



# Bushwalking NSW

Annual Report 2017

## President's Report

It has been another big year for Bushwalking NSW. Thanks go to so many people for their hard work, insight and dedication. In particular, our many volunteers who help out 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, BSAR and all of the emergency services for keeping us safe, and not least, all of you – bushwalkers, club members, club administrators and supporters.

I'd like to congratulate Bush Search and Rescue NSW (BSAR) on another successful year, and a memorable (think – 'very scubby') NavShield. In case you weren't aware, BSAR is the new name for Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad, who underwent a name change a few months into 2017.

With our Executive Office spending time between the North Coast and our Sydney Office, we've been able to engage bushwalkers over a wider geographical area than we have been able to previously. The new Woolloomooloo office has also seen steady use, with a range of our volunteers making use of the 'hot desking' arrangement we have with NPA.

Our role in environmental and bushwalking advocacy has continued to be strong this year, with members of the committee meeting with various individuals and organisations to further our causes. One 'good news story' I'd like to highlight was the Wollangambe River campaign which recently resulted in the handing down of a record fine of over \$1 Million to Clarence Colliery for the pollution of the world-heritage listed river. Many bushwalkers were involved in raising the profile of the incident and I don't think the same outcome would have been achieved without their involvement.

We're now into the second-half of our major project funded by the NSW Environmental Trust, 'It's Sweet to Walk Soft'. Kirsten and a range of volunteers have been working hard to make this project a big success and with the groundwork all now set and training kicking off this weekend, I'll be looking forward to seeing the benefits reaped over the next 12 months.

On the national level, committee members as delegates on the Bushwalking Australia committee have spent time engaging with the Australian Adventure Activity Standards review process. Our aim is to ensure that any new national standards that are introduced are relevant to bushwalkers in a club environment, providing a resource to improve safety whilst not being a burden.

On the topic of bushwalking safety, we've delivered a Risk Management Policy to serve as a resource to guide the risk management within clubs.



**Alex Allchin**  
President  
Bushwalking  
NSW Inc

Many thanks go to Margaret Covi, Linda Groom and Geoff Reed for the Risk Management sub-committee for their hard work in delivering this document.

In November we will host the Bushwalking Australia conference, an annual event which brings together representatives of the State and Territory bushwalking bodies for a weekend of planning and discussion. I'm looking forward to this opportunity to showcase the how lucky we are as bushwalkers to call NSW home.

I'd like to thank our membership for the privilege of representing you as President of this great organisation and look forward to continuing my involvement over the years to come.

Thanks again for the support over the past year, and all the best to the incoming committee for 2017-18.

President: **Alex Allchin**

## Executive Officer's Report

This has been the year of establishing our outreach. Like a flower bud, we are just starting to open up. We have laid the foundations for greater communication and engagement, ready to reach out to all bushwalkers in NSW and the ACT in the coming years.

Many new and existing volunteers have made wonderful contributions to Bushwalking NSW this year – just see our achievements! Thank you to all our volunteers on our Management Committee, and to everyone helping out in so many other ways to enable Bushwalking NSW to operate and grow.

Thanks especially to Alex Allchin for his tireless and compassionate leadership; Sharon Fulcher, Andrew Cox and Caro Ryan for making the ISWS project outstandingly successful; Leonie Bell, Alexandra Davidson, and Alexandra Hipolito for their consistent and valuable contributions. Thanks also to the NSW Environmental Trust and NPWS for their financial and in-kind support for the "It's Sweet to Walk Soft" project.

I'd also like to thank all our club members, trip leaders, and committee members for all your contributions to Bushwalking NSW, and bushwalking in the most beautiful places in NSW and the ACT this year!

Executive Officer: **Kirsten Mayer**

*The "It's Sweet to Walk Soft" project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.*



**Kirsten Mayer**  
Executive Officer,  
Bushwalking  
NSW Inc

## Achievements

### Advocacy:

- Clarence Colliery fined over \$1M after our 'Get out to the 'Gambe' campaign
- New engagement with government departments & not-for-profits
- Successful Minimal Impact Bushwalking awareness & training program

### Leadership in Minimal Impact Bushwalking:

- Sharon Fulcher (CMW and NPA of NSW) developed and delivered excellent *How can we 'Leave no Trace' when bushwalking?* presentation and *Are you a Biosecure Bushwalker?* training package
- 12 trainers trained in Minimal Impact Bushwalking and biosecurity ready to spread the word

