



THE NEWS

OF THE
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

EDITION 479

JANUARY, 1991

PRICE 20 C

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST PUBLICATION NO. VBH 1297

S O C I A L C O L U M N

**** DATES TO REMEMBER ****

ANNUAL - GENERAL - MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on February 20th, 1991 in the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall, enter from the Club Rooms.

The prime purpose of the Annual General Meeting is to elect all the office bearers of the club for ensuing year. Due to the known and expected movements interstate of the following current office bearers, they will not be available for nomination - President, Graham Breen, Secretary Winifred De Souza, Treasurer Rick Chater, Walks Secretary Phil Taylor and News Editor Jill Breen. Preferably nominations should be organised prior to the meeting and submitted in writing. It is essential that the nominee has indicated agreement to being nominated. Current committee members will be glad to explain to interested members what is entailed.

Members are urged to give some serious thought to this matter as the ongoing welfare of the club depends on a good team on the committee.

It is expected that there will be a resolution put to provide for the banning of smoking on club walks.

SOCIAL: END OF YEAR DINNER DANCE

WHERE : BOGART'S, 504 VICTORIA STREET, NORTH MELBOURNE
LICENSED - BYO
WHEN : SATURDAY 23RD FEBRUARY, 1991
TIME : 7.15 P.M.
COST : \$29.50 PER PERSON - 3 COURSE A'LA CARTE MENU, MIXTURE OF MUSIC
BOOKINGS: SEE WINNIFRED DE'SOUZA IN THE CLUB ROOMS.

"TEARAWAYS" ON SUNDAY WALKS

My idea of a bushwalk is a leisurely stroll taken at a pace which allows a person to observe and appreciate the beauty of the bushland or wherever one is walking, in other words a person should have time to commune with nature, frequent stops and a long break for lunch (weather permitting) goes a long way in making a day and the hack an enjoyable one, that is my style of leading a walk but a walk along these lines is an exception these days rather than the rule as it used to be, the quality of Sunday walks has deteriorated over the past 18 months, there are several contributing factors, I will deal with only one of these in this article, the tearaway members mainly, (most of whom never lead walks) who go like bats out of hell often leaving the Leader and the rest of the party well behind and often out of sight, they show no consideration for the Leader and the other people left far behind, this practice has been responsible for split parties, time wasted looking for the tearaways and late arrivals back in town, the most recent case was at Anglesea.

I have been aware of this situation for some time but have delayed writing about it until such time as other leaders also became aware of it and expressed their views. In the last couple of weeks 3 other senior leaders have spoken to me about it, that makes 4 of us, enough to suggest that there is indeed something wrong with Sunday walks, I never allow any person to go ahead of me when I lead as I put the message over loud and clear in that respect before the walk commences, even so on a recent walk of mine in the Rushworth area and with a few of the tearaways in the group I did have some trouble one fellow repeatedly tried to take the lead even when I was on compass. He was quite a pest, and there is one thing that is certain, I will never ever accept him on any future walks that I lead. Another senior leader has threatened to ban a woman member from his future walks if she persists in getting ahead of him, these tearaways a senior woman leader told me recently put her under so much stress that she no longer gets any pleasure from leading.

Another senior leader who recently led a walk in the Otways told me that about a dozen of his group were not in the least interested in looking at the beautiful native orchids that he was pointing out to them, all they seemed interested in was getting to the bus as quick as they could go. To cap it all off, they tore off on a wrong track somewhere along the way and he had to leave the rest of the group and go after them, It is amazing they don't know where they are going but they are hell bent to get there. The Walks Secretary will find his already difficult task of obtaining good leaders more so, when leaders decline his offer to lead.

The only person who has the right to be out front is leader, who can regulate his timing to fit in with the structure of his/her walk, the sooner the tearaways absorb this the better it will be for all, it has always been an unwritten law that the leader is the only one out in front unless he gives permission for the group to surge ahead e.g. climbing a hill or mountain with the instructions to wait at the top, in the past good manners have guaranteed that the leader was out front, perhaps it is time to make it a written law. It no doubt will be a sobering jolt to these tearaways to learn that a leader has the right to ban any person from a walk. I have already banned one member from any future walks that I lead, another leader has threatened to ban a woman member, you may be next so wake up to yourselves and stay behind the leader, that is your place, the leaders place is out front. It is not only leaders who are losing interest in Sunday walks some members are also, on account of the walks proceeding at a gallop in order to keep up with the tearaways. From my observations, I would say that the turnover of visitors is even higher than it was some time back, could be they lose interest in our walks for the same reason, it is just as well that they keep coming in.

