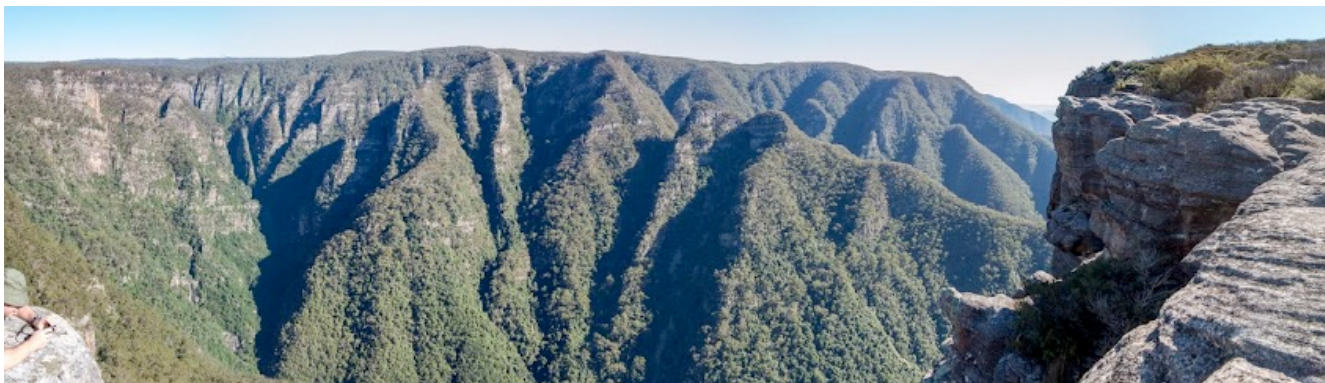


# Bushwalking NSW Newsletter



Edition 1    April 2013

Photo is the Thurat Spires from the Kanangra Tops, taken by Stanley Wong of Sydney Bushwalkers Club

**Bushwalking NSW Inc. was formerly known as The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs of NSW Inc.**

Welcome to our first newsletter!

## **Newsletter**

In order to improve communication between this organisation and its member clubs we have promised and are now delivering a monthly Newsletter. This newsletter will be distributed in the months when *The Bushwalker* magazine is not published, to keep you all up to date, so there will be 7 per year, it is doubtful that we will do one in January, given the lack of activity over the Christmas holiday period, however if there is anything to report we will certainly do so.

## **Our History and changing our name**

The inaugural meeting of *The New South Wales Federation of Bush Walking Clubs* was held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1932 with a dozen bushwalking and hiking clubs as foundation members. In 1985 the name of our organisation was changed to *Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW* to comply with *the NSW Associations Incorporations Act* of 1984 and other reasons.

This name is still long and too complex for 2013 and there has been a movement toward shortening it to *Bushwalking NSW* or similar. We applied to have this name or 2 other similar alternatives reserved and the preferred name has now been approved.

**The name of this organization is now Bushwalking NSW**

Likewise the same name will be reserved as a Domain Name for a web site.

## **The Management Committee**

David Trinder - President  
Mitchell Isaacs – Vice President  
Peter Stebbing – Treasurer retiring  
Margaret Covi -Public Officer/Hon. Secretary  
Ed Youds- Publicity Officer  
Ordinary committee Members  
Jim Callaway  
Dodie Green  
Keith Maxwell  
Administration Officer – Gail Clifford

Denise Kruse  
Don Mulligan  
Jan Wouters

There are several vacancies on the committee, if anyone would like to assist with the following; Training Officer, Conservation Officer, Insurance Officer and in June Peter Stebbing, the Treasurer, will be leaving us to undertake an extended period of travel, we are jealous! If anybody feels they would like to take up any of these positions, please get in touch with Gail.

## **Web Site**

We intend to renew the web site with a Content Management System and we are at present compiling the operations that this site will be required to perform and we are talking to web site builders.

## **The Survey**

Before Christmas we sent a survey to the clubs asking what we could do to assist them. We received 31 replies. The results have been analysed and we have a clearer picture of the size, content and the needs of our clubs.

## **Teleconferencing**

Management Committee meetings might in future include a teleconference component. This would allow participation by many more members, who would otherwise find it difficult to attend.

## **Presidents Meeting**

2 years ago we held a Presidents meeting and the Presidents from state clubs attended for discussions with the Management Committee. We are planning a similar meeting to encourage communications between the Clubs and the Committee, at this stage to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> July. David is currently exploring possible venues. We will keep you posted.

## **Services to non-club bushwalkers**

The new name for this organization suggests and allows us to provide services to non-club bushwalkers. We are investigating services such as insurance, track information, creation of tracks and huts, training with individual membership. There are more non-club bushwalkers than club walkers in the state. Most people who get into trouble are non-club walkers. We want to introduce them to clubs. We should represent and help all bushwalkers. Any such services will not cost the clubs any extra.

