

A scenic view of a mountain landscape. In the foreground, a field of white flowers with yellow centers is in bloom. The middle ground shows rolling hills covered in dense green forest. The background features more distant, hazy mountain ranges under a clear blue sky. The overall scene is bright and natural.

# MT HOTHAM

# FLORA GUIDE

**HOTHAM**

# HOTHAM

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This booklet was produced to provide the local Hotham community and visitors with a flora guide specific to the Mount Hotham Resort to increase awareness of indigenous plants and aid in identification.

Mount Hotham Alpine Resort Management Board acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which Mount Hotham Resort is situated, the Gunaikurnai, Dhudoroa and the Jaitmathang. We acknowledge their rich culture and continued connection to country as traditional custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

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## INTRODUCTION

Mount Hotham is situated on an elevated ridge line with an overall summit elevation of 1861 metres. As the highest alpine village in Australia, Mount Hotham affords spectacular views of the surrounding region and a wealth of hiking trails that traverse diverse landscapes and unique ecosystems.

### TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Traditional owners have a long and rich history with the alps, with many groups gathering in the mountains for ceremonies, trade and social events. Principle Indigenous groups within the Mount Hotham region include the Gunaikurnai, Dhudoroa and the Jaitmathang.

### GEOLOGY

Mount Hotham began its life some 600 million years ago when sedimentary rocks were intruded by granites, overlain by lava flows, folding and lifting many times to reach their present height. The landscape has been subjected to millions of years of weathering, resulting in a combination of sharp and slightly rounded peaks connected by ridge lines dissected by steep watercourses.



### SOILS

Soils of the Mount Hotham region are predominantly shallow, skeletal soils with low organic matter on the higher slopes and deeper alpine humus soils high in organic matter and strongly acidic on the lower slopes.

### CLIMATE

Mount Hotham has short, cool summers and long, very cold winters. Thunderstorms with heavy rainfall occur in summer and heavy snowfall in winter. Weather conditions can change rapidly, and snowfall and blizzards can occur at any time of the year. The hiking season is generally from November to May.

### FIRE

Fire is becoming more common in alpine regions. Typically fires start when there is severe fire weather, beginning in the montane forests on the lower slopes of the mountains and travelling uphill to burn the open woodlands, heathy shrubs, herbs and grasses of the upper slopes. Many alpine plants regenerate rapidly after a fire as they are well adapted to responding to disturbing and harsh conditions, however, an increasing frequency of fires in the Alps is placing unknown stress on alpine ecosystems.



## INDIGENOUS PLANTS

Vegetation changes quite dramatically as you climb from the lower slopes of the montane zone (1100-1400m) to the sub-alpine zone (1400-1800m) and finally to the alpine zone (1800m +). The montane zone tends to be wetter with deeper soils that support tall forests with an understorey of shrubs, ferns and grasses. The sub-alpine zone is characterised by open woodland of Snow Gums, heathy shrubs and grasses. The alpine zone where snow persists for more than four months of the year is restricted to dwarfed shrubs, alpine grasses and herbs.

Alpine plants display several adaptations to the cold climate, lengthy snow cover, strong winds, winter drought and shallow, infertile soils. The plants tend to be smaller, grow slowly and low to the ground. Many reproduce by underground nodes and rhizomes. One amazing species, the Alpine Marsh-Marigold (*Psychrophila introloba*) can be seen through the clear ice still covering alpine streams.

Bog and fen communities are of particular significance in alpine areas for regulating water flow. Bogs usually sit at the head of a spring and are dominated by Sphagnum moss. Sphagnum is bright yellowy-green and retains up to twenty times its own weight in water, therefore acting

as a natural reservoir which slowly discharges water into catchment areas.

Several threatened plant species can be found in the Mount Hotham region including the Mountain Daisy, Dwarf Sedge and Rock Tussock-grass.

For detailed mapping of the Ecological Vegetation Communities visit: [www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/naturekit](http://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/naturekit)



Grass Triggerplant

## INDIGENOUS FAUNA

The distribution of indigenous fauna throughout the Mount Hotham region is largely related to the distribution of native vegetation. Wildlife have specific needs related to food source, shelter for breeding and protection from predators and weather.

