



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 304

MARCH 1975

Price 3¢

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1975

At the Annual General Meeting on the 26th of February, the following were elected as office-bearers for 1975.

President	Dave Oldfield	b) 317 222 (x613)
Vice Presidents	Geoff Mattingley Gerry McPhee	b) 544 2011 (x395)
Secretary	Sue Oldfield	b) 393 1000
Treasurer	Peter Ashby	b) 329 6711
Walks Secretary	Alex Stirkul	b)
Social Secretary	Geoff Crapper	b) 615 2262
Membership Secretary	Shirley Trotter	p) 581 464 b) 620 621 (x2126)
"Walk" Editor	Max Wilkinson	b) 266 961
Wilkinson Lodge Manager	Rod Mattingley	b) 350 1222 (x771)
"News" Convenor	Malda Jekabsons	b) 311 0619
General Committee	Robyn Storer Helen Hill Jerry Grandage Rex Filson Otto Christiansen	p) 878 0032 b) 640 251 (x532) p) 883 683 b) 350 1222 (x370)

"WALK" 1976

WHY WAIT TO BE ASKED?

HOW ABOUT WRITING AN ARTICLE FOR YOUR CLUB MAGAZINE - "WALK" 1976?

A BRIEF SURVEY OF PREVIOUS ISSUES SHOWS THAT THE SCOPE OF "WALK" ARTICLES IS ALMOST UNLIMITED

SO WHY NOT HAVE A GO?

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING YOU CAN WRITE ABOUT.

The Editor would like to hear in the next few weeks from people planning to contribute.

It would be helpful if all articles submitted were typed with double spacing.

Photographs will also be required. ANY OFFERS?

Leaders of walks are requested to write track notes of their walks and hand them to Fred Halls or the editor for inclusion in the "Track Notes" section.

WHEN? BY WEDNESDAY APRIL 30 TH PLEASE

MAX WILKINSON "WALK EDITOR"

All correspondence should be addressed to:-

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers
P O Box 1751Q, G P O
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Meetings are held in the clubrooms, 14 Hosier Lane, at the rear of the Forum Theatre every Wednesday night at 7.30 p m. Visitors are always welcome.

COMMITTEE MEETING

At the first meeting of the new committee held on the 3rd of March, the following positions were allocated:-

Federation Delegate	Geoff Mattingley
Search and Rescue Delegate	Shirley Trotter
Tracks and Huts	Jerry Grandage, Rod Mattingley
Vic. National Parks Assoc., A.C.F.	Rex Filson
Committee of Management	Robyn Storer, Ottq Christiansen
Map Custodian	Garry Wills (to be approached)
Equipment Officer	Helen Hill

Anyone interested in any of the above, approach the people and air your views.

APRIL WALK PREVIEWS

April 6 MASONS FALLS-RUNNING CK.-HOWAT LOOKOUT Easy/Medium

Leader: Stan Attwood (p) 916616
Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 am - \$2.00
Expected time of return: 7.30 pm
Map Reference: Yan Yean
Approximate distance: 7 miles

As Howat Lookout has been taken over by a gentleman of the farming community, we start the walk a little to the East, minus view, and walk through light timber over rather undulating terrain to a small service resevoir. From there we join a pleasant track along Running Ck. to Masons Falls and finish at the Rangers Office at Kinglake National Park.

April 13 HUME RANGES-WANDONG Medium

Leader:
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 am - Fare \$2.00

Please see the leader for details.

April 20 FRENCHMANS RD.-THE TUNNEL-TUNNEL POINT TRACK-SHAW'S LAKE-BLACKWOOD Easy/Medium

Leader: Rosemary Price
Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 am - Fare \$2.00
Expected time of return: Approx. 8.00 pm
Approximate distance: 10 miles

A medium walk on tracks through lightly timbered country. Please bring water for lunch.

April 27 KULABA-RAZORBACK-MT. BARNARD-AVENEL Easy/Medium

Leader: Paul Weinke (p) 881 184
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 am - Fare \$2.50

Paul will be previewing his walk as this is being typed, so see him for details.

