

Bushwalking NSW

Bushwalking NSW Inc.

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FEBRUARY 20TH, 2018 BNSW GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Time & Date 7:00-9:00pm on Tuesday, February 20th, 2018

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

Attendees:

NAME	Club	Nominated Club Delegate
Michael Young	Wanderers Bushwalking Club	No
Keith Maxwell	Cumberland Plains Bushwalkers	Yes
Margaret Covi	Watagan Wanderers	Yes
George Quinn	CMW	No
Bill Donoghoe	Wanderers Bushwalking Club	Yes
Jon Ciray (Spelling?)	Bankstown Bushwalkers	Yes
Kirsten Mayer	EO BNSW	No
Andrew Stranger	NSW Nordic Ski Club	No
J. Daniels (first name illegible besides J)	CMW/Sutherland Bushwalkers	Yes
Vince Murtagh	Catholic Bushwalking Club (SYDNEY)	Yes
David Springthorpe	CMW of NSW	Yes
Thaïs Turner	CBC and BBC	Yes
Halina Kraski	Sutherland Bushwalkers	Yes
Kerrie McLean	Bankstown Bushwalkers	No
Allan Bunt	Sutherland Bushwalkers	No
Helop Lewerenz (spelling?)	BWOC	No
Cheryl Fletcher	WEA Ramblers Sydney	Yes
Paul Wÿngaarden	Sydney Catholic Bushwalking Club	No
Paul Jannings	NSW Nordic Ski Club / Coast and Mountain Walkers	No
Tony O'Sullivan	WEA Ramblers Sydney	Yes
Matt McClelland	NPA NSW	Yes
Kevin Carter	SUBW	No
Karen Cortez	Suboir United Bushwalkers	No

Chair & Quorum

The meeting commenced at 7pm with Alex Allchin as chair.

The chair announced that a quorum was present and that the meeting was duly constituted.

Agenda item/topic

1. Keynote speaker: Kirsten Mayer presents: Keeping Your Club On Track
 - What does "On track" mean?
 - Engaged leaders

Quorum: 5 delegates present in person or by proxy, representing at least 3 approved organisations constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a general meeting.

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- “must have leaders” – one leader making a huge impact on the number/quality of walks leaves clubs vulnerable when they leave
 - Are people intimidated by those leaders, feeling like they can’t lead?
 - Age and experience of leaders changing perspective of the difficulty of the walk
 - “Andrew Stanger” – had a mentoring program to encourage new leaders to develop.
Kirsten suggests: perhaps run this on a walk-by-walk basis
 - Request for training of new leaders
 - Success comes from planning, not on the track
 - “Pre-walk” training idea – find out what’s involved in doing a walk
 - Healthy membership: Replace leaving members (and leaders) with new ones to maintain the size of the group, not necessarily growth
 - Positive culture
 - Good communication between members
 - Social aspects
 - Inclusiveness
 - Activities program: “must be VERY good”
- Current Successes for Clubs
 - Bankstown walking club: award system based on most led walks and most attended walks. Walk records increased by 100% (necessary for counting). West Pennant Hills also does the same, stats were found to be helpful
 - BNSW want the stats from clubs to communicate it to governments etc for grants. For example, no. of hours of leader effort, length of walks and its translation into fitness benefits
 - Everyone says they don’t want to track hours or lengths (🙄)
 - Some felt social activities (funerals) were a measure of cohesiveness
 - Insurance questions: 3 people per walk? Alex recommended to speak with broker or Kirsten. Mitch says: work out what your org wants to do, and the broker will pay for it. Good stats (number of accidents) are helpful here.
 - Short notice and reccy walks are also covered, as there is no number specified in the insurance
 - Matt McClelland: NPA “Start with the end in mind”
 - Clubs have particular cultures. We can’t sell something we aren’t able to provide. Where are we going, what are we going to be? We want to attract people who will help that goal. Know who you are as a club.
 - Do not try to be all things to all people, but be very good at who you want to be. Acknowledge that you will not be able to be good at everything.
 - Every club is different, not all solutions will work at every club
 - Matt emails with prospective members about suitability
 - Pictures and stories: addresses “who we are”
 - The more you (high powers in clubs) get involved, the less the activity happens. Get out of the way, people are capable, and instead have clear processes
 - Weekly short notice list as well as quarterly mag. Seems to have increased long-term plans. Allows for “I’m doing ____ walk stay posted”: save the date sort of issue
 - Prompting during the week for the coming weekend
 - Could more people in one club do this promo style?
 - Positive club culture
 - Limited terms for office bearers/committee
 - To avoid failed turnovers, have an overlap period

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- Sydney bushwalkers: limited terms for office bearer, but not participation in the committee
 - Matt McClelland: Keep an “if hit by a bus” file – position description, solution to issues, passwords
 - Share policies and guidelines to everybody: easier for people to step up
 - Inclusiveness
 - Variety of levels: “walks with prams”, “sub-24 hour” overnight camps, go to work after, try out new gear
 - Governance essentials
 - Complaints policy, discrimination/harassment policies available online. Harassment policies with definitions give the committee more standing and makes it easier should a situation arise.
 - Mitch: agenda paper templates etc not necessary for discussion: just best practice. Consider it to be a checklist
 - Summary of financial affairs: they don't want our financial statements? (2016)
 - Keep them, but don't hand over
 - Financial management
 - Change costs money, but is sometimes essential
 - Review constitutions: does it say something about commercial arbitration? Eg dispute
 - Perhaps consider writing a policy on a webpage to avoid having to change constitutions
 - Arbitration vs mediation?
 - Associations Act has constitution that applies to you if you register with them
 - Take a concerned member out for a coffee or a bushwalk: get the emotion out first. Once dealt with consider the complaint. If the process is too formal, the emotion is never dealt with and the person is frustrated with the system.
2. Update from Bushwalking NSW
- Alex Allchin: Jim Callaway (Catholic and Sydney bushwalkers) recently passed away.
 - Best feedback prize to CBWC (runners up Matt McClelland)
- a. Join a club bookmarks
 - b. ISWS Project Minimal Impact Bushwalking training & MeetUp Groups
 - c. Bushwalking NSW Annual Bush Camp Walks & Training
 - d. Bushwalking NSW is moving! Please update your contacts lists to:

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Next Meeting

The next Bushwalking NSW General Meeting shall be held at:

7:30-9:00pm on Tuesday, May 15th, 2018
Redfern Town Hall, 73 Pitt St, Redfern NSW 2016

Meeting ended at: 9pm