



# THE NEWS

OF THE

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

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DECEMBER 1993

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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE COMMITTEE

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

WEDNESDAY  
22 DECEMBER 1993

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL  
HALL  
BEHIND THE CLUB ROOMS

- Bring a plate of food
- Drink supplied
- BYO glass

## EVENT OF THE DECADE

Saturday 15 January 1994

Up the Maribyrnong River for 3 hours  
on Saturday 15 January.  
Limit 30 people. Cost \$18

Leaves from Footscray at 2.00 p.m.

Nosh afterwards somewhere in  
Williamstown.

Why is this the **Event of the Decade**,  
did I hear you say?

We haven't done it for 10 years, it's a  
terrific experience and well worth it.

Booking and money up front to  
Sylvia Wilson at the Xmas do.

\*\*\* THE CLUB ROOMS WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDS 29 DECEMBER \*\*\*

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 February edition is Wednesday 2 February 1994.

## ***PRESIDENT'S NOTES***

### ***Central Highlands Park***

Remember we voted overwhelmingly at our August General Meeting to give the sum of \$4,500 to the Victorian National Parks Association for a specific project in connection with the above park which covers areas where we not only do weekend walking but where many of our day walks take place?

Well, the research has been done and a report prepared which convinces me (at least) that the 11 areas studied should be included in the park. It provides a detailed analysis of the environmental values recommended for secure protection, and the timber resources which will be foregone through the inclusion of these 11 areas.

The research was carried out using the same method and being entirely consistent with the Dept. of Natural Resources' Resource Assessment Branch. This branch assesses the value of Victoria's timber resources for commercial purposes.

Some of the areas recommended for inclusion are among our best loved places, like:

- Ada River and around the Federal Mill track.
- Extend the Baw Baw National Park down the range on the SW, and on the NW to link it across to the Upper Yarra catchment area through the headwaters of the Thompon River. (These links are important for fauna preservation.)
- Link Ben Cairn, Myrtle Gully and Cement Creek scenic reserves up over Mt Boobyalla, Acheron Gap etc. to the Melbourne Water catchment area (we've done two Sundays of track clearing in this area over the last year and enjoyed several walks.

- Link Lake Mountain through Federation Range and Mt Bullfight to Torbrek Range and up to the ridge of Royston Range with the Snobs Creek scenic reserve.
- Link Lake Mountain with the Taggerty River and Whitehorse Creek scenic reserve and some other scenic reserves around Marysville.

and so on.

I'm proud we've been associated with this project and hope the Australian Heritage Commission and Land Conservation Council will be convinced to include these special areas in their final recommendations for the Central Highlands Park

\* \* \* \* \*

### ***Sunday Walks - Late Fees***

Be kind to your Sunday walks leaders.

The leaders have much to think about on Sunday mornings and their job is made harder when there is a lot of money to be collected at the bus stop.

The Committee considered the matter at its November meeting and it was decided that the \$2 late fee is to be paid by all who have not booked in advance and fully paid in the Club rooms or posted their cheques to the leader's home address.

Walks Secretary, and amateur psychologist, Max Casley suggests that we think of the bus fare as \$15, with a \$2 discount for booking early, rather than a penalty of \$2 for turning up on the morning of the walk!

***Jean Giese, President***

## FAREWELL FROM PENNY

Dear Bushies

I have been transferred at very short notice to our Brisbane office (a move which I have been negotiating for two years), and won't be able to see all my bushwalking friends to say goodbye.

I shall miss the Club and its members greatly, and have many happy memories of my 15 years as a member. I very clearly remember my first Club walk (Pinnigers Monument, led by Harold Grave) and sitting with Jean Giese and Jopie Bodegraven at lunchtime. Melbourne Bushies impressed me then with their friendliness. They still do.

At some stage in the New Year I shall have to return to Melbourne to "put my affairs in order". I hope to see some of you then.

Wishing you many enjoyable and leech-free walks in 1994.

Penny Stapley,  
29 November 1993

### FOR SALE (due to interstate move)

7 months full membership of  
Re-Creation Health & Fitness Centre,  
High St, Armadale.

Includes gym, aerobics, aqua aerobics,  
pool, spa, sauna, Keiser circuit, boxing.

\$200 o.n.o.

