

OH NO I HAVE LOST THE GROUP AND IT HAS GOT DARK

A brief recap of the situation you have found yourself in.

Last tip you were lost in the bush waiting for the group to come back for you. Well, unfortunately you weren't walking with AOA and they didn't even notice you were missing. Luckily you had planned well and had an escape strategy. You proceeded on your pre-set route to safety. It was easy, you simply used the sun to head in the direction of that major road. From there you could walk back to the car.

Well, as Malcom Frazer once said "Life wasn't meant to be easy". And guess what, things have just got much worse - the sun has set. What do you do now?

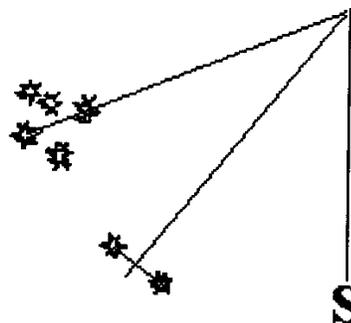
Tip Number 4 – How to find south using the stars

Firstly **DON'T PANIC**. Unless it is a full moon or you have a torch you should probably stay put and wait for morning. The last thing you want to do is to fall down and break a leg. If it is safe, and you are permitted to, light a small fire to keep you warm. Statistics from the NSW Bushwalkers Federation show over 90% of people who find themselves lost make it out, on their own, the next day.

Like the sun method this one also only works in the Southern Hemisphere. There is another method for the North but I won't go into that here.

Now - how to do it.

Find the Southern Cross constellation. It is quite easy to find once you know what you are looking for. If you are unsure ask someone the next time you are out for an evening stroll. The Cross is visible from the Metro area.



Find the Pointer Stars. These 2 stars are very bright like the Cross and located near it. The picture shows the arrangement of the Southern Cross and the Pointers. Be aware that the stars rotate round the sky so the Pointers may be above, below or beside the Cross.

South is determined by extending the long axis of the Southern Cross and drawing a line at right angles to the Pointers.

From the point these two lines intersect project a line down to the horizon. This is south.

Once you have found south it is easy to find east, north and west.