



# THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

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JULY, 1979

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**NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING - to be held at the clubrooms 14 Hosier Lane on Wednesday 1st August, 1979 - commencing at 8.00 p.m. Purpose is to receive and discuss the report of the transport sub-committee.**

GENERAL MEETING - on 27th June, 1979. The main topic of the meeting was the transport situation. Much discussion took place on the sub-committees recommendations as printed in the last News. The meeting generally did not endorse the recommendations and passed the matter back to the sub-committee for further investigation and report to an extraordinary general meeting to be held on 1st August, 1979.

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## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

### WHEN

Tuesday August 7th, 1979 at 8.00 p.m.

### WHAT

"Weather and Mountains" - an evening of illustrated lectures to help you understand mountain weather. A valuable evening for all bushwalkers. Topics include weather processes, mountain effects and forecasting.

### PLACE

Lecture Theatre, Earth Sciences Building, University of Melbourne (Cnr. of Swanston and Elgin Streets).

Supper provided.

### SLIDE NIGHT

#### WHEN

Wednesday August 25th

Les Southwell will show a selection of slides on S.W. Tasmania, including a li-lo trip down the Lower Gordon River from Strathgorden to Macquarie Harbour.

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JULY COMMITTEE NOTES

Attendance was down with four members absent, including Libby Quarterman who unexpectedly had to fly to Frankfurt due to the sudden illness of her brother.

Matters of interest from reports were:-

- Treasurer - \$6,422.78 in the bank - bills totalling \$524 were passed for payment
- Walks - May attendances were 150 people consisting of 104 members and 46 visitors. 103 were day walkers and 47 were weekenders. Profit on transport was \$82.00.
- Membership - About 350 financial members as at end of June.
- FVWC - New affiliation fees were agreed to at the last council meeting - \$1 per member up to maximum of \$250 but no extra voting rights for big clubs - this would require changes to constitution. A sub-committee was formed to look into this and Rex Filson is our representative on this sub-committee.
- Search & Rescue - A new committee has been formed and Pat Miller is the chairman. A practice weekend will be held on 27th -- 29th July. New younger members are sought for S. & R.
- ACF - Nominations are being called for the ACF council. ACF will shortly be mounting a National Great Barrier Reef campaign.

The main part of the meeting was taken up with a further discussion on the clubs transport dilemma. Jim Hedstrom submitted a plan of a van which he hopes would be acceptable to the Transport Regulation Board and Hoods. Hoods, however, would want a 5 year licence and a contract with the club to warrant investing in a new van. Alex is to contact other TRB licence holders to check availability of vans. The transport sub-committee are continuing their investigations.

We also were addressed by John Farnall from the FVWC who is a co-editor with Phillippa Westbrook of the C.C.V. book "What State is the Garden in?" He outlined the purpose and content of the book which will consist of 4 sections - section 1 on wilderness and conservation concepts, section 2 - Economics and Politics of Conservation - section 3 - effects of current management techniques and section 4 - the future, what can be and should be done. The book will consist of contributed articles, newspaper clippings, photos etc. The committee resolved to underwrite the project to the extent of \$200. This means that we will get our money back if the booklet breaks even. The book will be distributed to politicians, land users, administrators and conservation bodies. It will be on sale for \$2.00.

## PLEASE NOTE:-

Correspondence should be addressed to:-

The Secretary,  
Melbourne Bushwalkers,  
Box 1751Q, G.P.O. 2  
MELBOURNE, 3001.

Meetings are held in the clubrooms, 14 Hosier Lane, at the rear of the Forum Theatre, every Wednesday night at 7.00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

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DAY WALKSAugust 5th YARRAGON - STREZLECKI TA - TRAFALGAR

LEADER: Sue Filson  
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m.  
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8.00 p.m.  
MAP REFERENCE Moe 1:100,000  
GRADE Easy/Medium

This walk has not yet been previewed but we are sure of a very interesting trip through rolling hills and light woodland.

August 12th WATTLE GULLY, FRYERSTOWN, FRYERS RACE

LEADER: Jean Giese  
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m.  
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7.00 p.m.  
MAP REFERENCE: Castlemaine 1 mile to 1 inch  
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 10 miles

I decided to change the walk when I did the preview because the banks of Fryers Creek are covered in Blackberries and prickly gorse!

The walk as planned now will be pleasant and of historic interest. We commence just south of Wattle Gully mine, walking along the bank of Poverty Gully Race which the miners dug in the 1850's, then through open forest to Crocodile Reservoir. We will spend a little time walking through Fryerstown with its historic buildings and the ruins of the Duke of Cornwall Mine on its outskirts. Our route will then be north east on an unsealed road to Fryers Race which we follow through the forest to about a mile west of Elphinstone.

Bring water for lunch.

August 19th MT. DESPAIR - WILHEMINA FALLS

LEADER: Jim Wilcock  
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m.  
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN:  
MAP REFERENCE:  
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE

Please see leader in clubrooms.

