



# THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 303

FEBRUARY 1975

Price 3¢

## CONSERVATION

In the December issue I wrote an article which was intended to convince people that bushwalkers need to do something about conservation for the sake of their future. I now make a few suggestions as to what might be done.

The first step is to educate yourself. This means reading, observing, listening, thinking and discussing. Read books on conservation, particularly those which concern aspects of bushland preservation. An excellent account of general conservation issues in Australia is given in "Conservation", edited by Costin and Frith, and published by Penguin Books at \$3.25 (1974 edition). At a more local and specific level you couldn't do better than read "The Alps at the Crossroads" and the various publications on Lake Pedder. Also the newspaper coverage of conservation issues is increasing and usually comments and opinions are pro-conservationist. Join the ACF and the VNPA and read their publications. The ACF has published some excellent short documents which sell at about 20¢ each. Their newsletters also keep members in touch with what is going on.

The other part of the self-education process is observation. Go into the bush as often as possible and observe - firstly observe the bush in its natural state and recognise what it can offer us. Observe also the damage that is being done by interests which conflict with ours (such as logging, road building, recreation vehicles etc.) This will build up an awareness of conservation problems which affect bushwalking. Suitable reading and direct observation increase our knowledge and make us more articulate. Similarly if we go to meetings (such as the Federation, ACF etc.) we can learn at first hand what people are thinking and saying. Discussions at our own Club meetings are also important.

The natural activist may think that most of the above suggestions are irrelevant and will achieve nothing. It is true that they have no direct effect on the decision making process. Most of us, however, are not natural activists. We need time to formulate our ideas and to learn how to articulate them. Until we have been through this period of self-education our active efforts will be misguided and perhaps contradictory to others who are better informed.

Assuming that one is willing to be active, the main tasks which are likely to arise are submissions for the Land Conservation Council. The LCC invites the public to participate in its land-use investigations, and this opportunity should be exploited by us to the full. Other miscellaneous bodies from time to time invite submissions - a recent example was the MMBW Thomson Dam scheme. Submission writing calls for the ability to present facts and of course some knowledge of walking in the area concerned. Gathering the information for these submissions can sometimes involve quite lengthy research.

Another contribution, which can be best made by the individual on his own initiative, is to write letters to the press. This may seem a trivial effort, but a series of letters expressing similar sentiments can have a significant effect on public opinion which eventually influences the decision making process. Letters are more likely to be published if they appear to be related to recent events (such as Graham Mills-Johnson's letter to the Age on snowmobiles last winter).

Another tactic is to lodge objections to proposed development schemes. Recently

*Continued Page 2*

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DON'T FORGET THE A G M - 26TH FEBRUARY - BRING YOUR VOTES AND NOMINATIONS

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All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Secretary  
Melbourne Bushwalkers  
GPO Box 1751Q  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Club meetings every Wednesday night, 14 Hosier Lane (Back of the Forum Theatre)  
Visitors always welcome.

QUESTIONNAIRE ON KOSCIUSKO NATIONAL PARK

A student at A N U is doing a survey of bushwalking in the K N P. He has sent us copies of a questionnaire to be filled in by people who have been walking in the Park during the summers 1972/73, 73/74 and 74/75. This is being distributed around the Club by Gerry McPhee. If you have been to the K N P recently please see Gerry.

CONSERVATION (Contd. from Page 1)

bushwalkers objected to the Transport Regulation Board over applications to operate commercial 4-wheel drives in parts of the Alpine Area. The results are firstly that we are to be invited to a meeting of interested parties convened by the TRB, and secondly that until this meeting the TRB are taking no action on the application. Also, in the past, bushwalkers and other conservationists have sent deputations to politicians on specific issues. Naturally these need to be handled carefully.

At a more personal level we should be ready to "dob" trail-bike riders and 4-wheel drivers who are driving off the jeep tracks. Enquiries by one of our members have proved that the authorities do not intend to (or perhaps cannot) enforce the regulations on "off-road vehicles". So it is up to us to do something (see earlier issues of "News" last year). In addition to efforts made from our own initiative, we should be ready to assist others who are making a more direct contribution. Mundane tasks such as helping with publications, distribution of same, typing, etc. are all essential.

These are a few measures which we can use individually or collectively as a Club. Perhaps others will think of other more militant methods! In terms of numbers we are the largest walking Club in Victoria. We should be more active than we are.

