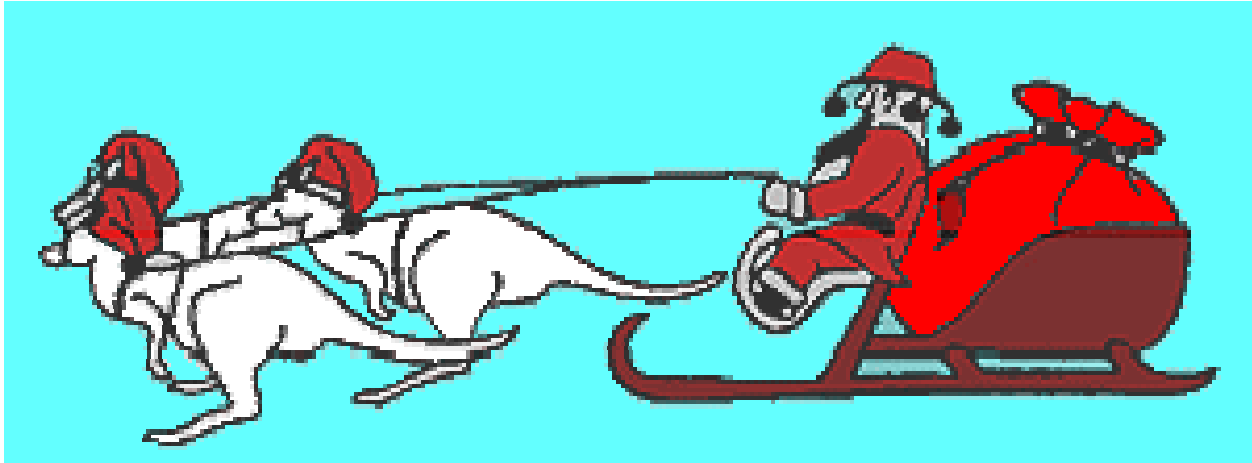


Bushwalking NSW Newsletter

Edition 5 December 2013



The closest thing I could find to an Aussie Christmas!

Merry Xmas to all!

This is the final newsletter for this year.

I have a couple of reports that may be of interest, one from Keith Maxwell from BWRS and one from our Conservation Officer, Robert Gascoigne. We also have another tip from our Insurance Officer, David Morrison.

However, the main purpose of this one is to advise that the office will be closed from today until 6 January, then from 10 January to 27 January, as your intrepid AO is taking a little holiday, the first since May 2012; well-deserved even if I say so myself!

So, to all our clubs and their hard-working committees, our members and their families (even those with whom I have locked horns over 2013), have a happy and safe Christmas and New Year from Gail and the Management Committee. We look forward to hearing from you all in 2014.

Domestic Visitation to NSW National Parks

Robert Gascoigne – Conservation Officer

How many domestic visits in 2012 compared to 2010?

In 2012, park visitation was estimated at a total of 35.5 million, accrued from 28.7 million adult and 6.8 million child visits. This is an increase of nearly 5% on 2010 results (33.8 million).

