



THE NEWS

OF THE
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

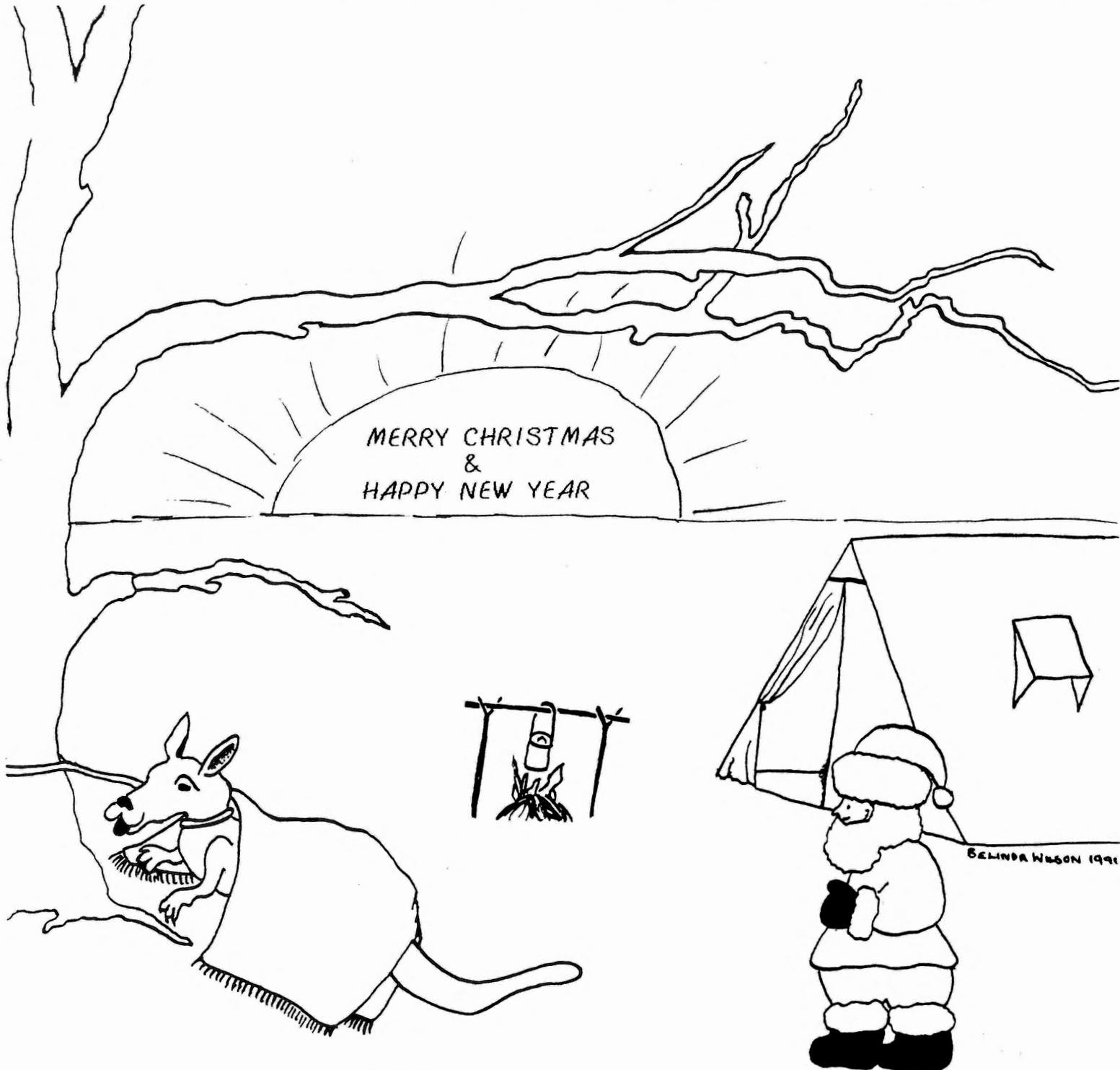
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Don't forget the **CHRISTMAS PARTY** 7.00 P.M. WEDS 18 DECEMBER, BYO PLATE (FOOD)

Correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
PO Box 1751Q
MELBOURNE 3001

Meetings are held in the clubrooms, Mackenzie St Melbourne (rear of the Horticultural Society building) every Wednesday night 7.00-9.00 p.m.