WEEKEND WALKS

April 11-13 GRAMPIANS-MT. ZERO-MT. STAPYLTON-GOLTON GORGE-BRIGGS BLUFF Med/Hard

Leader: Max Wilkinson (b) 266 961
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 6.30 pm - Fare \$10.00
Time of return: 9.00pm
Map Reference: Horsham 1:100 000
Approximate distance: 15 miles

In his book "The Face of Australia", Charles Laseron describes the Grampians as "the last rocky bastion, overlooking afar the great plains to the south, west and north." (GOOD VIEWS)

To the geologist, the Grampians are composed mainly of Upper Devonian sandstone. It is the sandstone that forms the massive bluffs and precipitous escarpments characteristic of the area. (IT'S A ROUGH AND ROCKY WALK)

To the botanist, the moderate rainfall and the poor sandstone soil of the region provide the environment for a wide variety of flora. (MAINLY SCRUBBY, OFF-THE-TRACK WALKING)

To the bushwalker, the Grampians offer challenging and interesting walking. (THIS IS A GOOD WALK)

It is a dry camp Friday night and there will be no water until we reach Saturday night's campsite. (NOT CHICKEN ARE YOU?)

April KENTBRUCK HEATH-LOWER GLENELG NATIONAL PARK Easy/Medium

24-27 Leader: George Telehin (b) 387 1066
Transport: Bus leaves Batman Ave. 6.30 pm Fare \$10.00
Expected time of return: 9-9.30 pm
Map Reference: Nelson 1:100 000 (Tracks not marked)
Approximate distance: 15-30 miles (depending on the whims of the party on the second and third days)

Mainly a track walk; (this area is too fragile to take a large party off the tracks without leaving lasting scars) through the largest expanse of wet heath in the Southern Hemisphere. The walk on Friday is compulsory, covering an area I haven't been to yet; the wet heath proper - about 12 miles. Saturday can either be spent exploring part of the drier section of the heath with me, or you can try your luck and attempt to catch native trout or freshwater crayfish after walking three miles to camp. On Sunday there is a choice of taking a look at the Kangaroo Heath or walking along part of the Glenelg River. Leaving for home at about 3 pm.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1975 ARE NOW PAYABLE TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY -PLEASE PAY HER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE:

MEMBER (OVER 21)	\$6.00
JUNIOR MEMBER (16-21)	\$3.00
HUSBAND AND WIFE	\$9.00
VISITORS	\$0.50 DAY WALK
	\$1.00 WEEKEND OR EXTENDED WALK

A 50¢ SURCHARGE IS COMPULSORY WHEN A WALK IS NOT PRE-BOOKED.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY APRIL 23 - PERSONALITY SLIDE NIGHT

TO ALL SHUTTERBUGS : If you have any slides of bushies in interesting situations, poses, or predicaments from club activities, please contact Geoff Crapper. Sunday walks, weekend trips and Wilky trips will be featured plus anything else that comes to hand.

SATURDAY MAY 3 - FIRST ANNUAL CLUB DINNER

WHERE: Alfred's Homestead, Warrandyte (See poster in clubrooms)

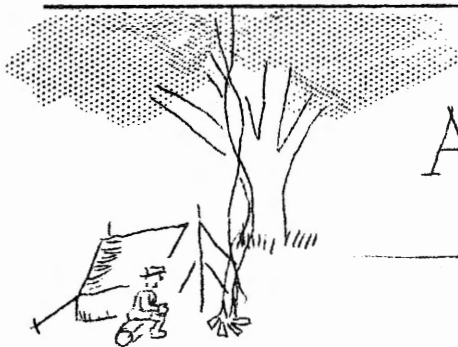
PRICE: \$7.00 per head

Bookings are now open for this dinner. The colonial style homestead is set in bush surroundings and offers an excellent smorgasbord dinner, plus a very good band.

SEE GEOFF CRAPPER FOR BOOKINGS.

CONSERVATION GROUP

DON'T FORGET:- The next meeting of the conservation group is on Monday March 24 in the clubrooms.



A LONG THE TRACK

BAW BAW - MT. ERICA - MUSHROOM ROCKS JANUARY 1975

After a high-speed, hard cornering drive, our Gronow's van finally deposited our slightly car-sick band at the starting point. The quickening spots of rain hastened the erection of tents and we were soon asleep.

The morning found us rested despite a somewhat chill, damp night, which Harold (commonly known as Bluetooth or Hardraga) braved without a tent, tucked up peacefully in a waterproof bag. A less fortunate lady visitor who had borrowed a leaky tent from the club, cheerfully hung out her sleeping bag in the weak sunlight in the hope of drying it out a little before we started.

