



The Mt Buller Gnome Roam

*Come and take a walk
with Mt Buller's little folk!*



Mt Buller



The Mt Buller gnomes are happy little people who enjoy having fun and helping out when needed. The gnomes built their first house at Mt Buller about 8 years ago, when they came to help protect the Mountain Pygmy-possums, and they have stayed ever since.

Gnomes are evening and night people. At the very time when you are getting ready to go to sleep at night, gnomes are just beginning to get up. That is why they are very hard to spot during the day.

The Mt Buller gnome is between 15-30 cm tall, and weighs about as much as a ski boot. Male gnomes wear colourful clothes and a red cap, while female gnomes prefer earthy colours. A male gnome will generally wear a small tool-belt around his waist, just in case something needs fixing.

All gnomes wear caps and the caps are very important. A gnome child receives a cap when they are very young and keeps it throughout their life.

Would you like to see a Mt Buller gnome for yourself? Then why not go on a Gnome Roam and see what you can find!

Make sure you have your gnome booklet before you start. Gnomes will then know that you are looking for them. If the gnomes think you are being good they will begin to let themselves be seen.

Good luck!

Gnome Fact Number 1

Gnome families have two children, twins - a boy and a girl. Every time a gnome child is born a tree is planted. As gnomes don't have birthdays, they use their birth tree to see how old they are. Gnome children are always very helpful and their main job at home is to set the table for dinner.

Gnome Fact Number 2

Gnomes have two main celebrations during the year. At the beginning of each winter they hold a snow dance that all the Alpine gnomes come to, which ensures there will be lots of snowfalls during winter. Christmas is celebrated in all gnome homes and it lasts an entire month. At the start of each New Year the gnomes sing this little song:

"May this year be full of proud deeds and silly games, beautiful songs and hearty feasts, clever jokes, loving friends, and enough surprises to keep us on our toes."

Gnome Fact Number 3

Gnomes can live up to 400 years old and that is why they have such long white beards. They lead healthy lives, don't eat too much and get plenty of exercise.

Gnome Fact Number 4

Gnomes are not fond of feral domestic cats at all. The feral domestic cat is not a natural wild animal and they hunt and kill the native animals. Gnomes do not find them to be trustworthy at all. They are always very cautious whenever a feral domestic cat is around.

Gnome Fact Number 5

Trolls are another enemy of the gnomes, but there are not many on Mt Buller as trolls do not like the snow. They are so heavy and clumsy they fall over in the snow and get really grumpy. Even more grumpy than they normally are! Trolls try to eat gnomes and trolls do not brush their teeth. YUCK!







A photograph of a park with trees and a path. A gnome is sitting on a tree branch in the upper left. In the bottom right, a family of four is walking away from the camera on a path. The text 'Gnome Trail Stops' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Gnome Trail Stops

Use the Gnome Trail map to find your way around the Mt Buller Village. It shows you where all the main gnome stops are and also points out other great things to see at Mt Buller.



This icon identifies locations on the trail where, if you are lucky, you may spot a gnome.

1. **'Weather Gnome'. Situated on the Clock Tower balcony.**



Head towards the Clock Tower in the Village Square and look up at the balcony. The weather gnome lives here all year long making sure the time is always right for having fun. The temperature must be checked every day so it is cold enough for the snow to fall, and just right in summer.

Can you tell the time? What time is it? _____

What is the temperature? _____

2. **Mountain Pygmy-possum Habitat.**

A few steps past the Clock Tower is the Village Mountain Pygmy-possum habitat. This is an example of where Pygmy-possums like to live.

If you look really closely you may see some stone Pygmy-possums hiding amongst the rocks. (Gnomes are very protective of the Pygmy-possum and as this area is very busy, the gnomes made these possums out of stone for us).

How many possums can you find? _____

3. **Horse Statue.**

Why not have your mum or dad take your photo while you are sitting with the mountain cattleman on his horse? This statue represents the mountain cattlemen of Victoria's High Country. The ski runs on Mt Buller were originally used as trails by the cattlemen driving their herds up to the high mountain pastures in summer.