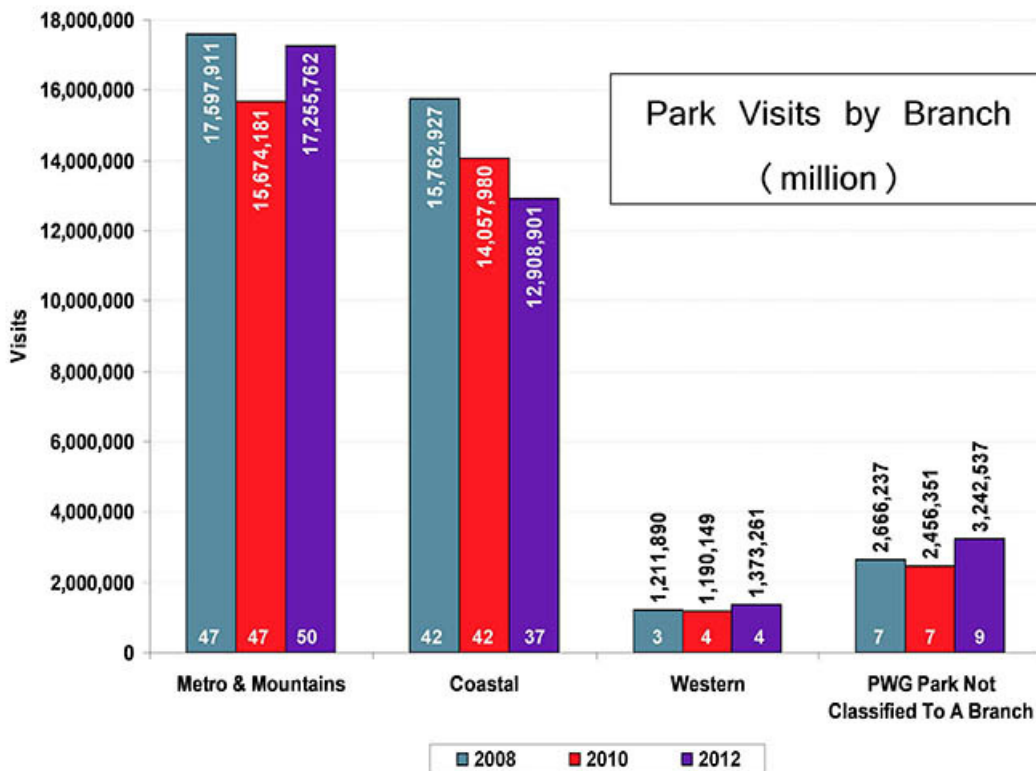
What parks do they visit?

In terms of most number of visits Royal National Park re-gained its top position in 2012 with 4.05 million visits (11.4% of all visits in 2012). Most likely the reopening/refurbishment of the Audley precinct had a strongly positive effect on visitation.

The top six parks for domestic visits are:

Park (million)	visits	2012	2010
Royal National Park		4.05	2.55
Blue Mountains National Park		3.13	3.38
Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park		3.09	2.70
Kosciuszko National Park		1.43	1.13
Sydney Harbour National Park		1.09	1.13
Lane Cove National Park		0.97	1.13

In 2012, Metropolitan and Mountains branches represented 50% of all visits, up from 47% in 2008, followed by Coastal Branch. Park visits to the Western Branch increased to their highest levels recorded, up 183,000 visits from 2010 and 161,000 from 2008.



Who visits?

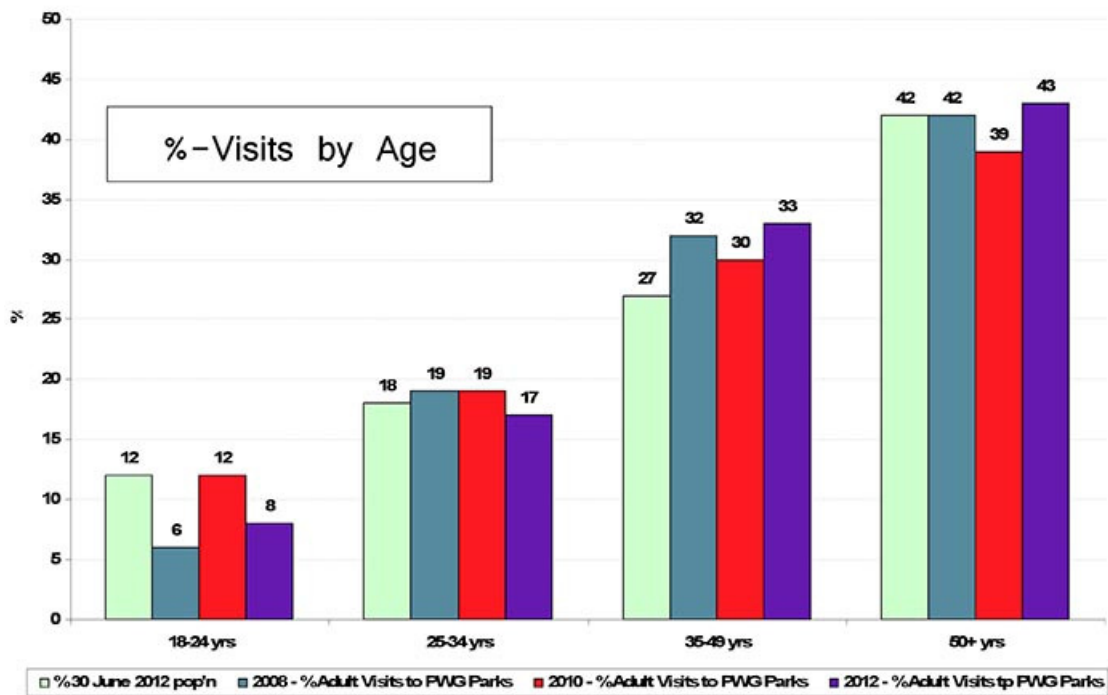
Intrastate visitation comprised 88.59% of all visits, while interstate visitation comprised 11.41% of visits