With breakfast quickly finished (except for two Central European visitors who devoured huge quantities of bacon and eggs followed by large, lethal looking sausages of reddish hue) our select little party moved off up the track in the chill damp air. There were eight of us all told of whom four were visitors. It was with a certain tinge of suspicion that I surveyed our leader. Had some dreadful disaster overtaken a previous expedition led by him that so few club members would now entrust their souls to him?

By mid-morning we were on the ridge with delightful views despite the clouds. Our track was easy to follow and our pace was comfortable. Lunch was taken at the deserted hut whose only remaining feature was a large stone fireplace well stocked with dry wood. A fire quickly brought our billies to the boil.

It was at this deceptive point that our beloved leader, a man of decidedly egalitarian democratic views, called for volunteers to write about this odyssey of ours. Before we could huddle over our tea in studied unconcern, he nominated your present scribe before a solitary "Yes - but - " was heard.

Our pace slackened in the afternoon. Not only was the weather warmer, but the elder of the two European visitors developed a bad knee, which made his progress difficult. We reached the turn-off leading to Mt. Baw Baw in the late afternoon and dropped off the ridge in the other direction to camp for the night.

Our campfire produced a veritable torrent of friendly argument - there were few of the world's profound mysteries which were not explored by our hobnailed intellectuals. Somehow Marx, von Danniken and Einstein made an unlikely menage a trois in conversation and our leader earnestly confided his belief in U.F.O's to hoots of derision on the part of his sceptical listeners.

The night had a nip of frost to it. Sun and breakfast restored our spirits as we set off back up the ridge. Our injured Imre could barely walk so we took his pack while he struggled up. At the top, he and his son made their way slowly toward Mushroom Rocks while we made a detour across the valley floor to Mt. Baw Baw. There we found the place jumping with Field Naturalists from Ringwood, each bedecked with binoculars and Nikons, with a cultivated look of urban rusticity. We were welcomed by a young black dog with an enormous appetite for food and stray paper.

We returned to the Mt. Erica track and made our way in warm sun to a clearing where lunch was enjoyed followed by a welcome doze. Happy and contented we pushed on, anxious to marry up with the party ahead. Their progress was good, however, and we did not meet up with them until reaching Mushroom Rocks. All was well. Briefly exploring the Rocks, we then took the tourist path down to the carpark where our green Maserati was waiting.

It was a first class weekend Ron, led by a true commissar!

PETER GOODWIN

SEARCH AND RESCUE PRACTISE

12 -13 April 1975 at Blue Range.

Attendance is restricted this year to members of Search and Rescue and those eligible to join.

Anyone interested in joining SHOULD attend this practise.

For details, contact Shirley Trotter before Easter.

(p) 581464 (b) 620 621 (x2126)

WILKY WINTER PARTIES

Bookings are now open for winter for Wilkinson Lodge. All those wishing to use Wilky in winter please let Rod Mattingley know by the 2nd of April.

Lockers will be allocated on a party basis.

Those intending to use Wilky for a weekend only, let Rod know also.

FAMILY WALKS

Some club members are intending to organise family walks on a regular basis but independantly of the officially programmed walks. In doing so, they will be filling a growing need and will endeavour to meet the special problems of those with young families.

A meeting of all interested persons will be organised shortly. If this is of interest to you, contact GRAHAM MASCAS or GEOFF KENAFACKE.

FLAT TO LET: A pleasant, spacious, three bedroom, fully furnished flat in Toorak for approximately \$45 per week. Suitable for sharing.

The flat will be available in April, or later if preferred.

If you are interested, please contact Alan Holder (h) 244 230

FOR SALE: Blacks nylon tunnel tent; owner going overseas.

Features of tent:- fly cap, fly net, built in ground sheet, valance, fibre glass rods, aluminium ridge poles, zipped door.

Total weight complete with poles and pegs is 10 lbs.

The ideal tent for the specialist bushwalker.

Please contact Mike Reynolds (h) 318 3371 (b) 347 1344

The next Bush Music Night will be on Saturday, 5th April at 8.00 pm. The nights are held at the Scout Hall outside Toorak Railway Station.

FOLK MUSIC AND SQUARE DANCING - SUPPER.....50 cents.

FOR THE FAMILY WALKER:-

"Choice" magazine, March 1975, contains an article on baby carriers.

