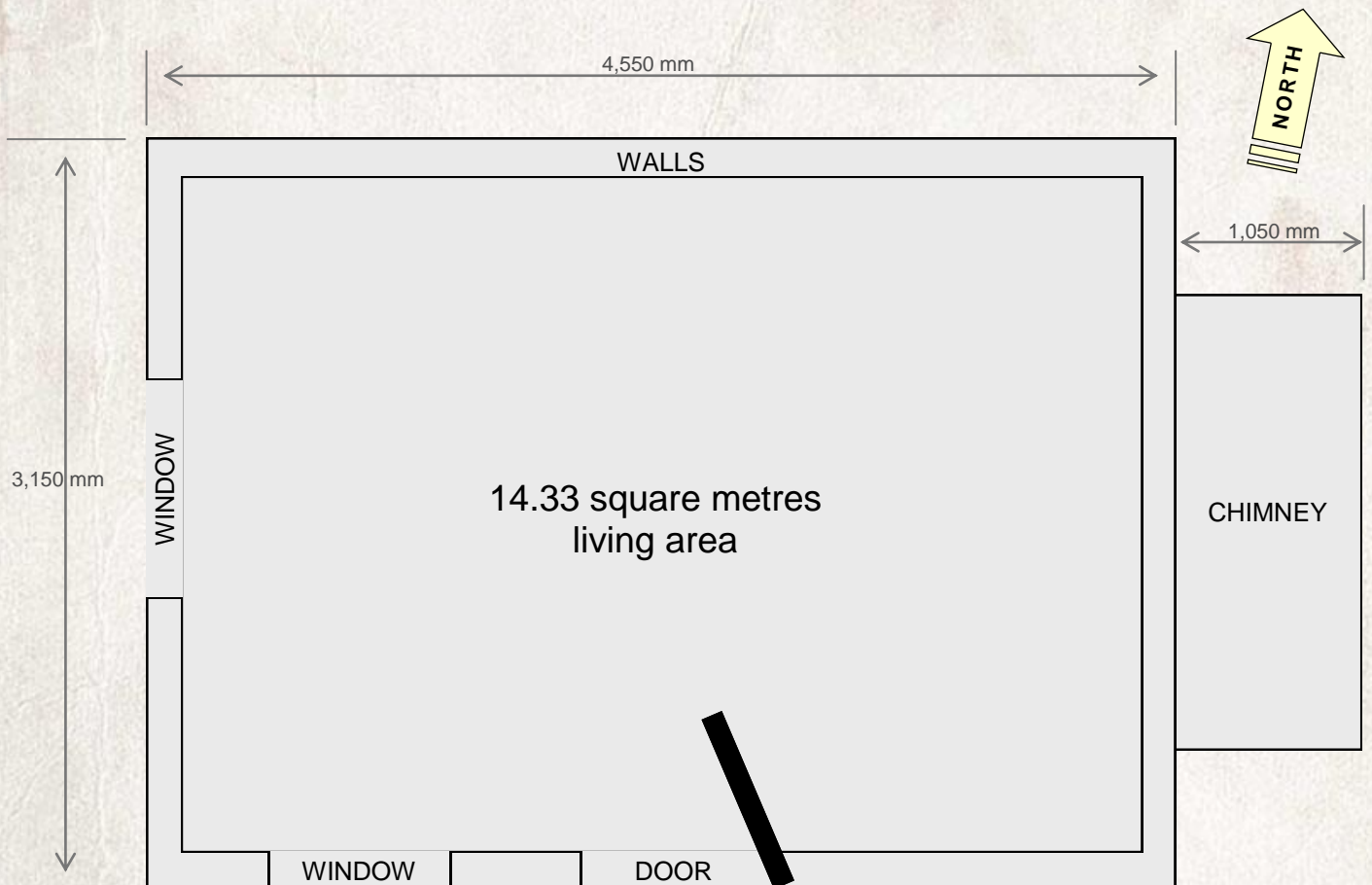
GALLERY



A small shelf

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



March 2017 Restoration

**Hut restoration team photographed on Sunday 19 March 2017.
The majority of the team worked on the hut during the preceding week.
Warren and Shez Tedford arrived for the weekend.**

