

Bushwalking NSW

NEWSLETTER

Edition 36

January 2017

Keep exploring, be amazed!



Majestic Snow Gums – let’s ensure we protect them and Kosciuszko! Photo: Kirsten Mayer

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Win tickets to the Mountainfilm Tour!

Need some more inspiration to get out and adventure? Bushwalking NSW is excited to announce that members who complete our [2017 Club Survey](#) by **6th February** will go in the draw to win one of three double passes to the [Telluride Mountainfilm Festival](#).



This inaugural [Telluride Mountainfilm](#) tour will screen across Australia and NZ in February-April 2017 and focus on the best outdoor adventure films from the annual festival in Telluride, Colorado, USA.

Bushwalking NSW is looking for your feedback and ideas in the [Club Survey](#) to better understand:

1. Which Bushwalking NSW services and benefits are most important to you.
2. What projects you would like us to pursue if we can find funding and resources for them.
3. What challenges your club faces – to understand what might help.
4. If you have some skilled members who'd like to be involved in conservation outreach.
5. Demographic information – which helps in securing funding/advertising/sponsors.

The [Club Survey](#) will take around 20 minutes to complete and will give you a chance to win a double pass to the [Telluride Mountainfilm Festival](#) screening near you. Just complete the [survey](#) by **6th February** for your chance to win: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/3286914/2017-BushwalkingNSW-Club-Survey>



'STILL - When We Were Knights'



'STILL - Iceland Proven Here CREDIT - Craig Grant'



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

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From the Executive Officer

Happy 2017 everyone!

2017 Club Survey Competition

The biggest thing going on at Bushwalking NSW at present is our [2017 Club Survey](#). We've spent many hours trying to come up with the shortest list of questions we can think of which will allow you to give us feedback on what we should be doing.

Importantly, we are effectively asking: how should we be spending your money?



We've sent the [survey](#) specifically to your hard-working committee members but all club members are welcome to respond and, if you do so by **6th February** will go in the draw to win one of three double passes to the [Telluride Mountainfilm Festival](#).

Looking forward to hearing from you and wishing you all the best of luck!

PLB Activation Costs

A club enquired last month about who pays for a rescue when a club PLB is activated?

Some of our clubs purchase Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) which their club members can loan to take out on club outdoor adventures. Some were concerned, could the club be liable for the cost of the response to a PLB activation?



Keith Maxwell from BWRs provided very helpful advice, recommending all members take out air ambulance health insurance as the NSW & ACT governments don't pay for ambulance services for their residents. See details on ambulance costs in the [ACT](#) and [NSW](#).

I also contacted AMSA for a definitive answer, and they advised that "within the Australian Search & Rescue Region if you are in distress and require assistance there is no fee or cost billed to individuals who are rescued and transported to the nearest medical facility. Costs of additional transportation is not covered, we recommend Ambulance cover is obtained."

AMSA also shared a wealth of information on PLB use, and other device options, which I will share in the next newsletter. In the meantime, you can find more information on their website: www.amsa.gov.au/beacons

Kirsten Mayer – Executive Officer, Bushwalking NSW | P: 8003 5545 | E: eo@bushwalkingnsw.org.au

Please note our office hours have changed to: **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday**

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Be Prepared

You've planned your walk, checked the weather and packed plenty of water and snacks, but have you thought about sun safety?

Bushwalk Australia's Editor and former Scout leader, Matt McClelland, encourages his readers to "be prepared" when it comes to sun protection.



Credit: Melanoma March 2017

"Melanoma is one of those few cancers that is largely preventable and we can play an active role in reducing our risk," says Matt. "Through Bushwalk Australia, I encourage people to get outdoors and enjoy our bushland. But I also want to encourage people to do that safely; not just for the single journey, but for life-long safety."

So this summer, Matt has teamed up with Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA) to help ensure you are prepared:

1. Don't just rely on sunscreen to protect yourself

Utilise all 5 ways to protect yourself: hat, shade, sunglasses, clothing and sunscreen.



2. Know when to protect yourself

When checking the weather before you leave home for your hike, also check the UV index.

3. Know your skin

Take a little time to get to know your skin by looking carefully from head to toe, including places that don't typically get sun exposure.

"In men, melanoma is most commonly found on the back," says Ms Renouf. "And in women, the most common site is the calves. Ask family or friends to check for skin changes in places you can't see."

