



## ESCAPE TO FALLS CREEK THIS SUMMER





**The Alpine National Park** Enjoy stunning displays of varied and beautiful summer wildflowers, and discover a whole range of other plants and animals, all adapted to cope with climatic extremes. The Alpine National Park has the greatest range of flora and fauna of any national park in Victoria.



# Welcome to Summer at Falls Creek

## A new iconic touring loop...

Last summer history was created with the official opening of the sealed Bogong High Plains Road between Falls Creek and the Omeo Highway. This 36 kilometre stretch now completes one of the finest touring loops in the country. Starting at Falls Creek the 230 kilometre loop, circumnavigates Victoria's breathtaking alpine region through the quaint historic villages of Anglers Rest, Dinner Plain and Omeo over Mt Hotham, then back to Falls Creek via Mt Beauty.

Winding through the Alpine National Park, this road is now a dream come true for cyclists and motorists alike. With unforgettable views of the valleys below, some of the highest mountains in Victoria, unique alpine flora and historic cattlemens huts, this drive is a 'must do' this summer.

## Natural Beauty...

**In the heart of the Australian Alps, and on the rooftop of the country, Falls Creek is a place where nature, culture and adventure combine to provide a special experience.**

Surrounded by the spectacular Alpine National Park, and in the shadows of Victoria's highest mountain – Mt. Bogong (1986m), a visit to Falls Creek will connect you with your "inner explorer". Bring your sense of adventure, your love of the power and beauty of nature, and a spirit of discovery. Be rewarded with a connection to a people, a landscape and a place that will draw you back to the mountains for years to come.

The beautiful alpine village of Falls Creek is situated 1585 metres above sea level with a climate that is, on average, ten degrees cooler than the surrounding valleys, making it a great place to escape the summer heat. Falls Creek sits on a stunning alpine plateau and boasts the highest significant body of water in Australia, Rocky Valley Lake. Surrounded by some of the highest mountains in the state,

the highest point within the resort boundary is Mt. McKay at 1842m.

## Life's tough at the top...

**With the extreme climatic conditions of snow, frost, high wind, rain and heat - only the toughest can survive.**

The park supports an extraordinary diversity of animals, including threatened species such as the Smoky Mouse, Broad-toothed Rat, Powerful Owl, Spotted Tree Frog and She-oak Skink. Wild brumbies also roam the park along with emu, possums, lyrebirds, playtpus and wombats, plus an array of bird species including Gang Gang cockatoos, rosellas, Flame Robins and much more.

The rare Mountain Pygmy-possum, the world's only exclusively alpine marsupial and the only marsupial that stores food to last throughout the winter, lives on isolated rocky slopes covered with heathland. This specialised habitat is only found in a few places within the Alps.

Bogong Moths inhabit the Bogong High Plains and the surrounding peaks between November and April, escaping from the heat of the inland plains. They shelter in rock crevices and provide food for Mountain Pygmy-possums and Little Ravens.

More than 1,100 native plant species are found in the park, most of these specially adapted to survive the severe winter climate. Twelve species, including the Bogong Daisy-bush and Silky Daisy, are found nowhere else in the world.

Mature Alpine Ash forests are common as you travel up the mountains, and Snow Gums are the predominant eucalypts in the woodlands around the snowline. In higher exposed areas where conditions are too severe for trees, the vegetation changes to heathlands, alpine herbfields and grasslands, mossbeds and snowpatch communities.





**Wallaces Hut** Surviving bushfires and snowstorms the hut is a window into the life of the early cattleman, capturing not only the hardships but also the camaraderie of the campfire shared. 120 years later the hut's warm, rustic charm continues to be a welcoming refuge for walkers, skiers and other travellers in the high country.



# A Rich Australian Alpine History

## Bogong Jack...

Alpine High Country history wouldn't be complete without a bushranger and "Bogong Jack", who outwitted the law between Gippsland and the Murray in the 1850s, was the region's most infamous.

