



THE NEWS

OF THE
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

EDITION 506

APRIL 1993

PRICE 60 C

Registered by Australia Post

Publication No. VBH 1297

SOCIAL EVENTS

APRIL'S MOVIE - "TOYS" Thursday 29 April

The movie this month will be the Robin Williams comedy, "Toys". Unfortunately the theatres cannot confirm screening times as yet but the session will be on Thursday 29 April.

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Don't forget Mark Tischler's
Nepal slide night on 21st April.

The show starts in the club rooms at 8.00 pm.
See last month's News for more information.

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GEOLOGY FOR BUSHWALKERS Wednesday 26 May

Have you ever wondered why our mountains are where they are, and look the way they do? Have you ever picked up a rock or a mineral specimen on a walk and wanted to know more about it?

If the answer is yes, come to club night on May 26, and Peter Crohn, with the help of slides and specimens, will try to explain it all.

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Watch the noticeboard for details of Bushdancing!

Andrew Low, Social Secretary

1993 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

Members now have less than 2 months (April and May) to renew membership. Failure to pay dues within that time means that qualifying walks will be necessary to rejoin.

Ordinary Members	\$27	
Concession *	\$18	* Proof required
Couples	\$39	
News Subscribers	\$15	

Please post your payment to:

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

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 Editor on

Closing date for the May edition is Wednesday 28 April 1993.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

CHANGES AMONG THE WORKERS

Newly re-elected Chris Lynch has found that he needs to relinquish his office of **Membership Secretary**. New Committee member **Peter Havlicek** has agreed to act in this position until the next General Meeting in August. He is already hard at work collecting subs from members renewing for 1993 and receiving applications for membership from qualified visitors wishing to join up.

For 2 years **Brian Kilner** has been quietly keeping lists and printing labels for "News" on his home computer. Being a computer man also, Peter H. will incorporate this task into his membership secretary's job. Our thanks to you, Brian, for your work and patience with the Committee's numerous and sometimes odd requests.

Vice president **Merilyn Whimpey** has taken on the onerous job of **Equipment Officer**, checking and hiring out our tents, packs and sleeping bags to members and visitors. Thanks to **Ian Newbold** who assisted committee member **Becky Marshall** with this chore during the past two years.

Ron Garrett is our new **Map Custodian**, replacing **Trevor Thomson**. Trevor and Rosemary have moved residence to near Daylesford but are retaining their membership and will suss out and lead new walks for us in that area. Thanks Trevor, and everyone, do take care when borrowing maps to make sure that you enter them in the borrowing book, return them and file in the correct slot, or we will find Ron tearing out some of his abundant covering of hair!

So many members work quietly at the tasks which keep the Club running smoothly and we are very grateful to them.

FINANCE

At the April meeting, the newly elected committee addressed the fact that the fares collected on the bus are not quite meeting the cost of hiring the bus. After much discussion the motion was passed that, as from 6 June (the start of the winter programme), the bus fare should be \$13, the concession fare being \$9.

CLUB'S ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Up until June last year when we decided to sell the Bedford van, we had been putting money aside for major repairs and/or replacement of our asset. We had saved a good sum on which we were receiving, at times, up to 18% interest which we added to the total. Then we sold the van for \$9000. Added altogether we have an amount of almost \$30,000.

At the half yearly general meeting in August 1992 the decision was taken not to replace the van. This has left us with this sum in surplus to our current income and expenditure. What should be done with this?

Obviously it is something for the whole membership to think about, and a general meeting would be the place to make the decision. So your committee asks everyone to give the matter some thought and to write to the Secretary with your ideas.

Some options already suggested are:

- keep it for a possible future need
- use it to subsidise future walks
- purchase a piece of bush land
- donate it to an appropriate organisation such as
 - Victorian National Parks Association
 - Victorian Conservation Trust which acquires land to add to parks and flora reserves.

Jean Giese, President

FEDERATION MEETING 2 MARCH 1993**Search & Rescue**

- A new manual is to be printed in the near future and will be launched at the May 8th exercise to be held in Armadale.

