



EASTER 2009 - INFORMATION FOR CAMPERS

In planning for Easter 2009 we anticipated most people would stay in Launceston and commute to events from there. Accordingly it was assumed people would camp at one of the commercial campgrounds in Launceston.

Following a few requests we made arrangements with the operator of a bush camping area outside of Launceston (Myrtle Park) to provide camping and similarly at Royal George for a landowner to allow campers to base themselves in one of his paddocks. In both cases (more-so at Royal George) facilities are very basic and we ask everyone to understand this. Please be aware that if you require more than basic facilities it is suggested you look at alternative accommodation in Launceston.

Now that the disclaimers are out of the way ...

MYRTLE PARK:

Myrtle Park is an expanse of open grassland along the banks of the St Patricks River about 40 km east of Launceston. To get there head east out of Launceston following signs to the Tasman Highway (A3) heading in the direction of Scottsdale. The turnoff to Myrtle Park is to the left on a right hand bend in the highway. Your camping vouchers are in your registration bag or can be purchased at registration. The rate we are charging for Myrtle Park is \$10 per "family" payable in advance or at registration. The owners have asked that orienteers stop at reception and show their camping voucher. They will direct you to an appropriate part of the park to camp. There are basic toilet and shower blocks here and we have hired the old community hall which is in the park so that orienteers can use the kitchen facilities, power, etc. Please note that the organizing team will also be based around this hall so it would be appreciated if you could give them space if they are carrying out event preparation activities.

The operators sell basic supplies and hot food at the reception office. They request that hot food be ordered in advance. You can check out their menu when you arrive and order food for later collection if you wish.

A big advantage of Myrtle Park is that it is only 200 m from the right hand turnoff to Diddleum. So on Saturday morning, turn left at the entrance and then after 200 m turn right at the orienteering signs. It is then only about 10 km to the assembly area.

ROYAL GEORGE:

At Royal George we were using a paddock at Brookstead property but as numbers increased we made alternative arrangements with the owner of St Pauls River Cottages (in which the organizing team are staying) to allow camping in the grounds surrounding the cottages. This is an excellent location only a few hundred metres further on from where you turn off to the Day 2 event. The entrance road will be signed – drive 100 m down the entrance road and turn right into the camping area. The cottages and land surrounding it lie on the banks of the St Pauls River. The whole area was a large treeless paddock

right down to the river. The owner, Dennis Nicholls, who only purchased it a few years ago, has started planting some trees but has been hampered by recent drought so the area is a bit open and can be dusty if windy. Dennis (who lives next door to the 2 cottages) has a filtration system with tap water available from several taps around the area. He advises the water is suitable for drinking but you might want to boil it to be on the safe side. We are bringing in 4 portable toilets and some basic facilities for dish washing, etc., but please note that there are no shower facilities here (though if you have a bucket with you, you can easily grab a bucket of river water and have a rinse - a bit back from the river though please - no soap suds in the river as others downstream use the water). Numbers requesting camping here are quite large so please be careful in selecting a spot so as to not take up too much room and not block in or out others. After the event feel free to take a walk along the banks of the river. It is a well known trout fishery so keep an eye out for leaping trout.

Day 3 is another 3 km further along the Royal George Road turning left in the Royal George township so this is a good jumping off location for that. As the organizing team have booked the cottages for Monday night as well, you can leave your tent up on day 3 and pack it away that afternoon, after the event. There are no facilities at all in Royal George which is actually just a few timber workers houses. However back at Avoca, 15 km away is a general store and takeaway and a pub!

CAMPING VOUCHERS:

Your camping vouchers are in an envelope in your registration bag. If you have not yet paid for camping you can do that at registration. Registration will have a record of how much you owe. Your envelope will show Myrtle Park as groups / nights (ie 1 / 2 is 1 group for 2 nights). It will show Royal George as people (adults) / Nights (ie 3 / 2 is 3 people for 2 nights). Please display your voucher (s) on your tent or campervan.

TEMPERATURE:

Tasmanian weather in April is generally characterised by cool clear days and often cold frosty nights. Campers are advised to bring plenty of warm bedding – even consider 2 sleeping bags so you can have one inside the other! We are coming out of a drought so while weather has been good across Tasmania for some time, nothing can ever be guaranteed. If using a tent make sure you have strong ropes and tent pegs as winds can be strong at times. That all said – lets hope for mild warm weather!!

SUPERMARKETS:

Tasmania allows 7 day trading for all stores. The larger supermarket chains (Coles, Woolworths) generally trade from 7.00 am until 10.00 pm. However both chains are closed on Good Friday (10 April) so be prepared. There are limited retail facilities outside Launceston so it is suggested you do your supermarket shopping there. The Avoca shop does have basic supplies and takeaway food.