

# ABW ACTIVITY INVENTORY (AI) - Activity Information Record

This row for office use only – Go to 'Activity'.

Activity Code K

Area code Victoria

Record No 0001

## Activity

Walk ('W'), Cycle , ('C') Kayak/Canoe ('K'), Other ('O') (Indicate here with Symbol).....

## Location

The section of the Glenelg River used for this activity is in the Lower Glenelg River National Park, SW Victoria. The activity usually starts and finishes in Nelson which is accessed from Adelaide via Mt Gambier. The river loops into SA en route towards the Nelson end.

## Outline of activity

There are numerous options. This option involves a 4 day, 3 night trip. Ie;

- Day 1 Arrive Nelson at 12 noon. Collect any locally hired craft and do a car shuffle to the starting point. We have used Nelson Canoe and Boat Hire to hire craft locally and to transport drivers to the start. Vehicles can be parked on their premises in Nelson.
- Paddle for to various booked canoe camp sites until day 4. Arrive Nelson c 12noon and drive home.

## Permits & permissions required, with contact details

Camping Permits are required, They can be obtained from the Parks Victoria office at Nelson or in advance via that office (08) 8738 4051. Mail C/- Post Office Nelson Vic. 3292. or [nelsonvic@hotmail.net.au](mailto:nelsonvic@hotmail.net.au).

During the peak season bookings for canoe camp sites are essential.

Camp fees in 2008 are \$3.50/p/night.

## Maps required

The Parks Victoria Glenelg River Guide which includes a map.

## Travel: recommendations, times, car shuffling, parking etc.

Allow around six hours to drive to Nelson. For extended trips it is preferable to transport craft and gear to the upstream start point, return cars to secure parking in Nelson and have the drivers transported back to the start.

## Water availability

There are rainwater tanks, topped up with tap water at all maintained camp sites. However it is advisable to carry 4 L for contingency. The Glenelg River water becomes brackish and isn't suitable for drinking without treatment.

## Restrictions (fires, gates etc.)

Fires can be lit in fireplaces provided when there are no fire bans. During fire bans no fires or stoves are permitted to be used.

There is no public vehicular access to most canoe camp sites. Locked gates provide access to Parks Vic vehicles.

## Route overview

The River is the route however trip plans can be chosen to suit time available etc. A typical plan is.

- Day 1, start at the Pines landing and paddle to Moleside – 4kms
- Day 2, Moleside to Gorge's Rest. – 18.5kms
- Day 3, Gorges Rest to Lasletts – 17.2 Kms.
- Day 4, Lasletts to Nelson – 14.6 Kms.

Note that Lasletts is the last canoe camp site before Nelson and should be booked for the last night if possible

## Campsites used & possible alternatives

As above. There are other suitable camp sites ie:

- Paterson's Canoe Camp – an alternative for the last night but a longer paddle next morning to Nelson.
- Skipworth Springs – Good site, small, but access a little difficult.
- Others as indicated on the guide.

## Walk Ratings (indicate rating below where indicated ..eg 'SMMQ' )

<b>Distance</b>	S: Short, 0-9 km	M: Medium, 10-17 km	L: Long, 18+ km
<b>Gradient</b>	E: Undulating	M: Steep	H: Very steep/exposed
<b>Terrain</b>	E: Track/open, 4 km/h	M: Medium scrub, 2-4 km/h	H: Heavy scrub/rock, 0-2 km/h
<b>Qualifying? ( Q )</b>	Insert Activity Rating here.....MEE		

## Supplementary information (Insert below, if required)

This trip is suitable for Novices and beginners however some sense of paddling a craft is required to complete what are relatively easy days comfortably and in good time.

The last morning to Nelson can be windy as the coast is approached and the river is more open. If the forecast is for wind and there are slower, novice paddlers and early start might be indicated. Alternatively, split the group into faster and slower paddlers and send the slower ones off first, adequately led and supervised.

An instruction sheet for this trip is 2009 is included at the end of this PDF. This may be used or updated as required.

**Note:** This activity outline has been compiled from information provided by ABW members. Its accuracy is subject to variations in individual members' observations, climate and weather conditions, land and ownership, accessibility, national park rules and permits.

Members should not rely on this information but use it as a guide and supplement it with their own research as appropriate.

While all endeavours will be made to ensure that the information is kept current, it is the responsibility of the member using this document to determine whether it is the most up to date version.

