



THE NEWS

OF THE
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

EDITION 492

FEBRUARY 1992

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**8.00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 1992**

Members should take note of the date of the AGM which will be held at 8.00 p.m. (not 7.00 p.m. as stated in "News" last month) in the hall adjoining the club room. All members are invited to attend and to vote on the following matters requiring decisions:

AGENDA

1. To receive the minutes of the last General Meeting of 21 August 1991.
2. To receive the correspondence for the year.
3. To receive the annual reports of the Office Bearers.
4. To elect Office Bearers and General Committee members.
5. Determination of Annual Subscription.
6. To elect Life Members.
7. To elect Honorary Members.
8. To elect auditors.
9. To present silver spoons to couples who married during the year.
10. Bus transport.
11. Any other business.

Notes:

1. Officer Bearers and General Committee members

Proposals for Office Bearers and five General Committee members may be put forward to the Secretary at any time up to the time of the meeting. Proposals must be seconded and both proposer and seconder must be club members of at least three months standing, and the nominee must agree to the nomination.

2. Life Members

Proposals for Life Members must be submitted to the Secretary by 14 days before the the date of the AGM. Proposals must be seconded and both proposer and seconder must be club members of at least three months standing.

3. Bus transport

See notice on page 3.

Derrick Brown, Secretary

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 March edition is Wednesday 26 February 1992.

THE MELBOURNE BUSHIES - 50 YEARS ALONG THE TRACK

The first phase of the work is virtually complete with all but one of the topics written. I have read quite a bit of it and I can tell you that some of it is great stuff!

My thanks to all the contributors for their work to date - each topic has taken many painstaking hours of research and writing. Sylvia even worked on hers over Christmas, sending it airmail from the UK so as to arrive before the January deadline!

It will be sometime before you see the results in print, however, as we now begin the second phase - editing and design. All of the contributions will shortly be on the computer as part of our desk-top publishing process.

Don't forget that Bill Metzenthien is still on the look-out for good photographs to use.

Derrick Brown

THE CLUB LIBRARY

The following are some of the publications available from our "library" in the back corner of the clubrooms. If you wish to borrow something, please fill in the relevant details in the notebook on the bookcase.

Walk the Timeless Land	Graeme Wheeler
The Scroggin Eaters	Graeme Wheeler
Southwest Tasmania	John Chapman
(2 copies)	

100 Walks in Victoria (2 copies)	*
120 Walks in Victoria (4 copies)	*
50 Walks in the Grampians (3 copies)	*
100 Walks in Tasmania (1 copy)	*
100 Walks in NSW (2 copies)	*
	* Tyrone Thomas

Snowy Mountains Walks	Geehi Club
50 Day Walks near Melbourne	Sandra Bardwell
Car Touring & Bushwalking in East Gippsland	Grant DaCosta
The Alpine Track - Walhalla to Mt. Buggery	John Siseman

Timber and Gold - a History of Sawmills and Tramways of Wombat Forest, 1855-1940	Norm Houghton
Flinders Ranges Walks	Peter Beer

Various issues of "Walk" and "The Melbourne Walker"

Various copies of "Habitat" and "Wildlife"

Various publications on flora and fauna of various districts

Bushwalking and Mountaincraft Leadership

Outer Melbourne Directory

Coode Island Review Panel Report & Issues Papers

Forest Management Plan - Dandenong
Draft Management Plan - Tasmania
Wilderness World Heritage Area

Other conservation reports and wilderness investigations

Becky Marshall

FUTURE DAY WALKS TRANSPORT

Our Own Van or Hire Coach?

The Annual General Meeting on 26 February 1992 will decide our future mode of day walk transport, and it is an important decision for the Club. Thus if you have an opinion or preference, you should come and participate.

THIS A.G.M. IS IMPORTANT!

For over 6 years the Club has run its own bus for day walk transport. This has been very successful, but there are some drawbacks. As proposed and agreed at the last General Meeting, a trial has been carried out with one hire coach company and the committee has agreed that this trial has proved to be satisfactory. The membership will be asked at the meeting to endorse the committee's decision to contract for 12 months with the company and to arrange to sell the club bus.

Our own bus is:

- Less expensive overall, although costs vary from year to year, currently around \$350/week compared with \$450/week for a coach;
- more sociable because of seating arrangements;
- smaller, and we have more control over where we take it;

- but
- it is slower than a coach;
 - is less comfortable;
 - needs some supervision by a committee person on occasions, to make sure that the necessary jobs are done.

IF YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE, COME TO THE AGM TO DISCUSS AND VOTE ON THE QUESTION

DAY WALKS - MARCH 1992

SUN. 1 MAR 92 MOORABOOL RIVER - SHE OAKS EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS : ALAN MILLER & GEOFF MATTINGLEY
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : LETHBRIDGE 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 13 & 18 KM

This was a regular mid-February walk up to 1985. We start out through farm land, descending to the Moorabool River. Most of the walk is up the river with a number of crossings. We cannot guarantee dry feet, though there should be fallen trees and stepping stones at several of the crossings. We will probably have to climb out of the river once or twice to avoid cliffs.

