

BUSHWALKERS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

2023 Annual General Meeting

12 March 2023

President's Report



Welcome to the 2023 Bushwalkers of Western Australia Annual General Meeting. Thank you all for attending to show your interest and support to the Club.

Thank you also to Gary Jones for organising the venue for today's meeting.

Years events

The Club has had another successful year with a total of 38 walks held, and no incident or accident reports recorded. The walks have been interesting and varied and walk attendance has been high. There have been a limited number of social events, but all have been enjoyed. Thank you to all our leaders and tail enders who are the backbone of our club.

Membership numbers remain steady at around 60, with 2 new members and 9 not renewing. A healthy bank account balance has meant that membership fees can remain the same for 2023.

Patsy Roche

It was with much sadness that we learned of Patsy Roche's passing on 11 November 2022. Patsy was elected a member of the club on 7 July 1983; was Treasurer for eight years from 1990 to 1997; and was the club's first honorary life member, being elected on 22 March 1998. (She was followed by Dave Foster who was elected a life member in 2005.)

Patsy led numerous walks and organised many social events. She assisted Dave Foster with Bibbulmun Track maintenance for several decades and was always present at our annual Christmas function and AGM.

A memorial service was held for Patsy on 07 December and a number of members attended.

Collie Camp

BoWA held its annual camp at Collie from 10-14 October. Walks were organised by John Young and Steve Napier on 11, 12 and 13 October. Members stayed at various locations in Collie but the group had a get together each evening at the Collie River Valley Tourist Park marquee. On 12 October Steve Napier kindly presented a slide show demonstrating how to navigate our Web site. On the final evening the entire group attended a dinner at the Federal Hotel.

Christmas Party

The BoWA Christmas party was held on 04 December at Perry Lakes. It was a perfect evening for the event and 30 members and 7 visitors attended.

Committee

The committee has been busy this year and everyone has contributed to the running of the Club. Thank you to all for your support and commitment. Listed below are some of their achievements:-

Ann Wilson - Treasurer

Ann bravely went where we have not been able to go before and enabled Online Banking with CommBiz. It is now possible to transfer money directly into bank accounts which means we no longer need to use cheques. This simplifies payment for our insurance and member expenses. We still however have a cheque book just in case.

Steve Napier - Vice President/Walks co-ordinator

Steve has done an excellent job in keeping the walks program full, not an easy task with so few walk leaders. He also continues to maintain the Bibbulmun Track maintenance roster and has this year updated the Bibbulmun Track and Shelter Maintenance Guide 2022.

Simon Hesp - Membership

Not only has Simon looked after our membership records but as keeper of the walks record forms has kept detailed statistics on walks and events. This has enabled us to keep track of how many

members and visitors attended walks and events throughout the year. Simon will present this information at the meeting today.

Mike Page

Mike has (with input from John Young) worked on an update of the BoWA Club Bushwalking Safety Procedures, which Dave Coulter wrote back in 2005. He has been working on links to the website regarding dieback and ticks.

Gordon Hobday

Gordon together with Hugh Stickley and Peter Wasser has been working to sort out some technical issues identified with our website.

Thanks, too, to Peter Wasser for all his work in resolving a problem, not of the Club's making, relating to our entitlement to the bushwalkerswa.domain name.

John Young - Secretary

John has been keep busy during the year assisting Dave Osborne from Hike West with numerous emails and phone conversations.

He has also found time to update the following forms which are now posted on our web-site

- Walk Record Form
- Application for Membership
- Guidance to Walk Leaders

As you will be aware John is stepping down from his position at the AGM. John's contribution to the Club both on the Committee and as a walk leader has been exceptional. He has demonstrated a high level of enthusiasm and commitment and we have been extremely lucky to have his expertise in so many ways. I am sure John's contribution will not stop today and we can look forward to seeing him around for years to come.

Other News

Hike West AGM

The Hike West AGM was held on 25 October 2022 with BoWA being represented by myself and Steve Napier. A special resolution was passed to approve changes to the Rules of Association and John Young received an acknowledgement for his assistance with the review.

The Hike West Expo 01 May 2022 was cancelled due to Covid concerns.

Bib Track Maintenance

Bowa has 9 registered volunteers for maintenance works and I would like to offer a special thank you to all who have contributed. At our last committee meeting it was decided due to rising fuel costs to increase the fuel allowance from \$20 to \$30 for one car per track maintenance visit. In the past volunteers have generally declined to seek payment but they will now be paid automatically at the end of each year.

Covid.

The impact of the Covid pandemic have been minimal with regard to our walks this year, however the Committee is aware it is still very much present in the community and we have therefore decided that our Covid policy will remain the same at present.

Audit

Our annual audit of accounts was again done by John Steele - thank you John

Upcoming events

Albany camp 02-06 April 2023

This year camp will be based at Rose Gardens Beachside Holiday Park in Albany. Participants will book their own own accommodation and walks will be organised for 03, 04 and 05 April.

WA Hiking Expo 30 April 2023

The Expo will be held at Hills Discovery Centre, Mundaring. Bowa have offered to lead a track walk at 9.30 am from the Centre to Ball Creek campsite. The Expo is well worth attending and a good opportunity to meet like minded people.

Sarah Ellis

President BoWA