

Brabralung Trail (Hotham - Dinner Plain)



Walk, ride or run this ancient mountain pathway that runs parallel to the Great Alpine Road through the Alpine National Park, linking the Hotham resort to Dinner Plain. Learn of the past, understand the present and discover the future aspirations of the Aboriginal first peoples of the alps. The trail features interpretive signs highlighting the indigenous association with the high country. Panoramic views of the High Country are also found with numerous areas to rest and picnic along the way. Starting from the General Store at Hotham Village, follow *Davenport Drive* south past Little Mount Higginbotham where the trail continues past Wire Plain and Whiskey Flat into the Alpine National Park. Return by the same route. Side walks can be found at *The Big Spur*, *Dargo Lookout* and the *Brandy Creek Access Track*.

Differing landscapes

From Snow Gum forests, open grassy plains to wetland bogs of national significance, the Brabralung Trail offers great opportunities to experience a variety of alpine landscapes. These include the naturally occurring open plains, JB Plain and Paw Paw Plain, where only low-growing plants such as grasses, heaths and alpine bog plants are able to survive due the phenomenon known as cold air drainage.

Wetlands are a key feature of the landscapes along the trail. At JB Plain and Paw Paw Plain look for the Sphagnum Moss communities which form bright green hummocky mounds. These moss beds play a crucial role in regulating water flow from the mountains to the valleys below thanks to their ability to absorb, hold and filter huge quantities of moisture.



Aboriginal coolamon, a carrying vessel usually made from bark.

Flora and Fauna

During warmer months wildflowers are abundant, including the remarkable Grass-leaf Trigger Plants – *Stylidium graminifolium* - with their spikes of pink flowers and unique styles which are cocked, ready for insects to trigger the pollinating mechanism. Along the way, you may also see Emus, which are resident at JB Plain.

History

Aboriginal peoples have a shared history of the region spanning many thousands of years and covered long distances to come to the alps. The area was used by the Dhudhuroa from the Murray River side, the Yaitmathang from the mountains to the north and the Gunaikurnai from Gippsland.

Brabralung is the Gunaikurnai name for this part of Gippsland, including Mitchel River, Tambo River, Bruthen and the alps. It means male, Berry Worcat (female), means 'the people'.

Despite squatting runs being taken up from the mid-1830s in the foothills throughout the region, the ranges of eastern Victoria were little explored by Europeans. Rich gold discoveries in the region in early 1852 on both sides of the range at Beechworth and Omeo attracted a large and industrious population in the district for the first time in history.



Billy Howards Hut, Wire Plain

Billy Howards Hut

Surrounded by snowgums, this neat little green corrugated-iron hut is situated next to the Great Alpine Road at Wire Plain. Billy Howard, a mountain cattleman from Harrietville erected this hut in 1962. The main building was prefabricated and brought in by truck. The hut was possibly purchased from the nearby Kiewa Hydro Scheme. The skillion section of the hut was added to store saddles and a water tank. The hut was used for Howard's cattle grazing runs in the locality. Today the locality is a great spot for a picnic.

Be Prepared

The best months for walking the Brabralung Trail are from November through to May, however, weather conditions can change rapidly, and snowfalls and blizzards can occur at any time of the year. (Mt Hotham's Bushwalking Season is from the November Melbourne Cup Weekend to mid May.)

Be prepared with:

- Wind and waterproof jackets
- Warm clothing – hat, gloves, sunglasses, and strong footwear
- Food and water
- First aid kit and sunscreen
- Map and compass
- Check the weather forecast before departing
- Let someone know where you are going
- Mobile phone (reception in some areas)



Caution

Bushfires have damaged snow gums, which are now regenerating but dead branches are shedding with the new growth. High wind days may result in falling limbs and branches. It is not recommended to use the track on windy days. Please be aware that snakes are active during warm months.

See also 'Mt Hotham Track Notes - Bushwalker Code'



Brabralung Trail

Grade of Walk:

Grade 3, as per *The Australian Walking Track Grading System*

Distance:

12km one way

Time:

4 hours one way

Gradient:

Mostly level with some gradual steep sections

Quality of Path:

Good compacted gravel surface

Steps:

Elevated walkway at Paw Paw Plain

Experience required:

No bushwalking experience required

For more information on Mt Hotham's Iconic Tracks & Trails, visit www.mthotham.com.au. For Resort track & trail conditions, email mhar@mthotham.com.au, or telephone 03 5759 3550 during business hours.

We hope you enjoy the walk.



Mount Hotham Alpine Resort Management Board



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BRABRALUNG TRAIL

