

# BANKSTOWN BUSHWALKING CLUB 'BUSH NEWS'

**December 2025**

Download PDF version [here](#).



## Editor's note

Welcome to the current Bush News! Look out for the articles on adventures in Nepal by Lynda Paju and winter ski touring in Kosciuszko NP by Louise Harvey. 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](mailto:bankstownbushnews@gmail.com)

Jon Gray

## President's message

Welcome to our second club newsletter. Your feedback on the initial newsletter was very pleasing, both to editor Jon and me as president.

In February 2026, the club will be organising an in-person members meeting, and hopefully this will be the start of further such opportunities for club members to get together. The club's management is doing this in response to club surveys over the last couple of years. These surveys have indicated to us that members would like to be able to get together in a more social situation, which a wide cross section of members can attend. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Wednesday 11 February, but this will be confirmed via email in 2026.

By the time you read this, the club's summer program will be in progress. Summer is a great time to be outdoors, but it is not without its health and safety issues. People need to be aware of high temperatures, storms, potential bushfires, park closures, as well as a variety of swimming risks. Of course, everyone needs to keep well hydrated and have good sun protection.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope to see you in the outdoors in 2026.

Geoff Bovard

## Club management news

### Club kick-off meeting in early 2026

Come along to our in-person meeting to kick off the new year and meet and catch up with fellow club members. Hosted by the management committee, the tentative date is Wed 11 Feb. The venue will be a Bankstown Library meeting room from 6pm to 7:30pm (confirmation of venue, including address details, will be sent prior to the meeting date.)

## Welcome to our new members (from Membership Officer)

On behalf of myself and all the committee members, a warm welcome to our new members who have joined us since our last newsletter. Remember to spread the word to your family and friends about the varied activities we offer.

Josephine Bechara  
John Bright  
Stacey Phan  
Peter Chmielewski  
Bionda Hiensch

Joy Hung  
Sylvie Levert  
Joep Levert  
Shahhin Sarlak

Aidan Basnett, Membership Officer

## News from Bushwalking NSW

### The 2025 BNSW AGM

We had a very successful AGM on 16th September, 2025. We were fascinated by our Keynote speaker [Richard Swain](#) speaking on the Voice of Country & how to walk on Country. We had the awarding of the annual Chardon Award.

The 2025-26 BNSW Committee members are:

- President - Jessie Burke (Springwood Bushwalking Club); see the youthful Jessie's [message here](#).
- Vice-president - Peter Bruce (The Bush Club)
- Secretary - Trevor Calwell (NPA of NSW)
- Treasurer - Lionel Sonntag (The Bush Club)
- Regular Committee members:
  - David Bell (The Sydney Bush Walkers, The Bush Club)
  - Robin Mcpherson (Wagga Wilderness Walkers)
  - Melissa Twyford (The Bush Club)
  - John Flint (The Sydney Bush Walkers)



*New president Jessie Burke receives 2025 Chardon Award*

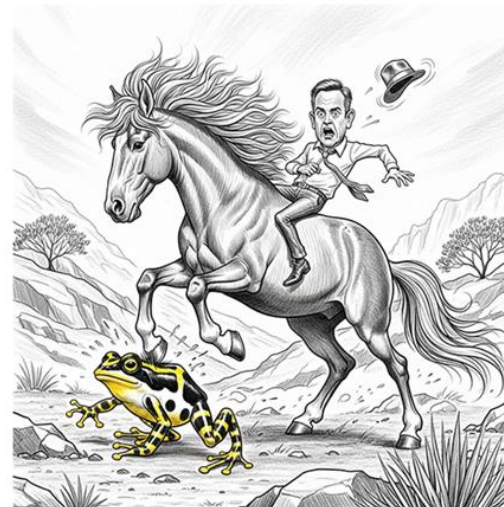
BNSW invites you to read our [2025 Annual Report](#) which contains our 10 Year Report on what has changed at Bushwalking NSW during this time!

## Wild Horse Heritage Act Repealed

Great news that the Kosciuszko Wild Horse Heritage Act was repealed in a late night session in NSW Parliament on 27 November. The environmentally damaging 'Brumby Bill' protecting heritage value of wild horses is to be scrapped. Many in BNSW have been involved with this campaign over the years. [Learn more here](#) and stay tuned for more info celebrating the win in future BNSW newsletters.

