



GENERAL INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

carry it in, you can carry it out" applies to all areas we visit. Tins and other non-combustible containers should always be carried out, and should not be buried as was once the practice. Do not burn packaging containing aluminium foil (e.g. "Poppers") in campfires.

4 Minimum impact bushwalking. Our general aim is to leave the areas we visit undisturbed, as close to their pristine condition as possible. Some principles embodied in this philosophy include:

- Carry tent poles; never cut them from the bush.
- Do not disturb any animal or plant life.
- Do not pollute creeks or lakes with soap, detergents or shampoos.
- Use wood fires only if dead wood can be readily collected.
- Do not damage standing vegetation (alive or dead) to collect firewood.
- Don't carry machetes, or cut or mark tracks.
- Take stringent precautions to ensure fire safety.

5 Bushwalking Spirit. To develop your relationships with other bushwalkers, respect their wishes for a harmonious environment. Bushwalkers prefer to hear the sounds of the natural bush inhabitants, not radios or raucous behaviour.

- Insect repellent, especially if leeches may be a problem.
- Rain jacket or wet weather gear.
- Pullover/light sweater or other warm clothing for winter trips and even summer trips in mountain areas.
- Personal items, e.g. toilet paper, camera.
- Safety items: as a standard safety practice, we recommend that all trip members carry a torch, small first aid kit, compass, and their own map in a waterproof map case or clear plastic bag.

SOME ADDITIONAL GEAR FOR BASE CAMPS

- Camping gear (tent, groundsheet, tent poles and pegs, sleeping bags, inner sheet).
- Food (most meals you have at home can be prepared on a base camp).
- Cooking and eating utensils may include cutlery, a cup, plate, bowl, can opener, billy, frying pan, a small ice box and, if possible, a gas or fuel stove.

POINTS TO REMEMBER ON OUTINGS

- 1 Be punctual. If you are unable to attend for some unforeseen reason, please telephone the leader or Outings Secretary and cancel your nomination as soon as possible.
- 2 All reasonable directions by the trip leader should be followed. If you wish to leave the main party (e.g. to go home early) it is essential to explain the problem and seek the leader's agreement.
- 3 Rubbish. The motto "if you can

The Bushwalkers of Southern Queensland Inc is one of the major bushwalking clubs in south east Queensland. It was started in 1964 by a group of friends who regularly visited Binna Burra. Nowadays it is based in Brisbane and offers activities throughout south east Queensland and north east New South Wales. The aims of the Club include:

- encouraging bushwalking for recreation;
- providing regular meetings and activities for bushwalkers;
- supporting and promoting preservation and conservation activities.

MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, starting at 7.30 pm. We meet at the Little Kings Hall, Carl St (corner of O'Keefe St), Buranda. There is parking in the grounds and in Carl St. Entertainment such as members' slides or a guest speaker begins each meeting. A light supper is provided afterwards.

OUR MEMBERSHIP

Our membership is diverse. Some members prefer easier day walks, while many family members favour base camps (camping near vehicles) allowing a weekend to be spent in the bush with different walks available each day. Other members are

interested primarily in harder trips. On throughwalks or "backpacking" trips, camping gear and supplies need to be carried for the whole weekend. We try to cater for this great range of interests by offering a large diversity of outings. Total membership is currently about 90.

WHERE DO WE WALK?

Our main region of activity lies between Fraser Island and northern New South Wales, extending west to Stanthorpe and the Bunya Mountains. Occasionally trips will be organised further afield for long weekends and extended holidays. Some members also organise special extended trips to distant parts of Australia and New Zealand.

WHAT TYPES OF WALKS?

Usually there are walks on most weekends of the month, but the type and frequency of walks vary with the season. In the hotter months the trips are easier, and involve mainly rainforest and creek activities. In the cooler months there is an increase in the number of throughwalks and other harder trips. Commonly in winter there would be half a dozen or more trips per month, including at least one daywalk, base camp and throughwalk. Most walks are "off the beaten track", but there are occasional graded track walks. Attendance on outings normally

varies between 10 and 25.

HOW DIFFICULT?

