



THE NEWS

OF THE
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

EDITION 484

JUNE 1991

PRICE 20 C

Registered by Australia Post

Publication No. VBH 1297

SOCIAL COLUMN

Hi Bushies!

Gosh, May was a busy month - but lots of fun - let's see if we can make June busier!!!!

KARAOKE BAR NIGHT

Has anyone ever been to a Karaoke Bar? What is a Karaoke Bar?

It's usually a pub/wine bar where members of the audience get up and try to sing their favourite songs. The words and the music are provided. I just thought after our weekend at Baw Baw maybe Jean Giese or Mark Walters could get up and sing a song or two? Hey, maybe the whole gang from Baw Baw will get up and sing a couple of songs from "Funny Girl"?!?

If people are interested, I'll suss it out and organise it. It will probably be on a Friday night in July. There are two venues I'm thinking of - Zanies on the corner of Russell and Lonsdale Streets, or Raffles Asian Restaurant (on Spencer St) where we can have an Asian Smorgasbord for \$15.

I just want some feedback before I go ahead.

"MERMAIDS" MOVIE NIGHT

The next movie will be "Mermaids" starring Cher and Bob Hoskins. It's a real "leave your brain at home" movie but I think it's going to be fun. It will be Friday 4th July, at the Village Centre on Bourke St, at about 7.00pm. Please check session times on the day.

I'll be selling cheap tickets in the clubrooms. If you want a ticket, come and see me on Wednesday nights in the clubrooms. From now on I do not want people calling me and asking me to "save" tickets for them or people asking me if I'll "mail tickets out".

RESTAURANT NIGHT

On Wednesday 10th July I would like to share with you a gem of a place I discovered through John Roseman. It's called the Carlton Chinese Noodle Cafe. It's so cheap - for about \$5.50 you can get a decent size bowl of noodles in soup. And for about a dollar, you can buy an appetizer. The best part has to be its unpretention surroundings and the fact that it's set up like a fish and chip shop so you can sit at the bar on high stools and watch them cook your meal while you have endless cups of a very nice Chinese tea.

It's not walking distance from the clubrooms, so I thought that after we've signed up for our walk, we'll car pool and meet down there after 8.00 pm. The address is: 154 Rathdowne St (near the corner of Pitt St) opposite the high rise housing commission flats.

Next month we'll explore a cheap but innovative pizza place G.T. discovered near the Victoria Market.

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 July edition is Monday 1st July, but **please note leaders of August walks and ski trips**. I shall be away the last 2 weeks of June so if you can, please send in your previews by 14 June.

SOCIAL COLUMN (cont.)

GARAGE SALE

I didn't get all that many items for sale, so I have decided to shelve this idea. I may resurrect it later in the year. In the meantime, those people that did have items for sale, if you like I can put an ad in next month's "News" for you, just let me know.

BIKE RIDE

It's on again. I'm organising a bike ride - weather permitting. It's for Saturday 15th June, from 11.15 am to 3.15 pm. It will start from Como Park, on the Yarra. There is a toilet block there and a kiosk, and a big silver caravan where those without bikes can hire one for about \$10 for 3 hours, plus a deposit.

Bring along a cut lunch. We'll just ride along for a couple of hours, then turn back. The aim is to have a relaxing afternoon. If you think you'll be hiring a bike, let me know - I might be able to swing a good deal with the bike hire man.

GAMES NIGHT

Gina Hopkins and Derrick Brown have graciously offered their family room for another games night!!! If it's only half as much fun as the first one - it will be a fabulous night. It will be on a Friday night so that it doesn't clash with weekend skiing.

The date is Friday 12th July, address

Please call me at home on _____ if you're coming so that I have an approximate idea of numbers coming. A \$1 cover charge will be for tea & coffee. Bring along snacks, drinks, fold up chairs, card tables, any games you want to play.

Does anyone have twister?

ICE SKATING

Apparently ice skating uses the same muscles as cross country skiing - and gives you bruises in the same places when you fall. So isn't it timely that the Sidney Myer Music Bowl has ice skating on again. Admission is \$6.50 for adults, \$5.50 for kids and **\$4.50 for groups of at least 15 !!!!!**

So on June 28, Friday night, we're going skating!!! It's on between 6.00-10.00 pm. To get the group concession we need to book, so let me know that you want to come and we'll meet at the gates at 7.30 pm.

