



THE NEWS

OF THE
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

EDITION 491

JANUARY 1992

PRICE 60 C

Registered by Australia Post

Publication No. VBH 1297

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

7.00 P.M. 26 FEBRUARY 1992

The Committee of Management consists of all club officers plus five ordinary members (of whom no more than three shall be of the same sex). The positions of all officers and ordinary members become vacant at the AGM. The present holders of these positions are:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Standing for Re-election</u>
President	Jean Giese	Yes
Vice Presidents	Robert Ayre	No
	Janet Norman	Yes
Secretary	Derrick Brown	Yes
Treasurer	Keith Lloyd	Yes
Walks Secretary	Max Casley	Yes
Membership Secretary	Penny Stapley	No
Social Secretary	Rosa D'Angelo	No
Wilky Manager	Graeme Thornton	Yes
News Convenor	Gina Hopkins	Yes
Ordinary Members	Alan Clarke	Yes
	Stephen Down	No
	Nigel Holmes	No
	Rebecca Marshall	
	Liz Telford	Yes
Other elected positions:		
Auditors	Rosemary Cotter	
	Mark Walters	Yes

All those wishing to stand for the elections must have been members of the club for at least 3 months. Nominations shall preferably be made in writing, signed by two members, bear the consent of the candidate and be delivered to the Secretary before the commencement of the AGM.

If insufficient are received the Chairperson may accept nominations from the floor, provided that the candidate is nominated by two members and is present and indicates willingness to accept.

Jean Giese, President

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 February edition is Wednesday 29 January 1992.

50 YEAR PUBLICATION UPDATE

TITLE CHOSEN!

From the sackful of entries submitted (well, 13 actually) the title "The Melbourne Bushies - 50 Years Along the Track" was democratically chosen at our last meeting. The originator of the title was none other than the editor of "The News" (it wasn't a fix, honestly). Our thanks to those of you who submitted ideas.

We have passed the target date for the submission of the contributions and we now really want all outstanding items to be submitted by **January 15th**. Any further delays will incur delays to our production plans as the editor, Barbara, needs to see **all** the contributions before any serious editing can take place. The hard-working authors have produced some excellent material and by all accounts have had an enjoyable time delving into

the archives and talking to our older and past members.

The position of designer has been filled by Pauline McCleanehan, who will be working closely with the editor.

Another important position has been filled by Bill Metzenthén, who will be responsible for Picture Research. Bill is on the lookout for suitable photographs and slides to illustrate the book, without which it would look rather dull. Bill will return all photographs to the owners, so for those of you with interesting old pictures, please get in touch.

Derrick Brown

BEHIND THE SCENES - Nos 6, 7 & 8

I've been a bit slow with my "behind the scenes" column and must now combine our thanks to the last three workers to fit them in before the AGM.

No. 6 Map Custodian - Trevor Thomson has been looking after our valuable map collection and is currently sorting out old maps which we don't use any more for filing with the archives. Our thanks to you Trevor and we trust all those leaders who borrow maps, record the fact in the borrowing book and return them, AND file them in the right slot.

No.7 Equipment Hire - Becky Marshall is the Committee member responsible for our equipment but it is **Ian Newbold** who hires out the tents,

packs, etc. to those trying out weekend walking, and checks to see all is in order when the goods are returned. Hope you are considering keeping on with you good work in 1992 Ian.

No. 8 Christmas Party. We had another lovely night on Wednesday 18 December, with the hall decorated and the table looking festive. **Betty Spencer** has taken charge of the arrangements for our Xmas party for several years and, judging by the number of members who turn up, it is an occasion which is looked forward to and enjoyed. Our thanks, Betty for your cheerful and able organisation of this annual event.

Jean Giese, President

SUN. 16 FEB 92 KOALA FALLS - CUMBERLAND JUNCTION EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS : JOHN KITTSOON & WENDY REES
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.

For details of this walk, please see leaders in the clubrooms.

WED. 19 FEB 92 BEACH WALK - SOMERS AREA EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER : JOAN HAIGH
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : FLINDERS
 APPROX DISTANCE : 14 KM

Meet at Margaret MacGregor's, 9 Argyll St, Chadstone at 8.30a.m. or at Somers, opposite P.O & Store at 9.45a.m.

A return beach walk through Balnarring and Merricks to Point Leo or beyond if not swimming weather. Please bring water for lunch, swim gear and sunscreen. Annual cuppa at the completion of the walk.