<b>Creation date</b>	21/11/08	<b>Created by</b>	Trevor May
<b>Last updated</b>		<b>Updated by</b>	



## ABW GLENELG RIVER CANOE TRIP

Friday 23rd – Monday 26th January, 2009

### Contact Details:

#### Leaders:

Trevor May 8337 2289 (H)  
0429 692 496 (M)  
Lindy Manthorpe 0418 850 092 (M)

### Trip Location:

The Glenelg River is situated Sth East of Mt Gambier in Victoria (mostly).

Nelson is situated 36kms SE of Mt Gambier at the mouth of the Glenelg River on the coast and is accessed from Adelaide via Mt Gambier. **Allow a minimum of 6 hours** from Adelaide depending on how you drive and how often you wish to stop.

The trip will be along the Glenelg River from Pines Landing to Nelson over 2 full and 2 half days (3 nights). (A basic map will be provided)

We will be camping in the National Park at sites reserved for canoeists. We have booked sites but may not be alone.

Extensive canoe/kayak experience is not essential. However if you have never paddled before please speak to Trevor May.

### Craft hire:

People needing to hire craft and gear must arrange, book and pay for this themselves well in advance of the trip. Canoes or kayaks can be hired from Nelson Boat and Canoe Hire (NB&CH) at Nelson (details below), Adelaide Canoe Works or Access Canoes in Adelaide. You will need to transport the craft if you don't hire it in Nelson.

**Start:** At the reserve near NB&CH and adjacent to the Visitor Information Centre office alongside the river at Nelson at 12 noon, South Australian time (CSST), Friday 23rd Jan. (We will stay on SA time for the trip)

\*\*\*\* *Please plan to be there on time* \*\*\*\*

**Finish:** Nelson Boat Ramp, approx. 1pm (CSST) Monday 26th Jan. (Near NB&CH)

### Trip Outline:

Meet on the reserve at Nelson near the Parks Victoria office at 12 noon, Friday. Everyone should purchase Parks passes and those hiring from NB&CH can collect hire canoes and gear. (Park fees may be collected from you in advance (TBC). Larger scale and waterproof river maps can be purchased from the Parks Office)

A car drop-off and return will be organised with NC&BH to get all paddlers and gear from Nelson to the start at The Pines where we will load the craft and depart from.

Vehicles will be parked at Nelson, hopefully, in a private yard.

Hired canoes and paddlers & gear will be transported to the start by NB&CH. (\$35 total per trip)

People with their own canoes can also be transported by NB&CH at an additional cost of \$20 p/craft. We will resolve the optimum combination of our own and NB&CH transport at the time but it is very important **to be there on time** to do this.

The trip will finish at Nelson at approx 1pm (CSST) on Sunday.

### **Itinerary**

Day 1 (asap after arrival ) – Pay fees, collect hire craft and gear, transport to start, load up, car shuffle & park cars. (This can take over 2 hrs so please be on time.)

Paddle from The Pines to Moleside – 4kms direct, but we will probably paddle upstream some distance first to explore the upper reaches of the Glenelg River before returning downstream to Moleside to camp.

Day 2 – Moleside to Georges Rest – 18.5 kms

Day 3 – Georges Rest to Laslett's – 17.2 kms. (Incl. optional walk to caves).

Day 4 – Laslett's to Nelson – 14.6 kms.

The river is calm and protected, we are paddling downstream and these sectors should be easy and leisurely. A head wind is a possible inconvenience on the last stretch. Average easy paddling speed is 4km/h. There will be time to relax, fish [if you have a valid Victorian permit or are under 12 years old!] and stop en route or to do short walks from the camp sites.

The last half day is quite achievable with, perhaps, an early start. However, there is an alternative end point at Donovan's Landing (approx 7 km from Nelson) in the very unlikely event that we encounter difficult, windy conditions.

### **Important Information and What to Bring.**

Life jackets, paddles, a skirt (for kayaks) and some waterproof bags or containers. These may be provided as part of a hire package if you are hiring canoes or kayaks. ***Please check this if you are hiring.***

**Life jackets (Type II or III Personal Flotation Device (PFD)) MUST be worn at all times when paddling or swimming on the river.**

Your gear should be divided into small, stowable packages and in waterproof material, bags or in containers provided. Stowed gear will get wet from paddle splash, if nothing else, particularly in canoes. Kayaks may have closed compartments but these are not always completely dry. Use both inner and outer hatch covers.

In the VERY unlikely event of a capsize consider securing and floatation for cameras or valuables. (i.e.: either a buoy or air sealed in the container.)

