

Bushwalking NSW

NEWSLETTER

Edition 27
January 2016

Keep exploring, be amazed!



From the Milford Track in New Zealand

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From the President



Welcome all to 2016, and another fantastic year of bushwalking awaits! I hope you were all able to spend time with family and friends, and also to get out and spend some time in the great outdoors.

I decided to give our local bush a bit of a rest over the New Year and headed over the ditch to New Zealand where I was lucky enough to spend a fantastic week tramping in Mt Aspiring National Park. While I thoroughly enjoyed my time out, I came home with a renewed appreciation for our distinct lack of sandflies and hard to cross rivers.

Balancing the protection of the places we love with protecting our access to those places, and ensuring fair and equitable management of those places can be difficult and controversial. As always, there's a lot going on in this space, such as our Development in National Parks Policy which Sierra is putting the final touches to, and the NSW Government's review of the management of Crown Lands. We'd love to hear from you if you can offer some time and effort to support our work to support you - get in touch with Kirsten and let her know how you might be able to help out.

I'm looking forward to a big year in bushwalking - both getting out and about myself, and also for Bushwalking NSW.

I hope to see you out there!

Mitchell Isaacs

President, Bushwalking NSW

From the Executive Officer – Here's to a great 2016!

Show your skill – Volunteers Needed

Bushwalking NSW needs volunteers to complete a broad range of projects requiring many different skill sets. Please contact me at admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au or by phone at 02 9565 4005 to see how you can contribute.

Some of our current opportunities are:

- **Walk Ambassadors:** Would you like to share your love of our national parks and your knowledge of bushwalking with others? Do you love meeting new people? Would you like to help others walk safely and Leave no Trace? Contact me now!



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Show your skill – Volunteers Needed (cont.)

- **Communications:** Make our Communications Plan a reality and connect clubs with Bushwalking NSW. Perfect if you love to communicate and perform web research. Gain training and guidance from our outstanding Communications experts.
- **Financial Accounting:** Work with our Treasurer/accountant to move Bushwalking NSW's financial records to Xero. Gain useful skills and experience in accounting and this popular new software package.
- **Administration:** Like to see things in order? Bushwalking NSW administration needs a clean-up from our contacts lists to our conformance with the Act, from distribution of The Bushwalker to our processes and procedures. Show your flair for organisation. Learn how to streamline and systemise business processes and procedures from an IT expert.
- **Events:** We also have a number of Events planning opportunities:
 - **Quarterly General Meetings:** Continue to improve our General Meetings with an improved location, events plan, timely arrangements, coordination of volunteers, record speakers to save on our website, prepare minutes and other documents, clean up, network, etc. Show your breadth of skills.
 - **President's Day:** Plan our next President's Day. Learn new skills in, or demonstrate your Project Management, budgeting, networking, planning and fund-raising skills.
- **Information Stalls:** We also need volunteers to plan walks/events to market to stall visitors, develop marketing material, and to represent Bushwalking NSW and your club(s) on information stalls at:
 - **Lord Mayor's International Student's Welcome:** 5.30pm-7.30pm Wednesday 16 March 2016, Sydney Town Hall, 483 George Street Sydney. See more details of this event including last year's event in the video on this page:
<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/community/community-support/international-students/coming-to-sydney/lord-mayors-welcome>
 - **City of Sydney Youth Week:** Friday 10 April to Sunday 19 April 2015. See:
<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/community/community-services/young-people/youth-week>
 - **Cherrybrook Lanton Night festival:** noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday, 22 October, 2016, on Francis Greenway Park, Cherrybrook NSW 2126. See: <http://ccca.asn.au>

We have many other projects, roles and activities which you can do to help your community so contact Kirsten at admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au or on 02 9565 4005 to see how you can contribute.

Your club badges on our website

We have started adding your club badges to our website and have 14 so far. You can find them here:

http://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/bushwalking/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Club-badges_v1.2-Jan-2016.pdf. Keep sending in your badges to admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au so we can add them.

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A meeting with clubs and a Gibraltar Range and Washpool National Parks trip

Earlier this month I enjoyed walking in Mount Jerusalem and Gibraltar Range National Parks with members of the Northern Rivers Bushwalking Club and the Clarence Valley Bushwalking Club. It was an absolute pleasure to meet these club members and hear their feedback and views. The warm bonds so easily developed and shared with fellow bushwalkers are heart-warming indeed.



I was also very touched by the beauty and magnificence of the World Heritage of Gibraltar Range and Washpool National Parks that I visited with these clubs. I'd highly recommend to your club programme a 4-6 day club trip to both parks similar to theirs. Several interesting day walks can be lead from the car-camping sites at Mulligans Hut and Bellbird camp-grounds which are also conducive to a great evening together.

