The Bush Club Inc
AGM 20th November 2014
Membership Report

Membership Statistics as at end of July

	2011	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**			**2011**	**2012**	**201 3**	**2014**
Prospectives						**Full Members**				
Opening Bal	70	117	122	143		Opening Bal	607	626	646	688
New	135	149	175	165						
Net Lapsed	(24)	(75)	(54)	(102)		Net Lost	(45)	(49)	(58)	(51)
Advanced to Full	(64)	(69)	(100)	(87)		New Members	64	69	100	87
Closing Bal	117	122	143	119		Closing Bal	626	646	688	724

Membership of the Club has continued to grow at a consistent rate. An advantage of the large number of members is the capacity of programs to cater to a broad range of interests and abilities. During the year we welcomed a number of very experienced bushwalkers looking for change of pace, more weekday walks, or more opportunities to undertake off-track explorations with a group of skilful and adventurous walkers. The trend in previous years, of prospective members finding the Club through the internet or word of mouth in equal rates, varied slightly in 2013-14 with 67% of the current prospective members citing word of mouth as their first reference. Currently the Club has a slight gender imbalance with 54% female members and 57% female prospective members.

Comments from new members
Most walk reports list the participating names one or more prospective walkers and I acknowledge the special effort made by leaders and members to welcome and support these prospective members. Full member applications cite the variety of walks and terrain, experienced and helpful leaders, excellent organisation and communication, and friendliness of club members as the chief reasons for joining the club:
"The club's different types of walks available throughout the week was the first attraction. My first 3 walks are in distinctively different environments but I enjoyed them all. But the best experience to date has been club members I have met. They have been very welcoming and friendly.

Acknowledgements
I am indebted to Kevin Yeats, the previous Membership Secretary, for his thorough documentation of procedures and files, in preparation for our handover in August 2013. I was extremely fortunate to inherit efficient membership processes and electronic procedures developed and refined by the previous Membership Secretaries. During 2014, I was able to process electronic applications during holidays in Europe and Australia. My sincere thanks to Bob Taffel for handling all membership processes in September 2013 and Bob and Col Prentice for their work with postal and phone enquiries in June and September 2014.

Our database manager Ron Mead is the backbone of Club records, data, and documentation of

walk reports. Ron's formidable memory of names, events and participants, combined with his specialised computing skills and deep commitment, ensure that record keeping is precise, up-to-date, and accessible. The role of Membership Secretary is superbly supported by the excellent Bush Club website. Information and forms are easily accessed and I thank our webmaster Jacqui Hickson for her constant attention to updating and refining forms, contact details, photographs, texts and site navigation.

Electronic communication has enabled the approval and communication of full membership applications to be reduced to two or three days, but our speedy processes are due to the combined efforts of walk leaders, Ron Mead, and the membership subcommittee. My thanks to our walk leaders who submit their walk reports very promptly, to Jacqui and Ron for maintaining the "Completed" records on a daily basis, and to Ron and Graham Condon who review the online applications and send their approvals within hours, from remote locations in Australia and abroad.