

Bushwalking NSW

NEWSLETTER

Edition 38

April 2017

Keep exploring, be amazed!



Credit: Sydney Bushwalking Club Facebook Group

Contents

Sign-up to our new format for a chance to win cinema tickets!	2
From the Executive Officer	2
Changes to our newsletter: What you need to know	2
Insurance Questionnaires	3
How incorporation benefits you and your club.....	3
Win for the Wollangambe River - stricter EPA limits on mine	4
Conservation Update	5
Sturt National Park Draft Plan of Management	5
Cooler habitats may hold key to koala survival	5
Tracks and Access.....	6
Reopened: Glow Worm Tunnel Track, Wollemi National Park	6
Meet our new newsletter co-editor: Jill O'Meara	6
Upcoming events	7
*How can we "Leave No Trace" when bushwalking?.....	7

Sign-up to our new format for a chance to win cinema tickets!

Bushwalking NSW is delighted to be finally bringing you a friendlier, easier to read monthly newsletter from next month! The new format will be easier for you to read especially from a mobile device. You also get to choose what other announcements you'd like to know about, just pick your choices in the [sign-up form](#).

[Sign-up](#) to our new newsletter **by 30 April** and go into the draw for **three double passes** to the "[Mountainfilm - Women's Screening](#)" in Sydney on 16 May from 6:30 – 10pm at [Randwick Ritz, 54 St Pauls Street, Randwick](#).



See the film [preview here](#). Book your own tickets, see who's going, and find [more info here](#).

From the Executive Officer

Changes to our newsletter: What you need to know

We write our newsletter content with our club members, club committee members, and also our general website subscribers in mind. The new [sign-up form](#) will allow us to better tailor our newsletter and other email announcements to these different audiences.

By [signing up](#) your email address will be added to our new email system (MailChimp) which means a lot more of our work in collating the newsletter and emailing it to you is done automatically. That means we can spend more time on getting good content to you!

Clubs are welcome to encourage their members to individually [sign-up](#) to our newsletter – giving our hardworking committee members one less thing to do in passing our emails along!



We will continue to email our newsletter to each club's **committee address** until your club's committee email address is added to the new [sign-up](#) list because we don't want you to miss out on important announcements such as the one below! Just tick *committee member* and pick your club name from the drop-down list.

Club members are welcome to [sign-up](#) to receive the Bushwalking NSW Newsletter directly into their in-box – just enter your details and preferences on the [sign-up form](#).

Individuals who have already signed up for our newsletter from our website are kindly asked to [sign-up](#) again through the [sign-up form](#). This also allows you to pick what other information you'd like to receive!

All this signing up helps Bushwalking NSW maintain a squeaky-clean emailing record. This can be an important issue for clubs if you send emails in bulk. The issue is [spam](#). Because [spam](#) – the electronic type – is illegal. Learn more about spam at this [link](#).

So don't forget to [sign-up](#) to our new newsletter **by 30 April** and go into the draw for **three double passes** to the "[Mountainfilm - Women's Screening](#)" on 16 May from 6:30 – 10pm at [Randwick Ritz, 54 St Pauls Street, Randwick](#). We hope you enjoy the new format and wish you the best of luck!

Insurance Questionnaires

Many thanks to all the hard-working office bearers who have completed their club's annual insurance questionnaire. Well done!

The insurance surveys were due back on Sunday 16th April. If you haven't completed yours, please send it in right away. Thanks!



How incorporation benefits you and your club

A very diligent club secretary has asked me about the incorporation question in the insurance survey which has led to this article. How do bushwalking clubs benefit from being incorporated? It is a good question and an important one.

Firstly, incorporation turns your club into a legal entity capable entering into contracts, applying for grants etc. in the club's name. Without incorporation, individual office bearers and committee members may expose themselves to personal liability should something go wrong. These are the most important reasons for incorporation, and they are set out in more detail at the [Office of Fair Trading](#).

Incorporation also means [Bushwalking Australia Association Liability Policy](#) covers your club office bearers, committee members and Insured Persons (refer to [policy wording](#) for definition) from being personally pursued for 'wrongful acts' that lead to claims against either the club, the office bearer personally, or both. Just by paying for the public liability insurance for your members, your club receives this 'bonus' Association Liability, *however* your association (club) must be incorporated!

See details of the three kinds of insurance available to our member clubs through Bushwalking Australia:

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1. [Associations Liability Insurance:](#)
2. [Public Liability insurance:](#)
3. [Personal Accident Insurance:](#)

Want to know more about incorporation?

To find out the benefits of incorporation, head to the experts in this area, and visit the associations pages [NSW Office of Fair Trading](#). It doesn't take long to learn some very handy facts from their website!

Kirsten Mayer – Executive Officer, Bushwalking NSW

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

Win for the Wollangambe River - stricter EPA limits on mine

Many of you will be familiar with the campaign supported by Bushwalking NSW, scientists and other groups to get environmental restrictions imposed on the Clarence colliery, near Lithgow which has been found to have significantly polluted the Wollangambe River. In 2015, the mine spilled tonnes of toxic tailings into the river which resulted in an environmental disaster for the waterway.



