



# Leapfrog Bulletin



News of our trips and future events.

Issue 30/ February 2007

Bulletin 30 contains information on trips in 2007 that may be added to.

## Club Memberships are due for 2007.

Club memberships are for 12 months. New memberships are due for the year 2007. Membership ran 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 discount's on trips quickly covers your membership cost.

### Club Membership:

Adult working \$60.00

Adult pensioner \$40.00

School attendees \$40.00

Look further into this bulletin and see the great deals there are in becoming a Club member. We are also planning to have club outings this year. Club membership is open to all people who come on Leapfrog trips. You don't have to have a disability.

If your name is Woody, Iulian, Naomi, Daniel C, Brandon, Stephen, Dylan, Blake or Kathleen you are registered as members for this year. If you have already paid the membership fee and don't find your name here give us a ring.

## 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 may 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 could 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 were successful and received a grant for 2007. It was for less money than last year so there will be fewer camps. However we will still be able enable to subsidise camps in 2007. **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 number 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. We are also training a small number of children with and without a disability to be assistants on trips.

There will be inevitably some increase in the cost of our adventures.

## Tops Work party and bush walk and swim

**Date: MARCH 9 TO 11**

**TRIP # 223**

**Target Participants:** People who like doing a little work and having a lot of fun

**Cost:** Special rate for club members and kids who attend school in the ACT: \$55.00 per person. - \$330.00 for non club members.

This is a trip that I'll be inviting some of our club members to so that we can get the old Tops into shape for the winter months. We will be checking the fences and doing a little work on the dam and the creek so that we might have a swimming hole to swim at in the spring, when hopefully, the waters may run again.

## Prawning Camp

**Date: March 16 to 19. Canberra Day Long Weekend.**

**TRIP# 224**

**Target Participants:** People who like catching prawns.

Special booking preference given to prawners who don't eat prawns.  
More prawns for Barry!

**Cost:** Adults \$330.00 - Club Members \$319.00.

Kids who have a disability and attend ACT schools \$66 (\$55 for club members). - \$132 for other children (\$110 for club members) A long Weekend price at Weekend rate. Get an extra day for free!

Two months ago Tony Rose (a commercial fisherman) pulled in 220 kilograms of medium size prawns from the Corunna Lake. Those prawns, (if all has gone well) should be 5 centimeters larger now. There is a dark moon on the nights of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. **So let's go get them!** We leave by 5 PM and drive to the lake camp put up the tents provided and start prawning... The next day is for fishing and swimming and lazing about before our next prawning adventure.

## Tantangara and Fishing

**Date:** March 23 to 25 2007

TRIP# 222

**Target Participants:** Fishing and Camping at Tantangara.

**Cost:** \$330 for adults (\$220 for members). \$44.00 for children who attend school in the ACT and who are club member's. \$66.00 for children who attend school in the ACT who are non club members.

Children from ACT schools will be subsidized through our grant. Two nights for the price of one (\$220) for adult club members only.

On this trip we do some fishing followed by a walk with our tents via many lovely wild flowers to Tantangara Hut where we will stay over night. The fish are biting from the shore so I'm told you will catch a fish. Bardie grubs and power bait are the approved bait for the fish.

## Building a fish trap with Barry Moore.

**DATE:** April 6 to 9. Easter.

TRIP# 225

**Target Participants:** Anyone who would like to have a unique experience.

**Cost:** Special rate for club members and kids who attend school in the ACT \$66.00 per person. - \$330.00 for non club members.

This is a trip that you will always remember. We go out to Black's Harbour or Mary's beach at Jervis Bay in the troop carrier. We will spend a day building a fish trap out of rocks as Barry's people have done for centuries before white men came to Australia. We will camp near the fish trap and eat a lot of the food we catch. I will personally invite some of our A and B team to help us. I will also take a photographic record of what we do. So if you are into having an experience with a difference, give me a ring to see if we have room for another helper.

## Cool Cooktown (Our northern trip)

**DATE:** April 13 to 27

**TRIP#** 226

**Target Participants:** People who have reasonable fitness and mobility, are willing to go for a long drive and who like seeing and doing exciting things. We drive to the Cairns area. Minimum number of participants 5 and maximum 8.

