



# Bushwalking NSW

Annual Report 2019

## President's Report

It has been another big year for Bushwalking NSW.

Thanks go to so many people for their hard work, insight and dedication. We've tried to capture our achievements for the year and all who've been involved with BNSW further down in the report, however, I'd also like to acknowledge all of you – bushwalkers, club members, club administrators and supporters – who make bushwalking in NSW the amazing activity that it is.

One event from the year which I wish to highlight was the Bush Camp we held in October at Bungonia. It saw the coming together of bushwalkers from across the state, and combined walking with the sharing of knowledge and a diversity of ideas on how to address matters common to many clubs and walkers.

Three of our office bearers will be retiring at the AGM. Mitchell Isaacs, George Quinn and John Flint have served the committee for ten, four and two years respectively. I thank them all for their contributions to BNSW.

I'd like to thank our membership for the privilege of representing you as President of this great organisation and look forward to continuing my involvement over the years to come.

Thanks again for the support over the past year, and all the best to the incoming committee for 2019-20.

President:           **Alex Allchin**



**Alex Allchin**  
President  
Bushwalking  
NSW Inc

## Executive Officer's Report

This year Bushwalking NSW has increased our connections, influence and community engagement. We now have 69 clubs (+2 on last year), indicating increasing awareness of the benefits of affiliation with Bushwalking NSW.

Overall our clubs have seen a 1.7% increase in members (+192). This is half the growth of last year 3% (+309) when we were running the “It’s Sweet to Walk Soft” (ISWS) project – thanks to the NSW Environmental Trust.

The cost effective St John Ambulance First Aid training, previously offered by Bush Search and Rescue NSW, is now available via the Bushwalking NSW website. A huge thank you to Belinda Keir and all the St John Ambulance volunteers who help deliver this training and keep the costs so low for our members.

We started running the “Young People in Clubs” (YPIC) project this year and increased our engagement with the NSW Office of Sport.

We thank the NSW Office of Sport, Margaret Covi and David Jack for drafting our initial Guidelines for Child Protection. This is an important step in safely and successfully engaging young people in club activities – a goal which benefits youth, our clubs, and the broader community by encouraging lifelong engagement in nature and active recreation.

Also, in support of younger bushwalkers in our clubs, we initiated the development of a Recreational Canyoning Leadership Guide, and invited the formation of a Canyoning Sub-Committee of Bushwalking NSW.

We supported the Save Kosci protest walk which required the NSW parliament to reconsider the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018. We also supported the ‘Save our Wild Rivers’ campaign to stop the raising of the Warragamba Dam wall which has gained the attention of UNESCO.

In NSW and the ACT we again benefitted from the significant efforts of Bushwalking Australia and the Bushwalking Australia Insurance Officer (currently Mike Grant) to bring us an insurance program which is both tailored to our needs and very cost effective. A huge thanks to Mike!

Our Management Committee have been more active this year which is a credit to the members who have given their patient energy towards building a positive and effective peak body. A huge thanks to all the committee!

Special thanks to our volunteers Holly Wang, David Bell, Leonie Bell, for their consistent and valuable contributions to Bushwalking NSW.

Finally, a big Thank You to all our club members, leaders, and committee members for all your contributions to Bushwalking NSW, and bushwalking in NSW and the ACT this year. *Keep on exploring, be amazed!*

Executive Officer: **Kirsten Mayer**



**Kirsten Mayer**  
Executive Officer,  
Bushwalking  
NSW Inc

## Achievements

- Developed [Discrimination & Harassment Guidelines](#) for our clubs
- Engaged NSW Office of Sport who also presented on Member Protection, Child Protection, and The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award
- Drafted initial Guidelines for Child Protection during club activities
- Secured free club promotion opportunities with MountainFilm & Adventure Film Tours
- Drafted an update of the Bushwalking NSW Constitution and clubs reviewed it
- Established the NSW & ACT-wide Conservation & Trails Reference Group
- Established the Bushwalking NSW Photo Competition
- 2 additional clubs in total and a 1.7% increase in total club members (+192)
- 9% (+84 person) increase in our newsletter subscribers
- Updated [The Bushwalker's Code](#)

