

# LAUNCESTON WALKING CLUB

"SEE TASMANIA FIRST"

PO Box 273C

Launceston, Tasmania 7250

Est. 1946

Patron: John Miller

President: Malcolm Pryor

Welcome to the Launceston Walking Club! You will enjoy Tasmania's vast wilderness with the help and company of other members on our many walks. We hold regular walks to cater for all walkers from beginners to the more hardened walker. From those who enjoy a casual lunch by a lake, to those who just must take that peak.

Our meetings are held every second Wednesday at the **Harry Abbott Scout Hall, Corner of Arthur St & St. Georges Square, East Launceston**, commencing at 7.30pm. At every meeting there are reviews and previews of forthcoming club walks and other activities. Every second meeting is a 'Photo Night' with less club business matters and more of what we are really all about; enjoying the wilderness. The club has many keen photographers, some of whom have been walking for many years, so the slides seen vary greatly and are sure to be interesting. Guest speakers are occasionally invited to club meetings. Supper is provided after meetings for which members are asked to pay a gold coin donation.

## Club Objectives

- To encourage and promote bushwalking and other allied outdoor activities.
- Support the conservation of scenic areas, flora and fauna, and support the maintenance of walking tracks.
- Foster social activity amongst club members.

## Membership

Prospective new members must complete a suitable day trip with the club as a visitor before applying for membership. For most people a "suitable trip" means an easy to moderate day walk or cycling trip. It is suggested that people wishing to become members come along to one of our Wednesday night meetings before their walk. The new membership officer can suggest a suitable trip, introduce you to the coordinators and advise you on what equipment you will need. If you can't make it to a meeting, please contact us. After completing the trip, ask the coordinator and one other club member to sign the Proposal section of the Application for Membership form and send the completed form together with membership fee to the club for processing.

## Membership and Visitor fees, Trip levies

Annual Subscription:

• Ordinary	\$45
• Family	\$60
• Under 18 years of age	\$35
• Aged 60 & over	\$35
• Visitor fee	\$5

On joining, members receive a \$20 gift voucher for walking equipment and/or clothing in the 'Bush Hut'. Members also enjoy 10% discounts in Paddy Pallin and Mountain Designs.

Walks are held on most weekends throughout the year, details of each are given on the published walks programme in the club's circular, 'Langana', which you will receive when you join. Most trips use the club's own bus while walk coordinators organise cars on other trips. All trips leave from the Launceston Kitchen Centre carpark on Thistle Street West, West Launceston. Consult the walks programme for the scheduled time of departure.

A trip levy is collected for all trips using the club bus. The amount varies according to the distance travelled and is collected during the trip. Consult the walks programme for the amount.

## Trip Levy Concessions

• Couple	25%
• Students	50%
• Junior members	50%
• Under 10 years	No charge
• Over 60 years of age	50%

## Responsibilities of Walkers

### Prior to the walk

- Notify the coordinator of your intention to take part in the walk no later than the preceeding Thursday.
- Assess the potential risks, including forecast weather, you may encounter and prepare accordingly. Consider first aid, sunscreen, hat, food, waterproof gear, whistle, torch, map and compass, appropriate clothing and footwear, communication and extended activity equipment if needed.
- Ensure that you are fit, capable/fast enough for the degree of difficulty, distance and duration of the activity. If in doubt discuss with the coordinator well prior to the activity. If you cannot prepare suitably, are not well enough or do not like the risk(s) do not go.
- Remember to notify the coordinator if you have put your name on the list, then decide to not go.
- Arrive promptly at the departure point and be ready to leave at the advertised time.
- Before the walk begins, ensure the coordinator is aware of any medical conditions (e.g. asthma, epilepsy, allergies) that you may have and which would be important to know if first aid is required.
- Pay your trip levy or petrol money on the day, tendering the correct change wherever possible.
- Carry sufficient food and water for conditions of walk for you and your dependents needs.
- If you have not signed a current club membership form, ensure you sign a waiver.

### During the walk

- Follow group decisions or the coordinator's instructions. Remember the party and your coordinator has your welfare at heart. Be courteous, co-operative and helpful to other walkers in the group. Follow the Federation's Bushwalkers' Code.
- You should not leave the walk early unless pre-arranged. If it is necessary you must advise the coordinator and sign off, noting the time or place, on the activity register. You must accept a coordinator's or party's decision to send someone with you to accompany you out if the coordinator or party deems it desirable.
- Do not allow yourself to become separated from the group. If experiencing any difficulty such as pace, blisters, shortage of water, advise the Coordinator or another member participant immediately. When unfamiliar with a particular route maintain sight of the people in front and behind otherwise know what is ahead and ensure visual contact every several minutes OR regroup at rest spots. When off-track and visibility is impeded all should remain within sight of one another and absolutely within hearing.
- 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.
- Do not leave the track when on a track walk or fall behind the person appointed 'tail' for any reason without advising the 'tail'. If you need a toilet break tell another participant so that the party can take appropriate action.

