

The March 2024 President's Ride

This year is a three or four day event, commencing at Beechworth, followed by a Saturday ride over the Great Divide on to Bairnsdale. Depart on Thursday and spend the Friday exploring NE Victoria. Or depart on Friday and join the others for dinner and the Saturday ride.

Thursday 14. Overnight in Beechworth

Group 1 depart from *Café Cirino* at **9am** > [M1] > [M80] > Plenty Road [C727] > *Café 59 On Church, Whittlesea* **65**
Depart Whittlesea at >Yea > Ampol, Mansfield > **Whitfield**+200/265
Lunch at the *Mountain View Hotel*. Tel. 5729 8270.
Whitfield > King Valley > Snow Road > Markwood > Everton > **BEECHWORTH**+73/338

Beechworth (pop. 2,800) is Victoria's best-preserved Gold Rush town and has within it over 30 buildings listed with the National Trust. They are occupied, so in good condition, often elegant, and the streetscape is coherent – that is to say, buildings from later eras are not mixed in. More here: <https://www.explorebeechworth.com.au/> & <https://www.beechworth.com/>

Hotel Nicholas, 1a Camp Street. Tel. 5728 1051. Dinner Thursday and Friday night.
<https://www.hotelnicholas.com.au/>

Armour Motor Inn, 1 Camp Street. Tel. 5728 1466. Motoring groups most welcome.
[Armour Motor Inn Beechworth Motel Accommodation Main Street Location](#)

Tanswell's Hotel, 50 Ford Street. Accommodation. <https://www.tanswellshotel.com.au/>

Hibernian Hotel, 40 Camp Street. Tel. 5728 2028. Accommodation.

[Hibernian Hotel Beechworth Holiday Accommodation for Couples Families](#)

Lake Sambell Caravan Park, Peach Drive. Tel. 5728 1421. Three minute drive into town.
<https://www.caravanparkbeechworth.com.au/>

Beechworth Holiday Park, Stanley Road. Tel. 5728 1597. Three minute drive into town.
<https://www.beechworthholidaypark.com.au/>

Friday 15. Overnight in Beechworth

Group 2 depart *Café Cirino* at a time of their choosing and proceed to Beechworth.
Group 1 explore NE Victoria.

Saturday 16. Over the Gt. Divide. Overnight in Bairnsdale

1. Via the Great Alpine Road [B500]

Beechworth > Buckland Gap Road [C524] > join GAR [B500] > Bright > Hotham Heights (alt. 1,840m) > Omeo (+170km) > Swifts Creek > Bruthen > **BAIRNSDALE** (+120km) **290**

Two km before Omeo is the **Cassilis Road**. It runs south, rejoining the GAR at Swifts Creek.

This is a good ride adding no distance. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cassilis,_Victoria

On this road there is **Cassilis Estate** (wines and apple cider). <https://cassilisestate.com/>

Grand Terminus Hotel, 98 Main Street. Tel. 5152 4040. Accommodation and dinner.

[The Grand Terminus Hotel Bairnsdale - Bairnsdales Best Hotel Since 1889](#)

The Riversleigh, 1 Nicholson Street. Tel. 5152 6966. Charming. Prices begin at \$170 for the classic queen room. I stayed here during court circuits. <https://www.riversleigh.com.au/>

2. Via the Bogong High Plains Road [C531]

Beechworth > Buckland Gap Road [C524] > join GAR [B500] > Bright > Tawonga Gap Road [C536] > Kiewa Valley Highway [C531] > *Last Stop Servo, Mount Beauty* **88**

Mount Beauty > Falls Creek [C531] > Bogong High Plains Road (alt. 1,730m) > Omeo Highway [C543] > Anglers Rest > Omeo (+105km) > Swifts Creek > **BAIRNSDALE** [B500]193/313

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Sunday 17: Return home

1. Via the La Trobe Valley

Bairnsdale > Bengworden Road [C106/C495] > Princes Highway [A1] & Stratford

The C106/C495 adds 11kms, while the C105/C103/C471 adds no kms. Both routes are more interesting than the Princes Highway [A1] and Princes Freeway [M1].

