

130 Years of Change on King Island

Celebrating the 1887 Expedition of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria

In November 1887, 26 members of the FNCV and their cook spent three weeks exploring King Island, located in Bass Strait midway between Cape Otway and Cape Grim. Their aim was to determine if the flora and fauna were more closely linked to Tasmania or the Australian mainland and was the year before the Colony of Tasmania allowed settlement on the Island. The FNCV report written by A. J. Campbell, Professor W. B. Spencer and others, along with 34 photographs, is a unique census of the state of the natural history at that time.

In 1987, the King Island Field Naturalists Club along with members of the FNCV and other naturalists clubs from Victoria and Tasmania celebrated the 100th Anniversary. To celebrate the 130th Anniversary, the KIFNC is hosting a visit from Friday 27 October to Sunday 29 October 2017. A package tour has been organised with King Island Holiday Village, based in Grassy. For Tasmanian visitors the package includes meals, accommodation, three day guided tours in an 'all terrain vehicle', and an event dinner. Sharp Airlines operate regular flights from Launceston and Wynyard to King Island.

The plan is to retrace the 1887 journey, across the north of the Island and down the east and west coastlines, visiting many of the features recorded by the Victorians. In some cases the change has been minimal; in other places it is dramatic - mainly due to nature rather than humans. Because of time, the 1887 visitors did not see the south of the Island; in 2017 we will. Some visitors might like to arrive beforehand or stay on after the event to do more exploring and the KIFNC can assist you.

Full details, are overleaf and our cut-off time for confirmation is 31 July, with full payment required by 15 September to King Island Holiday Village. Please note that the KIFNC is not receiving funds from any party for organising the event. For the event to proceed the minimum number is 15.

For further information, contact Margaret Bennett, KIFNC President, kifieldnaturalists7256@gmail.com or 0429 646 211.

1887 Photograph of Lake Martha Lavinia. Courtesy Museum of Victoria



The Package

Itinerary

Day 1 – Friday 27 October

8.30 am - Meet at King Island Airport near Currie for commencement of Tour 1 – north of the Island travelling up the west coast to Yellow Rock Rivulet, Bob Lagoon, Lake Flannigan (named Lake Dobson by the 1887 expedition), Cape Wickham, and across the Island to Lake Martha Lavinia, Pennys Lagoon and Lavinia Point on the east coast. Includes morning tea and lunch, arriving at the accommodation in Grassy around 4 pm. Two course dinner and a chat at the Wilderness Retreat.

Day 2 – Saturday

Light breakfast, then at 8.30 am commence Tour 2 – across the centre of the Island starting on the east coast from Naracoopa to the Blowhole and onto the Sea Elephant River; then to Porky Lagoon and Currie on the west coast. Morning tea and lunch provided returning to Grassy around 4 pm. Evening – three course dinner and a cheese platter in the Wild Harvest Restaurant.

Day 3 – Sunday 29 October

Light breakfast (luggage collection). 8.30 am departure on Tour 3 – down south past Colliers Swamp, Seal Rocks lookout and Calcified Forest on the west coast, and then northward to view Dripping Wells, onto the mouth of the Ettrick River. Morning tea and lunch provided. Prior to drop off at the airport, hopefully time will permit a visit to the cheese shop at Loorana.

Costs per person (Not including Accommodation):

All tours on the Island, morning teas and lunches, two dinners, and luggage transfers if required (King Island) - \$870.

Accommodation (in Grassy):

- Waverider (10 rooms with shared bathrooms) - Twin share - \$80 per room per night.
- Wildness Retreat (Seven rooms with ensuite) - Twin share - \$150 per room per night.
- Driftwood (Three bedroom home) – Twin share per room (six in a group) - \$300 per night.
- Seashells (Two one bedroom, self contained units) – Twin share \$160 per room per night.

To help decide what room suits, you can visit www.kingislandholidayvillage.com.au

Additional Information

- Costs are for adults; if you are planning to bring children please discuss with Margaret of the KIFNC, as discounts may not be possible.
- Visitors intending to arrive before or stay on after the tour - let us know in advance.
- People with a mobility requirement may be able to be assisted, please discuss with Margaret.
- Most dietary requirements can be catered for, with prior advice.
- Because of the network, only Telstra mobile phones can be used on King Island.
- Wi-fi is available in Grassy but the service can be intermittent.
- King Island has a small hospital, however travel insurance is recommended.

Interstate Club Assistance

As the KIFNC is a small club, each Naturalists Club is requested to forward this brochure to their members. Members wanting to attend can complete the form on Page 3 and return to the KIFNC by 31 July 2017. Payment will be made later by arrangement with the King Island Holiday Village.

BOOKING FORM
Celebrating the 130th Anniversary of the 1887 FNCV Expedition to King Island
27 – 29 October 2017

Please complete this form and email to kifieldnaturalists7256@gmail.com or post to Mrs M. Bennett 129 Grassy Road Currie Tas 7256, by 31 July 2017. In the case of overbooking, priority will be given to applicants based on the date the form was received by the KIFNC.

Your details:

Name:

Postal Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Club you belong to:

Number of people in your group:

Their Names:

Dietary requirements:

Mobility requirements:

Interests: flora, fauna, ornithology, geology, history, other

Accommodation

The people in our group would like to stay in:

Waverider

Wildness Retreat

Driftwood

Seashells

Your estimate of the tour package cost for your group: \$

Follow Up

Do not include payment when returning this form. Once your booking is confirmed you will be contacted by King Island Holiday Village for payment. It will assist if each group makes one payment.

Need further assistance: Please ring Margaret Bennett on 0429 646 211.