There are several good swimming spots so bring your bathers if it looks as if it will be a hot day.

SUN. 8 MAR 92 KEPPELS FALLS - WHITEHOUSE CREEK EASY/MED & MEDIUM

LEADERS : PETER HAVLICEK & JEAN WOODGER
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MARYSVILLE-LAKE MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR LEISURE MAP 1:50,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 12 & 17 KM

The walk is alongside the Taggerty River, mainly along bush tracks but will include a section of bush bashing. The Beeches section is under tall mountain ash. Birds abound.

SAT. 14 MAR 92 HISTORICAL WALK: YARRA - BURNLEY EASY

LEADER : ATHOL SCHAFER
 TRANSPORT : TRAM MEET UNDER THE CLOCKS BY 1.15 P.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 5.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE :
 APPROX DISTANCE :

This will be a ramble in the neighbourhood of where the Yarra makes its big bend, taking in not only the popular stretches of the river, but also some out-of-the-way nooks little visited but of fascinating interest.

Put your name on the list early so that afternoon tea can be provided at a local residence.

SUN. 15 MAR 92 ANGAHOOK EASY & EASY/MEDIUM

LEADERS : SALLY BOUVIER & MICK MANN
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : OTWAY & SHIPWRECK COAST (VICMAP)
 APPROX DISTANCE : 14 & 18 KM

The easy walk is along gentle gradients in State Park amid coastal vegetation, alongside creeks, via waterfalls, along tracks. There is the possibility of an ocean swim at the end of the walk.

The easy/medium walk is as above, only longer. Some magnificent views.

WED. 18 MAR 92 MURRINDINDI RIVER EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER : JEAN GIESE
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 5.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : KLONDYKE 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : - or + 16 KM (DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER)

Depart 8.30 a.m. 9 Albert Crescent, Surrey Hills or ring leader for other meeting place (890 2189).

If it's hot we'll walk close to the river taking a dip now and then. If it's cool we'll climb a hill or two or range further into the lovely forest around the Murrindindi.

SUN. 22 MAR 92 MYRTLE GULLY - MT TANGLEFOOT - SYLVIA CK EASY/MED & MED

LEADERS : MIKE BAUER & ALAN TOMSETT
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MONDA 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 16 & 20 KM

Tanglefoot Track is a pleasant forest walk with beautiful native flora, north of Healesville. Both walks are on tracks or roads, well graded old forest roads, mostly closed to vehicles. We might detour to Mt. St Leonard for views of Yarra Valley, if time.

If weather is warm, there may be an opportunity to cool off in Sylvia Creek (easy walk), or Murrindindi River (medium walk).

SAT. 28 MAR 92 DANDENONGS: FERNTREE GULLY NATIONAL PARK EASY

LEADERS : JILL & GRAHAM BREEN
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE OR 10.04 A.M. TRAIN FROM FLINDERS ST
 EXPECTED RETURN : 4.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAY MAP 74
 APPROX DISTANCE : 10 KM

Meet at the Upper Ferntree Gully railway station car park at 11.10 a.m. Note - the train may be delayed due to bridge works, we will wait for it to arrive.

The walk will be on tracks that wind up hills and down fern gullies, or vice versa. It will take in a full range of the variety available in the park. There will be fine views, interesting flora and we may spot a lyrebird. The walk should finish back at the railway station at 4.00 p.m.

SUN. 29 MAR 92 MURRINDINDI - WILHEMINA FALLS EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS : JOHN KITTSOON & ANNE BULLARD
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : KLONDYKE 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 11 & 18 KM

The easy and medium walks are all on bush tracks. Both walks start at the Murrindindi Cascades. The easy group follow the Murrindindi River downstream to the Wilhemina Falls.

The medium walkers climb a fairly steep range of about 4000 m. Don't be put off by this as it's not that daunting and you will have lunch at the top of the ridge. Then it's a pleasant walk along the bushland tracks under a canopy of tall gums - lovely if it's a warm sunny day.

We all join forces at the base of the Wilhemina Falls for an easy stroll back to the bus.

WEEKEND WALKS - MARCH 1992**6-9 MAR 92 BOGONG HIGH PLAINS WORK PARTY MEDIUM**

LEADER : DOUG POCOCK
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE CARS
 EXPECTED RETURN : MONDAY EVENING

This is a chance for MBW to "fly the flag" and participate in a work party for Bogong National Park. At time of writing it is unsure what we will be doing, hopefully something near Wilky so that we can stay there (and have group catering). However, there is a chance that we will be working on the Feathertop track with the Friends of Bogong.

Either way GT has decreed that this weekend counts as a Wilky work party so brownie points will be scored by participants giving them priority ratings at Wilky.

Contact leader on for further details, but please! let's have a good turnout.

