



The Mt Buller Gnome Roam

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





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 more than 20 years ago when they came to help protect the Mountain Pygmy-possums, and they have stayed ever since.

Gnomes are evening and night people. When you are getting ready to go to sleep at night, gnomes are just getting 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.

Did you know a gnome is seven times stronger than a human?

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 these 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?

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 let themselves be seen.



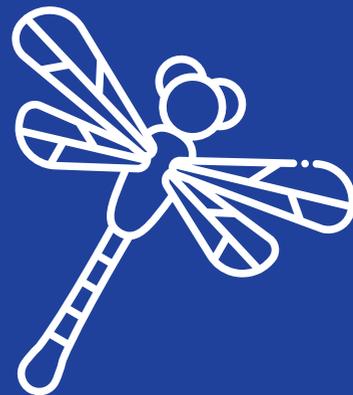
Gnome facts...



Gnome families have two children, twins - a boy and a girl. A tree is planted every time a gnome child is born. 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.

Gnomes have two main celebrations each year. At the beginning of winter they hold a snow dance that all the Alpine gnomes attend. This helps to ensure there will be lots of snow falling 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 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.



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

Trolls and gnomes don't like each other, but you won't find many trolls on Mt Buller as they don't like the cold. They are so heavy and clumsy they fall over in the snow and get really grumpy. Trolls try to eat gnomes and they don't brush their teeth. YUCK!





FINISH... 17

START... 17

SUMMIT ROAD

TO MANSFIELD AND MELBOURNE...

GOODBYE!

STIRLING

Mt. Buller
Gnome Trail

betina guthridges

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Gnome Trail Stops



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

1. Village gnome.

The Clock Tower is home to the Village gnome. This gnome has a very special job at Mt Buller – making sure there is music playing in the Village every day.

Head towards the Clock Tower and look up at the window.

Can you see the Village gnome? Yes No

What is your favourite song? _____

2. Mountain Pygmy-possum habitat.

On the other side of the Clock Tower is the Village Mountain Pygmy-possum habitat. This rock wall is an example of where Pygmy-possums like to live.

Gnomes are very protective of the Pygmy-possum and, as this area is very busy, the possums spend time in the Clock Tower visiting the Village Gnome.

Look up at the window in the Clock Tower.

How many possums can you see? _____

What do you think we should name them? _____

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 who drove 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 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?

Yes No

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. Ssshhh! Be very quiet 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. All gnomes 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? Yes No

8. Follow the fence back towards the village.

Footprints left by a gnome are very rare – if you can find them! Gnomes are very clever at disguising their footprints 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.

Can you find any gnome footprints? Yes No

Follow the trail to the rubbish hut? Yes No

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 a 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, the yellow lid means the bin is for things that can be recycled including plastic and metal containers, paper and cardboard. A purple bin is for glass and a green bin is for scraps and garden organics.

Can you find the environmental gnome? Yes No

10. Follow in the footsteps of the old mountain cattlemen to Village Square Plaza, then along the outside walkway to the stairs.

11. Head upstairs and go across the bridge to the Alpine Chapel.

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

12. Statues out the front of the Alpine 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 snowballs, so they often hang around this area.

Can you find the football-mad gnome who lives in the Chapel? Yes No

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 up the street 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? Yes No

15. Walk down Chamois Close.

Do you know the name of the chairlift on the left? _____

16. Go 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 firefighting equipment is their special secret.

Can you see the gnome firefighters that sit in the window? Yes No

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

17. Congratulations – you have finished the Gnome Roam!

If you found all the gnomes and answered all 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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