Visitors are always welcome.

Please note that articles for "The News" may be faxed to the News Convenor on

Closing date for the January edition is Wednesday 1 January 1992.

50 YEAR PUBLICATION UPDATE

Our writing team are feverishly scribbling/striking the keyboards, their faces screwed in concentration, as the various sections of our book are being completed. Items of great interest are being unearthed as the archives, old copies of "The News" and "Walk", together with memories, are being scoured. We have begun the task of editing, and this and the tasks of getting all the items input to our desktop publishing system is going to occupy us for some months.

To those of you who have responded to our request for photographs - thank you. To those who haven't - get on with it! We are looking for those 'gems' - the photographs that captured special moments, amusing ones, really ancient ones. Please let me know what you have before you send them. All photographs should be marked on the reverse with your name, and obviously we should like as much information about the subject as possible. We will give credit for any photographs used.

The missing Wilky logbook is still AWOL. Someone has got it - come on, own up!

The titles competition is still running - and yes, you may enter as many entries as you like and you don't need the top of a cereal packet! Have you entered yet?

We have been offered the services of a professional designer, and subject to agreement with the executive committee, we hope to accept this offer.

To those of you who want to place your orders for the book - you can't! At least, not yet. We are only going to print a limited edition and we shall take orders later on.

Derrick Brown

EQUIPMENT HIRE

Equipment hire has been carried out on a fairly informal basis in the past, but now with tents, sleeping bags, backpacks, etc, being quite valuable, the committee has decided to lay down a few rules.

- 1) Equipment is to be hired for club trips only.
- 2) Preference is given to visitors/new members who are just "getting started" in walking/camping. However, visitors who are hiring equipment must provide identification and must leave their name, address and phone number in the hire book.
- 3) Fees are given in the hire book for weekend hire of equipment (including long weekends). For periods longer than one weekend, the fees are:
 - per week - 2.5 times the w/e fee
 - for 2 consecutive w/e- 2 times the w/e fee.

PLANT IT FOR PADDY - HELP RE-GREEN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT!

In memory of Paddy Pallin, who died last January aged 90, Paddy Pallin stores throughout Australia are to give away native tree seeds to encourage the re-greening of Australia.

If you go to Paddy Pallin's stores at 360 Little Bourke St, or 8 Market St, Box Hill, during the week **3-10 January** you can pick up a packet of *Leptospermum Laevigatum* (Coast tea tree) seeds. Plant these to help re-green Australia.

Plant it for Paddy!

DAY WALKS - JANUARY 1992**SUN. 5 JAN 92 BUSHRANGER BAY EASY/MEDIUM**

LEADERS : JOAN HAIGH & JEAN WOODGER
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : CAPE SCHANK 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 14 KM

Note that the clubrooms will be closed on the two Wednesdays before this walk because they fall on Christmas Day and New Years Day. However bookings may be made on Wednesday 18 December or on the day of the walk - no late fee payable.

Depending on the weather, we shall start at Gunnamatta Beach and hopefully it will be possible to walk along the beach to Fingail Bay. (I haven't checked the tides.) A walk up to the Pines picnic area and down to the lighthouse, before proceeding around to Bushrangers Bay and out to the bus on Boneo Rd. Please bring water for lunch, swimming gear and sunscreen.

SUN. 12 JAN 92 TOOLANGI - BLACK RANGE WATERFALLS EASY/MED & MED

LEADERS : PAULINE WILLIAMS & ADRIAN COLE
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MURRINDINDI 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 11 & 17 KM

This walk is in the Black Range, north east of Murrindindi and is mostly on logging tracks. The higher parts are amongst stringybark and box, and in the lower parts these give way to gum, dogwood and tea tree. Along the creeks there are ferns and tree ferns. Birds include rosellas, cockatoos, lyrebirds and kookaburras, and if we are lucky, we might see an echidna.

It could be a hot day and parts of the walk are steep, so please bring plenty of water, sunscreen and a hat.