(Re-Creation will charge in addition to this  
\$150 joining fee for a non-member or  
\$75 transfer fee for an existing member.)

Contact Tony Stapley on  
after 3 Jan for details.

## MAPS

**Please be patient  
Please be careful**

I have started to do a stocktake on the map collection, and find that to do the job properly I have between 100 and 200 hours of work ahead. So please be patient.

The main problems are - 1) maps being placed in the wrong folder; 2) new maps being filed by members before they are catalogued.

As stocktaking proceeds, the place a map should be filed will become clearer. Meanwhile, please put maps back in the folder with the SUB-SECTION name. New maps MUST be left with the map index so that it can be indexed (only then can you find it again) and marked with the name of the proper folder. So please be careful.

For my part, I will do the stocktake, relabel the maps with filing instructions, put maps back in the right place, update the index and put in the filing cabinet guidelines for finding and filing maps.

So please, again, be patient.

Ron Garrett  
Map Custodian

## RED CROSS FIRST AIDERS - CONGRATULATIONS!

With the Red Cross First Aid course concluding on 2nd December I am pleased to report that all 19 members who faithfully attended each week passed with flying colours and are now qualified Red Cross first aiders.

I think I speak for all who attended when I say that it was a well worthwhile and enjoyable course and others should be encouraged to do a course of this kind.

Red Cross will be running a live-in course next April for 3 or 4 days focussing on advanced first aid for the bush. There will be more information available on that closer to the time.

**Elizabeth Spriggs**

## XMAS RAFFLE PRIZES WANTED

**Books, plonk, food, plants....  
anything really.**

**Please call Sylvia Wilson on**

## SUNDAY WALKS

There were only 15 people on a recent Sunday walk which was described in "News" as being suitable for experienced walkers only. The Committee has agreed that the Club should always offer an easy or easy/medium walk every Sunday which has a suitable option for first time walkers.

## WILKINSON LODGE

The Melbourne Bushwalkers own and operate Wilkinson Lodge, a small comfortable hut on the Bogong High Plains. A fringe benefit of membership of our Club is that all members can use the lodge which can accommodate upto eight people.

Access is on the Omeo Rd via Falls Creek, some five or so hours from Melbourne. We can park within 700 metres of the lodge.

A visit to Wilky is delightful at any time of the year, though of course over winter it is necessary to ski the ten kilometres from Falls Creek.

Attractions of the place are walks, bike riding, fishing in Rocky Valley Dam, touring or just general lazing about. The alpine wildflowers start with the melting of the snow in spring and continue through to autumn.

Wilky consists of a common lounge/dining room, kitchen, entrance alcove and sleeping loft in the gable. The kitchen has a wood fuelled slow combustion stove for general use and a gas stove for when the stove is not operating. All cooking utensils and crockery is provided. The stove provides hot water as Wilky has the luxury of a shower as well as an inside flush toilet. There are foam rubber mattresses in the loft. Lighting is by kerosene operated Tilley lamps. All fuel, toilet paper, cleaning and washing up materials are provided. It is usual to form a cooking group to reduce chaos in the kitchen.

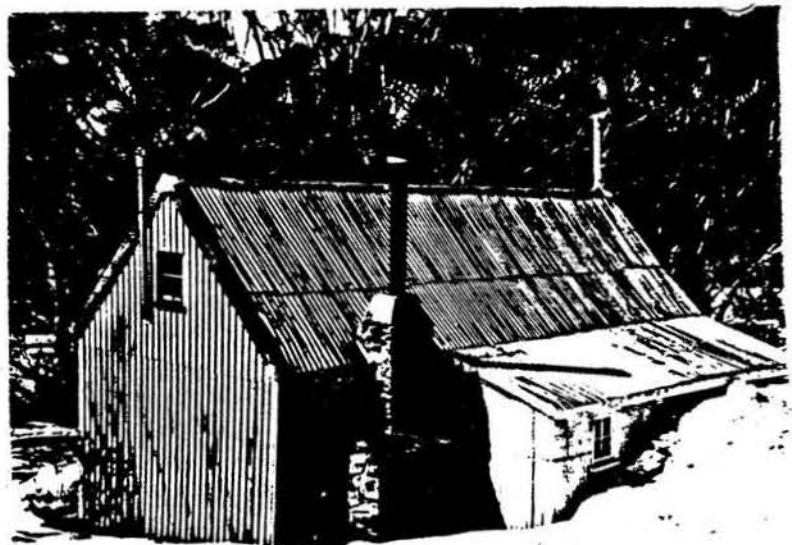
There are a few points about using the lodge which make it desirable for people to first visit in the company of an experienced Wilky user before they use the place. Not the least is finding the place, especially if it is foggy!!

