

## Nav 2006 - Course Setter's Notes

Welcome to the Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Emergency Services Navigation Shield, 2006. This year's course is predominantly on typical Blue Mountains ridges and cliff tops. To do well this year you will need to be able to navigate accurately finding small navigational features and plan an effective route in challenging terrain. *These notes form part of the event rules.* Any competitor found in breach of the rules may be penalised or disqualified from the event.

**Checkpoint Scores:** The points value of a checkpoint is the first digit of the checkpoint number, that is: numbers 40 to 49 are worth 40 points, numbers 50 to 59 are worth 50 points and so on.

**Water:** Little water is to be found on the course, however recent rains may have improved the situation. Water was found in Wanganderry Creek, Wilsons Creek and Jocks Creek but water quality cannot be guaranteed so you are recommended to treat the water. Clean water is available at all radio checkpoints.

**Late Penalty:** The finish time for the one-day event is 19:30, Saturday; and the two-day event is 14:00, Sunday. Any team returning to base after these times will be penalised at 30 points per 5 minutes late, or part thereof. Any team more than 1 hour late will be retired from the event ("DNF" –did not finish). If you are likely to be more than 1 hour late for your finish time, please proceed immediately to the nearest radio checkpoint.

**Map:** The map scale is 1:25000 with a 10m contour interval. The grid squares on the map are one kilometre. The event map is copied directly from a standard topographic map with only a few corrections for errors. Some major cliffs have been added – all marked cliffs can be considered impassable, and there are plenty of minor cliffs which are not marked.

**Safety:** If you come across a team with an injury or otherwise in difficulty, please assist them if they request. Make sure the team going for help records the team name and number of the team in difficulty, the nature of the incident and any injuries sustained, your current position and the time the incident occurred. You can also contact us on mobile phone number 0427 455 897. There is patchy GSM and CDMA mobile phone coverage over the high points of the course.

**Route Intentions:** At the start of the event, we would like you to inform us of your team's intentions for your first 3 checkpoints and the radio checkpoint you intend to use for Saturday. Please write this on the enclosed intentions form. You will receive 10 points if you do this before leaving base on Saturday morning. We also ask you to tell us what vehicles are associated with your team so we can find you at base if we need to, and to inform us if you intend to attempt the daring crossing of the Wanganderry Creek gorge from CP 81 to 63. You may be some time on this crossing and we would like to know if you may attempt it!

**Private Property:** This course only exists due to the generosity of a number of private property holders. Please respect their privacy. Do not damage fences, disrupt crops or stock or approach private houses or huts. Any team found in out of bounds areas or off the map can have a points penalty imposed.

**Terrain:** The Wanganderry plateau is an extensive ridge complex dissected by large cliff lined gorges. The ridges are generally pleasant walking with low to moderate scrub. The smaller creeks have many unmarked cliffs making them a challenge to cross and the three large gorges (Wanganderry Creek, Wilsons Creek, Jocks Creek) are formidable obstacles with extensive cliff lines and some heavy scrub near the watercourse. Passes across these gorges can be hard to find – your best bet is at smaller tributary watercourses as they are often the only break in the cliff for miles around. Do not take risks with unsafe cliff passes; don't forget an easier pass is always just around the corner. Do not attempt major passes at night. Only two passes into Wanganderry Creek on the south side are known and they are marked on your map. The pass at 5118 9902 is difficult to find. The only known pass on the north side of Wanganderry Creek is the watercourse at 5158 0000.

**Master Map:** A master map showing all checkpoint locations will be available in front of the administration tent from 09:00 Saturday morning. This is 15 minutes after the start of the event and competitors will not be allowed to view it before this time. It will allow you to check the accuracy of the checkpoint locations you have marked on your map.

**Radio Checkpoints:** Don't forget that you have to report to at least one radio checkpoint on Saturday or a points penalty will be imposed. You cannot use base as a radio checkpoint on Saturday. If you are competing in the two day event you also must report to a radio checkpoint on Sunday. Two day teams may report to the administration tent at base between 06:00 and 09:00 Sunday only to count for a radio checkpoint (and avoid the penalty) however you will not score any points for this.

**Final Comment:** Checkpoints 77, 78, 79, 81 and 83 will require very careful navigation to find. They are a good challenge for experienced navigators and should not be regarded as easy points!