*Jerry Grandage*

MARCH SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

- 5th - Talk illustrated with slides on the Himalayas - Dave Oldfield
- 26th - Slides by Peter Clunas on the Budawangs, Blue Mountains and Snowy Mountains areas of NSW.

REPORT ON MBW CONSERVATION GROUP

In November 1974 the MBW formed its own Conservaton Group. The aims of this move were to stimulate interest among Club members in conservation issues which affect them, and to take what action as seems necessary on specific issues. Information on the activities of the Group will appear in March "News"

MARCH WALK PREVIEWS

DAY WALKS

March 2nd FORREST CAVES-SUTHERLANDS BAY-PYRAMID ROCK Easy

Leader: Joyce Dunn (p) 882393  
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 a m - Fare \$3  
 Expected time of return: 8 p m  
 Map Reference: Woolamai Approximate Distance: 8 miles

This is a beach walk. On the preview I came across a colony of seals on the beach. I don't know who got the bigger fright. Bring water and swimming togs if you like wild surf

March 9th LA LA FALLS-BRIDAL FALLS-MT BRIDGE-BIG PATS CREEK Medium

Leader: Bob Aujard (b)429 1511 X 448 (p) 50 6164  
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 a m - Fare \$2

Expected time of return: 8.30 p m Approximate Distance: 8 miles  
Map Reference: Gembrook 1 : 50,000

We walk 1 mile along a tourist track up a beautiful tree-fern gully to La La Falls where water is available for lunch. After lunch the track climbs gradually 850 ft to a dirt road along the side of Mt Tugwell. From here on it is easy walking mostly downhill. We soon leave the road to follow a little-used jeep track through thick mountain forest to an old mill near the Yarrd.

March 16th CAPE SCHANK-FLINDERS (BEACH WALK) Easy/Medium

Leader: Verle Ann Johnson (b) 314 7052  
Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 a m - Fare \$2  
Expected time of Return: 7 p m Approx. Distance: 8 miles

Starting at Cape Schank we walk along scenic cliffs dropping to a sandy beach for early lunch. The walk continues back along cliff edges to the Blowhole. We end the walk by rock hopping at the base of cliffs and a swimming beach at the van. Expect tufty grass along cliff tops and rockhopping on the beaches. Don't forget the Aeroguard.

March 23rd COBAW RANGES Easy/Medium

Leader: Darrell Sullivan (p) 338 6325  
Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 a m - Fare \$2

Please see Darrell for details.

WEEKEND WALKS Medium

March 7th- 10th MT BLOWHARD-MORNING STAR SPUR-BROCKET-BOILER PLAIN-WIRE PLAIN

Leader: Tyrone Thomas  
Transport: Bus leaves Batman Ave 6.30 p m - Fare \$10  
Expected time of return: 8.30 - 9 p m  
Map Reference: FCV Dargo 1" = 1 mile  
Approx. Distance: 12 miles (+ optional extras)

An easy three days in alpine surroundings - not a tough TTT trip. First day five miles downhill - second day two miles uphill (steep) - third day five miles undulating. So roll up and enjoy this beautiful Mt Hotham area. Bring bathers.

March 21st- 23rd BENNISON PLAIN (BASE CAMP) Easy

Leader: Bob Steel (p) 47 3743  
Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 6.30 p m - Fare \$10  
Expected time of return: 9.00 p m  
Map Reference: FCV - Moroka, or VMTC - Snowy Plains, Mt Wellington  
Approximate Distance: 20 km

Come and spend an enjoyable weekend in delightful alpine country. Snow gums with pleasant alpine plains, bubbling creeks and waterfalls. Swimming, fishing, sun-bathing and some walking for those so inclined - as much or as little as you want. Ideal for newcomers to weekend walking - very little pack carrying involved but bring a day pack.

Med/Hard

March 21st-23rd BENNISON PLAIN-MT REYARD-LONG SPUR-CALEDONIA RIVER-DINGO HILL TK.

Leader: Alex Stirkul (b) 46 4841  
Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 6.30 p m - Fare \$10  
Map Reference: VMTC "Snowy Plains" Approx. Distance: 22 miles

A good warm up walk for Easter. Through alpine, sub-alpine and forest areas. Nubile nymphs are encouraged to come along.

