

LANDCARE EDUCATION

Reading the Landscape from Mt Hollowback

Curriculum Links

VCE Outdoor Education (unit 3.1 Historical Perspectives, 3.2 Contemporary relationships with natural environments and 4.2 Sustaining environments)

Aim

To view the local landscape that makes up the upper reaches of the Loddon system from Mt Hollowback. Landscape features include prominent hills to sweeping low plains, differing land use from native forest to open farmland and a variety of soil types shown by colour differences. (Focus is on the effect of human activity on the natural environment, conflicts of interest, patterns and types of interactions, interactions, perceptions and relationships as expressed by non indigenous settlers, gold rush immigrants etc)

Requirements/Equipment

Clipboards	bus to travel to site
Pencils	gate key from farmhouse
Photographs and comment worksheet	

Procedure

- Drive out of Creswick on the Bald Hills Road (15 minutes)
- Collect a gate key from the farmhouse on the left hand side of the road at the base of Mt Hollowback. [Mr David Ross, phone (03) 5334 6253].
- Drive to the top of Mt Hollowback
- Point out Ballarat and different landmarks Mt Warrenheip (towards Melbourne), Mt Bunninyong (further to the South), Mt Beckworth (north west with Lollypop tree on top) (20 minutes).
- Hand out clipboards, pencils and worksheets.
- Give the students time to write down their observations and questions next to the photographs on the sheet (20 minutes).
- Back in the bus, discuss with the students their observations and as a group, answer any questions (20 minutes).
- Return key to farm house (15 minutes).

Conclusion/Follow up

Discuss how the landscape has changed over time due to both natural processes and interference by humans. Point out how soil types influence vegetation growth and land use in the area. (To book, please contact Jim Mead on 0408 547 760 or email landcare.program@dpi.vic.gov.au before contacting the Ross family)