

Bushwalking NSW Newsletter

Edition 14

December 2014



<http://cjlevinson.com/2009/12/17/aussie-jingle-bells/>

PLEASE please please PASS THIS ON TO YOUR MEMBERS – keep everyone in the loop!

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our Newsletter!

Please note: the Office will close for three weeks from 22/12/2014 – 9/1/2015.

Don't forget that we have a social media presence – any news, photos, or info you have, please share:



<https://www.facebook.com/bushwalkingnsw>



@BushwalkingNSW

Let's spread the word about what bushwalkers and other lovers of our great Aussie outdoors are doing / saying / thinking / planning...

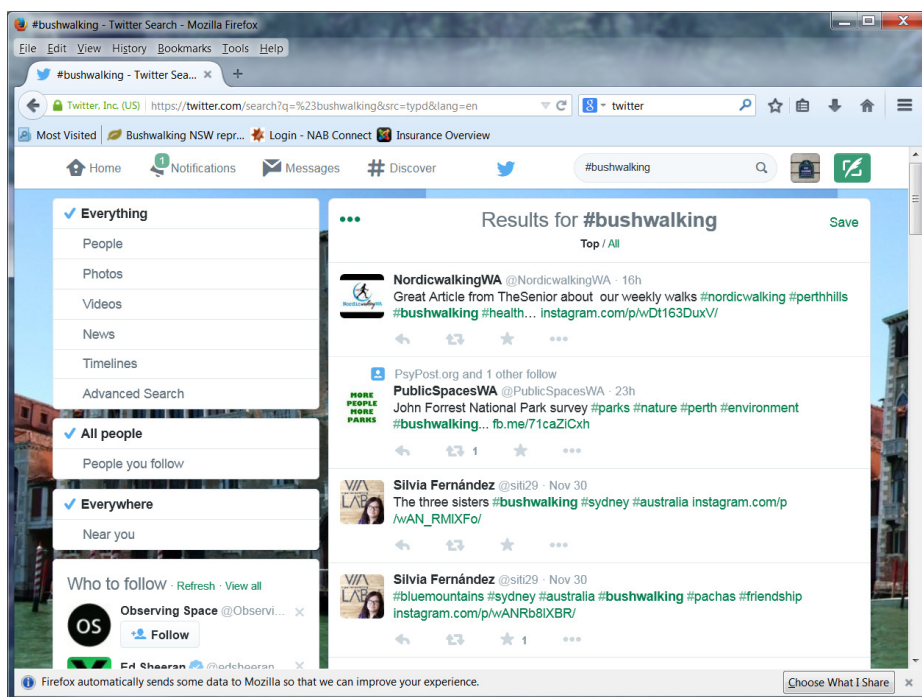
Getting Connected

IMPORTANT: On that note, as we move to paperless communication – energy companies, telephone and internet providers, insurance agencies, local councils, health insurance providers etc all offer a discount when you move to paperless billing, and many organisations have already moved completely to paperless communication – the time has come that everyone needs an email address. Here at Bushwalking NSW we are looking at moving most of our operations to email / internet in the not-too-distant future too – it is cheaper, quicker and more efficient. If you don't yet have an internet connection, your phone company can help you get 'connected' but if you choose not to connect, public libraries and other locations offer free access on their computers.

Once you are connected and have an email address, all kinds of fascinating worlds open up to you! You can join **Facebook** and connect with friends already on Facebook (including Bushwalking NSW!), and share news and photos, ask questions, and see what everybody else is up to, all in a few minutes.



Go here to create an account: <https://www.facebook.com/>



You can also join **Twitter**, an online social networking service that enables users to send and read short 140-character messages called "tweets". It can drive you crazy trying to say things in 140 characters but it's a quick, easy, fun way to see what other people who share your interests are doing!

Go here to join Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/?lang=en>

There are many email programmes available – your ISP (Internet Service Provider) will assign you one anyway – but if you want to sign up to one for yourself, try gmail:
<https://www.gmail.com/intl/en/mail/help/about.html> Happy (internet) surfing!

So anyway this month's Newsletter includes some very important information about INSURANCE, news from the NCC & the BWRS, a great story from the Illawarra Ramblers, and some words from our President!

Enjoy!! And share – please, s p r e a d the word!

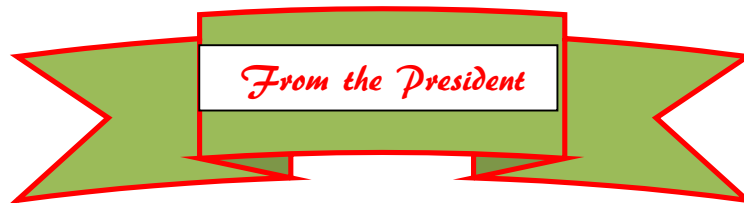
Insurance Matters

More and more clubs are adding overseas and extended domestic trips to their programmes. While domestic trips and New Zealand are covered under the existing policies, there is no cover for overseas trips.