### Extended and diversified our reach and engagement:

- More than tripled newsletter readership – 50% now non-club members
- Massive increase in volunteer contributions: 25 volunteers contributed well over 1000 hours effort in roles and projects including:
  - Management and Steering Committees
  - Minimal Impact Bushwalking (ISWS) project
  - Website and Newsletter Content and Enhancements
  - Community Liaison and Member Survey
- Great success in engaging people new to bushwalking or not already in clubs through volunteering opportunities
- Transitioned to MailChimp so we can communicate with more bushwalkers
- Learning about and reaching out to MeetUp groups

### Better understanding of our members and desired direction:

- Surveyed our club's websites to better understand our members
- Club engagement in member survey exceed expectations
- Developed "Top 6" survey results for Our Focus, Best Projects and Club Challenges

### Financials heading in right direction:

- Annual expenditure below budget and almost cost neutral
- Support from the NSW Environmental Trust and NPWS
- Delivered "It's Sweet to Walk Soft" (ISWS) project to budget and schedule; and awarded second year of funding

### Better compliance and risk management:

- Continued to improve and develop club Risk Management Guidelines
- Researched and informed clubs of the benefits of incorporation
- Developed more tools and systems to comply with Fair Trading, constitutional, legal, WHS, risk management, and insurance requirements
- Continued support to the Bush Search and Rescue

## Future directions

- Roll-out the “It’s Sweet to Walk Soft” project to engage with new bushwalkers all over NSW and the ACT
- Seek funding and support for our ‘Top 4 Foci’, ‘Top 6 Projects’ and club challenges
- Continue to increase our engagement with clubs in regional areas
- Continue to develop the strategic plan and direction for Bushwalking NSW
- Use technology to improve our services and support to our members

## Thanks

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
President	Alex Allchin
Vice-President	Mitchell Isaacs
Secretary	Sierra Classen
Treasurer	Edward Youds
Ordinary committee member	Margaret Covi
Ordinary committee member	George Quinn
BSAR Ex-Officio committee member	Keith Maxwell

### Appointed Positions

Position	Person
Conservation Officer	Sierra Classen
Tracks and Access Officer	Alex Allchin
Risk Management Officer	Margaret Covi
Media Officer	Mitchell Isaacs
Bush Search and Rescue NSW (ex-officio)	Keith Maxwell
It’s Sweet to Walk Soft Steering Committee	Andrew Cox Caro Ryan
It’s Sweet to Walk Soft Education Consultant	Sharon Fulcher
Website Manager	David Morrison – till Dec 2016 Alexandra Hipolito – from May 2017 on

Website Content Editor	<b>Leonie Bell</b>
Newsletter Writer/Editor	<b>Madeleine Miller</b> – July 2016 – Jan 2017 <b>Jill O'Meara</b> – Feb – April 2017 <b>Andrew Barker</b> – from July 2017 on
Community Liaison Officer	<b>Hannah Moody</b> – till Dec 2016 <b>Alexandra Davidson</b> – from Dec 2016 on
The Bushwalker Editor	<b>Roger Caffin</b>
The Bushwalker Graphic Designer	<b>Barry Hanlon</b>
The Bushwalker Proof Reader	<b>Roy Jamieson</b>
Public Officer	<b>Margaret Covi</b>

## Volunteers

Role	Person	Role	Person
Risk Management	<b>Linda Groom</b>	Accounts	<b>Andrew Stones</b>
Risk Management	<b>Geoff Reed</b>	Newsletter design	<b>Gel Abrahams</b>
Policy writer	<b>Thomas Wickert</b>	Guest writer	<b>Kriti Nagrath</b>

## Treasurer's Report

Bushwalking NSW overall made a small loss for the year of \$971. This is a strong improvement from the loss in the previous year.

The ISTWS project loss was \$1,478, however this included the purchase of a laptop for \$1941 which was written off in the first year. A full explanation of the ISTWS project is given by the President and Executive Officer.

Affiliation Fees were increased in 2017 and this reflected the growth from \$44,937 in 2016 to \$60,497 in 2017. I would note that affiliation fees had not increased for a number of years.

Insurance income and expenses have fallen (we do not make a profit on the insurance). This reflects the fact that the five largest clubs pay their insurance direct to the insurance broker.

Advertising income has fallen to \$775 from \$3,831. The magazine costs have also fallen from \$15,568 to \$9,211. However, we are a losing money on The Bushwalker. This issue is being addressed by your committee, including the options of moving to online/pdf publishing only. Most other expenses remain similar except the rent for use of the NPA office has increased.

The balance sheet remains strong with \$94,614 in the various bank accounts. The other current liabilities \$17,000 are the ISWS project prepayments which will be expensed in the 2018 year.

