



Gilwell Park Bushwalking

Short Walk Westside Orange – 2km

This walk could be completed from our campsite if you are on the Northwest side of Peppermint Drive.

With these trail notes, this walk will start at Forest Hut.

After gathering the unit together at Forest Hut, ensure everyone has the appropriate items for the walk.

Setting a bearing of 140 degrees, start your journey by meandering up Peppermint Drive. As you ramble along, please keep your eyes open for one of the Parks Koalas as they are spotted in this area a lot. At the crossroads of Messmate & Peppermint is where all your vertical activities are, from bouldering to High Ropes. Ascending Peppermint Drive, the building on your left is Sycamore lodge, and originally, it was the hospital at the 1st Australian Jamboree in Frankston on 27th Dec 1934 – 13th Jan 1935. Continuing, you come upon Messmate in its previous life, and it was a National Bank in a rural town.

Walk around to the side of Messmate, which is the front of the building. Behind is the Johnson Campfire circle used for Cuboree entertainment and award ceremonies; continuing up towards the Main Car park on the road edge near Gate 3 is a Chernobyl Children's Garden, a memorial for a week-long camp at Gilwell Park, Gembrook, as well as visits to Melbourne Zoo, Puffing Billy and to other activities.

Within the car park are three totem poles, two up near the main gate Gilwell Park depicts the training & camping of Gilwell. The other Baden Powell Lodge totem and one out the front of the Environment Education Center (EEC), the Footscray Totem. You can read all about them on the totems from the information boards beside them. As your rambles continue toward Kookaburra, Drive down through the A-block campsites. The landscape changes a little through here. To your left is the Shepard Creek East Branch. With the introduction of water, there is more Flora & Fauna life.

As you progress along Kookaburra Drive, you reach a cross-road junction of Messmate Drive. Left will take you to Gate 1, and the right will take you back towards Storm Huts and Boysfield. Stay on Kookaburra, meandering by the campsites of B-Block this part of the park has a high moisture value in the soil, making it ideal for rough tree fern to grow.

You pass the Nature trail sign. This track will take you to the meeting of the Water Shepard & Clark Creeks before Shepard heads off into Kurth Kiln Regional Park. From here, you should have a slight of Forest Hut, meaning you have completed the journey most.