4. Educate yourself

The first symptom of a melanoma is usually the appearance of a new spot, or a change in an existing freckle or mole. The change may be noticed over several weeks or months.

Every day, four Australians die from the disease. It is also the most common cancer in young people, claiming the lives of more young Aussies (20-39 years old) than any other cancer.

To help raise awareness of melanoma and to support vital research, Matt is dedicating the monthly bushwalk in March to *Move for Melanoma*, a new initiative from MIA through their Melanoma March campaign. If you can't make the walk, you can donate or host your own *Move for Melanoma* event in March 2017. Register to *Move for Melanoma* at melanomamarch.org.au and help MIA move closer towards finding a cure for melanoma.

Conservation Update: Development planned for Kosciuszko National Park

The ABC investigates the impact of growing tourism within the Kosciuszko National Park, voicing the concerns of scientists and environmentalists that the natural surroundings and inhabitants of the Park, such as the Snowy Mountain River System and Corroboree frog are under threat. The National Parks and Wildlife Services aim to minimise the effects of development in the Park, however large scale development is set to go ahead. www.abc.net.au/news/kosciuszko



Credit: ABC News: Alison Branley

Maddy Miller –Campaign Officer, Bushwalking NSW | E: newsletter@bushwalkingnsw.org.au

Tracks and Access: All you need to know about the tracks of New England!

It's the New Year, so it's time to try something new! How about exploring the bush of the New England area? The fantastic website developed by Colin Wood of the Armidale bushwalkers covers everything you will need to know. Click through and explore the interactive map, featuring photographs of each area, information on the local flora and fauna as well as the logistical and topographical details required for the many multi-day walks. Bus timetables are included for those without cars. Happy Exploring! www.walk-new-england.org



Maddy Miller –Campaign Officer, Bushwalking NSW | E: newsletter@bushwalkingnsw.org.au

Upcoming events for your club calendar

Please let all your members know that the Bushwalking NSW General Meetings are open for all club members to attend. You don't have to be a delegate for your club, the presentations are entertaining, and you can network and nibble. We currently have the following keynotes planned:

Date	Keynote Speaker	Topic
7pm 21 st Feb 2017	Greg Kirk, Special Ambulance Rescue Team Paramedic	How bushwalkers can prepare for rescue operations
7pm 16 th May 2017	Sharon Fulcher, NPA of NSW	What is the latest in Minimal Impact Bushwalking & Biosecurity?

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Do you have Advertising knowledge?

Volunteer needed: "The Bushwalker" magazine is planning to go all electronic on the web. Bushwalking NSW needs advice from an advertising professional on attracting advertisers to a web medium. We need to know the best digital formats and advice on pricing for electronic media. If you can help or have a friend who could please contact Kirsten Mayer on P: (02) 8003 5545 | E: eo@bushwalkingnsw.org.au

Vale Dug Floyd

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) was shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of highly respected member Dug Floyd on December 15. Recently, he had slowed down a little but still seemed indestructible.



BWRS had gained from his experience for over thirteen years. Dug was an active member of Newcastle Bushwalking Club as a leader of exploratory trips into the Wollemi National Park and canyon trips. In earlier years Dug was a life saver plus hang glider / light aircraft pilot.

Dug served BWRS in many roles including NavShield Course Setter; a demanding task for an experienced navigator. He helped raise funds for BWRS with our map sale of old topographic maps. From progression as a Vertical Rescue Operator to Instructor Dug also became known to other VRA squads (NSW Volunteer Rescue Association).



Pilot Dug took an active interest in BWRS searches for the plane lost during a wild night of August 1981 in Barrington Tops, identification code VH-MDX. I was just one who did a private search with him.

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During his time on the Training Sub Committee multiple training documents were developed. The BWRS website (www.bwrs.org.au) is stronger from his role as one of the web masters. Many members have benefitted from Dug's mentoring. For twelve years Dug was one of the BWRS Safety Teams Co-ordinators for OXFAM TrailWalker. He typically, would work multiple shifts. An impressive BWRS 'CV'.

The strength of BWRS is that it is fortunate to have members with a range of skills. Dug was one of our many skilled members. BWRS has lost a bushwalker of many special skills who will be hard to replace. On December 22 over 20 BWRS members joined a broad cross section of family and friends in a celebration of his life. Outside of bushwalking and BWRS Dug Floyd had a keen personal life so he was well remembered for a full life, lived well.

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

