

THE BUSH CLUB INC.

GUIDELINES for WALK PARTICIPANTS

Every person participating in any activity organised by or with the involvement of The Bush Club Inc. does so at his or her risk and by participating, acknowledges that neither The Bush Club Inc. nor its office-bearers or its activity leaders have accepted any responsibility or liability for any damage to property or for any death or injury suffered and that he or she will take all responsibility for any person under 18 years of age invited by him or her to participate in any activity organised by or with the involvement of The Bush Club Inc.

GENERAL:

Walkers should carry a small first aid kit, matches and torch, and come suitably equipped with strong walking shoes, a rucksack, hat, rain gear, and water. Members are also encouraged to carry map and compass and become proficient in their use. With experience gained in club walks it is expected that members will become **walks leaders** and/or office-bearers.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Phone **131 500** to check train, bus and ferry times. **Timetables are sometimes altered at short notice**. If the train is not running to timetable or if there is any doubt, contact leader. Traditionally, Bush Club members travel in the second railway carriage upper level, unless otherwise advised.

ENQUIRIES:

Enquiries about a walk should be directed to the leader. In times of bush fires check news services and/or NPWS re closures of parks or access roads. Phone leader if unsure.

GUIDE TO GRADING OF WALKS

Please read our Grading Guidelines. [Click here](http://www.bushclub.org.au/down/NewGradingGuide.pdf) if online or go to <http://www.bushclub.org.au/down/NewGradingGuide.pdf>

LEADERS:

All day walks must be held unless conditions are unsafe.

A minimum of four (4), including leader, is required for a Club walk. If fewer than four, including leader, a walk, if continued, is not an official Club activity. However, if a publicised but unofficial walk is continued as a private walk it will still be covered by Bush Club insurance.

If a leader is unable to lead his/her walk, he/she should arrange for a substitute leader and inform the Walks Secretary accordingly. For a non-contact leader walk, the leader (or substitute) must travel to the starting point of the walk.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

must *phone the leader* before attending any walk; they are advised to commence with Easy to Medium grade walks.

VISITORS

Visitors may take part in walks only if invited by a full member (who must be present on the walk) and subject to the leader's prior approval. Approval should be requested by the member, not the visitor. A leader has the right to refuse to take visitors on walks. Visitors will be granted temporary club membership to enable them to take part in the activity.

SEARCH & RESCUE:

Contact the police or other emergency agency only if life or limb is endangered.

In the event of a party being overdue, or some other incident, please 'phone the following Bush Club contacts - Graham Conden 0418 647 951, Keith Maxwell 0431 262 101 or Dick Weston 4753 1003.

In the event of a party being overdue, or some other incident, contact may also be made with the Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue by phoning **132 222**. Ask the operator to page **627 7321**, leave your message and a return telephone number. If no reply within fifteen (15) minutes please call again and repeat the message.

NOTES FOR WALKS PARTICIPANTS

PRIOR TO WALK

- Meeting arrangements for walks – If there is any doubt about the time or place, please clarify the details with the leader.
- Ensure you are on time, as leaders are not obliged to wait beyond the advertised time.
- Ensure that you are fit enough for the degree of difficulty of the walk. If in doubt discuss with the leader well prior to the walk.
- Carry sufficient water for conditions of walk. Generally a minimum of one litre or two litres or more in hotter conditions.
- Ensure you are suitably equipped including first aid kit, sun cream, hat, rain gear and appropriate clothing and footwear. A map and compass may also enhance your enjoyment of the walk.
- Sign-on for walks – For your own protection, it is absolutely essential that you complete the Bush Club sign-on form prior to the commencement of each walk. The leader will provide the form. Without it both the member and the leader may be vulnerable to claims, and not protected by the Bush Club insurance arrangements
- Remember to bring a sense of humour and adventure. Our leaders are volunteers so please remember to be patient and kind.

DURING THE WALK

- Be prepared to follow the leader's instructions. Remember the leader has your welfare at heart.
- Generally you should not leave the walk early, but if it is necessary you must advise the leader and if requested, sign off on the attendance form.
- Do not allow yourself to become separated from the group. If experiencing any difficulty such as pace, blisters, shortage of water, advise the leader **immediately**.
- As a courtesy and for safety reasons you should not generally walk ahead of the leader. At the same time you should not walk at the leader's elbow the whole time. Allow others to also enjoy walking with the leader.
- It is your responsibility to allow sufficient distance between yourself and the walker in front so that you are not injured by branches flicking back.
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AT THE END OF THE WALK

- Ensure the leader is aware you have made it to the end.
- Remember to thank the leader.

CAR COST SHARE

See the website Noticeboard or current Walks programme. Costs sometimes change with the petrol prices.

SUGGESTIONS TO HELP YOU PACK FOR A DAY WALK

Bush Club members are independent walkers; responsible for their own well being and safety. The following list is provided as a guideline only. It is designed to help you get started when packing for a day walk. The list is neither comprehensive nor prescriptive. It is a starting point to assist new walkers with their own decision making. However, consider all essential items carefully in relation to: walk location, conditions, weather and leaders' comments when you contact them.

ESSENTIAL ALL YEAR Fully enclosed footwear+ <i>and</i>	<i>and</i> ESSENTIAL <i>for</i> WINTER WALKING & MOUNTAINS in COOL WEATHER	<i>and</i> ESSENTIAL <i>for</i> SUMMER WALKING	OPTIONAL
<p>Backpack large enough to carry the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water: minimum 1 litre, but amount will vary depending on the season and the difficulty of the walk. If in doubt, then call the leader. • Lunch and snacks ++ • First aid kit, including bandage and any personal medication • Whistle • Money +++ • Toilet paper • Rain jacket; minimum lightweight plastic poncho. • Matches or cigarette lighter, waterproof pkg • Sun hat • Sun block • Pack liner or pack cover • LED head torch and spare batteries (for longer/remote walks) 	<p>Take 'essential all year items' plus clothes that will keep you warm when wet, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fleece jacket • Beanie, gloves • extra thermal top and bottoms • Rain jacket (good quality) and over-pants 	<p>Take 'essential all year items' plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra water (suggest: 3 litres) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant map and compass • Tissues • Insect repellent (summer) • Mobile phone • Change of clothes in the car (in case of rain in winter) • Compact umbrella • Gaiters & gardening gloves (rough 'off track' walking) • Toilet trowel/hand wash • Salt for leeches (or cramp relief) • Seat pad for lunch stops • Plastic bag for rubbish etc. • Camera • Binoculars • GPS and spare batteries
	<p>+ Sturdy with good grip ++ Your hunger may surprise you +++ For expenses such as shared transport costs</p>		

