



MEMORIAL WALK

SELF
GUIDED
HIKE



DISTANCE
3km



TIME
1-2 Hours



GRADE 2 HIKE
A gentle walk



BEST TIME TO GO
Suitable all year

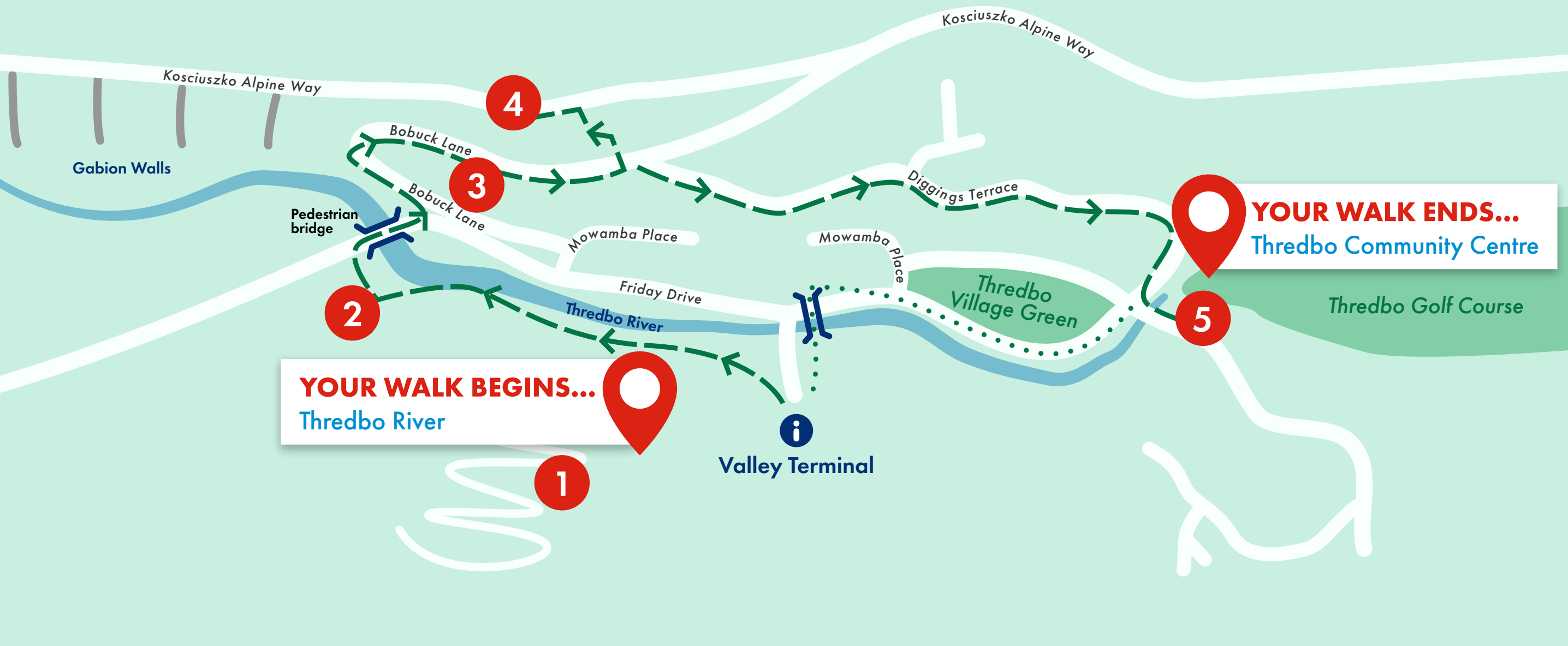


OVERVIEW

On 30 July 1997 at 11.40pm a section of road in Thredbo Village collapsed causing destruction of two buildings and the subsequent loss of 18 lives. This walk takes you along Thredbo River before winding through the village to viewing areas around the site of the landslide.

**FOLLOW
THE MAP**





- 1 Thredbo Bobsled
- 2 Carinya Lodge Foundations
- 3 The Commemorative Platform
- 4 The Upper Observation Point
- 5 Thredbo Community Centre

Thredbo sits on the traditional land of the Monero – Ngarigo people who have looked after this land, water and community for over 70,000 years. We thank them for all they have done and continue to do to look after their country, a special place which we all love and respect.



The Road

Kosciuszko Alpine Way was built in the 1950s to provide access to two hydro-electric power stations during the development of the Snowy Mountains Scheme. Upon their completion the road's maintenance was transferred to Kosciuszko National Park and used as the southern link to cross east to west of the Great Dividing Range.

A coroner's inquest was conducted into the events surrounding the road collapse. The Coroner concluded that at the time of the road collapse, no individual government authority had responsibility for the maintenance of Kosciuszko Alpine Way. Funding constraints on the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) limited what could be done to maintain roads operationally. The NPWS had been "inheriting roads not designed for purpose to which they were later put." "The causes of the tragic deaths, which occurred as a result of that landslide, are complex."



The Collapse

The embankment of Kosciuszko Alpine Way collapsed under pressure from ground water, contributed to by poor drainage and the original construction technique. Over 2000 cubic metres of liquified soil moved in seconds over 250 metres, crossing roads with Bimbadeen staff apartments and Carinya lodge in its path.

The Commemorative Platform's 18 posts signify the individuals whose lives were lost. The stonework foundations of Carinya can be seen. Nothing remains of Bimbadeen.

The tragedy occurred late at night when most residents were home. Rescuers were hampered in the early stages of the rescue due to the potential for further movements and an underground stream which had become exposed hampering access. The stream needed to be diverted to commence major rescue operations. 17 people lost their lives in Bimbadeen and Carinya, with Stuart Diver the only survivor.

The Rebuild

With extensive engineering works in the form of retaining walls, drainage and revegetation with native grasses, bushes and trees, the area has now been stabilised. Gabion walls are founded on engineered concrete footings and constructed from individual wire mesh 'baskets' that are bound in wire and packed with stones for optimal drainage. The baskets are then tied back into the compacted earth behind the baskets forming a gravity retaining structure.

Regional specific native vegetation was carefully selected after the open drainage system in the gully was replaced with an enclosed pipe system. A total of five drainage lines throughout the village were replaced during the two years following the road collapse to ensure that all stormwater runoff is channeled in a controlled manner and directed to Thredbo River.



The Community



With funds from both Federal, State Governments and donations from the Thredbo community and the general public the Thredbo Community Centre was built, as both a memorial to the tragedy and for future people of Thredbo. A memorial stone located at the entrance displays the names of the 18 people who lost their lives.

25 years on, the Thredbo community continues to fondly remember those lost lives, those who were involved in the rescue operation, and the sole survivor, Stuart Diver.

The Thredbo community extends their heartfelt gratitude to the teams involved in the rescue operation, and for the community who so loyally supported the village through that time and over the following years.

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES

Dianne Ainsworth	Werner Jecklin	Mary Phillips	Colin Warren
John Cameron	Oskar Luhn	Aino Senbruns	David Watson
Barry Decker	Andrew McArthur	Michael Sodergren	Anthony Weaver
Sally Diver	Stephen Moss	Mariam Sodergren	
Dianne Hoffman	Wendy O'Donohue	Steven Urosevic	

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