Kirsten Mayer

Executive Officer, Bushwalking NSW

**Canyons and Gorges
of South-Western USA**
2 May - 21 May

Arches NP - Utah

www.takeawalk.com.au

Take A Walk Adventures
We know what walkers want...

Other 2016 destinations...

- Scandinavia - Fjords and Mountains of Norway and Sweden**
27 July - 28 August
- The Mountains of Spain**
15 August - 11 September
- Explore Greece**
1 - 28 September

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BNSW General Meeting – Tuesday, 16 February 2016

Save the date now for the:

Bushwalking NSW February General Meeting:
7pm Tuesday, 16 February 2016

Keynote speech: Dr Les Higgins
OUR NEED FOR NATURE AND HOW WE BENEFIT

Ashfield RSL Club, 374 Liverpool Rd, Ashfield
RSVP to admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au

Join us at 7pm for a chance to meet and mingle, have some nibbles and a drink. The meeting commences at 7.30. We have a great keynote speaker for you. It is also your chance to update us all on your club's activities.

We have **give-aways** of the book *Wild Swimming* and a double pass to the Australian Museum *Trailblazers* exhibition.

Ashfield RSL Club, is in Liverpool Road, corner of Frederick Street. Just 5 minutes' walk from Ashfield Railway Station. Sydney Buses 418, 462, 464, 466, 480 & 483 stop right outside the Club. There is also plenty of off-street parking.



We look forward to seeing you there!

The 2016 Bushwalking NSW General Meetings are on: 16th Feb, 17th May, 16th Aug and 15th Nov

From the Conservation Officer



Hello there, you (mostly) sun-baked bushwalkers,

This is your friendly conservation officer bringing you the latest news and opportunities for this month.

Conservation News

Let us first have a moment of silence and stillness to pay respect to our Tasmanian wilderness that in the [rampaging fires](#) is being reduced to ash and char as shown in the image below.

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Central Plateau post fire - Dan Broun

The Worimi Conservation Lands Board of Management has released their ten-year plan of management. Thank you to any of you who participated in the review of the plan. The final document is available for public viewing [here](#).

Opportunities and Events



1. NPWS in conjunction with the Clarence Environment Centre have secured funding for a key study of the genetic relationships between coastal and inland emu populations in NSW.

The research group is seeking an additional 30 samples from Inland NSW, West of the Great Dividing Range. Samples may be collected from road kill or fences. Ideally, they will contain 4-5 feathers with the base feather intact and minimally handled. [Please find detailed instructions in the flyer here](#).

2. The State's Review of our Biodiversity Laws continues. The Nature Conservation Council reminds us that this is a crucial moment for environmental protection in NSW.

It is in our interests to ensure that these laws protect the wild ecosystems we depend on for the pursuit of our bushwalking passions. Information sessions will be running during the first couple of weeks of February. Please [sign up for one here](#) and learn more about this crucial issue and find out how you can help.

3. Did you know if you're water comes from Warragamba, you're drinking mine effluent everyday?

Find out what's happening at the Gardens of Stone BBQ and Camp

Please RSVP via [Colong Facebook](#) page or return email (no pets allowed)

Where: south-east corner of [Cathedral Reserve Campground](#), Mt. Wilson.

When: Saturday February 6 BBQ beginning at 4pm. Optional canyoning and/or Gardens of Stone site inspections on Sunday February 7.

Bring: BYO - all food, drink as well as necessary BBQ, camping and canyoning equipment.

We Love Your Work

Don't forget to send us reports, testimonials and photos of what *you* are doing to protect our precious wild ecosystems. Bushwalking NSW would love to hear what you and your club have been up to.

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Furthermore, if you have a club event or important conservation news item you would like us to promote, send it to us so we can post it on Facebook and Twitter for you and hopefully broaden your audience. We are here to help.

See you in the bush!

Sincerely,

Sierra Classen

Your Friendly Conservation Officer

From Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad



NavShield 2016 - How can I be there? My New Year Resolution!

You are getting confident in the basics of navigation but your New Years Resolution is to be a better bushwalker navigator in 2016.

Thus, your aim is to be part of that great bush navigation training event for the emergency services "NavShield". However, you need to confirm the date but also remain unsure of how to enter. You do know that the BWRS NavShield is a great way to practice bush navigation in a friendly atmosphere and great location. NavShield should be great way to polish your new navigation skills and prove that you are now a better bushwalker and not just a follower of others through the bush.

