

Bushwalking NSW

Newsletter

Edition 22; August, 2015

Hi everyone,

We had a great turn out at the AGM this month. Caro Ryan gave an excellent presentation on how to grow your clubs. I'll be sharing that with you all soon so stay tuned!

We gained three new committee members at the AGM and many of our existing committee members committed to another year which is great to see. I'm particularly grateful to them all:

President:	Mitchell Isaacs	Ordinary Committee Members:	
Vice President:	Alex Allchin		Keith Maxwell
Secretary:	Margaret Covi		Ed Youds
Treasurer:	Isabel Yersin		George Quinn
			David Trinder
			Dick Weston
			Sierra Classen



Alex continues to be a powerhouse of new energy on the committee. He found us an auditor and also attracted Masters of Communication students to help us out. Also, the insurance certificates of currency and receipts were sent out to all clubs this month.

I've just returned from skiing the Bogong High Plains where there was fresh snow and some beautiful days. So I hope you are enjoying the fresh snow and/or the abundant flowers of spring!

Kirsten Mayer, Executive Officer, Bushwalking NSW, email admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au

Presidents Report

We are now through the busiest period of the year for Bushwalking NSW, with affiliation, insurance and the AGM out of the way. Thank you all for the support since I stepped in for David Morrison earlier this year, and I'm now looking forward to a full year as President!

We had a great AGM with lots of good discussion and contributions from a number of delegates, an informative and interesting talk from Caro Ryan, and people lingering late into the night to chat. Good to see new connections being developed between clubs and it is encouraging to see this level of enthusiasm.

We will be getting together with the Bushwalking Australia Council in November this year, and the hot topic on the agenda will be our insurance arrangements. For those of you who are interested - Bushwalking Australia runs an open tender every three years to select our insurer - and this will be running through next year. I've already flagged that Bushwalking NSW will be taking a keen interest in this process, to ensure that our members receive the most appropriate coverage for the best value. Please let Kirsten know if you have any



high level issues you'd like discussed. One example raised with us recently is that while our coverage is continuous at the beginning of each insurance year - there are a few weeks when we don't have a certificate of currency available.

Finally, with BWRS not currently able to offer remote area first aid courses – my club is arranging some training and will have a few spare places. Please see below for details.

Mitchell Isaacs, President, Bushwalking NSW

On track: Searching out the Bundian Way launch 2nd September

You are invited to the opening by Mark McKenna of an art exhibition and launch of John Blay's new book: **On Track: Searching out the Bundian Way** at the ANU School of Art at 5.30 on 2nd September.

"This is a track, a meeting place, that links the freshwater to the saltwater, the beaches to the mountains. People traversed that track for a lot longer than most of us can get our heads around. And it should be a track for all of us to come together now, where we can come together and understand the value of what's happening in our age..."

Mick Gooda, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Social Justice Commissioner Australian Human
Rights Commission

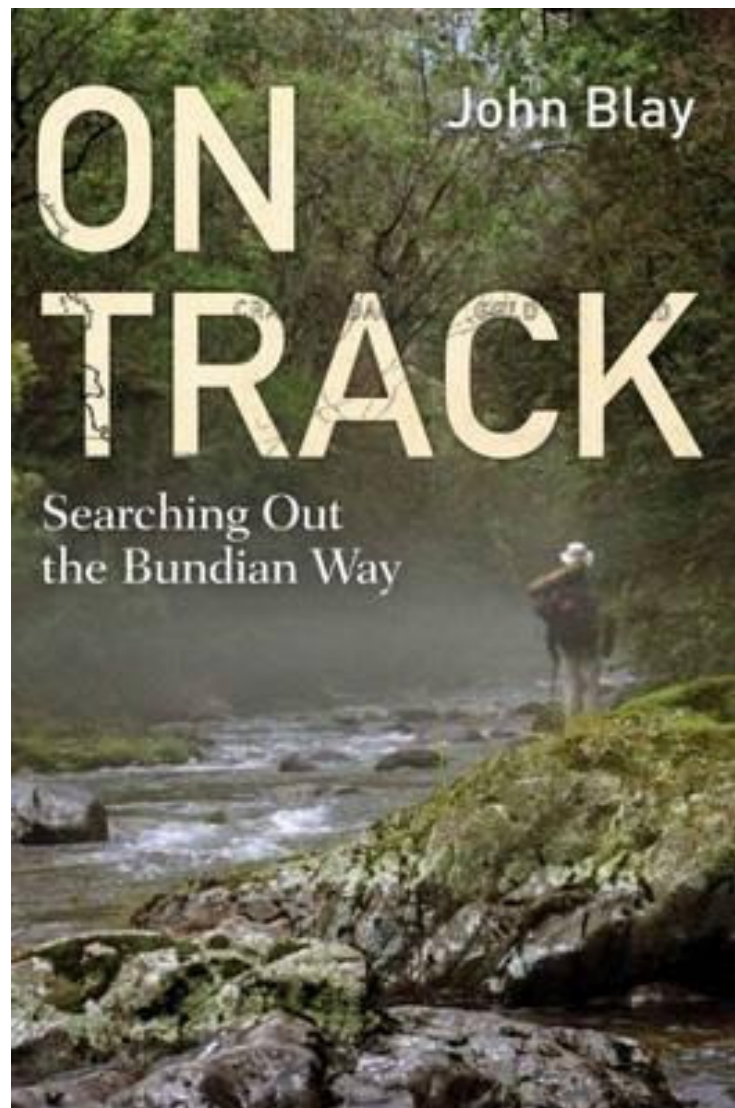
The evening and exhibition is presented by ART FORUM,
School of Art, ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences
<http://soa.anu.edu.au/art-forum>