Rosa D'Angelo

*		*	
*	WHAT'S ON	*	
*		*	
*	Bike Ride: Yarra	Saturday 15 June	*
*	Marysville Weekend	Fri-Sun 21-23 June	*
*	Wilderness - Jamie Pittock speaker	Weds. 26 June 7.30 pm	*
*	(clubrooms)		*
*	Ice Skating (Sidney Myer M.B.)	Friday 28 June 7.30 pm	*
*	Movie: Mermaids (City)	Friday 4 July 7.00 pm	*
*	Restaurant Night: Carlton	Weds. 10 July 8.00 pm	*
*	Games Night: Kew	Friday 12 July 7.30 pm	*
*			*
*			*

MARYSVILLE GUEST HOUSE WEEKEND

When: Arriving after dinner on Friday 21 June
Departing after lunch on Sunday 23 June

Where: Moutain Lodge Guesthouse, King Street, Marysville

Your hosts: Suzette and Hubert Nassl

There are vacancies still available. The weekend is open to members and non-members, so bring your friends along too. BYO drinks this year.

For further information please contact: Alison Blaker or
Michael Humphrey

Please note that telephone and mail bookings for this weekend will now be accepted, however accommodation will not be confirmed until receipt of cheque.

'See you there!'

WINE & CHEESE NIGHT WEDS. 26TH JUNE 7.30 P.M.

VICTORIAN WILDERNESS - SPEAKER JAMIE PITTOCK

The Land Conservation Council (LCC) has recently made recommendations on Victorian Wilderness areas, such as the recognition of the intrinsic value of wilderness, the need for proper management of wilderness areas and their protection. However, there are a number of glaring problems associated with the LCC's proposals. For example, mineral exploration, hunting and grazing are still permitted in some wilderness areas, and many four wheel drive tracks are still open for use.

Jamie Pittock from the Victorian National Parks Association will be speaking to our club on these issues. So come along and learn about what we can do to help preserve our Wilderness areas.
BYO wineglass.

Liz Telford

LEADERS' FORUM - 8 MAY 1991

About 25 people took part in the Leaders' Forum last month. The emphasis was on Sunday day walks because this involves the most people and needs the most leaders.

Clearly it is important to have willing leaders, otherwise the Club just cannot organise walks. Also, it is an important job as the leader is responsible for a large group of people as well as the good name of our Club.

To assist leaders, the Club has an excellent pamphlet on walk planning, previewing, etc. Copies are available in the clubrooms.

Some of the points discussed during the Leaders' Forum were:

1. First time leaders

Don't worry! You need not be an ace navigator to start leading walks. You will go with an experienced co-leader, and thorough previewing will ensure the walk will go smoothly on the day. Attend one of the Club's navigation instruction days (next one in September).

2. Plan the walk well in advance (2 to 3 months)

Choose a walk and plan it with your co-leader. The Club has maps and previous walk reports in the filing cabinets to help. Preview the walk; often more than one preview is necessary.

Always write a preview, even if you have not completed all details before the News deadline.

3. Close to the walk (2 weeks)

Take bookings, collect all fees, check that newer walkers are suited to the walk, write down visitors' contact addresses.

4. Day of the walk

Take written instructions for bus driver, booking sheet, map, compass, watch, first aid kit.

Note absentees and total number attending on the booking sheet, which is left on the bus during the walk.

Form a circle, do a count, give first names, welcome visitors, introduce whip, explain the walk.

During the walk keep the group together, count numbers at each stop and on return.

5. After the walk

Thank bus driver. When home, telephone Club contacts.

Give Walks Secretary the booking sheet and a **walk report** (most important).

Thanks to all those who took part, including Janet for advertising the forum and Rosa for bringing drinks, cheese and biscuits.

Max Casley

FOR SALE

Pair of brand new, large size 9 Blundstone walking boots, top quality ones. Usually \$120, now \$60.

Ask me the story behind them, too long to print here.

Phone Sylvia Wilson - (H) , or waylay me in the clubrooms.

Sleeping Bag - Paddy Pallin Traveller

VG condition, \$289 new, sell \$130.

