

8. LEITCHES CREEK SPRINGS

Grade: *Easy/Medium* | Length: *15 km* | Duration: *4.5 hrs*
Style: *linear - car shuffle* | Total uphill: *215 m*
Gradient: *short sections >10%* | Path: *generally formed tracks*

Introduction

A varied walk through bushland in the Wombat Forest, the surrounds of the Bullarto Reservoir, and the hamlets of Bullarto and Leitches Creek Springs. Points of interest include a visit to Bullarto and its reservoir, Kangaroo Creek valley, the extinct volcano: Currys Hill and Leitches Creek Springs, where in 1900 a spring water bottling plant operated.

Getting there

From the Base (Hepburn Primary School) follow Main Road east and south about 4 km to Daylesford. Turn left (east) onto Raglan St. and continue east then south-east on Daylesford-Trentham Rd (C317) for about 7 km to the intersection with Dairy Flat Rd. Leave some cars here and proceed 3.5 km to Bullarto. Turn south into South Bullarto Rd. for less than 100 m and left into the large shady and protected car parking area near the Bullarto Hall (Grid Reference (GR) 542576).

Preparations, Precautions & Hazards

Boots should be worn due to the rough tracks. Snakes may be encountered. Drinking from Leitches Creek Springs is not recommended due to the pollution risk. Care is needed on the wooden bridge crossing Kangaroo Creek as the timber boards have deteriorated. Warm clothing should be carried as the weather here can be surprisingly cold throughout the year.

Facilities

There is a picnic area at Leitches Creek Springs with 2 tables. There are no toilet facilities or shelters on this walk.

Walk Description

From the Historic Bullarto Hall car park walk back along South Bullarto Road to Daylesford-Trentham Road, turn east for 200 m to the last house on the left hand side of the road and take the Quartz Track north at GR 545578.

Walk along this shady track which opens up to become a wide power easement. Continue along the full length of the easement descending towards the reservoir. Avoid a track off to the left as Quartz Track terminates at the Bullarto Reservoir Reserve. This very pleasant location on the large grassy verge adjacent to the water is suitable for morning tea under native and exotic trees.

Following the break, proceed south east along the gravel road heading away from the dam wall. At the marked reservoir gateway (GR 562591) turn north along Babbingtons Road which ascends in an even gentle grade. Avoid all gated tracks on the left which lead into the restricted zone. Continue past the signposted Top Track on the right and the next unlabelled track on the left. Take Spout Track on the left (west) (GR 561602). Its signpost is just visible opposite the track above the bracken.

About 100 m along Spout Track avoid a right hand track (GR 560603) and continue to descend for about three kilometres all the way to the Kangaroo Creek Track junction (GR 549626). Easily missed but signposted Badger Track comes in from the right just before the junction. Proceed west on Kangaroo Creek Road. This is a major gravel road, and soon passes over a lush gully containing the fern lined Kangaroo Creek. The track gradually ascends to the T intersection with signposted Osborne Road at GR 541628.

Turn south on Osborne Road which gradually ascends and arcs around to the south west. Further along note and pass by an old farm fence corner and gate on the right at GR 537615 and soon after pass a square concrete water storage pond on the right. From here the road continues to rise and bend right then left. In this left bend, on the right note two small Blackwood wattle trees together just past two tracks on the right at GR 534613. Take the second track, firstly towards a farm gate, then following the boundary fence westwards. Continue along this old partly overgrown track, which at times thins to a foot pad and runs besides the fence line in light bush. Ignore two other tracks on the left and continue on a better track northwest around the fence line corner and through two gate posts to the commencement of an easement at GR 530612. The short easement is surrounded by bush and abruptly exits amid farmland onto Currys Road.

Follow Currys Road for about 300 m in the very peaceful setting of Leitches Creek Springs and arrive at the intersection with Springs Road (GR 527617). Descend southwest along the sealed Springs Road 150 m to the springs, tucked away on the left. This is a late but very appropriate location for lunch.

