



Bushwalking NSW

Annual Report 2016

President's Report

It has been another big year for Bushwalking NSW, and thanks go to so many people for their hard work, input, insight and dedication. In particular, our many volunteers who help throughout the year without fanfare, Kirsten, our executive officer for her hard work, our committee for their oversight, the guest speakers who have made our general meetings such a success, Roger and Barry who put together the Bushwalker magazine each quarter, Keith, BWRS and all of the emergency services for keeping us safe, and not least, all of you – bushwalkers, club members, club administrators and supporters.

This year has been a year of growth for Bushwalking NSW with new clubs joining up, and we look forward to the next year with a project that will reach out to bushwalkers outside the club system. Our office, which we share with the National Parks Association, has moved from Woolloomooloo and thank you to the NPA for their continuing assistance with our office share arrangement. Our executive officer Kirsten has also moved up to Tucki Tucki on the North Coast, giving us a stronger regional presence.

We have worked in Bushwalking Australia to review our insurance coverage, resulting in us signing up a new broker for the next three years, which is quite exciting as it would appear that the new broker has a better overall understanding of our needs. This has also seen a substantially reduced premium for this year. Thank you to Bushwalking Australia for managing this process.

We have just kicked off a new project – “It’s Sweet to Walk Soft”, which will run initially over two years, aiming to reach out to the broader bushwalking community to help educate and equip all walkers and bushwalkers to practice minimal impact bushwalking, and reduce their impact on the bush, the places we love and the environment. This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust. Kirsten has worked hard to help us secure this grant, and you will hear more from her over the coming weeks and months about the detail of this project, and we will be looking to clubs to help us deliver this project and share the message of minimal impact bushwalking, and also to understand and realise benefits to clubs from this project.

We have continued our advocacy and environmental role throughout the year, including the development of a new policy on development in national parks to enable us to have a stronger voice on proposed developments, advocacy on biodiversity, the health of the Wollangambe River, and the management of crown land, among other things. We also continue to engage and advocate on behalf of clubs with respect to the development of national, harmonised Adventure Activity Standards, to ensure that these are able to provide support and guidance to clubs, without providing unnecessary hindrance or administrative hassle to clubs who really just want to go bushwalking.

I have enjoyed my first full year as President, although unfortunately I will not be able to attend this year’s AGM. In fact, I am writing this report while on a bus heading into the mountains in Poland for several days walking!

President: **Mitchell Isaacs**



Mitchell Isaacs
President
Bushwalking
NSW

Executive Officer's Report

It has been a privilege and a challenge to be Bushwalking NSW's first executive officer this year, providing an opportunity to give back to this community that has made nature so accessible, and also worked to keep our wild places intact over the years.

We've stepped up our activities and achievements this year with more professional documentation, procedures, record-keeping, a communications plan, and in winning our first grant. We've continued the modernisation of the organisation with changes to The Bushwalker, our newsletter, marketing materials, and discussions on individual membership. Sorting out our finances has taken significant effort and I thank Alex, Ed and Drew for their help here. These activities lay the foundations for our continued improvement and the expansion of our activities.

Most significant amongst our conservation activities, Alex Allchin led the 'Get out to the Gambe' campaign, which revealed the need for action on the clean up of the Wollongambe spill to many.

Having secured our first grant, I'm looking forward to engaging with our clubs even more through the implementation of the "It's Sweet to Walk Soft" (ISWS) project. The project is designed to respond to the increasing interest in bushwalking and outdoor adventure by both developing our understanding of, and deepen our club's interaction with, people who are new to bushwalking. The project has already extended the reach of Bushwalking NSW to new organisations, and engaged new volunteers, including Maddy Miller who is contributing 3.5 days per week. I look forward to seeing Bushwalking NSW and our clubs broadening our activities, and engaging with these bushwalking newcomers over the coming years.

Bushwalking NSW can by no means achieve its goals through the part-time efforts of one person, and I'm extremely grateful for the consistent and continued efforts of our volunteers. If it weren't for the ongoing support and vision of David Morrison; the skills of Mitchell Isaacs; the boundless constructive energy of Alex Allchin; the ideas and knowledge shared by Matt McClelland; the wise guidance of Elicia O'Reilly, David Stead and Richard Brindcat; the efficiency of Leonie Bell; the perseverance of Drew Stones; and the continued assistance of all our other volunteers, committee members, and club members; as well as the office and living space provided so generously by Tina and David Robinson, I would not have made it through the year, and Bushwalking NSW would not now be on its way to being a well-ordered organisation with the documents and tools to run efficiently and consistently.