On: Wednesday 2nd September 5.30 for 6pm
At: ANU School of Art Lecture Theatre
Please RSVP to: <http://tinyurl.com/no26ba1>

Conservation Update

Bushfire Conference - Proceedings now available.

Transcripts and the slides of the presentations from the Nature Conservation Council's recent bushfire conference are now available free for download from:
<http://www.nature.org.au/healthy-ecosystems/bushfire-program/conferences/>



BUSH NAVIGATION for Bushwalkers

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) is an active part of NSW emergency services. BWRS is respected for its ability to get into remote country (BWRS teams just go bushwalking!) Rescue changed with good field radios in the 1960's. Far fewer walkers were required to do what vast numbers attempted in the past. Now computers have had a similar or greater impact.

While walking and navigation are still the core of bushwalking the potential outcomes multiply when computers and radio communications interact.

There are now strong requirements to safely hold any outdoors event. Computers and radio communications make it possible. In early July another successful BWRS NavShield was held with over 400 participants. BWRS with a VRA Squad of radio 'amateurs' (WICEN) had a network of radio checkpoints and mobile BWRS 'bushranger' teams with modern HF & UHF radios. On Saturday night there was a serious incident that required the NSW Ambulance Paramedics. The presentation of awards / results still went ahead. Attendees were unaware of the drama on the event course.

On 28 - 30 August OXFAM held TrailWalker with over 500 teams of four (2000+). Every walker is tracked through the eight checkpoints of the 100km course / 48 hours in the urban bushland of Sydney. (Try that with a card system!) A range of many volunteers are also tracked and fed. All emergency calls go to the BWRS Co-ordinator. Response can be scaled up according to the incident. Serious challenges and injuries have been met and overcome. One year a severe wind storm destroyed frame tents at checkpoints. Pickup via medical helicopter has occurred. Last year there was a difficult retrieval of a 120kg man that required multiple emergency services. Our BWRS Safety Response Teams were heavily involved but not exclusively. Other incidents were always possible. The BWRS members enjoyed the challenges as they will this year.

In 1981 a small plane disappeared coming over Barrington Tops, inland from Newcastle. Today it could possibly easily be found if it had an ELB (Emergency Locator Beacon - a distress beacon for aircraft). The distress signal would be passed through satellites to a national emergency centre in Canberra for relay to NSW emergency services. This is also how a bushwalking Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) or marine EPIRB will be monitored.

Many attempts have been made to understand the planes final movements. BWRS has looked in many parts of Barrington Tops. The mystery has drawn in many other individuals. In a major development a commercial aircraft pilot has worked with a mechanical engineer (both members of BWRS) to computer analyse the final movements while allowing for multiple parameters. On Friday, 21 August there was a packed BWRS Training Room as the results were presented.

BWRS members should have another great bushwalk in field teams as they test this latest area on 17 / 18 October at Barrington Tops. In the meantime on 5 to 9 September BWRS will assist NSW Police in a missing person case.

BWRS is an active part of emergency services in NSW. It achieves great results in the field from the bushwalking skills of its members. This effectiveness is greatly enhanced by the interaction of modern radio communications with computing. Their website at www.bwrs.org.au has a wide mix of information on outdoors safety, distress beacons, mobile phones & outback communications, First Aid training, NavShield and much more.