WED.15 JAN 92 KEPPELS LOOKOUT - STEAVENSONS FALLS EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER : SPENCER GEORGE
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 MEETING PLACE : 9 ALBERT CRES, SURREY HILLS AT 8.30 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MARYSVILLE FOREST WALKS (C&E)
 APPROX DISTANCE : 15 KM

Fern gullies, lookouts, a waterfall and two rivers. There will be time to breath mountain air, relax by bubbling streams, swim in cool rivers and enjoy pleasant company.

SUN. 19 JAN 92 SAN REMO - KILCUNDA - POWLETT RIVER EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS : GRAHAM BREEN & SALLY BOUVIER
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : KILCUNDA 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 14 & 18 KM

The medium walk will start from the town of San Remo and follow the coastline east. At times we will be on sandy beaches, rock hopping and following the cliff tops. The scenery is ruggedly beautiful and I plan to have lunch on a beach between two headlands by a small stream. However, water must be carried as the creek, even if flowing, is used by cattle.

SUN. 19 JAN 92 SAN REMO - KILCUNDA - POWLETT RIVER (continued)

The last few kilometres will be along the surf beach, possibly taking in a slight detour to the old railway embankments to gain a better view. Although the beaches are dangerous for swimming, the Powlett Rive is fine for a swim or paddle. The easy walk will start from the Punch Bowl and follow the same route.

Don't forget the Aeroguard, Rid or other insect protection, hat and plenty of water.

SUN. 26 JAN 92 DOM DOM SADDLE - MT VINEGAR - FERNSHAW EASY/MED & MED

LEADERS : STEVE BENTLEY & PETER MCGRATH
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MONDA, MARYSVILLE 1:25,000, JULIET SOUTH 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 10 & 15 KM

Medium: The total distance covered is about 15 km and includes a difficult climb of 500 m to the top of Mt. Vinegar, passing Cleft rock near the summit. Walkers be warned that a good level of fitness is required to tackle this walk comfortably. The walk passes through magnificent Mountain Ash rainforest with its understorey of impressive tree ferns. There are good views to be had at the top. The walk follows the delightful Morley Track and ends at Fernshaw Reserve.

Easy/medium: Starting at Dom Dom Saddle, a shorter route along good foot tracks is taken and the difficult climb of Mt. Vinegar avoided. Some climbing is required but is limited to about 160 m. The easy walk also follows the Morley Track alongside the Morley Creek to finish at Fernshaw Reserve.

For both walks please carry plenty of water for the day.

WEEKEND WALKS - JANUARY 1992

17-19 JAN 92 LAKE WILLIAM HOVELL - RAZORBACK MEDIUM

LEADER : MERILYN WHIMPEY
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 9.00 P.M. SUNDAY EVENING
 MAP REFERENCE : HOWITT-SELWYN 1:50,000 & VMTC KING, HOWQUA & JAMISON RIVERS 1:50,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : UNKNOWN

This walk is practically all on 4WD tracks, but is not boring. We did it 2 or 3 years ago and the scenery is varied and interesting. We start near No. 3 Mountain, in snow gum country with great views, pass Tomahawk Hut and end up at Lake William Hovell to camp. Sunday we pass through a beautiful valley and have a stiff climb back to rejoin our route of day 1. Promises to be a bit easier than the Snowy Bluff walk.

24-27 JAN 92 WILKY WORK PARTY LEADER: GRAEME THORNTON

Each year there is a major work party over the Australia Day long weekend at the Club cottage "Wilkinson Memorial Lodge". This year we will be fixing down the roof. There will be a lot of nails to be removed and a lot of screws to be driven in. Handymen (and women) with hammers, screwdrivers (preferably battery powered) and perhaps an angle grinder (with power source) would be most welcome.

Intending winter users of Wilky should note that the usage of Wilky is changing. The Club is really the Wilky caretaker. This means that the Club looks after Wilky but doesn't have sole usage. Many clubs in the Federation use Wilky so within our Club priority is given to groups who have contributed to work parties recently.

Please note: Winter Parties to remove locker contents prior to Australia Day.

