

BANKSTOWN BUSHWALKING CLUB 'BUSH NEWS'



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Editor's note

Welcome to a new edition of our club newsletter after a hiatus of two or three years. Here the Club Committee will once again aim to bring you up to date on happenings around the Club, including Committee news, important information from Bushwalking NSW, conservation updates, news of recent club trips and various other miscellaneous snippets.

Your input to the newsletter is welcome and desired, so if you have any trip reports or items of news you'd like to share, please email them to me at: bankstownbushnews@gmail.com

Jon Gray

President's message

Firstly, I would like to thank Jon in his initiative to restart this club newsletter after a break of a couple of years.

This newsletter is an opportunity for us to share news and information about the club and about those matters that could impact the club. Hopefully it will be a reasonably regular publication. However, as with all these activities, the newsletter's success will depend upon you, our members, interest and support. As Jon says above, he is looking for your input and feedback.

The club's AGM proceeded uneventfully in May of this year, with little change to our committees. I am once again President, Bec remains as Secretary, with Aidan as our enthusiastic Membership Officer and Vice-President. Helen and Jon join the Management Committee. Tim Fox and Lynda Paju have dropped off the Abseil and Walks Committees after many years' service, and I thank them again for all their hard work.

Lastly, I would like to welcome our new members.

Geoff Bovard

New club management and other committees

Following our AGM in May, we now have a new set of club representatives, although the majority are members continuing on from last year. The current position holders are as follows:

Management Committee:

President: Geoff Bovard

Vice President: Aidan Basnett

Secretary: Rebecca Langton

Treasurer: Nez Rebosura

Member representatives: Jon Gray, Helen Toohey and Abdul Zaitoun

The Walks Committee: Geoff Bovard, Aidan Basnett, Ivars Karklins, Daniel Obando, Shannon Simonit and Amanda Thompson

The Abseil Committee: Paul Bowdler, Rod Hulme and Craig Scott

Membership Officer: Aidan Basnett

Bushwalking NSW Delegates: TBA

Member Protection Information Officer: Geoff Bovard

Newsletter Editor: Jon Gray

2025 AGM reports and awards

At the AGM, yearly reports for the 2024-25 year were delivered by Club position holders and Committees, as presented below. These all give interesting accounts of how active the Club has been over the last year.

[Management Committee Report](#) (President)

Treasurer's Report

[Membership Officer's Report](#)

[Walks Committee Report](#)

[Abseil Committee Report](#)

Awards were presented for:

Leader of the Year (most trips led): Paul Bowdler

Member of the Year (highest participation): Paul Bowdler

Ross Hamilton Shield

(for best performing club member in the Paddy Pallin Rogaine): Meela Davis

Congratulations Paul and Meela!



*Paul receives his Member of the Year Award –
'The Treasured Boot'!*

Welcome to our new members

On behalf of myself and all the committee members, a warm welcome to our new members who have joined us since 01 June 2025.

Marek Bobrowski
Parina Laosy
Matthew Gannon
Steve Jago
Chris Levan

Salina Lin
Gavin McAleer
Eddy Ortiz
Monica Ortiz
Alyona Bryntseva

It is a great club offering a large range of activities. Enjoy and I look forward to meeting you on a walk one day.

Aidan Basnett - Membership Officer

Membership fees – great value for money (and now due)!

Club membership fees are now due once again. Please return your form and fees to our Membership Officer Aidan at bankswalks@yahoo.com promptly. Fees remain at \$30 per annum for individuals and slightly less per person for couples and families, a small amount to pay when you consider all you get for it. Bear in mind that people undertaking similar bushwalking and adventure activities in a commercial group will pay hundreds of dollars per day!

So where exactly do your membership fees go? A large proportion goes towards insurance, including Personal Accident insurance (covering non-Medicare covered fees, at least partial ambulance fees, partial loss of income and more) and Public Liability insurance (to protect you and all of us against potential legal action and financial ruin by another participant following an accident). Another significant proportion is for membership of Bushwalking NSW, our umbrella organisation who organise the above insurance, guide us on issues of safety and risk management and promote our broader interests with government and the community.

Naturally there are numerous other smaller costs associated with running the club, including NSW Government charges, web services, venue hire and more. The Club may also partially subsidise First Aid courses for members, adding to the safety of us all. People undertaking abseil activities are required to pay a small additional fee (\$5/trip) to cover the replacement of ropes and other equipment. For all the exciting activities and other benefits offered to members, the small annual fee surely represents great value for money!

News from Bushwalking NSW

The Bushwalking Manual has recently been updated in this online version. It provides a wealth of information and guidelines for safe and enjoyable bushwalking and outdoor adventuring, covering matters such as trip planning, navigation, safety, clothing & equipment, emergencies and much more. See the [Bushwalking Manual](#)

Proposed National Park Camping Fees: A consultation paper on new fees for camping sites in NSW national Parks has been released, and submissions are now being considered. Although remote sites with no pit toilet will all be free, sites with facilities will typically increase, up to \$89/night for those with hot showers. It is at least partly aimed at reducing the occurrence of 'ghost camping', where people book camping sites on the chance they may want it, but then don't turn up. See the [Consultation Paper](#). Further discussion on [ABC News website](#). BNSW submitted a [submission](#).

The Light to Light Walk south of Eden is now open. This 32km coastal hike traces the coastline from the historic Boyds Tower to Green Cape Lighthouse in Beowa National Park. It is normally completed over 3 days. [Further detail](#) given on NPWS website.

