

Gippsland High Country Tours - Winter Email Update 2022



Hello Everyone, hopefully you are staying warm and keeping well in the midst of winter. We have had an amazingly wet year and East Gippsland is looking beautiful and lush.

I had planned to send out a full newsletter, however after not running tours for the past two years I don't have the usual lovely contributions from recent tour participants to share. Also, as I ease back into running tours during spring/summer the program is somewhat limited. So, in the end I decided that a brief email update was more appropriate now with hopefully a full and interesting newsletter to come at the end of the year.

The post-COVID-19 re-start of tours has been slower than I expected (due to an abundance of caution on my part), but I am now planning a limited program for spring and summer. I've put a bit of work into deciding how best to operate tours to reduce the risk of anyone sharing or contracting COVID while we are away together. Bookings will only be accepted from those who can provide proof of at least 2 approved COVID-19 vaccinations and comply with other requirements. There are a few modifications to tour itineraries or how the tours are run, including reduced maximum numbers. A document has been developed that outlines these changes and what I expect of participants and it is available on the FAQ page of our website at this link [COVID information & additional booking & travel conditions](#).

Due to having a long waiting list for most of the tours in the Spring/Summer program, many of the tours now have very few places available, so please be quick to let me know if any of these interest you. A few tours don't have full details available yet, I'm still working through some logistical issues that need to be finalised before I can confirm the date, price and itinerary. However please let me know if you are interested in one of these as I will directly email those on a waiting list before letting the information go live on the website.

More information on each tour can be found on the website by clicking the links below and please get in touch if you would like to receive the full day by day itinerary for any of the tours, or just like to discuss details.

Regards, Jenny

Jenny Lawrence, Gippsland High Country Tours

Email: info@gippslandhighcountrytours.com.au

Birds of the Snowy River, September 12-16, 2022



This dedicated birdwatching tour for a small group of just three participants, is a very relaxed way to enjoy birds in an area boasting a rich birdlife. We don't have to go far, the verandah of our home away from home is a perfect place to watch the birds come to us. However, the Snowy River valley has so much lovely scenery, we'll be off with our binoculars to explore too. You don't need to be a bird expert to enjoy this tour, enthusiastic novices are most welcome, just bring an appreciation of birds and be keen to participate. Spring is a lovely time with birds calling, pairing up and nesting.

Learn more on our website [Birds of the Snowy River](#)

East Gippsland Nature Tour, October 3-10, 2022



The only longer tour we are offering this year – but what a beauty! Jenny has teamed up with long-time friend and colleague Dr Tonia Cochrane of Inala Nature Tours to offer a week of nature experiences exploring across East Gippsland. Parts of the week long itinerary will visit areas burnt almost three years ago in the Summer 2019-20 bushfires when large swathes of East Gippsland burnt under extreme weather conditions, so we can support local businesses and appreciate the amazing regrowth.

From the Snowy River National Park in the mountains to the Gippsland Lakes and Croajingolong on the coast, we will visit a wide diversity of landscapes and habitats. Learn about threatened species recovery programs, discover birdlife and spring wildflower displays as well as meeting local wildlife and gaining an insight into how both nature and local communities recover from fire. Add a generous sprinkling of history, a waterfall or two, plus time to pause and soak up breathtaking landscapes for a very rewarding and enlightening week.

Jenny and Tonia will both be leading this tour, so you will have a wealth of knowledge available to you. Contact Jenny for more information or book directly with Inala Nature Tours. No more than 10 participants.

Learn more on our website: [East Gippsland Nature Tour](#)

Birds of the Snowy River, October 25-28, 2022 (Shorter 4 day itinerary)



This dedicated birdwatching tour for a small group of just 3 participants, is a very relaxed way to enjoy birds in an area boasting a rich birdlife. We don't have to go far, the verandah of our home away from home is a perfect place to watch the birds come to us. However, the Snowy River valley has so much lovely scenery, we'll be off with our binoculars to explore too. You don't need to be a bird expert to enjoy this tour, enthusiastic novices are most welcome, just bring an appreciation of birds and be keen to participate. Spring is a lovely time with birds calling, pairing up and nesting.

Learn more on our website [Birds of the Snowy River](#)

Mallacoota and Croajingolong in Springtime, November 8-11, 2022



Springtime around Mallacoota at the far east tip of Victoria promises great birdwatching, wildlife experiences and spring wildflower displays in Croajingolong National Park. Like much of East Gippsland, the communities of Mallacoota, Gipsy Point and the surrounding area were impacted by bushfires in the horror summer of 2019-20, so fire impacts will be obvious but nature's regeneration is fascinating and beauty has returned, if somewhat different to before. Fully accommodated. No more than 10 participants.