24-27 JAN 92 MT LOCH - COBUNGRA RIVER - PALING SPUR EASY/MED

LEADER : MAX CASLEY
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : MONDAY EVENING
 MAP REFERENCE : BOGONG ALPINE AREA, VICMAP 1:50,000, FEATHERTOP 1:50,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 38 KM

This is a beautiful walk starting in the Mt Hotham area, crossing to the Bogong High Plains. We will start at Mt Loch car park and go down Swindlers Spur, with a side trip to Spargos Hut. Then we will go to Swindlers Gap and follow Durgeys Track (originally used by gold miners) to our campsite beside the Cobungra River - excellent for swimming. Next morning it is up Paling Spur to the High Plains. After setting up our tents, we will do a walk with day packs. On Monday we will descend to Cobungra Gap and return to our cars via Swindlers Spur (or Dibbins Divide).

24-27 JAN 92 MT BLOWHARD - BROCKET - BOILER PLAIN MEDIUM

LEADER : ROD MATTINGLEY
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : MONDAY EVENING
 MAP REFERENCE : DARGO PLAINS - COBUNGRA 1:50,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 18 KM

We'll start at Mt. Blowhard and follow the Morning Star Spur south east and with any luck will camp at the site of the old mining town of Brocket. Next day will be pretty short in distance but a good climb up the Maraposa Spur to Boiler Plain. We'll make camp early to allow plenty of time to collect water. Last morning will be an easy stroll out to the Alpine Road. Be prepared for some scrub on the Morning Star Spur.

Note: This walk has changed from the Programme and has been re-graded as Medium.

25-28 JAN 92 FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK - TASMANIA EASY/ MEDIUM

LEADER : DAVE VINCENT
 TRANSPORT : LIGHT AIRCRAFT - COST \$150 EACH
 EXPECTED RETURN : 500 P.M. TUESDAY 28 JAN

This extended walk is planned over the Australia Day weekend. Access to Freycinet National Park will be by light aircraft departing from Moorabbin and landing at Coles Bay, at the entrance to the Park. For a group of six, including myself, the estimated cost of the aircraft hire is only \$150 each.

The Freycinet Peninsula is 100km NE of Hobart. One of Tasmania's first National Parks, it has outstanding coastal scenery, high red granite cliffs and magnificent white sandy secluded beaches. Also, the coastal heathland wildflowers will be on display.

For further details and to book a place on this walk, contact Dave Vincent at home on phone:

AUTUMN WALK PROGRAMME

Autumn is a favourite time of year for walkers, with extended trips over Labour Day weekend and Easter, which falls during school holidays next year. Day walks are popular too after the heat of summer. So if your favourite walk has not been on the programme for a while, or if you have any ideas, please let me or a Committee member know.

Max Casley

COMMITTEE NOTES - 2 DECEMBER 1991**CORRESPONDENCE IN :**

Snake Island Proposal
Melbourne Water Proposal
Bendigo Alpine Club - request to reprint News article.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT :

RACV - membership fees

WALKS REPORT FOR OCTOBER:

Total	Day walkers	W/E walkers	Members	Visitors	Fees
213	149	64	159	54	\$1732

(Figures exclude Sunday 13 October - no report yet)

The Autumn programme is in draft form, and this includes a Navigation Day. A statement is to be prepared for bus drivers regarding extraordinary situations. The situation with particularly slow walkers was discussed.

TREASURER'S REPORT AT 30 NOVEMBER 1991:

November Receipts	\$ 2144
Balance:	
Current Account	12,511
Reserves Account	33,000
Postage float	<u>500</u>
Total	46,011
November Payments made/to be made/to be ratified:	
Various	2,466

SOCIAL

The Christmas party is being organised.

50-YEAR HISTORY

The club is to subsidise the book production and publication costs to \$2,000.

TRANSPORT

The position on club transport was reported and discussed. Recapping, it had been decided earlier in the year and agreed at the half-yearly meeting that alternative transport arrangements should be examined. The club had asked for tenders from nine bus companies to supply a bus on a regular basis for Sunday walks. Three of these had been examined closely, and a four-week trial with one had been arranged. This trial was coming to an end, and it was agreed that it had been successful to date. As expected, the hired bus was more satisfactory in all respects bar one - sociability. It was agreed that the benefits outweighed this disadvantage. The committee decided that, subject to a satisfactory conclusion to the trial, and to satisfactory arrangements being made, the club should contract for 12 months with the company supplying the bus on trial now. Arrangements are then to be put in hand to sell the club bus.

