

# Bushwalking NSW

## NEWSLETTER

Edition 33  
September

*Keep exploring, be amazed!*



*Dumaresq Dam near Armidale. Photo: Kirsten Mayer*

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### From the President

Welcome to the September edition of the Bushwalking NSW Newsletter. With Spring finally here and the hours of daylight getting longer with each day that passes, I hope you've got some interesting walks coming up.

Last month we held our Annual General Meeting at Redfern Town Hall. It was good to see a range of clubs represented and to hear what they have been up to since our last general meeting. We were also treated to a demo of a new adventure trip planning service called WEJUGO by founder Mike Welling.

The election of the committee resulted in the change of President, Vice President and Secretary, the composition of the new committee can be found on page 3. We also said goodbye to David Trinder and Dick Weston, who both stepped down after many years of involvement with Bushwalking NSW. Their contribution has been greatly appreciated.

In taking over as President, I'd like to thank Mitch Isaacs for all the work he has done for the organisation over the last year and a half. He's overseen a lot of change in this time and we're positioned for exciting times ahead. Do take the time to have a look at our [annual report](#) for an overview of all the things we've been up to over the past 12 months.

Jumping straight into things, I've just had a meeting with the Environment Protection Agency regarding the review of Clarence Colliery's discharge licence into the World Heritage Wollangambe River. The dynamics of the meeting was quite interesting, with regulators, scientists, community groups and representatives from Centennial Coal all present and part of the discussion. The level of transparency in the review process that the EPA has shown so far is encouraging, and I believe that the end outcome will be a win for our wild and much loved Wollangambe.

Next week I'm meeting with Spatial Services out at their Bathurst office. They are the new government agency responsible for mapping within NSW, and were previously part of Land and Property Information (LPI) before it was broken down and sections privatised. Bushwalking NSW is hoping to form a strong link with Spatial Services going forwards, and initial discussions will focus on improving the quality of mapping for bushwalkers in both paper and digital formats.

There's a lot going on with the organisation at the moment, and many ways to be involved. So if you're interested in furthering the bushwalking cause in the state, do get in touch with our Executive Officer Kirsten, or myself.

I'm always happy to talk.

Alex Allchin – President, Bushwalking NSW E: [president@bushwalkingnsw.org.au](mailto:president@bushwalkingnsw.org.au) 0433 263 989

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### From the Executive Officer

We had a great turn out at the AGM this month. Mike Welling gave an interesting presentation on his [WEJUGO](#) app. Many of our existing committee members committed to another year, with a few position changes:

President:	<b>Alex Allchin</b>	Ordinary Committee Members:
Vice President:	<b>Mitchell Isaacs</b>	<b>Keith Maxwell</b>
Secretary:	<b>Sierra Classen</b>	<b>George Quinn</b>
Treasurer:	<b>Ed Youds</b>	<b>Margaret Covi</b> (Public Officer)



I'd like to thank David Trinder and Dick Weston for their years of service on the Bushwalking NSW management committee. David gave us our modern name of Bushwalking NSW and his ideas on Meet-up groups has influenced our current project to reach out to them, so thank you David. Dick has been and still delivers The Bushwalker to the Blue Mountains outdoor stores for us, so thank you Dick.

### It's Sweet to Walk Soft

The "It's Sweet to Walk Soft" (ISWS) project has launched with a burst of activity this month.

- Madeleine Miller joined Bushwalking NSW as our Campaign Officer for the project – volunteering 3.5 days a week to Bushwalking NSW and the project over the coming months. Thanks Maddy!
- We met with NPWS to ensure our messages are aligned on minimal impact bushwalking. NPWS said they will encourage people to join bushwalking clubs. They want to see our club memberships grow.
- Sharon Fulcher has compiled an overview of walking organisation websites and how bushwalking codes of conduct, minimal impact bushwalking, and biosecurity/weed hygiene are being promoted.
- Eight creative people met to brainstorm key messages for the project.
- Mike Welling gave us an interesting presentation of [WEJUGO](#) at our AGM.
- Andrew Cox (<http://invasives.org.au/>) and Caro Ryan (<http://lotsafreshair.com/>) joined the project steering committee and have already contributed great ideas to the project.

