



Bushwalking NSW

Annual Report 2023

President's Report

It has been another active and satisfying year for Bushwalking NSW. This reflects both the quality of management by our Executive Officer, her team and the Management Committee, as well as the continued impact of the Bushwalking NSW 2021-2026 Strategic Plan.

This is what the Strategic Plan says about Bushwalking NSW's vision and mission:

Bushwalking NSW considers that NSW & ACT should be a premier bushwalking and outdoor recreation destination of Australia, and that people should enjoy optimal health and well-being through community engagement in nature.

Vision: More people walking in nature more often.

Mission: Advocacy and support for, and promotion of, more, safe, inclusive and extensive club-based bushwalking and related outdoor activities in nature.

Strategic Themes:

- (1) NSW & ACT: A Premier Bushwalking Destination;
- (2) Better health for more people through bushwalking;
- (3) Enhanced stakeholder relations; and
- (4) Continuous operational improvement.

One of our priorities has been to achieve greater recognition of the bushwalking community as an important stakeholder in outdoor recreation and conservation. This is more than simply sending in submissions concerning development and park management proposals (even though that is still important!). To this end it was pleasing that we had a seat at the table with NPWS and other like-minded organisations concerning recreation development of the Gardens of Stone. We also had a seat at the table in a feasibility study commissioned by Destination North Coast concerning the proposed Great North Coast Walk. This does not mean we get everything we want, but it does mean we can communicate directly with the decision-makers.

Beyond this we have also put in time to reach out to our bushwalking cousins north of the Tweed in relation to the Great Escarpment Trail (GET) and this year saw the creation of a Friends of the GET. We are also reaping the benefits of membership of Outdoors NSW/ACT through networking and attendance at the 2023 Outdoors Summit as well as tapping into the expertise and knowledge of that organization on a range of topics.



David Bell
President,
Bushwalking
NSW

We need to remain alert to potentially limiting developments in and around national parks and our work continues in relation to regular submissions and advocacy about rights of access and commercialisation of our national parks. In line with our strategic goal of running a signature event each year, the November 2022 symposium 'Tourism development in protected areas: Are we on the right track?' brought together our affiliated clubs, tourism and natural area specialists, political figures and others to discuss the issues and problems around this important topic and to inform our future policy position.

Although we continue to be active in advocacy and submissions work, we cannot address all issues, especially specifically local issues. We encourage local groups to address local issues — you, after all, best know your corner of the world and its local politics.

Our library of policies can support local clubs in such endeavours. During 2022-23, Bushwalking NSW prepared an Invasive Species Policy, with the assistance of the Invasive Species Council. Bushwalkers are in an excellent position to assist natural environment managers in dealing with invasive species in protected areas.

Bushwalking NSW continued its working relationship with the bushwalking barrister Christopher Birch SC. He has been an invaluable source of legal opinion, informing us on how the law affects the outdoor activities we value. An example of Christopher's valued contribution has been his advice in relation to the management of the Gardens of Stone.

I wish to acknowledge the contribution of our Executive Officer, Kirsten Mayer, and her team of Administration Officer, Justine Bourke, and the volunteers that ensure BNSW Inc. hums along. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of this year's Management Committee including our office bearers Jon Gray, Peter Jack, Trevor Caldwell and Margaret Covi and our general Committee Members John Flint and Paul McCann. We also benefit from a continuing strong relationship with Bushwalking Australia, the nation's peak bushwalking body, particularly in relation to access to the national insurance scheme which continues to deliver extremely cost-competitive insurance for all of our clubs. Kirsten Mayer also served as President of Bushwalking Australia during 2022-23.

Keith Maxwell, our Honorary Historian, continues his impressive contribution to Bushwalking NSW through his interest in the history of NSW bushwalking. He has been archiving records and ensuring that they remain safe well into the future. His book *Splendour Rock A Bushwalkers War Memorial* (co-authored with Michael Keats OAM), is about the Blue Mountains landmark and its memorial to bushwalkers who fell during World War II. It was published in early 2023.

In terms of supporting our affiliated clubs, Bushwalking NSW continues to find diverse ways to assist clubs and encourage

bushwalking. During 2022-23, we were successful in winning an Office of Sport Outdoor Active Recreation Marketing Support Grant which resulted in two videos on club bushwalking and volunteering. These were made available to clubs.