### MAMMALS

Two endangered mammal species are known to exist in the alpine and sub-alpine zone: the Mountain Pygmy-possum and the Broad-toothed Rat. The Mountain Pygmy-possum is Australia's only marsupial to hibernate. They hunker down under the snow between rocks and boulders for up to 7 months,

emerging in spring to mate and feast on protein-rich migrating Bogong Moths. Sadly, Bogong Moth populations appear to have suffered a catastrophic decline in the last few years which means there is not enough food for these tiny possums to raise their young. The threatened Broad-toothed Rat is a nocturnal native



Mountain Pygmy-possum (CC)



Agile Antechinus (BV)

rodent that feeds on grasses and sedges. They live in a range of habitats but seem to prefer drainage lines with a dense cover of grass, sedge, herbs and moss.

Mountain Brushtail Possums and Common Ringtail Possums occur in the sub-alpine Snow Gum woodlands as do Grey Kangaroos and Swamp Wallabies in summer. Common Wombats, White-Striped Freetail-Bat (calls audible to humans), Agile Antechinus, Dusky Antechinus and Bush Rat can also be found in the sub-alpine zone occasionally venturing into the higher alpine zone.



Currawong

## BIRDS

Birds that frequent higher elevations, at least on a seasonal basis include the Flame Robin, Australasian Pipit and Little Raven. Others include Wedge-tailed Eagle, Crimson Rosella, Kookaburra, Superb Lyrebird, Southern Boobook and Currawong. Many birds tend to migrate to lower areas in winter, some seek refuge in the foliage of the trees, in the hollow of trunks or among branches.



Flame Robin (IB)



Mountain Brushtail Possum (DN)



Australasian Pipit (AL)

## REPTILES

The Southern Water Skink is most commonly found along waterways and small creeks where it can be seen basking on rocks, logs and vegetation. White-lipped, Copperhead and Tiger Snakes are found at a variety of higher elevations. The endangered Alpine She-oak Skink has been recorded in sub-alpine tussock grasslands and low heathlands basking in the sun. The endangered Alpine Bog Skink has been recorded in the wetter sub-alpine areas of the region as well as the resort.



Alpine She-oak Skink (OL)



Alpine Bog Skink (OL)



Southern Water Skink (IC)

## FROGS

Healthy mountain wetlands and peatlands are important for breeding. During summer, adults lay their eggs in slow-flowing or still streams, bogs and pools. During winter, they live in mountain woodlands, grasslands and heathlands and shelter in rocks, logs and leaf litter. The critically endangered Alpine Treefrog has been recorded in several water bodies within the resort. The Common Froglet and Eastern Banjo Frog can also be seen, or more commonly heard, within the resort.



Alpine Treefrog (DC)

