

BUSHWALKERS of **NSW**

**The Confederation Of Bushwalking Clubs
NSW Inc.**

Annual General Meeting Annual Report 2010

Tuesday 17^h August 2010

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dodie Green

I'd like to open my report by thanking the Management Committee (MC) for their hard work this year. The MC has met monthly since March. I'd like to acknowledge their on-going support for the Confederation at both monthly general and MC meetings and work that is done via email between meetings.

According to membership stats from the 2010 – 2011 Insurance Questionnaire we close the year with a total Club membership in NSW at 9,210 and a Confederation membership of 62 Clubs.

The NSW Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) have not progressed to release of the AAS Version 1 in NSW in 2010 as anticipated. The AAS remain under legal review. This has unfortunately stalled the Confederation's review of its Risk Management Framework released in 2004. The issue of NSW AAS pre-occupied Confederation's resources and drew strong attention from NSW Clubs.

There has been a strong interest in matters relating to insurance and legal issues with the Confederation receiving approximately 24 enquiries from NSW Clubs. These enquiries were on issues such as risk waivers, child protection policy, risk management practices, PA policy coverage and insurance claiming procedures. Peter Hart our Insurance & Legal Sub Committee Chair has responded to all these enquiries and in many instances spoke with the enquiring clubs to understand and respond to their questions. Thank you to Peter for his diligence on responding to Club issues.

The presentation of the Confederation's 2009-2010 Financial Statements by the Treasurer Barbara Mitchell will show that the Confederation closes the year in a good financial position. Thank you to Barbara for her efforts and organisation as the Confederation's Treasurer again this year. I'd also like to acknowledge and thank Colin Reid from The Bush Club for conducting the audit of the books and records of the Confederation and preparing the auditor's statement for submission with the Statements to the MC and to the AGM today. Our financial position allowed us in the financial year to June 2010 to increase donations to \$6,000, being \$2,000 to BWRS and \$4,000 to environmental organisations that support the Confederation's conservation objects in ways the Confederation is unable to do so. This year in order to contribute to the campaign against the NSW Government's Tourism in National Parks Bill, we donated funds to the NSW NPA, The Colong Foundation and the Nature Conservation Council (NCC).

This year the Confederation was one of many signatories to an NCC letter to the NSW Premier and Ministers Frank Sartor and Ian MacDonald requesting that logging be ceased in the Mumbulla Forest to save a colony of 50 koalas and that a National Park be established. This State Forest was later named as a National Park. The Confederation also submitted a brief response to NSW Water on its Draft Water Metropolitan Water Sharing Plans, expressing our support for parts of the draft plan that support protection of flows in regards to instream and environmental values,

groundwater and embargos on new commercial groundwater licenses for high conservation environments and limits on long term annual and daily levels of extraction; the 24 hour delay in lifting of cease to pump requirements in high conservation value areas such as the Colo and the Capertee. And the continued embargo of the granting of new commercial groundwater licences in high conservation value environments such as the Blue Mountains. We have yet to hear more of the proposed draft Plans of Management for the Blue Mountains-Kanangra Boyd National Park and the Wollemi National Park that we informed Clubs of early in January.

This year we re-instigated the maintenance of a Register of Members with the distribution of Delegate Nomination Forms with accompanying explanatory notes to Clubs. We urge and ask Clubs to complete the Delegate Nomination Form so that the Confederation is able to comply with our constitutional requirements with respect to membership.

Bill Sanday this year conducted the dawn service on ANZAC day this year at Splendour Rock as he has done now for many years. He conducted it this year on behalf of the Confederation due the unfortunate closure of the Nepean Bushwalking Club.

The MC has begun considering ways and means through which the Confederation could function and operate more efficiently and effectively. We hope that the coming President's Meeting on September 25 will support and provide good discussion on the Confederation, on how Clubs engage with the Confederation and the challenges facing clubs and how they are dealing with them. Further to this meeting the MC is currently giving consideration to the number of General Meetings held in a year, the content of General Meetings and how the meetings are run. The MC will be putting out an email to clubs for clubs to comment upon. The MC is acutely aware of the long history of the monthly General Meetings and at the same time wishes meetings to be of more value to Delegates and Clubs.

