

ing, but land-clearing for agriculture continues to fragment the southern hairy-nosed wombat's range, and while the northern hairy-nosed wombat is now safe from humans this protection has come almost too late for that species.

The wildlife laws do not stop the bulldozers from pushing higher and higher up the slope of the Great Dividing Range or into the Tasmanian wilderness, the last bastion of the bare-nosed wombat. It is not necessary to kill the wombats directly, the destruction of their habitat will exterminate them more quickly than guns, traps or poison. The bare-nosed wombat is not an endangered species. It is not even rare, but we would do well

to remember that even the most abundant species can quickly become rare or extinct if its habitat is destroyed. It is up to us to ensure that it never becomes the Uncommon wombat.

This is an excellent book which perfectly balances descriptive natural history with scientific back-up. It is beautifully written and illustrated and would make an ideal gift for anyone of any age who has a love of our Australian fauna.

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Walks, Tracks & Trails of Victoria

by Derrick Stone

Publisher: CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood,
Victoria 2009. 296 pages, paperback, colour photographs.
ISBN 9780643095878. RRP \$44.95.

Derrick Stone has provided us with more than 160 of the best walks, tracks and trails in Victoria, which can be walked, cycled or driven. These are located in national and state parks, state forests, conservation reserves, historic parks and local government and public easements. Other routes follow state highways, old railways, and gold routes or pass by bushranger haunts.

The tracks and trails are arranged by geographic areas of the state, starting in the north-west and moving eastwards to conclude in Gippsland. A list at the front of the book shows the closest town, the environment of the walk, distance of each walk and the amount of estimated time necessary. Also shown is the grade of the walk from easy to hard, colour coded for easy choice according to ability. Another list arranges the walks by environment, e.g. coastal, forest, township or gold history walks.

Information provided for each track includes distance from Melbourne, how to access the walking track, the distance to be covered and grade of track, the environment and conditions to be encountered as well as recommendations

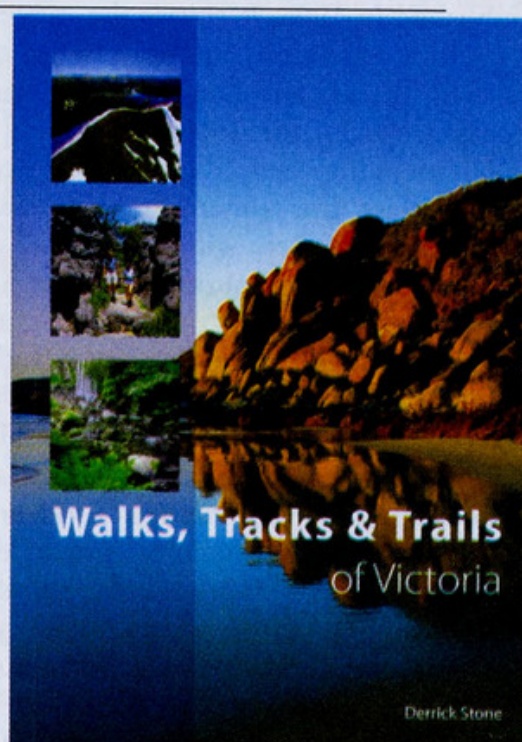
on what to carry with you, e.g. water or camera, etc.

One of the best features of the book is the information included about the area in which the walk is located. Facts about the history, Aboriginal activities, flora and fauna provide fascinating background to the description of the walks, as do the photographs of the walk, features to be seen, and flora, birds and mammals. Excellent maps are included as navigational aids.

Walks, Tracks & Trails of Victoria provides something for walkers of all abilities. I can't wait to get out there and tick a few of them off.

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