GENERAL BUSINESS:**DUTY ROSTER:**

Dec	11	Stephen and Nigel
Dec	18	Gina and Janet
Jan	8	Alan and Derrick

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: 6 January at 7.00pm.

ALONG THE TRACK**UPPER YARRA TRACK: BAW BAWS - WARBURTON
31 OCT - 5 NOV 1991**

The pre-war Yarra Track, linking Warburton with Walhalla via the Yarra River and the Baw Baws, has long been a source of interest. It predates our present day long-distance walking tracks, and the remains of Whitelaws and Talbot Huts still provide reminders of its existence. It was therefore with some enthusiasm (and perhaps some trepidation) that we took up Jean's suggestion for a 6 day walk along its modern replacement, now re-routed along the southern boundary of the Yarra catchments and the Ada River tramways.

The 7 overnight walkers (Jean Giese, Art Terry, Spencer George, Doug Wilhoft, Joan Haigh, Rosemary and Trevor Thomson) met at Jean's in Surrey Hills at 7 a.m. Thursday. Keith Lloyd and Margaret Borden drove us to the northern end of the Baw Baws, and together with Vyrall Fritze made a day walk to the view point at Mt. Whitelaw. Not a day for views, but there was the interest of walking in intermittent snow showers. We retraced our steps to where the Upper Yarra Track leaves the Alpine Track and farewelled our friends. Not long after, the snow began to fall in earnest, the track became very overgrown and at a crossing of the upper Thomson we failed to find its continuation. However Jean led us on, and after not too long we regained the track where it was less overgrown. The snow stopped soon and eventually we reached a pleasant (although not entirely clean) campsite by the Thomson river. After drying out by a fire and restoring feeling to our feet, we began to feel much more comfortable.

Day 2 was fine and cool. No, Jean, the dot on the Melways at Toorongu was not an ice cream shop. Still we were able to make an interesting side trip before making camp near a dam a little off Whitelaws Track. The highlight of day 3 was the views from Mt. Horsefall looking into the Yarra Valley backed by the Marysville Ranges and Mt. Torbrek, etc. to the north, and Mt. Toorongu to the south. Day 3 was rather long with some metallized roads which tested the feet and ankles of some of us. We camped alongside Boundary Road at a recommended place (fortunately the road is closed to vehicles).

Day 4 brought us to a track linking McCarthy Spur Rd to Bennies Ck Track with views down Bennies Creek valley. Although it was newly cut, many fallen trees made slow going and route finding was difficult. Likewise the short new link section to Federal Rd had become practically impassable in its central section. We set up camp at Federal Mill

in the early afternoon. Fortified with afternoon tea we retraced our steps to Federal Rd without packs and made the pleasant rainforest circuit walk to the Ada Tree.

That night the weather changed, with a thunderstorm and heavy rain, and the leeches were out in force. Instead of a leisurely final 2 days with side trips, we headed down the very muddy track at a good pace. After wading through the swollen Ada River, we stopped only at Starlings Gap for a quick lunch before making it to the Warburton Camping ground and the end of the walk, having covered approximately 90 km in the 5 days. There was just time to shake off the leeches and put on drier clothes before the 2 taxis organised by our leader arrived to take us to Lilydale Station. From there we took a train to Surrey Hills.

Our thanks go to Art for unfailingly making a fire each morning and evening under the most adverse conditions, and to Jean for the idea, the organization and the leadership of the trip.

Rosemary & Trevor

LEECHES

Periodically applying Tea Tree Oil to the itchy bumps all over ones legs (and other places) is apt to focus the mind on one of Mother Nature's less endearing creatures.