SUN. 23 FEB 92 MT. DONNA BUANG - BOOBYALLA SADDLE EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS : ROSA D'ANGELO & MAUREEN HURLEY
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.

For details of this walk, please see leaders in the clubrooms.

SAT. 29 FEB 92 DANDENONGS: LYSTERFIELD LAKE PARK EASY

LEADER : MICHAEL HUMPHREY
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 5.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS MAPS 108, 83 AND 82
 APPROX DISTANCE : 12KM

Come along and join me on the first Dandenongs Walk for the year. Access to the park is via the entrance and ticket office in Horswood Road (Melway Map 108 D2, off the Belgrave-Hallam Road). There is a nominal entrance fee per car.

Due to the lack of toilet facilities (except for the main car park) we will have lunch before commencing the walk. If you would like to have lunch we will meet at 12.00 noon in the southern car park (i.e. near the dam wall) and will commence the walk at 1.00 p.m. SHARP.

We should arrive back at the cars at around 5.30 p.m. where I would like to invite you all to have a barbecue with me (BYO everything). The picnic area that we will be using is located next to the only swimming beach in the park, so bring your bathers if the weather is warm. Please note that the park closes at approx. 8.00 p.m., but this should give us plenty of time to have a leisurely dinner. What better way to end a walk! Of course if the weather is hot you may choose not to do the walk and instead just soak up the sun by the lake or you may like to meet us at the picnic area at approx. 5.30 p.m. for the barbecue only.

If you can't come by private transport, please ring me on Phone: (H) after 7.30 p.m. and we will try to organise something.

21-23 FEB 92 WILSON'S PROM CIRCUIT - 3 DAY EASY/MED

LEADER : DAVID LINDSAY
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : SUNDAY EVENING
 MAP REFERENCE : WILSON'S PROM NATIONAL PARK 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 50 KM

Mt Oberon, Sealers Cove, Refuge Cove, Waterloo Bays, Mt Oberon circuit.

An easy (medium) going three day walk starting late Friday morning from Mt Oberon and returning to Mt Oberon on Sunday afternoon. Hoping for plenty of clear weather, good views and wildlife.

21-23 FEB 92 AROUND WILSON'S PROM IN A DAY MED/HARD

LEADER : SPENCER GEORGE
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 9.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : ANY WILSON'S PROMONTORY MAP
 APPROX DISTANCE : 50 KM

Saturday will be a twelve hour walk with swimming on most of the beaches in the circuit - Tidal River, Sealers Cove, Refuge Cove, Waterloo Bays, Oberon Bays, Norman Bay.

Sunday will be less energetic walking from Darby Saddle to Tongue Point and Darby River.

21-23 FEB 92 WILSON'S PROM - BEGINNERS PACK CARRY EASY

LEADER : LIZ TELFORD
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : SUNDAY EVENING
 APPROX DISTANCE : 18 KM

Wilson's Prom in February - it will be great! I'm leading an easy backpack into Sealers Cove on the Saturday. We should be at Sealers by lunchtime after a lovely walk with scenic views, waterfalls, fern gullies, eucalypt forests and swamp lands.

Saturday afternoon you can laze on the beach, explore the cove or go an easy walk led by Dot Christian half way to Refuge Cove along the new coast track.

On Sunday we will head back to Mt Oberon Car Park. This trip is ideal for those wishing to have a go at backpacking at a nice easy pace. Limit of 12.

28 FEB - 1 MAR 92 N. W. SPUR - MT FEATHERTOP - RAZORBACK MED/HARD

LEADER : STEPHEN DOWN
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : LATE SUNDAY NIGHT
 MAP REFERENCE : BOGONG ALPINE AREA VICMAP 1:50,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 25 KM

The walk will start from the Trout Farm before Harrierville and climb up the N.W. Spur. The spring below Mt Feathertop should provide much needed water as water will most likely be very scarce. Feathertop will be ascended without packs.

Camp will be made around High Knob. Sunday we will continue along the Razorback and then head down Bon Accord Spur to Harrierville. A car shuffle will be required, otherwise we will have to trudge down the road back to the Trout Farm.

MARCH 1992 - EARLY PREVIEW:**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

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:

20-22 MAR 92 JUMBUK PARK

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)

From the 1940's to the 1990's - A Matter of History

The club is the proud owner of a couple of photograph albums from the 1940's. The albums contain many photos (black and white) of favourite bushwalking places such as Wilson's Promontory and are of obvious interest many years on.

