

Bushwalking NSW

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21 MAY 2024 BNSW GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Time & Date 7:30-9:00 pm on Tuesday, 21 May 2024

Location: Zoom

Attendees:

John	Evans
Helen	Yoxall
Thais	Turner
Pasquale	Monteleone
Sam	Garrett-Jones
Jennifer	Fisher
Stephen	Millard
Leonie	Bell
Heather	Ferguson
Diana	Terry
Lucy	Moore
Charisma	Judge
John	Luiters
Ana	Vrancic
Paul	Jennings
Mary Rose	Tenney
Lydia	Chua
Donna	Mason
Valerie	Holland
Caro	Ryan
Naveen	Singh
christina	sidor
Col	McCluskey
Tomás	Dowling
Shaune	Walsh
Bill	Eyre
Paulus	Wijngaarden
Ingrid	Souter
Les	Higgins

Rob	Simon
Peter	Laffan
Gary	Roberts
Anne	Dickson
john	whittingham
Samantha	Newton
Chris	Day
Sandra	Teffer
Jennifer	Arnold
Khuong	Vuong
Carol	Thompson
Grant	Ward
peter	jack
David	Bell
Tony	Tenney
David	Donovan
Rob	Lees
Alan	Dixon
David	Springthorpe
Jan	Steel
Andrew	Stanger
Tony	Marsh
Fiona	Sonntag
Martin	Etherington
Don Indika	Senadeera
Lucy	Porter
Sheree	Bamforth
John	Hungerford
Anna	Gane
John	Blanche

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.

keith	maxwell
Sandra	Parker
Stephen	Poole
Barry	James
Paula	Thompson
Manal	Ramadan
Rosanna	Ricafort
Ana	Vrancic
Al	Mikk
Justine	Thomas
Merrilee	Harris

Jan	Gatenby
jono	gunawan
Michelle	Martignoni
David	C
David	Bell
Glenda	ROTHWELL
Margaret	Covi
Karen	Davis

Chair & Quorum

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm with David Bell as chair. The chair announced that a quorum was present and that the meeting was duly constituted.

Agenda item/topic

Leadership Training Benefits

Presented by John Evans a 20 year member and current walks Secretary of Canberra Bushwalking Club (CBC). John received an OAM in 2021 for services to bushwalking and the community.

John discussed how CBC has achieved fantastic results from leadership training. CBC has 400 plus members and memberships are growing. Like many clubs most members are in the older age bracket. CBC is establishing an Instagram page to try to reach younger people.

The Leadership Training Course responds to the challenges that CBC and many other clubs face. Its relevance was shown when John was guided in managing a walk with a large spread of walkers. The solution was to appoint a new leading person so John could be back marker. 71 CBC members have signed up to the Course and sign ups are continuing.

Other benefits of leadership training include:

- fostering team spirit between walk participants
- teaching how to make difficult decisions
- providing a reminder of nature focus - a shift in thinking, a great reminder of why we walk and focus on the importance of mindfulness and need to balance socialising and nature focus
- all club members can benefit including those with many years of experience leading
- developing new leaders by giving students increased confidence to lead. Completing leadership training is a part of the CBC pathway to becoming a leader. CBC also invests in other training for leaders eg first aid.

Kirsten Mayer thanked John for his very informative presentation and launched a poll to assess response to John's presentation and numbers who have completed leadership training. BNSW sent John a copy of Les Higgins book, [Connect with Nature](#).

David acknowledged the great contribution that Les Higgins and Michelle Martignoni made to developing the leadership course.

Bushwalking NSW Update

Update from BNSW President and Conservation Officer David Bell. Very concerned about the proposed wild bush luxury lease to construct accommodation hubs in the Gardens of Stone SCA. BNSW wants the State Government to withdraw the lease for these reasons:

- decision making has been inappropriate
- the Plan of Management does not allow this type of development
- sensitive areas of the SCA will be impacted eg pagodas and cliff lines
- there are concerns about environmental impacts e.g. wastewater disposal.

Other issues:

- Volunteering NSW is running volunteering awards including the annual volunteer of the year award. It is free to apply and the deadline is 14 June. There will be 25 regional ceremonies across NSW.
- BNSW is holding new Presidents meetings to consider issues encountered and stay in touch with new presidents. Vice-Presidents are welcome to attend also.
- We are planning an insurance webinar/Q&A for club committee members to ask questions and raise issues.
- BNSW offers support to any clubs interested in adopting the leadership course. To date over 300 club members have enrolled in our leadership Training Course. BNSW would love to see this number continue to increase.
- Track maintenance: NPA NSW has 80 members interested in doing voluntary trackwork. Sutherland Bushwalkers are currently involved in voluntary trackwork in the Royal NP. Club members wanting to engage in volunteering for NPWS eg trackwork/maintenance should apply through the NPWS portal.

PRIZE

- Meeting attendee John Luiters was awarded a Bushwalker Magazine 1947 edition. The next winner was Yvonne Everett who was awarded a corroboree frog buff. Third prize - the 1948 Bushwalker Magazine was awarded to Robert Lewin.

Next Meeting

The next Bushwalking NSW Annual General Meeting shall be held at:

7:00-9:00pm on Tuesday, 20th August 2024 at NSW Teachers Federation Sydney and on Zoom

Meeting ended at: 8.56pm