



Fraser Creek Hut Guide July 2021

Fraser Creek Scout Hut is the property of the Scout Association and is managed by Terry Reid for the 1st Queenstown Scout Group. The hut and its environs are quite fragile. Please treat the structure and furnishings with great care.

The hut's location in a rainforest, 600 metres above sea level, in the wettest region in Tasmania - Mt Read, means that the hut demands lots of work to keep it in good condition and supplied with firewood.

The ongoing frequent theft, vandalism, abuse and misuse greatly detracts from the experience of those who next visit the hut. It also causes real frustration for those who undertake the remedial work and carry the associated expense.

Your assistance, by following the included instructions, will be appreciated. Doing so will also add greatly to your enjoyment of the hut and its environs and to that of those who follow you. Firewood and its consumption is the really critical issue.

Please take the time to read this guide carefully and ensure that all adults in your group have the opportunity to do the same.

The hut is registered in the name of the Scout Association. The annual fee is paid by 1st Queenstown Scout Group. Its primary beneficiaries are organised youth groups.

This guide includes:

- Considerations before you go
- What to take with you
- How to get there
- When you arrive
 - The big issue
 - Places to go
- Before you leave
- What to take home
- On your return home



A friendly endemic resident
Tasmanian long tailed mouse
-- *Pseudomys higginsi* .
They appreciate a small serve of muesli.



Bookings

Fees normally apply for overnight stays.

\$30 for a group staying one night.

\$50 for two or more nights.

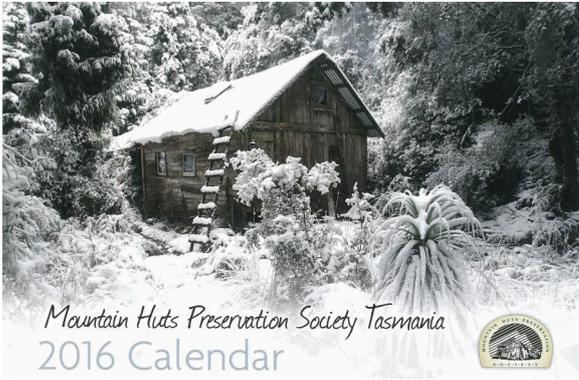
On behalf of 1st Queenstown Scout Group

Contact: Terry Reid

Email: r.terry.reid@gmail.com

Phone: 0447 765 806

Postal: 2/125 Chapel St, Glenorchy, Tasmania 7010, Australia



Mountain Huts Preservation Society Tasmania
2016 Calendar



Fraser Creek Scout Hut Story



The hut was built by R J (Jim) Howard's workers in the very early 1930's.

The tramline (Wallace's Tram) was built by Dunkley Brothers, starting at Confidence Saddle in 1919 and terminating at The Junction, where there was a horse stable and a number of accommodation huts. Ruins can still be seen.

Dunkley Bros Dunkley Bros consolidated operations to the Smithton area after George died. Eventually, R.J. Howard took over the lease after the Crown forced forfeiture.

Winter 2015—Terry Reid



This King Billy logging / milling operation continued until the 1940's.

The hut was actually a workshop beside the sawmill.

Next to utilise the hut was W.E. (Bill) Higgins who, with two tributors, conducted a mining operation for three years at Wallace's Prospect (on the way to Moores Pimple)... all done by hand, ore carted out on a sled dragged by a draughthorse. 13 ton of ore in two and a bit years 1951-53.



Hut in Higgins days.

Steve Berrigan, Forest Assessor, Forestry Commission, Queenstown, located the hut and did enough rough repairs to keep it standing. In 1977, Steve informed Terry Reid of it. Terry took the first Scout group there at Easter 1978. In December, he took Roger Nichols, Scout Leader in Zeehan at the time, to inspect the hut. They decided to "spend a bit of time there with Scouts, doing it up". It turned into rather more than that!

Not at Fraser Creek but indicative of operations there.

