

Bushwalking NSW

Newsletter

Edition 26 December 2015



Thurat Spires at Kanangra

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A BUSHWALKERS CAROL

By Keith Maxwell

When I first started bushwalking camp fire singing was common and there were even 'club' song books. A number of common songs were given a bushwalkers twist. The singing was lusty and sounded good close to the fire but increasingly less so the further you went away from the fire!

One Christmas a friend dragged me into a group of bushwalking choristers. We went around to the home of older Kamerukans (members of the "famous" KBC - Kameruka Bushwalking Club) to sing Christmas songs. Naturally they were not 'normal' Christmas Carols.

There is a snippet from the "*Here we come a-wassailing*" carol that I have not forgotten:

'we are not common walkers,
who bludge from door to door,
but we are poor bushwalkers
that you have seen before'

REFRAIN:

Love and joy come to you,
And to you your wassail too;
And God bless you and send you a Happy New Year
And God send you a Happy New Year.

May be an old Kamerukan will be able to supply the full words but this snippet is still good.

So at Christmas or any time of year don't be just a common walker but a proud bushwalker and member of a Bushwalking NSW Club.

Keith Maxwell



**Kirsten Mayer, Executive Officer,
Bushwalking NSW,
Email: admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au**

BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL – HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON

More goodies on our website

The web team have been working hard this month and now have all our meetings invites, presentations, agendas and minutes all in one place at: <http://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/meetings/> I'm particularly glad to be providing this for regional clubs. The web team are also busy uploading your club badges so keep sending them in 😊

Save these dates in 2016!

Please do add our General Meetings to your 2016 club calendar. We will have an interesting keynote speaker at each one and I've got some door prizes and give-aways for you, so we do hope all club members can make it on:

16th February, 2016 Bushwalking NSW General Meeting – Keynote:
[OUR NEED FOR NATURE AND HOW WE BENEFIT](#)

Click [here](#) for more information on Keynote Speaker Dr Les Higgins who will talk on how bushwalking meets our need for nature, and the astounding array of benefits that flow from meeting that need.

17th May, 2016 Bushwalking NSW General Meeting and Keynote
16th August, 2016 Bushwalking NSW Annual General Meeting and Keynote

15th November, 2016 Bushwalking NSW General Meeting and Keynote

A review of the Act

Note that Fair Trading has conducted a review of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009. The review can be found [here](#) with 'Recommendations' starting on page 23.

Strategy progress

Firstly, congratulations to Elicia O'Reilly and Thea King who developed the Communications Strategy and Plan for us – they received the highest result possible for their assignment!

I've also been working on our strategy in the background and met with Liz Horne, from the Outdoor Recreation Industry Council of NSW (ORIC). I'll be looking at her work to better understand the outdoors scene in NSW:

[ORIC Who What We Are](#)

[ORIC DRAFT Strategic Plan 2015 - 2018](#)

Hello northern NSW!

I'll be traveling the coastal road north all the way to the border with Queensland over the coming weeks and hope to have a chance to meet with clubs and their office bearers along the way. Feel free to contact me to line up a meeting. I'd love to go walking with you!

Finally, a huge thank you to Remy Lanz, formerly of the All Nations Bushwalking Club in Sydney, for sponsoring the newsletter this month and thanks to Keith for all his input!

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday season and the very best in 2016!

Indonesia - Fauna Guided Tour "The 5"

The itinerary - 17 days
(29th May - 14th June 2016)

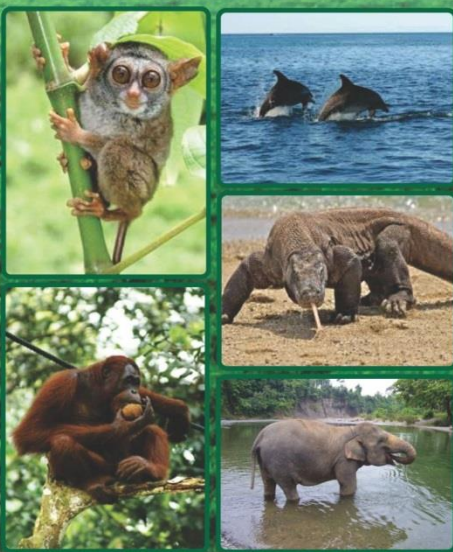
Start of tour in Denpasar / Bali

- 3 days - Sight of komodos on Rinca island + leisure on liveaboard boat
- 3 days - Sight of tarsiers & dolphins + diving/snorkelling in North Sulawesi
- 3 days - Sight of orangutans in Central Kalimantan
- 3 days - Sight of elephants + tour in North Sumatra

