



**WARBY RANGE
BUSHWALKERS Inc.**

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www.warbybushwalkers.org.au

**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 Finedon (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 www.portlandbaylodge.com.au

If you are car-pooling, then the usual 8c/km may be applied, to a suggested maximum of \$80 for the round trip but this is at the driver's discretion

What time would we like you to be there?

We can access Portland Bay Lodge from 3pm Sunday, 15th April, and must leave by 10am on Sunday, 22nd April. We would like to do an initial check-in and briefing at approximately 7pm on Sunday night.

How is Portland Bay Lodge equipped?

There are 30 bedrooms, and as there are 14 married couples in the group (1 couple are camping) this should mean 17 rooms left for the balance of the group.

As there are 18 singles 2 people will have to share 1 room. We need two people to volunteer to share; please let Leanne know if you are happy to do this.

A bottom sheet and pillow with pillowslip are provided, but you will need to bring your own sleeping bag/doona, top sheet if required and towel. No shower mats are provided so byo bath mat or small hand towel to use.

We are not allocating individual rooms. As people arrive they will select a room. Once people have settled in their rooms we will then provide door labels. Each room has a heater.

There are two lounge rooms, and sitting areas, with spectacular views across Portland Bay. There is an open fire and plenty of heating.

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

Laundry facilities include 2 washing machines to use at no charge and laundry detergent is supplied.

What are the arrangements with Food?

You will need to supply your own breakfast and lunch requirements, also your evening meal on Sunday, April 15, 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 five evening meals (Mon, Tues, Thursday, Friday and Saturday) and includes nibbles, main course and dessert.

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

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

Team Leaders have been appointed for each of the five nights to cater and clean up. Everyone will be part of a team. Teams and their Team Leaders will be displayed on the Notice Board.

Utensils: seemed to be plenty – BUT SHARP KNIVES WERE VERY LIGHT ON – suggest team leaders BYO.

There is a shortage of Pantry Storage. Suggest storing dry food in zipper cold bags (Supermarket type) and using tables along a wall as the pantry.

How much money will I require?

Car Pooling during the week of walks - \$0.08/km, 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.

\$50 pp to cover the five evening meals.

Money for contribution to petrol if car pooling (\$40 each way, or at driver's discretion).

What to bring Checklist:

Either sleeping bag or doona (and top sheet if you prefer).

Towel and shower mat

Wineglass and Zipper bag(s) for food storage

Book, cards or board games in case of inclement weather

Evening meal for Sunday night

All Breakfast, lunch and snack supplies

Alcohol / drinks for the week

Wet weather gear

Money as previously explained

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.

Rod Davis and Co will arrange some singing/entertainment for Friday night. A couple of people will talk briefly about their recent trips on Thursday night.

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'). www.warbybushwalkers.org.au/week-away

A summary of the Walks Program is attached to this letter.

Because of our Group Size and Walk Program, we need to split those doing the Harder walks into two groups, with one group commencing at either end. For those providing vehicles this will necessitate exchanging keys with another driver at the mid-point, and being prepared to let someone else drive their car.

All participants need to have signed in for the next day's walks by 8pm so Chris and Liz can determine vehicle requirements.

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. As well, this will be a good opportunity to pay the Meter Maid for mileage.

7.00pm – Dinner

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

Rest Day

Our rest day is Wed 18th, and there are numerous options available for this day - Shopping, relaxing, Sight-Seeing etc

CANOEING ON NELSON LAKES. Nelson is approx 71km, and 50mins, drive time. Nelson Canoe Hire 08 87384048; Paestan Canoe Hire 0429381875.

Portland Maritime Discovery Centre, Museum and Tourist Info Centre.

Cable Tram- Travels 8km along coastal harbour route. Hop on and off.

Powerhouse Vintage Car and Motor Museum- Classic Cars, Motorbikes and Tractors.

Portland Botanic Gardens.

Cape Nelson Lighthouse (a short walk to there) Also Cape Nelson's Picnic Hill and Reserve Lookout- 6km south of Portland on Cape Nelson Road.