It would be a great idea to put together another album(s) this year to complement these two for years to come, and I have undertaken to co-ordinate such a project. Members are therefore requested to either search their recent collections, or take photos for the project. The following general guidelines will apply:

- photos should generally be contemporary, e.g. within the last 12 or the next 6 months;
- subjects should be of interest, e.g. identifiable landmarks, members of the club;

- series of photos of a particular walk are generally more informative than single shots and therefore most welcome;
- people, objects, photographers, dates to be identified as far as possible for subsequent inclusion.

Members will be asked to donate photos, however reimbursement for particular reasons (e.g. large numbers) will be considered. Proper acid-free albums are to be obtained to ensure a long life for the product.

Anyone wishing to contribute or help please see me, or, contributions with full details provided, can be given to me in the club rooms.

Alan Clarke (H) 429 3264

High Plains Cattlemen's Hut Loss

With great sadness we record the loss by fire of Fitzgerald's Hut. This hut, close by Kelly's Hut and not far from our own Wilky, was built in 1902 by George Fitzgerald from snow-gum and woollybutt and was in its original form apart from the chimney that was added around 1933 and the tin roof that replaced the original shingle tiles.

As well as being used for cattle mustering the hut was used in the 30's for ski trips by the Melbourne Women's Walking Club who employed George Fitzgerald and family for the supply of packhorses. The hut was apparently destroyed by an unsupervised party of schoolchildren who lit a huge fire in the fireplace which got out of control.

The Fitzgerald family have declared their intention of rebuilding the hut.

Derrick Brown

Kosciusko National Park

Between Christmas and New Year we parked our car at Dead Horse Gap as we've done many times before. On the Victorian side there is no National Park entrance at which to pay entry fees.

We were unpleasantly surprised to find a parking infringement notice on our windscreen when we returned after our walk. So it seems that the days of free entry from Victoria are over.

Merilyn Wimpey

Yet Another Bushie Baby

Weekend walkers of the early 1980's will remember Derek Conder, who spent a few years here cooking for bus-camping tours, commuting to Antarctica, and walking with us most weekends when he was in town.

He and his wife Hazel welcomed the arrival of their daughter Corrie Margaret on September 18. We are advised that all is well, but that winger in the north of Scotland is rather bleak!

Condolences

We extend our sympathy to day walker, Peter McGrath whose mother died suddenly after surgery. Good to see you back on the track on the 15th December, Peter.

Environmental News- Coode Island Report

The club regularly receives environmental reports from various government departments and agencies.

As an example, we have received copies of the Coode Island Review Panel's reports. While Coode Island is not exactly high on our list of potential walks, it is obviously better to receive all the reports than none of them.

Anyone wishing to read this and other reports can find them in the clubrooms.

Federation News- New location

Readers wishing to contact the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs should note that the staff member, Elizabeth Doery, has moved to 26 The Boulevard, North Balwyn, 3104. The new phone number is

Don't forget to get a copy of the Federation's book - "The Scroggin Eaters". It is a very interesting book about the history of the Federation and bush-walking in Victoria, and includes MBW members.

Walker Magazine - Is it the End?

It would appear so. Many members will know that the MBW's annual magazine WALK finished several years ago. WALKER, produced by the Melbourne Walking Club, will apparently go the same way, despite an attempt by the Federation to keep it going. The demand for such small-scale magazines is just not enough to justify the effort and expenditure. They now of course compete against glossy monthly magazines such as WILD. All good things. . . .

Alan Clarke

FIRST AID FOR BUSHWALKERS

On Wednesday, 2 October 1991, Dr Ric Bouvier gave a talk at the clubrooms on first aid for bushwalkers. Below is a summary of his presentation.

Accidents are likely to happen when you are bushwalking - minor ones often and serious ones occasionally. First aid starts when you accept that accidents could happen to you or to one of your party and you prepare beforehand to prevent them and to treat the resulting injuries. Think of all the worst things that could happen and make plans now. I hope these thoughts do not stop you walking, just make it safer.

You will need some first aid equipment on your walks, but your first aid skills are more important to take along with you. Plan what equipment you might need for the more likely emergencies and enrol in a first aid course. At the least, read and practise first aid skills such as in the St. John Book, *Staying Alive*.