## Future directions

- Attract young people to clubs
- Continue to develop the strategic plan and direction for Bushwalking NSW
- Use technology to improve our services and support to our members
- Support further "It's Sweet to Walk Soft" Minimal Impact Bushwalking training
- Seek funding and support for our priorities

## Management Committee Members

Bushwalking NSW would like to thank all its committee members, appointed positions and volunteers without whom we could not operate:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Person</b>
President	Alex Allchin
Vice-President	Mitchell Isaacs
Secretary	George Quinn
Treasurer	John Flint
Ordinary committee member	Margaret Covi
Ordinary committee member	Keith Maxwell
Ordinary committee member	David Bell
Ordinary committee member	Bruce Lyman

## Appointed Positions

<b>Position</b>	<b>Person</b>
Conservation Officer	David Bell
Tracks and Access Officer	Alex Allchin
Risk Management Officer	Margaret Covi
Media Officer	Mitchell Isaacs
Website Content Editor	Leonie Bell
Website Manager	Alexandra Hipolito
Newsletter Writer/Editor	Holly Wang
Community Liaison Officer	Alexandra Davidson
Public Officer	Margaret Covi

## Treasurer's Report

In 2019 Bushwalking NSW overall made a surplus of \$5,891.06 This is less than the \$14,000 surplus in 2018 despite the income rising from the increase in the affiliate fee membership cap from 400 to 600. The main difference was the ISTWS grant in 2018 and increase in salary expense. The balance sheet remains strong with equity of \$93,855. In the Bank was \$110,561

For 2020 financial year the committee decided to maintain the affiliate fees at the same level as a similar surplus is expected with no significant changes this year.

The BNSW affiliation fee structure remained a contentious issue with smaller clubs not satisfied with the increase of the cap to 600. This matter will be discussed at the AGM. The likely effects on BNSW finances if the cap were removed entirely would be about a 10% reduction in fees for all except the 3 large clubs or fees remaining about the same should one of the large clubs decide to disaffiliate.

Treasurer: **John Flint**



**John Flint**  
Treasurer,  
Bushwalking  
NSW

# Bushwalking NSW Profit & Loss Statement

## BUSHWALKING NSW INC

For the 12 months ended 30 June 2019

Account	2019	2018
<b>Trading Income</b>		
Advertising Income	525.00	1,475.00
Annual Affiliate Dues	68,479.80	61,242.95
Bank Interest	1,405.55	1,406.38
Donations [41006]	15.00	1,500.00
Grant funds	0.00	17,000.00
<b>Member Insurance</b>		
Insurance - Personal Accident	21,383.79	21,210.74
Insurance - Public Liability [41009]	21,919.68	23,031.83
<b>Total Member Insurance</b>	<b>43,303.47</b>	<b>44,242.57</b>
Other Misc Income	100.00	50.00
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>113,828.82</b>	<b>126,916.90</b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>		
Insurance - Broker Fee	12,590.31	12,900.14
Insurance - Personal Injury	14,953.67	14,728.95
Insurance - Public Liability [61401]	15,667.95	16,562.05
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>43,211.93</b>	<b>44,191.14</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>70,616.89</b>	<b>82,725.76</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Accounting & Bookkeeping	496.00	435.02
<b>Salary &amp; Wages</b>		
Annual Leave	6,454.72	0.00
Superannuation [61509]	3,433.00	4,016.32
Travel Allowance	4,935.73	0.00
Wages & Salaries	36,839.61	42,632.69
<b>Total Salary &amp; Wages</b>	<b>51,663.06</b>	<b>46,649.01</b>
Bank & Gov Charges	281.00	293.68
Depreciation	0.00	734.12
Donations [61350]	0.00	2,680.00
Dues & Subscriptions	8,347.50	8,001.00
Magazine Costs	0.00	3,681.63
Meetings & Conferences	2,059.11	2,986.51
Postage & Shipping	178.55	22.34
Rent / Electricity/ Outgoings	924.00	1,799.68
Staff Amenities	15.00	18.68
Stationary / Office Supplies	20.95	164.20
Telephone/ Internet	140.57	82.52
Website	342.00	252.00
Workers' Compensation	258.09	326.18
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>64,725.83</b>	<b>68,126.57</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>5,891.06</b>	<b>14,599.19</b>