As in the previous years, males (55%) were more likely to visit parks than females in 2012.

Visits by 18-24 year olds (8%) were underrepresented compared to the population (12%) and returned to their 2008 levels.

Visits by 35-49 year olds (33%) are consistently greater compared to their proportion in the population (27%).

50+ year olds: whilst the proportion of this group (37%) was lower than their proportion in the population (42%), this group's contribution to adult visits (43%) was comparable with the population due to their higher per capita visits.

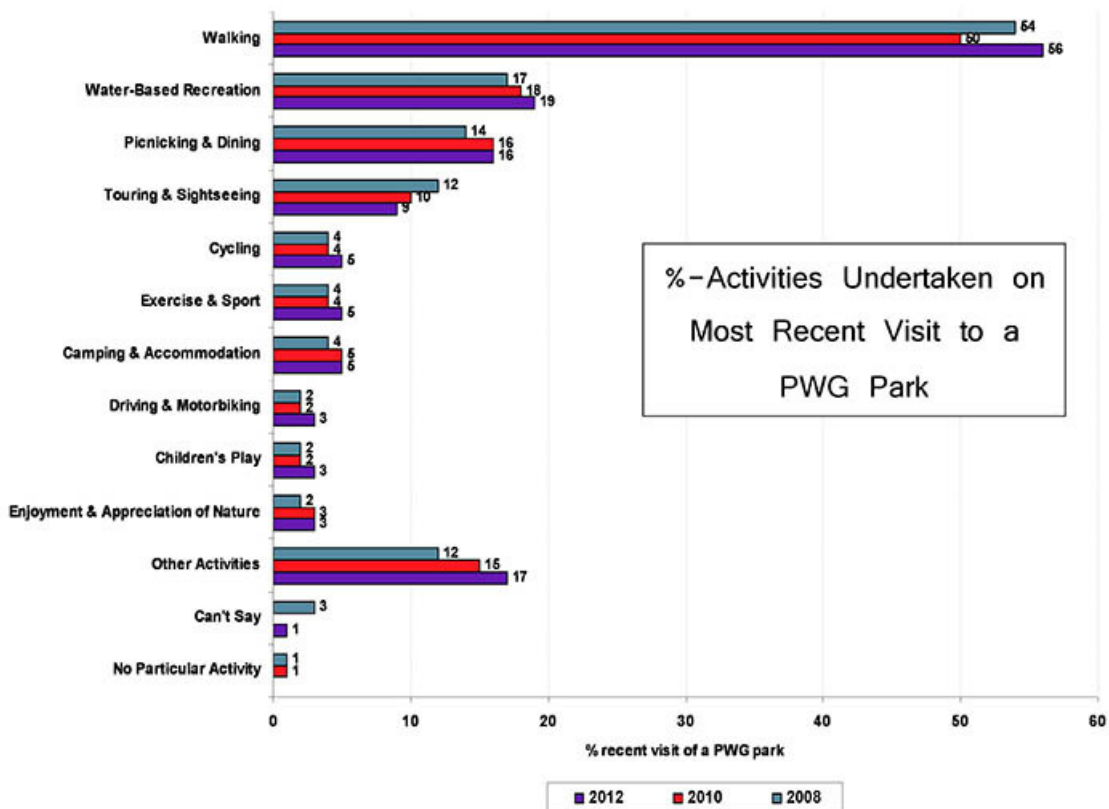


What do the visitors do?

