

Bushwalking NSW

NEWSLETTER

Edition 30

May 2016

Keep exploring, be amazed!



Minyon Falls – Nightcap National Park – Photo: Kirsten Mayer

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From the President



Great to see so many of you at Redfern Town Hall for our May General Meeting. It's always really interesting to meet members from a range of clubs and hear what everyone is up to.

As we move into the cooler months, the Bureau of Meteorology are forecasting a wetter than average Winter, just a reminder to everyone to be well prepared for cold and wet conditions, maybe throw in an extra set of thermals just in case!

Bushwalking NSW is this year hoping to issue our first ever award for meritorious service to bushwalking – the Chardon Award – and we're looking for an extra person from the bushwalking community to help make up the selection panel. Please let Kirsten know if you are interested, or if you would like to dob someone worthy in (for either the award or the selection panel!).

Mitchell Isaacs – President, Bushwalking NSW E: president@bushwalkingnsw.org.au

From the Executive Officer

Hello everyone,

What bird is that?

Do you ever try to find the birds that are calling around you when you are bushwalking? Are you amazed at how quickly birdos can identify birds? With a few tips you can do it too!

I recently learned that the best way to find out about birds is to spend some time with a passionate conservationist, like [Rochelle Stevens](#) from the School of Environment, Griffith University, who doesn't just talk about their jizz, she'll let you in on bird sex-life also!



Not clued in on jizz? That's the "general impression of size and shape" of a bird, or other animal or plant. Noting the jizz gives you a great head-start on identification; and then with some anecdotes on the behaviours of that bird, you can have a guess at what they are up to and why they are calling.

You can use this page to learn about birds by their jizz: <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/finder>

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And also on that site is loads of information about how you can create a garden for birds:

<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/places>, and how you can help care for our birds by surveying them, even in your back yard: <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/surveys>. You can also participate in the <http://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>, get a field guide on your phone and learn a lot about our birds.

We are moving – come volunteer and get a Trailblazer double pass!

As of 8th June, our Sydney office will relocate to Suite 302, Level 3, 52-58 William St, East Sydney NSW 2011. We will still be co-located with the lovely people of the NPA of NSW and you can still reach us on 8003 5545.



We'll be just down the road from the Australian Museum. So you can easily combine your museum visit with some volunteering at our office! In fact, to celebrate, we will **give away a double Australian Museum pass** to the [Trailblazers Exhibition](#) to a volunteer who'd like to help out for 1-2 days over the next three months.

Just email me at eo@bushwalkingnsw.org.au to apply.

It's Sweet to Walk Soft

We are progressing this project with some very exciting activities. Contact me if you have a passion for sharing the [Bushwalkers Code](#) and [Leave No Trace](#) principles with others.

The inspiring life of Marie Byles

We had a great turn out at the May General Meeting where Anne McLeod gave an engaging presentation on the life of Marie Byles, a great bushwalker, conservationist and NSW's first female solicitor. If you missed the presentation you can hear about her extraordinary life on Radio National! You can listen to "Woman with Altitude" at <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/spiritofthings/reaching-for-the-summit/7442430>



You can also purchase Anne's biography of Marie's life, called "The Summit of Her Ambition" from: <http://www.annemcleod.com.au/>

I hope you're taking all your winter gear with you walking these days. It is startling how rapidly the cold has hit this year!

Kirsten Mayer – Executive Officer, Bushwalking NSW

P: (02) 8003 5545 | E: eo@bushwalkingnsw.org.au | Office Hours: Monday Wednesday Friday

28th Annual NavShield Event: 2 & 3 July 2016

Great Navigation Training Opportunity - Please add to your winter activities program

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The NSW Emergency Services Wilderness Navigation Shield (NavShield), is a rogaine event where teams attempt to gain as many points as possible by finding their way on foot, through unfamiliar wilderness terrain to pre-marked checkpoints. The course covers an area of 80 to 100 square kilometres and only traditional map and compass techniques are permitted. There are both day and overnight event options. The course is set by a team of skilled navigators from the Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (the oldest land search and rescue unit in Australia) - the official Search & Rescue arm of [Bushwalking NSW](http://bushwalkingnsw.org.au).



The course will be set in a secret location (approximately 3 hrs from Sydney) and will take place on the first weekend of July 2016.

Encompassing the finest traditions and character of bushwalking, NavShield is an opportunity to get back to basics and work on important navigation skills, without the use of GPS.

It's an ideal training opportunity for your club members to learn and practice in a fun and enjoyable weekend. You can choose to make it as competitive or as amateur/fun as you like!

We ask all bushwalking clubs to please add this great event to their calendars and encourage teams to take part.

NavShield is the primary fundraising activity for [BWRS](http://bwrs.org.au), so come and support your Search and Rescue Squad, whilst promoting a great, fun event to your Clubs. Past events have seen entries from a variety of Bushwalking Clubs and Rogainers, Police, Ambulance, Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service, Volunteer Rescue Association and the Armed Forces.

Now is the time to organise and motivate your club to take part in this great event!

For all details and registration, visit [Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad](http://bushwalkerswildernessrescue.org.au).

Like to help manage invasive animals?



The Invasive Animals CRC provide you with a great opportunity to easily contribute to the management of feral animals and conduct some citizen science using their smart phone apps which you can download from: <http://www.feralscan.org.au/>. Scientists need this kind of data in order to manage these pests. It looks like the information is centralised and supportive of all land managers – that's smart.

