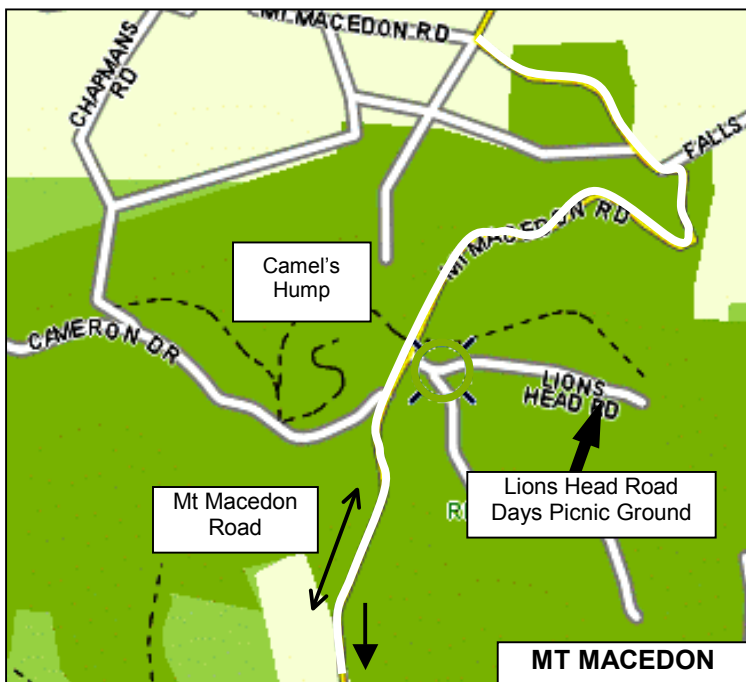


BACKPACKING EVENT

1-Day Hike



To Macedon

What to bring:

Sturdy lead & collar, canine backpack, weight for the backpack (pre-weighed), water & water bowl for your dog, basic first aid items, rubbish bags, sensible footwear, warm & waterproof clothing (the weather can be unpredictable), human backpack, food & drink, sunscreen, hat, insect repellent, etc. Please load and weigh your dog's backpack to roughly the correct weight at home, this will save time on the morning of the walk.

NOTE: A first aid kit will be on hand, but walkers must carry their own basic first aid items. **Dogs are to be kept on lead at all times** and remain the responsibility of their owner/handler.

Cost: \$3.00 per member or \$5.00 per Family

Backpack Hire: \$5.00 per day – please contact co-ordinator to book a club backpack

Facilities at Days picnic ground: Toilets, Picnic tables

Further information: Phone Stuart Vanderpol on 0413 118 305 or Sandy on 9714 8540, or send an email to amcv@bigpond.com.au

SATURDAY, 17 MARCH

MT MACEDON

Days Picnic Ground, Lions Head Road

Please arrive by 8.00 am to register

Hike starting at 8.30 am sharp – do not arrive late!

Hike Distance: Approximately 16 km

Terrain: Generally undulating with one very steep section

NOTE: Please notify the Backpacking Coordinator if you are interested in coming in case the event needs to be cancelled or rescheduled.

How to get there:

From Melbourne: follow the Calder Highway past Gisborne. Take the Macedon/Mt Macedon turn-off and turn right at the T-intersection, heading under the freeway. Continue straight ahead at the roundabout and stay on the Mount Macedon Road, go through Mt Macedon. Turn right towards Sanatorium Lake/Barringo Road taking the left fork into Lions Head Road (near the Camels Hump). Hike registration will be on your left at the far end of the picnic ground.

Who can participate:

ALL DOGS OVER 12 MONTHS OLD WELCOME.

Please note that dogs must be 18 months old to carry weight to the Working Pack Dog title standard.

New members & non-members are welcome to come along. You don't have to walk the entire distance, and your dog does not have to have a backpack or carry the entire weight – it's up to you, and your dog.

Extreme Weather Policy

Please note that a temperature restriction applies to this activity. In addition, events may be cancelled in extreme weather conditions. If unsure, please phone or email to confirm.

NOTE: THE EVENT MAY BE CANCELLED IF THE FORECAST TEMPERATURE IS 25°C OR OVER.

If in doubt please contact the Backpacking Co-ordinator, Stuart Vanderpol, the day before the hike

Working Pack Dog Title:

This backpacking day will be a qualifying event for the Working Pack Dog title and Associate Working Dog Certificate for dogs over 18 months of age only. The rules for the Working Pack Dog title are available from the Backpacking Co-ordinator.

You will require a sturdy backpack which is sufficiently large to hold the required weights. The weight should be made up of something that is dense yet can mold to the shape of your dog: bags of damp sand and/or a soft pack of water (similar to the bladder of a wine cask) are suitable. Anyone attempting a walk should also carry a backpack containing some basic first aid items (dog & human), food (dog & human), drink (dog & human), water bowl and wet weather gear (as the weather dictates).

Your dog must carry 30% of its body weight for a minimum of 16 km for a walk to count towards the title - a dog weighing 40 kg would therefore have to carry 12 kg of weight, which is the equivalent of 12 litres of water. This is too much weight for an untrained and/or unfit dog to be expected to carry. Obviously you will need to train your dog, gradually adding more weight, before you can consider tackling the full load, and your dog will need to be fit and in excellent physical condition.

The only decrease in the weight carried by the dog on a backpacking trip may be by NORMAL consumption of food or water by your dog. What your dog doesn't drink must get poured back into the container he is carrying, and the final pack weight must be no less than 75% of the initial pack weight.

Please watch your dog carefully for signs of stress, and please remove the weight from his pack and shorten your walk if you feel that he is not coping well. You know your dog best, and it is up to you to recognise and act appropriately if he is struggling.