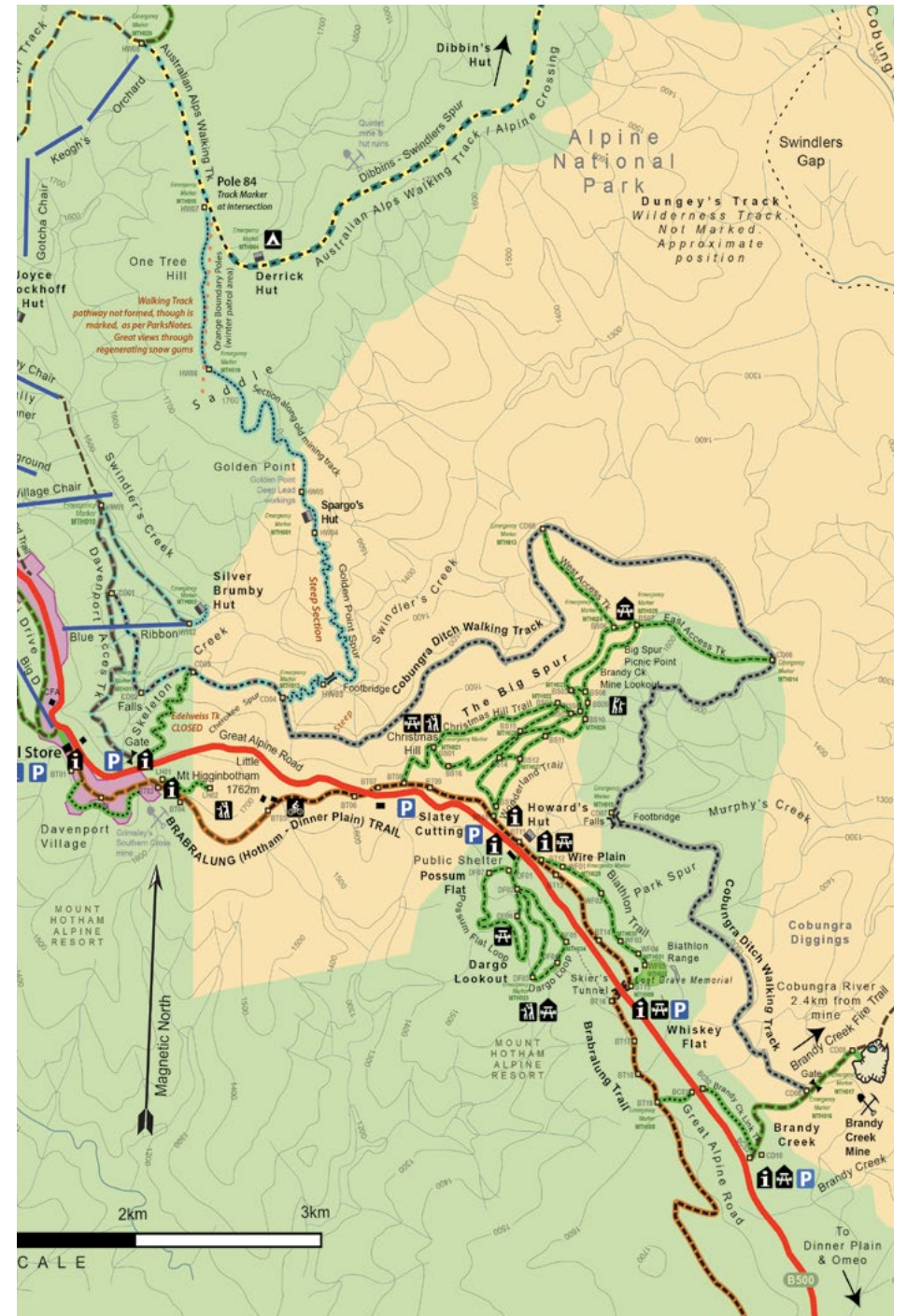


Common Froglet (AC)



Eastern Banjo Frog (MR)

# MT HOTHAM TRACKS AND TRAILS MAP



## PLANT SPECIES

The following section features a selection of some of the beautiful native plants you may encounter while hiking in the Mount Hotham region. The plants are listed according to their flower colour to assist you in identifying our unique flora. We ask that you stay on the hiking tracks to minimise impact on this fragile environment. Please do not remove plant material including picking flowers, and pack out your waste including fruit scraps.



### MOUNTAIN CELERY | *Aciphylla glacialis*



**Family:** Apiaceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 60cm

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Stiff fan-shaped leaves.
- Smells like celery.
- Flowers rise above plant on reddish stems.

**Traditional uses:** Leaves eaten.

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

### SNOW DAISY | *Brachyscome nivalis*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 20cm

**Flowering time:** November to May

**Distinguishing features:**

- Fine segmented leaves.
- Daisy-shaped flowers rise above leaves.
- Few leaves extend up the flowering stem.

**Traditional uses:** Tuber eaten.

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

### SILVER DAISY | *Celmisia* sp.



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** 40cm

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Variable species at Hotham.
- Leaves can be green or grey with a woolly coating.
- Daisy-shaped flowers extend above the leaves.

**Where to see it:** Mount Hotham Summit Walk and Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

### SILVER EWARTIA | *Ewartia nubigena*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** Matting groundcover to 50cm

**Flowering time:** January to March

**Distinguishing features:**

- Occurs at higher elevations in rocky areas.
- Small, grey, hairy leaves.

**Where to see it:** Mount Hotham Summit Walk and Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

**PRICKLY STARWORT** | *Stellaria pungens*



**Family:** Caryophyllaceae  
**Form:** Herb  
**Size:** Matting groundcover to 60cm  
**Flowering time:** October to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Creeping ground cover plant.
- Spikey leaves.
- Flowers have a superficial resemblance to daisy flowers.

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

**MOUNTAIN CALADENIA** | *Caladenia alpina*



**Family:** Orchidaceae  
**Form:** Herb  
**Size:** To 25cm  
**Flowering time:** November to January

**Distinguishing features:**

- Several Caladenia species occur in the Alps.
- Reddish stem with a hooded flower.
- White flower with a purple throat

**Traditional uses:** Tuber eaten.

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk and common at Hotham

**MARSH MARIGOLD** | *Psychrophila introloba*



**Family:** Ranunculaceae  
**Form:** Herb  
**Size:** Stalks to 10 cm when in fruit  
**Flowering time:** September to November

**Distinguishing features:**

- A rare threatened species.
- Light-green fleshy leaves, with an unusual, inverted leaf shape.
- Flowers under the snow in early spring

**Where to see it:** Threatened species difficult to see

**PINEAPPLE GRASS** | *Astelia alpina*



**Family:** Liliaceae  
**Form:** Herb  
**Size:** To 30cm  
**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Forms mats in wet areas.
- Stiff, spikey leaves, similar to that of a pineapple.
- Small flowers and berries at the base of the plant

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

**AUSTRALIAN CARAWAY** | *Oreomyrrhis eriopoda*



**Family:** Asteraceae  
**Form:** Herb  
**Size:** To 30cm  
**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Fine, fan-shaped leaves.
- Purplish fruit rise above the leaves and look similar to caraway seeds.

