



Outdoor Council of Australia

National
Outdoor
Leaders
Registration
Scheme

Bushwalking REGISTRATION LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

NOLRS VERSION 2.2

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Outdoor Council of Australia

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Introduction

This document contains information on the minimum skills required to achieve Registration within the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme (NOLRS) at specific levels within the activity.

Additional documents are available at www.outdoorcouncil.asn.au that provides information about the Scheme and the registration process includes:

- NOLRS *Registration Guide* - information about the registration requirements and process
- NOLRS *Re-registration Guide* - information about the re-registration requirements and process
- *Application for Registration*
- *Application for Subsequent Registration*
- *Application for Re-registration*
- NOLRS *Partnered Assessment Providers* - a guide for organisations that conduct assessment of outdoor leaders, detailing how to have their course outcomes recognised as equivalent to the skill and knowledge requirements of the NOLRS

What is the Bushwalking environment and how does it relate to the NOLRS and to the Australian Standard for Walking Tracks?

"Bushwalking is the activity of walking in the natural environment that may include walks for pleasure, challenge, experience and/or educational outcomes. The term 'bushwalking' can be applied to long (multi day) as well as short (an hour or two) walks and can be enjoyed in environments as diverse as urban suburbs, coastal and alpine regions."¹

The Australian Standard™ Walking Tracks Part 1: Classification and Signage (AS 2156.1—2001)² forms the basis of the NOLRS bushwalking leader registration levels. The Australian Standard provides the managers of areas used for bushwalking with guidance for walking track classification and signage in order to provide consistency of information to users. This is intended to minimise risk, preserve natural features and enhance recreation opportunities associated with the use of walking tracks. Six classes of walking tracks are outlined within the Standard, with each class described in terms of the elements used for classification and resulting management considerations. (Refer Appendix 1 for descriptions of the six classes of track classification). The tracks are classified according to the following elements:

- Track conditions (e.g. type of surface, width, presence/absence of obstacles);
- Gradient (including presence/absence of steps and track modifications to deal with slope);
- Signage (for management and/or directional purposes);
- Infrastructure (e.g. facilities such as toilets, campsites);
- Terrain (and its impact on navigation skills required, timely access to first aid, etc);
- Weather (impact of weather on navigation and safety)

Tracks may have more than one classification provided it is clearly signed at the track-head and at the point on the track where the class changes. Otherwise, where conditions vary along a section of track that is between access points, that section of track is classified in accordance with the least developed element.

The Australian Standard allows concise classification of tracks and also suggests the required management considerations and level of 'management intervention', ranging from high to negligible. Therefore, the track classifications also provide a useful basis for defining the leadership skills required by individuals who lead reliant clients on bushwalks along them.

¹ Outdoor Recreation Centre Inc. (www.orc.org.au) (2005) Bushwalking Adventure Activity Standards. 2nd Ed. Accessed 18th September 2006

² Standards Australia (2001) Australian Standard™ Walking tracks Part 1: Classification and signage. Standards Australia, Sydney

Bushwalking Registration Levels and Descriptions

Bushwalking registration levels apply to leaders who conduct bushwalking activities for reliant clients ranging from short walks (an hour or two) to long (multi day) walks in the natural environment on Australian Standard Class 3, 4, 5 and 6 tracks.

The following registration levels are available within the NOLRS within the activity of Bushwalking:

- Restricted Bushwalking Guide
- Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas)
- Bushwalking Instructor (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas)
- Bushwalking Guide (Difficult and Trackless Areas)
- Bushwalking Instructor (Difficult and Trackless Areas)
- Bushwalking Guide (Unmodified Areas)
- Bushwalking Instructor (Unmodified Areas)

Restricted Bushwalking Guide:

A person designated as a Restricted Bushwalking Guide has the skills, knowledge and experience to work autonomously within a closely defined range of skilled operations involving known routines, methods and procedures, where a small amount of discretion and judgement is required in the selection of equipment, services or contingency measures. This person may conduct bushwalks independently only within clearly defined contexts where there are clearly defined Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and relevant documented guidelines, key safety features and risk management procedures for the specific track and location, they are familiar with those SOPs, and where assistance is readily available should a non-routine situation arise.

Persons at this level of leader registration may only guide day bushwalks in areas or situations where:

- There is limited complexity in the range of options (e.g. in the selection of a route or equipment on a given day);
- It is tracked and signed (i.e. where tracks are reliably marked on maps and are obvious on the ground, generally with a modified surface, with obvious signs and track markers for direction);
- Tracks are inspected on a regular basis and are mostly clear of intrusions and obstacles;
- A minimum level of specialised skills are required to negotiate natural hazards such as steep slopes, unstable surfaces and minor water crossings;
- Severe weather is not forecast or likely;
- Assistance is readily available, should it be required, using routine communication techniques (mobile phone, radio);
- "Supervision" is provided through application of a documented risk management plan for the specific walk location and type of client group. (This documented risk management plan should have been developed/reviewed by a person at skills equivalent to a Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas). This analysis of suitability may result in the establishment of a recognised day or half-day bushwalk used by specific organisations).

