



INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Thanks for your interest in joining the Springwood Bushwalking Club (SBC).

There is sometimes an element of risk in outdoor activities. It is important that Club members are confident they can rely on each other should a difficulty arise. Therefore full membership of the Club is only conferred after a brief period of prospective membership which involves you attending an induction course and participating in three walks.

Application for prospective membership involves filling out the ***Prospective Member Application Form***, and payment of the annual fee:

- Prospective Member annual fee - \$40 (activities program forwarded by email)
- Junior Prospective Member annual fee (under 18 years) - \$30 (activities program forwarded by email)
- Additional fee for postage if you wish to receive the activities program by post - \$10

If you join between January and June the initial annual fee is reduced by 50%.

The annual membership fee includes basic insurance cover.

All membership fees are renewable at the end of June. If you have not been accepted into full membership you must continue to pay the Prospective Member rate.

The completed *Prospective Member Application Form* and a cheque, cash, money order or bank transfer receipt for the relevant fees should be brought to a club meeting. If you wish to pay by bank transfer, the club's banking details can be found on the *Prospective Member Application Form*.

Meetings are held on the 1st Monday of each month (except January) in the Springwood Presbyterian Church Hall, Macquarie Road, Springwood. Meetings start 7.30 pm, however the hall is open from 7.00pm to allow you to complete the necessary formalities with the Membership Secretary before the meeting commences. You will be given a copy of the current *Activities Program*, and a copy of the *Prospective Members Record* form.

If you can't attend a club meeting, you can post the completed *Prospective Member Application* form and a cheque or money order for the relevant fee to the Membership Secretary at the Club address above. The current *Activities Program* and *Prospective Members Record* form will then be posted or emailed to you.

You will receive an email with your login for the website as soon as your record is added to the club database (this should happen within a day or two). You can then start booking into walks and other club activities.

To become a full member, you must:

- attend an Induction Course organised by the Club, and
- participate in at least three Club walks,
- be recommended for full membership by the Committee, and
- be voted as a full member at a monthly general meeting of the Club.

The **Induction Course** provides information about:

- the purpose, structure and history of the Club,
- procedures for booking into and participating in a walk or other activity,
- basic equipment requirements, and
- bushwalking ethics.

It is usually followed by a walk that counts as one of the three qualifying walks.

While most prospective members find it useful to do the Induction Course as soon as possible after joining, it is NOT a prerequisite to you joining club walks.

Walks and other activities are graded and usually have a limit on the group size. Leaders have the right to restrict participation to those with suitable fitness and experience. The activity grading and group size limit is included in listing in the Activity Program.

Excepting where they have significant bushwalking experience, club policy is that Prospective Members should focus on walks graded “E” (easy) or “E-M” (easy/medium).

Bookings to attend the Induction Course, walks, and other activities should preferably be made via the Club website. You will receive an email from the leader confirming your place, or putting you on a waiting list. Alternatively you can speak to the leader at a club meeting, or call or email the leader.

If the leader does not know you, they may enquire about your fitness and experience. It is essential that you advise the leader of any medical condition that you have which could affect your performance on the walk (even though you may have provided this on your *Prospective Member Application Form*).

The ***Prospective Member Record*** form is provided so you can keep a record of your attendance at the Induction Course and three qualifying walks. Make sure you get it signed by the leader, and don't lose it!

After successful completion of the Induction Course and three walks, give the completed Prospective Member Record form to the Membership Secretary at a club meeting (or post it to the Membership Secretary at the Club address above). The SBC Committee will consider your nomination, and will then recommend that you be accepted into full membership at the next monthly general meeting.

The Club will provide opportunities for further training (eg First Aid, navigation, abseiling) when you become a member.

More Information

Additional information is included in following SBC documents:

- *Information for Members*
- *Booking an Activity*
- *Participating in an Activity*
- *Equipment*
- *Responsible Bushwalking*