

Bushwalking NSW

NEWSLETTER

Edition 30
June 2016

Keep exploring, be amazed!



The friendly Hat Head locals thankfully weathered the big storms – Kirsten Mayer

Contents

From the Executive Officer	2
Insurance	2
It's Sweet to Walk Soft.....	2
Sign up! Sign up!	2
Change of Address.....	2
Accessing Natural Places	3
Last chance to get a Trailblazer double pass!	4
Conservation Update	4
Bushwalking NSW Stands Up for Biodiversity Protection in NSW.....	4
Letters to our Future Prime Minister and Cabinet	4
Draft wild horse management plan for Kosciuszko National Park.....	5
Are you going to NavShield this weekend?	5
Tracks and Access.....	5
Warragamba Dam wall to be raised 14m.....	5
Think before you TREK - Online trip intention form	6
Can you help in this adventure?	7
Contributions.....	8

Bushwalking NSW

NEWSLETTER

Edition 31
June 2016

From the Executive Officer

Hello everyone,
We are a few days late with our newsletter as the report from the new insurance broker arrived so that important matter took priority.



Insurance

The great news is that the insurance premiums have been reduced while the same great range of activities are still covered. The list of activities is: bushwalking, recreational walking, walking, track / hut construction and maintenance , canyoning / liloing, alpine walking (summer & winter), canoeing / kayaking, boating/rafting, swimming, cycling, rock scurrying and use of hand held ropes and safety belay equipment as part of a bushwalk, snow skiing, abseiling, caving, orienteering / rogaining, leader training and other related instructions, rescue training activities, voluntary work for various charities and not for profit organisations, the provision of canteen, social and sporting clubs, first aid.

Please do note that rock-climbing is not included.

The Personal Accident insurance has an increase in Home Care from \$150 per week to \$250 per week with Nil extra premium applying, and a 90 day timeframe to lodge completed claim forms.

It's Sweet to Walk Soft

I'm delighted to announce that we will be going ahead with this project which has a focus on training and will utilise the latest technology to reach new bushwalkers and connect them with our clubs.

- Do you have advertising and/or marketing nouse? Fancy using your skills to capture the imagination of 20 somethings to care for our environment?
- Do you have IT skills? Fancy interacting with an IT start-up that can help with conservation?

Drop Kirsten a line at eo@bushwalkingnsw.org.au. I'm already building a team so don't miss out!

Sign up! Sign up!

Did you know that you can sign up to our newsletter directly? This way you'll get all the bushwalking news directly to your inbox. Just enter your email in this box on any page of our website: <http://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/about/>

Subscribe to our Newsletter

Email *

SUBSCRIBE!

Change of Address

You can now find Bushwalking NSW at Suite 302, Level 3, 52-58 William St, Woolloomooloo NSW 2011. Our postal address has also changed to: PO Box 904, Darlinghurst NSW 1300. We are still on 8003 5545.

Kirsten Mayer – Executive Officer, Bushwalking NSW

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

Bushwalking NSW - Keep exploring, be amazed!

www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au | admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au | 02 8003 5545

Accessing Natural Places

Spending time in nature has enormous health benefits both mentally, physically and emotionally, and is something that can now be enjoyed by absolutely anyone regardless of their physical abilities or sense of adventure.

We are entering an age where technology is improving at an astonishing rate. Lighter materials, longer battery life, and innovative engineering has opened up a world of endless possibilities for people who rely on mobility devices. Now there exist a fleet of chairs that enable people with disabilities to go further than ever before into natural places.

However, many of these chairs are expensive, cumbersome to store, and need a big vehicle to transport.

Addressing these problems, NSW National Parks now gives visitors the opportunity to hire all-terrain chairs. Visitors pre-book chairs through the relevant visitor centre, undergo a short induction session upon arrival, and have use of the chair for a day.



The two all-terrain chairs that NSW National Parks now offer are the "Hippocampe" and the "Trailrider". The "Hippocampe" is an All-Terrain Beach Wheelchair that is designed to travel well over sand and can be pushed directly into the sea. It's ideal for walking along beaches and going for a splash, and can be operated by one person. Hippocampes can be hired from the Sea Acres Rainforest Centre at Port Macquarie.

The TrailRider is a one-wheeled chair that is guided by 'sherpas', front and back and can tackle extremely rough and uneven tracks. It gives people with higher level needs the opportunity to immerse themselves in nature like never before, however, it does require two reasonably strong people at front and back to operate. TrailRiders can be hired out from the Kurnell Visitor Centre or Dorrigo Rainforest Centre.