ART TERRY

SKI TOURING ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA:

Discount Cards - If there are any club members who took up membership of STAV following advice in "The News" that a discount card would be issued, but have not as yet received a card, would they please advise this club by either writing to the Secretary, P O Box 1751Q Melbourne, 3001 or leaving a note in the box for News in the Club rooms.

DAY WALKS FEBRUARY, 1991**SAT.2ND FEBRUARY, 1991 HISTORICAL WALK - MORDIALLOC EASY**

LEADER: : ATHOL SCHAFER
 TRANSPORT : MEET UNDER THE CLOCKS IN TIME TO CATCH 1.36 P.M. FRANKSTON TRAIN

Christmas, 1843; Richard Howitt, an early bushwalker, forded Mordialloc Creek to later share billy tea with a party headed by Sir John Franklin, Governor of Van Diemens Land and arctic explorer. Our walk will be around this area which since 1976 has been managed and improved by the Dandenong Valley Authority. Walk starts about 2.25 p.m. from east side of Mordialloc Railway Station. Finishes 5.00 p.m.

SUN.3RD FEBRUARY, 1991 BUNYIP RIVER - MT BEENAK E/MED

LEADER: : ALAN MILLER & ALAN CLARKE
 TRANSPORT : VAN FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. TIME: 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN: 7.00 P.M. IN CITY
 MAP REFERENCE : GILWELL & BEENAK 1:25,000

A walk through hilly country entirely on tracks (some closed to traffic). Tall eucalypt stands should provide some shade, if it is a hot day. Bring water.

SUN.10TH FEBRUARY, 1991 DINDI MILL -MURRINDINDI CASCADES E/MED & MED

LEADERS : JOHN KITTON & ANNE BULLARD
 TRANSPORT : VAN FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. TIME: 9.00 A.M.
 SEE LEADERS IN CLUB ROOM

WED. 13TH FEBRUARY, 1991 MYRTLE BEECH FOREST - TAGGERTY RIVER E/MED

LEADER : JEAN GIESE
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 MEETING PLACE : 8.30 A.M. AT JEAN GIESE'S (NEAR SURREY HILLS STATION) OR 9.00 A.M. NEAR LILYDALE - MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WHEN BOOKING IN CLUB ROOMS OR PHONE 890 2189.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.00 P.M. (PLUS LATER OPTION)
 MAP REFERENCE : THORNTON 1:50,000 CF&L PAMPHLET
 APPROX DISTANCE : 16 KMS

It should be cool in the shady forests NE of Marysville near the Taggerty River. We'll walk to Phantom Falls, Keppel Falls, along the Taggerty and under the 300 year old myrtle beeches beside Whitehouse Creek, stopping for dips if we feel like it.

If there are enough interested we will have an option of picnic tea in Marysville and an early evening stroll before returning to Melbourne when it's cooler. There should be the two options. Indicate preference when booking.

SUN.17TH FEBRUARY, 1991 YEA RIVER - STARLIGHT FLATS - MT KLONDYKE E/MED & MED

LEADER : IAN NEWBOLD
 TRANSPORT : VAN FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. TIME 9.00 A.M.
 SEE LEADER IN CLUB ROOMS

SUN.24TH FEBRUARY, 1991 GENTLE ANNIE-RYSONS CREEK-HELLS GATE GAP- QUARTZ CREEK (POWELLTOWN AREA) E/MED & MED

LEADERS : MAX CASLEY & SYLVIA WILSON
 TRANSPORT : VAN FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. TIME 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : NEERIM 1:50,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 15 - 20 KMS

This is a walk through tall eucalypt forest mainly on tracks. The weather could be hot so bring plenty of drinks. Hilly country with some steep pinches. We will be able to provide more information when we are taking bookings.

