



# THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 314

JANUARY 1976

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 1976

8.00 PM

AT: ROOM 52, VICTORIAN RAILWAYS  
INSTITUTE, FLINDERS ST.

### \* ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS \*

#### NOMINATIONS WANTED FOR ALL OFFICE BEARERS AND GENERAL COMMITTEE

IF YOU WOULD TO REPRESENT YOUR CLUB IN 1976 AS AN OFFICE BEARER OR AS A GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, OR YOU KNOW SOMEONE CAPABLE OF FILLING ONE OF THE POSITIONS, THEN APPROACH A PRESENT COMMITTEE MEMBER AND THE PERSON CONCERNED. NOW. DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED.

THE COMMITTEE POSITIONS ARE

PRESIDENT  
VICE PRESIDENTS (2)  
TREASURER  
SECRETARY  
WALKS SECRETARY  
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY  
SOCIAL SECRETARY  
NEWS CONVENOR  
WILKINSON LODGE MANAGER  
"WALK" MAGAZINE EDITOR  
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS (5)

NOMINATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED NOW AND ARE OPEN UP TO THE MEETING. IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER YOU CAN DO THE JOB - DON'T BE, THERE IS ALWAYS SOMEONE TO ASK ADVICE FROM. THE CLUB CANNOT FUNCTION WITHOUT OFFICE - BEARERS SO PLENTY OF NOMINATIONS ARE A MUST.

(Remember, at the Victorian Railways Institute, Room 52, not at the clubrooms)

All correspondence should be addressed to:-

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

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

FEBRUARY WALK PREVIEWS

Feb 1 GLENBURN-BEALES HILL-CAPTAINS CK. TRACK-WOMBELANO FALLS Easy/Med

Leader: George Telehin (b) 387 1066 x525  
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15am Fare \$2.50  
Expected time of return: 8 - 8.30pm  
Map reference: Glenburn 1:50 000  
Approximate distance: 16 Km

A walk along a hilly ridge, through dry open forest (unless it rains), descending into Captains Ck. gully along a track, before crossing a ridge to Wombelano Falls and finally meeting the van on the Mt. Robertson Rd. Bring water for lunch. About half of the walk will be on tracks.

Feb 8 WEST MOORABOOL RIVER-LAL LAL FALLS-LAKE BUNGAL Easy

Leader: Verle-Ann Johnson (p) 391 1368  
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15am Fare \$2.50  
Expected time of return: 7pm  
Map reference: Ballan 1:63 360  
Approximate distance: 7 miles

Starting from the old Yendon Blue Bridge, we walk across open farm land to Moorabool Falls. We then cross over the Lal Lal Falls which were very spectacular when previewed. We follow the shore line of the reservoir through open forest to the dam site, where there is a historic blast furnace. A varied walk - hopefully, bathing costumes needed.

Feb 15 MT. TOWT-DIAMOND CK.-WINDY POINT-BLACK SNAKE RANGE Easy/Med

Leader: Charles Knight (p) 267 3161  
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15am Fare \$3.00  
Map reference: Warrigal 1:100 000 Gembrook 1:50 000  
Approximate distance: 12 miles

The walk will start with a climb up Mt. Towt and then undulate, mainly on jeep tracks. See Charles for further details when booking.

Feb 22 TALLAROOK - GOULBURN RIVER Easy

Leader: Sandra Mutimer (p) 385 398  
Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15am Fare \$2.50

See Sandra in the clubrooms when booking for the walk.

Feb 29 LEAPING WALK-PUFFING BILLY-EMERALD-GEMBROOK Easy

Leader: Rosemary Price  
Transport: Train and Bus.

See Rosemary in the clubrooms for details of train and bus times in the 2 weeks before the walk. Will probably be in February News.

WEEKEND WALKS

Feb GUYS HUT-CONGLOMERATE CK-BRYCES GORGE Med/Easy

6-8 Leader: Rod Mattingley (b) 350 1222 x771  
Transport: Private  
Expected time of return: Who knows?  
Map reference: Moroka 1:63 360

For reasons best known to himself the printer of the summer programme left my walk off. But this allows me to change the walk standard from the original "hard" to "easy/med" and make it a base camp without the walks secretary being able to complain.

