

# Bushwalking NSW

## NEWSLETTER

Edition 29

April 2016

*Keep exploring, be amazed!*



*Erskine Creek in Blue Mountains National Park – Kirsten Mayer*

### Contents

|  |   |
|--|---|
| From the President .....                 | 2 |
| From the Executive Officer .....         | 3 |
| Conservation Update .....                | 4 |
| How can you help? .....                  | 6 |
| Bushwalking NSW May General Meeting..... | 7 |
| ANZAC Day at Splendour Rock 2015 .....   | 8 |



### From the President

I don't know where you spent your Easter, but I had a fantastic few days down in Ettrema Gorge, along with, it seemed, half of the local bushwalking population. Great trip, though the water levels are really low – as they currently are around most of the state. You might need to take an extra couple of litres if you're going to your favourite remote camping location with normally reliable water!

Some of you may be aware of the Adventure Activity Standards (AAS), which were developed in NSW a few years back, by the Outdoor Recreation Industry Council (ORIC). Bushwalking NSW was heavily involved to ensure that the AAS were sensible, voluntary, and would not impose any form of formal requirements on clubs. Currently, there are national harmonised versions of these guidelines being developed, and Bushwalking NSW will continue to advocate to ensure that these standards remain voluntary, and will not impose any formal requirements on clubs. Having said that, the existing standards do actually provide some useful guidance which you may want to consider drawing on if you're running training for your club or other group. The NSW AAS are available on the ORIC website, [oric.org.au/AAS](http://oric.org.au/AAS).

I just want to give a shout out to our hard working Executive Officer, Kirsten, who in the midst of moving herself and half our office up to the North Coast so that she can spend more time in the bush, has been scoping up projects that aim to reach out to and provide skills and knowledge to non-club walkers to reduce their impact when walking thus helping to protect the areas we all love and enjoy – and maybe even encourage some into clubs!

I'm looking forward to our next General Meeting (at 7pm Tuesday 17 May 2016, at the new location of Redfern Town Hall, 73 Pitt St., Redfern) with fantastic speaker Anne Macleod. I hope to see lots of you there.

All the best, and see you out in the bush!

Mitchell Isaacs – President, Bushwalking NSW | E: [president@bushwalkingnsw.org.au](mailto:president@bushwalkingnsw.org.au)

### Have you got the Emergency+ App yet?



The Emergency+ app displays tips and your GPS location to make it easier for you in an emergency and help you to inform emergency services of your location. You can download the app for free on Apple, Android and Windows devices - just search the app store for "Emergency+". The app is not a replacement for a PLB, you still need a phone signal to call.

# Bushwalking NSW

## NEWSLETTER

Edition 29

April 2016

### From the Executive Officer



In March and April we made two grant applications for an exciting project called "It's sweet to walk soft" involving the latest technology in a smart phone app, an opportunity to connect with over 40,000 members of the general public with a new interest in bushwalking, and opportunities to promote clubs and Bushwalking NSW. I will keep you updated of the progress of this project and the outcome of the grant applications.

Also in March, John Renzenbrink from All Nations Bushwalkers manned the Lord Mayor's Welcome to International Students stall for Bushwalking NSW at the Sydney Town Hall. John handed out about 100 information cards and found that many of the girls were intrigued by bushwalking but concerned by the dangers in the bush. Let's hope they find a club to overcome those fears. Many thanks John!

Thanks also to all of you who have completed the annual insurance questionnaire on time!

Note: You can now directly contact our committee members and volunteers on these email addresses:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| President:                                | <a href="mailto:president@bushwalkingnsw.org.au">president@bushwalkingnsw.org.au</a>             |
| Tracks & Access officer & Vice-president: | <a href="mailto:tracksandaccess@bushwalkingnsw.org.au">tracksandaccess@bushwalkingnsw.org.au</a> |
| Conservation officer:                     | <a href="mailto:conservation@bushwalkingnsw.org.au">conservation@bushwalkingnsw.org.au</a>       |
| Drew our operations volunteer:            | <a href="mailto:operations@bushwalkingnsw.org.au">operations@bushwalkingnsw.org.au</a>           |
| Executive officer:                        | <a href="mailto:eo@bushwalkingnsw.org.au">eo@bushwalkingnsw.org.au</a>                           |

We are short of back copies of *The Bushwalker*. If you have any back copies, or know someone who may have some, please ask for them and bring them into a meeting or let me know if we can pick them up. Many thanks!