I'd also like to thank all our club members, all for your contributions to Bushwalking NSW and to the bushwalking community this year.

Executive Officer: **Kirsten Mayer**



Kirsten Mayer
Executive
Officer,
Bushwalking
NSW

Achievements

- Won grant from the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust for the It's Sweet to Walk Soft project
- Lead the 'Get out to the Gambe' campaign to clean up the Wollongambe river with Alex Allchin leading to the river at least 9 separate trips of 4-50 people.
- Communications Strategy and Plan developed by Elicia O'Reilly and Thea King
- Work on Bushwalking NSW strategic plan initiated with a number of brainstorming sessions lead by consultant David Stead; and also Elicia O'Reilly and Thea King; and ideas session by Matt McClelland of the National Parks Association of NSW.
- Developed and published: Policy on Development in National Parks in consultation with our community
- Risk Management Guidelines extended and revised by the Risk Management sub-committee of Margaret Covi, Linda Groom and Geoff Reed.
- Secured funds from insurance broker for legal review of updated Risk Management Guidelines – due to complete 15th August, 2016.
- Assisted Bushwalking NSW in negotiating lower cost insurance
- Increased number of clubs affiliated
- Developed and shared promotional opportunities for clubs
- Procedures, templates and documents developed and established to increase efficiency and consistency of Bushwalking NSW
- Migrated Bushwalking NSW finances to Xero for efficient & cost-effective accounting
- Moved General Meeting to a more centralised location so more members can attend
- Advocated on behalf of clubs regarding the national Adventure Activity Standards
- Added clubs list, map of clubs and how to join a club to The Bushwalker magazine and conducted a review of options for The Bushwalker.
- Broadened our stakeholder connections by establishing relationships with, among others, the National Parks and Wildlife Service in NSW, Invasive Species Council, and Outdoor Recreation Industry Council of NSW
- Sent two delegates to the Bushwalking Australia and Nature Conservation Council of NSW annual conferences and AGMs
- Moved head office to Woolloomooloo and executive officer's office to Tucki Tucki giving Bushwalking NSW a regional presence
- Regular dissemination of news and updates to members through monthly newsletters and social media using Facebook and Twitter presence
- Increased use of technology including document sharing so more members can volunteer and participate
- Continued support to the Bushwalkers' Wilderness Rescue Squad see report below

Future directions

- Implement the "It's Sweet to Walk Soft" project to understand, engage with and inform newcomers to bushwalking in minimal impact bushwalking techniques.
- Implement our communications plan to more deeply engage with our members
- Continue to develop the strategic plan for Bushwalking NSW
- Increase our engagement with clubs in regional areas
- Broaden our income sources and increase our income to allow our services to increase
- Use technology to improve our services and support to our members

Bushwalking NSW would like to thank all its committee members, appointed positions and volunteers without whom we could not operate.

Management Committee Members

Role	Person	Period
President	Mitchell Isaacs	Full year
Vice-President	Alex Allchin	Full year
Secretary	Margaret Covi	Full year
Treasurer	Isabel Yersin Edward Youds	August 2015 – November 2015 January 2016 – August 2016
Ordinary committee members:		
	Keith Maxwell	Full year
	Sierra Classen	Full year
	David Trinder	Full year
	George Quinn	Full year
	Dick Weston	Full year

Appointed Positions

Position	Person
Conservation Officer	Sierra Classen
Tracks and Access Officer	Alex Allchin
Risk Management Officer	Margaret Covi
Media Officer	Mitchell Isaacs
Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (ex-officio)	Keith Maxwell
Website Manager	David Morrison
Website Content Editor	Leonie Bell
The Bushwalker Editor	Roger Caffin
The Bushwalker Graphic Designer	Barry Hanlon
The Bushwalker Proof Reader	Roy Jamieson
Public Officer	Margaret Covi

Volunteers

Person	Role	Person	Role
Andrew Stones	Accounts	Linda Groom	Risk Management
John Rezenbrink	Promotion	Geoff Reed	Risk Management
Lynn Dabbs	Accounts	David Stead	Strategic Planning

Treasurer's Report

Bushwalking NSW for 2015/16 year made a small loss of \$2,371. However, without the receipt of the \$16,000 in grant money in June 16 we would have had a much larger loss. I would note that we incur additional costs in the current financial year to ensure that we meet the aims for the grant *It's Sweet to Walk Soft*.

