


Distance
5.5km return
Time to complete
2 hours
Relative difficulty
<p><b>Moderate</b> This is a dirt vehicle track with a gradient increasing to a very steep concreted rise to the summit.</p> <p>Visitors need to be self-reliant.</p> <p><b>Note: vehicles also use this track.</b></p> 

Mt Wombat and Garden Range Flora and Fauna Reserve, in the area around Mt Wombat, is perhaps the most well known nature reserve in the Strathbogies. Most visitors drive to the top of Mt Wombat for a great view over the Tableland to the east and over the plains to the north and west. But few people venture beyond the track and car-park and fewer still explore other parts of the reserve.... Why not explore further and add a bush walk or a mountain bike ride?

On the way back you can visit Polly McQuinns Weir, Gooram Falls or why not drop into the quaint township of Strathbogies. There you can sit beside the open wood fire at the Strathbogies General Store to catch up on the local gossip or have a round of golf at the picturesque Strathbogies Golf Course make sure you discover the township's natural beauty on the Bridge to Bridge walk. See <https://strathbogies.org>

Let's not forget the mosses, lichens, fungi and ferns that abound everywhere they can gain a foothold. These add a soft texture, variety and colour to the landscape that enlivens the mountainsides and demands inspection.

## In case of emergency

For emergency help dial 000.

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

In case of fire call 000.

## History of the Strathbogies Forest

The boulder formations and rocky outcrops seen in the Strathbogies Ranges are the result of geological processes that began between 300 and 400 million years ago. After the sea withdrew during the Devonian period, there was a large scale crustal collapse which resulted in two volcanic cauldrons. Eruptions built up large layers of volcanics and the emplacement of granitic rock which has been eroded to the present day to form the Strathbogies Ranges.

Gold was first found in the area in 1851. This was shortly after gold had been discovered in Victoria for the first time. During the gold rush in 1860, alluvial mining occurred on the mountain ranges but the rush lasted only for a short time with the area all but deserted by the end of 1861, many of the miners headed for Jamieson. At its peak, production of alluvial gold was reportedly around 6,000 – 7,000 oz per annum. Gold production diminished towards the turn of the century and only small operations continued.

Quartz crystal has also been mined in the Strathbogies and one crystal mine operates within the forest. The crystal is used for piezo-electric applications including radio transmitters. A 1.7kg crystal known as 'Crystal King' was mined in the Strathbogies, which at the time was the largest hand faceted stone in the world. Unfortunately, visitors are not permitted at or around the active Crystal King Mine.

**WARNING** do not visit Mt Wombat during extreme fire danger, high winds or if thunderstorms are predicted.

## Mt Wombat Flora & Fauna Reserve

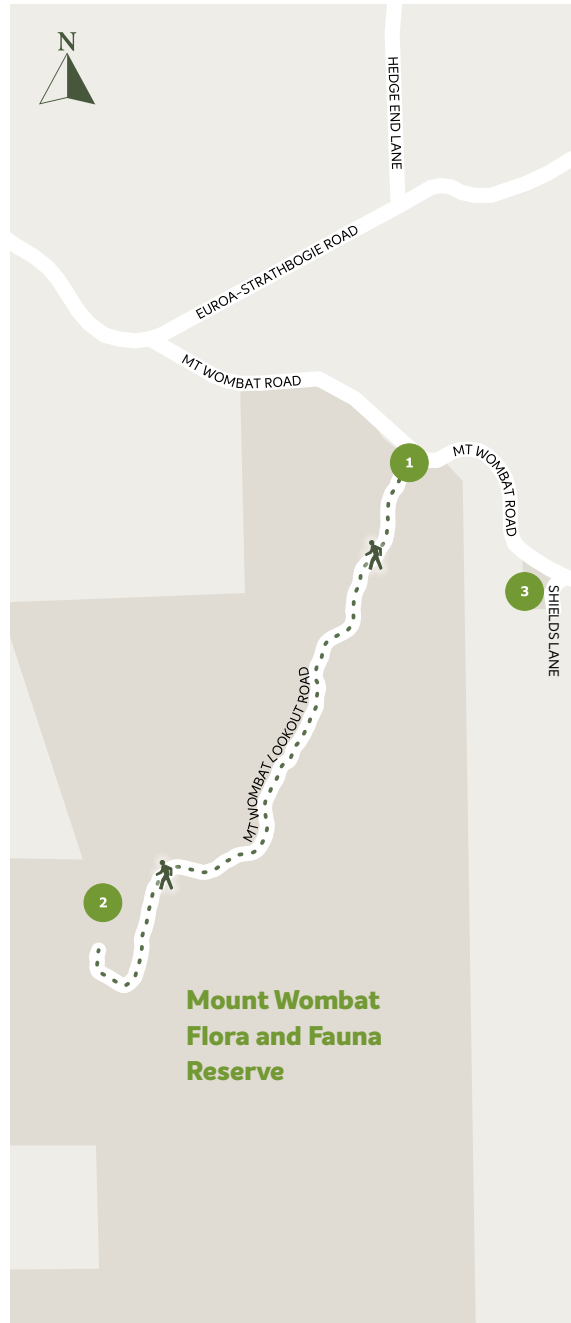
Strathbogies Ranges



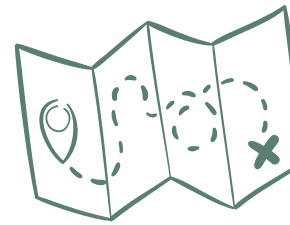
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## Location



**Car parking is at the intersection of Mt Wombat Road and Mt Wombat Lookout Roads or further up Mt Wombat Lookout Road for a shorter walk, if you have a four wheel drive, from the base of the rocky outcrop.**

## Track notes

1. Cars can be parked here for the more adventurous who can enjoy the 2.5km walk to the summit. Four wheel drives can continue on to the base of the Summit
2. Mt Wombat - The Mt Wombat lookout offers excellent, uninterrupted 360 degree views of the area, from the plateau on top of Mt Wombat. The sunrises and sunsets can be as spectacular as you could wish for. Watching approaching storms is awesome. Observing the resident wedge tailed eagles riding thermals at their flight height is something special as well.
3. Strathbogie Cemetery - the Cemetery occupies 5 acres of bushland and is a tranquil last resting place. The history of the Cemetery goes back to 1881, only a few years after the selectors arrived, It was decided to establish a cemetery only a few years after the selectors arrived. This history of the cemetery goes back to 1881.

After 1946 it was generally believed that the cemetery was closed, and it fell into a sad state of neglect. Burials resumed in 1998. Thanks to the commitment of a small group of volunteers, the cemetery is once again picturesque and an inviting place to visit.

Mt Wombat lookout offers excellent 360 degree views of the area from the plateau on top of Mt Wombat (799 metres). From the lookout there are spectacular views of Waranga Basin and Goulburn Weir at Nagambie in the distance.

It is reached from Euroa-Strathbogie Road. The turn-off is signposted and the road allows you to drive right to the top. The summit is home to the Forest Fire Management Lookout. During summer, a watchful eye is kept for fires in the region. The original hut was built in 1961 but was destroyed by fire (how ironic!) in 1980 when it was struck by lightning. It was quickly rebuilt and is still in operation today, make sure you don't stand in the way of our dedicated fire spotters working in the tower.

Alternatively you can park halfway up and enjoy a pleasant walk. There are picnic spots along the way.