

Distance

Short walk 1.6km return.
Long walk 3.5km circuit.

Time to complete

2 – 3 hours

Relative difficulty

Easy: Short walk to summit

Hard: Long walk circuit



In case of emergency

For emergency help call **000**

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

Mobile phone coverage may be inconsistent

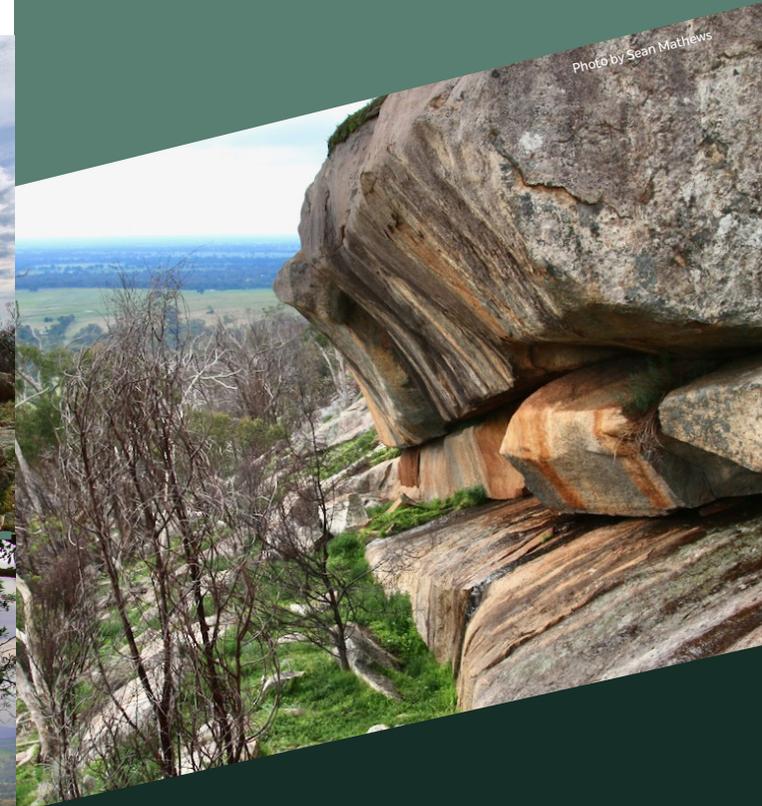


Big Hill Walk

Longwood East



Photo by Sean Mathews



Options

Short walk track 1.6km return Big Hill summit

Long walk 3.5km loop (no track)

If you want to walk over the back and around the sides of the hill some areas are quite challenging, be prepared for lots of rock hopping and very steep gradients.

Amenities

Ample parking in the Old Hume Hwy truck siding

None other

Cautions

Take only photos and leave only footsteps.

Don't stray onto private property, some of the boundary fences are in poor repair.

Restrictions

No camping

No Dogs

No potable water

No firewood collection

No firearms or hunting

No vehicles or motor bikes

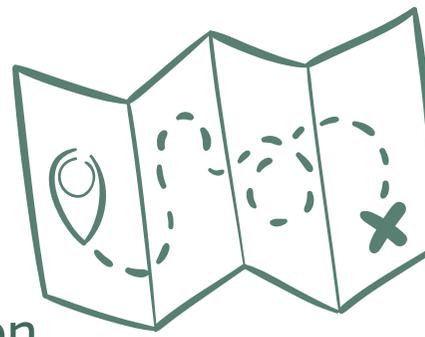
Take your rubbish with you

For more information
and interactive maps check out these websites:

www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/tourism/tourism/tracksandtrails

<https://www.victoriawalks.com.au/Strathbogie/>





Location

The 62h Big Hill Nature Conservation Reserve is easily accessed from Faithfull Rd (Old Hume Hwy), 1 km beyond the Longwood–Ruffy Rd turnoff. Initially, it is a fairly easy north–south walk up to the summit – approximately 140m in altitude. Walk across the downed fence, follow the track to the left and then up the spine of the hill to the first outcropping (Wool Pack Rocks). Another 100m takes you to the summit.

Track notes

1. Car parking
2. Wool Pack Rocks
3. View north east to High Country
4. Trig point
5. View east to Mt Wombat
6. Escarpments and boulder falls
7. View north to Murray Country
8. Tessellated pavement

More than 56% of Granitic Hills Woodlands in the Goulburn Broken Catchment have disappeared since European invasion. Historically, parts of Big Hill were cleared of trees and grazed, but areas of intact woodland and escarpment shrubland remain.

Topography and Geology

The Reserve is a high value granitic hill woodland that exists for nature conservation. Even at what sounds like a relatively low 372m elevation, the views across plains, rolling hills and mountains are stunning.

Flora

Many of the plants and animals that rely on this habitat are now threatened, and some are extinct. This is one of the last remaining public land examples of quality habitat on the rocky, western slopes of the ranges. Big Hill also links to important large patches of private remnant bushland along Winding Creek, up to Gap Rd and Panorama Drive above Longwood East.

There are examples of indigenous vegetation with considerable floristic or habitat value in a relatively natural state. It is a perfect location for recreational pursuits such as nature study, walking and photography associated with appreciation of the area.

Granite country, with outcropping rocks and sandy to sandy–clay soils, typically has low water holding capacity. The low woodland overstorey is usually dominated by Blakely’s Red Gum, with Red Stringybark, Red Box and Long–leaf Box. The shrub layer consists of Hickory Wattle and Drooping Sheoak, Common Fringe–myrtle, Lightwood, Box–leaf Wattle and Varnish Wattle. Clumps of *correa reflexa* and native fuchsia grow amongst the rocky shrub and herbland. Ground layer species include Nodding Blue Lily, Austral Carrot, Raspwort, Cotton Fire–weed, Green Rock Fern and Austral Stonecrop.