After not increasing affiliate fees for 10 years we did have to increase the affiliation fees in 2016/7 in line with CPI for city and regional clubs by \$2.00 to \$7.50 and \$7.00 respectively. The cap for large clubs has increased to \$3,000 or 400 members for city clubs.

To help reduce costs to clubs, the Personal Accident Insurance has fallen to \$4.17 per person from over \$5.00 previously.

In looking at the revenue of Bushwalking NSW I would highlight the following issues;

- Affiliate fees increased by around \$3,700 reflecting around an 8% increase in membership in the 2015/16 year.
- Advertising Income and Bushwalker subscriptions increased slightly.
- Insurance was essentially at break even, reflecting that we do not charge any uplift on the premiums.

In terms of the cost side I would highlight the following;

- Subscription & Levy (different accounts) remained about the same and reflect the Bushwalking Australia fees.
- Magazine costs have increased by about \$8,500 reflecting an extra issue in the 2015/16 year, however the print and other cost have gone up a lot. The committee is looking at cheaper ways to produce the magazine.
- Wages and Salaries have increased a lot reflecting the fact that we now employ Kirsten on more hours and at a higher rate. The function of the role has changed and it involves things such as the grant application etc.
- Website costs have fallen noting that we did do a big website upgrade in the 2014/15 financial year.



Finally, I would note that we still have plenty of cash (about \$77,000) in our bank accounts enabling us to pay the insurance and recover money from the clubs and it is important to have large reserves for unforeseen events. A comparison of the cash to 30th June 2015 would not be accurate because a number of clubs prepaid their fees that year prior to the 30th June. I am happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the finances.

Treasurer: **Edward Youds**



Edward Youds
Treasurer,
Bushwalking
NSW

Bushwalking NSW Profit & Loss Statement

BUSHWALKING NSW INC For the 12 months ended 30 June 2016

	Jun-16	Jun-15
Income		
Advertising Income	3,831	3,560
Annual Affiliate Dues	44,515	40,847
Bank Interest	1,752	2,525
Donations [41006]	-	10
Grant funds	16,000	-
Insurance - Personal Accident	44,780	44,580
Insurance - Public Liability [41009]	44,937	41,378
Other Misc Income	10	-
The Bushwalker - subscriptions	344	-
Total Income	156,168	132,901
Gross Profit	156,168	132,901
Less Operating Expenses		
Accounting & Bookkeeping	1,315	1,056
Advertising	-	75
Bank & Gov Charges	671	284
Donations [61350]	2,550	2,575
Dues & Subscriptions	7,845	656
Insurance - Personal Injury	46,396	45,716
Insurance - Public Liability [61401]	42,634	43,667
Levy - Annual	-	7,935
Magazine Costs	14,127	5,565
Meetings & Conferences	1,018	1,347
Postage & Shipping	1,446	4,731
Rent - PO Box	-	115
Rent / Electricity/ Outgoings	1,301	3,548
Stationary / Office Supplies	111	123
Superannuation [61503]	396	-
Superannuation [61509]	2,678	1,476
Suspence Need Information	100	103
Tavel Allowance	26	73
Telephone/ Internet	1,113	1,066
Wages & Salaries	34,386	15,484
Website	252	4,276
Workers' Compensation	175	175
Total Operating Expenses	158,540	140,046
Net Profit	(2,371)	(7,145)

Bushwalking NSW Balance Sheet

BUSHWALKING NSW INC As at 30 June 2016

30 Jun 2016 30 Jun 2015

Assets

	30 Jun 2016	30 Jun 2015
Bank		
BUSHWALKING NSW INC	8,123	33,869
ING Interest Acc#60134750	69,090	87,338
Petty Cash	(32)	152
Total Bank	77,181	121,359
Current Assets		
Pledges Receivable	15,968	(26,955)
Total Current Assets	15,968	(26,955)
Non-current Assets		
Deposits Paid	250	-
Total Non-current Assets	250	-
Total Assets	93,399	94,404