Bogong Jack's real name was John Payne and he was originally a drover who turned to horse stealing, which proved much more profitable.

Eventually captured, he was released due to lack of evidence and sought refuge in his hut near Mt. Fainter, situated behind Mt. McKay.

Bogong Jack was never seen again and the mystery of whether he turned to gold panning or was murdered for his fortune, remains unanswered to this day.

## Indigenous Australians

For thousands of years Indigenous Australians have travelled to this region to share in its rich, natural diversity and to celebrate their unique culture. They knew its flora, fauna, geography and seasonal changes intimately. Groups visited the Falls Creek region in summer to hold ceremonies and gather the nutritious Bogong moths that shelter here. They valued the cool, clear waters of the river, which was given the Aboriginal name Kiewa meaning "sweet water". Mt. Bogong, situated at the head of the Kiewa Valley, also took its name from an Aboriginal word meaning "big fella".

Each year on the first Saturday of January the 'Big Fella' festival is held in Falls Creek to celebrate indigenous history in the alps. This festival incorporates leading contemporary indigenous music, dance, traditional games and bush tucker. It is a unique experience enjoyed by all, from the very young to the never too old.

## European Visitors

The first known Europeans to visit to the Kiewa

Valley were Hume and Hovell in November 1824. Following the drought of 1838-44, pastoralists sought out the rich pastures in the fertile Kiewa Valley. Soon after, the Bogong High Plains became a summer grazing destination with many of the cattleman's huts still evident today.

Guided walks are offered throughout January to some of Falls Creek's oldest cattlemen's huts. Discover this unique alpine history in the pristine environment of the Alpine National Park.

## Hydro Electric Scheme

The third wave of visitors to the Valley came in 1911 when a private syndicate investigated the possibility of establishing a hydro electric scheme. The Kiewa Valley became the site of the first major hydro electric power development in the Victorian Alps. It took 26 years from the original concept to opening, with its completion in 1961.

Originally named Horseshoe Creek, the town was renamed 'Falls Creek' by the Country Roads Board during a road survey for the State Electricity Commission in 1938.

