

9. MT HOPE

Grade: *Medium* | Length: *14 km* | Duration: *5 hrs*
Style: *circuit* | Total uphill: *350 m* | Gradient: *short steep hills <20%*
Path: *4WD tracks, bush tracks and off-track*

Introduction

The walk covers an area rich in wildflowers, as well as forest timber. Old gold prospecting activity is in evidence in the area. The walk is significantly off-track over some steep hills and 4WD tracks. We encounter various sections of the early stages of the Werribee River. The final part of the walk along the Werribee River is very picturesque.

Getting there

From the Base (Hepburn Primary School) turn right on to Main Road and follow this east and south for about 4.4 km to Daylesford. Continue south on the Ballan-Daylesford Road. After about 26.5 km from the start look for a gravel road to the left that is signposted Bunding-Blakeville Road. Take this road for 1.3 km to a picnic area at the bottom of the hill on the left hand side of the road. This is the start and finish of the walk (Grid Reference (GR) 499450). There are no car park gates or fees payable.

Preparations, Precautions & Hazards

Old gold prospecting ventures have left random trenches and mine pits so care is needed in some areas. Gaiters and long pants would be helpful to negotiate the tall bracken and undergrowth. Boots are necessary due to rough terrain.

Facilities

There are picnic tables and BBQ wood fire pits at the start of the walk. There are no other facilities.

Walk Description

The walk starts at the car park at GR 499450. Cross over the river and walk south-east on the road for 400 m to a faint 4WD track on the left (GR 502448). Follow this track for 100 m then veer north-east off-track to a high point at GR 507451. Follow the 4WD track to the next high point at GR 508453 and continue south-east for 500 m to McGees Road at GR 512450. Cross over McGees Road and continue on the track climbing up to the junction with Mount Hope Track at GR 518452. Turn left on Mount Hope Track and continue for 500 m to the junction with Cricket Ground Track (GR 516455) and north for about 1.5 km to Hell Hole Track on the left. Ignore this track and proceed for 200 m to a faint track branching to the right (GR 519468) and follow this track east to the summit of Mount Hope (GR 521469). This is a convenient place for a break. It is a cleared area with weather station apparatus but has no views.

Continue following a track north-west down to Mount Hope Track (GR 520470) and continue north ignoring any side tracks until you reach the top of the ridge where the track is on a long sweeping right hand bend at GR 520475. There is a small clearing on the left hand side to help identify this spot. Turn left (north-west) and walk off-track to pick up the long generally down, but undulating, ridge passing a high point at GR 514476. Continue on the ridge, avoiding the creeks and gullies on your left, to reach another high point at GR 503482 which is about 2 km from going off-track. This area is a good lunch spot.



Track down Mt Hope

After lunch continue west over the high point along a trail bike track for about 50 m and pick a convenient spot to leave the bike track and head west, ignoring all other bike tracks, until a distinct 4WD track is reached at the bottom of the hill (GR 498482). Follow this track north-west to Spargo-Blakeville Road at GR 495485. Turn left and walk 100 m to the McGees Road junction (GR 493485). Turn left into McGees Road and proceed for 200 m and head off-track (south-west) to a high point at GR 493481. This is where the most mining activity has taken place so care is needed. Continue from this high point south to pick up a 4WD track and follow this track south for 1 km to a T junction at GR 492471.

