

Bushwalkers of WA Event Coordinators Role Description

walkscoordinator@bushwalkerswa.asn.au

This is an important role as the club walks and other events are key to BOWA's functionality and enjoyment by its members and visitors.

The Main bushwalking season is from May to late October and, where possible, full or part day walks are organised for Sundays during this period. These walks may also occasionally be held on weekdays.

Meeting times are usually 8.45AM for departure at 0900, although if a long drive is required to the walk start, 0830 or earlier may be preferred. Popular meeting places are at or near railway stations at Armadale, Kelmscott, Gosnells, Midland and Warwick where parking is free and available on Sundays with train and bus services for those who wish to use public transport. Car pooling then takes place to the walk start.

Part day walks have also been enjoyed on weekdays, usually within the metro area where suburban parks may be included as all or part of the walk.

Restaurant nights are popular and usually offered on the program during a week night from time to time.

Multi day events are usually held once or twice a year and can be over an extended weekend or weekdays. Traditionally it is held about Easter but not on that long weekend so as to avoid the busy holiday period. This event can also be held in September - October. It is usually based at a town in the South-West near to bushwalking areas and the committee usually decides when and where it will be held and the events included. Participants are expected to make their own arrangements for accommodation but a caravan park which has on site units/chalets may be suggested so members can stay in close proximity. These towns are often near the Bibbulmun track which provides 2 ready made walks in either direction from the town. A restaurant meal out on one night and possibly a communal BBQ or similar is usually included.

Summer Program

To maintain club union outside the bushwalking season a schedule of activities from November through the following April are offered with 2-3 events each month. These include metro area park walks, walks of specific interest (eg historical, cultural), movie nights, BBQ's and restaurant nights. Short bike rides and kayak outings have also been run. The club Christmas BBQ, AGM and Autumn camp all occur over this time.

Other events

Historically BOWA has also spent other weekends away and there is no reason these cannot be offered if a member wishes to organise such activities. These may include a fully unsupported walk and camp into one of the Bibbulmun track shelters or a drive and camp to one of the DBCA (Dept of Parks and Wildlife) sites such as Lane Poole Reserve where there are numerous campgrounds to choose from and walks to be enjoyed.

<https://exploreparcs.dbca.wa.gov.au/park-finder-map#map>

Running the BOWA events program. <http://bushwalkerswa.asn.au/>

With a fully online presence our club program is dynamic to whatever is uploaded and published. Ideally the program should be 4 to 6 weeks ahead of the current date and may have more distant events such as the Autumn Camp or AGM listed. The most likely potential walk/event leaders will be on club walks so an opportunity exists to discuss possible future events at morning tea or lunch breaks.

As Events Coordinator you will have sufficient access on the BOWA website to allow creation or editing of new events plus editing of others. Most members have the ability to enter and edit their own event while you have the ability to edit all events. When agreement has been reached on the order of events for the program you have the ability to Publish those events so scheduled events will appear on the public BOWA website.

If however you do not wish to use the BOWA web to upload or edit club events please ask other committee members for help with this task.

Event Cancellation

Where due to unanticipated events or predicted extreme weather (members' safety being paramount) a leader believes it is or may be appropriate to cancel a walk, he or she should discuss cancellation with the Walks Coordinator. A cancellation or non - cancellation decision can be overridden by the President following consultation with the Walks Coordinator. If a walk is to be cancelled, the walk should be marked as "Cancelled" on the website's Calendar of Events and an advisory email or phone message will be sent to all members by the Walks Coordinator.

Of particular use on the website is the **Archive** list which shows club events back to 2015. This may be accessed from the **Events/Events List** link and hovering/clicking the first box right of the **BOWA Upcoming Events** tag. Archives will show many events to prompt popular walks and their leaders who you may wish to approach with a view to revisiting their activity. Should they agree you may Copy (from your account login) the original event and then add it to a new future date, updating any details as required.

Taking a partially completed program list out on walks or restaurant nights helps add new events as dates are easily visible and active members can be encouraged to add their activities.

A good bushwalking website which contains over 90 walks around Perth and the South-West is recommended. www.walkgps.com.au provides excellent description, map, elevation, grading and files to use in gps devices and provides many new or alternative walks for us to explore. This information can be downloaded for some (~20%) of the walks for no cost however all walks can be obtained for an annual subscription of \$20. This amount can be claimed from BOWA for one year.

The Events

Walks should be described to provide potential walkers with sufficient information to suit their fitness level. Such information as **Distance**, **Difficulty** grading, **Percent** on/off track and **Total elevation** suit this need. However the first 2 should always be included.

The chart below can be used to help grade walks and should be offered to walk leaders to help in their grading.

	1.Easy	2.Medium	3.Medium/Hard	4.Hard
Distance	> 10Kms	> 15Kms	15 – 20Kms	above 20Kms
Gradient	Flat.	Gentle hills.	Includes short steep hills.	Includes steep hills.
Quality of path	Well formed track.	Formed track.	Formed track, some off track.	Much off track, plus obstacles.
Experience required	Some walking experience required.	Some bushwalking experience required.	Some bushwalking experience required.	Experienced bushwalkers.
Walking Time	> 2 - 3Hrs	> 4Hrs	> 5Hrs	> 6Hrs
Type of Walk	Half Day or less	Half to Full Day	Full Day	Day or Overnight
Cumulative Elevation	< 100 metres	100-200 mts	200 – 300 mts	300 - 500 mts

Averaging and rounding the numbers from all 7 criteria will help provide a guide as the overall grading

Contact the previous events coordinator if you have any questions.