



Bushwalking NSW

Annual Report 2018

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. We've tried to capture all who've been involved with BNSW further down in the report, however I'd also like to acknowledge all of you – bushwalkers, club members, club administrators and supporters – who make bushwalking in NSW the amazing activity that it is. I'd now like to highlight a few points relating to our activities over the last year.

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. Two campaigns to watch over the coming months will be 'Save our Wild River', relating to the raising of Warragamba Dam wall, and 'Save Kosci', relating to feral horses and other animals in Kosciuszko National Park.

Our major project funded by the NSW Environmental Trust, 'It's Sweet to Walk Soft' has now ended. Kirsten and a range of volunteers worked hard to make this project a big success. Well done to all involved.

On the national level, we hosted the Bushwalking Australia annual conference in November. This event, held at Katoomba this year, brought together representatives of the State and Territory bushwalking bodies for a weekend of planning and discussion. It was also a great opportunity to showcase the how lucky we are as bushwalkers to call NSW home.

Our trusty helper when things go wrong in the bush, Bush Search and Rescue NSW (BSAR), have just undergone a major transformation to become part of NSW SES. I'd also like to congratulate them on another successful NavShied. Next year will be their 30th event and I look forward to a strong participation from our member clubs. Further details on the activities of BSAR can be found in Keith's report.

ANZAC Day in April saw over 100 bushwalkers attend our dawn service at Splendour Rock. This year was the 70th anniversary since the memorial plaque was placed and it was a moving service for all in attendance.

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 2018-19.

President: **Alex Allchin**



Alex Allchin
President
Bushwalking
NSW Inc

Executive Officer's Report

This has been a great year for Bushwalking NSW and our clubs.

Overall our clubs have seen a 3% increase in members (+309). Meanwhile our club-member trainers tripled our MIB training goals by training well over 300 people in Minimal Impact Bushwalking through our “It’s Sweet to Walk Soft” (ISWS) project.

That’s up to 300 new bushwalkers learning, first hand, about our clubs, their leaders and how to care for the places we love. We also created “Join a Bushwalking Club” bookmarks to make members of the public aware of our clubs. These are being distributed to outdoor stores and clubs.

Bushwalking NSW also achieved an amazing 24% (+176 person) increase in our newsletter subscribers. We trained our clubs in how to “Stay on Track”, and our Warragamba Dam meeting attracted a great attendance of 80 people, many from the general public.

Many new and existing volunteers have made fantastic 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, Andrew Cox, Caro Ryan, and all the ISWS trainers; Leonie Bell, Alexandra Davidson, and Alexandra Hipolito for their consistent and valuable contributions. Thanks also to the NSW Environmental Trust financial 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**



Kirsten Mayer
Executive Officer,
Bushwalking NSW Inc

The “It’s Sweet to Walk Soft” project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government through its Environmental Trust.



Achievements

It's Sweet to Walk Soft Project:

This two-year Minimal Impact Bushwalking (MIB) training project, assisted by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust, was completed this year with excellent results:

- The main project goal: to train new bushwalkers in Minimal Impact Bushwalking and Biosecurity, was exceeded by 2 to 3 times: Goal: 100. Achieved: 219 – 307
- The secondary project goal of extending Minimal Impact Bushwalking and Biosecurity communications to a greater audience was exceeded by almost 3 times:
 - Goal: 300 new subscribers. Achieved: 897 subscribers.
 - 436 new members of the public subscribed and are receiving Minimal Impact Bushwalking messages to help
- 29 Minimal Impact Bushwalking Educational products and resources were developed
- Updated the Invasive Species Council's "Keep Your Gear Clean" brochure
- Bushwalking NSW developed numerous policies, procedures, tools, and resources to support its effective production of information, communications, training and reporting. These will continue to improve efficiencies and provide returns over the years
- Bushwalking NSW and its volunteers developed skills and experience in:
 - better engaging with the public and our clubs
 - running training programs
 - MailChimp communications
 - project planning, running and reporting
 - strategic oversight and direction
- The project saw a significant increase in volunteer involvement and great success in engaging people new to bushwalking or not already in clubs through Seek Volunteer.
- Improved volunteer management including WHS and insurance coverage approach
- New engagement with government departments and NFPs on biosecurity and MIB

Other achievements:

- 24% (+176 person) increase in our newsletter subscribers
- 29 volunteers contributed well over 1000 hours effort in roles and projects
- "Join a Bushwalking Club" bookmarks
- Updated and republished "The Bushwalker's Code"

