



THE NEWS

OF THE
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

EDITION 512

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SOCIAL EVENTS

MOVIE NIGHT

Tuesday 12 October 7.00 p.m.

**Village City Centre
206 Bourke St**

It was recently suggested to me that Club members may be interested in the scenery (if not the story) of

THE SILVER BRUMBY

This beautifully filmed movie is from the novel by Elyne Mitchell and was shot in the picturesque area of Northern Victoria near Corryong.

The review I have read describes it as "Ideal family entertainment with a nice sense of mystery."

So let's give it a go!
Afterwards we will dine somewhere nearby.

GUEST SPEAKER

**Wednesday 27 October
Clubrooms 8.00 p.m.**

This month's speaker, Doug Humann, is from the VNPA.

As we have recently made a very substantial donation to the VNPA to assist with one of their research projects, this will provide an opportunity to hear at first hand how the project is progressing.

Come along and show support for an organisation which speaks out for the aims and ideals our Club also supports!
Juice and nibbles provided.

Don't forget, our members (& guests) are still winding down after a Sunday walk by dining out at the cafes of Southbank.

Everybody is welcome, come as you are, no washing up, great for a scotsman's pocket!

Secondly, the pre-meeting get together at TOTO'S shows no sign of abating.
No booking required, just roll up and eat!

ADVANCE NOTICE

November's Slide Show will be from
Robyn Gray's
Franklin River/China/New Zealand collection.

Judging by the preview - should be good!

Date and final details in this publication next month.

Andrew Low, Social Secretary

Correspondence should be directed to: The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
PO Box 1751Q
MELBOURNE 3001

Meetings are held in the clubrooms, MacKenzie St Melbourne (rear of the Horticultural Society building) every Wednesday night 7.00-9.00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

Please note that articles for "The News" may be faxed to the News Editor on

Closing date for the November edition is Wednesday 3 November 1993.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Wirra Willa

En route to our Sunday walk a few weeks ago, Fred Halls had a stop for us all to take the Wirra Willa walk. A well prepared track with boardwalk and bridges has been laid in a gully of beautiful Myrtle Beech and Sassafras, with their attendant ferns and mosses. This short walk beside Sylvia Creek was a bi-centenary project executed by CNR (Conservation and Natural Resources) and the "Friends of Toolangi Forest".

If you would like to enjoy a little remnant pocket of our rainforest only about 18 k north of Healesville, travel 4 k along Sylvia Creek Road (off Meyers Creek Road) to the sign "Wirra Willa" and a guided walk.

* * * * *

Graham & Jill Breen Moving

Graham and Jill are moving out-of-town (see notice next page) but are retaining membership so we will not lose contact. Graham was President in 1990 and Jill was News Editor at that time. They have been staunch supporters of the Club in many ways and we'll miss them both. Our best wishes to you, Graham and Jill, in your new home.

* * * * *

Club Badges

As is stated amongst the information on the back of our walks programme, Club badges are available for any member who would like one.

Our founding fathers and mothers decreed that the "badges remain the property of the Club and are returnable on demand"! Presumably we don't want undesirables wandering around identifying themselves as Melbourne Bushies! So if you are a member (and desirable) you may apply to the Secretary for a badge. There is a "hiring" fee of \$2.

* * * * *

Visually Impaired Walkers

I have been asked if anyone could assist in leading a walk occasionally for a keen group of visually impaired folk. I've agreed to lead a walk in December (they provide their own mini bus). Is anyone else interested? Talk to me if you are.

Some of our walks may also be suitable when a group could travel with us in our bus and we'd plan a third slower walk with an extra leader.

Jean Giese, President

RED CROSS FIRST AID COURSE - REMINDER

Members who have enrolled to do the Red Cross First Aid course are reminded that the starting date is **Thursday 14th October**. You should go to the Red Cross Headquarters at 171 City Road, South Melbourne for a 6.30 p.m. start.

The course instructor is Mr Bob West.

I will let you know when payment for the course is required. All you will need to bring is paper and pen. If anyone has any questions regarding these arrangements please see Alan Clarke. There are still a couple of vacancies left so if there is anyone else interested please let Alan know.

Elizabeth Spriggs

DID YOU KNOW?

