

**Managing Wild and Weedy Australia Fenner Conference February 2020,  
Charlotte Pass**

**Hazards Information**

This sheet is to provide information about hazards associated with the workshop environment, particularly for the walks that will be held throughout the workshop. It contains information about communications and what to bring.

**Communications:**

Emergency: 000

Nicholas Gill – 0439 859 290

Sonia Graham - 0415 883 774

Stillwell Lodge, Charlotte Pass (02) 6457 5073; Charlotte Pass Resort 02 6457 1555

Satellite Phone (Nick Gill): 0011870776394308

National Parks and Wildlife Service Jindabyne: (02) 6450 5600

**Locations:**

- Charlotte Pass Ski Resort and surrounds including:
  - Main Range Track
  - Summit Track
  - Mt Stillwell Track
  - Blue Lake and the Main Range

**Hazards:**

The main hazards are:

- Weather extremes: Kosciuszko National Park and particularly the alpine and sub-alpine areas can be subject to extremes of weather at any time of the year. *This means you may need to prepare for heat and exposure to sun as well be being ready for cold weather, poor visibility, and rain or snow.*
- Getting Lost: If you do get lost and cannot locate yourself, find a safe and comfortable place to wait for assistance.
- Insect and animal bites: Insects and snakes are a risk in the area. If you are bitten apply first aid and seek assistance. You may want to wear long pants during any walks.
- Remoteness: We will not be engaging in extended wilderness walks but the Charlotte Pass area and the walks are relatively remote and assistance may

take a while to arrive. Always let us know where you are going by signing in and out, and stay with the group.

- Crossing creeks and rivers: You may need to cross waterways as part of the walks. Always check the water levels to see if it is safe to cross. Cross carefully and work together to make it a safe process.
- Bushfires: If fires are in the area we will consult with NPWS and walks will only proceed if it is safe to do.

### **Before and During a Walk:**

- Check you have the things you need to make your walk safe – this includes a map, snacks, some water, clothes appropriate for the forecast and what you intend to do, and a first aid kit. Useful information is at <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/safety/bushwalking-safety/think-before-you-trek>
- On the organised walks we will have safety equipment such as Personal Locator Beacons and first aid kits. Nick Gill will have a satellite phone as listed above.
- We will have copies of maps of the Charlotte Pass area at Stillwell Lodge for you to use.
- We will have a sign out and sign in sheet at Stillwell Lodge and on the walks – if you do go for a walk by yourself or in a group use the sheet to note who is going, where you intend to go, and when you intend to return.
- Stay with the group. If you do need separate from the group for any reason, let someone know.

### **Gear and clothing for outdoor activities:**

We recommend you bring the following for outdoor use:

- A pack suitable for day walks
- Warm clothes – eg. beanies, thermals, gloves, and a warm jacket for cold weather
- Long sleeved trousers and shirt or other protective top;
- Broad brimmed hat;
- A good pair of enclosed footwear such as walking shoes or boots;
- Gaiters if you have them;
- A compass if you have one;
- sun screen;
- sunglasses;
- personal insect repellent – spray or roll on; there can be leeches at the mine site;
- Waterproof jacket and pants;
- Sufficient water and containers to carry for a day out, potentially in warm weather;
- First aid kit – we will have kits but you may want to bring your own
- Any particular snacks you like.

### **General Safety:**

- Obey the instructions given to you by the party leader and staff of relevant organisations who might be assisting with the trip – this might include NPWS staff.
- Ensure you listen to the briefing or any other information given prior to the commencement of the fieldtrip;
- Be wary of hazards such as glass, discarded needles, sharp rocks, metal and sticks;
- If in doubt as the nature of any material (soil, solids, liquid etc), do not disturb it and ask for guidance
- Don't be afraid to ask for assistance;
- Always keep together as a group and don't wander off by yourself;
- Avoid walking near cliff edges or near steep slopes;
- When near the water's edge or in the water, be especially careful, eg. of soft edges or rising waters;
- Always use established paths and avoid walking through tall grass or through vegetation unless necessary for the fieldtrip activities;
- don't throw or roll rocks down steep slopes or over cliff edges; and
- be wary of the presence of animals such as snakes, spiders, ticks, leeches.

### **Environmental Considerations:**

Do not disturb or gather any flora or fauna, unless specifically instructed to do so. Leave any location in exactly the way you found it. Remove any personal rubbish and discard in bins at the location or take it with you for disposal later. On private property, take extra care to remove any personal rubbish and secure any gate(s) after leaving. If in doubt, always leave gates as you found them. Do not disturb any stock.

### **Medical conditions:**

If you need to take any medication(s) or have a prior medical condition that may restrict your ability to undertake all aspects of the field trip, then it is your responsibility to inform the party leader *before the field trip*. All information supplied by you will remain strictly confidential. You can provide this information in the Participant Acknowledgement Form that we provide.

Additional instructions may be given to you during the workshop or walks. It is up to you to read all material issued and to follow any specific instructions or directions.