The Bushies have various practises and theories for dealing with the little darlings:

- Ignore them - which is OK as long as you are not of the type to come up in a big lump wherever a leech has attached itself, which lump remains maddeningly itchy for a week.
- Apply the burning end of a cigarette - but no one with any brains is smoking these days. Come to think of it, it is only the brainless who go pushing through wet leech-infested bushes.
- Cut them in half with a pair of sharp scissors which are carried around the neck in a light leather pouch.
- Smother the boots and socks with RID - but that soon loses its potency when you are ploughing through mud and rain, which is when the leeches are at their most playful.

- Apply a pinch of salt from an old photographic film container which lives in the raincoat pocket.

This latter is my preferred method but I often wonder what becomes of the leeches after they let go of their host's leg. Do they quickly recover and leap onto the following 5th or 6th Bushie for their spring meal?

Well, on the recent Upper Yarra Track walk I had an opportunity to make some observations. Tent-bound because of the teaming rain, I was lying snugly in my sleeping bag, drinking tea and doing

the crossword, when I spied one of our little friends inching his way across the tent ceiling. He slowly manoeuvred around until he landed on my hand. I gave him the salt treatment and he dropped onto one of the white squares of the crossie, where I could see him clearly, writhed around a bit and lay still. He was dead for sure an hour later when the decision to break camp and brave the terrors of the forest again, brought my observation to an end.

I guess we're all mad enough to continue venturing into leech territory. Has anyone out there any preventative measures or sure-fire treatment after an attack?

Jean Giese

SNOWY PLAINS: 8-10 NOVEMBER 1991

My party had a meal at Darnum pub (which was great except for dessert) and we arrived at Breakfast Creek at 11.30 p.m. We decided to continue on to Howitt Hut, another hour's drive. By the time we got near, it had started to snow persistently. We stayed in the hut on Friday night, a wonderful alternative to putting up a tent in the snow! A horse-party which was nearby offered us a cooked breakfast the next morning which we gladly accepted.

At Howitt car park we met the rest of the party. Well, except for Lloyd and Rosa and Stan. We set off at 9.15a.m. (still no sign of Lloyd, Rosa & Stan) and walked down the road to the McAlister River. From there we climbed up to King Billy, having lunch on the top and good views on the way. Ascending Mt. Magdala, by the time some of us reached the top it was snowing and there was poor visibility. We made our way to Mt. Howitt, past Hell's Window at which there was driving snow. Along the way we met Rosa, Lloyd and Stan. On the summit of Mt. Howitt it was very cold, but the clouds had lifted and the view was great. We

visited Valeja Gunter Hut on our way back to camp (at the carpark) arriving back at 6.30 p.m.

The next morning we drove to Bryces carpark. We started off at 10.00 a.m. and went at a more leisurely pace than the previous day. The sun was out and we had stunning views of cliffs and waterfalls, especially Piemans Falls. We stopped at Conglomerate Creek Falls for lunch and some of us wandered off to explore further down the gorge. Some others swam in the icy water (yes, Rosa, Lloyd and Stan). We came back via Guys Hut and then did an interesting side trip to Campgate Creek, with its many cascades and attractive swimming holes. After our last views of the creek, we made our way past a tall spectacular rock formation then walked over grassy plains back to the cars. We had a really enjoyable weekend in which both the weather and scenery were very varied. Thank you Spencer for organising it.

Party: Spencer George, Mark Durre, Jeff Kelly, Marianne Driver, Tim James, Brian Bowditch, Max Casley, Derrick Brown, Gina Hopkins, Lloyd Young, Rosa D'Angelo, Stan Mackowiak

Mary Leonard

BY THE WAY.... (this is a bit like Along The Track but with a soap box element)

A few weeks ago Alan Miller, Michael Bauer and I led a walk in the Hughes Creek area. I've lost count how many times I've led walks around there. I keep going back not only because the area has a bit of everything but it also has a special charm.

It's through a lot of farmland and the bush is fairly tame, but the hills roll something smashing and there are glorious views just about all the time. There are even little views as you round a bend in

the river: waterfalls, cliffs, rocks, sandy beaches; or up high amongst the weathered granite boulders on the hill tops; or just following down Eagle Vale Creek, a tributary of Hughes Creek, that winds down through mini gorges past fast disappearing buildings; and always the massive views that take in range upon range of hills or out across the flat lands to the River Murray. It is good restoring stuff, I guess I need a fix of it now and then.

