



Bushwalking NSW

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019 MINUTES

Time & Date 7:30-9:00pm on Tuesday, 20th August 2019

Location: Redfern Town Hall, 73 Pitt St, Redfern NSW 2016

Attendees:

NAME	Club	Nominated Club Delegate
Allan Bunt	Sutherland BWC (SBC)	Yes
Bill Boyd	Northern Rivers BC	Yes
Bob Mudge	Brisbane Waters Otdr C	Yes
Brian Morgan	Yarrowood BW C	Yes
Bruce Lyman	Blue Steel Dash	Yes
Cheryl Fletcher	WEA Ramblers	Yes
David Springthorpe	Coast and Mountain	Yes
Dee McCallum	All Nations BW	Yes
Dodie Green	Yarrowood BW C	Yes
Helen Hindin	All Nations BW	Yes
Jeanette Learned	Springwood BW C	Yes
Jim Collier	Sydney Bush W	Yes
Keith Maxwell	Cumberland Plain Walkers	Yes
Ken Newman	Sutherland BWC (SBC)	Yes
Kevin Abnett	South Coast BW C	Yes
Leonie Bell	Sydney Christian W	Yes
Linda Hager	Catholic BW C	Yes
Lyn Hodson	Springwood BW C	Yes
Margaret Covi	Watagan Wanderers	Yes
Matt McClelland+***	NPA of NSW	Yes
Mitchell Isaacs	Sydney University BW	Yes
Peter Jack	Illawarra Ramblers	Yes
Rachel Grindlay	Sydney Bush W	Yes
Thaïs Turner	Bankstown BW C	Yes
Tom Brennan	Sydney Bush W	Yes
Tom Fink	NPA of NSW	Yes
Tony O'Sullivan	WEA Ramblers	Yes
Tracey Nunziato	Northern Rivers BC	Yes
Ute Foster	Coast and Mountain W	Yes
John Renzenbrink	All Nations	
Cynthia Burton	NPA ACT	
? Demuse		
Les Higgs	Yarrowood Bushwalking Club	
?		
Chris Roper		
Jon Gray	BBC	
Jayne Damels	Coast and Mountain Walkers, Sutherland BWC	

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Dick Weston	The Bush Club
Paul Jennings	NSC
? Campbell	NSC
Lucy Moore	Sydney Bush Walkers
Leigh McClintock	Sydney Bush Walkers
Alan Sauran	The Bush Club
Paul Wyngaardan	CBC
Ron Binet	Yarrowood Bushwalking Club
Kirsten Mayer	EO Bushwalking NSW
Alex Allchin	Sydney Bush Walkers
Paul Millgate	Brisbane Waters
David Bell	Sydney Bush Walkers
Jane Millgate	The Bush Club

Present:

Alex Alchin Bushwalking NSW President and Meeting Chair

Members of the Bushwalking NSW Committee

Delegates of various BNSW clubs, and additional members as per the attached delegates list.

The Chair declared meeting open at 1915 and welcomed delegates and visitors.

Apologies: Nil

Present: as per the delegates list plus guests

Previous Minutes

The Chair moved that the tabled minutes of the 2018 AGM (21 August 2018) be accepted.
Seconded and approved.

Guest Speaker

The Chair welcomed Bill Boyd, past President of the Northern Rivers Bushwalking Club to address the meeting on the subject of the transformation of that club.

Bill spoke to the subject of transformation, focusing on what had worked for their club rather than attempt to provide a fix-all formula for every club. He noted that their club demographic tended to be those whose children had left home and were heading into 'hyperactive retirement', capturing a population at a particular time in their lives.

He reflected on the way their committee was designed around specific roles and events and not having a committee of general members, thus tapping native enthusiasm for particular activities within the club. The club encouraged 'churn' in order that people not become bogged down in roles while members are able to make decisions for the club, both variables helping ensure the club was agile and not slowed by unnecessary process.

The club 'grabs' anyone they can to speak to members and Bill recommended this as a means of promoting club activities.

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It takes an 'opportunistic' approach to creating events. An idea is quickly flamed into planning and execution, encouraging the person with the idea to turn it into reality. Bill cited the example of the groups (regular) excursions to Europe (including Poland, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia) as an example of that sort of activity.

On leadership Bill spoke to the fact that the 'club is driven by enthusiasm', and by a lot of people (also active in other organisations) looking to do things. These, such as those who proposed the Poland idea, are 'tapped' to follow through on a proposed activity, while there are also folk who only need to hear the hint of an idea before they turn it into reality. There is no formal leadership training per se but rather a mentoring/coaching approach to leadership.

