



May 2012

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Reference Woods Point and Surrounds

Hello all

Winter comes and with the autumn coming to an end the weather can become unpredictable in the mountains. We all must be prepared for very quick changes from warm to wet and blizzard which can occur at anytime in Alpine areas. Make sure you have plenty of food and overnight gear for your trip and good communications. Without sounding like I am repeating myself, please work out a trip plan and give someone a copy of it before you go. Many of the tracks will close for the winter so plan accordingly. For those travelling east of Mansfield here is some road information from DSE that might be of use.

Closure on Circuit Road from Monday 23 April.

The new closure between Speculation Road and Clear Hills Track will be from 23 April until approximately 11 May 2012.

In effect this closure will close Clear Hills Track from Circuit Road to Craig's Hut.

Craig's Hut will be accessible only from the Summit Track (Howqua Gap Track) and Monument Track.

Vehicles will then have to do the return trip back along these tracks.

Note that the Summit Track closes on the 1 May as a RMB seasonal closure.

Please be aware and inform people, who want to go along Speculation Road, that at the intersection of Circuit Road and Speculation Road there could be delays up to 45 minutes due to tree felling, road works and heavy machinery operations.

The Existing closure on the northern side between King Basin Road and Clear Hills Track will remain until early June.

Motor cycle riders beware; I have attended three motor bike collisions around the Woods Point area in the last month, all have been flown out by chopper with badly damaged bodies and all have been rider error. I don't have figures for collisions but 62% of serious injuries collisions in the Benalla PSA (of which Woods Point and Jamieson are a part), are motor bike riders, most of them on gravel roads and tracks. A number of Ambulance, Police and Chopper Pilots took great risks last night to recover a badly injured rider at the Black River Road in atrocious weather. We managed to get him to the Alfred but it took about five hours all up and a lot of manpower. They were lost and the fog and rain had closed in, the only bit of luck they had was phone reception where the prang occurred and the Woods Point Community Ambulance. The girls were first on the scene and did a magnificent job once again. We should all be grateful that these highly trained and dedicated volunteers are prepared to go and help anyone who needs it, anytime and anywhere.

We will do our job and help you as best we can but don't take it for granted that someone will get there in time to save you, look after yourselves, ride carefully and safely. Make sure you know where you are going and plan ahead, always have back up and know your limitations

Ken

Downloadable Trip Intention form on the Victoria Police Website. This form is a wonderful tool for your trip and can be found at this link: http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document_ID=23653

This letter and other information can also be found at the Victoria Police My Place Website for Woods Point using this link: <http://www.vicpolice.com.au/myplace.html> then search the post code 3723.

Of interest to you Trail Bike Riders the DSE Ride for Tomorrow Newsletters which can be found at the DSE Website
If you get into trouble use Channel 7, 8 or 5 on your CB Radio or 000 from the phone, someone will hear you and be safe.
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