BY THE WAY.... (continued)

Being two hours away from Melbourne (via Seymour) it is at the outer limits of a day walk, and being all on private land it requires at least two previews, one to get permission (therein lies another tale, but not just now), and another to walk it.

As it is always a popular venue, I initially asked Max to schedule the three leaders which he kindly did. Despite the extra time commitment of a second preview the whole exercise was utterly worthwhile. Having a smaller group was a great help and having them of the same walking ability makes leading a MILLION times easier. Personally I've never had such a stress free and enjoyable time of leading. With nine people, one can sense what they want to do, when and for how long. Half the time the whip was up the front talking to me or we'd be half way back. Counting to only nine was a piece of cake. Everyone in the group was able to talk to each other, I think the newcomers felt much more relaxed. This initial feeling comfortable and first bonding I think is SO important. It was Michael's first trip as a leader and with the already familiar Easy Medium walkers

he was able to do the terrific job that he was capable of doing.

Now with the possible introduction of a 52 seater bus, on occasions, WHO wants to walk in a group of 26 - or more? WHO wants to lead it? Alright, you say, three leaders all the time, fine. Have you taken a look at Max recently? Tearing his hair out in handfuls, jumping up and down, frothing at the mouth, the whole bit, and this is trying to get only TWO leaders. Really, seriously, he is having a hard time.

So what I'm suggesting is:

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

- 1) VOLUNTEER you experienced leaders you, come out of the woodwork.
- 2) How about becoming a leader? Don't wait to be approached, talk to Max or Jean about it.
- 3) (And for my own little bit.) Keep the dear old bus for as long as possible. The seating affords far greater social interaction which far outweighs the numb bum (& back).

Sylvia Wilson

VNPA NEWS VNPA NEWS VNPA NEWS**Christmas Drinks on the Balcony**

VNPA is having Christmas Drinks on Thursday December 12 from 5.30 p.m. at Tasin Terrace, 10 Parliament Place. So why not enjoy the Christmas Season with Victorian National Parks Association on December 12th.

Proposed Rifle Range near Werribee Gorge

Werribee Gorge is a favourite walking area of mine and many Melbourne Bushies. The Shire of Bacchus Marsh has recently granted a permit for a new Rifle Range close to the State Park.

The introduction of the Rifle Range will cause serious noise pollution, particularly to walkers who want to enjoy the peace of the bush and not hear the echo of bullets. Stray bullets could cause harm to people walking in the park and danger to native animals, in particular the wedge-tailed eagles and peregrine falcons who nest in the Gorge. These factors indicate that a better location should be sought for the Rifle Range.

Liz Telford

SEARCH & RESCUE REPORT

The club now has a small Search & Rescue Team, who are still waiting for their first call out. The team members are:

Stephen Down
Bill Metzenthien
Mark Walters
Keith White

Every year there are practice weekends; upcoming practices are:

3rd May 1992 - Full search exercise,
close to Melbourne

18th July 1992 - Ski skills day

Anybody who is interested in becoming a Search & Rescue member or a club contact (which we are still looking for) should either find me in the club-rooms, or contact me on

Stephen Down

GREETINGS FROM PAT AND PAUL GRAY

Dear friends

You will not be surprised to hear that we are thoroughly enjoying our time in Hong Kong.

With the heat and humidity during our first couple of months, we limited our sightseeing to the urban areas where we were never too far from air-conditioning. As there are many very different areas, each with its own attractions, we have not been at a loss for new places to visit.

Now that it is getting cooler and less humid we are venturing further afield to explore some of the islands and Country Parks which tourists rarely have the time to see. We have a number of books describing walks and doubt that we will accomplish all we want to in a year - Paul's having to go to work is somewhat restricting! - but will be doing our best.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Pat & Paul Gray

GOODBYE BRIAN

Wednesday 27 November was the date of Brian Bowditch's goodbye dinner - a group of bushies shared a last supper with him after the club night meeting at a nearby restaurant.

