

17. MR HUNTS CHIMNEY

Grade: *Medium* | Length: *12 km* | Duration: *3.5 hrs*
Style: *circuit* | Total uphill: *310 m* | Gradient: *short steep hills <20%*
Path: *formed tracks, rough and rocky surfaces and off-track*

Introduction

This is a circuit walk situated in the southern area of the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park. Part of the walk follows Sebastopol Creek before joining the Great Dividing Trail (GDT), which follows a water race in some places and passes through open woodlands of coppiced box-ironbark eucalypt. There are many examples of old diggings and interesting ruins of the goldmining era, including fine remnants of stonework built by miners for shoring up the banks of Browns Gully. An off-track side trip is taken to visit Mr Hunts Chimney and two examples of deep unfenced mine shafts. An abundance of spring flowers and perhaps wallabies and kangaroos may be seen on the walk.

Getting there

From the Base (Hepburn Primary School) turn right onto Main Road and follow this road east then south for about 4 km to a roundabout in Daylesford. Turn left onto the Midland Highway (A300) for about 2.2 km then turn right onto Daylesford–Malmsbury Road (C316) and stay on this road for 950 m to Porcupine Ridge Road. Turn left and follow Porcupine Ridge Road for 16 km to Wewak Track on the right-hand side and park. This is the start of the walk. Note that the last 5 km of this road is unsealed.

Preparations, Precautions & Hazards

There is prickly wattle growing thigh high and fallen trees on some off-track areas. Care should be taken with unfenced mine shafts and 4WD traffic on Porcupine Ridge Road. Boots are essential, and walking poles useful, especially as parts of the track on the water race can be slippery if wet.

Facilities

There are no facilities on this walk.

Walk Description

The walk starts at the intersection of Wewak Track and Porcupine Ridge Road (Grid Reference (GR) 519787). Walk south-east on Wewak Track for 670 m then turn left and leave Wewak Track at GR 524782 to go off-track. Follow Sebastopol Creek south-west upstream for 1.3 km until meeting Porcupine Ridge Road at GR 518772 Turn left to follow this road for 1.2 km to join the GDT (GR 521761). Follow the GDT, travelling north-east, for 1.2 km to intersect Loop Track at GR 527768 and continue a further 1.9 km to Browns Gully at GR 538777.



Open Forest on the Great Dividing Trail



Mr Hunts Chimney

Remain on the GDT for 1 km travelling north-west then west until meeting a vehicle track on the left at GR 532782. Follow this track for 350 m south-west to GR 530779 and then off-track south to Mr Hunts Chimney and mine shafts at GR 531778. Leave Mr Hunts Chimney and travel west for 250 m to meet the Loop Track at GR 528778. Turn right (north) onto Loop Track and after 300 metres intersect with Wewak Track at GR 527781.