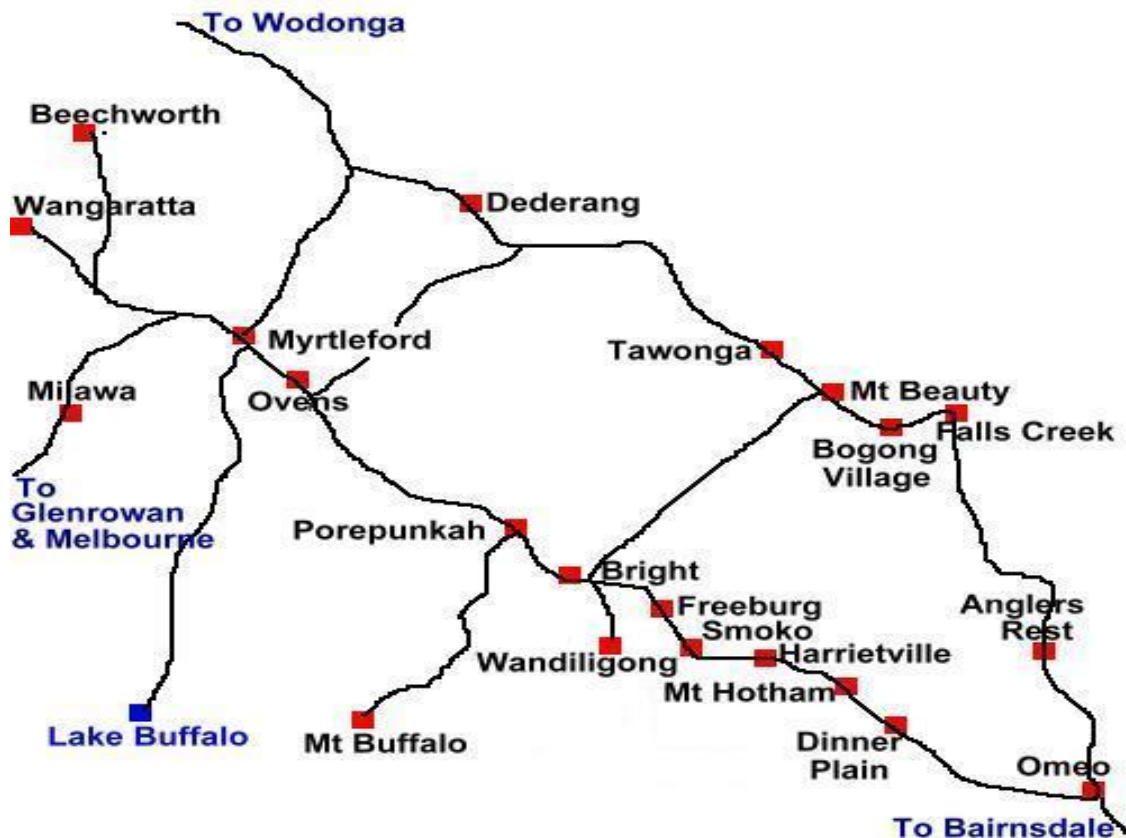
Stratford > Maffra > Tinamba > Heyfield > Cowwarr > Toongabbie > Glengarry [C105] > Glengarry West > Tyers > Yallourn Nth. [C103] > Haunted Hills Road [C471] > **join [M1]152**
Prince's/Monash/West Gate [M1] > **NEWPORT+151/303**

2. Via South Gippsland

Bairnsdale > Bengworden Road [C106] (+5km) > Sale (@ 75km) > South Gippsland Highway [A440/M420] > Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road [C422] (direction Pakenham) > join Princes/Monash/West Gate [M1] > **NEWPORT+301/376**

By late 2023 I will need the following:

- Names and the Group you are joining (ie 1 or 2). For Group 1 only I will book lunch at the *Mountain View Hotel* on Thursday. I will book the dinners at the *Hotel Nicholas* for those in Beechworth on Thursday & Friday as required.
- Are you going on to Bairnsdale on the Saturday? I already know some are not. I will book dinner at the *Grand Terminus Hotel* for all going on to Bairnsdale.
- Anyone staying in Beechworth Saturday night should make their dinner bookings.



Great Alpine Road [B500]:

<http://www.visitvictoria.com/Things-to-do/Touring-routes/The-Great-Alpine-Road.aspx>

Alpine Shire Road Closures:

https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.aspx?Page_Id=1655

Weather:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/forecasts/northeast.shtml>

<http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/forecasts/eastgippsland.shtml>