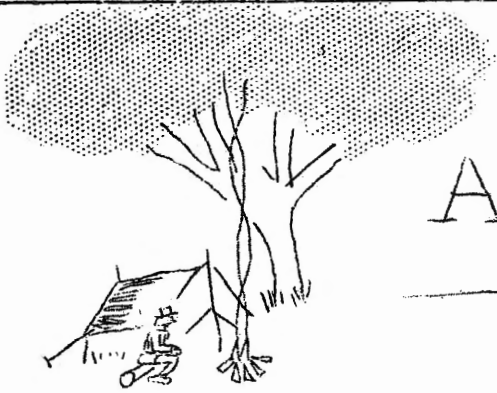
March 28th - Mt WOMBARGO-BUCHAN TOPS-BUCHAN RIVER-FORLORN HOPE TK. Med/Hard

April 3rd  
(EASTER)

Leader: Spencer George  
Transport: Private Map Reference: Many!  
Expected time of return: Late Monday Night

This walk wanders across the corners of four maps - Jacobs River, Murrindal, Omeo, Benambra and in the editions I have there is a gap at the critical point so expert map readers and navigators are welcomed. The walk will be mainly along jeep tracks in the alpine country of the southern Snowy Mountains.

Previews continued P. 6



## ALONG THE TRACK

### LILO DERBY 1975

A torrential downpour of rain was the signal for starters to assemble at Batman Avenue on Saturday 11th January for departure to the annual Lilo Derby. The weather continued throughout the van trip and the following comments heard were typical of the outlook, "Those hills covered in black cloud, that's where we are going". - "Last weekend I went on it rained all the time and here I am again." The situation changed however on arrival at Darley, after everyone had repacked parkas for quick availability, the optimists had a victory as the only rain to fall for the rest of the weekend was really only a heavy dew on Sunday afternoon.

A campsite just beyond last years venue was chosen and with adequate space for almost 30 campers we were all very comfortable. The pleasant mild weather was excellent for camping and notably absent were the usual mosquitoes and bush flies. An element of mystery was to disturb the serenity of Saturday night/Sunday morning when at about 0200 hours, cries for help were said to have been heard in the night. This made a count of heads necessary in case someone may have lost their way to or from the loo and numerous peaceful sleepers were startled to be roused by Gerry enquiring if he or she was still safely tucked up in bed. All bushies were found to be present, the source of plaintive pleas could not be found and on assuming either the caller or the hearers were having nightmares there was nothing else to do but settle down for the rest of the night.

Sunday morning was spent fishing, talking or walking at great speed over the mountain to the new reservoir site. One mountain goat I know who did not make the grade was rewarded on the lone return journey by seeing a kangaroo, robin redbreast and a large black snake going in the opposite direction. Angler's were encouraged by Doug's good fortune when two luckless fish managed to hook themselves on his line, thereby saving him from the ordeal of egg powder for breakfast.

The day walkers arrived at about mid-day and after lunch it took a delightful dusty lass, Alexandrina, clad in grass skirt, parasol and mutton chop whiskers, to broach for the first time the subject of Lilo Derbying. To date most people were content to stand by the campfire or bask in the sun and when starters were called for the various events it is a fact that "some" did chicken out of competing in the icy waters. Haroldine was resplendent in a Sunday best hat, neck to knee bathers were fashionably shown by Tyrenne and an entry was submitted from the local Black and White Minstrel Show. Gerry competed in his best snooker vest and other ladies' hats will never be the same again. Elimination heats were held and eventually the youngest competitor, "Peter, the Leach" was acclaimed outright winner. He was duly crowned by Alexandrina and demonstrated his skill for all in a lap of honour. Peter has promised to attend next year complete with crown to take challenges from any aspirant.

Once again the Lilo Derby has been a weekend of enjoyment and fellowship - next year, what about more campers. For day walkers, if you have not camped before this for sure is the ideal opportunity to give it a try and it is definitely a case of the more the merrier.

As usual our leader Alex was an inspiration and thanks from all to him for a great weekend.

J. W.

C SHARP IN ECHO FLAT

It was well past midday when the Little Green Van reached Gerratty's Dugout, beyond Lake Mountain on one of the first good days of summer. If the climb to Black Spur had been long, then the climb to Tommy's Bend above Marysville had been longer and many tenderfoot trampers wished that they had taken a pony express instead. Our eventual arrival became a stampede to get mobile, much to the consternation of a dozen or so picknickers and after a rapid headcount, Fred frogmarched his crew into the mulga, leaving Denis and Fritz - ex spy-catcher and canine extraordinary - to deal with our audience.