There are three sorts of first aid situations:

- A. the usual life-threatening emergencies,
- B. the effects of heat and cold which could occur on some walks, and
- C. minor injuries.

A. In life-threatening emergencies apply life-saving measures, get help and arrange transport. Plan your route, the escapes, communications and transport. Bushwalking should be fun, exciting and adventurous but no foolhardy risks, please. You can still enjoy the challenge, the risks and the excitement and be reasonably safe.

Learn the A B C of first aid and the emergency management of the life-threatening emergencies.

1. Recognise an emergency promptly. Keep contact and check on each other.
2. Recognise further dangers to yourself and to the victim.
3. Protect yourself and rescue the victim.
4. Yell for help.
5. Check for coma and place the victim onto their side.
6. Check the airway and clear it by tilting the head back and removing obstructions.
7. Check for breathing and if it is absent, give 5 mouth to mouth breaths.
8. Check for circulation and, if you cannot feel the pulse and if you have had C P R training, apply C P R.
9. Check for severe bleeding and apply direct pressure over the bleeding site.
10. Check for burns and scalds and apply cold water for 10 minutes and then a dressing.
11. Check for fractures by feeling and if in doubt, support and immobilise the injured part.
12. Check for shock and lay the victim down and protect them from the weather.
13. Check for poisoning and in case of a snake bite apply pressure-immobilisation to the bitten part.
14. Check for allergic shock and give frequent puffs from a Ventolin or similar asthma spray.

Get help. Use your pre-planned communications to send a message for transport or an ambulance and give the exact location, the number of victims and the nature of the emergency.

B. Hyper- and hypo-thermia are not common. Many bushwalkers feel hot or cold but few have changes in their internal body temperature as occurs in hyper- or hypo-thermia which can be quite dangerous. You cannot measure these changes out in the bush but suspect them. Expect them, predict them, prevent them, pick them up and treat them early.

Provide shelter, protect from further heat gain or loss, and arrange their rapid evacuation promptly. Strip the clothing and give plenty of drinks and coll sponges for hyperthermia. Remove wet clothing, dry and wrap in blankets or insulation sheets and give warm, non-alcoholic drinks for hypothermia.

You will need more training and practice in this area if you are going into places where extreme heat or cold could suddenly arise.

C. You can probably manage well the first aid care of minor cuts, scratches, abrasions, burns, blisters, strains, sunburn, headaches, weakness and other non-life-threatening conditions. Your own and others' experiences and equipment on the walk can usually offer first aid care and support to enable the victim with minor injuries to finish the walk and seek medical care.

FIRST AID EQUIPMENT should be the minimal that is essential to cope with the expected emergencies. A mobile telephone could be high on the list if it can reach help. The group can pool equipment and can improvise from clothing, things lying about the bush, drinking water and tissues to clean wounds and act as dressings. Essential items are triangular bandages, roller bandages, wound dressings, adhesive dressings, scissors or a knife, water, tissues and paper and a pencil for messages. Other items are optional or are for special emergencies anticipated on some longer walks in certain areas.

In summary: Plan your walks, anticipate injuries, work out how to call for help and evacuate in emergencies, learn some first aid relevant to possible needs, carry essential equipment and then go and enjoy your walks.

Dr Ric Bouvier, December 1991

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

ALONG THE TRACK**UP THE BLUFF AND DOWN THE RIVER 22-24 NOV 1991**

This epic trip began on a Saturday morning with a long drive along the valley of the Wonnangatta River near Dargo to a property called Happy Valley nestling idyllically under the Snowy Bluff.

The day promised to be hot, dry and sunny - so the cars were parked under the shady trees and 16 of us set off for water and an interesting discovery of a reconstruction of the Smith Family's original homestead, a log and mud (wattle and daub?) hut complete with all the paraphernalia of the 1870's. We lingered a while and hints of the connection with the Wonnangatta Homestead murders were made. Bill was heard to mutter "Doesn't look as though we'll get to the top for lunch" - bit of an understatement!

However, off we set with high hopes up the Snowy Bluff, a gentle climb of 1000 metres. As the day was hot and the climb steady, one of our party, perhaps with a premonition of what was to come, decided to spend the weekend in the valley.

By 1.00 we were about half-way to the top, so a lunch stop was called and plans were made for afternoon tea on the top. Mmmm!!

After lunch more steady walking until we were halted by an impressive rock face. A route was shown on the map so we walked under the rock face in search of this illusive route. Two of the party, Tim James and Peter Chalkey, both with a penchant for rock climbing, found a suitable rock face to test their skills while the rest of the party continued the search for the mythical route.