Bushwalking Australia's broker, Marsh, have negotiated special rates with Accident & Health International Underwriting Pty Ltd for comprehensive, yet affordable cover for use by club members when participating in club-organised Domestic and Overseas trips.

If you are interested in this coverage for a club trip, contact the broker at the number given on this page:

<http://bushwalkingaustralia.org.au/insurance/claims-and-enquiries>



The Australian National Parks Service has issued a draft management plan for Kakadu National Park. This is the sixth plan for the park and will guide management of the park for the next 10 years. Kakadu is a popular and iconic destination for bushwalkers from Australia and overseas, and the plan is likely to have important implications for how and where bushwalking can be undertaken, including need for permits, fees and charges, areas that can/cannot be accessed etc.

The draft plan is available for public comment until 30 January 2015. Given the importance of the draft plan, Bushwalking Australia is intending to make a submission. If you want to contribute to this submission, please contact Bushwalking Australia:

<http://bushwalkingaustralia.org.au/contact>

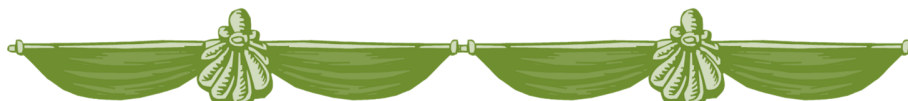
Individuals, clubs and other bushwalking organisations are also encouraged to consider making their own submissions so as to maximise the input from people interested in bushwalking in Kakadu.

Details of the plan are available at

<http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/kakadu-draft-management-plan>

David Morrison

President



IS YOUR WEBSITE UP TO DATE?!

IF IT SAYS OUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS

admin@bushwalking.org.au

IT IS WRONG!!!

That domain will be retired in 2015. Please ensure that BNSW's details on your website are correct:

www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au and admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au

Thankyou!!

Illawarra Ramblers - a story of growth

We refer to President David Morrison's report in the last newsletter about declining membership numbers. This has not been so with the WEA Illawarra Ramblers Club. Started in 1991 with around 20 founding members, the number of members has steadily increased, with the most spectacular rise being in 2014. We now have over 300 members.

We believe there are three main reasons for this. The first is clever advertising in local libraries, media, newspapers, flyer dropping in local businesses and word of mouth. The second is that the increase in the number and scope of activities has been instigated by the members. They have come up with the ideas and the committee has always welcomed and supported their initiatives. The third reason is that the club has diversified from being a bushwalking club to include cycling, kayaking and other activities.

When the club started there was one walk on a weekend, but this gradually increased to every Saturday and Sunday. Wednesday walks were introduced a few years ago with the intention of having more relaxed, leisurely walks close to home though harder and more distant ones are also held.

Cycling was introduced about 11 years ago and started with a small group of around 6 doing a leisurely cycle on a Tuesday morning. Numbers and fitness levels steadily increased and rides became longer and faster. A few years later a second cycle was called for and Monday cycles were introduced, to be conducted at a more leisurely pace. These days, participant numbers are often in the high 30s. Recently, monthly Friday cycles were introduced. A couple of times a year, cycling holidays are organised, one of the most popular is the Victorian Rail Trails.

Paddling has always been in the program but 2 years ago one leader initiated a weekly paddle on Lake Illawarra. Since then the numbers of kayakers in the club has increased noticeably. Other leaders conduct paddling further afield, namely RNP, south coast and Sydney areas. Several extended paddles on major rivers in NSW and other states are held annually.

We have recently invested in a new website which we believe is interesting as well as informative and is vital to attracting new members. An extensive list of activities is published and the photo gallery is constantly being updated.

Our committee of nine is structured in such a way that each committee member has a particular job to do. There is a job description for each position and there are no committee members without portfolio. Because of this, the committee members work very well together, which helps ensure that our club is successful.

Hopefully the story of how our club has evolved over the years will give () other member clubs some food for thought, which might lead to strengthening their existing membership and gaining new members.

Committee, WEA Illawarra Ramblers Club

<http://www.illawarraramblers.com.au/>

(With thanks to Patricia Mackey and the Committee of the WEA Illawarra Ramblers)

From the NCC

As we race towards the end of a big year, we hope you're planning a lovely break over the festive season.

1. Regional Growth and Infrastructure Plans

The NSW Government is starting to develop Regional Growth and Infrastructure Plans across NSW. These plans will underpin planning and environment decisions in your regional area over the next 20 years.

This is an important opportunity to have your say on the long-term environment and conservation issues in your region including biodiversity and habitat loss, water resources, mining and coal seam gas, agriculture, waste management, pollution, transport and green industry.

A Discussion Paper was recently on exhibition on the Central Coast and the draft Plan is currently on exhibition for the Illawarra and Shoalhaven region until 7 December 2014. A submission guide is available on our website: www.nature.org.au/campaigns/planning-and-development/

Additional information is available on the Government's website:

www.planning.nsw.gov.au/en-us/planningyourregion/regionalgrowthandinfrastructureplans.aspx

2. 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code

Premier Baird has taken a step in the right direction on 10/50, and amended the rule to limit the number of properties that can cut down trees (from a 350m buffer to 100m).