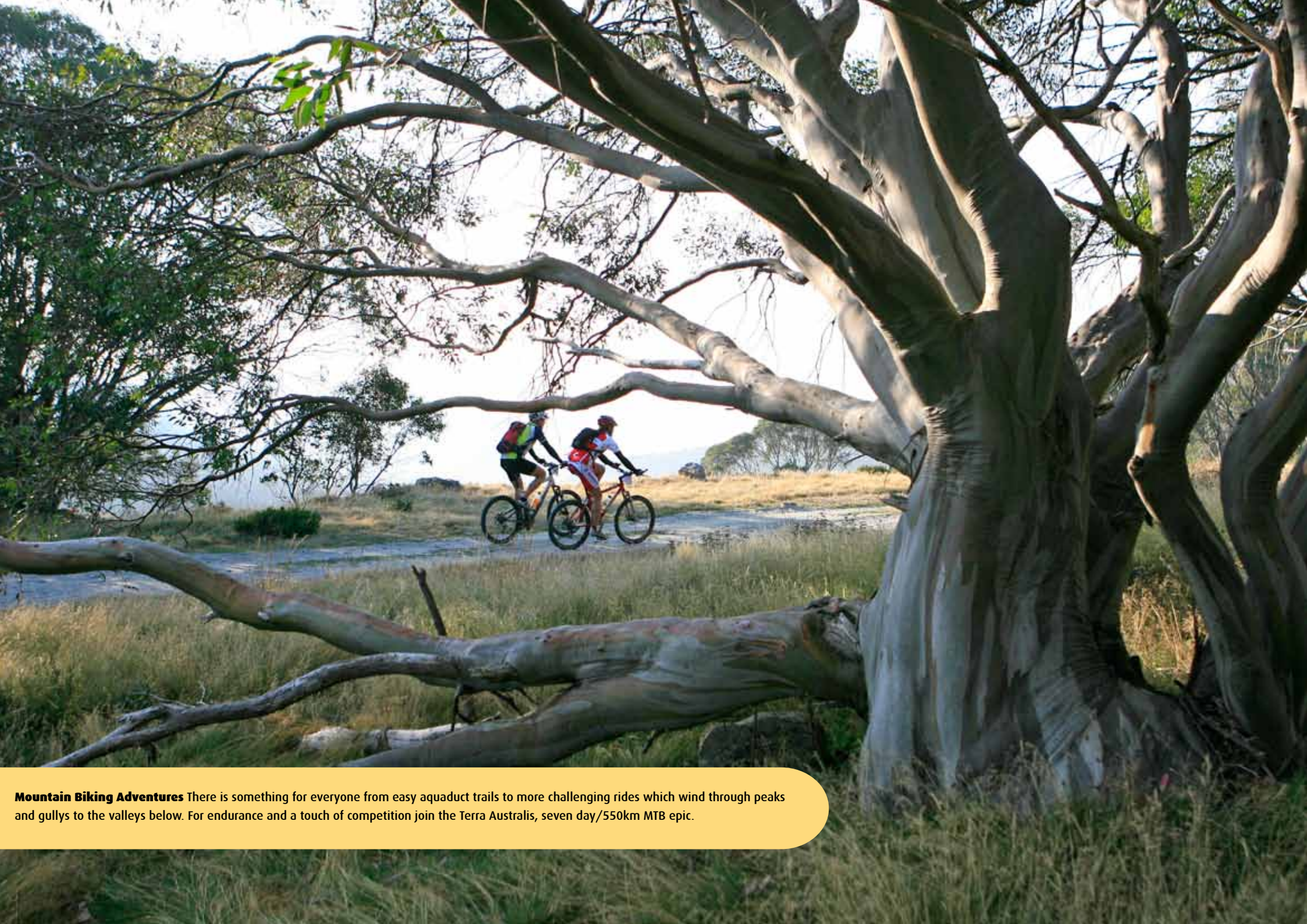
Back in the 1950's during the development of the Kiewa Hydro Electric Scheme, 30km of roads were built around Falls Creek to maintain the aqueducts. These roads are now wide walking, cycling and running paths that weave through the Alpine National Park from the resort.

## Beginning of Ski Industry

The arrival of European workers for the hydro electric scheme also brought with it the beginnings of the ski industry with the first building erected as a weather recording hut for SEC around 1946-1947. Mr and Mrs Elmo-Beveridge lived in this hut and around 1949 built a rope tow on the site where the Summit Chair is now situated. Mr Bob Hymans built a small lodge soon after and in 1957 built the first chairlift in Australia at Falls Creek.

## Today

Falls Creek is a vibrant year-round alpine village where visitors can enjoy excellent skiing, snowboarding, cross country and other snow activities during winter, plus a host of summer activities for lovers of alpine adventure.



**Mountain Biking Adventures** There is something for everyone from easy aquaduct trails to more challenging rides which wind through peaks and gullies to the valleys below. For endurance and a touch of competition join the Terra Australis, seven day/550km MTB epic.



## Things to do, see and discover...

### Fires enhance native wildflowers

In January 2003 lightning sparked a bushfire which raged through the alpine region. Burning nearly 1.3 million hectares the fire continuously threatened local communities, blanketing them in smoke for nearly 2 months. A further fire swept through in late 2006.

Since then, a remarkable story of recovery and regeneration has unfolded. The blackened landscape has been transformed. At lower levels eucalypt and shrubby species regenerated quickly, leaving little evidence of the earlier devastation. Up higher the fire-ravaged and weathered trunks of towering Alpine Ash emerge from a carpet of rapidly growing seedlings. And the hardy Snow Gum has proven its capacity to survive not just snow and extreme weather, but also fire by sending up fresh new shoots from its roots. Spectacular wildflower seasons have also been experienced in the fire's aftermath.

