

Article by Lindy Schneider.

For more information: www.warburtoninfo.com or www.parkweb.vic.gov. When in Warburton visit the Waterwheel Tourist Information Centre on the Main St.

The charming village of Warburton is nestled at the foothills of Mt-Donna Buang, in the Upper Yarra Valley, 70 kilometres from Melbourne. Surrounded by seven mountains, the township offers day-trippers and weekenders a true 'getting away from it' experience that includes snow play in the winter, the best of café culture everyday and the rich life of the river during the summer months. But for those seeking nature beyond the main street, there are many unspoilt 'off the tourist trail' sites that the locals are happy to direct you to.

Site seekers can explore nature's finest secrets any day of

HOME &

**EVENTS CALENDAR 2011** 

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Mandin Community Bank & Mont De Lancey Art Show

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the week - and it's all cost free.

#### **Redwood Forest**

Just one kilometre up Cement Creek Road, man and nature combine to provide a stunning 'stand' of Redwood trees. A trial plantation over 50 years ago, the area is untouched and has a special symmetry and silent beauty that begs to be photographed. There are 1500 trees in the plantation, which is considered significant by the National Trust.

# The Ada Tree

Stand in awe of nature. The 3.6 kilometre return walk from the picnic ground car park is a delightful wander through a cool climate rainforest canopy beside pristine streams. Ada is a 300 year old grand dame standing 76 metres high. She has survived logging, firestorms and every other natural disaster of the area.

# Big Peninsula Tunnel – Woods Point Rd, East Warburton

When a gold rush swept through the valley in the 1800's the man made tunnels were used to divert water-flow so miners could pan in the shallows. Nowdays it's the golden summer days that draws water lovers to the banks of a swimming hole for frolicking good fun. There is also a pretty picnic area and walk at the Little Peninsula Tunnel.

#### La La Falls

Gather in the clear, cool shallows of this almost magical, tucked away waterfall. Follow the 1.6 kilometre trail through Mountain Ash and tree ferns to the cascades which run all year round. La La means welcome and if you keep an eye out plenty of local wildlife will greet you.

# The Rainforest Gallery Walk

Experience bird life at their level. The Skywalk is an aerial walk suspended 30 metres above the ground, in the rainforest

canopy. Follow the information boards, which reveal interesting facts about the vegetation and local Indigenous culture, for a nature lesson as you walk the tree tops.

#### Seven Acre Rock

Feel on top of the world. Walk the 2 km return trip to this imposing granite rock with superb views over the Yarra State Forest, the Bunyip State Park and, on a clear day, as far as Western Port Bay.

# The O'Shannassey Aquaduct

100 years of water harvesting have preserved the forest surrounds and the old access track. The 30 kilometre trail snakes gently along the base of the mountain offering views across the Upper Yarra Valley, many varieties of native birds, wild deer and the odd wombat. Cycle, walk or run – there are plenty of exit points that will drop you back into town for a latte or local wine.

#### AT A GLANCE

#### Redwood Forest

Cement Creek Rd, East Warburton

#### The Ada Tree

Ada River Rd, near Powelltown (26 km SE of Warburton)

# **Big Peninsula Tunnel**

Woods Point Rd, East Warburton

# La La Falls

Old Warburton Rd, Warburton

#### The Rainforest Gallery Walk

Mt Donna Buang Summit Rd, Warburton

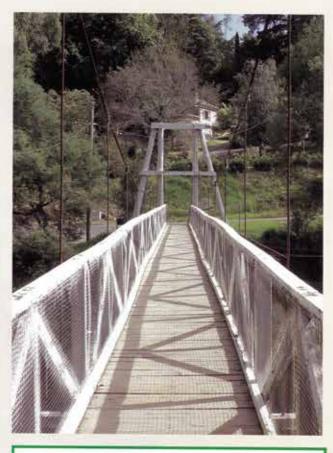
#### Seven Acre Rock

Learmonth Creek Rd, (off Yarra Rd) East of Yarra Junction

#### The O'Shannassey Aquaduct

Access from Yuonga or Surrey Rd, Warburton

# Mick & Liz welcome you to Pipe Rainbow Rainbow A SHOP A Flavours of Ice Cream and Gelati 3422 Warburton Hwy, Warburton 0409 662 181

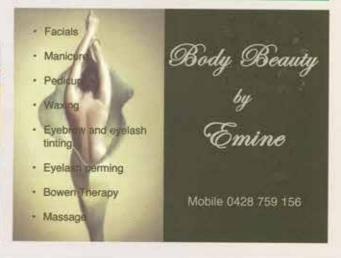


On the Banks of the Yarra

# Warburton Caravan Park

Sites, Cabins and a 13 Person Lodge, surrounded by beautiful mountain scenery. Enjoy walking or cycling the trails, bring your canoe, visit a horse ranch or just relax and go fishing.

Close to Mt. Donna Buang and Upper Yarra Dam. Central for exploring The Upper Yarra Valley. Phone: 5966 2277



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