

# Bushwalking NSW

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## MINUTES

**Organisation** Bushwalking NSW (BNSW)  
**Subject** General Meeting  
**Venue** Redfern Town Hall, 76 Pitt St, Redfern

**Date** 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2016  
**Time** 7:30 pm

**Attendees** : (See below)  
**Apologies** : NONE  
**Visitors** : N/A (See Below)

### Minutes

#### 1. Attendance/Apologies:

Name	Club
Val Aint	Up and Downers
David Ware	Up and Downers
Tony O'Sullivan	WEA Ramblers
Charles Bowden	All Nations Bushwalkers
Dick Weston	Bush Club
Chantal Bronckhorst	Sydney Uni Bushwalkers
Peter Stanard	Bankstown Bushwalkers
Vanessa	Sutherland Bushwalkers
Thais Turner	Bankstown Bushwalkers and Catholic BWC
Vince Murtagh	CBC, Bush Club
Jon Ceray	Bankstown Bushwalkers

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Geoff Reed	WEA Ramblers
Matt McClelland	NPA of NSW
Margaret Covi	Watagan Wanderers
Mitchell Isaacs	SUBW
Sierra Classen	SUBW/SBW
Kirsten Mayer	Executive Officer
Keith Maxwell	BWRS
Helen Smith	SUBW
George Quinn	Coast & Mountain Walkers

## 2. Introduction and Welcome

The meeting commenced at 7pm with Mitchell Isaacs as chair due to absence of Alex Allchin (gravely ill).

3. A quorum was present and the meeting was duly constituted.

## 4. Minutes of previous meeting:

Not presented.

## 5. Bushwalking 101

Matt McClelland from the National Park Association, NSW and Wild Walks presented a website that is in ongoing development, a website with tutorials and guidelines for entry-level bushwalkers and beyond to gain evidence-based advice and answers to common questions and problems that come up in the bush. Preparing beginning level bushwalkers for minimal impact, safe, outdoor recreation standards.

## 6. Naturally Accessible

Helen's presentation exposes Helen's current projects with the NPA and beyond. Naturally Accessible's primary focus at the moment is to build a new, evidence-based way of categorising difficulty of bush tracks in a more descriptive way. This method of giving information such as gradient, obstacles and amenities should enable people to make more informed judgments about which tracks are suitable for their needs and how to prepare for obstacles ahead.

Helen and Matt showed a prototype of how the information might be presented in an interactive map format online and in an App.

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## 7. Risk Management Guidelines Presentation and Discussion

Margaret Covi presents the Risk Management guidelines for clubs.

All in attendance discuss main points of document.

There is a discussion about the best type of waiver to use and whether or not clubs have all trip attendees sign a waiver each trip (SBW), or have people sign the waiver as they renew membership, or on the first trip they do with the club as a member or guest or in particular activity brackets. Each method is in use by clubs.

The ease of ensuring risk waiver trip paperwork is accurately completed and filed is flagged by clubs using web-based systems of trip sign up (SUBW).

Current club risk waiver wordings discussed and compared with that in is recommended in the current draft of the risk management guidelines. Some club members and delegates express reluctance to exchange their existing waiver text and regularity of signing the waiver with the motto of roughly 'if it ain't broke don't fix it'.

## 8. Affiliation Fee Increase

Bushwalking NSW announces fees will be increased this year and continue to go up according to inflation rates, so as not to increase suddenly and shockingly. This predictable and logical fee behaviour should allow clubs to plan their financial contributions to Bushwalking NSW in their yearly budget with greater ease.

Fee cap discussed but no conclusions reached about changing or leaving the cap on affiliation fees that can be paid by a single club over a certain membership size.

## 9. Insurance

Mitch I. announces details about discussions with insurance brokers for Bushwalking NSW. They seem to be happy to include any activities in our insurance, including canyoning and similar. We must simply be mindful that if we start getting more injuries and claiming that our rate will go up.

Mitch raised idea of clubs running trips and saying that everyone is an equal self-sufficient participant, even on beginner trips. He argues that in fact beginners may not participate on entirely the same level as leaders or experienced walkers on a trip. Trips in his experience do go ahead where if something happened to the leader, the trip would be substantially derailed and the ability of the other participants to cope

after the leader is out of the picture is questionable. For this reason, he urges safety precautions such as always wearing helmets on club trips and simply not taking the same risks you might when you are on a private trip.

## 10. Friends of Bushwalking NSW

The idea of having friends of Bushwalking NSW is introduced. It is simply a way for non-bushwalking club type entities to show support and affiliation with Bushwalking NSW's policies and mission, while paving the way for future tangible, traceable networks of stakeholders, leading to bequests, donations, and in kind support, hopefully.

Idea was generally supported by those present.

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## 11. The AAAS

Kirsten Mayer warns of adverse impact the current draft of the AAAS could have on clubs and recreational walkers and advises that discussions of these guidelines proceed.

## 12. Bushwalking Australia Conference

Kirsten Mayer gave a report on the Bushwalking Australia conference in Tasmania. She noted Mitchell Isaacs' participation via Skype. Mitch stood in for Alex Allchin, who was unable to attend due to illness.

## 13. Economic Value of Bushwalking Report

The Bushwalking Australia meeting resolved to find a student to develop a report on the economic value of bushwalking in NSW.

## 14. Other Business

### 1. Grants

Matt McClelland advises that \$5K volunteer grants are available.

Matt would be happy to assist any club or Bushwalking NSW committee to write an application for the final round of these volunteer outreach grants.

## 15. Upcoming Meetings

Attendees are invited to future meetings. Planned themes and dates for February and May  
GMs are at **7:30-9:00pm** 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2017 and **May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at**  
**Redfern Town Hall, 73 Pitt St, Redfern NSW 2016**

Meeting ended at: 9:00pm