

# Bushwalking NSW Newsletter

Edition 9 July 2014



Blue Mountains National Park: thanks to Kaushalya from SUBW for use of your great photos!.

**PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO YOUR MEMBERS!**

Hello Everyone,

This newsletter is all about the AGM, however there is one item requiring attention.

Many of the clubs have paid their fees in a very timely manner this year and for that we are grateful, however there are still a number who haven't yet paid. May I remind you that the deadline for payments is August 8, after which the possibility of disaffiliation becomes a problem for clubs, as this will cause them to be uninsured. Many of you have emailed me requesting Schedules and Certificates of Currency, please note that these will not be received until at least the end of August

and will be forwarded on receipt. Certificates of Currency only apply to Public Liability insurance; they are not issued for Personal Accident Insurance.

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on August 19. It will be at Ashfield RSL Club, in Liverpool Road, corner of Frederick Street. The time will be 7pm for 7.30, to give everyone a chance to 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.

Bushwalking NSW always appreciates help to provide services for bushwalkers and to clubs. However, it has not always been easy for people to know where they can help. Further, everyone has so many things to fit into their lives that it is hard to take on something without knowing what time commitment would be required.

To help to resolve both of these issues, a list of 'job descriptions' has been prepared for all the positions that currently exist. The idea here is to show the many ways that bushwalkers may help us, and what is required for each position. In many cases, it would only be an hour or two a month, but if you were interested, it could be as much time as you want to spend.

Remember also that you would be part of an organisation. Other members of the committee will be able to offer advice and support you in carrying out a job which will benefit thousands of bushwalkers all over NSW.

Please look at the descriptions and see whether there is something you could help with. Or if you know someone with the right skills and interest, suggest it to them!

In any case, if anyone is interested or wants more information, they should contact Gail at [admin@bushwalking.org.au](mailto:admin@bushwalking.org.au) or 0295654005

**RSVP TO GAIL REQUIRED NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST!**

### **ROLE OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

1. Manage Bushwalking NSW affairs
2. Decide on equipment purchases and other expenditure
3. Develop policies of relevance to member clubs
4. Ensure constitution and legislative requirements are observed
5. Approve new member applications

Chaired by the President.

Minutes will be kept. An Agenda will be available before each meeting.

The Committee consists of the President, the Vice-president, the Treasurer, the Secretary, at least

three Ordinary Committee Members, and any other officers appointed by the Committee.  
The Committee currently meets approximately eight times a year, at Ashfield RSL club.

### **JOB DESCRIPTION - PRESIDENT**

1. Provide leadership and direction
2. Official spokesperson for the organisation
3. Plan, chair and control meetings
4. Introduce and thank guest speakers
5. Has access to financial systems, computer systems, etc.
6. Authorises payments
7. Call committee meetings
8. Prepare an Annual Report for AGM
9. Represent Bushwalking NSW on Bushwalking Australia

Public speaking and leadership skills are desirable

Elected at AGM

### **JOB DESCRIPTION - VICE PRESIDENT**

1. Stand in for President in official roles
2. Assist the President in overall management of Bushwalking NSW

Public speaking and leadership skills are desirable

Elected at AGM

### **JOB DESCRIPTION - SECRETARY**

1. Arrange the taking of meeting minutes and distribution to attendees and others
2. Supervise office staff
3. Ensure correspondence is dealt with in a timely manner
4. Ensure compliance with legislation and regulations

Elected at AGM

### **JOB DESCRIPTION - TREASURER**

1. Make recommendations to the Committee on prudent management of the organisation's funds
2. Supervise the bookkeeper who processes all transactions
3. Ensure adequate financial records are maintained
4. Arrange Audit if required
5. Prepare an Annual Financial Report for AGM
6. Prepare a budget for the following year

Accounting qualifications or experience desirable

Elected at AGM

**JOB DESCRIPTION - ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBER (at least 3)**

1. Attend committee meetings
2. Contribute to running of the organisation
3. Be aware of procedures, aims and objectives

Elected at AGM

**JOB DESCRIPTION - MEDIA (PUBLICITY) OFFICER**

1. Develop policies covering relations with the media
2. Prepare and/or review media releases and other publications before release to ensure compliance with policies
3. Supervise and promote social media activities

Appointed by Committee

**JOB DESCRIPTION - INSURANCE OFFICER**

1. Refer insurance enquiries to the appropriate person or organisation
2. Write articles on insurance matters for the newsletter.

