

For immediate circulation

MEDIA RELEASE

Take a trip, from *River to Rainforest*

After months of preparation by several Franklin businesses, this brand new experience is ready to tell you the story of the infamous Huon Pine, from *river to rainforest*.

Over the Easter break (27th and 28th March) *River to Rainforest* opens its doors for the first time, offering you a special 10% discount.

Surrounding lush hills of temperate rainforest first fuelled the passion of pioneers whose skills survive today in Franklin's centuries-old ship-building traditions.

Wooden boats built here today use scarce remnants of 2,000 year-old Huon Pine. Famous for being lightweight, durable and craft-worthy, "Piners" would risk life and limb to navigate the most inaccessible stretches of river for this valuable timber resource.

Franklin is still world famous as a working centre for wooden boat building with Huon Pine.

On your day out you will meet and learn from craftsmen and women, absorbing the pine's unique aroma, as you watch boats being built, before enjoying a calm-water sail on a traditional two-masted wooden sailing vessel.

You'll taste cider produced and exported by a local family who are descendants of Franklin's earliest settler - and have a rare old Huon Pine visible in their garden - which will be pointed out to during the sail. At lunch you will savour cider over a meal of fresh local produce in the local museum and café.

After lunch, you'll travel upriver to the airwalk at Tahune. Situated on the banks of one of Tasmania's last truly wild and powerful rivers, you'll witness huge flood-wrenched Huon Pine logs washed high above the waterline. Here you can drink in the romantic aspect of the Huon and Picton rivers up close, take a guided walk to a rare living stand of Huon Pines, and experience dramatic views from the elevated treetop walk and swinging bridge.

These surrounding hills feed the Huon River's sparkling, tannin-stained waters and are the source of the Huon Pine, lovingly crafted by Franklin's boat-building artisans.

More information

Your trip begins at the Wooden Boat Centre in Franklin at 9:30am. It is self-drive and includes entry and tour of the Wooden Boat Centre, a calm water sail on the Huon River, lunch, morning tea / coffee and entry to the Tahune Airwalk. Note, bookings must be made at least 24 hours in advance.

Website

<http://rivertorainforest.com.au/>

Contact

Karen Fraser

Tel: +61 (0) 406 125 472

Email: karen@karenfraser.com.au

Images

See attached