

Federation of WA Bushwalkers - summary of Activities over past year Since 2006 AGM

Nov 06 – March 07

- Accepted our most recent FWAB club membership in the Great Walk Networking
- Feb meeting was addressed by Ralph Gurr from who is Executive Officer of Outdoors WA. Ralph advised us of the role of OWA where it represents the interests of a wide range of outdoor recreation groups to WA Govt and its departments.
- Expressions of belief for the FWAB to have its own website
- John Lang Attended the 2007 State Trails conf on 22nd Feb and provided feedback to DSR of his concerns where bushwalking was neglected
- FWAB joined OWA as Associate members to maintain an email link to OWA developments
- Mel found that the FWAB had not been advised of submission closing dates for public comment on catchment DWSPP's despite knowing well of our interests and concerns

April 07

- Adventure Activity Standards officially introduced by Ralph Gurr from OWA
- New Incorporated Associations Act proposed which will affect club administration
- Do we support water based sport groups to work in order to provide a stronger argument for access to catchment areas.

May

- Ian attends a meet the Minister breakfast and raises argument to counter the DoW & Water Corp opposition to walking in catchments.
- Ian, Jackie & Edith attends Perth Forum introducing AAS
- AAS TWC Timeline & Plans issued

June

- Beginning of campaign against intransigent DoW & WC
- New scheme by DEC to selectively thin catchment forests

July

- Meeting with lawyer to consider legal issues regarding bushwalking in catchments
- Hecate researches web hosting costs
- New FWAB logo designs considered
- Use of Precautionary Principle considered in argument against banning access to catchments

August

- Disappointing outcome from lawyer meeting
- FWAB obtains an ABN & subsequent TFN!
- FWAB considered applying for Lotterywest Grant for AAS training but rejected idea due to obligation risk perceived

September

- Recognition that some officially sanctioned publications contained walks in RPZ's or broader catchments
- Agreed on a Logo
- Mel obtains data from DoW using FOI to identify the history of pathogenetic occurrence in Helena Valley Reservoir .
- Strategy meeting on 29th to discuss progress on catchment issues

Oct

- Plan to submit walking in catchments argument to Minister Kobelke's policy officer in light of Dept clash of health v water quality issues.