Better compliance and risk management:

- Shared Fair Trading, and constitutional compliance tips with clubs in "Keeping your club on track" training
- 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

- Annual Bush Camp
- Attract young people to clubs
- Support further "It's Sweet to Walk Soft" Minimal Impact Bushwalking training
- Seek funding and support for our priorities
- Continue to develop the strategic plan and direction for Bushwalking NSW
- Use technology to improve our services and support to our members

Management Committee Members

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

Role	Person
President	Alex Allchin
Vice-President	Mitchell Isaacs
Secretary	Sierra Classen
Treasurer	John Flint
Ordinary committee member	Margaret Covi
Ordinary committee member	George Quinn
Ordinary committee member	Karen Cortez
Ordinary committee member	Lee Cordner – till 17/01/18
Ordinary committee member	Wayne Holgate – till 17/10/17
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
Website Manager	Alexandra Hipolito
Website Content Editor	Leonie Bell
Newsletter Writer/Editor	Andrew Barker – till September 2017 Jaimey Foti – from September 2017 on
Community Liaison Officer	Courtney Bednaz – till January 2018 Alexandra Davidson – from June 2018 on
Public Officer	Margaret Covi

Volunteers

Role	Person	Role	Person
Accounts	Andrew Stones	Risk Management	Linda Groom
Minimal Impact Bushwalking Trainer	David Tocknell	MIB Trainer	Yidan Saladine
MIB Trainer	Lisa Sheldon	MIB Trainer	Susan Rosedale
MIB Trainer	Karen Cortez	MIB Trainer	Neil Grill
MIB Trainer	Matt McClelland	MIB Trainer	Nicola Le Couteur
MIB Trainer	Greg McCroary		

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. In April of 2017 Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (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

Keith Maxwell
President
Bush Search
Rescue NSW
Inc

A YEAR of CHANGE. After a long period of consultation plus a member vote BSAR has decided to change from affiliation with the VRA to become part of the NSW State Emergency Service (SES). It is not just that BSAR is now in a stronger financial position. An equal (major) consideration was the ability to better continue its role as a valuable community resource as a volunteer remote area search and rescue squad. The volunteer s & r space is changing with changes in volunteering within SES.

A full changeover will take time with rebranding of our Rooty Hill building, new vehicles (& sale of VRA branded Toyota and trailer), new equipment, membership induction plus supply of uniforms etc. Completion of the four stage process will continue into 2018 / 2019.

TRAINING. BSAR has a strong membership and an active training program to assist completion of nationally recognised Competency Based Training (CBT). CBT will now be progressively aligned to SES requirements. 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 change has given BSAR access to far greater resources and equipment. A major change for BSAR will be access to "GRN" (Government Radio Network). In various forms GRN attempts to link communications throughout all NSW government agencies from NP&WS to Police, RFS, NSW Ambulance etc. Over time BSAR will receive new radios and appropriate training. BSAR still has its existing, outstanding HF radio network.

CALLOUTS. During the past year BSAR was placed on standby numerous times for incidents (with missing persons) that were quickly resolved. However, in November 2017 assisted NSW Police at Katoomba to locate and retrieve the body of a visitor from France. He had fallen over one of the big cliffs in the area. In May, BSAR assisted in a forensic search near Ingar Picnic Ground, Wentworth Falls then in June BSAR was part of a large search at Mt Ku-ring-gai for a visiting

Chinese student to Australia. More recently the body was located some distance from the search area.

NAVSHIELD. Warm days (but cold nights) made for an enjoyable NavShield 2018 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. Renewed publicity within SES refreshed participant numbers to almost 500. The location was dry woodland of the Macdonald River off the Putty Road. Bushwalking club teams performed well. Full details and results are available at the BSAR website – www.bsar.org.au

OXFAM TRAILWALKER. TrailWalker in August each year has grown to become a 100km / 48 hour OR 50km / 24 hour track & fire road walkathon that uses bushland on the northern fringe of Sydney. BSAR provides first and second safety response teams, over shifts, for this event of around 3,000 participants!! TrailWalker provides both excellent member training and practice in co-ordination of BSAR teams whilst being involved in community outreach. See the OXFAM website for route details of this special event - <https://trailwalker.oxfam.org.au/sydney/trail/>

BARRINGTON TOPS. In September of recent years BSAR has also held a multi-agency training event to continue searching for a Cessna plane lost at night in bad weather of August 1981. While many planes have failed to successfully fly over Barrington Tops, "VH-MDX" is the only plane whose location remains a mystery.