They say: "By participating in a collaborative fox control project, you can help landholders in your area to reduce fox numbers and the damage they cause across your entire region, and help to protect native wildlife from fox predation. Before controlling foxes, it is essential to know a few facts. Mapping where foxes occur, recording what damage they cause, and recording

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what control has been undertaken are needed to coordinate control programs, and to address major gaps in our knowledge in Australia. FoxScan needs your advice and experience to help with the fox problem."

Inspired by David Springthorpe – Editor for The Coast and Mountain Walkers of NSW Inc

Growing your club: by Michael Keats



The Bush Club continues to grow. There are two reasons for this as I see it. One is a total focus on bushwalking with admin and other issues very much of lesser importance. Two investing time and effort in training, skilling and supporting new leaders.

Another related issue is that the Bush Club is dedicated to renewal in turning over officer bearers, no matter how good they are and also in establishing a committee to look at ways to revitalise the club, keep the flow of new talent coming in and fostering a policy of encouraging walks leadership.

None of this is rocket science but it does require a determination to make sure that the next crop of walkers and leaders are forthcoming

Michael Keats – OAM, Bush Explorer, Author, Speaker, BC Life Member. W: www.bushexplorers.com.au

Conservation Update

Hello bushwalkers,

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

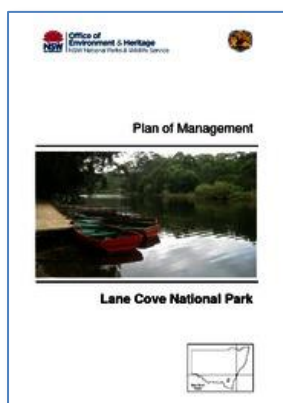
Make the Bushwalking Perspective Count: Review a draft plan of management this month.

There are numerous draft plans of management on public review currently. You and your club can tell NPWS what you think of these plans of

management, bringing them a bushwalking perspective. Simply go to their website, decide on an area you'd like to focus on, and follow the simple submission making instructions:

<https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/consult>

Reviewing a plan of management is not something for experts. Your opinion counts and it is what they are looking for in the review process. Think of it as writing a friendly message to help out a friend with something they had to write up for work.



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View current Plans of Management

The Minister for the Environment is regularly adopting new Plans of Management (POM) for our parks, including most recently the POM for Lane Cove National Park. To view it just click on the image.

You can view all park plans of management at:

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/parkmanagement/ParkManagementPlans.htm>

Homework for Club Conservation Officers: Email Introductions

If you are the conservation officer in your bushwalking club, or you aspire to that role, it's time for us to get to know each other. Please send me your contact details and a short description about why you chose the conservation officer role to conservation@bushwalkingnsw.org.au.

As Bushwalking NSW's conservation officer, my homework is to support club conservation officers as much as I can. In order to do this, I need to be able to contact you directly.

#StandUp4Nature

Biodiversity is under threat in our State more than ever before. Learn more at one of the events running all over the state at the Stand Up 4 Nature site: <http://www.standupfornature.org.au/events>

See you in the bush!

Sierra Classen – Conservation Officer, Bushwalking NSW | E: conservation@bushwalkingnsw.org.au

Safety, Rescue & First Aid

BWRS Active Again



On Friday night 13 May NSW Police contacted Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS). BWRS was asked to provide a small team to assist in a search near Mini Ha Ha Falls, North Katoomba on Saturday 14 May. Although the missing person was not located BWRS was not requested to assist on further days.

The bushwalkers of BWRS are respected by NSW Police as outstanding remote area search & rescue personnel. BWRS is respected as a valuable community resource. BWRS is

keen to welcome more bushwalkers into our ranks.

Our BWRS website www.bwrs.org.au has extensive safety information as well as information on how to join this great community resource.

Keith's first PLB

At Medlow Gap on the way home from Splendour Rock I relayed a story of being a bit cheeky with the red Fiat 500 of Ninian Melville. An S&R Training Weekend was held at



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the Gap. This little Fiat was not heavy and a few of us lifted it and took it part way up the track towards Narrow Neck and placed it sideways. Nin, of course, was not impressed. Ninian Melville was short and stocky (nuggety) and renowned for his temper. The bushwalkers used to call him "PLB" - Peppery Little Bastard.

So PLBs have been around longer than you realise!

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

Blue Mountains Trek for Timor is on again: Saturday 17th September 2016!



You can choose trek distances of 15, 30 or 50 km, passing through some of the most spectacular scenery the Blue Mountains has to offer. All funds raised by trekkers in 2016 will be used to provide equipment for the Taurema primary school, built with funds from the 2012 + 14 Treks, and for water and sanitation projects in the same region of East Timor. Get a team of 4-6 people together and register at: <http://trekfortimorbm.org.au>

The website has all the information that you need to register, sponsor or volunteer with the Trek, and if you have more questions there is a link for you to contact us registrations@trekfortimorbm.org.au

You can also Like and share Trek for Timor at <https://www.facebook.com/trekfortimorbm/> then get their own team together, or sponsor your team.



Thank you for thinking about getting involved with the Trek for Timor to raise greatly needed funds for our near neighbours in East Timor. Don't forget that you can walk, volunteer on the day or sponsor a team, or even all three, there are lots of ways to be involved.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PATRON. Dr. Kirsty Sword Gusmao, AO. Goodwill Ambassador for Education, Timor-Leste:

"I have been greatly moved by the efforts of so many supporting the "Trek for Timor" and the life changing differences this event is making for the children of East Timor. By investing in education and vital water, sanitation and reforestation programs, together we have the chance to offer a future of hope and prosperity to our closest neighbour. "



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