STOP PRESS! We will be doing something in the Wilky vicinity so there is no excuse for not turning up.

6-9 MAR 92 MOROKA GORGE & LAKE TALIKARNG BASE CAMP EASY & MEDIUM

LEADER : ALAN MILLER
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE CARS
 EXPECTED RETURN : MONDAY EVENING
 MAP REFERENCE : TAMBORITHA-MOROKA VICMAP 1:50,000

Friday night: Drive to Breakfast Creek.

Saturday: Drive on to Horseyard Flat and set up tents beside cars. Day walk to Moroka Gorge and Falls.

Sunday: Drive to MacFarlane Saddle, then 3 km pack carry across Wellington Plain to set up camp above Lake Tali Karng. Various walks without packs during Sunday and Monday to places such as Gable End, Sentinels, Lake Tali Karng, etc.

This is a good introduction to overnight camping with only two easy 3 km stretches carrying packs.

7-10 MAR 92 MOUNT ANNE - TASMANIA MEDIUM

LEADER : DAVE VINCENT
 TRANSPORT : LIGHT AIRCRAFT - COST \$180 EACH
 EXPECTED RETURN : 5.00 P.M. TUESDAY 10 MAR
 MAP REFERENCE :

This extended walk is planned over the Labour Day weekend. Access to Mount Anne will be by light aircraft from Moorabbin on Saturday morning, 7 March, and landing at Scotts Peak Dam south of Lake Pedder in SW Tasmania. For a group of six, including myself, the estimated cost of the aircraft hire will be \$180 each.

Mount Anne, at an altitude of 1425m, is the highest peak in Tasmania's SW wilderness. The views from the summit and Eliza Plateau are outstanding. Although the climb is very steep in parts all walking is along well defined tracks. The Mount Anne circuit including Lake Judd and Mt Sarah Jane can be walked comfortably in three days.

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

13-15 MAR 92 VALENCIA CREEK EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER : MERILYN WHIMPEY
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : SUNDAY EVENING
 MAP REFERENCE : LICOLA-WELLINGTON 1:50,000

This is a walk for water-babies. The section of Valencia Creek we're concerned with has several deep holes with convenient diving (or bombing) rocks. Last time we had a ball. In between swim stops there's a lot of wading in the creek. No swimming with packs was required last time, but it would be wise to waterproof packs in case.

Be warned - you are likely to see naked, saggy, middle-aged bodies!

In case of the weather being too cold for swimming, there's a rough track above the creek with good views.

20-22 MAR 92 JUMBUCK PARK**EASY/MEDIUM**

LEADERS : JAN BROOKSBANK & LIZ TELFORD
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE

This is a weekend with a difference and something for everyone. Where is it? Set in the hilltops of the Strzelecki Ranges - 2 hours drive from Melbourne (near Morwell).

Forest and fern gully walks, native animals and birdlife (lyrebirds galore!).
 Outdoor activities, including abseiling, ropes course, archery, horseriding.

Bunkhouse accommodation, BYO food and drink.

Cost approx. \$30 for weekend (1/2 day trail ride \$18 if in group).

Bookings and enquiries: Jan Brooksbank (H) , Liz Telford (H)

27-29 MAR 92 DIBBINS DIVIDE - BRANDY CREEK**MEDIUM**

LEADER : DON ISDALE
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 9.00 P.M. SUNDAY NIGHT
 MAP REFERENCE : BOGONG ALPINE AREA OUTDOOR LEISURE MAP 1:50,000 OR FEATHERTOP 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 25 KM

Meet at Mt. Loch carpark at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday.

Follow Machinery Spur and Dibbins Divide to Cobungra Gap, perhaps with side trips to Basalt Temple and Red Robin mine. On Sunday, we'll follow Cobungra River to Brandy Creek where we'll climb a spur to rejoin the Alpine Road.

Swimming wherever possible, mainly good trails.

ADVANCE WALK NOTICE - EASTER 1992

After Jean Giese's Easter walks around Errinundra last year, I thought the eastern part of Victoria well worth visiting again. I was thus easy prey to the hon. Walks Secretary in that I suggested a Croajingolong coastal walk for this Easter (possibly in the direction Mallacoota to Thurra River).

The only disadvantage with the walk is that the necessary car shuffle at both the start and end of the trip normally takes most of the first day to set up and an extra 2-3 hours on the last day to recover the shuttle car. The thought occurred that if we could combine a through walk with a leisurely base camp at either Mallacoota or Thurra then the base campers could take the cars from Mallacoota to Thurra at their leisure given sufficient drivers in the group.

To this end the Club is applying for a 6 person campsite at Thurra. Thurra has only 35 campsites and should be a peaceful and relaxing place to spend Easter. Campsites are allocated Saturday to Saturday and by ballot so there is no certainty of a site. The Friday night would have to be elsewhere (say Mallacoota) even if successful in the ballot.

If any group would be interested in such a base camp and could take the cars one way between Mallacoota and Thurra by the Monday, I'd be delighted to hear from them A.S.A.P.