Keith Maxwell, President, Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad. <http://www.bwrs.org.au>

Remote area first aid training

With BWRS not currently offering remote area first aid courses, Sydney University Bushwalkers is organizing a course on 17-18 October, and likely another in early 2016.

The course will be run through Safe Response (www.saferesponse.com.au) and we should have a few extra places available for other clubs if you would like to take up this opportunity. The cost is likely \$250 per person. The course is Apply First Aid in a Remote Setting HLTAID005, however please note that it does not cover as many hours or units as the BWRS training.

Please contact Mitchell mitch@outdoorgenius.com for further information.

Tracks and Access

Closures in our National Parks

Some bushwalkers were recently surprised when they came across signs indicating that a large part of the Kanangra-Boyd National Park was to be closed to the public for five days. The closure is to allow for an aerial pest control operation to take place safely. Things like this do occur from time to time, and unfortunately in many cases Bushwalking NSW isn't made aware of these sorts of closures (but it is something we are working on!).

It is therefore imperative that all bushwalkers check both current *and future* alerts via Alerts for NSW National Parks webpage during the planning stages, and before embarking on a walk. Be sure to select the "Next 4 weeks" drop down on the left hand side of the page to see what is coming up in a park near you.



<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/alerts/Alerts-list>

The Jamison Project

Last month during my wondering internet readings, I stumbled across a recent post in a little used bushwalking newsgroup (aus.bushwalking for those who may remember it) describing a project to document tracks, passes and history of the Jamison Valley. As I previously hadn't heard of the project, I was quick to contact the poster to find out more. A short exchange of emails and one day later, I was drinking tea with the man himself as he explained what his project was all about.

It may be only a month or two old, but already the project is taking shape with multiple tracks and passes already up, and it is easy to see where this project is heading. The following has been provided regarding the project on my request:

Traditionally track notes have been published in books and magazines which date rapidly. In recent times track notes have started appearing online. Many are in a form too brief for the needs of experienced walkers wanting to try a new area or are contained in a blog of someone's trip. So some of what I am attempting comes of the frustration of not finding information readily available. The other

motivation is that as I have walked with others I have thought it a good idea to record their experience and knowledge.

Living near the Jamison Valley I have a great interest in making the area I love walking in and exploring available to other likeminded people. So I have embarked on an ambitious project of documenting every Pass into the Jamison Valley and every track and route I can find in a way that is helpful in a number of areas: track access, navigation, conditions, difficulty and exposure to heights. Along the way my secondary aim is to record some history, geology, flora and fauna of the Valley and its surrounds.

This is a large project and I am not an expert in a number of the areas so I'd love to hear from others who would love to be involved in the project.

Rob Powell

One thing that appeals to me is the unique grading system that has is being applied, where difficulty, track condition, exposure, length and vertical elevation change are all evaluated. The aim is to better assist a walker in choosing a trip which is suited to their abilities and desires. As he states, Rob is after help from the bushwalking community to assist in making this project a success, and I encourage you to visit the website at www.jamisonproject.org and check it out.

The screenshot shows the 'The Jamison Project' website. At the top is a navigation bar with icons and labels for 'Tracks', 'Passes', 'Features', 'Camp Sites', 'Facilities', 'History', and 'Flora & Fauna'. Below this, the 'Tracks' section is active, displaying a list of tracks on the left and details for 'Lindeman Pass' on the right. The track details include a table with fields like Grading, Track Condition, Exposure, Length, and Vertical, followed by a descriptive paragraph about the track's history and a map of the area. The track list on the left includes Dardenelles Pass, Federal Pass, Hippocrene Falls, Kedumba Fire Trail, Kedumba Valley Rd, Lindeman Pass, Lions Head Ridge, Mt Solitary Track, National Pass, Old Kedumba Pass Rd, Old Road to Lions Head, Overcliff Walk, Pool of Siloam / Lyrebird Dell, and Prince Henry Cliff.

The Jamison Project

- Tracks
- Passes
- Features
- Camp Sites
- Facilities
- History
- Flora & Fauna

Tracks - Lindeman Pass

<u>Grading</u>	4 Medium-Hard
<u>Track Condition</u>	4 Poor condition, frequent track finding.
<u>Exposure</u>	1 No Exposure
<u>Length</u>	6km
<u>Vertical</u>	350m + many ups and downs between 600 & 750m

Lindeman Pass began as the brainchild of Charles Lindeman, a local business man of Blackheath and then Leura. He was a member of both Katoomba and Blue Mountains councils. His idea was to link the walking tracks of Katoomba with those of Wentworth Falls, by a walking track which skirts the top of the tallus slope through the Jamison valley, giving unobstructed, unique views of the

the corner is a rope which assists in a boggy section. Follow around the point into the gladstone creek gully. The Gladstone Pass track can be found on the western side of Gladstone creek. It heads uphill and back towards the creek, not easily seen when walking past.

