



Bushwalking NSW

Annual Report 2021

President's Report

Oh what a year! Yes, you might recognise that opening from my President's Report last year. But it does seem apposite this year. Oh, yes, what a year!

Periodically, bushwalkers only needed to concern themselves with was where and when was the next outing. But then there would be a lockdown, or a border closure, or ... And not everywhere at one time. Rules, rules, rules, guidelines, guidelines, guidelines. I expect that club committees and presidents have spent their fair share of time trying to work out what their club can and can't do at any specific time.

As you will be aware, Bushwalking NSW has also tried to work such things out. However, with so much geographic variability across the NSW and ACT, we are reluctant to provide specific guidance beyond falling back on the almost failsafe option of "check the government web site and the government health department web site". Now we have learnt that everyone needs to keep an eye and an ear open for the latest, and often rather short notice, announcement of some restriction or another.

As I write this, my previously-safe region is now in lock-down, and I am fresh from examining my local map — now resplendent with a highlighter line representing 10 km from my home — for exercising options. While we as bushwalkers always love to head for the hills, it is surprising how much walking, cycling, or kayaking we can do locally. Abseiling and canyoning, I will admit, may be a little harder to do immediately around your home, but there is still plenty we can do to enjoy the great outdoors. We'll just have to wait for restrictions to lift before we can enjoy them as part of a group, however.

So what of my first full year as President of Bushwalking NSW? First thing, I have to acknowledge the wonderful people around me in the organisation. All our work has had to be conducted remotely — no face-to-face meetings this last year, so Zoom has had a good workout. Fortunately for me, we have a fully-dedicated and effective Management Committee, David, Bruce, Peter, Jon and Margaret, who have been most accepting of the new way to do business. Thank you everyone. Bushwalking NSW could not function in the way it does without our Executive officer, Kirsten. I spend a lot of time discussing organisational, administrative and managerial matters with Kirsten, and I can vouch for the importance of her work for the organisation. She has been aided and abetted by volunteers, to whom I also extend my thanks. We are a volunteer organisation — like any bushwalking club — and we thrive on the commitment and enthusiasm of all our volunteers.



Bill Boyd
President,
Bushwalking
NSW

And talking of Zoom, a huge thank you to all the members who attended our various general meetings online. This started with our AGM last year, an AGM that attracted more members than any previous AGM. Subsequent general meetings have attracted similar numbers. It is especially gratifying to hear from regional members who now feel they can take part in our meetings. I know that there is still great benefit to be had in face-to-face meetings, but for the moment, we'll be sticking with online meetings. We are, after all, the peak body for the whole State, plus ACT, so need to be able to reach out to all corners of the region.

As the region's peak body for bushwalking, what have we been up to since the last AGM?

You will recall that in my previous President's Report I mentioned the resolution of the large club cap issue. This had been a long-standing matter, which is now resolved. Over the last year, we have been putting that resolution into practice. One aspect of doing this was to finalise an up-to-date Strategic Plan. This has also now been achieved, and we now have a tighter and more focused strategic plan than in the past. Apart from providing a coordinated service to bushwalking clubs in NSW and ACT, there are three large ticket items in the Strategic Plan: a drive to generate more opportunities for bushwalking in the region, including long-distance routes; a focus on public and personal health through bushwalking; and an advocacy role to support the interests of bushwalkers across the region. We are moving ahead on these fronts.

In terms of supporting bushwalking clubs, we have again been able to provide extremely good value insurance. Behind the scenes, we spend a lot of time and effort clarifying matters for clubs, working through our insurance contacts and brokers. Up front, however, we are again able to obtain insurance through Bushwalking Australia. This provides an opportunity for very specific targeted insurance that suits the needs of bushwalking clubs, and, as a collective, offers extremely good value for money. I said this last year, but why not repeat it: try to get cheap insurance for almost anything else you do — especially in the sporting world — and you will appreciate what good value we are able to hand on to the clubs.

Bushwalking NSW also supports individual clubs when events beyond their control emerge. We have resources to support crisis events, and are able to offer outsider consideration and information to help clubs address issues.