Walks vary in difficulty and cater for a range of abilities. We try to ensure that at least one walk per month (often the first or second weekend after the meeting) is suitable for beginners. We also encourage new members to try a few easier walks before attempting harder trips, especially if they haven't tried bushwalking before. **N.B.** If an outing is particularly hard, some trip leaders will not accept nominations from new members unless they have attended several previous outings, since it is necessary for leaders to be confident about the abilities of party members.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

As well as bushwalks, the Club offers occasional canoe trips, bike rides, safety and training days, and has a limited social programme.

HOW TO JOIN

We prefer people to come to a meeting first and talk to our New Members Officer. You need to complete three bushwalks as a probationary member before you can apply to become an ordinary member. This helps you to assess whether you like bushwalking and the Club. Current membership fees are \$17.50 probationary member, \$35 single ordinary member, \$55 joint ordinary members (2 people living in the same household). **Financial members only are covered by insurance.** Members need to be at least 18 years of age, although members' children are welcome on some Club outings if accompanied by a parent and with the approval of the trip leader.

SPECIAL INFORMATION ABOUT TRIPS

NOMINATION PROCEDURES

It is necessary to nominate for trips. This can be done at meetings (the Outings Secretary has forms), or by telephoning the trip leader listed in the club magazine. Give your name, address, telephone number and transport needs (the leader usually arranges car sharing). You should discuss any special concerns with the trip leader, who can advise you on what equipment to take. The usual nomination deadline is the Tuesday night prior to the outing, but earlier nomination is preferred, especially for throughwalks. Nomination deadlines may be brought forward if the trip arrangements are complicated.

TRIP COSTS

Passengers share driver petrol costs. The method of calculating the contribution by each passenger is contained in Club rules and is based on the number of kilometres travelled. The fee is between \$8 and \$20 for the majority of trips. Petrol costs for forthcoming trips are usually advised in the Club newsletter. National Park and State Forest camping fees often apply for overnight trips. On some outings it is necessary to pay these fees at the time of nomination, or direct to the authority concerned.

INSURANCE

The Club carries Personal Accident and Public Liability Insurance which covers financial members only who are participating in official Club events. Visitors and members' children are not covered by the Club's Insurance Policy. Children may attend as a visitor

if accompanied at all times by their legal guardian and with the approval of the trip leader.

RESPONSIBILITY

Club activities are a co-operative effort, and participants take responsibility for their own safety just as they would on privately organised trips. All members and visitors take part in activities at their own risk, and need to use care, common sense and judgement.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

You should advise the trip leader if you have any special medical conditions which could possibly affect you or others on the outing. However, acceptance of your nomination for a trip does not imply acceptance of any responsibility by the Club or trip leaders with regard to any medical conditions. Leaders and Club members are not qualified in this regard, and usually must rely on your own judgement about your ability to undertake the trip. It is necessary to advise the leader so that somebody is aware of the situation in case of an accident, and so the leader knows to consult you if you may be affected by any decisions or arrangements on the trip.

DELAYED OUTINGS/

EMERGENCY OFFICERS

Occasionally trips are delayed due to unforeseen circumstances, resulting in party members returning late. To alleviate the concerns of relatives in these circumstances, certain members of the Club are appointed as Emergency Officers to receive messages from parties in the field and answer enquiries from relatives and

friends. These Emergency Officers (also called Contact Officers) are listed in the inside front cover of the newsletter, and it is suggested you give this list to a household member, relative or friend before an outing.

SAFETY AND TRAINING

From time to time the Club holds "Safety and Training" events. These provide opportunities for both new and existing members to learn about such topics as navigation, first aid and survival in the bush. It is important for all members to have some knowledge of these matters. A new member should attend at least one S & T event in their first year.

GEAR FOR DAY WALKS AND

BASE CAMPS

Unless you already have substantial bushwalking experience, it is recommended that your first trip with the Club be either a day walk or a base camp.

DAY WALKS

• **Clothing.** Most bushwalkers prefer shorts and a loose shirt. Long trousers are suitable in cooler weather if they are sufficiently loose not to impede movement. Jeans are often too tight.

- Day pack.
- Walking boots or good running shoes.
- Hat (a wide brim for open areas; army "giggle" hats usually suffice in forested areas).
- Water bottle (at least two litres; more in hot weather).
- Lunch (e.g. sandwiches).
- Snack food (chocolate, nuts, fruit, dried fruit, lollies, tea, coffee, etc.).
- Sunscreen.