

BOWA Presidents Report for AGM 2025

Welcome to you all and Thanks again to Rob Frew for making this facility available through the Scarborough Tennis club.

We've enjoyed another solid year of walking and from the comprehensive record of our event activities which Simon manages I'm able to inform you that in 2024 we ran over 45 events. The work done by our event leaders is testament to a good year and we welcomed 8 new members who joined us during the year.

As always, our committee and event leaders are the core of BOWA's operation, and I thank all of you who have helped make our club as successful as it is. Especially to key committee members in Secretary Mike Page, Vice President Alex Shaw, Treasurer Rob Frew and Membership Officer Simon Hesp. I'd also like to thank past President and past Secretary John Young for his guidance on a number of matters of club management. Thanks again to our valued Auditor in John Steele. John has been a long-time club member, walks leader and committee member and we appreciate your expertise.

BOWA's continued existence shows how a keen and dedicated group can keep on providing a variety of walks and activities for all to enjoy.

Our Autumn camp last year was held in mid-April at Pemberton and over 20 members joined another successful trip away. Despite unseasonably warm weather the 3 main walks weren't too uncomfortable due to the canopy of forest, and it was good to have the option of the tram journey back to town for those who preferred an alternate return on the Cascades walk; while the walk to Big Brook Dam offered a cool swim at the lunch stop for those who wished. As always, we had a great dinner out - in this case at the Pemberton Hotel.

Valued support from HikeWest who is our pre-eminent body and voice for bush walking and Trail Running in WA and has provided a number of highlights over the past year.

Earlier in 2024 HikeWest received funding for the promotion of seniors to walking and we added to 3 of the short suburban walks an invitation through their website to new participants. This resulted in 5 walkers joining us and although they didn't become BOWA members, this promotion along with the club flyers, also funded from HikeWest last year may have helped our increased new member activity over 2024.

At their AGM on October 30 2024, the activity of Trail Running was added to Hikewest's Objectives. New President Pascal Veyradier was elected and their major initiator Dave Osborne was made a Life Member of HikeWest.

Our ongoing maintenance of around 8kms of the Bibbulmun track and the Mt Dale shelter, keeps a number of us busy every 2 months and is a club event in June or July. Thanks to all of you who have helped in this valuable task.

I'm always happy to register any more of you who would like to help our work keeping a small part of WA's world class walking track in good order. If you're interested in the track and our work, please visit the Bibbulmun Track Foundation website <https://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/> and also the BOWA web from your logon under Members/Bibbulmun Track.

At this meeting we farewell committee member Mary Di Camillo who has been a valued member for her views and committee input. Thanks Mary, especially for providing your and Fernando's home as a venue for a number of our committee meetings. Shortly we'll be calling for Committee members to help BOWA's operation over the coming year and perhaps you would like to join us. There are only 3 committee meetings a year plus the AGM, so your involvement won't be too demanding.

Thanks to the many of you who have renewed your annual club Membership in this quieter time for bushwalking. Membership renewal isn't always high on the list, but we do ask if you are maintaining membership can you please renew through the bank details shown on the club website. One of the important benefits of your renewal is the insurance we obtain through HikeWest which provides us with Personnel Accident and club Public Liability insurance.

I look forward to seeing some of you at our Autumn camp in Margaret River over April 7th to 11th with walks on the 8th, 9th and 10th and a club meal out on the Wednesday. Detailed plans of the events will be sent out soon.

As always we're keen to add new walks to our program and indeed attract new leaders so if you have a walk in mind or would like to learn how to lead one please let me know and myself or a number of our experienced leaders will be happy to help you. There are plenty of good walks around the metro area to lead for our club before you head out to the bush.

Best Wishes for the coming year and hope to see you out walking.

Steve Napier

President, Bushwalkers of Western Australia