

MELBOURNE WALKING CLUB INCORPORATED

GUIDELINES FOR YOUR RECCE WALK

Important

On the day of your Recce you must notify the Activities Officer the details of your planned Recce and the names of those accompanying you. This is a requirement for insurance purposes. (The current Activities Officer is Susan Cranage Ph 0414 669 948 or email smcranage@optusnet.com.au) .

You do not need to notify the Activities Officer when you have completed your recce unless an incident has occurred.

It is also important to leave written details of your planned walk and estimated time of return, at home, or with friends/family.

Your Instructions

Check whether you will be leading an old walk or is it a walk requiring further development?
Are the instructions comprehensive or is there little detail?
Trace the route on a copy of the Melway or other relevant map.
Think about the route before you embark on the recce.
Think about transport options at the beginning and end of the walk.

Your Recce Companions

Ideally invite two companions with previous experience. You should not do a recce in a remote area by yourself.
It is better if at least one of your companions will be available to attend the actual walk.
Also remember that in the unlikely event that you are not available to attend the actual walk, one of your recce companions could step into the breach.

What to take on the Recce

Full gear for a normal walk
Compass
Notebook
Copies of maps for yourself and your companions
A pedometer/GPS.
Mobile phone (battery can be saved by switching to flight mode or carry a battery re-charger).
Check whether you have reception during the walk. The club owns a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) which can be borrowed if the walk is in a remote area without mobile reception. (Contact the Club President to arrange this).

During the Recce itself

It is likely that the walk was last done a few years ago. There may have been significant changes to the track, roadways, fences or erected buildings. The walk will then have to be modified.

Note the need to report in the Circular entry any excessive up and down hill distances.
Explore possible escape locations.

Note times and distances on your map.

Think about leading a group, is the route practical, are changes needed?

It is extremely important that the walk is safe. Walking on roads without a footpath should be avoided as much as possible..

Note good spots for morning tea and lunch and whether there is available shelter. Perhaps choose a couple of likely lunch spots to give some choice on the day.

Check on toilet opportunities and highlight on the walk.

Involvement with buses can involve long delays if a bus is missed. Think about this as you plan the walk.

Very soon after the Recce

Draft the Walk Details for the Circular.

Double check the train or bus times.

Emphasize any potential escapes to shorten your walk or avoid any difficulties with the walk to help members with their decision about doing the walk.

Make your notes from the recce legible and understandable.

Check the deadline date for the circular.

Send the draft to the Circular Editor before the deadline date.

Just before the walk

Go back through your notes, and, if in any doubt, think about whether a quick car trip can sort out an issue.

The Walk itself

Make sure the names of all members and the names and contact details of all visitors have been recorded on the Attendance Sheet.

Remember to welcome visitors and ask everyone to introduce themselves.

Appoint a whip, ideally one of the members who completed the recce. Provide a map or notes.

If possible, have details of bus/train times at escapes on walk and at end of walk.

Coffee/pub option is always popular at the end of the walk.

ENJOY THE WALK!