Copyright © Shez Tedford 2022

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



March 2017 Restoration

Heading down to the hut via the management track

Copyright © Shez Tedford 2022

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



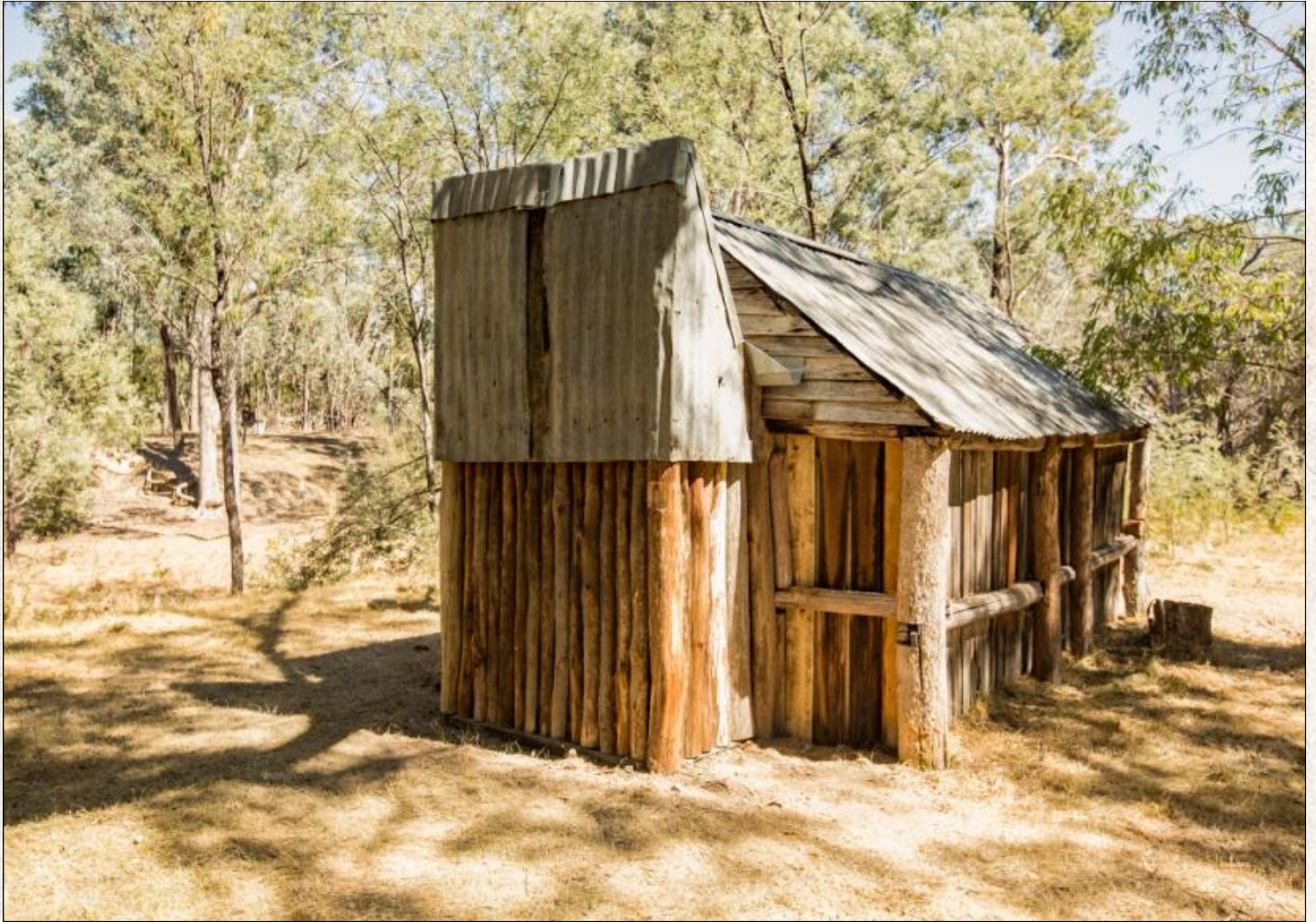
March 2017 Restoration

New posts and rails on the back wall

Copyright © Shez Tedford 2022

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



March 2017 Restoration

New chimney

Copyright © Shez Tedford 2022

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



March 2017 Restoration

Fireplace cleaned and locally found relics placed as a feature

Copyright © Shez Tedford 2022

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



March 2017 Restoration

Renovation completed

Copyright © Shez Tedford 2022

Stone's stockyards
are in a poor state
and need urgent
attention




LOG ENTRIES


SAMPLE OF LOG ENTRIES

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

LOG ENTRIES


DATE	NOTES
18-11-07	Stones Outstation restored by AULRO Huts team. Please enjoy and respect this piece of heritage. Mick Farrow
18-11-07	WORKING WEDD AT STONES OUTSTATION ENJOY THE PEACE & QUIET & LEAVE AS FOUND BRUCE DAWSON.
18-11-07	What a wonderful piece of hidden Australia Cavin Powell VHCHA Huts Maintenance Co Ordinator
18-11-07	GOOD TO BE PART OF THE TEAM THAT RESTORED AND MAINTAINS THIS HUT. PLEASE LOOK AFTER THE HUT AND THIS VISITOR BOOK. VISIT US AT WWW.AULRO.COM (AUSTRALIAN LAND ROLLER OWNERS)
18-11-07	Hope you respect the work that goes into the maintenance of this hut. Great team of guys spend a lot of time in these huts over countless weekends. Cheers Ray





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Victorian High Country Huts Association

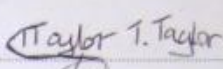
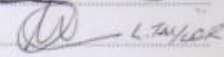
www.vhcha.org.au



A sample of logs from the log book found inside the hut 2015

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

LOG ENTRIES

DATE	NOTES
18/11/07	A great place to visit once and a while.
- " -	Final fittings to finish work
9/3/2008	# wonderful outstation, terrific view - thanks for maintaining this piece of Australian history! <div style="text-align: right;">   </div>
12/3/2008	WHAT'S THE POINT OF THE FIRE PLACE IF YOU CAN'T USE IT. TYPICAL PARKS VIC "LOCK IT UP" ATTITUDES.
21/3/08	NICE PLACE FOR LUNCH AND TO REST OUR WEARY LEGS WOULD BE A NICE PLACE TO GET OUT OF THE ELEMENTS
26/3/08	12:51pm Stopped to admire hut. Great job maintaining it. Ernie, Julie + Jim
29/3/08	A wonderful piece of history, thanks maintenance guys Wang + Hec McKenzie

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A sample of logs from the log book found inside the hut 2015

HISTORIC FACTSHEET


LOG ENTRIES

www.auho.com


DATE	NOTES
15-4-2009	Returned to visit an old friend. Brought the whole family this time. See you again soon old boy. Mick, Jenni, Ebony, Jessica, Cassie, Jill & Sam
7-12-09	Stopped here for a drink, heading for School Point. Warm day, cloudy, ideal for walking (about 22°C) Maurice & Irene
22-12-09	Came for a stroll & really enjoyed it peaceful & picturesque
30-12-09	Looking for RETREATING (J. Fergus)
6/3/10	Found THIS BY ACCIDENT. WHERE'S DA WATER? MYRA GRIFFITH. Ben Jordan. Justin Straitton. In our training to climb Mt Kilimanjaro in July, we decide to practice our around Lake Eldon. We have walked from Blowhard track back to Merlo's point. Skipped here for lunch. Pleasant & relaxing Robert & Charlene HANLON DONVALE VICTORIA.



VICTORIAN HIGH COUNTRY
HUTS



Department of
Sustainability
and Environment
Victoria



Parks
VICTORIA

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www.vhcha.org.au


A sample of logs from the log book found inside the hut 2015

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

LOG ENTRIES


DATE	NOTES
15-11-10 ^{41^{pm}}	Patrick O'Mahony Bellive Ferry to Cork Ireland. Lovely place for a stroll
02/01/11	Great way to see in the New Year. Good walk & great place to rest the very weary legs!! Cherie & Ian Winer-Jones
5/3/2011	Dropped in on the way around the Blowhard Circuit walk John Chapman Monica Chapman
23/4/2011	Beautiful place Olga Nichols
23/4/2011	Great walk, truly got The Russell & Paines. Nocton/Sindalham
24/4/2011	Great place and beautiful. Ashcrafts were here.
25/4/2011	Good place awesome!





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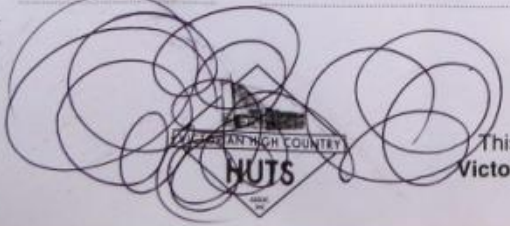
A sample of logs from the log book found inside the hut 2015


HISTORIC FACTSHEET

LOG ENTRIES


DATE	NOTES
27/12/2011	Went for a "nafari" (naked safari) in the dingy, found this place and we were 100% sure that Bear Grylls lived here! He doesn't... n. Gonna head off now before we're kidnapped/raped!
	XOXO Morgan Wright Jay







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A sample of logs from the log book found inside the hut 2015

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

LOG ENTRIES

DATE NOTES

have fun up the hills.