Meanwhile the day was getting hotter, the water bottles emptier, legs tired, the hour later, the rock bluff more like a brick wall, spirits flagging, mutinous mutterings.

"Ah!" says Rod Mattingley with a sigh of pleasure, "this is what bushwalks used to be like!".

Never fear, prospective weekend walkers, with people like Marilyn Whimpey and Bill Metzthen in control all was not lost and eventually a route, not incidentally the one shown on the map, was found by Marilyn, and we were all triumphantly on the top at about 7.00p.m. The next part of the walk was down the Bluff some kilometres to a creek with a small area for camping. This all took a little longer than desirable and as darkness fell so did we, somewhat exhausted from fighting the bush, and the discussion began about the necessity of bivouacing in the bush - with little water - not a great prospect. Fortunately some are made of sterner stuff so Bill and Rod set off in search of the

elusive creek and after a couple of sorties reported back that they had found the creek and campsite.

On the stroke of midnight all tents were up and long cups of tea were being drunk. Away down in the valley a flickering campsite was seen, probably Tim and Peter.

The next day we walked down to the Moroka River and met up with Tim and Peter who had reached their campsite at 7 o'clock. We then walked down the river, rockhopping, swimming, wading, falling in, stepping over red-bellied black snakes, all good fun until we came to the confluence of the Wonnangatta and Moroka Rivers. A final track bash back to the cars and then the long drive back to Melbourne.

A great walk Bill and Marilyn - it's the stuff legends are made of!!

Janet Norman

**Don't throw it away!
....take it to the experts:**

WALKALONG
Skilled Repairs to all Sports Gear

* Tents * Walking Boots * Ski Boots *
* Golf bags * Zip replacements *
* Bags & Cases * Packs *

524 Camberwell Road
Camberwell 3124

Tel: 889 2800
Fax: 889 2800

MT SPECULATION 7-8 DEC 1991

The fine weather that had been booked had materialised and we began to warm up as we grunted our way up the first of several steepish climbs of the weekend, carrying litres of water in expectation of high temperatures. We were climbing King Spur, having camped at Howqua Gap on Friday night and having left the cars by the old log bridge crossing King River. The maps show some huts just up the track, there was now no sign of any huts except for a metal shower cubicle which was still in use by two old timers who looked as if they had been camping there for some considerable time. They swore that there was no track to King Spur around, although they were camping not a half-kilometre away from it!

We soon found the old 4WD road and once we had gained King Spur, it was easy walking along the ridge until we reached the rocky outcrops of Mt Koonica. Some scrambling soon brought us to the peak from which we were rewarded with the first of many 360° views, revealing the Crosscut Saw, Mt Speculation, Howitt, Magdala, the Razor, the Viking.....wonderful country. Then on to Mt Speculation, and a campsite with a million-dollar view, overlooking Terrible Hollow. We watched the sun go down and the stars come up as we sat around the campfire. It was a warm night and we compared it with the weekend only four weeks previously, when we had been in the same area and it had snowed!

Sunday was again a beautiful warm day and the morning saw us descending into Horrible Gap then climbing Mt Buggery for morning tea. I just love the track from Speculation - so full of contrasts. Then it was along Queen Spur, where the leader was unable to resist the temptation to come off the spur too early! Lunch was taken on the Pimple, which was a short steep climb. It was downhill all the way from there, following the spur that took us back to the start point, where we jumped into the creek for a welcome cooling swim. The weekend was rounded off with a late afternoon tea at Yea.

Party - Gina Hopkins, Keith White, Janet Norman, Max Casley, Peter Ashby, Trish Elmore, Barbara Weiss, Darrell Rolfe

Derrick Brown.

**KOSCIUSKO NATIONAL PARK
21 DEC 1991 - 1 JAN 1992**

It was good to have an ex-President, Graham Wills-Johnson, leading the extended walk at Christmas. There was much enthusiasm to participate but an assortment of ill-luck reduced the numbers to five - Rosemary broke her arm (mending well); Sylvia

Andrews went down with glandular fever just before departure and Dave went out in sympathy (good that you are slowly recovering, Sylvia); Mark Durré wrote his car off in a freeway pile-up (glad that you walked away with only a slight neck injury, Mark); and several others couldn't get the necessary days off work in these precarious times.

