

OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE

# Bright & Surrounds

Bright • Dinner Plain • Harrietville • Mount Beauty • Myrtleford



# Welcome

Need to unwind? Or itching for an adrenaline-fuelled weekend? Perhaps you're looking to sample the region's abundant local produce, explore our rare alpine environment, go shopping and relax at the spa, or a little bit of everything in one.

Whatever has brought you here, we've got you covered. Pull up a chair, order yourself a coffee, and let's get started. We're about to tell you where to find our region's best experiences so you can tailor-make your escape exactly how you imagined.



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Centenary Park, Bright





# Bright & Surrounds

## Bright

Country living at its best, Bright and its nearby villages of Porepunkah and Wandiligong are a hive of fine local produce, bars, cafes, boutique shops, markets and festivals. Set in the fertile Ovens Valley, there's little wonder Bright – bursting with autumnal hues, winter mists, spring florals or summer shade – will have you coming back year after year.

## Dinner Plain

One of Australia's truly unique architectural villages, Dinner Plain defines its own alpine style inspired by its surrounding history and landscape. Whether covered with wild flowers or knee-deep in snow, a drive up Australia's highest road to this rare and vastly beautiful environment offers up one of the country's most jaw dropping bucket-list views.

## Harrietville

Where native forests and murmuring rivers weave seamlessly with European tree-lined streets and an historic village to create a tranquil retreat. Tucked into the foothills of Mounts Feathertop and Hotham, and with wonderfully preserved pioneer and gold mining history, Harrietville and its extensive walking trail network is a sensory delight.

## Mount Beauty

Presided over by Mount Bogong and its winter snow-capped peaks, Mount Beauty is an outdoor enthusiast's dream. This small town on the way to Falls Creek transports you back in time with its quaint 1940s workers' cottages, rural pastures, bushwalks, horse rides, fly fishing and bike park, served up with local Kiewa Valley wine and craft brews.

## Myrtleford

Rich in Italian culture, mining history and agriculture, Myrtleford has an eclectic edge you'll find hard to resist. From the iconic tobacco kilns of a by-gone era, rail-trail rides to local wineries, and some of the region's best pizza, coffee and deli produce, a stop in Myrtleford with its mesmerising views of Mount Buffalo is a must.

# Our History



St Bernards 1923 Postman Donald Gow



Gladstone Mine workers 1902



Mt Buffalo Chalet 1910



Buckland Dredge 1900



Shamrock adit

**Our region's first peoples are the Dhudhuroa and Waywurru, whose Country stretches from Omeo to Wangaratta and the Mitta Mitta to King Valley.**

Ancient sites, including rock art, tools and middens, offer a glimpse into the long histories of the first peoples in the Bright & Surrounds area, although little has been recorded of their stories or of their interaction with early settlers. Fortunately, surviving elders from the Dhudhuroa and Waywurru Nation continue to live in the region today.

Newspaper reports record sightings of King Billy travelling traditionally through these parts in 1859, seven years after gold-rush fever took hold in the

Buckland and Ovens Valleys, attracting thousands to the valleys, including large German, American and Chinese settlements. They were hard days, and it was around this time in 1857, that the Buckland Riot broke out in which Chinese miners were brutally attacked in an attempt to drive them from the area.

By the end of that century, the snow-covered peaks that surround the valleys had begun to attract tourists, with an area around Mount Buffalo Gorge being designated a National Park in 1898.

Mount Buffalo Chalet (pictured above) was built in 1910 and the mountain was home to the country's first ski lift.

Over in the Kiewa Valley, settlers began to lay claim to grazing lands, driven south from the Murray River region by drought. By the turn of the century, a butter factory had opened on the site of the Tawonga Store, with dairy farming remaining a key industry for the Kiewa today.

Back in the Ovens, small-time gold prospecting had ran its course by 1901 and the first gold dredge began operation

in the Ovens Valley, with 36 cranking away by 1936. The Tronoh Dredge at Harrietville, which operated between 1942 and 1954, was the largest gold dredge in the Southern Hemisphere and by the time it closed, the Ovens had become the most heavily dredged river in all of Australia.

Cattle grazing and agriculture gradually replaced mining, and with an influx of Europeans – particularly Italians – during the World War II years, a new agricultural history began to take hold. While the flourishing tobacco

farms of the 1950s to 1980s have since disappeared – giving way to hops, nuts and cattle – the vineyards introduced to the area have since developed into the Alpine Valleys Wine Region, which is increasingly being recognised for its production of traditional favourites like Chardonnay, Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon as well as exciting Italian-grape varieties such as Sangiovese, Barbera, Nebbiolo and Vermentino.

*Images Bright & District Historical Society*



# Walking & Trail Running

The Razorback, Mount Feathertop

WALK  
HIGH COUNTRY



## LOCAL FAVOURITES:

- Reform Hill, Myrtleford
- Canyon Walk, Bright
- Riverside Walk, Harrietville
- Gorge Walk, Mount Beauty
- The Horn, Mount Buffalo
- The Razorback, Mount Feathertop

Who doesn't love a relaxing riverside stroll, or a short hill-climb up to a breathtaking lookout, like Myrtleford's Reform Hill or Bright's Huggins Lookout.

For a challenge, strap on your hiking boots and climb one of our many mountains, like Mount Bogong – Victoria's highest mountain – or up to the granite horn of Mount Buffalo. All our trails, as well as the many forestry roads in the Ovens Valley, also make for great trail runs.

## Walks Guide

Grab a copy of the Bright & Surrounds Walks & Trails Guide from one of the accredited information centres in Bright, Myrtleford or Mount Beauty for an overview of some of the most enjoyable trails in our region.





# Cycling

**RIDE  
HIGH  
COUNTRY**



**There's a good reason our region has grown into a cycling Mecca: here you'll find all types of cycling adventures, whether you're a roadie, mountain biker or town cruiser.**

Chill out with a safe and fairly flat ride along the Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail and other shared paths throughout our towns and villages, or challenge yourself with some of Australia's best road rides on a climb up to Mount Hotham, Falls Creek, or Mount Buffalo.

## Prefer to pin it?

Turn up the adrenaline and check out where mountain bike champions come to ride, with the acclaimed trio of bike parks: Mystic Park in Bright; Big Hill in Mount Beauty; and, in summer, Falls Creek. Or check out our newest trail network up at Dinner Plain

## Cycle Guide

Grab a free copy of the Bright & Surrounds Cycle Guide for more information, such as shuttle services, bike hire and bike tours, or pop your head into one of our bike shops for some local knowledge.

# Water Activities



**Waterfalls, swimming holes, fly fishing, kayaking or a leisurely float in an inflatable flamingo, our river networks are an endless source of natural entertainment.**

Bright's Splash Park, Harrietville's Dredge Hole or Lake Buffalo near Myrtleford are just some of the many swimming spots in the warmer months, while waterfalls, like Dinner Plain's Carmichael Falls, Fainter Falls near Bogong Village or Mount Buffalo's Ladies Bath Falls are a scenic option for those who don't want to get their feet wet.

