



# The NEWS

of the

## MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

APRIL 1994

EDITION 518

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### Social Activities

#### CONCERT

**Friday 13 May 1994**

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra  
at the Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University.

The MSO comes to Monash Uni's Robert Blackwood Hall for an exciting concert. This hall provides one of Australia's warmest and most pleasant concert venue acoustics. There is ample free parking and a new refreshment area has been added.

Tonight an exciting new Viola Concerto by Australian Gordon Kerry, written for the brilliant young American Karen Elaine who is making her first visit to Australia. Also on the program is Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* overture, Aaron Copeland's *Quiet City* and Antonin Dvorák's *Symphony No. 8*.

If we can arrange a group of 10 or more people, we may be able to obtain tickets for approx. \$17 (normally \$36) so please book with George as soon as possible to confirm your booking.

#### DINNER DANCE

at POTTERS COTTAGE  
in WARRANDYTE on Saturday, 18 June 1994

See Sylvia Wilson for more details

#### SPANISH FLAMENCO DINNER DANCE

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May 1994  
at a Spanish Restaurant in Johnson Street,  
Fitzroy. (Actual Venue to be decided closer to date)

See & hear live Flamenco Dancing and Music, by professional dancers. Enjoy the richness and vitality of this energetic dance form. A Spanish Tapas bar/eatery offering Melbourne's largest choice of traditional Tapas and other main courses of typical Spanish meals.

This should be a very exciting and fun night for you. Please book early with George so we know how many to book for.

**Don't forget the regular Sunday night  
Dinner after the walk.**

**Dine at the cafes of Southbank.**  
Cheap eating - a good meal can be had for as little as \$5.50. Saves cooking! After the Sunday walk, ask the leader where the group will meet. Clothes? Don't worry...casual as you like!

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

There is always a group of regulars at  
**TOTO's, 101 Lygon Street,**  
from about 6.00 pm  
We have been meeting there for a number of years.  
Ask the waiter for the Melbourne Bushies' Table

**Don't forget! Subscriptions are now due.**  
See the tear-off form on page 11.

### From the Editor

Welcome to my first issue of **The NEWS**. I thank Gina for her excellent productions over the last three years. I have a hard act to follow! I will try to make **The NEWS** interesting and informative to read, but I am relying on you, my readers, to supply me with accounts of walks, anecdotes, news of members 'doings', articles on bushwalking, conservation, photography, camp cooking, the birds & plants we see in the Bush, etc. Also, I am prepared to publish poetry and cartoons, if any of you feels so inclined. I would especially appreciate feed-back about my first issue.

There are some very good walks coming up in May, and our new walks' secretary and his helpers are preparing the Winter program. We need ideas for walks and new leaders (see note elsewhere in **The NEWS**). Don't worry if you have never led a walk - there is plenty of advice available, and as nearly all day walks have two leaders, you can gain experience by assisting your co-leader to preview the walk.

Rob Ayre is running his excellent Navigation practice walk on 8<sup>th</sup> May, so here is your chance to learn to read maps and use a compass. Rob will be running a training session in the clubrooms on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, to cover the fundamentals of map reading.

Are you aware that we have a small library of bushwalking & related books? We have c. 60 books and magazines in the small brown cupboard at the far end of the main room. These are available for borrowing. I intend reviewing some of these books in future issues of **The NEWS**.

While on the subject of books, I would welcome information on any new books that may be of interest to members, and perhaps you could write a review of the book!

I visited Information Victoria Centre in Little Bourke St. & discovered that they have copies of the ESMAP Outer Melbourne Directory for \$9.95! The maps in this book are at a scale of 1:50 000. If you want a copy at this price you had better hurry.

Don't forget that subscriptions are now due. Same as last year, ie. \$27 for ordinary members.

\$18 concession (proof required).

\$39 couples.

\$15 **NEWS** subscribers.

See Subscription Renewal slip on page 11.

Good walking,

*Bob Steel*

### From the President

#### New NEWS Editor.

Bravo! Bob Steel has answered the call and is now our **NEWS** Editor. Bob is no newcomer to shouldering responsibilities for the club. He was President from 1979 to 1982, Treasurer in 1964, a committee member for many years, Federation and Search & Rescue representative in the 1960's, has assisted on and run navigation days & weekends, and has led many walks over the years. Bob has been a member since he was in short pants in 1961. We look forward to **The NEWS** under it's new Editorship, and I hope for lots of contributions from members to make Bob's job and **The NEWS** interesting.