A Restricted Bushwalking Guide has the knowledge, skills and experience to lead reliant clients on bushwalks up to and including tracks defined as Class 3 within the Australian Standard™ Walking Tracks Part 1: Classification and Signage (AS 2156.1—2001). Persons at this level of leader registration may also work as an assistant with a more experienced guide in potentially non-routine or more complex activities and programs (e.g. bushwalks in difficult and trackless areas). A person at this level of leader registration does not have the ability to bushwalk or navigate off track and therefore could not adequately assess the suitability of a new bushwalk in an untracked area.

A Restricted Bushwalking Guide will generally guide bushwalks of up to a day's duration along one specific track or several specific tracks within one location or geographic area.

A Restricted Bushwalking Guide must possess the skills, knowledge and experience that enable them to:

- Plan and implement minimal environmental impact
- Undertake risk analysis of activities
- Interpret and apply weather forecasts
- Apply relevant legislation
- Plan and guide outdoor recreation activities
- Follow defined Occupational Health and Safety policy and procedures
- Facilitate groups and deal with conflict
- Demonstrate bushwalking skills in tracked and easy untracked areas
- Navigate in tracked and easy untracked areas
- Evidence of independent guiding of reliant clients on a day bushwalk on tracks defined as Class 3 within the Australian Standard on a minimum of three occasions
- Respond to emergency situations

Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas):

A person designated as a Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas) has the skills, knowledge and experience to work autonomously within a closely defined range of skilled operations involving known routines, methods and procedures, where a small amount of discretion and judgement is required in the selection of equipment, services or contingency measures. This person may conduct bushwalks independently only within clearly defined contexts where there are clearly defined Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and relevant documented guidelines, key safety features and risk management procedures for the specific track and location, they are familiar with those SOPs, and where assistance is available should a non-routine situation arise.

Persons at this level of leader registration may only guide bushwalks in areas or situations where:

- There is limited complexity in the range of options (e.g. in the selection of a route or equipment required on a given day);
- It is tracked, or easy untracked i.e. where there are significant landmarks to assist navigation and tracks are reliably marked on maps and are obvious on the ground, although there may be no major modifications to the ground surface);
- Tracks are inspected on a regular basis but may have fallen debris and other obstacles;
- Road or other safe collecting features are easily reached within two (2) hours by applying elementary navigation principles and they have maps and navigation skills and equipment to successfully complete the track or route;
- Assistance is available within three (3) hours, should it be required, using routine communication techniques such as mobile phone and radio i.e. leaders need to be self-reliant, particularly in regard to emergency first aid and weather hazards);
- "Supervision" is provided through application of a documented risk management plan for the specific walk location and type of client group. (This documented risk management plan should have been developed/reviewed by a person at skills equivalent to a Bushwalking Guide (Difficult and Trackless Areas). This analysis of suitability may result in the establishment of a recognised day bushwalk used by specific organisations).

A Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas) has the knowledge, skills and experience to lead reliant clients on bushwalks up to and including tracks defined as Class 4 within the Australian Standard™ Walking Tracks Part 1: Classification and Signage (AS 2156.1—2001). They will generally guide bushwalks along several tracks which may be in

different geographic areas. Persons at this level of leader registration may also work as an assistant with a more experienced guide in potentially non-routine or more complex activities and programs (e.g. bushwalks in wilderness areas). A person at this level of leader registration does not have the ability to adequately assess the suitability of a new bushwalk in a remote area.

A Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas) must also have the ability to bushwalk in a bushland, arid, alpine, or rainforest area defined as difficult or trackless for a minimum period of two day's duration in different seasons when extreme environmental conditions are not anticipated, although the possibility for changes in weather and visibility exists.

A Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas) must possess all the skills, knowledge and experience required of a Restricted Bushwalking Guide PLUS those that enable them to:

- Use and maintain a temporary or overnight site
- Demonstrate bushwalking skills in difficult and trackless areas
- Navigate in difficult and trackless areas
- Operate communications systems and equipment
- Guide bushwalks in tracked or easy untracked areas

Bushwalking Instructor (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas):

A person designated as a Bushwalking Instructor (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas) has the skills, knowledge and experience to facilitate skill transfer or development to clients in order that they may bushwalk independently in tracked or easy untracked areas. This requires the Instructor to be able to transfer required skills and knowledge, apply a variety of appropriate instructional strategies, and assess client skill and knowledge acquisition during and at the end of a program or session.

A person designated as a Bushwalking Instructor (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas) has the knowledge, skills and experience of a Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas) as well as additional skills and experience in training and assessment. A Bushwalking Instructor (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas) must possess all the skills, knowledge and experience required of a Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas) PLUS those that enable them to:

- Train small groups
- Instruct bushwalking in Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas

Bushwalking Guide (Difficult and Trackless):

A person designated as a Bushwalking Guide (Difficult and Trackless Areas) has the skills, knowledge and experience that enable them to work independently within a variety of settings and contexts that may be complex and non-routine. Leadership and guidance are involved when organising activities of self and others, as well as contributing to technical solutions of a non-routine or contingency nature.