## Pack your rod

Our clear streams and rivers are perfect for fly fishing (October to May), or increase your luck at one of our stocked lakes and reservoirs or the trout farm in Harrietville.



# National Parks



Ladies Bath Falls, Mount Buffalo

The high alpine peaks that surround our region form a National Park network that protects some of the most beautiful and rare Australian environment.

Whether covered in snow in winter, or vibrant with life in summer, our National Parks offer some of the most awe-inspiring views in the country.

To capture these bucket-list views, follow a hiking trail to the top of one of our peaks, or drive up over Australia's highest road – the Great Alpine Road – where you will discover layer upon layer of mountain views as far as the eye can see.

Our National Parks also protect our indigenous history and our more recent settler stories, evidenced in the many ancient middens or High Country cattlemens' huts.

Today, our alpine peaks, just as they did then, play a central role in the culture of those who call this region home, making a visit to our National Parks a must.

## NATURAL HIGHS

Alpine National Park – home to Mount Hotham (1,861m), Mount Feathertop (1,922m), and Victoria's highest mountain, Mount Bogong (1,986m) – offers the rare opportunity to venture above the Australian tree line.

Alpine National Park and the unique granite formation of Mount Buffalo (1,723m) in nearby Mount Buffalo National Park, are sanctuaries for native flora like snow gums and wild flowers that can only survive in these high-altitude micro climates.





# Local Produce, Food & Drink

**feast**  
HIGH COUNTRY

**Nuts, hops, grapes, apples and berries thrive in the fertile soils of the Ovens, Kiewa and Buckland Valleys, and our lush pastures sustain our local dairy, wool and beef industry.**

On the steep hillsides, our pine plantations are a valuable source of sustainable wood, supplying North-East Victorian paper and building product manufacturers.

Our fresh produce is found at roadside stalls, cellar doors, craft breweries and gin distilleries, or on the dining tables of restaurants and cafes throughout the region.

## Markets

You'll want to pay a visit to our monthly Make It, Bake It, Grow It market in Bright (third Saturday of every month), the Myrtleford Farmers Market (fourth Saturday of the month), or the Mount Beauty Community Market (first Saturday every month).



## Something truly unique:

Don't miss the Wandi Nut Festival each April, when the mouthwatering smell of fire-roasted chestnuts wafts through the Autumn air to a backdrop of red, orange and yellow hues.





# Seasons



Cathedral, Mount Buffalo



**Snow-capped mountains and open fires in winter, an eruption of colourful blossoms in Spring and warm shady summers by the river, all culminate in a grand display of autumnal hues for which Bright and Surrounds has become famous.**

Whichever time of year you choose to visit, there are seasonal experiences to enjoy, from summer swimming to winter skiing, the High Country Harvest and bonfires in autumn to the cherry blossoms and new vintage releases at our wineries in spring.

Our distinct seasons create an ever-changing landscape to look forward to, year after year.

Our region is one of the few places in Australia that you can truly experience the dramatic changes of the seasons.



# Family Friendly



Suggested Stay:  
**Porepunkah**

## DAY 1:

### 8.30am **Bright for Breakfast**

We love that Bright has cafes and coffee, bakeries and pie shops around every bend.

### 10.00am **Bennetts Trail (Bright - Wandil)**

This gorgeous bike path is a favourite with locals, so hire some bikes from one of Bright's three bike shops and cruise the 12km return ride. We've even got e-bikes! Not up for a ride? Grab a Walks & Trails guide from the visitor centre and try the Blue Plaque Walk.

### 11.30am **Chinese Swing Bridge**

Bike rides are best with pit-stops, so catch your breath by Wandil's Chinese Swing Bridge, erected in memory of the Chinese miners who operated in Morses Creek.

### 12.00pm **Wandiligong Maze and Cafe**

Hooray, you're half way! And it's lunchtime, so grab a bite to eat then try not to get lost in Australia's largest living hedge maze. Seriously, it has 2km of winding pathways.

### 1.30pm **Backpedal**

Time to turn back. Our pit-stop this time is the oh-so-fun playground at Wandil's Alpine Park. Then return your bikes and jump in the car for a drive to historic Harrietville.

### 3.00pm **Mountain Fresh Fish**

It's near impossible to not catch a fish at the - trout and salmon farm in Harrietville, and the staff will even clean and scale it for you.

### 4.30pm **Ice Cream and Candy**

It's about this time of the day when we start looking for our afternoon sugar-hit. Get yours at the ice creameries in either Harrietville or Bright.

### 6.00pm **Sunset bbq**

Time to cook those fish and we can't think of a nicer place than at the riverside BBQs in Porepunkah watching the sun set on Mount Buffalo. In winter, retreat indoors to one of Porepunkah's venues.

## DAY 2:

### 8.30am **Time for Brekky**

Let's spice things up and head in the other direction today. Start with a cooked breakfast in either Porepunkah or Myrtleford.

### 9.30am **Myrtleford uncovered**

Myrtleford has a heap of quirky little snippets of history to explore, like the Wood Tobacco Kiln at Rotary Park, the 200-plus-year-old Big Tree, the Phoenix Tree sculpture, and the old Reform Hill Gold Mine (you can look down the entrance to the tunnel).

### 11.00am **Play Break**

Grab yourself a coffee then scoot the kids on over to Cundy Park, complete with climbing wall and skateboard park.

### 12.00pm **Lunch in Eurobin**

How good is it when you get lunch with a grand valley vista while the kids distract themselves feeding the deer and emu at the farm? Yeah, pretty good.

### 2.00pm **Inside or Out**

Bright Splash Park is an all-time favourite with the kids, and a nice swimming spot for adults too! When it's closed in winter, why not warm up with some popcorn and a flick at the Cinema.

### 4.00pm **Lolly Shops and Toys**

By now, we're pretty sure the kids will have sussed Bright's two lolly shops, and the toy store... strategically left until late in the day to help you load up and evacuate by closing time.

### 6.00pm **Pizza Pizza**

End the day your way with pizza, eat in, take away or home delivery. From Bright and Porepunkah to Myrtleford, we have your favourite classics to gourmet creations.



# Couples

The Horn, Mount Buffalo

Suggested Stay:  
**Bright**

## DAY 1:

### 8.30am **Bright Breakfast**

The smell of deliciousness will be wafting around every corner, so follow your nose.

### 9.30am **River Walks**

We've scheduled you some fresh mountain air on one of these lovely 5km-return river strolls on the Cherry Walk or Canyon Walk.

### 11.00am **Apple Farm**

We recommend a little sojourn through Wandiligong and stopping in at the apple farm-gate store – it will make a pretty sweet backdrop for your Instagram couple-selfies.

### 12.00pm **Lunch & Local Brews**

Bright has a number of local brews – from beer, to coffee (...and wine and distilled gin) – and all the venues serve lunch!