Phone (H) or (W).

Thanks - Graeme Thornton

WILKY WINTER GROUP BOOKINGS - 1992

Allocation of **leaders** for winter groups will open at 7.30 p.m. in the clubrooms on **Wed. 11 March**.

The booking system will be the same as last year so to avoid repetition of last years notice I will only emphasise certain points in relation to 1991 which will be taken as read.

- * Leaders have to be "endorsed" to "drive" Wilky. No endorsed leader - no winter week.
- * Leaders allocated weeks on 11/3/92. Fee payment from 18/3/92 onwards. (Cheques to Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.) Bookings are not secured until fees have been paid.
- * Prospective group members to approach the nominated leader before booking.
- * Leader is responsible for the group including fee payments. See the Wilky Report on page 10 for fee rates.
- * Lockers only to be used for storage - DEFINITELY NO DANGLY BITS in the storeroom - under seat space allocation by arrangement.
- * Rubbish bins are for temporary use. Take ALL your rubbish out when you leave.

- * Lockers to be cleaned out by Australia Day weekend 1993.

As mentioned in the Wilky Report, please take care of the stove. It is showing signs of premature aging. I'm asking every winter group to clean the flue and stove internal ducting this year. The flue brush lives in the woodshed. Also, please don't burn plastics and such in the stove, take them home with you as part of your rubbish. Food scraps can also cause problems. If they must be burnt, burn them a little at a time on a hot flame. Note that the Falls Creek rubbish disposal is no longer available for dumping things off as you leave.

Last year the Alpine Resorts Commission (ARC) introduced a \$5 "track" fee. The fee didn't apply to those heading off into the National Park, only using the tracks as a route. Check with the ARC later in the year if the same system and conditions apply.

Group members have to be competent enough to ski in and out of Wilky (with a heavy, rubbish laden pack on departure) without endangering the group. Bear in mind that Wilky is very isolated in winter and medical help is along way away or may be impossible due to prevailing weather conditions. One of Wilky's charms is its isolation but beware. We ask that anyone with known medical problems assess the risk factor and not sign up if doubtful.

All the best for 1992 season - Graeme Thornton

SKI LODGE FOR RENT

at Falls Creek

Luxurious 12 bed self-contained ski lodge

now available at a much reduced summer rental of

\$90 per day.

**2 double bedrooms, 2 bunk rooms,
2 bathrooms, large balcony,
fully equipped kitchen,
large outdoor spa.**

Bookings are also available for the 1992 ski season.

Call Dean Hewett (03) 699 8181 or (057) 58 3261

**MINUTES OF THE HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING
OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS (INC)**

Date: 21 August 1991
Opened: 8.02 pm
Chair: Jean Giese
Present: List as in attendance book

1. Apologies: Alan Bloom
2. *Motion* - That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20 February 1991 be held as a true and accurate record of that meeting.
P - Gina Hopkins, S - Stephen Down. Carried.
3. Business arising: nil
4. General Business
 - 4.1 Appointment of Auditor
Motion - That Mark Walters be appointed as an auditor of the club.
P - Derrick Brown, S - Rob Ayre. Carried.
 - 4.2 It was reported that Alick Rolfe who, as a friend of a club member, had visited Wilky briefly last year whilst terminally ill, had died in the UK and had left the club a legacy of £100.
Motion - That the legacy be accepted and a letter of condolences be sent to Ceri Law.
P - Keith Lloyd, S - Rosemary Cotter. Carried.
 - 4.3 Amended By-laws. The changes were outlined, and the members' attention was drawn to the updated By laws on the notice board.
 - 4.4 Bus - The situation with the bus was described, viz that a comparison was being made between the use of our own bus against a hire bus. Nine companies had tendered for hire and the tenders were currently being examined. There were some reservations expressed and these were noted. The meeting was in general agreement with the Committee's proposal that a bus be hired on a trial basis if a suitable tender was found. The members' views would be sought before the bus was sold.

The meeting closed at 9.02pm.

YEARLY REPORTS 1991**President's Report**

I have had much pleasure this year in being President of such a good club, as the MBW undoubtedly is. Who wouldn't enjoy working with our talented, enthusiastic and hardworking Committee of Management? I thank them all very much. And what a pleasure it is to become better acquainted with the great variety of interesting characters who don their boots to go a-walking.

1991 has been a good year. For a membership of almost 400 and many visitors, a full and varied programme of walking and ski-ing has been maintained. Experienced leaders have continued in their valuable roles as well as assisting the encouraging number of new leaders coming forward.

In addition to introducing people to walking and the beauties of the bush, the club has made its contribution for the benefit of the general community through

- Keeping conservation issues before members and urging action via the pages of "News" and speakers at Club nights. The Committee has made a response to every Plan of Management issued in 1991 for parks, Melbourne's future water needs, etc. A special effort was made in respect of the LCC Proposed Recommendation on Victorian Wilderness. As well as the Club's official response, each Committee member wrote personally and undertook to enlist at least two others to do the same.
- Reviving the Club's Search & Rescue squad.
- Running Navigation courses, first aid night and track clearing.
- Continuing to provide van or bus transport for Sunday walks and arranging shared transport for other walks - a small contribution towards saving resources and minimising pollution.