A person at this level of leader registration may perform a broad range of skilled applications. These may include the evaluation and analysis of current practices, development of new criteria and procedures for performing current practices and provision of some leadership and guidance to others in the application and planning of the skills.

Bushwalking Guide (Difficult and Trackless Areas) may work independently at a broad range of venues with a variety of different client groups. Persons at this level of registration should be able to apply their skills and knowledge to a variety of locations, seasons and situations, and should be able to deal with non-routine situations. *They may guide bushwalks in situations where:*

- There are limited modifications to the natural surface so that track alignment is indistinct in places;
- There is minimal clearance along the track and there may be debris;
- Signage is minimal and only for management purposes (i.e. there is limited directional signage);
- There are terrain and man-made hazards (such as cliff lines or dense forests) and there may be steep sections of unmodified surfaces;
- A high degree of specialised skills (such as navigation skills), as well as maps and navigation equipment are required to successfully complete the track;
- They need to be self-reliant, particularly in regard to emergency first aid and possible weather hazards
- The possibility for changes in weather and visibility exists, affecting navigation and safety

A Bushwalking Guide (Difficult and Trackless Areas) has the knowledge, skills and experience to lead reliant clients on bushwalks up to and including tracks defined as Class 5 within the Australian Standard™ Walking Tracks Part 1: Classification and Signage (AS 2156.1—2001). They will have the capacity to guide multi-day bushwalks along tracks which may be in different geographic areas. Persons at this level of leader registration may also work as an assistant with a more experienced guide on bushwalks in wilderness areas with unmodified landscapes with the potential for weather extremes. Alternately, a Bushwalking Guide (Difficult and Trackless Areas) may be assisted by a less experienced guide.

A Bushwalking Guide (Difficult and Trackless Areas) must have the ability to bushwalk in a bushland, arid, alpine, or rainforest area defined as difficult or trackless for a minimum period of two day's duration in different seasons when extreme environmental conditions are not anticipated, although the possibility for changes in weather and visibility exists.

A Bushwalking Guide (Difficult and Trackless Areas) must possess all the skills, knowledge and experience required of a Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas) PLUS those that enable them to:

- Manage risk in outdoor activities
- Provide leadership to groups
- Interpret weather conditions in the field
- Demonstrate bushwalking skills in difficult and trackless areas
- Navigate in difficult and trackless areas
- Demonstrate river crossing skills
- Guide bushwalks in difficult and trackless areas
- Coordinate emergency response

Bushwalking Instructor (Difficult and Trackless):

A person designated as a Bushwalking Instructor (Difficult and Trackless Areas) has the skills, knowledge and experience to facilitate skill transfer or development to clients in order that they may bushwalk independently in Difficult and Trackless Areas. This requires the Instructor to be able to transfer required skills and knowledge, apply a variety of appropriate instructional strategies, and assess a client's skill and knowledge acquisition during and at the end of a program or session.

A person designated as a Bushwalking Instructor (Difficult and Trackless Areas) has the knowledge, skills and experience of a Bushwalking Guide (Difficult and Trackless Areas) as well as additional skills and experience in training and assessment.

A Bushwalking Instructor (Difficult and Trackless Areas) must possess all the skills, knowledge and experience required of a Bushwalking Guide (Difficult and Trackless Areas) PLUS those that enable them to:

- Train small groups
- Instruct bushwalking in Difficult and Trackless Areas

Bushwalking Guide (Unmodified Landscapes):

A person designated as a Bushwalking Guide (Unmodified Landscapes) has the skills, knowledge and experience that enable them to apply a broad knowledge base incorporating theoretical concepts to analyse and plan approaches to technical problems or management requirements in a range of situations. They can transfer and apply theoretical concepts and/or technical or creative skills and evaluate information, using it to forecast for planning purposes. A Bushwalking Guide (Unmodified Landscapes) incorporates self-directed application of knowledge and skills in planning and selecting appropriate equipment, services and techniques for self and others.

Bushwalking Guides (Unmodified Landscapes) may work independently at a broad range of venues with a variety of different client groups. Persons at this level of leader registration have the ability to deal with complex, unpredictable and non-routine situations. A Bushwalking Guide (Unmodified Landscapes) may guide bushwalks at locations where:

- There are no modifications to the natural surface or the natural environment so that track alignment is indistinct
- There is no clearance along the track and the track is not managed for public risk;
- Directional or management signage is generally not provided;
- A high level of specialised skills in navigation are required and a map and navigation equipment will be required to complete the track;
- Self-reliance, particularly in regard to emergency first aid and possible weather hazards, is required;
- There may be steep sections of unmodified surfaces and other terrain and man-made hazards;
- There is an appreciable risk of onset of extreme environmental conditions (e.g. poor visibility, extreme heat/cold or wind) which may affect navigation and safety.