4 days in transit
End of tour in Medan / North Sumatra

Price : AUD 3'900 /pax in twin share (basis 8 pax)

Australian guide fluent in Indonesian language (former member of All Nations Club)
Participants : min. 6 persons, max. 12 persons
Include : internal flights, transfers, accommodation, full board, entrance fees
Booking/Enquiry with Remy : erlance@mail.com



**Keith Maxwell, President of the
Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue
Squad (BWRS)**



A STORY of COMMUNICATION & BWRS

Communication is so important in any emergency. No considered response can happen until emergency services are aware of the incident.

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) has a link to another emergency responder that our outback friends depend on - the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS). In vast, sparsely populated parts of remote Australia it is the RFDS that will respond to medical emergencies. People / tourists crossing deserts or similar country are encouraged to hire an outback radio. There is a mantle of safety over outback Australia from the RFDS radios and aircraft runways at so many homesteads.

Recently I was reading a book on the first half century of the RFDS from 1928 to 1978. The RFDS did not spring into life fully formed. The RFDS was very much the vision of John Flynn whose grave you pass as you enter Alice Springs from the west. This is an Australia many would not recognise today. John Flynn, a Presbyterian Church Minister convinced his church to back this vision. He roped in many prominent Australians and obtained government subsidises.

The RFDS originally known as the Aerial Medical Service (AMS) progressively grew out of its first base in Cloncurry, Queensland. The AMS / FDS (it did not get permission to use the "Royal" name until much later) contracted with QANTAS to use their biplanes. Medical services were limited with barely enough room for the pilot, doctor and patient stretcher in these basic planes. Still many persons were evacuated to more extensive medical services.

Cloncurry was chosen as it already had many telephone and telegraphic services but no radio. Many older Australian will remember being taught about the 'pedal' radio. Among the Australians inspired by John Flynn was radio manufacturer, Alf Traeger whose pedal radio also evolved through several models.



The first radio officer of Search & Rescue

At first outback pioneers had to learn Morse code although they always had voice messages from Cloncurry. There is a petrol garage in the small town of Hawker, SA with some outback memorabilia that includes a pedal radio. Most people pass through Hawker on the way to Wilpena Pound and the Flinders Ranges.

By WWII most of outback Australia had a mantle of safety with a number of FDS bases and many homestead radios plus airstrips. Eventually, the Australian government insisted on a change to SSB (single side band radio) To move to SSB gave far better radio performance.

While BWRS was established in 1936 their search teams had no radios! There was even some resistance to radios when the first Radio Officer, Bob Mead proposed radios to Federation (now Bushwalking NSW). The first radio network (of the Search & Rescue Section of the NSW Federation of

Bushwalking Clubs) transmitted on AM. It had a limited range on its telescopic aerial before a 50 metre 'dipole' aerial had to be set up. Still it was big step forward. A young Dick Smith of Sydney Bush Walkers helped get this network established.

Around 1979 BWRS also moved to SSB transmission. Communications were transformed. There was a new 25 Watt Codan brand base radio. BWRS search teams could receive and send messages on the move with the "TRAEGER" brand field portable radios. Another mantle of safety from Alf Traeger's company. Since then BWRS has moved onto more powerful radios and established links with 'ham' radio squads for even better communications.

Injured persons are now really well looked after. The aim of medical helicopters is to bring the hospital to the patient so that treatment will start from when the helicopter arrives. The helicopter won't arrive without communication.

Communication options are expanding in ways our pioneers could have only dreamt of.

The BWRS web site at www.bwrs.org.au has really useful advice on outback / remote area communication, distress beacons (PLB), GPS, First Aid courses, general bushwalking safety plus the NSW Police TREK system of free PLB hire in the Blue Mountains.

So when you plan your next bushwalk part of the planning should be the communications plan. How will you alert emergency services of a life threatening incident?? Will some level of First Aid skills be available until emergency services arrive?