

LeapfrogBulletin



News of our trips and future events.

Issue 28/ August06

Bulletin 28 is a moveable feast, which contains information on trips that may be added to. It includes our most of our planned trips until the start of 2007 so you can get in early and book.

Please check the notes at the end for changes (Leapfrog Club information, participant suitability & rising costs) and other Leapfrog information.

This year's ski program:

I had hoped that we would get a better start to the ski season so that near the end of it we would be able do a camping trip on snow. The poor early snows have not allowed this. Still we should be able to get some good skiing in August and September with maybe a chance for a spring ski in the October school holidays.

August Ski trips 1, 2 & 3.

Trip 1 Trip # 201

Date: August 12 - 13

Trip 2 Trip # 202

Date: August 19 - 20

Trip 3 Trip #203

Date August 26 - 27

Target Participants: Anyone who would like to ski. Especially for those who have been skiing with me already. You must have good mobility and don't mind falling over a bit. Ski trip 1 is the most suitable if you just want to have a snow play experience.

Cost: Adults \$270.00 (Club members \$260.00), Act school kids with a disability \$84.00 (club members \$74.00), Children without a disability and coming from out of the ACT \$168.00 (club members 158.00).

These three trips are Part of our 'learn to ski program' and suits all levels of skiers from beginner to advanced. We leave on Saturday to get an early start on the snow to ski all day. We then ski Sunday & return latish in the afternoon to the ACT.

September Ski Trip. #4

Date: September 1-3

Target Participants: People who have enough ski experience to have passed to The Leapfrog Adventures Inc intermediate stage of skiing.

Cost: Adults \$440.00 (Club members \$430.00), Act school kids with a disability \$88.00 (club members \$78.00), Children without a disability and coming from out of the ACT \$188.00 (club members 178.00).

Trip # 212

This is trip where you can show us how much you have learnt. We will assess your skills and at the end of the week end you should have a shiny certificate in your hand.

On this trip you will also learn to tour with skis. We Leave on Friday night to stay at our Alpine Retreat 'The Tops'. On Saturday and Sunday we venture to the Cabramurra Area to ski the 2 kilometer and 5 kilometer trails. You may even be ready to do some cornice skiing.

Great Keppel Island Getaway

Date: October 3 - 11

Cost: \$2420.00 Inc GST

TRIP #207

Take a flight with us to this tropic paradise where you can escape the cold of Canberra and swim in the warm waters of the Barrier Reef. This was such a great trip last year that we just had to repeat it.

O.K. we take the 6.30 AM flight to Rockhampton but we can guarantee that you will be swimming at great Keppel beach by just after noon some 1800 kilometers north of Canberra.

If you don't want to just laze around you have the choice of many activities. You can hire a jet ski and take an hour to go around the island, you can snorkel or even scuba dive, the glass bottom boat allows you to see the beauty of the underworld with out getting your feet wet (except when you get into the boat) There is the opportunity to do some fishing, or play golf or even jump out of a

plane... with a parachute of course. The food is great, the weather spectacular and there is always plenty of night life to be enjoyed. OR you can just sit back and enjoy the sun, watching all the other tourists exhausting themselves running around having fun.

Whale Watching at Eden

Date: October 20 - 22

Cost: Adults \$440.00 Club members \$430.00, Act school kids with a disability \$99.00 (club members \$ 88.00), Children without a disability and coming from out of the ACT \$188.00 (club members 178.00).

TRIP # 208

A vast you lubbers! Come and see these behemoths of the deep, their huge bulk sliding effortlessly through the sea. Watch them sprout water from their blow hole. Smell the stench of their bad breath. Be amazed by their baleen as they open their large maw before these creatures of the deep descend into the depths.

Yass Dance

Date: November 11 - 12

Target Participants: All Party Animals!!!

Cost: \$240.00 \$230.00 for Club Members

TRIP # 190

Here is a chance for you to go and dance the night away. We Leave on Saturday for Yass and party all night. We stay at Wee Jasper on Saturday night and after a late start visit the caves before we have lunch at 'Angela's Stables Tavern' and return home to Canberra.

High Needs Getaway

Date: TBA.

Target Participants: People with Higher Needs

Cost: TBA

Trip #210

Leapfrog is planning a camp for people with high needs to get away from it all. At present we are working on the fine details but if you are interested or know somebody who may be, please give us a call at the office.

High need camps are very difficult to organize. We have received enough names to make sure there is interest in the camp. We now have to make sure the camp happens. So don't feel afraid of ringing us up and asking what's happening and reaffirm your interest.

Tasmania and Fishing

Date: December or January.

Cost: \$2420 for Ten Days.

Trip #191

HERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME!