We were also successful in winning a NSW Community Development Fund Grant to develop online leadership training and we are working hard on the project thanks to our team who are thrilled to be on the project. More on this will be announced later in 2023.

So closes another year. Finally, I wish to acknowledge the effort of all those volunteers who serve on club committees and related organisations, the activity leaders that are the backbone of the club movement and all those individuals who participate in club activities and enjoy the bush that we love and cherish.

President: **David Bell**

Executive Officer's Report

It has been a great year for Bushwalking NSW Inc. with many highlights for recreational bushwalking thanks to all who have volunteered and worked for Bushwalking NSW. The leadership of our president, David Bell has ensured our success and the great feeling the organisation now enjoys. David is the most strategically minded president that I have worked with to date. As you can see in David's summary above he is elevating the status of Bushwalking NSW with all our stakeholders and most importantly with state government bodies.

The November [Symposium on Tourism in Protected Areas](#) was David's brainchild and went very well. A huge thanks to all our speakers who so generously gave of their time to prepare and present! You put us on the map. We are eternally grateful for the work that Dr Christopher Birch, senior council, and Trevor Cork, solicitor, so generously did to successfully stop the previous NSW government from signing leases over the Gardens of Stone.

Another significant highlight is winning the Community Development Fund Grant 2022 so that we can develop online leadership training with biophilia content that may be a world first. Also significant was the development of [The Great Escarpment Trail](#). We also advocated for key conservation issues including Warragamba Dam wall and feral horse control in Kosciuszko National Park.

I continued as president for Bushwalking Australia Inc., including overseeing the BAI executive officer.

We have also enjoyed the vital and continued efforts and support of our wonderful volunteers: Justine Bourke on operations and the newsletter, Leonie Bell on website content, Gavin Dale on administration, Keith Maxwell on history, and all the management committee members: David Bell, Peter Jack, Margaret Covi, Jon Gray, Trevor Caldwell, Paul McCann and John Flint. A big thankyou to you all!

Our thanks also go to our General Meeting presenters Peter Whitely on NRBC membership automation, Keith Maxwell on his Splendour Rock book, and Laura Waters on her beWILDered book. Catch up with these events on our [Youtube Channel](#).

We continued to assist our clubs and we are grateful for their continued support. Our heartfelt thanks to all club volunteers.

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	David Bell
Vice-President	Jon Gray
Secretary	Trevor Caldwell
Treasurer	Peter Jack
Ordinary committee member	Margaret Covi
Ordinary committee member	John Flint
Ordinary committee member	Paul McCann

Appointed Positions

Position	Person
Public Officer	Margaret Covi
Conservation Officer	David Bell
Tracks and Access Officer	John Flint
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	Vacant
Admin Officer	Justine Bourke
Bushwalking Australia Delegate (ex-officio)	Jon Gray and Executive Officer Kirsten Mayer
NSW Conservation Council Delegate (ex-officio)	Conservation Officer David Bell