SAFETY ASSISTANCE. During the year BSAR also provided safety assistance at several outdoors events including the Paddy Pallin Rogaine in June.

FIRST AID. The current version of First Aid training offered by BSAR is very popular. In 2018 three cycles of training will occur instead of the usual two. 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.

In 2019 Bushwalking NSW will take over access to this First Aid training since BSAR cannot continue this model of instruction within SES.

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 NSW Police TREK program of free PLB hire and BNSW (Bushwalking NSW). BSAR is also active on FaceBook and Twitter. Eventually, BSAR as part of SES will have to close its website – www.bsar.org.au All options are being explored to continue digital dissemination of the above information.

MEMBERSHIP. Membership of BSAR remains a valuable 'fit' for BNSW bushwalkers keen to volunteer their time in community service. We have tasks

big and small to suit all levels of commitment. Contact the BSAR Secretary at secretary@bsar.org.au

CONCLUSION. BSAR with its great people and diverse events is held in high regard by NSW Police and now the SES for remote area search and rescue. While it is a very different organisation to that founded in 1936 it is still committed to assisting persons in distress in remote areas. 2018 / 2019 will be a year of change as BSAR fully integrates into SES and explores the opportunities to better serve the community. Access to GRN will enhance our remote area communications. NavShield 2018 was a great event. Other training was very successful. St John Ambulance "Provide First Aid" and "RAFA" courses offered via BSAR are very popular. BSAR is digitally active in encouraging bush safety.

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

Treasurer's Report

In 2018 Bushwalking NSW overall made a surplus of \$14,400. This is a strong improvement from the small loss in the previous year. The surplus is likely to evaporate next year as the ISTWS grant is not continuing and the major cost cutting of expenses has occurred in 2018.

Contributing to the surplus compared to the previous year was; a donation of \$1500 from the Bush Club, reduction of costs of the discontinued printed magazine and general outgoings were pruned back.

Affiliation Fees were held to a 1.2% increase from \$60,487 in 2017 to \$61,243 in 2018.

This year we reviewed the BNSW affiliation fee structure. Since time immemorial (it would seem) there has been a tiered affiliation fee structure. This places a cap on the number of members of affiliate clubs that are counted towards the affiliate fee. That cap was at 400 members. Several of the smaller clubs questioned the equity of the cap. The committee spent considerable time reviewing and consulting with our clubs. We were not convinced of the case to move to a pure member count with no cap, but recognised that smaller clubs do pay a much higher amount to Bushwalking NSW per member. On this basis we decided to increase the cap to 600 members. This has the effect that the 3 largest clubs will contribute a much larger proportion than they have in the past. We believe that this is in the best interests of the bushwalking community overall in NSW and that bushwalking is best served by having a mix of large and small clubs throughout NSW. This fee restructure will contribute to the improved viability of the smaller clubs. Bushwalking NSW appreciates the support of the larger clubs in agreeing to the increase.

For 2019 with the fee restructure we have kept all but the 3 larger clubs to the same fee as 2018 rather than the CPI increase as previously forecast.

The BNSW balance sheet remains healthy with \$90,841 in our bank accounts with only \$3376 in liabilities made up of future items that will be expensed in the 2019 year.

The accounts this year have been audited as is required under the BNSW constitution

Treasurer: **John Flint**



John Flint
Treasurer,
Bushwalking
NSW

BUSHWALKING NSW INC.

ABN: 50 739 593 408

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

BUSHWALKING NSW INCORPORATED
STATEMENT BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We, John Flint and Alex Allchin two committee members of the Bushwalking NSW Incorporated, hereby state on behalf of the Committee that, in our opinion;

- I. The accountants give a true and fair view of all income and expenditure of the association as at 30 June 2018; and
- II. The balance sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the association as at 30 June 2018; and
- III. Internal controls exercised by the association are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received and applied by the association from any of its fundraising appeals.
- IV. The accounts comply with the provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

Signed at Sydney on this 21st day of August 2018.





INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REVIEW REPORT

To the Board of Governance of

BUSHWALKING NSW INC

For the year ended 30 JUNE 2018

ABN: 50 739 593 408

Report on the Financial Report

We Bechini and Associates have reviewed the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of the Bushwalking NSW Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, the statement of comprehensive income and statement of changes in equity for the year ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the responsible entities' declaration.