### Before you head out:

Check the Park Alerts: [NSW](#) & [ACT](#), [BOM](#) forecast & warnings, and for [Bushfires](#), and [TOBANS](#).



*Protect Kosciuszko NP from feral horses*

## Oppose Privatisation of National Parks

NSW National Parks is seeking expressions of interest for “supported camping” operations in our parks (see EOI site: <https://buy.nsw.gov.au/prcOpportunity/15AB962B-6921-4C98-99A8EEAF4F3E9C93>).

The plan would let commercial operators reserve and manage campsites in 23 already-popular campgrounds across 16 parks. NPWS did not put this out for public comment before releasing the EOI. More info - [Sydney Morning Herald Article](#)

As frequent users of these parks, bushwalking clubs and individual walkers rely on fair, affordable access. Under this proposal:

- Commercial operators could reserve campsites up to 365 days in advance, pushing ordinary campers to compete for the limited remainder.
- The scheme allows on-selling of sites bundled with services, locking out those who just want a campsite and a tent.
- NPWS would promote these operators via its website, email and social media — effectively giving them taxpayer-backed marketing.
- Licences may run for up to 6 years, entrenching inequitable access well into the future.

If this goes ahead unamended, bushwalkers (clubs, families, independents) risk being marginalized in parks we already use heavily.

What you can do RIGHT NOW: Write a letter to the Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC, Minister for the Environment, referencing the EOI (DOC24/483356) and expressing your concerns. You can lodge a letter online at this address <https://www.nsw.gov.au/nsw-government/ministers/minister-environment-heritage>. Any questions please contact us as [conservation@bushwalkingnsw.org.au](mailto:conservation@bushwalkingnsw.org.au)

**Hunting Bill:** In more positive news – the Hunting Bill we mentioned last month now appears unlikely to pass the NSW Parliament. Huge thanks to our former President, David Bell and to all of you for your action on this issue. Together we can keep our forest safe. 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](#)

**The Great Koala National Park:** Huge news! This month the NSW Government announced that 176,000 hectares of precious native forest across the mid-north coast will be protected from logging. The [Great Koala National Park](#) still has some political hurdles before it is finalised but we want to acknowledge the tireless work of the NPA of NSW and the Nature Conservation Foundation in reaching this fantastic outcome!

### Promotion of clubs in BNSW Newsletters and on BNSW Facebook page

New President Jessie Burke has been asking for submissions from clubs to share in the BNSW newsletter and on social media. The aim is to create visibility between clubs, so that we all feel that we are a part of something bigger. Please email her ([president@bushwalkingsw.org.au](mailto:president@bushwalkingsw.org.au)) anytime with stories, trip reports, photos, bushwalking tips. If you are a club that is looking to grow membership, let me know and I can feature your club on our facebook page, which if you haven't yet, please have a look at: <https://www.facebook.com/bushwalkingsw>

### Seeking bushwalking tips:

BNSW would welcome your top tips on:

- Best bushwalking healthy snacks
- Best new (or old) gear advice
- Any other recommendations or knowledge

Prize to be given to the submission that is chosen for this segment in BNSW monthly newsletter!

## Return to Nepal – Rara Lake Trek, 2024: Lynda Paju

Kim and I have been fairly regular visitors to Nepal however due to Covid and some family issues there was a seven-year gap between this trip and our last one. We had decided during lockdown that our first overseas trip would be a return to Nepal. And with lots of time to research and daydream we had come up with something pretty special. As we usually do we chose something off the (Western) tourist trail and decided to trek to Rara Lake.

Read more about [Lynda and Kim's Nepal adventure](#) and see more photos and a great 25 minute video.



1. The beautiful Sinja valley



2. Meeting school children at Sinja



3. Breakfast by the lake

## Cross country skiing in the Snowy Mountains, Winter 2025: Louise Harvey

These weren't club trips but may be of interest to fellow club members as they are classic trips, whether in summer or winter. After a hiatus of many years from cross-country skiing, Peter and I decided last winter to give our skis a dust off and head down to the Snowy Mountains. It was like riding a bike- your body just seems to remember what it's supposed to do.

