

# Bushwalking NSW

## Newsletter

Edition 20; June, 2015

Hi folks,

I hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy the sunshine lately, it has been perfect walking weather!

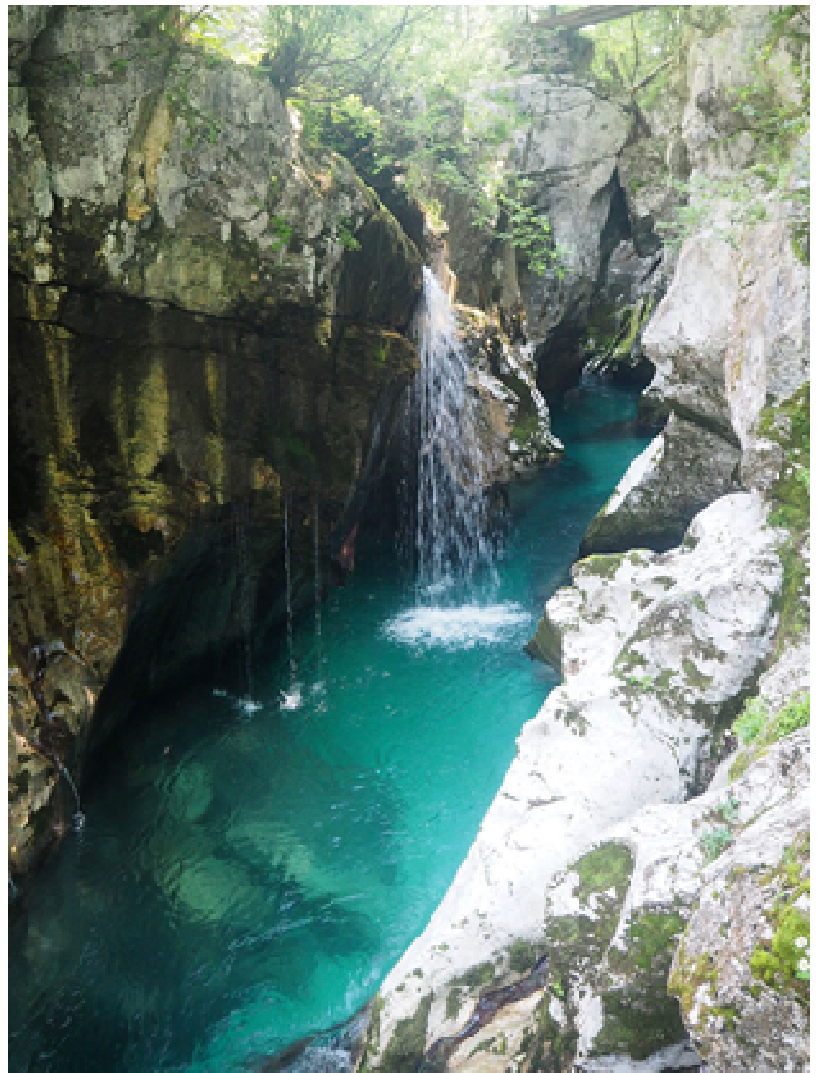
Bushwalking Australia have now sent through the insurance premiums payable, and each club will receive their invoice shortly. Payments are due by the end of July, and your prompt attention to this will be much appreciated!

Some exciting news to share – Bushwalking NSW have recruited a new Executive Officer, Kirsten Mayer, to manage and provide a strategic focus to the organisation, and increase the value Bushwalking NSW offers. Kirsten is passionate about bushwalking, the bush, and conservation, and should be a great asset to the organisation.

On that note, I will be leaving the day to day running of the office in Kirsten's capable hands, and will focus on my part-time position at NAB for the next 6 months until our second bundle of joy arrives. It has been a pleasure to work with BNSW over the last three months, so thank you all 😊

Hope to see you out there in the bush!

Catherine Svec, outgoing Administration Officer, Bushwalking NSW



Above: Soca Gorge in Slovenia Photo: Catherine Svec

## **Executive Officer's Introduction**

Hi everyone,

I am delighted to be taking on the role of Executive Officer for Bushwalking NSW.

Those of you from all over the state and beyond who have walked with me know my passion for wilderness and outdoor adventure, as well as my affection for 'my tribe' – which is you: this hardy group of lovely people who share a passion for nature, adventure, community, wilderness, conservation, exhilarating exercise, and great company.

It is my absolute pleasure to now have the opportunity to be taking such a key role in ensuring that Bushwalking NSW continues to provide beneficial services to you all through our member clubs. I'm very keen to see how we can grow Bushwalking NSW, your clubs, bushwalking participation and nature conservation in NSW.

I look forward to representing you, and working to foster strong relationships with Government, land managers, conservation groups, and industry, to make sure that Bushwalking NSW - and all of you - have a strong voice, and strong representation in NSW.

Please do send me an email at [admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au](mailto:admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au) with your ideas and aspirations for Bushwalking NSW in this new era. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

I hope you can also join us at the upcoming AGM in August, and be part of this new phase. I look forward to meeting you there!