Melbourne Bushwalkers is an affiliated member of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs, and is in fact one of the largest clubs in that organisation. We are represented each month by Athol Schafer (as we have been for many years) and his apprentice, Andrew Low.

The Federation provides a voice for the concerns of member clubs in response to the noises from logging and four-wheel drive representatives, in dealings with Government and semi-Government Departments.

It also co-ordinates track clearing, search and rescue and the annual Federation walks. In the search earlier this year for Commissioner O'Shea, 15 members of the Federation made up the initial search party, including three of our own members.

Conservation issues are always under consideration and a number of Management Plans are being studied at any one time. In this area, the Federation welcomes the input of club members. Anyone interested should contact either Athol or Andrew.

ARE YOUR SILVERFISH GETTING TOO FAT?

Stan Kemsley of Traralgon is interested in acquiring back numbers of WALK magazine, in particular the 1973 issue and those before 1969.

If you have any of these and would like to please a fellow human being and frustrate your 6-(8?more!?)-legged menagerie, ring him (AH) on _____, or ring me, Peter H., your membership secretary, on _____

WILKINSON LODGE

Work Party 19-21 November

The work party will have a grand Spring Clean at Wilky after the ravages of winter. Also small maintenance jobs. Please see Doug Pocock.

Winter Groups

Remember all lockers must be emptied by Australia Day weekend 1994. All locker contents become group stock on that weekend.

The next meeting of the CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

**will be held in the Club rooms on
Wednesday 20 October at 7.45 p.m.**

All Club members are welcome.

BREEN'S CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Dear friends,

We will be moving on 3 November to our little bit of heaven just the other side of Bairnsdale. We will miss you, but will continue to be members and certainly hope that occasions will arise in the future to enjoy your company again.

We will be easy to find, about 6 or 7 kilometres out of Bairnsdale along the Omeo Highway take the Deptford road on your left then Waterholes Rd on your right and Palmers Rd on your right. Ours is the _____ driveway (_____) on the left, about 12 kilometres from Bairnsdale altogether.

Just give us a call on _____ to make sure we will be home. We will have a spare bed or two.

Graham and Jill Breen

DAY WALKS - NOVEMBER 1993**SUN 31 OCT 93 MASONS FALLS - KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK EASY & MEDIUM**

LEADERS : JOHN KITTSON & DENISE TRIFFETT
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE :
 APPROX DISTANCE : 13 & 16 KM

Both the medium and easy walks will start and finish near the Rangers Station at the entrance to the Kinglake National Park, just a few kilometres south west of Pheasant Creek at the end of the National Park Road.

During our circuit walk we will be visiting the Masons Falls, then making our way up to the Mt Sugarloaf Lookout and then finishing back at the Rangers Station. The medium group will take in an extra few kilometres by descending the McKimmie Track and returning via the Pine Ridge Road.

There will be a mixed bag for the day, tall mountain timber, fern gullies and good views. May I suggest that you bring fresh drinking water with you.

TUE 2 NOV 93 CUP DAY: HAYS PADDOCK - MARANOVA GARDENS EASY

LEADER : ATHOL SCHAFER
 TRANSPORT : TRAM
 MEETING PLACE : UNDER THE CLOCKS, FLINDERS STREET STATION BY 10 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 4.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS MAPS 45, 46
 APPROX DISTANCE : 9 KM

This Cup Day will be a tour of a variety of parks, gardens and reserves in Kew and Balwyn.

The walk starts at Victoria Park (tramstop 42, High St); lunch by the Paddock's billabong; then following the course of Glass Creek to the hill top Maranova Gardens where its collection of native plants can now be seen in its springtime glory.

SAT 6 NOV 93 LEADERS DAY

LEADERS : JANET NORMAN & DERRICK BROWN
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MARYSVILLE - LAKE MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR LEISURE MAP
 APPROX DISTANCE : ? KM

Leaders' Day is for those who are interested in leading walks, those who do lead walks, those who did lead walks and those who want to be led!! It will be a day of sharing knowledge, gaining skills and trouble shooting.

We will meet at Geraty's Car Park, Lake Mountain. The day will cover the preparation, paper work, walk design and actual walk leading. We hope to provide opportunities for would-be leaders to lead short sections of walks. It should be a fun day and a learning experience.

