

Bushwalking NSW Inc.

Special General Meeting

Tuesday, 17 February 2015

Held at Ashfield RSL Club

Present: Mitchell Isaacs (SUBW), Dick Weston (Bush Club), Mike Pickles (WEA Ramblers), Bob Minnaert (Outdoor Club of NSW), Maureen Oxenburgh (Outdoor Club of NSW), David Springthorpe (Coast & Mountain Walkers of NSW), Chantal Bronkhorst (SUBW), David Trinder (SBW), Keith Maxwell (Mt Druitt BWC), Margaret Covi (Watagan Wanderers), Lyn McMillan (Sutherland BWC), Ron McMillan (Sutherland BWC), Ron Hutchings (South Coast BWC), Bruce Lyman (Blue Steel Dash), Matt McClelland (National Parks Association NSW), Leigh McClintock (SBW), Charles Bowden (All Nations Bushwalkers), Linda Groom (Canberra Bushwalking Club), Peter Conroy (Canberra Bushwalking Club), Jeff Boyd (Brisbane Waters Outdoor Club), Peter Hart (Sydney Christian Bushwalkers), Alex Allchin (SBW), Cheryl Collins (Minutes).

Apologies: David Morrison (Newcastle Ramblers), Robert Gascoigne (Newcastle Ramblers), Jim Callaway (SBW)

Meeting was opened at 7:29pm.

Election of new Office Bearers:

President

Mitchell Isaacs: (N) Margaret Covi (S) Alex Allchin

There being no other nominations, Mitchell Isaacs was declared President.

Treasurer

Alex Allchin: (N) Mitchell Isaacs (S) Margaret Covi

There being no other nominations, Alex Allchin was declared Treasurer.

Vice President

David Trinder: (N) Margaret Covi (S) Chantal Bronkhorst
Sierra Classen: (N) Alex Allchin (S) Matt McClelland

Following a vote, Sierra Classen was declared Vice President.

It was announced that Jim Callaway was standing down from the management committee & we thank him for over 40 years of service in various roles on the committee.

Keynote Speaker

Alex Allchin (SBW) spoke in relation to the Colong Wilderness Walk following Miles Dunphy's footsteps in the Kowmung during September 2014.

Bush issues update

- Clubs invited to comment in relation to BNSW submission to the parliamentary enquiry into the management of public land in NSW (Alex Allchin) This is a review of the way parks are reserved. Half the review committee are dissenting from the findings. **We are making a submission - Sierra Classen to prepare.**
<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/committee.nsf/0/74DA1CD968BEB279CA257B6C00012C86>
- Conservation update, Alex Allchin – GoSFest – this is a celebration of the Gardens of Stone National Park & a publicising of the area & the need to protect & reserve it & adjoining areas under threat from mining. There will be a photography competition to encourage clubs to visit GoS & to publicise the problems & generate enthusiasm.
- Blue Mountains City Council (BMCC) which is looking to introduce a licencing scheme requiring organisations to hold a licence to cross BMCC land, will not apply this to clubs, but BMCC want us to act as a conduit between the bushwalking community & BMCC. (Mitchell Isaacs)
- Tracks and Access – Alex Allchin advised that there was a temporary Narro neck road closure for repairs, & that the threatened closure of the road into Newnes Plateau via Zigzag was being negotiated by Lithgow council. Other park closures can be found on the website. It should be noted that some national parks are closed to walking during total fire bans. A delegate reported the poor state of the Sassafras & Magdala Tracks in the Blue Mountains. **Alex Allchin to look into.**
- ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Splendour Rock - Alex Allchin is coordinating. There will be a dawn service (6am) and an 11am service. NPWS are organising vehicles for less able-bodied people as far as Medlow Gap.
- Royal National Park (RNP) – Burg Track (starting from Helensburgh) needs upgrading & money has been given for this. The owners of the property at Lilyvale where it starts are very supportive. When the work is completed, Sutherland BWC will maintain the track.
- Kuringai NP – weed has been found brought in on tents. Walkers are asked to be careful about cleaning their equipment so that weeds are not spread to other national parks.
- There are new facilities near Ruined Castle to relieve pressure on camping at Mt Solitary.
- Many clubs take PLBs on trips & should put information on them such as club website addresses & a rescue information page. Keith Maxwell informed us that Battery World will accept old Personal Locator Beacons for re-cycling.

The meeting closed at 9pm.