Remember FOUR things:

ONE, team registration will be via the website "www.bwrs.org.au" and look for the NavShield link during April when the link becomes live.

You will find all the information you need about BWRS NavShield 2016 at this website from Event Rules to catering menu etc. As in all bushwalks you must go as a group. You will need a team of 2 - 4 bushies for the ONE DAY event OR a team of 4 - 6 bushies for the TWO DAY (overnight) event.

TWO, it takes floods (as in 2005) to defer NavShield from the first full weekend in July each year. Thus, this year NavShield will be held on July 2nd / 3rd.

THREE, late entries incur penalties. BWRS NavShield is a large event and very demanding of its volunteer resources. Don't run the risk of a penalty. Please give BWRS time to process your team entry by planning to register on time.

FOUR, don't ask where BWRS NavShield 2016 will be held. The location will be revealed one week before NavShield.

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS - the search and rescue section of Bushwalking NSW) needs time to set the course without conferring any advantage to local teams.

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NavShield will be held within three to four hours (maximum) driving from Sydney.

BWRS tries to make NavShield as friendly an event, as possible, with the course set in great bushwalking country. It is a highlight for many emergency services personnel who return year after year to NavShield. Check points are deliberately set so that all levels of bush navigator, from beginner to experienced, will get good navigation practice.

Remember to:

- lock in July 2nd / 3rd as the NavShield date in your Club Walks program;
- register your Club team for NavShield via www.bwrs.org.au;
- pay on time after registration, then look forward to a unique, friendly, navigation challenge, NavShield.

BWRS would love to see you and your club at NavShield 2016.

Get started on that New Year's Resolution now!!

BWRS in action

On Monday afternoon, 4 January Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) was called out by NSW Police to look for a missing person around Wheeney Creek. However, this became a wet week and the search was deferred from Tuesday to Friday, 8 January (when the weather cleared) a BWRS team of four (as requested by Police) met at McDonalds, Kellyville at 0730.

Signs indicating roads closed due to flooding caused delays en route. They drove through regardless at Upper Colo Road and had some water to cross for eventual arrival a bit later than anticipated, approx 0850, at the search base.

SES & RFS were also in attendance along with NSW Police Dogs. Briefing for all teams occurred at around 0900 hours by the Local Area Police Commanding Officer plus a Search Manager from NSW Police Rescue and Bomb Squad.

All agencies worked & communicated well together since the BWRS UHF radios have a common channel with other Emergency Services.

BWRS were tasked to search a creek that was walking access from the command post. This creek was not too bad going. There was noticeably more water than usual though it was clear that a lot more water was flowing through than a couple of days earlier. In some places it seemed that the creek might have only been 20-30 cm higher than the still high level while elsewhere it looked like 40 to 50cm +. Still, a nice creek and a pleasant walk.

A body was spotted by the BWRS team at approx 1125 hours. It looked like that this body may have been washed down by the creek.

A radio relay was needed to get the message through to the NSW Police Search Manager. The BWRS team stayed with the body until a NSW Police team could take over to formally record the scene and other necessary details.

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After some time everyone walked out to their vehicles / returned to search base. The BWRS team members were thanked for finding the body and their details (name, address, DoB, phone number) were taken.

As usual, in any callout, the BWRS team had to wait for all emergency services teams to return to search base before an informal debrief of all personnel. All personnel were able to return home around 1500 (3pm)



In NSW the Police have 'responsibility for life and limb' hence, BWRS work under their direction, if required, for bush search & rescue. BWRS is respected by NSW Police as a valuable community service to NSW and for its ability to safely get into and out of difficult country (actually just good bushwalking skills).

Keith Maxwell

President, Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad

Historic Bushwalking Maps by Myles Dunphy

The Colong Foundation for Wilderness has recently undertaken a digitisation project, scanning a selection of historic bushwalking maps which were compiled by the conservationist Myles Dunphy. These maps which cover areas including the Blue Mountains, Snowy Highlands, Warrumbungles and the Royal National Park, are not just of interest due to their age or their significance in reserve campaigns, but because they contain a wealth of information useful to bushwalkers.

Many walkers have the well-known Gangerang and Kowmung sheets which are still available from some outdoor shops, but now you are able to view and purchase a much larger selection of maps through the Colong Foundation's website.