Maps will be provided to all potential leaders, but bring your own compass.

SUN 7 NOV 93 WELLS CAVE - CATHEDRAL RANGE E/MEDIUM & MEDIUM

LEADERS : MAX CASLEY & ANDREW LOW
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : CATHEDRAL RANGE OUTDOOR LEISURE MAP 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 8 & 10 KM; SOME ROCK HOPPING

Driving up the Melba Highway, just past Buxton, you will see a small but spectacular range on the right hand side - the Cathedral Range.

We will climb the Sugarloaf at the southern end, the medium group passing through Wells Cave and the easy/medium group following the walking track. Then we will follow the ridge to the Farmyard with spectacular views of other ranges and the Acheron Valley. The easy/medium group will descend and follow the river track and the medium group will continue to the Cathedral.

A charming walk not to be missed.

SUN 14 NOV 93 FLAGPOLE HILL - FLOWERDALE E/MEDIUM & MEDIUM

LEADERS : JEAN GIESE & RALPH BLAKE
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : PHEASANT CREEK & FLOWERDALE 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 12 & 19 KM

Both groups begin in light forest wearing its spring clothing, then reach a ridge and open spur with glorious view for almost half the walk.

The medium walkers will climb 220 m then descend 100 m to cross a creek, then climb another 200 m before gaining the ridge. The easy/medium group will have one climb only of 250 m but we will take our time so it will be suitable for 'easy' walkers who enjoy a little challenge. Remember usually it's "No climb, no views" - and these views are well worth the effort.

WED 17 NOV 93 POINT NEPEAN EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER : JOAN HAIGH
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 MEETING PLACE : 8.30 A.M. JEAN'S, 9 ALBERT CRES, SURREY HILLS, OR
 10.15 A.M. POINT NEPEAN CAR PARK
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS MAP 156
 APPROX DISTANCE : 14+ KM

The Wednesday walking group visited the park when it first opened in 1988, so this is a return visit for a few members. This year we shall have the option of walking rather than using the transporter. Admission fees are charged. Time and weather permitting we may also take a beach walk later.

SUN 21 NOV 93 ACHERON GAP - MT DONNA BUANG E/MEDIUM

LEADER : MARGARET BORDEN
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 8.30 A.M. *** NOTE EARLY START ***
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : JULIET SOUTH 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 17 KM

We have decided that if it is a fine sunny day there will be two walks - an easy/medium and a medium. The E/M will start from Acheron Gap and we'll climb approx 350 m north west to The Knobs and then south west to Boobyalla Saddle. This area has magnificent mountain ash and the occasional old beech tree and is

quite beautiful. From Mt Boobyalla we go through more old forest remnants to Mt Donna Buang. There is a viewing platform at the top of the fire lookout giving good views of the surrounding mountains. The walk is planned to finish at Ten Mile Turntable.

The medium group will travel on further to start the Number 27 road for a 3 km walk to the bottom of a very steep rugged climb to The Knobs, a total climb of approximately 575 metres. From there the walk follows the same route as the E/M.

We will be on walking tracks and away from the noises of traffic, trail bikes etc. but there may be the occasional leech.

SUN 21 NOV 93 TRACK CLEARING: MT VICTORIA

LEADER : JOHN KITTSON
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 8.30 A.M. *** NOTE EARLY START ***
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : JULIET SOUTH 1:25,000

For people to walk in and enjoy our mountains without having to push through dense heavy bush, and maybe even getting lost, especially in low alpine, high rainfall areas like Mts Victoria and Donna Buang, where the undergrowth takes over our walking tracks, it is a must that we clear these tracks every so often.

Being members of the Melbourne Bushwalking Club, we are fortunate to have free transport supplied for those people willing to give their time, blood, sweat and tears with our track clearing duties.

Anybody who thinks that they can use a bow saw, machete or secateurs to help clear the tracks are welcome to join me and make it a worthwhile day. The Club has a supply of machetes, but we need members to bring bow saws and secateurs for their own use. May I suggest that you bring fresh drinking water, and if possible a pair of leather or canvas gloves to help protect your hands.

If you have any questions, please see me on booking night.