Appointed by Committee

**JOB DESCRIPTION - CONSERVATION OFFICER**

1. Maintain an up-to-date knowledge of conservation issues as they may affect bushwalkers and bushwalking
2. Represent Bushwalking NSW on conservation bodies like NCC
3. Provide advice to the Committee on proposed positions or actions to be taken by BNSW in relation to conservation matters.

Appointed by Committee

**JOB DESCRIPTION - TRACKS AND ACCESS OFFICER**

1. Maintain an up-to-date knowledge of tracks and access issues as they may affect bushwalkers and bushwalking
2. Represent Bushwalking NSW on access matters

3. Provide advice to the Committee on proposed positions or actions to be taken by BNSW in relation to access matters.

Appointed by Committee

#### **JOB DESCRIPTION - MAGAZINE EDITOR**

1. Gather material for The Bushwalker magazine
2. Arrange formatting and printing of the magazine

Probably needs a computer

Appointed by Committee

#### **JOB DESCRIPTION - WEB SITE MANAGER**

1. Oversee the organisation's online services
2. Update the web site contents as necessary, or arrange for them to be updated
3. Deal with any problems that arise
4. Advise on upgrades as necessary

Appointed by Committee

#### **JOB DESCRIPTION - TRAINING OFFICER**

1. Coordinate training activities offered by Bushwalking NSW

Appointed by Committee

#### **JOB DESCRIPTION - PUBLIC OFFICER**

1. The contact for the organisation in relation to incorporation matters
2. Ensure that the organisation complies with legislative requirements in relation to its incorporation.

Appointed by Committee

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## Insurance Matters – Wording of Risk Waivers

Back in 2004, the Confederation, as it then was, developed comprehensive guidelines for clubs on risk management. You can download a copy of the document here:

<http://www.bushwalking.org.au/~documents/RiskInsurance/>

This provided instruction on how clubs needed to organise themselves to minimise public liability issues. It also included specimen forms with appropriate wording that clubs could use.

The whole document and the specimen forms were reviewed by a barrister, and some modifications made based on his advice. The purpose of this was to ensure that the wording and procedures were adequate to protect clubs if ever they were taken to court in a public liability case.

It has come to our notice that a number of clubs are using their own wording for some of the forms. While to a non-lawyer, the meaning may be the same, in a court of law, there may be different interpretations. This can mean that, for example, a risk waiver may not protect the club as well as it might think.

If a club chooses to alter the wording on the specimen forms for its own use, Bushwalking NSW recommends strongly that they have the forms and the club's risk management procedures reviewed by someone professionally qualified in public liability law.

David Morrison  
Insurance Officer

## Bushwalking NSW Web Site Update

The design for the main pages of the web site is finalised. It is based mainly around relevant photos to provide links to other parts of the site. So, for example, a link to the Gear pages will have a photo of people with packs. A link to Safety, will feature people on the edge of a cliff.

We are still working on the design of the information-containing pages. Almost all of the content has been written, and is now being polished.

One feature of the site is that all the photos are from members of NSW bushwalking clubs. Thanks to members of Newcastle Ramblers, Sydney Christian Bushwalkers and Sydney University Bushwalkers for allowing us to use their photos.

We would still like to talk to someone who has set up a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system like SugarCRM. This will be a limited time commitment, and may only take an hour or so.