A proposition was put to the Half Yearly General Meeting that we try using a bus for Sunday walks, for a number of reasons, including the longer time it is taking to get to our destination as the city grows, and the greater public awareness of road safety (peripheral seating in van). There was general agreement and the trials have been considered successful. At the AGM, members will be asked to agree to the sale of the van.

A special committee meeting was held on 17 June 1991 to update our By-Laws, in particular to bring them into line with the changes in practise which have occurred gradually. Copies will be available at the AGM.

"News" has gone from strength to strength in Gina's capable hands and we are looking towards using recycled paper.

The recording of our history is in progress under Derrick's management. After 50 years, the Committee felt it was important to produce a modest publication and voted to subsidise the production of "The Melbourne Bushies - 50 years along the track". Alan has set about the task of sorting through our records and preparing what is thought valuable for proper archival storage. He is also preparing an album of current photos which may be of interest in another 50 years!

Our Treasurer Keith beavers away at helping us be more efficient as well as save money, Rosa has organised happy social events, "Wilky" has been much used, loved and maintained and Robert has overseen the smooth running of the van. I would like especially to thank him as he retires from being one of our Vice Presidents and is not standing for re-election. He is the longest-serving member of our Committee (14 years) and has been invaluable in answering all our questions about practises and procedures, in addition to all the other duties he has undertaken.

During the year I have endeavoured to thank all those who work quietly "behind the scenes" in acknowledgments under that title in "News". To them, again, and all who have contributed to the Club's well-being, I say "thank you" on behalf of the whole membership.

We look forward to the coming year and to keeping our reputation as a friendly club which knows how to organise and enjoy A GOOD SOLID WALK.

Jean Giese, President

Walk Secretary's Report

Walks statistics for 1991 compared to previous years: (12 months January - December)

Year	Total	Day	Weekend Total	Weekend Packcarry	Members	Visitors	No. of Trips
1991	2993	2389	604	285	2317	676	140
1990	2842	2403	439	188	2131	711	130
1989	2584	2130	404	223	1815	764	120
1988	3020	2330	690	240	2280	740	127
1987	2800	2260	540	220	1950	850	125
1986	2700	2170	530	186	1950	750	126

Details for January - December 1991:

Walk Type	No. of Trips	Average Attendance
Sunday Bus	51	37
Pack Carry	33	9
Base Camp	12	16
Lodge, Caravan, etc.	9	14
Wednesday	11	14
Dandenong Explorers	10	16
Historical and Urban	11	15
Ski Day	3	7
Total Trips	140	

Comparing the 1991 figures to previous years it is pleasing to see increased interest in pack carrying trips. The number of visitors is less - possibly because the new scheme of crediting visitors' fees against the membership fee has encouraged people to join.

Sunday Walks These continue to be popular and this is where most of our new members start. We now have several good new leaders and we need to encourage more people to become leaders next year.

The hired bus is quicker which gives more time for walking and is quieter which makes conversation easier, but the seating arrangement makes group chatting more difficult. Numbers on the bus are being held below 45 to keep walks to a manageable size.

Weekend Pack Carry Despite the increased interest in these trips only a relatively small number of members go on them. Those that go are very enthusiastic and greatly enjoy the walks. I hope more people are encouraged to come on these wonderful trips.

Base Camps These are an excellent introduction to overnight camping and are a way of doing walks in more distant areas with day packs. The support for base camps has been very variable. Three trips had more than 25 walkers (one had 45) whereas at the other extreme 7 base camps were cancelled due to lack of interest. Why such variation? Perhaps it is a case of "I'll go if you go".

The **Wednesday walks, Dandenong Explorers and Urban walks** all have had good support and add depth to the Walks Programme. The **private plane trips** add extra flavour going to distant places at reasonable cost.

We should continue to encourage the development of the navigational skills of our members, and we need fresh ideas for good walking trips to keep coming in.

Many thanks to all those who helped plan and run the Walks Programme.

Max Casley

Treasurer's Report

The two attached statements summarise the club's financial position in 1991/92. Expenditure of \$39,000 was 22% lower than in 1990/91 but income of \$49,000 was 10% down from the previous year. The net result is a surplus of \$10,000, or 123% more than in 1990/91. In December \$10,000 was transferred from the Cheque Account to the Reserves Account, and pro-rata'd over the major sub-accounts. The end result is a 26% rise in liquidity.

As in previous years, all receipts and payments were classified into one of five sub-accounts, each intended to be largely self-financing. The Social Account doesn't need explaining. The fifth Account, "Other", started the year with a carry-over of \$500 commitment for 50th Anniversary photographs and this explains the deficit there. This account has been used in the past for trade and sales items. It will take over this role again for expenses for the Anniversary book now underway, and some across-account subsidy of this is likely. Comments on the three main sub-accounts follow.