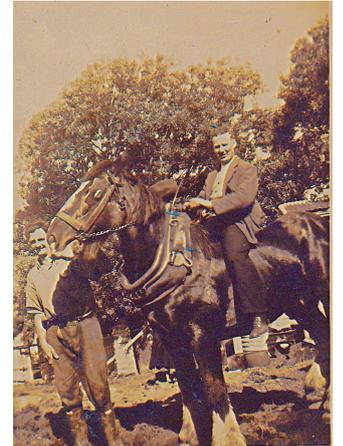
The majority of people visit once. Some, thankfully, fall under it's spell and return time and time again contributing to it's maintenance.

Some contributors to the hut, and tracks include:

- Queenstown & Zeehan Scouts & Venturers
- Friends & colleagues of Roger and Terry
- A Green Corps group attached to Parks & Wildlife in Queenstown
- Hobart College students under the supervision of John Burgess
- Murray Waller—windows, cupboard & timber



A froe, or



Bill Higgins with one of his workers holding horse.

Queenstown Scouts, Glen Cripps, Grant Critchton, Anthony Coulson, Stuart Gadd, Shane Pitt and Lee

Zeehan Venturers, Richard Nichols and David Flanagan carrying the water supply pipe



Work party of Zeehan Scouts and Venturers, Richard Nichols, Geoff Taffe, Paul Bantick, Karen Bye, Helen Flanagan and David Flanagan

Queenstown Scouts, Shane Pitt and Stuart Gadd preparing for



Unfortunately, the hut suffers frequent vandalism, theft, misuse and abuse. It needs to be used by people who appreciate it's uniqueness and the appeal of the open fire, forest and waterfall walks



Before you go

If intending to stay overnight, you must book. If you don't and a booked party arrives, they have every right to demand you leave.

There is an expectation that a payment will be made for use of the Hut either in dollars or in kind.

The current rate is (no matter the number in the group) \$30 for one night and \$50 for two or more nights.

The hut has four bunks that can accommodate two people each - if couples, friends, or kids, and one single bunk.

The bunks have vinyl covered foam mattresses. There's also a mattress that can go on the floor in front of the fire.

Four or five is an ideal number for eating at the table, space in the hut and cooking. Comfort and convenience drops off rapidly as the numbers increase, especially for first time visitors.

Crockery and cutlery, billies, frypans and utensils are provided. A small gas stove is available (stored under single bunk) but you must take gas with you (see the 'What to take' section)

There is a kitchen sink with hot and cold water (the fire needs to burn for some time before you have hot water). A tap lets cold water into the system, which drives hot water out. Watch out for boiling water spitting from the pipe!

Sanitation includes a 'long drop' toilet—with a view, up the steps behind the hut. Use toilet paper economically and don't use 'wet wipes'. Do not use the toilet to dispose of anything else that hasn't passed

Warning!

The hut is in a remote area. Help is difficult to call and will take time to arrive. You should not be in the area without appropriate skills, or a skilled and knowledgeable leader. You need suitable equipment and supplies.

We do all we can to promote your positive experience but cannot accept responsibility for any misfortune.

How to get there

There is a map, with detailed insets, on the last page. It's suggested that you print and take a copy with you. Alternatively save this guide to your phone.



Being beamed up.



What to take

A printed copy of this guide.

The best, currently available, map is the TASMAR 1:50,000 Lake Pieman which is also available as a digital download. See note re. wall map later.

Dish wash liquid and disinfectant.

Dish cloth or sponge. Pan scrub. Tea towel.

