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Canberra Bushwalking Club



Mt Sentinel and the western fall of the Main Range

APRIL 2025 LEADERS LETTER

Yuma CBC Activity Leader

Practical Map and Compass Navigation Exercise

Would you like an introduction to map and compass navigation? Do you use a digital navigation device and want to understand what it all means?

New leaders should do this half-day practical exercise. Terrylea is running the next, on Sunday 27 April. It runs best with a small number of participants. But keep booking and

we'll put on more when necessary.

In fact, it's available to any CBC member.

March Walk Leaders

Huge thanks to our wonderful active leaders who put on trips in March:

Jenny A, Monika B, Garry B, Bruce B, Inga D, Gerald D, David D, Philip G, Richard H, Dagmara K, John K, Dick M, Beat O, Mark P, Terrylea R, Jannette S, Andrew S, Keith T, Ian T, John E.

Bilby Tip

Leaders are not able to change the status of an activity from Open to Public to Members Only (or vice versa). If that was possible, leaders would be able to publish their own activities and thus circumvent Walks Sec vetting.

This is covered in [Getting Started as a Leader with Bilby](#). If you'd like an activity status changed, contact the Walks Sec via a **tagged entry** in the Administration section of your activity (or an email or text 🙄).

Bilby Activity Tags

Our Web Manager, Keith Thomas, has made some adjustments to activity tags in Bilby.

The tag 'Part-day Walk' has been replaced with 'Part-day', which allows it to be used for any part-day activities. This has been done to avoid having tags for Part-day Walk, Part-day Canoe, Part-day Cycle, etc., etc. All activities that were tagged as 'Part-day Walk' (including those that are now completed) now have tags 'Part-day' and 'Walk'. This will help with the generation of statistics. For example, if you are leading a Lodge-based activity that includes Part-day and Full-day activities, include the Part-day tag and the tags for the types of activities.

There have been some minor changes to other tag definitions. The most notable of these is 'Back-pack', which is now defined so that it can be used for any multi-day activity where you are carrying your food and equipment. Thus, it should be used for multi-day walking, bikepacking, and canoeing trips, for example, where you are carrying your food and equipment.

Share your Trip Planned Route with other party members

Many leaders use digital apps and websites to plan their walks, producing a digital file of their planned route/track.

How about sharing your gpx file with party members? This both kindles additional interest in the trip's navigation and provides safety backup.

It's easy to do in Bilby, in your Message Board entry of final details for the trip. Just store your gpx file in the cloud somewhere (e.g. Google Docs, One Drive) and use the format [text](URL) in your Bilby entry. For example, "Download the gpx file [here](URL)".

A BIG SHOUT OUT to 'Other Club Officers'

As well as Committee members who work hard in the background to maintain CBC as a successful walking club, there are several other members who deserve our thanks:

- Sal O, Check-in Officer. Sal ensures that all activities are safely finished and handles any incident reports
- Rob H, Equipment Officer. Rob stores club gear at his home which is available for hire
- Social Media Team, Facebook Admins. These folk post submitted short descriptions and photos from club walks. A great way to publicly share the great outdoors and advertise CBC activities
- Di McD, Family Activities Coordinator. Introduce them to the bush whilst they're young!
- John D, Wednesday Walks Coordinator. John lists combined club Wednesday Walks in Bilby for the convenience of members, based on trips advertised via the Wednesday Walks email distribution list.

Bushwalking Leadership Skills

The latest April-May edition of the Great Walks magazine lists 12 matters for a walk leader to consider. What do they mean to you?

1. Leader preparation
2. Knowing the people you are to lead
3. Start small
4. Gear preparation
5. First Aid
6. A PLB is an essential these days
7. A strong co-leader
8. Conduct a thorough prior map recce
9. Give the team tasks
10. The weakest member should be partnered with a stronger member
11. Forethought and contingency planning
12. After the walk.

I'd very much like to hear your thoughts on these matters. Talk to me!
Also, if anyone would like past copies, ask me.

Australian Himalayan Foundation Walk/Run Challenge

Want to walk/run the equivalent distance (80km, 130km, 370km, 1700km – this last one a team event) of treks in the Himalayas in May?

Here's an opportunity to challenge yourself, improve your walking fitness, and raise needed funds for good works in the Himalayas.

Check out all the deets and sign up at [AHF Trailblazer](#).

Please **contact me** if I can assist you in any way.

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