Dash's Cave (33°43'38.7"S, 150°20'55.6"E) is close to the

The Plaque Project

From time to time, you may stumble across a plaque of some kind whilst walking out in the bush. They convey the connection that one has had with the land. Some of you may be aware of efforts by longstanding committee member Keith Maxwell in obtaining official recognition of a memorial plaque placed by what then was the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs in the Wild Dog Mountains. These plaques all have a history associated with them, but in many cases it undocumented and information is hard to come by.

The following is some information provided to me regarding a plaque project which I first came across a year or so ago:

I am currently working on a project, that I hope will eventually become a published resource, and am seeking out anyone who may be able to assist with information. Over the many years that I have enjoyed wandering through the mountains, I have come upon plaques and memorials to people who clearly felt the great love of the bush that we who bushwalk all feel. Their plaques are attached to rocks, often out in quite remote areas of the mountains, sometimes commanding the most superb views, and when I come upon them I find myself pausing to sit awhile, and wondering who these people were.

Some of the names are familiar to us - Walter Tarr is an obvious one, and his plaque is located on the rock face near Tarros ladder off Narrow Neck - but even though he is familiar, I cannot find any great amount of information about him. Others that I have found are already well documented - Oonagh Kennedy has a plaque that is located at the junction of the Cox and Breakfast creek, and the story of her tragic death is written up in a book called "A Megalong Tragedy" by Michael Baker.

One of the most significant plaques is to be found out on Splendour Rock. A dawn service is conducted each year out on Splendour Rock on Mount Dingo, in the Wild Dog Mountains, to honour the memory of the bushwalkers who fell in World War 2. Splendour Rock provides one of the most beautiful outlooks in the mountains, and a simple plaque is affixed to the rock with the words "their splendour shall never fade" to honour the fallen. There is much information already available about this particular plaque, but there are others in close proximity to this one that are relatively unknown.

My hope is to eventually gather together much more detailed information, so that anyone who is interested can look up the names of someone whose plaque they have found and know a little more about that person. I have at present a "collection" of 20 plaques which I have photographed, and attempted to research. All the information that I have so far accumulated can be viewed on my web-site by copying in the following link: <http://petersedgwick.com.au/#/gallery/plaques-and-memorials/introduction-page/>

I would greatly appreciate the assistance of anyone who might be able to add to my sparse knowledge!

Peter Sedgwick
Current Convenor of the Anzac Day Dawn Service

Already due to some small collaboration, questions have been answered and future information provided on at least two plaques. Below I have attached a photo of a 'Mates' plaque located at Splendour Rock that both Peter Sedgwick and Keith Maxwell have been researching.

I encourage you to have a look through the gallery and read what has been provided. If you have any information that may be of interest regarding the 'Mates' plaque or any of the others featured, it would be great if you could get in touch with Peter.



Calna Creek Bridge Re-Opened

Well it may have taken more than two years, but walkers can once again enjoy the full length of the Great North Walk thanks to the re-opening of the Calna Creek Bridge in Berowra Valley National Park. This occurred due to a joint effort involving Crown Lands, NPWS, State MPs and the bushwalking community. I would like to thank Matt McClelland of Wild Walks for his persistence and involvement in seeing that the matter was rectified.

At an estimated cost of \$270,000, hopefully this bridge will fare better than the last which stood for over 30 years before collapsing in 2013.

It does go to show that our government is able to spend money on track maintenance and repairs; it just may take a fair bit of encouragement for our end.

Alex Allchin, Tracks and Access Officer, Bushwalking NSW, email AJAllchin@gmail.com



Thanks from Bushwalking NSW

A note of thanks for Jim Callaway was made at the AGM, so Keith Maxwell has provided us some background to that vote of thanks, and also some reflections on the contributions of other hardworking Bushwalking NSW Management Committee members.

Jim Callaway

Jim has been involved for many years with Bushwalking NSW. Jim served as Treasurer for (I think) 10 years. My wife, Rosemary took over from him as Treasurer. This may have been a thankless task. For many years there was resistance to raising fees. Federation funds eventually got perilously low. In an ironic twist a conservation issue came up where some of the "fee opposers" wanted to donate Federation funds. Jim was a like a broken record as he had to, rightly, repeat "we can't afford it".