Contact Cameron McMillan - (H)

DAY WALKS - CONTINUED**SAT. 20 JULY 91 HISTORICAL WALK: TOORAK EASY**

LEADERS : ATHOL SCHAFER
 TRANSPORT : MEET UNDER THE CLOCKS BY 1.30 P.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 5.00 P.M.

Continuing on from last year's walk, we will again start at the village Post Office (near tram stop 32). The tour also takes in some remarkable aspects of the area's geology including a spectacular view of the Yarra River valley.

SUN. 21 JULY 91 CONGLOMERATE CK - MT. TENERIFFE - MT. CHARLIE E/MED & MED

LEADERS : JEAN GIESE & MARY LEONARD
 TRANSPORT : VAN FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : RIDDELLS CREEK 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 13 & 17 KM

Not far from Melbourne, this should be a good winter walk, with the heath and wattles already in bloom. Two delightful walking tracks and the Mt. Charlie State Forest will be linked by going through private property for which we have permission. Some of the walk is in open forest and there are great views towards Mt. Macedon and looking back towards the city.

The medium walk will bush bash 200m up to Mt. Charlie in an 4 km extra loop.

SAT. 27 JULY 91 DANDENONGS EXPLORER: TECOMA - LYSTERFIELD EASY

LEADER : WINIFRED DE SOUZA
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 MEETING PLACE : TBA

Details of this walk will be written up in the July issue of "The News".

If you want advance information, please contact leader at home:

SUN. 28 JULY 91 LITTLE MT. BULLENGAROOK - PYRITES CREEK E/MED & MED

LEADER : NIGEL HOLMES & JOHN ROSEMAN
 TRANSPORT : VAN FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : BULLENGAROOK 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 14 & 16 KM

Both walks will start just north-east of Little Bullengarook and proceed southerly along a mixture of untracked ridges, fire line tracks and a little "bush walking" as well.

The easy/medium group will cross Pyrites Creek, visit Sugarloaf Hill and generally have less bush to walk through without the aid of tracks. The medium group will do all of the above, with extra walking along Pyrites Creek and a visit to an antimony mine as well.

There are no prolonged climbs or descents, just a couple of exhilarating hills and dips to keep the blood circulating. The bush in this area is fairly dry, lightweight stuff, typical of the lower areas of the Wombat State Forest. Bring your own drinking water.

WEEKEND WALKS - JULY 1991**12-14 JUNE 91 MT. STIRLING SKI-IN BASE CAMP E/MEDIUM**

LEADER : STEPHEN DOWN
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 8.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : BULLER - STIRLING (VICMAP OUTDOOR LEISURE MAP)
 APPROX DISTANCE : 12KM PER DAY

We will be camping near Telephone Box Junction, which will mean that the day shelter can be used to cook the evening meal and breakfast. During the day we will ski wherever the snow lets us. The likely tours are the Summit and the Razorback.

19-21 JULY 91 LITTLE MT. BULLER - MT. BULLER SKIING MEDIUM

LEADER : MARK WALTERS
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 MAP REFERENCE : OUTDOOR LEISURE MAP: BULLER-STIRLING

From the Mt. Buller Tourist Rd, we'll take Doughty Rd from Sawmill Settlement. From near the end of Doughty Rd, a walking track leads up the 'West Ridge' to Mt. Buller. Having set up camp away from the resort area, a tour to Little Mt. Buller is envisaged. If it's fine, there will be sufficient moonlight to night-ski on the resort slopes. This trip is written up with pictures in the Autumn 1991 issue of "Wild".

If the weather is bleak, an alternative - camping near the Bluff Spur Memorial Hut (Mt. Stirling) is planned.

19-21 JULY 91 SNAKE ISLAND (* change of venue *) E/MED & MED

LEADER : LLOYD YOUNG
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE & BOAT
 MAP REFERENCE : V.M.T.C. SNOWY PLAINS/TALI KARNG
 EXPECTED RETURN : 8.00 P.M.
 APPROX DISTANCE : 25-40 KM

An exciting trip suitable for beginners and gung ho's alike.

A short boat trip from Port Welshpool followed by a 7 km pack hike, then tent camping at the cattlemens hut. There is the possibility of an afternoon/night beach walk.

If enough hard and easy walkers come, we will split the party on Sunday, but stay tuned on the two Wednesdays before in case we end up with mainly easy or hard.