Bushwalking NSW Needs You! BNSW is electing a new Management Committee at our AGM, expected to be on 16 Sept, 2025, and they're calling on passionate members to step up and help shape the future of bushwalking in NSW and the ACT. Whether you're a seasoned leader or simply keen to contribute, this is your chance to make a real difference for our community. Contact: eo@bushwalkingnsw.org.au

Protect our National Parks: BNSW held a [forum](#) at the recent May General Meeting to discuss the problem of encroachment of private luxury developments into our national parks. See more at [Protect our National Parks](#).

Hunting Bill: On 04 June, 2025 we wrote to the NSW Government to stop the Game and Feral Animal Control Amendment Bill passing through parliament. We also called on our clubs to write and sign permissions. The Bill will increase hunting access on public land, legalise silencers and night shooting, and establish a Minister for Hunting! All at a time that bushwalkers are not being informed where shooters will be! [Reject the NSW Hunting Bill](#)

Feral horses in Kosciuszko National Park: Feral Horses: The petition for the repeal of the *Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act 2018* ('the *Brumby Bill*') was tabled in the NSW Legislative Assembly by Wagga MP Joe McGirr on May 14. This repeal is not yet accepted by the NSW Government. See [ABC article](#).

Sydney coastal walk: Palm Beach to Cronulla (2024-25): Jon Gray

I recently completed this picturesque coastal walk, mostly on my own. I found it very satisfying and thoroughly enjoyable! It covered a total of about 250 km, which I did over 18 legs, returning home each afternoon, mostly relying on public trains, buses and ferries, making it all quite convenient. Read more about [my adventure with map and pics here](#).



1. The inviting track ahead, near Palm Beach



2. South Head, Watsons Bay



3. Celebration at walk's end! Cronulla Beach

Other snippets

[Walking sticks and hiking - advantages and disadvantages](#) : ‘a rare, well balanced article on pros and cons based on independent research, not sponsored by trekking pole manufacturers and retailers. Well worth a read’ (Lynda Paju on Club Facebook page)

Epic survival of rafter on Franklin River, Tas. See [article](#) and on ABC iView, posted by Ric Webber,

Re-opening of Golden Stairs in Katoomba, NPWS, but 2km walk still required, posted by Lynda Paju.

News from the Facebook Group

We don't want our members who aren't on Facebook to miss out on the photos and conversations in our Facebook Group, so here's a sample of the posts during the April to July period. Check them out to see some great photos (get family or friends to show you if you're not on Facebook).

- Nepean Gorge kayak, trip by Shannon Simonit, posted by Carol Weston, 27 March (see Pic 1)
- Clean up Chipping Norton with canoes, Amanda Thompson, 12 April
- Grand Canyon at night walk by Ivars Karklins, posted by Daniel Obando and Ivars, 3-4 May (Pic 2)
- Western Sydney Parklands, Shannon S, 10 May
- Western Aurthur's Traverse, Rebecca Langton, posted 14 May (Pic 3)
- Barden Ridge Loop, Katoomba and Lincolns Rock, Daniel O, 17-18 May
- Camden Farm Town Loop walk, Lauren Thompson, 18 May
- Hanging Rock, Blue Mountains, Aidan Basnett, 24 May (Pic 4)
- Sydney Tram Museum and Audley, outing hosted by Aidan B, posted by Aidan, Julia Steel, Daniel O, 1 June
- Mirambeena, Georges Hall, Aidan B, 7 June
- Dargan's Arch / Gooch's Crater walk, Newnes Plateau, Lynda Paju walk, posted by Lynda, Nahed Als and Daniel O, 14 June (Pic 5)
- Kurnell Peninsula, Kamay NP, whale watching walk of Shannon S, posted by Lynda P, Aidan B and Helen Toohey, 21 June (Pic 6)
- Turtle Falls, Faulconbridge, Daniel O, 22 June
- Lost City Walk, Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area, near Lithgow, posted by Daniel O from Ivars K walk, 29 June
- Wollemi NP: Deception Canyon - Delusional Slot, Dry Canyon, Turtle Rock. Daniel O, 6 July (Pic 7)
- Bungonia Caves, Paul B, 5 July (Pic 8)
- Zorro Canyon, Paul Bowdler, 12 July
- Harold Reid Reserve, Middle Cove, Aidan B, 13 July
- Federation Cliff Walk, Watsons Bay, Shannon S, July 2025 (Pic 9)



1. Nepean Gorge kayak, Shannon Simonit, March 2025, photo: Carol Weston



2. Grand Canyon (Blue Mtns) by night, Ivars Karklins, May 2025



3. Western Arthurs traverse, posted by Rebecca Langton, May 2025, photo: Jurgita V.



4. Hanging Rock, Blue Mtns, Aidan Basnett, May 2025



5. Gooch's Crater, near Newnes, Lynda Paju, June 2025



6. Whale watching at Kamay NP, Shannon S walk, June 2025, photo: Helen Toohey



7. Wollemi NP, Deception Canyon, Daniel Obando, July 2025



8. Bungonia Caves, Paul Bowdler, July 2025



9. Federation Cliff Walk, Watsons Bay, Shannon S. July 2025

Humour corner

Posted by Neil Beer on Facebook

Nicknames for my colleagues in work

Wicket keeper - puts on gloves and stands back
Harvey Norman - 3 years no interest
Sensor light - only works if someone walks past
Noodles - thinks all jobs take 2 minutes
Blister - appears when the hard work is done

Showbag - full of shit
Lantern - not very bright and has to be carried
Deck chair - always folds under pressure
Perth - 3 hours behind everyone else
G-spot - you can never find him
Bushranger - holds everyone up
Wheelbarrow - only works when he's pushed
Limo - carries about 8 people
Cordless - charges all night but only works for 2 hours



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[Current Program \(no contacts\)](#)