

Distance

Total distance is seven kilometres.
There are several loops to investigate
Balaclava Hill and Malakoff Hill loops 3.5 km
Cemetery and Aboriginal Rock Well loop 5km

Time to complete

Depends on how many loops you take!

7km loop 4 hours

Balaclava Hill loop 2 hours

Cemetery Trail loop 3 hours



Relative difficulty

Moderate

Trails are mainly gravel and crushed quartz,
however some sections have erosion.
Occasionally the gradients are steep, but for
relatively short distances.

This is often a quiet, empty place of bushland, native flora and fauna. Exploration of the Whroo Historic Trail unearths evidence of a different, busy, crowded and culturally significant past. The open cut of the impressive Balaclava Mine marks one end of the journey. Remnants of Victoria's gold rush era can be discovered all along the way. Underground storage tanks, mining shafts and tunnels, building rubble and foundations, century old rubbish dumps and gold mining infrastructure comprise an historic treasure trove. Once spring fed Aboriginal rock wells close these historic trail loops.

In case of emergency

For emergency help call **000**

For emergency information and warnings
emergency.vic.gov.au

Mobile phone coverage may be inconsistent

The Nguraililam-wurrung aboriginal people used ironbark forest timber to fashion canoes, hunting implements and construct shelters. Ironbark blossom made a sweet beverage. The name "Whroo" is said to come for the word meaning lips. This was a reference to the aboriginal watering holes in the area.

Whroo Historic Area is 65 hectares of a remnant goldmining township within the world's largest ironbark forest of 24,300 hectares. It is well suited to multi recreational use including walking, mountain biking, horse riding, self-drive touring, birding, prospecting and fossicking, camping and day picnics.

Remaining relics of a bygone age stimulate the historical imagination and encourage exploration. The forest itself harbours a variety of native flora and fauna that can easily be found including grey box, red and mugga ironbark, grass trees, wallabies, kangaroos and tree goannas.

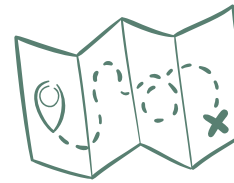
For more information
and interactive maps check out these websites:
www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/tourism/tourism/tracksandtrails
<https://www.victoriawalks.com.au/Strathbogie/>



Balaclava Mine and Whroo Cemetery Trails Whroo Historic Area



Location

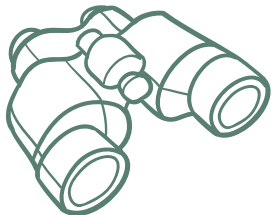


To access the Whroo Historic Area, drive through the Rushworth State Forest via the Rushworth – Nagambie Rd. 7km south of Rushworth Township, turn left into Reedy Creek Rd. The central car park with public toilets is 0.5km from this intersection on the right.

Track notes

1. Car Park – You can enter the trail loops at any point. However, the sizable central car park with picnic and toilet facilities is probably the most convenient place to start and finish.

2. Balaclava Mine – Head uphill to the right of the public toilets to join the Balaclava Mine section of the trail. The trail is well-defined, being constructed of a crushed quartz and gravel surface. Be wary, the gravel can slip. There are 2 viewing points into the open cut. Watch out for locked gated tunnels through the hill. The larger was for a tramline. Access into the open cut is now prohibited due to the high risk of rock falls. After you pass the second viewing point, cross nearby Rushworth – Nagambie Rd to see the original battery dam. If you are lucky, you may see tortoise on the bank. Fish live in this water. Mountain Biking – There is great mountain biking below the dam wall. Proceed downhill parallel to the road while looking across the road to your left. Cross the road to the first trail on your left to rejoin the Balaclava Mine loop. You will return to the central car park via mullock heaps and the site of the Lewis homestead.



3. Whroo Cemetery – Once back at the central car park, this time head downhill, towards Whroo Cemetery. Keep to the left of the open grassy space you initially traverse.

Imagine it humming with the sounds of a 10,000 strong population. Take care, like this space, some walking trails may not be well defined due to variable local conditions. You will arrive at a dirt road. Head along the road to your right to resume the trail on the opposite side, beside Poor Man's Gully. Observe the mullock heaps of gold mining detritus as you pass by. You will come to Cemetery Road. Cross here to follow the cemetery driveway into the cemetery itself. There are 400 graves here, many unmarked. Take time to reflect on the timing and causes of death in gold rush Whroo.

4. Aboriginal Waterholes – The next stop will be the Aboriginal waterholes. Follow the trail behind the cemetery around the base of the nearby low hill to the left of the cemetery. Passing through stands of grass trees, you will come to an intersection. Follow the trail marker on your left pointing up the hill. Cross the next dirt road to the ramp that leads to the waterholes.

5. Picnic Spot – Return back down the same trail section to the intersection and turn left to resume the trail. This will now run parallel with Reedy Lake Rd until it reaches Cemetery Rd. Cross to the picnic tables on the corner. To return to the central car park, continue uphill parallel to Reedy Lake Rd. You have completed your trail loops.

Options

- Visit the puddling machine and cyanide vats 300m south of the Balaclava Battery Dam along the Rushworth – Nagambie Rd.
- Follow the track opposite the Balaclava Mine on Reedy Creek Rd up and behind Malakoff Hill. Then travel downhill along Surface Hill Gully for 300m. Turn right to head back towards the central car park.
- Free camping is available at Green's Camping Ground on Green's Rd.