Geoff Kenafacke

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Peter Breier - 632 Drummond St., Carlton North 3054

Christine Nicol - 3/70 Dendy Rd., Armadale 3143

Brain Busby - 24 Archibald St., Pascoe Vale 3044

Shirley Trotter - p) 581 464 b) 620 621 (x2126)

NEW MEMBERS

William Goldstraw - 4/204 Hull Rd., Mooroolbark 3138 p) 725 9700
b) 879 1366

Alex Richardson - 13/89 Denham St., Hawthorn 3122 p) 816 695
b) 813 828

Ella Schmid - P O Box 95 Fairfield 3078 P) 489 6082
b) 490 211 (x625)

Ursula Schubert - 7 Toorak Ave., Toorak 3142 p) 202 928

Dick Williams - 33 Wells Rd., Beaumaris 3193
OR c/- Ridley College, The Avenue, Parkville 3052

Robert Harris - 179 Burgandy St., Heidelberg p) 459 4893
b) 254 502

Gerald Young - Lot 1, Belgrave-Hallam Rd., Belgrave Sth. p) 754 3160
b) 949 6008

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WHY THIS SUPPLEMENT?

At the first meeting of the MDW Conservation Group much time was spent in discussing the education of bushwalkers in conservation issues, and the related problem of communication. It was agreed that the Group should produce, at about three month intervals, a "Conservation Supplement to "News". This is needed to inform Club members of what their Conservation Group is doing, and also to tell people what is going on outside the Club.

The first item in this Supplement is a selection from a reading list obtained by Peter Thomson. This should assist in the education process for those who are interested in conservation but feel ignorant of many facts. Other items concern submissions which are in progress, news items etc.

READING LIST

- COSTIN, A B and FRITH, H J eds. *Conservation* (Pelican 1974) - \$3.00
An Australian work written by professional resource managers, experts in the fields of natural and mineral resources. These are the people governments consult. It is well written, easy to read and full of information.
- FRANKENBERG, JUDITH. *Nature Conservation in Victoria* (Victorian National Parks Association 1971) - \$1.50
The author was commissioned by the VNPA to survey the existing National Parks and to write a definitive book on the deficiencies of the existing National Parks in Victoria. Of necessity this book contains many statistics and describes only National Parks and Wildlife Reserves in Victoria, but it is a marvellous example of what could be done by conservation groups elsewhere.
- CAILLET, G and others. *Everyman's guide to ecological living*. (Collier - Macmillan 1971) - \$1.10
This very valuable book was sponsored by the Santa Barbara Underseas Foundation and covers most aspects of our affluent consumer-oriented throw-away society. It gives a list of Rules to live by and has useful chapters on resources, recycling, pollutants, political action etc. Although American in origin, many of its ideas are relevant to our needs.
- HARTMANN, H F and others. *Nature in the Balance*. (Heinemann Educ. Aust. 1972) \$3.50, limp \$1.95
At the request of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute our leading chemists deal with the problems of ecology, pollution and conservation in the Australian context. This splendid book gives clear answers to basic questions (e.g. what is pure air?) and is lavishly illustrated with photographs, graphs, diagrams and tables.
- CLAIRE, P *The struggle for the Great Barrier Reef* (Collins 1971) - \$7.95
A wealth of information on the Barrier Reef written from the conservationists' point of view; as the enquiry into oil drilling on the Reef is nearing its conclusion, this book is particularly topical.
- MEADOWS, D H and others. *The limits to growth: a report for the Club of Rome's project on the predicament of mankind*. (Earth Island 1972) \$4.50 P/B \$2.95
It is hard enough to predict the stock market from day to day, but the Club of Rome with the help of Professor Forrester from MIT fed a computer with a whole variety of data on populations, resources, capital etc. and produced a series of predictions for the year 2100. Although none of these may eventuate, some of the print-outs are startling. Easy and fascinating to read.
- LOVE, S and OBST, D Eds. *Ecotage* (Pocket Books 1972) - \$1.25
\$1,000,000 fine to Standard Oil Company equals a \$1 parking fine for a \$100 week wage earner. Can big business be controlled? Is ecotage - environmental sabotage - necessary? Read of the exploits of The fox who plugs up drains of offending factories so they are flooded with their own effluents. This is a book for activists, a good follow-up to Mitchell, J G and Stallings, C A *Ecotactics* (Pocket Book).