**Traditional uses:** Fruits eaten.

**Where to see it:** Mount Hotham Summit Walk

**BIDGEE-WIDGEE** | *Acaena novae-zelandiae*



**Family:** Rosaceae  
**Form:** Herb  
**Size:** Stems to 1.5cm long, spreading to 1 m  
**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Scrambling plant that forms a mat.

- Leaves have toothed edges.
- Spherical flower heads rise above plant, and when dry readily stick onto animal fur and socks.

• Seed pods red-brown

**Traditional uses:** Medicine plant - young leaf chewed for the relief of indigestion

**Where to see it:** Cross Country Trails

**MULLER'S SNOW GENTIAN** | *Gentianella muelleriana*



**Family:** Gentianaceae  
**Form:** Herb  
**Size:** To 30cm  
**Flowering time:** January to March

**Distinguishing features:**

- One of the last to flower for the summer.

- Brown stems with leaves barely visible.
- A bouquet of flowers occurs at the end of branches.
- Petals have distinct purple stripes.

**Where to see it:** Mount Hotham Summit Walk

**CHAMOMILE SUNRAY** | *Rhodanthe anthemoides*



**Family:** Asteraceae  
**Form:** Herb  
**Size:** To 30cm  
**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Small, narrow, green-grey leaves.
- Flowers occur at the ends of each branch.
- Flowers have a papery texture.

**Where to see it:** Little Higginbotham Walk



**SNOW BEARD-HEATH** | *Acrothamnus montanus*



**Family:** Ericaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 50cm

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Parallel lines on the underside of leaves.
- Small 5-pointed flowers cluster at branch ends.
- Red berries provide a food source for native wildlife.

**Traditional uses:** Fruits eaten.

**Where to see it:** Cross Country Trails

**ALPINE BAECKEA** | *Baeckea gunniana*



**Family:** Myrtaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** 0.3-1m

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Occurs in wet areas.
- Aromatic leaves hug the stem.
- Small, rounded petal flowers occur along branches.

**Where to see it:** Wire Plain

**SWAMP HEATH** | *Epacris paludosa*



**Family:** Ericaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 1.5m

**Flowering time:** November to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Spike leaves.
- Dense clusters of flowers at the end of branches.

**Where to see it:** Wire Plain

**DUSTY DAISY-BUSH** | *Olearia phlogopappa* var. *flavescens*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 1.5m

**Flowering time:** November to December

**Distinguishing features:**

- Large grey-green leaves have pale undersides.
- Typical daisy-shaped flowers.
- Flowers profusely at branch ends.

**Where to see it:** Mount Hotham Summit Walk and throughout Hotham Village

**ALPINE ORITES** | *Orites lancifolius*



**Family:** Proteaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 1.5m

**Flowering time:** November to January

**Distinguishing features:**

- Stiff leaves.
- Flowers cluster at the ends of branches.
- Large velvety seed pods.

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

**ALPINE EVERLASTING** | *Ozothamnus alpinus*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 1m

**Flowering time:** January to March

**Distinguishing features:**

- Pale, velvety stems.
- Hairy, green leaves have a pale underside.
- Dense clusters of flower buds have a distinct red colour.

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

**ALPINE BOOTLACE BUSH** | *Pimelea axiflora*



**Family:** Thymelaeaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 1m

**Flowering time:** October to December

**Distinguishing features:**

- Leaves hug the stem.
- Flowers occur in between leaves along the stem.

**Traditional uses:** Bark made into nets.

**Where to see it:** Cross Country Trails

**TALL RICE-FLOWER** | *Pimelea ligustrina* ssp. *ciliata*



**Family:** Thymelaeaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 1.5m

**Flowering time:** October to December

**Distinguishing features:**

- Spherical clusters of flowers at the ends of branches.
- Seeds provide food for the threatened Mountain Pygmy-possum.

**Where to see it:** Cross Country Trails

**ALPINE MINT BUSH** | *Prostanthera cuneata*



**Family:** Lamiaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 1.5m

**Flowering time:** November to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- When leaves are crushed, they emit a minty fragrance.