Gannett Colony at Pt Danger-the only one in Australia.

Seals by Sea Tours at Cape Bridgewater (18km from Portland); the colony is home to 2000 Australian and Long Nosed Fur Seals. Cost \$40 or \$35 concession. Bookings Essential, 0355267247

For those looking for perhaps a short walk/lunch venue Bob Shaw has highly recommended Mount Eccles. This is a long dormant volcano with a conical shaped peak of about 178mtres. Three overlapping craters now contain Mt Surprise.

Dinner at the well-known Macs Hotel, on the Portland waterfront. Full A La Carte menu

Reminder:

Please remember to have paid your Annual Membership before attending, and if you intend to participate in any walks you must be a Full Member, not an Associate.

Looking forward to another great Week Away.

Week Away Committee

WALKS PROGRAM

Monday, April 16: Whites Beach to Shelley Beach (Cape Bridgewater coastline); 15km, six hours, Grade 4, formal walking shoes/boots and poles essential.

This walk takes in all of the coastline of Cape Bridgewater, with many great viewpoints. The pathway follows the coastline very closely, with lots of precipitous cliffs for about two thirds of the distance (including a nice view of the renowned Cape Bridgewater Blowholes), and then a descent down to Cape Bridgewater township, and its beautiful beach.

Alternative Walk : from Blowholes Road to Cape Bridgewater township; 7km, two hours, Grade 4, formal walking shoes/boots and poles essential.

This walk takes in much of the coastline of Cape Bridgewater, with many great viewpoints. The pathway follows the coastline very closely, with lots of precipitous cliffs for most of the distance, and then a descent down to Cape Bridgewater township, and its beautiful beach. A short detour at the start leads to the renowned Cape Bridgewater Blowholes.

Tuesday, April 17: Lake Monibeong Loop, 16km, five hours, Grade 3, poles recommended. This walk takes in a mix of coastal wetlands, as well some of the Discovery Bay beaches.

Alternative Walk : Swan Lake to the beach, along the beach and back, via the dune buggy track; 8km, three hours, Grade 3, poles recommended. This walk takes in a mix of coastal dunes, as well a view of the Discovery Bay beach.

Thursday, April 19: Glenelg River Gorge (Weeping Rock to Lasletts Canoe Camp); 16km, five hours, Grade 3, poles recommended.

This walk takes in some of the best sections of the Glenelg River Gorge. Excellent riverine scenery, enhanced by the azure blue of the partially saline waters of the river. Given the distance from Portland, and the long-ish car shuttle, we could divide the group into two parties, one starting at Weeping Rock, the other at Lasletts, and swap car keys at the mid-point. We successfully used this MO on the Lighthouse-to-Lighthouse Walk at Eden.

Alternative Walk : Wild Dog Bend loop, about 10km (about 8km of this is alongside the Glenelg River); 10km, three hours, Grade 3, poles recommended. This walk takes in excellent riverine scenery, enhanced by the azure blue of the partially saline waters of the river.

Friday, April 20 : Mount Richmond Loop, 12km. The GSSW skirts to the south of Mount Richmond, and this walk uses part of the GSSW, as well as 'local' tracks; 12km, four hours, Grade 3, poles recommended. This walk covers the best of Mount Richmond's scenery, with a good variety of pathways, enhanced by several changes in vegetation.

Alternative Walk : Noels Walk and the West Walk (both of which are within Mount Richmond NP); 5km, two hours, Grade 3, poles recommended. This walk takes in some of the best of Mount Richmond's scenery, with a good variety of pathways, enhanced by several changes in vegetation.

Saturday, April 21 : Shelley Beach to the Lighthouse at Cape Nelson; 14km, five hours, Grade 4, formal walking shoes/boots and poles essential. This great section takes in beach and cliff terrain, as well as the coffee shop at the lighthouse.

Alternative Walk : local loop from Cape Nelson Lighthouse; 5-8km depending on the track chosen, about 2.5hrs, Grade 3, poles recommended. This great section takes in some excellent cliff terrain, as well as the coffee shop at the lighthouse.