Leapfrog is offering 10 days of exploring and fishing in Tasmania. To come on this trip you must be crazy about fishing, like the outdoors, enjoy sight seeing have good walking and balance ability. This is a trip that will take you to wild places that few people visit. We go with local guides. We travel by boat up the Gordon River and stay at an abandoned fishing lodge; we travel across to Schouten Island in the eco tour boat and camp there. We visit the town of Dover and catch fish from off the wharf and go to Bruny Island to fish the reefs. Take into account an optional extra the flight over the Gordon River and Frenchmans Hat Peak and you have an exceptional trip and a once in a lifetime experience. The cost is \$2400.00 and covers every thing except extras such as the flight over the Gordon. However you must book now, as I have to book the flight to Tasmania and accommodation.

Sorry for the delay in getting the date confirmed for this trip. One of our guides is unable to tell us when he will be available. We will inform the five people who have booked & paid their deposit, and the three other people who have expressed interest, when the trip is scheduled very soon.

If you have not booked or expressed interest we still have one place available so be quick!

Coming Events...

Spring Ski trip.

As long as the snows are favourable I will be offering a spring ski camping trip from the 29th of September to October 2nd. This will be for skiers who have reached their intermediate level of skiing and who have camped with us before. For a few people it might be a way of having two very different adventures in the same holiday break, Combining the high country camping trip with the Great Keppel trip (which leaves on October 3rd).

Mogo and the Zoo Day trip.

Date: Wednesday October 18th of October.

Cost: \$185.

Cost covers vehicle hire transport and fuel, zoo entry, insurance, and two carers. Cost does not include your lunch, snacks or souvenirs. If you need your own carer we have room for one carer only for the nominal zoo entry fee at \$20.

Trip #213

Here is a chance to get out of the house and play with some very interesting animals. We drive from the ACT to Braidwood where you have morning tea. After morning tea we proceed to Mogo Zoo arriving in time for some of the animal feeding. After the zoo you may like to have a browse through Mogo Township and do some shopping. If we have time a visit to the Eurobodalla Shire Botanic Gardens is a must.

And now to the extra information & notes on changes...

Participant Suitability

Each Leapfrog Adventures Inc. trip is designed with specific objectives in mind. Activities and venues chosen are not suitable for all of our participants. For example Fraser Island is not really suitable for people with mobility problems (It is all sand). People with behaviours can find long trips in the troop carriers frustrating. People with higher needs need special attention and sometimes one on one staffing ratio.

Because of this we cannot supply extra staff within our budget and therefore have to offer specific trips for these people, or the trips will become more expensive for others with lesser needs as the cost of extra staff will be passed on to them.

We at leapfrog always look to make the trip as enjoyable as possible for the group as a whole, this means keeping group dynamics in mind at all times. When choosing a trip please keep these facts in mind. We will be offering specific trips for people with high needs and greater behaviors so we suggest you take advantage of these.

If you are not sure about your suitability for a certain trip, give us a buzz at the office and we can have a chat about it.

Rising Costs

We at leapfrog always strive to keep fees as low as possible. You may have noticed the cost of some activities has risen slightly in this bulletin. We unfortunately have to keep up with rising costs which are out of our control (fuel etc.), and our administration time and office hours seem to increase every year. Unfortunately granting bodies don't generally provide us with funding to pay for our every day office costs and that is where between a quarter and a third of our money goes.

Discounts on trips:

Discounts on trips now apply for members of the Leapfrog club. So it's time to think whether you would like to become a member. Membership would mean that we would have to have a meeting or two but it would also mean that you would have a say in what we plan for the future. Membership would also mean a bit of work for members but it would also mean that we can apply for grants and we can fund raise for trips

Out of School Grant.

We again have a grant from the Commonwealth Government through ACT Department of Education, Youth and Family Services Special Education Section to do activities with kids with special needs who attend school in the ACT. This enables us to offer highly subsidised trips to students. In the case of economic need these trips can be free of charge. Such is the success of what we have done we are now extending our offers to a larger group of students. Any student who attends school in the ACT is eligible. If you wish to be included in our camps give me a ring.

Children who do not attend school in the ACT may attend camps but have to pay more so that the grant is not being used for them. Siblings of children with a disability may also attend camps especially where their attendance assists the child with a disability.

Club Memberships are Nearly due for 2007.

Club memberships are for 12 months. New memberships are due for the year 2007. If you are already a member your membership runs out after December 31 2006.

We no longer have a small grant from Healthpact to assist with the running of our club, which started nearly three years ago. Club membership entitles you to discounts on most trips, participation in

club outings, the opportunity to raise funds to help pay for special club only member outings and the ability to plan trips that you might like to do. You will also get first notice of up and coming trips. Club membership has increased this year due to rising prices and the fact that we no longer have the help from Health pact. It is still a good deal as the discounts on trips quickly covers your membership cost.

Club Membership

Adult working \$60.00

Adult pensioner \$40.00

School attendees \$40.00

Trip Costs Review.

We are presently reviewing our overall costs which go into making a trip work. These costs include office supplies, computer upkeep and repairs, incidental travel other than the actual trips, research of trips, hire of storage area, office heating etc. etc. etc.

Even applying for a grant cost many hundreds of dollars in administration. When we eventually work out what it cost to run Leapfrog there will be inevitably some increase in the cost of our adventures.

Thank you,

Barry Cooper.

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