

## WEB SITE:

If any member with email facilities has not registered their email address with AFA they should do so now by sending their details to [info@accessforall.asn.au](mailto:info@accessforall.asn.au). By doing so you will receive regular updates.

## THE PERPETUAL CALENDAR

featuring places of local natural beauty- Now available at \$15 each, from AFA and selected outlets in Braidwood and Moruya. This is a 'must have' for everyone who appreciates the beauty of the Australian bush.

## THE BOOK, THE DEUA RIVER TRACK

is available at Kings Highway Diner in Braidwood, at meetings or can be ordered through a Committee member, or by post to Access For All, Locked Bag 10, PO BRAIDWOOD NSW 2622. The cost is \$22 plus \$1.40 postage.

## THE CLARKE GANG, OUTLAWED, OUTCAST AND FORGOTTEN

by Peter Smith is available at all good book shops, including Moruya and Braidwood or can be ordered through the publisher- [www.rosenbergpub.com.au](http://www.rosenbergpub.com.au). The cost is \$49.95.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE

**NOW DUE:** *Family \$20.00. Pensioner \$5.00. Individual \$10.00. Corporate \$100.00 includes GST. You can re-new by post or pay at the next meeting which will entitle you to vote. Your ongoing support is important to us.*

**AFA WEBSITE:** <http://www.accessforall.asn.au>

**E-MAIL INFORMATION:** [info@accessforall.asn.au](mailto:info@accessforall.asn.au)

**NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY 31st July at 10am** *Steam Packet Hotel, NELLIGEN.* This meeting will also be the AGM. Accordingly there will be the election of a new Committee. Please consider taking a position and don't forget to pay your membership fees.

## AFA 2015 – 2016 COMMITTEE

*Chairman:* Garry Gowen 0416268964

*Secretary:* Ashley Berekoven (02)62363983

*Treasurer:* Terry Hart (02) 48422710

*Asst. Treas. & M/ship:* Jenette Hindmarsh (02)48471115

*Vice Chairmen:* Brian Clarke, Anthony Atkinson and Reg Webb

*Publicity & Website Officers:* Peter Smith & Peter Kneen

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**ACCESS FOR ALL®**  
TO NATIONAL PARKS & WILDERNESS

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## ACCESS FOR ALL INC.

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**LAST MEETING:** The last AFA meeting was held at the Cobargo Showground Hall on 29th May. Over thirty members attended, plus there were eleven apologies. Members were informed of the progress with the bridle track trials through wilderness areas, as advised below. The Cobargo Horse Riders provided an excellent morning tea followed by scrumptious lunch. It was a good day all round.

**HORSE RIDING TRIALS IN WILDERNESS:** We are advised by Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), formerly NPWS that the trials have been completed. The results from the monitoring systems that were put in place found there was no environmental damage on the tracks during the two year trial period.

However, the tracks are not open for horse riders yet. They will open when changes are made to the Plans of Management to wilderness areas. We are advised there are two plans that need changing. One will take about six months and the other will take about two years. In the meantime maintenance can be carried out on the tracks with permission from OEH. If you want to ride the tracks you need approval to do maintenance.

It may seem like the never ending story, but we have made great gains. The local OEH officers are supporting us and want the tracks available to horse riders. We just have to be patient.

**CATHERINE LAWLER GOES TO THE BIG SMOKE FOR POW POW:** Catherine Lawler was well looked after by South Coast OEH. She was flown to Sydney and accommodated at their expense to attend a meeting of the Horse Riding Consultative Group. The meeting was chaired by Bob Conroy, a past director of NPWS and now a consultant. Others attending included Rob McKinnon from South Coast OEH who presented a powerpoint presentation supporting the monitoring findings of the tracks in our region. Cath gave a more social account of the heritage value of the tracks and how members of her family had used them. Peter Cockran, Genevieve Long, Richard

Smallwood, Rebecca Atkinson, Charlie Gauci, Chris Shewsbury and Nick Jacomas (Bicentennial National Trail) represented horse riders, while Wendy Hills and Matt Colahan represented OEH.

It seems we are streets ahead when it comes to the tracks in our area. Cath's and Rob's presentation showed we have identified our tracks which are different from some of those proposed by other groups. Ours are now documented heritage tracks. In Cath's words, "We blew them away with the work we had done." They showed and talked about the proposed publication by South Coast OEH, 'Tracks in the Wilderness', based largely on the oral histories provided by many Access For All members and the Deua River Track book.

The coup de gras was when Bob Conroy read aloud to the meeting the Epilogue from the Deua River Track, which is a quote from Myles Dunphy, the father of the New South Wales conservation and bush walking movements. It's about the pioneering settlers, the Rankins and Georges. It finishes with, "This land is mine and my children's by moral right. We use it!"

Other areas represented at the meeting are still struggling to define their tracks. However it appears we are all on the way to having our tracks through selected wilderness areas.

*One concern I had was that if the other areas are behind, does this affect us in the South Coast. I put this to OEH's Rob McKinnon and he advised me that the changes to the plans of management will be going ahead for our area and would not be delayed because of the other areas. PS.*

**CHAIN SAW CERTIFICATION:** We acknowledge our appreciation to the Office of Heritage & Environment for the training of six AFA members for accreditation for chainsaw use at Moruya TAFE. This will enable them to work on the tracks within National Parks and is a good gesture of working together.

**BRIAN CLARKE APPOINTED TO SOUTH COAST ADVISORY BOARD:** The South Coast Advisory Board to OEH is in the process to being reformed. Cath Lawler has stood down after many years of giving good service and advice. AFA Vice

Chairman Brian Clarke was nominated and has been advised of his successful appointment.

Thanks to Cath and congratulations to Brian. It is good for AFA to be represented on such a committee.

**HUGH HODKINSON RETIRES:** AFA member Hugh, has done a great job for AFA, donating his time and energy, in securing Trademark Registrations. Hugh has officially retired from his practice as a Trademark and Patent Attorney. He informs us that the Trademarks are secure and require no further action for another five years or so. Acting further on Hugh's advice we are transferring our files to Hugh's old company, Hodgkinson, McInnes Patents.



**TRACKS THROUGH THE WILDERNESS:** This is the title given to the publication put together by Rob McKinnon, OEH. It uses the interviews of people who use the tracks or have heritage knowledge of the tracks, most are AFA members. Susan Donaldson was commissioned to record the interviews and Sue Norman, an historian was given the task of adding historical background and writing most of the text. It is a good read. There is much recognition for AFA in the text including the introduction where OEH are open in saying they did not know the extent of the tracks until they collaborated with AFA. The manuscript is well illustrated with old and new photographs and includes maps of the tracks.

At last contact publishing and printing arrangements had not been finalised.