

Ben Cruachan Walking Club - Walk Preview

Please register with Walk Leader before the day of the walk. See website: [Upcoming Walks - Ben Cruachan Walking Club](#)

Walk:	Cope Hut to Hotham – overnight at Dibbins Hut		
Area:	High Plains		
Date:	23 March 2024	To be publicised in local papers?	No
Grade:	Challenging X – 9 - 7	Style:	Overnight Pack Carry
Walk Length:	25 km approx	Walk Duration:	2 days
Meeting Place:	Hotham accomm	Meeting Time:	To be confirmed
Walk Summary:	<p>The Alpine National Park is regarded by many as a fantastic destination with a range of walking distances and elevations on offer. We will travel to Hotham on Fri 22 Mar, staying in accomm, and then transfer to the trailhead on Sat morning. It involves a transfer from Loch carpark at Hotham to Falls Creek (cost approx. \$80-\$100), travelling via Harrietville. Drop off at the Cope Hut carpark some 2.5 hrs later. This 14 km or so section of the track is over open plains, characterised by sweeping grasslands, hardy plants and numbered marker poles. Some water may be available in the bogs, but not guaranteed. The path surface varies and can be rocky underneath. Turning at the iconic 333 marker pole, we head towards Cobungra Gap and Dibbins hut. Soon, we drop down the steep hillside and back in to the tree line. This is a slow and steady decline where hiking poles and strong knees will be very useful. The Valley floor has limited tent platforms, a creek, and some camping area around Dibbins Hut itself. The hut is for emergency shelter only, but does feature a 1950's buffet, complete with stylish veneer, rounded drawer fronts and frosted glass.</p> <p>https://bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/bwv_walk_directory/dibbins-hut-circuit/ A fireplace is nearby, unlike the drop toilet which is some 150m or so from the hut. This is our camp for the night.</p> <p>Next morning, it's a 9 km or so hike back to Hotham. There is no guaranteed water on the track between Dibbins and Hotham. Be prepared to "know you're alive", with the first hour or so absolutely all up a steep hill. With multiple steps, switch backs, rocks, roots and other obstacles. And false summits. After that, the remainder of the hills pale in to insignificance. Derrick hut will be the next human structure we came across, and that was put there by the Wangaratta Ski club in memory of Charles Derrick.</p> <p>https://www.trailhiking.com.au/hikes/derrick-hut/</p> <p>From there, it is some 5 km or so to Loch carpark, and soon after cresting the hills, the ski lifts of Hotham come in to view. The final 3 km of the walk is on a rough 4WD track, and the last 50 m to the carpark is particularly steep.</p> <p>This hike offers grand views in to the distance (weather dependant) and Alpine biodiversity. A solid level of fitness and Good Hiking Gear is essential, and being an Alpine environment, weather conditions can change quickly. This hike is limited to 6, including the Leader, due to logistics and transport limitations.</p>		
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