I hope that in the remainder of 2010 and in 2011 there is good progress and hopefully outcomes from the focus of the MC upon the operation of the Confederation and a heightened level of engagement with NSW Clubs. To this end I urge Delegates to seek ways of becoming involved with the efforts and tasks facing the Confederation in the year ahead. One way of doing this is playing an active role in the Management Committee or in one of its subcommittees.

I close my report by thanking all those who contributed and supported the Confederation in 2010, Club delegates, Clubs and their officials, the Confederation's Sub Committee Chairs and members and Merrilyn our Administration Officer. My personal thanks go to Merrilyn for the assistance she provided to me and to Denise Kruse our Vice President for standing in to chair General Meetings when I was unavailable.

Happy and safe walking to all our Clubs and their members!

**Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs Inc
ABN 50 739 593 408**

TREASURER'S REPORT YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

Barbara Mitchell

The Confederation made an overall profit of \$7,360, which is higher than previous years. Some new advertising income contributors resulted in increased income of approximately \$500. As expected, interest income was less than in previous years, however the major increase in income was \$3,911 for Copyright relating to the years 2006 to 2009 inclusive. As we had no knowledge that this was due, it had not been included in the budget for 2010.

The increase in sundry expenses was for travel expenses for members to attend conferences. Employment expenses were down by \$2,200. Due to the increase in excess funds we doubled our donations to conservation associations.

As at 30th June 2010 our funds in the bank totaled \$100,614. For 2010-2011 funds have been allocated for legal advice relating to activity standards and general administration of the Confederation.

Based on our current financial position it was decided there be no increase affiliation fees for yet another year.

My thanks to Merrilyn, in the office, and Colin Reid, our Auditor.

Balance Sheet [Last Year Analysis]**As of June 2010**18/07/2010
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	This Year	Last Year
Assets		
Cheque Account	\$1,519.81	\$1,772.60
ING	\$99,093.59	\$91,900.09
Petty Cash	\$211.86	\$97.55
Trade Debtors	\$0.00	\$105.00
Equipment	\$1,349.18	\$1,349.18
Less Provision depreciation	-\$1,349.18	-\$1,349.18
Total Assets	\$100,825.26	\$93,875.24
Liabilities		
Payroll deductions payable	\$1,040.60	\$1,214.75
PAYG payable	\$164.00	\$247.00
Superannuation payable	\$96.16	\$115.71
Income Tax	\$0.00	-\$328.00
Deposits on hold	\$4.60	\$4.60
Total Liabilities	\$1,305.36	\$1,254.06
Net Assets	\$99,519.90	\$92,621.18
Equity		
Confederation Accum Funds	\$50,072.80	\$50,072.80
Retained Earnings	\$42,548.38	\$35,445.47
Current Earnings	\$6,898.72	\$7,102.91
Total Equity	\$99,519.90	\$92,621.18

Profit & Loss Statement

1 July 2009 through 30 June 2010

18/07/2010
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	This Year	Last Year
Income		
Affiliation fees	\$37,925.50	\$37,748.00
Advertising income	\$9,525.00	\$9,040.00
Subscriptions	\$620.00	\$720.00
Donations	\$100.00	\$100.00
Bank Interest	\$4,673.50	\$6,016.70
Copyright income	\$3,911.12	\$0.00
Total Income	\$56,755.12	\$53,624.70
Expenses		
Bank charges	\$24.50	\$18.40
Filing Fees	\$60.75	\$44.00
legal expense	\$0.00	\$150.00
Postage	\$564.70	\$388.75
Office Expense	\$981.44	\$674.20
Telephone	\$897.44	\$908.61
Rent	\$2,585.00	\$2,465.82
Sundry	\$1,066.20	\$583.05
Employment Expenses		
Wages	\$13,843.70	\$16,058.55
Superannuation	\$1,245.90	\$1,445.28
Worker's Compensation	\$175.00	\$175.00
Magazine Costs		
Magazine Postage	\$3,165.98	\$3,463.75
Magazine Production	\$13,695.40	\$13,447.50
Subscriptions	\$5,061.50	\$4,849.00
Donations	\$6,000.00	\$3,000.00
Total Expenses	\$49,367.51	\$47,671.91
Operating Profit	\$7,387.61	\$5,952.79
Other Income		
Public Liability Insurance	\$35,817.32	\$34,044.00
Personal Injury insurance	\$42,188.94	\$45,401.70
Total Other Income	\$78,006.26	\$79,445.70
Other Expenses		
income tax expense	\$0.00	-\$683.80
Public Liability Insurance	\$35,844.75	\$35,057.84
Personal Injury Insurance	\$42,650.40	\$43,921.54
Total Other Expenses	\$78,495.15	\$78,295.58
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$6,898.72	\$7,102.91