I will not be standing again as Treasurer in 2018. I have enjoyed my time as Treasurer and I thank the rest of the committee.

Treasurer: **Edward Youds**



**Edward Youds**  
Treasurer,  
Bushwalking  
NSW

# Bushwalking NSW Profit & Loss Statement

## BUSHWALKING NSW INC

For the 12 months ended 30 June 2017

	Jun-17	Jun-16
<b>Income</b>		
Advertising Income	\$775.00	\$3,830.98
Annual Affiliate Dues	\$60,487.27	\$44,514.53
Bank Interest	\$1,301.34	\$1,751.97
Donations [41006]	\$23.00	\$0.00
Grant funds	\$16,000.00	\$0.00
Insurance - Personal Accident	\$22,201.10	\$44,779.59
Insurance - Public Liability [41009]	\$23,772.57	\$44,937.35
Other Misc Income	\$0.00	\$10.00
The Bushwalker - subscriptions	\$53.00	\$344.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$124,613.28</b>	<b>\$140,168.42</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$124,613.28</b>	<b>\$140,168.42</b>
<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>		
Accounting & Bookkeeping	\$531.50	\$1,314.84
Bank & Gov Charges	\$318.25	\$670.62
Depreciation	\$1,940.70	\$0.00
Donations [61350]	\$2,725.00	\$2,550.00
Dues & Subscriptions	\$8,051.00	\$7,845.00
Insurance - Personal Injury	\$21,319.80	\$46,395.98
Insurance - Public Liability [61401]	\$24,516.57	\$42,633.92
Levy - Annual	\$55.00	\$0.00
Magazine Costs	\$9,210.65	\$15,568.30
Meetings & Conferences	\$1,397.95	\$1,062.58
Postage & Shipping	\$203.00	\$1,652.02
Rent / Electricity/ Outgoings	\$4,323.78	\$1,185.89
Stationary / Office Supplies	\$82.62	\$125.97
Superannuation [61503]	\$0.00	\$396.24
Superannuation [61509]	\$4,310.89	\$2,677.91
Suspence Need Information	\$0.00	\$100.00
Telephone/ Internet	\$318.48	\$1,178.77
Travel Allowance	\$0.00	\$25.84
Wages & Salaries	\$32,944.12	\$34,385.56
Wages & Salaries ISTWS Project	\$12,757.25	\$0.00
Website	\$228.00	\$252.00
Workers' Compensation	\$350.00	\$175.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$125,584.56</b>	<b>\$160,196.44</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>-\$971.28</b>	<b>-\$20,028.02</b>

# Bushwalking NSW Balance Sheet

## BUSHWALKING NSW INC

As at 30 June 2017

	30 Jun 2017	30 Jun 2016
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Bank</b>		
BUSHWALKING NSW INC	\$36,722.21	\$8,123.28
ING Interest Acc#60134750	\$57,891.73	\$69,090.39
Petty Cash	\$0.00	-\$362.86
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>\$94,613.94</b>	<b>\$76,850.81</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Pledges Receivable	-\$12.00	\$15,968.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>-\$12.00</b>	<b>\$15,968.00</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Computer Equipment	\$1,940.70	\$0.00
Computer Equipment - Accum Depreciation	-\$1,940.70	\$0.00
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Non-current Assets</b>		
Deposits Paid	\$250.00	\$250.00
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$94,851.94</b>	<b>\$93,068.81</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Rounding	-\$0.31	-\$0.06
Trade Creditors	\$2,826.28	\$1,691.61
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$2,825.97</b>	<b>\$1,691.55</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
Other Current Liabilities	\$17,000.00	\$16,000.00
PAYG Withholding Payable	\$1,556.00	\$936.00
Superannuation [21425]	\$105.33	\$105.33
Wages Payable - Payroll	-\$0.02	-\$0.01
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$18,661.31</b>	<b>\$17,041.32</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$21,487.28</b>	<b>\$18,732.87</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$73,364.66</b>	<b>\$74,335.94</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Current Year Earnings	-\$971.28	-\$20,028.02
Retained Earnings	\$74,335.94	\$94,363.96
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$73,364.66</b>	<b>\$74,335.94</b>



## Bush Search and Rescue NSW Inc

Bush Search and Rescue NSW (BSAR) was founded as the self-help and self-contained “Search and Rescue Section” of the NSW Federation of Bushwalking Clubs in 1936 by Paddy Pallin plus a number of prominent bushwalkers of that time. BSAR is held in high regard with NSW Police. This report can only provide an overview of a very active volunteer rescue group.