MARTIN, A *Pollution and conservation in Australia* (Lansdowne) 1971 - \$4.95

An authoritative Australian work assessing our own present pollution and conservation problems. Dr Martin uses clear diagrams and excellent photographs to demonstrate urgency without exaggeration.

STEPHENSON, W *The ecological development of man* (A & R.1972) \$4.95

The Professor of Zoology at Queensland University traces man's relationship with the environment from pre-history to technology. The social ecology of man is discussed in an Australian context in a way which will involve the general reader as well as the student of science.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN (Periodical) *The biosphere* (Freeman) - \$7.00.

The eleven chapters in this excellent book are written by experts in their separate fields of ecology and resources. 134 pages including superb diagrams and photographs explain quite complex matters very simply.

JOHNSON, DICK *The Alps at the Crossroads* (VNPA) - \$3.50.

This needs no introduction!

REPORT ON MBW CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

The past year has seen a noticeable upsurge in our interest in Conservation matters and much activity on the part of a few people. This was prompted initially by the Federation forming a Conservation Committee, and, when the majority of Club members appeared somewhat reluctant to assist the Federation in its activities, by the formation of our own Conservation Group.

It will be seen in the future that the early and mid 1970's were the years when bushwalkers needed urgently to become active in safeguarding their future interests. It is too early to say that we are responding to this need. There are encouraging signs - certainly within this Club. If the current level of interest is maintained and translated into action, we won't be accused of not trying.

The MBW Conservation Group was formed at a Club General Meeting on November 24th 1974. Its first meeting on January 20th 1975 was attended by 12 people (with a further 2 apologies from people who were present in spirit but not in fact). These people appeared quite enthusiastic, and should provide the basis for an effective Working Group.

The Conservation Group will operate on a fairly informal basis in the hope that this will encourage free discussion and attract newcomers. Meetings will be held at about three month intervals, or more frequently when necessary. Anyone in the MBW is welcome at any or all of these meetings. Between meetings contact will be maintained at a working level by phone. The next meeting is on March 24th at 7.00 p m in the Club Rooms. Enquiries about the Group should be directed to Dave Oldfield (until early July) or Jerry Grandage (from July onwards).

Considering our Club's contributions to conservation activities as a whole, perhaps the most significant was Graham Mills-Johnson's and Geoff Kenafacke's effort in preparing the LCC submission on block 10 of the Alpine Study Area. Graham is also to be commended for his stirring activities on the Committee, which have been partly responsible for what enthusiasm there is in the Club.

We should also thank Dick Johnson for his monumental effort on "The Alps at the Crossroads" which he wrote in his capacity as VNPA Newsletter Editor. This may prove to be a vital factor in influencing public opinion.

Jerry Grandage

GRAMPIANS LCC SUBMISSION

The LCC are inviting submissions on existing land use in District 2 of their South West study area. This includes the whole of the Grampians and the nearby Black Range, and other miscellaneous areas such as Mt Eccles and Arapiles. In many

bushwalkers' minds the Grampians must rank second only to the Alpine area in Victoria. This Club is preparing the submission on behalf of the Federation, in other words on behalf of all Victorian bushwalkers. So the submission needs to be good.

Most of the work is being done by Dave Oldfield, Fred Halls and Jerry Grandage, but we need to use the knowledge and opinions of others. If you are particularly knowledgeable or have strong views, on the Grampians (from the bushwalker's point of view) please contact Dave Oldfield.

We intend to give a detailed description of the bushwalking resources of the area, and an assessment of how important the Grampians are to bushwalking. This implies comparisons with other areas. We will emphasise those aspects of land use which conflict with bushwalking or threaten to do so. We will also present information on flora, fauna, cave paintings etc. which are of interest to bushwalkers.

Jerry Grandage

THE LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL, FCV, MMBW AND YOU

As part of a submission I made to the Land Conservation Council on the Melbourne area I suggested that:

- 1 The Forests Commission be deprived of any power over forest area in the Melbourne Study Area.
- 2 That the MMBW be judged incompetent or unwilling to manage land in the area and thus it could not be trusted to carry out LCC recommendations.