Read and see more about [Louise and Peter's cross country skiing trips](#) in 2025.



1. Porcupine Rocks



2. Return from Porcupine Rocks, Perisher trail



3. Atop Mt Kosciuszko

## Other snippets

Check out the wonderful and easy to use online mapping facility designed for bushwalkers by Alex Allchin (former President of BNSW) at <https://bushwalkingmaps.com/>. It has full coverage of topographic maps across NSW, supported by a wealth of other base and overlay maps. Zoom in to areas of interest.

Great news. The missing link on the Grand Clifftop Walk has opened. Blue Mountains City Council reports that the full length of [Darwins Walk is now open](#) to the community (Lynda Paju on club Facebook page).

The Aussie Bird Count was conducted over the week 19-25 October. Over 5 million birds were counted by tens of thousands of people across the country. Keep the [Aussie Bird Count](#) in mind around about the same time next year. There's a built-in "bird finder" tool to help you identify birds you're unsure of.

Amazing video of a Lyre Bird in full song and display (from Helen Toohey on our Club Facebook page, 26 August 2025 , but no direct link available)

## News from the Facebook Group

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

- Sydney The Rocks and Lavender Bay, Shannon Simonet, posted 9 Aug
- Lake Macquarie Rogaine: Meela Davis, 10 Aug
- Muogomarra NP: Meela Davis, 17 Aug (trial walk only) (Pic 1)
- Faulconbridge, Blue Mountains NP, Aidan Basnett 24 Aug
- Bundeena Trail, Royal NP, Aidan Basnett, (trial walk) 26 Aug (Pic 2)
- Heathcote – Engadine Track, Heathcote NP, Meela Davis, 9 Sept (Pic 3)
- Turtle Falls, Faulconbridge, Daniel Obando, 14 September
- Mt Victoria: Thor Head – Asgard Swamp, Daniel Obando, Blue Mountains NP, 21 September (Pic 4)
- Glenbrook via Lennox Bridge, Blue Mountains, Aidan Basnett, 21 Sept
- Shinbone and Coinslot Canyons, Glen Davis, Wollemi NP, Paul Bowdler 29 Sept (Pics 5 and 6)
- Berowra - Mt Kuring-gai, Daniel Obando, 29 Sept
- Grand Canyon, Blackheath, Blue Mountains NP, Aidan Basnett, 4 Oct (Pic 7)
- Kingfisher Pool via Bullawarra Track, Heathcote NP, 7 Oct
- Bondi – Maroubra, with Sculpture by the Sea, Helen Toohey 21 Oct (Pic 8)
- Scarborough – Stanwell Park, Illawarra Range, Daniel Obando, 25 Oct
- Lane Cove NP - Pennant Hills, Susan Candy walk, posted by Shannon Simonet, 1 Nov (Pic 9)
- Georges River NP, Kerry Gilsean walk, posted by Carol Weston, 2 Nov
- Hills Showground to Bella Vista, Lauren Thompson, 16 Nov
- Box Vale Walking Track, Mittagong, Aidan Basnett, 22 Nov



1. Muogomarra NP, Meela Davis, Aug 2025



2. Royal NP, Aidan Basnett, Aug 2025



3. Heathcote NP, Meela Davis, Sept 2025



4. Grose Valey, Blue Mtns NP, Daniel Obando, Sept 2025



5. Approaching Coinslot Canyon, Paul Bowdler, Sept 2025



6. Coinslot Canyon, Paul Bowdler Sept 2025



7. Grand Canyon Blue Mountains NP, Aidan Basnett, Oct 2025



8. Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi area, Helen Toohey, Oct 2025



9. Lane Cove NP, Susan Candy walk, photo by Shannon Simonet, Nov 2025

## Humour corner

*I recently took out a pole for a camping survey .....I found that 99% of people got angry when the tent collapsed!*

*Why do golfers always carry an extra pair of socks?..... In case they get a hole in one!*



*Australia is a dangerous place, especially those drop bears! ('Meanwhile in Australia' on Facebook)*



[Web site](#)



[Facebook Group](#)



[Club Email](#)



[Newsletter Email](#)



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

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