Walks Account

This covers two areas: accommodation, which is self balancing, and Sunday trip fees less the transport cost of these trips. These fees rose \$1 to \$13 last club year to cover increased fuel costs but were reduced to \$12 again in late October this club year. Comparison with 1990/91 involves allowing for the \$3100 in visitor fees, now recorded for the first time in the Club Account. On a pro-rata basis, Sunday travel costs rose only marginally for use of the club van.

The substantial rise in sundry expenses is due to the hire of PBL (Peninsula Bus Lines) buses. Breakeven on the current PBL bus setup depends on the mix of full and concession fees received.

Two examples follow: 2 leaders + 38 full fees = 40 persons;
2 leaders + 33 full fees + 9 concession fees = 44 persons.

These examples each raise \$450 to pay for the bus. This year our transport arrangements produced a modest surplus of \$1300. Sale of the van will result in an estimated increase in travel costs of \$5000, or \$100 per week or 8 more full fee walkers per Sunday. Committee approval has been obtained for a prepayment voucher option to be introduced soon for bus bookings and I look forward to this.

Club Account

This covers general running of the club. Income is from subscriptions (slightly higher per head than in the previous year), interest from the Reserves Account (up over the year but falling with interest rates generally) and visitor fees, shown as sundries. Advertising revenue, introduced in 1991, is a very minor source of income. The relatively high increase in the visitor fee is revenue neutral because it is like a prepayment of membership subscription. But walkers who don't become members contribute to general expenses through their \$5. Overall, Club income has risen 27% whilst expenditure has stayed constant, producing a surplus of \$5500, a rise of 158%.

Wilky Account

Income for the year increased 26% reflecting higher usage and refundable key deposit arrangements introduced this year. Actual fees were the same as in 1990. Expenses were only \$2400, a substantial fall on the major capital expenditure in 1990. Public liability insurance reverted to VicWalk policy coverage at a lower rate than in 1990. Expenses for Wilky tend to be cyclical in nature and this year was a good one, financially. Wilky was a major contributor to growth in funds.

The Future

The major issue on the incoming committee's agenda has to be the future of the Bedford van and ramifications arising from this. Sale of the van would involve cashing in the major asset in our balance sheet and relying on the market place and contractual arrangements to provide Sunday walks transport. A policy on the future role of the club's Reserves Account will also need to be decided. Because club fee rates depend on the outcome of these decisions I am not recommending any changes now.

Keith Lloyd, Treasurer

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE for years ending 31 January, 1991 and 1992

		1990/91	1991/92	actual change	% change
		\$	\$	\$	%
1. OPENING BALANCES	Cheque Account	5334	2490	-2844	
	Reserves Account	25500	33000	7500	
	Float	500	500	0	
	Liquidity (incl Floats)	31334	35990	4656	
2. WALKS	INCOME:				
	Trips	24652	21539	-3113	-13
	Accommodation	6191	4267	-1924	-31
	Total Income	30843	25806	-5037	-16
	EXPENDITURE:				
	Driving/Garaging	7194	5100	-2094	-29
	Fuel/Oil	3689	2382	-1307	-35
	Maint/Tools	6841	7738	897	13
	Rego/Insurance	848	829	-19	-2
	Accommodation	6265	4162	-2103	-34
	Sundries	423	4147	3724	880
	Total Expenditure	25260	24358	-902	-4
	SURPLUS	5583	1448	-4135	-74
3. CLUB	INCOME:				
	Membership	8005	8162	157	2
	Equipment	597	315	-282	-47
	Interest	4039	4252	213	5
	Sundries	145	3496	3351	2311
	Total Income	12786	16225	3439	27
	EXPENDITURE:				
	News/Print	5000	2377	-2623	-52
	Stat/Post	947	1881	934	99
	Subs/Donations	585	2235	1650	282
	Insurance	674	549	-125	-19
	Rent/Rooms	1775	1700	-75	-4
	Equipment	1068	443	-625	-59
	Maps	138	148	10	7
	Bank fees/Taxes	347	197	-150	-43
Sundries	106	1149	1043	984	
Total Expenditure	10640	10679	39	0	
Surplus	2146	5546	3400	158	
4. WILKY	INCOME	5113	6454	1341	26
	EXPENDITURE	9156	2447	-6709	-73
	Surplus	-4043	4007	8050	199
5. SOCIAL	INCOME	35	711	676	1931
	EXPENDITURE	35	750	715	2043
	Surplus	0	-39	-39	na
6. OTHER	INCOME	5961	185	-5776	-97
	EXPENDITURE	4992	754	-4238	-85
	Surplus	969	-569	-1538	-159
7. TOTAL INCOME TOTAL EXPENDITURE		54738	49381	-5357	-10
		50082	39017	-11065	-22
	Surplus	4656	10364	5708	123
	Transfer to Reserves	7500	10000	2500	33
8. CLOSING BALANCES	Cheque Account	2490	1914	-576	-23
	Reserves Account	33000	43000	10000	30
	Liquidity (incl Floats)	35990	45414	9424	26

