

Illawarra Birders Outing Guidelines

We all like to discover new places to see birds. Members are highly encouraged to organise group outings. If you would like to do so, the following guidelines are worth considering.

- 1) The location should be an easily drivable distance to be able to start between 8 and 9 am, do the walk, and return home before dark. Within 1.5 hr driving distance of Wollongong should be used as a guide.
- 2) Any area of parkland, coast, suburban pathways, or bush, with easily negotiable walking terrain. A maximum walking distance of 5km should be used as a guide.
- 3) An outing involving walking is not necessary. Do you know of a spot where you can stay in one place and set-up spotting scopes? Great!
- 4) If you know of a longer route beyond the above guidelines, say a location further afield or a long walk where you know there are birds; detail is paramount. The distance, the terrain, how long it's likely to take etc. Possible participants, due our members variability in age and physical ability, need to know these details in order to make their decision whether or not to go. **If you have not been to the area for some time, memory can be deceptive. Do a reconnaissance beforehand so you are sure the details.**
- 5) As the organiser, you will need to give your mobile phone contact and **those who are going to attend should contact you beforehand.**
- 6) As the day approaches, consider any adverse conditions of weather, road conditions, lack of participants etc. and be prepared to cancel the event for whatever reason you feel necessary. **Let those who said they were going to attend know.**

We do strongly encourage all members to organise trips. You can do so as an individual or a small team of organisers. As the leader, it is paramount, though, that you consider the physical ability and safety of all who attend.

SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR A WALKS TEMPLATE

Simple template for walks

Here is a simple template of things you want to include in a walk write up that you are leading. Send the completed write up to Andrew Wood (andrew@awood.com.au) for inclusion on the Activities listings.

Where:

Leader and Mobile phone number:

Answer the following questions:

- Carry morning tea or at the cars?
- Carry lunch or at the cars?
- Any special directions if the location is not findable on Google Maps. This is not necessary for well-known spots.
- How long is the walk, especially if over 3 kms or rough terrain.
- Anything special to bring? Examples might be extra water, scope. Normally things such as hat and sturdy shoes shouldn't need to be explained except to new members.
- Are there toilet facilities?

Do you want a Text message people attending?