Bring additional waterproof plastic bags to cover unforeseen needs, a clear plastic bag for your basic map that will be provided and a compass if you'd like to navigate.

Scroggin, water, fruit, sunscreen, cameras should be kept in waterproof bags near you so that they can be easily accessed while on the water. We'll stop on the river bank for lunch and comfort breaks.

There may be total fire bans so it's advisable to bring some food that does not need to be cooked. ***You should check the existing and potential fire ban situation before leaving.***

Wear a good shady hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and clothing that covers your body including your legs and arms. Insect repellent may also be useful. Wear bathers underneath for any impromptu swim stops. Canoe sandals or footwear that can be worn wet are *essential* when paddling. Bare feet may be cut or injured when getting in/out of craft.

Be prepared for foul weather with warm clothes and a waterproof 'outer' suitable for sitting in. Watch weather forecasts – it can change quickly down there. On the other hand a small tarp/groundsheet could be handy for shade on shore if it's hot.

Bring a seat cushion/backrest if you're not used to paddling – canoe seats can be hard after a few hours. If paddling a Canadian canoe, a foam pad to kneel on can help if you want to change position or paddle with more power. Bike riding gloves or similar may help avoid paddle blisters for some people.

Bring shoes, socks and daypack etc. suitable for easy walking on formed tracks. Small folding chairs are OK if you can fit them in.

Drinking water is usually available but bring bladders that can be filled to cover a couple of days if required. Bladders should be filled at Nelson before starting. There are no shops en route.

### **Rules and Regulations on the River.**

The Glenelg River is a relatively benign and safe aquatic environment. However, when on water commonsense and caution is required. For our group the following basic protocols will be applied for the trip:

- PFDs to be worn at all times while paddling or swimming.
- All members to stay within sight and voice contact of the main group unless a specific decision is made to split the group by the leader.
- Noise on the river should be minimised unless there is a genuine problem or emergency.
- Someone should always standby when any person is boarding or alighting from their craft for a 'comfort break' or as the last person departing from a stop. This is the most likely time for a capsize and possible injury.
- There will be other people on the River. The following should be observed:
  - Be courteous to other river users when paddling or alighting for a break.
  - Stay clear of stationary fishing and speed boats, house boats and also shacks (mostly in the last stage of the weekend).

- Beware of moving power and ski boats and observe the navigation rules the most important of which is to stay close to the *right hand* bank of the river when paddling downstream. If crossing the river be prompt and alert if power boats are in the vicinity.

### **Costs (subject to change)**

Canadian double canoes and kayaks (single person) hired from NB&CH cost approx \$45 per day each, i.e. \$180 for each craft for the trip. This must be paid on arrival .

**You must pre-book these yourself well in advance and pay a deposit.**

Transport is c\$35 per trip – will be shared. Non-hirers pay additional per person if they use NB&CH transport.

Camping fees have to be paid at the National Parks office near NB&CH. These are c \$4.00 per person per night and must be paid on arrival Friday if we have not collected them beforehand.

***Please have some cash and credit cards available to pay these costs in full on Friday as soon as you arrive.***

### **Contacts:**

#### **Nelson Boat and Canoe Hire (NB&CH):**

Kellett St Nelson (On the Glenelg River) 8738 4048  
[mail@nelsonboatandcanohire.com.au](mailto:mail@nelsonboatandcanohire.com.au)

Note: You will be fully responsible for all costs associated with Canoe/Kayak hire. However if hiring from NC&BH please identify yourself as being with the ‘ABW Group or Trevor May’. It will help coordinate arrangements. Book early !

The basics you MUST hire are a craft, paddles, and a PFD.

NC&BH also provide some waterproof drums (for Canoes) and bags (for Kayaks). Waterproof skirts for kayaks are optional but recommended.

If hiring and sharing a canoe I recommend you ask for kayak-type double paddles vs the ‘correct’ single paddles unless experienced. However this is your choice.

### **Summary**

This should be a very relaxing weekend. As always with canoe trips there is room for some luxuries, fresh food and small chairs. However, *don't overdo it* as your gear will need to fit in your craft and space is not unlimited and weight still matters.

The hints provided above may seem extensive but are mostly commonsense and are just about adapting from walking to paddling for those unfamiliar. Extensive experience is NOT required for this trip. If in doubt about gear or craft, please ask.

***Again - Please take some time to plan your travel to Nelson and any passenger pickups to ensure that you are there on time or a little earlier.***

See you there!