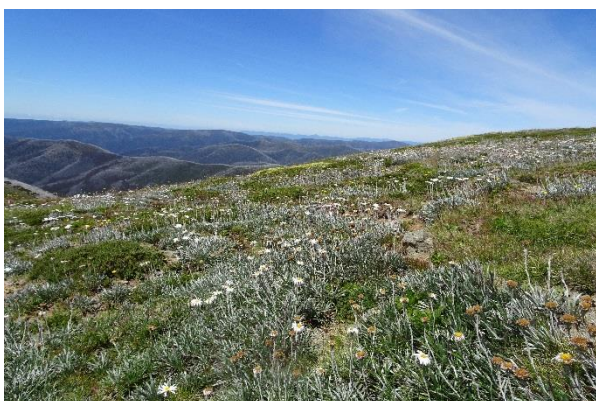
Learn more here - [Mallacoota and Croajingolong in Springtime](#)

Errinundra Waratah Weekend, November-December 2022



Hidden away high in the mountain ranges of East Gippsland is the seldom visited Errinundra Plateau. This is an amazing place of enormous trees, deep ferny rainforest gullies and misty mountains. In spring we can find the crimson blooms of the Gippsland Waratah and a range of other spring wildflowers. Birds and wildlife add to this relaxed nature experience as we share this beautiful forest environment with you. This is just a short weekend tour this year, as even though the heart of Errinundra National Park remains unburnt, much of the surrounding area was badly fire affected. We have a long waiting list for this and cannot be sure it will be available this year, but please get in touch if you would like to be added to the waiting list. Learn more - [Errinundra Waratah Weekend](#)

Alpine Discovery Tour, January 9-13, 2023



Right now, Victoria's Alps are covered in their winter blanket of snow. Come Summer, the snow is gone and the plants are taking advantage of the short months of sunny weather to burst forth with flowers. Upon these flowers feed an amazing array of insect life which in turn provide tasty morsels for birds, lizards and other alpine creatures. From our lodge accommodation at Dinner Plain Alpine Village we explore on short walks and learn about the fragile balance of nature in the alps. Milder summer temperatures and mountain views by day and dark starry skies at night. Maximum group of 10 participants.

Learn more here- [Alpine Discovery Tour](#)

Mt Feathertop Adventure, March 2023 (5 days)



An Autumn bushwalking week for those who are keen to stretch their legs on some good alpine walks. This classic lodge-based walking tour is led by two guides and offers two different walking options each day, Moderate or Moderately-Challenging. The culmination is the walk to Mt Feathertop along the Razorback Track (or just part the way if you are in the easier group). Some say this is the best ridgetop walk in Australia and the views rarely disappoint. Breathe in the clear mountain air and soak up the peace and quiet.

Details are still being finalised, but learn more on our website- [Mt Feathertop Adventure](#)

Birds of Hattah Kulkyne & Murray Sunset, Autumn 2023



Venturing away from Gippsland, we head to the northwest of Victoria for this popular birdwatching tour exploring the Mallee and Murray River. A wonderful array of bush birds and water birds are added to our list as we move through different habitats. Its not just about ticking birds off though, we take our time and often the most enjoyable encounters are watching birds going about their daily activities. Details are still being finalised for an autumn departure, but more information is on our website- [Birds of Hattah Kulkyne & Murray Sunset](#)

Another nature holiday suggestion – Goldsmiths in the Forest, Lakes Entrance

For those who can't manage to book on one of the tours on offer but who would still like to get away for a birdwatching/nature holiday in East Gippsland, I continue to recommend Goldsmiths in the Forest.



This is probably the closest thing you will get to being on one of my tours, coupled with beautiful accommodation and chef-prepared meals (I can't do that!!!). Darilyn and Les Goldsmith are your hosts and their modern B & B style boutique accommodation is nestled in private bushland only 15 min drive from Lakes Entrance. Birdwatchers are well catered for, but even if you are not a birdwatcher, how could you not be thrilled by the Lyrebirds that visit the garden and bathe in the pond! Les will take you for some short guided walks through their bushland, with lots of nature interactions and help you appreciate what makes their little patch of forest special. Tall trees, a rainforest gully, birds, wildlife and wildflowers.

Darilyn uses many native plants from her Australian Edible Garden in her cooking and either she or Les will be glad to give you a tour of the garden. You could take a day out to visit Lakes Entrance, cycle local cycling trails which pass nearby or just stay put and relax. The accommodation has 4 separate rooms each with ensuites and a private door out to the garden. Relax in shared lounge area (with wood heater) the balcony or the garden – finding a quiet private space is not hard. Individuals, couples or small groups are well catered for, but this is not suited to families with children. Goldsmith's in the Forest is not a budget holiday, but when you consider what is included – it is wonderful value for money and well worth spoiling yourself for a complete holiday (or add it on to one of my tours!). Phone: (03) 5155 2518 or Website:

[Goldsmith's in the Forest](#)



Our [Facebook page](#) has been pretty quiet while there are no tours happening, but I suggest you like or follow the page and keep an eye out for some lovely photos and great stories in the coming months. Likewise more stories will appear on the [Blog Page](#) of our website as we head into the spring touring season.

Please visit our website to learn more about the tours <https://www.gippslandhighcountrytours.com.au/> or get in touch with Jenny as follows-

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