

# Bushwalking NSW

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## BUSHWALKING NSW GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2016

Held at the Anzac Room, Ashfield RSL Club 374 Liverpool Road, Ashfield

Meeting opened at 7:30pm – Chair: Alex Allchin (Vice President)

### Attendees:

Present were Alex Allchin (SBW) (Delegate), David Trinder (SBW Delegate), Dick Weston (Bush Club), Dr Les Higgins (Yarrowood), Ed Youds (Delegate Span), John Mickan (Span Delegate), Keith Maxwell (Cumberland Plains Walkers Delegate), Kirsten Mayer (BNSW), Margaret Covi (Watagan Wanderers Delegate), Matt McClelland (NPA Delegate), Michael Holt (NPA), Peter Fox (NPA), Kate Minnett (Nordic Ski Club), Robert Simms (Catholic Bushwalkers Delegate), Geoff Reed (WEA Ramblers), Andrew Stanger (Nordic Ski Club), Rosalind Hecker (NPA), Ute Foster (CMW Proxy Delegate), Cheryl Fletcher (WEA Ramblers Delegate), Mindy Gu (SBW), Jocelyn Gaskell (Yarrowood), Jane Millgate (CBC), Chantal Bronkhorst (SUBW), Elicia O'Reilly (SBW), Tom Brennan (SBW), Joanne Rhoden (SBW). 26+ (some didn't sign in)

**Apologies:** Mitchell Isaacs (President, BNSW)

### Previous Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting, held November 17, 2015, were accepted, proposed Alex Allchin, seconded Ed Youds.

### Keynote speech: Dr Les Higgins

#### Biophilia & Bushwalking – why it feels so good to be out bush

Dr Les Higgins from the Yarrowood Club gave his address on the inherent inclination in people to affiliate with the natural world.

### General Meeting Location

Kirsten Mayer, our Executive Officer, reported that she had looked into proposals to change the location of our general meetings, to encourage greater attendance. She has researched Redfern Town Hall. Our current venue is free & we would be charged at Redfern but could maybe save by doing our own catering there. The disadvantage would be that we have to set up & clear up again & cater for ourselves, requiring more work from volunteers.

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A vote was 8 to 7 in favour of Redfern as a location. It was suggested that we could alternate venues or obtain another venue in a club in the city, a suggestion being the 99 York Street Club. This matter will be further looked into.

## Fund raising & Volunteering

Kirsten also reported that she had been investigating fund raising & obtaining grants. She has discovered grants must be for projects, not operations, of an organisation. We need ideas for projects. PLB loan services & online bushwalking forums were suggested.

Kirsten also reported that she had looked into opportunities for volunteering for BNSW. A volunteer for administration, & another for financial work, had come forward. Ideas for roles that people could volunteer for were walks ambassadors, realising our communications plan, grant writing, IT projects, project management, administration, graphic design, content writing, events planning (such as clubs' Presidents' Day & general meetings), accounting & manning information stalls. Ed said that we needed to focus on getting people into bushwalking clubs & finding ways to do this.

## Financial Records

Ed Youds, the Treasurer, said he had put in a lot of work transferring our financial recording from old fashioned systems to the Xero program, & we would no longer require the services of a book keeper. He was catching up with the reporting requirements of the ATO. A volunteer had come forward to help with financial affairs in busy periods. Ed saw the cost of The Bushwalker as a problem, as it brings in little of the advertising income which it once did. There was discussion of changing to an electronic version for most copies with perhaps a small print run for shops, or printed as now but fewer editions per year. This matter will be given further consideration. BNSW had a total of \$20,128.62 in NAB, & \$78,241 in ING.

## Recognition of service to bushwalking

Keith Maxwell proposed awards for recognition of service to bushwalking.

- Why? We have no current system for this & many deserving people. Life memberships would not be suitable for us.
- What? We need a name such as the Chardon Award (after an early bushwalker), Bushwalkers of the Year or other.
- How? We need criteria & a panel.
- Who? Various long serving but recently retired walkers, & some from the past.
- Symbol? This would be needed, such as engraved glass, or a website honour roll or other.
- When? It could be announced at the AGM.
- We agreed to proceed with this with a selection panel to be formed, & submissions taken from clubs & the public.

## Conservation

In her Conservation update, Sierra Classen our Conservation Officer, reminded us that Clean Up Australia Day will be on March 6, & urged clubs to participate by putting it on their programs, that the NSW government was preparing a new act with biodiversity reforms which was not looking good, &

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that there was a Great Koala National Park campaign to work towards preserving koala habitat. Sierra also distributed EPA "dob in" cards which could be used to report offenders against environmental standards.

## Tracks & Access

Alex Allchin, as Tracks & Access Officer, reminded us that we could address tracks & access matters to him & that clubs could engage in track maintenance projects. He reported that a mapping group was working at updating NSW maps & making them available on line.

## Update from clubs

Clubs provided an update of their activities.

- CMW reported that they had stopped their prospective members' fee, to encourage more people to try bushwalking.
- Nordic Ski Club reported that they would soon have a get together weekend beyond Whites River Hut, & on Anzac weekend would have a maintenance weekend at their adopted hut, Four Mile Hut.
- SBW have put a walk to the Splendour Rock Anzac Day service on their program.
- NPA have obtained funding to resource a project to improve bush access for the disabled.
- A question was asked as to whether it was mandatory for walkers to carry a form with personal & medical details, & the reply was made that it is not compulsory.
- We were informed of a film of interest "Walking Sydney in 2 hours", Barrenjoey to Royal NP, an overview of areas of interest to us.

**Meeting closed: 9:20pm. Next meeting is on May 17.**