

Runners Track and Picnic Point Walk

Walk Signage Colour: Black

Length: 3.2 km circuit

Elevation Change: 150 m

Time: 1 ½ hours

Grade: Easy/Medium

Starting point:

Mt Irvine Road. Just past junction of Farrer Road East
About 4km after Cathedral of Ferns

Walking conditions:

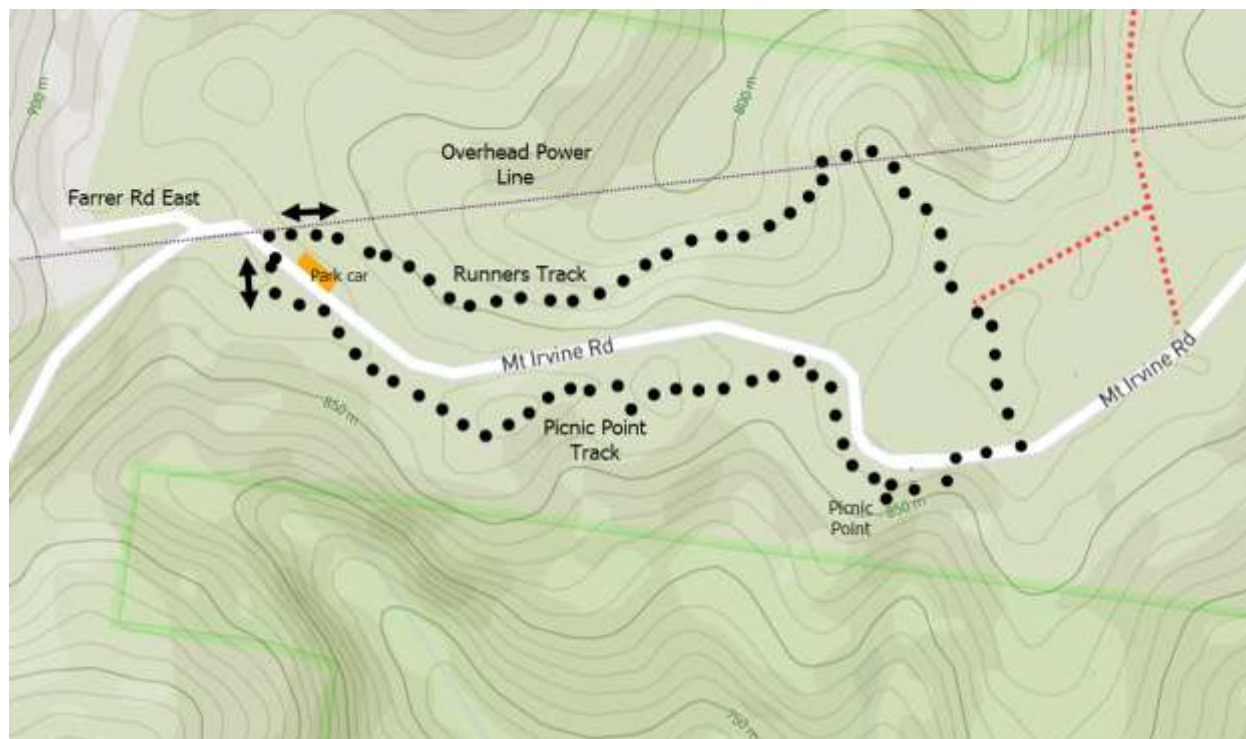
- Generally well formed track.

Highlights:

- Lovely views from Picnic Point
- Best done in spring for the Waratahs.

Warnings

- There are steep drops near Picnic Point



Heading by car from Mt Wilson towards Mt Irvine, about 4km after Cathedral of Ferns Camping ground and just after the junction of Farrer Road East you pass under some power lines. Park your car on the left hand side of the road about 50 meters past the power lines. The route can be done in either direction and the description below has been described following this track in a clockwise direction.

The track starts under the power line heading down the slope in an Easterly direction. After about 100 meters the track heads off to the right (look out for the track sign) and heads along the contours of the hill.

It is also worth walking all the way down the slope under the power line to the creek. Crossing it and following the track to the end for about 15 minutes. Integral Energy have done a great job ensuring they can reach all power poles for service. It is pretty down there and one can see the far power pole across the gully which you pass later in the walk.

Return to the track sign and walk along the track. The track is easy to follow and generally follows the contours round the valley until a short steep climb up some steps takes you up to the power pole you saw earlier across the valley.

Pause here and enjoy the view back towards Lindfield Park and Gowan Ross, and think of the difficulty the crews had in 1962 in putting the electricity across this gully when taking the power out to Mount Irvine.

This section of the walk was made by Bill Ross who was a long keen long distance runner and who lived at the property Brambil at Mount Wilson for a time. It was he who suggested the Willy2Billy Bush Run (Mt Wilson

to Bilpin) be put on the runners' annual calendar. Bill worked out the 34.4 kilometre course that borders on, and passes through the World Heritage listed Wollemi National Park. The race was last run in 2011. Sadly in 2012 the race had to be cancelled due to problems with the bridge across Bowens Creek. A landslide on Bowen's Creek Road in 2013 permanently closed the route forcing the RFS to cancel the race indefinitely.

The track then follows along a fire trail towards Mt Irvine Road. The track crosses a fire trail before Mt Irvine Road. The Runners Track turns left at this point and heads towards Mt Irvine. Do not take this turnoff but continue straight to Mt Irvine Road.

Turn right into Mt Irvine Road (be aware of cars). After about 120 meters on the left hand side the Picnic Point Track starts. If you get to the fire trail you have gone too far but you can access the track from the fire trail.

View From Picnic Point



Picnic Point is aptly named about 80 meters from Mt Irvine Road and this offers lovely views to Berambing. This is a good spot to stop for a break but beware of the steep drop from this lookout.

Continue along the path below the fire trail. This follows the contours below Mt Irvine Road. The path is generally well marked but there are points where it is a bit indistinct. It is however easy to follow. There are a couple of lovely views to the rainforest below along this path. The trail eventually ends up at Mt Irvine Road near where you started.