### 1.30pm **Mount Buffalo**

'Wow' factor doesn't get more wow than this – cuddle up on a romantic Portledge Picnic on the iconic Mount Buffalo. Hanging off a cliff not your idea of romance? Pause at Buffalo's Gorge Lookout then take a short hike to Ladies Bath and Eurobin Falls on the way down.

### 5.30pm **Punkah Nights**

Back in the valley, stop in Porepunkah for dinner, grab a glass of wine, and watch the evening enclose over the granite cliffs of Mount Buffalo.



## DAY 2:

### 7.15am **Marvellous Mornings**

Sorry to wake you so early, but it's time to get on over to Mount Beauty, stopping at the Tawonga Gap Lookout with crisp views over the Kiewa Valley and Victoria's highest mountain, Mount Bogong.

### 8.00am **Breakfast**

You can always trust the bakery to be open early, with hot pastries and freshly brewed coffee.

### 9.00am **Horsing Around**

Experience the High Country like the cattlemen of old on a scenic horse ride in the foothills of Mount Bogong.

### 12.30pm **Lunch**

Take that cattleman's appetite of yours to one of the cafes in Mount Beauty, Tawonga or Tawonga South for some hearty goodness.

### 1.30pm **Get Acquainted**

Time to check out the streets of this old hydro-workers town and wander through its local stores and fresh produce market.

### 2.30pm **Secret Beauty**

There's more to this little town than meets to eye, so drop into the Visitor Info Centre – and its awesome little museum – and discover your surrounds, from gorge walks to the local wineries and brewery.

### 4.30pm **Pre-Dinner Drink**

OK couples, time to chillax. Back in Bright, sit back and sip on a beverage at one of our wine bars or at the distillery or brewery.

### 5.30pm **Feasting**

From an eclectic underground venue (quite literally) and fine dining in an historic doctor's cottage, to traditional pub fare or classic Italian, Indian, Chinese or Thai: Bright is your oyster.

### 7.30pm **The Night is Young**

Not ready to stop? Grab a cocktail at one of our bars and kick-on into the night.



# Nomads



Suggested Stay:  
**Myrtleford**

## DAY 1:

### 8.30am Cooked Brekky

Myrtleford's cafes know how to deliver a belly-full of happiness, so wake yourself up with some Moroccan or Italian-style coffee, a cooked classic or something hot from the bakery.

### 9.30am Hidden Myrtleford

You'll find everything you need for today at the Visitor Info Centre, so stop in before heading out to discover Myrtleford's historic sites, from the bygone tobacco industry and gold mines, the 200-year-old Big Tree and

the Myrtleford Museum at the Old School House (open on Sundays in peak season, or by appointment).

### 11.00am Mount Buffalo Gorge Lookout

This is one of our all-time favourites. Pack a picnic and take a scenic drive up to the Gorge Lookout atop a granite cliff and situated in front of Australia's largest wooden building – Mount Buffalo Chalet (viewing only).

### 12.00pm Picnic and a Stroll

How about that view! We told you so. Unpack your picnic at one of the tables and grab a hot beverage from the coffee cart. Take a short walk along the Gorge's edge for multiple vantage points of the

stunning cliffs, waterfalls and valley floor. If you've come in the snow, head indoors to the Dingo Dell cafe (check opening times) where you can also hire snowshoes if needed.

### 2.00pm E-bike ride on the Rail Trail

Now this will be fun. Back in Porepunkah, hire an e-bike (pedalling will be a breeze!) and go for a cruise along the rail trail to the old Eurobin Train Station. The trail conveniently runs past some local cellar doors as well.

### 4.30pm Afternoon Tea

Return your bikes and grab a cuppa to enjoy down by the Ovens River with views of Mount Buffalo before returning to Myrtleford.

### 6.00pm Italian Cucina

You're deep in the heart of our Italian community and surrounded by some of the best pizzas, homemade pasta and gnocchi, so let loose and enjoy.

## DAY 2:

### 8.30am Breakfast

By now you've probably got your eye on which cafe to try next, including the replica tobacco kiln on the south-eastern side of town, so go for it.

### 9.30am Scenic Drive to Harrietville

This lovely drive along the Great Alpine Road passes through Bright and quirkily named localities like Smoko and onto the historic gold mining village of Harrietville. (Note there's no fuel in Harrietville, so fill up first.)

### 10.30am Tea and Scones at the Lavender Farm

Take some time to smell the... lavender, and a moment to enjoy some morning tea.

### 11.30am Historic Harrietville

You'll find a great outdoor display at the little Harrietville museum and some interesting historic photos inside, as well as interpretive signs along the river and Tronoh Dredge Hole, which was once the largest dredge in the Southern Hemisphere.

### 12.30pm Pub Lunch

There are two hotels in Harrietville serving up hearty favourites. Or perhaps try one of the cafes for a light lunch.

### 2.00pm Bright Art Gallery

Located on Mountbatten Ave, this community-run gallery is an enjoyable way to get to know the art and culture of our alpine region, and it's conveniently located on your return drive to Myrtleford.

### 3.30pm Shopping in Myrtleford

Walk the nooks and crannies of Myrtleford and you'll discover a hidden Middle-Eastern Bazaar, homeware stores, antiques and books, clothing and beauty products, and plenty of places to take an afternoon coffee break.

### 6.00pm Roast Dinner

Comfort food at its best. Head to the local club or one of the pubs for a hot roast and a glass of local wine.





# Girls Getaway



Suggested Stay:  
**Bright**

## DAY 1:

### 6.00am **Yoga**

Morning yoga is one of the best ways to start the day, so sweat out the bad stuff with one of Bright's local instructors.

### 8.30am **Conscious Breakfast**

You've earned that chai latte. Head into town and thank your inner spirit at one of Bright's many superb cafes.

### 9.30am **Shopping in Bright**

From homewares and books to clothing, jewellery or

adventure gear, shopping in Bright has everyone covered.

### 12.00pm **Lunch by the River**

Time to take a breather and head to one of our riverside venues for lunch. Take a seat and relax to the sound of the Ovens River passing by.

### 1.30pm **Huggins Lookout**

The walk up to Huggins Lookout is only 700m one-way, but enough to get your heart pumping. Best of all, we think the views over Bright are just beautiful.

### 3.00pm **Day Spa**

Time to get all dolled up for a night out on the town by

spoiling yourselves with a treatment at one of the day spas or beauty salons.

### 6.00pm **Dinner Out**

From fine dining, funky bars, cultural feasts or pub fare, you'll find something to satisfy every appetite.

### 7.30pm **Kick On**

The night is still young, so grab your girls and hit up Bright's wine bars, gin distillery, brewery and cocktail lounge.

## DAY 2:

### 8.30am **Cafe Goodness**

How's that head feeling? Recoup with something nourishing at one of Bright's many great cafes.

### 10.30am **Farm Gates and Old Wares**

Jump in the car and head toward Myrtleford, making sure to stop in at the farm gates and old-ware stores along the way.

### 11.30am **Hidden Discoveries**

Stop in Myrtleford and explore its quaint stores and the Middle-Eastern Bazaar – a maze of wares and antiques that's much bigger than first meets the eye.

