

Introduction to BWV Leader Training Modules, Club Challenges + More

Summary of Club Connections Zoom Session November 2023

Purpose:

The session aimed to introduce the Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) Leader Training Modules, discuss common club challenges, and foster connections among club members. The meeting provided an opportunity to share ideas, insights, and strategies to overcome challenges faced by bushwalking clubs.

Note: *There were 2 x sessions on this subject, a daytime session that was then repeated as an evening session. The content presented for each session was the same, however the questions may have been different from each audience. This summary captures the key points from each session.*

Key Topics Covered:

1. Introductions and Acknowledgements:

- Participants introduced themselves, their clubs, and their roles.
- Discussions highlighted the personal value of bushwalking clubs, such as social connections, exploring new walks, and learning from experienced leaders.

2. Celebrating Wins:

- Clubs shared recent successes, including:
 - Conducting leadership training sessions.
 - Organising wilderness first aid courses.
 - Launching updated websites for better member engagement.
 - Successfully recruiting new committee members.

3. Club Challenges:

- Common challenges included:
 - Recruiting and retaining walk leaders.
 - Filling gaps in walk programs.
 - Attracting younger members to clubs with aging demographics.
 - Simplifying administrative processes to focus on activities.

4. Proposed Solutions and Shared Insights:

- **For Recruiting Leaders:**
 - Identify potential leaders and approach personally - start as co-leader
 - Offering leadership training and mentoring to build confidence.
 - Encouraging members to lead safer, shorter walks initially.
- **For Attracting Younger Members:**
 - Using platforms like Meetup or Facebook to promote club activities.
 - Ensuring weekend and overnight walks are included on the program
 - Creating separate divisions for younger or less experienced members.
- **For Simplifying Administration:**
 - Streamlining committee meetings and using technology for decision-making.
 - Partnering with other clubs for shared activities, eg overnight walks.

5. Bushwalking Victoria Leader Training Modules:

- Overview of online training modules aimed at supporting clubs in leader training.
- Encouragement for clubs to integrate these modules into their existing training processes.
- Request for feedback on how clubs plan to use the modules and additional resources required.

Key Takeaways:

- Collaboration and shared experiences are vital for overcoming challenges.
- Clubs should embrace flexibility in their approaches, tailoring solutions to their unique needs and member demographics.
- The BWV Leader Training Modules provide a valuable resource for clubs, with potential for customization based on club feedback.

Next Steps:

- Clubs are encouraged to explore the BWV training modules and provide feedback.
- Future Club Connections sessions will focus on specific themes, such as recruiting committee members or simplifying administrative processes.
- Continued sharing of case studies and successful strategies to inspire and guide other clubs.

The session highlighted the importance of education, collaboration and adaptability to ensure the long-term health and vibrancy of bushwalking clubs.