

WELCOME NOTE (FEAT/YVRAT)

Version 5
21 Kilvington Drive, Emerald, Victoria 3782



Thank you for your enquiry. This note is to give you some information about your booking and the team. Yarra Valley Region Abseiling Team managed by First Emerald Abseiling Team is a Scout adventurous activity team and operates under the auspice of the 1st Emerald Scout Group as a Satellite Team of the Victorian Branch Abseiling Council.

Services, Costs, Payment and Cancellation

FEAT/YVRAT provides tower and rock face abseiling services to registered Scouts and promotes Scouting by providing services to non Scout bodies. We will abseil Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Rovers and Leaders. Joeys may not abseil. People undertaking abseiling are referred to as “students”. People onsite but not abseiling are referred to as “observers”.

FEAT/YVRAT is not for profit and aims to be cost neutral. To recover costs FEAT/YVRAT charges for services. FEAT/YVRAT aims to be self sufficient for registration, training and abseiling equipment maintenance and upgrade costs.

Service Catalogue:

- Casual abseiling on tower for a single pack/troop/unit/crew (up to 30 students) - \$8 per student per session (minimum charge is \$80).
- Casual abseiling on cliff / rock for a single pack/troop/unit/crew (up to 25 students) - \$30 per student per session (minimum charge is \$300).
- Scout Proficiency badge \$10 per student including pre-work kit and badge.
- Venturer Outdoors 2 service hours (post VBAC training) (\$nil).
- Tower only - \$250 for four hours.
- Major events – \$4 per student plus cost of rope (minimum charge is \$300 maximum charge is \$800) and see *Major Events Requirements & Costing Guide* below.

Note: Putting on a harness (Youth, Leader or Parent) triggers counting for payment.

Bookings: Contact our Booking Officer Matt Conway 5968 4083 (AH). Please provide a mobile phone number when you book.

Payment: is required at the end of the abseiling session. Payment by Pack/Troop/Unit/Group/Camp cheque is preferred, cash is acceptable but must be collected by leader and made as a single payment. Cheques are to be made payable to “First Emerald Abseiling Team”.

Discount: If you have a leader or youth in the FEAT/YVRAT team that regularly attends team activities then your group attracts a 10% discount.

You Cancel: If your circumstances change and you find you need to cancel your booking you must call the Booking Officer Matt Conway 5968 4083 (AH), 0449 954 623 or LIC Paul Pavlinovich on 5968 2572 (AH) or 0407 634 537 as soon as you can (before the day if possible). If you do not contact us and simply fail to turn up you will be billed for the minimum charge of \$80.

We Cancel: FEAT/YVRAT will only accept a booking if enough team members respond that they are available and commit. From time to time one or more of the team members may have to cancel. If they cannot be replaced then FEAT/YVRAT will cancel the activity. Where possible a booking will be cancelled in advance but be aware that this could happen on the day of the activity.

Cancel due to weather: For safety the activity will be cancelled by FEAT/YVRAT if the weather is unsuitable, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers may abseil during slight adverse conditions. Cubs may only abseil during fine weather. Do not assume your activity is cancelled for weather – we will contact you. The weather in the Dandenong Ranges is quite different to Melbourne.

Clothing

To avoid rope burns long pants and long sleeves are strongly advised. Natural fibres are best as other materials can melt. Long hair must be tied back and/or in a hair net (we supply). Sturdy footwear with closed toes and grippy soles must be worn. Runners are ok. Boots are better. Dress for the weather. Emerald is generally 4-5 degrees cooler than Melbourne. Jewellery must be removed or covered.

Safety

The abseiling team will give certain safety instructions on the day.

- These instructions must be obeyed. Failing to do so or acting in an unsafe manner will result in removal from the tower and/or site.
- All team members have the right to eject students from the tower / cliff.
- The Site Controller has the right to eject people from site.
- Except where part of a major event tower activities are limited to 30 students and natural face (cliff / rock) activities are limited to 25 students.
- Observers must remain reasonably quiet and are encouraged to utilise the hall facilities rather than stand around outside.
- Observers may not enter the abseiling area.
- Reasonable encouragement of abseiling youth is permitted, loud or abusive “encouragement” will lead to ejection from site.
- Students may self harness but must be checked by a team member before ascending the tower.

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- Only team members can hook a student to the rope.
- Only normal descents are allowed (no forward runs or pin drops).
- Tuck equipment into harness when climbing ladders.
- One at a time on ladder.
- Only wear gloves when descending on rope (not on ladder).
- No more than six people at a time on each tower platform.
- Be calm and quiet on tower and obey all instructions.

Insurance

The FEAT/YVRAT activities are covered under the Scouting Insurance Scheme. Non Scouting personnel are covered where the activity is in promotion of Scouting. We require that the leader making the booking makes themselves familiar with the cover as it is defined in the Info Book. The team does not undertake Non Scouting events.

Activities

All activities will conform to Branch rules and policies. All abseiling activities will conform to the VBAC rules, methods and policies as they are published in the VBAC Abseiling Manual. *Jumps such as forward runs, pin drops etc. are not permitted.*

Equipment & Facilities

FEAT/YVRAT provides all equipment for the activity. FEAT/YVRAT inspects the equipment regularly. You may use your own equipment providing it passes an inspection by our Site Controller and has the appropriate standards markings and you know how to use it.

The Wilson and Nunn tower at Emerald is 12 metres high and allows two ropes for simultaneous descents plus a third for emergencies.

1st Emerald Scout Hall is adjacent the tower, the group provides access to the toilet and kitchen facilities – please bring your own coffee and tea or other non alcoholic drinks. Limited cooking facilities are available.

