

FROM THE COMMITTEE

Mapping of historic bridle tracks has progressed quickly. The list of tracks identified & mapped are growing and include: The Corn Trail, Deua River, Charles Byrne/SW Bates, Shoebridge, Zig Zag, Jump Up, Quaama/Verona to Belowra Stock Route, Red Road, Blanchard's, Belowra to Bendethra, Wyanbene Creek, Back Creek, Wandella Valley to Yowrie Valley, Woeila, Araluen to Reidsdale "slide", WogWog, Corang, Wallinga/Meroo/Termeil/Tabourie Lake & Georges pack tracks.

Information on most of these tracks can be viewed on your Access For All website. If members have other tracks they would like identified for future generations please forward a copy of a topographic map with the track identified & contact details to the committee so it can be catalogued for follow up. It is hoped that as more accurate information is collected the mapping of our tracks along the escarpment can be updated as required.

NPWS officers remain keen at present for AFA to continue with the process and will assist with adding GPS coordinates to the tracks identified. As previous newsletters have mentioned this project has a time limit & is very dependent on political decisions (local & state)! At the moment you all have a small window of opportunity; there is no time for complacency or sometime in the future wishing that you should have done something about it!

Review of AFA aims & Objectives: AFA held its first meeting in the Araluen hall in August 1999, a major rally was held in Braidwood on April 1st 2000 which finished at the Braidwood Racecourse; early meetings were at the Gundillion hall, Moruya and Cobargo. Now in 2012 the AFA committee continues with meetings in these communities, and your committee is reviewing AFA aims & objectives. The last review was in 2008 so it is time to look at how we go about achieving them and remind us what the function of AFA is again.

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.

Comments are welcome and discussion will take place at our AGM this month.

CORN TRAIL & SHOEBRIDGE TRACK

PUBLICATION – Research into both these tracks has been challenging. The committee is anxious to follow on with the success of Peter Smith's publication "The Deua River Track" and as time is marching on, it has been decided by the committee that the publication will take a different direction. The publication will be more on information available (not necessarily facts) including photos & stories relating to the tracks along with their GPS mapping. Peter Smith is hoping to complete this project by the end of the year so if any members have any information or story they would like to share now is the time to let the committee know.

WD TARLINGTON TRACK – *This track was thought to be used by aboriginals originally & later pioneered by William Duggan Tarlington in 1830's.* The Tarlington's were the earliest settlers in upper Shoalhaven with a land grant near the junction of Shoalhaven and Jerrabattgulla Creek. They later acquired land near Cobargo and pioneered a route to take their cattle overland to their new properties. This track was also used by early pioneers of upper Shoalhaven such as the Curlewis's and Coghill's. Come along and hear more stories and historical information on the Tarlington Track at AFA's AGM.



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Sometime during the cold wintery days make time to have a look at the MLC Greens member of NSW Upper House, David Shoebridge's website. On the right hand side of the home page click on any one of the issues they highlight. It opens up a whole new plethora of conservation organisations that are out and about.

Of particular interest was the South East Region Conservation Alliance (incorporated in 2008), its list of members includes Bega Environment Network, Chipstop, Coastwaters Assoc., Colong Foundation for Wilderness, Forest Media, Friends of Durras, Mt. Dromedary Protection Group, National Parks Assoc., (Far South Coast Branch), Natural Native Forests, South East Forest Rescue and Yourangalo Inc. AFA members certainly have to feel empathy toward the south coast communities battling with all these groups as they try to maintain their traditional ways.

David Shoebridge mentions part of our heritage is our cultural identity and that people are more important than developers all of which our members would agree. However it is quite clear that our cultural identity is not being recognised by Mr Shoebridge when he fails to look at the underlying agenda of these "conservation" groups. Our cultural identity has included access to wilderness areas by other means other than walking, the South East Region Conservations Alliances do not support this...I wonder if Mr Shoebridge would like us to assist him with updating his website?

AFA AGM 30TH JUNE 2012.

Venue: Cobargo Showground. Time: 10am

Guest speakers are being arranged, Peter Smith will present information & stories on the WD Tarlington Track. Lunch also provided for a gold coin donation. Normal meeting will follow AGM.

Other 2012-13 DATES FOR AFA MEETINGS

29TH SEPTEMBER 2012 – Venue & time to be announced. This will be the last meeting for 2012 unless an extra-ordinary meeting is required.

31ST January 2013 – Venue & time to be announced.

All members are welcome to attend any meeting. If you would like to hold a meeting in your area please discuss this with the Chairman or an AFA committee member.

MEMBERSHIPS FOR 2012-2013 – Membership fees for 2012/2013 to be set at AGM. As from 1ST May 2012, members or new members applying for membership will be included as paid up membership for period 2012-2013.

AFA Website & E-mail information: Reminder that our e-mail address has changed. It is now info@accessforall.asn.au. The website is being updated almost monthly and is well worth 15 mins of your time.

AFA 2011 – 2012 COMMITTEE

Chairman: Brian Clarke 02 44742465

Secretary: Joan Webb 02 48428047

Treasurer: Terry Hart 02 48422710

Asst. Treas. & M/ship recorder: Jeanette Hindmarsh 02 4847115

Vice Chairmen: Peter Kneen, Anthony Atkinson and Reg Webb

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