But tree loss due to misuse of the Code will continue despite the changes announced by the Govt. There are still thousands of people who can cut down trees to improve their views without any gain in fire safety.

We're asking members to please write to Minister Ayres and tell him it's time to put an end to this pointless war on trees. The 10/50 rule needs to be ditched once and for all.

3. Upcoming submission closing dates

The Government is currently seeking comment on the following policy and law reform proposals:

State Environmental Planning Policy Amendment (Gas Exploration and Mining) 2014 - Gas Exploration - **Closing date 2 December 2014**

Draft Illawarra Regional Growth and Infrastructure Plan - **Closing date 7 December 2014**

4. The Drip

NCC Community member Bev Smiles was mentioned recently in Hansard for her work on saving The Drip, or The Great Dripping Wall, a beautiful natural landmark near Mudgee. Read the full article at

<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/hansart.nsf/V3Key/LA20141119059?open&refNavID=>

Congratulations Bev and thank you for all your hard work.

5. Save Moxham Quarry Wetland, Northmead

Moxham Quarry at Northmead and its surrounding unique wetland is on Crown Land and under threat from developers. The groups Crown Land Our Land and Save Moxham Quarry Wetland have asked that any interested members go to <http://www.crownlandourland.org.au/moxham-quarry-wetland.php> to get involved in the campaign.

6. New Rainforest Plant Identification Key

A new interactive, computer-based rainforest plant identification key for eastern Australian Rainforests has been designed and released by Hugh and Nan Nicholson. The tool provides fact sheets describing 1139 rainforest trees, shrubs and climbing plants as well as drawings and photographs. There are also sections on different rainforest types and where to find them.

For more information about the key visit <http://rainforestplantsofaustralia.com/>

If you have any questions about any of the above please contact Louise Kiddell at the NCC on 9516 1488.

Exciting Time for Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS)

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) as the search and rescue section of Bushwalking NSW is a valuable community resource for bushwalkers & NSW. Many significant bushwalkers have been part of the many searches since the first search in 1936.

From 9 to 11 December BWRS was part of another multiday search based at KuRingGai Wild Flower Gardens. The car of an elderly woman had been located in the car park but she failed to meet up with her bush care group. Many emergency services resources were involved but no sign of this woman has been found. Despite being close to built up suburbs it is only a short distance to tangled scrub and small rocky bluffs.

BWRS is one of the specialist member squads of the Volunteer Rescue Association of NSW (VRA). The VRA is similar to Bushwalking NSW as a parent body to many independent volunteer rescue squads throughout NSW. Many of the VRA Squads close to Sydney went on alert on Monday afternoon 15 December.

BWRS was joined by Cessnock VRA, Central Coast VRA, WICEN (amateur radio operators), AusCAP (volunteer aircraft pilots and crew), Lithgow VRA, NSW Cave Rescue Squad, CREST (CB radio operators) and South Coast VRA. These squads all responded strongly with members on standby for Tuesday to assist NSW Police in crowd barrier control at Martin Place. This was great recognition of the discipline and training of members of all these VRA Squads. We are a very resilient society with so many volunteers in emergency services.

Thus Monday night was tense; when will we be required?: what mode of transport do we use, with so many transport restrictions? Ultimately the Martin Place cafe siege was resolved before our members were required.

As always BWRS is keen to welcome bushwalkers of all levels of experience to be part of BWRS. We have roles to suit all abilities. BWRS is an informal, friendly group that concentrates on doing not talking. PUT your bushwalking skills to good use. GET involved in BWRS! Details are on our website (www.bwrs.org.au) where you will also find extensive safety information / advice on GPS, PLB, outdoors communication etc.

And finally, in the interests of spreading a little Christmas cheer, here's an Australian Christmas Cake recipe:

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup of water
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup of brown sugar
- lemon juice
- 4 large eggs
- nuts
- 2 cups of dried fruit
- 1 bottle Johnnie Walker

Instructions

1. Sample the Johnnie Walker to check quality.
2. Take a large bowl, check the whisky again. To be sure it is of the *highest* quality, pour one level cup, and drink.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2.
4. Turn on the electric mixer. Beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl.
5. Add one teaspoon of sugar. Beat again.
6. Make sure the whisky is still OK. Cry another tup.
7. Turn off the mixerer.
8. Break 2 leggs and add to the bowl, then chuck in the cup and the dried fruit.
9. Mix on the turner.
10. If the fried druit gets stuck in the beaterers, pry it loose with a drewscriver.
11. Sample the whisky to check for tonsisticity.
12. Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something. Who careshzz ...
13. Check the whisky. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts.
14. Add one table.
15. Add a spoon of flour, or something. Whatever you can find.
16. Greash the oven and check the whisky.
17. Turn the cake tin to 350 defrees and put the oven in it.
18. Don't forget to beat off the turner.
19. Chuck the bowl out the window.
20. Check the whisky again and go to bed.

