

# NORTH WEST WALKING CLUB



## Information sheet for Prospective members

*(Please read and ask questions as required!)*

*Information notes: Part A  
Revision 3 11/10/08*

### INTRODUCTION

Walking is perhaps the greatest enjoyment that can be had in the open air.

There is a "Guide to Bushwalking for Prospective members" booklet prepared for those who have had little or no experience in bushwalking, but is not intended as a complete guide to the activity. It is available from the Membership Officer or Online ([www.nwwc.org.au](http://www.nwwc.org.au)). There are other excellent publications available.

As a prospective member of the NWWC you are able to attend but not vote at meetings and fully participate in all programmed activities upon completion of a registration form which is valid for 6 months. This form is also used by coordinators to comment on your ability during these initial walks. During this six month period you are expected to take the necessary steps to become a full member. Before your first walk there is a fee of \$5.00 payable (see the Membership Officer or Coordinator of the walk). If you are not able to complete these membership requirements and wish to extend your prospective membership you must contact the Membership Officer and advise reasons and length of extension required.

The Club usually meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month (or as programmed) at the Ulverstone High School on the corner of Leven and Walker Streets. Proceedings get underway at 7.45pm. Club activities include general meetings (finances, walks reports and Club general business); guest speakers on subjects allied to bushwalking and conservation; slide and film presentations. These meetings offer a great chance to extend your contact with Club members and meet new friends.

Bushwalking can be a strenuous pastime. You are expected to have a reasonable level of health and fitness before undertaking any walk. Good bush walking to you all.

### OUTLINE OF THE CLUB

The North West Walking Club was formed in April 1960 with an initial membership of 20. It has now grown to about 150 people. In addition to bushwalking, the Club organises activities which feature other outdoor pursuits. The activities are detailed in the Club magazine and walks programme.

The Club aims to establish a regard for the welfare and preservation of the natural flora, fauna and scenic beauty of this country through a regular programme of walks and allied activities.

The Club has maintained throughout its history a personal, friendly and social atmosphere through varied and regular social functions.

### MEMBERSHIP

Full details regarding membership are given in the Constitution, but an outline of the three main classes of membership is as follows-

- Senior Membership: Three day walks (or two day walks and one overnight walk) to the satisfaction of the relevant coordinators and attend a training session. Qualification to be completed preferably within a period of six months
- Junior Membership: Three day walks (or two day walks and one overnight walk) to the satisfaction of the relevant coordinators and attend a training session. Qualification to be completed preferably within a period of six months.
- Associate Membership: As approved by the Executive Committee.

## WALKS PROGRAM

This programme is drawn up by the Walks Secretary and issued quarterly.

## CLUB MAGAZINE

The 'North West Walker' is published quarterly to keep members up to date on walks information and other activities of the Club.

## WALK GRADING:

NWWC walks are graded from 1 to 6. Grade 1 being the easiest. Prospective members may find their first walk quite hard. Easy walks are recommended as a start. Some walks may be "through walks" and as such all members must be fit enough to complete the distance. Generally with higher grades the breaks become shorter and the walking speed increases.

Grade 1: Relatively easy terrain with mainly on track or beach walking.

Grade 2: Relatively easy terrain with mainly on track walking at mid level altitude.

Grade 3: Mid level altitude and may involve some time spent through trackless open bushland. Reasonable level of fitness required.

Grade 4: Mountain track and may include scrub, steep uphill walking and / or rock hopping. Good level of fitness required.

Grade 5: Mountain off track, similar to Grade 4 with longer distances, or steeper uphill walking, or other conditions adding to walking difficulty. Suitable for fit people with extensive walking experience.

Grade 6: Strenuous walking covering longer distances and /or very difficult terrain. Suitable only for very fit walkers with extensive experience.

## GEAR & EQUIPMENT

It isn't necessary to purchase all of your equipment at once as you won't need everything immediately. Take some time to discover what type of walking you like, observe other walkers' gear on trips and consult experienced walkers. You'll find that gear is a favourite subject.

The following is considered essential for a day walk:

Day pack (large enough for all your gear)	Strong comfortable boots
Layers of clothing (thermals or wool, no jeans)	Good quality raincoat
Hat, gloves and spare thermals	Water and food
First-aid kit and personnel medical items	Change of clothes left at the car

## CLUB ETHICS

If interested in a trip, register on the Walks Register, which is circulated during the General Meeting before the trip, or contact the coordinator on or before the Wednesday prior to the trip to register, confirm or cancel.

## MINIMAL IMPACT BUSHWALKING

The Club follows the principal of Minimal Impact Bushwalking. This includes staying on established tracks where possible, good camping and hygiene practices. This confines any damage to existing areas and gives sensitive alpine vegetation a fair go.

## CLUB CONTACT

Gil Hays                      03 6423 2844 (Or any Coordinator / Executive Member of the Club)

Postal Address              P.O. Box 107  
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*Let someone know before you go*  
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