

Bushwalking NSW

Newsletter

Edition 18; April, 2015

Right: Terrace Falls,
Hazelbrook

Photo:
Catherine Svec

Hi folks,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter! I haven't received photos of any Easter adventures undertaken by club members, everyone must be too busy planning their next trip! If you would like to see your landscape photo feature in this newsletter, please email it to me.



We have seen some wild weather this month, I hope everyone stayed safe. Now is a great time to be out walking, with lots of waterfalls looking more spectacular, and even appearing where there was no water before! However, please be careful with potential track damage and flooded creeks/rivers.

In the office, April has been quite busy compiling the insurance data to be sent to Bushwalking Australia. Thank you to the clubs that sent theirs in on time. There is still one club from which I have received no response; please let me know whether you are still active **Blue Steel Dash!**

The next General Meeting is coming up soon on the 19th of May, and continues to be held at the Ashfield RSL. There will be CAKE to entice more of our delegates along, so please do come and share in the important discussions that are held on our favourite topic – BUSHWALKING!

Catherine Svec, Administration Officer, Bushwalking NSW, email admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au

Presidents Report

Well, it's been a good couple of months, and I'm looking forward to seeing number of you again at this month's general meeting on Tuesday 19 May. We have an exciting speaker - Alice McGlashan - talking about koala research in the Blue Mountains, and how you can get involved.

We will soon be advertising for an Executive Officer for Bushwalking NSW, and we'd like to hear if any of you are interested, or know someone who would be interested in this role. This role, as opposed to an admin officer, will provide a much stronger strategic and communication focus for the organisation. They will liaise with various stakeholders and Government, prepare submissions and grant applications, project manage what we are doing, and generally keep the Committee on their toes! Part of their role will be to work out the best way of maintaining this position without any additional cost to clubs.

Plenty of other exciting things happening, and I couldn't possibly fit them in without taking over the newsletter. However, some of the key things include:

- NPA is organising a Bushwalking Conference later this year, and thanks to those who completed the survey.
- Destination NSW released interesting statistics that 5.5 million visitors to NSW go bushwalking every year - or 16% of all visitors.
- Bushwalking NSW has agreed to help support the development of a "great walk" style walk through the Gardens of Stone, and ensuring that this walk avoids any sensitive areas. There's some great country out there!

Here's to another jam packed couple of months!

Mitchell Isaacs, President, Bushwalking NSW, email contact via admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au

Conservation Officer's Update

Hi there, candid bushwalkers of NSW,

This is your friendly Conservation Officer with a special proposition for you. Bushwalking NSW is excited to announce that we would like to hold an interclub competition and gathering: the Bushwalkers' Olympics.

We are looking for a bushwalking club or some individuals who would like to host this event and project manage it, with the support of the Bushwalking NSW Committee. Your Tracks and Access Officer and I have devised some events for the Olympics, based on skills that we as bushwalkers specialise in. These include:

- damper baking;
- tent pitching;
- billy boiling (with fire lighting);
- cairn making (tallest, most innovative design);
- knot tying;
- and many more.



Above: The party crossing the bridge over Belowra Creek. Lto R - Colin Oloman, Max Eden, Dave Dash, Carol Mills, Barbara Darmanin, Elizabeth Hinton. (Photo: David and Barbara Darmanin)

If you or your club would be interested in hosting or participating in the hosting and management of the Bushwalkers' Olympics, Bushwalking NSW would be tickled to hear from you. Please contact either myself or Cat, our Admin Officer, with any ideas, queries, or **expressions of interest**. We have typed these ideas up in a document that we will give to the club or crew that will be hosting the event.



Sierra Classen, Conservation Officer, Bushwalking NSW, email angelina.willow@gmail.com

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) News

BWRS is an active volunteer rescue squad of bushwalkers who have gained some extra skills to make them valuable rescue personnel. Members of BWRS regularly use their bushwalker skills to search remote areas where others struggle. There are times when little happens followed by very busy times. BWRS is very active at the moment.

To hone our search and rescue skills BWRS had a training weekend for newer members on April 18 - 19 in Green Gully. Communication with HF / UHF radios was used to co-ordinate teams to eventually locate a casualty for transport.

These skills will be put to real use on May 1 at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Gardens, St Ives where members will join other emergency services personnel in a renewed search for a missing elderly woman. NSW Police have new information to test.

BWRS had already planned a training weekend at Mogo Creek on May 2 - 3 to consolidate member competencies when the request came from NSW Police for assistance on May 1. All emergency services personnel follow patterns of competency based training (CBT). You can be assured that emergency services personnel are well trained to perform their tasks and minimise risk to themselves and others.

NavShield on July 4 - 5 is being planned while these other events are happening. An area not far from Sydney (no hints, the location will be given just before the event; no one gets an inside run) is being setup with checkpoint flags as a map and compass navigation training exercise for emergency services personnel. There are many teams, including bushwalking club teams, who keep coming back each to this fabulous event. NavShield is also a great social event not to be missed.