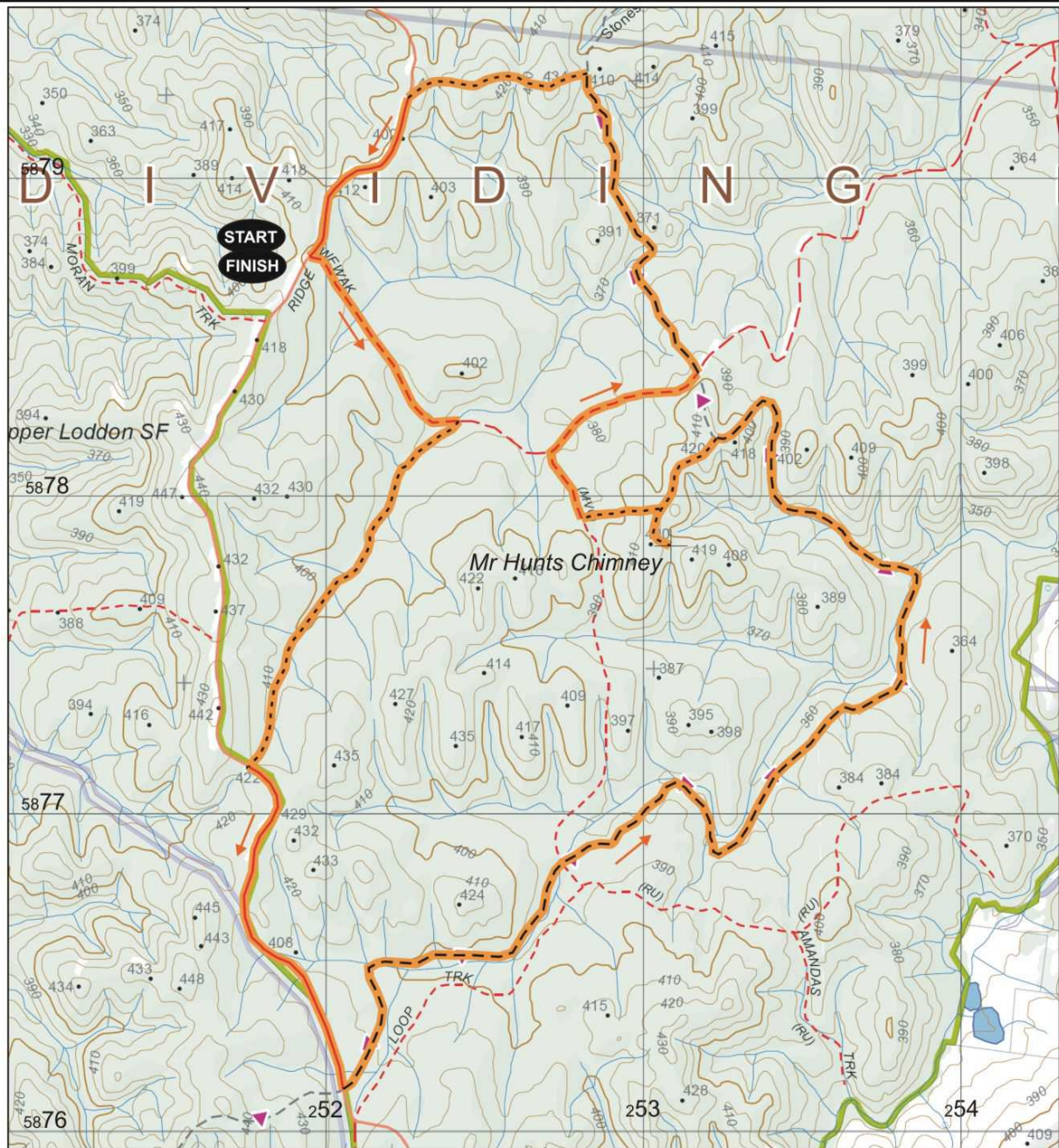
Turn right onto Wewak Track and travel east for 550 metres to re-join the GDT at GR 531783. Turn left (north) and follow the GDT for 1.2 km, climbing 300 metres and crossing Sebastopol Creek, to GR 528793. Head off-track and travel west on a saddle and over three knolls for 570 metres until reaching Porcupine Ridge Road (GR 522792). Turn left (south) on Porcupine Ridge Road and walk about 700 m back to the start of the walk.

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/

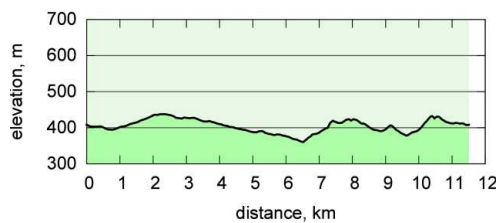
Bayside Bushwalking Club: www.baysidebush.org.au/ Great Dividing Trail Association: gdt.org.au/

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1km 0 1km

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



Maps

Vicmap Topo 1:25000 A0
7723-4-S CASTLEMAINE SOUTH
Vicmap Topo 1:30000 A4
7723-4-2-2

GDA94 / MGA Zone 55



Map base sourced from Vicmap, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).
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