YEAR 7s.

HI


FIRBANK GIRLS GRAMMAR
SCHOOL YEAR 8 2012.


HANNAH · DAWES, BRIANNA · AKER, AUDREY · GILMORE!
& EMILY · McIVER.

GROUP 6 IS THE BEST.

So far we have trekked 15 km to reach this destination
It's Hot, and Hard, we're bleeding and theres a creepy shark
But... we've survived.


Ps - who won Big Brother?

 VICTORIAN HIGH COUNTRY HUTS

 Department of Sustainability and Environment

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 Parks VICTORIA

& GO OBAMA.

A sample of logs from the log book found inside the hut 2015

LOG ENTRIES



[illegible]

A sample of logs from the log book found inside the hut 2015

HISTORIC FACTSHEET


LOG ENTRIES

DATE	NOTES
Aug 1st 24/1/15	KELLEHER WARD ALFORD FAMILY NIGHT WALK.
2/5/2015	WHAT AN AMAZING HIDDEN GEM. SECOND TRIP HERE IN A WEEK. LAST WEEK BY BOAT. TODAY WE WALKED FROM WAZLABY BAY (9.5km) PERFECT WEATHER FOR PHOTOGRAPHY. DAVID HIBBERT
2/5/2015	GREAT HIKE IN AND WELL WORTH THE EFFORT. GOOD PHOTO SHOOT & WEATHER. DON COOPER



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Victorian High Country Huts Association

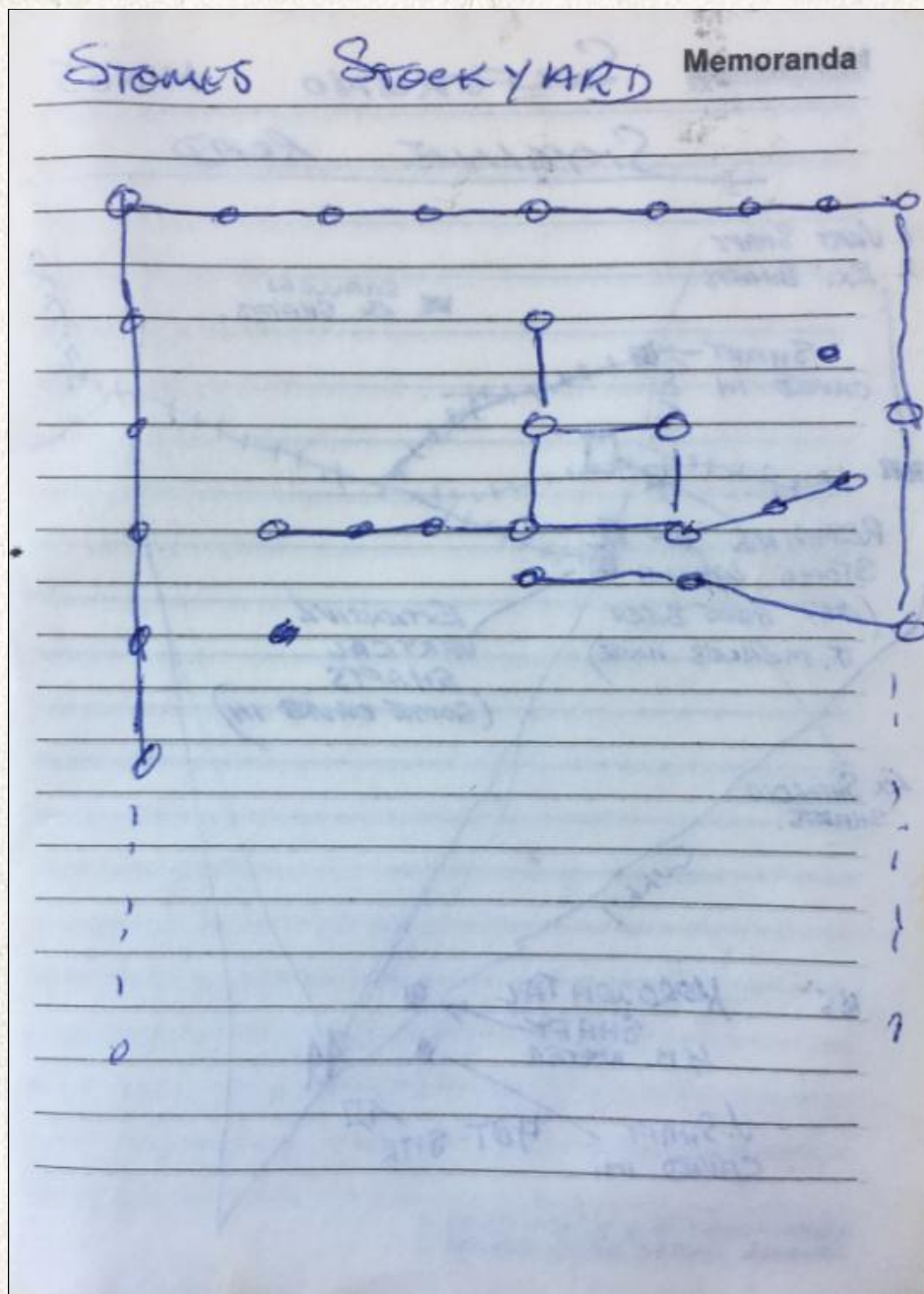
www.vhcha.org.au



A sample of logs from the log book found inside the hut 2015

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

LOG ENTRIES



A mud map of Stones Stockyard

Courtesy © Peter Raymond 2016

eSPLASH MEDIA ARTICLES

ARTICLES FROM THE eSPLASH eMAGAZINE

STONE'S HUT (OUTSTATION)

LAKE EILDON NATIONAL PARK, MAY 2015

DEPARTMENT:	PARKS VICTORIA
MINISTER:	LISA NEVILLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE:	DR BILL JACKSON



An old draft horse shoe located near the Outstation.

A beautiful old bush hut on our doorstep.

This old historic bush hut is located just 100 metres above the high water mark in Stones Bay, Lake Eildon. Access is via boat or a beautiful 9.7 km walk from Wallaby Bay on the well formed Wallaby Bay Walk Track.