### 1.00pm **Lunch**

By now, the delightful smells wafting from Myrtleford's cafes will have you salivating, so take some time to enjoy lunch with the ladies.

### 2.00pm **Cellar Doors**

Pick up a copy of the Feast High Country Guide at the Visitor Centre and head out to sample our local wine specialties, such as Fiano and Durif, as well as favourites like Shiraz and Pinot Grigio.

### 6.00pm **Fine Dining**

End the day in style with a three-course meal in a beautiful historic cottage, or one of the trendy bars around town.





# Boys Weekend



Suggested Stay:  
**Harrietville**

## DAY 1:

### 8.30am Breakfast

Grab an egg and bacon roll and coffee to start the day.

### 9.30am Throw in a Line

Harrietville has a number of great seasonal fishing spots on the river or at the Dredge Hole, but you can also hook yourself something at any time of year at the local trout farm.

### 11.30am Great Alpine Road

Jump in the car for a drive up Australia's highest sealed

road to Mount Hotham for one of the best views you will ever see. Carry snow chains in winter.

### 12.30pm Pub Lunch

Drive on through to Dinner Plain for lunch at one of Dinner Plain's hotels. There is no resort entry to DP, whatever time of year."

### 2.00pm Blizzard Brewery

Duck into Australia's highest brewery in DP and taste beer made with pure snow-melt aquifers.

### 3.30pm Arvo Snack

Head back down the mountain and stop by the

bakery for a home-made pastry.

### 4.00pm Tronoh Dredge Hole

Dive in for a swim, or in the colder months, walk around the remnants of the largest dredge hole in the southern hemisphere.

### 6.00pm BBQ by the River

Grab those fish and head to Harrietville's Taware Park for a BBQ (best pick up supplies in Bright on your way through). In winter, retreat indoors to one of the cosy pubs.

## DAY 2:

### 8.30am Cooked Brekky

Sniff out a cooked breakfast to get you on the road.

### 9.30am Tawonga Gap Lookout

Start today's drive by heading up to Tawonga Gap lookout, with views of Victoria's highest mountain, Mount Bogong.

### 11.00am Mount Beauty

Explore the former hydro-worker's town of Mount Beauty, its outdoor gear stores and short scenic walks like the Gorge Walk.

### 12.00pm Enjoy a local craft beer

Don't leave town without grabbing some of Beauty's local craft beer. Sweetwater Brewery most often opens later in the day, but you can also find it on sale at the local bottle-o at Foodworks.

### 1.00pm Dederang

Continue your drive through the scenic Kiewa Valley and stop in at Dederang for a classic pub lunch.

### 2.30pm Myrtleford via Mudgegonga

How are the views going? Nice, hey! It's time to loop

back toward Harrietville by cutting across to Myrtleford and its iconic tobacco kilns.

### 3.30pm Bright's Brewery

Take a break on the back deck of Bright Brewery with a tasting paddle of six local brews, or take some to-go. If you like gin, also head to the gin distillery.

### 6.00pm Pub Grub

Return to Harrietville along the Great Alpine Road and finish up at one of the local haunts.



# Nature Lovers



Suggested Stay:  
**Mount Beauty**

## DAY 1:

### 8.30am **Hearty Breakfast**

Our local cafes will serve up some tasty goodness to fuel today's adventures.

### 9.30am **Mount Beauty Gorge Walk**

This is a great little walk. Just 6km return, you'll venture out to a scenic gorge, which is also a nice place to take a dip.

### 12.00pm **Lunchtime**

Nice views and a wide range of lunch fare are to be found at the venues throughout Tawonga South and Mount Beauty.

### 1.00pm **Fainter Falls**

We can't plan you a nature itinerary without adding in this lovely waterfall. Take a drive up to the beautiful Fainter Falls, just a 700m walk in from the road.

### 2.00pm **Wallaces Hut to Cope Hut Circuit, Falls Creek**

Continue on to Falls Creek

and enjoy a 6km return alpine walk on the Wallaces Heritage Trail in summer, or snowshoe in winter.

### 4.30pm **Bogong Village**

On the return drive, stop in at Bogong Village and stretch your legs by Lake Guy. This is one absolutely stunning spot in Autumn.

### 6.00pm **Dinner Out**

Some mouth-watering restaurants open their doors of an evening, so treat yourself to something delicious in Mount Beauty or Tawonga South.

## DAY 2:

### 7.00am **Bakery Goodness**

Open early, grab a bite to eat at the bakery, and perhaps some snacks for the day's hike.

### 8.00am **Mount Bogong Summit**

This is a big day hike that will take you right to the summit of Victoria's highest mountain via the Staircase or Eskdale Spur. Good fitness required. In winter, or for a more moderate day, explore the numerous walking trails

around Mountain Creek and Shady Gully.

### 12.00pm **Picnic Lunch**

Pause either at the summit of Mount Bogong or on one of your scenic walks and enjoy a pre-packed picnic lunch. The deli at Mounty Beauty's supermarket has a great variety of produce to choose from.

### 6.00pm **Dinnertime**

You'll be famished, so finish the day with a hearty pub meal at the local haunt.





# Friends Getaway



Suggested Stay:  
**Bright or Harrietville**

## DAY 1:

### 8.30am **Wakey Wakey Eggs and Bahey**

Bright or Harrietville's excellent cafes will set the mood with something hot and caffeinated.

### 9.30am **Choose Your Adventure**

Road cycling to Mount Buffalo or mountain biking at Mystic, golf in Myrtleford or fishing in Harrietville, walking trails and swimming holes – there's plenty to entertain

you and your crew, and hire gear available.

### 1.00pm **Lunch Classics**

From classic Rubens to sushi, gourmet sandwiches to homemade pies, head into town for a bellyful of yum.

### 2.00pm **Rolling on the River**

Discover Bright's gold history and the hidden canyons along the Ovens River on the 5km-return Canyon Walk.

### 3.30pm **Take a Splash or drink by the Fire**

Finish up in town with a dip in the river, or grab a tube and

just float about. In winter, warm up with a coffee or cocktail inside by the fire.

### 5.30pm **Dinner and Live Music**

There's nothing like sitting back with friends, fine food and some live music at the end of the day. Check out what's on at venues in Bright, Wandiligong, Porepunkah and Harrietville.

### 7.30pm **Bar Hop**

Not ready to stop? Bright's bars will keep you bopping.

## DAY 2:

### 8.00am

#### **Breakfast Time**

OK sleepyheads, how was last night? Time for breakfast!

### 9.00am **Alpine Adventure – Winter or Summer**

Drive Australia's highest road to Mount Hotham for some winter skiing or snowboarding, or Dinner Plain for snowshoeing or tobogganing. In summer, stop in at the stunning lookouts and take a hike

out to Mount Loch or along The Razorback.

### 1.00pm **Lunch in DP**

Fill up on home-cooked pastries and muffins and great coffee in Dinner Plain.