Kirsten Mayer, Executive Officer, Bushwalking NSW, email [admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au](mailto:admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au)

## **Presidents Report**

This week sees a number of us stiff and sore following another spectacular Navshield in Yengo National Park. This annual navigation event, organized by the Bushwalker Wilderness Rescue Squad is a great opportunity to work on your navigation skills, push your body to the limits, meet new people, and get to explore a new corner of the wonderful bushland that NSW has to offer.

This month I'm thrilled to welcome our first ever Executive Officer, Kirsten Mayer. You'll be hearing a lot more from Kirsten so I won't steal her thunder, but we're very excited to have someone of her calibre responsible for driving our organisation forward.



I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank Catherine for her work over the last few months when she stepped in at very short notice to fill in while we looked for our Executive Officer. She has provided tremendous support to Bushwalking NSW, and to me as I've found my feet as President.

Our AGM is coming up in August, and we'd love to see lots of you there, new faces and old alike. We're working on an interesting agenda, and will be keeping the admin to a minimum so that we can focus on what we love the most - the bush! I look forward to seeing you there!

Mitchell Isaacs, President, Bushwalking NSW, email contact via [admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au](mailto:admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au)

### **Remember to put the AGM in your diary now:**

Bushwalking NSW Annual General Meeting  
7pm Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2015  
Ashfield RSL Club, 374 Liverpool Rd, Ashfield

Join us at 7pm for a chance to meet and mingle a little prior to the meeting. There will be finger food and tea/coffee provided and drinks will be available to be purchased from the bar.

The meeting will commence at 7.30. Don't forget it is your club's chance to vote so be sure your delegates can attend.

Ashfield RSL Club, is in Liverpool Road, corner of Frederick Street. Just 5 minutes' walk from Ashfield Railway Station. Sydney Buses 418, 462, 464, 466, 480 & 483 stop right outside the Club. There is also plenty of off-street parking.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Tracks and Access**

#### **Blue Mountains National Park - works at Three Sisters**

The major upgrade works to the walking track to the Three Sisters at Katoomba are now nearing completion. NPWS have advised that the works on the Three Sisters Track have progressed well and they are delighted to be able to remove the closure barriers for this last weekend. Visitors can now access the track safely from Echo Point, and from the Giant Stairway, which was also re-opened. The official opening date will be the 20th July.



## **National Park and walking track closure updates**

For all updates National Park and walking track closures, check the website: <http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/alert/state-alerts> when planning a walk and also before you head out, as closures can occur with short notice. Scroll down to relevant national park, and click on 'details' in the right hand column.

As always, please get in touch with myself if you or your fellow bushwalkers have any tracks and access issues you wish for us to look into.

Alex Allchin, Tracks and Access Officer, Bushwalking NSW, email [AJAllchin@gmail.com](mailto:AJAllchin@gmail.com)

## **BUSH NAVIGATION for Bushwalkers**

REPORT on NAVSHIELD 2015

The 27th annual NavShield of Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) on 4th / 5th July this year was more successful than usual. BWRS is the search & rescue section of Bushwalking NSW.

BWRS run NavShield as a one day or two day map & compass bush navigation event for bushwalkers and emergency services personnel. Over 400 bushwalkers and emergency services personnel participated this year in teams of between 2 to 6 persons. Saturday morning at 8.44am I had their undivided attention. At 8.45am they could not care less as they rushed to grab their team score card and head bush.

In the months leading up to NavShield, members of BWRS had worked with the Course Setter to place checkpoint flags in a random pattern over an area of around 100 square kilometres.

Teams 'heading bush' aimed to find as many of these checkpoints as they could before the event deadline. It is a challenge each year for BWRS to bring everything together to make NavShield a safe but enjoyable event. We need a huge base site plus maps, team envelopes of checkpoint lists and other notes, toilets, catering, "Bushrangers" (teams of BWRS members with radios to enforce the rules but also call in emergency incidents), radio communications, BWRS admin staff, First Aid & NSW Ambulance Paramedics with good weather if possible.

NavShield is special in several ways.

The NavShield course always has a good mix of easy to hard checkpoints. All level of bushwalking navigators get valuable practice in map & compass navigation.

BWRS has worked hard at making NavShield a safe and social event that welcomes the full range of emergency services. The proof is in the emergency services that attend and Attendance Awards. NavShield regularly has teams from SES, RFS, NP&WS, Defence, VRA and Police. All teams get on well together. Also each year I present awards for regular attendance at NavShield. Over the years of NavShield I have progressively presented awards for 5 years, 10 years, 15 years, 20 years and

now (3x) 25 years of attendance!!

This year everything just clicked together. The base site of the old Yengo homestead in Yengo National Park was a fabulous location. The weather was warm days with cold winter nights. Participants enjoyed the course. Changes of elevation were not great and the small cliff lines broke easily. See the BWRS website for NavShield results at [www.bwrs.org.au](http://www.bwrs.org.au)

BWRS would like to see more bushwalking teams at NavShield 2016 on the first weekend of July. NavShield is a great way to practice bushwalking navigation at a really friendly event. Mark your diary now!!

Keith Maxwell, President, Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad

### **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](mailto:editor@bushwalkingnsw.org.au)...