

## Washpool/Gibraltar World Heritage Trails 2015 – Sun 18 October

Thanks for joining us – I guarantee you'll enjoy running these beautiful trails! You might like to consider arriving early and explore, or staying on a day so you can see a bit more and have a more relaxed drive home. Either the Washpool rainforest loop or the short 9km course are good options to explore on foot, or bring your mountain bike to cover a bit more ground, or even a lilo to float down the river among granite boulders.

Many runners camp at the Mulligans start/finish – details of the NSW Parks campsites are available [here](#) (note separate listings for Mulligans/Gibraltar Range NP and nearby Boundary Falls and Bellbird/Washpool NP sites). Mulligans has individual campsites, or you can camp in the group area right by the start/finish/facilities.

The [Mann River Caravan Park](#) offers the nearest cabins and overlooks Mann River for those travelling via the coast. Alternatively stay in Grafton caravan parks (eg Gateway village) - or beautiful Glen Innes and drive the inland route, which is slightly quicker from Brisbane, more relaxed and scenic. View accommodation in Glen Innes [here](#).

**Here are the really critical bits** (more info on the website if needed)

### *Registration location:*

Group camping area opposite facilities block, Mulligan's Hut campground, Gibraltar Range national park (south side of highway, *not* Washpool national park which is on the north side)

### *Start times and locations (remember NSW has daylight saving!):*

Sunday 50km: 7.00am, Mulligan's hut

Sunday 25km: 8.00am, Mulligan's hut

Sunday 9km: 8.30am, Mulligan's hut

*please allow time for registration and preparation*

### *Distances and approximate drive times:*

Brisbane central to Mulligan's Hut start via Pacific Highway: 6:10 hours

Brisbane to Glen Innes (scenic drive, also various longer options): 5:15

Glen Innes to Mulligan's Hut start: 70 minutes (shortcut if driving Brisbane-Mulligans direct)

Grafton to Gibraltar Range park's Mulligan's Hut: 90 minutes

### *Course descriptions:*

The 50km course (52km) starts with part of the tree-fern loop (3 on map), going anti-clockwise around the large loop of the World Heritage Trail. The 25km is out and back to Dandahra Crags, then clockwise around the loop also completed by the 9k course. Course map: [click here](#)

### *Expected finish times:*

9km 50 - 90 minutes

25km 2 - 4 hours, average 2:45

50km 4:30 – 7:00, average 6:00

This is a remote area with some stiff climbs and limited checkpoints so you need to carry water.

*For those on the 50km course*, remember the far side of the course is a remote area. From the last waterstop on Washpool's Moogem Road bridge to the second highway crossing you must be self-supported. The course is only marked at major intersections; follow the permanent signage for the World Heritage Trail. If it's hot one water bottle is nowhere near enough for the far side unless you drink from streams. Drop bags including bottles will be taken to the two manned road-crossing checkpoints, which will provide water/electrolytes/sweets. Water topups are available at the third road crossing (CP3 on map). Alternatively if bad weather is forecast it can get very cold at 1000m above sea level, so carry a light jacket and warm layer. Web link for weather before you leave: <http://www.weather.com.au/nsw/glen-innes>

Cars and campers – remember to pay at the self-help sign and show the tags on your car and tent.

Early starts for 50km - those interested in starting early (perhaps 5.30am) should contact Stephen Lewis on 0428885361 to organise a group start. They will need a head lamp and plenty of liquid (the first check point will NOT be available until after the 7.00am start). Stephen suggests strongly that they be prepared to run as a group until the dawn for safety reasons. They can pick up race numbers from us at the cottage (at the highway turnoff) on the Saturday. No-one who starts early will be eligible for a major placing (i.e. first, second & third male/female).

6 Foot qualifying time - the qualifying time for the 6 Foot trail marathon in the Blue Mountains is a 7.35 finish in the 50km Washpool course.

50km available water – remember the far side of the course is a remote area. From the last waterstop on Washpool's Moogem Road bridge to the second highway crossing you must be selfsupported. The course is only marked at major intersections; follow the permanent signage for the World Heritage Trail. If it's hot one water bottle is nowhere near enough for the far side unless you drink from streams. Drop bags including bottles will be taken to the two manned road-crossing checkpoints, which will also provide water/electrolytes/sweets. Water topups are available at the third road crossing (CP3 on map).

Distances between 50k checkpoints - roughly 10km to the first manned checkpoint CP1 @ road crossing, then last water top-up opportunity at Washpool at about 14km before the long loop on far side of the highway, then a further 18km (so 32km from start) til the 2nd road crossing & CP2, then water again about 6km from finish at CP3 on the map, the access road crossing point; 52km distance in total.

**Please note** that there is a \$7 per day vehicle charge for visitors to the Gibraltar Range national park, plus \$7 per person if camping; bring correct change for honesty box and pay as you enter at Parks information stands (or after parking and registration if cars are backing up). No dogs are allowed in national parks.

## **Camping information for Washpool and Gibraltar Range national parks**

### **Both national parks**

No pets are allowed in the park.

### **Gibraltar Range national park (Sunday's runs)**

#### **1. Mulligans camping area** Link: [click here](#)

This is a forested area near Little Dandahra Creek, suitable for swimming. There are 6 camping areas to suit multi-vehicle groups and 15 individual sites for tents and medium sized caravans and camper trailers. The large group camping area opposite the facilities has been booked as an overflow option for run entrants (email organiser) and will also be our run finish. Several top walking tracks start from the Mulligans area.

**Getting there:** On the Gwydir Highway, drive 97 kilometres west of Grafton or 72 kilometres east of Glen Innes, turn off south at the Visitor Information Centre, then 10 kilometres along Mulligans Drive. Unsealed road/trail - 2WD vehicles.

#### **2. Boundary Falls (15 sites)** Link: [click here](#)

Boundary Falls picnic and camping area is in a dry forest, with spectacular waterfalls nearby. The Gibraltar Range Waratahs and other shrubs flower here, especially from mid-October to December.

**Getting there:** On the Gwydir Highway, drive 108 kilometres west of Grafton or 61 kilometres east of Glen Innes, then 1.2 kilometres north of the highway.

#### **3. Washpool National Park** (rainforest area north of Mulligans, on 50km course) Link: [click here](#)

The beautiful Washpool Walk, an 8.5km circuit, heads off into the rainforest from this campground.

**Getting there:** These two campgrounds are at the end of Coachwood Drive, off the Gwydir Highway. 3km unsealed road/trail to both campsites. 2WD vehicles.