The narrow rutted jeep track led to alpine Echo Flat at an altitude of 4600 ft where wide avenues of snowgums sheltered boggy flats of sphagnum moss and *richea continentalis* that thrived in the damp peaty soil. Here the water collected in stagnant weedy tarns that were doubtless breeding grounds for the midges and mozzies, and haven for sundry ibis that flapped lazily from the surface at our approach. The Flat echoes dully with the drowsy hum of bushflies in the still, warming air, and with our chirp and chatter, as heads down and slightly stooped, we strolled in groups or sauntered in pairs:

*"Well me and Andy did a trip to Tazzie last year on bikes. She was a real bewdy"*

*"I knew this sheila at the club once, she was a real Marilyn Monroes type, yeah, an' she 'ad black hoir"*

*"Ooh, what's that pretty purple flower Fred?"*

*"Aar, yes. That's hoozewatsit Hallsii. Rub the leaves in your fingers. Smells like mint doesn't it?"*

Lunch was brief, eaten by the track and with four hours to complete the bulk of the day's march, Fred was anxious to move on. We descended a steep narrow spur 600 ft into the forest, leaving the snowgums and the views, until we were amid the tall silver-topped woollybutt eucalypts where our chatter was shared with the birds that fluttered about concealed in the wiry undergrowth.

The Royston Gap Road carried us 600 ft up on a gradual ascent almost full circle to Echo Flat once more. The herd was extended almost half a mile along the track by now so a break was taken at the top, not half a mile from the lunch stop but considerably further by road. The sun was high and shadows short, suburned shoulders were in evidence, and the hum of the bush was drowsier and more intoxicating. One visitor was heard to remark after an investigation of a puddle *"So dey iss tentpoles"* referring of course to baby frogs. As the whip came thrashing round the last bend the party detached itself from the shade and continued. At one point leader went off on a lone skirmish to check his position, then assuring us we were not lost, led us steadily up and down the humps of the ridgeline for a mile and a half until the track swung off in a wide arc and headed into the depths of the Taggerty River watershed. The steep sunlit corridor through the woollybutts was taken with long steps until we arrived at the Upper Taggerty Road 900 ft down at 5 p.m. The shadows were long over the wide dusty road by now and from the depth of the valley rose a perceptible chill. Undaunted, however, whip, his offsider and your correspondent took a cold plunge after all the ladies had left and, unfortunately, all three contracted rigor mortis below the knees. But it tasted and felt so much better than the chlorinated effluent back home.

500 ft higher and two miles later the walk ended at the bus stop, where the van stood on a bend with a distant view of the bronze ridges still glowing under the golden clear sunlight of early evening, where not one tree top stood out of line to mar the graceful curves of the warm hills. There was still no wind and the scent of sap and flowers was strong in the nostrils even after a whole day breathing it. I took a last long breath and climbed aboard.

Thanks Fred for a walk that was as refreshing as it was botanically informative. Thanks also Denis for your skill and concentration behind the wheel on those airy mountain roads. We hope there are enough brake linings left over for next Sunday.

*Hamish McLaggis*

PREVIEWS (Contd.)

March 28th - 31st	<u>THE PLAYGROUNDS (BASE CAMP)</u>	<u>Easy</u>
(EASTER)	Leader: Graham Mascas (p) 25 6940 Transport: Private Expected time of return: 8 p m	

This is the walk for those that want to bludge all week-end in an idyllic spot away from it all (i hope). The playgrounds is an area of open country just big enough for all of you to camp, in the shadow of the Cobberas Range in the far far east of Victoria. For those feeling like some light exercise I intend to arrange a series of day and half day walks over Rams head, the Cobberas and surrounding country. For the others it's a bludge! The transport arrangements will be by car and I suggest that Thursday evening (and part of the night) be spent driving to Buchan (220 miles) and camping at the far end of the Caves Reserve. We will tackle the last 60 miles in daylight leaving Buchan about 9 a.m. Return to Melbourne is Monday evening, unless you can persuade your driver/passengers to stay the extra day.