Walking is consistently the most commonly named activity undertaken in PWG parks and has increased to its highest level in 2012 (56%), followed by water-based recreation (19%) and picnicking/dining (16%).

There is a slight upward trend in the proportion of PWG park visitors undertaking water-based recreation.

There is a decline in the proportion of PWG park visitors undertaking touring/sightseeing.



How satisfied are the visitors?

Satisfaction with park visits in 2012 was even higher than in previous years, with an overwhelming 93% of visitors being satisfied to very satisfied.

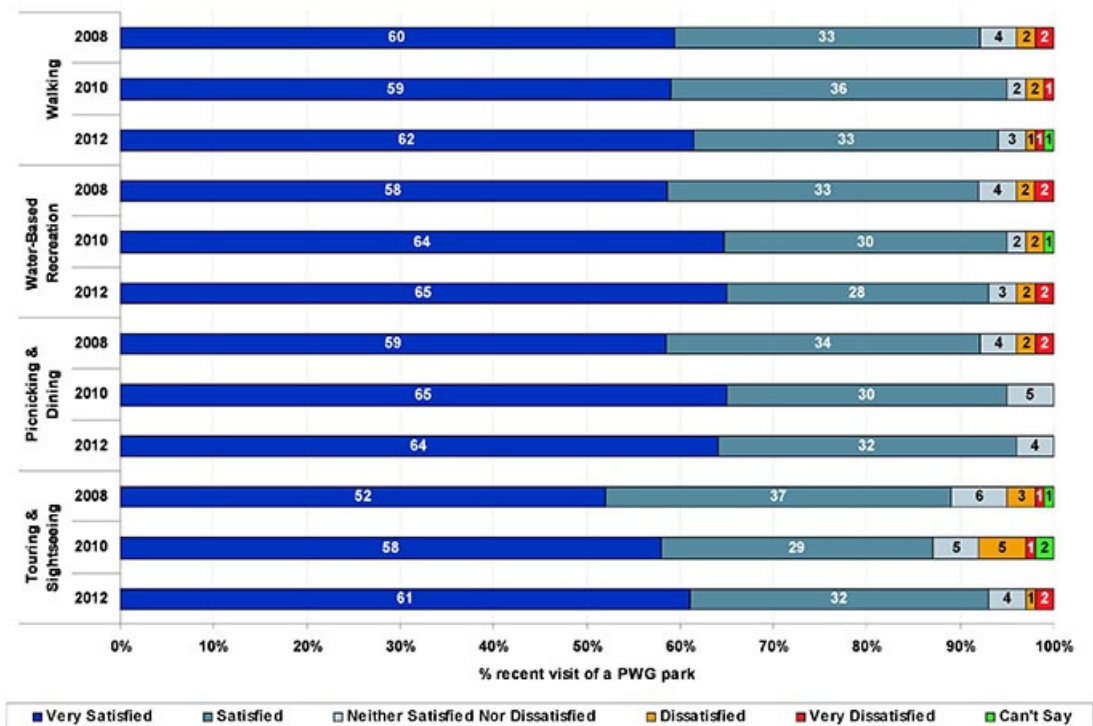
Visitors (%)	2012	2010
Very satisfied	60	57
Satisfied	33	36
Rest	7	7

The mean satisfaction score for parks visited where walking was undertaken has increased over time.