SAT 27 NOV 93 DANDENONGS EXPLORER; MITCHELLS RESERVE E/MEDIUM

LEADER : PAULINE WILLIAMS
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 4.00 P.M.
 APPROX DISTANCE : 12 KM

The walk commences at 12.00 noon at my house, 15 Oak Grove, Mt Evelyn. A circuit walk which involves some hill climbing on the north face of the Dandenongs, hence the wildflowers are more abundant than in the fern gully areas of the Dandenongs. Back at my house for afternoon tea.

Bookings by phone. Please ring , before 8.30 p.m.

SUN 28 NOV 93 ENFIELD STATE PARK EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS : BERNICE WEBSTER & GEORGE ZAMORA
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : LITTLE HARD HILLS ROGAINING MAP 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 12 & 17 KM

Enfield State Park has fairly open eucalypt forest and is about 25 km south of Ballarat. Most of the walking will be along foot tracks. Bird life and wildflowers should be in abundance at this time of the year. According to one report, 61 species of orchids have been identified in the Park.

George says that this walk is recommended to any one.

WEEKEND WALKS - NOVEMBER 1993**12-14 NOV 93 WILSONS PROM: SOUTH POINT - LIGHTHOUSE MEDIUM**

LEADER : DOUG POCOCK
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M. SUNDAY EVENING
 MAP REFERENCE : WILSONS PROM OUTDOOR LEISURE MAP
 APPROX DISTANCE : 44 KM

It was 31 years since I had been to the south end of the Prom (see Walk 1970). Returning last June reminded me just how beaut the Prom is, so I decided to program this walk.

The walk will leave Oberon car park and head down to Roaring Meg Creek to set up camp. The lighthouse will be visited without packs in the afternoon. Next morning a side trip to South Point then pick up packs for the return trip, probably via Oberon Bay.

Remember - no fires permitted, so bring stoves.

12-14 NOV 93 WILSONS PROM: AROUND THE PROM IN A DAY MEDHARD

LEADER : GARETH POCOCK
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M. SUNDAY EVENING
 MAP REFERENCE : WILSONS PROM OUTDOOR LEISURE MAP
 APPROX DISTANCE : SAT 42 KM, SUN ?

We will be leaving the Tidal River store at 7.30 a.m. We will then walk the usual circuit of the Prom, Sealers Cove, Refuge Cove, Waterloo Bay, Oberon Bay, Norman Bay and then back to Tidal River. We will swim at the beaches if the weather is good enough. Because we are doing this walk in November, the days will be shorter so bring a torch.

We will see what we do on Sunday.

19-21 NOV 93 EAGLES PEAKS - THE BLUFF * MEDIUM

LEADER : STEPHEN ROWLANDS
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00-8.00 P.M. SUNDAY NIGHT
 MAP REFERENCE : BULLER SOUTH & SKENE NORTH 1:25,000,
 APPROX DISTANCE : 25 KM

* Note change in standard from the Walks Programme

Friday night we will camp at Sheeppark Flat. Saturday morning we will drive to 8 Mile Gap to start the walk. We begin with a tough climb to Eagles Peaks following the ridge line. We will then make our way down the Frys Hut to Upper Jamieson Hut walking track via Lickhole Gap and Mt Darling. Once on the walking track we will do a side trip to the Governors. We will then continue on to a good camping spot on the Jamieson River.

On Sunday we will continue on to the Bluff car park where we will do a side trip to the Bluff. On returning we will make our way back to the cars via Rocky Ridge.

This should be an interesting weekend with great views and plenty of challenging hill climbs.

26-28 NOV 93 SNOWY PLAINS WATERFALLS**EASY/MEDIUM**

LEADER : ROD MATTINGLEY
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : LATE SUNDAY
 MAP REFERENCE : TAMBORITHA - MOROKA 1:50,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 32 KM

This weekend will consist of 2 day walks, with plenty of good views and at least 3 waterfalls. Starting just south of the Snowy Range Airfield we'll get views of the Carey Creek Valley and the Watchtower before heading west down to the falls on the East Caledonia and the falls on the side creek 1.5 km to the west again. This may involve about 2 km walking down the river. We'll then head generally northwards through what I hope will be lovely alpine glades to the cars left near Cave Gate Creek.