Day walks cont'd...

August 26th YOU YANGS

LEADER: Prue Hardiman  
 TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m.  
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: Unknown  
 MAP REFERENCE: Meredith 1" to 1 mile or You Yangs  
 (Forests Commission)  
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 10 kms.

Come along and enjoy an interesting ramble around the You Yangs. Because it is August (?!) very good views of the surrounding countryside will be obtainable to all walkers due to bright sun and clear blue skies. There will be a few climbs (especially put in for skiers, to strengthen those leg muscles) but all in all a very pleasant walk. Bring water for lunch.

### Weekend Walks

August 3rd - LANGLAUFING FOR BEGINNERS - MT. HOTHAM  
 5th

LEADER: Graham Wills-Johnson  
 TRANSPORT: Private  
 MAP REFERENCE: Algona - Bogong High Plains 1" to 1 mile  
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: Unstated

As the trip is for beginners we will be doing short day trips from the cars and camping on Saturday night at JB Plain, not far off the road. I understand Prue will be attending a National Fitness course before then, so at least one expert will be on hand to show you what to do. Or you can observe yours truly bumbling around which will be a lesson in what NOT to do! Bring water for the whole weekend - melting snow is slow! Instructions on snow camping will be given for those who haven't tried it before - its more comfortable than sleeping in the car if you do it the right way (Sealed cell foam mat and good down bag essential - also car drivers must carry chains at C.R.B. insistence).

August 10th - BLACK BOX LAGOON - HORSESHOE LAGOON - SWAN LAGOON  
 12th

LEADER: Bob Ayre  
 TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 6.30 p.m.  
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9.00 p.m.  
 MAP REFERENCE: Keeley 1:50,000 - NSW Lands Dept  
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 20 miles  
 GRADE: Easy

General area - approx 30 miles N.W. of Echuca

It is not often that the club runs a walk interstate. This one qualifies - but only just. It will be an easy stroll along the north bank of the Murray River, sometimes going inland to avoid a scrubby bend or to find an inland lagoon. The route could fairly be described as dead flat - we do not cross a single map contour line during the whole weekend. Most of the walk is through open bush - sometimes a little light scrub, but we will follow tracks in the very scrubby areas. Beginners are most welcome.

**Weekend walks cont'd...**

**August 17th - LANGLAUFING - SNOWY PLAINS - KELLYS HUT**  
**19th**

LEADER: Ken MacMahon  
TRANSPORT: **Private**  
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN:  
MAP REFERENCE  
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE:

Please see leader in clubrooms for details.

**August 24th - BUTTERCUP VALLEY - KING RIVER - LAKE WILLIAM HOVELL**  
**26th**

LEADER: Geoff Greenwood  
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave 6.30 p.m.  
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN:  
MAP REFERENCE  
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE:

This walk has not actually been previewed throughout as the leader has only just acquired his own transport. The walk will be suitable for the dedicated weekend walker as well as those who would like to try their hand at something more substantial. Anyhow come along and have a good time seeing the views of Mounts Cobbler, Stirling, Buller etc. plus the early spring flowers. More details in the clubrooms from the leader.

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SINCE NOTHING EVER HAPPENS NOW ITS TIME TO MOVE ON ALONG THE TRACK

L O P E Z

Once again, the keeper of the club's mail-box key has been found out. It appears that the current key-man fell for the same trick of not removing the previous custodians name from the key ring before losing the keys. As before, a club gossip was contacted about the lost keys, and immediately informed LOPEZ. Not mentioning who keeps the keys, but giving a few hints, the person is on the general committee, is acting secretary of F.V.W.C. and lives in Glenroy. (I wonder who?)

Enough gossip for the time being - Sissal and Peter Clunas are now the proud parents of a baby boy, Martin Arthur who has the initials M.A.C. Does that mean that he'll be known as 'MacClunas', a scotch norwegian?

The van trip to Break O'Day etc. was progressing quite well until reaching Nunawading when the brakes fell into a few pieces across the road. Needless to say, after the van rolled to a stop, and all left the van, the brigade of Frisbee throwers emerged and entertained all and sundry for about 1½ hours. By the time that a substitute van arrived there were seventy frisbee throwers and fifteen frisbees being thrown around the Monash Highway. Margaret Watson drove past the van during this episode, and upon seeing the van and frisbees, said "That must be the Melbourne Bushwalkers". The ensuing debate at the general meeting about van safety ended with a committee being formed to look into the subject.

The personality slide night was a great success with a few ancient photos of club members in embarrassing situation, as well as a few "here I am, come and get me" photos thrown in for laughs.

It appears that there are a lot of illiterates in the club nowadays as no one can write anything for "Along the Track".

Anyway Lopez has got to get some rest this month to shake off that nasty cough.

