

LAL LAL FALLS COTTAGE - BED AND BREAKFAST

ATTRACTIONS IN THIS LOCAL AREA

LAL LAL FALLS AND PICNIC AREA AND VIEWING PLATFORM – APPROX. 2.5 KMS EAST.



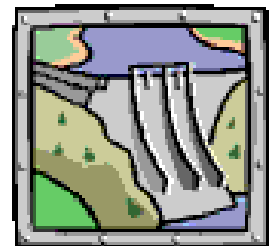
Take a picnic lunch and walk/bike or drive to the Falls, wander the Lal Lal Falls precinct – it has great information boards on the Indigenous and more recent history and geography of the Falls area. Opposite the Bed and Breakfast, the paddock you can see was once an ancient lake from which the Lal Lal Falls was formed, the lake drained and eroded the gorge of the Falls. The Lal Lal Falls is located on the Lal Lal Creek which joins the East Moorabool River further downstream.

Outside the Bed and Breakfast you are likely to see lots of Wildlife such as koalas, kangaroos and wallabies, echidnas, blue tongue lizards and a wide variety of birds.



LAL LAL FALLS TO MOORABOOL FALLS WALK – APPROX. 5KM RETURN WALK – HAS VIEWING PLATFORM AT MOORABOOL FALLS.

It is a 12 km. round trip walk from the Bed and Breakfast. The Moorabool Falls walk has recently been opened to the public and is a enjoyable and easy walk there and back – it has a couple of short uphill and downhill sections. The walk can be accessed from a car park located on Harris's road which is a left hand turn approx. 300 metres before the Lal Lal Falls. The Moorabool Falls is located on the East Moorabool river and further downstream there is yet another large falls called the Granite Falls. It is not accessible at this time.



LAL LAL RESERVOIR {BUNGAL DAM} AND HISTORIC BLAST FURNACE

This is approx. a 5 km. drive/ walk/ bike ride to this attraction and is located on IRONMINE RD which is the first right hand turn East of the Bed and Breakfast - just follow road signs. The Lal Lal Reservoir supplies drinking water to Ballarat and Geelong. It has a lovely picnic area with pit fire bar- b- ques. You need your own newspaper and matches. Water tap is available. There is a viewing area and information board on the history of the building of the Dam, surrounding area and Indigenous culture.

BLAST FURNACE

This attraction is very historic and is believed to be the only Blast Furnace of its type and age {1890's} still standing in the world – it is in excellent condition.

It was used to smelt iron ore from the local nearby quarry and was then made into ingots and transported to various cities and towns to be made into functional and decorative items. The gates and fence of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Ballarat are made out of iron ore from this Lal Lal area.

There is a short boardwalk with great informational plaques describing the workings of the quarry and the Blast Furnace. Enjoy a picnic or bar-b-que at the picnic area when you have finished looking at the Reservoir and the Blast Furnace.

LAL LAL STATE FOREST

This is a great area for keen bush walkers and recreational walkers alike. It can be accessed from the Lal Lal Reservoir area. See the Bushwalking Victoria guide for bush walks in this area or ask your hosts.



THE LITTLE SHEPHERD'S DAUGHTER'S GRAVE

This is a beautiful and peaceful site to visit and can be accessed from Chalkmine Road which is the first turn to the right as you come to the turn around area above the Bungal Dam – look for sign post in ground. Travel approx 2 kms and turn right at Heatherbell Rd and travel along this road for 1 km. The Little Grave is located in the bush about 20 metres off the road on the left. It is the grave of a little 6 year old girl – MARY PATTERSON - who was droving sheep with her family on this side of the Moorabool River. There was a cold and rainy period and she developed pneumonia and died. The river was in flood and the bridge to Mt Egerton was under water and a doctor could not get across to help her. She was buried in the bush as there was no access over the river to the cemetery either. There is a little vase embedded in her grave and you will always find flowers in it. It is surrounded by a wooden fence and has her name inscribed. She died in 1867 at the age of 6 years old.

There is a defined track that leads from her grave back to Heatherbell Road and it has a deep mine shaft just off the track. Be cautious in this area as there are some gold mine shafts dotted around just off the track. Do not stray from the track if you choose to walk it.

LAL LAL FOREST COMMISSION DEPOT OF VICTORIA.



The property you are staying at has its own history – being formerly the Lal Lal Forest Commission Depot of Victoria. Bushfire fighting was co – ordinated from here with the fire trucks being housed in the big sheds nearby. Roads were made into the State Forest by the men who worked here and the LAL LAL STATE FOREST was managed from this site. The sheds here were constructed from the original Huts that were used to house post WW2 migrants in the nearby Brisbane Ranges. Your host Ursula's family has been living and farming in this area of Lal Lal since about 1840 and my father – Frank Diamond - worked here for 27 years after he returned from WW2. He worked in the property you are staying in as it was originally the OFFICE of the site. The part of the cottage that has a wooden floor is the original Office area.

LOCAL NUMBERS THAT WILL BE HELPFUL FOR YOU

Your Hosts - Ursula and Graeme Diamond – Keith
53417626 0407717626

In case of an emergency ring 000, or Ballarat Base Hospital {Drummond St. North} 53204000 or contact your hosts on above numbers.

Lal Lal Falls Hotel – 53417580, Meals are available on weekends
Lal Lal Auto – 53417624 – mechanic available

Buninyong Crown Hotel – 53413402 – meals available every day

Haze Restaurant – Buninyong, fine dining and cafe – 53412677

The town of Buninyong also has a Golf Club {53413217}, small supermarket, bakery, chemist, milk bar and Fish and Chip shop as well as lovely gift stores and cafes to browse and eat at.

All Ballarat attractions are a short 15 to 20 minute drive away – Sovereign Hill, Ballarat Wildlife Park and the Botanical Gardens area.