Liabilities

Current Liabilities		
Rounding	-	-
Trade Creditors	365	-
Total Current Liabilities	365	-
Non-Current Liabilities		
PAYG Withholding Payable	936	-
Superannuation [21425]	105	40
Wages Payable - Payroll	-	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities	1,041	40
Total Liabilities	1,407	40
Net Assets	91,993	94,364

Equity

Current Year Earnings	(2,371)	(7,145)
Retained Earnings	94,364	101,509
Total Equity	91,993	94,364

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad Annual Report

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) is a specialist remote area bush search and rescue squad. It is a member squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA). Paddy Pallin and his pioneering bushwalking contemporaries founded BWRS as the self-help and self-contained search and rescue section of the NSW Federation of Bushwalking Clubs in 1936. BWRS is held in high regard with NSW Police. This report can only provide an overview of a very active volunteer rescue group.

CALLOUTS. BWRS assisted NSW Police on many occasions in bush search. In January BWRS returned to Gees Arm Creek, following a wet weather day to find a deceased male. Also in January there was a Blue Mountains search for a despondent person who was found deceased post search. During March there was a twelve day Katoomba based search for Betty O'Pray. Betty, who raised the alarm via her mobile phone and remains missing. In September 2015 BWRS was part of a lengthy multi emergency service search for NSW Police at Colo Heights.

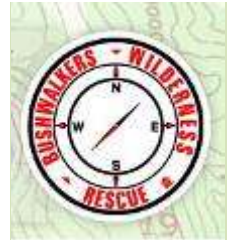
NAVSHIELD. On the first weekend of July each year, BWRS runs NavShield as a major bush navigation training event for the Emergency Services and bushwalking club teams. Typical attendance is around 400+ personnel. The multi day event showcases the navigation and co-ordination skills of BWRS.

OXFAM TRAILWALKER. TrailWalker is a 100km track/fire road walkathon along the northern fringe of Sydney's bushland. Held over 48 hours (on the last weekend of August) as a major fundraiser for the Oxfam charity, BWRS provides first and second safety response teams over shifts for this event of 2,000+ attendees!! TrailWalker provides excellent member training along with practice in co-ordination of BWRS teams whilst being involved in community outreach / potential publicity for BWRS. As usual, BWRS helped many teams who wished to withdraw but there were no serious injuries.

VERTICAL RESCUE. Many BWRS members are accredited to the NSW State Rescue Board providing skills in vertical rescue. A number of training and recertification weekends were held during October November 2015.

FIRST AID. As of May, Bushwalkers can now become qualified in "Provide First Aid" (formerly known as "Senior First Aid") in just ONE DAY. Trainees (when they enrol) can elect to also qualify in "Remote Area First Aid (RAFA)" on the following weekend.

"Bushwalkers can now become qualified in "Provide First Aid" ...in just ONE DAY" ...



Keith Maxwell
President
Bushwalkers
Wilderness
Rescue
Squad

This is not the same RAFA previously offered by BWRS but a version from St John Ambulance.

EQUIPMENT. Our squad headquarters, opened in 2012, has been a great asset in storing and maintaining equipment. A grant to replace our UHF field radios has been beneficial in complementing our very effective HF network of field team radios.

TRAINING. BWRS has an active training program to assist completion of Competency Based Training (CBT). Operational members are experienced bushwalkers with additional skills in radio communication, vertical rescue, observation, emergency management, First Aid and other bush search and rescue skills.

PUBLICITY/OUTREACH. The BWRS website provides information on bush safety, distress beacons, recent callouts and links to other sites such as the VRA and BNSW (Bushwalking NSW) and our Facebook page. Publicity is an important component of involvement in TrailWalker and NavShield. BWRS also provided safety teams to a number of major rogaie / endurance events during the year such as the Paddy Pallin Rogaine.

“[BWRS has] helped resist public pressure on government for controls on bushwalking”

MEMBERSHIP. I would like more bushwalkers to consider being part of BWRS. We have tasks big and small to suit all levels of commitment. Be part of a great community asset! Our strong bushwalker based bush search and rescue organisation has helped resist public pressure on government for controls on bushwalking!

CONCLUSION. I trust that you will agree that BWRS remains an important community asset and is well placed to move forward into 2016 / 2017 with BNSW to promote safe and enjoyable bushwalking. As always, for more information on BWRS, NavShield, bush safety, First Aid training etc. see our website at www.bwrs.org.au.

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad President: **Keith Maxwell**