Sunday will consist of beach and track walking for the easy/medium walkers, and beach, track, scrub, swamp and mangrove walking for the medium group. Rendezvous with the boat Sunday afternoon. An interesting walk with many swimming locations.

26-29 JULY 91 SNOWY PLAINS SKIING MEDIUM

LEADERS : GRAEME THORNTON
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : MONDAY NIGHT - LATE
 MAP REFERENCE : V.M.T.C. SNOWY PLAINS/TALI KARNG
 APPROX. DISTANCE : 30-50 KM

This trip is planned to be of 3 days duration (Friday night - Monday night) as it is a long, slow drive. We'll park near The Lost Plain and ski with full packs to camp between Kelly's Hut and The Gorge.

26-29 JULY 91 SNOWY PLAINS SKIING (continued)

By having all of Sunday free, there is the possibility to do the 26-30 km return trip to Guy's Hut/Bryce's Gorge, or part thereof, depending upon weather, snow and enthusiasm (most likely mine). Part day trips can be made to Mts. Arbuckle, Reynard and Lookout. A fullish moon offers opportunities to hoot or howl according to nocturnal predilections.

Snow in this area is extremely variable so if anyone knows of a reliable and accurate source of information for snow conditions in this area I'd very much appreciate getting access to it.

PRIVATE WALK ORGANISED FOR THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**17-21 JULY BARMAH STATE PARK**

We're planning a base camp for the second week of the July school holidays for those who have time off then. The Barmah Forest is situated north east of Echuca along the banks of the Murray River and is the largest river red gum forest in Australia. I envisage this camp to include a variety of activities including (of course) walking, visiting interesting sites in Echuca (such as paddleboats) and wineries.

Diane Wright & Paul Vella

SKIING WEEKENDS IN AUGUST -**2-4 AUGUST YUPPIE SKIING WEEKEND , DINNER PLAINS**

Yes, well, I do have moments of moral conflict about going to Dinner Plains (Hotham), but now the lodges are there and we've been invited, we might just as well check'em out.

Maximum in the party is 13, and we've had the rate reduced for the weekend but it still works out at \$50 a head. Apart from taking in tucker and ski-gear, we only need to supply sheets and pillowcases.

Bookings will open on Weds 17th July, cash up front please. I think it'll be a ripper weekend!

Sylvia Wilson

23-25 AUGUST RAWSON VILLAGE SKI TRIP: MEDIUM

A booking has been made at Rawson Holiday Resort, 5 kms from Erica and 174 kms from Melbourne. The booking has been made for 24 people at a tariff of \$55, bed and breakfast for Friday night to Sunday morning, 23rd to 25th August.

There will be options for both Saturday and Sunday, catering for easy/medium and medium standard of skiing ability. These tours will not be on prepared tracks and will not be suitable for beginners or skiers with very little experience.

If you plan to book on this trip you need to be aware that things do not always go as planned, but snow or not much snow, it usually ends up being a good get-together. Bookings with full payment can be made in the clubrooms on Wednesday 26th June and 3rd July. Preference will be given to club members.

Please note that I require a week's notice if you are unable to attend.

Sandra Mutimer

SEARCH & RESCUE

The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs has a Search & Rescue section which is set up to provide a pool of experienced bushwalkers and ski-tourers for use in searches for lost people in the bush areas and snow-fields of Victoria. The object is to make available to the Victorian Police those members of walking clubs who have the experience, fitness and personal equipment to safely participate in prolonged searching in adverse conditions. The Club is getting back into Search & Rescue so we're looking for members who are keen to go bashing around the bush looking for lost people.

The types of experience that a member should have are:

- AGE: 18 years or over.
- EXPERIENCE: minimum of 16 days bushwalking, including one or more continuous periods of at least 4 days plus 4 weekends. One of the overnight walks must have been in adverse conditions and another in snow.
- NAVIGATION: must be able to give and interpret grid references, be conversant with orientating a map using compass and relate map to terrain. Members must be capable of being independent in the bush.
- FOOD: members are expected to cook and provide their own meals.
- EQUIPMENT: have a complete range of equipment in good condition.
- FITNESS: members must be capable of prolonged heavy scrub-bashing on steep slopes. Searching imposes greater mental and physical demands than normal bushwalking or ski-touring.
- LEAVE: it is necessary for members to have suitable arrangements with their employers for leave during searches.