Conservation

- A power line is being constructed to Mt Hotham and will probably continue on to Dinner Plain along the ski trail, cutting through the Alpine Park. This work has gone ahead without consultation!
- The 4WD lobby is pushing to maintain and upgrade tracks which will mean less and less unspoilt, quiet walking areas. A campaign "Tread Lightly" is being conducted by the lobby in what the Federation see as an attempt to soften their image. As this lobby is very vocal, walkers must speak up or our concerns will not be heard by the decision makers.
- Timber harvesting has been reported in areas of the spotted tree frog's habitat.
- Flinders Shire is closing roads in the Greens Bush area due to the Black Spot problem. It was felt that the use of the area by the equestrian fraternity was not helping the problem.

Tracks

- A group of Sydney walkers is proposing the formation of a track linking North Queensland and South Tasmania. The Federation, although supportive, has doubts about how the project could be financed.
- Work is being done to have a track formed in the Castlemaine/Daylesford area of the Great Dividing Range.

Insurance

- Most clubs have doubts about the current insurance policy and the executive are to investigate alternatives and make a decision for the Federation.

Track Clearing - 20-21 November 1993

- Suggestions are requested for tracks which need clearing and the club is asked to nominate the area in which we will be working.

Federation Day

- The Melbourne Walking Club will conduct the 1994 walks on 27 March.

T-Shirts

- Some unprinted T-shirts are for sale @ \$5-6. HURRY!!

Maps

- Courtesy of Stuart Brookes (VMTC) each club was given 2 maps, Round Mountain and MacAlister River.

*Athol Schafer (MBW delegate)
Andrew Low (delegate in training)*

CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The next Conservation Sub-Committee meeting is **Wednesday 28 April** at 7.30 in the clubrooms. This meeting is open to all Club members.

Peter Day

Letter from Vanuatu

Recently I received a letter from Allan and Lillian Kitchener who were active club members several years ago, and then went to the Solomon Islands and then to Vanuatu. They are still News Subscribers. Older members will remember how Allan led interesting walks which sometimes finished in moonlight. Lillian is the liaison officer for the US Peace Corps and Allan works for the Vanuatu Government and hopes to work on the EEC funded program.

One interesting snippet "It's the women who are responsible for providing water for the house and who worries if they have to walk a couple of kilometres for water." Hmm! Something to remember for future camping trips.

Allan says he keeps meaning to write an article on walking in Vanuatu (a bit like I keep meaning to write to him). Good idea, Allan - how about it! [He's done it! See article on page 10. Ed.]

Max Casley

CLUB LIBRARY

John and Marion Siseman have donated and autographed two books for our library in the clubrooms - thanks John and Marion.

- Melbourne's Mountains - Exploring the Great Divide on foot and by car
- Wonnangatta Moroka National Park

Max Casley

DAY WALKS - MAY 1993**SUN 2 MAY 93 NAVIGATION DAY & WALK EASY**

LEADER : A DO-IT-YOURSELF DAY PLANNED AND CO-ORDINATED BY ROBERT AYRE
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : DAYLESFORD 1:25,000 (See below)
 APPROX DISTANCE : 13 KM

Have you ever wondered how you would cope if separated from the group on a walk? Or would you like to lead a walk, and feel daunted by anything more geographically challenging than a beach walk? Would you like to go out in a smaller group but worried about getting lost? Here is the opportunity to learn the basics of navigation in the bush with map and compass.

Participants on the walk will find their way around a course of about 13 km in small groups. The course lies in the open forest country to the east of Hepburn Springs, and will start and finish in the mineral springs park. (Bring a cup, or maybe a bottle to fill, but be aware that natural mineral water is not quite like the supermarket variety.) The walking and the navigation are fairly easy, and the course can be shortened or lengthened to suit each group's skills.

For those who would like some initial training, we will run a class in the Clubrooms on the Thursday evening before the walk, 29 April, from 7.30 to about 9.30, at which we will run through the basics of map and compass use. Please check with the leader if you are attending. It is optional, and a help if you've no prior experience, but it is *not* a prerequisite for coming on the walk.