**THE BIG PICTURE.** Earlier in 2017 BWRS changed its name to BSAR. BSAR is a specialist remote area bush search and rescue squad affiliated with the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association (VRA). Some other specialist squads of the VRA includes NSW Cave Rescue, Australian Civil Air Patrol (AusCAP) and radio squads WICEN & CREST. For more information see the VRA website at [www.rescue.org.au](http://www.rescue.org.au)

**TRAINING.** BSAR has a strong membership and an active training program to assist completion of nationally recognised Competency Based Training (CBT). Like all emergency services BSAR members must quantify their skills through CBT. Operational members are experienced bushwalkers with a mix of additional skills in radio communication, vertical rescue, observation, emergency management, First Aid and other bush search and rescue skills.

**EQUIPMENT.** This year a grant helped BSAR upgrade its UHF radio network with GPS enhanced radios. The available UHF channels were further enhanced from a Harris Technology donation. BSAR has an existing HF radio network. BSAR currently has outstanding field team radio communications from these radios and from our liaison with the VRA radio squad WICEN.

**CALLOUTS.** During the past year BSAR assisted NSW Police on many occasions in bush search. As usual there were long periods of inactivity between some busy times. Some highlights; just after Boxing Day there was a multiday search on Shipley Plateau for a mature man with dementia and in April a long distance runner went missing in the Watagan Mountains. There were other smaller incidents where only a small number of BSAR personnel were required.

**NAVSHIELD.** Uniquely, there were two NavShields this year. Due to the admin difficulties of running NavShield in July BSAR ran NavShield 2017 on the last weekend of June. NavShield is a major bush navigation (map and compass) training event for the Emergency Services and bushwalking club teams with a typical attendance of over 400 personnel. NavShield 2016, based at Wombeyan Caves and NavShield 2017 at Marramarra National Park were both successful and enjoyable events. Bushwalking teams performed well. Full details and results are available at the BSAR website – [www.bsar.org.au](http://www.bsar.org.au)

**OXFAM TRAILWALKER.** TrailWalker is a 100km / 48 hour track & fire road walkathon that uses bushland on the northern fringe of Sydney. BSAR



**Keith Maxwell**  
President  
Bush Search  
Rescue NSW  
Inc

provides first and second safety response teams, over shifts, for this event of 500 teams of four persons (2,000+)!! TrailWalker provides both excellent member training and practice in co-ordination of BSAR teams whilst being involved in community outreach / publicity for BSAR. See the OXFAM website for route details of this special event - <https://trailwalker.oxfam.org.au/sydney/trail/>



**FIRST AID.** The current version of First Aid training offered by BSAR is very popular. Courses in the ONE Day St John Ambulance "Provide First Aid" (formerly known as "Senior First Aid") OR three day "Remote Area First Aid (RAFA)" fill up quickly. BSAR offers this training to spread First Aid knowledge generally among bushwalkers. Training is bushwalker friendly with a volunteer bushwalker instructor plus a discount fee. Register at the BSAR website.

**PUBLICITY / OUTREACH.** BSAR is active through the digital world on its website with detailed information on bush safety, distress beacons, recent callouts and links to other sites such as the VRA and BNSW (Bushwalking NSW). BSAR is also active on FaceBook and Twitter.

Publicity is also an important aspect of BSAR involvement in TrailWalker, NavShield plus a number of other major rogaine / endurance events such as the Paddy Pallin Rogaine.

**MEMBERSHIP.** I would like more bushwalkers to consider being part of a valuable community service known as BSAR. We have tasks big and small to suit all levels of commitment.

**CONCLUSION.** BSAR with its great people and diverse events is held in high regard by NSW Police and the VRA for remote area search and rescue. The CBT training program of internal and externally offered modules remains strong. Our radio network has been substantially enhanced. During the past year BSAR was active in several searches plus a wide range of other activities from community outreach to training events. NavShield 2016 & 2017 were both great events. TrailWalker was busy without challenging evacuations this time. There were successful St John Ambulance "Provide First Aid" and "RAFA" courses. BSAR is active in digital publicity for encouraging bush safety.

I trust that you will agree that BWRS remains an important community asset and is well placed to move forward into 2017 / 2018 with BNSW to promote safe and enjoyable bushwalking. As always see the BSAR website for more information on membership, NavShield, bush safety, distress beacons, outback communications, First Aid training etc at [www.bsar.org.au](http://www.bsar.org.au)

**Bush Search and Rescue NSW Inc President:** Keith Maxwell

# Bushwalking NSW Inc

*Keep Exploring, Be Amazed!*

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