A Bushwalking Guide (Unmodified Landscapes) has the knowledge, skills and experience to lead reliant clients on bushwalks up to and including tracks defined as Class 6 within the Australian Standard™ Walking Tracks Part 1: Classification and Signage (AS 2156.1—2001). They will have the capacity to guide multi-day bushwalks on Class 6 tracks in different geographic areas. A Bushwalking Guide (Unmodified Landscapes) may be assisted by a less experienced guide.

A Bushwalking Guide (Unmodified Landscapes) must have the ability to bushwalk in a minimum of two different types of area (eg, arid and alpine, rainforest and bushland) defined as unmodified landscapes whilst carrying a pack equipped with provisions for extended overnight expeditions (greater than two nights) in different seasons where there is an appreciable risk of onset of extreme environmental conditions (e.g. poor visibility, extreme heat/cold or wind).

A Bushwalking Guide (Unmodified Landscapes) must possess all the skills, knowledge and experience required of a Bushwalking Guide (Difficult and Trackless Areas) PLUS those that enable them to:

- Demonstrate bushwalking skills in unmodified landscapes
- Navigate in unmodified landscapes in extreme environmental conditions
- Guide bushwalks in Unmodified Landscapes

Bushwalking Instructor (Unmodified Landscapes):

A person designated as a Bushwalking Instructor (Unmodified Landscapes) has the skills, knowledge and experience to facilitate skill transfer or development to clients in order that they may bushwalk independently in unmodified landscapes. . This requires the Instructor to

be able to transfer required skills and knowledge, apply a variety of appropriate instructional strategies, and assess client skill and knowledge acquisition during and at the end of a program or session.

A person designated as a Bushwalking Instructor (Unmodified Landscapes) has the knowledge, skills and experience of a Bushwalking Guide (Unmodified Landscapes) as well as additional skills and experience in training and assessment.

A Bushwalking Instructor (Unmodified Landscapes) must possess all the skills, knowledge and experience required of a Bushwalking Guide (Unmodified Landscapes) PLUS those that enable them to:

- Train small groups
- Instruct bushwalking in Unmodified Landscapes

Bushwalking Skill, Knowledge and Experience Requirements

Restricted Bushwalking Guide:

Critical aspects of a Restricted Bushwalking Guide's skills, knowledge and experience *include:*

- Ability to identify, and plan for, basic requirements of a day bushwalking activity (ie, equipment, food, water, clothing)
- Selection of bushwalking equipment (from a limited range provided) appropriate to the situation and clients
- Knowledge of the properties and maintenance requirements of a variety of equipment used for day bushwalks
- Ability to respond to emergency situations relevant to a day bushwalk on tracks
- Provision of first aid response relevant to a bushwalk on tracks when assistance is readily available using routine communication techniques (mobile phone, radio)
- Facilitation of a group including conflict resolution strategies
- Knowledge of, and compliance with, relevant Occupational Health and Safety requirements
- Ability to follow workplace procedures for hazard identification and risk control
- Knowledge of, and compliance with, relevant laws and legal requirements
- Application of risk analysis principles in a bushwalking context
- Maintenance of a client's physical and emotional safety during a day bushwalking activity
- Knowledge of environmental impact issues associated with bushwalking on tracks and ability to apply minimal environmental impact practices
- Ability to apply and interpret weather information relevant to a day bushwalk on tracks, including ability to deal with storms and their impact upon navigation and safety
- Bushwalking in a non-urban environment for a period of up to two day's duration in tracked or easy untracked areas i.e. areas where tracks are reliably marked on maps and are obvious on the ground, tracks are inspected on a regular basis and road or other safe collecting features are easily reached within 2 hours by applying elementary navigation principles).
- Ability to navigate in tracked or easy untracked areas i.e. on Class 4 tracks), demonstrating the ability to identify emergency or contingency escape routes, follow a route demonstrating use of navigation aids, identify current location, and apply techniques for estimating the distance travelled.

In order to demonstrate currency, an applicant seeking registration must have verifiable evidence of guiding a minimum of three (3) bushwalks (each of up to a day's duration) in the past twelve (12) months on tracks up to and including Class 3 as defined within the Australian Standard™

Newly trained outdoor leaders require verifiable evidence of a guiding a minimum of six (6) bushwalks (each of up to a day's duration) on (low ropes course sessions within the past twelve (12) months on tracks up to and including Class 3 as defined within the Australian Standard.

Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas):

Critical aspects of a Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas) skills, knowledge and experience include aspects of Restricted Bushwalking Guide **PLUS**:

- Selection of bushwalking equipment (from a limited range provided) appropriate to the situation and clients for overnight bushwalks of a limited duration (e.g. two days)
- Knowledge of the properties and maintenance requirements of a variety of equipment used for overnight bushwalks
- Ability to respond appropriately to emergency situations and a knowledge of first aid responses for situations where assistance is available within three (3) hours, should it be required, using routine communication techniques such as mobile phone and radio
- Establishing effective communication and operation of communications equipment to transmit and receive messages
- Planning and guiding bushwalks on Class 4 tracks, briefing clients and conducting the activity in a professional manner
- Maintenance of a client's physical and emotional safety during an overnight bushwalking activity in tracked or easy untracked areas i.e. on Class 4 tracks)
- Planning and navigation of a suitable route for an overnight bushwalk of a limited duration for a group of clients, in reasonable weather conditions, in tracked and easy untracked areas i.e. on Class 4 tracks)
- Application of weather information to the bushwalk location and subsequent risk analysis and the ability to manage clients in situations where storms and severe weather may affect navigation and safety
- Ability to select, establish and maintain a temporary or overnight site
- Use of map and compass and the ability to bypass obstacles and estimate distance in difficult and trackless areas (i.e. on AS Class 5 tracks)
- Knowledge of various navigation techniques and ability to apply these techniques to maintain a course in poor weather conditions and/or visibility in an area defined as difficult or trackless i.e. on Class 5 tracks) over a range of seasons
- Ability to apply varying navigation skills and techniques to different locations/types of location with different hazards, obstacles and topographic features
- Demonstration of suitable combinations of technique to fix position and identify unknown features when lost
- Efficient bushwalking for a minimum period of two day's duration in a bushland, arid, alpine, or rainforest area defined as difficult or trackless i.e. on Class 5 tracks) over a range of seasons when extreme environmental conditions are not anticipated, although the possibility for changes in weather and visibility exist
- Use of appropriate bushwalking technique on Class 5 tracks over different terrain whilst carrying a backpack equipped with provisions for an overnight expedition

An applicant seeking registration must have verifiable evidence of guiding a minimum of three (3) bushwalks in the past twelve (12) months on tracks classified as Class 4 or above as defined within the Australian Standard™. At least one of the guided walks must be overnight. In order to demonstrate currency, an applicant must have also completed a minimum of one (1) overnight expedition in difficult or trackless areas i.e. on Class 5 tracks) either as a guide or without reliant clients.

Newly trained outdoor leaders require verifiable evidence of a guiding a minimum of six (6) bushwalks on AS Class 4 tracks, at least three (3) of which must be overnight. In order to demonstrate currency, an applicant must have also completed a minimum of three (3) overnight expeditions in difficult or trackless areas i.e. on Class 5 tracks) either as a guide or without reliant clients.

Bushwalking Instructor (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas):

Critical aspects of a Bushwalking Instructor (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas) skills, knowledge and experience include aspects of a Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked Areas) **PLUS** an ability to demonstrate, teach and assess the following:

- Skills and knowledge to bushwalk in tracked or easy untracked areas i.e. on Australian Standard Class 4 tracks)

Knowledge such as:

- Track signage standards
- First aid knowledge appropriate to bushwalks in tracked/easy untracked areas
- Minimal impact camping and walking code to ensure protection of environment
- Advantages and disadvantages of the range of equipment and factors affecting appropriate selection
- Maintenance of equipment before, during and after the activity to ensure prolonged life
- Fluid and nutritional requirements in order to maintain health during activity
- Emergency and rescue procedures appropriate to bushwalks on Class 4 tracks in various locations
- Principles of clothing selection, e.g. layering effect and other factors affecting appropriate selection
- Sources of weather information and how to interpret weather information for bushwalking
- Camp craft practices to provide and maintain suitable overnight sites
- Advantages and disadvantages of different footwear and factors affecting appropriate selection for the anticipated track conditions
- Advantages of maintaining a good walking rhythm appropriate to the slowest person in order to conserve energy
- Walking techniques (e.g. ascending/descending techniques) for tracked/easy untracked areas
- Packing and waterproofing techniques in order to protect personal and group equipment
- Potential hazards that may be encountered whilst bushwalking (general and location specific) in order to undertake appropriate risk management
- Land management requirements to determine requirements specific to locations (e.g. permits, maximum group size, etc)

Skills such as:

- Use of a compass, map reading, route selection and navigation in tracked/easy untracked areas to determine location and avoid obstacles
- Distance estimations techniques (time, observation of surroundings, pacing) and selection of emergency evacuation routes
- First aid and emergency response to enable initial response to emergencies and personal health care
- Cooking on portable cooking systems
- Planning in order to calculate food, water, clothing and equipment requirements for overnight bushwalks in tracked/easy untracked areas
- Awareness of personal actions affecting safety of self, others in the group and other groups of walkers including bushwalking specific practices
- Minimal impact camping using lightweight, portable equipment
- Application of detailed weather information to ascertain possible conditions and their affect on the activity
- Operation of communications equipment to transmit and receive messages

An applicant seeking registration must have verifiable evidence of instructing a minimum of one (1) client group in the past twelve (12) months to enable them to navigate and bushwalk independently in tracked/easy untracked areas i.e. on Class 4 tracks) and to select and maintain a campsite.

Newly trained leaders must demonstrate instruction of a minimum of three (3) different client groups in navigation and bushwalking (tracked and easy untracked areas) and overnight lightweight camping techniques.