BUSHWALKING NSW INC**Statement of Income and Expense**

For the year ended June 30 2023

	Note	2023	2022	2021
Group Insurance	1			
Premium Income				
Insurance - Personal Accident		27,317.59	22,811.55	20,748.32
Insurance - Public Liability - Clubs		35,627.02	28,860.96	27,732.30
Total Premium Income		62,944.61	51,672.51	48,480.62
Premium Expense				
Insurance - Personal Injury		28,820.42	24,371.14	12,174.65
Insurance - Public Liability		35,421.37	30,687.70	17,212.40
Insurance - Broker Fee		-	-	12,764.81
Total Premium Expense		64,241.79	55,058.84	42,151.86
Surplus/Deficit from Group Insurance		- 1,297.18	- 3,386.33	6,328.76
Government Grants	2			
Mental Health in Sport (MHS)				
Income: Government Grant (MHS)		328.60	-	-
Expense: Marketing: (MHS)		328.60	-	-
Surplus/Deficit: Mental Health in Sport		-	-	-
Outdoor Active Recreation Marketing (OARM)				
Income: Government Grant: OARM		5,650.00	12,550.00	-
Expense: Marketing: OARM		6,199.99	12,550.00	-
Surplus/Deficit: Outdoor Active Recreation Marketing		- 549.99	-	-
Surplus/Deficit: Government Grant Programs		- 549.99	-	-
Event Organisation				
Event Organisation - Income - National Park Development		1,960.00	-	-
Event Organisation - Expense		- 3,056.09	-	-
Surplus/Deficit from Event Organisation		- 1,096.09	-	-
Operating Income				
Advertising Income		350.00	-	175.00
Annual Affiliate Dues		73,960.10	71,684.50	66,243.25
Bank Interest		1,578.79	111.69	119.76
Donations Received		350.79	4.20	-
Total Operating Income		76,239.68	71,800.39	66,538.01
Operating Expenses				
Accounting & Bookkeeping		518.00	480.40	454.50
Advertising		150.00	-	-
Bank & Gov Charges		18.00	20.35	116.04
Bushwalking Australia Ann Subscription		10,020.00	-	8,965.00
Chardon Award Prizes		190.00	195.00	195.00
Donations		5,500.00	485.00	5,000.00
Meetings & Conferences		1,425.22	86.47	230.22
Nature Conservation Council Ann Subscription		90.00	90.00	-
NSW Dept of Fair Trading Ann Levy		-	48.21	47.00
OutDoors NSW & ACT Annual Membership Subscription		500.01	420.00	-
Postage & Shipping		236.20	48.60	98.15
Rent - PO Box		148.00	139.00	136.00
Staff Amenities		-	101.00	-
Stationary & Office Supplies		-	63.65	-
Superannuation Expense		4,666.77	4,714.07	3,984.82
Telephone & Internet		323.36	329.73	528.63
Wages & Salaries Expense		52,255.64	47,430.92	42,403.28
Website		176.70	200.70	184.65
Workers' Compensation		294.12	221.59	192.71
Trail Development		186.00	-	-
Total Operating Expenses		76,698.02	55,074.69	62,536.00
Surplus/Deficit from Operations		- 458.34	16,725.70	4,002.01
Total Surplus/Deficit		- 3,401.60	13,339.37	10,330.77

BUSHWALKING NSW INC

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

At June 30 2023

Assets	2023	2022	2021
Cash at Banks			
ING Bank Interest Bearing Account 60 134 750	-	131,742.35	91,630.66
Macquarie Bank Ltd CMA	156,039.52	-	-
NAB Operating Account	31,497.72	4,876.44	24,244.13
Total Bank	187,537.24	136,618.79	115,874.79
Current Assets			
Petty Cash Drawer	-	-	53.65
Sundry Debtors	-	-	1,369.34
Total Current Assets	-	-	1,422.99
Non Current Assets			
Computer Equipment	2,537.85	2,537.85	3,054.00
Total Non Current Assets	2,537.85	2,537.85	3,054.00
Total Assets	190,075.09	139,156.64	120,351.78
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Government Grant: Outdoor Active Recreation Marketing	-	5,650.00	-
Government Grant: Mental Health in Sport	50,571.40	-	-
PAYG Withholding Tax Payable	1,563.00	1,339.00	1,523.00
Sundry Creditors	225.94	-	-
Superannuation Liability	2,497.72	1,165.27	1,166.55
Wages Payable - Liability	7,617.03	0.77	-
Total Current Liabilities	62,475.09	8,155.04	2,689.55
Total Liabilities	62,475.09	8,155.04	2,689.55
Net Assets	127,600.00	131,001.60	117,662.23
Retained Earnings			
Current Year Earnings	- 3,401.60	13,339.37	10,330.77
Prior Year Earnings	131,001.60	117,662.23	107,331.46
Total Retained Earnings	127,600.00	131,001.60	117,662.23

Notes

1 Group Insurance

Bushwalking NSW provides group insurances on a cost recovery basis and does not seek to earn a profit or incur a loss. Any surplus arising results from affiliates joining the scheme after the premium per insured member is determined. Likewise any deficit arises from affiliates departing the scheme after the premium per insured member is determined.

2 Government Grants

Government grants received are recognised as income only when an associated expense is incurred.

The unexpended amount of a grant is recorded as a current liability