

Bushwalking NSW

BUSHWALKING NSW INC.

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BUSHWALKING NSW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 18th August, 2015

Held at the Auditorium, Ashfield RSL Club 374 Liverpool Road, Ashfield

Meeting opened at 7:30pm – Chair: Mitchell Isaacs (President)

Attendees:

Full Name	Club	Nominated Club Delegate
Adrian Sprags	Sydney University Bushwalkers	No
Alan Sauran	The Bush Club	Yes
Alex Allchin	Sydney Bushwalkers	Yes
Alindy Gu		
Bryan Smith	Span Outdoors	No
Caro Ryan	Sydney Bushwalkers	No
Cheryl Fletcher	WEA	Yes
Colin Ridley	NSW Nordic Ski Club	Yes
David Trinder	Sydney Bushwalkers	Yes
Dick Weston		
Ed Youds	Span Outdoors	Yes
Helen Smith	Sydney Bushwalkers	No
Isabel Yersin	Sydney Bushwalkers	No
John Flint	Sydney Bushwalkers	
John Mickan	Span Outdoors	Yes
Keith Maxwell	Mount Druitt Bushwalking Club	Yes
Kirsten Mayer	Bushwalking NSW	No
Leigh McClintock	Sydney Bushwalkers	Yes
Liz Binet	Yarrowood Bushwalking Club	No
Lyn McMillan	Sutherland Bushwalkers	Yes
Matt McClelland	National Parks Association of NSW	Yes
Mitchell Isaacs	Suboir United Bushwalkers	Yes
Peter Hart	Sydney Christian Bushwalkers	
Peter Raines	Sydney Bushwalkers	No
Ron Binet	Yarrowood Bushwalking Club	No
Ron Hutchings	South Coast Bushwalkers	No

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Full Name	Club	Nominated Club Delegate
Ron Mc Millan	Sutherland Bushwalkers	
Sean Quinn	Coast & Mountain Walkers	No
Sharon Fulcher	Coast & Mountain Walkers	No
Tony O'Sullivan	WEA Ramblers	Yes
V.M. Ollard	Yarrowood Bushwalking Club	No
Vivien Deremy de Corcolliers	Sydney Bushwalkers	No

Apologies: Margaret Covi (Watagan Wanderers)

Receipt of annual report

Questions to office bearers were invited.

Alex Allchin (Treasurer) noted that:

- There was a miscalculation in the insurance rate charged to clubs resulting in Bushwalking NSW paying the shortfall to the insurer.
- The "Website" expense is the remainder of the cost for website.

Acceptance of the Annual Report.

(M) Ed Youds

(S) Peter Hart

Motion Carried

Previous Minutes

Acceptance of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 19th August 2014 and Special General Meeting 17th February 2015 were deferred to the November General Meeting as the minutes weren't circulated prior to this meeting.

Keynote speech – Caro Ryan: How To Grow Our Clubs

Caro Ryan from Sydney Bushwalkers (SBW) presented her experience and suggestions for how to grow the membership of our clubs.

- Caro collected feedback via here Facebook page and received comments like:
 - Having to do an introductory walk makes it too hard to join.
 - Clubs don't appear relevant to people from overseas – they go bushwalking alone
 - Clubs are struggling to get members to step up as leaders
- Caro discourages conflict & fighting with her declared approach to remove herself if there is fighting; her club knows she will return once fighting has ceased.
- To improve Sydney Bushwalkers' membership numbers, SBW:
 - Had website professionally reproduced (Design, UX/Navigation, SEO)
 - Looked at SBW 'Brand' - it is easier for clubs with a generic name (not suburb-based) to market themselves. Their audience is automatically so much wider.
 - Helped with focus on consistency