When using foreign towers (e.g. Gilwell Park or Clifford Park) or natural sites the Site Controller will inspect the site prior to abseiling commencing. The event will only proceed if the site is considered safe.

Leaders

FEAT/YVRAT Leaders are trained by the VBAC. At least one fully qualified Activity Leader - Abseiling Guide or higher will be on site to operate the activity. Other Leaders onsite will at least have up to date abseiling qualifications from VBAC. There may be participant assistants on site who are undergoing their training, these team members operate only under direct supervision of a qualified member.

Responsibility For Youth / Duty of Care

Any activity at height is dangerous. The activity is planned and conducted to minimise risks. A Leader must attend with the Youth. The Duty of Care remains with the attending Leader. Abseiling is an adventurous activity. It is the attending Leader's responsibility to get parent and home group approval for the adventurous activity. FEAT/YVRAT is responsible for operation of the activity. FEAT/YVRAT will issue safety and conduct instructions that must be obeyed. Any student failing to follow these instructions must leave the tower.

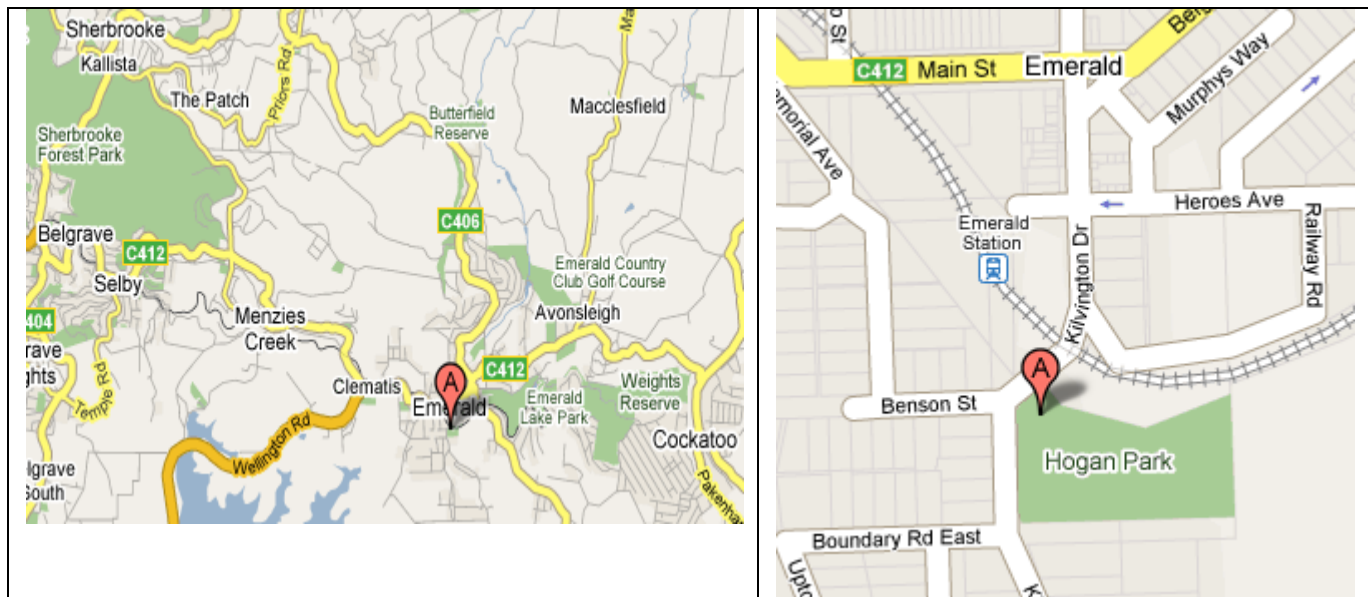
How To Get There

21 Kilvington Dr Emerald VIC 3782

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feat
First Emerald Abseiling Team
feat@emeraldscouts.org.au



Interested in joining FEAT/YVRAT?

We always welcome new members. We accept Venturer & Rover Youth as well as Adult Scouts. You MUST^{*} hold a VBAC Abseiling Participant, Abseiling Leader + Activity Guide, or Abseiling Leader + Activity Instructor qualification.

* You can work in the team under direct supervision without qualification, but MUST attend the first available qualifying course that runs. When working non qualified you MUST be supervised 1:1 by an abseiling qualified Activity Guide or Activity Instructor.

Please contact LIC Paul Pavlinovich 5968 2572 (home) or 0407 634 537 (mobile) for more information.

Major Events Requirements & Costing Guide

The cost of a major event depends on the number of youth abseiling and if any special equipment not owned by the team is needed. Ropes usually have to be retired after a major event and will be charged. Any equipment damaged during the event by students will be replaced at event cost.

As an indicative example:

For a 200 youth patrol activity camp at Gilwell your costs would be

Abseiling \$800

Rope (2 x 12m @ \$8/m) \$192

Total cost \$992.

Note: Rope prices change from time to time \$8/m is indicative.

You would also have site and tower fees payable to Gilwell Park.

To facilitate your event planning a cost will be pre-determined and agreed prior to the event.

Site Costs: Site costs must be covered by the event (e.g. tower or location fees payable to a camp site).

Accommodation: If the event spans multiple days the event facility is to provide accommodation should any team member desire it without charge.

Food and drink: If the proposed event is more than four hours a meal is to be provided for each four hours to each team member. Water and access to hot drink making facilities is to be provided for the duration of the event.

Gate Entry: The team and support personnel are to be allowed to enter the event free of charge.

Abseiling Support Caravan: From time to time we may bring a caravan to the site where facilities are limited.