W E E K E N D W A L K S F E B R U A R Y, 19911ST-3RD FEBRUARY, 1991 MT BEAUTY - MT BOBONG MED/HARD

LEADER : MARK WALTERS
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 SEE LEADER IN CLUB ROOMS

8TH-10TH FEBRUARY, 1991 MT BULLER YOUTH HOSTEL EASY

LEADER : MAUREEN HURLEY
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 SEE LEADER IN CLUB ROOMS

15TH-17TH FEBRUARY, 1991 STANLEY NAME SPUR - MT HOWITT - MT MAGDALA MEDIUM

LEADER : PHIL TAYLOR
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 SEE LEADER IN CLUB ROOMS

22ND-24TH FEBRUARY, 1991 AVON RIVER - THE CHANNEL E/MEDIUM

LEADER : PETER BULLARD
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 SEE LEADER IN CLUB ROOMS

VISITOR'S FEES:

At the Committee Meeting of 7th January, 1991 a motion was passed to increase the visitor's fees to \$5.00 as the present figure of \$2.00 was considered to be too low. The increase is to be effective from SUNDAY 3RD FEBRUARY, 1991.

NOTE: MARCH, 1991 EARLY PREVIEW:

9TH-12TH MARCH, 1991 FRENCHMAN'S CAP, TASMANIA

MED

LEADER : DAVE VINCENT
 TRANSPORT : LIGHT AIRCRAFT

I plan to lead this walk for four days over the Labour Day long weekend encompassing the dates 9-12 March, 1991 (inclusive). Access to the area is from Queenstown and I plan to fly down direct by light aircraft from Melbourne to Queenstown. For a group of between four and six, including myself. The aircraft cost will be only \$180 each. The return flight down will be via the picturesque west coast of Tasmania.

One of the most striking peaks of Tasmania's South West, Frenchman's Cap stands in isolation, surrounded very broadly on three sides by the Franklin River. Apart from the rivers, this peak is the central feature of the Franklin - Lower Gordon Wild Rivers National Park. Its sheer, three hundred metre high, east face and sloping western sides form the classic cap shape after which it is named. The views from the summit are extensive and the many glacial lakes make the walk spectacular. The walk round trip from the Lyell Highway can be done comfortably in three days.

This is one of the classic bushwalks of Australia and should not be missed. For further details contact Dave Vincent, Phone (H)

23RD MARCH - 1ST APRIL THE OVERLAND TRACK TASMANIA

MED

LEADER : DAVE VINCENT
 TRANSPORT : LIGHT AIRCRAFT

I plan to lead this walk over Easter for a ten day period over the dates 23rd March to 1st April, 1991 (inclusive). The walk will commence from the airstrip at Cradle Valley Camp. Access will be direct from Melbourne by light aircraft. The walk will finish at Cynthia Bay near the Derwent Bridge over the Lyell Highway. The group will then travel by the bus service to Queenstown and fly out from there direct to Melbourne. The return flight will be via the spectacular west coast of Tasmania. The estimated cost of the aircraft for a group of four to six, including myself, will be only \$200 each. Direct access to the start of the walk using the airstrip at Cradle Valley Camp is a definite plus and saves considerable travelling time.

The Overland Track would have to rank as Australia's most popular long distance walks. Traversing Tasmania's highest country, it crosses open moors and plunges through deep forests in the mountainous region between Cradle Mountain in the north and Lake St Clair in the south. The track very carefully avoids too much steep climbing, leaving the summit climbs to be done as side trips. Many huts have been constructed enroute to provide shelter in bad weather. The track is well defined and the scenery it passes through is nothing short of spectacular. The side trips to Pine Valley and the Labyrinth should not be missed.

The track is clearly defined and has been carefully aligned to avoid any steep climbing. There are only two major mountain passes to cross and even these are relatively gentle. The full walk, including several side trips to climb the major peaks, takes about nine days. This allows for a casual pace and a couple of days of rest during bad weather, if required.

This is one of the classic bushwalks of Australia and should not be missed. For further details contact Dave Vincent at home on Phone:

COMMITTEE NOTES - 7TH JANUARY

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

Rex & Sue Filson re Advertising
 Alan Clarke re photos
 Art Terry re smoking, feet on bus seats and tearaway walkers
 Phil Taylor resignation
 Youth Sport & Recreation re current program
 East Gippsland Coalition re updated of events
 Rex & Sue Filson re 50th birthday
 Sue & Graham Errey re 50th birthday
 Fred Halls re Kooyoorra State Park

CORRESPONDENCE - OUT:

Various responses

WALKS REPORT - NOVEMBER:

<u>Total</u>	<u>Day Walkers</u>	<u>W/E Walkers</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Visitors</u>	<u>Fees</u>
243	205	48	179	64	\$1,987

The Autumn program is nearly completed, however, more leaders are needed. If you are interested please contact KEITH WHITE who has kindly agreed to look after walks pending the A.G.M. electing a new Walks Secretary.