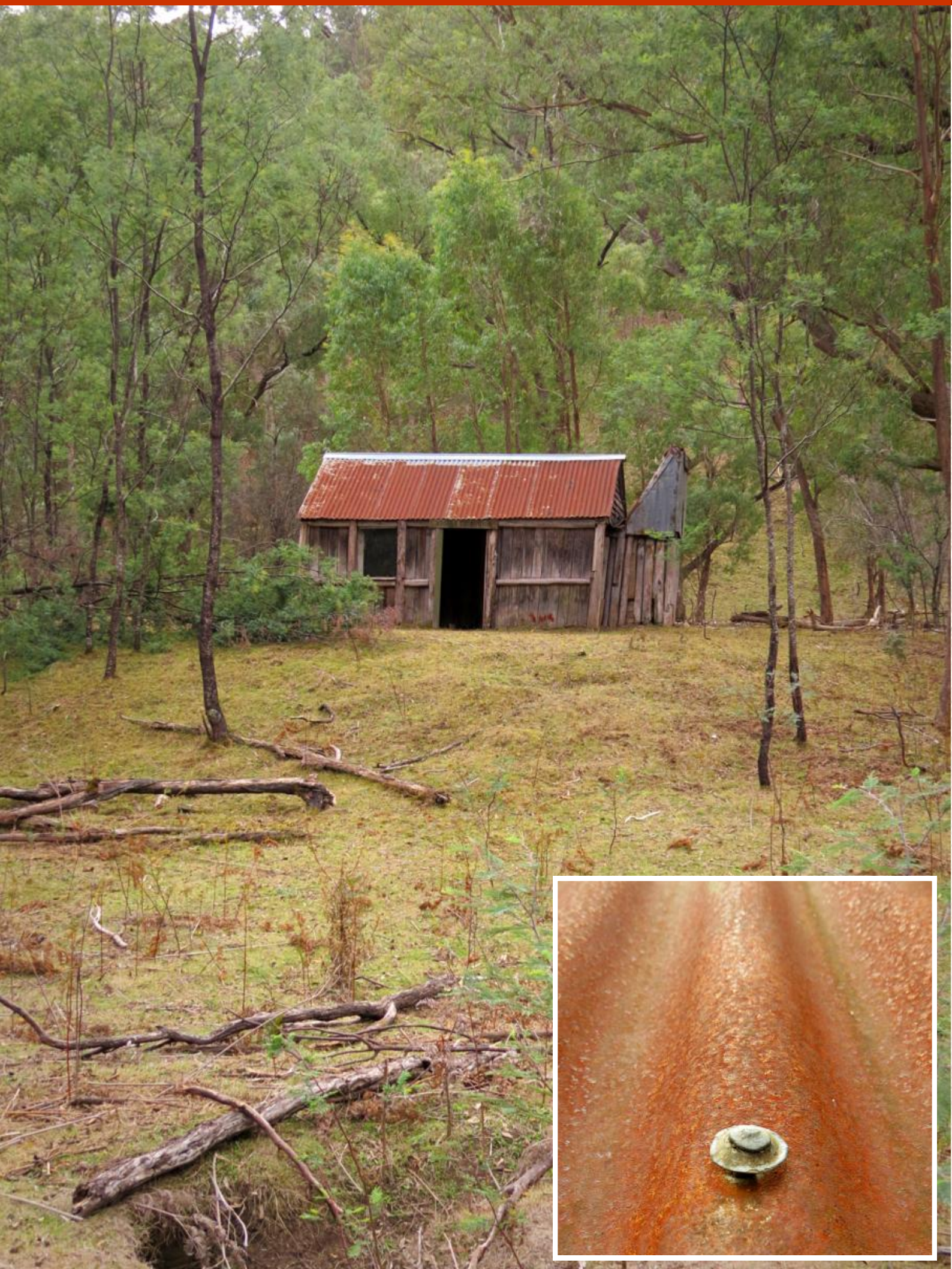


Fungi



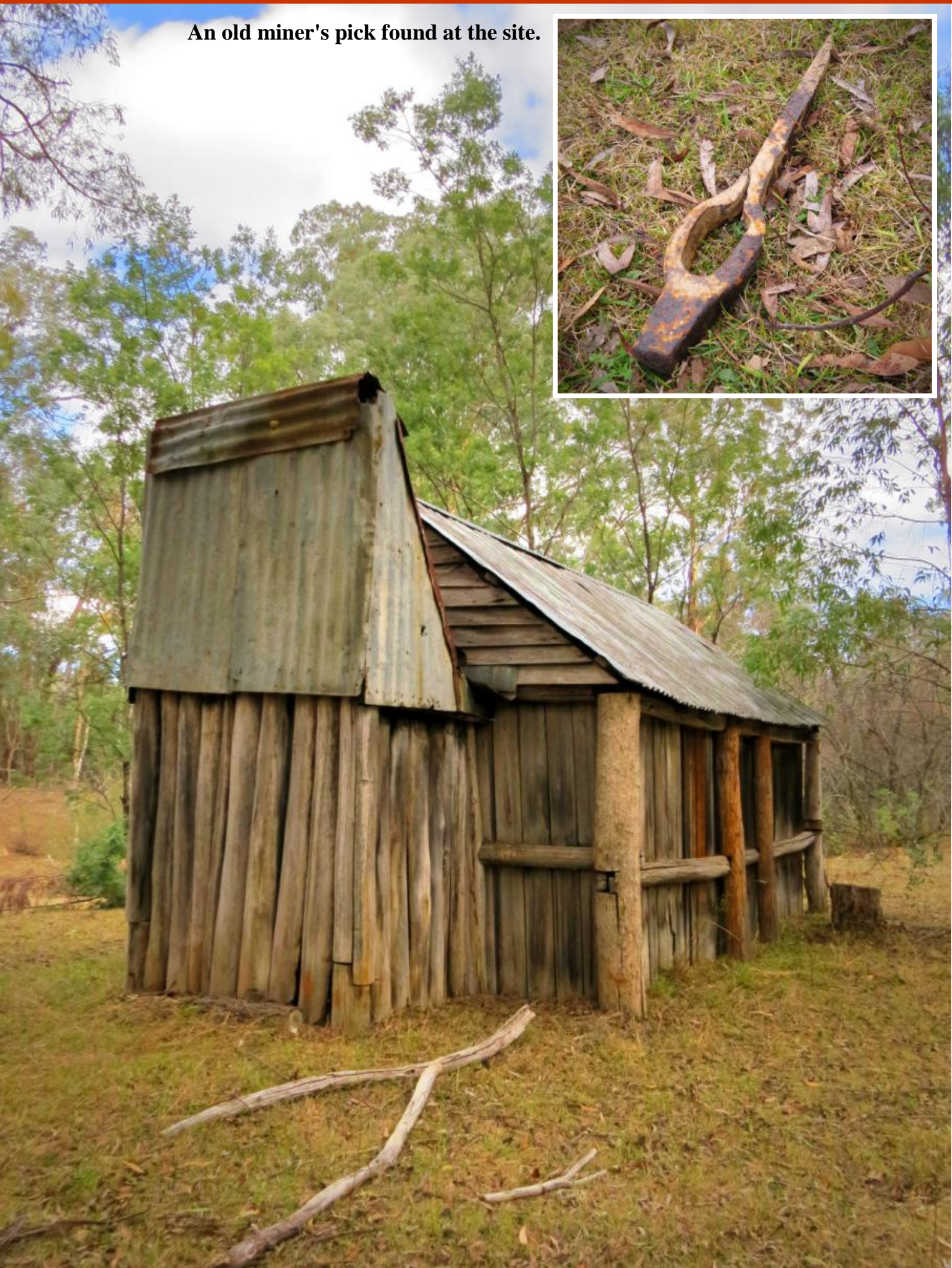






The view from the bank of Station Creek

An old miner's pick found at the site.





While at the hut, 11 bushwalkers arrived. They told us that they were from Melbourne and the hut was well known amongst bush walking groups in Melbourne. This surprised us, as many locals are less aware of its existence.



The Outstation is beautiful from every angle



The sign above the door is a lovely addition



Lookout out the doorway

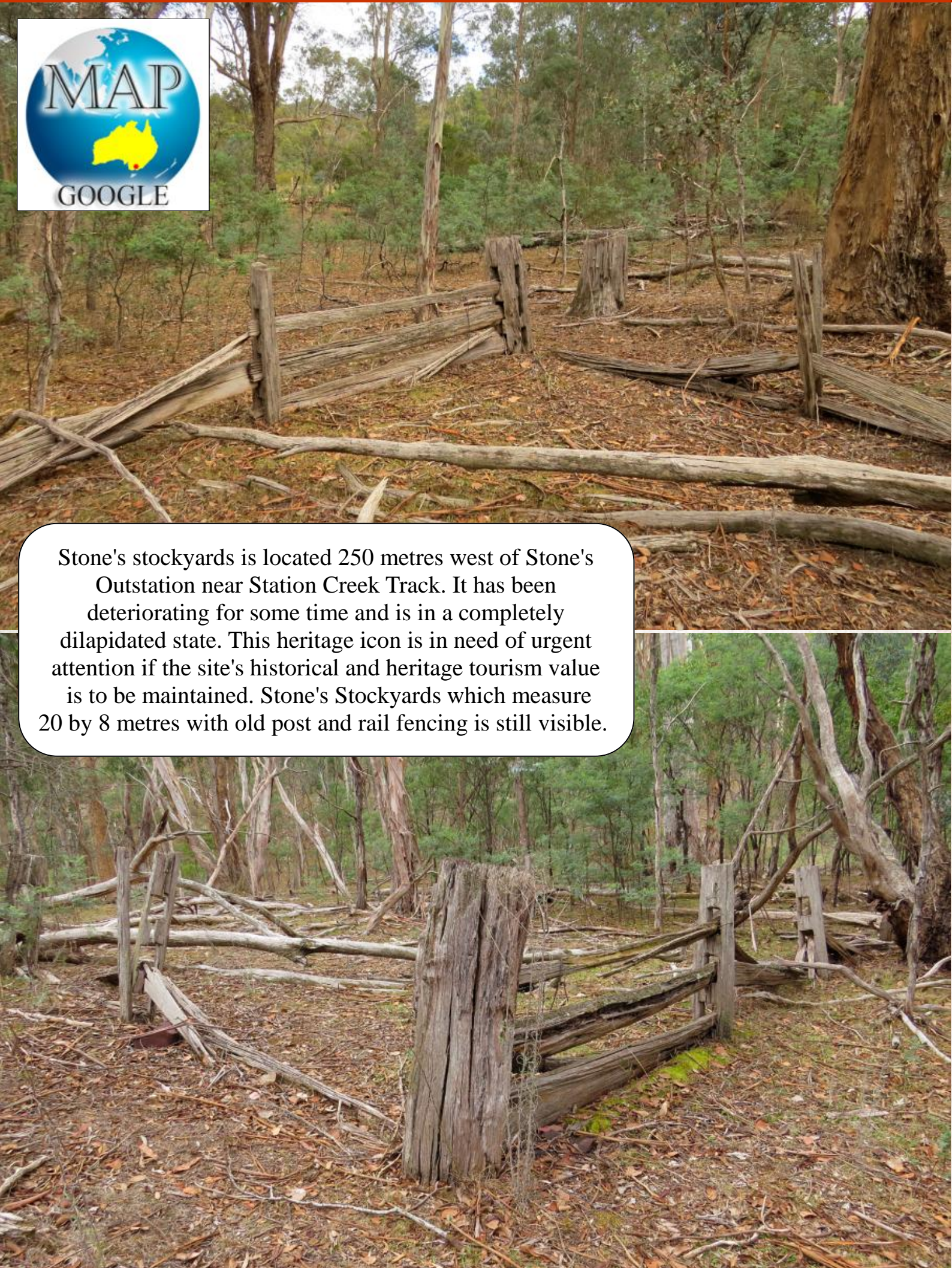








Stone's stockyards is located 250 metres west of Stone's Outstation near Station Creek Track. It has been deteriorating for some time and is in a completely dilapidated state. This heritage icon is in need of urgent attention if the site's historical and heritage tourism value is to be maintained. Stone's Stockyards which measure 20 by 8 metres with old post and rail fencing is still visible.



The remnants of Stone's stockyards



The broken bottle on the left had interesting markings on the bottom.

Some research by Ian Faulks was able to ascertain that the bottle was likely an MBCV brown beer bottle from the 1930s and manufactured by the 'Bottle Company of Victoria'.

The illustration on the base of the bottle is a horseshoe.