## **Shooting in National Parks**

David Trinder President

At the state election last year Barry O'Farrell became premier with a big majority in the lower house and without a majority in the upper house. The membership of the upper house is

- Liberal and National together have 19 seats,
- Labour and the Greens together have 19 seats
- The Shooters and Fishers have 2 seats
- The Christian Democrats have 2 seats

I am not sure how they all vote but you can see that the Premier is relying on the Shooters and Fishers to pass any legislation. The Shooters and Fishers are going to get their way throughout this parliamentary term and we are not going to talk them out of it.

Originally the "hunting in National Parks" issue started when the Premier wanted to sell off the power generation so he could build railways and roads.

The details of the hunting program are being negotiated between the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Game Council and unions. These negotiations have been progressing over a long period of time secretly and information leaked to date reveals:

**Zone A** is classed as parks with high and medium visitor use, including camping grounds and residences. Hunters will be allowed in these areas when they are closed to the public and the hunter is "fully embedded" in official National Parks and Wildlife shooting programs. This suggests that the hunters follow the same requirements that all professional hunters currently do in parks.

**Zone B** is classified as parks of low visitor use or with particularly sensitive environmental and cultural site. Hunters will be controlled and directed by National Park and Wildlife Service staff. It seems these programs will still be supervised and planned by NPWS - but that they will have more relaxed rules than covered by the OEH Firearms Management Manual.

**Zone C** is classed as parks with low visitor use or parks where visitors are not otherwise allowed. Hunters will be allowed unaccompanied and will work similar to the State Forest Model with some exclusion areas.

Hunting was due to commence Australia Day 2013, this was then delayed until 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013, and recently this has been postponed again until a review of the Game Council is complete. While it is expected this review of the Game Council may be complete by June, this is not guaranteed, it is not due to commence until the 1<sup>st</sup> May. It has become necessary because the Government has found that some senior members of the Game Council have been allegedly misbehaving, cruelty to animals and shooting when they should not be are the main issues.

The organisation leading the campaign on this issue is the environmental and bushwalking organization, the National Parks Association (NPA). They have 1800 bushwalking members and they have been instrumental in creating some good changes in the past. They have dedicated a website to this campaign: [www.nohunting.com.au](http://www.nohunting.com.au)

Not all National parks will be open to hunting, some 48 have been definitely excluded. A list of the parks excluded can be viewed here: <http://nohunting.wildwalks.com/map> I think the best we can get is to force restrictions on hunting, like.

- Dedicate certain times and areas to shooters so everybody else can keep out.
- Keep those areas and times to a minimum.
- Watch and penalise them if they shoot native animals or flout other rules.
- Stop them shooting in an area where they have not been successful in culling feral animals.
- Ensure that they follow best shooting practice.

The NPA is adopting a “No hunting in any national park” agenda and aims to see the legislation that allows recreational hunting completely repealed by the March 2015 election. The NSW ALP has committed to repealing the legislation should it be elected into power. NPA believes that in order to manage pest animal populations effectively, there needs to be a larger investment in a professional, integrated pest management program. These have been scientifically proven to be effective, there is no scientific data evidencing that recreational hunting is effective.

The hunters say that they want to rid us of feral animals but I imagine that they really just want to shoot anything. They might be able to shoot large feral animals like pigs, horses, cattle and goats but they will never find the damaging animals like cats and foxes, all of which kill a native animal every day.

In New Zealand where shooters coexist with trampers, a person has been killed in the bush every year for the last 10 years, albeit not all of them have been trampers, but non-trampers should not be killed either.

We are happy to share the bush with other interest groups;

- that their presence will exclude all others is not good for us,
- the fact that native animals might be shot is not good for the bush,
- it is only a matter of time before somebody is killed,
- scientific research shows that recreational shooting does not reduce feral animals.

Leave it to the professional shooters embedded with the NPWS following procedures that result from the science.

### **Tracks and Access Report for 3rd April 2013**

David Trinder

Tracks and Access Officer

Bushwalking NSW Inc

This report includes several relevant extracts from the NPWS “Park Closures” section of their web site at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NationalParks/FireClosure.aspx> and click on “Subscribe to Updates” For further information refer to the link.

No parks currently affected by fire

97 parks with closed areas

19 parks with fire bans

For hazard reduction burning information, major wildfire updates and a list of all current incidents in NSW, please visit the NSW Rural Fire Service website.

It is essential that if you are planning back country hiking, camping or four wheel drive access into national parks that you check with your local National Parks and Wildlife Service Office first to obtain the latest information.

