

DISCOVER RUSHWORTH'S IRONBARK FOREST WALKING/RIDING TRAIL

7 KM LOOP



Disclaimers:

The compilers and producers of this map do not warrant that this map is definitive nor free of error and does not accept liability for any loss caused or arising from reliance upon information provided herein.

Some portions of this track contain uphill ascents and rough terrain so it is not recommended for the elderly, people with health problems or small children.

This track is not signposted so it is recommended a topographic map or other navigation device be used in conjunction with this map.

Please ensure that suitable headgear is worn when attempting this bike ride.

Adequate water should be taken especially during the summer.

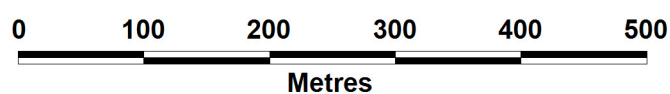
Please note there are many abandoned mine shafts in the forest and care must be taken when venturing off designated tracks.



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TRACK NOTES

Site	Km	Description
1	0.0	The cemetery was established over 150 years ago in 1861. There have been more than 3300 internments in the cemetery since then. This is the second Rushworth cemetery. The original cemetery is in the bush just to the south of the town, and was used from the start of the gold rush in 1853 until 1861. There are no known records of the burials in that cemetery. This cemetery layout has a unique radial design.
2	0.4	Affectionately known as the 1st Quarry this was probably originally gold mining workings following a quartz vein later expanded and used by the local council to obtain rock and gravel.
3	0.7	Although plentiful in the forest near the old township of Whroo these 3 young grass trees are the only grass trees to be found in this part of forest near Rushworth. Lets hope they continue to survive and propagate.
4	1.2	To the left and up the hill is what is known as the 2nd Quarry and was once a large gold mining site with a substantial tunnel going into Dunlops Hill. Notice on the top of the hill the prominence of Red Box eucalypts with thier rounded leaves which prefer and dominate this habitat in comparison to the gullies and flatter areas where Box-Ironbark eucalypts and other species dominate.
5	1.5	Nesting boxes have been put up in many places in the forest for Squirrel Gliders which are an endangered species. They are similar to Sugar Gliders and unique to the Box-Ironbark forests surrounding Heathcote and Rushworth. Squirrel Gliders are threatened by loss of habitat, particularly large hollow-bearing trees.
6	1.6	Large mullock heaps dot the landscape and are evidence of substantial reef gold mining in the area. Take note that most of these mullock heaps were all dug out by hand.
7	1.7	Here is a substantial stand of Grey Box eucalypts.
8	1.9	Horse drawn puddling machines were circular holes 15-20m across where dirt and water were mixed to break up the heavy clay and allow the heavy minerals to fall to the bottom of the puddler. This puddling machine exists as it was left over 100 years ago. The centre pivot and the distinct inner and outer circles of the puddler are still evident. Puddlers can usually be found just beyond the wall of dams used to supply them with water.
9	2.0	Here is a clay pit used to produce bricks. Evidence of the brick works is all around you with various discarded bricks dotting the landscape. The pit was later turned into a dam from which water was used to supply puddling machines for the extraction of gold.
10	2.1	This puddlers construction is unlike any others recorded in the area. Instead of an inner mound and base of clay as with most other puddlers there is a inner ring of brickwork with a concrete base.
11	2.3	If you look up a tree about 50 metres east from this point you will see a clay choughs birds nest. It looks like a clay bowl sitting on a tree branch. Choughs are the black and white birds similar to a magpies or crows in appearance which you see foraging in the forest in large social groups.
12	2.5	Green Mallee - This tree is very hardy once established, has a high drought resistance and forms dense thickets commonly on stony ridges.
13	2.8	Halfway point. An interesting anecdote about the dam on the left is that it was dug out using a Sherman tank with a grading blade attached to the front of it.
14	3.2	Over 100 years ago an aboriginal family camped by this tree for about a week. Bark was cut from this tree and used as shelter, the scar which is still in evidence today. The story was recited by a local now since passed away who carved his initials into the tree after the family left. These initials can still be seen on the tree today.
15	3.8	This now disused Slaughter House was once the backbone of the Perry Butchery in Rushworth when meat was grown and prepared much more locally than it is today.
16	3.9	Note the Native Cherry or Cherry Ballart which is partly parasitic by obtaining some water and nutrients from the roots of surrounding vegetation without adversely affecting the host plants.
17	4.3	At the top of Dunlops Hill is now the water supply for Rushworth pumped up from the outlet channel of the Waranga Basin. Note the many mullock heaps in the area from substantial gold reef mining.



**START
&
FINISH
HERE**