The current maps available online to view in full or posted in hard copy are:

- Beecroft Peninsula (1944)
- Bindook Highlands (1971)
- Blue Mountains National Park Proposal (1932)
- Central Blue Mountains (1966)
- Heathcote Creek (1959)
- Lower Nattai Valley and Central Burragorang (1931)
- Middle Snowy and Indi Highlands (1945)
- Narrow Neck (1919)
- Royal National Park (1936)

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- Kanangra Tourist Resort (1953)
- Kowmung Travelling Stock Route (1930)
- Warrumbungle Mountains (1957)

If you are interested in purchasing a historic Dunphy sketch map, or would just like view these works of art first hand, I encourage you to visit Colong's map gallery at www.colongwilderness.org.au/map-gallery

And as a challenge for those who have a keen interest in maps...

Can you tell me which Dunphy map each of the below images are from?

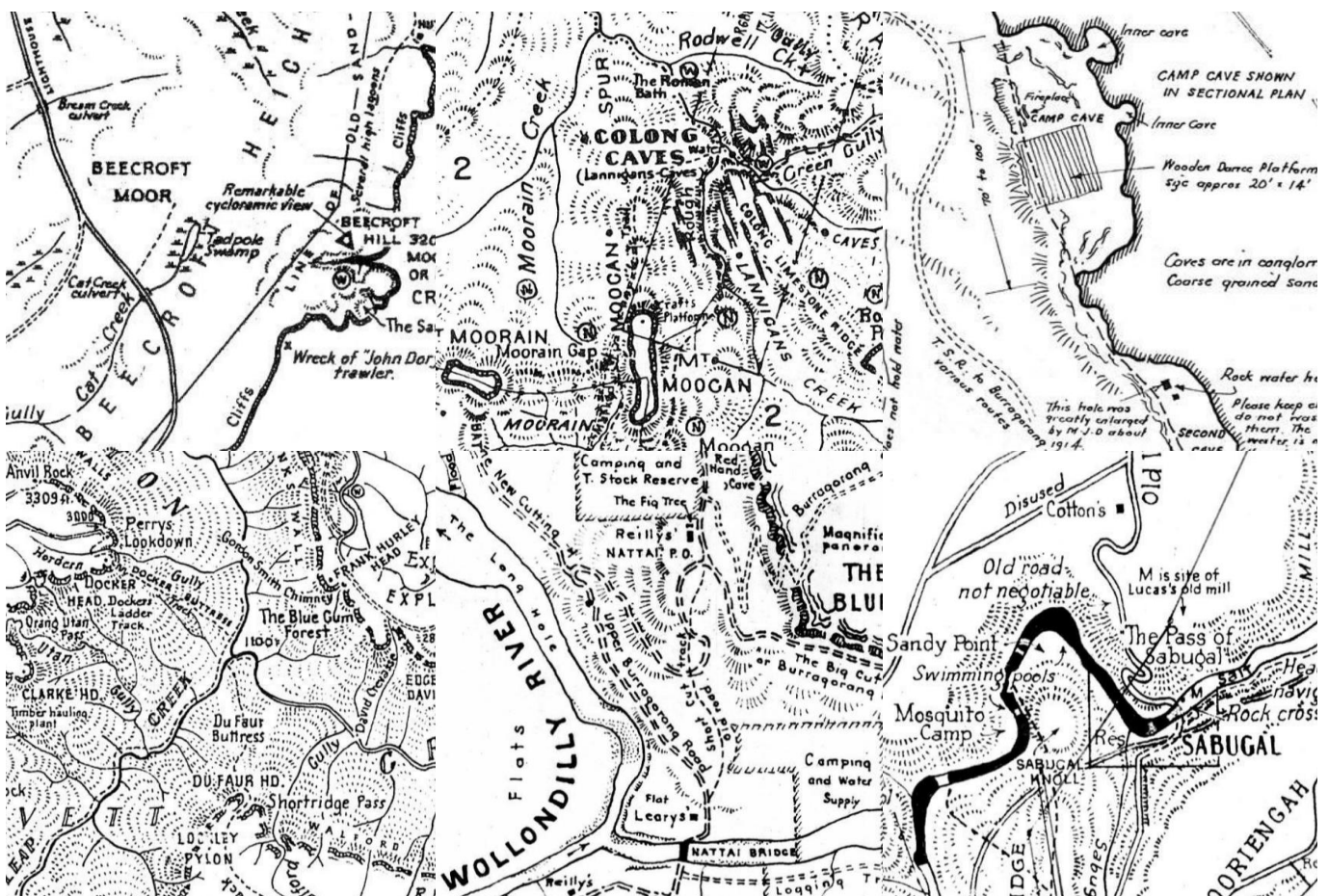
Any person who can tell me the correct name of all six maps via email will go into a draw to receive a Dunphy map of their choosing! Winner to be announced at the February General Meeting.

Happy walking,

Alex Allchin

Tracks and Access Officer

AJAllchin@gmail.com



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