# Bushwalking NSW Balance Sheet

## BUSHWALKING NSW INC

### As at 30 June 2019

Account	30 Jun 2019	30 Jun 2018
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Bank</b>		
BUSHWALKING NSW INC	3,352.89	21,233.75
ING Interest Acc#60134750	107,203.66	69,798.11
Petty Cash	4.25	8.25
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>110,560.80</b>	<b>91,040.11</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash Drawer	50.00	50.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Computer Equipment	2,674.82	2,674.82
Computer Equipment - Accum Depreciation	(2,674.82)	(2,674.82)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Non-current Assets</b>		
Deposits Paid	250.00	250.00
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>	<b>250.00</b>	<b>250.00</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>110,860.80</b>	<b>91,340.11</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Annual Leave Accrual	6,454.72	0.00
PAYG Withholding Payable	1,113.00	1,272.00
Rounding	43.00	0.00
Superannuation [21425]	1,113.68	1,045.28
Trade Creditors	8,167.50	0.00
Wages Payable - Payroll	113.99	1,058.98
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>17,005.89</b>	<b>3,376.26</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>17,005.89</b>	<b>3,376.26</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>93,854.91</b>	<b>87,963.85</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Current Year Earnings	5,891.06	14,599.19
Retained Earnings	87,963.85	73,364.66
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>93,854.91</b>	<b>87,963.85</b>



## Bush Search & Rescue NSW (BSAR)

There is no Annual Report from BSAR this year as it is now totally separate to Bushwalking NSW (BNSW). On 1 May 2018 it transferred to NSW SES and is now known as SES BUSH SEARCH AND RESCUE unit.



Up to February 2001 BSAR was the “Search & Rescue Section of the NSW Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs” but more commonly called just ‘S&R’ or ‘Bushwalkers Search and Rescue’. But times were changing and it was no longer acceptable to ‘callout’ bushwalkers when remote area search & rescue was required. There had to be a recognised record of training and a certain level of member uniform. Hence, Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) was incorporated.

NSW Police have the charter for remote area search and rescue in NSW. BWRS was recognised as a valuable agency through its affiliation (from 1970) with the NSW Volunteer Rescue Squad (VRA).

In 2017 BWRS changed to Bush Search and Rescue NSW (BSAR) as a name closer to its real purpose. Changes were coming at a price. By 2018 BSAR had a building, rescue vehicle / trailer, radio networks etc. But securing funds for the annual running costs was becoming increasingly difficult. NSW SES were also changing with a program of ‘flexible volunteering’ to fill an increasing demand for remote area search and rescue. Around 30% of their activations were for some level of remote area search and rescue. Thus, alignment with NSW SES seemed to be a better option for BSAR to be called upon for remote area search and rescue.

After careful negotiation BSAR discontinued affiliation with the VRA to become the SES BUSH SEARCH AND RESCUE unit as of 1 May 2018. This is an exciting time for BSAR. It is better resourced with a strong membership and is the dominant part of a grouping with other SES units trained in remote area search and rescue. BSAR is now also very active with regular requests for assistance from NSW SES. This change from affiliation with the VRA has been a good decision but SES BSAR is now totally separate to BNSW.

A more complete description of this change in BSAR, over time, can be found at the “News” page of the Bushwalking NSW website: <http://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/news/>

Keith Maxwell