For the walk, and for the class, you will need a map, a compass and a pencil. To save a lot of running around, I will be getting in a number of copies of the map for sale. The club has a few compasses for hire, or if you want to buy one, we may be able to arrange a group purchase. If you are buying one, I'd recommend something like the Silva type 3NL or its equivalent; the smaller ones are more difficult to use with the map.

SUN 11 APR 93 LAL LAL RESERVOIR - MT DORAN EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS : PETER HAVLICEK & CHRIS LYNCH
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : LAL LAL 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 12 & 15 KM

The Mount Doran area is timbered but with an open undergrowth. We shall be walking mainly along bush tracks but there may be some bushbashing. There are numerous old mines and abandoned habitations in the area. At the Lal Lal (Bungal) reservoir there is a well preserved blast furnace dating from the 1870's. Good views.

SAT 8 MAY 93 HISTORICAL WALK - FLEMINGTON EASY

LEADER : ATHOL SCHAFFER
 TRANSPORT : TRAIN
 MEETING PLACE : 10.45 A.M. UNDER THE CLOCKS, FLINDERS STREET STATION
 EXPECTED RETURN : 5.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS 2A, 28, 29, 42

Robert Fleming, one of the earliest settlers in the locality, brought some cattle to Australia. He provided the meat eaten at the earliest race meetings. This walk also covers parts of Kensington and Macaulay which go back to the early days. Back in the city by 5.00 p.m.

SUN 9 MAY 93 TIPPERARY TK - DAYLESFORD - HEPBURN SPRINGS EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS : PETER BULLARD & PHILIP LARKIN
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.

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

SUN 16 MAY 93 ZIG ZAG TRK - MT MACEDON - BRAEMAR TRK E/MED & MEDIUM

LEADERS : JOHN KITSON & IAN NEWBOLD
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.30 - 7.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MACEDON 1:25,000, WOODEND 1:25,000, MACEDON FOREST PARK MAP
 APPROX DISTANCE : 15 & 18 KM

Mt Macedon is an area with excellent views, tall trees and cool fern gullies, and what's more, it's not far from Melbourne.

The medium walk has a slight climb at the start. This plus the extra 3 km separates it from the easy/medium walk. Both walks start near the township of Mt Macedon and make their way up and onto the 'Camel's Hump'. From here you can see the famous Hanging Rock a few kilometres off in the distance. A short while later at the summit of Mt Macedon, the views are spectacular. Firstly looking down on the townships of both Mt Macedon and Macedon, and out in the distance the 'big smoke' can be seen. The best part is the quietness, no trail bikes, trams or cars can annoy you on this summit. Just birds and the breeze blowing through the trees. Sounds good doesn't it.

Both groups will be making their way down the Braemar Track to the famous Braemar College and it was here that a lot of the scenes were shot for the film 'Picnic at Hanging Rock'. If you keep an eye open, you might see the lost girls. Anyway, it's just a kilometre down the track after that to the bus, which I know you will see.

May I suggest that you bring fresh drinking water and yes, some sandwiches for that 'Picnic'.

WED 19 MAY 93 KINGLAKE RIDGES EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER : PENNY STAPLEY (Tel: 578 5623)
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 MEETING PLACE : 8.30 A.M. JEAN GIESE'S, 9 ALBERT CRES, SURREY HILLS, OR
 10.00 A.M. MT SUGARLOAF CAR PARK - follow National Park Rd from Pheasant Creek.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK OUTDOOR LEISURE MAP
 APPROX DISTANCE : 17 KM

This is a delightful walk which I can't remember ever having done with the club. Apart from a 2 km diversion to a pleasant morning tea spot beside a dam, the walk is all on quiet tracks which pass through a wide variety of vegetation from open forest with grass trees amongst the stringybarks and peppermints, to fern gullies in the valley of Running Creek.

We will probably reach beautiful Masons Falls in time for lunch, and then walk around the recently crated nature trail which starts from the picnic ground. This is a round trip which starts and finishes at Mt Sugarloaf car park, so car shuffles will not be necessary, and we should finish between 4.00-4.30 p.m.

