

## GDTA Guided Walks Policy

### Revised and Approved by the GDTA Committee, July 2017



GDTA is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable Guided Walks program for its members and visitors. We have developed a simple framework in which our walks will operate, as follows –

- All walks will be automatically cancelled on:
  - Days of Total Fire Ban
  - If the temperature is expected to be 35C or above
  - When burns are planned for the area near the walk
  - If there is fire activity in the area
  - In extreme or unstable weather, including heat, wind, thunder or electrical storms etc
- The Walk Leader may cancel, change, modify or shorten a proposed walk, either before or during the walk. This may come about if the combination of walk difficulty, distance or terrain and the expected or prevailing weather conditions give rise to concern about safety or possible excessive pressure for walkers.
- The Walk Leader may refuse to allow a walker to begin the walk if the walker is considered to be insufficiently prepared.
- Walkers are expected to:
  - Register with the Walk Leader by the day and time listed on the walk reminder
  - Walk with the group
  - Wear appropriate protective clothing, e.g., hat/jacket
  - Carry plenty of water, especially in hot weather, so that they do not impose on others, or put themselves or others in an unsafe situation
  - Carry their own First Aid kit and use sunscreen in hot weather
  - Comply with the GDTA Code of Conduct (on [www.gdt.org.au](http://www.gdt.org.au)) to help ensure that everyone has an enjoyable walk experience.

### Insurance Requirements

ALL walkers are required to have signed an Acknowledgement of Risk (AR) form to ensure they are covered by Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) insurance on approved GDTA or BWV activities. It is recommended that members also have personal insurance and ambulance cover. Visitors must take out temporary (one day) membership and sign the Temporary Membership AR form so they have coverage by BWV insurance.

#### Before the walk or activity begins:

- ALL participants must complete the **Attendance Sheet**.
- ALL GDTA financial members must have signed the **Acknowledgement of Risk Form** (firstly as a new member and then automatically with subscription renewals).
- ALL visitors (walkers, expert leaders, walkers from other clubs, et al) must complete the **GDTA Temporary Membership Form**. Temporary membership is for one day only. Fee \$5.00. **This fee may be waived for members of other BWV bushwalking clubs if the BWV club name is included on the Form).**

#### In the case of an accident or incident:

- Walkers are required to follow the directions of the Walk Leader or designated Committee Member.
- The Walk Leader or designated Committee Member will complete the Incident Form and forward it immediately to the Public Officer/Secretary.