And now we can say "Thank You" to Gina Hopkins as she joyfully relinquishes the task she has carried out so well for three years. There will be no more late night phone calls to tardy leaders from Gina, wanting to know where their walk previews are! Bob won't have to make any calls because all our leaders are about to become reformed characters, getting those previews in well before closing date!

We will miss you and your bike at the committee meetings, Gina. Hope you find something nice to do with your new-found leisure.

#### Committee Vacancy

There is still a vacancy on the Committee for one woman, who has been a member for at least three months. Any offers?

#### Equipment Hire.

We are also looking for someone to help with hiring out equipment. A Committee member is responsible for the equipment, but I wonder if anyone would like to share this job by being in the Clubrooms, say every second Wednesday, to see to the hiring and return of our tents, sleeping bags etc. *Continued on page 10*

Edited on behalf of the Melbourne Bushwalkers by Bob Steel. Articles, walk reports, poems, snippets of news, reports of new gear, book reviews, etc are always welcome.

Please note that articles for **The NEWS** may be put in the

Red Box in the Clubrooms or mailed to me,  
Bob Steel, at PO. Box 157, Ringwood, 3134  
or faxed to me on

**Closing Date for May 1994 News is 4 May 1994.**

Meetings are held in the Clubrooms, MacKenzie St., Melbourne (rear of the Royal Horticultural Society building) on **WEDNESDAY** Evenings between 7.00pm and 9.00pm.

*Visitors are always welcome.*

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

## DAY WALKS - APRIL - MAY 1994

**Sunday 24 April 94    DOM DOM SADDLE - MT VINEGAR - FERNSHAW    Easy & Medium**  
(missed in March NEWS)

**Leaders:**                **Bernie Webster and Nigel Holmes**  
**Transport:**            **Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard**  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:**                **Expected time of return:    1830**  
**Area:**                **East of Healesville    Approx length of walks:    Easy - 10 km;    Medium - 16 km**  
**Map Reference:**

Both walks start at the Dom Dom Saddle toilet block. The easy group will walk along a Melbourne Water access track, through superb mountain ash forest to Carters Gap, and then down Morley's Track to the picnic ground at Fernshaw. This lovely foot-track descends a very gentle spur between Watts River and Morley Creek. The medium walkers will skirt around Mt Dom Dom, climb a steep spur to Cleft Rock (rudely renamed "Bum Boulders" by some!) for lunch and then on to Mt Vinegar. We will then descend to Carter Gap and on down Morley Track to Fernshaw, which, in the 1860's was a thriving town. It was a resting stop and coach change depot for journeys up over the Black Spur. The medium walkers will experience various vegetation zones on their walk.

**Sunday 1 May 94    HAWKES HILL - MOLLISONS CREEK    Easy/Medium and Medium**

**Leaders:**                **Jean Giese and Sylvia Wilson**  
**Transport:**            **Bus from South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am**  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:**                **c. 85 kms                Expected time of return:    7.00pm**  
**Area:**                **Pyalong                Approx length of walks:    16 km and 20 km**  
**Map Reference:**                **Pyalong 1:50 000, or Tooborac and Goldie North - both 1:25 000**

The easier walk is graded easy/medium because we will be mainly off track with a few fences to negotiate, but the rewards of views, old trees, huge granite boulders and Mollisons Creek gorge are well worth the effort. We will climb the short hills slowly, keeping the walk within the capacity of our easier walkers who might like a challenge. The medium walk will cover much the same ground but at a faster pace, adding a few more kilometres.

**Sunday 8 May 94    NAVIGATION DAY - OLINDA FOREST                Easy**

**Leaders:**                **A do-it-yourself day co-ordinated by Rob Ayre**  
**Transport:**            **Bus from South Bank Blvd at 9.00 am**  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:**                **c.40 kms                Expected time of return:    7.00pm**  
**Area:**                **Dandenong Ranges                Approx length of walks:    c. 13 kms**  
**Map Reference:**                **Silvan 1:25 000 (supplied at cost by Leader; see below)**

Have you ever wondered how you would cope if separated from the group on a walk? Or would you like to lead a walk, yet feel daunted by anything more geographically challenging than a beach walk? Would you like to go out in a smaller group but are 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 will use the permanent orienteering course set up in the Olinda State Forest. The forest is quite dense so most of the walk will be on tracks, but there are some opportunities for compass work in open country. 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 before the walk, we will run a class in the main Horticultural Hall, behind the Clubrooms, on the evening of Tuesday, 3 May, from 7.30 to about 9.30 pm. 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.

