



Leapfrog Bulletin

News of our trips and future events.

Issue 31/ July 2007

Bulletin 31 contains information on trips from July 2007 to the end of the year.

Before we get started, a couple of things:

The activities in this bulletin have been framed around the fact that I am to have a shoulder operation that will put me out of physical activities for, at the very least, 6 weeks and more probably 12 weeks.

We have recently completed a review of our running costs and we have concluded that we have to charge more for most camps to stay in business.

In this Bulletin we have...

Cross-Country Ski Trips

#1 August 10 to 12

#2 August 17 to 19

#3 October 1 to 3

Whale Watching at Eden - October 5 to 7

Tops work party and bushwalk/swim - October 12 to 14

High needs Camp October - 30 to November 1.

Yass Dance - November 9 to 10

Learn to Surf - November 30 to December 2 &

December 14 to 16

Hot trip to Surfers Paradise December 5 to 11

Ski Trip #1

Date: August 10 - 12

Trip # 230

This is an invitation only ski training trip for our A-team members who would like to learn more cross country skiing skills. A-team members will be contacted by email offering them a position on this trip.

Ski Trip #2

Date: August 17 - 19

Trip # 232

Target Participants: Anyone who would like to ski including those who have been skiing with me already. Beginners are also welcome. You must have good mobility and don't mind falling over a bit.

Cost: Adults \$330.00 (Club members \$310.00), Act school kids with a disability \$110.00 (club members \$99.00), Children without a disability and coming from out of the ACT \$168.00 (club members 158.00).

These two trips are Part of our 'learn to ski program' which will suit all levels of skiers from beginner to advanced. We leave on Friday to get an early start to Cabramurra from our lodge 'The Tops' so we can ski all day. Then we ski on Sunday & return latish in the afternoon to the ACT.

Ski Trip #3

Trip #233

Date: October 1 to 3

Target Participants: Anyone who would like to ski including those who have been skiing with me already. Beginners are also welcome. You must have good mobility and don't mind falling over a bit. Ski trip #2 is the most suitable for beginners. We will have some of our A team to help you.

Cost: Adults \$330.00 (Club members \$310.00), Act school kids with a disability \$110.00 (club members \$99.00), Children without a disability and coming from out of the ACT \$168.00 (club members 158.00).

Here is an opportunity to do some spring skiing in the Perisher area. The trip is suitable for anyone who would like to learn to ski or to improve their skiing skills.

Ski trips #2 & #3 trips are Part of our 'learn to ski program' and suit all levels of skier from beginner to advanced.

WHALE Watching at Eden.

Date: October 5 to 7

Trip #234

Target Participants: People who like to have a fun time, and would love to see whales doing all their tricks! This trip is for people who love being a pampered tourist.

Cost: \$770. Cost covers all entries to venues, whale watching tour, transport, accommodation in 3 star plus cabins and most main meals. Cost doesn't include Lunches brought in transit of a club meal, souvenirs or snacks.

This is a trip for those who love a fun time and like to get away from Canberra to see the sights. We leave Friday morning to drive to Eden stopping off at the famed Nimmitabel Bakery for a well deserved pie. In the afternoon we visit the Painted Cliffs at Ben Boyd National Park before settling into our over night accommodation.

The next day we get up early because we are going to look for whales. After lunch we visit Old Boyd town and Davidson's whaling station. We may also have the opportunity to do a little fishing as well. Saturday night we visit the Eden Fishermen's Club for a slap-up feed

Sunday is our time to start heading home via Merimbula and its Wharf aquarium. If we have the time we may fit in some more sight seeing and visit the Yellow Pinch Nature Park.

'Tops' Work party and bush walk and swim

Date: October 12 to 14

TRIP #235

Target Participants: For people who like doing a little work, learning 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.

'The Tops' is our special place in the mountains. It is our winter lodge where we have skied right outside the door already this year. Set in the lower Snowy Mountains near Talbingo Reservoir it offers a remote area experience for all that stay there. 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 summer months. We will be checking the fences and doing a little work to extend the dam and to deepen the creek so that we might have a swimming hole to swim at in the summer. We will also be doing some building work and some painting over the summer months. Kids who come on these trips will be learning a lot of new skills.

High Needs Camp.

Date: October 30 to November 1

Trip #237

Target participants: clients with high needs

Cost: \$2750 for clients with one-on-one need or a nurse, \$2220 for people who can share assistance on a two-participant to one-carer ratio.