Responsible Entities' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act). The responsible entities' responsibility also includes such internal control that the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2415 Review of a Financial Report: Company Limited by Guarantee or an Entity Reporting under the ACNC Act or Other Applicable Legislation or Regulation, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the ACNC Act including: giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and its performance for the year [period] ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 (ACNC Regulation). ASRE 2415 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report.

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Conclusion

Based on our review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report of Bushwalking NSW Incorporated does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year [period] ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our conclusion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the responsible entities' financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Name of Firm	Bechini & Associates Pty Ltd
Name of Partner	 Mathew Hogan
Address	Suite 1 & 2, 1 st Floor Lansvale Shopping Centre 210-216 Hume Highway Lansvale NSW 2166
Date	<u>17/08/2018</u>

Profit & Loss

BUSHWALKING NSW INC For the 12 months ended 30 June 2018

	Jun-18	Jun-17	YTD
Income			
Advertising Income	1,475	775	1,475
Annual Affiliate Dues	61,243	60,487	61,243
Bank Interest	1,207	1,301	1,207
Donations [41006]	1,500	23	1,500
Grant funds	17,000	16,000	17,000
Insurance - Personal Accident	21,211	22,201	21,211
Insurance - Public Liability [41009]	23,032	23,773	23,032
Other Misc Income	50	-	50
The Bushwalker - subscriptions	-	53	-
Total Income	126,718	124,613	126,718
Gross Profit	126,718	124,613	126,718
Less Operating Expenses			
Accounting & Bookkeeping	435	532	435
Bank & Gov Charges	294	318	294
Depreciation	734	1,941	734
Donations [61350]	2,680	2,725	2,680
Dues & Subscriptions	8,001	8,051	8,001
Insurance - Broker Fee	12,900	-	12,900
Insurance - Personal Injury	14,729	21,320	14,729
Insurance - Public Liability [61401]	16,562	24,517	16,562
Levy - Annual	-	55	-
Magazine Costs	3,682	9,211	3,682
Meetings & Conferences	2,987	1,398	2,987
Postage & Shipping	22	203	22
Rent / Electricity/ Outgoings	1,800	4,324	1,800
Staff Amenities	19	-	19
Stationary / Office Supplies	164	83	164
Superannuation [61509]	4,016	4,311	4,016
Telephone/ Internet	83	318	83
Wages & Salaries	42,633	32,944	42,633
Wages & Salaries ISTWS Project	-	12,757	-
Website	252	228	252
Workers' Compensation	326	350	326
Total Operating Expenses	112,318	125,585	112,318
Net Profit	14,400	(971)	14,400

Balance Sheet

BUSHWALKING NSW INC As at 30 June 2018

30 Jun 2018 30 Jun 2017

Assets

Bank		
BUSHWALKING NSW INC	21,234	36,745
ING Interest Acc#60134750	69,599	57,892
Petty Cash	8	-
Total Bank	90,841	94,636
Current Assets		
Cash Drawer	50	-
Pledges Receivable	-	(12)
Total Current Assets	50	(12)
Fixed Assets		
Computer Equipment	2,675	1,941
Computer Equipment - Accum Depreciation	(2,675)	(1,941)
Total Fixed Assets	-	-
Non-current Assets		
Deposits Paid	250	250
Total Non-current Assets	250	250
Total Assets	91,141	94,874

Liabilities

Current Liabilities		
Rounding	-	-
Trade Creditors	-	2,789
Total Current Liabilities	-	2,788
Non-Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities	-	17,060
PAYG Withholding Payable	1,272	1,556
Superannuation [21425]	1,045	105
Wages Payable - Payroll	1,059	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities	3,376	18,721
Total Liabilities	3,376	21,510
Net Assets	87,765	73,365

Equity

Current Year Earnings	14,400	(971)
Retained Earnings	73,365	74,336
Total Equity	87,765	73,365

BUSHWALKING NSW INCORPORATED

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2018

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting:

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared for use by the proprietor. The proprietor has determined that the business is not a reporting entity.

This financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the following Australian Accounting Standards.

AAS 1: Profit and Loss or other Operating Statements

AAS 5: Materiality

AAS 8: Events Occurring After Reporting Date

No other Australian Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money or values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The accounting policies have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight line basis over the assets useful life to the company, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is recognised when the association is entitled to it.

Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

Other income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the association is entitled to it.