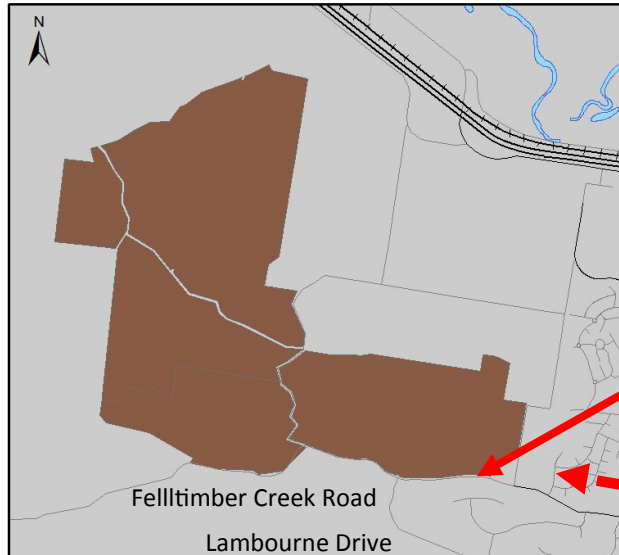




Getting to McFarlanes Hill



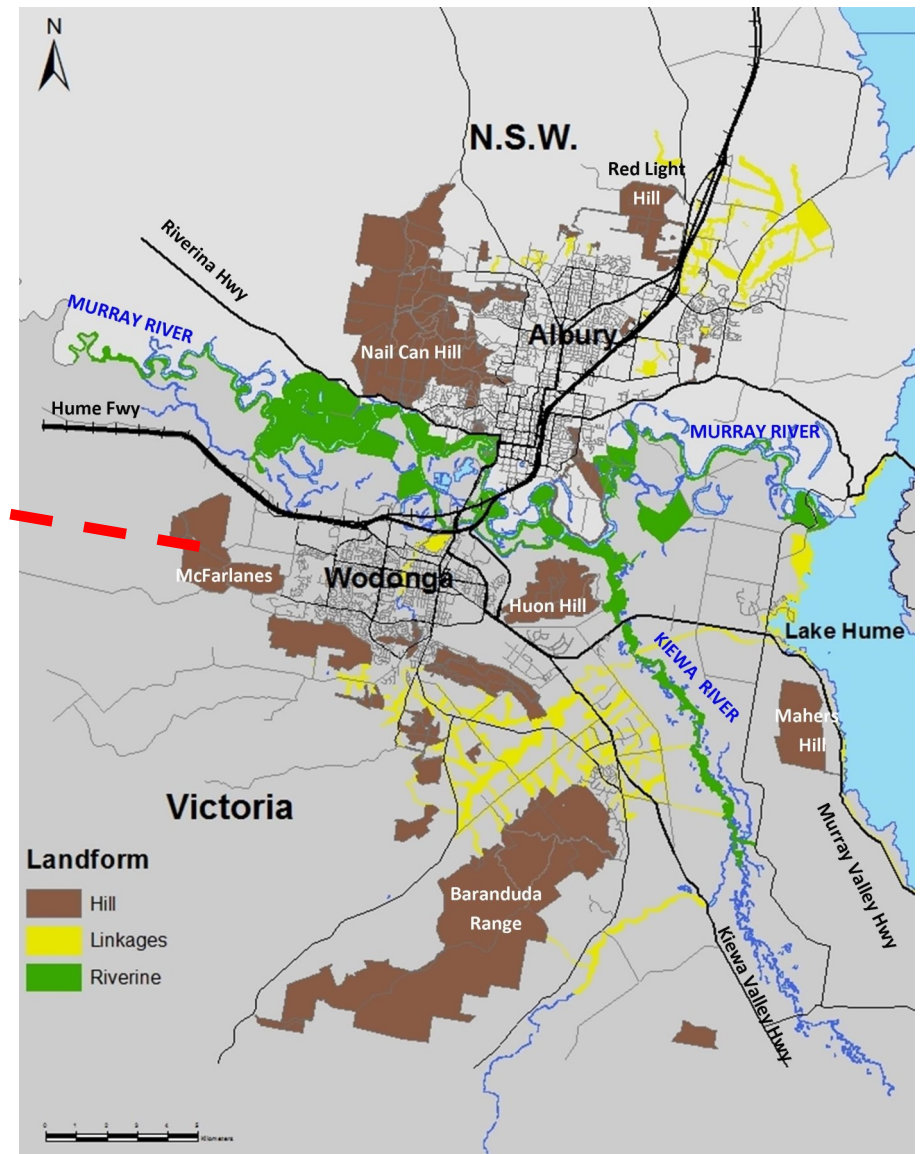
START

Start / finish / park: at the small carpark on the left (south) of Felldtimber Creek Road 3km from the Melrose Drive / Pearce Street roundabout.

Highlights: nestled in a secluded bushland setting, this patch of bush is one of Wodonga's best kept secrets.

Take Care:

- ◆ There are a few steep sections and uneven surface along the rocky upper section.
- ◆ Carry drinking water.
- ◆ Keep your dog on a lead in spring when snakes come out of hibernation.
- ◆ It is not recommended to visit during high fire risk days and total fire ban days in summer.





McFarlanes Hill Nature Trails

This bushland is a precious part of efforts to prevent some animals and plants being lost to us forever. The nature trails are named after typical rocks found in this landscape. Rocks play a critical role as homes and water sources.

Rocks have cultural values too. Stone artefacts tell us stories about Australia's Aboriginal culture, the oldest surviving culture in the world dating back 60,000 years. This area has some of the oldest geological features in the world with rocks dating back 3,000 million years ago.

SLATE (RIDGE) WALKING TRAIL

4km, 90 minute circuit, medium

This walkers-only single trail traverses along a lower ridge of McFarlanes Hill. Starting at the Ridge Trackhead, it is recommended to take the right turn and do the steep climb first. A park seat midway up this steep climb is a great place to catch your breath as you take in the magnificent views. It is an easy traverse of the lower ridge amongst many rocky outcrops.

