

AWMS Annual Conference and AGM, 2010

Post Conference Tours

For further information, please contact Desley Whisson [Ph: 03 9251 7302; Email: desley.whisson@deakin.edu.au]

- 1. Serendip Sanctuary and Mt Rothwell – Evening of Friday 3rd December**
Depart Torquay after close of the Conference, and returning around 10:30pm
Cost: \$80 pp



Travel approx. 45 minutes to Serendip Sanctuary, a 227 ha reserve of open grassy woodlands and wetlands typical of the volcanic Western Plains. The Sanctuary provides habitat for more than 150 species of birds including Brolgas and Australian Bustards; and mammals such as Eastern Grey Kangaroos, Red-necked Wallabies, Swamp Wallabies, Echidnas, and the Pademelon (extinct in the wild in Victoria).

From Serendip Sanctuary, we will continue on to Mt Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre, for a BBQ dinner and a guided spotlight tour. Mt Rothwell is a 400 ha property enclosed by an 11km predator-proof fence. The property is exclusively managed for the conservation of some of Australia's most threatened faunal species, including the Eastern Barred Bandicoot, Brush tailed Rock Wallaby and Eastern Quoll.

- 2. Great Ocean Road to the Twelve Apostles – 4th and 5th December**
Cost: \$300 pp
Transport, all meals, cabin (with ensuite) accommodation at Bimbi Park and lighthouse entry are included.
Upgrade to luxury accommodation at the Great Ocean Ecolodge for an extra \$100pp twin share.



Depart Torquay at 8:00am and drive along the spectacular Great Ocean Road taking in the waterfalls, woodlands, sheltered inlets and the wild ocean along the way while we learn about management actions for beach-nesting birds and issues with koalas. Stop at Lorne or Apollo Bay for a leisurely lunch and a stroll on the beach. Arrive at Cape Otway and check into your ensuite cabin under the manna gums at Bimbi Park. Enjoy a dusk walk at the Cape Otway Centre for Conservation Ecology – watch the wild kangaroos, koalas and birdlife and learn about the conservation programs. Share a special dinner while watching the kangaroos at the Great Ocean Ecolodge, foods freshly harvested from the kitchen gardens accompanied by fine local wines (the Ecolodge is a social enterprise which supports the Cape Otway Centre). Then venture out into the night for a magical starlit walk with the glow worms in the Great Otway National Park at Maits Rest before returning to our accommodation for the night.

After breakfast on Sunday, journey back in time at the Cape Otway Lighthouse to learn incredible stories of settlement and survival against the odds. Pull on the hiking boots and walk the last section of the Great Ocean Walk for breathtaking views of the Twelve Apostles (6km, 2hours, easy grading). Enjoy a picnic lunch overlooking the shipwreck coast. If there is enough time we will stop to sample the wares of some local producers (handmade chocolates, whiskey, wines and cheeses) as we travel through the rolling hills of the Western District arriving in Melbourne by 6pm.