From Guys Hut we'll cross Conglomerate Ck. and follow the ridge SE down to the bottom of Bryces gorge, and look at the falls from the bottom. Hopefully, we will find a better way out than Tim and I followed a few years ago. Ask Tim how he got those grey hairs! This will be a fairly solid day with plenty of rock hopping at the bottom of the gorge. Saturday nights camp will be on Conglomerate

Creek, near the site of Bryce's old hut, only about 2 Km from the road and so not too far to freight in supplies. Sunday will be the "easy" part, with a stroll on the snow plains on the west side of the road and a visit to the falls on the East Caledonia river.

Feb HOWITT HUT-WONNANGATTA RIVER-CONGLOMERATE CK-GUYS HUT Medium  
6-8 Leader: Gary Wills (p) 741 1129  
Transport: Private

See Gary in the Clubrooms on Wednesday for details.

Feb NUG-NUG - BUFFALO PLATEAU-MOLLISON GALLERIES-LAKE BUFFALO Med/Hard  
20-22 Leader: Tyrone Thomas (p) 267 4160  
Transport: Private  
Expected time of return: 9.00pm  
Map references: Myrtleford 1:63 360 FCV  
Approximate distance: 22 - 24 miles

T.T.T. actually previewed this walk and found the originally intended route to be too far and too hard. As a result, we will now camp on the Buffalo Plateau but will shorten the distances both up and down from the plateau. It is still however, a medium/hard to hard trip. The ascent will be very rocky and scrubby in parts. The descent will be by foot track to Lake Buffalo. Carry water for lunch Saturday and be prepared for an 8.00am start Saturday morning after camping at very pleasant Nug-Nug just south of Myrtleford in the valley.

Feb CHILDERS COVE-BAY OF ISLANDS-PETERBOROUGH Easy  
27-29 Leader: Brian Busby (p) 350 3662  
Transport: Van from Batman Ave, 6.30pm Fare \$9.00  
Map references: 1:63 360 Panmure and Port Campbell

We shall be camping at the one spot both Friday and Saturday and will only need to carry our equipment a short distance from the van on Friday night. Day walks with fabulous views will be arranged from the campsite along the clifftops and some beaches to the east. The site (ref. 594538) is near Childers Cove and good surf swimming will be available. Fires may not be possible and choofers or cold food should be brought. There is no water available in the area and each person must bring 1 - 2 gallons or more for the entire weekend. Water must be carried on the day walks. There are many snakes in the area and everyone should make themselves familiar with Graham Mascas' article in WALK 76 and be prepared to resist any attempts by others at minor surgery.

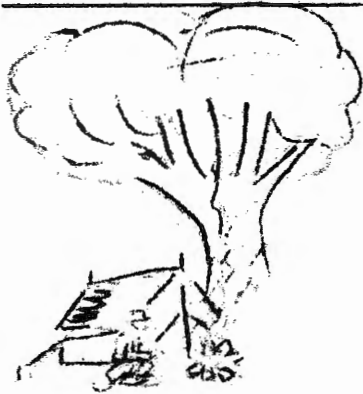
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EASTER 1976

Michael Griffin is interested in leading a walk to Lamington National Park, Queensland, during the Easter holiday period. He would prefer to go for 5 or 6 days, but the exact duration and times would be negotiable. It is intended to fly to and from Brisbane, with a bus up to Binna Burra Lodge and out from O'Reillys Guest house. Focal point of the trip will be the Lost World Plateau, but will also do some day trips centred on Binna Burra and O'Reillys. (eg. Shipstern circuit, Blue Pool). Overall standard probably MEDIUM, camping in tents. Some meals could be obtained from the guest houses but you would need to carry food for Lost World etc. Anyone interested, please see Michael in the Clubrooms or phone at home (435 7829). Superb country is guaranteed.

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Thanks to Barry and Gwenda for the job they've done  
and Happy Holiday  
Welcome to Ian and Marion, our new printers  
for a while!



## ALONG THE TRACK

IN SEARCH OF THE ARK  
(Mt. Buller, Dec. 12 - 14)

At least with Noah, the rain eventually stopped. I admit he had to put up with a lot of scruffy animals, and he might have been a bit dis-oriented when he stepped out of the Ark and nearly plunged down the side of Mt. Ararat. But, he did have God on his side, and I suppose that was some compensation. We had to make do with Dave, and we had to climb Mt. Buller the traditional way - no sign of an amphibious ark for us to float up in.