Satisfaction levels in 2010 and 2012 for water-based recreation are markedly higher than in 2008.

Mean satisfaction scores in 2010 and 2012 for picnicking/dining are the highest attained so far.

Mean satisfaction scores for touring/sightseeing are increasing over time.



Source of data

NPWS used a telephone survey to collect this data. More than 1,200 people were interviewed every four weeks in 2012, giving a total of 15,647 interviews. Respondents from NSW, Victoria, Queensland and the ACT were asked about NSW parks they had visited within the last four weeks.

- [Read the full report](#) (NationalParkVisitsNSW2012.pdf 1.87MB)

This survey will be repeated in 2014 to track changes to our domestic visitation.

The study was based on a survey method developed by Parks Victoria. OEH wishes to acknowledge the generosity of Parks Victoria in sharing their experiences and the method.

Insurance Matters!

David Morrison – Insurance Officer

Associate Members

Some clubs have a class of membership for people who are interested in the club, but are not active members. This could be older members no longer able to participate in trips, but who like to receive the newsletter or attend meetings. Or it could be people who have moved away from the area, but

want to keep in touch. These people are often called Associate Members, and pay a reduced membership fee. Often, they do not pay for the Insurance cover. If a club has Associate Members like this, their rights and responsibilities must be defined in the club's constitution. Otherwise they will be regarded as Full Members and be bound by the rules applying to Full Members. In particular, they must be declared as Full Members and the Insurance premium paid for them. Associate Members must not be permitted to (and must not) take part in club activities, except meetings and social activities. If they do take part and they have not paid the insurance premium, the insurer may deny a claim.

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS)

Keith Maxwell

As another year comes to a close many of us will be reviewing our past years bushwalking plus planning great bushwalks for 2014. New Year's resolutions are an inevitable part of the process. BWRS would like to add to your list of New Year "could do better" wish list.

Adventurous bushwalks always require more planning especially with an emphasis on safety. You may want to reflect on the quality of your personnel equipment. Are replacements required?? Can you take advantage of the outdoors shops Christmas sales?? There is one place to revise your understanding on outdoors safety - the BWRS website; www.bwrs.org.au

How well do you follow the simple "DO & DON'T" guidelines???

Is it time to consider a PLB?? When should you use a PLB distress beacon and are there any limitations??

Is it time to refresh or gain new First Aid skills?? BWRS can offer two worthwhile alternatives. You can put your toe in the water with one day of first aid training at a St John Ambulance "Apply First Aid" course. Choose either the May 18 or November 16 date. BWRS has adapted the instruction to be more relevant to bushwalkers.

If you go seriously off track into remote areas then "Apply First Aid" is not really adequate as First Aid knowledge. You must remember that, for an injured walker, you must be able to give first aid for an extended time until medical help can get to your injured walker.

First Aid knowledge from a Remote Area First Aid (RAFA) course will give you far greater confidence. There are RAFA courses in February, May or September 2014. You will need to set aside four days for this very comprehensive training that includes realistic scenarios.

Enrolling is straight forward at the first aid link on the BWRS website.

GPS receivers are good until the batteries go flat or you loose it! Our BWRS annual NavShield is great way to improve your bush navigation skills during 2014. Set aside 5 / 6 July for this bushwalker friendly event. See the BWRS website for details.

Bushwalking has been good to you so why not give something back as a member of BWRS - the best kind of New Year Resolution. This is a good time to apply. Early in the New Year we will have an induction weekend bushwalk plus an informative training weekend. The induction walk is just what you best - bushwalk but with an introduction component to BWRS. The training weekend will be using our radio networks to assist in our team planning and co-ordination practice.

You can plan 2014 with the Calendar on our BWRS website or get the pocket version that is being sent to your Club.

Good bushwalking for 2014 from everyone at BWRS.

Keith Maxwell.

