



Wombats SA

(Natural History Society of South Australia Inc)

Policy for Code of Conduct on NHSSA/Wombats SA Reserves

Endorsed 21 September 2017

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to inform members, volunteers and invited guests on accepted behaviour within NHSSA/Wombats SA reserves to meet our public liability obligations.

Visiting Reserves

- 1) Persons conducting research projects may visit the reserves
 - a) after they provide proof of ethics approval along with associated research permits obtained through their supervising institutions,
 - b) after they and their project have been approved by the Management Committee,
 - c) and providing they follow the same guidelines listed below for members, volunteers and visitors.
- 2) With the exception of the self-guided Nature Trail, members, volunteers, visitors and researchers may visit the reserves only:
 - a) on scheduled Volunteer Days and/or
 - b) by invitation or prior agreement of the Management Committee or Head Ranger
 - i) visitors must advise their arrival times, planned activities, departure time, when expected home,
 - ii) must provide details of the people going with them , and
 - iii) must provide a point of contact in the event of emergency.
- 3) With the exception of the self-guided Nature Trail, members, volunteers, visitors and researchers may not visit the reserves:
 - a) without approval from the Management Committee or Head Ranger, or
 - b) without prior contact and arrangement with the Ranger on Duty on a Wednesday to Wednesday roster (check calendar on website),
 - c) on high fire danger days,
 - d) when firearms use has been scheduled. (Check calendar on website or contact Ranger on Duty for possible use of firearms. The ranger may visit for just one day so you may still be able to visit the reserve on that weekend.)

Behaviour

- 4) Members, volunteers and visitors must:
 - a) only drive on approved tracks,

- b) not exceed maximum speed of 30km/hr, however lower speeds are encouraged,
- c) not conduct any projects without prior approval of the Management Committee,
- d) not interfere with the natural environment except with explicit permission from the Management Committee and with appropriate permits and ethics approvals to conduct their research project;
 - i) this includes disturbance of native flora (including leaves, branches, leaf litter), fauna (including nests, eggs) and soil
- e) leave facilities and reserves in a clean and tidy condition,
- f) not allow unauthorised people on the reserves, and
- g) not take firearms. Only approved rangers are permitted to have firearms on the reserves. See “Policy for the Use of Firearms on All NHSSA/Wombats SA Reserves”.
- h) Display respectful behaviour towards other people at all times.

Safety

- 5) Members, volunteers, visitors and researchers have the right to feel safe at all times. Therefore you are expected to report:
 - a) unsafe or disrespectful behaviour and
 - b) if you see any firearms. (These are strictly controlled by permit and the reserve is closed if they are to be used.)
- 6) People working out on the reserve should wear Hi Vis vests so that if they become lost or injured they can be seen and found more easily.
- 7) It is expected that Members, volunteers, visitors and researchers carry a mobile phone whilst on NHSSA/Wombats SA reserves so that they are able to phone in the event of an emergency and that they are contactable at all times.

Avenue for complaint

- 8) Contact the Management Committee or Head Ranger to make a formal complaint you have the right to feel safe in making a complaint therefore you can remain anonymous, but, you will require strong evidence
- 9) You may need to make a formal complaint to police if the behaviour is illegal.

Complaints and penalties

- 10) Anyone found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct, which is in place to protect all who visit the NHSSA/Wombats SA Reserves, will be subject to disciplinary action as per the NHSSA/Wombats SA Constitution.

Right to Appeal

- 11) As per the NHSSA/Wombats SA Constitution you have the right to appeal any decision.