The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc.**Statement by Members of the Committee****Year Ended 30th June 2010**

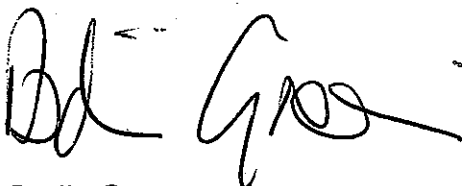
The Committee have determined that the organisation is not a reporting entity for the purposes of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC).

The Committee have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the accounts.

In the opinion of the Committee the financial statements as set out in the attached pages:

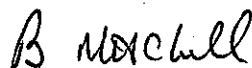
1. Presents fairly the financial position of the organisation as at 30th June 2010 and the financial performance of the organisation for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this Statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This Statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



Dodie Green
President

3-8-2010



Barbara Mitchell
Treasurer

3-8-2010

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements Year ended 30th June 2010

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The Financial Report is a special purpose financial report and has been prepared by the Management Committee for lodgement with the Department of Commerce (Office of Fair Trading). The Management Committee has determined that the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc. is not a reporting entity for Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) purposes. The Financial Report is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. The Report has been prepared on an accruals basis.

Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets. Unless otherwise stated, the accounting policies have been consistently applied. The statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the following accounting standards:

AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 108	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
AASB 119	Employee Benefits
AASB 136	Impairment of Assets
AASB 1031	Materiality

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies used by the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc. in the preparation of the Financial Report:

(a) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the liability due for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees but unpaid as at balance date. Employee benefits expected to be settled within one year and benefits arising from wages and salaries, sick leave and annual leave which will be paid after one year have been measured at the amount expected to be paid when the liability falls due, plus any associated on-costs. Other benefits payable later than one year are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows for those benefits. Contributions made to employee superannuation funds are charged as expenses when incurred.

(b) Investments

Current investments are carried at cost. The Management Committee annually reviews the carrying amount of the investments to ensure they are not in excess of the recoverable amount of the investments.

(c) Revenue

Interest income is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates relevant to the financial assets. Affiliation fees and advertising income is recognised when due.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
CONFEDERATION OF BUSHWALKING CLUBS NSW INC

Scope

I have audited the accounts of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs of NSW Inc being the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet. The Confederation's committee members are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and the information contained therein. I have conducted an independent audit of these accounts in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the Confederation on their preparation and presentation. No opinion is expressed as to whether the basis of accounting used is appropriate to the needs of the members.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the accounts are free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the accounts. These procedures have been undertaken in order to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the accounts are presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Concepts and Standards and statutory requirements as to present a view of the Confederation which is consistent with my understanding of its financial position and the results of its operations.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the accounts of the Confederation are properly drawn up;

So as to give a true and fair view of:

- (a) (i) the state of the affairs of the Confederation as at June 30, 2010 and,
(ii) the result of the Confederation's activities for the year ended on that date.
- (b) In accordance with the provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984,
- (c) In accordance with the applicable Accounting Standards.



25.7.2010

COLIN REID B Com (Accounting), F Fin, CPA

Signed at Sydney NSW

BUSHWALKING AUSTRALIA INC.