Bushwalking Guide (Difficult and Trackless Areas):

Critical aspects of a Bushwalking Guide (Difficult and Trackless Areas) skills, knowledge and experience include critical aspects of Bushwalking Guide (Tracked or Easy Untracked)

PLUS:

- Coordination of response to emergency situations
- Group leadership techniques
- River crossing techniques, knowledge of river features, ability to identify risks and select an appropriate location to cross a river and apply swimming techniques in whitewater
- Maintenance of a client's physical and emotional safety during a bushwalk (in a difficult and trackless area) and conduct of safe and enjoyable activities
- Interpretation of weather conditions in the field and analysis of their implications for a bushwalk in a difficult and trackless area
- Planning and navigation of a suitable bushwalking route for a group of clients, in reasonable weather conditions, in a difficult and trackless area i.e. on AS Class 5 tracks)
- Selection of bushwalking equipment appropriate to the situation and clients
- Application of risk analysis principles for an overnight bushwalk in a difficult and trackless areas

Ability to guide bushwalking expeditions in difficult and trackless areas, at a number of different locations, to suit:

- Different client needs
- Different activity aims
- Different types of client groups
- Different activity duration
- Different environmental conditions

An applicant seeking registration must have verifiable evidence of guiding a minimum of three (3) bushwalks in the past twelve (12) months on tracks classified as Class 5 or above as defined within the Australian Standard™. At least one of the guided walks must be overnight. In order to demonstrate currency, an applicant must have also completed a minimum of one (1) overnight expedition in difficult or trackless areas i.e. on Class 5 tracks) either as a guide or without reliant clients.

Newly trained outdoor leaders require verifiable evidence of a guiding a minimum of six (6) bushwalks on AS Class 5 tracks, at least three (3) of which must be overnight. In order to demonstrate currency, an applicant must have also completed a minimum of three (3) overnight expeditions in difficult or trackless areas i.e. on Class 5 tracks) either as a guide or without reliant clients.

Bushwalking Instructor (Difficult and Trackless Areas):

Critical aspects of a Bushwalking Instructor (Difficult and Trackless Areas) skills, knowledge and experience include aspects of a Bushwalking Guide (Difficult and Trackless Areas)

PLUS an ability to demonstrate, teach and assess the following:

- Skills and knowledge to bushwalk in difficult or trackless areas i.e. on Australian Standard Class 5 tracks

Knowledge such as:

- Track signage standards
- First aid knowledge appropriate to bushwalks in remote locations
- Minimal impact camping and walking code to ensure protection of environment
- Advantages and disadvantages of the range of equipment and factors affecting appropriate selection
- Maintenance of equipment before, during and after the activity to ensure prolonged life
- Fluid and nutritional requirements in order to maintain health during activity

- Emergency and rescue procedures appropriate to bushwalks in remote locations
- Principles of clothing selection, e.g. layering effect and other factors affecting appropriate selection
- Camp craft practices to provide and maintain suitable overnight sites
- Advantages and disadvantages of different footwear and factors affecting appropriate selection for the anticipated track conditions
- Advantages of maintaining a good walking rhythm appropriate to the slowest person in order to conserve energy
- Walking techniques (e.g. ascending/descending techniques) for difficult or trackless areas
- Pack handling, packing and lifting techniques to prevent/avoid injury
- Selection of tie-off points/anchors when using handlines to assist on steep terrain
- Packing and waterproofing techniques in order to protect personal and group equipment
- Potential hazards that may be encountered whilst bushwalking (general and location specific) in order to undertake appropriate risk management
- Land management requirements to determine requirements specific to locations (e.g. permits, maximum group size, etc)

Skills such as:

- Navigation in difficult or untracked areas to determine location, distance estimations techniques for maintaining a course in poor weather conditions and/or visibility, potential hazards, and to avoid obstacles and select emergency evacuation routes
- First aid and emergency response skills to enable initial response to emergencies and personal health care
- Cooking skills on portable cooking systems
- Planning skills in order to calculate food, water, clothing and equipment requirements for multi-day bushwalks in difficult and trackless areas
- Awareness of personal actions affecting safety of self, others in the group and other groups of walkers including bushwalking specific practices
- Minimal impact camping skills using lightweight, portable equipment
- Application of detailed weather information and observation of weather in the field to ascertain possible conditions and their affect on the activity
- River features, river crossing and swimming techniques

An applicant seeking registration must have verifiable evidence of instructing a minimum of one (1) client group in the past twelve (12) months to enable them to navigate and bushwalk independently in difficult and trackless areas i.e. on Class 5 tracks).

Newly trained leaders must demonstrate instruction of a minimum of three (3) different client groups in navigation and bushwalking in difficult and trackless areas i.e. on Class 5 tracks).