If travelling straight to the start of the walk and you would like more detailed directions, please ring me.

SUN 23 MAY 93 YEA ROCK - MURRINDINDI EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS : BECKY MARSHALL & PETER DAY
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : TAGGERTY SOUTH 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 14 & 18 KM

The easy walk will start at the Dindi Mill site. The walk is all on tracks with a bit of up and down, but there is a nice view of the surrounding countryside. We then head for the Murrindindi Cascades, passing by rapids and walking across and beside the cascades, which are quite spectacular. The walk finishes at the picnic area near the cascades.

The medium walk has not yet been previewed, but will be in the same general area over a distance of about 18 km.

SAT 29 MAY 93 DANDENONGS EXPLORER - CHURCHILL NAT PARK EASY

LEADERS : PAM ROSSO & DEBBIE GOMM
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 4.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS MAP 82
 APPROX DISTANCE : 12 KM

This walk has only been done once before, approximately 3 years ago, so get set for something different. Meet at 11.00 a.m. in the main Picnic Area in the park. Enter through the Main Gate which is in a read off Churchill Park Drive (Melways Map 82 C11). The last time this walk was done a number of kangaroos were sighted and they were surprisingly friendly.

If you don't have private transport, please ring Pam Rosso () or Debbie Gomm () and we will try to arrange a pick up if possible.

SUN 30 MAY 93 MT DISAPPOINTMENT E/MEDIUM & MEDIUM

LEADERS : JEAN WOODGER & ELIZABETH SPRIGGS
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : KINGLAKE WEST 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 14 & 22 KM

This is a forested area with walking mostly on tracks. Creeks will be flowing but we should not need to cross any. We'll start from the picnic ground and walk easily to the summit of Mt Disappointment - once visited by Hume & Hovell who were very disappointed because they were not able to see the say, as they had hoped. Good views to be had along Harpers Creek Rd, and keep your eyes open for the marijuana plantation which was being investigated by police on our last walk in the area. Has it sprouted up again? Come on the walk and find out, as well as having a good day's bushwalking in Mt Disappointment State Forest. The two walks are of similar standard but the medium is longer.

23-25 APR 93 KIEWA VALLEY BASE CAMP CANCELLED

Paul Stripeikis apologises for the need to cancel the above trip. It will be put on the programme again later.

Note that the replacement trip has a somewhat more challenging grading.

WEEKEND WALKS - MAY 1993**23-25 APR 93 MT MARGARET - WELLINGTON RIVER MEDIUM/HARD**

LEADER : BILL METZENTHEN
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : SUNDAY EVENING
 MAP REFERENCE : TALI KARNG 1:25,000, MAFFRA 1:100,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 39 KM

Most of the walk will be on tracks, with some scrub-bashing on the slopes of Wellington Plateau. We will get an early start on a sign-posted track from the Tamboritha Road not far from Licola and walk past Mt Margaret to the Dolodrook River. From here we climb onto Riggall Spur and ascend it to Wellington Plateau where we will camp. Be aware that Riggall Spur was quite scrubby the last time I was there (twelve or so years ago).

Sunday will be much easier as we descend to Lake Tali Karng via The Sentinel. From the lake we will follow the Wellington River down the Valley of Destruction and then to the Tamboritha Road.

Bring containers sufficient to carry enough water from the Dolodrook River for your needs at camp.

30 APR-2 MAY 93 BOGONG HIGH PLAINS WORK PARTY MEDIUM

LEADER : STEPHEN ROWLANDS
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : SUNDAY NIGHT
 APPROX DISTANCE : 0 KM

After contacting the ranger he said that he has a gate for us to construct near Wallaces Hut and track maintenance on the same track as last year's working party worked on. We will be staying in Wilky so I am looking for person(s) to do the catering for the weekend. Members who come along and do some work will score themselves brownie points for Wilky, and having no work party over the Australia day weekend this could be your only chance this year to obtain any. So I hope you skiers can all turn up to help out.