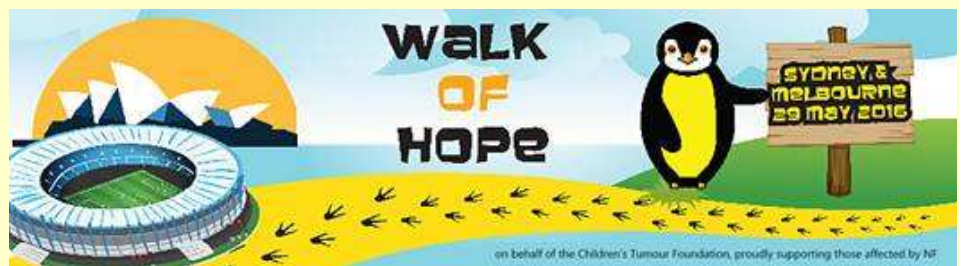
Would you be able to **volunteer** in the Bushwalking NSW office between June and September? It is our busy period, but you only need to do as much as you enjoy doing, and you get to spend time with other lovely people, and know you're helping your fellow bushwalkers.

Kirsten Mayer – Executive Officer, Bushwalking NSW

P: (02) 8003 5545 | E: [eo@bushwalkingnsw.org.au](mailto:eo@bushwalkingnsw.org.au) | OFFICE HOURS: Monday Wednesday Friday

The Children's Tumour Foundation of Australia (CTF) invites you to take part in the inaugural Walk of Hope from **Maroubra Beach to Bondi Beach on Sunday, 29 May 2016 from 12pm to 3pm** with celebrations at Bondi Pavilion from 3pm to 5pm.

Join the #YellowPenguinArmy and register with your walking pals, create a team, and start fundraising for NF today. Find out more at [www.walkofhope.com.au](http://www.walkofhope.com.au).



**Bushwalking NSW - Keep exploring, be amazed!**

[www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au](http://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au) | [admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au](mailto:admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au) | 02 8003 5545

# Bushwalking NSW

---

## NEWSLETTER

Edition 29

April 2016

### Conservation Update

Dear fellow Bushwalkers,

As winter approaches, legislative changes propose a chilling future for nature and biodiversity in our state, while squashing our democratic rights to protest.



#### 6 Reasons for bushwalkers to take notice of recent legislative changes in NSW:

1. **New Laws Leave No Place For Nature:** Environmental advocacy groups such as the Nature Conservation Council have finally walked out of negotiations with state government about the new Biodiversity Conservation laws. "I couldn't just stand by and let the government put developers ahead of the future of wildlife like koalas, quolls, and gliders," proclaims Kate Smolski, the CEO of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW. The review and reform process of the biodiversity conservation laws in NSW has been in planning for over 18 months now. Smolski's concerns that the process will end in catastrophe for the state's biodiversity was endorsed by other organisations such as the World Wildlife Foundation and the Wilderness Society.
2. **Flawed Foundations:** The proposed new Biodiversity Conservation Act bases its valuation of the biodiversity of the state on notoriously fallible aerial photography methods of vegetation mapping. The new legislation will require a one size fits all review process for urban, rural and coastal areas alike.
3. **Too Local For Our Liking:** The new Biodiversity Conservation Act gives more power of decisions about key areas of biodiversity to the local council governments of NSW.



I don't know what it's like in your club, but in my experience of bushwalking clubs in NSW, bushwalkers often walk in areas far away from their home postal code. What does this mean? Not only would we be less likely to find out about development threats to our wild biodiversity sanctuaries before they are approved, but above all as citizens external to the local council, bushwalkers' input is likely to mean much less than under a current system where such things would likely be handled by the NSW government.

# Bushwalking NSW

## NEWSLETTER

Edition 29

April 2016

4. **Thou Dost Protest Too Much:** To compound this issue, [newly introduced anti-protest laws](#) mean that when bushwalkers do find out about mining related development proposals in known biodiversity hotspots, that those who stand up to protect them can [face prison sentences of up to seven years](#).

Hugh de Kretser of the Sydney Morning Herald writes that the new laws “give police excessive new powers to stop, search and detain protesters and seize property as well as to shut down peaceful protests that obstruct traffic.” George Woods, NSW state coordinator for prominent environmental protection and community advocacy agency **Lock the Gate** calls the laws an “unnecessary overreach by the NSW Government,” going on to say that the Government is acting at the “behest of mining companies.”