- Trumpet-shaped flowers with blotches of purple and yellow inside.

**Traditional uses:** Leaves eaten.

**Where to see it:** Mount Hotham Summit Walk

**TWIN-FLOWER KNAWEL OR CUSHION PLANT** | *Scleranthus biflorus*



**Family:** Caryophyllaceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** Matting groundcover

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Bright, often lime-green cushion plant.

- Leaves and flowers are tiny.
- Flowers do not have petals and extend on short stems above the mat of leaves.

**Where to see it:** Mount Hotham Summit Walk and Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

**ALPINE GREVILLEA** | *Grevillea australis*



**Family:** Proteaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 1.5m

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Variable leaves, narrow to broad.

- Leaves sometimes spiky.
- Tiny flowers cluster along stems.

**Traditional uses:** Flower eaten for nectar.

**Where to see it:** Mount Hotham Summit Walk and throughout Hotham Village

**CASCADE EVERLASTING** | *Ozothamnus secundiflorus*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 1.5m

**Flowering time:** December to late January

**Distinguishing features:**

- Pale stems.

- Green leaves have pale undersides.
- Flowers crowd along branches and cascade down.

**Where to see it:** Throughout Hotham Village

**CANDLE HEATH** | *Richea continentis*



**Family:** Ericaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 50cm

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Occurs in wet areas in dense mats.
- Leaves stiff and spikey.
- Flower spikes rise above leaves.

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk.

**SNOW GUM** | *Eucalyptus pauciflora*



**Family:** Myrtaceae

**Form:** Tree

**Size:** Variable

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- The only species to form the alpine treeline on mainland Australia.
- Trees become shorter as you increase in elevation.
- Trunks are curvy with smooth bark.

**Where to see it:** Throughout Hotham Village

**SPREADING ROPE-RUSH OR WIRE RUSH** | *Empodisma minus*



**Family:** Restionaceae

**Form:** Grasses, Rushes & Sedges

**Size:** To 30cm

**Flowering time:** August to December

**Distinguishing features:**

- Widespread in wet areas, forming dense mats.
- Wiry, grass-like, with brown segment along stems
- Flowers tiny and inconspicuous along stems

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

**CLUSTERED EVERLASTING** | *Chrysocephalum semipapposum*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 60cm

**Flowering time:** November to August

**Distinguishing features:**

- Branching plant.
- Grey-green leaves.
- Clusters of spherical flowers at the ends of branches.

**Where to see it:** Little Higginbotham Walk

**PALE EVERLASTING** | *Coronidium monticola*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 35cm

**Flowering time:** September to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Branching plant.
- Grey-green hairy leaves.
- Papery flowers at the ends of branches.

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

**BILLY BUTTONS** | *Craspedia* sp.



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 60cm

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Variable species at Hotham.

- Grey or olive-green leaves, forming a clump.
- Ball-like heads made up of many small individual flowers rise above leaves, which vary from yellow to orange.

**Where to see it:** Mount Hotham Summit Walk and Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

**IVY GOODENIA** | *Goodenia hederacea*



**Family:** Goodeniaceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** Matting groundcover to 1m

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Sprawling groundcover.
- Leaves have toothed edges.
- Flowers have 2 petals on the top edge and 3 on the bottom.

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

**SCALY BUTTONS** | *Leptorhynchos squamatus*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 20cm

**Flowering time:** November to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Green-grey, woolly leaves extend up scaly stems.
- Small flowers occur at the ends of each stem.

**Where to see it:** Mount Hotham Summit Walk and Loch Track

**HOARY SUNRAY** | *Leucochrysum albicans*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 45cm

**Flowering time:** November to March

**Distinguishing features:**

- Spreading plant with thin green-grey, woolly leaves.
- Papery flowers occur at the ends of each stem.

**Where to see it:** Throughout Hotham Village

**MURNONG OR YAM DAISY** | *Microseris lanceolata*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 40cm

**Flowering time:** September to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Long leaves.
- A single flowering stem with a bud that distinctly droops before opening.
- Flowers are larger than the non-native dandelion.

**Traditional uses:** Tuber eaten.

**Where to see it:** Cross Country Trails

**ALPINE PODOLEPIS** | *Podolepis robusta*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 30cm

**Flowering time:** December to March

**Distinguishing features:**

- Large fleshy, light-green leaves.
- Numerous flowers rise above leaves on branching stems.