**DAY WALKS - (cont)****Navigation Day continued**

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 obtain 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.

**SATURDAY 14 May 94 HISTORICAL WALK - SOUTH PARKVILLE Easy****Leaders:** Athol Schafer**Transport:** Tram Meet under the clocks, Flinders Street Station by 1.30 pm**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** Expected time of return: 5.00 pm**Area:** Parkville **Approx length of walks:** 5 kms**Map Reference:** Melways Maps 2A & 2B.

An early grant of land to the Melbourne City Council, the area was put aside for such purposes as cattle yards, stone yards and hospitals. The residential division, dating from the 1870's, but mainly built during the 1880's, remains mostly visually intact. Our tour also takes in the native garden, the Burke and Wills Expedition first camp, and finishes with a traverse of the open spaces of Royal Park.

**SUNDAY 15 May 94 LERDERDERG GORGE Easy/Medium & Medium****Leaders:** Les Southwell and Alan Miller**Transport:** Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9.00 am**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** c.64 kms **Expected time of return:** 1900**Area:** Bacchus Marsh **Approx length of walks:** 13 km and 17 km**Map Reference:** Lerderderg Forest Park map; or Lederderg 1:25 000.

Both walks will start from Mt Blackwood. The easy/medium walk will be along the Blackwood Ranges track until we pick up the spur to take us down to the Lederderg Gorge. The last 1.5 km will be along the 'popular' part of the gorge to Darley Ford.

The medium walk will be via Foxy Gully track and Clifford track onto the Blackwood Ranges track. The last part will be the same as the easy/medium walk.

Most of both walks will be along well-defined tracks, but the drop down the spur to the Lerderderg River is through Eucalypt forest and is off-track.

**SUNDAY 15 May 94 SHERBROOKE FOREST Family Walking Group****Leader:** Les Markham 885 8510 Phone Les for details.**Transport:** Private

Family Walking Group walks are designed for members and others with children, and the emphasis is on the teaching of enjoyable, safe and responsible bushwalking to the children. New families are warmly welcomed.

**WEDNESDAY 18 May 94 LYSTERFIELD STATE PARK Easy/Medium**

**Leaders:** Max Casley **Transport:** Private **Area:** Lysterfield  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** 35 kms **Expected time of return:** 1800  
**Approx length of walk:** c. 15 km **Map Reference:** Melway Maps 83, 84 & 108

Lysterfield was a reservoir for the Mornington Peninsula from the 1930's, but was no longer required after the completion of Cardinia Reservoir in 1975. The area was opened as a park in 1986. More than 20 species of water birds are recorded and the native forest includes peppermints, swamp gums, messmate and southern mahogany. There are numerous tracks in the park, some of which offer splendid views of farmlands and north Dandenong. Swimming & sailing is available on the lake.

## DAY WALKS - (cont)

**SUNDAY 22 May 94            YEA SPUR                            Easy/Medium & Medium**

**Leaders:**        Lloyd Young and Sue Ralston  
**Transport:**     Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:**        c.100 km        **Expected time of return:**     1930  
**Area:**            Near Yea        **Approx length of walks:**        12 km and 18 km  
**Map Reference:**     Flowerdale and Homewood 1:25 000

This is a picturesque walk with wonderful views of rolling hills and open farmland. Both walks involve an initial steepish climb of about 150 metres up to the ridge - the medium group starting near Mt Marianne, and the easy/medium a few kilometres further on. The two walks then follow the spur along to Junction Hill. The easy/medium walk is a little short as planned so it may be extended a little.

**SATURDAY 28 May 94        DANDENONGS EXPLORER - EMERALD        Easy**

**Leader:**        Helene Hunt     Phone 579 2309  
**Transport:**     Private or train from Flinders Street at 0929  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:**        49 km        **Expected time of return:**     1600  
**Area:** Dandenongs   **Approx length of walks:**     12 km  
**Map Reference:**     Melways Map 127 and 188, ESMAP page 739

We will meet at 11.10 am (sharp) at the Emerald Reserve/football ground (Melway 127 G3 - turn right at the 3<sup>rd</sup> roundabout in Emerald) If you are coming by train, please ring me and I will arrange for you to be picked up at Belgrave station. (Train departs Flinders St at 0929 on platform 4 7 arrives Belgrave at c. 1043).