Consequently there will be an introduction to Wilky on the weekend of 21-23 January (see Walks Preview).

The lodge is limited to 8 people as the septic system is designed for that many. Any more people will overload it and could cause problem with smells. We have had trouble with the Environmental Protection Agency in the past and do not want a repeat.

Any member who has been introduced to Wilky can visit and organise a group, however booking in may not give sole occupancy, and if a second group wish to visit then they may do so if the total number does not exceed 8 people.

**Doug Pocock  
Wilky Lodge Manager**



*Wilky, Sept '88*

**DAY WALKS - JANUARY 1994****SUN 2 JAN 94      MARYSVILLE LOOKOUTS & WATERFALLS      E/MEDIUM**

No information available. Please ask in the Club rooms.

**SUN 9 JAN 94      MURRINDINDI - WILHELMINA FALLS      EASY & E/MEDIUM**

LEADERS : PETER HAVLICEK & GEORGE ZAMORA  
 AREA : EAST OF MELBA HIGHWAY (S.E. OF YEA)  
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.  
 MAP REFERENCE : TAGGERTY SOUTH 1:25,000, KLONDYKE 1:25,000  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 12 & 18 KM

Both walks start at the Murrindindi Cascades Picnic area. The easy walk will be along the Murrindindi River walking track while the medium walk takes a more easterly route along Jacksons Rd. Both walks are under the pleasant shade of tall gum trees. We finish at the Suspension Bridge.

Due to the Christmas - New Year break, bookings will be accepted from December 15th as well as the first Wednesday in January.

**SUN 16 JAN 94      STARLING GAP - ADA BIG TREE      EASY & MEDIUM**

LEADERS : GEOFF HARRISON & DENISE TRIFFETT  
 AREA : POWELLTOWN  
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.  
 MAP REFERENCE : ADA RIVER 1:25,000, MCCARTHY 1:25,000  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 13 & 18 KM

The easy walk will follow the Upper Yarra walking track from Federation car park, past the Ada Big Tree to Starling Gap. Scenery includes temperate rain forest and moist fern gullies.

The medium walk will head east to a lookout near McCarthy Spur, then head west to complete the easy walk. There may be a small amount of bush bashing and climbing on the medium walk, but overall the grades are fairly level throughout.

**WED 19 JAN 94      BUNYIP STATE FOREST - LABERTOUCHE      E/MEDIUM**

LEADER : MARGARET BORDEN  
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE  
 MEETING PLACE : 8.30 A.M. JEAN GIESE'S, 9 ALBERT CRES, SURREY HILLS,  
 OR RING ME FOR OTHER ARRANGEMENTS  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.30 P.M.  
 MAP REFERENCE : SPION KOPJE 1:25,000  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 15 KM

The walk will be a circuit in the southern area of the Bunyip State Forest, off the Princes Highway prior to Warragul, and will start and finish at the intersection of B.G.S. Firebreak and Tea Tree Road.

We will start in a westerly direction with good views and then northerly and finally complete our circuit. Walking will be on 4WD roads and sections of walking tracks, and approximately half a kilometre of bush bashing. Regrettably we will be too late for most of the bountiful wildflowers, including pink boronia and the unusual broad leaved grevillea, but there will be ferns, messmate, mountain grey gum, banksias, etc and there is a short Nature Walk which includes a waterfall.

On the preview we watched an energetic echidna and admired the many birds, so there should be plenty of variety.

**SUN 23 JAN 94 SAN REMO - KILCUNDA****EASY & E/MEDIUM**

LEADERS : JAN GROSS & MICHAEL BAUER (TEL. 885 6454)  
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.  
 MAP REFERENCE : ESMAP 869/870  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 10 & 15 KM

The longer walk will start at San Remo, while the shorter walk will start from Punch Bowl. We will follow the coastline, on the sandy beaches, with some rock hopping and cliff-top terrain. The geology of the area is interesting, comprising Jurassic sediments and rugged coastline.