### 2.00pm **Sled Dog Rides or Brumby Spotting**

That's right – we said sled dogs! These furry friends run all winter. In the summer months, take a jeep tour out to see the wild brumbies.

### 3.30pm **Soak in the Onsen at Dinner Plain**

A rare opportunity to soak in an outdoor Onsen in the snow in winter. In summer, take the short walk down to see Carmichael Falls, just 1km from the village centre.

### 6.30pm **Dinner Out**

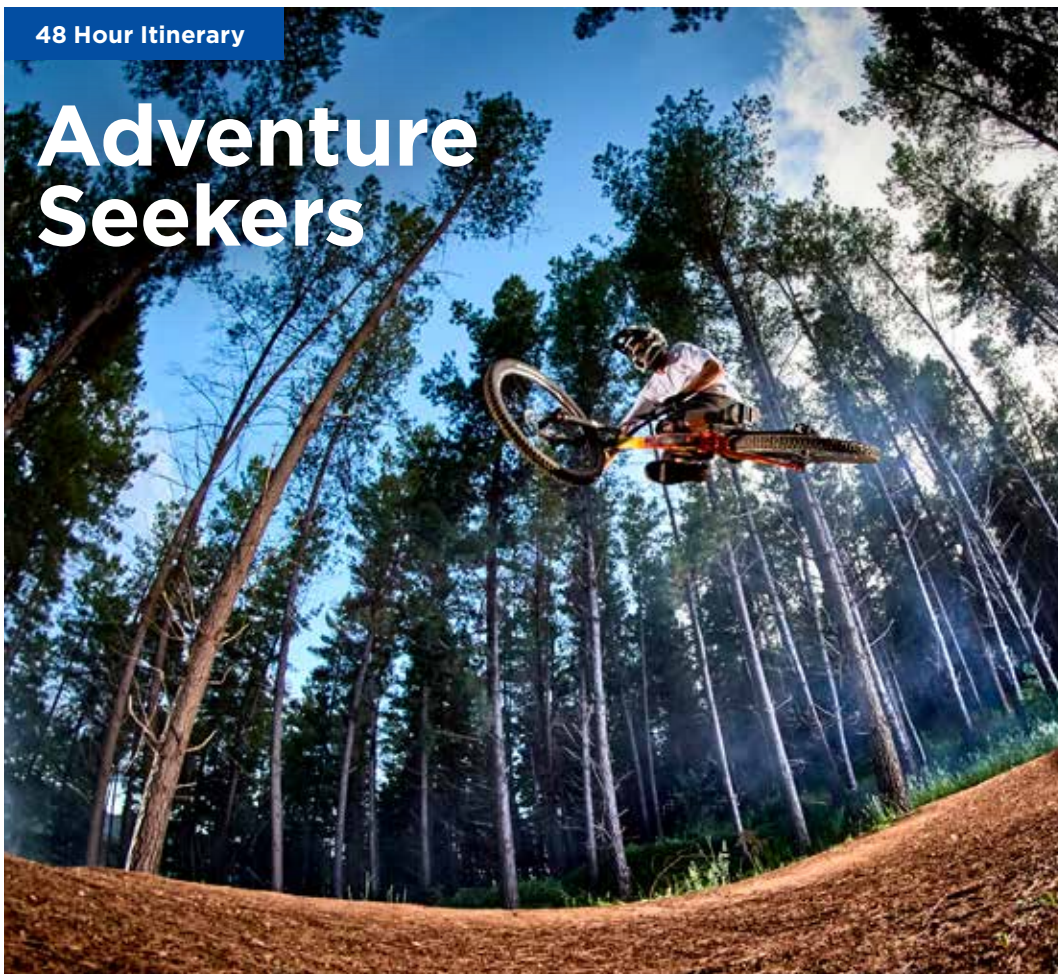
Back in Bright or Harrietville, grab a pizza or some traditional pub grub at the local.

### 8.00pm **Local Brews**

Finish up with a gin or cocktail at the local distillery or a craft beer at the brewery in Bright.



# Adventure Seekers



Suggested Stay:  
**Bright or Porepunkah**

## DAY 1:

**8.30am Cooked Brekky**  
You're going to need to fuel up, so head to a cafe and order the biggest meal you can.

**9.30am MTB at Mystic**  
From beginner trails, cross country, gravity and double-

black diamond downhill, Mystic has it all. Drop in to one of the local bike shops to grab a map or hire a bike.

**1.30pm Lunch in Wandi**  
Head to Wandi for lunch at one of the best beer gardens around. Make sure to book on long weekends and holidays. Since you're out that way, why not stick your head into the apple farm and its fresh-produce store.

**3.00pm Paragliding or Trail Running**  
Fly over the skies of Bright with one of our Flight School operators. In winter, head out on a mountain run on one of our forest roads.

**5.30pm Winding Down**  
From the brewery to the local, wine bars, pizza joints and fine dining, end the day your way.

## DAY 2:

**8.00am Punkah Brekky**  
Stop in Porepunkah for all your favourites served up in generous portions, and conveniently located on your way to Mount Buffalo.

**9.30am Exploring Mount Buffalo**  
Navigate your way through an underground river cave that carves its way through the granite walls of Mount Buffalo. Pre-book with one of the local adventure tour operators. In winter, take a cross-country ski lesson or go tobogganing instead.

**12.30pm Picnic at The Horn**  
Drive up to The Horn of Mount Buffalo (or in winter, put those new cross-country skills to good use and ski up) and enjoy a pre-packed picnic with a great view at its base. From here it's a short walk to the top for some 360-degree views of the Victorian Alps. You can even see Mount Kosciuszko!

**2.00pm Abseiling or Snowshoeing**  
These granite cliffs are made for abseiling, but in winter you may prefer to continue to explore the mountain on

snowshoe or cross-country skis, with a great selection of groomed trails that are free to use. Gear hire available through the tour operators.

**5.30pm Dinnertime**  
By now you'll be so hungry you'll be itching to stop in Punkah for dinner. Luckily, it has great pizzas, curries and burgers to replenish those lost calories.

**7.30pm Night Cap**  
Head back to Bright for a night cap of local wine, gin or beer at one of the evening venues.





Start your Bright & Surrounds holiday experience at any of our three accredited Visitor Information Centres.

Friendly staff and volunteers offer a wealth of local knowledge and can help you with where to eat, what to do with the kids, where to hire a bike, tour bookings, and provide up-to-date information about our festivals and events.