Lunch will be at Emerald Lake Park, so shelter will be available if necessary. From here we make our way towards Cockatoo and then back to Emerald. If the weather is cold, I strongly recommend plenty of warm clothing and wet weather gear.

**SUNDAY 29 May 94            TARADALE - FRYERSTOWN                    Easy & Medium**

**Leaders:**        Jean Giese and Geoff Mattingley  
**Transport:**     Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:**        116 km        **Expected time of return:**     1915  
**Area:**            Near Castlemaine.   **Approx length of walks:**        14 km and 20 km  
**Map Reference:**     "Drummond" 1:25 000

These walks are in the Fryers Ranges State Forest, and will be through dry open forest suitable for Autumn and early Winter walking. We will use tracks sometimes but mostly take the option of the pleasant walking on offer through the bush and beside the creeks. This is old gold mining country with historical interest, including some old buildings, mine shafts and signs of alluvial diggings. There may be some early wattles and Grevilleas in bloom for our enjoyment.



### **Social Program - a plea from George    How you can help.**

We often have requests for more slide nights where members or a non-member arrange to show pictures of their unforgettable trips. We could also have film nights, or even video nights ( if someone has a video camera).

So, if you have slides of walks, trips ( either in Australia or overseas) or videos, please let me know.

George Zamora, Social Secretary



## WEEKEND and PACK-CARRY WALKS

### 6-8 May 94 HELICOPTER SPUR - MT. HOWITT - STANLEYS NAME SPUR Medium

Leader: Bill Metzenth

Transport: Private

Approx. Distance from Melbourne: c.250 kms Expected time of return:

Area: Howitt, east of Mt Buller Approx. length of walk:

Map Reference: Howitt-Selwyn 1:50k., Howitt 1:100k., VMTC - King, Howqua & Jamieson.

This is a classic walk in one of the best bushwalking regions of Victoria. Apart from visiting magnificent high country, my main motivation in doing this walk is to do the 700m ascent of Helicopter Spur. I am told that there is a short section of rock scrambling that may necessitate pack-hauling in one place.

Saturday night will be spent at the campsite between Mt Magdala and Big Hill. On Sunday we will pass over the broad massif of Mt Howitt which, at 1 738 metres, is the highest peak in the region. If the light is just right, the views of the Crosscut are magical! We will barely begin on the Crosscut Saw before we leave it to descend to the Howqua River via Stanleys Name Spur.

### 13-15 May 94 LAKE MOUNTAIN - MT BULLFIGHT Medium

Leaders: Trish Elmore

Transport: Private

Approx. Distance from Melbourne: 116 kms Expected time of return: Early Sunday evening

Area: Marysville, North of Lake Mountain Approx. length of walk: 28 kilometres

Map Reference: Vicmap - Royston and Mt Margaret, both 1:25 000

We start walking from Gerraty's car park at Lake Mountain along some lovely cross-country ski trails (hopefully without snow!) leading towards the Federation Range. We will climb up onto Mt. Bullfight, unfortunately encountering some rather unsightly evidence of the loggers, and also some not-so-nice scrub and fallen timber. Camp will be at a nice spot on the Royston River. On Sunday we return via the Royston River Road to Lake Mountain. Please bring all your winter woollies as it could be cold!

### 20-22 May 94 MITCHELL RIVER Easy/Medium

Leader: Stephen Rowlands Transport: Private

Approx. Distance from Melbourne: c.295 km Expected time of return: Sunday evening

Area: N.E. of Bairnsdale Approx length of walk: c. 20 km

Map Reference: Stratford 1:100 000, Cobbannah-Tabberabbera 1:50 000

We will start at the site of a proposed dam and follow this delightful river downstream to Glenaladale. There are pockets of temperate rain-forest in sheltered gullies and gorges, particularly Woolshed Creek. Mostly on tracks walking in the Mitchell River National Park. Saturday night camp will be by the river at a nice sandy beach.

### 27-29 May 94 NORTH GRAMPPIANS - HOLLOW MOUNTAIN. Easy/Medium BASE CAMP

Leaders: Mark Durré (a co-leader would be appreciated)!

Transport: Private

Approx. Distance from Melbourne: 275 km Expected time of return: Sunday night.