The club celebrated its 40th birthday recently and Bill noted the need to celebrate these sorts of highlights, and that it was important to understand the history of a club. In that context he observed the normality of club numbers rising and falling, and the importance of not being anxious about that dynamic. Membership over the years has not been limited to the local area and members are found interstate and overseas. Bill said the club had ceased to be anxious about the lack of younger members, instead accepting that they attracted people at a specific point of time in their (active) lives.

He noted the club has a very wide range of activities which has proved very attractational. Those are supported by a very active social program (including their own band) which provides a degree of cohesion.

Bill stressed the importance of good communications, including and especially via the club website, through the local papers and through connections with other clubs.

<https://www.northernriversbushwalkersclub.org.au/home>

His summary points were threefold:

- Don't be shy tapping people on the shoulder to lead activities
- Keep management soft
- Distribute roles across the whole group

Annual Report

The Chair referred the meeting to the tabled Annual report and moved that it be accepted. The motion was seconded.

Approved

The Chair invited commentary from the meeting. There was none.

Volunteers

The Executive Officer spoke to the support from volunteers which BNSW receives. She referenced committee members, those who provide administrative support and made special mention of the longstanding service of Margaret Covi and Keith Maxwell.

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Committee Elections

The Chair handed the meeting over to the Returning Officer (Mitchell Isaacs who declared all appointments vacant and drew attention to the fact that after three years continuous service the position of President is to be handed over unless there are no alternate nominations for that position.)

The following appointments were nominated and seconded and unanimously approved by members of BNSW.

Appointment	Nomination
President	Alex Alchin (Sydney BWC)
Vice President	None nominated
Secretary	None nominated
Treasurer	Peter Jack (Illawarra Ramblers BWC)
Committee Members	Keith Maxwell (Cumberland Plain Walkers)
	Margaret Covi (Watagan Wanderers)
	Bill Boyd (Northern Rivers BWC)
	David Bell (Sydney BWC)
	Paula Thompson*
	Bruce Lyman (Blue Steel Dash BWC)
	Dick Weston (The Bush Club)

(Note: Paula Thompson (Manly Spit BWC) mistakenly self-nominated by an online form and was not in attendance at the meeting and declined the role when contacted after the AGM.)

The Returning Officer noted the vacancies of Vice President and Secretary, called for nominations a second time, received none, declared the elections closed for 2019, and returned the meeting to the Chair.

Election of Auditor

The Chair called for nominations for an Auditor for the coming year. It was moved and seconded that Bechini & Associates be the Auditors for 2019/2020 and the appointment unanimously approved by the members.

Approved

Commentary on BNSW Constitution

The Chair spoke briefly to the committee's focus on governance through the past year, and the focus on the review of the constitution. He noted that good feedback had been received on the Constitution, some of it only recent, and as a result this input has been included in the draft revised constitution which will be sent to the clubs as soon as decently possible.

Chardon Award

Keith Maxwell spoke to the Chardon Award, and the intent to recognise and encourage those who have contributed to Bushwalking NSW. The Chardon Award recipients for 2019 are Linda Groom and Jim Callaway.

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Large Club Cap

The Chair spoke to the subject of the Large Club Cap. He noted in the first instance that the Committee has set the fees for 2019 (unchanged), and reviewed the subject for those in the meeting unfamiliar with the matter.

He advised the meeting that the Committee is looking for further commentary and will be seeking input from the larger clubs, anticipating having a position paper to be circulated ahead of, and for discussion at the November General Meeting. In response to a question from the floor ("How can Clubs best contribute?") he iterated the circulation of this paper as an aide to having everyone as best informed on the matter as possible.

Other Business

In response to an invitation for other business from the floor the Committee was commended for its work on governance, and encouraged to continue its focus on bushwalking issues in NSW, to leverage its ability to seek public comment on issues and to take more advantage in lobbying a sympathetic State Minister.

A question from the floor queried what might be done to encourage more members to get their first aid certification.

Club Updates

A number of contributions were received from the floor commenting on club activities, incentives for first aid training (in response to the above) while Kirsten drew attention to the Katoomba Airfield issue, inviting members to write to their Local Member on the matter. She also reminded members of the Save Kozci (<https://reclaimkosci.org.au>) movement.

Close

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 2103