TRANSPORT:

Some mechanical problems have become evident. It is thought the blowing of exhaust gaskets have been solved, however, the clutch will soon require attention.

WILKY:

Graeme Thornton is organising the annual work party for the Labour Day weekend. Please contact him if you would like to help.

TREASURER'S REPORT JANUARY, 1991:

BALANCE:

Reserve for bus replacement/Wilky repairs	\$33,000.00
Current Account	\$ 2,790.86
	<u>\$35,790.86</u>

PAYMENTS TO BE RATIFIED:

Rampower (October)	\$ 336.06
A Bullard (Telephone Listing/Postage)	\$ 188.26
UNO (December News)	\$ 264.00
Mountain Lodge (Marysville Deposit)	\$ 100.00
	<u>\$ 888.32</u>

BILLS TO BE PAID:

Gestetner	\$ 54.70
Rampower (November)	\$ 234.60
Driving (November)	\$ 400.00
Garaging/Cleaning	\$ 140.00
	<u>\$ 829.30</u>

GENERAL BUSINESS:

SMOKING: The concerns expressed by Art Terry were discussed at some length. The committee has determined that club policy is "not to prohibit smoking on walks but smokers are to be encouraged to move away from others and not cause a nuisance". Smoking is of course banned in the bus. To be more restrictive would require an amendment to the rules being put to the A.G.M. Art has made a request that this be done.

TEARAWAYS: (See letter by Art Terry on page 2). This has apparently been a problem on a number of walks. Strong walkers who feel the urge to stride out have to curb the temptation of wanting to surge ahead of the group on organised walks. The rules are designed to ensure as far as possible the safety of the group and that the club is not brought into disrepute by having members lost or worse. Leaders are reminded that they are required to note any instances of unsatisfactory behaviour in their walk report. The Walk Secretary will follow up such reports with the individuals concerned and if they continue to cause problems, The Committee will take disciplinary action which could entail loss of membership.

ADVERTISING: The survey of opinion attracted little interest, 8 against and 11 for. Having taken the views of members into account the committee have the option to take up advertising next year if it is considered desirable and practicable.

VISITORS FEES: As from 3rd February, 1991 visitors fees will be increased to \$5.00 per walk to be rebated for qualifying walks on application for membership.

DUTY ROSTER

January	16	Jill	and	Graham
	23	Rob	and	Graeme
	30	Gina	and	Derek
February	6	Mark	and	Rob

AUSTRALIA'S BUSH HERITAGE FUND

Each month the Club receives requests for donations from various groups. This month we received one that may be of interest.

In June 1990, Dr. Bob Brown, Tasmanian conservation activist and MP, purchased two privately-owned forest blocks on Drys Bluff, the north-eastern end of the Great Western Tiers, that were about to be sold to the logging industry. His donation and deposit was the proceeds of his Goldman environmental prize, \$49,000, and the balance was borrowed from the banks on a short-term loan. The \$200,000 balance has to be raised soon.

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust has established a fund called Australia's Bush Heritage Fund to raise this money, and also funds to purchase other private land of outstanding significance that is under threat. Its activities will also extend to arranging for bequests of bush blocks, and arranging an advisory service to introduce sellers of bush blocks to "caring" buyers. The trust urgently seeks donations, which are tax-deductible. If you wish to contribute, or seek further information, the address is:

Australia's Bush Heritage Fund
 Tasmanian Conservation Fund
 102 Bathurst Street
 HOBART. TAS 7000 Telephone: (002) 34 3552 FAX: (002) 31 2491

CHANGES TO WALKS PROGRAMMING

The system for putting together the seasonal walk programs has been slightly altered. In the November FOOTNOTES the programs for December & January will appear; in December, the programs for February & March 1991. Amended programs for the periods between meetings will continue to appear in each issue of FOOTNOTES as usual.

The reason for this change is the problem of assembling any program over the Summer period. Lots of members are away on holidays, too full of Christmas Cheer to think about leading walks, etc , etc. Also, FOOTNOTES is not printed in January.

Once these changes have settled down, the new system will be:

FOOTNOTES issue	Program for
March	April/May/June
June	July/August/September
September	October/November/December
December	January/February/March

Nominations are still needed for leading walks for the February/March program, which needs to be put together by the November meeting. Please think about it and contact Gill Jordan, Peg Sutton or me for your contributions.