Firelighters, dry newspaper and matches for fire lighting

Candles and/or lantern and Torches

Butane gas for the stove

Toilet paper

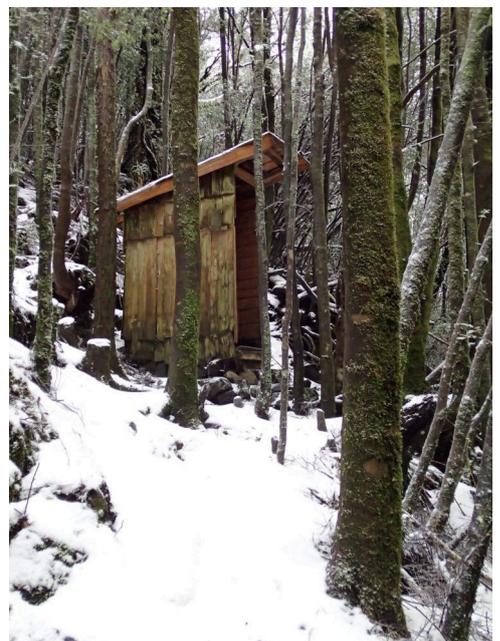
Bags suited to carrying out your rubbish

First-aid kit

Mobile phone (Telstra) for emergencies - usually possible to get a weak signal suitable for SMS from on top of the mine dump opposite the hut. A better signal a few minutes back down the track.

Camera. Consider taking a plant identification booklet.

The hut is in the wettest part of Tasmania. Wear and take appropriate clothing and take a dry change.



The loo with a view

When you arrive



Mt Faulkner Venturers ... soon after arriving during a June hailstorm. They left Hobart after school, stopped for a meal in Queenstown, arrived at the hut at 11:30 pm.

Park cars at the designated car park on the approach side of the creek. A few metres upstream, there is a log bridge over the creek, with a short track to it from the car park.

Please **DO NOT** attempt to drive up the road as you simply churn it up for walkers, many of whom are small children.

The walk up to the hut normally takes one to two hours. The track is steep and slippery, especially where there is old cording. Take care, it's a long way out with a sprained ankle, or worse.

There are sign posts along the way, some naming features or rest stops, others with directions. On reaching the top of the hill, named "Chocolate Stop", you will follow a relatively level section of track, known as "The Saddle", before dropping down to Great Northern Creek. Here you will see the remnants of Wallace's Tram, which you follow to the hut, passing over another, lower, saddle between Great Northern and Fraser creeks.

On this last stretch, you will come across piles of cut firewood. Pick up a couple of pieces and carry them with you to the hut. Remember where the piles are and take every opportunity during your stay to go back for more.

You may notice that maps user Frazer rather than Fraser. There is a high degree of certainty that this is incorrect. Dr and Mrs Fraser feature significantly in the history of the area.

On arrival, hang wet coats and gaiters in the porch. Try to keep inside the hut as dry, clean and tidy as possible, to ensure comfort for everyone.

Check out all drawers, cupboards upon arrival so that you are aware of where things are.

Put all food, not in secure containers, into the yellow steel Venturer box or the Esky, otherwise your hosts, the resident long tailed mice and swamp rats, will drive you nuts during the night as they chew into plastic etc. It is advisable to wash all utensils before use.

Neighbours On Godkin Ridge



Spotted-tail Quoll

Feral Cat



Tasmanian Devil
Sarcophilus harrisii



The big issue - fire and firewood



A happy camper!

The hut is in a very wet rainforest. You are not going to find dry firewood. You have to make it!

Working bees cut and gather manageable pieces of firewood within carrying distance of the hut.

In summer, it's possible to go without a fire, or to collect from far and wide, avoiding the use of wood that's drying for winter use.

To manage the wood during a busy winter takes co-operation from all users.



A brightly burning fire is able to dry the next lot of wood stood on end around the fire

To get your first fire going, use the firelighters and newspaper that you've carried in; with a dry kindling bundle from the woodshed roof space and four pieces of dry wood from under the bunk. Immediately split and stand wet wood on end around the fire to dry. Use this to feed your fire and always replace with more to dry—ad infinitum.

Build up a good bed of coals before cooking. Before retiring, when the fire has burned down a little, in addition to the wood drying round the fire, stack split kindling on the pot hangers so that it dries overnight as the fire burns down. Similarly, be sure to have wood drying round the fire when you go out on a walk. Also, a good time to put a large back log behind the fire.

