

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Another successful AGM was held at Cobargo. Thank you to all those that catered, it was outstanding! With overfull tummies the committee and our members would have all went home feeling very encouraged with the AGM outcome and the discussion that occurred during the following “normal” AFA meeting. Congratulations to the incoming committee, all the best with your ongoing battle for access to our public lands for all our community members (not only walkers but disabled, horse, bike riders (motor & pushbike) & 4WD enthusiasts).

The committee & AFA members have been encouraged of late with some hint of change in attitude within state government corridors. Review of the NPWS Horse Riding Policy & the proposed trial of horse riding and its affect in selected Snowy Mountain areas along with State government request for submissions in relation to how public lands are used somehow offer some feeling of maybe being heard.

On behalf of AFA members the committee has been busy writing submissions to various government bodies and the NPWS in regard to these inquiries...and of course not receiving any reply..... Submissions can be viewed on the AFA website.



In reply to the draft “Strategic direction for horse riding in NSW National Parks & Reserves part of the AFA submission states that AFA would like to see more than one track in one wilderness area opened up. As mentioned only the Snowy region is being considered for a 3 year trial period. The submission goes on to state “We do not see the need for a three year study as these tracks were regularly ridden prior to the wilderness declarations. An inspection now will reveal if any degradation has been caused by past users bearing in mind that any tracks, anywhere, require some maintenance from time to time. AFA has cooperated with NPWS in maintaining tracks since horses were prohibited and it is somewhat unreasonable that they cannot be ridden, just maintained. We want to make sure these historical bridal networks of tracks are preserved”.

While there is hope for some historic horse tracks to be opened it will still be prohibited in wilderness areas according to legislation within the Wilderness Act. AFA is lobbying to have “corridors” through wilderness areas and legislation will be required to change within the Wilderness Act to provide certainty & to protect any gains made.

AFA representatives continue to meet with advisors to the Minister for Environment, Robyn Parker and Andrew Stoner along with Bob Conroy, Director General of NPWS, the Shooters & Fishers Party & Fred Nile to lobby for change in legislation.

Review of AFA aims & Objectives: It was decided at the Cobargo meeting that these deserve more discussion and as time was getting away at the meeting it was moved that they be held over until the next meeting in September. This would also give members more of an opportunity to consider if changes need to be made. If you would like to make comment and are unable to attend, please contact one of the committee who make sure it will be relayed to those in attendance at the September meeting for discussion.

A reminder of them just in case you did not receive the last newsletter...Objectives of AFA:

- To promote preservation and conservation of our natural and cultural heritage in the bush
- Ensure non-discriminatory access to the bush for all who wish to use it for responsible recreation, education and enjoyment
- Ensure forested areas are responsibly managed for maximum benefit of the wider community

These objectives are achieved by wide community consultation and support, lobbying government at Local, State and Commonwealth levels, providing a forum for discussion for relevant issues, raising funds to support the achievement of our objectives.

Functions of AFA:

- AFA is dedicated to opposing further Wilderness Declarations in NSW on the grounds that doing so will deprive the people of access to and enjoyment of their natural and cultural heritage.
- AFA continues to lobby for open access to all public lands to responsible users and for education, recreational and cultural purposes
- AFA is a forum for the discussion and resolution of issues concerned with the use of and access to public land.
- AFA continues to lobby for responsible businesses that use their access to public lands to promote community support for all user groups to be able to access public land and wilderness areas not just bush walkers.
- AFA undertakes to inform the public and Government at all levels of these issues

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Looking for something to let you know about we came across an article in the latest Green's magazine which we thought they would have done better to have left out of their magazine.

A young lady is sitting in the top of an "observer tree" in Tasmania. The photo showed a giant Eucalyptus tree which, according to the article, has survived 400 years of living peacefully, undisturbed, that is until now! She has been there for 4 months, the branches are covered with various pieces of articles which we assume offer her protection from the elements, is supplied with a solar panel, computer, video camera and internet to supposedly "expose ongoing destruction of Tasmanian forest". I wonder if she will remove her rubbish when she leaves, how or who is paying her to sit up there, how is she preparing her food, how is she attending her personal hygiene and where is she going to the toilet? Poor tree! Let's hope she decides to leave soon so it can survive the next 400 years!

Obviously they were having trouble filling up a page!

AFA CALENDARS

There will be no calendars printed for 2013. Our calendar subcommittee members have had a few family medical distractions and hope to be able to get back on track for a 2014 calendar!

DATES FOR AFA MEETINGS

22nd SEPTEMBER 2012 – Moruya Bowling Club commencing at 10am.

NOTE: This is not our usual 5th Saturday of the month meeting date. This will be the last meeting for 2012 unless an extra-ordinary meeting is required.

31st January 2013 – Venue & time to be published in AFA Newsletter Summer edition.

MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2012-2013

ALL MEMBERSHIPS NOW DUE, Membership fees for 2012/2013 are set as the same as previous financial 2011-2012 year.

Family \$20.00. Pensioner \$5.00 Individual \$10.00 Corporate \$100.00 includes GST.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a renewal of membership form please complete to continue receiving the AFA newsletter.

AFA Website & E-mail information: Reminder that our e-mail address has changed. It is now info@accessforall.asn.au. The website will not be updated now until after September meeting.

AFA 2012 – 2013 COMMITTEE

Chairman: Garry Gowen 0416268964

Secretary: Liz Innes (02) 44724088

Treasurer: Terry Hart (02) 48422710

Asst. Treas. & M/ship recorder: Jeanette Hindmarsh (02) 48471115

Vice Chairmen: Brian Clarke, Anthony Atkinson and Reg Webb

Publicity & Website Officers: Peter Smith & Peter Kneen

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