Bring plenty of water and your swimming gear.

**WED 26 JAN 94 AUSTRALIA DAY: FRANKSTON - MORNINGTON****E/MEDIUM**

LEADER : ATHOL SCHAFFER  
 TRANSPORT : TRAIN & BUS  
 MEETING PLACE : UNDER THE CLOCKS, FLINDERS STREET STATION BY 9.20 A.M.  
 EXPECTED RETURN : SEE BELOW  
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS MAPS 101, 105  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 10 KM

Our traditional Australia Day walk takes a different way down to the coast this year. Train travellers should have time for a morning tea break at Frankston before boarding the 11.20 a.m. bus (route 781) for a short ride to the starting point near the junction of Humphries Rd and Nepean Hwy. Lunch and a swim at Canadian Bay, then beach walking and rock scrambling to a final swim at Mills Beach.

Early returners please note that your bus departs 4.20 p.m. Main St, Mornington - the train gets to City 6.00 p.m. Those prepared to stay longer and have tea, especially if it's a nice day, have up to 6.50 p.m. when the next (and last) bus departs.

Please note this walk is Easy/medium, and not Medium as stated on the Walks Programme.

**SUN 30 JAN 94 MARYSVILLE - MT GORDON RIDGE****E/MEDIUM**

LEADERS : LES SOUTHWELL & JEAN GIESE  
 AREA : MARYSVILLE - TAGGERTY RIVER  
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.  
 MAP REFERENCE : MARYSVILLE - LAKE MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR LEISURE SERIES  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 12 & 16 KM

We will begin by climbing the Mt Gordon track through the forest to Woods Lookout, with good views of the Acheron Valley. We will then follow tracks north of Marysville to join up with some of the old tramway tracks along the Taggerty River.

The walks are medium and easy/medium but there will be an easy option as well if wanted. If it's hot the walks will be shortened to allow time for a swim in the Taggerty.

**WEEKEND WALKS - JANUARY 1994****7-9 JAN 94      MT BOGONG FROM THE EAST      HARD**

LEADER : BILL METZENTHEN  
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE  
 EXPECTED RETURN : SUNDAY EVENING  
 MAP REFERENCE : BOGONG 1:100,000  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 38 KM

It will be nearly six years since we last used this approach. This trip will be a small variation on the previous trip. We start walking from the Omeo Highway and immediately cross a creek which will probably be the last water we will see for the next 22 km. If the day is hot we will need to carry a lot of water to last as we do ascents totalling 1900 metres.

Our camp will probably be near Cleve Cole Hut. Note that fires are now banned on Mt Bogong, so a hot meal will require stoves to be carried.

Our descent to the Omeo Highway, the Mulhauser Spur will be relatively easy unless the blackberry infestation is worse than on our last visit to this area.

**21-23 JAN 94      INTRODUCTION TO WILKINSON LODGE      EASY**

LEADER : DOUG POCOCK  
 AREA : BOGONG HIGH PLAINS  
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE  
 EXPECTED RETURN : SUNDAY NIGHT  
 MAP REFERENCE : BOGONG OUTDOOR LEISURE SERIES  
 APPROX DISTANCE : VARIOUS

A chance for members who have not yet had the Wilky experience to visit. We will go up on Friday night, departure time to suit the group. Length of stay will depend on members - if anyone wants to stay on and leave on Tuesday to link up with George Zamora's camp at Dargo then this can be arranged.

Walks will depend on the weather but hopefully we should see some great areas. Even though it is summer be prepared for cold weather.

**21-23 JAN 94      THE CRINOLINE - CALEDONIA RIVER - MACALISTER RIVER      MEDIUM**

LEADER : GINA HOPKINS  
 AREA : WONNANGATTA - MOROKA NATIONAL PARK  
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE  
 EXPECTED RETURN : SUNDAY NIGHT  
 MAP REFERENCE : TAMBORITHA - MOROKA 1:50,000, LICOLA - WELLINGTON 1:50,000  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 34 KM

Friday night we will camp at Breakfast Creek on the Tamboritha Road, about 16 km north of Licola. The walk will start from there with a steep climb up to Sugarloaf, then along to The Crinoline. There should be great views along the way. We'll then find a way down to the Caledonia River and follow this until it joins the Macalister River. No doubt there will be some people who will want to go swimming. If it's a very hot weekend even the leader might be tempted. Camp will be somewhere alongside the river.