Gently descend through open Box Gum Grassy Woodland then along a steep series of gullies high above Felltimber Creek Road.

MUDSTONE (McFARLANES) FIRE TRAIL

2km, 40 minutes one way, medium

This undulating fire trail is protected from the elements by McFarlanes and Hunchback Hill Ridges. Whilst trees limit the views, close encounters with black wallabies, kangaroos, echidnas and occasional cows (to manage fuel levels) are guaranteed.

Start at small parking area / chicane gate on Ingrams Road, or at Coyles Fire Trail off Felltimber Creek Road.

GNEISS (KLINGES) FIRE TRAIL

5km, 100 minute circuit, medium

This series of fire trails traverses around the ridge tops of Klinges Hill providing breathtaking views in all directions. On windy wintery days, it can feel like Antarctic winds so dress appropriately!

These maintenance vehicle trails are not designed for walkers, so there are some steep ascents and descents along the way.

GRANITE (HUNCHBACK) FIRE TRAIL

1.5 km, 60 minutes circuit, hard

This very steep fire trail can be accessed from McFarlanes Hill Fire trail. Start at either Ingrams Road or Coyles Road.

The "least steep" climb is the western fire trail. Savour in outstanding views as you meander along the Hunchback Hill ridge. The exceptionally steep fire trail descent is just after the Quartz mountain bike trail. Take care as the very steep fire trail eases as you descend to the open saddle and return journey.

COYLES FIRE TRAIL

1 km, 20 minutes one way, medium

This short yet steep fire trail starts at the informal parking area near Hunchy Mountain Bike Park and climbs for 1km to the ridge top. The Box Gums and Kurrajongs along this remnant bush corridor provide protection from the elements (sun and wind).

