



THE GREAT FOREST PICNIC – INFO FOR PARTICIPANTS

Join the Victorian National Parks Association, forest conservation groups and friends in helping to protect our magnificent Central Highlands forests by taking part in The Great Forest Picnic at Mt Donna Buang between 11am and 2pm on Saturday 13 May.

WHERE AND WHEN

Please meet at the Mt Donna Buang summit picnic ground (about 90km from Melbourne) by 11am on Saturday 13 May 2017.

WHAT WE WILL BE DOING

At the Mt Donna Buang summit car park, people will be greeted at the VNPA welcome tent and guided to the picnic ground where we will form a sign spelling **WE ♥ PARKS**. You will be designated your part of the sign on arrival. Photographs and video will be taken from the lookout tower and from the air. It may take a little while to get into place and get the best shots. We are aiming to do so between 11am and 12pm (noon).

Following the formation of the sign everyone is invited to enjoy their own picnic, grab a hot drink and take in the view from the lookout tower. The event will end at approximately 2pm.

WHAT SHOULD WE BRING?

- It is likely to be cold and may be damp, rainy or windy at the picnic ground. Please bring plenty of clothing suitable for wet, cold and windy weather, just in case. There is even a small possibility of snow. If the weather is extreme we may need to cancel, but this will be an option of last resort.
- Some of the picnic ground is uneven and there are some slopes. The ground may be damp or slippery. For the creation of the human sign, we will try to allocate people to appropriate spots depending on your preference.
- Please bring food and drink for your picnic lunch and plenty of water. Hot drinks will also be available.



- Wear bright clothing so our sign stands out against the green background – red, pink, orange or yellow. If you can wear a hat, cap or scarf on your head in these colours our sign will have the best effect possible.
- Our sign will look best if we are all sitting down, so it is very important to bring a rug or something waterproof to sit on as the ground may be cold and damp. If your picnic rug is a bright colour (red, pink, orange or yellow) that will make our sign look even better.
- Please bring a torch or two in case it's misty and we will use them to make our sign shine through

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CHARTERED BUS TIME TABLE

	Departure time from pick up point	Arrives Mt Donna Baung	Departs Mt Donna Baung	Arrival time at drop off point
OPTION 1: Arts Centre Melbourne	9.30am	10.45am	2.15pm	3.50pm
OPTION 2: Kew	9.30am	10.50am	2.15pm	3.50pm

the mist! LED torches are great. Torches need to be white rather than red.

- There are toilet facilities at the picnic ground and portable toilets will be available in the car park.

WHAT IF THE WEATHER IS VERY BAD?

We will be tracking the weather up to the day of the event and will inform all registered participants by email if the event is cancelled. Please check your email the day before the event to make sure it has not been cancelled.

We will only cancel if there are very adverse weather conditions such as a storm or heavy snow fall. If the weather report includes light rain, light snow or a little wind, we will go ahead!

COMING BY BUS?

You can book a place (if you haven't already) on a specially chartered McKenzies Tourist Services bus through Eventbrite for \$27 return: greatforestpicnic.eventbrite.com.au

There are two options:

- City pick-up/drop-off point is just outside the Arts Centre Melbourne in St Kilda Rd.
- Kew pick-up/drop-off point is opposite the old McKenzies bus depot at 53 Barkers Rd, Kew.

Please note: Buses will leave strictly at scheduled departure times! Once the event has finished at around 2pm you will be guided directly to the buses, which leave at 2.15pm.

Buses will park in the lower snow car park at Mt Donna Buang, about 400m from the picnic ground. There will be a chartered shuttle bus offering lifts to and from the car park, but you are encouraged to walk the short distance along the main road through the beautiful forest. An announcement will

be made just before 2pm to allow time for you to walk or be shuttled to the bus.

DRIVING DOWN FOR THE DAY?

If you can, please arrange to car share with your family and/or friends.

Mt Donna Buang is about 1½ hours from Melbourne, nonstop. Drive to Warburton, stay on the main highway through Warburton, go past the service station and IGA, over a small bridge and head left at the Warburton Motel sign up Donna Buang Road (C507). Follow the signs to Mt Donna Buang (there is a sharp left turn at the Rainforest Gallery and a right turn up Rd 2, but these are clearly signposted).

Marshals will meet you at the snow car park 300m before the summit picnic ground. There is no parking at the summit picnic ground for this event. There will be a chartered shuttle bus offering lifts to and from the car park, but you are encouraged to walk the short distance along the main road through the beautiful forest.

STAYING FOR THE DAY?

There are plenty of things to do if you are staying longer for the day. Information about short walks from the summit and from Mt Donna Buang Rd is available on the Mt Donna Buang Summit page and the Rainforest Gallery (Donna Buang) page of the Parks Victoria website.

WHY ARE WE HOLDING A GREAT FOREST PICNIC?

The magnificent mountain ash forests of Victoria's Central Highlands are home to the world's tallest flowering plants, making them some of the most carbon dense forests in the world. Tree hollows within these forests are home to the critically endangered Leadbeater's possum and many other

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TIME TABLE FOR THE DAY

9.30am	Buses leave from Arts Centre Melbourne and Kew
11am	Event opens – formation of human sign
11.30am/12pm	Photography and videography of human sign
12pm/12.30pm	Human sign disbands, picnic begins
2pm	Event closes
2.15pm	Buses depart Mt Donna Buang

threatened species such as the greater glider and sooty owl. These forests protect our wildlife, climate and water catchments as well as providing huge tourism potential for the region.

Despite a great campaign at the last election and two years of talks through the Victorian Forest Industry Taskforce, these forests are still being clearfell logged and we are still waiting for a new Great Forest National Park to secure a sustainable future for the Central Highlands.

With the Victorian Government on the verge of making major decisions about the future of the logging industry and the creation of new parks and reserves, now is a crucial time to send the message that we want our priceless forests protected in parks for everyone and not cut down for unsustainable, short-term profits for a few.

WHO IS ORGANISING THE GREAT FOREST PICNIC?

The event is being organised by the Victorian National Parks Association and supported by local groups Warburton Environment, Warburton Habitat Tree, Friends of Leadbeater's Possum and Save Mt St Leonard Community Campaign, as well as forest conservation groups The Wilderness Society Victoria, Environment East Gippsland and Goongerah Environment Centre.

MORE INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Register through Eventbrite for this event and we will send you reminders and any updates needed.

For more information about VNPA's conservation work and the creation of new national parks, visit vnpa.org.au/protect

If you have any questions about the event, call us on (03) 9341 6500 or email us at vnpa@vnpa.org.au

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