I seem to remember that the last weekend trip I wrote about (Grampians) was aborted due to bad weather. Neither GWJ nor I are prepared to accept responsibility for producing the rain, although every time I encounter him on a trip Graham mutters about 1975 weekends being the wettest ever. I think he must carry a dowsing -rod in his pack - maybe its the meat-griller!

Dennis made the first mistake - he stopped the van. The rain had already been limbering up for some time, so when we arrived it was ready for us. Soggy tents added to the gloom on Saturday morning as we headed up the road to Mirrimbah and began the ascent. I won't bore you with the grisly details of thick scrub, slippery rock and vertical climbs - enough to say that many people were feeling decidedly shattered by the time Buller's summit appeared. Verle-Ann, indeed, was nearly shattered a good deal earlier, when her head collided with a rock. The incident somehow failed to imbue her with enthusiasm for the trip.

The night was a wretched continuation of the day. A massive fire had to struggle to escape drowning and most tents were severely tested. The gloom was profound - not even an Irish joke was ventured. We were camped just below Buller on the top of Four Mile Spur. Our intended destination was the saddle below Round Hill, but we had failed to find the correct (ie safe) route around a sudden drop in the summit ridge. Slippery rock and very limited visibility were judged sufficient reason for turning back.

Still raining Sunday, so we decided to abandon the trip. A 'phone call from Buller village failed to catch the van before it left Melbourne, so Peter headed down the road to redirect it. Dave kept a lonely vigil inside the large "comfort station", complete with hot air drier, for which he soon found some novel uses. The rest of us stayed on at the campsite, attempting to survive the incredible onslaughts of rain. The fire was beginning to look like a swimming pool but with encouraging tenacity the flames lingered on. Finally, as the downpour temporarily subsided to a minor cyclone, we packed up and set out to join Dave at the village. Ski-tows loomed out of the mist, their seats frozen into immobility. The wind threatened to skittle us as we traced the wheel ruts towards shelter. Picture a half-frozen group of walkers in residence at the comfort station. The hot air blower never stopped!

At long last, a Gronows noise, and the van appeared. We descended through rain and mist on our way home, having finally found our ark.

.....Michael Griffin

(As Noah undoubtedly said as he shepherded the last of the animals into the Ark: "Now I herd everything!")

### MARIJKE'S WALK

What a splendid way to start a walk, our tummies heavy with turkey in Cumberland sauce and Christmas pudding soggy with <sup>B</sup>randy butter and our heads silly with wines and magnums of champagne. It was the morning of Boxing Day and in the garden at "Wilky" it was fine and very hot. The party, sleek and well fed were little affected by either the hot sun or the inertia of a

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large Christmas dinner so a quick blat uphill behind Wallaces hut took us onto the Bogong High Plains still full of seasonal tidings and good cheer.

There was a brief side trip to Mt. Cope for its magnificent panorama of the Alps, a clicking of cameras and much sucking and slurping of mid-morning oranges and we marched on across the High Plains towards Mt. Jim and Youngs Hut.

This was the loveliest part of the walk, through soft, deep grasslands with the splendidly classical summit of Feathertop and the long rippling spine of the Razorback so close on our right hand. We followed a line of ancient snow poles through a friendly, over-curious mob of Herefords. Snow daisies on grey stems and the sunny faces of Billy Buttons nodded in the breezes wafting across the Plains and in the snow-gum woods we waded through mint bush with flowers of the palest blue and deliciously fragrant leaves of dark green, and parrot peas with pouting gold beaks and crimson tongues.

When we dropped down from the open plains to the ruined stockyard at Youngs Hut the climate changed. The breezes cooling the grasslands above us, barely ruffled the snow gums under which we rested awhile. The native forest free is a poor provider of shade and the sun blazed down with ferocious energy. We tramped eastward through the hottest part of the day, crunching through the bone dry debris of the forest until promptly on 5 o'clock, eleven pairs of overheated feet forced a stop at the first sizeable creek to cross the track.

In the morning there were fresh brumby droppings along the track and after a short while we found them grazing among the snow gums while the day was still cool. There were three beautiful chestnuts with two foals and we stood for a while watching them, but they soon ran off, melting into the shadows with the grace of thoroughbreds. We disturbed another larger mob further along, and came later to a stockyard, a massive structure of uncut logs three metres tall and 100 metres round, built to tame their spirited tempers.

