

Trail Description

Machinery Shed Loop



Trail Name:	Machinery Shed Loop
Primary trail used:	Upper Baldy, Stirling, Fork Creek
Distance:	8km
Trail type:	Loop
Ascent/Descent:	397m (+) / 397m (-)
Grading:	BLUE
Start + Finish points:	Telephone Box Junction Car Park (Mt Stirling Resort)
Via trails:	Upper Baldy, Machinery Shed, Wombats Drop, Cricket Pitch Shelter, Stirling Trail, Fork Creek <i>NB: As a XC ski area, and utilising mostly XC ski trails, the signposted, 'You Are Here' trail makers with maps dotted throughout the network at most junctions are extremely accurate and helpful. Orange triangles on trail are directional, giving you explicit advice as to which way to go.</i>
Highlight features:	Cricket Pitch Hut and big views across northern Alps and Mt Cobbler; mix of tall tree forest and snowgums.
Descriptor:	<p><i>Staying in bowl of Mt Stirling Alpine Resort, this is a good option for those wanting a consistent ascent-into-descent run, where you climb, enjoy the northern Alps/Mt Cobbler views offered from Cricket Pitch Hut (1550m) , and then drop back down. Excellent markings and beautiful bushland makes this a great mid-range effort with a natural breather/picnic spot at the top. Perfect also for conversational running with mates as the XC ski trails make 'two abreast' running possible.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You'll need to drive around (or arrange a lift) to Telephone Box Junction Car Park, approx. 30 minute drive (25km, two-wheel drive accessible) from Mt Buller Resort. 2. From Telephone Box Junction Visitor Information Centre, run 180m up Circuit Road (veering left). This is the start point for most runs in this area. 3. Walk across low section of grassy area (small ski bowl) and find lowest trail marker directing to Baldy Loop. Cross the bridge over Baldy Creek heading away from the road/bowl area. 4. Staying close to the Baldy Creek, follow gently rising trail through large forest canopy. Alpine Heath and native grasses blanket the understory. It's a beautiful scene. 5. Look for trail markers to Upper Baldy Trail, which veers left (off Baldy Loop – marker No.6, approx. 1.2km), cutting back on itself and heading up the hill. You are heading towards Machinery Shed, on a gradual incline the whole way. 6. You will reach a trail sign No.26, an intersection of Upper Baldy and Fork Creek. Maintain your run to the right, passing Machinery Shed on your right. 7. Approx. 300m onwards, turn right on Wombats Drop, a link trail to your high point at Cricket Pitch Hut. Wombat's is your first, small, downhill section since setting out. You cross a creek fed by a tennis court sized meadow/marsh amidst the now exclusive population of snow gums. A magic trail and scene. 8. You really could roll your arm over at Cricket Pitch Hut (CPH). A lovely flat area of green grass amongst snow gums, with attendant hut and sneaky views towards the north. Enjoy the scene knowing its pretty much all downhill from here. 9. Following Stirling Trail to the west. Approx. 500m past CPH Fork Creek trail swoops left (signpost No.32 on your left and No.27 on your right). Stay on Stirling Trail (to the right) which descends at a steeper grade, with a sign stating the grade change (for skiers). 10. At the next well-marked junction (Sign No. 15) turn left to join a link trail taking you back to Fork Creek Trail. One more trail junction (No. 16) takes you right, leading all the way home to bowl area, just before Telephone Box Junction.
Rating /45 (technical)	18 / 45
Rating /10 (indicative)	4 / 10