

Frost Hollow to Forest Walk

1 to 2 hours with stiles and a short uphill grade.

Canberra has rich flora, birdlife and kangaroos within easy access of city and suburbs.

This self-guided walk introduces you to treeless grasslands, remnant Snow Gums, Yellow Box-Red Gum woodland and Aranda Bushland's forest.

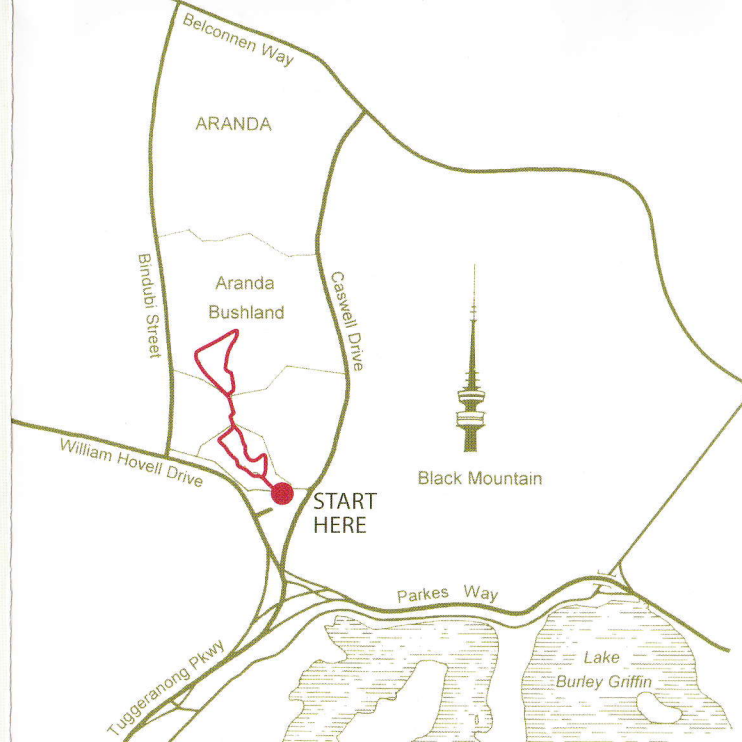
- Experience the beauty and diversity of our natural environment.
- Appreciate our inheritance from early planners of Canberra who kept the hills free of buildings and created a city in sympathy with the colours and ambience of the Australian bush.
- Use interpretive signs with clear drawings to discover ten eucalypt species and see how each has its own place in nature.
- See treeless frost hollow grasslands and remnant Snow Gums lining the frost hollow edge.
- Walk up through a forest of dark-trunked eucalypts, then turn and see white trunks.
- Enjoy wildflowers in season; look and listen for frogs, birds and kangaroos.



Aranda Snow Gums Heritage Site



Snow Gum, *Eucalyptus pauciflora*



The making of this self-guided walk

The concept and signage was developed by Friends of Aranda Bushland, a parkcare group operating with the support of ACT Parks & Conservation Service.

Natural Heritage Trust grants from 1999 to 2001 and the lessee's permission to fence a corridor through rural land made the self-guided walk a reality in 2002. Peter Ormay provided the vision and Winifred Mumford the drawings.

Signs and brochure were renewed in 2011 with a Caring for our Country, *Communities in Landscapes* grant.



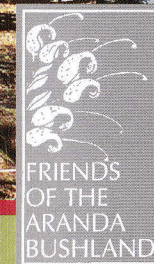
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Photos and text by Jean Geue

Walk

Frost Hollow to Forest



Aranda Bushland

Grasslands, woodland and forest

Signs will guide you through ten species of eucalypts in four distinct ecological communities.

This is a magic area on a clear frosty morning, at times white to the grasslands' edge. Sometimes fog drifts and visibility is minimal.

The paddocks of native grass are the soft khaki characteristic of the Australian bush west of the Great Divide. The colour deepens as the grasses ripen in summer – an Australian icon celebrated in Arthur Streeton's paintings.

Frost hollows occur when cold air drains to the lowest ground and stays in a pool of significantly colder air. Grasses dominate as it's too cold for trees and shrubs to establish naturally. Diversity in this environment is best appreciated in early summer with many grassland wildflowers.

A pocket of remnant Snow Gums (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) lines the frost hollow. Snow Gums are the most cold tolerant eucalypt. Aranda Snow Gums is listed as a Heritage Place, being the best Canberra example of a frost hollow with its native vegetation largely intact.

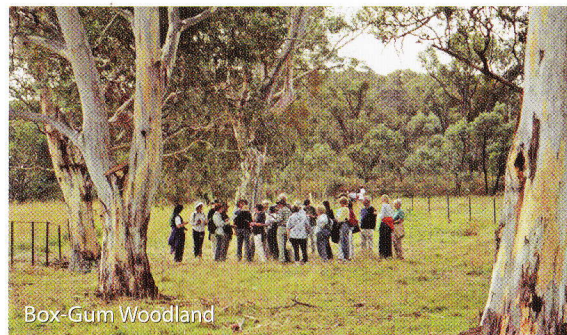
See the magnificent Box-Gum grassy woodland with the characteristic gums of open paddocks. Notice all the hollows in these 250+ year old trees. Hollows may take over 100 years to form and are essential habitat for nesting birds and possums.



Frost hollow grasslands, woodland and forest



Aranda Snow Gums Heritage Site



Box-Gum Woodland



Red Stringybark, *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*

Experience the distinct change in vegetation as you enter Aranda Bushland's forest. The trees grow close together and are much the same age. Parts were cleared by early settlers but large areas regenerated naturally before today's major weeds invaded.

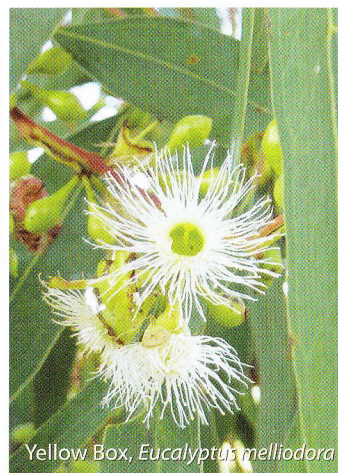
The winding uphill route takes you through dark-trunked eucalypts and the downhill track through white-trunked ones. Consider how Arthur Boyd captured their essence in his Parliament House tapestry. For a magic photo, catch the white trunks when the light is slanted and the bark is newly shed in late summer.



Scribbly Gum, *Eucalyptus rossii* & Brittle Gum, *E. mannifera*



Blakely's Red Gum, *Eucalyptus blakelyi*



Yellow Box, *Eucalyptus melliodora*