

ABW ACTIVITY INVENTORY (AI) - Activity Information Record

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Activity Code W Area code Victoria Record No 0007

Activity

Walk ('W')

Location

The Great South West Walk (GSWW) is a circuit running for 250 km in south western Victoria. This entry describes the walks in the Lower Glenelg National Park.

Outline of activity

This is a 2 – 3 day walk on established tracks alongside the beautiful Glenelg River. Existing campsites are very well prepared, the terrain is very flat so it is suitable for all levels of walker and there are numerable entry/exit points via good dirt roads. The walk of about 50 km can be done in either direction and can be made shorter by starting/stopping at any of the road access points.

Permits & permissions required, with contact details

No permit is needed to walk the GSWW but the administration of campsites within the Lower Glenelg National Park are due to be taken over by Parks Victoria in the near future (by the end of 2011). Parks VIC already administer the kayak and car camping areas of the river and it is expected that they will similarly demand pre-booking and payment for walker's camps in the same way. For contacts, see the Additional Info section.

Maps required

For such a simple area, the mapping situation is a dog's breakfast that reminds you that several Government departments must have been involved. The GSWW website offers a low fidelity map that is not suitable for navigation. Parks VIC has a river map which is suitable for kayaking and shows several campsites that are not shown on the topographical map. The official topographical map of the area is well out of date and often misleading. (Continued in Supplementary Info section)

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

The gateway to the GSWW is Nelson near the South Australia – Victoria border. This is approximately 500 km from Adelaide. The most efficient exit strategy is to do a car shuffle between Nelson and Moleside.

Water availability

Each of the established camps has a pit toilet, water tank and a picnic table. Treatment of the water is recommended. Some camps have a natural water source which is very clean.

Restrictions (fires, gates etc.)

Because of the camp booking system, you are only permitted to camp where you book. The bushland is quite dense so there is very limited camping outside of the established camps.

Route overview

A good initial camp is Kywong Caravan Park in Nelson which has an extensive open (unpowered) camp site. It provides easy access to the GSWW and they will charge you just \$6 per head for camping and full amenities. Begin the walk at either end and walk at a moderate pace. There is a low likelihood of meeting anyone else except in the Christmas – January period.

Campsites used & possible alternatives

The following established camps are recommended: Simpsons, Pattersons, Murrells (small), Battersby and Moleside. Choose your camps to suit your speed of advance. Because of the flat terrain, 20 km per day is quite feasible. The following camps are not recommended: Pritchards because it is full of car campers and Post and Rail because it is flooded – but they intend to rebuild it so check the website. You can expect to pay around \$15 per night for 10 walkers camping in a nominated campsite.

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

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

Supplementary information (Insert below, if required. Insert Maps on the last page)

Maps The club's digital map computer has a copy of the topographical maps but since each 1:100,000 map sheet is a discrete file, you have to print the northern and southern sections separately and connect them with sticky tape. Cartographics at Unley www.cartographics.com.au/ is producing a new GSWW map which may alleviate this dilemma.

Whilst the navigation is simple i.e. keep the river on your left/right, a GPS would be very helpful to be clear on where you are. The bush is dense and there are almost no landmarks to tell you how far along the track you are. Every bit of bush looks the same.

General The terrain is firm to walk on but has a sand basis so it drains very quickly after heavy rain. The frequent grunts of the male koalas could keep you awake at night. There is plentiful wildlife to be seen.

Contacts Gordon Page – GSWW Coordinator Ph 03 5523 4248 or gpage@greatsouthwestwalk.com
Brett & Del at Kywong Caravan Park Ph: 08 8738 4147 for first/last night camping
Maxine at Nelson Visitors Centre Ph: 08 8738 4051 for campsite bookings and fishing licences

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.

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Last updated		Updated by	

Please insert map below on this page or supply separately

Western Portion



Eastern Portion