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES as at 31 January, 1992

	\$		\$
ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
BANK ACCOUNTS:		January expenses incurred but not yet	
* Cheque account	1914	billed and paid (estimated):	
* Reserves account	43000	* PBL bus hire	1400
* Float account	500	* Driving/garaging	440
ITEMS OWNED @ estimated values:		* Printing "News"	220
1. Walks --		* Van upkeep	50
* Bedford van	5000	TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>2110</u>
* Equipment for hire	2280		
* Maps/Library	450		
2. Office items	480		
3. Social items	500		
4 Wilkinson Lodge --			
* Contents	1000		
* Building (resale value)	nil		
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>55124</u>	NET WORTH	<u>53014</u>

Federation Report For 1991/92

The Federation of Victorian Bushwalking Clubs made some important strides this year. Foremost among these was the publication of "The Scroggin Eaters", a history of bushwalking in Victoria and of the Federation. It is a very good read.

The Federation has also taken on a part time worker to help with the expanding role that the Federation is playing on behalf of all walkers. In particular, many other non-walking organisations are becoming more powerful, to the detriment of the walking environment. This and other pressures on our walking areas means that it is vital that we have a strong central body to represent our interests, and the Committee strongly supports the Federation in its efforts.

In an effort to keep all walkers more involved, the Federation has also opened up its monthly newsletter "Vicwalk News" for subscriptions.

Alan Clarke

Conservation Report For 1991/92

The major event for the year was the Wilderness recommendations proposed by the Land Conservation Council. These recommendations defined a "wilderness" and covered the recognition of major wilderness areas and other areas of major significance within the state. Management proposals were also recommended. As such it is a very important piece of work for this state and bushwalking in particular.

Submissions were called for and it is pleasing that a number of members were prepared to devote some time to preparing them. A large number of submissions were received from all sides and we can be sure that our efforts helped to ensure that our needs received due consideration.

It must also be recognised that the conservation issue is an ongoing one, and that if we are to ensure that areas are left untouched, be it for bushwalking or other reasons, we will need to be prepared to make our opinions felt.

Alan Clarke

Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary's job has been a busy one this year, with 84 new people joining the club. We hope to retain most of these new members next year. Our membership now stands at 389, with 16 "News" subscribers.

My thanks to Brian Kilner, for his work in promptly updating the membership database with new members and changes of address. Thanks also to Gina for ensuring that these items appear in "News", often at very short notice.

Members could greatly assist the next Membership Secretary by paying their subscriptions promptly after the AGM.

Penny Stapley

Wilkinson Lodge Report 1991/1992

Wilky got through the year without too many dramas. Its usage pattern was fairly typical: 12¹/₂ winter groups plus one "introduction to Wilky" long weekend. Summer usage was moderate to heavy in December but trailed off in January, weekends excepted. The winter usage is saturated as the above winter visits were spread out over 14-15 weeks and the snow season can't be relied upon that extent. Three of the winter groups were from groups outside The Bushies.

As visitors will be aware there is a sturdy new first aid cabinet in the lounge room. I'd like to thank Peter Bullard for his efforts there.

I'd like also to thank everyone that made a contribution to the maintenance and well-being of Wilky over the year. I won't list names for fear of omission but thanks one and all very much.

The Australia Day work party fastened the roof down with screws so that hopefully it will last a few more years yet. If I have any concerns it is over the life of the stove. The main casting is cracked in a couple of places. If the stove fails it then would be major task to replace it. Some parties complain of the stove not working properly then the next report it working very well. I think much of the variation is with the use. It is very important to keep the flue and stove passageways clear of soot. Keeping the fire to the right (west) side of the firebox exposes the water jacket on the left hand side to the flame. Consistency of heat may help with the cracking problems.

This year the Lodge Manager will have the assistance of a maintenance sub-committee. The sub-committee will be Mick Mann, Rod Mattingley, Ken MacMahon and Hugh Duncan. Mick is in effect the assistant manger so if the manager is not around see Mick regarding keys and maintenance problems. To spread the physical work load it is hoped to introduce a "user mucks in" scheme among The Bushies whereby winter group leaders choose from a list of jobs to be done, possibly when they take their food supplies in or clear out their locker.

All 1992 fees stay at the 1990 rates (note weekly/daily winter rates), viz:-

Non-winter group - \$5/night for members, \$8/night non-members, with a concession of 50% for pensioner/student members. Children under 16 free (provided there is ample adult supervision).

Winter groups - \$42/week members, \$84/week non-members, daily rates 1/5th the appropriate weekly rate (no concessions). The key deposit will be \$50 (winter groups only) refundable when the key(s) are returned, but less a \$5/week/key deduction for keys not returned within the following week.

