

FORESTS FOREVER EASTER ECOLOGY CAMP ACTIVITIES LIST April 2014

Walks, talks and activities Long and short Day time and night time

Please note - activities subject to change - depending on weather, recent logging, fire and road closures.

Watch the chalk board outside the information tent, and come along to our morning briefings for more details and precise departure times.

The cow bell will announce meeting times - just before 9am.

FRIDAY

Morning Bird watching – Get to know the birds of the forest on a short birdwatching group walk, close to camp. Tips on bird identification and how to get the best out of your binoculars. Bring binoculars if you have them, each morning, depending on demand. Time will be noted on chalkboard, either before or after morning briefing at 9.00am. *1-2 hours with Euan Moore and Jenny Rolland.*

Valley View walk – We hope to have remarked this track (fire affected) by the time you arrive, if not, please join in and help finish the job! Stretch your legs with a walk to the top of the nearest hill behind the camp to overlook the valley and see some of the impact of the fires. *45 min wander with info leaflet.*

Afternoon Organic Farm Tour – Half the Forests Forever camp is held on the back paddock of Jill Redwood's organic farm. Come and see the alpacas, goats, chooks, horses, waterwheel, gardens, orchard and alternative energy system on this idyllic picture-book farm. *1 hour with Earth Garden cover-girl Jill Redwood.*

Afternoon session - Caught on Camera – There will be a short Caught on Camera demonstration based on this popular VNPA project. Friday afternoon – set up automatic infra-red cameras at various locations close to camp. Sunday afternoon – take down and review data. Sunday evening – a short talk about the project and showing some of the data collected over the weekend and photos from other sites. *1-2 hours with Garry & Wilma van Dijk*

FRIDAY night: Get to know your fellow tree-huggers, come to the big tarp!

Overview of the East Gippy Forest campaign– We've campaigned flat out for a couple of decades and we've tried every peaceful tactic under the sun. Watch Jill try and summarise that in, say, 15-20 mins with pics and cartoons. Degree of difficulty 9.5, *with Jill.*

Challenges for conservation – the VNPA and what we are doing – When the VNPA started, Victoria had just 13 National Parks. Now we have 45 Terrestrial and 13 Marine National Parks. But despite all sorts of campaigns, activities and projects by all sorts of activists, protection of our environment faces continual and ongoing challenges. *15 - 20 mins with Euan.*

SATURDAY

Day walk the Errinundra Plateau Circuit – Full-day tour, 60km of driving and easy walking. This tour is *the* essential over-view of forest issues illustrated by real life examples. The route will depend on whether roads are open. Notorious forest campaigner *Jill Redwood* and ecologist/botanist *David Cameron* will take you to beautiful old growth forest then show you clearfelling and its effects on biodiversity, soil and water. Learn the history of the forest campaign from living illustrations, including the famous Supreme Court challenge areas of Brown Mountain and Cobb Hill rainforest. See old growth, alpine wetlands, rainforest, and overlook the Brodbribb Wilderness from Woolly Butt Hill. *Full day, bring lunch and a drink*

Forest Photography and short walk– Join a small group and take an easy walk to the giant Grey Gum, 30 minutes drive from the camp. Learn forest photography or just wander along the track to the Darejo giant. The images will help build a picture show for Sunday night, *with Judith Deland and/or Garry & Wilma.*

Spotlighting – Explore the forest by night. A short walk through the forest on easy tracks where we hope to see some of the gliding possums and other inhabitants of the forest. Bring a torch. *Approx 1hr with Euan and Jenny.*

SATURDAY night – Come to the big tarp

Hearty soup and dessert – Under the Big Tarp. Hearty soups and bread rolls - \$5, deliciously decadent desserts - \$4. *Starring master chefs Lizzi and Brendon.*

Bushfires – looking at the wider risks (and myths) – Analysis and discussion of the last decade of Victorian bush fires. Why are they burning more fiercely? Why did some stop? Is our fear of forest ground layer justified? Entertaining with preposterous and provocative claims plus usual edifying brain overload, *with Bob McDonald and David Cameron.*

SUNDAY

Morning Bird watching – See above, check chalk board, depends on demand, *with Euan and Jenny*

Morning Easter Egg Hunt – the local marsupials hide Easter Eggs. Come and look.

Day walk - Martins Creek – Fire in the forest and rainforest ecology – David will lead you on an expedition down into some beautiful forest and rainforest. We will see what has been burnt, how burnt and what might come back. Whole day activity, including some off-track walking. Includes about 20 mins driving there and back, depending on what we find. Bring water and lunch, *with David Cameron and Bob McDonald*.

Caught on Camera - review of data – Take down spy-cameras this afternoon and review data collected (see above) *with Garry & Wilma*.

Forest Photography – join a small group to go out and learn to photograph all aspects of a forest. Location TBA, or the photographers could even help document the Martins Creek discoveries *with Judith Deland*.

SUNDAY night

More Hearty soup and dessert – Under the Big Tarp. Hearty soups and bread rolls - \$5, and deliciously decadent desserts - \$4. *Starring master chefs Lizzi and Brendon*.

Caught on Camera – talk and slide show– a short talk this evening about the Caught on Camera project (see above) showing some of the data collected over the weekend and photos from other sites, *with Garry & Wilma van Dijk*

Trials and other tribulations – using legal strategies to protect our forests. Brendan Sydes is lawyer and executive officer with the Environment Defenders Office. Brendan will talk about the successes and the lessons learned from the experience of taking forest activism to the courts in recent years. We'll also discuss some big picture questions such as how can we build a legal system that actually protects nature rather than facilitates its destruction?

What can I do? Are all of you inspired? Raring to go change the world? Talk about what we can each do to help save East Gippsland's forests – *with Jill Redwood and former US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (and Liz's suggestions ☺)*

MONDAY and MORE POSSUMBILITIES - keep an eye on the notice board

Yoga sessions – depending on demand, see notice board, and let us know if you're interested, *with Irina*

Morning Bird watching – See above, check chalk board, depends on demand, *with Euan and Jenny*

Organic farm tour #2– for those who missed it on Friday. See above, *with Jill Redwood*

Shortlocal walk – A local excursion into one of the warm temperate rainforests around Goongerah with David Cameron.

Water Bug Fun – come and see what creatures live in a droplet of water, how they get around and what they do for fun – you will not believe your eyes! (Or theirs – some of them have more than two.) With naturalist Don Butcher, in the camp ground.

Moth study – We also may set up a white sheet under the tarp to attract moths. We can photograph and identify moths as they come in. The larvae of mallee moths (thousands of types) do a grand job of composting during the cooler months.

SELF GUIDED WALKS

Valley View – Short walk from campground up Ellery Creek Track, see above. Follow the red paintmarkers from the camp ground bridge. Guide sheet at toilets or info tent (please replace as they are in short supply). *45 minute wander with info leaflet*.

The Darejo Tree– Take yourself to hug the buttresses of the Darejo Tree anytime. See Jill for instructions on how to get there.

HELPFULNOTES

Carpooling will be available for all driving activities. Please offer petrol money to the driver. Kids should be properly supervised at all times, especially when guides are talking.

If worried, check suitability of activities for your age and fitness level.

Also check out the notes sent around by email for other advice, it is called Welcome Map and housekeeping notes.