



NO TV, NO INTERNET NO MOBILE NO WORRIES

Glen Wills Mountainous Retreat is some memorable and long lasting moments of this wonderful place. A sense of being secluded from the rest of the world gave this place 'an almost camping in the woods' experience. The interior of the house is far from what you would normally expect in a hotel or motel room, but one that perfectly fits and blends with the surrounding nature.

The morning dew on the vast grass land glitters in the sunlight while the chirping of the birds in the nearby bush lands announces the dawn of the day. The campfire warms the chill of the night as it invites to gaze at the stars above on the night sky.

Glen Wills is 50km north of Omeo, the historic gold-rush town, along the Omeo Highway and 58kms south of Mitta Mitta. Much of the drive past Bairnsdale is curvy and steep as the road lead us up the mountainous region along the Great Alpine Road. The drive by car took us there in just over five and a half hours with time to spare to treat ourselves to some

of vast grassland surrounded by bush lands. The rustic look is everywhere while it adds a unique character to this building and the surroundings boast of eco-friendliness.

The sun had already warmed the inside of the house by the time we arrived; a group of five families. Exploring the interior of this 10-bedroom guesthouse we went from room to room on the



ground floor and up the timber stairs to the next level. Slowly settling in for a cup of tea a little later we appreciated

This is a total cut-off from the hustle and bustle of the city life. One could see a vehicle or two driving off occasionally on the road visible at a distance from the house. This place has no provision of Wi-Fi or satellite signals, runs on hydro powered electricity and solar powered water heating. Therefore, as the board sign at the entrance to the property says 'no Internet, no mobile, no TV, no

if you fascinate it. Along the way we saw the sign 'Fainter Falls', a 20-minute hike to the first viewing platform. Research says that these falls were exposed during the 2003 bush fires and access to them was completed in 2008 December. Another remarkable landscape is the Rocky Valley dam, tranquil and spectacularly blue. Man-made, the dam has a capacity of 28,000 mega-litres and is situated at 1,600 metres above sea level.

Just a few kilometers down the road is the Glen Wills Creek along which there are campers. The clean and serene water is too cold to even get the feet wet but no sooner you fall in love with the water it will make you swim to your hearts content. What more would you ask if you have a day out in the creek's shallow yet blue waters forever flowing with a sloshing sound. A moment of togetherness with the nature that still thrills me as I race down there every now and then in the back of my mind remembering how we lost the track of time soaking in the creek.

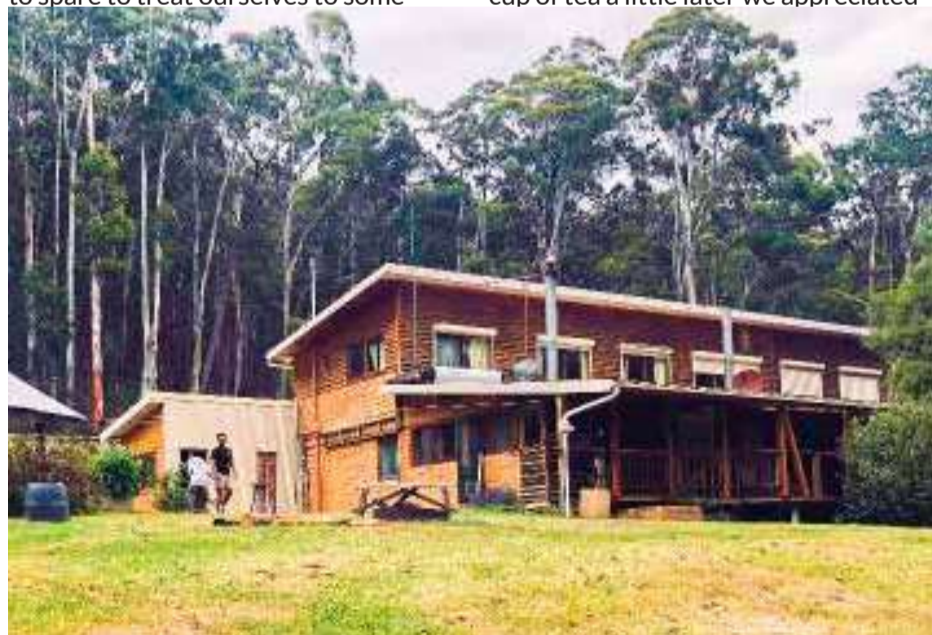
worries' plays a huge part in making one relax to the fullest in so close contact with nature.

It goes without saying that the snakes are part and parcel of nature, particularly when the nature is at your doorstep at Glen Wills. 'They could crawl in if the doors are kept open' said Gordon Pirie, owner of Glen Wills Retreat. Gordon lives in his house that is just a few meters off this property, a walk into the bush land. Children played backyard cricket while the sun was setting and based on his promise to them Gordon set the camp fire around which we all had the best of that day with drinks and music. It couldn't have been any better without the spectacular array of stars in the night sky.

Even though the drive to the close by towns took a couple of hours we enjoyed some stunning sceneries on the way to Mount Beauty and Bright townships. Most of this trip is within the boundaries of Alpine National Park. Along this drive there are plenty of spots to stop and may be take a walk

Adventurous a few of us, we set off on a bushwalk into the unknown bordering bush land. The wilderness at its boast, tall gum trees looking over standing still and strong as if to guard the valley beneath. Some wild flowers and bushes, shrubs and even isolated wild mushroom popping above the ground clad in velvet gold and white dots on the caps. Droppings of an animal found at intervals on the walking trail were believed to be of wild deer. Occasional glimpse of the road down below continued to prompt us that we were trekking up on a hill further in to the densely remote bush lands.

I have elaborated on the place we spent the last summer holidays, Glen Wills Mountainous Retreat! This could be your next 'getaway home' with the exception that you step out of your everyday life to come back to it rejuvenated.



picturesque and spectacular landscape in Victoria. A rare experience, when a feeling of isolation from the rest of the world engulfed us, quite inevitably as we approached the property, a huge brick and timber double-story house standing strong in the middle

the large living room with a fireplace on one side and a long hand-crafted timber dining table resting on the other. Along with the setting sun crept a chill wiping out the warmth especially inside the bedrooms.

Sherin Fernando