For further details, contact me on

7-9 MAY 93 MT CLEAR - MT MCDONALD MEDIUM

LEADERS : GINA HOPKINS & DERRICK BROWN
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : SUNDAY EVENING
 MAP REFERENCE : VMTC KING, HOWQUA & JAMIESON RIVERS
 APPROX DISTANCE : 30 KM

This walk includes some reasonably steep climbs and descents, some very pleasant ridge-top walking along the Alpine Walking Track, and a delightful campsite.

Camp Friday night at Sheeppark Flat. We'll have a very early start on Saturday morning, with a longish walk up a 4WD track up to the junction with the Alpine Walking Track. Then there is a stiff climb to the summit of Mt Clear (1715 m), passing some beautiful old snow gums along the way. We'll have lunch at the top enjoying some great views. From there we will continue to Square Top, and camp will be at a saddle beyond.

On Sunday we'll continue along the Alpine Walking Track, over High Cone and the Nobs, to Mt McDonald. More great views, then a long, steep descent down to the Upper Jamieson Hut, and back to our cars. A short car shuffle will be required. Come prepared for all weather conditions, including snow.

14-16 MAY 93 FRASER NATIONAL PARK**E/MEDIUM**

LEADER : JEAN GIESE
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.30 P.M. SUNDAY EVENING
 MAP REFERENCE : COLLER BAY 1:25,000 OR FRASER NATIONAL PARK PAMPHLET
 APPROX DISTANCE : 32 KM (12 KM WITHOUT PACKS)

Starting near the north-west boundary of the park, we walk 6 km to a lovely secluded camp site. Tents erected, we'll take off with lunch in our day packs for a 400 m climb to the highest part of the park, giving views of the distant mountains, then down an open spur with views all over Eildon.

Sunday we'll be on walking tracks most of the time, finishing at Devil Cove on Coller Bay. Those coming Friday night camp at Devil Cove. Those travelling up Saturday morning meet at 9.00 a.m. cnr. Skyline Drive and U.T. Creek Rd (Haines Saddle) near park entrance.

Suitable for beginner pack carriers as we'll be doing some strenuous walking but quite a bit of it without packs.

21-23 MAY 93 BAW BAW PLATEAU**EASY/MEDIUM**

LEADER : SPENCER GEORGE
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 9.00 P.M. SUNDAY EVENING
 MAP REFERENCE : BAW BAW PLATEAU 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 25 KM

Granite boulders, ferns, snow gums and the last of the alpine spring flowers will delight us as we explore the main ridge of Baw Baw Plateau. There will be views to distant places from Mt Baw Baw and Mt St Gwinnear. We will use our cars for most of the climbing so that the walking will be near the 1500 metre height.

WINTER WALKS PROGRAMME - JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

The winter programme is being prepared so once again we are on the lookout for ideas and leaders.

The programme for June, subject to change:

4-6	Northern Wilsons Promontory	Lloyd Young and John Roseman
Sun 6	Mickeys Hill- Hughes Creek	Jean Giese & Sylvia Wilson
	Queens Birthday	
11-14	Wyperfield Base Camp	Janet Norman
12-14	Maria Island, Tasmania	David Vincent
Wed 16	Chyser & Pheasant Creek Valley	Trevor & Rosemary Thomson
Sun 20	Gellibrand Park - Winter Solstice	-
25-27	Mt Kooyoora	Spencer George
Sun 27	Werribee Gorge	-

Some of the leaders may get a surprise when they see this!

We will have skiing trips in July and August, including an introduction to snow camping. Sounds like madness do I hear you say? Maybe, but I have heard such glowing reports that I might give it a go.

Anyway, if you have a suggestion for the programme, Alan Miller or Max Casley will be pleased to hear from you.

WILKINSON LODGE 60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS - 27-28 MARCH 1993

The celebrations for Wilky's 60th anniversary can best be described as an outstanding success, and for those who unfortunately missed out on being there, I can only say how sorry we all were that you couldn't share it with us.

A full account will follow in the May Newsletter; this snippet is to say firstly, a huge 'thank you' to Doug Pocock for his superb organisation of the whole event, and to Jan, Gareth and Martin for their total support and commitment to ensuring its success.