Credit: Get out to the Gambe Facebook Group

It is fantastic to be able to report a win for conservation in this case.

As a result of the campaign to restrict the mine's impacts, the Environmental Protection Authority has finally imposed tougher new licence conditions on the owner, Centennial Coal.

Stringent new limits have been placed on the composition of mines outflows as well as stricter environmental water quality guidelines.

The Wollangambe River, which flows within the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and Wollemi National Park has been subject polluting discharges by the Clarence colliery since the 1980s.

Evidence gathered by University of Western Sydney environmental scientists led by Dr Ian Wright aided by the work of scores of volunteer bushwalkers and conservationists, revealed the Lithgow mine's effluent had created an ecological desert extending 22 kilometres downstream.

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Alex Allchin, vice-president of Bushwalking NSW and architect of the 2016 'Get out to the Gambe' campaign says it is a fantastic result for this environmentally significant river.

Congratulations and thank you to Alex, Bushwalking NSW members, and affiliated local groups, who have spent collectively hundreds of hours (at last count 828 community hours) visiting the river, collecting evidence and putting the case together for saving the river and its ecosystem.

See the EPA's [media release](#) for more information.

Note: The EPA has a separate prosecution underway in the NSW Land Environment Court over the 2015 spill, with parties due back in court in May. We'll give you an update on the outcome of this prosecution in an upcoming edition of the newsletter.

Conservation Update

Sturt National Park Draft Plan of Management

Sturt National Park is located in the state's far north-west corner, approximately 330 kilometres north of Broken Hill 400 kilometres west of Bourke. This significant desert park extends to the north, east and west of the town of Tibooburra and is bordered by Queensland to the north and South Australia to the west.

The draft plan of management can be viewed at

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

Submission (email, online or post) need to be sent in **17 July 2017**.



Lake Pinaroo Sturt NP Credit: [Bushie Flickr](#)

Cooler habitats may hold key to koala survival



Koala sighting reports are actually peaking in the Central Tablelands. This is despite the populations across the state crashing by a devastating 26% over the last three generations of koalas (according to the NSW Chief Scientist) as result of disease and habitat loss.

The good news is that increased koala sightings in the Central Tablelands region have led scientists to believe that cooler higher elevation habitats may hold the key to conserving the state's endangered koala populations.

Credit: [Colin Warren Flickr](#)

The ABC reported earlier this year there has been a marked upswing in support for and interest in koala populations both within the scientific and local communities.

Local councils in the central west are also taking action to protect the species. Cowra Shire Council and Landcare are now surveying koala in their area, while the state government has pledged \$10 million to support koala conservation programs in NSW. Check out the ABC's Central West article [here](#) to find out more and how to get involved.



Has your bushwalking club been involved in koala surveys? Send me an email if you have. We always love to hear about conservation projects and issues bushwalking clubs are involved in.

Sierra Classen – Conservation Officer, Bushwalking NSW

E: conservation@bushwalkingnsw.org.au

Tracks and Access

Reopened: Glow Worm Tunnel Track, Wollemi National Park

NPWS has advised us the new pedestrian bridge and track work is now complete. This track has been closed for several months, so this exciting for bushwalking fans of bioluminescent gnats (yes we are many). Shine on you beautiful critters!



Credit: Steve Nicholls NPWS

Meet our new newsletter co-editor: Jill O'Meara

Jill O'Meara is our new volunteer editor for the newsletter and Facebook. She is blown away by the expertise and passion of bushwalking clubs and their members and is delighted to be supporting their peak body as editor and contributor.

Jill would love to hear from you and share your advice, adventures and pics with the other clubs and those yet to discover the magic of bushwalking. E:

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Upcoming events

Bushwalking NSW warmly welcomes all club members to our upcoming General Meetings:

Date	Keynote Speaker	Topic
7pm 16 th May 2017	Sharon Fulcher, NPA of NSW	*How can we "Leave No Trace" when bushwalking?
12 -13th August 2017	Alex Allchin and others	Bushwalking NSW AGM and associated talks in the bush

*How can we "Leave No Trace" when bushwalking?

Ever think about the impact we are making on the bush while we enjoy great walking and outdoor adventures?



Minimal Impact Bushwalking (MIB) strives to reduce our impact on the outdoors while allowing our immersion in it. Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility but has largely been missing from our MIB code. This presentation looks at the latest MIB information and resources as well as raising issues around biosecurity, and how bushwalkers can aid in keeping our environment 'clean'.

Sharon Fulcher is our presenter for the evening. Sharon is an extremely experienced educator, a passionate bushwalker and conservation volunteer, and currently completing a Masters in Environmental Science. Sharon currently volunteers with the National Parks and Wildlife Services' WildCount and Hawkweed eradication programs, as well as helping to shape the Bushwalking NSW out on our "It's Sweet to Walk Soft" project. Sharon walks and leads walks for the National Parks Association of NSW and the NSW Coast and Mountain Walkers.