"It's Sweet to Walk Soft" seeks to promote nature conservation and protection of biosecurity in NSW, through information and training. This project has been assisted by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust.



Kirsten Mayer – Executive Officer, Bushwalking NSW

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### RAFA course receives great review

The new look St John Ambulance "Provide First Aid" and "Remote Area First Aid" offered in May 2016 were fully booked and well received. Geoff Fox, President of the Upper Blue Mountains Bushwalking Club said:

*"Today I completed the RAFA course conducted by Belinda and John. The course was extremely well presented combining on-line learning, theory and practical sessions. Belinda and John's extensive bushwalking knowledge meant that the course was highly relevant to wilderness situations. The group was a mix of scout leaders and bushwalkers. We shared experiences and got on very well together. I highly recommend this course."*



May 2016 PFA & RAFA Course photos courtesy Geoff Fox

### Sign up now for First Aid Training in November

The Trainees who missed out in May are already registering at the BWRS Website for the November courses – see [www.bwrs.org.au](http://www.bwrs.org.au) So don't delay your registration as these courses are over half booked already. You could have a long wait until May 2017 for the next pair of these worthwhile First Aid courses.

#### Course Dates

- Provide First Aid/Remote First Aid - day one - Sunday 13 November 2016
- Remote First Aid - days two and three - 19-20 November 2016
- Registration closing date Thursday 19:00 3 November 2016

Registration closes when available places are taken or 10 days before the course (St John requirement) and no late registrations can be accepted. Sign up here: <http://www.bwrs.org.au>

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

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### Event: Rachel Carson & Marie Byles – two exceptional women who loved Nature

Saturday 15th October, 2016, 10am-12 noon

US writer, Rachel Carson's (1907-1964) book *Silent Spring* is claimed to have heralded in the modern environment movement. Australia's Marie Byles (1900-1979) is recognized as NSW's first practicing woman solicitor as well as a leading woman bushwalker, mountain climber and conservationist. This comparative study of these two women conservationists – an American and Australian – will reveal much about the history of the modern environment movement. Tutor: Janine Kitson. Bookings essential. Contact WEA, SYDNEY Ph: (02) 9264 2781 E: [info@weasydney.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@weasydney.nsw.edu.au)  
See: <https://www.weasydney.com.au/course/RCMB>



Byles on left. Photo: State Library of New South Wales  
Carson on right. Photo: <http://www.ecologycenter.us/>

### Great Grose Weed Walk

Blue Mountains National Park is a spectacular World Heritage wilderness right on Sydney's doorstep. NSW National Parks has long recognised the community's deep love for this place, and appreciation of its natural, conservation and economic values. The desire to protect it is strong, and brings its own rewards.



Photo: GGW

**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

The Great Grose Weed Walk has been going for over 22 years. This volunteer program encourages everyone to join in and protect this precious area by helping to stop the spread of weeds. All are welcome, and most activities don't require bushcare experience.

The Spring 2016 program offers a wide range of activities in remote and more accessible places, and you can find out more (02) 47 87 8877. Book your place now – you can really make a difference!

**CALL (02) 4787 8877 TO BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW – YOU CAN REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

See Great Grose Weed Walk on the NPWS site.

### The Castle Log Book

Hello All,

I have just returned today from the walk up to the Castle in the Budawangs and the log book was on its last page. If any club is interested in keeping these books going, and have a trip up there shortly, then I will leave it up to you. I live in St Marys so I will not be going down there again for a long time. If you know of another club that is going there soon and want to replace the book, then pass this information on.

Happy bushwalking,

John Murray



Photo: <http://www.visitbraidwood.com.au/budanatpark>

### Event: Bushcare Get Involved!

Bushcare's Major Day Out is a day designed to give every one of us the opportunity to find out more about our bushland. What is being done? What can be done in the bush where we live, so that it thrives?

