

# Bushwalking NSW

## NEWSLETTER

Edition 32  
August 2016

*Keep exploring, be amazed!*



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### From the Vice President



#### Where's that canyon?

Well, I've been invited to fill in for our ever active President Mitch Isaacs who is currently enjoying an extended holiday of adventure overseas. His last known location was canyoning somewhere in Slovakia, see the photo right.



*Slovenský raj National Park, Slovakia*

Alex Allchin – Vice President, Bushwalking NSW E: [tracksandaccess@bushwalkingnsw.org.au](mailto:tracksandaccess@bushwalkingnsw.org.au)

### From the Executive Officer

#### It's Sweet to Walk Soft

I'm delighted to announce that the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust, has awarded Bushwalking NSW funding to support the "It's Sweet to Walk Soft" (ISWS) project.



"It's Sweet to Walk Soft" seeks to promote nature conservation and protection of biodiversity and biosecurity in NSW, utilising the principle that: People protect what they love.

There is a current upsurge of urban dwellers being encouraged to venture into nature. 27.3% of NSW residents went bushwalking either regularly or occasionally in 2015 - up from 17.2% in 2011 (Source: Roy Morgan Single Source (Australia)). Some of these people are learning about our natural areas through city-lifestyle newsletters and social media – sources which don't teach Minimal Impact Bushwalking and Bushwalker Safety.

Through the "It's Sweet to Walk Soft" project we aim to share the skills and practices to engage safely and softly with the bush with these newcomers. The project aims to:

1. Reinforce the awareness of our existing bushwalking club members in Minimal Impact Bushwalking and biosecurity principles and practices.
2. Introduce the new bushwalkers and adventurers in NSW who are using online bushwalking mediums to the principles of caring for nature and Minimal Impact Bushwalking, biosecurity, and nature conservation; with a professional electronic communication campaign.

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

3. Continue to actively engage with our members and these newcomers through our website, newsletter, and face-to-face training in environmental conservation and biosecurity.

Feel free to contact me if you'd like more information or would like to be involved in this initiative.

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



## Insurance

### New Role

Bushwalking Australia (BA) wishes to advise that David Gordon, our National Insurance Officer is stepping down after seven years in the role. We all owe David a vote of thanks for his significant contributions in this time, for the impact he has had on improving our insurance arrangements and the support he has directly provided to club officials and club members.

BA has decided not to appoint a replacement insurance officer because much of the responsibility and workload previously covered by this role is now being undertaken by the insurance broker.

Instead, BA would like to appoint a **volunteer insurance contract manager**. The responsibilities would include: managing the relationship between BA and the insurance broker; overseeing the service agreement between the broker and BA; managing the annual insurance renewal process; responding to enquiries from member clubs and state bodies and/or referring them to the broker. Experience in managing or coordinating activities plus skill in using Microsoft Excel would be an advantage. Experience in the insurance industry would also be an advantage, but is not a requirement as only the broker or insurers have the authority to provide advice on the specifics of the insurance policies.

If you are interested in volunteering for this role or have questions about the role, please contact me at [president@bushwalkingaustralia.org.au](mailto:president@bushwalkingaustralia.org.au).

## Property Insurance



One item of interest is the provision of insurance for property (building and contents etc) owned by clubs. Our new insurance broker, JLT Sport is happy to provide a quote after you either complete an **[Application Form](#)** or send in a copy of your current policy schedule.

Contact Kirsten on [eo@bushwalkingnsw.org.au](mailto:eo@bushwalkingnsw.org.au) for contact details to



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forward these documents to, or give JLT Sport call on 1300 130 373 and ask for our account manager: Rob Richard. For a copy of JLT's Property Insurance Policy Wording, Product Disclosure Statement and Financial Services Guide and the application form, please visit: [www.jltsport.com.au/assetprotect](http://www.jltsport.com.au/assetprotect).

### Volunteer of the Month



We'd like to shout out a very warm call of thanks to Leonie Bell, our website Content Editor. It's thanks to Leonie, that the Bushwalking NSW website has all the content it has and in such good order. Leonie refreshes the home page links and edits copy for pages in lightening quick time. We're very lucky to have her help. Many thanks Leonie!

Leonie is also tireless as she'd like to ask you to send her more content – your favourite walks – to add them to our website:

[www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au](http://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au)

### Where to walk



Send in your favourite walk to be added to our website Feature Walks. In particular we need on-track walks, and the item must be accompanied by a photo in landscape mode, preferably 1000 pixels wide and 500 pixels high. The information must include name of walk, length, grade and description of difficulty, a description of the walk, relevant maps or guides. The information does not need to be formatted as Leonie will do that when adding it to the website.

