

## Bunarong Snippets

The Club periodically sends out little snippets about walking, often repeated every few years. If you have an interesting snippet (or topic) which you think might be educational for the Club, please send it to one of the committee member's for inclusion in Tribal Tales.

This edition's Snippet is a repeat of:

### Whistle Etiquette

Whistles are an important safety item on a bushwalk and it is the Club's policy that all participants on a bushwalk should carry one with them at all times. They should be easily and quickly accessible in the case of an emergency, e.g. keep them in the top compartment of your back-pack or attach them to the outside where you can get to it at a moment's notice.



So, what does a whistle blast mean?

- 🔊 One Blast            Where are you? Respond with one blast back.
- 🔊 Two Blasts           Stop. Come back to the sound of the whistle. For example, you might have missed a track junction and gone too far.
- 🔊 Three Blasts        Emergency! I need help.

Incidentally, three blasts of anything is generally recognised as an emergency – at least in Australia.

**SO – sometimes we may find ourselves behind (or in front) of the main group and not too sure where to go. What should you do? One loud burst of the whistle! Three if you in distress.**

### Walking Etiquette

Which brings us to some etiquette about walking either ahead or behind the group. You should only walk ahead of the leader if you know where to stop – definitely at track junctions, but also check if the leader wants to stop for morning tea, lunch, re-grouping etc. Conversely, if you are well behind the group, make every effort to catch up, but don't hesitate to use your whistle if others are simply going too fast or take off as soon as you catch up.

### Volunteering

The Club occasionally has "volunteering" or "give something back" activities however you may want to do more. Bushwalking Victoria has an active program for volunteers. For details, see:

<https://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/get-involved/volunteer>

If you register with Bushwalking Victoria, they will also send you email notices of upcoming volunteering activities.