Call 1800 111 885 or [visitbrightandsurrounds.com.au](http://visitbrightandsurrounds.com.au)



#### Alpine Visitor Information Centre (Bright):

119 Gavan Street,  
Bright  
1800 111 885  
[visitbright.com.au](http://visitbright.com.au)

#### Myrtleford Visitor Information Centre:

Post Office Complex,  
Great Alpine Road, Myrtleford  
03 5755 0514  
[visitmyrtlefordvic.com.au](http://visitmyrtlefordvic.com.au)

#### Mount Beauty Visitor Information Centre:

31 Bogong High Plains Road,  
Mount Beauty  
1800 111 885  
[visitmountbeauty.com.au](http://visitmountbeauty.com.au)

#### Get Social



[brightandsurrounds](https://www.instagram.com/brightandsurrounds)



[greatalpinevalleys](https://www.facebook.com/greatalpinevalleys)



[brightsurrounds](https://twitter.com/brightsurrounds)



Search Bright & Surrounds

#lovebright #harrietville #mtbeauty #myrtleford #dinnerplain

#### More Information

For additional information regarding Bright & Surrounds:

##### Local

[visitbright.com.au](http://visitbright.com.au)  
[visitdinnerplain.com.au](http://visitdinnerplain.com.au)  
[visitharrietville.com.au](http://visitharrietville.com.au)  
[visitmyrtlefordvic.com.au](http://visitmyrtlefordvic.com.au)  
[visitmountbeauty.com.au](http://visitmountbeauty.com.au)

##### Regional

[seehighcountry.com.au](http://seehighcountry.com.au)  
[feasthighcountry.com.au](http://feasthighcountry.com.au)  
[ridehighcountry.com.au](http://ridehighcountry.com.au)  
[walkhighcountry.com.au](http://walkhighcountry.com.au)

##### To find out more about Alpine Shire Council and its services:

[alpineshire.vic.gov.au](http://alpineshire.vic.gov.au)

##### For information regarding National Parks:

[parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://parkweb.vic.gov.au)

##### Mobility Access – All Terrain wheelchair

The all-terrain access wheelchair is available free to hire from the Mount Beauty VIC .

#### Getting here

##### By road

Bright is a 3 1/2- hour drive from Melbourne via the M31 Hume Freeway and the Snow Road C522 near Glenrowan off the B500 (Great Alpine Road) turnoff near Wangaratta.

##### Buses

V/Line runs daily bus services to Myrtleford, Bright and Mount Beauty: [vline.com.au](http://vline.com.au)

Alps Bus link offers services from Bright to Omeo via Harrietville, Mount Hotham and Dinner Plain: [omeobus.com.au](http://omeobus.com.au)

##### Trains

Trains run daily from Melbourne and Sydney via Wangaratta, an hour's drive from Bright: [vline.com.au](http://vline.com.au)

##### By Air

Albury airport is about 1 1/4 hours from Mount Beauty and about 1 1/2 hours from Bright. Several flights operate each day from Melbourne and Sydney.

#### Contacts

##### Emergency:

**Police/ Fire/ Ambulance**  
000

**SES**  
132 500

**VicRoads**  
Road closures 131 170

**Victorian Bushfire Information Line**  
1800 240 667

**Parks Victoria**  
131 963

**V/Line**  
1800 800 007

**ABC Emergency Radio**

**89.7FM** Bright  
**106.5FM** Mount Beauty/  
Upper Kiewa  
**91.7FM** Myrtleford  
**106.5FM/88.1FM**  
Dinner Plain

Published by Alpine Shire Council, Po Box 139 Bright VIC 3741

If you have any feedback or comments on this guide please contact [tourism@alpineshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:tourism@alpineshire.vic.gov.au) or 03 5755 0555

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A life lived outside

[visitbrightandsurrounds.com.au](http://visitbrightandsurrounds.com.au)





**August**

**Kangaroo Hoppet**  
Falls Creek | [hoppet.com.au](http://hoppet.com.au)  
Showcasing Australia's alpine high plains to the world, the Kangaroo Hoppet is Australia's only international XC skiing marathon and the biggest annual snowsports event in the southern hemisphere. Event distances in 7km, 21km and 42km provide a great experience from beginners to elite international athletes. Over 1,000 skiers from around 25 countries enjoy the best the high plains have to offer!

SPORT



**August**

**Pub to Pub Ski Challenge**  
Hotham to Dinner Plain | [dbstrategies.com.au/pubtopub/](http://dbstrategies.com.au/pubtopub/)  
The annual Pub to Pub is a cross country ski race for skiers of all ages and abilities. Starting at the General Store in Hotham Village, the race follows around 12km of cross country trails before finishing at the Dinner Plain Hotel. Running for almost 30 years, the Pub to Pub is a one-of-a-kind race where you're likely to see first year skiers lining up with Australian champions for a great day of competitive fun!


SPORT



**September**

**5Zero**  
Bright | [5zero.com.au](http://5zero.com.au)  
5Zero is a social cycling event in Bright with zero footprint. Enjoy a fun ride from Bright Brewery to Clearspot along a great course for a great cause – to help Alpine Community Plantation maintain recreation in our plantations. Fifty kilometres is the distance / zero is the goal for environmental impact as a result of running the event.

SPORT



**September**

**Alfred 6 Hour**  
Bright | [alfred6hour.org.au](http://alfred6hour.org.au)  
Test your endurance and support a great charity at the same time in The Alfred 6 Hour charity mountain bike race. The race challenges individuals, pairs and teams to a three or six hour mountain bike endurance race on a 6.5km course through flowing single track and logging roads in the Mystic MTB Park in Bright, just minutes from the town centre. 100 per cent of profits from the event will be donated to The Alfred Hospital to support critical care services in the Emergency and Trauma Centre.

SPORT



**October**

**Bright Spring Festival**  
Bright and surrounds | [brightspringfestival.com.au](http://brightspringfestival.com.au)  
See gardens come to life and turn on their natural beauty. Experience the hospitality of enthusiasts from across the region and talk to experts to learn how they care for their gardens all year round. Enjoy the beauty of Bright and surrounding towns in spring, catch one of the exciting Spring Festival food and wine events, enjoy the monthly Make It, Bake It, Grow It market by the river or Rotary's Monster Street Market, and have fun with the family at the Grand Spectacular Fireworks and concert.


FESTIVAL



**October**

**Mitta to Mount Beauty MTB Challenge**  
Mitta to Mount Beauty | [tmb.org.au](http://tmb.org.au)  
The Mitta to Mount Beauty is the third and final leg of the Great Alpine Challenge. Featuring a 55km "gut buster" course starting in Mitta Mitta, travelling via Scrubby Creek Road and Trappers Gap to finish in Mount Beauty, this MTB challenge is not for the faint hearted!

SPORT



**October**

**Myrtleford Show' n' Shine & Swap Meet**  
Myrtleford | [facebook.com/choppedandchangedkustomcarclub/](https://facebook.com/choppedandchangedkustomcarclub/)  
The annual Show'n'Shine and Swap Meet is a static display of classic and custom cars in conjunction with stalls selling motoring memorabilia, motoring merchandise and car spares. All show cars, trucks, hot rods and rat rods are welcome. Food stalls, bar, live music, 50s and 60s-themed fashion shows and demonstrations by the Myrtleford Speedway Club will keep you entertained throughout the day.