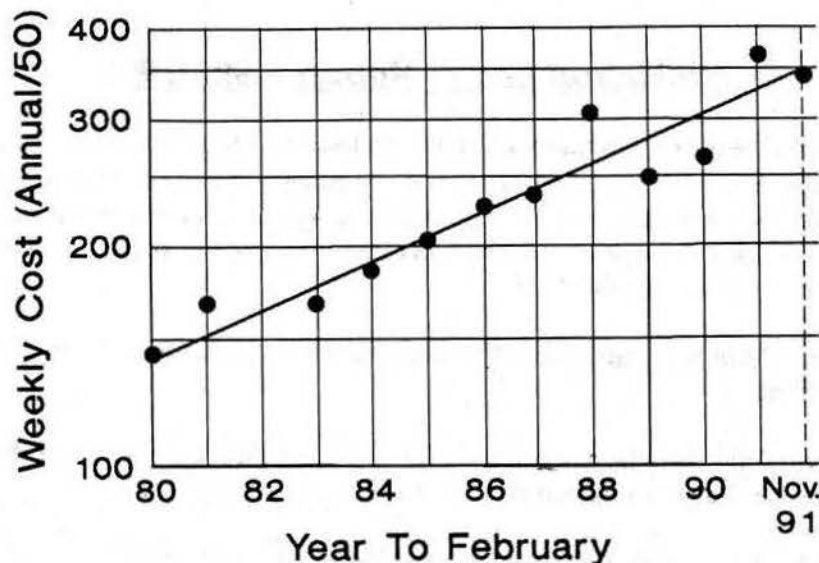
Graeme Thornton, Lodge Manager

Transport Report

For most of the year, the Club has used its bus for Sunday walk transport. On two occasions early in the year, we used a commercial coach, and this prompted questions from several members as to why we did not use them all the time. This led to enquiries by committee and a trial of coach use for the last quarter of the year. A decision regarding which we use for the future must be made at the Annual General Meeting.

Below is a chart showing the average weekly cost of day-walk transport over the last decade. From 1985 onward we were running the bus ourselves and the expenses vary more year-to-year. We were also putting money aside for anticipated large expenses (engine replacement, etc.) or eventually a replacement bus. The trend underlying these figures represents a rate of cost inflation of 8.3% per annum - not too different from the Consumer Price Index over the period.

Sunday Van Costs Since 1979



I would like to extend special thanks to two people who have contributed a lot to the running of the bus, and consequently to the success of our day-walk programme.

Firstly, to Dennis Barson, who has served the Club for most of his lifetime. He drove for us for over years, and although now unable to drive for us, he has continued to clean, refuel, and generally look after the bus for us. As many know, he has retired and now lives in Wonthaggi, and does these jobs for us on his days back up in Melbourne. He has been doing a sterling job for us; a very necessary one but largely unrecognised, and even unknown to all but a few of us.
Many thanks!!!

Thanks also to John Dupuy, who took on the job of driving for us two years ago, but has taken on more responsibilities to help us run more easily. He ensures that we have a responsible driver who knows what we require each week, advises on any problems needing attention with the bus, and has helped out in many other ways, such as arranging emergency transport when our own bus was unavailable, and when we had a breakdown earlier in the year. Again, many thanks.

Rob Ayre

COMMITTEE NOTES - 3 FEBRUARY 1992**CORRESPONDENCE IN :**

Val Elder - Life membership proposal
 Boroondara bushwalkers - invitation to a walk
 Coode Island Progress report
 Vic Council for Civil Liberties - invitation to join
 Friends of Bogong - Newsletter
 Clean up day - invitation to take part
 RACV - response
 Fed of Vic Walking Clubs
 Kooyoora State Park - Proposed Mngmt Plan
 Copley's Solicitors - bequest

CORRESPONDENCE OUT

Copleys Solicitors - bank details
 Shire of Bachus Marsh

WALKS REPORT FOR DECEMBER:

Total	Day walkers	W/E walkers	Members	Visitors	Fees
155	125	30	127	28	\$1246

TREASURER'S REPORT AT 31 JANUARY 1992:

JANUARY RECEIPTS:	\$ 3,616
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BALANCE:

Current Account	1,942
Reserves Account	43,000
Postage float	<u>500</u>
Total	45,442

JANUARY PAYMENTS MADE/TO BE RATIFIED:

Various	3,842
Other estimated January expenses	2,139

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Conservation - The Committee proposed that the incoming Committee form a Conservation sub-committee to take on the tasks of dealing with the various Government and State organisations and the many conservation issues that arise.

DUTY ROSTER:

Feb	12	Becky & Nigel
Feb	19	Janet & Stephen
Feb	26	Alan & Gina
Mar	4	Janet & Jean

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: 2 March 1992 at 7.00pm.

NEW MEMBERS

The Club would like to welcome the following new members:

Carolyn Maclean

Gail Redman