

Federation of Western Australian Bushwalkers Inc.

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 16th November, 2010
at Rosie O'Grady's Pub, 205 James St. Northbridge Broderick Room (upstairs)**



Meeting Opened at: 7.34 pm

Present: John Williams (Action Outdoors), Vince Piper (Action Outdoors), Colin Berry (Albany Bushwalkers), Jackie Furby (Treasurer, Western Walking Club), Edith Thomas (Western Walking Club), John Lang (WA Family Bushwalking Club), Ian McDonald (President, Perth Bushwalkers), Hecate Jay (Perth Bushwalkers), **Jac Considine (Environmental Officer, Perth Bushwalkers), Peter Hegarty (Insurance Convenor, Perth Bushwalkers), Ralph Ditton (Secretary, Perth Bushwalkers)** (Attendees in **bold** are co-opted and don't have voting rights)

Apologies: Mel Lintern (WA Family Bushwalking Club), Charlie Matheson (BOWA), Dave Foster (BOWA)

Welcome: The President, Ian McDonald warmly welcomed the new Environmental Officer, Jac Considine and Colin Berry attending from Albany.

Minutes of Previous AGM meeting: Minutes from the AGM meeting of 24th November, 2009 were accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved: Hecate Jay; Seconded: Edith Thomas; Carried unanimously

Business arising from previous AGM meeting

- Digital Mapping - Now complete. John Lang gave a brief synopsis of what he did over the past year. The committee passed a vote of thanks to John for his work.
- Bushwalkers access to water catchments - The Federation is disappointed in the outcome of the report published by the Standing Committee on Public Administration. The report does however state that the new Policy 13 is to be drawn up with the help of five (5) State Government Departments who also have statutory authority in catchments (and are generally in favour of walking in water catchments). A stakeholders meeting is to be held on 1st December to discuss the Parliamentary Report into Recreation Activities within Public Drinking Water Source Areas. This will involve general discussions on the report, an update on the government process, and where to from here. The President is to write to the Chairman, Mr. Max Trenorden pointing out a number of errors in the report.
- Uniform Club Reports - This is a work in progress. The Federation is steadily getting reports standardised.
- The motion from last year's AGM to join the Conservation Council was reaffirmed. Moved: Peter Hegarty, Seconded: Vince Piper, and carried on the basis that although the Conservation Council does not always have bushwalker friendly policies we have to be part of the forum to alter that.
- Outdoors Western Australia Board – Peter Hegarty will renominate for a council position. He is currently the Acting Chairman. Peter gave a brief report. Bushwalking clubs are not captured by the Adventure Activity Standards. One issue of concern though is the matter of 'dependence' where people attending a walk are dependent on the Leader such as on an introductory walk.
- Membership of WA Sports Federation – Ian McDonald gave a brief report on the past 12 months. The Sports Federation appears to be a good source of help to get bushwalkers into Water Catchments. They want bushwalkers more involved.
- Expansion of the Federation – The Federation needs a member who is accept the responsibility for enlarging the Federation. Peter Hegarty offered to help by talking to various groups we new of.

Reports

President's: Report was circulated prior to the meeting. The main thrust was the report by the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Public Administration – Recreation Activities within Public Drinking Water Source Areas.

Treasurers: The financial statements were circulated prior to the meeting. They were accompanied by an auditor's report signed by Robin M Halbert, Chartered Accountant, expressing the view that the accounts were a true and accurate record.

The Federation from 1st July, 2009 to 30th June, 2010 had an income of \$12,323.42 and an expenditure of \$11,187.92 leaving a net surplus of \$1,135.50

Motion of acceptance was Moved: Peter Hegarty, Seconded: Hecate Jay. Carried on voices

- During the discussion it was agreed that a second delegate attend the Active 10 seminar at Federation expense if someone wished to attend. Moved: Vince Piper, Seconded: Hecate Jay. Passed unanimously.

Insurance Convenor's Report: Circulated prior to the meeting.