SHOW



**November**

**Bright's Iconic Rod Run**  
Bright | [brightsiconicrodun.com.au](http://brightsiconicrodun.com.au)  
Bright turns into the Hot Rod capital for 3 action-packed days as hundreds of street rods, classic and custom cars fill the streets for the annual Rod Run. Featuring a monster show'n'shine, classic pin-up competition, swap meet, poker run, cruises, live music and market, this weekend will keep car enthusiasts of any age entertained!


SHOW



**November**

**Spartan Race Australia – Bright Trifecta Weekend**  
Bright | [spartanrace.com.au](http://spartanrace.com.au)  
This iconic Spartan event has become a highlight on the international Spartan calendar, attracting racers from around the world to take on Mystic Mountain. Featuring the Sprint, Super, Beast, Ultra and Hurricane Heat events, the Trifecta Weekend will challenge you mentally and physically. The kids get to join in the action too, with a Junior Spartan course.

SPORT



**December**

**Tour of Bright**  
Bright and surrounds | [tourofbright.com.au](http://tourofbright.com.au)  
Held across three days, the Tour of Bright is an annual road cycling event taking in the stunning Alpine scenery of Bright and surrounds. With views that rival the Tour de France, this event is a must do on the cycle enthusiast's calendar.

SPORT



**December**

**Myrtleford Golden Spurs Rodeo**  
Myrtleford | [myrtlefordrodeo.com.au](http://myrtlefordrodeo.com.au)  
The Myrtleford Golden Spurs Rodeo has been running for more than 65 years, making it one of Australia's oldest rodeos. Held on Boxing Day each year at the picturesque grounds of the Myrtleford Recreation Reserve, it is a must do family event at Christmas time for visitors and locals alike.

SPORT



**December**

**Bright Mountain Film Tour**  
Bright, Harrietville, Mount Beauty, Dinner Plain | [bmft.com.au](http://bmft.com.au)  
The BMFT is a celebration of mountain culture and those who embrace it. Over several nights and locations, the best adventure films from around the world are showcased amongst the alpine communities of North East Victoria and further afield.

FILM

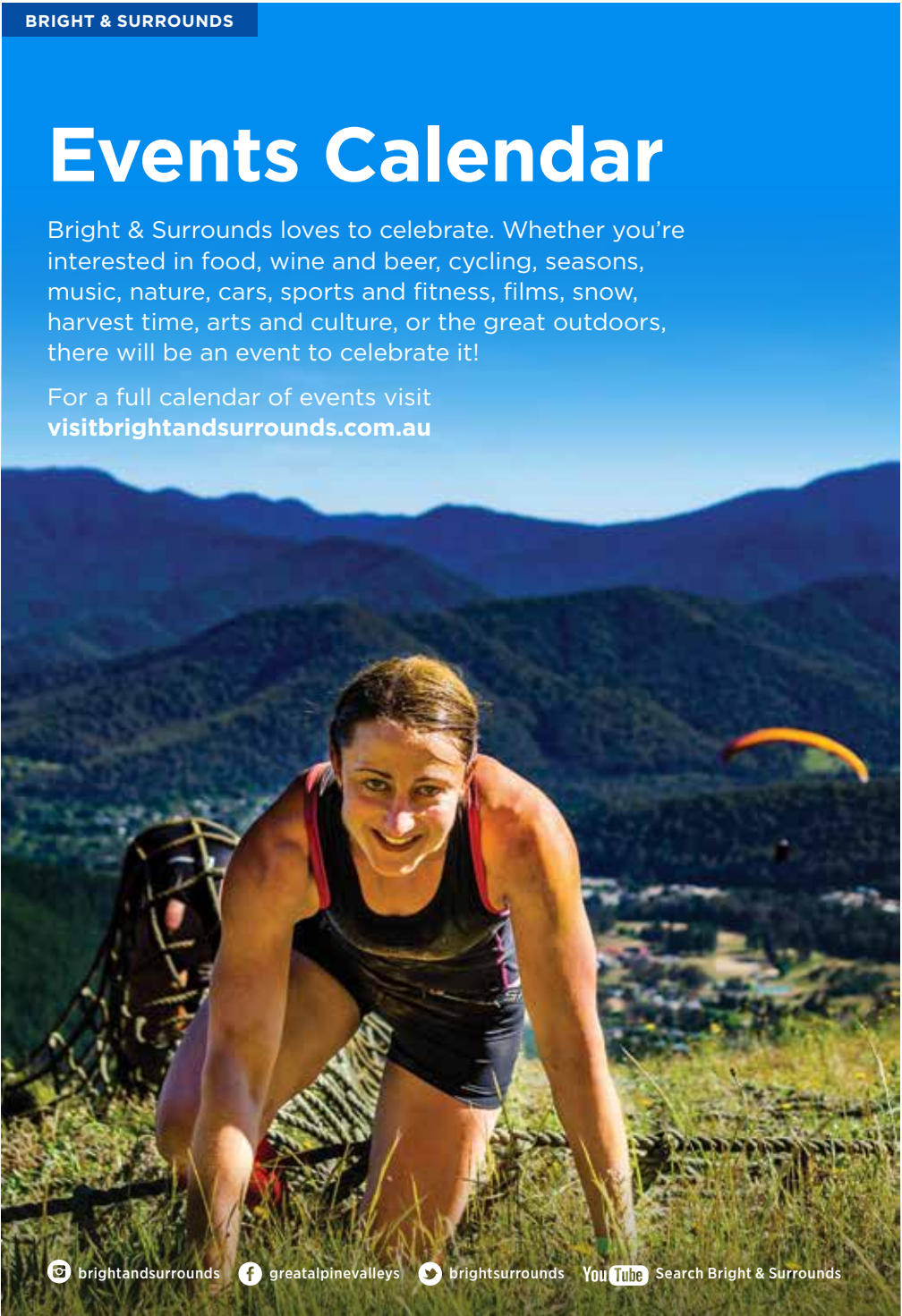



**BRIGHT & SURROUNDS**


# Events Calendar

Bright & Surrounds loves to celebrate. Whether you're interested in food, wine and beer, cycling, seasons, music, nature, cars, sports and fitness, films, snow, harvest time, arts and culture, or the great outdoors, there will be an event to celebrate it!

For a full calendar of events visit [visitbrightandsurrounds.com.au](http://visitbrightandsurrounds.com.au)



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## Monthly Markets

First Saturday (excluding winter)  
**Myrtleford Flea Market**

Second Saturday  
**Mount Beauty Community Market**

Third Saturday  
**Bright Make It, Bake It, Grow It Market**

Fourth Saturday  
**Myrtleford Farmer's Market**

## January

MARKET

### Myrtleford Bush Market

Myrtleford | [visitmyrtleford.com](http://visitmyrtleford.com)

The annual Bush Market has been a fixture on Myrtleford's calendar for over 30 years. The market takes over the CBD for the day, featuring a huge selection of stalls selling clothing, craft, food, wine and local produce as well as live entertainment and activities for the whole family!