**Cost:** \$3630.00. Leapfrog Club members \$3520...

Come see a different part of Australia!

This is our Northern Queensland and Barrier Reef adventure. We wander through the middle of New South Wales and Queensland where we will camp and stay in cabins, on the way up we will visit Lightning Ridge and Carnarvon Gorge with its superb aboriginal art. Then we stop for a couple of days at Great Keppel Island to meet up with old friends like Jo, Ray and Peter. After a bit of a snorkeling or some scuba we then saunter up the coast to Townsville and Magnetic Island and then on to Cairns. From Cairns we will visit the world famous 'Lava Tubes' before driving to the Daintree and the coast road to Cooktown where the old captain careened his boat and had a forcible stay. Cooktown is the last town on the east coast of Australia before New Guinea! Then a quick dash back to Cairns in time to catch the plane back to Canberra... while I do the long drive back by myself!

So if you like an adventure, visiting different places, don't mind driving long distances, love snorkeling, swimming, watching nature from a glass bottom boat and walking through massive caves carved by lava (google 'Undurra Lava Tubes' and see what I mean), This is the trip for you.

Get in early for this offer as it is great value for money.

Cost includes most food except for snacks and fast food on the road, transport, tent hire, cabin accommodation, ferry ride to Great Keppel Island, plane fare back to Canberra and wages for staff.

Cost does not include entries to sites (Lava Tubes etc) scuba dives or jet boat rides, souvenirs scenic flights or fishing boat hire etc.

## BENDETHRA TRIP# 219

**DATE:** Bendethra Caves Weekend, May 25 to 27

**Cost:** \$66 kids who attend school in the ACT. \$55 for Club members.  
\$330 for kids from out of the ACT. \$297 if they are club members.

Special price for Adult members of the A team.

**I HAVE RESCHEDULED THIS TRIP HOPING THAT MY SHOULDER INJURY WILL BY THIS TIME BE FIXED AND I WILL BE ABLE TO CAVE AGAIN.**

Bendethra is a special place in a valley in the coastal mountain range between Narooma and Canberra. We leave as soon after school as possible

to take advantage of daylight saving. Although only 110 kilometers from Canberra, the valley is over 2 hours away. We are camping of course! On the Saturday we will spend the day walking to and exploring the caves. This cave was a show cave over a hundred years ago. There is a metal ladder into the caves and old chains and paths that lead through the labyrinth. Sunday will be spent having a swim in the crystal clear waters of the swimming hole if it is not too cold before packing up and returning home.

## High Needs Getaway Trip

**DATE:** Still to be announced.

**Trip #210**

**Target Participants:** People with Higher Needs

**Venue:** Probably Narooma

**Cost:** TBA

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 now 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.

To those who have expressed an interest we now need to have more information from you. So can you get in touch with us.

The things we need to know are:

Name of person coming; address; contact details of person (if applicable); personality of the person and care/s level of disability (as a guide to what assistance they need). Number of days the person would like to be away (week end, 3 days, 4 days, or 5 days) and any special dietary requirements.

All this we will take into consideration when organising the trip.

Sorry for delaying this trip but the work load of organising prior trips we are committed to has forced us to postpone this trip again.

## Coming Events...

As usual there are a lot of things on the drawing board. They appear in our next bulletin which I will create while away on a short break. But just to whet your appetite...

- A trip to Darwin where you fly up and we spend two or more weeks exploring the Northern end of Australia including the Kimberley's.
- Barrier Reef days on Great Keppel again specializing in scuba.
- Ski week end trips in August
- Skiing in New Zealand
- Andolini's spring Dance in Yass
- Valmar's Valentine's Dance in Tumut
- Trips to Katoomba and Sydney

And as they say in the ads much, much more including the steak knives!

## 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. We therefore have to offer specific trips for these people, or the trips will become more expensive for others with lesser needs. This is because 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 always strive to keep fees as low as possible. You may have noticed the cost of some activities has risen slightly.

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. I now spend nearly as much time doing office work as I do doing trips and this is with Emma, Jed and Caleb helping in the office.

Thank you,

Barry Cooper.

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