We poked and probed around McNamara's hut during morning smoko, and after a spell of confused navigation followed the jeep track eastwards into the shimmering ash forest. It offered as little shade as the snow gum woods, the sun lashed through the thin foliage with searing ferocity until even the trees wilted in the hot air. This hell on earth continued until teatime when we were given leave to quench our sunburns and blisters and wash our sweat and tears into a small creek. We camped alongside the creek, taking our drinking water upstream from the fetid sillage of the "bathroom".

It was still cool when we left the following morning to walk out to Anglers Rest - so it should have been, we were up at 5am, but it was a delightful morning with the sun slanting through the trees at a low angle, and a faint breeze. Even the birds sounded cheerful, certainly more cheerful than the landowner who drove across his paddocks to interrogate us as we finished the walk. Nevertheless, it was a harmless incident at the end of a most enjoyable Christmas walk.

.....Les Markham

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#### SPIKE MILLIGAN AND TREES

They chop down 100ft trees  
To make chairs  
I bought one  
I am six-foot one inch  
When I sit in the chair  
I'm four foot two  
Did they really chop down a 100ft tree  
To make me look shorter?

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The following is a reply to Michael Griffin from Jerry Grandage, Conservation Chairman of the FVWC.

Dear Madam:

Michael Griffin's remarks on Conservation in the November News point out a difficult problem - that of trying to assess whether anyone will listen to us and whether we are achieving anything in our conservation efforts. His letter could be interpreted in some quarters as saying "our efforts are all a waste of time, so why bother?" Perhaps Mike did not intend this interpretation.

There are two answers to this problem. Firstly, unless it is proved conclusively that we really are wasting our time, we owe it to ourselves and future bushwalkers to do what we can to safeguard the interests of bushwalking. Secondly, through the LCC (among other bodies) all users of public land are given the opportunity to describe their usage of the land and make land-use recommendations to the LCC, who then attempt to make a fair compromise in their recommendations to the State Government. This requires work on our part, and in order to make recommendations on bushwalkers' behalf it would seem necessary for bushwalkers to decide among themselves what they want. Hence the need to formulate policies on issues which affect us. Such policies need to reflect long term aims which we should strive for, rather than short term compromises. Obviously short term compromises will be forced on us. This should not stop us from advocating our long term aims, in the hope that future decisions will involve less compromise from us. If this seems a selfish philosophy, we should note that we are not decision makers ourselves, and it is not our primary purpose to suggest compromise solutions (although we obviously need to be aware of the interests of other land users when making our recommendations)

It is hard to give a straightforward answer to Mike's question "who is going to listen to bushwalkers anyway.....?" In my short experience with the MBW and the Federation, I have gained the impression that we are listened to with some interest and sympathy. Regrettably this is only a subjective impression and it may be sometime before much hard evidence appears to confirm or deny this impression. Undoubtedly land management authorities are beginning to recognise that recreation is a desirable form of land use. The recent MMBW report on the Thompson catchment is a good case in point - while this document presents a confusing picture on catchment access, it shows a fairly genuine appreciation of the different forms of recreation and their relative merits. Many of the LCC's recommendations, some of which have been implemented would not have been made without pressure from conservationists (including bushwalkers). The FCV have demonstrated their concern (perhaps misguided in some people's opinion) for bushwalking by their support for the Alpine Track project. All these appear to represent a trend in the right direction, and give some reason for optimism.

Finally I should answer Mike's two specific queries arising from the September News Supplement. When one considers that in 1957 grazing in the high country contributed only 0.1% of all production value in NSW and Victoria (ACF Viewpoint on the High Country, 1969 - the figure has probably gone down since 1957) the rural economy is unlikely to grind to a halt if this grazing is phased out! As regards logging, the September News did not suggest avoiding logging "in all major bushwalking areas". Rather, it suggested ways of minimising conflict, one of which was to exclude logging "from certain areas to be agreed upon by bushwalkers and others."