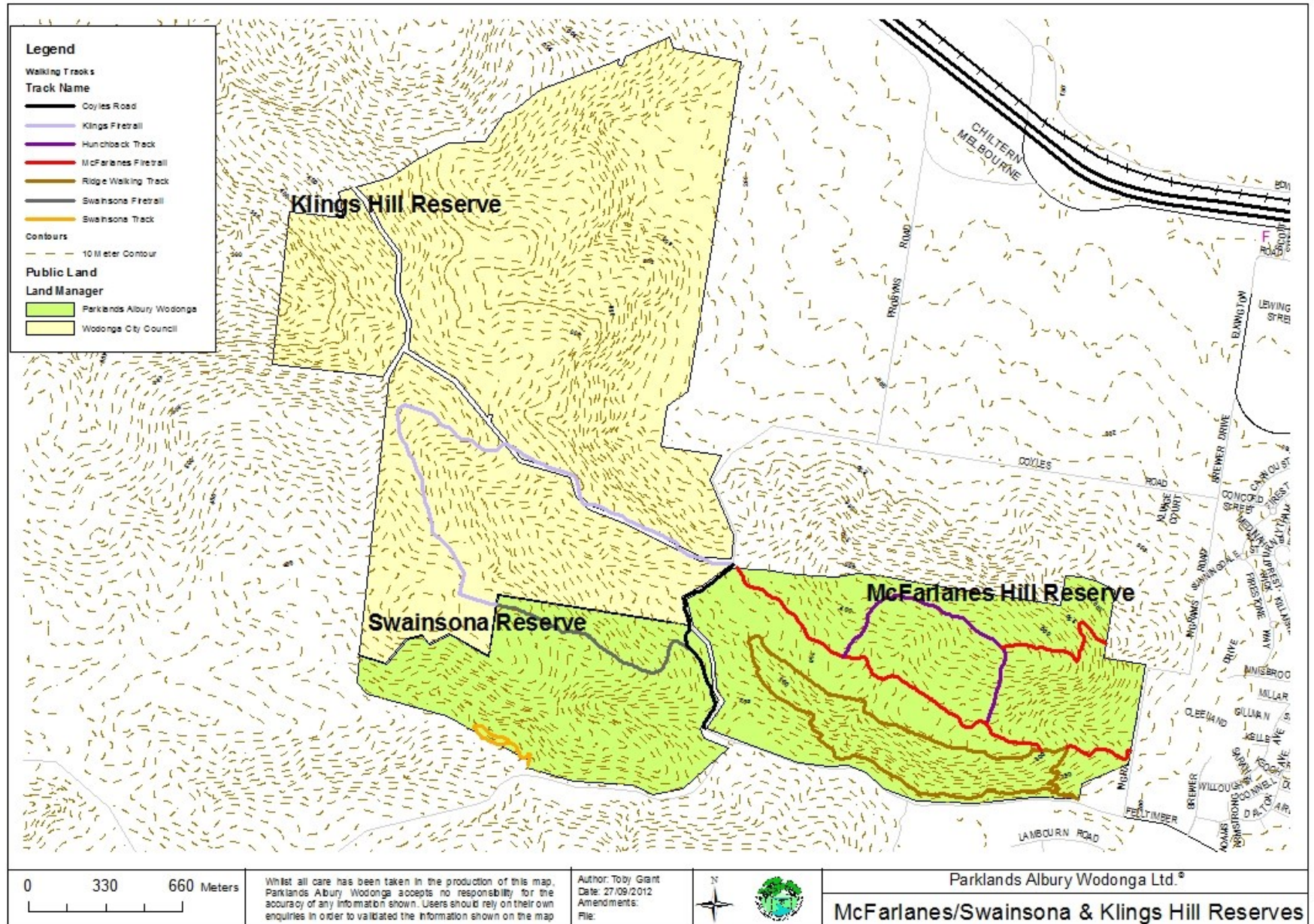
The 700m descent from the ridge top down to Coyles Road north is very steep, and only recommended for those intent intensive training.

SWAINSONA WALKING TRAIL

600m, 20 minutes circuit, medium

This short walkers-only single trail through huge Stringybarks is a sea of colour in spring. Start at carpark 3km west of Ridge Track Head or 1.4km of Hunchy MTB Park track head.

McFarlanes Hill Nature Trails





Things to look out for...