On Sunday we will follow the Macalister River and return to Breakfast Creek via Bruni Knob.

**22-26 JAN 94 FLINDERS & MARIA ISLANDS - TASMANIA****E/MEDIUM**

LEADER : DAVID VINCENT  
 AREA : TASMANIA  
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE - LIGHT AIRCRAFT  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.00 P.M. WED 26 JAN

The first stop on this five day adventure will be Maria Island which is unique amongst Australia's National Parks; an off-coast island saturated with natural grandeur and colonial history. Over 20 km long and 30 km across at its widest point Maria Island is located NE of Hobart. It has spectacular limestone and sandstone cliffs, and sparkling white sandy beaches, a coastal mountain range with lush rain forest gullies and a rich variety of flora and fauna. We will establish a base camp not far from the island airstrip. There are a couple of day walks planned ranging from coast to mountain top.

The next stop will be Launceston where we will refuel, resupply and spend a few hours sightseeing. Then we will depart for the NW of Flinders Island to Killiecrankie Bay which is a well kept secret with deserted white sandy unspoilt beaches and coves for swimming and exploring. We will establish a base camp near the main beach from which a couple of day walks are planned. For those who like seafood, fresh crayfish are available from local fishermen.

We will depart Melbourne on the Saturday morning and arrive back on the Wednesday afternoon (public holiday). For a group of six, including myself, the estimated cost of private aircraft hire is \$160 each. For further details and to book a place on this walk, contact David Vincent at home on

**25-30 JAN 94 CROOKED RIVER (DARGO AREA) BASE CAMP****EASY & E/MEDIUM**

LEADER : GEORGE ZAMORA  
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE  
 MAP REFERENCE : CROOKED RIVER - STEVE 8323-5 1:50,000  
 APPROX DISTANCE : VARIOUS

This is a walking and swimming trip in one of Victoria's finest alps area. We will be camping next to the river in a designated secluded camping area "Talbotville". The camp site has a toilet, but bring your camp-trowel for other places.

This is an historic area where gold mining operated around the 1800s. The river is deep enough for swimming after a long walk on a hot day. Ahhh! I can feel it now, this cold beer!

Depending upon interest, I will try to organise an easy and easy/medium walk on each day to places like: Collinwood Spur View Point, a walk along the river to Winchester, and other walks in the magnificent surrounding forest. Or you may wish to stay back at the camp and swim all day, or prefer to have a go at gold prospecting in the river - just bring a metal plate, who knows, you may be lucky and strike big, and if you don't have any luck you can always have a "siesta" in the afternoon to calm your desire for gold.

Don't forget to bring your camera because the river area and the surrounding mountains are breathtaking. This is a good introduction for the first time walker into base camping. It should be a most enjoyable weekend.

**28-30 JAN 94 BAW BAW PLATEAU****MEDIUM**

LEADER : MERILYN WHIMPEY  
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 8.00 P.M. SUNDAY  
 MAP REFERENCE : VMTC BAW BAW NATIONAL PARK  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 35-40 KM

We start with the climb up Mt Erica, one of the most beautiful walks in Victoria. Then we follow the Alpine Walking Track across the Baw Baw plateau. We'll probably camp above Mustering Flat. Either we'll go right across to Stronach's camp or drop off the plateau sooner and so avoid some of the car shuffle.



**NEW MEMBERS**

The Club would like to welcome the following new members:

Margaret Sheldon

Monika Hollander

Ronald Komisars

**CHANGES OF INFORMATION**

Dorrie Warton

Adrian Cole

John Kittson

**SCARPA BOOTS FOR SALE**

SIZE 39 - AS NEW

\$170 O.N.O.

Elizabeth Spriggs Tel: (W)  
(H)**MAZDA 808 STATION WAGON 1978****Excellent mechanical condition****Reg. July 1994****Price negotiable**

Lynn James Tel: (H)

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Leave the traffic, telephones and stress of the city behind. Enjoy an extended wilderness experience with a small group of like minded people.