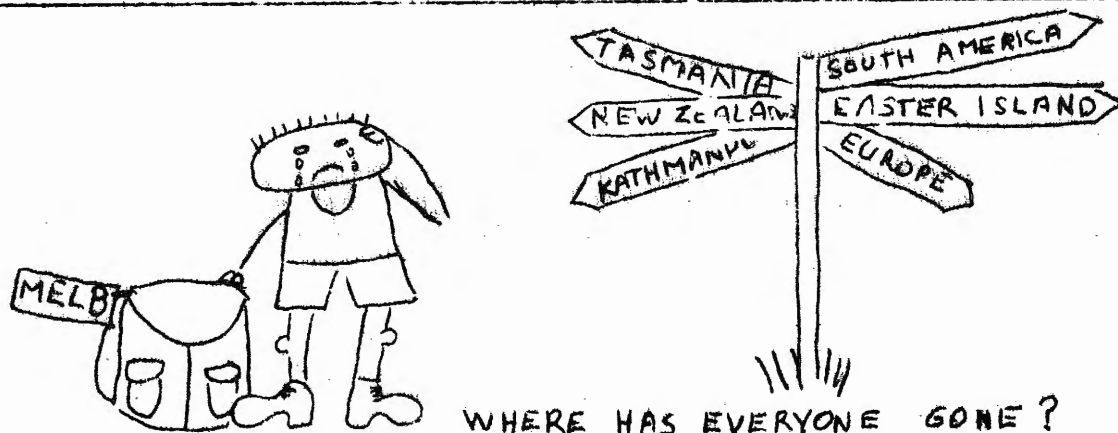
Mike's misgivings are perhaps shared by many bushwalkers, and he has done the Club a service by bringing his doubts into the open. The above letter may not be a complete answer, but I hope it will clarify some aspects of the situation.

.....Jerry Grandage

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HAVE A GOOD HOLIDAY?

Ann and Lindsay Crawford have gone away for six months - 2 weeks in New Zealand, a day in Tahiti, 3 days on Easter Island, then a 2½ month minibus trek through South America from Bogota to Rio. Thence to Europe for a couple of months. They'll be back at the end of July.



Well, the official holiday season is nearly over and the club should be getting back to normal again. It's anyone's guess what normal is!

Ed Lawton must feel left out, what with people going on holiday to South America, New Zealand, Easter Island, Europe, Katmandu and even SW Tasmania and Lamington. Poor old Ed came to Melbourne for his vacation.

They tell me that the mob who went to Cradle Mountain were a bit upset that they didn't get a chance to wear their parkas, balaclavas, overtrousers etc. It was one of the hottest, driest Christmas Periods on record and everyone was carrying about 10 pounds of winter and wet weather gear!

Boy, was Ken Mac's face redder than usual when on his walk preview he looked across the mountain tops to discover that Mt. Magdala was sitting where Mt. Howitt should be. The gallant previewer had raced up some unnamed spur instead of the Howitt spur and so put himself in to walk an extra 3 miles and climb another 700 feet. His party was not amused.

Some people are dedicated or crazy. Seen near Yarra Glen in 40°C+ heat, were George and Shirley riding along on their bikes. If they were previewing, they're surely dedicated, if not, they're plumb crazy.

Rob was driving along the Newell Highway near Dubbo and suddenly felt a lot closer to home when the familiar Green Gronows Van appeared heading the other way.

Mick's recent walk to Phillip Island would have to rank very high on the list of shortest walks - about 3 Km in all. However, one stretch of the walk would have put Lawrence of Arabia to shame. The mob had to cope with a long stretch of sand dunes in the searing century heat and they nearly dehydrated themselves in the process. Dennis got as far as the dunes, then very wisely decided against continuing. After the ordeal of the dunes, swimming at Woolami occupied the rest of the day and the poor leader really did have problems. Trying to get into the water, Mick was taking 3 steps forwards and the waves took him 10 steps back.

It seems people do funny things on walks, like finding foxes and jumping off waterfalls. Both happened on Art's walk along the Campaspe river. The walk ended with pizzas being bought in Kyneton in a building that would pass as a 100 year old bank.

A recent Friday night saw some quaky stomachs at the thought of a light aircraft flight to Flinders Island. All eleven arrived safely (after Geoff returned home for his tent!) the flight being so smooth as sitting in an arm chair. Sighs of relief;

Cars were hired, evening meal arranged at the hotel and swimming was the order -- at beaches so clear every wrinkle in the sand could be seen through 15 feet of water.

Even some walking was done -- half a mile and a climb of 400 feet!

I'm told the highlight's of the trip were Harold finding two cans of Boag's beer on the beach and Malda leaving hers in the aircraft!

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Twice over the Christmas/New Year period people were called out. On both occasions for rescues only from the Lerderberg gorge - once to carry out an injured walker and once to assist a sick scoutmaster.