### At the end of the walk

- Ensure the coordinator is aware you have made it to the end.
- Thank the coordinator and do not leave until all vehicles start or as otherwise agreed by the party.

### Important Notes about the Grading System

You will notice when reading the preview that a grading system appears. The system gives each walk a "degree of difficulty" rating and a "length/duration" rating. Please remember that these gradings are a guide only, not definitive descriptions as the difficulty or duration may change according o the weather conditions, track deterioration, track upgrading, group size etc. Contact the coordinator for more information.

### Bushwalking grading system

<b>Beach</b>	The walk is on a beach
<b>Rocks/Boulders</b>	Part of the walk consists of climbing over rocks and/or boulders
<b>Track</b>	The walk is on a good track
<b>Part Track</b>	Part of the walk is tracked and part is untracked
<b>No Track</b>	Most of the walk is untracked
<b>Rough Track</b>	The walk comprises a taped route or a rough track

### Mountain bike grading system

<b>T1</b>	Sealed roads or good gravel tracks
<b>T2</b>	Rougher gravel roads and good tracks
<b>T3</b>	Mostly single and rough tracks

### Trip Duration

<b>Short:</b>	Less than 4 hours
<b>Intermediate:</b>	4 to 6 hours
<b>Long:</b>	6 to 10 hours, and longer.

### Contacting the Club

You can visit us on our web page at [www.launcestonwalkingclub.org.au](http://www.launcestonwalkingclub.org.au)

Or call our message bank on **(03)9513 8282**

## Launceston Walking Club Inc. - New Members Guide

Tasmania is a very special place with spectacular mountains, rain forests and coastlines. The harsh and unpredictable weather conditions that produce this landscape also demand that we carefully consider our walking equipment to ensure a safe and pleasant trip. While we always hope for clear blue skies, be prepared on all trips for wet weather. Blizzard conditions can occur at any time of the year in the highlands. It is always best to check on expected conditions with the walk coordinator. A fresh dry change of clothes left in the car or bus is always a good idea (even for day walks) along with some post walk nibbles.

### WEEKEND WALKS

#### Gear to Share

Light weight tent with floor and fly  
Stove and fuel

Groundsheet (optional)

#### Personal gear

Backpack  
Quality sleeping bag (suitable for snow)  
Sleeping mat  
3/4 length waterproof raincoat with hood  
Waterproof over-pants  
Suitable boots  
Gaiters  
Fleece jacket  
Shorts  
Sun Hat  
Thermals and long johns  
3 pairs of socks  
Beanie and mittens/gloves  
A change of clothes for sleeping in or when drying  
other clothes  
Dark glasses for snow glare  
Small torch with spare batteries and globe  
Light camp shoes or plastic bags

Knife, fork, spoon set  
Bowl (if not in stove)  
Plastic mug  
Pocket knife  
Matches in waterproof container  
Water bottle  
Compass  
Whistle  
Toothbrush and paste  
Sunscreen  
Elastoplast strapping and basic first aid kit  
Trowel and toilet paper in plastic bag  
Heavy duty garbage bag to line pack  
Plastic bags to waterproof the sleeping bag  
and spare clothes  
Pencil and paper  
Map (1:25 000 preferred if available)  
Light weight easy to cook and delicious food

### DAY WALKS

Backpack  
3/4 length waterproof raincoat with hood  
Waterproof over-pants  
Suitable boots  
Gaiters  
Fleece jacket  
Shorts  
Sun Hat  
Thermals and long johns  
Beanie and mittens/gloves  
Dark glasses for snow glare

Sunscreen  
Pocket knife  
Small torch  
Water bottle  
Compass  
Whistle  
Trowel and toilet paper in plastic bag  
Elastoplast strapping and basic first aid kit  
Pencil and paper  
Map (1:25 000 preferred if available)  
Delicious food

### BUS BAG (for day or weekend walks)

Complete Change of Clothes  
Shoes and socks

Extra Water Bottle (filled)  
Food

The walker must carry everything needed, therefore all the equipment must be compact and light weight. The gear will receive plenty of hard use so durability and strength should be balanced carefully against weight. The art of travelling as lightly as possible is not learnt easily, and only experience will teach the novice how and where weight may safely be reduced.

**This list has been prepared as a general guide only.**

## FOOD

Going bush does not mean going hungry! It is truly amazing what tasty meals can be prepared. As a general guide allow for 1kg of food per day per person. Always pack some extra in the unlikely event that the trip may be extended. Have some easy to get at snack foods for those short rest stops or while taking in a spectacular view. Dried fruit and nuts are good for energy and easy to carry. Chocolate is also a good idea. A packet of two minute noodles is a good lightweight 'just in case' food.

For main meals many members use commonly available rice and pasta side dish packs as a base. Combining these with one or two fruits or vegetables, and possibly some meat, a tasty and nourishing meal can quickly be made. Remember mushrooms are light and a pinch of that special spice will not hurt either. In winter, meat often may be carried safely, but some types of meat may keep best precooked.

Tea, coffee, and/or soup packets are a real boost at night or at that rest stop on a cold day. It is amazing how much better a view looks with your hands wrapped around a good cup of tea.