The NDIS – National Disability Insurance Scheme – may also open up opportunities for bushwalkers with a disability to get hold of the equipment they need to access natural places. Perhaps a minor adaption to a day chair or a modification to the car might make the seemingly impossible, possible.

So what're you waiting for? Grab a chair and start planning your next adventure!

Helen Smith – Suboir (Sydney University Bushwalking Club) & NPA of NSW

See also: <http://havewheelchairwilltravel.net/accessible-bush-walk/>

<http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/access-friendly/trail-rider>

Bushwalking NSW - Keep exploring, be amazed!

www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au | admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au | 02 8003 5545

Last chance to get a Trailblazer double pass!



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 Kirsten at eo@bushwalkingnsw.org.au to apply.

Conservation Update

Hello there, bushwalking friends of biodiversity, This is your friendly conservation officer here. For those of you I have not yet met, my name is Sierra Classen. I am a passionate bushwalker and conservationist based in Sydney. I walk with the Sydney University Bushwalking Club (SUBW) and the Sydney Bushwalkers (SBW) most often. This newsletter, I have a few exciting pieces of news to bring you. Read on to find out what we've been up to and how you can engage with conservation from wherever you are.



Bushwalking NSW Stands Up for Biodiversity Protection in NSW

Bushwalking NSW has made a submission opposing the draft state biodiversity legislation (known as the Biodiversity Conservation Bill 2016 and the Local Land Services Amended Bill 2016). We also decided to send our pleas for environmental protection and wise management (broadly) to the Premier of NSW, Mike Baird and to the Minister for the Environment, Mark Speakman. The submission and the letters have been acknowledged. Premier Baird's office has already responded to our letter by delegating the matter back to the Minister for the Environment. He informed us in a briefly worded electronic letter that he had forwarded our concerned correspondence about the draft bills onto Minister Mark Speakman.

Please get in touch if you would like to see a copy of our submission Let us know if you and/or your club also made a submission so we can celebrate your efforts in the next newsletter (and generally amongst ourselves).

Letters to our Future Prime Minister and Cabinet

Whatever the outcome of this federal election, bushwalkers in our NSW clubs walk in locations around Australia and thus have an interest in nature conservation nation-wide. Bushwalking NSW wants to know what you would like to see the federal government focusing on in the next three years.

Dream big!

Make it an agenda item at your next committee meeting.

Bushwalking NSW

NEWSLETTER

Edition 31

June 2016

Tell us how the incoming Australian government should be looking after our favourite wild places across this beautiful sunburnt country. We'd love to hear from you.

Draft wild horse management plan for Kosciuszko National Park

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service is seeking feedback on its Kosciuszko National Park Draft Wild Horse Management Plan 2016. If you would like to make a submission, the Colong Foundation for Wilderness has made available a [submission guide](#) and [draft submission](#). Submissions close **19 August 2016**.

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



Are you going to NavShield this weekend?

It's the 28th Annual NavShield Event this weekend (2 & 3 July 2016). For a last minute dash to join in the fun, visit [Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad](#).

We look forward to seeing who wins!

Tracks and Access

Warragamba Dam wall to be raised 14m

In mid June, the NSW government announced that they were committed to raising the height of Warragamba Dam wall by 14 metres, in order to reduce the likelihood of flood disasters in western Sydney. A SMH article can be found here <http://goo.gl/lmXVJC>

Environment groups have responded in opposition to the announcement, citing the killing of river bank vegetation, deposition of sediment and the scaring of wilderness areas. See Blue Mountains Gazette article here - <http://goo.gl/N7bCgo>

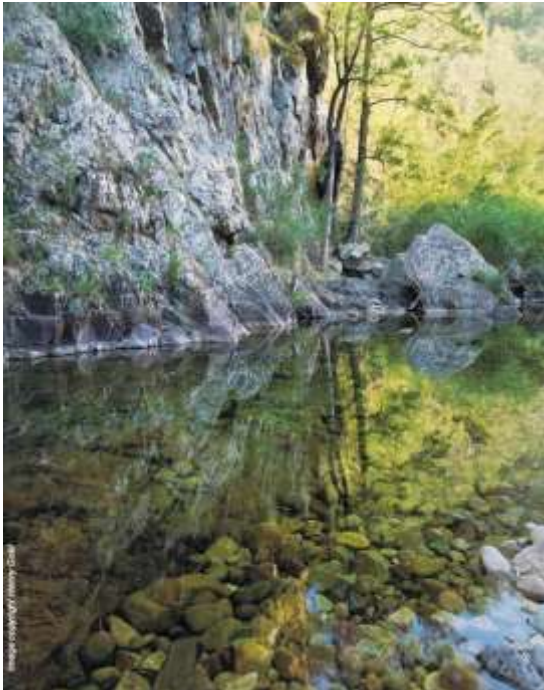
Lake Burratorang, the dams stored water body, lies within the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Currently, the high water mark sits at the junction of the Kowmung and Cocks River (Kowmung shown left). It is possible to visualise what the impacts on these areas will be when they are 45 foot under water.