### Mountain Bike Riding

Falls Creek delivers some of Australia's most inspirational bike riding country. There are great road and trail rides in and around the Resort, and down to Mount Beauty.

Cross country riders have a range of options available making for some fantastic family rides with over 30km of easy trails along the flat aqueducts. Or, if you're up for a bit more of a challenge why not try riding to Pretty Valley Lake or down to Howmans Gap or even Mt Beauty.

New this year Falls Creek is hosting the Alpine Assault (December), a 100 kilometre marathon mountain bike event. Or if you're up for more of a challenge, try Terra Australis, a 550km mountain bike epic held over 7 days - designed to test your skills (March).

### Road Cycling or Driving

Try the iconic 'Bogong Alpine Way', one of the finest touring loops in the country. Starting at Falls Creek the 230 kilometres takes you through Alpine National Park circumnavigating through quaint historic villages of Anglers Rest, Omeo and Dinner Plain over Mt Hotham, then back to Falls Creek via Mt Beauty.

For the really adventurous road cyclists, enter the new 3 Peaks Challenge held in March. Or Conquer several great mountain road climbs around the Victorian Alps in the Alpine Ascent Challenge for your chance to win some great prizes.

### Scenic Chairlift Rides

Take a scenic chair ride to the top of the mountain giving you extraordinary views from the summit of the resort. Use it as a starting point and head to Frying Pan Spur or Mt McKay for a picnic or just to discover the beautiful wildflowers in the alpine meadows that encompass the resort. Contact the resort for summer operating hours.

### Alpine Fishing

Falls Creek is also blessed with some of the best alpine fishing in the country. Grab the boat and head to Rocky Valley Lake, fish from the grassy banks of nearby Pretty Valley Lake, or explore the many streams and aqueducts brimming with trout around the resort - a favourite with fly fishers. While here, experience the joy and art of fly fishing first hand with a guided fishing expedition.

Just down the hill from the resort at Bogong Village is Lake Guy, which is great for trolling. Further afield the West Kiewa and Kiewa Rivers provide

some great fishing with lucky fishers catching Brown Trout as big as 2 kilograms!

### Walking/Hiking

There are a variety of walks to enjoy, from an easy half hour stroll to scenic vantage points, to a more challenging day or overnight hike. Visit some of the many cattlemens huts around Falls Creek for an interesting insight into the past. Or walk the surprisingly undulating Alpine High Plains, filled with flora and fauna including some larger animals like brumbies and even wild emus.

### Altitude Training

Falls Creek is also recognised as one of the top eight altitude training locations in the world. Look for some of the country's best elite and emerging athletes, including distance runners, cyclists rowers and pro sportsmen and women, training throughout summer on the extensive networks of trails around the resort, and on Rocky Valley Lake.

### Sports of all Sorts

Other activities around the mountain include bungee jumping, trampoline, sports court (basketball/golf nets), outdoor movies, skate ramp, tennis, kids club and much more.



**Mountain to Mountain Challenge** Discover the spectacular Bogong High Plains and walk from Mt Hotham to Falls Creek! Be amazed at the array of wildflowers, spectacular mountain vistas and maybe even brumbies, ask your accommodation provider about transport shuttles available in summer.



## Top 10 Must Do's In and Around Falls Creek...

### 1. Wallace to Cope Hut Trail

This scenic circuit walk begins at the track to Wallaces Hut on the Bogong High Plains Road. Built in 1889 from snow gum slabs and woolly butt shingles, this timeworn cattlemen's hut is thought to be the oldest on the high plains. The track climbs then heads down the the aquaduct before gently climbing to Cope Hut. Cope Hut was built by the Ski Club of Victoria in 1929 after the state experienced a surge of skiing in the 1920s. From the Bogong High Plains Road, you can return to the start of the walk either by following the road for about 1.5 kilometres or by taking the walking track down a heath-filled valley to the Wallaces Hut track. During January tours are run weekly with our local guide, giving you a unique insight into the history and environment of the area.