In terms of promoting long-distance routes, I must acknowledge the sterling work of our Conservation Officer, David. You will hear more from him and his colleague in Bushwalking Queensland, Gavin Dale, at the AGM about a wonderful initiative, the Barrington to Boonah Trail (working title). David, also with his Conservation Officer hat on,

has maintained a stream of responses to planning issues that may affect bushwalkers and their access, especially, to national parks and other protected areas. Bushwalking NSW regularly makes submissions, and works on building sound professional relationships with bodies such as NPWS, the NCC, local planning bodies and so on. It is important for us to understand environmental planning processes, and I encourage local clubs to do the same. Keep an eye on proposals, especially where they may impact access and facilities in the areas we bushwalk in.

Health is at the foremost in bushwalking — it is one of the major reasons that bushwalkers take part in this activity, after all. It underlies all that we do at Bushwalking NSW, although we have not yet commenced active promotion this yet. Keep an eye open for future developments.

I encourage all members to become familiar with Bushwalking NSW's Strategic Plan. If you have ideas, views, offers to help for us to achieve our Plan, you simply need to drop us a line: just use the webmail link at <https://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/contact-us/> . One of the more significant decisions that the Management Committee made this year is to adopt the Bushwalking Manual as the primary guide to safe and enjoyable bushwalking. In doing this, we are joining the other State bushwalking associations and Bushwalking Australian Inc.

The Bushwalking Manual was developed by Bushwalking Victoria on behalf of the national body. This on-line resource collates a wide range of important information to guide clubs, leaders and club members alike. I thoroughly recommend it to all our members, and encourage every member to get to know it well. Clubs can use it to support, develop and train your leaders. Clubs can use it to introduce your members to standard and safe bushwalking practices. Use it as a standard reference on all matters bushwalking. It is easy to navigate and contains succinct entries on a wide range of topics: trip planning, the trip, leadership, weather, clothing & equipment, food & water, emergencies, environment, related activities, and state information. There is something there for everyone! You can access the Bushwalking Manual easily at <https://bushwalkingmanual.org.au> . I wish all clubs a productive and exciting 2021-2022 year of bushwalking and all other related activities. We may, at times, have stay closer to home than in the past, but this State of ours offers so much opportunity, it would be a shame to waste the chance.

President: **Bill Boyd**

Vice-President, Conservation, Tracks & Access Officer's Report

Volunteer Track Maintenance Project – Great North Walk

The purpose of this project is to provide opportunities for clubs to get involved in maintaining tracks. Some clubs have already been doing this for some years but Bushwalking NSW has developed a partnership with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to undertake maintenance work on the Great North Walk between Sydney and Newcastle.

After much delay largely due to COVID, we held a working bee in the Watagans with who else but the Watagan Wanderers. Although the day had a few glitches, the Soil Conservation Service wants to continue with more working bees. Alas COVID has intervened again and it is unlikely that we will be able to hold another working bee in the near future. It looks like 2022 for the next one.

Advocacy

At the time of writing this report, we are reviewing both the Snowy Mountains Special Activation Precinct Master Plan and the accompanying Amendments to the Kosciuszko National Park Plan of Management. If these proposals become reality they will change the National Park significantly (and not for the better).

All clubs and interested individuals are encouraged to make a submission. Submissions due by August 23.

Submissions (or contributions to submissions) were also made in relation to the following:

- Draft Tourism Master Plan, Kakadu National Park. Input to Bushwalking Australia submission.
- Horse Riding Trails - Wollemi National Park
- Barrington Tops and Mt Royal National Parks draft Plan of Management.
- Royal and Heathcote National Parks and Garawarra State Conservation Area draft Plan of Management
- Snowy 2.0 Transmission Lines proposal in Kosciuszko National Park

We also attended a community workshop to inform the forthcoming Plan of Management for Blue Mountains and Kanangra-Boyd National Parks. We can expect to see the draft Plan of Management in the near future.



