

2015-2016 In Brief

Representing Bushwalkers

BWV strengthened its relationships with Parks Victoria and Sport & Recreation Victoria. Quarterly meetings were held with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

12 BTAC Field Officers liaised with national & state parks rangers

Nine submissions were made to the Victorian government on:

- VEAC Statewide Assessment of Public Land
- Lake Boort Management Plan
- Plenty Gorge Park Concept Plan
- Port Philip Sport and Recreation Strategy
- Recreational Access and Use of Crown Land Water Frontage
- Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing Preliminary Concept
- Point Nepean Master Plan
- River Red Gums Parks Management Plan
- Central Goldfields Shire Walking and Cycling Strategy

BTAC compiled a list of Tracks at Risk as basis for working with DELWP and PV on priorities.

BWV actively contributed to Outdoors Victoria and Bushwalking Australia and fostered relationships with other trail users including 4WD Victoria.

Tracks and Conservation

Bushwalking Tracks and Conservation (BTAC) Committee and volunteers and Member clubs had a very productive year working on tracks and conservation:

- 9 projects completed
- 1981 volunteer hours (up from 1611 in 2015)
- 12 member clubs have completed additional track activities totaling 1072 hours
- Value of volunteer time to Parks Victoria is \$99,239 (@ \$32.50 per hour)
- 12 clubs have taken up the Adopt-A-Track initiative

BTAC has 180 volunteers with 90 contributing to work completed in the past 12 months.

Bush Search and Rescue

Bush Search and Rescue (BSAR) Victoria has 234 volunteer searchers on call as at 30 April 2016 (up from 221 in 2015).

BSAR attended five searches:

- Mt Bogong, 12 Aug 2015
- Mt Erica, 26 Aug 2015
- Mt Burrows, 5 Oct 2015
- Lederberg, 18 Feb 2016
- Merrijig, 26 April 2016

Two training events conducted:

- 95 people attended annual training at Fryerstown;
- Steep Snow and Ice training held at JB Plain.

Fedwalk 2015

Host clubs Great Dividing Trail Association and Bayside Bushwalking Club delivered an outstandingly successful weekend. 346 walkers (up from 295 last year) from 36 clubs enjoyed walking in the beautiful Daylesford area.

Thank You

Bushwalking Victoria relies on a wonderful group of volunteers who give their time and skills to make everything we do possible:

- Board members, consultants, advisors and website manager
- BSAR Convener, committee and volunteer searchers
- BTAC Manager, committee, Field Officers and volunteers
- Editor, Bushwalking News Victoria
- Fedwalk organising clubs
- Project team members

Congratulations to Duncan Brookes who was awarded the Emergency Services Medal for 42 years of volunteer work in Bush Search and Rescue.

To all of you, thank you – Bushwalking Victoria could not continue without you.

Member Support

Judy Hunter appointed as Training Coordinator to assist clubs run day walk and backpacking leadership training.

Coordinated annual renewal of Personal Injury, Public Liability



and Associations Liability insurance for clubs.

Work almost completed on a guide to establishing and running new bushwalking clubs.

Each Affiliated club has a BWV Board member that they can approach for assistance or for taking any issues of concern to Board meetings.

Salesforce software implemented by Patsy Scales to enhance membership administration and communication with members.

2015-2016 In Brief



Promoting Bushwalking

A Marketing Strategy and a Marketing Plan have been developed and approved by the Board. Department of Sport and Recreation has approved a grant of \$87,500 to implement the Marketing Plan in 2016-2017. Focus will be on:

- People aged 45 plus;
- People in their 20's and 30's
- Young families

Communications

Joslin Guest led reviews of the BWV website and Bushwalking News Victoria. These lead to a number of recommendations for changes which will be implemented in the year ahead.

Joslin also lead a team that re-wrote Tread Softly and re-published the leaflet for wide dissemination.

where2walk

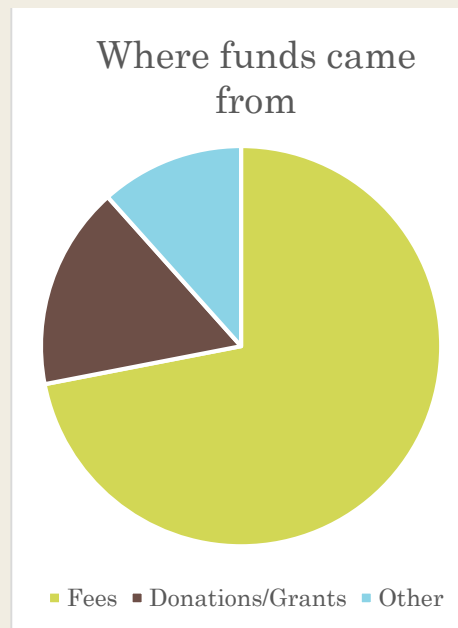
Chris Towers led a project to upgrade the where2walk directory on BWV's website. New maps have been created for all 215 walks. Each entry is being thoroughly reviewed and amended to ensure that both maps and walk descriptions are a consistent and reliable standard. 110 walks have been reviewed and upgraded so far and the rest will be updated soon.

SafeTRX

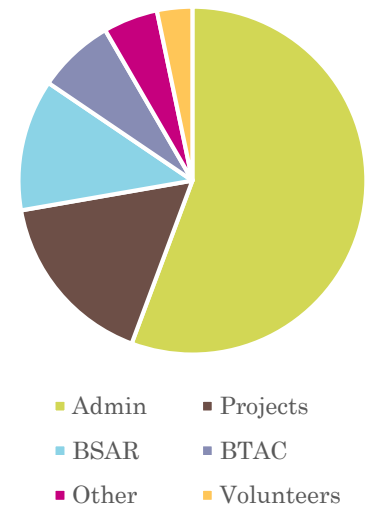
Peter Campbell led a team that assessed the suitability of

SafeTRX (used by the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard) for bushwalking. While SafeTRX has a number of valuable features the team recommended that Bushwalking Victoria not pursue its use at this time.

Funding



How funds were spent



Membership

As at 30 April 2016, membership consisted of:

- 62 Affiliated clubs with a total of 6,430 members
- 399 Individual Members
- 9 Associated clubs