

# ***Ideas to get participants to your time away.***

*No-one will commit.*

*Why?*

- “We are too busy.*
- It costs too much”*

*are all much stated reasons (among others) that are heard when church members are asked to register for a weekends retreat, conference or camp.*

*Christian Camping International Australia has a membership that provides a truly stunning variety of locations that may be used for these events. Read the accompanying brochure [“How long has it been?”](#) to re-discover the reasons you should go away despite your busyness.*

*This brochure provides ideas on how to encourage members in your church to attend your program.*

*Consider:*

- Setting the same date each year so it is always part of the program.*
- Articulating the benefits for the whole church body if everyone attends (biblically excellent for everyone to meet together for an extended period of time as a 'church family/community' - Hebrews 10:28, 1 Thes 2:8)*
- Planing well ahead. Ask 10 key members (5 couples) in your congregation what weekend would best suit them. Lock them in and then get them to act as the 'influencers' to encourage others to come. ALSO, survey these 10 key members to ask them what their expectations of the venue are - so that you can pick the most appealing place for your target group.*
- If its possible to try for a weekend when sport is not on*
- Booking a venue that is within 1 hour of your church, and has mobile reception -this will allow people to come up for a day (when otherwise they may not attend at all)*
- Booking a venue more than 2 hours from your church to encourage people to stay the whole time.*
- Holding your AGM (or some similar event) at the weekend away. Not everybody needs to attend the AGM, (and alternative activities would be organised for this time) but, if they want to go to the AGM, they would need to be at the weekend away).*
- Starting reminders a few months before the camp by blitzing the Sunday services with various aspects of the event:*
  - costs (important to flag the costs well in advance ... and have a payoff scheme ... to end before the camp ... to help commitment).*
  - show photos of past camp activities before the start of Sunday services*
  - during the services have BRIEF reports from past participants*
  - flag the number of "sleeps" until the camp commences*
  - have original poems read out on the enjoyments of the camps*
  - have a group of young people perform a "rap" about the camp*
  - offer help for the "disadvantaged" who can't afford the high cost.*
- Having all money in 3 weeks before the camp commences to encourage commitment.*
- Showing how the cost of a weekend away compares favourably with other forms of activity.*
  - A family may spend over \$100 on a single movie outing.*
  - A single restaurant meal can easily cost over \$35 per head.*
  - A motel bed and three meals costs in the order of \$85 per day,*
  - A show costs from \$75 through \$190 and up.*
  - Fish and Chips on the beach sets you back \$25.*
- **Break this all down, you are getting meals, accommodation, activities, fellowship and teaching at remarkable prices – the result is priceless!!***