David Morrison

## **Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) News**

BWRS is on a high from another successful NavShield on 5 / 6 July. NavShield is always a team effort where many tasks are brought together. Tasks such as site management (tents, lights & generators) registrations, Bushrangers, safety planning / communications, course setting / notes, trophies, clothing, toilets, etc. Attendance at Yalwal was up over 2013 with over 400 participants in more than 100 teams including a strong NSW Police contingent. Each year NavShield is a shop front on our BWRS abilities. We are not alone in looking forward to NavShield each year. BWRS has many emergency services participants that are back for their 5th, 10th, 15th or 20th NavShield.

Again, NavShield was a great way for your club members to practice remote area map & compass navigation in a friendly atmosphere with emergency services teams in either a ONE day or TWO day event. Teams at registration received a copy of the topo map plus a list of the checkpoint grid references. The challenge is to select a route to suit their team to find as many checkpoints as possible in the available time.

It will be worthwhile navigation practice when BWRS members get together to collect the NavShield checkpoint flags on the weekend of July 19 / 20.

BWRS will be involved in a special community event on the last weekend of August when we will provide Safety Response Teams for Oxfam TrailWalker. This 100km / 48 hour fund raising walk from Brooklyn to Georges Heights uses many bush tracks with over 550 teams of four.

There is great PR for BWRS as all team phone calls first come to our Search Manager who has easy access (across the table) to NSW Ambulance / Police, St John Ambulance OR TrailWalker co-ordinator / logistics. TrailWalker participants also see our BWRS members in their distinctive colours / outfit as they wait to assist at event checkpoints or along the course.

Remote Area First Aid training is designed for those unusual places & incidents where medical help may be hours / days away. During September BWRS will run another four day RAFA course. These RAFA courses are usually well attended so don't delay registration. Places are limited and trainees are already being accepted!

The basic First Aid skills you get from a ONE day St John Ambulance 'Provide First Aid' course will give you great confidence for when medical help is around an hour away or less. You will be required to pre-learn the theory on-line before the one day of practical training.

'Provide First Aid' is offered twice each year in May & November. Full details and registration details for both First Aid courses are available at our website - [www.bwrs.org.au](http://www.bwrs.org.au) While you are at the website why not explore the information on GPS, PLB, outback communications etc.

Keith Maxwell.

## Devil Ark to be Opened to Tourists

Snow and frost at Barrington Tops have made more than 170 Tasmanian devils in the high country feel at home in the Hunter.



Devil Ark, the Barrington based breeding program for the endangered southern marsupials, has received heavy snowfalls in recent days, but this won't worry the devils because they live in dens.

Their habit of group scavenging on animal carcasses and fighting over the spoils by biting each other has spread a deadly and contagious facial tumour disease which is gradually wiping out Tasmania's wild population.

Experts predict that an insurance population of healthy devils thriving at the 'Devil Ark' in the NSW Barrington Tops will one day be called upon to secure the species' future, with plans to release Devil Ark animals in Tasmania once the devils down there die out.

But it's not just a case of breeding the marsupials and hoping for the best - the devil is in the detail.

After living on a tiny island for thousands of years, the species already lacks genetic diversity, making it crucial for Devil Ark keepers to refer to a 'studbook' tracking the genes of each resident. Breeding-age females are matched with potential suitors with as many genetic differences as possible.



The animals are housed in wooded enclosures which, at 1400m altitude, mimic the terrain and climate of the devils' native range.

It's like an African game reserve for Tasmanian devils - the animals are fenced in but the enclosures are so large they maintain their wild behaviour. And now, like those game reserves, the Devil Ark is poised to open its gates to tourists.

From December, exclusive groups of 12 wildlife enthusiasts a month will be able to tour the ark to see the animals feeding and interacting in a way that's impossible in a conventional zoo.

Money raised from the \$150-a-head half-day tours will then be injected back into Devil Ark, a registered charity.

Robert Gascoigne  
Conservation Officer