Please note some National Parks and reserves have burnt areas due to hazard reduction burning or wildfires. It is very important that members of the public stay out of burnt bushland areas for the following reasons:

for safety reasons – only trees directly adjacent to the tracks/trails have been assessed for dangerous tree limbs. Trees inside the burnt areas, however, have been damaged by fire and branches/trees could fall down and injure someone.

to help the bushland regenerate – by keeping off the newly burnt ground it will protect and enable new growth to form

to prevent unauthorised tracks forming throughout the bushland.

### **Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park**

Basin Trail upgrade works (Ends Friday 31 May)

The Basin Trail will be closed from the Mackerel Service Trail to the Basin Campground in order to undertake upgrade works. The Basin Aboriginal engravings and the Mackerel Track will remain accessible. All access to the Basin Campground during this period is by water only. Services include Palm Beach Ferries, Barrenjoey Boating Service, Peninsular Water Taxis & Pink Water Taxis or access is available to private boats.

Locations affected: The Basin track and Mackerel track, The Basin picnic area, The Basin campground

Upgrade of Barrenjoey Headland Access Trail - Barrenjoey Lighthouse

Access to the headland is via the Smugglers Walking Track ONLY. Please be advised that this track is steep in sections and people should be moderately fit and prepared with good walking shoes, hat and WATER before embarking. It is anticipated that the works will be completed towards the end of June - weather dependent.

### **Berowra Valley Regional Park**

Impass of Calna Bridge, Crosslands Reserve

Due to unforeseen weather conditions the Calna Creek footbridge connecting Crosslands Reserve, Hornsby Heights and the Great North Walk north of Sam's Creek is impassable. Therefore access to the Great North Walk is from Glenview Road at Mount Ku-ring-gai. It is currently not known how long will be required to rectify this situation.

### **Warrumbungle National Park**

Following the recent bushfire Warrumbungle National Park will be open in a limited capacity only.

Whitegum Lookout and Camp Wambelong will be OPEN for day use only.

Whitegum Lookout Walk is the only walking track open.

John Renshaw Parkway is open.

For more information please contact the Coonabarabran Area Office on 02 6842 1311.

### **BWRS NEWS**

Keith Maxwell

**FIRST AID** Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) is offering a ONE day First Day course as a great introduction to first aid on Sunday, May 26. Registration is via the BWRS website. Your place in the course is confirmed by paying the course fee. See [www.bwrs.org.au](http://www.bwrs.org.au)

You must have easy access to a computer to complete the theory pre-learning required. Registration will close on 17 May.

After you register for First Aid training you could go exploring our BWRS website where there is a range of information on the Squad, NavShield, PLB, outback communication etc, etc

**WARM DAYS & BUSHWALKING** Summer type temperatures have lingered into the start of April so we need to remain aware of the dangers of heat exhaustion.

First Aid training helps us to understand heat exhaustion. Physical activity in hot environments without proper precautions can lead to heat exhaustion. Untreated heat exhaustion can quickly advance to life threatening heat stroke.

See; [http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Heat\\_stress\\_and\\_heat-related\\_illness](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Heat_stress_and_heat-related_illness)

Remember that we avoid heat exhaustion through a mix of three things. One, not be there; two, keep the outside cool and three: keep well hydrated.

There are times when it can just be too hot to bushwalk. Can you put off the bushwalk OR walk only in the cooler early / late afternoon hours of the day???? Thus we can 'not be there' by picking the time and places where we go bushwalking.

Keeping your outside cool reduces your fluid loss through sweating. As well as careful selection of light clothes you could also wet your hat / hair / shirt / exposed skin. At the extreme I have dived into a creek before a hot climb.

All humans sweat to maintain body temperature. On warm days when the air temperature is close to or greater than our body temperature we can lose far more fluid (sweat) than mild days.

There are no set rules for the amount of water you require (to replace sweat) on a warm day due to natural variation between individuals, heat of the day, exercise levels and the food we eat. Muscle cramps can be a warning sign that our body fluids are out of balance. In warm weather try carrying an extra 1 – 2 litres of water over normal.

Thus, we minimise the risk of heat exhaustion on hot days through a combination of things; one, not be there; two, keep the outside cool and three; keep the inside (well) hydrated.

### **Administration Officer's Update**

My little corner is extremely busy at the moment, with the Insurance surveys now being overdue and some 10 clubs still outstanding.

### **Name Change;**

The name change process has been completed, the new Incorporation certificate arrived 2 weeks ago and I am currently altering our Constitution to reflect the name change. This then needs to be submitted to the Dept. of Fair Trading for approval, however this is only a formality, as the name is the only change at this time. I am also busy ensuring that all the relevant people have copies of the Incorporation Certificate, I'm sure I'll miss a couple but will hopefully catch up with the important ones.

### **Website;**

At this time, one of the committee members is seeking external advice on the value (or not) of the proposals we have received. We are hoping to go ahead with the building of a new website on receipt of that advice.