

ACCESS FOR ALL NEWSLETTER



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ACCESS FOR ALL INC

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COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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Brian Clarke, Peter Kneen & Liz Innes

Publicity Officer: Peter Smith

Website Officer: Peter Kneen.. Updated August 2009

FROM THE COMMITTEE

On 29th August 09 AFA held its first book launch after the general meeting at the Braidwood Servicemen's Club. Thank you to those who made the effort to come. Full report on book launch below. Ten new nominations for membership were accepted.

The treasurer advised that financially AFA funds have been depleted due to the cost associated with the publication of "The Deua River Track." However sales have been overwhelmingly and the cost has almost been recovered. All going well the future sales of the book will provide AFA with a consistent source of income.

The calendar will be printed again this year (cost \$10) & will be available before our Xmas meeting. Thank you to Helen Waddell for her past efforts on producing a lovely calendar, Brooke Lenon has kindly offered to take over the reins. The calendar is a steady fundraiser for AFA.

Members continue with research of bridle tracks. The chairman, Gary Gowen, reported on the recent meeting with the NPWS. He commented that the level of discussion with the NPWS has improved and although the discussion is usually agreeable, progress was slow & there was a lot to accomplish. AFA requests are not a priority for the NPWS so we need to be persistent with our negotiations & maintain the commitment the NPWS has undertaken in clearing bridle tracks with the assistance of AFA members & including AFA in future planning of access to the Deua National Park.

Frustration in dealing with government departments during recent efforts of attempting to have bridle tracks on the NSW heritage listing have confirmed the "Pass the Buck" philosophy is alive & well, with no one anywhere prepared to accept responsibility for making a decision on anything. AFA will continue to pursue this.

AFA has launched our first official documented track!

Congratulations to Peter Smith (AFA member) on publishing THE DEUA RIVER TRACK. This will be the first of a series of booklets covering pack and bridle tracks that exist in the area to the south and east of Braidwood, extending to the edge of the Monaro and east to the coastal areas of Batemans Bay, Moruya, Narooma and Cobargo.

Dedicated to the late Neil and Margot Waddell, the founders of Access for All and the instigators of the project, it is one of those books you cannot put down once you start reading it.

"The Deua River Track" reminds & confirms that preservation and conservation of cultural and natural heritage of the bush is a responsibility of us all. The pioneers that lived along bridle tracks throughout the south east region have left us with a wonderful network of historical bridle trails. All these tracks are in danger of oblivion through wilderness/natural reserve declaration or by our neglect to speak & document information provided by our older generation while they are still with us and can tell us their stories. If we fail to cherish & document their history we will be failing to enrich future generations of their pioneers perseverance & resilience. As commented in the books epilogue we have a "moral right" to protect access to the bridle tracks threatened with closer through Wilderness Declaration.

"The Deua River track" launch was well attended by AFA members & local authors. Congratulations to Peter Smith and all involved with this excellent publication. "The Deua River Track" is available at outlets in Moruya, Braidwood and Araluen or from AFA committee members for the cost of \$22.00.

Along with the calendar it will be a Great Xmas present!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS NOW DUE.

Membership fees remain the same for 2009-2010. **Family \$20.00, Single \$10, Pensioner \$5 and Corporations \$100. Renewal form over page**

NOTE: Future dates for AFA meetings:



31st Oct – This meeting transferred to 5th December – Xmas meeting & lunch @ Gundillion Hall. Gold Coin donation. Meeting starts 10am, BBQ lunch 12 midday. Peter Smith will speak on Bushrangers in the South East Region, followed by a trip to the historic "Duck Pond" site. If you would like to camp overnight let us know so arrangements can be made for you. Ladies to bring sweets please! RSVP 1st Dec. 2009. Phone 02 48428047

30th Jan 2010 – Venue to be confirmed