

**ABW ACTIVITY INVENTORY – Activity Information Record**  
 (The conditions applicable to use of this information must be noted – see page2)

<b>(Office Use Only)</b>	Activity code	W	Area code	Tas	Record No.	0001
<b>Activity</b>						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walk <input type="checkbox"/> Cycle <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe/Kayak <input type="checkbox"/> Other						
<b>Location</b>						
Frenchman's Cap, Tasmania						
<b>Outline of activity</b>						
Walk from the carpark on the Lyell Highway to the Cap and exit via the lesser used northern route. The walk can also be done in reverse but the direction described here is the better one.						
<b>Permits &amp; permissions required, with contact details</b>						
A Parks Permit is required (\$28) which is needed to assist track maintenance. Obtainable via the internet ( <a href="http://www.parks.tas.gov.au">www.parks.tas.gov.au</a> ) or from Government offices in Hobart. An expedition company can also obtain it for you.						
<b>Maps required</b>						
TasMap: Frenchman's Cap (1:50,000) covers the direct route in and out. The track is well marked in this area. TasMap: Franklin (1:100,000) covers the unmarked northern route from Irenabyss to the Lyell Highway.						
<b>Travel: recommendations, times, car shuffling, parking etc.</b>						
Transport to the start and from the end of the walk is necessary. Options are: Tasmanian Wilderness Experience (Fax: 03 6261 2786), TassieLink bus services ( <a href="http://www.tassielink.com.au">www.tassielink.com.au</a> ) which is cheaper but less flexible or leaving your own car in the car park on the side of the highway.						
<b>Water availability</b>						
Water is generally plentiful and clean. The route from Lake Tahune to Irenabyss can be a bit dry. I suspect that the water in the Franklin River is no longer clean enough to drink without sanitisation.						
<b>Restrictions (fires, gates etc.)</b>						
The greatest restriction is the weather which can degrade to snow and gales even in summer but it is generally survivable. The campsites are small so hopefully you will not coincide with a number of groups. To cross the Franklin River, you must either swim or hope to coincide with a rafting expedition to give you a lift. The river can be cold but the current is not too dangerous. It is not for anyone afraid of cold water and there is no way to back out.						
<b>Route overview</b>						
For an average fitness group, Day 1 is an arduous crossing of the Loddon Plains where you might see mud up to waist deep. Day 2 is more pleasant but has a steep climb up to Barron Pass. Day 3 should be spent at Lake Tahune to give several options to find a clear time to climb to the peak. Day 4 is mostly downhill to the Franklin River. Day 5 is on an unmarked track to soggy ground at Mary Creek Plain. Day 6 crosses an long abandoned road to eventually reach the Highway at either Victoria Pass (in good weather) or Nelson River in poor weather.						
<b>Campsites used &amp; possible alternatives</b>						
Day 1 Phillip Creek (or if you make better progress, Lake Vera hut is excellent); Day 2 & 3 Lake Tahune Hut or camp (not as good); Day 4 camp on the northern bank of Franklin River (River rafters will want the southern bank); Day 5 either Mary Creek Plain or on a creek north of Flat Bluff.						
<b>Ratings</b>						
Distance <u>S</u>			Gradient <u>H</u>		Terrain <u>H</u>	

<b>Key:</b> S: Short, 0-9 km M: Medium, 10-17 km L: Long, 18+ km	E: Undulating M: Steep H: Very steep/exposed	E: Track/open, 4 km/h M: Medium scrub, 2-4 km/h H: Heavy scrub/rock, 0-2 km/h
<b>Qualifying</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

**Supplementary information (if required) – Please keep to an essential minimum.**

Whilst the daily distances are short, the terrain is particularly difficult and exhausting. The climbs are challenging and the weather can be cruel so it is not for the faint-hearted. To cross the Franklin River, you must swim.

Irenabyss is a dramatic gorge which is best explored from an inflatable raft but you have to consider the weight of carrying it in because it is not essential to get across the river.

Most people do not use the northern route; they return via the same route that they came in. Not me.

It might seem like a good idea to take a day walk from Lake Tahune to Inreabyss and return but it is at least an 8 hour walk plus rest time.

***NOTE: This activity outline has been compiled from information provided by ABW members. Its accuracy is subject to variations such as:***

- The contributing members' observations, records and views at the time.***
- Changes in climate, weather and conditions (eg: subsequent bushfires, flooding, drought etc)***
- Changes in roads, tracks, land ownership, accessibility and national park rules and permits.***

***Activity leaders and members should use this information as a guide only and in conjunction with their own research as appropriate. Old record copies should be used with caution.***

<b>Creation date</b>	January 2009	<b>Last updated</b>	
<b>Created by</b>	Mark Proctor	<b>Updated by</b>	

**Please insert any maps on this page.**