Post and rail fencing used at the stockyards



A dry Station Creek just below the Outstation



A heavily eroded creek bank 100 metres from the Outstation



(Top) Dried mud in the creek bed - (Bottom) Ian Faulks avoiding the soft mud



LAKE EILDON

NATIONAL PARK

MAP © COPYRIGHT 2010 DAVID HIBBERT
MAP NOT TO SCALE
VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE 5772 1100



BONNIE DOON (63KM)

WAPPAN BLOCK

 **Mountaineer Creek Camp Area**
(Walk or boat access only)

Station Creek

STATION CREEK TRACK

Stone's Outstation
(Walk or boat access only)

AIRD INLET

MOUNTAINEER INLET

STONE BAY

SCHOOL POINT

LIGHTWOOD INLET

Blowhard Spur Track

HIGH CAMP

BLOWHARD SUMMIT

Keg Spur Track

Perfect Cure Creek Nature Trail

Former Stone Homestead, hut & shearing shed

Merlo Lookout Track

Merlos Lookout

WALLABY BAY

ITALIAN BAY

COOK POINT

Area formerly referred to as Devils River area

 **Devils Cove Camp Area**

COLLER BAY

Former Merlo Homestead

Former Ross Property

POINT MEAD

 **Candlebark Camp Area**

Former Coller Property

 **Lakeside Camp Area**

POINT MIBUS

Candlebark Gully Nature Trail

Herb Fitzroy Day Visitor Area

BBQ







































































































































































































































































































































































STONES OUTSTATION

STONES BAY - LAKE EILDON NATIONAL PARK - 14 MAY 2017

MANAGED BY: PARKS VICTORIA
MINISTERS: LILIANA (LILY) D'AMBROSIO MLA
LUKE DONELLAN MLA



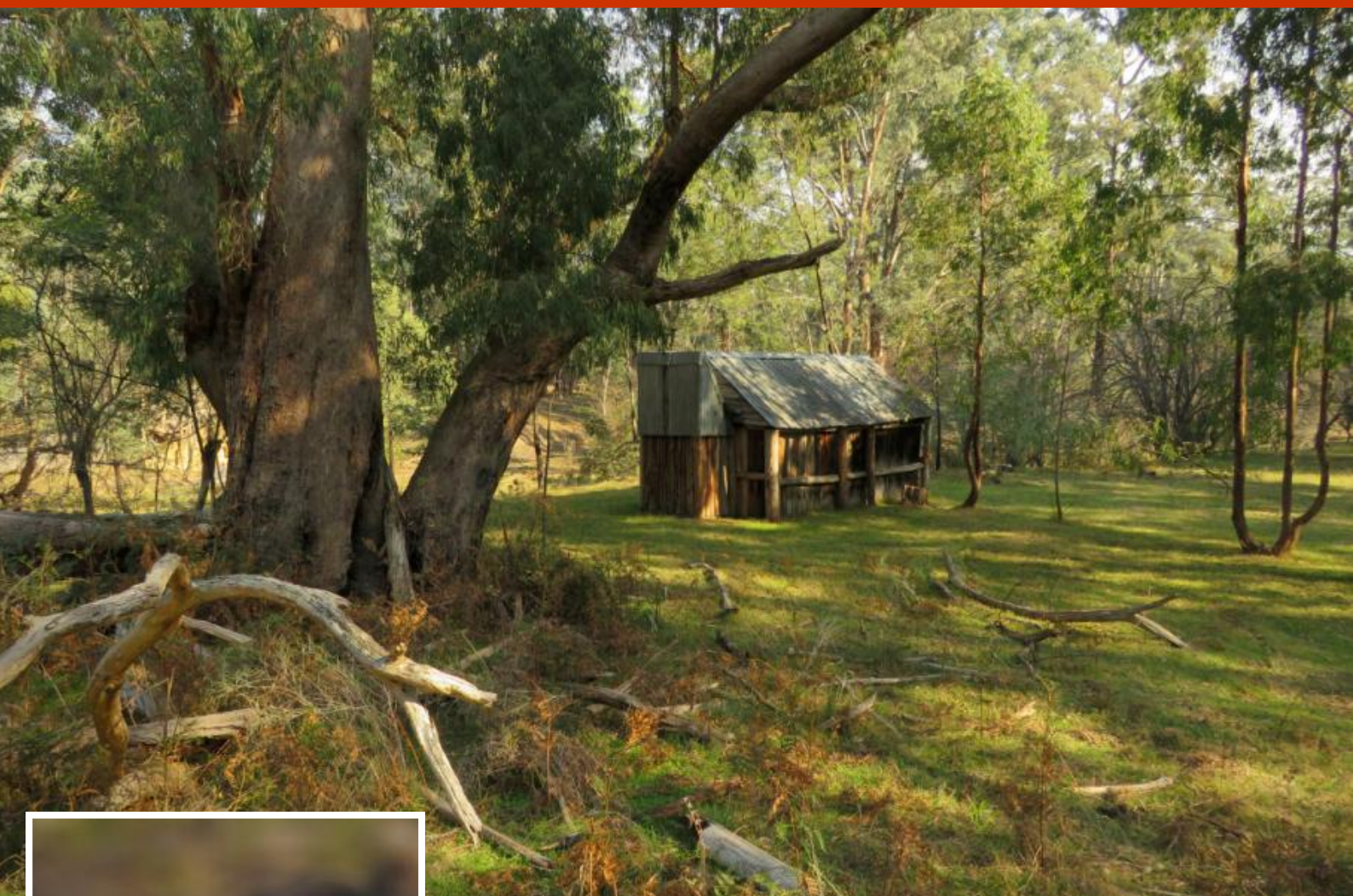
A new look for an old hut

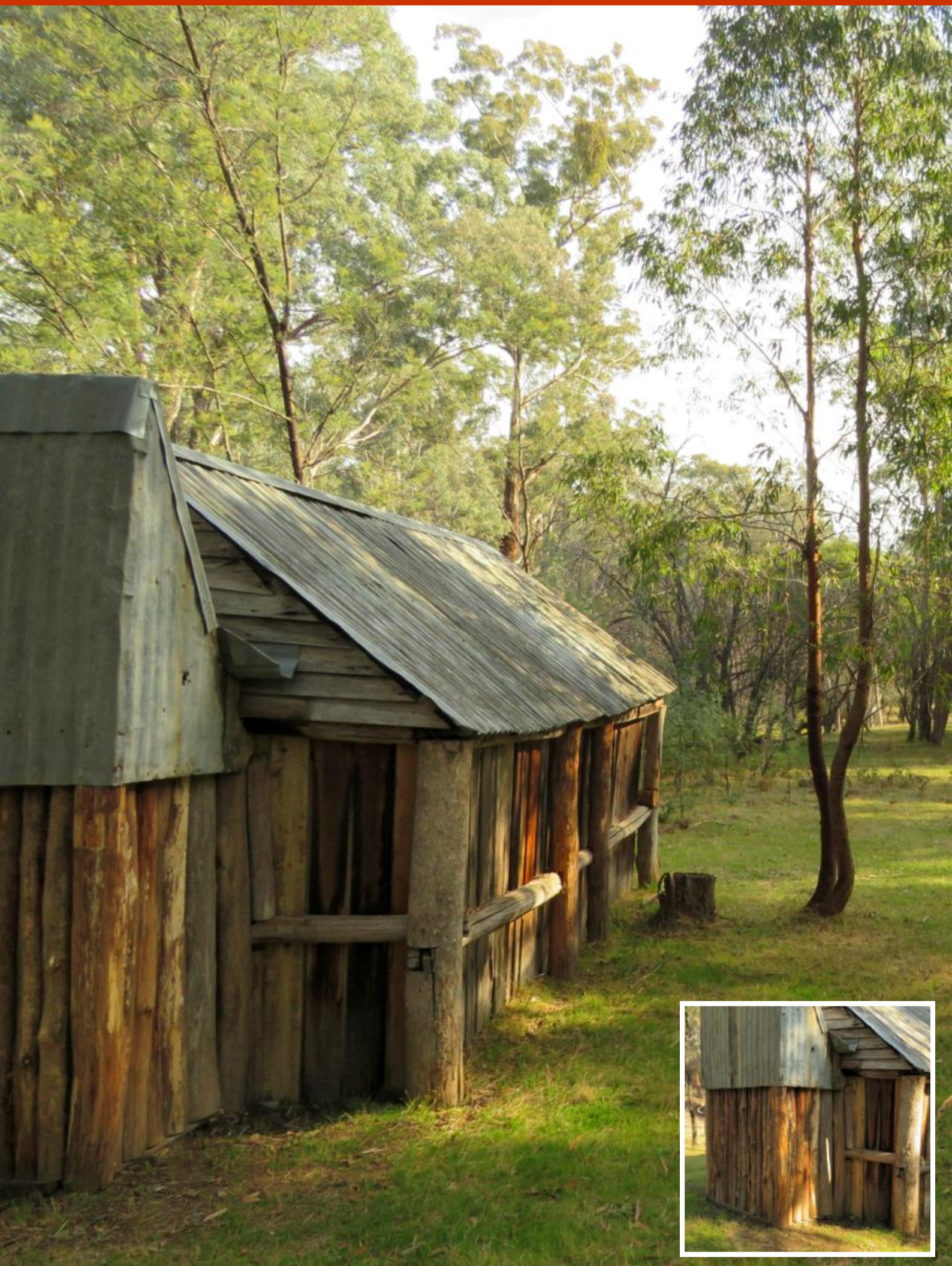
Stones Outstation has recently been upgraded, so we wanted to travel to the site and photograph the hut and repairs. Parks Victoria in conjunction with the [Idlers 4WD Club of Victoria](#) and the Victorian High Country Huts Association (VHCHA) completed the upgrade in March 2017.



The volunteers commenced their planning in 2016 and in early 2017 eight volunteers from the Idlers 4WD club and the VHCHA Hut Maintenance Officer worked to repair the hut. Our community owes these amazing volunteers and Parks Victoria a huge debt of gratitude.