F O R   S A L E

- (1) Walking boots, Swiss made by 'RAICHE', padded ankles, Vibram soles, Size 11 New - \$25.
- (2) 'SUUNTO' oil damped compass, made in Finland, Lensatic sight - \$10
- (3) 'GAZ' single burner gas stove. Made in France. Used - \$5

If interested, please contact Jon Cairns (h) 86 8227

CHANGES TO ADDRESS LIST

Bover, David and Joy - 36 Carroll Street, Hughes, ACT 2605  
 Carlyon, Peter and Sue - Wangaratta Road, Yarrawonga 3730  
 Casley, Max - 1/23 Lansdowne Road, E St Kilda 3183 (p) 523111  
 Duncan, Ian - 11/118 Murrumbeena Road, Carnegie 3163  
 Oldfield, Dave and Sue (nee Ball) - 1/7 Kororoit St, Albion 3020

CORRECTION TO ADDRESS

Mattingley, Geoff - Unit 4, 30 Coorigil Road, Carnegie

WELCOME BACK

Parker, Alan and Doreen - Flat 5/5 Derby Crescent, Carnegie 3163 (p) 211 6435  
 Withall, Sylvia - 6/30 Oak Grove, E Malvern (b) 912751  
 Wright, Ian - 2 Belgravia St, Box Hill North 3129. (p) 857 8597

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Hoskin, Ross - 89 Heathmont Road, Heathmont 3135. (b) 677332 x 51  
 Kitchener, Allan - 34 MacGowan Ave, Glenhuntly 3163 (p) 58 3942 (b) 622 406  
 Warrington, David - 15.14 Springfield Ave., Toorak 3142 (p) 24 8065 (b) 232 6211  
X 271

CSIRO DESIGNS LIGHTWEIGHT PORTABLE STILL

When Mr Ray Eaton planned a two-month walk along the arid coast of the Northern Territory with an aboriginal guide, he was well aware of the problem of finding fresh water along the way. He approached CSIRO. There, a Mr Bob Swinton, a bush-walker-scientist whose special interest is water purification, designed a simple type of still - compact and light enough to carry. This portable still is capable of converting salt water into drinking water at the rate of 9 to 18 pints every two hours, operating over a wood fire. .. Australasian Post

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Here endeth the fourth year of my Presidency of the Melbourne Bushwalkers and the constitution insists that I step down. The past four years (5 including my one year as Vice President) have given me a tremendous amount of pleasure and some anguish. I must admit, however, that I have enjoyed being President during a period of expansion, financial consolidation and successful walking. This past year has seen us fighting inflation with our costs rising astronomically and the 1975 AGM will see, not only the election of new officers, but decisions being made concerning the financial future of the Club.

I would like to sincerely thank all the officers of the Club, who, over the past year, have made the President's job so easy by carrying out so efficiently their tasks. Those with official positions are well known, but there are many others who give time and effort to the Club. The leaders of all our walks deserve a special thank you - without them the Club ceases to function. There are many others, including our contacts, who are seldom seen but always there when needed, with Geoff and Jenny Kenefacke who answer the innumerable 'phone calls enquiring about us. Thank you all.

*Graham Mascas*

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I am told the first thing I should do in my report is to thank all those Committee members who have helped me during the past year. I do this most sincerely for without this help I should have been at a loss on many matters.

It has been an interesting and very enjoyable year for me. It has been a busy year with correspondence because of the increasing interest being taken by the Club in preparing and compiling submissions to the Government and statutory bodies and communicating with parliamentarians directly on matters which affect us as bushwalkers. Personally, I find this a heartening trend which should be encouraged.

In closing, I should like to thank Graham Mascas, the retiring President, for his guidance, and to welcome the new Secretary.

*Lindsay Markham*

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Club has maintained a high degree of activity during 1974 including Weekend and Sunday trips, Ski-touring, Conservation Work, Social Functions, and for a few, Matrimony. The evergrowing membership is a healthy sign that our Club will continue to bring together people of all ages, occupations and personalities and foster an active framework for bushwalking, socialising and a love of the bush.

An upsurge of enquiries and new faces happily beset the Club around April/May resulting in more new members to the fold. As Helen Dent experienced last year, the Melbourne Bushies are very reluctant to fork up with their Subs. They came in slowly, one by one, making my job and the job of the "News" Staff very frustrating at times. The forwarding of changes of address and/or phone numbers to the Membership Secretary is best done without delay to ensure that our Address Tag Computer doesn't blow up. (Thanks go to Ken Briscoe for keeping the Monster under control).

In summing up, we finished 1974 with 277 financial members comprising 178 men and 99 women (who'll be No. 100?). We gained 56 new members and lost 34 along the way.

Off the record, we scored 5 weddings, 1 engagement and at least 3 impendings.

I hope to see you all back in 1975 and may all your blisters be small ones.