Dodie Green

Bushwalking Australia Inc. meets on a quarterly basis via teleconference facilities. It also meets annually at a face to face meeting hosted on a rotating basis by one of the States. Last year's face to face was held in Adelaide and was attended by Margaret Covi on behalf of the Confederation. This year's face to face is being hosted by Bushwalking Victoria Inc. and will be held in late November with the agenda yet to be developed. Funds have been budgeted for the attendance of two delegates.

The agenda for the January quarterly meeting raised for discussion the draft BAI Risk Management Guidelines drafted by BAI's Insurance Officer. The draft guidelines were put together drawing upon existing State risk management documents but mostly drawn from Victorian risk management guidelines. From this initial discussion, a series of conversations were held between NSW and BAI with regard to NSW's concerns over the content of the draft guidelines. The Confederation sought an extension to the comment period to allow the draft guidelines to be circulated to clubs for comment. This process was undertaken by the Confederation and our finalised second round of more detailed comments were provided to BAI in late May 2010. Both round of Confederation comments have been circulated to clubs and I refer Clubs for more detail to these documents, the Confederation's view being that it did not support the current content of the draft guidelines and that we do not believe the document added any value from BAI as a national umbrella organisation. The Confederation have subsequently proposed to BAI that a working group be formed to scope and formulate the content of BAI's risk management guidelines and we have offered two resources to the working group with additional resources working offline to support NSW's contribution.

BAI has put efforts into raising its profile this year with John Marshall from Bushwalking Queensland being elected to the Outdoor Council of Australia as a representative of BAI. David Reid also attended the Healthy Parks Healthy People Congress in Melbourne as a representative of both BAI and Bushwalking Victoria. This congress was attended by 1,000 delegates from 38 countries. David reported that the themes from the Congress were: the need to rethink the role of national parks and other protected areas; the importance of identifying all stakeholders in the parks system and encouraging collaboration; the importance of encouraging people to engage nature; and the role of nature based tourism in promoting the value of parks and in environmental education. David Reid was also interviewed in his capacity as BAI President in the Great Walks magazine.

This issue of the risk management guidelines has largely dominated our conversations with BAI in 2010. We look forward to resolving this matter this year with BAI. The next BAI quarterly meeting will be held August 24.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Michael Maack

Once again the Confederation year is coming to a close and the forces of despair are at the ascendancy in the two months the NPWS Amendment (Tourist and Visitors) Bill 2010 was assented by the NSW Parliament by the Government with the help of the Shooters Party in the Legislative Council. It is sad that year after year the Environment Movement has to fight for the rights of our planet's bio and marine diversity against all those that want to exploit our earthian resources. Their mindset, and it is one that is rife throughout developed and developing nations, is that "one more little negative influence should not really matter. Anyhow, everyone else does it so why shouldn't I receive a cut of the pie."

This attitude is the basis of the seminal book Hardin's "Tragedy of the Commons". We cannot continue to cut away at our remaining natural resources – the natural resources are definitely finite. We all live on one planet. None of us can escape this fact and the expectation that we can feasibly go and colonise another planet or solar system is a pipedream borne in science fiction and an idea that is literally pie-in-the-sky.

The argument by the Government is that users must pay for the services they use. This is a fundamental underpinning of the corporate model, initially introduced by the NSW Greiner Government and promulgated by successive right wing Governments of the two major political parties within NSW. On a prima facie basis, the idea seems plausibly seductive. Why shouldn't users pay? How else can the parks service raise revenue from the lands that are entrusted to their care?

Assent to this view demands that we agree to the premise of the argument – that the NSW Government through its bureaucratic organ, DECCW and its subsidiary the NPWS, should be trusted to preserve and protect the natural features of our state and thus should be allowed to manage the resources under its care with impunity. Unfortunately this premise has historically been shown to be flawed and, through many legal cases, often found to be wanting. The Government's decision to enjoin with the Shooters Party to pass its parliamentary agenda as a trade-off to acquire a Shooters Bill thus has recently been shown to create management problems for NPWS staff in regional area reserves. By relaxing laws so as to appease self-interest groups in non-National Park reserves has had flow-on effects in the National Parks' estate. The author of this report can personally validate the veracity of the guns-in-parks problem. During a trip with a group of ex-Bushwalking Club families in a National Park on the outskirts of Sydney one Saturday night recently, we were startled when a gun-report occurred very close to our camp. This alarmed many of the children in our party including my own granddaughter. These children ranged in age from between 2 to 13.