On Sunday we'll first visit Mt Lookout Creek Falls before a circuit taking in Racecourse Plain, Mt Lookout and Mt Reynard. I hope to find a secluded campsite again about 0.5 km from the road and south of Mt Lookout.

SNAKE ISLAND - Paul's walk with a difference 10-12 SEPTEMBER 1993

We camped overnight at Toora Caravan Park and all 11 of us met at Welshpool jetty for an 8.00 a.m. start on Saturday. A local fisherman boated us across to Snake Island - an hour's trip. The north part of Wilson's Promontory could be seen some of the way. We were treated to the sight of 3 or 4 playful dolphins gracefully gliding alongside the boat for a few minutes. They didn't mind the cold water but we weren't too keen on removing boots and wading ashore in the icy water.

Paul led us westwards, following the coastline. Sylvia kept us down to a sensible, relaxed pace with her shell-seeking, while Ross horrified us with his hair-raising reports of the Outward Bound course.

Dave and Sylvia educated us on the flora and pointed out some lovely green-hooded orchids. The banksia trees were magnificent and must have been in full bloom about a month ago. Jean came to the rescue with her first aid/nursing common-sense when Denise had something lodged in her eye.

We became blasé about seeing koalas - lost count of the number. The koalas looked so well with thick healthy coats; probably because humans have not been allowed to take over the island. During the walk we saw plenty of kangaroos, the occasional Pacific gull, deer, a fox and even emu tracks were spotted.

I've finally been persuaded that my 15 year-old canvas pack should go to the Brotherhood and to try hiring the Club's newest pack next time.

We camped near the cattlemen's huts that night in almost gale force winds. Even so the huts weren't tempting enough to sleep in with evidence of rats around. Also the larger huts were taken up with a group of fishermen who sadly left an appalling mess outside.

After dinner over the campfire, we had the luxury of retiring inside to a hut and open fire. We even had table and chairs so we could play "Oh Hell" (also known as "Up & Down the River"), a card game with lots of luck and a remote resemblance to 500. Ross was getting the hang of it until Rosa came along and offered some "help"!

Sunday morning Paul had us continuing west along the coast to a lovely lunch spot up high above the beach. Then north to Swashway Jetty for our boat trip back.

It was a delightful weekend walk - great company and a beautiful place little touched by humans. Thank you especially to Paul, our trusty, caring leader.

On the drive home Derrick's sharp eyes spotted "tea rooms", just before Korrumburra, so Max, Gina, Derrick and I finished off the weekend with tea and delicious cakes at the old Ruby School, now converted to an elegant country-style eating place, displaying a large array of English bone china crockery for sale. Sylvia has since informed us that she was a pupil at Ruby until they closed it.

Janet Clough

GRAMPIANS BASE CAMP 23-26 SEPTEMBER 1993

Delightful weather, great walks and wonderful wildflowers were our reward for taking a day off work to make a four-day visit to the spectacular Grampians in Western Victoria. About 30 people, including five children, attended this camp, ably led by Rob and Sylvia Harris, with help from Sylvia Wilson, Max Casley and others.

Many of the people drove from Melbourne on Wednesday while Rob, Sylvia and others including myself arrived during Thursday. Still others arrived on Friday evening and even Saturday! We camped at Wannan Crossing in the southern Grampians, about 30 kms south of Halls Gap. I don't think the Club has camped here before. It was a very pleasant grassy spot in the shade of eucalypts and black wattles. Fireplaces, some picnic tables and pit toilets are provided here, and cars are restricted to parking along a section of the old road, which ensures the grass is not cut up. We mostly had the place to ourselves, despite it being the school holiday period. We did have some noisy neighbours with a "ghetto blaster" on one night but George spoke to them and they toned it down after that.

The early people went to Mt Sturgeon on Thursday morning while waiting for the rest of us. There is a new track with a better gradient, and this makes a delightful three hours walk, allowing for stops for flowers and the view from the top, which looks north along the Serra range, north west over the Victoria Valley, and south over the hamlet of Dunkeld.

The expanded party went up a short walking track to a peak in the Serra Range in the afternoon, continuing on to Teddy Bear Gap and returning to Jimmys Creek camping ground, our starting point. Quite a pleasant walk with views over to Major Mitchell plateau and Mt William. Incidentally, Jimmys Creek camp is closed at present due to the high water table, which makes the septic toilet system inoperable.