Jim Happ
Walks Coordinator

p.s. Some suggestions: Walks in the Baw Baw and Snowy River National Parks --we are being asked for input to the Draft Management Plans for these Parks.Or track clearing between Newlands Road & the Alpine Walking Track on Baw Baw.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The continuing high attendance at the monthly Federation Council meeting is a source of encouragement as to the future of walking in Victoria.

The amount of work undertaken by grass roots Clubs needs to be acknowledged and given credit.

The clearing of tracks is an ongoing role of many clubs, and is a material way of ensuring access to walking areas on a self-help basis. The preparation of submissions regarding land management schemes has been undertaken by some Clubs, which allows the expert knowledge of walkers to influence the decision making process of government.

News has come to hand that the 1991 "Walker" will be published, and the excellent publication "Walking the Otways" will have a reprint very soon.

The amount and variety of outings as shown in Club newsletters is indicative of a large leadership pool able to safely take parties, in all weathers, to almost every area of the State and beyond.

Finally, the response from Clubs as to the future goals of the Federation has been very good. The thought and detail given in these responses will enable a fair and equitable review to be undertaken on what the Federation should undertake in the 1990s.

Federation Daywalks. The walk for 1992 will be led by Peninsula Bushwalking Club and that for 1997 by the Walking Club of Victoria in their 50th Anniversary year.

Peninsula Club has a roster for work parties at Green's bush ("Boots 'n'all" August '90) What a n...vellous idea!

Track-clearing here we come!

Accommodation for Bushwalkers (apart from tents)

These notes are provided by VicWalk newsletter as a free service.

- 1) In Mt Macedon Ranges adjacent to State Forest. 2 self-contained double bed units ensuite, cooking facilities and linen. (054) 262 120
- 2) Grampians (Wartook Area) Sleeps 4 in comfort. Wildflowers, birds, walking on 100 acre property (053) 836 253
- 3) Bushwalker and conservationist sought to share spacious, well-equipped house in tranquil valley in Dandenongs. \$55 /week. (059) 688 513.

River News

The Federation has received a report (July '90) from the Standing Committee on Rivers and Catchments. This was by courtesy of the Recreation Representative, Chris McLaughlin.

The Committee had studied extensive Autumn flood damage in the Avon, Macalister and Thomson Rivers. Many parts of these catchments had recorded well over 300mm. of rain and peak flows in the Avon of 350,000 megalitres per day had almost completely eliminated its aesthetic appeal.

Catchment Co-ordinating Groups (CCG) have been formed to enable reps. from different interested parties to gain a wider perspective of catchment management. The make-up of typical CCG would consist of several government departments together with Victorian Farmers Federation, Extractive Industries, Conservation Interests and Recreation Interests.

Problems (and opportunities) associated with river frontages are being examined and if you would like to make an input to this process, send your comments/gripes to Chris at P.O. Box 78, Hampton, 3188.

You must remember this trip.

<i>We drove</i>	-	<i>We arrived</i>
<i>We packed</i>	-	<i>We tracked</i>
<i>We talked</i>	-	<i>We walked</i>
<i>We stopped</i>	-	<i>We dropped</i>
<i>We tripped</i>	-	<i>We sipped</i>
<i>We cooked</i>	-	<i>We looked</i>
<i>We lunched</i>	-	<i>We munched</i>
<i>We fooled</i>	-	<i>We cooled</i>
<i>We headed</i>	-	<i>We treaded</i>
<i>We bashed</i>	-	<i>We crashed</i>
<i>We hashed</i>	-	<i>We slashed</i>
<i>We searched</i>	-	<i>We hollowed</i>
<i>We found</i>	-	<i>We followed</i>
<i>We tried</i>	-	<i>We sighed</i>
<i>We arrived, We survived, We dried!</i>		

*Then We drove - We arrove
We Devonshire tea'd and we all agreed
That now it's time to go home for a feed*

We, we.

The foregoing comes from the Peninsula Bushwalking Club's June newsletter. Phil Waring describes it as a Generic trip report that suits all area all times of year and all parties.

"Walking the Otways"

A limited reprint of this popular publication will be available in November at a price of \$11 including postage. It can be ordered now from Geelong Bushwalking Club, P.O. Box 675, Geelong, 3220.