Native Raspberry—*Rubus parvifolius* is native to Eastern Australia. As well as providing bushtucker, this scrambling plant provides habitat for small woodland birds. Unlike its large, weedy cousin the European Blackberry, raspberries do not overrun our reserves.



Bracken Fern—Bracken fern (*Pteridium esculentum*) is a hardy native capable of growing in relatively dry areas. It provides habitat for small birds, and has traditional uses as a food and medicine.



Quartz outcrops are a feature of this reserve. Quartz is harder than most other natural substances and is often found as an Aboriginal artefact, having been shaped into a tool. The quartz in this reserve is of particularly high quality for this purpose.



Granite forms the bedrock of Felltimber Creek in this reserve. Look out for grinding grooves, formed by years of use as a tool manufacturing surface by Aboriginal people.



Slate is a multi-layered metamorphic stone found in this reserve. It is a durable stone known for its qualities as a building material, and is often found in company with quartz, used traditionally for spear heads.



Mudstone breaks into blocky pieces and was known to be mined by traditional owners for use as a tool. Another hard metamorphic rock, mudstone is formed from fine clay particles compressed over time.





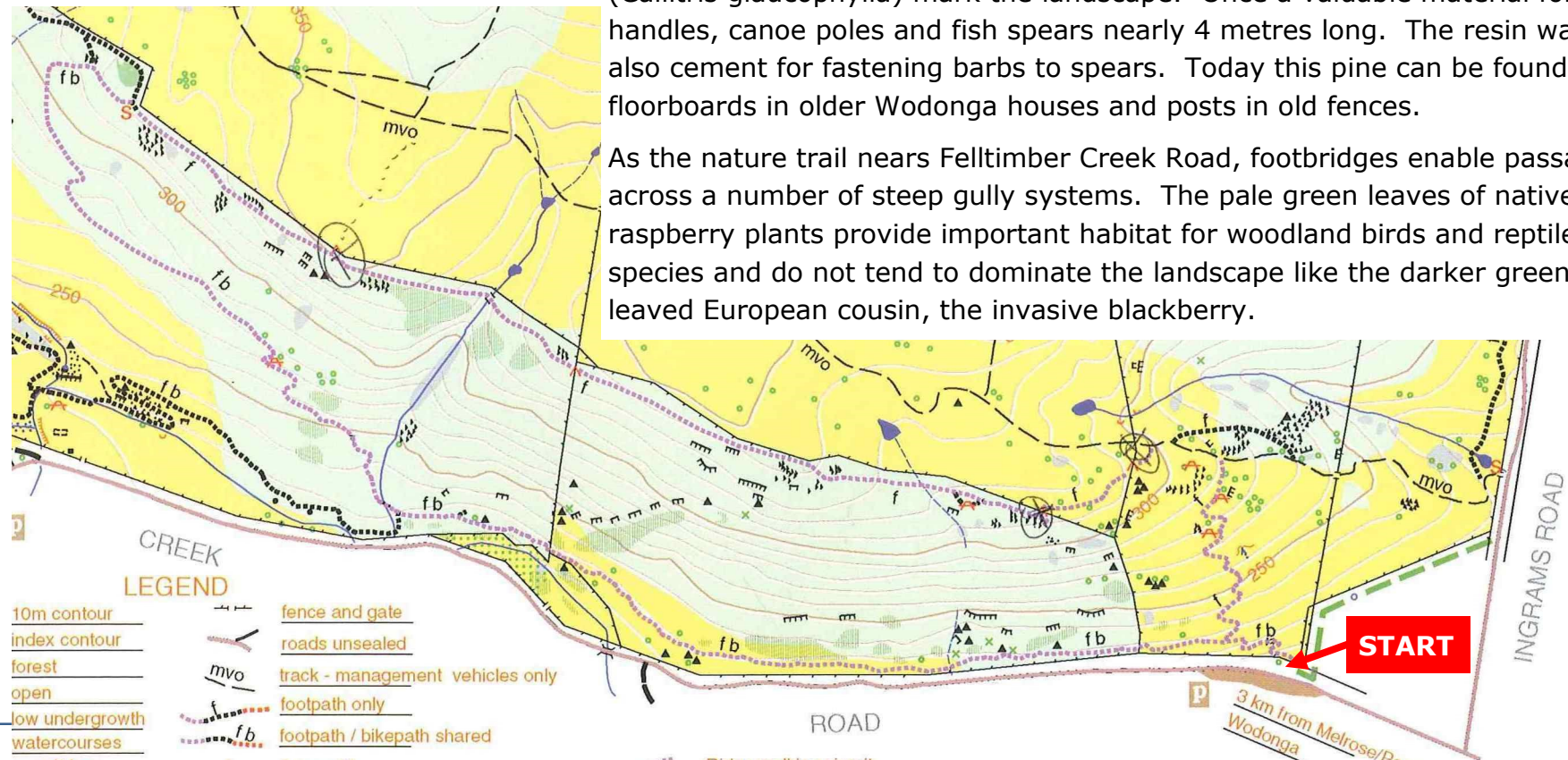
Slate (Ridge) Nature Trail Circuit

Grade:	Medium
Distance:	4 km
