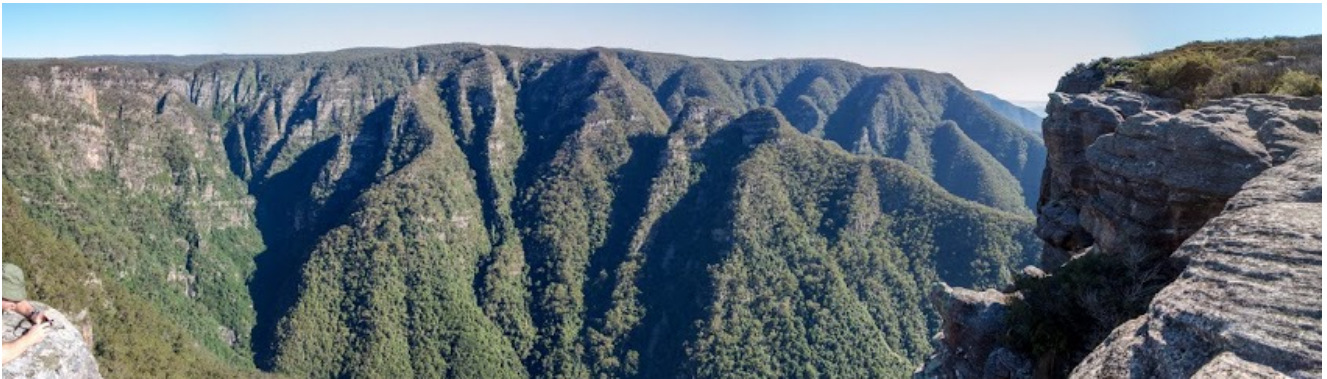


Bushwalking NSW Newsletter



Edition 2 June 2013

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

Welcome Back!

Our first newsletter was very well received, thank you to all those who emailed with such positive messages, your support is appreciated.

This month, we will have a couple of articles of interest (hopefully) a report from David Trinder and various other bits and pieces, including an update from the desk of the AO. I have also included an Insurance FAQ section, to answer the most asked questions at this time of the year.

If anyone would like to submit photos for use in future copies of the newsletter, we would be happy to receive them, credit will be given!

Presidents Report

Presidents Meeting

The Management Committee (MC) is inviting the Club Presidents to a meeting on the 20th July. The venue is the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club, on the eastern side of West Ryde railway station at 117 Ryedale Road, West Ryde. We are hiring a room for 50 people and the MC

would like you to RSVP to admin@bushwalking.org.au, by July 5. The function will be free of charge and refreshments will be provided.

The aim will be to encourage discussion and the sharing of information and ideas. Hopefully, by the end of the day, we will have some recommendations to the MC. We will break down into smaller groups and come back together with a representative of each group to share the discussion points.

Declining membership especially, of young people, appears to be a problem in many Clubs in the state and nationally.

The program will follow this pattern

11.00 am Session 1. Meeting Open and welcome by Bushwalking NSW President.
11.20 am Club Introduction by Presidents
12.15 pm Break for a light lunch.
1.00 pm Session 2 Recruiting new members
2.00 pm Short break for tea and coffee
2.15 pm Session 3 Leader Training and Development, Hunting in National Parks
3.50 pm Wrap of meeting and Agreement of Statement of Recommendations to Bushwalking NSW
4.00 pm Close

Hunting in National Parks

You probably saw the ABC 4 Corners program and the article on the Sun Herald from 16th June on the subject. If this activity is allowed to start it will seriously affect bushwalkers. It is dangerous, there is a high chance that if we walk in areas that are open to hunting that somebody will be mistakenly shot and killed and it will not reduce the feral animals.

Hunters say that they will behave responsibly but they can't guarantee that untrained, undisciplined people won't be out there shooting anything that moves. The Sun Herald article is about a hunter, killed by his mate who was experienced but made a mistake.

We make walking plans months ahead but National Parks will be open for hunting with 48 hours' notice. If a park is opened for hunting we should cancel any walks in the area whether there are hunters in the park or not.

We must do all we can to stop it, go and talk to your MP, make it known that it is wrong to give our natural places away to hunters, get on the media and tell everybody.

The lead campaigner, the National Parks Association wants us to take photos of a group of people behind a National Park sign with a No Hunting sign clearly displayed. They will make a collage of them and present them to the Government.

It is important to note that hunting will **NOT** be permitted in areas east of the ranges and in wilderness areas.

Bushwalking NSW website

The Management Committee is negotiating to have a new web site built for this organisation. Two providers have agreed to do mock ups in time for our next meeting, at which time a decision should be made.

Paper Roads

We have not yet heard from clubs about un-built road land that walkers are using and would not like to lose.

An insight into the activities of the BWRS from Keith Maxwell

SNOWY MOUNTAINS SEARCH

BWRS is highly regarded by emergency services. Shortly, we will holding our 25th NavShield on July 6th / 7th. BWRS has been busy preparing for NavShield plus assisting in an evidence search at Mt Victoria on June 15 / 16. Experienced bushwalkers are welcome to become part of this valuable community resource.

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) was asked to assist in the search for Prabhdeep Srawn who was missing in the Snowy Mountains

As usual, at short notice the evening before, experienced bushwalkers from BWRS headed to Jindabyne overnight for a 7.30am briefing, Friday 24 May 2013. Our members were split into three different search teams.

The following is a report from two BWRS members. After the search, they were able to drive to Blackheath for attendance at previously arranged search training with Katoomba Police Rescue Squad on Saturday / Sunday. In BWRS long periods of time may pass between callouts then several activities may occur over a short time!