### 2. Tour the Bogong Alpine Way

The Bogong High Plains Road was sealed last year, completing one of the finest touring loops in the country. Starting at Falls Creek the 230 kilometres takes you through the Alpine National Park circumnavigating Victoria's breathtaking alpine region through the quaint historic villages of Anglers Rest, Omeo and Dinner Plain over Mt Hotham, then back to Falls Creek via Mt Beauty.

This is now ideal for a family drive, with many interesting stops along the way. For those that like a challenge, this new circuit provides a spectacular ride.

### 3. Panoramic Picnic

The start of this walk can be accessed in many ways, either walking, chair lift or driving. Once at the top of the summit it is an easy stroll across the top of the mountain to Fying Pan Spur (Trig Point), approximately 700 metres. From this vantage point you will see all the way down the valley and some of the highest mountains in Victoria. We recommend you pack a picnic lunch and don't forget your camera!

### 4. Mountain to Mountain Challenge

Discover the spectacular Bogong High Plains and walk from Mt Hotham to Falls Creek! Be amazed at the array of wildflowers, spectacular mountain vistas and wild brumbies. The walk is for the more experienced, covering around 25 kilomtres of high country plains. Buses run throughout January and drop you off at the trail head in Mt Hotham. For groups this service can be orgained at any time of the year, so ask your accommodation provider for more information.

### 5. Rejuvenate in Pristine Falls

Falls Creeks alpine environment provides one of the most pristine destinations to relax, unwind and get away from the clutter of everyday life. Many accommodation providers include your own personal hot tub to really help you relax, or why not enjoy a treatment from one of the two day spas located in the village.

### 6. Fly Fishing Heaven

Falls Creek lakes and surrounding rivers are one of Australia's premier fly fishing destinations. With wild bred brown and rainbow trout these fish know how to fight and have the staying power that hatchery bred trout lack. Lose yourself in the pristine environment and the challenge of catching the 'Big One'. If you're only learning or seek inside knowledge and tips, local guides offer half, whole and multi-day fishing tours of the region.

### 7. High Country Horse Riding

There are many opportunities to explore and enjoy the surrounding mountains and valleys on horseback. Horse riding has a long association with the area – in the 1840's European explorers and miners used horses in their search for gold and summer pastures. Local operators offer half, whole

and multi-day horse riding adventures in the High Country.

### 8. Explore Historic Bogong Village

Nestled bewteen Mount Beauty and Falls Creek, Bogong Village is surrounded by magnificent gardens. Once the main village for the hydro electricity workers of the 1940s, Bogong Village is a summer favourite for canoeing, fishing, swimming, bushwalking and tennis. Just outside Bogong Village, Fainter Falls is an easy 700 metre walk and well worth the effort.

### 9. Sunset on Mt Mckay

The highest point in the resort (1,842m), accessible via road, offers breathtaking 360 degree views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. Sunset tours operate during summer and include transport, sparkling wine and canapes. What more could you ask for!

### 10. Explore the Valleys

Falls Creek is the gateway to a huge range of activites, with alpine wineries, boutique breweries, local produce, micro-lighting, hang gliding, picturesque golf courses and sparkling rivers.



**Summer at Falls Creek is jam packed with events and entertainment! Enjoy a Christmas with a difference in Falls Creek or party under the stars for New Year's Eve. On the second day of January join us for the Big Fella Festival, a celebration of 30,000 years of indigenous culture in the Alps with music, dance, games, arts, crafts, bush tucker and loads more.**

Roll down the village roads in the Falls Creek Billy Cart Derby. For a great introduction to our region's best wine, food and music come and relax at the Taste of Falls Creek Festival. For a different challenge, get a team together for the annual Mile High Dragon Boat Championships held over the Australia Day weekend on Rocky Valley Lake.