The day closed with a pleasant evening around the camp fire after various meals were cooked, eaten and/or fed to the brush tail possum family (which visited us each night). The "baby" was almost as big as its mother but still rode on her back, even though it appeared to be quite independent.

The group divided on Friday, the fitter, more energetic (or crazier?) people headed off in cars to the Mt William car park, to "do" the Major Mitchell Plateau in one day, finishing at Jimmys Creek. They had a great walk, weather was

perfect, good views, no mishaps, just tired but happy at the end.

The easier group - we had Genivieve aged 3 and a bit, and the Hodgson children, and especially Geoffrey Ayre! - drove up to the car park, climbed Mt William for the views, then walked down the very pleasant foot track which follows down a gentle valley and comes out on the Dunkeld road a bit south of the Mt William turnoff. Genivieve walked almost the whole way, being carried only the last couple of kms - very good for a three-year-old! Some of us then went up to Halls Gap for ice-creams and some shopping.

On Saturday the party again divided, the toughies to do a west to east crossing of Mt Abrupt. It was a long slow climb up from the west, a constant upwards gradient. But the top was eventually reached, with great views, and then a steep descent down the eastern face to the road.

The alternative party went off to find Bovine Falls. We followed an old track up Bovine Creek, rather overgrown in places, with numerous creek crossings. It was hard to keep our feet dry and some gave up and just waded through. The falls were hardly worth the effort when we finally reached them. Unfortunately, Becky twisted her ankle on this walk and had to hobble out, and we strapped up her ankle when back at camp. She was due to return to work on Monday morning after nearly four months leave, during which she travelled around the world!

Back at camp, another pleasant evening around the camp fire, and I made an apple pie in my camp oven. I shared the pie with some of the group but unfortunately it wasn't big enough for everyone to have a piece. Another drama occurred in camp when Rob Ayre accidentally kicked over a billy of boiling water and scolded his foot. Jenny had to drive him to Hamilton hospital in the middle of the night for treatment!

And so Sunday arrived and reluctantly we broke camp and prepared to leave for Melbourne. Some headed off to climb the Chimney Pots at the southern end of the Victoria Range, while those that missed Thursday mornings walk, climbed Mt Sturgeon before heading for Melbourne. Max, GT and Tracy stayed on until Monday, then Max intended heading for Queensland. I am sure everyone enjoyed a wonderful weekend despite the minor mishaps, with great weather, pleasant company and good walks.

Bob Steel

**A LONG WEEKEND IN THE VICTORIA RANGE, SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS ...
or HOW TO RAISE YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE
23-26 SEPTEMBER 1993**

The long weekend didn't get off to an auspicious start for me - Craig's Hotel at Ballarat had finished serving dinner when we arrived at 8.30 p.m. so I missed my carnivorous meal. However, we found a good Thai restaurant around the corner that satisfied my hunger. Arriving around midnight at the Ingleton Spring Picnic Ground, Gina and I decided to sleep in the car. Just as well, because next morning we found that we were beside a kangaroo corpse!

The sun was out and we were soon climbing into the Victoria Range. The marked tracks were difficult to find, if they existed. This didn't worry our leader, who soon had us up on the ridge-top and climbing Mt Thackeray. This was an easy rock-climb, with nice steps. A lone goat watched us in a superior manner, before showing us how it should be done. The campsite that night was on the track leading to the Fortress, and after tea of chops (of course) and fresh vegies I slept well.

The Fortress is well-named. It is an imposing pile of rock, well several piles actually, with as near vertical sides as you find. When Peter said that we were going to climb it, we looked at one another and said nothing. After mentally checking that my Will was in order, I followed him up, finding good hand and foot-holds and plenty of fresh air beneath. At last I reached a grassy ledge and... another vertical wall. Magnificent views awaited us at the top. We munched our morning tea, took photographs and thought about the climb down. It wasn't as difficult as I thought, as long as you didn't panic. I just tried not to look down too much.