At last we can give a definite date for our High Needs Camp! The camp will be held at Narooma, and clients will have special accommodation that will suit their needs. We will have a ratio of helpers related to the need of our participants and therefore we will need to have a thorough briefing regarding the limitations and needs of each person coming. Activities will be suitable for the client group who are interested in attending. Should the person coming need a wheel chair we will supply a wheel chair accessible vehicle.

One of the tour leaders will visit the person coming to get to know them before we go on the trip.

Please if you are interested give us a ring so that we can start working out the itinerary.

Leapfrog will be getting in touch with the people who have expressed interest in the trip, but it will save a lot of time if you can call us yourselves. We will limit the trip to 4 to 6 people. So get in first.

Yipee! Its time for the Yass Dance again!!

And we Explore Wee Jasper the day after

Date: November 9 - 10

trip# 238

Target Participants: All Party Animals!!!

Cost: \$280.00 (\$270.00 for Club Members) cost includes; transport, accommodation, dance entry and meal, cave tour and cooked breakfast on Sunday.

Here is a chance for you to meet some new friends and to dance the night away. We Leave on Friday for Yass to party all night. We stay at Wee Jasper on Friday night, and after a late start we will to a tour at Carey's Caves before we have lunch at 'Angela's Stables Tavern' and then return home to Canberra. The last dance was such a great success that we know that our bookings will fill up quickly, so get in early for this trip by contacting us ASAP.

Learning to Surf

DATES: November 30 to December 2 & December 14 to 16

Trip 1 # 239

Trip 2 # 241

Target Participants: Anyone who would like to learn to surf

Cost: For Each trip; Special rate for kids who attend school in the ACT \$99.00 per person. Kids attending school outside of the ACT \$220. \$330 for adult club members, \$360.00 for adults who are non-club members.

I have noticed that not very many people who live in Canberra know how to surf. However, when I go to the coast with a group, participants always ask whether they can surf. Up until now I have said no as I don't fancy my chances of saving someone who is in trouble.

Here is a chance for you to learn to surf safely. The people at Narooma Life Saving Club have offered to instruct a group of people, that I bring down, in the noble art of surfing. You will learn how to read waves, identify rips, how to ride a surf board, and how to catch a wave. At the end of the time you may not be the best surfer in the world but you will be a lot safer in the water.

Hot Trip to Surfers Paradise

DATE: December 5 to 11 Trip #240

Target Participants: People who love to have a great holiday

Cost: \$3300.00. Cost includes return airfare (if you book whilst we can get a special air fare discount) accommodation, most food, entries to all venues, vehicle hire and transport costs wages for staff superannuation and all insurances except travel insurance.

Leapfrog has decided to offer a different (for us) type of holiday for people with a disability and their friends.

Many people have asked for a holiday that visits Surfers Paradise and takes in all that is to offer the tourist. So here it is the ultimate tourist holiday for you.

We fly to Surfers Paradise and spend the next seven days visiting all the tourist attractions that we can fit in - Sea World, Movie World, Wet and Wild, Dream World, Polky World, Australia Outback Spectacular, Australia Zoo. You can also have a go at Jet boating and surfing at Surfers, visiting the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary and touring the scenic hinter land.

As you can see we have too much to do, so it will be up to YOU as a group to choose what you want to see.

Compare our price with other organizations and you will find that we are offering you great value for money!

Club Memberships for the remainder of 2007

Club memberships are for 12 months. New memberships are due for the year 2007-2008. Existing Membership runs out after December 31 2007. New memberships for 2007 is being offered at half the yearly rate and will take you up to December 31 2007.

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 \$30.00

Adult pensioner \$20.00

School attendees \$20.00

Club membership is open to all people who come on Leapfrog trips. You don't have to have a disability.

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 the club can apply for grants and we can fund raise for trips.

Out of School Grant:

We again were successful in receiving our grant from the ACT education department 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 for students with a disability who attend school in the ACT in 2007. **In the case of economic need these trips can be free of charge.** Such is the success of what we have achieved in the past we are now extending our offers to a larger number of students. Any student with a disability 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 the trips.

Coming Events...

As usual there are a lot of things on the drawing board. In 2008 we are thinking of doing some of the following trips:

- 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.
- A little trip to Fiji
- More ski trips with a possibility of....
- Skiing in New Zealand
- A Leapfrog Bush dance
- Valmar's Valentine's Dance at Tumut in early February
- Trips to Katoomba and Sydney

And as they say in the ads - there is 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 between a quarter and a third of all of our costs.

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.

3 Burrinjuck Crescent Duffy ACT 2611/
02 62874267 office/ 02 62873261 fax/
0414 908194 mobile

leapfrog_adventures@bigpond.com
www.leapfrogadventures.com