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- Images of young people (like attracts like)
- Emotive copy - experience based
- Facebook Page NOT Group (795 likes as at today)
- Niches : Tiggers, Women
 - 'Tiggers' group: a social sub-group for 'young people' in their 20s and 30s
- Made it easier to join - Centennial Park Training
- Leaders Pathway with training, support and mentoring
- Found that having “built it” some came just because there was mention that there are others like them (eg. Tiggers) in the group - means they are not alone.
- Found they needed the courage to learn a new language to attract new, younger members.
 - Have to speak the same language that target audience understands.
 - Caro decided to start the Lotsafreshair blog, channel and social media, to speak 'outdoors speak' in normal person language. In a way that aimed to encourage, inspire and equip (hopefully sometimes entertain), and remove all the barriers that people have to getting out bushwalking.
- Through Caro’s work with Lotsafreshair, she had the opportunity to speak a couple of times at the 2014 World Parks Congress. A 10 year conference with around 10,000 delegates from all around the world.
- 2014 World Parks Congress have just released their summary of solutions which include:
 1. Find & share the fun in nature
 2. Bring children into nature at an early age
 3. We must embrace technology as a means to connect young people and nature.
- 2014 World Parks Congress brought up the “Integral Theory” quadrant:
 1. Show me others doing it
 2. Give me a reason to do it
 3. Show me how to do it
 4. Make it easy for me to do it
- The modern modes of communication are:
 - Instagram – social media all about photos and sharing stories.
 - Now see on web, photos with a sense wonder, images of experiences which we can share with our members. Also showing what our next leaders, presidents (young people) want to do with like-minded people who want to do what we are doing.
 - There's great content that is being created by other people (ie. you don't have to pay for it!!) that you can share. By sharing it, it says something about your brand and can help you. It's a resource that you can use and the internet has lots of it.
- lotsafreshair.com and youtube.com/lotsafreshair has lots of content which everyone is encouraged to use and share:
 - How-To videos
 - Blog posts
 - Packing lists etc
- Bushwalkers have great stories to tell. Let’s tell them in a language people understand and in a way that inspires them.
 - WE should be the ones to learn a NEW LANGUAGE, because our need is greater.

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Question: Do Millennials stay committed? Do they want to go overnight camping?
Answer: Young people want to keep their options open.

Question: Is it OK for clubs to change?
Answer:

Maybe some clubs don't want to change. Different clubs offer different things.

Caro Ryan wanted her website to feel like a town square where anyone could come -everyone welcome. She suggests NPA to people who don't want to do big walks.

It is good to have a strong club identity. Sticking to a niche (e.g. overnight walks) could be dangerous.

To allow for kids, just start with 1 walk for kids per programme called 'Youth Tiggers' ie baby tiger walkers.

Introduction to Executive Officer – Kirsten Mayer

President introduced the newly appointed Executive Officer, Kirsten Mayer.

Kirsten briefly described her background in bushwalking, bushwalking clubs, and business experience.

Kirsten described her aspirations to grow Bushwalking NSW and the need to find funding to support its activities. A strategic plan for Bushwalking NSW is the first major objective, informed by member feedback on what services are worth to them.

Kirsten thanked the outgoing committee members and appointed officers – who are essential to the operation of Bushwalking NSW.

Current President vacated the chair at 8:20pm.

Election of committee members – Keith Maxwell as returning officer.

All positions declared vacant.

President

Mitchell Isaacs (Suboir): (N) Peter Hart (S) Matt McClelland

There being no other nominations, Mitchell Isaacs was declared President.

Vice-President

Alex Allchin (SBW): (N) Mitchell Isaacs (S) John Mickan

There being no other nominations, Alex Allchin was declared Vice-President

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Secretary

Margaret Covi (Watagan Wanderers): (N) Ed Youds (S) Mitchell Isaacs

There being no other nominations, Margaret Covi was declared Secretary

Treasurer

Isabel Yersin (SBW): (N) Mitch Isaacs (S) Ed Youds

There being no nominations, Isabel Yersin was declared Treasurer.

Ordinary Committee members:

Ed Youds (SPAN): (N) Self Nominated (S) Peter Hunt
David Trinder (SBW): (N) John Flint (S) Alex Allchin
Dick Weston (Bush Club): (N) Self Nominated (S) John Mickan
Sierra Classen (SUBW): (N) Alex Allchin (S) Ed Youds
George Quinn (CMW): (N) Ed Youds (S) Alex Allchin

Nominees declared ordinary committee members.

Keith Maxwell, President of BWRS is ex-officio member of the Committee

Returning officer vacated the chair, new President, Mitchell Isaacs took the chair
8:40pm

Motion to appoint an auditor

There is no legal requirement for BNSW to have an auditor, however the BNSW constitution requires an auditor so motion to nominate an auditor for the 2015-16 financial next year was proposed.