This was an unusual occurrence as weekend walkers will verify. Brian, who has been a keen weekend walker for the past year, set new bushie records by carrying no cooking utensils, eating irons or plates. He survived for the whole weekend on dry toasted muesli, peanuts and the occasional biscuit. This seemed to suit him, for he was always the first up hills and had sufficient energy at the end of a day to go off on lengthy side trips while the rest of us were content to sit around the campfire enjoying a well-earned rest and a cup of tea.

Brian is now returning to the U.K., to Aberdeen, to continue post-graduate research in mathematics.

So long, Brian, we'll miss you on the weekend walks. Make sure you look us up on your return.

CONGRATULATIONS

A special welcome to **Robert Andrew Duncan**, born on Monday November 25.

We're looking forward to seeing you on trips with Hugh, Leonie, Catherine and Rowan.

UNLUCKY ROSEMARY

After leading trouble-free club walks in the mountains in all sorts of weather, where does Rosemary Cotter come to grief? Walking along the Yarra!

Our sympathy over your broken arm, Rosemary, and good wishes for an uncomplicated recovery.

FOR SALE

HELP - We need more storage space. Hence two tents for sale:

1. For small person:
ultra lightweight goretex compact tunnel tent (Sierra Designs Divine Light)
2. For large person:
bigger 6x6 car camping tent with foyer.

Each under \$100. Neither in the MacPac class (or price).

Call us, Keith Lloyd or Barbara Sidey, on if interested.

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Tel: 889 2800
Fax: 889 2800

THE SCROGGIN EATERS

The Federation's exciting new book "The Scroggin Eaters - a history of bushwalking in Victoria" by Graeme Wheeler is now available, having been launched by well known ACF Councillor Dr Geoff Mosley. The book traces the development of bushwalking from the 1880s, with particular reference to Federation's involvement since its formation in 1934. Published by VicWalk in hardback, it contains 280 pages including numerous historic photographs and illustrations, and is a fully professional production, from its author to its publishing adviser to its cover designer.

In the book, accounts of trips into the Victorian bush and mountains a century ago are interwoven with stories of the first recreational walkers, and the Hiking Boom of the early 1930s which saw literally thousands of people on a walk. The formation of the Federation is recounted, as are the conservation battles to preserve our natural heritage, starting in the late 1930s.

The tragedies and triumphs of Federation's search and rescue volunteers, from the disorganised beginnings at Wilsons Promontory in 1949 to the heartbreaking searches for lost children, the successful rescue of the 'Snowgirl', the crashed aircraft at Kinglake, the rescue of the schoolboys at Lake Mountain, the celebrating cyclist from Wandiligong who crossed the snowbound Great Dividing Range, and dozens of other incidents in the hills.

Find out how the Alpine Walking Track came into being, how the construction of Federation Hut on Feathertop happened, about early maps, and how the bushwalking leadership training board was started. All of this was achieved by volunteers who worked hard for the Federation - their efforts are recorded for posterity. Appendices provide lists of searches, Federation daywalks and track clearing, office bearers and representatives, and the clubs. There is much much more.

Order your copies now, to complete your own library, and for that special gift to a friend or relative, at the Federation discount price of \$19.95 per copy (save \$10 on the retail price!). This attractive price is only available through the Federation.

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Beech Hut on the Snowy Plains was on the agenda for the 1934-35 Skisline Tour.

DELIVERY OPTIONS (tick one):

- Post to the above address;
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MAIN YARRA TRAIL

The opening by Melbourne Water of the last link of riverside pathway on 1 December means that there is now 35 km of continuous river walk/cycle track from the City to Westerfolds Park, Templestowe.

Much of the pathway is through parklands and reserves, and at the opening event the Premier officially opened the bridge across the Yarra at Finns Reserve, which had been previously private.

PERMISSION GRANTED

The Bendigo Alpine Walking Club has asked our permission to reprint the article "How Far Away is it?" from the November issue of The News. Permission has been granted.

******* MEMBERSHIP LIST 1991 *******

Members are reminded that the membership list is **not** to be used for commercial purposes.

NEW MEMBERS

The Club would like to welcome the following new members:

Deborah Elkington

Howard Kinns

Peter Crohn

Roy & Hannah Broughton

Matthew Davis

CHANGES OF INFORMATION

Terry & Louise Collins

Paul Vella

Ingrid Mooren

Helen Skillington

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