It's a fun day where anyone, young and old can work and learn alongside experts. There are a range of activities; weed removal, walks, planting, as well as native plant identification and great morning teas. Get involved! **Come on, bring a friend!** See: [www.bushcaresmajordayout.org](http://www.bushcaresmajordayout.org)



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### Event: Gardens of Stone - In Focus

Be among the first to hear about a new report on the Gardens of Stone region, the first to see a stunning new video and be one of the first to lay your hands on a new map of the area.

Talks and workshops on landscape photography and bushwalking (one day pass \$30, and two day pass \$55). Curated by Anthony Bond OAM, one of the greats of Australia's art scene, and presented by the ABC's Julie McCrossin, the "Gardens of Stone: In Focus" exhibition showcases in spectacular images the unique beauty of one of Sydney's best kept secrets. Meet the photographers, see the beauty of the Gardens of Stone through their lens and enjoy free drinks and nibbles. Register today.



Courtesy of the Colong Foundation, *Landscape of ancient ruins*, Henry Gold

FREE exhibition of 160 exquisite photographs, FREE Food & Drinks  
Sydney Law School, University of Sydney, September 17-18  
Exhibition opening - Saturday 17 September 10AM - 5:30PM and Sunday 10AM to 2PM  
FREE Celebration and Award ceremony (free drinks and nibbles) from Saturday 2:00PM.  
See: [www.colongwilderness.org.au](http://www.colongwilderness.org.au)

### BWRS is Very Active

Members of Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) have recently done more great bushwalks in assisting at different events. BWRS brings great credit to the bushwalking movement in NSW and we are currently very active.

Over 9 – 12 August BWRS teams searched seldom visited areas of Lower Portland as part of an extensive search for a missing overseas student. We were successful in finding possible clues regarding the missing person. (My hand line had a day out)



From 19 – 21 August BWRS assisted OXFAM TrailWalker. This is a 48 hour / 100km challenge walk on the urban fringe of Sydney. Over multiple shifts BWRS provided Safety Responses Teams for this large friendly event of over 2,000 walkers. Incidents can never be predicted but fine weather this year minimised incidents for BWRS.

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During September more great bushwalks will be held in Barrington Tops as BWRS continues its search for a small plane that disappeared on a bleak night in 1981. A commercial pilot in BWRS is leading research into the possible final movements of VH-MDX with modern computer simulations.

BWRS is far more active than this short report can present. If you are a bushwalker then BWRS would like to share these great activities with you. Our website [www.bwrs.org.au](http://www.bwrs.org.au) has good safety information and information on distress beacons / remote area communications and many other topics plus how you too can become part of this great community asset for NSW and Bushwalking NSW.



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

## Core AAAS Standards released for public consultation

The core standards containing all of the common content for all the Australian AAS has just been released for public comment. The Q&A section give an overview of key issues the core standards address at [www.yoursay.australianaas.org.au/core-standards/qa/](http://www.yoursay.australianaas.org.au/core-standards/qa/) The draft core standards will be available at [www.yoursay.australianaas.org.au/core-standards](http://www.yoursay.australianaas.org.au/core-standards) All feedback submissions will be via the website submission forms. Submissions **close on the 30 September 2016**.



Photo: [www.yoursay.australianaas.org.au](http://www.yoursay.australianaas.org.au)

Following the development of the core AAS standards, there will also be a specific AAS for bushwalking and camping. The working group developing that standard is listed here: <http://australianaas.org.au/working-groups/members/bushwalking-camping-twg/> and includes members from Bushwalking Australia, the peak body for recreational bushwalkers in Australia. Bushwalking NSW is affiliated to and in liaison with Bushwalking Australia. You can sign up for email updates here: <http://australianaas.org.au/working-groups/members/bushwalking-camping-twg/>

## Copeland Tops State Conservation Area Draft PoM review

The Copeland Tops State Conservation Area [plan of management](#) is available for public review. You are invited to make a [written submission](#) on the draft by 2 December, 2016.





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What is your plan for the local council election?



With local council elections coming up on 10 September 2016, now is time to start thinking about how your local council candidates rate when it comes to the environment. Which candidates will be putting the environment at the top of their agenda for your local area?

[Download This Local Government Policy Platform](#)

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We've unearthed a Wild Dog Mountains map for you to enjoy!



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