The first action of Rosemary as Treasurer was to raise fees to assist Federation to gain resources. The first purchase was a small photocopier that doubled up for Search & Rescue (S&R) as well. The copier lived at my place. Eventually, a second copier of the same model was purchased for S&R. In the early years of NavShield (pre good internet coverage) I would take this copier to our Secretary for a serious night of copying. When pages started coming out a bit too warm we would stop for a cup of coffee.

Jim is also a past Federation President. In recent years Jim and Jan Wouters have been a kind of double act as Committee Members. Communicating Bushwalking NSW business was interesting as both were computer free. Jim recently stopped attending Bushwalking NSW Committee Meetings. Jan stopped attending earlier, maybe in 2013. He was starting to get forgetful. After many months I rang Jan in January 2015 in a Mosman retirement village.

Jan Wouters

Jan Wouters has a PhD in Chemistry but for many years seems to been testing the longevity of the same black suit. Jim and Jan could have a record of attendance at Bushwalking NSW meetings of four decades or more.

Jan for many years had a small cassette recorder. He would faithfully record Federation meetings. Meetings would stop for him to change sides of the cassette! I never heard where these cassettes went / were stored or acted upon.

He also had a determination for an extra plaque at Splendour Rock to list the names of the fallen bushwalkers. I can say I actively opposed the idea. Jan was not easily dissuaded.

He got permission on more than one occasion for cars to go to Medlow Gap for ANZAC Day. For very frail walkers there would be a fly over, mid-morning in light planes. Oddly in 1988 for the 40th anniversary of dedication he got permission on the basis of assisting older walkers to get



closer. No older walkers took up the offer but Keith Jones of Watagan Wanderers (present in 1948) walked in unassisted!!

This may also have been the last time he went to Splendour Rock for ANZAC Day. I remember taking over leading a group that included him as he was so very slow / no longer strong (this may have been for self-interest - it would have taken a lot of explaining if Jan had been in trouble!!)

For years and years Jan ran the Bushwalkers Ball to the point where he would not share publicity or organisation. The Ball for a long time sold itself as a bush dance when bush dancing was popular. Ashfield Town Hall (now demolished) had some dances of around 200 or more. However, it slowly withered away. Federation / Confederation was losing money in these later years. The high point was 1972 when the Ball was catered & in The Round House of UNSW.

The Ball would also have the S&R raffle. Paddy Pallin and other shops would donate prizes. The funds did help run S&R as its cost base at that time was small.

Gordon Lee

A further name from the past who deserves to be remembered and thanked is Gordon Lee. Gordon was a Sydney Bush Walker for many years. He may have served for 10 years as Federation President. He was also "The Bushwalker" editor for several years where he helped to improve its appearance via a Confederation copy of 'WORDPERFECT' that is still in my garage!! Gordon also actively participated in Search & Rescue where he attended a number of searches and mostly completed our ALVRI vertical rescue course. This is surely a worthy record of service.

Gordon now has a very clever Malaysian woman as his wife. Occasionally I ring him in Woorim, southern Queensland.

Writing these notes has reminded me of some of our other past presidents including Murray Scott (Sutherland Bushwalking Club), David Noble (Sydney University Bushwalkers), Andy McQueen (Springwood Bushwalking Club), Peter Harris (National Parks Association), Robyn Cox (Bankstown Bushwalking Club) and Dodie Green (Yarrawood Bushwalking Club). These last two women were outstanding Presidents. I still send Christmas cards to Gordon & Robyn.

Recollections of **Keith Maxwell**, President, Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad.

Bushwalking in the Rainbow Region

Michael Smith, a resident of northern NSW has kindly shared with us his [Bushwalking in the Rainbow Region](http://budjiri.biz/ht/), free ebook. This bushwalking guide describes 59 day-walks in the area between Tweed Heads, Yamba and Woodenbong, in the Northern Rivers of NSW. You can download the book free from <http://budjiri.biz/ht/>.

I wish I had a copy on my last visit to northern NSW!
Many thanks Michael!



Great Australian Walks Stamps

Australia Post has issued a set of stamps celebrating Great Australian Walks – you can purchase a set [online at the Australia Post website](#).



Reminder: We need your stories!

We are now seeking articles and photos on the theme of “How I started Bushwalking” for the next edition of The Bushwalker magazine. Do you have a great story to tell?

Please take the time to send through your stories and photos, the magazine is read by thousands of people, and we want to inspire them to discover the enjoyment that bushwalking allows.

Please send articles to editor@bushwalkingnsw.org.au...