Area: Northern Grampians, near Horsham Approx length of walks: 8 to 15 km per day.

Map Reference: Vicmap Outdoor Leisure Map "Northern Grampians" 1:50k.

We will be establishing a base camp at Hollow Mountain. It is strongly advisable to bring all drinking water from Melbourne as local supplies are unreliable.

Two x 1-day walks will be run, possibly being split into easy/medium and medium groups. First day: Golton Gorge to Staplyton & then on to Hollow Mountain or Flat Rock. Possibly some scrambling on Og and Magog! (This will require a car shuffle.) Second day: Walking on the east side of Mt Difficult Range, which really isn't difficult!

## Great Deeds on the Bogong High Plains

Account of the annual National Parks assistance work party, staying at Wilky (Wilkinson Lodge - our 'little hut' in the high country).

Six stalwart souls headed for Kelly's Hut via Langford Gap, on Saturday morning. We were to meet up with Scotty, the Ranger. But first we had to navigate our way through fat Hereford cattle being mustered below Basalt Hill. Horses and riders, dogs and lowing cattle make an impressive sight, even if you're officially on the other side of the political fence. We piled into Scotty's 4WD ute. - well, two piled into it - and they had a pretty uncomfortable trip riding shotgun! It was, however, a lovely sunny day - warm, with a few flowers out, including snow and mauve daisies, big orange everlastings and "little yellow jobs" - and the birds were singing, ably identified by Dave Hespe.

Kelly's Hut was in a bad way, weather boards had rotted and fallen off at the back and front, rubbish had accumulated and nothing had been thrown out for ages! Max, GWJ, & I attacked the inside, taking everything outside and assessing its worth. GWJ was seriously worried as he dragged out a pile of mattresses and an exploding feather pillow, as he didn't know what was going to jump out! Max emptied a wooden cupboard in which rats had made a home. The pile of rat shit in the cutlery drawer was UNBELIEVABLE! And the smell..... People had left behind "emergency food", good for a dose of rabies, malaria or beri beri at the very least - and that was the stuff the rats hadn't got at! Yuck! Nearly turned me off huts for ever.

Anyway, there were lots of empty chaff bags the Kelly's had left behind when they used to muster cattle in the area, and these were rapidly filled and put in the back of the ute., along with the mattresses, old iron, wire found wrapped around neighbouring trees, rusty cans, much-hardened cattle salt licks, etc, etc. The weatherboards were replaced by second-hand ones brought up from Mt Beauty. Amazing what can be done with a saw, a pre-loved Chippendale chair pressed into service as a saw-horse, a battery-

powered drill, a hammer and a few nails. Talk about improvement - were we impressed! And after Max had given a semi-decomposed rabbit found near the front door a decent Christian burial, the smell was finally fresh and sweet.

Then we did some maintenance on the steep and rutted track that leads down to the Hut. Snow gum logs set at an angle to divert the cascading rain water off the track. There wasn't room for us to go back in the ute, and as we had finished early our self appointed leader (GWJ) suggested we'd walk back via the new Fitzgerald's Hut and the valley below it. No sooner had we waved off the astounding Scotty (he's also a 'dyed-in-the-wool bikie) than we met a group of kids going into Mittagundi. This is both a place and an organisation that caters for children so they can experience the bush. There is a self-sufficient farm, and outdoor education activities are conducted in a caring and sharing environment Does this sound trite? It isn't supposed to; Mittagundi is a really terrific place in which kids can be involved.

The shower ran thick and fast upon our return, and Dougo, the hero, had cooked a smashing roast dinner. Of course we all ate too much and drank too much (well, some of us did!) argued the toss and caught up with the latest gossip. Beware of dog-sleds on the High Plains this winter!

After another mighty breakfast of porridge and toast, we marched off to do battle with the Wallace's to Cope Hut track, with tools over our shoulders, a "Hi Ho, Hi Ho" and rude "Snow White" jokes from Dougo. Actually, the track was in quite good nick, so we were able to finish pretty promptly, return to Wilky for lunch, clean up and head for home. Thanks, Doug, for organising of a thoroughly enjoyable and satisfying week-end with great company. The following survived the week-end: Dave Hespe, Graham Wills-Johnson, Max Casley, Ed Little (on his first trip to Wilky), Doug Pocock, Peter Hogan and me, Sylvia Wilson.