Bushwalking Guide (Unmodified Landscapes):

Critical aspects of a Bushwalking Guide (Unmodified Landscapes) skills, knowledge and experience include critical aspects of Bushwalking Guide (Difficult and Trackless) **PLUS:**

- Knowledge of an extensive range of possible equipment and the factors influencing the selection and preparation of equipment, food, fluid and clothing requirements for bushwalks in unmodified landscapes;
 - At a diversity of locations;
 - For extended time periods; and
 - In extreme environmental conditions
- Efficient bushwalking in unmodified landscapes i.e. on Class 6 'tracks') in a range of weather conditions considered extreme for the particular activity and at a range of different locations or sites in different seasons
- Navigation in unmodified landscapes in poor visibility and/or extreme environmental conditions
- Coordination of emergency response and performance of initial search/rescue in complex situations in wilderness areas

- Maintenance of a client's physical and emotional safety during extended bushwalks in a diversity of situations (e.g. bad weather, extended periods of time) and the conduct of safe and enjoyable activities
- Application of risk analysis principles in extended bushwalks, possibly in extreme environmental conditions
- Planning and navigation of a suitable route in extreme weather conditions in unmodified landscapes
- Ability to guide bushwalk expeditions in unmodified landscapes i.e. on Class 6 'tracks') at a number of different locations, to suit:
 - Different client needs
 - Different activity aims
 - Different types of client groups
 - Different activity duration
 - Different environmental conditions

An applicant seeking registration must have verifiable evidence of guiding a minimum of two (2) bushwalks (with a duration of two days or more) in the past twelve (12) months on tracks classified as Class 6 as defined within the Australian Standard™.

Bushwalking Instructor (Unmodified Landscapes):

Critical aspects of a Bushwalking Instructor (Unmodified Landscapes) skills, knowledge and experience include aspects of a Bushwalking Guide (Unmodified Landscapes) **PLUS** the ability to demonstrate, teach and assess the following:

- Skills and knowledge to bushwalk in unmodified landscapes i.e. on Australian Standard Class 6 'tracks')

Knowledge such as:

- Track signage standards
- First aid knowledge appropriate to bushwalks in wilderness locations
- Minimal impact camping and walking code to ensure protection of environment
- Advantages and disadvantages of the range of equipment and factors affecting appropriate selection
- Maintenance of equipment before, during and after the activity to ensure prolonged life
- Fluid and nutritional requirements in order to maintain health during activity
- Emergency and rescue procedures appropriate to bushwalks in remote locations
- Principles of clothing selection, e.g. layering effect and other factors affecting appropriate selection
- Camp craft practices to provide and maintain suitable overnight sites
- Advantages and disadvantages of different footwear and factors affecting appropriate selection for the anticipated track conditions
- Advantages of maintaining a good walking rhythm appropriate to the slowest person in order to conserve energy
- Walking techniques (e.g. ascending/descending techniques) for unmodified landscapes
- Pack handling, packing and lifting techniques to prevent/avoid injury
- Selection of tie-off points/anchors when using handlines to assist on steep terrain
- Packing and waterproofing techniques in order to protect personal and group equipment
- Potential hazards that may be encountered whilst bushwalking (general and location specific) in order to undertake appropriate risk management
- Land management requirements to determine requirements specific to locations (e.g. permits, maximum group size, etc)

Skills such as:

- Navigation in unmodified landscapes to determine location, distance estimations techniques for maintaining a course in poor weather conditions and/or visibility, potential hazards, and to avoid obstacles and select emergency evacuation routes
- First aid and emergency response skills to enable initial response to emergencies and personal health care

- Cooking skills on portable cooking systems in extreme environmental conditions or for extended periods
- Planning skills in order to calculate food, water, clothing and equipment requirements for multi-day bushwalks in unmodified landscapes
- Awareness of personal actions affecting safety of self, others in the group and other groups of walkers including bushwalking specific practices
- Minimal impact camping skills using lightweight, portable equipment in extreme environmental conditions or for extended periods
- Application of detailed weather information and observation of weather in the field to ascertain possible conditions and their affect on the activity

An applicant seeking registration must have verifiable evidence of instructing a minimum of one (1) client group in the past twelve (12) months to enable them to navigate and bushwalk independently in unmodified landscapes i.e. on Class 6 tracks).

APPENDIX 1: Summary of the Australian Standard™ Walking Tracks Part 1: Classification and Signage (AS 2156.1—2001)³

CLASS 1

Opportunity for large numbers of visitors, including those with reduced mobility, to undertake walks that are provided with a high level of interpretation and facilities. Users can expect abundant opportunities to learn about the natural environment through interpretive signs or brochures. Users can expect frequent encounters with others.

Elements for classification	
Track conditions	Generally a broad, hard surfaced track suitable for wheelchair use. Width: 1200 mm or more. Well maintained with minimal intrusions
Gradient	Grades in accordance with the AS 1428 series. Steps allowed only with alternate ramp access.
Signage	Signs for management and interpretation purposes may be used frequently. Arrow type track markers shall be used at intersections.
Infrastructure	Facilities along the track may include lookout platforms, seats and barrier rails. Camping is generally not allowed along the track.
Terrain	Users need no previous experience and are expected to exercise normal care regarding their personal safety.
Weather	Not applicable.

Management intervention is high, with tracks and adjacent natural and built elements inspected and maintained regularly (every 30 days or less). Track details will generally be shown at the track head and on local maps and brochures.