SOCIAL NEWS

A theatre night is being arranged to see "Picnic at Hanging Rock" on Friday 12th March Before our day walk on the 14th to the same place. Come and be scared before the walk! For advance bookings see Rob Hayes (Geoff C will be away in NZ)

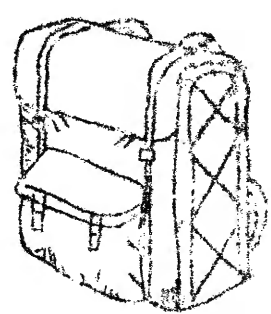
CONSERVATION GROUP

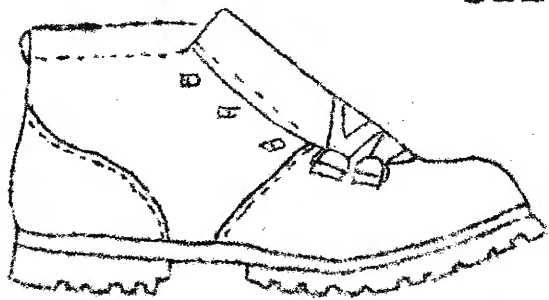
The next meeting of this group will be Monday March 1st at 7.00pm

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

McInnes (n.Trotter) Shirley - 125 Park St., Sth. Melbourne (p) 699 3188 (b) 620 621 x2126  
WHYTE, Joan and Arthur - Lot 1, Morley St., Selby 3159 (p) 754 4635  
BULLARD, Peter - (p) 509 8359 (b) 509 6422

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The question has recently been asked, does anyone really listen to bushwalkerson conservation issues, is the amount of work being done by the club in this field really worthwhile? The answer to that must be that our views are being heard but that they are not necessarily being given the weight that we would wish. We cannot stop contesting these issues now if we want to have some bush left to walk in. Few who have not been on the club's committee would appreciate the effort involved behind the scenes just to keep the club running smoothly. I would encourage anyone to stand for committee if they wish to put something back into the club in return for the benefits of bushwalking.

The club is prospering at the moment with record membership and members on walks, but we need to guard against complacency and the more new faces and ideas the better.

I would like to thank all this year's committee for their support and express the wish that next year may be even more successful for the club.

...Dave Oldfield.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

I would like to thank all those people who have helped me this year, particularly Rob and Shirley for collecting the post.

The Club is currently a member of, or affiliated to the following organisations:-

Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs,  
Australian Conservation Foundation,  
Victorian National Parks Association,  
Kosciuzko Huts Association,  
Environment News.

...Sue Oldfield.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Club membership reached an all time high this year with numbers, by the end of December, as follows:-

Male		125
Female		65
Couples	48 x 2	96
	TOTAL.	286

The club gained 60 new members, whilst 41 did not renew membership, giving us an overall increase of 19 members.

Only about half of our members renewed subscriptions promptly this year. The remainder paying over the next three or four months.

Club information was sent out in response to 62 written enquiries. Unfortunately only 3 of these resulted in new members, although many more may have joined walks as visitors.

...Shirley Trotter.

WILKINSON LODGE REPORT.

Wilky continues to grow in popularity. It was occupied for 24 weekends as well as at Easter, 5 weeks in winter and for 4 weeks over Xmas. 195 people visited the lodge during the year.

The main improvement to the lodge was the laying of vinyl tiles on the floor in the kitchen and the main room; a great improvement over the bare boards and the grotty scrap of lino.

A new grate for the stove was procured and a 5lb BCF fire extinguisher installed.

...Rod Pittingley.

TREASURER'S REPORT - STATEMENT FOR THE 3 MONTHS TO 31.1.76

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
Members Subscriptions	1513.50	Rent	510.00
Visitors Fees	468.00	Repairs	7.59
Equipment Hire	65.30	Insurance	110.64
News Subscriptions	2.00	PMG Box	27.00
Donations	21.00	Phones etc	122.52
Advertising in "News"	72.00	Newsletter Paper	210.12
Bank Interest	227.00	Equipment	51.75
Club Badges	4.50	Newsletter Printing and Postage	506.73
PMG Rebate	4.40	Stationary and Misc	106.86
CTB Returned Bond	600.00	Subscriptions - PWTC etc	98.30
Returned Deposits	733.00	Bank Charges	6.00
		Misc refunds and Deposits paid	790.00
		Projector Hire	15.00
CLUB INCOME TOTAL	3710.70	CLUB COSTS TOTAL	2556.51
Walk Receipts	9540.65	Transport 75-76	9223.00
WALKS INCOME TOTAL	9540.65	Refunds (\$90.00)	9223.00
Misc Magazines	178.05	TRANSPORT TOTAL COST	9223.00
"Walk" Magazines	2386.99	Misc Magazines	187.30
MAGAZINES TOTAL INCOME	2547.04	"Walk" Magazine	2169.23
WILKY (FEES)	409.30	MAGAZINE TOTAL COSTS	2356.53
TOTAL RECEIPTS	16207.69	WILKY COSTS	358.19
		TOTAL PAYMENTS	14494.23
		<u>BALANCE 1975</u>	
Receipts	16207.69	Payments	14494.23
Bank Balance	2697.91	Fired Deposits	2000.00
Petty Cash	0.00	Bank Balance	2411.37
	18905.60		4411.37
			18905.60