## WHEN ON A WALK

The trip coordinator is a responsible person with suitable experience appointed by the club to lead a walk. The coordinator is responsible for the walking plans during the course of the trip and general safety and well-being of all members on the trip. Members shall respect the coordinator's authority in all matters concerning the walk. The coordinator's decision is final.

Do not vary from the planned route without first obtaining permission from the coordinator. Remain in a group and wait for slower walkers at regular intervals. If in thick bush keep checking the walker behind is within sight. It is normal for the entire party to regroup hourly. If planning a short trip from camp, check with the coordinator first.

## HANDY HINTS

It is those simple details that often make all the difference. Here's a few

- Try not to tie items onto the outside of your pack. They will get wet and are likely to catch on branches.
- Carry plastic bags to put over your dry night socks. Dry socks in wet boots will not stay dry very long.
- Pack everything in plastic bags. Water will always eventually find its way into your pack. Cotton clothing gets wet quickly, is hard to dry, and will not warm you when wet. **Jeans are dangerous.**
- An old wine cask bladder makes a great camp water bottle. Saves many trips to the stream.
- Talk to members, ask questions and listen to suggestions. There is a great depth of knowledge in the club from which to benefit.
- Carry a small packet of salt in an easy to get at place. A touch of salt on a leech will make it release within seconds. Much better than a match.
- A tent floor will usually get a bit damp and cold overnight. Put your clothes into plastic bags.

**The Launceston Walking Club Inc.**  
 PO Box 273, Launceston, Tasmania, 7250  
**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

Names (list individuals).....  
 .....  
 Postal Address ..... Postcode.....  
 Phone No: Home..... Mobile..... Date of Birth.....  
 Next of Kin: Name..... Contact Number.....  
 Email Address.....

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY**

Annual Subscription:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ordinary	\$45
(Tick appropriate)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Couple/Family	\$60
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Under 18 years of age	\$35
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aged 60 & over	\$35
		Total enclosed	\$ _____

I voluntarily participate with Launceston Walking Club, aware that this may expose me to risk of injury, illness, death or loss of or damage to my property. I accept that coordinators are untrained volunteers who expect I will be self-reliant. I accept full responsibility for ensuring my own well-being and will cooperate with others to ensure I do not put anyone at increased risk.

Risks may include but are not limited to slippery, loose and/or uneven surfaces; rocks being dislodged; falling; pushing through scrub; mud; foul weather, snow, ice & strong wind; risks associated with crossing creeks & rivers; hypothermia & heat exhaustion; bites; equipment failures; hunger; thirst; being lost or other delays and poor or no communication. I am aware that risks may not be fully described, and accept that there may be no first aid available on club trips. I will obtain my own personal accident insurance cover, if I desire it.

To minimise these risks I will endeavour to ensure:

- that I am carrying appropriate food, water, clothing, footwear and equipment.
- that I only participate within my capabilities.
- I will advise the coordinator of any relevant medication, physical or other limitations that might affect my participation in any activity. I am aware that trip coordinators are volunteers only and may have no first aid expertise.
- I will make every effort to remain with the party during any activity and accept a consensus of the party or instruction from the coordinator of the activity.

(Tick if appropriate):  I am **not** under 18 years old. If OTHERWISE get one of your parents, or your Guardian, to sign the Membership under 18 years old section below.

I have read or heard and understand the requirements, I have considered the risks before choosing to sign this waiver. I still wish to participate in the activities of Launceston Walking Club. I agree by signing this form to waive any claim for damage, loss, injury or death arising from any club activity that I, my executors and assigns may have against the club, the coordinator or other participants in tort or contract.

Signed: .....on..... (DATE) (All named above must sign)  
 .....(PRINT NAME)

Plus, FOR MEMBERSHIP UNDER 18 YEARS OLD, a parent or guardian must sign below.

I am the parent/guardian of .....(name of child)  
 whose date of birth is: (DD/MM/YYYY) ...../...../.....

I have read all the above, acknowledge and accept the membership waiver on behalf of the named child and consent to the above named child, participating in the activities of the Launceston Walking Club and will ensure trips are within their capability, they are appropriately prepared and will obey the directions given by the coordinator or the responsible person. I will advise the coordinator of any relevant medication, physical or other limitations that might affect the child's participation in any activity.

Signed: .....(PARENT/GUARDIAN)  
 .....(PRINT NAME)

- I consent for my personal details to be available to all LWC members   
 I consent for my image to be published in Langana/shown at club meetings

**PROPOSAL**

We propose the above candidate/s for membership. From our personal knowledge we declare that their election to the membership will be in the best interest of the club in the furtherance of its objectives.

Proposed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Trip Coordinator)**                      (Signature)                      (Date)                      (Name in block letters)

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Financial Member)**                      (Signature)                      (Date)                      (Name in block letters)

**EXECUTIVE USE ONLY:**

Tick when issued:  Voucher                      Receipt number .....  
 Langa                      Card number .....  
 Information sheet                      Date .....  
 Bushwalking trip planner                      Executive approval date .....