Was this effect the intent of the Shooters Party Bill? Probably not, but unintended consequences always seem to follow from ill-conceived parliamentary ideas borne from expediency or from supposed financial necessity.

National Parks have always paid their way in terms that they have generated millions of dollars in revenue for the state. These monies were never ceded back to the management of the NPWS but were diverted to consolidated revenue. If the state were to apply a truly corporate model to its governance, then this financial situation should not have prevailed. A second premise of the Government's financial rectitude is thus found to be wanting.

So what of the Tourism Amendment and its affect on the environment? What are the slight cuts that are too small to be of consequence in many citizen's view? The call is already underway to build trails. The horse lobby is adept at this action strategy. Organised "EcoTour type" lessees are touting for trail guiding franchises, all whom I expect will eventually push for monopoly rights as has happened in South Africa on the pretext that they cannot remain viable with open competition. And open competition, which is not the most mature of social forces, will foster elitist excesses.

Every one of these social and managerial phenomena will cause either damage to the biodiversity, i.e trail forming leads to erosion and soil profile impaction, or to an increase in "eco-habitat" construction of in-park resort accommodation. All such previous in-park development, such as the CharlottesPass-Perisher-SmigginHole-BlueCow-Guthega development has created a multitude of unforeseen environmental problems. Even slightly off-park development, like the Thredbo holding, has impacted on the park hydrology which eventually caused the Thredbo slippage tragedy. Note that the NPWS was held managerially responsible for something that happened off-park in a lessee holding because of poor road "development". What other liabilities is the parks service exposing itself to and what other environmental accommodations will have to be made once paying customers demand duty-of-care services thanks to this ill-conceived parliamentary bill ?

INSURANCE-LEGAL SUB COMMITTEE REPORT

Peter Hart

Although the Insurance-Legal Sub Committee did not meet during the year the insurance officer received over 25 enquiries. Most of these enquiries were dealt with by email but the more complex ones involved telephone conversations with the enquirer. Such conversations were very successful in dealing with the more complex enquiries as well as establishing a good sense of rapport.

The year ahead should be a busier one for the Sub Committee. Confederation's risk management framework will need to be reviewed after ORIC officially endorses the Bushwalking AAS. There may also need to be some revision performed on the framework to address issues raised by BAI's risk management proposal.

NSW ADVENTURE ACTIVITY STANDARDS REPORT

Dodie Green

There has been little, if no progress on the development of NSW Adventure Activity Standards (AAS) in 2010. In a conversation with ORIC earlier this month I was advised that the AAS documents are still under legal review and that there is likely to be a draft three Canoe and Kayaking document released. It had been originally intended by ORIC that legal review of the generic content of the AAS drafts be completed by the end of May 2010. The delayed release has meant that the Confederation's AAS Subcommittee has not been able to recommend to the Management Committee (MC) a review of the Confederation's current Risk Management Framework document on the basis of the release of the Version AAS documents and therefore for any review of the Confederation's Risk Management Framework to proceed.

Despite the lack of progress by ORIC with the development of AAS, the Confederation in late 2009 made some progress in pursuing better outcomes for Clubs in NSW. The AAS Subcommittee in late November last year, after seeking comments from Clubs, submitted the Confederation's comments on the AAS Draft 2 documents. The three main issues at the time these comments were submitted were:

1. The inclusion of the Semi Independent Participant Definition which creates ambiguity between the Dependent and Independent definitions, broadening the scope for the guidelines to be applied to Clubs and that it should be removed. This ambiguity did not exist before the addition of this definition.
2. A proposal by Australian Canoeing that its Safety Guidelines be adopted as the AAS for Canoe & Kayaking in NSW to which the Confederation is opposed.
3. The absence of a legal ramble in the Draft 2 documents. And currently there is no review by senior legal counsel before submission to the ORIC Board for adoption as AAS Version 1.

