

Hartley's Ck and Falls

Heading north along the Cook Highway and just past the current Hartley's Ck Crocodile Farm is the old Crocodile Farm. Just to the left of the property fence before the creek crossing is a foot trail going through the long grass. Many years ago you could almost drive to the falls on the creek but there now remains quite a good walking track that takes you to an area known as Flat Rock and further on to the falls. As the area is within the Macalister Range National Park there is even a park sign with distances to the features along the way although the distances seem to be a bit optimistic. Not that you will find anything about this area on the parks web page.

There is room for a couple of cars to park on the track side of the road, otherwise you will have to park across the road. The track ascends moderately steeply so most of the altitude gets out of the way early. It's 2.3 km and 35 mins from the carpark to the first stop at Flat Rock although you will pass a short sidetrack to the creek after about 25 mins walking. This is an old road that crosses the creek at a scenic spot but no pools for swimming.

The Flat Rock area is quite pretty and there are some good pools just upstream although if there has not been any good rain for a few months you can expect them to be not terribly inviting. In fact, I probably wouldn't recommend this walk unless there has been recent good rains.

From Flat Rock the track goes up and down, in and out of gullies for 2 kms and around 30 mins and stops at a sign heralding "Hartley's Ck Falls". Where? you might ask. I'm guessing you are supposed to find the falls at your own risk which is a quite easy rock hop upstream and around the corner. Hartley's Ck Falls is a pretty fall with a good plunge pool at the bottom at an altitude of 141m. The water gums hang over the stream forming an attractive shady arch.