My reason for wanting the land around Melbourne protected from the FCV is that their achievements to date reveal

- an inability to free themselves from the domination of Australian Paper Manufacturers P/L (this firm has parliamentarily endorsed rights to 20% of Victorian forest). The ACF was unsuccessful in its attempt to effectively re-draft the bill.
- an inability to preserve a single wilderness area in Victoria (RIP the Mt Despair area)
- a history of vandalism and destruction that hides under the name of "development" or "progress". Examples are the desolation on the summits of Donna Buang, Buller and the Little Snowy Plain near the Pinacles. Buller has been an FCV Alpine Reserve since 1948, and the FCV declared Donna Buang a "Special Purposes Reserve" in August 1963.
- a determination to attack any remaining area that is not accessible to trail bikes and to create walking (read trail-bike) highways, therein. If this sounds an exaggeration, read "Walk" 1974 p. 57-61. It is not relevant to argue that it is not the intention of the FCV to facilitate trail bike entry; intentions are a pale phrase beside actual achievements and definite plans.

I need your help in my submission please. I need photos or slides of the areas mentioned above, preferably in both "before FCV" and "after FCV" states, but their present "improved" state makes a convincing argument.

I also need your support for my move to ban the FCV from advertising in "Walk" 1976 (Details to follow of this, but the basic idea is that the "Walk" 74 p. 74 ad. from the FCV is dishonest. "Multiple Use" as understood by the FCV excludes "Wilderness Use" and thus distorts and destroys much of the "recreational use". If you doubt this - find me a wilderness area for our "recreation").

As for the MMBW - I refer to their contempt of Parliament and deception of the Public over section 65 of the MMBW Act. If the MMBW is misleading the public about their parliamentary conferred rights, the Board can hardly be trusted with additional responsibilities for serving the public.

I also refer to their misuse of funds and breach of their own regulations by building luxurious and exclusive guest houses to cater for visiting politicians. For further details refer to "The Herald" p. 9 Saturday 28th September 1974, or to

Victorian Parliamentary Hansard of the same date. From this it would appear that a full size guest house does not pollute, but transient bushies do.

Gerard McPhee

Gary Haugh, a forester, was asked to comment on the above article to give another point of view. The following is his personal opinion of the criticisms made by Gerry:

- 1 The facts related to the agreement to supply APM with timber are wrong. APM has no rights to any state forest. It has no concession areas as apply in Tasmania. It has, however, first option on pulpwood (only) from harvesting operations in state forests in most of the Central Highlands and central and west Gippsland area.
- 2 I do believe because of man's influence on the environment it is impossible to maintain any true wilderness area. Subtle effects, even bushwalkers bringing in seeds of weed species on their socks can change the nature of a wilderness area. Changing patterns of fire and wildlife (often outside the control of a forestry department) can have a marked change on the flora and fauna associations of a "wilderness area". An area is going to change with time, what a forest manager must do is attempt to retain the natural diversity of the area and often harvesting can actually assist in achieving this.

Society in general, rather than the forests department is responsible for the so called "vandalism and destruction" which often the department may attempt to resist. For example, a committee of management made up of people with a diversity of interests in Mt Donna Buang is responsible for many of the decisions leading to the present development of the mountain i.e. the FCV, Country Roads Board and Vic. Ski Association.

The Forestry Department is responsible for administering Mt Buller, but can they be blamed for perpetuating its establishment? A certain society pressure on need was responsible for Buller. As a public organization, answerable to the community, if the community demands a snow playground, a forestry department must consider this demand.

- 3 Trailbikes may well be a major problem. Recent legislation has been introduced to attempt to bring this situation under control and confine them to defined roads.
- 4 More people are gaining more leisure time, and are at the same time becoming more aware of their environment and national heritage and going "bush". These so called "walking highways" do serve a real need in introducing a largenumber of novices to the forest environment. Ease of access, plus good definition of tracks so such people won't get lost (too easily) are an important consideration. Not all people wish to begin by joining organized walks, and many young people e.g. scouts, who do not have the background knowledge and the stamina of a seasonal bushwalker use such "highways", bringing them in closer contact and hopefully more aware of the forest environment.
- 5 Banning a closer association between FCV and "Walk" by banning advertising does not help to achieve a closer understanding between such groups.
- 6 The fact that the NMBW entertain royalty at the O'Shannessy Lodge has got nothing to do with their ability to manage the forest. The Forestry Section of the NMBW is manned by highly capable professional forester, far removed from the entertainment world.