5. **Uncharitable Status:** And speaking of these anti-protest laws... you know all of those conservation and environmental protection agencies you support with your membership, by signing petitions, sending letters to your MP, or by attending protests for a worthy cause? They are all in danger of being strangled financially (excuse the dramatic language). A State-wide investigation threatens to revoke the “charitable organisation” status of groups whose activities interfere with mines in a broad sense.

6. **Still in the Running:** Despite all these dire legislative reforms, environmental groups continue to win protection for our state’s precious biodiversity assets. The Environmental Defenders’ Office’s (EDO) have secured protection for a critical section of habitat for another beautiful endangered creature: [the Regent Honeyeater](#).



**Bushwalking NSW - Keep exploring, be amazed!**

[www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au](http://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au) | [admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au](mailto:admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au) | 02 8003 5545

# Bushwalking NSW

---

## NEWSLETTER

Edition 29

April 2016

### How can you help?

1. [Sign the Petition](#)
2. [Send a letter to your local MP or to the Premier](#)
3. [Speak with your friends and speak out in social media!](#)
4. [Organise or attend a public show of indignation](#)

### Events:

A promotional poster for the Annual Conference 2016. The background is a scenic landscape with trees and mountains. The text is overlaid on a white semi-transparent box. The title 'Annual Conference 2016' is in large white font, followed by the dates 'October 22nd - 23rd' and the location 'University of Sydney'. Below this, there is a paragraph of text, a bolded line 'WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US TO MAKE OUR MOVEMENT MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER.', and more text about the conference activities. On the right side, there is a logo for the Nature Conservation Council, which consists of a stylized black silhouette of a bush and the text 'Nature Conservation Council' in green.

**Annual Conference 2016**  
**October 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> | University of Sydney**

This year we're excited to announce that the first day of our Annual Conference will form part of the National Environment Meeting, co-hosted with Greenpeace, and in partnership with the Sydney University Environment Institute. Since 2014, the National Environment Meeting has been held annually, bringing people together from across our movement.

**WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US TO MAKE OUR MOVEMENT MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER.**

The Saturday will include an exciting program of forums, keynote speakers, workshops, and plenty of opportunities for you to build new connections for your important work.

On Sunday our Annual General Meeting will take place.

The NSW Environment Awards will be held as part of the weekend's program.

More information will be available shortly, for now please save the date.  
If you have any questions, contact Leah Davies on: [outreach@nature.org.au](mailto:outreach@nature.org.au) or (02) 9516 1488.

**Nature Conservation Council**

### Useful Links:

[Public Lecture and Panel Discussion on Biodiversity Laws, 14th of April, 17:30](#)

[SMH Writes about New Anti-Protest Bill](#)

[ABC News on New Anti-Protest Bill](#)

[Public Information Campaign About Biodiversity Law Reforms](#)

[Read the Existing Biodiversity Conservation Legislation](#)

[Sydney Morning Herald Article about Biodiversity Conservation Legislation Reforms](#)

Sierra Classen – Conservation Officer, Bushwalking NSW | E: [conservation@bushwalkingsw.org.au](mailto:conservation@bushwalkingsw.org.au)

**Bushwalking NSW - Keep exploring, be amazed!**  
[www.bushwalkingsw.org.au](http://www.bushwalkingsw.org.au) | [admin@bushwalkingsw.org.au](mailto:admin@bushwalkingsw.org.au) | 02 8003 5545

# Bushwalking NSW

---

## NEWSLETTER

Edition 29

April 2016

Save the date now for the:

### Bushwalking NSW May General Meeting

7pm Tuesday, 17 May, 2016

At **Redfern Town Hall** - 73 Pitt Street, Redfern – just 7 minutes walk from the station.

Join us at 7pm for a chance to mingle, have some nibbles and a drink. The meeting starts at 7.30 with our keynote. Take the chance after that to update us all on your club's activities.

Our keynote speaker, Anne McLeod will present:

#### THE SPIRITED LIFE OF MARIE BYLES

AS THE FIRST WOMAN to practise law in New South Wales, Marie Byles triumphed over a society that viewed women as second-class.

Marie also devoted herself to the conservation of the Australian environment. A dedicated bushwalker, she was a zealous advocate for wilderness and worked to reserve vast areas for national parks. An avid explorer-mountaineer, Marie travelled the world in search of unclimbed mountains and led an international expedition to southern China in 1938.

Marie Byles' life story has powerful narratives about human rights, conservation, ecology, feminism and spirituality, along with the personal fallibilities of a woman determined to be true to herself and her beliefs.