Following the submission of these comments, the Subcommittee attended a final meeting of all AAS Technical Working Groups in late November. After this meeting the Confederation was advised that the definition of a Semi Independent Participant was to be removed from the document, removing the ambiguity created by this definition. A document was also circulated to the ORIC AAS Steering Committee and copied to the Confederation requesting that organisations represented on the Committee indicate their support or objection to the Australian Canoeing proposal and also indicate their support for the obtaining of legal counsel or review of the AAS documents. The Confederation subsequently wrote to the ORIC Board in February 2010 urging ORIC to obtain legal opinion on the content of the AAS documents. The Confederation has not formally received a response to this letter nor have been advised of any progress of the AAS since May 2010.

The Subcommittee is aware of the diverse range of views and opinions held by Clubs on the matter of AAS in NSW and will continue to strive for there to be no impact if not a minimal impact on bushwalking clubs in NSW.

BUSHWALKERS WILDERNESS RESCUE SQUAD Inc.

Keith Maxwell – President BWRS

Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue Squad (BWRS) was founded as the self help, self contained Search and Rescue Section of the NSW Federation of Bushwalking Clubs in 1936 by Paddy Pallin and a number of prominent bushwalkers of the time. The past year has again been a busy but enjoyable year. As usual this report will cover from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. There have been several callouts where the performance of BWRS has put us in high regard with the NSW Police. BWRS is respected as a specialist remote area bush search and rescue squad of the VRA (Volunteer Rescue of NSW Inc.) Our several training events helped ensure and enhance our preparedness for rescue.

Callouts BWRS was involved in the large search for English backpacker, Jamie Neale in July 2009. He was missing in the Cedar Creek valley for 10 days. His reappearance made world wide news. This search also included many SES and RFS personnel. In September BWRS personnel joined SES members to search for an elderly man who had wandered off from a Wyoming Retirement Village. He is still missing. In January 2010 two searches were almost concurrent. BWRS teams searched canyons outside Mt Wilson for a missing school group. Unfortunately they were found on the far side of Wollangambe Creek just after a young man died from a rock fall. On two separate days BWRS members searched for an elderly man at Hazelbrook. During May at very short notice some BWRS members assisted Police, SES & RFS personnel in a search for a young man thrown from a boat overnight in the Georges River. His body was found at low tide.

NavShield On the first weekend of July each year, BWRS runs NavShield as a major bush navigation training event for the Emergency Services. Typical attendance is around 400 personnel. Teams participate in either a one day or day event to find as many as possible checkpoints (within the allocated time) previously set by BWRS in a 100 square km area. Additional aims are to provide publicity and showcase the navigation and co-ordination skills of BWRS. NavShield 2009 was blessed with good weather in the lower Blue Mountains around Euroka Clearing. Unfortunately there was steady thick scrub throughout the course. NavShield is a great training event for all concerned.

TrailWalker TrailWalker is a 100km track / fire road walkathon held around Sydney over 48 hours (in August 2008) as a major fundraiser for the Oxfam charity. The route starts from Brooklyn and winds around Cowan Creek / northern Sydney to eventually finish at French's Forest. TrailWalker provides excellent member training along with practice in co-ordination of BWRS teams whilst being involved in community outreach with potential publicity for BWRS. BWRS provides first and second safety response teams over shifts for this event of over 400 teams of four persons. Again this year BWRS had to add extra track markers where some confusion could occur. You only know of track problems once the event is

happening. Once again Friday night was busy with a range of participant withdrawals from exhaustion and minor injuries. Late Saturday afternoon was busy as BWRS safety response teams assisted TrailWalker staff in resetting control points after a severe wind storm damaged many tents and fittings. The atmosphere at TrailWalker, like NavShield, is very friendly.