Make sure you dry more than you will use so that you can leave some for the next visitors to light their first fire.

Dry kindling should be stored in the roof space of the wood shed, or in the box seat on the left side of the fireplace. Larger pieces of dry wood should be stored under the bunk. Please re-stock kindling and firewood that you have used during your stay, and make sure it's dry or it'll dampen what's already there. Newspaper needs to be sealed in plastic bags to avoid it absorbing moisture.

Don't burn plastic, foil, tins etc. in the fire. Clean ash is readily disposable, but not when contaminated.



In the morning, now dry kindling and starting wood dried as the fire burned down overnight.

Things to do and places to go

Visiting in Winter is the best time. The waterfalls are thumping, forest trees and ferns are lush and dripping, and a good fire is fantastic.

Do not cut down live trees without prior agreement. There might appear to be random clearing but there is a method to the madness, mainly promoting the success of the next generation of King Billys by carefully clearing around them to allow more space and sunlight. Old photos clearly show how successful this has been.

There is a map on the wall behind the door which shows the tracks to Moores Pimple, Fraser Falls, and Montezuma Falls. There's also an A3 copy to take on walks.

It's about a four hours return walk to Moores Pimple. Seven hours return walk to Montezuma Falls and Fraser Falls ... study the map behind the door carefully.

There are many old mines in the area dating from the 1880s. The more interesting ones and easier to access are the Curtin Davis mines. Most of these contain shafts, some full of water. Extreme care must be taken.

The best mine to go into is about an hour from the hut ... marked on the map as Harriet's Mine on Godkin Ridge, though its true name is Curtin Davis Extended. This is a nice walk. From the hut, go across the mill foundations bridging the creek, up the mine dump and between the two mines. This brings you to Line Eleven, to Baseline then to 'Centre of the Universe'. Turn left up the Godkin Ridge Track past the Lumber yard to the Caravan site. Go along Godkin Ridge towards Montezuma Falls until you drop down and come out at the Curtin Davis mines. Go across the mine dump to the trees and you will find a track / rope taking you up to a dry mine. You need torches to go inside. Carefully edge past the shaft. Look for cave spiders, crickets and the copper stain on the walls.

Greens Prospect is another mine with the insects and without the shaft.



There are carpentry tools, nails etc which are not to be used unless you have specific instructions to repair something. You may be given tasks if you are a regular visitor and have the requisite skills.



Centre of the Universe

The area was logged heavily using horses in the 1920's and 30's. You come across stumps in amazing places. Many trees were too big, too gnarled or on slopes so they were left. Keep a good lookout, there are some great King Billy trees ... one on the track in, in the saddle at the first King Billy track cording, just before where you duck under a fallen tree. Another example is just off to the right of the Link Track, at the high point, on the way across to the Moore's Pimple Track. Another on the Base Line, not far past the Centre of the Universe.



Splitting palings

There are glow worms close to the hut and cave spiders and crickets in many of the old mines. There's a good show of glow worms in the top mine opposite the hut above the mine dump.

Long tailed mice (wholly protected endemic species) and Swamp rats (again native but not endemic to Tasmania) live in the hut ... it's cosier than under a log in the rainforest! There's a jar of muesli in the yellow Venturer box ... put a small handful on the floor next to the sink each evening before bed.



Swamp Rat (velvet-furred) *Rattus lutreolus*



Carnivorous Dusky Marsupial Mouse *Antechinus swainsonii*

Tasmanian Long Tailed Mouse *Pseudomys higginsi*



Photo opportunity

The hut is often used on Holidays or special occasions.



Zeehan Venturers' 1984 Christmas party.



Please use any spare time to carry some replacement wood from the pile down the track. If you don't have spare time ... make some! Place the wood on the pile opposite the porch doorway, not in the woodshed on top of drier wood!

Be sure to make an entry in the current log book.



Fraser Falls



Before you leave

Be sure to leave an entry in the log book with at least the date, names of those in your group, what you did, weather report, interesting points about your visit etc.