FESTIVAL

## March

### The Myrtleford Festival

Myrtleford | [themyrtefordfestival.com.au](http://themyrtefordfestival.com.au)

Celebrate everything that makes life in Myrtleford great at the annual Myrtleford Festival. There's a jam-packed program across the Labour Day long weekend including the Festival Princess Ball, Gala Parade, Street Party in the Piazza, market stalls, live entertainment, food and wine events, kid's activities, tours, art exhibitions, sports events and much more!



FESTIVAL

## April

### Wandi Nut Festival

Wandiligong | [brightvic.com/wandinutfestival/](http://brightvic.com/wandinutfestival/)

The Wandi Nut Festival celebrates the end of harvest and showcases the incredible varieties of nuts and other fresh produce available in Bright and surrounds during Autumn. Come and enjoy local stallholders, cooking demonstrations, roasted chestnuts, food and wine, music and activities for the kids.



FESTIVAL

## May

### La Fiera Italian Festival

Myrtleford and surrounds | [lafiera.com.au](http://lafiera.com.au)

Join the Myrtleford community for a special celebration of Italian heritage, culture, food, wine and fun! Enjoy locally produced, authentic food and wine through cooking demonstrations, boutique winery tours and mushroom forages. Celebrate Italian culture through religious ceremonies, heritage displays, live music, dancing, soccer matches and bocce competitions and bring the family for a full day of fun the Italian way at the Food & Wine Festa in the Myrtleford Piazza.



SPORT

## January

### Audax Alpine Classic / Bonjour Bright

Bright and surrounds | [alpineclassic.com.au](http://alpineclassic.com.au)

The Alpine Classic will see around 2000 riders tackle nine courses ranging from moderate to seriously challenging. This is not a race, just a chance to challenge yourself. Bonjour Bright will once again keep families, support crews and riders entertained in Bright's Howitt Park. The French-themed festival will feature live music and entertainers, films, kid's activities, food, wine and beer, and a great atmosphere for cyclists to begin and end their rides.

## March

### Brighter Days

Bright | [brighterdays.org.au](http://brighterdays.org.au)

Get set for three days of cars, motorcycles, live music and family fun in beautiful Bright! Don't miss the free entertainment on the main stage featuring some legendary Australian performers, but leave some time for the Babes Brunch, markets, free kid's entertainment, the Amazin' Chase Poker Run and show'n'shine.



FESTIVAL

## April

### Mount Beauty Music Festival

Mount Beauty | [musicfestival.org.au](http://musicfestival.org.au)

Featuring an amazing line up of music, dance and spoken word acts, the Mount Beauty Music Festival is a three-day celebration that lights up the town. With live performances across multiple genres and venues including a free outdoor stage, markets, workshops, kid's activities, art installations and lots more, this festival is about more than just music!



FESTIVAL

## June

### Dinner Plain Ski Season Opening Celebrations

Dinner Plain | [visitdinnerplain.com.au](http://visitdinnerplain.com.au)

Celebrate the start of the snow season in Dinner Plain during the Queen's Birthday long weekend. From tube slides to live music and start-of-season bargains at local ski retailers, there is plenty to keep you and the family busy. Meet in the village centre to be dazzled by the annual season's opening fireworks. A great weekend escape to celebrate the start of winter.



SPORT

## February

### Adventure Travel Film Festival

Bright | [adventuretravelfilmfestival.com](http://adventuretravelfilmfestival.com)

Come and get inspired to go on an adventure! Watch the world's greatest travel films and speakers in the company of adventurers and fellow travellers. It doesn't matter whether you drive, cycle, walk, swim, ride a horse, motorcycle, sail or fly; the Adventure Travel Film Festival in Bright has you covered!



FILM



SPORT

## April

### Dinner Plain Geebung Polo

Cobungra | [geebungpolo.com.au](http://geebungpolo.com.au)

City versus country; who will win? Gather the family on Easter Sunday for the Geebung Polo, a fun day out in Cobungra packed with live music, helicopter rides, Easter egg drop, tug-of-war, food and wine stalls, fashions on the field, face painting, jumping castle and much more. Bring a picnic rug and chair, back up the car, sit back and relax.

## May

### Bright Autumn Festival Gala Day

Bright | [brightautumnfestival.org.au](http://brightautumnfestival.org.au)

The Autumn Festival is a ten-day celebration of the magnificent autumn colours and seasonal produce found in Bright and surrounds. The main highlight of the festival is Gala Day, featuring a huge Rotary Market, live music in the streets and the grand parade.



FESTIVAL



event

## July

### MidWinter SnowBall

Mount Beauty | [champagneclubkiewavalley.teamapp.com](http://champagneclubkiewavalley.teamapp.com)

The MidWinter SnowBall is a black tie event with a difference held by the Champagne Club Kiewa Valley. Enjoy live music, nibbles and drinks. No need to organise a table or partner - just put on your black tie finery, grab some friends, and come and dance the night away. No dress? No suit? No bling? You can get your outfit sorted from the 'Frocks of Shame' op-shop rack and hire an ensemble for the night!



SPORT

## March

### Dederang Picnic Races

Dederang | [country.racing.com/Dederang](http://country.racing.com/Dederang)

The Dederang Picnic Races have been held annually since 1865, raising money for local charities and community organisations. Frock or suit up for one of the premier race meets in country Victoria featuring a six-race program, live music, fashions on the field, the famous Madman's Mile, and tug-o-war challenge.

## April

### Bright Autumn Festival

Bright and surrounds | [brightautumnfestival.org.au](http://brightautumnfestival.org.au)

The Autumn Festival is a ten-day celebration of the magnificent autumn colours and seasonal produce found in Bright and surrounds. Events include the Wandi Nut Festival, Bright Brewery Bush Dance, Autumn Instameet, Wandi Hall Markets, Bright Art Gallery Autumn Exhibition, open gardens and the main highlight of the festival, Gala Day, featuring a huge Rotary Market, live music in the streets and the grand parade.



FESTIVAL



FESTIVAL

## May

### High Country Harvest

Victoria's High Country | [highcountryharvest.com.au](http://highcountryharvest.com.au)

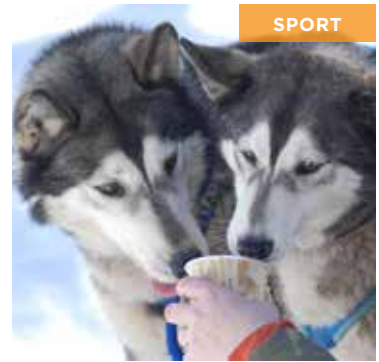
Enjoy a feast of events as the High Country celebrates local food, wine and beer with a calendar of delectable events as part of the High Country Harvest Festival.

## August

### Dinner Plain Sled Dog Challenge

Dinner Plain | [sleddogchallenge.com](http://sleddogchallenge.com)

Australia's original and most prestigious sled dog race will see sled dog teams from across Australia competing for victory on the stunning tree lined trails of Dinner Plain. More than 70 Mushers (dog team drivers), and in excess of 350 sled dogs are expected to compete across 5 classes. The race provides a unique experience for competitors and spectators alike to experience the sport of sled dog racing in a pristine alpine environment.



SPORT