Further analysis of the impacts is difficult to undertake due to lack of details, but hopefully a better assessment can be made by environmental groups as more information comes to light. A similar dam raising proposal, for both dam protection and flood mitigation, was fought against in a successful campaign over two decades ago by groups including the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs of NSW.

Bushwalking NSW - Keep exploring, be amazed!

www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au | admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au | 02 8003 5545



BNSW will be following the matter closely over the coming months, providing updates to the clubs with our conservation officer Sierra Classen focusing on the environmental side of the issue. One aspect that I will be focusing on as tracks and access officer are the impacts to walking in the area. This includes impacts on tracks such as the Mittagong to Katoomba route where it crosses the Coxs River near Kelpie Point, and the possibility of an expanded inner catchment restricted access area. Such an expansion has the potential to prevent bushwalkers from visiting the iconic Blue Breaks or even Splendour Rock.

As always, please get in touch with myself if you or your fellow bushwalkers have any tracks and access issues you wish for us to look into.

Think before you TREK - Online trip intention form

It has been announced an online trip intention form will be introduced for the "Think before you TREK", with trials now underway.

For over ten years, Police rescue and NPWS in the Blue Mountains have run the TREK campaign. It involved providing free hire of PLBs to the public along with the opportunity to lodge paper-based trip intention forms before parties headed out into this bush.

On average each month, the program currently sees around 150 trip intention forms lodged, and in the Blue Mountains, and 1 PLB activation from loaned devices. Each PLB activation is reported to save between 5 hours and multiple days of search time, along with the accompanying resources.

Since the program was first launched, PLBs have reduced in both size and cost, meaning that many bushwalkers these days now own and carry their own PLB. Other

devices such as the SPOT Satellite Messenger now exist which allow the user to send a range of different messages, and has online tracking functionality.



www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQxkqIY9gM

What this means is that bushwalkers who own or have access to a PLB are not as likely to partake in "Think before you TREK", and their trip intentions won't be registered with the Police.

Bushwalking NSW - Keep exploring, be amazed!

www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au | admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au | 02 8003 5545

Bushwalking NSW

NEWSLETTER

Edition 31

June 2016

Now, Police and NPWS are working to expand the reach of TREK:



Page 2

This letter is being forwarded to a number of agencies and key stakeholders to inform them of these developments. I encourage you to convey this information to your staff and others amongst your respective networks.

The trial will run for six months. Following the trial, a web-based trip intention form will be available to visitors. For the period of the trial we will be seeking feedback. If you learn of any particular aspects associated with the online trip intention form trial that will aid future development or influence the way a park visitor uses this system we would like to hear about it. Please contact the NPWS Upper Mountains Area Manager, Richard Kingswood on Richard.kingswood@environment.nsw.gov.au or 4787 3109 if you wish to lodge any feedback in relation to the trial.

Thank you for the services you provide to ensure the safety and well-being of national park visitors. It is NPWS intention that further advances in the "*Think before you TREK*" program will make your work easier whilst striving to enhance this objective.

Yours sincerely,

TOM BAGNAT
Director Park Management, Metro and Mountains
National Parks and Wildlife Service

Alex Allchin – Tracks and Access Officer, Bushwalking NSW | E: tracksandaccess@bushwalkingnsw.org.au

Can you help in this adventure?

You can help grow the influence and presence of bushwalking and our clubs in our state by helping us with time planning, communications, project planning, accounting, scheduling, finance, accounts administration, our conservation actions, our office move, club promotion, the newsletter, The Bushwalker, our strategic plan, risk management, the website, our social media presence, advocacy, IT, insurance, finding grants and funding sources, our contacts list, our constitution. Pick your flavour of activity, there's plenty to enjoy!

Bushwalking NSW - Keep exploring, be amazed!

www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au | admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au | 02 8003 5545

Bushwalking NSW

NEWSLETTER

Edition 31

June 2016

Contributions

Email or post news, views, club profiles, articles, photographs, sketches and letters on any topic of interest to bushwalkers (publication is subject to editorial approval) to admin@bushwalkingnsw.org.au.

Deadline for the July 2016 edition: 15th July 2016.

The statements and opinions expressed in articles are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views or position of Bushwalking NSW.

Editor: Kirsten Mayer