



May 2026

Dear Pathfinders and Parents,

This letter is to provide information for the Expedition at Thirlmere Lakes and surrounding National Park on Friday, 5th to Sunday, 7th June, 2026. This camp is a hiking camp in a beautiful location, and the Pathfinders will be doing different walks based on their class level and hiking ability.

Required gear

All levels

- Consult the Hiking Checklist for what to bring and be extra sure to pack all the required items, as it will be cold in the evenings, and possibly wet - <https://castlehillpathfinder.club/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/hiking-equipment1.pdf>
 - Ensure some lightweight hiking pants are brought, as tracksuit pants are too hot and heavy for hiking in. It gets hot quickly when carrying a pack!
- Bring a watch so you will know the time and can be ready when asked. Nothing expensive in case it gets lost, or that will run out of charge, but something that can be taken on all camps (Kmart has a \$9 sports-type watch that does the job nicely!).
- Camping t-shirts – Pathfinders must wear their ‘camping shirts’ (not the polo) so that we can easily identify them. If your Pathfinder does not have the new camping t-shirt, made of the breathable material, you may wish to order one at ASAP at [T-shirt \(new style\) – Castle Hill Pathfinder Club](#)
- Ensure quality socks are brought that are at least ¼ crew or crew length, not low-cut socks, as they may result in blisters.
- Bring a packed dinner on Friday night to eat as we drive in the cars, as per usual. This can be brought in a daypack to leave behind any items that won’t be needed on the hike.
- Please remember to limit the lollies to just a few. Healthy, nutritious food is best. Fruit such as apples and oranges are good, and vegetable sticks easily keep fresh until Sabbath lunch.

Hike details

All levels

- All gear must be packed in the pack prior to arriving at church on Friday night.
- Pathfinders will be sleeping 1-3 per tent, which the club will supply.
- There will be toilets at the base camp, but none at the Saturday night camp site. Ensure a plastic trowel, toilet paper and handwipes/sanitizer is brought.
- There won’t be any showers so bring wet wipes etc for freshening up (and a zip-lock bag for the rubbish).
- Fresh water will be available to fill up water bottles. Bring 2L to start with though.
- Bring a spare rubbish bin liner in case a wet tent needs to be packed into the pack on Sabbath/Sunday mornings.
- The Expedition Pre Log 2026 file on our website has additional information if you are interested. With their “What to Bring” list, our hiking list is basically the same. The club will supply: additional water, water filter items, handline, radio, GPS, mobile phone so you do not need to supply these items.

Intermediates and Seniors

- Bring water bottles to have capacity to carry 4L of water with you. There will be water drops at various locations, but not guaranteed.

Juniors (Level 1, Friend and Companion classes)

- A hiking pack of at least 55L is needed, which is large enough to carry all their items short distances (3-4km per day).
- There will not be rubbish bins and washing up facilities this camp, so Pathfinders need to be responsible for these items themselves.

Arrival and return times - Arrive at Castle Hill SDA church between 4:00pm - 4:15pm on Friday afternoon (please be on time) so we can leave as soon as possible. We aim to be back around 4:30pm on Sunday. Parents, please keep an eye on your email and Facebook over the weekend and we will update you on any events and ETA to church on Sunday.

Transport - We will be transporting all the children via cars. Your child will be allocated a car to travel in. We will group friends together as much as possible.

Cost – The cost for the camp will be \$65 per person (\$25 payable to the club for transport and consumables, and \$40 payable to the Conference).

Camp Forms – Please go to our website and complete the [Registration for camp](#). Note that the process is a little different than usual, as the Conference registration has to be done as well as the club registration. When completing the Conference registration, you will be asked to submit your hiking level. Either choose the option that aligns closest with your class level (Juniors = Basic, Intermediate = Intermediate, Senior = Advanced) or choose “Not Sure Yet”. This choice is only an indication, and the club leaders will make the final determination.

RSVP: Please pay your camp fees and complete your forms no later than **7pm Monday, 25th May, 2026**.

If your child is not attending, please advise Priscilla by email [at chpathfindersecretary@gmail.com](mailto:chpathfindersecretary@gmail.com) (if not already done).

Thank you for your continued commitment to Castle Hill Pathfinders. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Rachel, Stephen, or Priscilla. Remember, if you are buying new gear for this camp – think “light and warm” as you will need to carry it!

Kind regards,

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