Time:	1.5 hours
Gradient:	Steep and rocky sections
Surface:	Single track

Start / finish / park: at the small carpark on Felldtimber Creek Road 3km from the Melrose Drive / Pearce Street roundabout. This trail (purple dots) traverses along a lower ridge of McFarlanes Hill. It is recommended to take the right turn near some bracken fern and do the steep climb first. A seat midway up this steep climb is a great place to catch your breath as you take in the magnificent views. After climbing over a fence style, it is an easy traverse of the lower ridge amongst many rocky outcrops and wetland areas.

As you gently descend, stumps of many White Cypress / Murray Pine (*Callitris glaucophylla*) mark the landscape. Once a valuable material for axe handles, canoe poles and fish spears nearly 4 metres long. The resin was also cement for fastening barbs to spears. Today this pine can be found as floorboards in older Wodonga houses and posts in old fences.

As the nature trail nears Felldtimber Creek Road, footbridges enable passage across a number of steep gully systems. The pale green leaves of native raspberry plants provide important habitat for woodland birds and reptile species and do not tend to dominate the landscape like the darker green leaved European cousin, the invasive blackberry.





Gneiss (Klinges) Nature Trail Circuit

Grade:	Medium
Distance:	5 km
Time:	2 hours
Gradient:	Steep and undulating
Surface:	Fire trail