Not only do we need members to go out searching for people, we also need 3 club contacts.

The club contact's job is to provide a reliable contact for the Federation S&R Police Liaison Officer. The Police Liaison Officer will call one of the contacts and give details of the search and where the members are to assemble. The contact then rings each of the members to get details of who is available to go on the search and tells the available members where to meet and at what time. The contact then rings the Police Liaison Officer to give names of who will be attending the search. It is recommended that the club contacts are not a S&R member. So if you don't think you have the experience or you cannot afford to take time off work but would like to be involved and don't mind being woken up early in the morning or late at night to make some phone calls, then the club contact job would suit you.

So if you are interested in being a S&R member or a club contact, see me in the clubrooms or give me a ring.

Stephen Down (W)
(H)

PERSONAL COLUMN

Cheerio, Mike, am giving you fair and advanced notice., "The Hound of The Baskervilles" will be after us on Sunday 1st September so start getting the miles under your plates of meat now.

Art.

Congratulations to Felicity Topp who tripped off to New Zealand last July to celebrate her father's 60th birthday, had a whirlwind romance with local farmer Mark Brough, whom she married on May 11th. Last news is they were enjoying a honeymoon in Hawaii, & will be returning home to New Zealand. All the best, Felicity and Mark, from your Bushie friends.

LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL WILDERNESS AREAS - PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

The Land Conservation Council recently completed proposed recommendations to a special investigation on Victorian Wilderness areas requested by the government in Aug 1988. Final recommendations are due to be submitted by 30 September 1991.

Copies of the report are available (free) from Information Victoria in Lt. Bourke St. Two copies are available for perusing in the clubrooms. The report defines a wilderness area as "a large area with landforms and native plant and animal communities essentially unaltered or affected by the influence of the European settlement of Australia".

The report recommends the creation of 17 Wilderness areas, and 22 "Other Areas with Remote and Natural Attributes". A map of these areas is provided with the report, and one will be on display in the clubrooms.

There are also 10 accompanying recommendations for the management of the proposed Wilderness areas, and generally these appear quite sensible. However, there are some concerns such as:

- while mining is to be excluded from the Wilderness areas, one of the management recommendations allows mineral exploration. This is quite at odds with the definition of a wilderness area.
- significant tracks have been left open. The most blatant is the Deddick track which splits the Snowy River Wilderness area into two separate areas, with the track not part of either. The track, which runs for perhaps 20km through the middle of the area, has been excluded to "provide the best route through the National Park for 4-wheel drive based visitors". In another part of the report it states that there are 9000 km of vehicular tracks available in the Alps area.

This is clearly one of the most important government reports for bushwalkers for some time. Submissions on the proposals are invited by 24th July. I will be preparing a response on behalf of the Club. All interested persons (and this should at least mean all weekend walkers) are urged to obtain a copy of the report, and write to the Council yourself.

Alan Clarke

ALONG THE TRACK

GUYS HUT - WONNANGATTA RIVER, 19-21 APRIL 1991

I should be getting to know where Breakfast Creek is by now, but because I was falling asleep in the early hours of Saturday morning we missed it. We camped further up the road, and met up with Keith and party without mishap. Starting high up at Guys Hut car park, we walked down into the Wonnangatta valley, following Dry River (so-called because it normally runs underground). Blackberry is threatening to take over the track in places but it is still passable. At a campsite we were shocked to find a hollow tree used as a waste bin, full of tins and bottles.

In the wide, open Wonnangatta valley we visited the old station there, the scene of two unsolved murders. The family graveyard is still there, now nicely tidied up and looked after by a Lions Club. Our peace was shattered by two trail-bikers, and many 4-wheel drive vehicles, whose occupants were playing with their power saws. We managed to camp away from these, in a quiet river setting,

near evidence that the Chain Saw Gang had been there cutting down trees.

On Sunday we had a long climb out of the valley, whilst the temperature rapidly dropped and the wind rose. En-route we almost lost Peter Ashby's pack down the mountain whilst he climbed an impossible rock-face. We returned to the start-point, via Guys Hut, where Gina collected a large bag of rubbish thoughtfully left there by some kind souls.

We all warmed up over a good meal at The Gum Nut Bistro at Morwell on the way home (recommended). A lovely weekend, although we could have done without the 4-wheel drivers and the rubbish that was strewn about.