*Geoff Crapper*

TREASURER'S REPORT - STATEMENT FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 31.12.74

RECEIPTS

Members Subscriptions	998.00
Visitors Fees	167.75
Equipment Hire	47.00
News Subscriptions	1.00
Donations	9.00
Advertising in "News"	60.00
Bank Interest	167.60
<b>CLUB INCOME TOTAL:</b>	<u>1450.35</u>
Walk Receipts '74	6358.60
Less Refunds (\$127.75)	
<b>WALKS INCOME TOTAL:</b>	<u>6358.60</u>
Misc. Magazines	16.44
"Walk" Magazines	1660.98
Track Notes	889.20
<b>MAGAZINE INCOME TOTAL:</b>	<u>2566.62</u>
<b>WILKY (FEES)</b>	<u>325.60</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS:</b>	<u>10701.17</u>

Receipts	10701.17
Bank Balance 1.1.74	4136.50
Petty Cash 1.1.74	0.00
	<u>14837.67</u>

PAYMENTS

Rent	455.00
Repairs	16.36
Insurance	82.39
PMG Box	21.00
Phones Etc	84.54
Typing Etc.	39.95
Equipment	10.00
Newsletter Printing and Postage	344.17
Stationary and Misc	33.92
Subscription - FWC	25.00
Bank Charges	5.39
Misc. refunds	2.00
<b>CLUB COSTS TOTAL:</b>	<u>1119.72</u>
Transport '73	1476.00
Transport '74	6060.50
Refunds (\$127.75)	
<b>TRANSPORT TOTAL COST:</b>	<u>7536.50</u>
Misc. Magazines	17.55
"Walk" Magazines	1895.75
Track Notes	790.00
<b>MAGAZINE COSTS TOTAL:</b>	<u>2703.30</u>
<b>WILKY COSTS:</b>	<u>180.25</u>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS:</b>	<u>11539.76</u>

BALANCE 1974

Payments	11539.76
Fixed Deposits	2600.00
Bank Balance	697.91
	<u>3297.91</u>
	<u>14837.67</u>



"NEWS" CONVENOR'S REPORT

There are many people I should like to mention who have been involved with "News" 1974.

They are all those who contributed articles, "Along the Tracks" and conservation notes - Graham Wills Johnson, Virgil Davis, Gerry Grandage, Alma Strappazon, Geoff Kenefacke, and Sandy Ireland, to name a few of the regulars; Barry and Gwenda Short for all their work in printing "News" each month and who even managed to produce a "News" in the middle of moving house; their many helpers who are responsible for putting "News" together; Ken Briscoe for providing the printed labels thereby eliminating the time consuming job of addressing "News" by hand; Alex Stirkul for making sure that leaders received their preview notices, and the leaders themselves who have needed only a little persuasion in handing over their previews; Joy Bover for taking over at very short notice whilst I was away overseas for a couple of months; Athol Schafer for providing me with plenty of small items to fill in the dreaded gaps which have a habit of appearing at the bottoms of pages.

To all these people, I extend my sincere thanks.

Whilst I am under no illusions that every member of the Club reads "News", I hope that those who do have found it interesting and informative.

*Helen Dent*

"WALK 75" REPORT

"Walk 75" was hit by the inflation plaguing the rest of the community. The printing costs escalated by 40% in the four months during which the magazine was being produced necessitating the price increase to 75 cents per copy. The budget for the issue is summarized below. Bear in mind that the object is not to make a profit but to recoup the printing costs within a reasonable period of time, preferably less than 12 months so that the next edition of the magazine can be printed. Retailers demand a profit margin of at least 25% on the magazine and since these are our main sales outlets we must aim to break even at this reduced price of about 55 to 60 cents.

"Walk 75" reflects the wide spread of our members interests and activities. It has been criticised for not having enough Victorian content, but the Editor can only print those articles submitted to him which in turn show that our Club's interests are not limited to one small geographical area. If you're not satisfied with the results do something about it for the next magazine.

EXPENDITURE

Printing of 3000 copies of "Walk 75"	\$1895
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INCOME

Advertising revenue	\$ 600
2950 copies at 60 cents	<u>\$1 770</u>
	<u>\$2370</u>
Receipts to date approximately	\$1100

Finally, thanks are due to all those who helped in the production and distribution of "Walk 75" - without all your efforts we could not continue.

*Dave Oldfield*

WILKINSON LODGE REPORT

Wilky was occupied for 23 weekends and 2 weeks at Xmas and Easter and five weeks in winter. This involved visits by 174 persons although many of these

visited the lodge more than once.

