

Ruffy Snow Gum Reserve Walking Track



**Strathbogie Ranges
Nature Trails**



www.strathbogierangescmn.com

Distance

3 km return

Time to complete**Advanced walkers**

40 min return

Moderate walkers

1 hour return

Slow walkers

1½ hours return

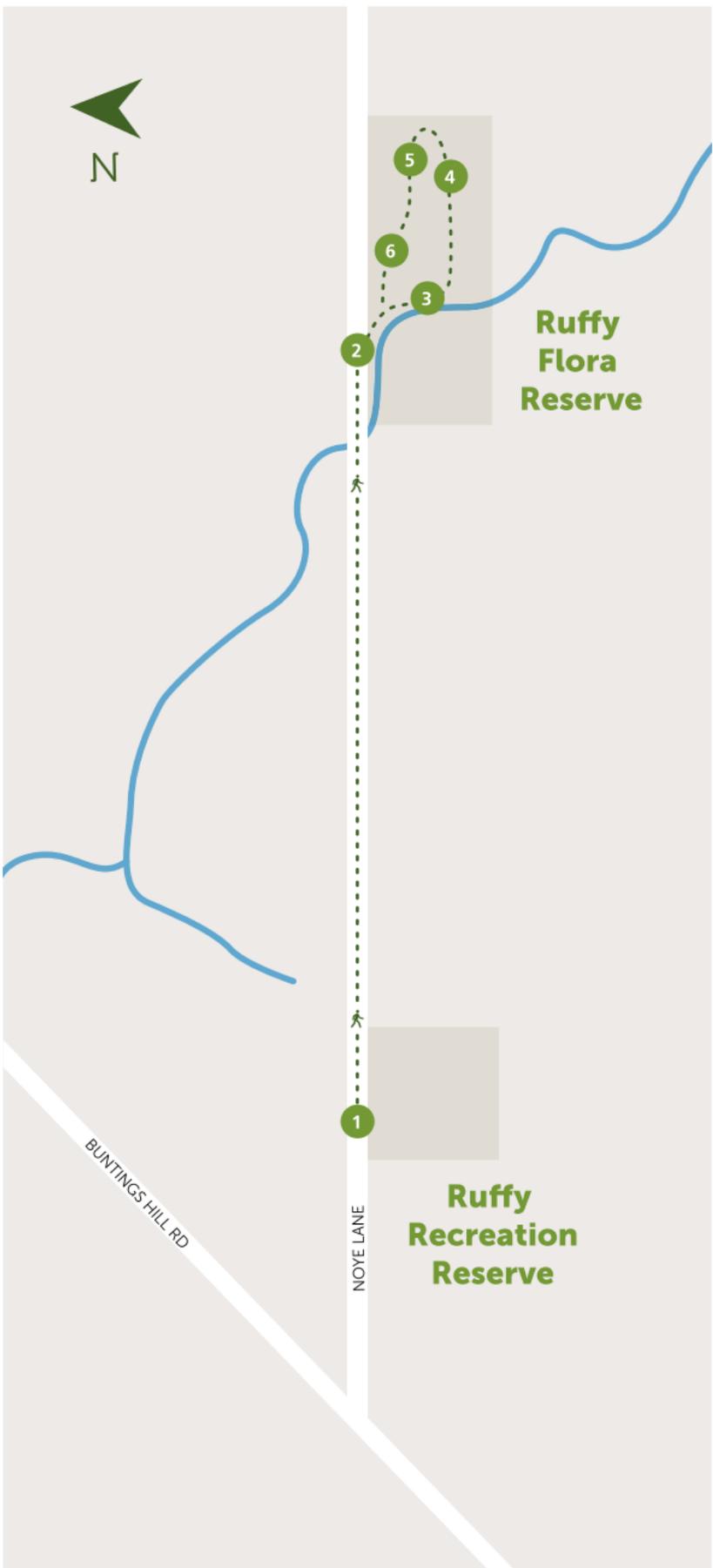
Relative difficulty**Moderate**

The ground is uneven, with logs and branches to step over. Gumboots are recommended on wetter days.

This track meanders down an unused road reserve through open Narrow-leaf Peppermint forest until it crosses a walking bridge and enters the Ruffy Flora Reserve. A circuit of this reserve takes you through swampy riparian woodlands dominated by ancient Mountain Swamp Gums. The path continues past a tiny population of Snow Gums, remnants of a colder climate, and skirts a chain of dark deep billabongs into bandicoot and koala territory.

Walking track sponsors

*Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative Landcare,
Darley Horse Stud and Ruffy Community Action Group*



**Ruffy
Flora
Reserve**

**Ruffy
Recreation
Reserve**

BUNTINGS HILL RD

NOYE LANE

2

6

5

4

3

1

Location

Start the walk at the Ruffy Recreation Reserve gate in Noye Lane (off Buntings Hill Road), 2 km from Ruffy township.

Track notes

1. Park cars at the Ruffy Recreation Reserve gate and walk east along the unused road reserve that is a continuation of Noye Lane. Follow the mown path for 1.1 km and enter the Ruffy Flora Reserve.
2. Follow the track markers along the left of the path. After 95 m, along the fence line you will find a clump of lonely Ruffy Snow Gums. This population consists of six straggly trees that have been savaged by koalas and drought.
3. The path enters a swampy depression full of seasonally herbaceous plants, Ti-tree and Mountain Baeckea thickets and Mountain Swamp Gums. This is perfect frog and snake habitat. Please tread carefully and be aware that you will encounter snakes on warm days.
4. Follow the track markers in an easterly direction for 220 m. The tattered remains of a few classic cars abandoned by earlier Ruffy inhabitants are clustered among the trees near the eastern edge of the reserve. Identify and photograph these rusty relics but leave any spare parts you might find where they lie for future generations to marvel at.



Autumn and winter are recommended for this walk. Spring and summer are the seasons for tiger snakes, and it's best to avoid these times unless you enjoy the company of these reptiles.

5. Circle back past an old 'chain of ponds' watercourse featuring deep dark pools linked by a trickling creek. Listen for frogs and watch out for the bunyip!
6. Pass through the grove of ancient Mountain Swamp Gums. Notice the knobbly growths on their trunks. During spring the wildflowers can be impressive on this section of the walk – lilies and orchids are common. Smell the fresh peppermint-scented air. Feel the bracing Ruffy winds blowing in from the south.

In case of emergency

- In case of fire call 000.
- For emergency help call 000.
- The nearest medical facility is Seymour Hospital, 45 km away.

About Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network

The Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network (SRCMN) is a community organisation whose mission is to improve nature conservation and management in the Strathbogie Ranges through learning, sharing and collaboration.

Formed in 2010 the SRCMN has been actively involved in on-ground conservation activities such as protecting wetlands and rocky outcrops. The SRCMN creates and organises community activities such as the Wild Strathbogie Festival and education workshops such as our Landscape Discovery Tours.

We partner local Landcare groups and work with the traditional owners of this land, the Taungurung Clan.

For further information please visit our website www.strathbogierangescmn.com