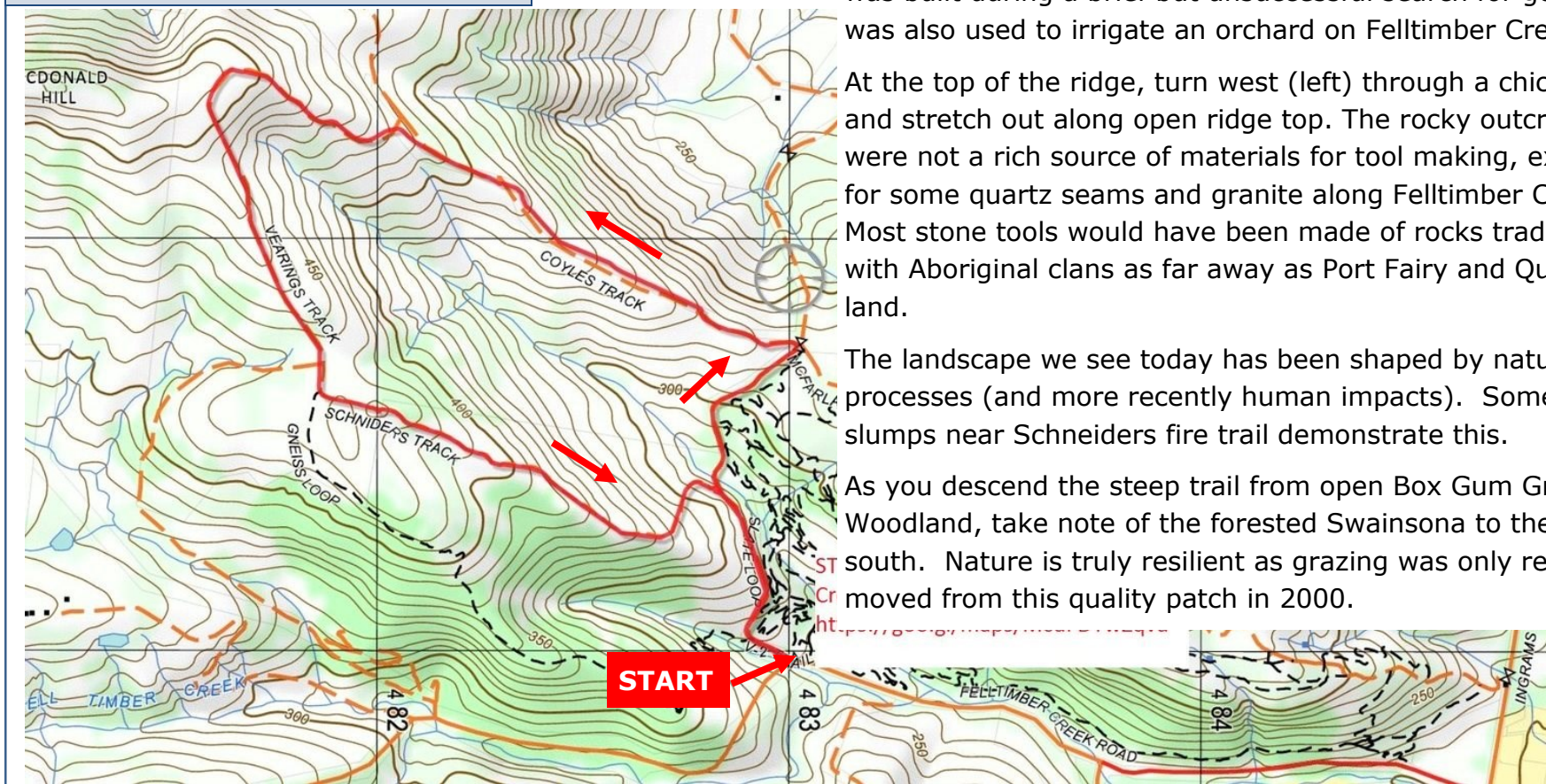
Start / finish / park: at the Hunchy Mountain Bike Park carpark on Felltimber Creek Road 4.4km from the Melrose Drive / Pearce Street roundabout (or 1.4km further along Felltimber Creek Road from the Ridge Trail track head).

The easiest circuit is in the anti-clockwise direction. Climb Coyles fire trail. The stone sluice bridge on Coyles Road was built during a brief but unsuccessful search for gold. It was also used to irrigate an orchard on Felltimber Creek.

At the top of the ridge, turn west (left) through a chicane and stretch out along open ridge top. The rocky outcrops were not a rich source of materials for tool making, except for some quartz seams and granite along Felltimber Creek. Most stone tools would have been made of rocks traded with Aboriginal clans as far away as Port Fairy and Queensland.

The landscape we see today has been shaped by natural processes (and more recently human impacts). Some slumps near Schneiders fire trail demonstrate this.

As you descend the steep trail from open Box Gum Grassy Woodland, take note of the forested Swainsona to the south. Nature is truly resilient as grazing was only removed from this quality patch in 2000.





Hunchback Nature Trail Circuit

Grade:	Hard
Distance:	9.5km
Time:	3 hours
Gradient:	Steep in sections
Surface:	Single track and fire trail

Combining the best of all McFarlanes trails, this challenging circuit is ideally walked anti-clockwise. Look out for a minor turn off onto Ridge Trail after crossing the old stone sluice bridge on Coyles fire trail and an old farm fence gateway.

Start / finish / park: at the Hunchy Mountain Bike Park carpark on Felltimber Creek Road 4.4km from the Melrose Drive / Pearce Street roundabout (or at the Ridge Nature Trail track head 1.4km further along Felltimber Creek Road).

