

# Ben Cruachan Walking Club - Walk Preview

Please register with Walk Leader before the day of the walk. See website: <https://bcwc.au/walks/upcoming-walks>

<b>Walk:</b>	<b>Hermit's Cave and koala spotting</b>			
<b>Area:</b>	<b>Mullungdung State Forest (MSF)</b>			Map 8221-2-S
<b>Date:</b>	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	<b>To be publicised in local papers?</b>	No	
<b>Grade:</b>	L-4-4	<b>Style:</b>	Day Return/Circuit	
<b>Walk Length:</b>	16km – no fresh water available	<b>Walk Duration:</b>	6 hours	
<b>Meeting Place:</b>	Port of Sale near the toilet block	<b>Meeting Time:</b>	9am	
<b>Walk Summary:</b>	<p>The walk takes in a combination of forestry roads and 4WD tracks. During the walk we will pass by the site of the Thompson Brother's Mill which was destroyed by a bushfire in 1930. Moving on, we visit the Hermit's Cave where we will have lunch before returning to our cars.</p> <p>During the walk we will be keeping an eye out for koalas. The Strzelecki/South Gippsland Koala is the most important koala population remaining in Victoria and South Australia. The koalas are direct descendants from the original Victorian koala gene pool. All other koala populations throughout Victoria and South Australia are the result of translocations from a handful of animals sent to French and Phillip Island in the late 19th century. Should we see any koalas or their scats (poo) we will record the location and submit it to the Strzelecki Koala Action Team.</p> <p>MSF sprang to prominence in 1977 when Edwin Eastwood hid in the forest with nine children and a teacher who he had kidnapped near Leongatha, along with five other adults he abducted along the way. You'll have to join the walk to hear the full story.</p> <p>MSF is a dry sclerophyll forest covering nearly 14,000ha. In the past it has been used for grazing, timber milling and post cutting. Today, fire wood collection is permitted in designated areas while other parts have been set aside as fauna and flora reserves. Most of our walk is within the Mullungdung Flora and Fauna Reserve.</p>			
<b>Walk Leader:</b>	Peter Jennings	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:pnjennings@gmail.com">pnjennings@gmail.com</a>	<b>Phone:</b> 0428 230444



Hermit's Cave



Koala spotted on BCWC walk 2023 – photo Gabby Hughes