Plan ahead. If you can help us, we will help you with a discount.

20% discount if you book and pay 4 months in advance.

10% discount if you book and pay 2 months in advance.

10% discount if you book as part of a group of ten or more.

5% discount if you book as part of a group of five or more.

Ask for our new 1994-95 program.

**WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS**

12 Carrington Street

Millner NT 0810

Phone (089) 85 2134

Fax: (089) 85 2355

## LANGI GHIRAN 15-17 OCTOBER 1993

The Langi Ghiran trip was an unexpected pleasure. Unexpected, as it was a last minute decision on the part of our glorious leader, Keith Langham to do it; and pleasurable as our first-ever pack-carrying weekend was both easier and more fun than we had anticipated.

Late Friday night, Mark and I were the last to arrive at the car camp. Some were already in bed; Keith, bless him, was still up and waiting to offer his assistance in the selection of appropriately sloping campsites, drop bear zones and modern tent erection.

After several fortifying swigs of red wine, we had a middling night's sleep and a not-very early arising in the morning to discover ourselves in a very pleasant lightly-wooded area with several other tents and cars. Blearily eyed and blinking, we met Rosa, Strip, Max and visitors Lynn and Virginia.

After a relaxed breakfast, we set off on a delightful, balmy morning along a gently winding track and through light scrub in what was essentially a spiral around the mountain to reach the summit.

A gentle morning's walk led us to the Langi Ghiran Reservoir. After peering soulfully into the depths for several minutes, Mark rolled up his sleeve with the stated intent of a spot of hand fishing for a yabbie he reckoned he'd seen. Max reckoned yabbies were protected. Strip reckoned Mark would never catch one anyway. By the time the argument was over he was right - the yabbie had made a safe getaway.

Winding up the hill and bashing through light (but prickly) scrub, we came to the lookout, an ancient edifice comprising a large lump of concrete with a flat top and a bit of pipe railing reached by some wobbly concrete steps. Nearly was a fascinating piece of water technology - a gushing water pipe at the top of the hill. Some spirited debate speculated that it came from Mt Cole. Whatever, it was cold, clean and topped up all the water bottles.

The mountain then became a more serious grind up a steep fire trail and we were rewarded about halfway up with lunch on a pile of boulders with a great view back towards Buangor Valley and a hawk cruising round nearby. "Five minutes" Langham kept us pushing up the mountain after a brief respite until we arrived at a saddle between Langi Ghiran and the next local and agreed that this was the place where we would spend the night.

Tents were set up, a light shower passed over and we scrambled up the mountain to reach the summit

without packs. I'm told the view was terrific and the way down much easier than the way up. I stopped about 50 m above the camp as the next rock face looked a bit daunting to my tired and inexperienced eyes. In retrospect I'm sure I would have been fine - everyone else was!

We muddled around camp and got dinner started, then in ones and twos, climbed the opposite peak to watch the sunset. Strip and Keith were inordinately impressed - they reckoned it was the first walk they'd been on where they got everyone up to watch the sunset ... except a couple of us were more concerned about the rain that was working across and the debate about which would happen first - we'd get wet or the sun would go down!

After dinner, we all settled in for a fireside chat and some of Langham's delicious, personally prepared "shake it" pancakes. What a treat! And just as we thought it was safe to go to bed, Dr Max produced (bless him!) a half litre of port which was duly passed around as a nightcap. The only unfortunate feature of this camp was the lack of flat tent sites, so we had plenty to talk about in the morning telling "sliding down the mountain while sleeping" stories.

Next morning, Rosa was in charge of a moderately steep scramble down the mountain's west side, at the bottom of which we expected to find the lagoon prominently marked on the map. Well, we had wet feet but no lagoon, until Paul bounded off and returned almost immediately to say the lagoon was only 30 m away. It was pretty but not quite we'd expected - water lilies and things - but it looked no more than a foot deep at best. Nonetheless, we dropped packs and had morning tea and various wanderings around the waterline. After 20 minutes or so Max appeared out of the scrub - "I've found the lagoon!", he said.