4. **A gnome in the tree with a nesting box.**



Gnomes love all animals (except for cats and trolls who try to eat them!).

They take care of animals, speak their language and understand their problems.

All animals feel safe with a gnome and trust them. They'll try to heal any animal that has been neglected or hurt. Watch out anyone who hurts animals: a gnome is seven times stronger than a human, and can pack quite a wallop!

Can you find the gnome who is protecting the native bird nesting box?

5. Playground in the Magic Forest – find the picture of Barry.

This playground is too big for gnomes but it is the perfect size for you!
Can you find the picture of Barry the Mountain Pygmy-possum on the side of the playground?

What colour is Barry's jacket? _____

6. Trees in the Magic Forest – Find the gnomes' playground!



Gnome children - like every child - love to swing. There is always a place in the trees to attach the ropes. Ssssh! Be very quite and you might be able to see the gnomes on their swings.

How many can you see? _____

They are also fond of flying kites, dressing up, and love the rough and tumble of tug of war which can be enjoyed at all times of the year – even when there is snow on the ground.

7. Buller Kids Centre.



Gnome parents are very careful about teaching their gnome children to be snow safe. All gnomes know how to ski and snowboard and every gnome child has ski school lessons. As gnomes are very small they all wear helmets to protect their heads when skiing or snowboarding. Some gnome children even have a special gnome cap just for skiing or snowboarding that fits over their helmets.

Can you spot the Kids Centre gnome? _____

8. Follow footprints back along the wooden fence towards Village Centre.

Footprints left by a gnome are very rare – if you can find them! Gnomes are very clever at disguising their foot prints and so as not to leave a trail they sometimes walk around in a circle to confuse you. When they have to walk on bare ground they paint a bird foot pattern on the sole of their shoes.

Do you think it is a bird or a gnome that walked past? _____

Can you follow the trail to the rubbish hut? _____

9. Environmental Gnome - stop at the garbage hut.



Gnomes believe in using natural energy and not wasting earth's resources. A tall tree waving in the wind is a source of power for the gnome's home. Gnomes are very concerned about global warming and do their best to recycle and reuse. The red lid on a bin means the bin is for garbage and the yellow lid means the bin is for things that can be recycled, like soft drink bottles and cans.

Can you find the environmental gnome? _____

10. Follow in the footsteps of the old mountain cattlemen to Cow Camp building, then along the outside walkway to the stairs.

11. Upstairs and across the bridge to chapel.

Gnomes love bridges. They also like to climb rope ladders, and wooden ones too.

12. Statues out the front of Chapel.



Can you see the statue of a young girl throwing a snowball? Imagine where the snowball would fall. Gnomes like to play football with snow balls, so they often hang around this area.

Can you find the football-mad gnome who lives in the Chapel? _____

13. Enjoy the view from the Chapel Steps.

Take a photo of the ski runs. When you get home, show your friends the photo and they will want to come to Mt Buller too!

14. Head to the Police Station to view the safety gnome.



Mt Buller's gnomes are very helpful. They often head to the police station to assist the police officers with their daily tasks. As they often climb trees, they are great at keeping an eye on the Mt Buller Village.

Is there a gnome helping out the police today? _____

15. Walk down Chamois Close.

Do you know the name the Chairlift on the left? _____

16. Go round to the CFA Fire Station.



Everyone knows that a bushfire is very dangerous for humans and gnomes. Gnomes help by putting out small bushfires that may start when everyone is asleep. But how they do it without fire fighting equipment is their special secret. Can you see the gnome fire fighters that sit in the window?

Count the fire engines in the station. How many are there? _____

17. Congratulations – you have finished the Gnome Roam!

If you've found all of the gnomes and answered all of the questions in this book, head to the Mt Buller Post Office to collect your special Gnome Roam sticker.

mtbuller.com.au

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