The lounge room walls and the kitchen ceiling were painted during the year. A 20 lb L P gas cylinder was obtained for use with the 2 burner stove.

Despite the clear instruction on the Wilky report sheet some people still insisted on driving over the grass to the lodge. We are bound to abide by the SEC rules which are formed to prevent soil erosion. A repeat performance by those responsible will result in them being barred from using the lodge.

Gifts of magazines or books for the Wilky library will be gratefully received. Preferably no Readers Digests though.

*Rod Mattingley*

### SEARCH AND RESCUE REPORT

With heavy snows persisting late into the year, a busy time for search and rescue personnel could be expected to result. This certainly was the case, with three snowy, cold, wet searches plus two alerts for 1974. Events started off early in the year and proceeded as follows:-

JANUARY: An alert was called for a woman who became separated from a small walking group in the Forlorn Hope Track (Omeo) area. She spent a night in the open and walked out next day before any S & R members had left Melbourne.

MAY: Search and Rescue Annual Practice. This followed the highly successful lines of the 1973 practice, but included a realistic simulated search in the Ada River/High Lead area. Poor attendance by MBW members was an almost expected feature of this event which attracted 150 people.

JUNE: A light plane was reported overdue, last sighted in the vicinity of Narbethong. Eventually, the crashed plane was found but it was considered unlikely that we could have been of any assistance had the police called us out. They did, however, put us on alert.

AUGUST: Stan Batic, one of our own club members, became separated from a club walk party near Murchison Falls. Weather was foul and snowing lightly, so a call-out came early next day. Since Stan was well equipped (he merely didn't know which way to go!) he walked out unaided, having spent a cold night out (without the warmth of a fire).

SEPTEMBER: A 10 year old boy became lost in the Steavenson Falls area (near Marysville). Despite an extensive search, lasting four days, he was never found. Conditions once again were cold and snowy.

OCTOBER: A large school party of 59 pupils and 5 adults was overdue in the Tarr Kanng/Wellington Plains area. A small party of S & R members using cross country skis aided in the search which was successful in that all of the lost party was found, but some of the children were lucky to receive no more serious injuries than mild frost bite. This search highlighted the need for better leadership where large inexperienced parties of walkers are concerned - The National Fitness Council of Victoria is helping in this regard with their Mountain Leadership Courses being run at present.

NOVEMBER: Partly due to the high incidence of searches and also due to the recognised ability of Federation S & R Personnel, grants were received from two sources by the Federation to help cover search and rescue expenses. Firstly \$200 was received from the Dried Fruits Industry, then an annual grant of \$750 became available from the State Government.

A top priority in 1975 is justifying the confidence in which we are held and to spend these grants in an efficient manner.

*Tim Dent*

WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT

During 1974, the total number of people coming out on all walks with this Club has once again continued the trend of being higher than that of the previous year. This was the case despite the drop in the numbers going on Weekend and extended trips. The increasing popularity of day walks was to be expected, but the sudden and inexplicable drop in weekend walkers, especially the female type, reduces the Hon. Walks Sec. and his cabal of advisers to a state of gibbering incomprehension. Out of a total of over 260 members, there are only 3 or 4 (!!!!) females who I would class as regular weekend walkers. So how about it girls?

buses were used on four occasions during the year but once again as in other years. their higher cost limits their use. Van fares have had to be put up from 30% for days walks, to 50% for weekend walks because of increased van costs.

I would like to thank all the walks leaders for leading their respective walks and the following (In alphabetical order) who comprised the walks sub-committee during the year:- Jerry Grandage, Fred Halls, Rod Hattingley, John Siseman, Bob Steel, Darrel Sullivan and Tyrone Thomas.

Details of Attendances

YEAR	<u>DAY WALKS</u>		<u>WEEKEND WALKS</u>		<u>EXTENDED WALKS</u> 3 days or more		<u>OVERALL</u>		VISITORS
	TRIPS	WALKERS	TRIPS	WALKERS	TRIPS	WALKERS	TRIPS	WALKERS	
66	47	847	17	294	10	155	74	1296	*
67	44	824	23	411	9	137	76	1372	*
68	43	942	20	343	6	103	69	1388	433
69	47	1007	22	445	7	128	78	1580	519
70	49	1269	21	567	7	140	76	1976	576
71	47	1247	29	511	14	262	90	2020	601
72	51	1417	29	573	13	194	93	2184	715
73	51	1605	29	579	10	171	90	2355	808
74	51	1790	29	470	14	169	94	2429	737

\* Not available

*Alex Stirkul*

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The year was fruitful in attracting new members to attend activities but there was, however, the usual large percentage of people who did not attend any functions at all. I still consider participation in activities not necessarily linked with walking, a vital factor in the continued bringing together of all our members whether young or not so young. There was a continued interest in the films and slides that were shown throughout the year and I would like to thank very much all the people who were good enough to bring along their masterpieces. I think our photographic talents seem to increase enormously as the years go by.