We traipsed after him and discovered that, indeed, the REAL lagoon was about 5 minutes walk north east of our position and was delightfully cool and swimmable if Mark and Virginia are to be believed. Both stripped off and claimed the water was "invigorating". We sceptics knew this meant "bloody cold" and didn't venture in.

We decided then to walk to where we could dump our packs and climb Mt Gorrin to check out its view. It was well worth the effort and our navigators demonstrated their skill by bringing us down again to exactly where we'd left our packs. A very late lunch, with much swapping of salami, peanut butter and other leftovers, and we had very little distance remaining to get us back to the cars.

Half an hour downhill and on trails we arrived back at "civilisation". Boots and socks were shed and much thanks to Strip and Keith for having ice water on hand. It proved an easy conclusion to an interesting, sociable and pleasant first pack-carrying experience.

Thanks to Keith, and to all those who led, navigated and contributed to the decision making (i.e. everyone) for a great weekend.

*Kate Thomson*

## LEADERS' DAY - LAKE MOUNTAIN 6 NOVEMBER 1993

This excellent experience was very well organised by Janet Norman, Derrick Brown and Alan Clarke. To everyone's surprise (and to the horror of the organisers) there had been a big snowfall two days earlier, and a cross-country skiing trip may have been more appropriate! We ploughed through 20 cm of snow most of the day which made all categories of walks harder and slower. The day was beautiful, sunny and still, and the snow untouched. Wet feet were our only discomfort.

The hard walk, led by Peter Day with Robyn Gray co-leader, spent three hours in thick scrub and deep snow navigating their course, then another hour on snow tracks, arriving at Keppel Hut for a 3.00 p.m. lunch.

Derrick had planned "incidents" during each walk which were all the more realistic as the person creating the incident was the only one who knew about it. Peter Havlicek, on the hard walk, fell ill and could be heard chundering in the snow. The leaders decided that the party would all have to turn back due to the difficult terrain and the poor state of Peter's health. Once the decision was made, the "incident" was over, and the party continued with Peter miraculously recovered.

The medium walk was led by Ralph Blake with Elizabeth Spriggs as co-leader. Due to the unexpected conditions they shortened their walk, arrived at Keppel Hut first and lit a welcome fire. They had two "incidents". Bob's bad knee which needed bandaging, and his stomach cramps which he was very verbal about, and Sally's wish to turn back. Both were given TLC, a good rest and encouraged to continue the walk.

The easy walk, led by Bernice Webster with George Zamora co-leader, was heavy going and

slow, and one member decided to go back after a few hours. Denise had earlier role-played (very convincingly) a disgruntled visitor, critical and aggressive about the walking conditions, and Cheryl role-played a case of the "trots". The leader handled all these incidents with patience and care.

There was an observer in each group, and at the end of the day, after a barbeque tea, a discussion about the day was organised by Derrick. Each person was asked to give one positive comment about their leader, and also one aspect of the leadership which could be improved. Later we each gave a quick comment on what we had learned from the day. Gina's thoughts on expecting the unexpected and being prepared for anything were valid.

Keith Langham gave us some interesting information about weather conditions, bush fires and how to deal with them, and also some valuable hand-outs. Alan Clarke then gave an informative talk giving concise details about the preparations involved before a walk, including the preview, the efficient management regarding the bus and the walk itself, and the paper work after the walk.

Our leaders are very professional in their approach, and much more work and effort is put into each walk than is often realised by members and visitors. Thank you, leaders, for your dedication which is greatly appreciated.

This first Leaders' Day in the history of the Club was possibly enhanced by the unexpectedly hard conditions, and certainly by the wonderful day of brilliant sunshine, the white, white snow and the snow fight at Keppel Hut.

*Helen Skillington*

## WILSONS PROM - SOUTH POINT - LIGHTHOUSE 12-14 NOVEMBER 1993

The driving conditions were not hazardous and the rain poured neither Friday, Saturday nor Sunday. Kathryn, Max and I drove into the Prom National Park through a spectacular sunset, set up our tents just on darkness and spent a balmy evening wining and dining at the Tidal River picnic area.

On Saturday a group of 14 assembled at the Mt Oberon Car Park, numbered and named ourselves and set off. For the first kilometre or so I can't say I took much part in anything as I concentrated on adjusting, and adjusting to my pack, but gradually things improved. I looked sideways .... and met new people, discovering two other librarians and acquaintances in common. A small world! Now also I could begin to appreciate what was around me, appreciate, but not name the clumps of wild-flowers, some purple, the dense vegetation and in the distance the smooth, tall gum trees.