The hut can go weeks without use in Winter. Things get very damp and mouldy quite quickly. Similarly, steel pots and implements will rust. All cooking equipment must be thoroughly washed and dried. Leave pots upside down.

Scrub the table using soapy water and disinfectant and leave as dry as possible. Pay attention particularly to any food spills on the table or elsewhere.

Use hot water with detergent and disinfectant to wash and rinse dish cloths etc. Wring out and hang to dry.

If you leave newspapers for fire lighting, or toilet paper, they must be sealed in plastic bags. Do not open bags in the storage cupboard that contain clean tea towels, spare pot mitts as they will then go mouldy. If curiosity gets the better of you then do the bag back up properly.

Put all axes, blockbuster, wedges etc. back in their storage shelf in the porch.

Pour three buckets of water into the toilet. There is a bucket under the single bunk and a tap outside on the corner of the hut.

Replace at least as much firewood as you have used—carry from down the track and leave stacked on the pile opposite the porch entry. Don't put wet wood on top of that drying in the woodshed.

Don't burn plastic, foil, tins etc. rubbish in the fire.

Remove surplus ash from the fireplace ... use the galvanised bucket and fireplace shovel. Clean ash can be emptied into the creek opposite the hut. Leave some in the fireplace as this makes it easier to get a fire going.

Sweep the floor. From the jar in the Venturer box, leave a little muesli on the floor near the sink for the long tailed mice.

Have a final look round to see that everything is in its place and that nothing's been left behind.



What to take home

Put simply, take everything not used from what you carried in. This includes empty containers. It would be great if you could also carry out any rubbish left by the bad guys.

If you must take in alcohol, then please do not leave containers at the hut. This place is for kids and there is nothing worse than walking in with a group to find half melted cans in the fireplace, and half consumed alcohol on the table.

DO NOT leave any food at all. Everyone brings more than enough for themselves. One exception ... you can top up the mice's muesli in the jar in the yellow Venturer Box.

On your return home

Report any breakages, damage or other issues requiring attention.

Send positive comments on your experience. Any constructive criticism on points within our control will be readily accepted.

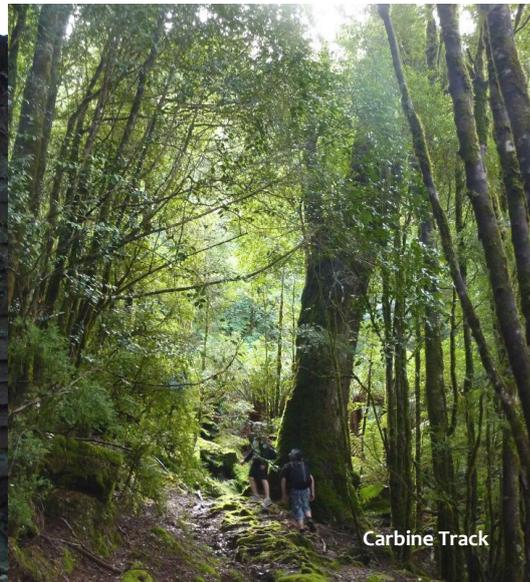




Three generations



Well deserved cuppa



Carbine Track



Dunny with a view.



Wallace's Tram



Working Party



Floor Fixers



Candlelit supper



Muesli for supper



New hot water tank - see kindling drying



Family Fun



Richea pandanifolia



Stuffed old boot



Checking out cave spiders

More to look forward to

How to get there



Scouts
AUSTRALIA

Please do not take your vehicle beyond the car park, regardless of its capabilities. You will ruin the track for walkers. Recovery takes at least one year.

APPROX. TRAVEL TIMES		AVERAGE WALK TIME	
TO CAR PARK — hours		CAR PARK TO HUT	
Hobart	4 to 5		
Launceston	3 to 3.5		
Devonport	2 to 2.5		
Burnie	1.5 to 2		2 HOURS

