



**WARBY RANGE BUSHWALKERS – WEEK AWAY**  
**Great South-West Walk**  
**April 2018**

**Listed below is some additional information for the GSWW Week Away, 2018.**

**Any questions please contact a member of the organising committee:**

Leanne Wood (0429 809 973)

Lesley Findon (5728 1740) Beverly Wolfel (5721 9878)

Chris McLaughlin (5722 4876) Liz White (5881 4048)

**How to get there?**

Portland (the location of our base camp) is about 600km from Wangaratta, and you should allow the best part of a day to get there.

The most straightforward route is to take the Hume Freeway to the Princes Freeway (the Geelong Road in the old days), and follow this through to the Geelong by-pass.

From here, follow the Princes Highway signs through to Portland.

Towns that you will pass through on the way (and see signposts to) include Winchelsea (some nice cafes); Colac (more cafes, and a very good shopping centre); Camperdown (more cafes); Warrnambool (at least one of everything, including some good outdoor gear shops, but parking can be a problem); Port Fairy (great maritime ambience, and some good eateries) and then Portland.

As you enter the environs of Portland, look out for the signage to Portland Bay Lodge on the left. The street address is 120 Huxley Road, Allestree, VIC 3305

There are fuel outlets at regular intervals along the route described, and if you are car-pooling, passengers should share fuel costs (see below).

An alternative route (some would say, the scenic route) is to cut across from the Hume Highway at Violet Town or Seymour, and then follow various routes through to (for example, Maryborough, Ararat and Hamilton) and finally the Henty Highway to Portland.

If you are car-pooling, then the usual 8c/km should be applied (see below for more on this).

## **How is Portland Bay Lodge equipped?**

The Lodge accommodates 86 people in 30 rooms, containing single and bunk beds.

Amenities are located under one roof, with three fully private and numerous shared bathrooms.

A self-contained bunkhouse, can accommodate up to 14 people in two separate bedrooms.

Powered sites are available to guests who wish to camp, or bring their own camper vans.

There are two lounge rooms, and sitting areas, with spectacular views across Portland Bay.

There is a large hall consisting of a dining room, lounge with free WiFi internet, and a registered commercial kitchen

Other amenities include a games room, fire pit, BBQ area, beach volleyball, basketball, sports oval and ample parking.

Check-in time is 3pm on the Sunday, and check-out time on the following Sunday is 10am.

## **Cooking Facilities**

- Our own 'experts' have evaluated the kitchen, and most items seem appropriate.
- Utensils: seemed to be plenty – BUT SHARP KNIVES WERE VERY LIGHT ON – suggest BYO
- There is a shortage of Pantry Storage. Not sure either about the openness whether it is safe to leave food unsecured. Suggest storing dry food in zipper cold bags (Supermarket type) and using tables along a wall as the pantry.

## **Dining**

- Plenty of crockery, cutlery, ordinary glasses but NO WINE GLASSES – BYO
- 20 coffee mugs only in Kitchen area, suggested BYO coffee mug, and wine glass.
- Lodge Kitchens have crockery, cutlery, pots and pans also.
- Kitchens in Lodges are small and compact.

**NOTE:** The Dining and Kitchen area is huge, but heated with only one small electric heater. Will possibly be quite cold late April, so everyone needs to bring warm clothes.

There is a Conference room off the dining area which is heated with a split system –this room will be used for 'Happy Hour' if management agrees.

## **LODGES**

**Lodge 1** (Sleeps 30) and **Lodge 2** (Sleeps 12)

**Heating in Lodges:** There are split system heaters in the Kitchen/Dining and Lounge areas.

Heating in Bedrooms is with oil filled column heater – (shared between 4 in Duplex rooms).

**Set Up:** there will be labels on the door as to where walkers will be sleeping.

**Bathrooms in Lodges:** - will be labelled for Men, and for Women.

There will, in general, be two people per room, with no pre-allocation.

## **FOR BOTH LODGES:**

**Bedding:** Doonas/ Mattress protector / pillow all provided. There will be two doonas per bed, and the operators stated that this will be warm enough. If in doubt, bring an extra blanket.

**MUST BRING per person:** Two Sheets, Pillow case, towel, and please use slippers/soft shoes/hut bootees for inside Lodges

**Parking:** Once you have unloaded, please park on the adjacent very quiet road nearby.

### **What can be bought at the local shops.**

Portland is a major centre, and has at least one of everything.

### **How much money will I require?**

Petrol contribution to/from Wangaratta to Portland and return (if you are not taking a car) – suggested amount is \$120.00.

Car Pooling during the week of walks - \$0.08 and about 400km travelled makes about \$30 - \$35 at the maximum. Make sure this money is in small denominations for our "Meter Maid".

You will also need some cash (or a credit card) to buy your dinner at Macs Hotel (see below).

Budget for \$10.00 for the cost of every evening meal. Any excess group meal funds will be refunded to you.

Laundry – the three dryers and two washers need 3 x \$1.00

### **What are the arrangements with Food?**

You will need to supply your own breakfast and lunch requirements, also your evening meal on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>, and any alcohol you want for the week.

Your Meal Levy of \$10.00 per meal (which will be collected early in the week) will cover 4 evening meals (Mon., Tues, Wed. and Friday) and includes nibbles, main course and dessert.

Milk, tea, coffee, margarine, butter, salt and pepper; glad wrap will also be supplied.

On the Wednesday - we will be going to the well known Macs Hotel, on the Portland waterfront.

Our usual catering system of a team with a Captain will be responsible for each of the four dinners provided (that is, purchasing, preparing, serving and cleaning up on the same night). Walkers will be expected to help prepare, serve and clean up for one of these meals within the week as part of a designated Team.

### **What clothes/equipment to bring?**

A very effective waterproof rain coat is essential (not a rain jacket). The organisers do not want to have to preclude any walker(s) from participating due to inadequate equipment/clothing.

Formal walking shoes/boots, and trekking poles are required for some of the walks.

### **Evening / Extreme weather Entertainment**

The program that we have organised may need to be changed at short notice if the weather becomes inclement, and safety is an issue. Suggest you throw in a book /deck of cards / board game in case we need to take shelter indoors.

We also have a few 'singing' and 'dancing' people amongst us that we may be able to encourage.

### **What walks are proposed?**

A proposed schedule of walks for the six days (Sunday to Saturday) is available on our website (see under 'Walks Program').

### **What will happen each day?**

8.00am – walks will commence, usually with car-pooling.

5.30pm – Happy Hour in the Conference Room.

6.00pm – Announcements and Information Session on the Walks for next day.

7.00pm – Dinner

8.00pm – all participants for the next day will have signed up for their walks.