

Bushwalking Queensland Inc.

From the President 25-Sep-09

Over the weekend of 21-23 August, clubs in the south-east of the state once again joined together for the annual Pilgrimage held at Lake Maroon Holiday Park near Boonah. All up we had 187 registrations from 13 affiliated clubs. Thanks to all who worked to ensure the Pilgrimage went ahead with relatively few hitches. It was gratifying to see a good mix of clubs represented on some of the Saturday walks. I trust some new friendships were forged and networking opportunities realised. A special thank you to Toowoomba Bushwalkers who have offered to organise next year's Pilgrimage.

As well as a good selection of walks, and having tons of fun at the bush dance and games, we were also able to achieve some good outcomes from a couple of business sessions. One of these focused on Federation Mountain Rescue, to encourage greater participation in this highly skilled search and rescue group. The response has been excellent, with 19 new people expressing interest in becoming involved with FMR's high level activities.

The new FMR website is: <http://fmrqld.bwq.org.au/>

This includes the [Bushwalker Training Program - for 2009-2010](#) .

We also discussed some critical issues facing clubs, including possible BWQ assistance with club safety and training programs, as well as website options for those clubs which need to migrate from Geocities. The BWQ offer of free sub-domains on the BWQ site was well received, and a number of clubs have already taken up this offer.

Web hosting enquiries to Tom Hulse: tom2hulse@netspace.net.au

However, the most critical issue for most clubs was identified as attracting and retaining young people. A PowerPoint presentation suggesting some ideas has now been followed up. I am pleased to report that club bushwalkers in Queensland represented by Bushwalking Queensland Inc. (BWQ) are liaising with Duke of Edinburgh Award representatives with the view of supporting each other in training and possible cross-provision of new members.

At the Qld. Parks and Wildlife level, the CMG sub-committee (Collaborative Management Group) is having ongoing consultation with departmental officers on a wide range of issues, including input to the Cooloola and Conondale Great Walks. A CMG meeting is scheduled for October 29, if any bushwalker has any agenda item or concern regarding any aspect of bushwalker activity in national parks that they would like to have discussed, please feel free to contact the secretary: secretary@bushwalkingqueensland.org.au

I would like to thank all those who have recently filled various positions on the BWQ committee and sub-committees, and also those standing down from this important work that benefits all club bushwalkers. Well done all, it is good to see rotation in office bearers to stimulate innovation.

President - John Marshall BOSQ

Vice President - Desley Pedrazzini BCBC

Secretary - Gavin Dale GBC. All BWQ enquiries: secretary@bushwalkingqueensland.org.au

Treasurer - Andrew Ryan GBC

Assistant Sec. & Campsite Monitors Co-ordinator - Robyn Cox GCBC

Webmaster - Rodney Bradey TB

Web Hosting - Tom Hulse BBW

CMG delegates - Ron Farmer YHA, Neil Douglas BOSQ

Bushwalking Australia delegates - Gavin Dale, John Marshall

FMR Administrator - Ted Wassenberg RB