

#### Distance

3.5km

#### Time to complete

2 Hours

#### Relative difficulty

Intermediate



#### Seasonal Variations

Wildflowers best in spring

#### Amenities

Car parking

None other

#### Cautions

Steep climbs

Limbs may fall

Slippery surfaces

No potable water

Be equipped for hiking

Visitors must be self-reliant

Native flora and fauna are protected

#### Restrictions

No dogs

No firearms

No camping

Take rubbish with you.

Fires only in places provided

Drivers/riders must: use formed roads only, be licensed, be registered

## In case of emergency

For emergency help dial 000.

For emergency information and warnings  
[emergency.vic.gov.au](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)

In case of fire call 000.



Photo by Sean Mathews



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For more information  
and interactive maps check out these websites:  
[www.strathbogievic.gov.au/tourism/tourism/tracksandtrails](http://www.strathbogievic.gov.au/tourism/tourism/tracksandtrails)  
<https://www.victoriawalks.com.au/Strathbogievic/>

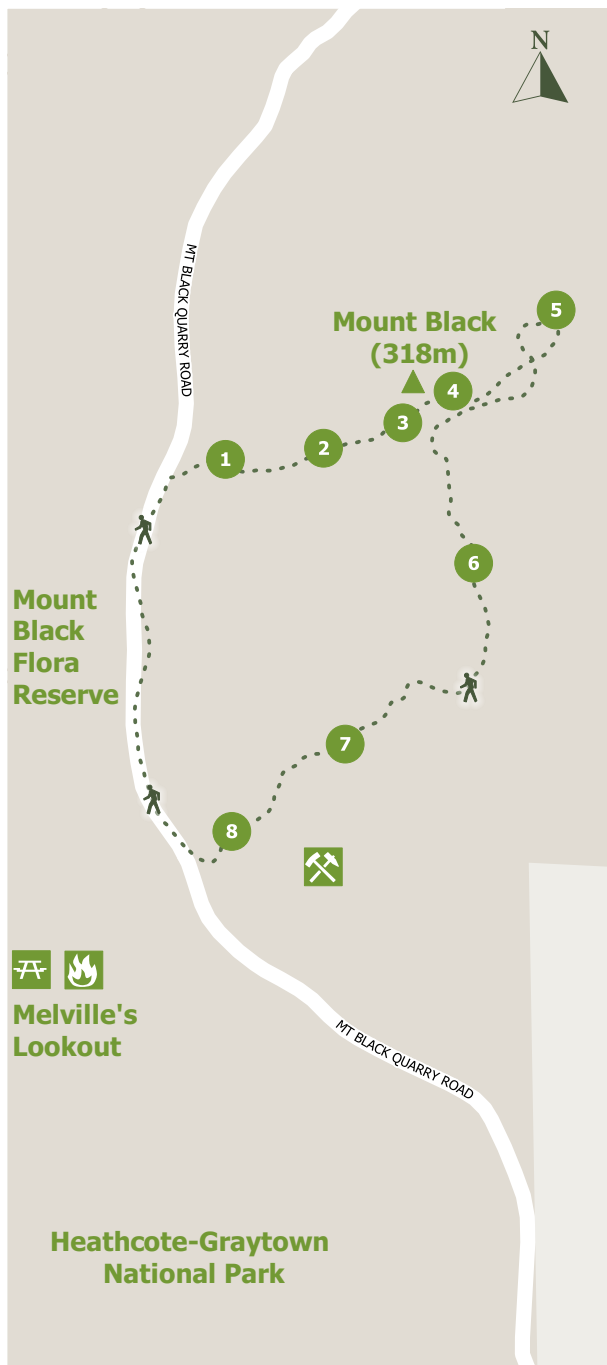


## Mt Black Walk Wirrate

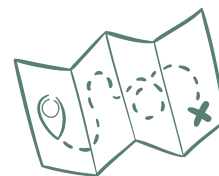


Photo by Sean Mathews





## Location



**Mt Black Quarry Rd. Heathcote-Graytown National Park Wirrate 3608. The entry to the Mt Black walking track is 800m uphill from the Melville's Lookout directional sign along Mt Black Quarry Rd on the right. There is no sign.**

## Track notes

1. Ruts and erosion – surfaces may be unstable. Take care with your footing.
2. A fossil opportunity – sandstones litter the ground. Look for ancient sea bed fossils.
3. Beginning of the ridge line
4. Trig Point
5. Great views
6. View to Melville's Lookout
7. In the gully
8. Mt Black Quarry

### Options

Long walk: An 11km return walk commencing at the corner of Mt Black Quarry Rd and Nagambie-Heathcote Rd  
Double header: A 6km walk commencing at the Mt Black Quarry site to cover both Melville's Lookout on Bob's Bluff and the Mt Black summit loop.

### Topography and Geology

Mt Black has the highest elevation of any hill in the area, 300m. The National Park is composed of forested hills and gullies. These make for enjoyable bushwalking. The sand stone ridges are a result a folding earth's crust. The views from these hilltops are terrific. Look out for fossilised sea shells from the ancient sea bed.

### Fauna

Eastern Grey kangaroos, echidnas, antechinus and goannas may be encountered. Threatened species you may be lucky enough to see are the squirrel glider, phascogale (tuan) and swift parrot during winter.

### Ancient Giants

Spectacular stands of huge old grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea australis*), up to three metres high can be seen in this part of the National Park. Grass Trees are common in the Mt Black area. They are very slow to grow and flower most often following bushfire.

This National Park comprises Victoria's largest remaining box – ironbark forest, consisting of open woodland including ironbark, grey and yellow box and stringy bark. The understory features blackwood, gold dust wattle, silver wattle and drooping cassinia. The latter (also known as Chinese Cassinia or Scrub) is an opportunistic coloniser that is considered a bush fire enhancer. Green rock fern is a common ground plant in milder months.

Wildflowers are abundant in spring, but may be found in smaller numbers at any time. They include grassland wood sorrel, tall bluebells and greenhood orchids, with others according to the season. Rare crimson spider orchids may be also seen.

### Birdlife

Red and little wattle birds and parrots enjoy the canopy when eucalypts are in flower. White winged choughs are common and white throated tree creepers are often seen trunk running, cockatoos abound and gang gangs can be spotted. For the birdwatcher there is an abundance.

### Pests

Cinnamon Fungus  
Areas of Heathcote-Graytown National Park are infected with the soil borne disease know as Cinnamon Fungus (*Phytophthora cinnamomic*). To prevent the spread of this disease visitors are requested to stay on formed tracks and take note of signs that restrict public access. Damage from 4WD and motorbikes is significant on the walking tracks of Mt Black. March flies can be a problem in Autumn.

### Local History

Naming:  
Dargile (formerly Heathcote – Graytown) National Park.