Vertical Rescue BWRS has a strong group of vertical rescue trained members. The old (discontinued) competencies were VM, V1, V2 and V3. Over three weekends BWRS hosted vertical rescue training to reaccredit their own members and some other VRA Squad members. They now meet the NSW State Rescue Board recognised competency for rigging, lifting and lowering patients in stretchers over cliffs. BWRS now has one of the largest groups of vertical rescue personnel in NSW some of whom have participated in joint exercises with Police Rescue Officers. Vertical rescue personnel have good personal mobility skills including the ability to change from one rope to another rope / cross knots while either descending (abseiling) or ascending.

Canyoners are moving further afield. Accordingly, BWRS has attempted to adapt vertical rescue skills to Remote Canyon Access (RCA) procedure. Pack weight has been closely monitored. A variety of methods of radio communication have been tested - UHF and HF with NVIS aerials at a range of frequencies.

First Aid Two weekend St John Ambulance Senior First Aid courses were held in November and May. While this skill (competency) is no longer adequate for Operational Members of BWRS I will continue to offer these courses to encourage members of Confederation Clubs to gain some skills in First Aid. I try to make getting First Aid qualified as bushwalker friendly (including a discount fee) and relevant as possible.

Three Remote Area (4 day) First Aid (RAFA) courses were well attended. RAFA is a more appropriate First Aid qualification for Operational Members of BWRS. These RAFA courses have been well attended due to our excellent Instructor. A two day recertification course will be offered in November 2010 now that so many RAFA trained persons are due for recertification. The website booking system required for either course has proven to be very effective way to co-ordinate and plan these First Aid courses.

Equipment BWRS is perusing many grant opportunities for building a squad headquarters to house our Toyota Land Cruiser Troop Carrier (troopie) and rescue trailer. BWRS is now the lease holder for a small block of Crown Land in the western suburbs. We are close to submitting a DA (Development Application) to the local council for the first stage of construction. Currently BWRS has a less than ideal arrangement where equipment is stored in several places.

BWRS is continuing a program of rope turnover and vertical rescue hardware updates. Lighter equipment for RAVA is under discussion / purchase.

Training BWRS has an active Training Sub Committee. ALL search and rescue groups from Police to volunteers must be able to define and quantify the skills of its members. BWRS has been working with our parent body, the Volunteer Rescue Association of NSW (VRA), and their nominated Registered Training Organisation (RTO) to implement this process. The overall process is a large task to define competencies and keep member records as well as co-ordinating a number of training weekends per year.

As well as the other training events already listed each year we have an autumn Operational Weekend and a multi emergency services Operational Weekend at Barrington Tops. We keep hoping to locate a small Cessna plane that disappeared in August 1981.

Our aim as the end result of this training and accreditation program is for BWRS personnel to be respected as the shock troops of bush search and rescue. I would also like bushwalkers to be proud of their BWRS training so that there would be a constant stream of new trainees. Operational members will be disciplined, experienced bushwalkers with additional skills in radio communication, observation, emergency management, First Aid and other bush search and rescue skills.

Publicity BWRS must constantly work at publicity. This year BWRS has produced publicity banners to compliment previous pamphlets and a revised website. The pocket Calendar was printed and distributed in its revised format. Many activities also have a publicity component. An aim of participation in TrailWalker and NavShield is publicity for BWRS.

Bush safety was publicly encouraged at radio interviews and at our website which includes detailed information on bush safety, distress beacons, recent callouts and links to other sites such as the VRA and Confederation.

Membership I would like bushwalkers to consider joining BWRS. We are part of the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc. whose motto is "Walk Safely - Walk with a Club" I trust that our Confederation clubs are encouraging safe bushwalking through their own internal training methods. BWRS fulfils the Confederation motto by encouraging bushwalkers to train in wilderness safety and bush navigation via NavShield and First Aid through the weekend courses. BWRS aims to remain true to its original aim as the Confederation Search and Rescue Section by being a self-help organisation of bushwalkers for bushwalkers. Please note that the existence of a strong bushwalker based bush search and rescue organisation has helped resist public pressure for controls on bushwalking. We always need new recruits in BWRS to replace members who retire or move away. We have tasks big and small to suit all levels of commitment. Be part of a great community asset!

