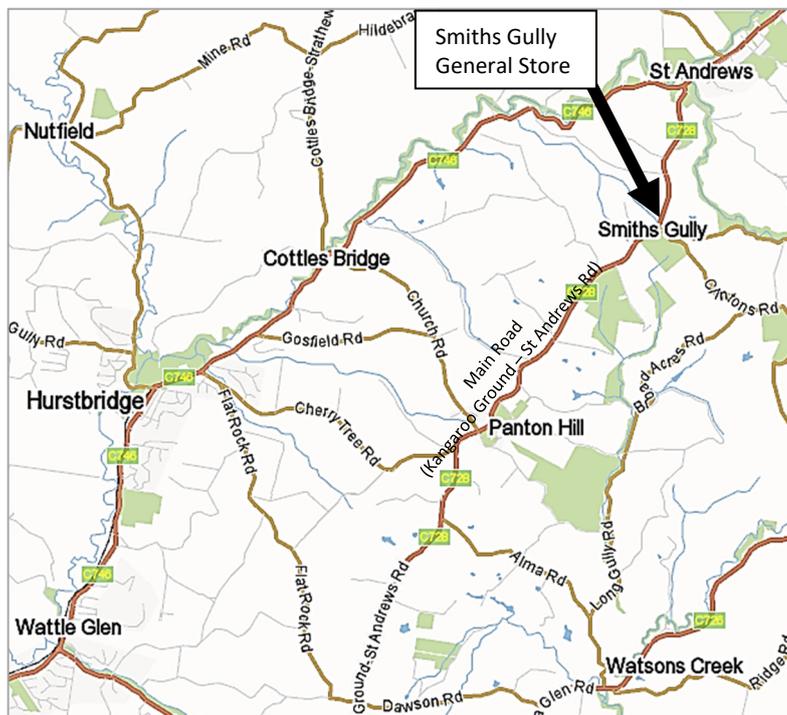
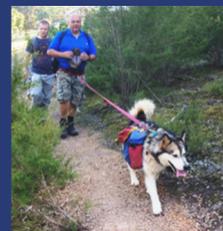


BACKPACKING Event



Saturday, 9 September Smiths Gully

Starting from Smiths Gully General Store
914 Main Road (Kangaroo Ground – St Andrews Road)
Corner Clintons Road - Melways map reference 264 E3

9.00 am start – register by 8.30 am

*Hike distance is approx. 17km
Trail is hilly with some steeper sections
– suitable only for fit hikers & dogs.*

How to get there: Follow the Main Road (Kangaroo Ground – St Andrews Road) through Pantan Hill towards St Andrews. The Smiths Gully General Store is located on the corner of Main Road & Clintons Road approximately 3 km after Pantan Hill.

Trail Information: The track is quite hilly, with some steeper sections, narrow walking tracks through reserves and along dirt roads.

Facilities at Smiths Gully General Store:
Toilets, Café, store

Cost: \$3.00 per member or \$5.00 per Family

Backpack Hire: \$5.00 per day – please contact the co-ordinator to per book a club backpack.

What to bring: Sturdy lead & collar, canine backpack, weight for the backpack (pre-weighed), water & water bowl for your dog, basic first aid items, rubbish bags, sturdy footwear, warm & waterproof clothing (the weather can be unpredictable), human backpack, food, drink, etc.

NOTE: WALKERS MUST CARRY THEIR OWN BASIC FIRST AID ITEMS & WATER FOR YOUR DOG.

Pre-registration: Please notify Stuart if you are interested in coming in case the event is cancelled or venue is changed due to unforeseen circumstances – call 0413 118 305 or email pandapol31@gmail.com or amcvinc@gmail.com

NOTE: Places are limited so pre-registration is essential.

Hike Etiquette:

- Keep a safe distance between dogs on the trail.
 - Be on the look-out for bike riders who may approach quite quickly. Pull your dog well off the trail to allow bikes and other walkers past - not everyone likes dogs.
 - Dogs are to be kept on lead at all times and remain the responsibility of their handler.
 - Do not block the trail with your dog or equipment.
 - Do not tether your dog on a long lead - a short lead or cable is sufficient.
- If it is a sunny day, make sure your dog is tethered with access to shade & water.

It is important that you arrive early to allow enough time to weigh in your dog and get ready: please load and weigh your dog's backpack to roughly the correct weight at home to save time when you arrive.

Who can participate: DOGS MUST BE A MINIMUM OF 12 MONTHS OLD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HIKE. Dogs must be 18 months old to carry weight to the Working Pack Dog title standard. One dog per handler recommended. Your dog does not have to have a backpack or carry the entire weight.

Temperature restriction: **HIKES MAY BE CANCELLED IF THE FORECAST TEMPERATURE IS OVER 25°C:** if so please contact the Backpacking Co-ordinator the day before the hike to check

ALL BREEDS & NON-MEMBERS WELCOME.

Extreme Weather Policy

Please note that a 25°C maximum temperature restriction applies to this activity. In addition, events may be cancelled in extreme weather conditions. If unsure, please phone or email to confirm.

AMCV Working Pack Dog Title*:

This backpacking day will be a qualifying event for the AMCV Working Pack Dog title and Associate Working Dog Certificate for dogs over 18 months of age only. The rules for the Working Pack Dog title are available from the Backpacking Co-ordinator.

You will require a sturdy backpack which is sufficiently large to hold the required weights. The weight should be made up of something that is dense yet can mould to the shape of your dog: bags of damp sand and/or a soft pack of water (similar to the bladder of a wine cask) are suitable. Anyone attempting a walk should also carry a backpack containing some basic first aid items (dog & human), food (dog & human), drink (dog & human), water bowl and wet weather gear (as the weather dictates).

Your dog must carry 30% of its body weight for a minimum of 16 km for a walk to count towards the title - a dog weighing 40 kg would therefore have to carry 12 kg of weight, which is the equivalent of 12 litres of water. This is too much weight for an untrained and/or unfit dog to be expected to carry. Obviously you will need to train your dog, gradually adding more weight, before you can consider tackling the full load, and your dog will need to be fit and in excellent physical condition.

The only decrease in the weight carried by the dog on a backpacking trip may be by NORMAL consumption of food or water by your dog. What your dog doesn't drink must get poured back into the container he is carrying, and the final pack weight must be no less than 75% of the initial pack weight.

*NOTE: this is NOT a qualifying event for the ANKC title program.