

Bush Club FAQ

Joint Walks and associated issues

1. With whom can joint walks be conducted?

Joint walks can be listed on the program of The Bush Club only if they are held in conjunction with another club that:

- agrees to joint walks;
- is affiliated with the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs, and
- holds appropriate insurances (check at <http://www.bushwalking.org.au/clubs.html>).

If this is not the case, the activity cannot be listed as a Bush Club event.

2. To whom is the leader accountable on joint walks?

There can be only one leader, and that leader must be a member of the respective clubs, and authorised by the clubs through listing of the joint walk on the walks programs (or as a short notice walk).

3. Does the activity need to be advertised as a joint walk?

Yes, The Bush Club will advertise joint walks as such, and with whom they are being held. It is important that members are aware of the arrangements that will apply, especially when there may be participants from other than The Bush Club.

4. What sign-on form is used?

It is absolutely essential that prior to the commencement of the walk, everyone participating completes, as a minimum, the sign-on form for the club of which they are a member (or guest). The leader provides the form. Without it both the member and the leader may be vulnerable to claims, and not protected by relevant insurance arrangements. Completion of the form is absolutely essential to ensure the protection of all.

5. Where participants are members of both clubs, do they sign both forms?

Participants need sign only one form, but if they are members of both clubs, they can sign both forms (and perhaps should be encouraged to do so if this can make it a qualifying walk for a prospective member).

6. Whose requirements and guidelines apply and take precedence (eg. re guests, children, abseiling, group size, etc)?

If the walk is a joint walk with The Bush Club, then the requirements and guidelines of The Bush Club are to apply, as a minimum. If the requirements of the other club are more stringent in any respect, then they are to apply.

7. What if there are people of age under 18 years participating as guests?

The Bush Club does not prevent the attendance of those under 18 as guests, ie. attending at the invitation of and under the care and responsibility of a Bush Club member, with the approval of the leader.

8. If a joint walk proceeds with less than four Bush Club members but with Bush Club prospective members, can it be a Bush Club qualifying walk?

A walk that proceeds with at least four members or prospective members of The Bush Club can be considered an official Bush Club activity and a qualifying walk.

9. Can a prospective member lead a Bush Club walk?

No, a prospective member is not eligible to lead a Bush Club walk. However, a prospective member may be a co-leader of a Bush Club walk.

10. If a joint walk proceeds with a number of Bush Club members who are also members of another club, but who don't sign the Bush Club form, can it still be a Bush Club qualifying walk?

No, the Bush Club sign-on form needs to be signed by at least four members or prospective members of The Bush Club.

11. What are the implications if Bush Club requirements and guidelines are not followed?

If club requirements and guidelines are not followed and there is an incident involving a claim, then there is a risk that the leader, another club member or the club itself may be held accountable. It is important that the requirements and guidelines are followed so that cover under the Bush Club's liability policy may protect all three.

12. Can the qualifying status of Bush Club walks be applied or rescinded retrospectively?

- In the interest of fairness and equity to all members, the qualifying status of a walk cannot be changed after it is first advertised.
- If fewer than four members or prospective members of The Bush Club participate in a walk that is advertised as a qualifying walk, then the activity cannot be an official Bush Club walk, and the qualifying status cannot apply and will be rescinded.

13. What's the position with private trips by members of The Bush Club that are not advertised?

Members of The Bush Club who wish to lead a private trip of at least two Bush Club members or prospective members (eg. to explore or reconnoitre for a future Club walk) can give prior notice of that trip to the Walks Secretary, and qualify for insurance cover. However, such trips cannot be qualifying walks.

John Cooper
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