Conclusion I enjoy my involvement in BWRS. We have great people and diverse events. BWRS is held in high regard by NSW Police involved in bush rescue. In the past year BWRS has been active in a wide range of activities from community outreach to training events and multiple "callouts". NavShield 2009 was another good event. Our training exercises went from the Barrington Tops to TrailWalker (around Sydney). Our bush search and rescue ability has been enhanced by training in additional skills. A number of BWRS personnel completed vertical (cliff) rescue training to a standard recognised by the State Rescue Board. RAVA is being assessed for canyon search. There were successful Senior & Remote Area First Aid courses. The training program comprising internal and externally offered modules remains strong. Our training modules aim to meet national guidelines for recognition Australia wide. BWRS has commenced the building process for a storage shed so as to consolidate and safely store our equipment. Our vertical rescue equipment is being further improved. BWRS continues to be active in publicity and encouraging bush safety.

In conclusion, I trust that you will agree that BWRS has had another busy and successful year and is thus well placed to move forward into 2010 / 2011 with the Confederation to promote safe and enjoyable bushwalking. As always, for more information on BWRS, NavShield, bush safety, First Aid training etc see our website at www.bwrs.org.au



The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs NSW Inc.

All Nations Bushwalkers Inc.	Mountain Devils Bushwalking & Social Club Inc.
Armidale Bushwalking Club Inc.	Mudgee Bushwalkers Inc.
Bankstown Bushwalking Club Inc.	Narrabri Bushwalking Club Inc.
Barrier Rangers Inc.	National Parks Association of the ACT Inc.
Batemans Bay Bushwalkers Inc.	National Parks Association of NSW Inc.
Berowra Bushwackers Club	Newcastle Bushwalking Club Inc.
Blue Mountains Conservation Society Bushwalking Group	Newcastle Ramblers Bushwalking Club Inc.
Brisbane Water Outdoors Club Inc.	Nimbin Bushwalkers Club Inc.
The Bush Club Inc.	Northern Rivers Bushwalkers Club
Canberra Bushwalking Club Inc.	Outdoor Club of NSW
Central West Bushwalking Club Inc.	Shoalhaven Bushwalkers Inc.
Clarence Valley Bushwalkers Inc.	South Coast Bushwalking Club Inc.
Coast and Mountain Walkers of NSW Inc.	Southern Highlands Bushwalkers Inc.
Coonabarabran Bushwalking Club Inc.	Span Outdoors Inc.
Downhill Bushwalking Club Inc.	Springwood Bushwalking Club Inc.
Endeavour Campus Walkers	Suboir United Bushwalkers Inc.
Fairfield Bushwalking Club	Sutherland Bushwalking Club
Family Bushwalkers Inc.	Sydney Bush Walkers Inc.
Geehi Bushwalking Club Inc.	Sydney Christian Bushwalkers
Goulburn Bushwalkers Club	Sydney University Bushwalkers
Happy Wanderers	Tamworth Bushwalking & Canoe Club Inc.
Hill View Bushwalkers Inc.	Up & Downers Bushwalking Club Inc.
Hunter Area Walkabout Club Inc.	Upper Blue Mountains Bushwalking Club
Illawarra Ramblers Club	Upper Lachlan Bushwalkers
Inverell Bushwalking Club Inc.	Walkers and Talkers
Ku-ring-gai Bushwalkers Activity & Social Group Inc.	Wanderers Bushwalking & Outdoors Club Inc.
Lake Macquarie Bushwalking Club Inc.	Watagan Wanderers Inc.
Mt Druitt Bushwalking Club	Warringah Bushwalking Club
Macquarie Explorers	Weekday Walkers Inc.
Manly Spit Bush Walking Club Inc.	Yarrowood Bushwalking Club Inc.
Manning River Canoe Club Inc.	YHA Social & Outdoor Club