The kids will be entertained with our free Summer Kids Club offering a range of fun indoor and outdoor activities. Activities run every day from December 26 through to the end of January.

Plus, this summer the village will come alive with loads of entertainment including music, drama, comedy, outdoor movies and much more.

**'Big Fella' Festival** Join us for this exciting celebration with leading indigenous musicians Dan Sultan, The Grenadines, Tijimba and the Yung Warriors and Deline Briscoe. Also featuring renowned artist Nicky Bomba & dancers performing throughout the afternoon plus traditional games, bush tucker, art and much more.



# Join us for a jam-packed summer of events and entertainment

## calendar of events

- Dec 5 Alpine Assault NEW**  
The latest 100km marathon mountain bike event starting at Falls Creek before dropping down through the Kiewa Valley, crossing rivers and tackling parts of the famed Big Hill Mountain Bike Park in Mt Beauty.

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- Dec 24 Christmas in the Village**  
Join us in the village for a Christmas concert with carols and a special appearance by Santa himself!

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- Dec 26 Mile-High Cricket Match**  
Forget the Boxing Day Test, bring the whole team for a fun match for all ages, a BBQ lunch and more!

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- Dec 27 Summer Kids Club**  
**- Jan 30** A comprehensive program of kids activities, from cookie decorating, draw 'n' explore, and kids adventure games, to discovery walks, tree planting, face painting and loads more.

- Dec 27<sup>∞</sup> Summit Chairlift Opens for Summer!**  
Scenic chairlift rides and lift-accessed mountain biking!

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- Dec 31 New Year's Eve - Party in the Stars!**  
Ring in the New Year in style at various parties on offer at restaurants or bars around the mountain...

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- Jan 2 The 'Big Fella' Festival**  
Join us for this exciting celebration with leading indigenous musicians Dan Sultan, The Grenadines, Tijimba and the Yung Warriors and Deline Briscoe. Also featuring renowned artist Nicky Bomba.

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- Jan 9 Falls Creek Billy Cart Derby**  
Dust off the old billy cart in the shed and bring it up to Falls as we turn the village roads into the ultimate test of your driving skill. There'll be races for all ages, from the minis, to the fossils, and everything in between.

- Jan 16-17 Taste of Falls Creek Festival**  
Celebrate the food, wine, music and adventure of Victoria's High Country with its spectacular scenery and cooler summer climate.

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- Jan 23-24 Victorian Mile-High Dragon Boat Championships**  
Teams of 20 paddle it out on Rocky Valley Lake for the prestigious crown of Victorian Mile High Champions!

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- Jan 24 Audax Alpine Classic - Cycling Race**  
Join 1,000's of riders as they tackle the challenge of riding up to Falls Creek and other local mountain climbs.

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- Feb 13 Mile-High Tennis Tournament**  
The highest tennis tournament in the country where locals and guests battle it out for bragging rights.

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- Mar 7 3 Peaks Challenge NEW**  
Take the challenge, ride the 230km course through Australia's most spectacular Alpine Region!

- Mar 5-7 Falls Creek Artist Camp**  
Join us and be inspired by a talented and diverse group of artists as they explore their craft.

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- Mar 21-27 Terra Australis MTB Epic**  
A seven day / 550km epic. Riders team up in pairs and race over 7 days across the North East and the Victorian Alps, starting at Falls Creek.

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- Apr 2-5 Easter Family Carnival**  
A giant cadbury easter egg hunt for the kids, an egg tossing challenge, games, prizes, a BBQ brunch and more!

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- Apr 25 ANZAC Day Dawn Service**  
Remembering those who served our country in battle.

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- June 1 Ice Plunge**  
Celebrate the first day of winter with an icy dip in Rocky Valley Dam!

<sup>∞</sup>Event schedule subject to change.  
<sup>∞</sup>Chairlift open select dates and key event weekends during January.