



THE BUSH CLUB INC.

Information for Prospective Members

The Bush Club is a bushwalking club founded in 1939. It has a membership of around 800. Many of our members are very experienced bushwalkers and have a wealth of knowledge of the bush around Sydney and further afield which they are happy to share with new members. The main attribute we seek in new members is enthusiasm for bushwalking. Younger members are particularly welcome but the Club caters for all adult ages. We have a minimum age limit of 18 years. The Club is affiliated with the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs (NSW) Inc and with a number of other organisations concerned with preservation of the bushland environment.

WALKS PROGRAM

A wide variety of bushwalks is included in the program. Most walks are one-day walks but there are also walks to more remote areas or over longer distances where the walk will take two or more days and members carry a full pack and camp overnight. Some trips comprise a series of one-day walks with a fixed camp; others involve moving between camps by car and there are some based on indoor overnight accommodation. The Club's activities, while concentrated around the Sydney region where most of our members live, extend over most of the attractive and interesting bushland areas of New South Wales and even interstate.

A Walks Schedule setting out the details of forthcoming walks is issued to members every three months. We also have email-based short notice walks whereby additional walks are notified at short notice to those members and prospectives wishing to be included on the circulation list.

The full walks program including short notice walks is available on the website.

You will also find the walk grading system on our website, under Information – Walking and Activities.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

First-aid courses and Instruction in map-reading and bush navigation using map and compass are provided on occasional training days and weekends. Experienced leaders are happy to pass on their knowledge of bushcraft.

TRANSPORT

Walks are often arranged so that members can use public transport whenever practicable and often this is the most convenient way to travel to and from walks. When public transport is not practicable, members' cars are used; leaders organise car-sharing arrangements and costs are shared according to a recommended formula. See website: Information – Walking and Activities – Sharing transport costs.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

The leaders of Club walks are all volunteers from among the membership. We encourage new members to lead walks as soon as they feel confident to do so. Some walks are designated LTW (Leadership Training Walks) where aspiring leaders are trained and given experience on walks leadership during an actual walk. We also run occasional Leadership Training courses. However, you don't need to do any training if you feel confident about leading.



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From the membership we also need to recruit people to hold positions on the Committee, the body responsible for the management of Club affairs.

JOINING THE BUSH CLUB

A person seeking to become a Member must become a Prospective Member by sending an application with the required fee (see below) to the Membership Secretary who will enroll the applicant. Prospective members may participate in all activities of the Club including attending (but not voting at) general meetings. They are not restricted to attending particular walks.

However, **in all cases Prospective Members are required to contact the leader of each walk**, using the preferred means (email or phone), to obtain the leader's permission, before they can take part in the activity. The leader may ask about the Prospective Member's bushwalking experience, level of fitness, etc., so as to assess his or her ability to complete the walk.

Prospective Members become eligible to apply for full membership by satisfactorily completing three membership qualifying walks. These are walks specifically designated as such with an M on the Walks Program. They are Grade 3 or higher. KEEP A RECORD OF THESE (date, route, leader) to include in your full application. (To help you, there is a form to print, but not submit: Website – Information – Information for Prospectives – Qualifying Walks Record).

The three qualifying walks must be DIFFERENT walks and WITH THREE DIFFERENT LEADERS from our walks program. However, you are welcome to attend any number of walks, qualifying or not.

The rule above applies only from the time the rule was pulished ie 12 June 2020. Qualifying M walks completed prior to the policy change will be admitted, regardless of whether they were with the same leader or not.

If an Application to become a Full Member of The Bush Club includes any Qualifying Walks completed before the Walks Program was suspended due to Covid restrictions (on 25 March 2020) then all the Qualifying Walks being claimed must have taken place no longer than 14 months before the date of Application.

To book on a walk or other activity:

1. From the Walks Program, choose an activity that is of interest to you and WITHIN YOUR ABILITY.
2. Get in touch with the leader of that activity, as early as possible, using the preferred contact listed on the walks program (email or phone).
3. State that you want to join that activity and THAT YOU ARE A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER.
4. If the walk is Grade 3 or higher, provide a BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE WALKS THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED OVER THE LAST TWO or THREE MONTHS.

Occasionally a walk does not attract enough walkers (4) to be an official club walk. In that case it will not be counted as a qualifying walk. You can still go on the walk if the leader decides to go ahead.

The Membership fee lasts for a full 12 months before renewal is required. There is no compulsion to become a Full Member within this time but it is encouraged. However, if necessary, prospective membership can be renewed for a further twelve months on payment of the annual prospective membership fee of \$25.



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The Club recommends that Prospective Members build up to the level of fitness required by first going on a series of easier walks, not necessarily qualifying walks, rather than attempting walks that may be beyond their capabilities. The Membership Secretary will be happy to suggest a program of easier walks from the Schedule if asked to do so.

Prospective Members should recognise that bushwalking is a fairly strenuous activity; people who have not been exercising regularly or who have a medical condition affecting their fitness are urged to consult their doctor before walking with us.

Applications for membership from Prospective Members who have completed their three qualifying walks are to be sent to the Membership Secretary: (Website – Information – Information for Prospectives – Application for full membership) and will be considered by the Membership Sub-Committee.

FEES

Fees are based on a single membership. The fees currently are \$25 per person.

Membership runs for a year from date of joining.

Prospective members

Prospective members may apply for full membership at any time after completing three qualifying walks (designed M in the walks program).

Full Membership

Annual Subscription for full year from joining or renewal date: \$25

For further information contact the Membership Secretary, John Hungerford 9498 6635 or email bushclubmembership@gmail.com