## Wilkinson Lodge Report

The Lodge now boasts a new slow-combustion stove, looking very smart in a newly painted alcove. The small amount of use so far of the stove indicates it is a lot easier to light and a lot faster to heat water, hot plates and oven. User groups will have to learn how to use the stove (instructions are mounted on the wall) but remember the oven temperature rises a lot faster than with the old stove.

Another change that has occurred is that the gas bottle is now located in the wood shed with a pipe to the Lodge. Please note - the gas must be turned on in the shed when you arrive and off again when you leave.

Those on the work parties were Bob Steel, Rosa D'Angelo, Geoff Cope, Graeme Thornton, Tracey Guest, David Laing, Martin Pocock & Alex Stirkul on the first work party and Jan Llewelyn, Sandra Mutimer and Doug Pocock on the second visit. Rod Mattingley deserves a special mention as he was not only on both work parties, but Rod did the research into new stoves, purchased and collected it, did preliminary work such as painting the flue, and took the stove up to Wilky on a trailer. On behalf of the club, Rodney, many, many thanks!

*Doug Pocock, Wilky Manager*

## Friends of Bogong

The Friends of Bogong is a group that organises work parties to the Bogong National Park. Participating in a work party is one way for us to put something back into the National Park System from which we gain so much.

Merilyn and I joined the Friends of Bogong on a work party over the Labour Day weekend. Our group of nine, plus Ron Riley (a Ranger whom Merilyn and I had met on a Wilky-based work party) assembled at the National Parks Service office in Tawonga South. We were then driven up to Camp Gap from where it is a short walk to Michell Hut. We pitched our tents near the hut and after lunch continued up the Eskdale Spur to the last saddle before top. A helicopter had deposited a supply of new snow poles in the saddle.

Our task for the weekend was to shift the existing line of snow poles in the interest of skier safety. This section of the line tended to lead skiers off the western side of the spur. Initially, we intended to shift only three or four poles to remove a sharp bend in the line. Upon inspection, it became obvious that it was more desirable to shift all the poles between the saddle and

the top of the spur into a line that would lead directly between the two points.

The top of the Eskdale Spur offers magnificent views of the surrounding country. Unfortunately, we had to work in cloud, which obscured the views until late on Sunday. A cold wind buffeted us and we even had a light fall of snow! It could have been very chilly on the spur, but the rhythmical action of plunging a crowbar at the rocks kept me warm. It took us a day and a half to shift all the poles, leaving Monday free for other activities.

Many club members may prefer to participate in the work parties organised by our Wilky Manager. If this is not convenient, or you would like the experience of working with another group, the Friends of Bogong offers another opportunity. You can contact them via Marshall Schaeche on 807 6820. Membership costs a very reasonable \$7.50 per year. (Note: it is not necessary to become a member to participate in work parties.)

*Bill Metzenth*

## Notes from March Committee Meeting.

First meeting of the new committee. Welcome to Bill Metzenth, Bernice Webster & Stephen Rowlands. Also to Nigel Holmes, Denise Triffet, and George Zamora who were unable to attend.

Letter received about the re-structuring of the State Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources (yet again)! See notice board.

Treasurer: Closing balances at end February 1994

Club Account:	\$8 252.61
Wilky Account	\$11 078.34
Walks Account	\$32 478.16
Publication Account	\$958.82
Totals	\$52 567.93

February receipts \$2 627.00

February Payments \$5 313.30

Please note - It is Club policy to obtain correct documentation for all expenditure.

Walks: January attendances (approx) 215 people.

Weekend walks 40

Day walks 175

(Report from one Sunday walk not received)

[If you want more or less details of committee meetings, please let me know. *Editor*]





**From the President**, continued from page 2**Federation Day Walk**

The Melbourne Walking Club Inc. (often referred to as the Men's Club) organised the highly successful Federation Day Walk on 27<sup>th</sup> March. About 278 walkers turned out - with about 40 Melbourne Bushies - to enjoy the thirteen walks conducted around the Warburton area.

I offered our congratulations to the President of the Melbourne Walking Club, which is celebrating 100 years of walking. I'm told it all started with a group of serious runners thinking they could extend their training by walking in the bush. They discovered it was such a pleasant activity that the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club was founded. The name was changed to the Melbourne Walking Club comparatively recently.