Whoopee! some more maternal news -

Boy - Thomas Evlad Burton born today Werribee District Hospital

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SEARCH AND RESCUE REPORT 1978/79

With three searches and a practice weekend, it has been quite a busy year for Search and Rescue. Although the Section coped with these calls, the low level of response remains a worry.

Lerderderg Gorge Search, June 1978

Section members spent two days searching for a lone walker (Bill Howells) missing in the flooded Gorge. The area to the west of the river was covered. It was later found that Howells had drowned in the river.

Mt. Hotham Search, September 1978

FVWC parties searched for Terry Harris and George Capello in the headwaters of the Diamantina River. Both were found dead and one of the bodies was recovered by our members. This was done in very heavy new snow.

Mt. Buffalo Search, March, 1979

Three days were spent searching the Buckland Valley side of the Buffalo Plateau for Esme Wilson. This was our third search in the area. The lost woman eventually walked out to the Buckland Valley to the south of our search area.

Practice - Powelltown Area, April 1978

This successful practice was organized by Doug Hooley of the Monash Bushwalkers and led in the field by Duncan Brooks. It included a mock search and short talks on S. & R. and First Aid.

Rescue Sledges

Progress has been made on the development of rescue sledges. This has included experiments on improvised models made from skis and sticks and the development of a lightweight demountable sledge. It is expected that these prototypes will be fully tested this winter.

Membership

There is an urgent need for more members - particularly younger ones. All that is needed is a reasonable level of skill and equipment. We can supply the training. Remember that bushwalkers are the last of the bushmen in this mechanized age. We alone have the skill; let us not lose the willingness to save lives.

What is needed is experience in weekend walking, a willingness to go out in rotten conditions, and the ability to get away at short notice. I will be approaching several club members, but if you would prefer to volunteer please contact me, Graham Mascas phone 256 940 (home) or 370 8888 ext. 250 (business).

ACF Magazine

"Habitat" June articles include:-

- Values in Bark by Joseph Reser.

Perhaps the most striking type of house built in the Arnhem Land region is the stringy bark w: t season dwelling. Usually there is a basic framework of forked upright posts and crosspoles, over which sheets of raw bark are alternately laid to facilitate run off. Such a dwelling typically includes a raised platform or loft, and often both.

These structures can take violent rains, cope with wind, fire, and mosquito control, and keep people and possessions high and dry.

- The Koscuisko Environment

Deals with the evolution, temperature, aboriginal and European inhabitants of the Kosciusko region until the present day.

For aboriginals, the main attraction of the area was the Bogong Moth, swarming in vast numbers to the mountains in summer. Each summer tribes moved up from the lower camps to feast on these nutritious and evidently palatable moths.

- The Steam Car is Coming by Marion Pritchard

The car is run on sugar cane alcohol. No lead compounds are added to the alcohol. The car has achieved 32 mpg at 30 mph and 27 mpg at 40 mph.

ACF Newsletter, June

The ACF is asking for funds for two campaigns:-

1. The Barrier Reef campaign

Oil from a boat wrecked off the Queensland coast affected crabs and barramundi to the extent that local fishermen could not operate until 12 months later. Spillages from oil rigs can occur when a pipe is ruptured either with or without the aid of cyclones. Most detergents used for clearing oil slicks are poisonous to fish.

The ACF is preparing to mount a campaign similar to the successful one last year to protect whales.

2. Cape York campaign

A photographer is being sent to the Cape York Peninsular to take a photographic inventory of this area, one of Australia's outstanding wilderness regions, now threatened by real estate interests, road construction, bauxite and sand mining.

Council Election

Nominations for the ACF council will be accepted until 3rd August.

Victorian Alps

The Land Conservation Council's final recommendations are for 3 alpine parks -

Wonnangatta - Moroka National Park  
Bogong National Park  
Cobberas - Tingaringy Park

Cont'd..



**Victorian Alps cont'd...**

Together with other proposed parks and reserves, these occupy only one third of the study area.

The report recommends that the Forest Commission be given 70% of the alpine ash stands in the study area and that timber cutting and grazing be allowed to continue in parts of the national parks until 1988.

**ACF Meeting**

July 17th 8 p.m. Mobil House, 2 City Road, South Melbourne. Speakers and slides on The Big Desert, Croajingalong, and the Snowy River National Park.

E. McKenzie

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**W A N T E D**

Girl required to share comfortable house in Prahran with easy going, homely non-smoking guy and girl.

Close to transport and shops \$27 week

Please contact Graham Hodgson 529 4935 (H)  
428 3496 (W)

**SKIS FOR SALE**

Fischer Europa 200 cm fibreglass, waxing type, with rat trap bindings. Little use, in excellent condition - \$60.00

Contact Ken MacMahon

**CHANGES OF ADDRESS**

R. Gosling, 50 Menin Road, Forest Hill, 3131  
M. Griffin, 2/7 Kirval Court, W. Hobart Tas. 7000.