CLASS 2

Opportunity for large numbers of visitors to walk easily in natural environments that have a moderate to high level of interpretation and facilities. Users can expect to learn about the natural environment with moderate to abundant opportunities to learn through interpretive signs or brochures. Users can expect frequent encounters with others.

Elements for classification	
Track conditions	Generally a modified or hardened surface. Width: 900 mm or more. Well

³ Standards Australia (2001) Australian Standard™ Walking tracks Part 1: Classification and signage. Standards Australia, Sydney

	maintained with minimal intrusions
Gradient	Generally no steeper than 1:10. Minimal use of steps
Signage	Signs for management and interpretation purposes may be used frequently. Arrow type track markers shall be used at intersections
Infrastructure	Facilities along the track may include lookout platforms, seats and barrier rails. Camping is generally not allowed along the track
Terrain	Users need no previous experience and are expected to exercise normal care regarding their personal safety
Weather	Not applicable

Management intervention is moderate to high, with tracks and adjacent natural and built elements inspected and maintained regularly (every 90 days or less). Track details will generally be shown at the track head and on local maps and brochures.

CLASS 3

Opportunity for visitors to walk in slightly modified natural environments requiring a moderate level of fitness and where the provision of interpretation and facilities is not common. Users can expect opportunities to observe and appreciate the natural environment with limited provision of interpretive signage. Users can expect occasional encounters with others.

Elements for classification	
Track conditions	Generally a modified surface, sections may be hardened. Width variable and generally less than 1200 mm. Kept mostly clear of intrusions and obstacles
Gradient	May exceed 1:10 for short sections but generally no steeper than 1:10. Steps may be common
Signage	Signs and track markers may be used for direction. Limited signage for management and interpretation purposes
Infrastructure	Facilities generally not provided except for specific safety and environmental considerations
Terrain	Users need no bushwalking experience and a minimum level of specialized skills. Users may encounter natural hazards such as steep slopes, unstable surfaces and minor water crossings. They are responsible for their own safety
Weather	Storms may affect navigation and safety

Management intervention is moderate with built elements inspected and maintained regularly. Any built facilities will be managed for public risk (inspection interval every 6 months or less). Track details will generally be shown on local maps and brochures.

CLASS 4

Opportunity for visitors to explore and discover relatively undisturbed natural environments along defined and distinct tracks with minimal (if any) facilities. Users can expect opportunities to observe and appreciate the natural environment without provision of interpretive signage. Users can expect opportunities for solitude with few encounters with others.

Elements for classification	
Track conditions	Generally distinct without major modification to the ground. Encounters with fallen debris and other obstacles are likely
Gradient	Limited to environmental and maintenance considerations
Signage	Minimal signage for management and directional purposes
Infrastructure	Facilities generally not provided except for specific safety and environmental

	considerations
Terrain	Users require a moderate level of specialized skills such as navigation skills. Users may require maps and navigation equipment to successfully complete the track. Users need to be self-reliant, particularly in regard to emergency first aid and possible weather hazards
Weather	Storms and severe weather may affect navigation and safety

Management intervention is low to moderate, with tracks inspected on a regular basis and after major natural events such as cyclones or fires. Any built facilities are managed for public risk (inspection interval: six (6) to twelve (12) months). Track details may be shown on local maps and brochures.

CLASS 5

Opportunity for visitors with advanced outdoor knowledge and skills to find their own way along often indistinct tracks in remote locations. Users can expect frequent opportunities for solitude with few encounters with others.

Elements for classification	
Track conditions	Limited modification to natural surfaces and track alignment may be indistinct in places. Minimal cleaning and debris along the track
Gradient	May include steep sections of unmodified surfaces
Signage	Signage is limited and only for management purposes
Infrastructure	Facilities generally not provided except for specific safety and environmental considerations
Terrain	Users require a high degree of specialized skills such as navigation skills. Users may require maps and navigation equipment to successfully complete the track. Users need to be self-reliant, particularly in regard to emergency first aid and possible weather hazards.
Weather	Storms and severe weather may affect navigation and safety.

Management intervention is low and tracks are inspected on a regular basis and after major natural events such as cyclones or fires. Any built facilities are managed for public risk, with an inspection interval of six (6) to eighteen (18) months. Track details may be shown on local maps and brochures.

CLASS 6

Opportunity for highly experienced walkers to explore remote and challenging natural areas without reliance on managed tracks. Users can expect extended periods of solitude with few encounters with others.

Elements for classification	
Track conditions	No modification of the natural environment
Gradient	May include steep sections of unmodified surfaces
Signage	Signage is generally not provided.
Infrastructure	Facilities generally not provided
Terrain	Users require previous experience in the outdoors and a high level of specialized skills such as navigation skills. Users will generally require a map and navigation equipment to complete the track. Users need to be self-reliant, particularly in regard to emergency first aid and possible weather hazards.
Weather	Storms and severe weather may affect navigation and safety.

Management intervention is negligible. Tracks are not managed for public risk and users are responsible for personal safety and need to exercise appropriate care. Track details will not normally be provided by the managing authority.