All member clubs took Public Liability Insurance and 7 clubs took opted for full Personal Accident Insurance. (940 members). Public Insurance liability per member: \$4.05 Personal Accident liability per member: \$5.48

- Member clubs are urged to review their Risk Management policies on at least an annual basis because the Australian Risk Management Standards have been updated.
- It was agreed that Incident Reports and claims should be forwarded to the Insurance Convenor so that all clubs can learn from the incidents.

Club Reports: Received the following:

Action Outdoors Association Inc
Albany Bushwalkers Club Inc
Western Walking Club Inc
Perth Bushwalkers Club Inc

General Business:

- Representation on Perth Hills Trails Reference Panel. Hecate Jay is the Federation's representative. She attended one meeting this year. The PHTRP had government funding for 9 months which ceased in October 2010. The Railway Reserves Trail was one project the Group completed during the funding period. The PHTRP is trying to create a draft plan for aims and objectives.
- Development of Strategic Plan. Colin Berry has done a lot of work to date and has produced a draft, which has been edited by Ian. A sub committee of Ian Mc Donald, Jac Considine, Vince Piper and Colin Berry to work on the draft plan with the view to having it accepted at the next AGM. Bauxite Mining in the Darling Scarp.
- The Federation is to gather background information with a view to negotiating with Alcoa and Worsley to minimise the loss of amenity to bushwalkers resulting from their mining activities, and to seek compensation for any loss. The Federation needs to think about what they want. Jac Considine observed that the re-hab programme was currently being driven by maximising biodiversity. Jac Considine is to draw up a list of possible contacts at Alcoa and Worsley.
- Trans Fitzgerald River National Park Walk Trail. Report from Mel Lintern circulated before the meeting. The project is likely to go ahead as the State Government is committed to it.
- Update of Constitution. This is a work in progress. Some aspects (pros and cons of associate membership and affiliate levies) are to be raised at the forthcoming Bushwalking Australia Inc Conference on November 19th & 20th.
- Thank a Volunteer Day. The member clubs are to be contacted for nominations of important people to attend the breakfast at the Blue Water Grill on the 5th December, 2010 at 8 am. Mel Lintern was successful in obtaining a grant of \$630 to fund this breakfast.

- World Sports Expo. The offer of a free booth was later withdrawn by the promoter. The Federation then declined the offer to pay for a stall.
- It was confirmed that the Federation would underwrite the cost of representatives to attend Bushwalking Australia Inc Conference. The Federation has already underwritten the cost of return airfares to Melbourne. These costs will ultimately be reimbursed by Bushwalking Australia Inc.
- Request from Recreational Trail Bike Riders Association to support their strategy. The Federation received a request from RTBRA requesting that we use our influence to help get their strategy accepted by State Cabinet. Although we have some concerns with trail bike riders in bushwalking areas and acceptance of the strategy might alleviate some of these concerns, delegates had not managed to read through all the 300plus page report, and thus were not able to agree or disagree with it. Consequently the matter was unresolved.
- Active 10 – 10 Reasons not to miss it. Ian McDonald to attend the seminar. The Federation is to reimburse Ian the \$150 fee.
- Trails Reference Group. This is a very useful ongoing trails group that the Federation is represented on by Ian McDonald. They are pushing a number of initiatives and some which are of particular interest to the Fed are the preparation of a State Trails Strategy, preparation of a State Trails Inventory, and work on removing impediments to 'Rights to Roam'. The State Trails Strategy will include Class 5 and 6 Trails.

Election of Office Bearers

Nominations were received from the following and were elected unopposed:

President: Ian McDonald

Secretary: Ralph Ditton

Treasurer: Jackie Furby

BAI Delegates: Ian McDonald, Hecate Jay

Insurance Convenor: Peter Hegarty

Environmental Officer: John (Jac) Considine

Delegate - Perth Hills Trail Reference Group: Hecate Jay

Outdoor Western Australia: Peter Hegarty

Delegate - Sports Federation: Ian McDonald

Date of next AGM

Tuesday, 20th November, 2011 at Rosie O'Grady's Pub, 205 James St. Northbridge (Broderick Room) at 7.30 pm

Date of next quarterly meeting.

Tuesday, 15th February, 2011 at Rosie O'Grady's Pub, 205 James St. Northbridge. (Broderick Room) at 7.30 pm.

Meeting Closed: 9.27 pm