Visiting guests also proved popular, one notable talk being the one given by Warwick Deacock (Ausventure). He held everyone spell bound and somewhat green with envy for an hour and a half. Again we must thank Graham McKinney who continues year after year to bring in his movie projector thus saving the Club much bother and expense.

There were two dinners and a square dance during the year - both being quite well attended, but I still tend to think that the 60 members for each dinner, out of a club of 270, a bit on the small side.

To conclude, I would like to say that again I have had much pleasure in meeting all the new people and I sincerely hope that this year the Club will be a social bonanza.

*Graham Hodgson*

FEDERATION OF VICTORIAN WALKING CLUBS REPORT

Three major developments have occurred in Federation affairs in the past twelve months: a Conservation Subcommittee under the chairmanship of Brian Martin was set up, the State Government has made \$750 available on an annual basis for search and rescue purposes; and under the joint sponsorship of the Federation, the Victorian National Parks Association and the Save Our Bushlands Action Committee, Dick Johnson's book "The Alps at the Crossroads" was published at the end of November.

Looking at each of these developments in turn: the Conservation Subcommittee was formed because the task was becoming too large for the FVWC Council Executive to look after unaided, and the Subcommittee has therefore taken over a continuing activity. The middle 70's, however, are crucial years in shaping the destiny of nearly all the country in Victoria that is of value to bushwalkers, so that the importance of continuing support for the work of this Subcommittee cannot be overstated. Unfortunately some clubs have not been making the contribution expected of them, and our own delegate to the Conservation Subcommittee, Jerry Grandage, had at short notice to provide data on Blocks 18, 19 and 20 of the Alpine Study Area. (Data on the area originally assigned to NBW, the Bogong - Feathertop blocks, had of course been submitted months earlier). In addition to preparing material for LCC Study Reports and recommendations for Final Submissions, as has been notified to members from time to time in "News", the Conservation Subcommittee is also concerned with the formulation of general policy in such areas as the control of National Parks, the question of Tracks and Huts, attitude to various forestry practices etc. etc. Once again some difficulty has been experienced in getting clear and detailed responses from the ordinary membership of some of the clubs.

The funding of Search and Rescue by the State Government represents something of a breakthrough for the Federation, and shows that the public service provided by the clubs through S & R is at last being recognised. Some of this money will be available for disbursement to the clubs in respect of expenses incurred by them in connection with S & R activities, while the remainder will be used for the acquisition of equipment, and for special projects designed to make the general public more aware of the dangers they face in the mountains and of what they should do if they do become lost. While government support has at last been forthcoming for an activity so obviously a public service, and so obviously of publicity-value, as S & R, it should be noted that it is only through the Federation that the individual clubs have any future hopes of obtaining financial grants. Politicians are very vote-conscious, and always want to know how many people an organisation with which they are dealing represents. Little success has so far been had in getting funds from e.g. the Youth Council of Victoria or the Sports Council, but if success is eventually achieved it will be by the Federation rather than by any individual club,

All members of the club should by now have a copy of "The Alps at the Crossroads", and will realise the central importance of this document in our struggle for Victoria's best walking country. Sales have been going so well that a second press run of 7000 copies has been completed in anticipation of the book being taken up for use in projects by some of the secondary schools. This should enormously increase the impact of the book as students bring it to the attention of parents who would normally pass it by without notice in the bookshops themselves; in such roundabout ways informed public opinion, the momentum of which sometimes takes governments by surprise, is often generated. It seems entirely possible to me that in future years the publication of Dick Johnson's book will be seen to be the Federation's most significant achievement in 1974.

*Graham Wills-Johnson*  
FVWC Delegate

EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

The total income for the hiring of equipment for 1974 is as follows:

Rucksacks	\$20.85	
Tents	\$12.15	
Sleeping Bags	\$10.90	
Ground Sheets	\$ 3.00	<u>TOTAL: \$46.90</u>

*Paul Wiencke*