TRACKS AND HUTS

Recently there appears to have been a change of opinion in some bushwalking circles on tracks and huts. Our own Delegate to the Federation Tracks and Huts Committee (Sue Oldfield) is strongly anti tracks and huts, and received little opposition to her views last year when she attempted to get opinions from around this Club. Since then at least two Federation meetings have discussed tracks and/or huts. These have indicated some support for the

anti tracks and hut viewpoint, although it is not clear how widespread this support is. The general feeling is that the whole question of tracks and huts needs re-thinking. The Federation's current (unwritten) policy on tracks and huts evolved at a time when bushland was not subject to conflicting demands, and much of it was untracked. Now there is very little trackless country left in Victoria, and conflicts can arise between those who enjoy trackless walking and those who want to cut additional tracks. The increasing usage of huts (leading to environmental damage), together with the growing realisation that they constitute a safety hazard, have also made people question whether any more huts should be built.

Accordingly the Federation is holding a meeting sometime in March (probably before this goes to press). The emphasis of the discussion will be on huts, although there may be some discussion on tracks as well. The intention is to give people a chance to air their views. Hopefully this will lead to the Federation formulating a policy on both tracks and huts. If you don't get to this meeting, please give your views (if any) to one of your Federation Delegates.

Jerry Grandage

NEWS ITEMS

Sell-out of "Crossroads" - The 10,000 copies of "The Alps at the Crossroads" have sold so well that a further 7,000 copies are to be printed. A limited number of hard cover copies are also being printed (price about \$6.00)

LCC Report on N E Study Area - The LCC have published their report on district, 3,4 and 5 of the N E Study Area. This includes Mt Buffalo, the Bennie's area, the Warby Ranges and perhaps others. Virtually no information is given on bushwalking and rockclimbing simply because none was submitted. This should not stop us from making recommendations, which are required by the LCC before April 11th. If you have any ideas on this area please contact Dave Oldfield.

Dartmouth Power-Lines - The controversial siting of the power-line from the Dartmouth Dam to the Kiewa Valley is still an open question. The SEC still favour the route via Trappers' Gap and Mountain Creek. However this matter, among others, is being investigated by the Parliamentary Public Works Committee. Their terms of reference include environmental aspects. They are inviting submissions.

4-WD Safari Trips - The Transport Regulation Board is receiving an alarming number of licence applications from people hoping to operate 4-WD's commercially in the Alpine country. As with all potential conflicts, these will become a real conflict if the frequency of operations is high enough. Various people, including ourselves, have objected. The TRB have told us that they intend to have a meeting to discuss this matter, and that we will be invited. Meanwhile they are withholding their approval of the applications.

Pine Trees and More Chocolate and Yellow Signs in National Parks? - Could this happen? Let us hope not. The newly appointed Director of the National Park Service commenced duties on 29th January 1975. He is Mr J D Brookes. Educated at Melbourne University (MSc) where he did work on forested water catchments, he has more recently served on the National Parks Advisory Committee and in the twelve months preceding his appointment, his time was devoted almost exclusively to the Westernport Study. Until December 1973 he held a senior "forestry" position within Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd. It is understood that other close members of Mr Brookes's family are also in senior positions within APM.

Mt Hotham - New Walking (and Vehicular Access Track) - Reported in a recent issue of "The Alpine Observer" Bright. An Australian Government loan has been granted to the Mt Hotham Alpine Resort Development Committee to develop a walking track from Marys Slide to the bottom pumping station on the Cobunga River, below Brockhoffs. According to Mr Zammit, HARDC Secretary, this will also be a vehicular access track to the pumping station. Although the grant has been made on the basis of regional employment development, the Committee are understood to be unable to find any persons out of work who are prepared to tackle the job. Skiers who are familiar with Mt Hotham have grumbled that the track will mess up a ski slope in winter and be a visual eye-sore from the Bogong High Plains during summer. The writer, however, cannot vouch for the accuracy of their statements.

NOTICE OF
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS WILL BE HELD IN THE CLUBROOMS, 14 HOSIER LANE, AT 8.00 P M ON WEDNESDAY 30TH APRIL 1975.

THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING WILL BE THE RE-ELECTION OF THE OFFICE BEARERS AND GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE CLUB.

NOMINATIONS WITH PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR ALL POSITIONS UP TO THE TIME OF THE MEETING, BY THE SECRETARY.

(The reason for calling the above meeting is that an objection has been raised to the mode of election employed at the recent A G M.

In order to apply fully with the Constitution, re-election of the Committee is necessary)
