

From the President's Desk July 2014

David Trinder, President

I will be standing down after 2 years in the job. There is no reason why new people cannot take over some of the positions.

My intention when I became president was to make the organisation more relevant and useful to the bushwalking Club members of New South Wales. Over the past 2 years we changed the name and have initiated a new web site among many other projects. David Morrison from Newcastle is coordinating the web site. This will be the vehicle to give Clubs access to new services including a new calendar system for placing walks on their program and walkers agreeing to do a walk. It should save Club walks coordinators a lot of time working for their Club so they can do more pleasurable pastimes like enjoying the outdoors. There will also be access to training, tracks and information about the Clubs for potential members of Clubs. The web site will cover a wide range of topics, governance, insurance, history, a media centre and publications. Under gear it will cover, 'on your back', 'on your feet', beds, shelters, cooking and food, clothes and navigation. The Clubs will all get a section to sell themselves and to help new people to choose a Club.

The Committee members have been active all year and I thank them for that and we thank Matt McClelland from Wild Walks who is giving assistance in making beneficial changes to the organisation as well.

Last year my report said that we would be producing a newsletter to improve communications with the Clubs; the Newsletter is now a regular monthly issue by email.

Mitchell Isaacs has started a Twitter account for Bushwalking NSW.

Our Administration Officer, Gail Clifford, and David Morrison, have set up a more unified mailing list which should improve communications with the Clubs.

A survey on the Bushwalker shows us that it is wanted and that it should give more information about Bushwalking NSW.

We work with Bushwalking Australia and are learning from the other states. The insurance section of their website has been upgraded and that should be the source of information and answers to questions in relation to insurance.

In the last year we have lost 2 small Clubs and gained 1 Club.

The matter of the Blue Mountains City Council requiring permits for bushwalkers to access Council land is being addressed by us. That issue could cause trouble to the bushwalkers.

Keith Maxwell has organised the registration of Splendour Rock as an official war memorial.

We have engaged a bookkeeper to manage our month to month financial records.

In future we want to make more contact with Government, the commercial sector and the media. In the long run we want to make it possible for us to provide services to all bushwalkers in the state and to encourage non-club bushwalkers to join a Club.

We have accomplished many changes this year and are setting ourselves up for big things in the future.