Secondly, whilst the weekend would have been immensely enjoyable under any circumstances, a particular dimension was added by the presence of Brian and Barbara Trimble. These two spent their early childhood at Wilky, which was then known as

the SEC Cottage; to Brian and Barbara, it was simply 'home'.

By a stroke of sheer genius, Doug was able to locate them in Brisbane where they both live now with their respective families. Wild horses could not have prevented them returning when Doug issued the invitation to be present at the weekend. There were more than a few lumps in throats on Saturday afternoon when Brian expressed his and Barbara's appreciation of the care which their home has received during its ownership by MBW.

I am sure that not one thing could have been added to make this special weekend more perfect than it was.

Sue Forrester

KOWMUNG RIVER

26 - 30 DEC 1992

After 10 hours of driving and 2 kg of cherries, we arrived at the first campsite at Boyd River, where Spencer turned up a couple of minutes later with a car load of branches for the fire for that night's (cooking) tea. After tea we all went to bed, not before listening to the free concert by the people, camping way over on the other side of the camp ground before falling off to sleep.

The next day started with a short car shuffle before we set off down the Uni Rover Trail (800 m down) to the banks of the Kowmung River. Camp was set up next to what was going to be many picturesque swimming holes. The weather at this stage was like on all the trip, just ideal for swimming, so it wasn't long before we were all swimming. At this stage I decided that it would be fun to try and lilo down the river without a lilo to see if it could be done. One front tooth later, may be it wasn't such a good idea after all.

Day two started with an 8.30 start and the first river crossing of the day. The progress down the river was easy going with flat grassy banks and the occasional patches of trees. After lunch most of us went on a side trip up Church Creek to find the Church Creek Caves (without too much luck) but the cliff faces along the way were worth the trip. Camp that night was about 100 m down stream from Church Creek back on the Kowmung River at another swimming hole that had an orange cliff face on the other side of the river that matched Lloyd's hair.

The next day started with the banks of the river getting steeper as the day wound on. By lunch time

we were passing through a canyon where most of us found it easier to walk down the centre of the river, than sticking to the banks. After seeing a brumby that afternoon we now know why the spur that it was standing on was named Brumby Spur. The party was divided when it came to the camp site that night with half the party wanting to camp next to the best swimming hole I've ever seen in my life as a bushwalker, and the rest of the party wanting to go on to Roots Spur. After a quick vote we moved on to Roots spur.

The last day again started early with the climb out of the valley that the Kowmung River runs through. Views of the river could be seen as we climbed out, the old rule of bushwalking "of every summit is a false summit" kept gong through my mind as we climbed the 800 metres up the hillside. Lunch was at Coal Seam Cave where the shade from the cave and a drink from the plastic bucket was a great relief from the hot sun. Soon after lunch we were on top of the Kanangra Walls where the pace was easy going along well worn walking tracks. Views of the walls could be seen from time to time as we headed back towards the cars, but the highlight of the day was seeing the Kanangra Falls where no less than seven waterfalls can be seen from the one point from the walls. Soon after leaving our viewing point we were back at the cars where a feast fit for a king was produced from the cars. After the feast Lloyd and myself farewelled the rest of the party and started the long trip back to Melbourne.

Stephen Rowlands

VANUATU WALKING

Vanuatu is a chain of volcanic islands which are covered with dense rainforest which has been degraded by clearing for subsistence agriculture and by cyclones. The islands are generally underpopulated and most of the people live in the coastal areas where they make food gardens, fish and cut copra. There are lots of paths formed by feral animals such as pigs and cattle, and by people going to their gardens or hunting. This means that it is quite easy not to know which way to go or even to get lost, as I have been on certain memorable occasions. There is no search and rescue organisation and so you must be sure that you can get yourself out again at all times.

So what to see when you go to Vanuatu? The main port of entry is Efate Island which has some lovely walking through rough limestone and basalt mountains with beautiful rainforest. There are lots of ferns and palms and various other exotic greenery. If you walk up a river you will see fish in the clear water and freshwater prawns and a small variety of birdlife, and green, green, green everywhere. There are no volcanoes on Efate but there are hot springs and limestone caves and swimming in the streams.