**Where to see it:** Big D Area

**GUNN'S ALPINE BUTTERCUP** | *Ranunculus gunnianus*



**Family:** Ranunculaceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** Flower stalks to 25cm

**Flowering time:** November to January

**Distinguishing features:**

- Occurs in wet areas.
- Small, fine leaves.
- Flowers extend on thick brown stems above the tuft of leaves at the base.

**Where to see it:** Big D Area

VICTORIAN BUTTERCUP | *Ranunculus victoriensis*



**Family:** Ranunculaceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 30cm

**Flowering time:** October to January

**Distinguishing features:**

- Leaves have 3 lobes.
- Leaves cluster at the base of the plant.
- Flowers extend on branches above the leaves.

**Where to see it:** Wire Plain

GUNN'S GROUNDSEL OR MOUNTAIN FIREWEED | *Senecio gunnii*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 50cm

**Flowering time:** December to March

**Distinguishing features:**

- Grey, hairy leaves with a distinct purple underside.
- Dense clusters of flowers occur at the ends of branches.

**Where to see it:** Davenport Access Track

FIREWEED GROUNDSEL | *Senecio linearifolius*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 1m

**Flowering time:** November to March

**Distinguishing features:**

- Large, dark-green leaves have toothed edges.
- Clusters of flowers occur at the ends of branches.

**Where to see it:** Davenport Access Track

ALPINE GROUNDSEL | *Senecio pectinatus* var. *major*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 40cm

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Leaves at the base of the plant form a mat.
- Flowers occur on stems rising from the leaf base.
- Leaves do not extend up the flowering stem.

**Where to see it:** Big D Area

VARIABLE GROUNDSEL | *Senecio pinnatifolius* var. *alpinus*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 50cm

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Leaves have toothed edges.
- Clusters of flowers at the ends of branches.
- Leaves extend up the flowering stem.

**Where to see it:** Big D

ALPINE WATTLE | *Acacia alpina*



**Family:** Fabaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** 1-2m

**Flowering time:** October to November

**Distinguishing features:**

- Rounded leaves.
- Fluffy, ball-shaped flowers.

**Traditional uses:** Gum chewed to relieve indigestion.

**Where to see it:** Cross Country Trails.

ALPINE STAR-BUSH | *Asterolasia trymalioides*



**Family:** Rutaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 80cm

**Flowering time:** November to January

**Distinguishing features:**

- Thick glossy leaves.
- 5-pointed star shaped flowers at the ends of branches.

**Where to see it:** Mount Hotham Summit Walk

LEAFY BOSSIAEA | *Bossiaea foliosa*



**Family:** Fabaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 1.5m

**Flowering time:** November to December

**Distinguishing features:**

- Tiny, rounded leaves.
- Profuse pea-shaped flowers along stems.
- Hairy seed pods that turn from green to brown when ripe.

**Where to see it:** Cross Country Trails

**YELLOW KUNZEA** | *Kunzea muelleri*



**Family:** Myrtaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 50cm

**Flowering time:** November to January

**Distinguishing features:**

- Narrow leaves hug the stem.
- Profusion of yellow stamens.
- Leaves turn purple-burgundy in late summer-autumn as temperatures fall.

**Where to see it:** Mount Hotham Summit Walk

**TREE VIOLET** | *Melicytus dentatus angustifolius* var. *divaricatus*



**Family:** Violaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** 50cm

**Flowering time:** September to November

**Distinguishing features:**

- Woody spikes along stems.
- Bell-shaped flowers pale-yellow and hang downwards.
- Small berries turn from green to purple when ripe.

**Where to see it:** Cross Country Trails and Davenport Access Track

**ALPINE PODOLOBIUM OR SHAGGY PEA** | *Podolobium alpestre*



**Family:** Fabaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 1.5m

**Flowering time:** November to December

**Distinguishing features:**

- Flower colour from yellow to orange.
- Leaves often in groups of three.
- Leaves have an obvious vein down the centre.

**Where to see it:** Throughout Hotham Village

**ALPINE PEPPER** | *Tasmannia xerophila* ssp. *xerophila*



**Family:** Winteraceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 1.5m

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Thick leaves with prominent midrib.

- Red stems.

- Dark pepper berries turn from purple to black when ripe.

**Traditional uses:** Nuts used for flavouring with meats.

**Where to see it:** Cross Country Trails

**MOUNTAIN HICKORY WATTLE** | *Acacia obliquinervia*



**Family:** Fabaceae

**Form:** Tree

**Size:** 1-8m

**Flowering time:** October to December

**Distinguishing features:**

- Occurs at lower elevations.
- Long leaves with a prominent off-centered vein.
- Clusters of fluffy ball-shaped flowers.