Party - Keith White, Janet Norman, Peter Ashby, Peter Hogan, Max Casley, Gina Hopkins, and me.
Derrick Brown

BAW BAW 24-26 MAY 1991

There were 2 excellent write-ups of this walk, both of which are printed below:

Last month I went on my first Mark Walters' weekend walk. I was so proud of myself, it was my first "medium" walk! I went down in a car load of bushies - Lloyd Young, Stan Mackowiak and Mary Leonard. After a terrible pizza in Moe, we arrived at the car park at about 11.30p.m. The air was crisp, the moon was bright and almost full. Nigel Holmes appeared out of the darkness to be our guide. The boys took a while to get organised, so Mary, Nigel and myself set off on the track. We didn't use torches, we just walked carefully, quietly, slowly, drifting into the forest - it was magical!

Once we reached the large rocks, we bumped into Jean Giese, Gina Hopkins and Derrick Brown, lost, with Mark our leader, nowhere to be found. After some ferreting around, Mark was found under an enormous rock, like a large slug asleep in his sleeping bag - well he was sleeping until we came along. About 8 of us slept under the rock, it was like a big slumber party.

Saturday was excellent. It was hard work, but the weather was good to us. After lunch we were told that we may need to wear overpants as there was going to be "some bush bashing" through some prickly stuff. It was incredible! The scrub started about knee high and became higher and thicker at which point you were walking on top of bushes. You tried really hard not to fall and if you did, you tried really hard not to grab the silly plants because they were so spiky. It was both exciting and mildly irritating. It was the longest 500 metres of my life.

I drew the line when Mark and a group of intrepid followers disappeared down the river, hopping from rock to rock. I sensibly followed Jean and Max with Mary, Lloyd and John Tolmie in tow. We finally made it into camp. Some foolhardy members of the group (including a certain Social Secretary) went for a sacrificial dip in a very icy pool. However, we were very clean afterwards.

Sunday morning the sun shone brightly. After lunch, clouds rolled in and a steady rain set in just as we reached Mt Erica, and realised that two committee members (one being the Walks Secretary) were geographically embarrassed. Mark led a search and rescue team to find the misplaced party, while the rest of the group sought shelter. The waiting group had an excellent time playing "I Spy". Max and Gina were found safe, and we all turned homewards. (Max and I enjoyed an optional extra scrub bash, with the added bonus of a rare sighting of a sambar deer. Ed.)

It was a fantastic weekend all in all. Thank you Mark for organising it. Thank you everyone for making it so much fun.

Rosa D'Angelo

It was a weekend with a difference - pack walking on Friday night! After changing into walk clothes, most of us opted to leave torches off. A full moon provided the aura of a haunted dreamworld where fairies might dance and draw mortals into their world, never to return. The Rocks loomed like monoliths from a forgotten and long dead civilization. Those with a fear of forest creatures chose to be tent protected, whilst rock overhangs sheltered people with more modest needs.

Uphill was the word next morning but through ever-changing forest. Walking was very pleasant thereafter until lunch. Then we proceeded off track along Tullicoutty Glen and down the creek. A very challenging route to negotiate, one had to jump between slippery rocks and through head high prickly scrub, often at the same time. 500 metres took a few hours. Everyone was very relieved to set up camp at the secluded Wombat Flat.

After a nourishing dinner and interesting conversation, a few raindrops drove many to their tents. A bout of remarkably melodic singing drew me to the other fire where I found Jean and Derrick and others engaged in a rousing chorus of "Green Grow the Rushes O". The entire 12 verses were sung. More songs followed, becoming loud enough to entice most people out of their tents and join in. A quite remarkable hour or so ensued during which every possible song was dragged out and performed with great gusto. In some cases memories were sorely tested to remember more than the chorus!

Next morning a slightly easier exit from the flat was selected. Mt. Kernot provided an interesting side trip. At the memorial, games of "I Spy" and "Who Am I?" were enjoyed under the shelter of ground sheets put up against a limited period of drizzle. Down through a fog band, then one last sojourn at the Rocks before the final traipse through exquisite moist forest to the cars.

Thanks go to Mark Walters for a trip not lacking in variety, exploring both well-known and rarely visited areas of the plateau in a unique trip.