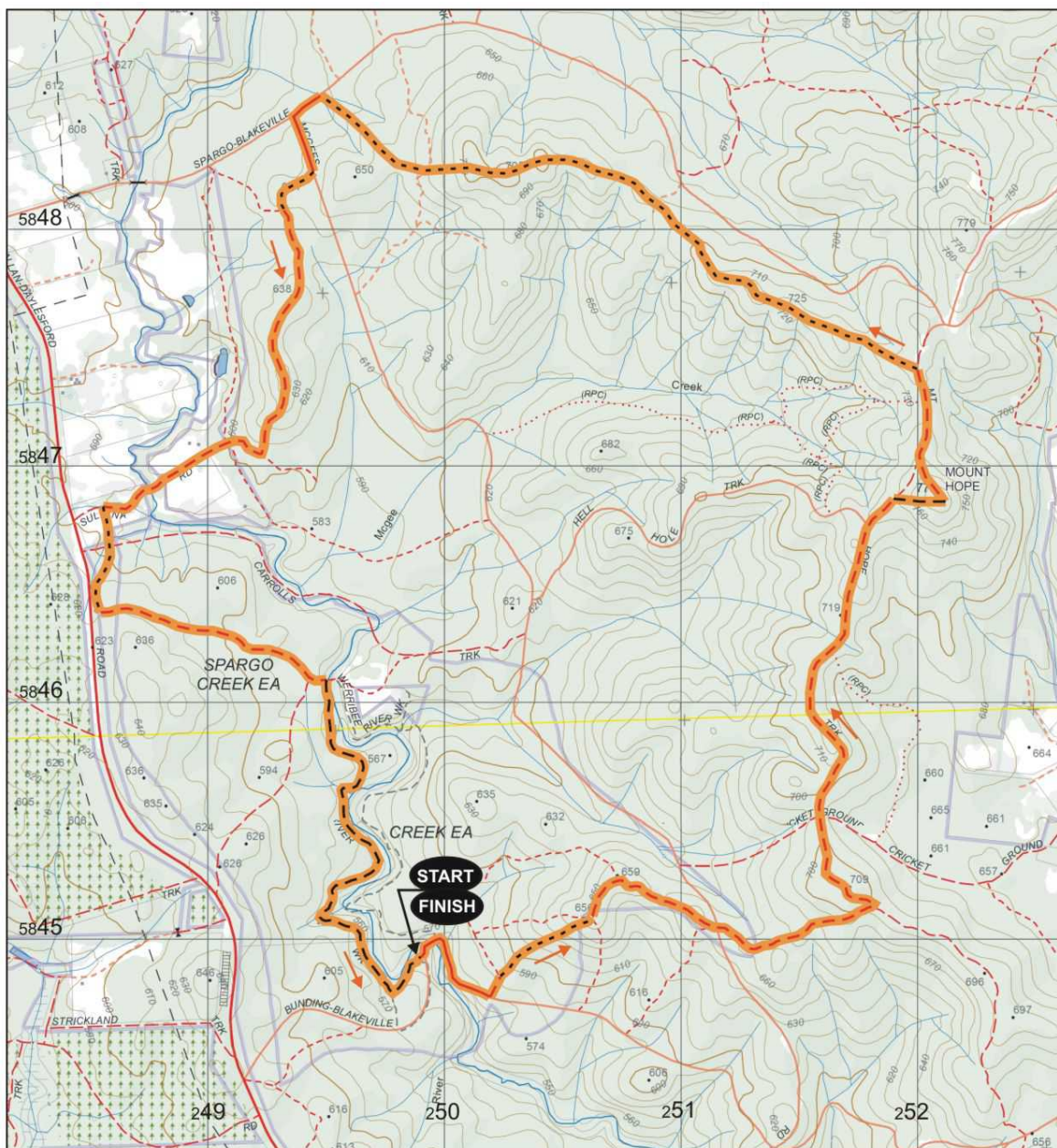
Turn right along a 4WD track to another junction (GR 491471) and cross into the bush for a short distance west aiming for a break in the fence that leads to a mown grass track called Sultana Road. Follow this road, which becomes gravel, between private properties, and cross the Werribee River. Continue on to a clearing on the left-hand side containing a shed at GR 486468. Head off-track south, then south-west up a hill to meet the Ballan-Daylesford Road and a 4WD track at GR 486464. Follow the 4WD track as it turns south-west for about 1 km to the ford over the Werribee River (GR 495461). Do not cross the ford but follow the riverside walk south on the west side of the river. This track meanders along the river for 2.2 km to the car park. Look out for the dogleg left-hand turn on the track (GR 498448) this is a shorter route back to the car park.

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.

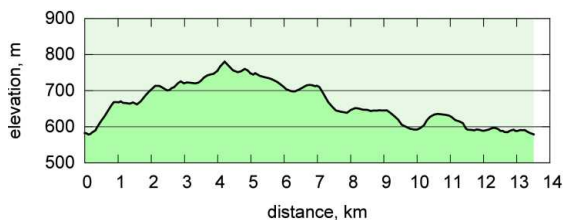
Bushwalking Victoria: www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/

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

9. MT HOPE



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



Maps

Vicmap Topo 1:25000 A0
 7723-3-S DAYLESFORD SOUTH
 7722-4-N BALLAN NORTH
 Vicmap Topo 1:30000 A4
 7723-3-2-3 7723-3-2-2
 7722-4-1-4 7722-4-1-1
GDA94 / MGA Zone 55



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