WALK SECRETARY'S REPORT.

This year, I am pleased to announce, we experienced an arrest in the decline in the numbers of walkers going on weekend and extended trips. Day walks continued to be well patronised and the total numbers of day walkers increased by 11.7%, making this the largest increase since 1970. Visitors rose by 31%, thus not only reversing last years drop but also making it by far the largest increase ever. It is impossible to say how many of these visitors became members, but judging by the number of applications for membership that are being received each month, it would be a small percentage.

What to do about the small numbers of female type weekend walkers still bears heavily upon the worried head of your Hon. Walks Secretary. Despite intensive lobbying against selected individuals and many hours spent in the field (lobbying also) my endeavours have come to nought. We still continue to see the same few female faces on weekend and extended trips. Welcome as they are, one can only hope that this insidious state of affairs will correct itself this year.

A bus was used on only one occasion this year as most club members appear to prefer private transport on the longer trips. Van fares have remained the same as van charges have not been increased and it is hoped that they will remain the same this year.

In conclusion, I would like to express my thanks to all the leaders of walks during the last year and especially George Telehin who has led willingly more than his fair share of walks. May thanks also to the following (in alphabetical order) who comprised the walks sub-committee during the year:-

Fred Halls, Rod Mastingley, 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> <u>3 days or more.</u>		<u>OVERALL</u>		VISITORS
	TRIPS	WALKERS	TRIPS	WALKERS	TRIP	WALKERS	TRIPS	WALKERS	
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
75	52	1946	28	526	11	240	91	2712	965

\* Not available

...Alex Stirkul

NEWS CONVENOR'S REPORT

Thanks to all the contributors to News this year - especially those who regularly helped me to fill the pages, Michael Griffin in particular, GWJ Les Markham and last but not least, the Shady Scorpion.

The printers, Barry and Gwenda Short and now Ian and Marion Hill deserve large amounts of praise for their efforts in organising printing, wrapping and posting. Thanks to Ken Briscoe for printed addresses to make things easier. Also Geoff Kenafoske and Athol Schaefer have my heartfelt thanks for many small items to fill in blanks at the bottom of pages.

...Malcolm Jakobeons

COMMENTS FROM THE CONVENOR OF CONSERVATION GROUP

I've called this comments, rather than a report, as the Convenor has not actually consulted any other member of this group before preparing these comments. They are more my reflections than any kind of official report.

Activities during 1975.

The Conservation Group started off with Jerry Grandage as Chairman, after a while it became clear that Jerry could be more effective as Federation Conservation Chairman, a job he accepted. Much of the early impetus of the Group came from Jerry's Leadership. After his promotion (???), I accepted the job as Convenor of the MBW Conservation Group.

Some of our activities this year have included:-

- \* Investigating the new Commonwealth Environment Legislation.
- \* Trying to keep track of new roads around Bluff Hut, Mother Johnsons and other places.
- \* Encouraging the Forests Commission closure of roads that are badly eroded (E.G. the Wellington River Track)
- \* Informing local Forestry Commission personnel of the needs of bushwalkers.
- \* Keeping track of the impact of 4 W.D. sarfaris on the Alps.
- \* Attempts to open communication with 4 W.D. and trail bike associations.
- \* Submissions to Land Conservation Council re areas 18,19,20 (Nunniong Plain-Snowy Gorge) Murrumbidgee, Mallee, Grampians, Melbourne area.
- \* Submission to MMBW re walking areas in the Thompson Catchment.
- \* Searching of various periodicals (E.G. Alpine Observer, Government Gazettes) for developments we should know of.
- \* Presenting evidence to the parliamentary enquiry on the Dartmouth project and the proposed power line near Bogong.
- \* Submissions to many other bodies, including VNPA (authority), Ranger Uranium Enquiry, Soil Conservation Authority, Shire of Sherbrooke, other Bushwalking Clubs, and Lands Department.
- \* More besides.