Tanna Island has a very accessible and awe-inspiring volcano. You feel pretty insignificant standing on the rim of the volcano and looking down into the fires of the earth. There is no tourist paraphernalia such as safety fences or warning signs, just yourselves and the volcano. The people of Tanna still live quite traditional lives in many respects and it is interesting just to watch them go about their daily lives.

Ambrym and Ambae islands have enormous volcanoes which are still active and can be climbed by reasonably fit people who are prepared to camp out. The jungle is lush green and there are whole

forests of tree ferns and palms to look at. When you camp on the ash plain on Ambrym Island you see the glow from the volcanoes at night and you can hear them rumble. Great stuff.

The northern islands are just as interesting. Gaua Island has a huge freshwater lake in the middle with a volcano extending into the lake on one side. The lake has hot water, cold water and warm water so what can be more sublime than to wallow in the evening in the water of your choice and view the volcano you have just climbed. Vanua Lava has fumaroles of boiling mud and rivers as large as the Upper Yarra which are actually boiling. This makes it a bit difficult to walk up the river as you have to be sure not to slip when jumping from rock to rock. The terrain is very rugged and is still being formed by volcanic activities.

Santo Island is gentler on the eye. There is excellent diving and wonderful beaches and the blue holes of fresh water are just astounding. The west coast of Santo is very rugged with 2,000 m mountains falling into the sea. The rainfall is virtually constant and the people of this area still live very traditional lives.

There are other islands in the group and you could spend a lifetime visiting them all.

A word of warning. Vanuatu is not one of your poor Asian countries where people are exploited and life is cheap. You can expect to pay Australian rates for food, accommodation and travel, and it will spoil your trip if you don't bring enough money to get around. However, if you are looking for a very interesting place in which to walk and an unpolluted environment in which to enjoy yourself then come walking in Vanuatu.

Allan Kitchener

NEW MEMBERS

The Club would like to welcome the following new members:

Tony Ralston

John Furniss

Peter Hogan

Elaine Jacobsen

Cheryl Cooksey

Friedhelm Tringas

COMMITTEE NOTES - 5 APRIL 1993

TREASURER'S REPORT AT 31 MAR 1993:

	\$	\$
MARCH RECEIPTS:	5,431	
MARCH PAYMENTS:	4,044	
BALANCE:		
Current Account	6,595	
Reserves Account	52,000	
Postage float	500	59,095

WALKS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY:

Total	Day walkers	W/E walkers	Members	Visitors	Fees
181	138	43	144	37	\$1425

Average number of Sunday walkers 28.5. Winter programme nearly complete.

DUTY ROSTER:

Apr	14	Andrew & Mary
Apr	21	Peter D & Liz
Apr	28	Chris & Marilyn
May	5	Doug & Jean

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: 3 May 1993 at 7.00pm

KAKADU EXPEDITIONS

Leave the traffic, telephones and stress of the city behind. Join us on one of our two longest Kakadu wilderness expeditions. Swim in beautiful pools by day, relax around a campfire at night and wake up to the call of the birds.

Kakadu Circle No. 2: May 9-30

This extended version of our Kakadu Circle trip allows us to spend two nights at a number of camp sites so that we can take a full day to explore nearby Aboriginal art sites. People without a strong interest in aboriginal art can use the extra time for bird watching - or just relaxing and enjoying the wilderness.

Kakadu Super Circle No. 2: June 12 - July 4

Our longest Kakadu trip. It combines the best features of our Kakadu Circle and Twin to Jim Jim Circle routes. You see a variety of landscapes and aboriginal art sites. Despite the distance, there is always time for a swim in one of the numerous pools which line the route.



Both trips finish with a sunset wetlands cruise at Yellow Waters and a night at Cooina. Both allow you to make flight connections on the final day.

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS
12 Carrington Street Millner NT 0810
Phone (089) 85 2134 Fax: (089) 85 2355



Registered Publication No. VBH 1297

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