Below is a very brief report covering Lisa and my search in and around Kosi.

Other BWRS members teamed up with NPWS members to traverse Hannel's Ridge. A further group of BWRS members and others had the joy of searching the Swampy Plains River.

So, Lisa and my search day - Friday 24th May:

Helicoptered to near Mt Stillwell, onto snow. This took 2 trips to get our team of 5 in. 2 SES special Alpine search and rescue members, one NPWS and us (2 BWRS). Due to the thin snow cover and continual pot-holing, snow shoes were also flown in.

Our search was to follow the old chair lift down to the Thredbo River and check on all the old cement "sentry" boxes. Sounds simple!!

Never been on snow shoes before so this was most interesting. Where possible we conducted a

parallel sweep, generally on the upper, non-tree area. Thence into the bush!! Well, maybe interlocking scrub would describe it better.

The snow continued down the hill side for quite a way. If not for the snow shoes we would have been falling through the scrub up to our waists, at least. The bush was extremely thick, covered in cold snow and wet from melting snow. We cooled down very rapidly!!

We mostly had to push the scrub apart to get through. This meant we ended up searching Indian File as there was no way of seeing each other in the scrub if more than 1metre apart. The scrub was not as bad as some of the other BWRS teams. But hey, who's complaining.

Our area took about 6 hours to cover.

It finished with a crossing of Thredbo River. Fortunately the parks member on the team had arranged for a punt to get across the river so no wet, cold feet. Yes, we were spoiled!

We were back at search headquarters by 4.00pm.

It was really good working with the other agencies and we felt we covered an important area.

Upon arriving back at search HQ we found we were only required for the one day, only Friday, so headed straight back to our next activity.

Mark Dabbs and Lisa McCarthy

Insurance; What do you need to know?

It's that time again, insurance is almost due and the same questions seem to crop up each year, so here are a few basics you might be wondering about.

Q; The Insurance expires on 30th June, but we haven't been invoiced yet, are we covered?

A; Yes, you are covered. Until we receive notification of the premiums for the upcoming year, we cannot issue invoices. Last year we didn't receive the premium advice until mid-July and invoices were sent out immediately after. The same will apply this year, you will have 30 days in which to pay your premiums, if they are not received after 30 days, disaffiliation is likely. Disaffiliated clubs are therefore uninsured. They may apply to be re-affiliated, however that is the decision of the Management Committee.

Q; The policy says that the insurance is cut off after the age of 65, what about our older members?

A; The policies need to be read in their entirety. The cut off point for insurance is either 84 Or 95 years, depending on the category. This is covered on the compensation tables in the insurance documents, also on the information pages of the survey.

Q; We have fewer members now than we did when we did the Insurance survey, can we alter our numbers and pay accordingly?

A: No, it is made clear on the covering letter that accompanies the survey that the numbers provided are binding. Even though you may have fewer members now, you may gain some throughout the insurance year, so it works both ways.

Q; Are we able to have only PA or PL and not the other?

A; Yes, although both are recommended it is entirely your choice.

It has been decided that we will maintain our Insurance with Marsh this year.

AO Update June 2013

Insurance;

Two clubs are still outstanding on their surveys. David Gordon took estimates of their last 2 years figures for the purpose of calculating the premiums. Both clubs have been sent numerous reminders, both via their websites and known email addresses. They have also been sent letters by 'snail mail' with no response. One club has had the letter returned by the post office, their box has been closed. The clubs are Barrier Rangers and Upper Lachlan, I assume that they are no longer in operation, however when I get the premiums through I will invoice them according to David's estimates and give them the opportunity to respond again.

Commonwealth Bank, lost deposit;

As many of you know, we deposited some cheques into our Commonwealth Bank account (now closed) some time ago. Those cheques were lost by the bank and were not deposited to our account. After months of frustration, we are pleased to advise that the monies have been re-deposited into our bank account with NAB, have apparently been stuck in CBA limbo the whole time. With regard to a discrepancy between the insurance monies invoiced and received for 2012-13, I have spoken to our Treasurer and he thinks that the discrepancy has been caused by clubs being invoiced for insurance, then deciding they didn't want it, or only wanted one sort and not the other. There were also instances of clubs who, when they actually paid, altered their numbers and only paid for their current members.

Magazine Printing;

Over the last 3 editions of the Bushwalker, it has come to the stage where I have many left over, due to businesses closing and magazines being returned. All of these are bulk mail outs, on which postage has been paid and wasted. The latest edition has resulted in a full box still unopened after distribution. Because of that, I have obtained a quote from Ligare on cutting down the print run, however the fewer copies we print, the more expensive per copy it becomes!. It may be time to start preparing the way for electronic distribution only, as production and postage costs rise and advertising revenues fall. I would ask that clubs review their needs and advise as to whether they are happy to receive .pdf copies for distribution and/or whether they are receiving too many/not enough hard copies.

Vacant Positions;

Two of our positions are in the process of being filled by nominated delegates from Newcastle Ramblers. David Morrison will take over as Insurance Officer and Robert Gascoigne will become the Conservation Officer, after ratification from the Management Committee.

Advertisement

One of our members has a pair of Scarpa bushwalking boots in a US size 12, they are in excellent condition; they have only been worn a few times because they are just that little bit too small! They originally cost \$339 and he would like to sell them to a bushwalker so that they will be put to good use. Contact Steve at email; banksia6@tpg.com.au and make him an offer!