



ParkWeb  
Home

Education | Employment | About Us | Site Map | Site Help | Search | Contact Us

News

What's On

**Parks and Reserves**

Marine & Coasts

Special Places

Victoria's Heritage

Activities

Guided Tours

Publications

Links

Conservation

Volunteers

Park Cards

Weather Forecast

**Healthy Parks,  
Healthy People**

Tenders & Notices



## Howqua Hills Historic Area

[\[Back\]](#) [\[Print Version\]](#)



Park Type:

**Heritage Property and Historic Place  
East**

Region:

Special Needs Access: **Rating 3** (out of 6) [more info](#)

[Things to Do](#) | [Facilities](#) | [Heritage](#) | [Looking After the Park](#) | [How to Get to the Park](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Nearby Parks](#) | [Guided Activities](#) | [Publications](#)

Howqua Hills Historic Area is a site of natural beauty where you can rediscover the history of gold mining and settlement in the area as you walk past historic relics from the 19th century.

### Things to Do

- **Howqua Greenston.** Outcrops of the oldest rocks in the alpine area can be seen along the river. Aborigines prized it for its hardness and used it for stone spearheads and cutting tools.
- **Sheepyard Flat.** Locals say that after the valley was settled, shepherds camped on the flat at night keeping the dingoes at bay.
- **Tunnel through Tunnel Spur.** Built in 1884 to link the Howqua River race, it is about 100 metres long.
- **Water race.** Cut by hand in 1884 to carry water to the "Hanney" water race, it is about 100 metres long and can be seen above the road from Tunnel Spur to the Hanney.
- **Brick chimney.** Completed in 1884 and used as a smelting furnace. The "Hanney" was erected nearby and powered by water from the race. It is 18 feet (18 metres) in diameter and drove the crushers that broke the ore into a size for gold extraction by roasting the chimney.
- **Fry's Hut.** Fred Fry built his home in the late 1930s. Fred's life in the area was the basis of Neville Shute's novel 'The Far Country', published in 1952. Camping is not permitted in Fry's Hut.

### Horsesriding

Horses are permitted in the Howqua Valley from **November** to the **31 May**.

In the **Howqua Hills Historic Area**, horse yards are available at Fry's Flat and Sheepyard Flat. Smaller groups are advised to use the Tunnel Bend Flat yards. Fry's Flat is suitable for larger groups.

Each Flat has two sets of constructed yards with posts adjacent for extensic tape if required. The two sets of yards are hardened with gravel to reduce h the site.

Insulators are provided on posts to allow for yard rotation. Be prepared and portable Yarding.

Horse riding is not permitted on the Heritage Walking Track. An alternative r Contact the **Parks Victoria Mansfield Office** via **13 1963** for further informæ

There are also horse yards located nearby in the **Alpine National Park** at 7 area, Ritchie's Hut, Bluff Hut, Lovick's Hut, Pikes Flat, Mitchell's, King River

**Horse riders must book horse yards in the King Howqua Unit of the Al Park prior to arrival.** Contact the **Parks Victoria Mansfield Office** via **13 1963** for bookings.

## Facilities

- Camping along the Howqua River is one of the major recreational use in the Howqua Valley. The historic area has a number of camping areas.
- Toilets are provided at Fry's Flat, Sheepyard Flat, Noonans Flat, Tunnel Bend Flat, Davons Flat and Pickerings Flat. An information shelter is located at Fry's Flat.

## Heritage

Aborigines used the Howqua River as a major trade and war route across the Howqua Range. They also had several quarries in the area that yielded stone for tool making.

European settlement began in the 1840s when the land now in the historic area of the Howqua run, taken up by the pastoral company Watson and Hunter. It continued through until the present.

The discovery of alluvial gold at Cameron's Creek in the 1860s heralded the mining era in the valley. A gold-bearing reef was discovered in the 1870s and mining began. The main mining companies were the Mountain Chief, Great Rand and Howqua. Most of the remaining relics are of structures built by these companies. The population soared and in 1888 the township of Howqua was proclaimed. It had a blacksmith, butcher, bakery, post office and several boarding houses. The rush was short-lived and by 1905 all major goldmining operations had come to an end.

## Looking After the Park

- Take your rubbish with you.
- Fires are only permitted in fireplaces and firewood should be collected from the Forest areas before the bridge at Sheepyard Flat.
- Fires, including barbecues, are not permitted on days of Total Fire Ban.
- Camping is not permitted in day visitor areas.
- Camp at least 20 metres from streams and rivers to protect vegetation and access for all visitors.

- Horse camps are not permitted on Sheeppark Flat.
- Drive only on formed roads open to the public.
- All native plants, animals and historic relics are protected.

## How to Get There

Access to Howqua Hills Historic Area is via Mansfield, 17 kilometres from M

## Accessibility

**Special Needs Access Rating: 3 out of 6**

### Sheeppark Flat

This is the most accessible of the camping grounds and picnic areas within the Area. It is a bush camping site, with minimal infrastructure, but has a large grassy area for campers to use. The picnic tables, toilets and fireplaces do not have features to improve accessibility. There is an information shelter next to one of the parking areas.

## Nearby Parks

- Alpine National Park
- Lake Eildon State Park
- Mount Samaria State Park
- Upper Goulburn Historic Area

## Guided Activities

1. [Bushwalking](#)
2. [Canoeing / Kayaking](#)
3. [Coach/Bus Tours](#)
4. [Four Wheel Drive Tours](#)
5. [Horse Riding](#)
6. [Mountain Bike Riding](#)
7. [Rafting](#)

## Publications

### Park Notes / Maps

1. [Howqua Hills Historic Area - Visitor Guide](#)