

Trail Description Craig's Hut Return



Trail Name:	Craig's Hut Return
Primary trail used:	Stirling Trail, Clear Hills Track, Bluff Spur Trail
Distance:	21km
Trail type:	Loop with out and back section to Craig's Hut
Ascent/Descent:	1070m (+) / 1070m (-)
Grading:	BLACK
Start + Finish points:	Start/Finish at Telephone Box Junction, Mt Stirling
Via trails:	Fork Creek Trail; Stirling Trail, Clear Hills Track; Craig's Hut; Stirling Summit; Bluff Spur Hut; Bluff Spur Trail.
Highlight features:	Craig's Hut and the ghosts of The Man From Snowy River (or Tom Burlinson at least); big views from Craig's Hut over Northern Alps, Cobbler and Mt Buffalo; 360-degree views from Mt Stirling; fun bomb down Bluff Spur Trail; alpine wildflowers of Mt Stirling.
Descriptor:	<p><i>Ever wanted to run to a bush icon? How about one that you've most likely seen on the big screen? Here's a belter that rises out of the Stirling Bowl, creeps up over Stirling mountain and then asks you to work hard to arrive at Craig's Hut, the film location made famous by The Man From Snowy River. Sure, it was built for the movie, rather than being an actual relic of the brumby rider days, but it's a heck of a stunning and atmospheric place (and the hut is real). Add in the views (from both Craig's Hut and the summit of Stirling) and you have a memorable half marathon trail run.</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 the Telephone Box Junction Visitor Information Centre, head 180m up Circuit Road (take the left route) to signage on right hand side of road. Looking east this sign opens to small ski bowl and is the starting point for most runs in this area. 3. Walk to high section of this grassy area/small ski bowl and find the highest trail marker directing to 'Link Loop' (via Fork Creek trail). 4. Take this trail heading up in an easterly direction, keeping right at next junction some 500m from ski bowl (Sign No.9). There are multiple skidoo trails taking a more direct line up the hill. Stay on the main trails that tend to switchback at a lesser gradient. 5. Turn left at next junction (Sign No.16) where a small sled shelter in nested in the bank. 6. Shortly after take a sharp turn right onto the steeper Stirling Trail. 7. Stay on Stirling Trail all the way to Geelong Grammar School Hut (GGS) below Stirling summit. Stirling Trail takes you past several huts including Cricket Pitch Hut. Multiple trails head off the ascending Stirling Trail, but are mostly well marked. Stay on the main trail south-east on the high ground until you exit left onto West Summit Trail and see GGS Hut up ahead. 8. Clear Hills track starts at GGS Hut. Heading left, this is the beginning of the out-and-back to Craig's Hut. It is a steep-at-times 4WD track with deep washouts. Head east for 2.5kms where at approx. 9-9.5km into your run you reach the junction of Monument Track leading off to the right. 9. You leave the Mt Stirling Resort boundary here and enter the Mansfield State Forest for a steep decent and short climb to the iconic Craig's Hut. 10. Head back via Clear Hills track to Mt Stirling. Just prior to GGS Hut bear left, staying on the 4WD trail to round to the Stirling saddle. There is a short out and back up to the summit of Mt Stirling, well worth taking for spectacular views. 11. Coming off the summit, turn right for another 300 metres before picking up Bluff Spur Hut Trail again on the right, which drops you shortly to the hut set at the far end of a clearing. 12. Running past Bluff Spur Hut to pick up Bluff Spur Trail again, a double track that begins your ongoing 400 vertical-metre descent over 4.5km distance, all the way back to Telephone Box Junction.
Rating /45 (technical)	35 / 45
Rating /10 (indicative)	8 / 10