**Where to see it:** Davenport Access Track

**ORANGE EVERLASTING** | *Xerochrysum subundulatum*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 45cm

**Flowering time:** December to March

**Distinguishing features:**

- Plants often forms mats.
- Large, papery flowers occur at the ends of each stem.

**Where to see it:** Mount Hotham Summit Walk

**ROYAL GREVILLEA** | *Grevillea victoriae*



**Family:** Proteaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 3m

**Flowering time:** August to January

**Distinguishing features:**

- Large leaves with a pale underside.
- Clusters of flowers occur at the ends of branches.

**Traditional uses:** Flowers chewed for nectar.

**Where to see it:** Throughout Hotham Village

**GRASS TRIGGERPLANT** | *Stylidium armeria*



**Family:** Stylidiaceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 45cm

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Grass-like leaves that range from green-red in colour.
- Tall flower stalks rise above leaves.
- Multiple small flowers extend along flowering stems.

**Traditional uses:** Tuber eaten.

**Where to see it:** Big D Area

ALPINE BORONIA | *Boronia algida*



**Family:** Rutaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** 0.5-1m

**Flowering time:** November to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Leaves waxy with visible oil glands.
- Aromatic leaves.
- Four-petaled flowers group together at the ends of branches.
- Pink to mauve flowers.

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

ALPINE RICE-FLOWER | *Pimelea alpina*



**Family:** Thymelaeaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 15cm (prostrate)

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Low spreading shrub and prostrate forms.
- Leaves hug the stem.
- Pink and white flowers cluster at branch ends.

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

NATIVE RASPBERRY | *Rubus parvifolius*



**Family:** Rosaceae

**Form:** Miscellaneous

**Size:** Prostrate

**Flowering time:** November to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Scrambling plant.
- Flowers pink and white.

- Smaller leaves than the non-native blackberry.
- Berries provide a valuable food resource for wildlife.

**Traditional uses:** Fruits eaten.

**Where to see it:** Cross Country Trails and Davenport Access Track

PALE VANILLA-LILY | *Arthropodium milleflorum*



**Family:** Asparagaceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 70cm

**Flowering time:** December to March

**Distinguishing features:**

- Vanilla-scented flowers.

- Flowers pale-purple, rarely white.
- Grass-like leaves.
- Flowers hang downwards on long branches.

**Traditional uses:** Tuber eaten roasted.

**Where to see it:** Cross Country Trails and Brabrlung Trail

LEAFY DAISY | *Brachyscome rigidula*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 30cm

**Flowering time:** November to March

**Distinguishing features:**

- Fine segmented leaves.
- Mauve daisy-shaped flowers rise above leaves.
- Leaves extend up flowering stem.

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk and Little Higginbotham Walk

SPOON-LEAVED DAISY | *Brachyscome spatulata*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 30cm

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Leaves are narrow at the base and broad at the end.
- Leaves have toothed edges.
- Leaves do not extend up the flowering stem.
- Mauve flowers.

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

TASMAN FLAX-LILY | *Dianella tasmanica*



**Family:** Asparagaceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 1m

**Flowering time:** October to December

**Distinguishing features:**

- Long, wide strappy leaves.

- Purple and yellow flowers on branched stems.
- Large, green berries turn dark purple-black when ripe.

**Traditional uses:** Tubers roasted.

**Where to see it:** Cross Country Trails and Davenport Access Track

THICK EYEBRIGHT | *Euphrasia crassiuscula*



**Family:** Orobanchaceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 30cm

**Flowering time:** Late January to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Red-brown stems.
- Toothed leaves.
- Flowers cluster at the ends of branches and range from white to pink to purple.

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

SHOWY VIOLET | *Viola betonicifolia*



**Family:** Violaceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 15cm

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Dark green, spear shaped leaves.
- Stand out purple flowers rise amongst leaves.

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

ROYAL BLUEBELL | *Wahlenbergia gloriosa*



**Family:** Campanulaceae

**Form:** Herb

**Size:** To 40cm

**Flowering time:** November to March

**Distinguishing features:**

- Leaves have toothed edges.
- Flowers are a striking purple colour and are 5-petaled.

**Traditional uses:** Tubers roasted.

**Where to see it:** Little Higginbotham Walk

ALPINE RUSTY PODS | *Hovea montana*



**Family:** Fabaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 80cm

**Flowering time:** October to December

**Distinguishing features:**

- Leaves have a dark-green upper side and brown underside.
- Velvety-brown seed pods.
- Flowers can be purple or white, and occasionally different coloured flowers can be on the same plant.