Party: John Tolmie, Ian Harwood, Gina Hopkins, Derrick Brown, Jean Giese, Max Casley, Lloyd Young, Brian Bowditch, Rosa D'Angelo, Alexandra Markovic, Cameron McMillan, Mary Leonard, Nigel Holmes.

Stan Mackowiak

EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

The following equipment is available for hire from the club. See Ian Newbold if you wish to hire any of the following:

	<u>No. available</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Deposit</u>
Daypacks	2	\$2	\$2
Weekend packs	1 Outgear pack	\$5	\$20
	1 Berghaus pack	\$5	\$20
	1 old "H" frame	\$4	\$4
Tents	2 Macpac Eclipse	\$10	\$20
	1 other ("A" frame)	\$4	\$4
Sleeping bags	5 of various weights and conditions:		
	newest	\$5	\$20
	others	\$4	\$4
Sleeping mat	1	\$2	\$4
Compasses	3	\$3	\$5

All equipment should be returned promptly and in a clean and dry condition.

If you have any complaints about equipment or feel that we should add something to our stock, please see Becky Marshall.

THE FEDERATION OF VICTORIAN WALKING CLUBS (VICWALK)

The Federation is a group that represents the interests of all walking clubs throughout Victoria. There are now almost 60 clubs associated, including our own. Annual subscriptions are paid according to the number of members in each club, and each club has delegates to the Federation and they have voting rights. Our current delegates are Athol Schafer and myself.

The Federation is involved in representing walkers on important issues such as conservation and track maintenance, organising Search and Rescue activities, assisting clubs where needed and improving communication between walking groups. It is trying to gain a greater voice in matters that affect walking. A part-time paid position has been sought to achieve this and to help cope with the administrative workload of a growing number of clubs. As a result, the Federation's budget for 1991 is significantly higher than in previous years. (Another reason for this is the history of the Federation is now being prepared.)

The subscription rate was increased from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per member for 1991 in order to achieve this

budget. The increase was discussed at an MBC Committee meeting prior to the decision, and it was felt that if we are to ensure that bushwalking is adequately represented in important forums, then we must be prepared to properly support the Federation.

A good example of the need for a viable Federation can be found in last month's News. Government bodies like the Department of Conservation and Environment, and the Land Conservation Council, are reviewing the use and control of many of our bush areas. Other user groups such as 4-wheel drive groups are making sure that their claims are being heard. It is therefore very important that the claims of walkers are heard as well, particularly through a central body like the Federation. It has to be worth at least \$3.50 per year to support the voluntary work done by the Federation Committee.

If you want to know more about the Federation, I recommend that you read their newsletter "VIC-WALK", to be found in the clubrooms. It makes for worthwhile and interesting reading.

Alan Clarke



Eildon Rd, Jamieson

Situated on the Goulburn Arm of beautiful Lake Eildon

IDEAL FOR YOUR GROUP BOOKINGS AND FAMILY HOLIDAYS

Centrally located for Bushwalking, Fishing, Houseboat holidays,
Skiing, Horseriding, Birdwatching, Canoeing, Etc.

- Facilities include:
- Easy access by water and road
 - Country counter meals every day
 - Swimming pool, tennis court
 - Children's playground

BUDGET ACCOMMODATION

Bookings & Enquiries - Phone: (057) 770 515

ADVERTISING IN "THE NEWS"

The Club is now accepting suitable advertisements for "The News".

Prospective advertisers should note that the circulation of "The News" is approximately 400 per month.

Rates: 1/4 page -	1 issue	\$20	3 issues	\$50
1/2 page -	1 issue	\$30	3 issues	\$75
full page -	1 issue	\$50	3 issues	\$125

Payment must accompany the copy.

Members should note that this is only intended for commercial enterprises; members may continue to advertise personal items for sale in the usual way without charge.

For further information call Derrick Brown on _____, or fax

NEW MEMBERS

The Club would like to welcome the following new members:

Ellen Fulton

Elizabeth Bunting

Gillian Giles

Lars Lindahl

Simon Bates

David Laing

CHANGES OF INFORMATION

Phil Taylor

C. Henry O'Connor

Tracy Guest

Edward Russell

Lisa Fielding

Max Casley

Ken MacMahon

Robyn Gray

Michael Humphrey

Dave Vincent

Jean Woodger

Verna Millis

Registered Publication No. VBH 1297

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