Your club could be there at NavShield with a team in either the one day or overnight event. Checkpoints will be randomly set from very easy to challenging. Your club members could learn / polish up their map & compass skills. You can learn more and register at the BWRS website - www.bwrs.org.au

If you move quickly you may be able to join a St John Ambulance "Provide First Aid" course on May 17. This one day course has been adapted for bushwalkers to gain some useful first aid skills. You will need to register and pay the discounted course fee to confirm your place in this course. Again, see the BWRS website for full details. If you miss our May 17 "Provide First Aid" course then mark your diary for the November 17 course with our bushwalker Instructor.

Finally, planning is well advanced by NSW Police for a combined emergency services exercise at Bendethra for a simulated downed small aircraft. BWRS will be strongly represented. This exercise in rugged country will seek to utilise a range of search skills plus co-ordination liaison between our teams and those from various emergency services.

BWRS is thus an active volunteer rescue squad that values the skills of bushwalkers. BWRS has been assisting NSW Police since 1936 when Paddy Pallin and other prominent bushwalkers set up the NSW Federation of Bushwalking Clubs Search & Rescue Unit. We would like to see more members of bushwalking clubs be part of this worthwhile community asset.

Keith Maxwell, President, Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad

Tracks and Access

There are currently no new or major track closures to announce. Remember to check the website: <http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/alert/state-alerts> for all updates when planning a walk and before you head out.

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

Anzac Day at Splendour Rock, 25 April, 2015

Beautiful weather marked the 100th anniversary of the landings at Gallipoli. Thanks to Lisa Sheldon for providing the great below photo.



Above: Anzac Day at Splendour Rock. Photo: Lisa Sheldon.

Feral Horses in National Parks

The NPA is helping review the Feral Horse Management plan for Kosciuszko National Park. Matt McClellan has established a comprehensive questionnaire, and is collating the results on behalf of NPA NSW. Although the introduction makes reference to a meeting with the Independent Technical Reference Group (26 March), NPA NSW still have the opportunity to provide that ITRG group with additional information. So far, quite a number of bushwalkers have responded with major concerns about increasing horse numbers, health (water) and safety issues (confrontations with feral horses). If you have circumstances that you would like to report, please take the time to do so via the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/a/wildwalks.com/forms/d/1Mbsjkn2-uxohtHwBaRzvbPg8Zl1ORiIN3bu7emclfq4/viewform>

Please also feel free to pass the link on to other walkers/campers who have visited Kosciuszko National Park.

Bushwalking Conference 2015

Bushwalking NSW is excited about supporting NPA NSW as they plan a Bushwalking Conference for Sydney in 2015. It is early days and NPA is still chasing funding - but it is looking great and a lot of people have already shown interest. The plan at this stage is to pull together a theme and basic plan.

For those that have not asked their club members to complete the following form, please do, so that helpful issues to discuss and ideas that are worth sharing at the conference can be raised. Please also share this link with bushwalkers and land managers you may know:

<http://wild.tl/bwconf2015>

Follow Bushwalking NSW on Facebook and Twitter

Stay up to date with important information by following Bushwalking NSW on Facebook and Twitter. We regularly share important information and interesting facts that we're sure you will love! For instance, who knew that the United States was the first country to legislate a National Park?!?

Bushwalk Australia eMagazine

The April 2015 edition is now available. This edition is focused on walking in Queensland, but has plenty of other general walking articles. Put your feet up (for a change!) and have a read through the 84 pages of the magazine. This edition has some amazing photos to inspire your trip planning side, along with some information on walks, tick removal, blisters, dessert recipes, and more!

Blue Mountains Koala Project

As mentioned in our Presidents report (above), we are fortunate to have Alice McGlashan as our guest speaker at our upcoming General Meeting on 19 May, and we look forward to her presentation. You can also view some of the project details on the Science for Wildlife website: <http://scienceforwildlife.org/iconic-koalas/>

Bushwalking NSW have committed to working with Alice to organise some short koala ecology, food tree identification, koala spotting workshops, and educational material for bushwalkers. Please report all previous and future koala sightings in the Blue Mountains to Science for Wildlife.



We need you!

The Bushwalker magazine relies on your articles and photos of the places that you've been. Please take the time to send these through, the magazine is read by thousands of people, and it would be a shame if there was no content to keep it going!

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

New Walking Map for Berowra Valley National Park

A new high quality walking map of the Berowra Valley has been released by local voluntary service group, Friends of Berowra Valley (FBV). The various existing maps of the Park varied in purpose and not all of the features and walks were shown on one map. FBV sought input from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, the present managers of the new National Park and many walking authorities to put together the new map. Every approved walking track and fire trail in the Park is shown on the new map, along with easy reference to picnic and camping places, toilets, and historic locations.

The maps are available from the NP&WS shops at Bobbin Head and Lane Cove National Park.

George Foster, Committee Member, Friends of Berowra Valley Inc