



MINIMUM IMPACT BUSHWALKING CODE

By following this Code, participants in Club activities minimise impact on the resource that provides us with so much pleasure.

CAMPSITES

1. Use an existing campsite rather than make a new one in the same area. Setting up camp will be easier and additional ground cover will not be damaged.
2. Leaders should limit the size of their party, especially in sensitive areas.
3. Minimise damage to flora and fauna by taking care in selecting how and where you camp.

CAMPFIRES AND STOVES

1. Strictly obey all regulations regarding campfires and fire bans.
2. Fires should not be lit in sensitive areas, or areas with a shortage of firewood. Stoves must be used in high-use areas (note: in some areas of Australia regulation prescribes "stove only" areas).
3. Use established fire sites wherever possible. By preference use a "pit" fire and bury ashes. Use only dead wood for campfire fuel and ensure sufficient cleared area is maintained around fires and stoves for the prevailing conditions.
4. Don't make fires near trunks of trees, on roots, on peaty soil, or where the fire could spread or be difficult to extinguish.
5. Keep a suitable fire suppressant handy to control the fire should it begin to spread. (e.g. water or sand).
6. Once fire remains are cold, bury them and spread leaf litter or soil over the fire site. Distribute unused firewood and minimise the visual impact.
7. Don't dispose of aluminium foil or cans by burning (note: some material may be lined with foil, leaving an unsightly and non-biodegradable mess). Don't dispose of other material unless the fire is very hot and you are sure that it will be reduced to ash. Avoid producing noxious smoke. When in doubt carry it out!
8. Exercise great care with stoves. Do not allow excess pressure, which may cause safety valve ignition.

SANITATION

1. Bury human wastes. Dig a 200mm (8") deep hole - a "cat hole" - at least 100m away from any open water.
2. Disposal of human waste at heavily used campsites requires more effort. Go further away!
3. Wash well away from streams and ensure that any soap, detergents or food refuse does not enter water ways and water sources. When cleaning utensils use gritty sand or biodegradable soap rather than harmful detergents.

RUBBISH

1. Apply the "carry in, carry out" rule. This applies to orange peel, fruit cores, sanitary items, seeds and egg shells. (Remember to take some biodegradable plastic bags and wherever possible carry out rubbish left by other parties.)
2. Before leaving a lunch spot or campsite check that no rubbish is left.

TRACKS AND ROUTES

1. Tread carefully. Use stepping stones or boardwalks where provided in eroded areas.
2. Limit walking in areas that have been over-used.
3. Minimise walking on loose ground, scree slopes, dunes, marshes and bogs.

NOISE

Do not make unnecessary noise that may detract from others enjoyment of the bush. Mobile phones should be turned off or switched to silent or vibrate mode.

FLORA AND FAUNA

1. Native flora and fauna should be left undisturbed. Do not kill snakes.
2. Do not take domestic animals on walks.
3. Report sightings of feral animals, illegal forest grazing or illegal use of protected areas (e.g. woodcutting or removal of rocks) to park or forest authorities as appropriate.

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DIEBACK POLICY

Phytophthora Dieback is a deadly introduced plant disease that devastates our forests, woodlands and heathlands. The disease is caused by the fungal pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. It is causing substantial damage in the southwest of Western Australia because:

- Over 40% (~2300) of native plant species in the region are susceptible including banksias, dryandras, balgas, zamia palms, snottygobbles, sheoaks, hakeas, heaths and jarrah;
- Some native animals that rely on plant nectar for food such as honey possums and honeyeaters are also indirectly affected;
- The climate and soils of the southwest region suit its survival and spread; and
- It was spread widely before it was identified as the cause of permanent damage to our ecosystems.

The *Phytophthora* fungus thrives in warm, moist conditions and spends its entire life in the soil and in plant tissue. It attacks the roots of plants and causes them to rot. This kills the plant by limiting or stopping the uptake of water and nutrients. The pathogen is able to survive within plant roots during dry soil conditions commonly experienced during the summer months.

As bushwalkers we can take steps to ensure we don't contribute to the spread of the pathogen. We can minimise the risk of spreading the dieback pathogen in dieback-affected areas by :

1. Keeping to well-drained, well-formed roads and tracks where possible.
2. Cleaning boots and tent pegs (with a solution of 70% methylated spirit and 30% water) before and after all walks and making full use of dieback wash down points and raised boardwalks where available e.g., Fitzgerald River National Park.
3. Taking heed of signs alerting of the presence of dieback fungi.
4. Having leaders contact the local Park Ranger for up-to-date local knowledge and redirect the walk to keep out of, or go around, dieback infected areas.
5. Being prepared to change the route of the walk during or after warm, wet weather. If muddy areas cannot be avoided, removing the mud from your boots before moving onto dry or higher ground.
6. Ensuring that drivers of vehicles taken onto roads with restricted access due to the risk of dieback are in possession of a current vehicle access permit and that all restrictions that may be imposed are adhered to.