

## **OH NO I HAVE LOST THE GROUP AND DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO**

Not a pleasant situation to be in but there a few basic steps you can follow to ensure you don't spend too much time alone in the bush.

### **Tip Number 2 – How to stop being lost**

Firstly **DON'T PANIC**

Secondly stay put for a while – the trip leader should realise in a short period of time that he / she has lost one of the flock and backtrack looking for you. The further you wander, especially if you are unsure of the correct direction, the less likely the group is to find you.

Use the whistle you are carrying (and you carry one while bushwalking, don't you) to make the relevant distress signal and listen for the groups return signals.

Distress signal by lost party - 3 signals together, regularly spaced

Searchers looking for lost party - 1 blast at regular intervals

Acknowledgment of distress signal - 2 blasts repeated regularly

Recall signal for search parties - 4 blasts

If help doesn't arrive in a reasonable period of time you need to proceed on your pre-set escape route to safety.

An escape plan enables you to find your way either back to the start / finish point or to a major road where help will be available. An example of an escape plan is knowing that a major road runs from west to east across the top of the area you are walking in and simply walking north until you find the road.

Look at the next tip to learn how to find north without a compass.