Foreword by The Hon. Elizabeth Evatt AC:

*'Marie Byles made a significant difference to women's lives and taught Australians to value our natural heritage. Anne McLeod's biography gives deep insight into the inspirational qualities of this radical woman who never ceased striving for social and personal evolution.'*

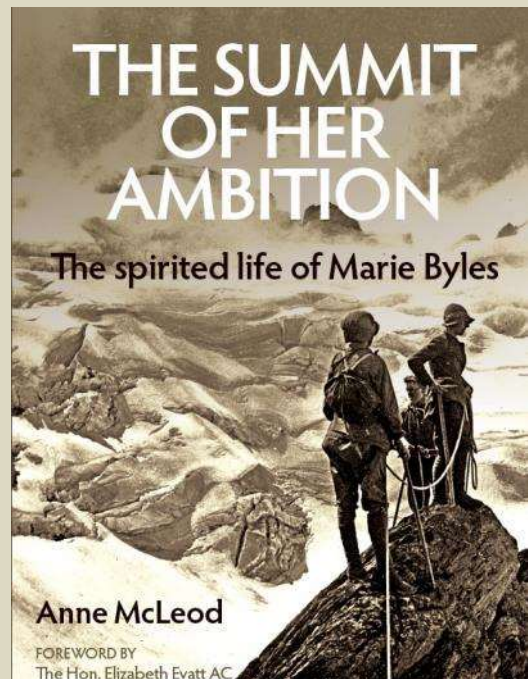
For more information and to purchase Anne's biography of Marie Byles visit:

[www.annemcleod.com.au](http://www.annemcleod.com.au) .

We look forward to seeing you there!

RSVP to [admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au](mailto:admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au)

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



**Bushwalking NSW - Keep exploring, be amazed!**  
[www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au](http://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au) | [admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au](mailto:admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au) | 02 8003 5545

### ANZAC Day at Splendour Rock 2015

This year I will again walk to Splendour Rock to remember the bushwalkers who died during WWII. In recent years there has been a short but moving ceremony on ANZAC Day, revived thanks to Jack Cummings of the now defunct Nepean BWC.

There is something special about the night before ANZAC Day. In 2015 I joined others who had walked in separately and set up camp close to Splendour Rock where there was a welcome campfire. There was an extra feeling of camaraderie as we took in the mystical surroundings and thought about the fallen bushwalkers we had come to remember.

Next morning, ANZAC Day, an alarm was not needed as, soon after 5am, there was much activity with people and torches moving through the darkness.



The service began at 6am on a chilly dawn. This year we were fortunate to have a bugler. For the minutes silence we all turned to the east to also then hear The Ode. This year I was given the special honour of reciting The Ode. Belinda Keir who, has done extensive research of the war service of these bushwalkers, read the list of names:

*Bruce Elder, Coast & Mountain Walkers RAN*  
*Kenneth Grenfell, Rucksack Club RAAF*  
*Reg Hewitt, Sydney Bush Walkers AIF*  
*George Loder, Trampers Club RAAF*  
*James McCormack, YMCA Ramblers, RAAF*  
*Gordon Mannell, Sydney Bush Walkers, RAAF*  
*Mac Nichols, YMCA Ramblers, AIF*

*Arnold Ray, Coast & Mountain Walkers RAAF*  
*Charles Roberts, Coast & Mountain Walkers AIF*  
*Norman Sall, Sydney Bush Walkers RAAF*  
*Gordon Smith, Sydney Bush Walkers AIF*  
*Gordon Townsend, Coast & Mountain Walkers RAAF*  
*Jack Wall, Campfire Club RAAF*

It is almost certain that other walkers who were not club members gave their lives in this conflict and were honoured also. After the service many of us kept looking east as a glorious bright orange ball lit the sky as it slowly crept up from behind Kings Tableland to mark the sunrise.

After the service we returned a different way. It is hard to ever tire of this country around the tracks on Mt Dingo, Mt Merrimerrigal and Mt Warrigal. There is a little bit of everything, passes; vegetation; overhangs etc, to make for an enjoyable bushwalk. How could you not be moved by The Play Ground of the Dingoes on Mt Merri Merrigal?

In 2014 on behalf of Bushwalking NSW, I put Splendour Rock on the list of NSW War Memorials. See the web address below for more information:

[www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au/content/bushwalkers-war-memorial-splendour-rock](http://www.warmemorialsregister.nsw.gov.au/content/bushwalkers-war-memorial-splendour-rock)

Keith Maxwell – President, Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad | W: <http://www.bwrs.org.au>