We had a great walk. Graham, Wendy Barnes and I climbed up, up, from Island Bend then generally north along Bar Ridge, beside Dead Horse Creek, across the Burrungubugge River and made the hard, scrubby climb on the Main Divide just north of the Bulls Peaks. We continued on quite close to the eastern boundary of the park, with glorious views, lovely campsites and carpets of alpine flowers at our feet. There was the wonderful sense of being out there all alone, in fact it was not until day 6, after reaching our farthest point north at Happy's Hut and turning south-west, that we disturbed a solo walker when we called in at Brook's Hut.

A thunderstorm caught us at Doubtful Gap, where Graham had us doing our lightning drill, then the planned rendezvous with Graeme Thornton and Alex Stirkul, who had walked in up Farm Ridge Fire Trail, brought our party to full strength.

Jagungal, which had been smiling on us for most of the way, now disappeared as misty days gave enchantment and relief from the March flies but posed some difficulties for our able navigator. Beside the Geehi and passing between Strawberry Hill and Tarn Bluff, we were in familiar country, seeing parties near Mawsons Hut and tents nestling here and there in the Kerries.

A magical campsite at 1960m, sheltered by huge boulders and with views of the Main Range and as far as Bogong and Nelse, will long be remembered. A clear, lovely day we had for the ascent of Gungartan to Tin Hut and last camp in the shadow of Mt. Porcupine, with even the men getting excited about the Alpine Marsh Marigolds blooming in profusion in the ice caves on the edge of the melting snowdrifts.

Our lay day had been postponed and it was just as well for 24 hours of heavy rain and mist found us enjoying the warmth and comfort of the tents. The final day dawned fair and there was good walking along Tolbar Ridge and a not-recommended scrubby descent to the Snowy River.

Our thanks for a wonderful 11½ days to our leader who discovered, even to a man of his experience and ability, there are always navigational surprises.

Jean Giese

LILLO TRIP - SHOALHAVEN RIVER 27 DEC 1991 - 1 JAN 1992

Day 1. Fine, 30°+. From Wattle Flat we walked 330m down a steep, well-used trail to Sewell Point on the Shoalhaven River. We inflated lilos and practised, and when we felt ready for lesson 2, we shouldered our packs, sat on our lilos and struck out downstream. Before the afternoon was out we had encountered about 1/2 dozen rapids, each one teaching us something more about balancing on the lilo, and most of them getting us pretty wet. A technique soon learnt when controlling the lilo, pack and paddles all became too much was to jettison the pack at the start of a rapid and try and recover it later. The rapids alternated with stretches of calm where we had time to admire the scenery.

Scratched shins were common that first day, but at the end of the day we all felt much more in control of the ship (er, lilo). We had covered about 3km. The river in flood leaves two things which make camping on the Shoalhaven a delight - high sandy beaches and piles of driftwood. We camped beside a long, wide, deep swimming pool and spent the rest of the afternoon swimming and relaxing.

Day 2. Overcast. The party demonstrated its increasing skill in running rapids on a lilo. Stan lost his sunglasses, and during lunch at Rocky Creek went upstream looking for them (in vain). Somewhere between Rocky Creek and Endrick River we all got thoroughly dumped in a 1m rapid and Spencer declared camp just downstream. Stan had broken a blade off his paddle so we searched for it in the pool below the rapid. A party of kayakers arrived and offered a found piece of canoe as a replacement blade which Lloyd and Stan engineered onto the shaft with lots of tape.

Day 3. Overcast, cool wind. We set off promptly at 8.10am, hoping to camp next at Nerrimunga Creek. The taped blade held, but within minutes of setting off Stan's lilo punctured. The party waited at the mouth of the Endrick River, playing in the rapid until Stan eventually arrived on foot. We made a fire, dried and patched the lilo.

500m downstream we raced through an exciting series of rapids and looked with dismay to see Rosa holding a limp lilo; it had a huge L-shaped tear which Lloyd covered with two large patches. To warm ourselves, as well as drying lilos, we got into the practise of starting a fire as soon as we stopped, removing most or all clothes, and standing around the fire drying (at least warming) the wet clothes before putting them back on. We set off again, and this time got another 2 km before it was Max's turn, liloing over a shark-fin shaped rock. Deciding that

the Fates were against us, we made camp just downstream from Water Race Creek. After dinner, Lloyd told camel joke #33.