David Bell
Vice-President,
Conservation Officer,
Tracks & Access
Officer,
Bushwalking NSW Inc

A letter was also sent to Lithgow Council urging adoption of the Destination Pagoda Economic Report.

Tracks and Access

We wrote to the following in relation to restoring or maintaining access to tracks and trails.

- Barrington Tops to Myall Lakes Track (Minister Kean)
- Long-distance tracks and the NSW \$250m Investment Program (Minister Kean)
- Sale of property at Mt Wilson which threatens access to Wollangambe River (NPWS)
- Extension of Coast Track in Bouddi NP (NPWS)
- Objections lodged with NSW Crown Lands in relation to proposed Crown Road disposals at Bullaburra and Warrimoo.
- Reopening of Southern National Parks following 2019/20 bushfires (Dept of Planning, Industry and Environment)

Feral Horses in Kosciuszko National Park

We continued to support Reclaim Kosci in their campaign to substantially reduce horse numbers in the park. This included a \$5000 donation to assist with ongoing advocacy and campaign work.

Draft Natural Areas Policy

The existing policy which dates back to 1998 was reviewed and updated. The draft is out for member review till the end of August. This is part of a program to review all our policies on a regular basis.

Barrington Boonah Trail

This is the flagship project of our strategic goal to see 1000 km of new track by the end of the decade. It would link Barrington Tops with Boonah in Southeast Queensland. We are working on this with Bushwalking Queensland. To date we have developed a draft route and have commenced liaising with stakeholders.

Seminar and Conference Attendance

Nature Conservation Council Annual Conference – November 2020 (virtual conference)

Vice-President: **David Bell**

Executive Officer's Report

We have enjoyed a great group of guest speakers at our General Meetings this year including Linda Groom on Kosciuszko National Park, James McCormack on Luxury Lodges, Melissa Harper on The Ways of the Bushwalker, and Hugh Flower on Attracting funding for tracks. You can see recordings on [our YouTube channel](#).

We assisted our clubs throughout the year. We thank Christopher Birch, QC for his extensive assistance given to both the clubs and Bushwalking NSW Inc.

Insurance questions consumed a significant amount of time, including helping new clubs. I continued attending Bushwalking Australia meetings to represent Bushwalking NSW and our clubs, particularly regarding insured activities and risk management.

At Bushwalking Australia we updated the Strategic Plan, and recruited a volunteer Executive Officer and Risk Management Officer.

At Bushwalking NSW we developed our Strategic Plan and have started work with Bushwalking Queensland on the Barrington to Boonah Trail, and our goal of one new long-distance track in NSW/ACT.

All of this was only possible with the guidance and support of our committee. Many thanks to them all: Bill, David, Bruce, Peter, Margaret and Jon.

Many thanks also to our volunteers who help behind the scenes with the website, newsletter, and administration: Leonie, Justine, Elle, Nabamita and Michelle.

Many thanks also go to Keith Maxwell for continuing to preserve our history. Enjoy the treasure trove he is compiling [here](#).

Executive Officer: **Kirsten Mayer**



Kirsten Mayer
Executive
Officer,
Bushwalking
NSW Inc

Thanks to our Volunteers

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

Management Committee Members

Role	Person
President	Bill Boyd
Vice-President	David Bell
Secretary	Bruce Lyman
Treasurer	Peter Jack
Ordinary committee member	Margaret Covi
Ordinary committee member	Jon Gray

Appointed Positions

Position	Person
Public Officer	Margaret Covi
Conservation Officer	David Bell
Tracks and Access Officer	David Bell
Risk Management Officer	Margaret Covi
YPIC Working Group Officer	Jon Gray
Media Officer	Vacant
Honorary Historian	Keith Maxwell
Training Officer	Vacant
Newsletter Sub-Editor	Justine Bourke
Website Content Editor	Leonie Bell
Webmaster	Elle Appelgren
Admin Officer	Nabamita Bhattacharjee and Michelle Kennedy
Bushwalking Australia Delegate (ex-officio)	President and Executive Officer
NSW Conservation Council Delegate (ex-officio)	Conservation Officer

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the financial statements for Bushwalking NSW Inc for the financial year ended June 30 2021 showing the financial position of the corporation at that date and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

The statements are in accordance with the financial accounting records of the entity and are prepared using generally accepted accounting practices. In my opinion there are no matters relating to the financial affairs of the entity that are not reported in the financial statements that should be advised to the members.

