



Tourism Advisory Board  
Invites You To Enjoy a Pleasant  
**SCENIC WALK AROUND CROYDON HILLS**

(3 Kilometres of fairly level walking)

H541  
01-03-03  
File 1



**START** at YARRUNGA COMMUNITY CENTRE on the corner of Croydon Hills Drive and Barwon Court.

The square mile bordered by Yarra, Plymouth and Bemboka Roads was purchased by Henry Wilmot Smith in 1871. In 1881 he, and his eldest six sons, commenced the first fruit orchard in the district.

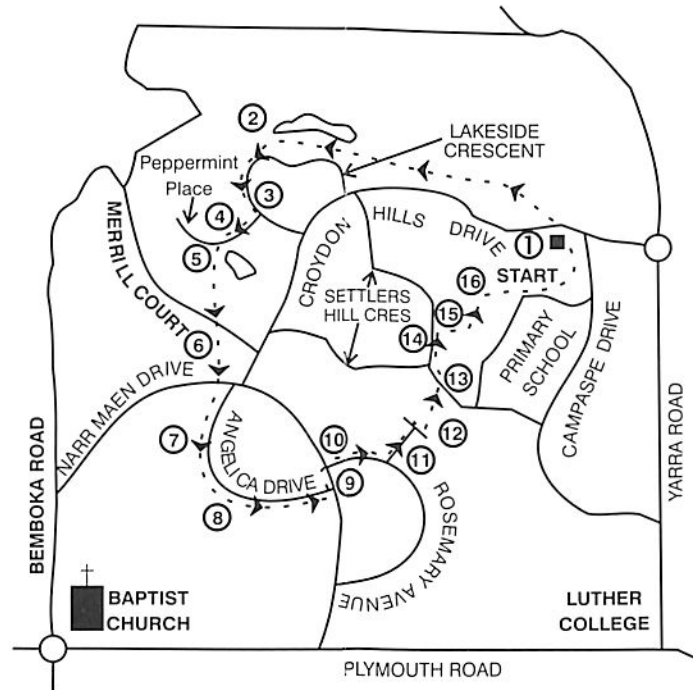


Smiths' orchards prior to subdivision in 1985.

1. Start at Yarrunga Community Centre and proceed west along Croydon Hills Drive.
  2. Veer across the grassland and pass the lake on your right.
  3. After passing the lake, head up Lakeside Crescent.
  4. Turn right into Peppermint Place.
  5. Near the bottom of the hill turn left along a gravel track with a lake on the left.
  6. Continue straight ahead and uphill, cross over Merrill Court and Narr Maen Drive.
- (In 1939, bush fires came to this area)
7. Continue on the track over Narr Maen Drive and along the rear of the houses.
  8. After passing the houses, turn left off the track and continue along Angelica Crescent.



The lake near Lakeside Crescent.



Views along the Croydon Hills Scenic Walk

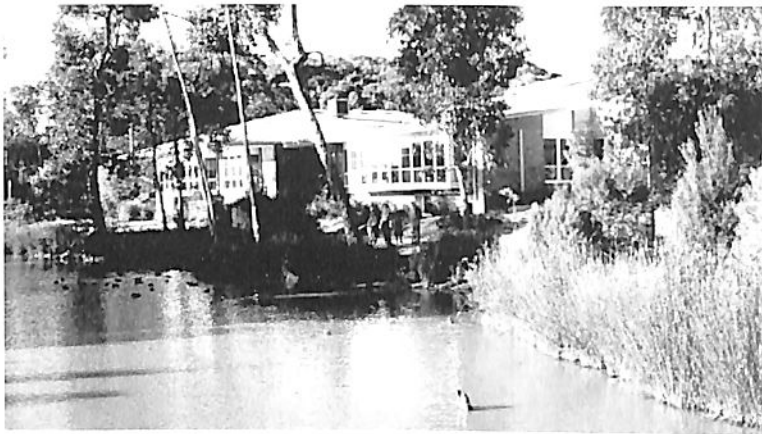
9. Turn left into Narr Maen Drive for a short distance.
10. Turn right into Rosemary Avenue.
11. Turn left into Kingsbridge Court, and then turn right at the T intersection.
12. Turn left into the short downhill track between houses No. 13 and 15.
13. Follow the footpath to the left along Banjora Close.
14. Turn right and walk along Settlers Hill Crescent for about 100 metres.
15. Opposite No.37, turn right and take the track leading to the school.
16. Before reaching the school turn left towards the tennis courts and the Yarrunga Community Centre just beyond the tennis courts.



Along Banjora Close.



The dams on the orchard have been turned into lakes. Earlier they were used to irrigate the orchard, and they also served as swimming pools. Local scouts had swimming and lifesaving lessons on the property.



In earlier days the bushlands surrounding this area abounded with wild flowers, including numerous orchids, pink wild Boronia, Clematis, pink and white Heath.

The water birds still enjoy the area around Yarrunga Reserve and the Community Centre.

Oliver Smith and his son loading the fruit, about 1935.

The fruit mostly went to the Croydon Cool Store which was fully operating by 1920.



MAP IS COURTESY OF ACROFFIMS WALKING GROUP ASSOC. INC.

Notes are courtesy of the CROYDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, per the Society's President Les Hutchinson and fellow members Ray Watkins and Elsie Bolwell. The Society's Museum, situated in the Croydon Library Complex, has numerous photographs and artefacts of the early Croydon area, and is worthy of a visit.

*Sponsored by Maroondah Tourism Advisory Board, Maroondah City Council*