

Distance

3 km return

Time to complete

Advanced walkers

20 min return

Moderate walkers

1 hour return

Slow walkers

1 hours 30 mins return



Relative difficulty

Moderate

The recommended seasons for this walk are autumn and spring. There is uneven ground with logs and branches to step over. Gum boots are recommended on wetter days. Avoid the tiger snake season unless you enjoy the company of these reptiles.

In case of emergency

For emergency help call **000**

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

Mobile phone coverage may be inconsistent

Ruffy sits on the Southern Strathbogie Plateau in the Victorian Highlands. As part of the Strathbogie Ranges the granite rocks of the Hughes Creek catchment were formed when a mass of molten rock forced its way towards the surface of the earth, and trapped and cooled. This happened over 350 million years ago, in the Upper Devonian period of geological history. The molten rock heated and compressed the existing rocks and they became harder, creating a metamorphic ring. These rocks now form the ranges around the granite tableland.

Ruffy offers a range of activities to suit all tastes. You can go for scenic drives or walks in the beautiful bush surroundings which include a number of flora reserves abounding with wildlife, admire the rugged granite rock outcrops, or relax beside one of the many creeks meandering through the district – all perfect for the artist or photographer.

The historic Ruffy Mechanics Hall hosts many events throughout the year. These include the 'Season of Saturday' concerts and other shows provided by RuffArtZ, and the biennial Ruffy Artfest. Not bad for a population of 112!

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, past a tiny population of snow gums, remnants of a colder climate. It skirts a chain of dark deep billabongs into bandicoot and koala territory. In Spring you will be surrounded by spectacular fields of wildflowers, an experience not to be missed!

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

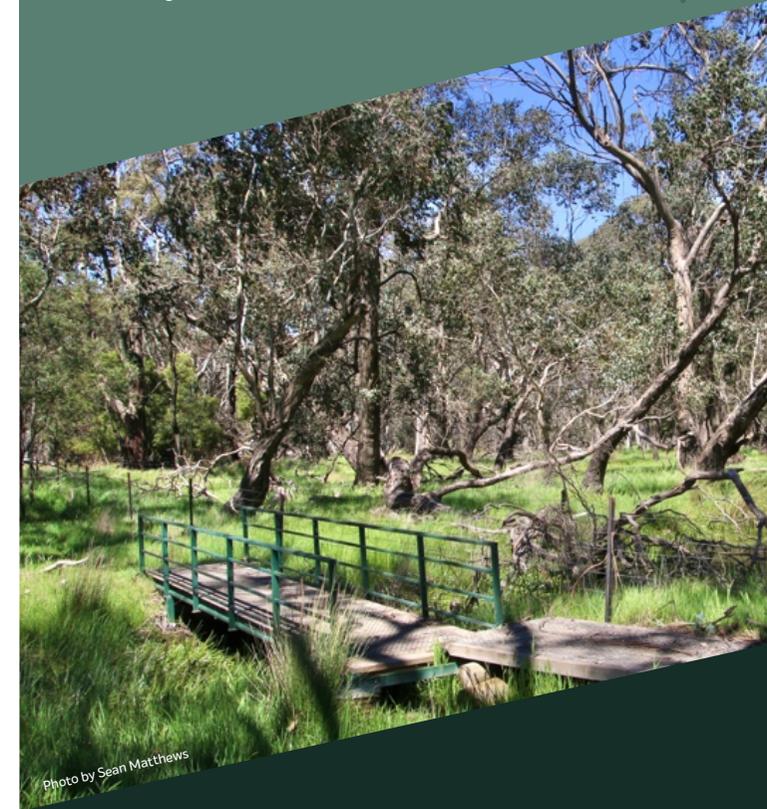
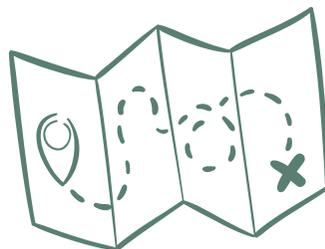


Photo by Sean Matthews

Ruffy Snow
Gum Reserve
Walking Track
Ruffy



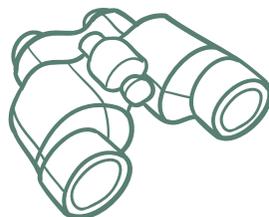


Location

**Noye Lane off Buntings Hill Road,
2 kilometres from Ruffy township.
Starting at Ruffy Recreation Reserve
Gate.**

Track notes

1. Cars can be parked at the Ruffy Recreation Reserve. Walk east along the unused road reserve that is a continuation of Noye Lane. Follow the mown path for 1.1km and enter the Ruffy Flora Reserve.
2. Follow the track markers to the left, along the fence line for 95m to a clump of lonely Ruffy Snow Gums. This population consists of six straggly trees that have been savaged by koalas and drought.
3. You are now entering a swampy depression full of seasonally herbaceous plants, tea-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.



Notice the many Silver Banksias and other shrubs that have been planted along the track, providing a nectar and pollen source for insects and honeyeaters.

4. Follow the track markers in an easterly direction for 220m. The tattered remains of a few classic cars abandoned by earlier Ruffy inhabitants can be found clustered together amongst the trees near the easterly edge of the reserve. Identify and photograph these rusty relics but leave the spare parts you might find where they lie for future generations to marvel at.
5. Circle back past an old "chain of ponds" watercourse; 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 (*Eucalyptus camphora*). Notice the knobby growths on their trunks. During spring the wildflowers can be impressive up this section. Lilies and orchids are common. Smell the fresh peppermint scented air. Feel the bracing Ruffy winds blowing in from the south.