Honorary Treasurer: **Peter Jack**

Peter Jack
Honorary
Treasurer,
Bushwalking
NSW

Bushwalking NSW Inc Statement of Income and Expense

For the year ended 30 June 2021

For the year ended June 30;	2021 \$	2020 \$
Income		
Insurance Account		
Insurance Premiums Received		
Personal Accident	20,748.32	18,915.53
Public Liability	<u>27,732.30</u>	<u>23,333.25</u>
	48,480.62	42,248.78
Insurance Premiums Paid		
Personal Accident	12,174.65	14,371.99
Public Liability	17,212.40	17,759.94
Insurance Brokerage	12,764.81	12,894.00
Insurance Premiums Paid in Advance	<u>3,551.61</u>	<u>-</u>
	45,703.47	45,025.93
Insurance Account Surplus/(Deficit)	2,777.15	(2,777.15)
Operating Income		
Advertising Income	175.00	175.00
Annual Affiliate Dues	66,243.25	69,507.95
Bank Interest	<u>112.22</u>	<u>807.24</u>
	66,530.47	70,490.19
Operating Expenses		
Accounting & Bookkeeping	454.50	450.00
Bad Debts	0.00	1,239.54
Bank & Gov Charges	116.04	21.75
Bushwalking Australia Ann Subscription	8,965.00	9,618.00
Chardon Award Prizes	195.00	530.00
Donations	5,000.00	20.00
Meetings & Conferences	230.22	1,940.81
Nature Conservation Council Ann Subscription	0.00	90.00
NSW Dept of Fair Trading Ann Levy	47.00	47.00
Postage & Shipping	98.15	69.97
Rent - PO Box	136.00	159.00
Rent / Electricity/ Outgoings	0.00	203.50
Staff Amenities	0.00	7.12
Stationary / Office Supplies	0.00	14.00
Superannuation Expense	3,984.82	3,893.19
Telephone/ Internet	528.63	508.75
Wages & Salaries Expense	42,403.28	41,363.20
Website	184.65	377.40
Workers' Compensation	<u>192.71</u>	<u>200.98</u>
	62,536.00	60,754.21
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	3,994.47	9,735.98
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	<u><u>6,771.62</u></u>	<u><u>6,958.83</u></u>

Bushwalking NSW Inc. Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2021

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

at June 30;	2021 \$	2020 \$
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank		
ING Bank Interest Bearing Account	91,623.12	106,510.90
NAB Operating Account	<u>24,244.13</u>	<u>3,178.55</u>
	115,867.25	109,689.45
Other Current Assets		
Petty Cash Drawer	53.65	53.65
Sundry Debtors	<u>1,369.34</u>	<u>-</u>
	1,422.99	53.65
Total Current Assets	117,290.24	109,743.10
Non Current Assets		
Computer Equipment	3,054.00	734.12
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-</u>	<u>(734.12)</u>
Total Non Current Assets	3,054.00	-
Total Assets	120,344.24	109,743.10
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
PAYG Withholding Tax Payable	1,523.00	1,255.00
Superannuation Liability	1,166.55	1,143.64
Insurance Premiums Paid in Advance	3,551.61	-
Trade Creditors	<u>-</u>	<u>13.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	6,241.16	2,411.64
Non Current Liabilities	-	-
Total Liabilities	6,241.16	2,411.64
Net Assets	<u>114,103.08</u>	<u>107,331.46</u>
Retained Earnings		
Current Year Earnings	6,771.62	6,958.83
Retained Earnings Prior Years	<u>107,331.46</u>	<u>100,372.63</u>
Total Retained Earnings	<u>114,103.08</u>	<u>107,331.46</u>