Lessons from 1975.

A review of the activities of the Conservation Group during 1975 leads to several conclusions.

1. That to be active is not necessarily to achieve anything. No amount of effort alone adds up to an ounce of achievement. We must measure the worthwhileness of our endeavours by what changes we effect. Self satisfaction of trying is not enough.

2. That alone we can achieve very little. We must work together with other groups, even with those whose interests would seem to be only partly the same as ours (E.G. The National Trust) or even sometimes antagonistic to ours (E.G. Trail Bike riders).

3. Perseverance is essential. To give up too early is to accept defeat when victory may still be possible. At the time of writing this, Hamer is to re-consider the decision of the Parliamentary Public Works Committee about the Dartmouth Dam Transmission Line.

4. That not all MBW Members are passionately moved to act on behalf of the bushwalking environment. The same small number of faces regularly turn up to the conservation group. An invitation to comment on suggested conservation policies for the club elicited one response.

Prospects for 1976.

The conservation group will meet on Monday 15th, 7pm at the clubrooms. One of the major tasks that I feel is facing the Conservation Group is a review of its structure (or lack of it) Specific questions to be considered are:-

- How we can move into a more initiative taking stance ?
- How can we involve and mobilize others?
- Are our present efforts as effective as they could be?
- Is the conservation group an effective team?

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SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Club seemed to be becoming more socially orientated in 1975 which might be a good thing or a bad thing. But for a Social Secretary it is a most gratifying sign.

The Wednesday night meetings, as usual, were well patronised featuring Slide Shows of South West Tassie, Barmah Lakes, Flinders Ranges, New Zealand etc. Several films and lectures were organised featuring Snow Walking, Conservation Co-Operatives, Ski-Touring and Weekend Walking. Thank go to Dave Oldfield, Dr. Tim Ealey, Chris Hillerud and Bob Steel respectively for their informative talks.

The Square Dance at Badger Creek was great fun as usual and about 70 turned up, another will be held this year.

The Dinner at Alfreds Homestead was a great success as was the Christmas Dinner to the Baron of Beef.

An outing to Dirty Dicks Restaurant was well attended considering the short notice given.

Two Theatre nights to "Gypsy" and "Scapino" were very poorly responded to and it would appear that they are a bit of a chancy venture for any future Social Secretary.

All in all though, it has been a fairly rewarding job being Social Secretary for 1975 and I think I might have a go next year as well (If I get elected that is)

...Geoff Crapper.

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WALK EDITORS REPORT.

Walk 1976 was published during October. Sales have been encouraging and present indications are that the issue will shortly reach the break-even point.

The editor wishes to thank all who contributed to the production of the magazine.

Members are reminded that articles are required for Walk 1977.

...Max Wilkinson.

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SEARCH & RESCUE REPORT.

1975 proved to be a very quiet year with MBW members being called out on only two occasions. Both calls were for rescues only, with no searching required. The rescues were over the Christmas - New Year period and coincidentally, both in the Lerderderg Gorge in exactly the same places. On the first call, two Melbourne Bushwalkers joined 20 other Search & Rescue members to carry out an injured walker. The second request for help resulted in four of our members joining 17 others to carry out a sick walker.

Club membership of Search & Rescue stands at 16, having gained one new member this year.

"The clubs contact system was put to the test, successfully, in October when a programmed day walk was delayed overnight. The only problem arising was due to members not having contacts name and number with flatmates."

Finally I would like to thank this years club contacts, the Errey's, Kenafackes, Richard's and the Filson's all of whom have put a lot of effort into keeping both the contact system and the Search & Rescue section viable and useful.

... Shirley Trotter.

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EQUIPMENT OFFICERS REPORT.

Money in hand at the beginning of March, 1975 was \$22.07.

Between March, 1975 and February, 1976 the following hire charges have been collected for equipment.

Rucksacks	\$10.75
Tents	\$17.00
Sleeping Bags	\$12.50
Ground Sheets	\$ .30
Penalty rates	\$11.50
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	\$42.05

The club has purchased one Sleeping Bag and intends to purchase further equipment shortly.

...Helen Hill.

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