A promotional banner for SpringTrek Sydney 2016. The banner features a photo of four hikers on the left, a central photo of a hiker with a race bib number 1180, and a blue bar at the bottom with text. The text includes: "IT'S TIME TO PUT DOWN YOUR LAPTOPS, PUT ON YOUR TRAIL BOOTS & WALK FOR WORLD CHANGE!", "Raise funds for Room to Read by trekking 18 or 30km in the beautiful Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park", and "Register Now: www.springtrek.com.au". Logos for SpringTrek Sydney and Room to Read are also present.

benefitting: Room to Read  
7 August 2016

IT'S TIME TO PUT DOWN YOUR LAPTOPS, PUT ON YOUR TRAIL BOOTS & WALK FOR WORLD CHANGE!

Raise funds for Room to Read by trekking 18 or 30km in the beautiful Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park  
Register Now: [www.springtrek.com.au](http://www.springtrek.com.au)





**Warning:** The following images depict the trampled desecration of unique habitats and irreplaceable ecological areas Kosciuszko National Park.





### Conservation Update

Hello, avid environmentalist bushwalkers and bushwalking conservationists,

This is your friendly conservation officer here. As you can see above, the theme this month is NPWS's new Plan of Management and **Wild Horse Management Program** for Kosciuszko National Park. Culling the feral horse population there (sometimes referred to as brumbies or wild horses) is a key issue that has received much attention in the media. This is a crucial moment in the history of Australia's fragile and exquisite alpine and subalpine ecosystems (**Kosciuszko National Park**).



There are many fierce arguments on both sides of the fence (Pro and Anti-Feral Horse Conservation), but Bushwalking NSW is clear where it stands on this issue, see our webpage and policy here <http://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/feral-horses/> Feral horses do not belong in protected subalpine and alpine areas where they are desecrating the unique sphagnum bogs, home to the critically endangered corroboree frog. Sure frogs don't prance around in wind blown herds like brumbies do, but that doesn't mean they are less important. Don't let me tell you though, see for yourself on the [Corroboree Frog conservation site](#).

Please show your support for NPWS's feral horse population management procedures ('wild horse management program'). Submissions are due by the **19<sup>th</sup> of August**. Conservation officers, why not create a submission for your club? Start discussing the issue now though, because it can raise a few controversies.

The [NPWS community consultation page](#) for the plan of management has a number of helpful resources to give you more information about breadth and magnitude of Koszie's feral horse problem (including photos, of which some are included in my collage above). You may want to use the [Colong Foundation's dedicated feral horse management webpage](#) for inspiration and guidance.

Thank you for your continued dedication to bushwalking and protection of our wild places.

**Get in touch!** Even if you just want to say hi and introduce yourself as either the conservation officer for your club, or a club member who especially concerned about nurturing relationship between bushwalking clubs and conservation. Don't forget to send us stories about what you are doing for conservation or about major threats you and your club members see damaging our beloved parks. We would love to celebrate your achievements and amplify your indignation and concern.

Yours sincerely,

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

### Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad – Updates

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) continues to be an active volunteer rescue squad and a great asset to Bushwalking NSW (BNSW). BWRS is an affiliate of BNSW and the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association where it is respected as a specialist remote area search and rescue squad.



NavShield on 2 / 3 July at Wombeyan Caves was probably our best ever NavShield. Planning is going ahead for an annual visit to Barrington Tops to search for VH-MDX. Once again, BWRS will be providing Safety Response Teams for OXFAM TrailWalker in August. Great training is always happening along with regular requests to assist NSW Police in remote area search.

One hundred and thirty teams comprising over 450 emergency services personnel, rogainers and bushwalkers participated in BWRS NavShield 2016. These teams were either part of the ONE day or overnight TWO day event. The teams used their map & compass skills (no GPS) in remote area bush navigation to locate check point flags that ranged from very easy to very hard to find. It's a great way to practice bush navigation. NavShield was another friendly event that should not be missed in 2017. Many teams keep coming back to receive awards for 5, 10, 15 & more years of NavShielding. Don't let these people have all the fun; set aside the first weekend of July 2017 to be part of NavShield!

OXFAM TrailWalker is a 48 hour / 100km challenge walk on the urban fringe of Sydney. Over multiple shifts BWRS will provide Safety Responses Teams for this large friendly event of over 2,000 walkers. Incidents can never be predicted so BWRS has had quiet events or challenging events where BWRS and NSW Ambulance Paramedics did difficult evacuations. Being part of this annual fund raiser is always great publicity for BWRS and 'something special'.



The St John Ambulance "Provide First Aid" and "Remote Area First Aid" offered in May 2016 was fully booked and well received. Trainees who missed out are already registering at the BWRS Website for the November courses – see [www.bwrs.org.au](http://www.bwrs.org.au) You could also get in early before these courses are again fully booked.

BWRS is far more active than this short report can present. Our website has good safety information and information on distress beacons / remote area communications and many other topics plus how to become part of this great community asset for NSW and Bushwalking NSW.

Keith Maxwell – President, Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad | W: [www.bwrs.org.au](http://www.bwrs.org.au)