Alex Allchin found a candidate: Her name is Dympna Sly, she's a member of WEA Ramblers and currently does their books. She said she's happy to come into Newtown for one or two half days each year before the AGM to conduct an audit. Note: Dympna is no longer an officially qualified accountant.

Nominated Auditor:

Dympna Sly: (M) Alex Allchin (S) John Mickan **Motion Carried**

Special resolutions – amendment of Bushwalking NSW constitution

Special Resolution 1: Update name of organisation – to ensure 'Bushwalking NSW' is recognised under all legal frameworks

(M) Keith Maxwell (S) Alex Allchin **Motion Carried**

Special Resolution 2: Allow written notice to be sent electronically where an email address is maintained in the register of members

(M) Alex Allchin (S) David Trinder **Carried**

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Special Resolution 3: Membership – legal members to be affiliated clubs rather than delegates

Discussion:

Question: Who are the delegates? Does representation change?

Answer: Representation doesn't change. The delegates are the same as currently. Attendees represent clubs they come from.

Question: Why are individual members co-opted by the management committee?

Answer: To make the least possible change. Reasons:

a) BNSW might want to recognise a person who has put in lots of effort and make them a life member.

b) To co-opt a person into a committee position.

Question Are there any clubs that aren't incorporated?

Answer No

Question What co-opted members have there been in the past?

Answer In the past, co-opted meant someone who was not necessarily a delegate of their club but we still wanted them to be a part of BNSW.

Agreed to propose a motion that co-opted members be discussed.

Vote on Special Resolution 3: Membership – legal members to be affiliated clubs rather than delegates:

(M) Alex Allchin (S) Keith Maxwell **Motion Carried**

Special Resolution 4: Insert new clauses to ensure compliance with Associations Incorporation Act 2009

(M) David Trinder (S) Keith Maxwell **Motion Carried**

Special Resolution 5: Use the terms approved in the Act to describe a mentally incapacitated person

(M) Matt McClelland (S) David Trinder **Motion Carried**

General Business

Co-opted members motion

Motion was proposed to re-examine need for individual members at next special/general meeting.

(M) Leigh McClintock (S) Isabelle Yersin **Motion Carried**

Development in National Parks Policy Motion

Motion that Bushwalking NSW develop a Bushwalking NSW policy on development in National Parks for approval as a special resolution at the next Bushwalking NSW general meeting to be held 17th November, 2015 was proposed.

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Discussion:

Ron Hutchings is surprised we call it a policy when we don't have control, he would call it a position.

Mitchell Isaacs stated he works with government stake holder groups, where the difference is policy is well thought out and adopted by organizations at a full General meeting.

Matt McClelland thinks the time frame is very tight.

It was decided to amend the motion to make it due by the end of 2015 with update at the next General Meeting.

Vote on AMENDED Development in National Parks Policy Motion:

(M) David Trinder (S) Ed Youds **Amended Motion Carried**

Future Directions

ACTION: Kirsten Mayer to develop strategic plan and ask for input.

Motion of thanks and support for Jim Callaway

David Trinder noted that Jim Callaway was a member for 40 years, and during that time was President, Treasurer etc. David Trinder proposed a motion of thanks and support for Jim Callaway.

(M) David Trinder (S) Peter Hart **Motion Carried**

Royal National Park Tracks

Lyn McMillan wanted to recognise Tony Larkin and Sutherland Bushwalkers who worked on The Burgh Track with NPWS. Tony is the coordinator/contact for maintenance on the track.

The Royal is getting clubs to adopt sections of the Coast Track. Clubs can nominate their section.

Alex Allchin called for help to help clubs adopt sections of the Royal track. Groups are given tools and did great work.

Yearly Bushwalking NSW Clubs reunion

Alex Allchin had an idea of organising a clubs reunion similar to those held decades ago. Something like the Festival of the Canyons.

Alex Allchin will work on the reunion and called for interested parties.

Bushwalking NSW ANZAC Day Service at Splendour Rock

Lyn McMillan has put it on the Sutherland Bushwalker calendar for Anzac day next year.

Meeting closed: 9:30pm