We lost the well-marked track for a time and had to re-trace our steps to a large cave (overhang) that had been slept in recently. We took our lunch, then reconnoitred for the track. We found it, together with a large pile of plastic rubbish which some thoughtful souls had deposited. With this extra load, we set off towards Buandik, only to find the track disappearing once more. Skillful navigating brought us to a sandy track and an (unmarked) picnic spot by Deep Creek, which made a delightful campsite. After a wash in the rather cold creek and a most welcome tea we chatted around the fire until quite late, well at least 9 o'clock.

Next morning we visited the Cave of Hands Aboriginal Shelter and were amused to read the

visitors' book where several entries complained about the length of the walk from the car park (about 0.5 km)! We climbed to the top of the rocks and explored the area. The rock paintings are protected by an ugly steel barrier and barbed wire, an unfortunate necessity to protect the paintings from the vandals.

Buandik camping site was next, and from there we climbed to Hollow Mountain (the other one is in the Northern Grampians), where we lunched in the theatre-like cavern, grateful for the shade. We then made our way across the valley to Red Cave, another delightful wind-blown sandstone cavern, where again there was evidence of recent occupation by campers. The route to the cave was full of interest, going over, under, and round rocks and chasms. The entrance to the cave was through a hole in the roof, negotiating an overhang.

To find our way back to the track we had to bush-bash for a time, again observed by a white billy-goat, which seemed to be laughing at us. Careful navigating was again required, and en-route we found another cave. Once we reached the track, a short climb brought us to a spot by a creek which made a good campsite in the trees. After tea, whilst yarning around the fire, I was bitten by something (presumably a bull-ant). The swelling is only now going down, three days later.

All that was left for us to do next morning was to get down off the range. Before this however, we decided to inspect some waterfalls marked on the map. We crossed a log above the falls to find a point from which to inspect the...disappointing waterfalls. Some interesting rocks on the way back gave us some opportunities for photographs of people on overhangs. Coming off the range Tom found us a route down a cliff face which involved packs being dropped a bit further than planned. Soon we were back at the cars and cleaning up. What a walk - it had everything except the sea.

Thanks to Peter Chalkley for an excellent four-day walk and some good navigation. Thanks fellow walkers, Tom Broughton, Trish Elmore and Gina Hopkins.

Derrick Brown

NEW MEMBERS

The Club would like to welcome the following new members:

Liz Bolyos

Betsy Dunn

Pasqualina Smarrelli

CHANGES OF INFORMATION

Graham & Jill Breen (effective 3 November)

Andrew Low

BUSHWALK THE GREEN

KAKADU AND THE KIMBERLEY AT THEIR SPECTACULAR BEST



Join us on a tropical trek through a landscape full of wildflowers and waterfalls. Enjoy a swim with every break. Relax and let us prepare you a three course meal every night.



For a 10% discount on any green season trip, quote this ad, book and pay by 19 November. Get a group of 5 or more and double the discount.

Write or phone for a free brochure.



WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

12 Carrington Street

Millner NT 0810

Phone (089) 85 2134

Fax: (089) 85 2355



COMMITTEE NOTES - 3 OCTOBER 1993**CORRESPONDENCE IN:**

?

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

?

TREASURER'S REPORT AT 30 SEPTEMBER 1993:

	\$	\$
SEPTEMBER RECEIPTS:	1,972	
SEPTEMBER PAYMENTS:	2,751	
BALANCE:		
Current Account	7,170	
Reserves Account	52,000	
Postage float	500	<u>64,558</u>

WALKS REPORT FOR AUGUST:

Total	Day walkers	W/E walkers	Members	Visitors	Fees
205	181	24	161	44	\$1980
Sunday Bus	5	142	average 28.4 (last year 29.8)		
Pack Carry	1	5			
Rawson Lodge	1	15			
Historical	1	20			
Wednesday	1	6			
Day Ski	2	8			
Dandenongs	1	9			
TOTAL	12	205			

DUTY ROSTER:

Oct	13	Mary & Jean
Oct	20	Merilyn & Keith
Oct	27	Derrick & Gina
Nov	3	Peter D & Alan M
Nov	10	Jean & Peter H

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: 8 November 1993 at 7.00pm

Registered Publication No. VBH 1297

If undeliverable return to
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.
PO BOX 1751Q MELBOURNE. 3001

**SURFACE
MAIL**

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MOONEE
PONDS VIC
AUST 3039