An hour or so later with one very steep bit, or was that later, we reached the Halfway Hut and had a well-deserved break during which it was interesting to hear from Doug, Jan and Graham (GWJ) about the history in progress of the Melbourne Bushwalkers. Somewhere between Halfway Hut and Roaring Meg Creek we found ourselves in Tasmania; that is, we ploughed through a boggy bit, reminiscent so were told of wilderness Tasmania. Plenty of ferns here! More fantastic vegetation (sorry, no details) and we reached our destination in time for lunch. Five tents camped on the higher ground, while three tents decided to risk the leeches but enjoy the roaring of Meg and camped nearer the creek. It was a great place to camp and at certain times the eucalypts, ferns and bracken appeared to affect the light which appeared mysteriously green.

After lunch (I was very impressed with other people's gourmet food and what variety, and anyway Kathryn and I enjoyed our dry mountain bread, processed cheese, limp carrot and cucumber) we split into two groups. Max and his group took the 6-month-old track to the South Point and Doug, with occasional botanic stops, at one point to observe some pale pink boronia, led our group to

the lighthouse. En route, through the gums and she-oaks, we viewed the lighthouse getting enticingly closer. Intriguing were the spectacular cavernous skull rocks, one looking like a lightly humorous squashed-nose face. We were fortunate in the lighthouse keeper inviting us up. He had been in residence only two weeks after a stint at one of the other doomed lighthouses (Pt Hicks) and was lonely for company. The view over to the west was panoramic and impressive.

Back for dinner by the log and competition between the sturdy MSR and the might Trangia. The Trangia won by a solid 45 minutes at least! Only a little bit later people were looking for excuses to go to bed. We made it at about 9 p.m.!

Next morning South Point, where we delighted again in the huge variety of botanical specimens. But was it the prickly geebung one prickle of which imbedded itself into my finger? The rocks on the Point were quite a challenge. Can you rock bash? Back again to Roaring Meg through stretches of heathland and here and in other places common bright pink heath.

The route home was via Oberon Bay where we rested on the beach feeling small surrounded by such expanse of white sand and water. Some paddled; wise move to keep the boots off as there was a river to forge at the other end, then Little Oberon Bay and Norman Bay with fantastic views along the climb. The last 2 km seemed to go on and on and on. Sore feet, thighs, shoulders but of course we all made it successfully and triumphantly back.

Thank you Doug for organising such an excellent walk and thanks also to companion walkers Kathryn, Max, Jan, Graham, Rosemary C., Wendy, Shane, Andrea, Tony, Sue, Pearson and Rosemary. Sue and Tony being noted for their very fast walking. Looking forward greatly to the next Prom walk.

*Helen Pitt*

**COMMITTEE NOTES - 6 DECEMBER 1993****CORRESPONDENCE IN:**

Wilderness Society - minimal impact in the bush  
 Art Terry - honour board

**CORRESPONDENCE OUT:****TREASURER'S REPORT AT 30 NOVEMBER 1993:**

	\$	\$
OCTOBER RECEIPTS:	2,420	
OCTOBER PAYMENTS:	3,562	
BALANCE:		
Current Account	7,667	
Reserves Account	52,000	
Postage float	<u>500</u>	<u>60,167</u>

**WALKS REPORT FOR OCTOBER:**

Total	Day walkers	W/E walkers	Members	Visitors	Fees
281	231	50	208	73	\$2630
Sunday Bus	5	177	average 35.4 (last year average 37.25)		
Pack Carry	4	33			
Base Camp	2	17			
Urban/historical	1	18			
Wednesday	1	6			
Dandenongs	1	30			
TOTAL	14	281			

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1. New stove to be purchased for hiring out to members.
2. The First Aid classes have concluded - all 19 members passed.

**DUTY ROSTER:**

Dec	15	Liz & Keith
Dec	22	Jean & Gina
Dec	29	Clubrooms closed
Jan	5	Peter D & Marilyn
Jan	12	Peter H & Andrew

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:** 10 January 1994 at 7.00pm

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The NEWS of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

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