**Where to see it:** Mount Hotham Summit Walk

BOGONG DAISY-BUSH | *Olearia frostii*



**Family:** Asteraceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** To 80cm

**Flowering time:** November to December

**Distinguishing features:**

- Grey, hairy leaves.
- Typical daisy-shaped flowers.
- Flower colour is variable from white to mauve, often changing colour through the season.

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

MOTHER SHIELD FERN | *Polystichum proliferum*



**Family:** Dryopteridaceae

**Form:** Fern

**Size:** To 1.3m

**Flowering time:** N/A

**Distinguishing features:**

- A large fern often found in sheltered areas, however is not restricted to wet areas.
- Brownish hairy stems.
- Fronds are large and stem from a central base.

**Where to see it:** Throughout Hotham Village and Davenport Access Track

STINKHORN OR STARFISH FUNGUS | *Aseroe rubra*



**Family:** Phallaceae

**Form:** Fungi

**Size:** Up to 3.5 cm long arms and 10 cm height

**Flowering time:** N/A

**Distinguishing features:**

- A fungus that smells like rotting flesh.

- The smell is used to attract flies which help disperse spores.

- Red arms of the fruiting body emerge from a gelatinous white egg-like sac.

**Where to see it:** Throughout Hotham Village and Cross Country Trails

CUT-GRASS OR TALL SEDGE | *Carex appressa*



**Family:** Cyperaceae

**Form:** Grasses, Rushes & Sedges

**Size:** To 1m

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Tough lime-green leaves with sharp edges.
- Yellow-brown flower spikes stand above the leaves.
- Both food for caterpillars and nectar for butterflies.

**Where to see it:** Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

BLUE-GREEN OR HORNY SNOWGRASS | *Poa fawcettiae*



**Poaceae**

**Form:** Grasses, Rushes & Sedges

**Size:** To 60cm

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Tufted grass.

- Leaves often blue to purplish.
- Flowers heads are a pyramidal shape and often purplish.

**Where to see it:** Mount Hotham Summit Walk

### BROAD-LEAFED SNOWGRASS | *Poa helmsii*



**Family:** Poaceae

**Form:** Grasses, Rushes & Sedges

**Size:** To 1.5m

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Often in wet areas.
- Larger grass with light-green leaves.
- Flower heads large and rise above leaves.

**Where to see it:** Wire Plain

### LEDGE-GRASS | *Poa hothamensis*



**Family:** Poaceae

**Form:** Grasses, Rushes & Sedges

**Size:** To 1m

**Flowering time:** December to February

**Distinguishing features:**

- Larger grass with broad leaves.
- Flower heads tall, rising above leaves.
- Common in sheltered rocky areas.

**Where to see it:** Throughout Hotham Village

### SPHAGNUM MOSS | *Sphagnum cristatum*



**Family:** Sphagnaceae

**Form:** Moss

**Size:** Spreading

**Flowering time:** N/A

**Distinguishing features:**

- Forms dense mats in wet areas.

- A moss so does not produce flowers.
- Critical for healthy water as it acts as a filter and is very sensitive so please never walk on sphagnum.

**Where to see it:** Wire Plain and Loch Track to Spargo's Hut Walk

### MOUNTAIN PLUM PINE | *Podocarpus lawrencei*



**Family:** Podocarpaceae

**Form:** Shrub

**Size:** Prostrate or erect shrub to 1.5m

**Flowering time:** Summer (female berries-plums), Spring (male cones pink/mauve)

**Distinguishing features:**

- A conifer so does not produce flowers.
- There are male and female plants, male plants form cones and female plants form berries (drupes).
- Provides food and habitat for Mountain Pygmy-possums.

**Traditional uses:** Plum eaten.

**Where to see it:** MPP Tunnels throughout Hotham Village and Davenport Access Track near boulder fields

## NOTES

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## VICTORIAN ALPS NURSERY

Do you have a lodge or property at Mt Hotham?

If you're interested in re-vegetating, contact the Victorian Alps Nursery for indigenous species. The nursery is open by appointment only and plants are grown to order.



**Phone:** 0408 151 130

**Email:** [alpinenursery@mthotham.com.au](mailto:alpinenursery@mthotham.com.au)



# HOTHAM

**MT HOTHAM**

**FLORA GUIDE**

Mount Hotham Resort Management Board  
[www.rmb.mthotham.com.au](http://www.rmb.mthotham.com.au)