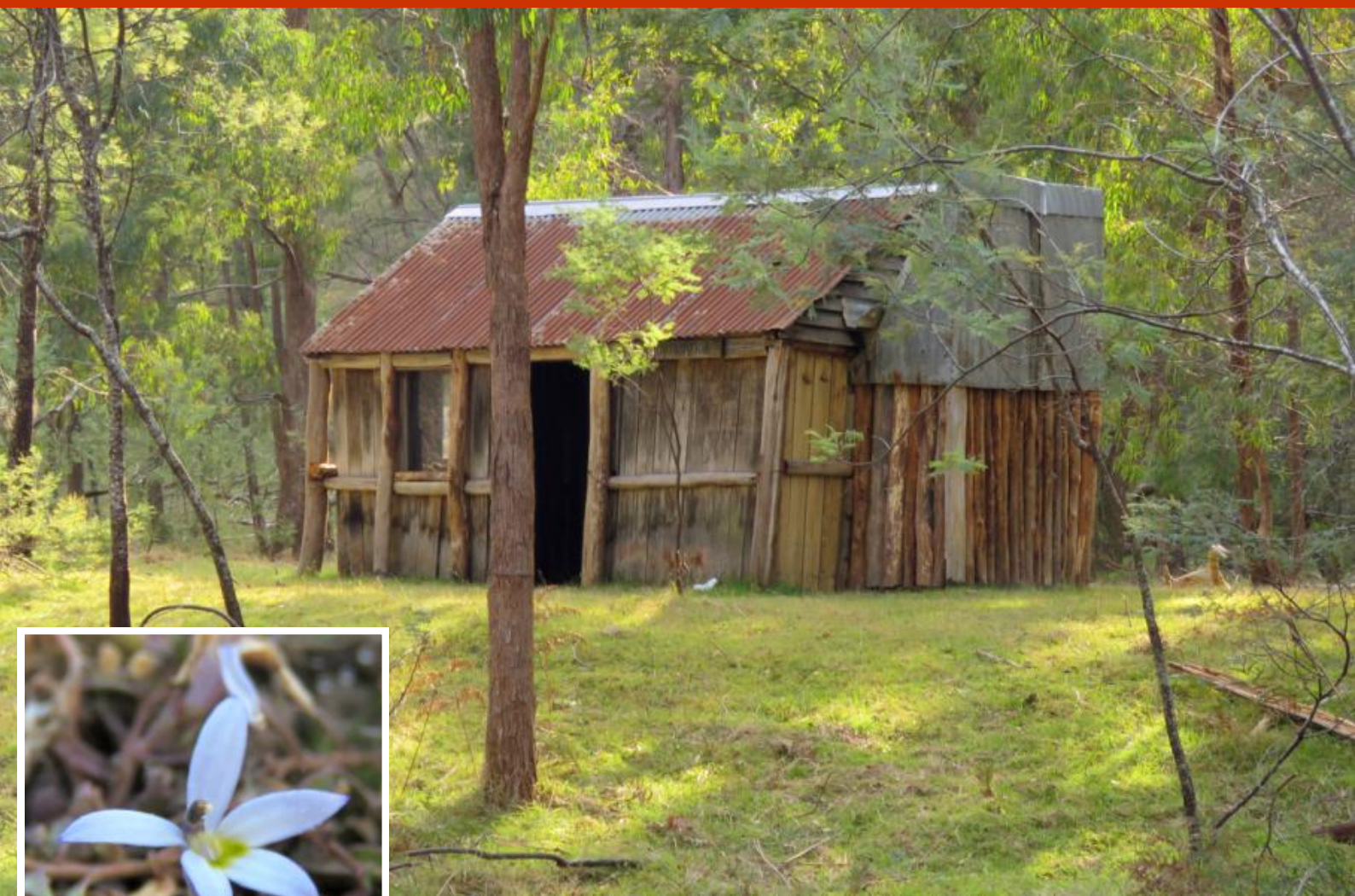


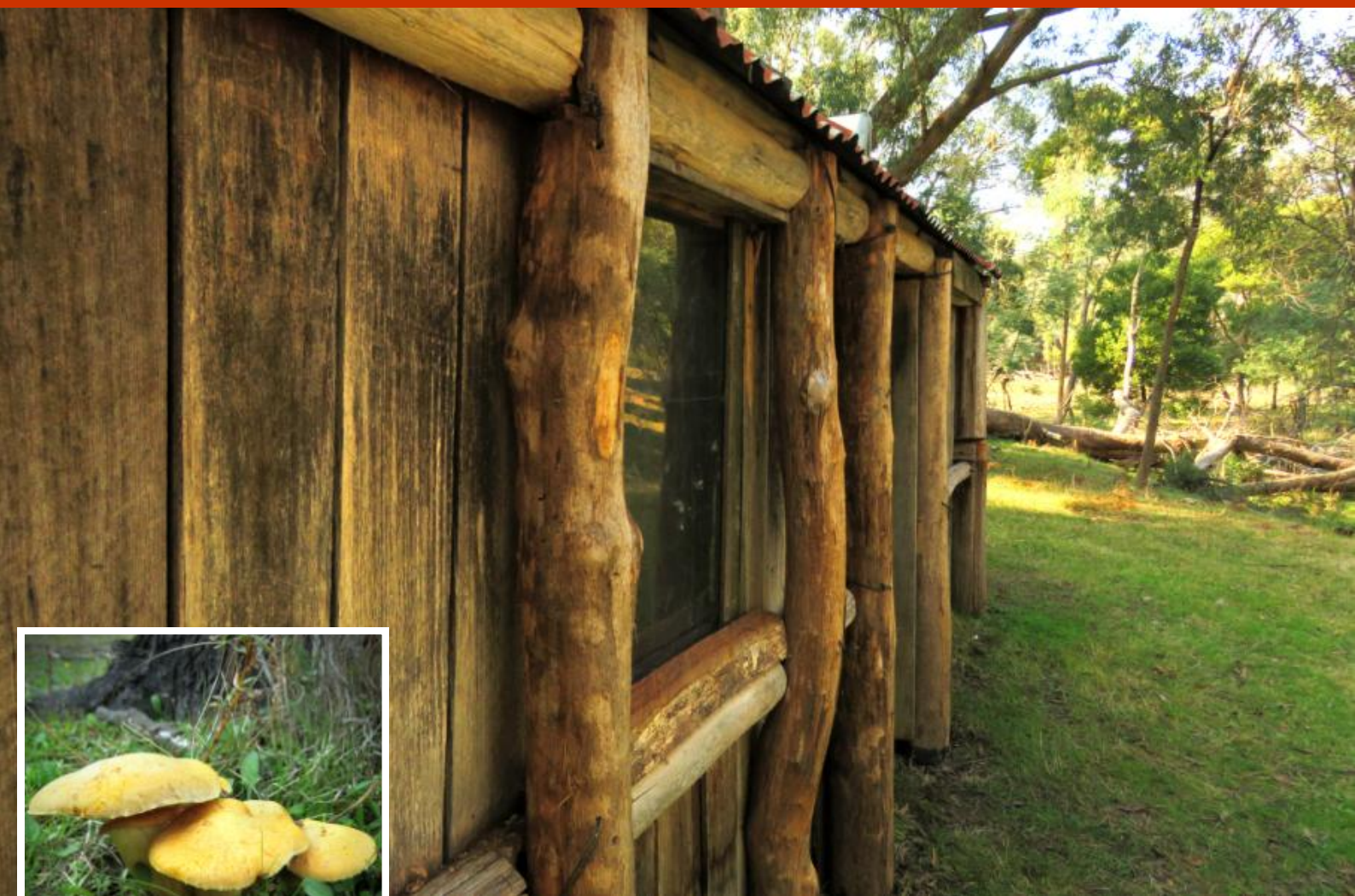


The newly renovated hut looked fantastic













A tree balances on the edge of a cliff near the hut



We recently visited stones outstation with friends who owned a speedboat. We launched from the boat at Coller Bay (Fraser Block) and twenty minutes later we were walking the final distance to the hut. We moored 850 m short of the hut and walked along the bank, up the creek and to the hut. Along the way we saw the beautiful cliff face on Station Creek and other natural features. Our friends were amazed at the beauty of the hut and its surrounding bushland, the ruins of the stockyard and just how peaceful it was. If you have not been to this hut, we highly recommend it. This is simply one of our district's best kept secrets.



Lake's edge



STONES OUTSTATION

ROCKY NED'S CREEK - 13 MARCH 2022 - ESPLASH274

MANAGED BY: PARKS VICTORIA

MINISTERS: LILIANA (LILY) D'AMBROSIO
MELLISA HORNE



A long beautiful walk

The walk to Stones Outstation started at Wallaby Bay in Collier Bay and was 9 km each way. The idea of me doing an 18 km walk took some planning and fitness preparation. After a month and a half of fitness walking, I attempted the walk.



Lake view and a bridge





Tree trunks were used for this dangerous makeshift bridge

The day was mild, cloudy and the forecasted top temperature was a lovely 28 degrees. It was a perfect time to attempt the walk. The hike is not hard, with the track in mostly good condition and bridges of good quality. However there is one creek crossing where there is no department bridge and it requires a descent into the creek and over some makeshift logs. In summer this is achievable, though in winter you have to be very careful with slippery banks and wet logs.

The hut is gorgeous and always very photographic. While there a visitor came in by Jet Ski after being told about the hut by a friend. He was staying on one of the nearby houseboats and really enjoyed seeing the old relic and learning a little of the history of the hut and the Stone family.

If you are intending to attempt this walk, make sure you take plenty of water, maybe some hiking food and appropriate footwear, clothing and hat.

Stone's Outstation consists of a small historic cattlemen's hut and the ruins of a stockyard which was originally built on land owned by the Stone family who were early selectors along the Devil's River. Stone's stockyards is located 250 metres west of Stone's Outstation near Station Creek Track, though has now deteriorated to the point where it is not that visible. They measured 20 m by 8 m and was built with old post and rail fencing.



Dead wood trackside on the walk into the hut













Artworkz

Serving the Community