Day 4. Overcast, some headwinds. We set off at 8.05 and didn't stop until morning tea at 11am after Nerrimunga Creek. We didn't make much tea but clustered around a raging fire. Keen to get back on schedule, we powered on till 2 pm lunch at a large island below Panning Hill. We paddled through Little and Great Horseshoe Bends in about 2 hours, and camped below Assay Buttress at 5.30, tired and cold, but satisfied, having travelled about 16 km.

Day 5. (New Year's Eve) Overcast. Soon after morning tea near New Come Up Creek, we reached one of the most exciting rapids on the trip where the full current of the river was focussed along a channel less than a metre wide. I can still see Steve, completely soaked, standing on top of a rock above the rapid with his camera in hand, waving us through. This was a rapid which separated pack, paddle, lilo and rider and dumped them into a deep pool. Gina, Derrick, Lloyd, Rosa and I went through as a group and became a chaos of gear, people and swirling water.

To warm up, we paddled heartily until lunch at Paradise Creek. We then entered Blockup Canyon, one of the most scenic parts of the trip. The canyon walls are over 100m high and intricately fractured. That evening, after dinner a thunderstorm broke and steady rain set in, so there were no New Years Eve celebrations.

Day 6. Overcast dawn, fine by 12 am. By now we were proficient in negotiating rapids and so remained fairly dry. We reached Bungonia Creek, our final destination, by 12 am. The sun, out at last, made it easy to dry our gear for the climb out, but it was ironic to have had the sun for the climb in and out, and not while on the river.

The other most scenic part of the trip is Bungonia Canyon - sheer limestone cliffs up to 285m above a creek strewn with huge limestone boulders of fantastic shapes. Climbing through and over these boulders was great fun but a little awkward at times with a full pack. Finally, we waded waist-high through a pool, had a last swim and set off on the steep 370m climb up to Bungonia Lookdown, and then back to the campsite.

Party: Spencer George, Max Casley, Gina Hopkins, Derrick Brown, Lloyd Young, Rosa D'Angelo, Stan Mackowiak, Steve Rowlands

Don Isdale

COMMITTEE NOTES - 7 JANUARY 1992**CORRESPONDENCE IN :**

Lloyd Reynolds - thank you -News/programme
 Paddy Pallin - tree planting
 Coode Island - progress report
 Urlich's International periodicals directory
 Coode Island report
 Mel Womens Walking Club - request to use Wilky
 Canberra 2 day walking trip
 Wilderness Society - Appeal
 Coode Island issues paper

CORRESPONDENCE OUT

Urlich's Int periodicals directory - update
 Sally Bouvier - "News" advertising info
 Thank You - Frank Roberts

BUSINESS ARISING:

4 drawer filing cabinet to be purchased. Whiteboard to be purchased.

WALKS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER:

Total	Day walkers	W/E walkers	Members	Visitors	Fees
244	196	48	206	38	\$1537

This report excludes walks on Saturday 30 and Sunday 24 November as figures are not yet available. The Autumn programme is in draft. Alan Miller is to become Assistant Walks Secretary, with special responsibility for Sunday walks.

TREASURER'S REPORT AT 31 DECEMBER 1991:

DECEMBER RECEIPTS:	\$ 996
--------------------	--------

BALANCE:

Current Account	2,169
Reserves Account	43,000
Postage float	<u>500</u>
Total	45,669

DECEMBER PAYMENTS MADE/TO BE RATIFIED:

Various	1,338
---------	-------

DECEMBER PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL:

Various	996
---------	-----

MEMBERSHIP

280 single members, 46 couples, 15 News subscribers, 9 Life, 8 Honorary, Total 389

FEDERATION

A letter re the Federation budget for 92/93 is to be sent.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Yearly Reports from all officers are to be printed in February News.
 Membership to be advised of procedure for Life Membership proposals.
 A new Walks booking system using vouchers was given approval and is to be designed by Keith.

DUTY ROSTER:

Jan	15	Alan & Rob
Jan	22	Penny & Rosa
Jan	29	Liz & Steven
Feb	5	Gina & Derrick

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: 3 February 1992 at 7.00pm.

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

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

NEW MEMBERS

The Club would like to welcome the following new members:

Serena Badhan

Anita Mehta

CHANGES OF INFORMATION

Brian Bowditch

Lisa Fielding

Julie Samson

Margaret Tuohey

Liz Telford

Geoff & Sandy Mattingley

Anna Hepi

Joan Haigh