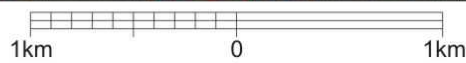
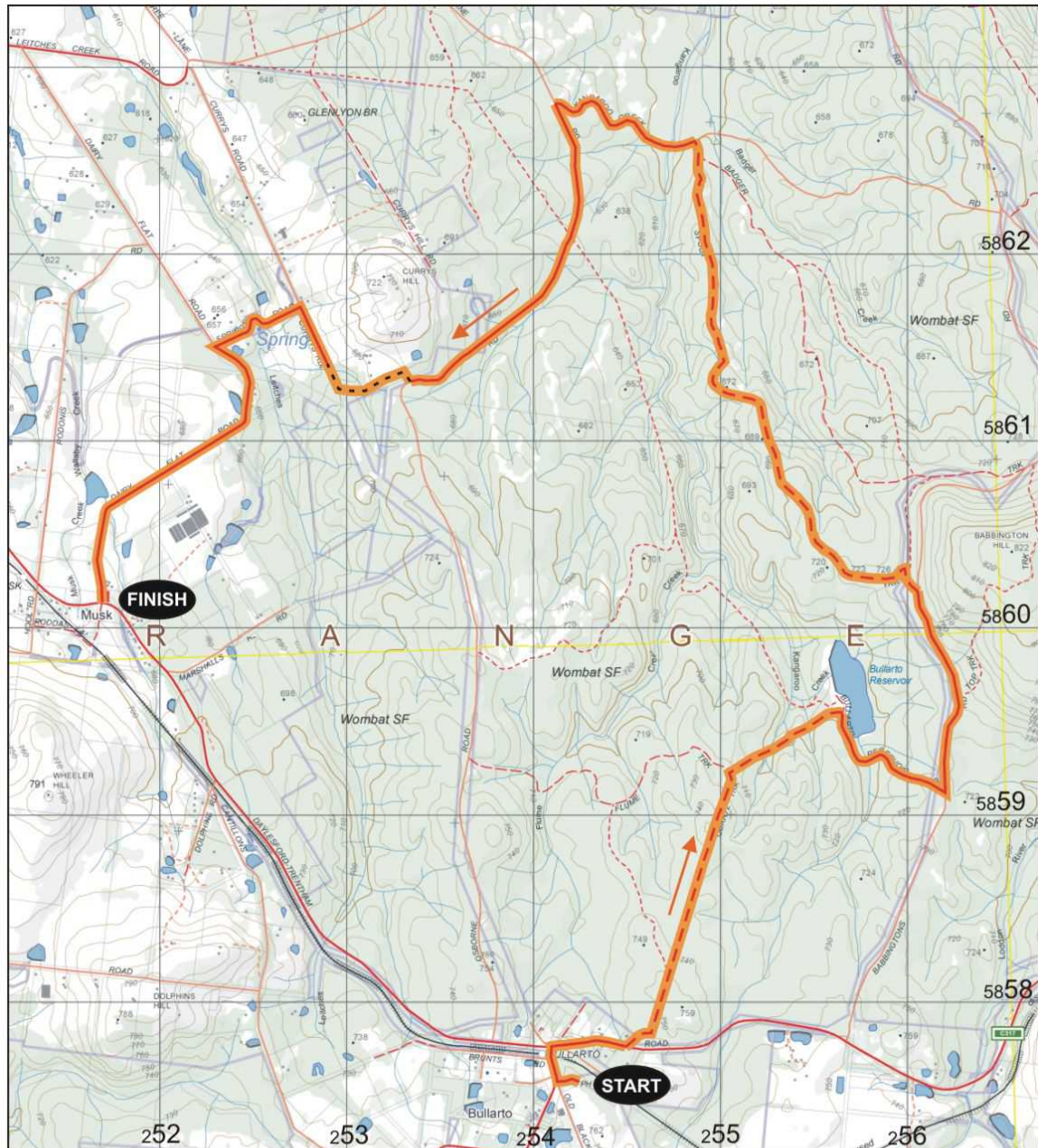
Following lunch, continue along Springs Road to the intersection with Dairy Flat Road (GR 523615). Turn southeast and follow Dairy Flat Road to terminate the walk at GR 517602 on the Daylesford-Trentham Road.

This Walk Sheet describes a bushwalk, part of Bushwalking Victoria's Federation Walks 2015 program in the Daylesford and Hepburn Springs area on 24-25 October 2015. The host clubs for this event are Bayside Bushwalking Club and The Great Dividing Trail Association. Bushwalking Victoria, the host clubs, their members and walk leaders cannot accept any responsibility for errors, omissions or changes to the circumstances on which this information is based, nor can they accept responsibility for any loss or injury sustained by any person using this Walk Sheet.

Bushwalking Victoria: www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/

Bayside Bushwalking Club: www.baysidebush.org.au/ Great Dividing Trail Association: gdt.org.au/

8. LEITCHES CREEK SPRINGS



- Walk Surfaces**
- Road —
 - Vehicle Track - - -
 - Foot Track - - - -
 - Off Track
 - Walk Route —



Maps

- Vicmap Topo 1:25000 A0
- 7723-3-N DAYLESFORD NORTH
- 7723-3-S DAYLESFORD SOUTH
- Vicmap Topo 1:30000 A4
- 7723-3-1-2
- 7723-3-2-1

GDA94 / MGA Zone 55



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