



LIFE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION FORM

I, Family Name: **Lintern**
Given Name: **Melvyn**

Being a current member of 'Bushwalking WA' or a current member of a Member Club of the association, I wish to nominate:

Nominee Family Name: **McDONALD**

Nominee Given Name: **IAN**

for the award of Life Membership of the association.

I have read the criteria and believe that this nominee complies with the criteria and has made a meritorious contribution to the organisation and/or bushwalking as detailed below.

Signature: 

To assist the Board's consideration of this nomination, provide specific information about the nominee's role and contribution:

- **Federation President 2005 – 2011**
- **Federation Secretary ca. 1999- 2004**

Achievements and other contributions:

Ian McDonald was the stalwart of the Federation of Western Australian Bushwalkers over a long period. He served on the Federation's Committee including as President from 2005 to 2011 and also several active years as Secretary. He also contributed to the Federation's activities as a Member Club representative (for Perth Bushwalkers Club).

Ian was President during a pivotal period for bushwalking in this state. Around 2005-2010, the Clubs and the wider public were facing the prospect of being increasingly 'locked-out' of water catchment areas near Perth and beyond. Bushwalkers had for decades been allowed walking access to the catchments but new over-zealous government agency plans around 2007 would have had the effect of limiting bushwalkers to the Bibbulmun Track. During this time, under Ian's leadership, the Federation made several key submissions, presenting the bushwalkers' case for continued access. In 2010, this culminated in the Federation - represented by Ian and others - appearing before a Parliamentary Committee which was carrying out an inquiry into recreational access in the catchments. Ian soon after also took the then Minister for Environment and Water and various agency reps out bushwalking to see for themselves where and how we bushwalk. The ultimate positive outcome from the inquiry, plus Federation submissions in more recent years, has been a significant softening of the original planned restrictions on bushwalking. The so-called 'Policy 13' today recognises bushwalkers' long tradition of "free-range" bushwalking in the outer

catchments as being an acceptable, continuing activity. Without access to outer catchments, bushwalking opportunities, especially close to Perth, would have become severely limited.

Ian was also proactive as Federation Secretary in 2001 when access to the Fitzgerald River National Park came under the spotlight, with pressures on government to exclude access, amid fears of dieback spread. As a counter, the Federation lobbied the Department of Conservation and Land Management to install basic infrastructure and supported a plan to develop a trans-Fitzgerald National Park Coastal Walk Trail. This ultimately led to two separate developed trails that now extend into the park from either side. Although the central section of the original trail concept has not been developed, the new infrastructure – including bushwalking huts and camping areas - installed at each end of the park, today gives bushwalkers much easier access than previously.

Ian also contributed on behalf of the Federation in several other ways; including frequent liaison with the relevant government agencies and related bodies. He was a member of the steering committee for the development of the embryonic State Trails Strategy which later led on to the State Trails Strategy Blueprint, published in 2017, which has in turn led to the current draft Bushwalking and Trail Running Strategy. Ian also served on behalf of the Federation as a member of the WA Government Trails Reference Group, ensuring that bushwalkers' interests were strongly represented.

Although this nomination relates mainly to Ian's past Presidency of the Federation, his wider contributions are also relevant; In particular his two very active years as President of Bushwalking Australia (2007-2008; while also Federation President). He helped BA through a challenging period, so that the peak national body could continue in its important role for the State bodies.

Ian McDonald is a most worthy candidate for Life Membership of the Federation. He has shown a rare, sustained commitment and tenacity in advocating over the years for the best interests of bushwalking in WA. Life Membership would be a fitting recognition of his inspiring legacy.

Contact details:

Nominee: Email ianmcd299@gmail.com

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Nominator: Email melvyn.lintern@gmail.com

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Please email this nomination to (Acting) Executive Officer (execofficer@bushwalkingwa.org.au) within the timeframe specified in the Board's call for nominations.