**Personal**

It's been nice to see Allan Kitchener in the Clubrooms again, and participating in walks, instead of him just reading about us when he received his copy of The NEWS in Vanuatu. Allan and his wife are back home in Melbourne between contracts. I wonder what exotic place we will be posting The NEWS to next?

Wedding bells for Vittoria Clerici and Stymen Stojanov. Congratulations and best wishes to you both.

A warm welcome to baby Rhys Rowlands. Merryn and Stephen are delighting in their new son, born on Good Friday. They tell me Rhys is Welsh as are Stephen and his family.

Happy holiday to ex-secretary and current Vice President Janet Norman as she heads off overseas on long service leave. Likewise to Membership Secretary Peter Havlicek. Welcome to Fay Pratt, who will be collecting your subscriptions during Peter's absence.

We are thinking of you, Ann Granat, in Monash Medical Centre. Your walking pals send their best wishes.

*Jean Giese*

**New Members**

Sandra BRUNTON

**New Members** continued

Deborah COLLIE

Lawrence COLLINS

Doreen HOPKINS

Margaret McGREGOR

Julie RIIS

Marisa RIZZUTO

Sak-Hong WAN

**Changes of Address and/or Phone numbers**

Janet BROOKSBANK

Allan KITCHENER

Edward LAWTON

Adam READ

Tony and Penny STAPLEY

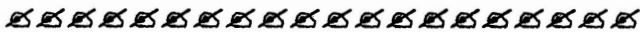
Letter to the Editor

Although I am not a member of the Melbourne Bushwalkers, my parents, Fay and Frank Pitt are life members, having been active in the 40's and 50's, and I thought this might make me an "honorary" member for the purpose of advertising in The NEWS.

I have for sale a pair of Raichle Swiss walking boots, size 40, black leather. I brought them back from Switzerland, worn once. They are in very good condition They cost 200 Swiss francs (c. A\$200). I will accept best offer.

For any old members who may remember my parents, they may be interested to know that Fay is unfortunately now in a nursing home (Hedley Sutton in Canterbury) A rather sad end for a Bushie, but she is still really interested to follow events in The NEWS. (She would welcome any old Bushwalker visitors by the way). My father Frank is still fit and well.

Christine Pitt



From VICWALK News:

Goretex Jackets and Rain gear

Walking through prickly scrub may leave minute pin holes in your Goretex which could lead to your rain gear leaking very badly in the next heavy shower! So be careful!

Camping in National Parks

Recently a base camp was set up in a "Day Car Parking Only" area - the official campsite was just 200 metres away - disregarding any inconvenience that day visitors to the National Park may have incurred. Later, after returning from their walks, the offenders were sternly reprimanded by the Park Rangers who nowadays are on duty every day.

Park staff appreciate prior advice from groups intending to camp, and an indication of their proposed activities. This also shows that Clubs are frequent park users and so can expect a better response to their requests and be treated as regular 'customers'.

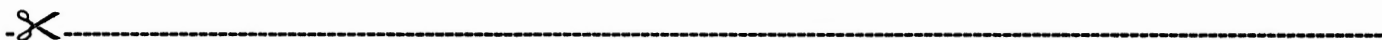


Blackberry Rust - An Update

The Department of Conservation & Natural Resources reports that it has found widespread defoliation of blackberry plants due to the recently released rust along with favourable weather. The rust has now apparently spread throughout Victoria.

It will still take a few years to tell whether it will be really effective, but it certainly sounds promising. I was in north Gippsland in January with George Zamora and Peter Knighton, and we found vast areas of the Broken, Wongungurra and Wonnangatta Rivers choked with blackberries. I am sure others have similar stories. Lets keep our fingers crossed.

Alan Clark



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Make cheques or money order payable to "Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc." and post to: Membership Secretary, PO Box 1751Q, MELBOURNE, 3001

## Li Lo Trip Tulloch Ard Gorge - Snowy River

The group comprised Peter Chalkley (leader), Stan Mackowiak, Geoff Kelly, Marianne Driver, David Laing, George Zamora, Gina Hopkins, Derrick Brown and Max Casley.

For those of you who have not li-loed, it involves sitting on a firmly inflated air mattress, feet out in front, and leaning back against your pack which contains your precious food and clothes wrapped up in several layers of plastic bags. You float off down the river with the aid of a pair of paddles - a very pleasant way of travelling. It gets more exciting going down rapids but if the rapids are too turbulent, you walk around them. The bigger rapids have been given names such as the *A Frame* and the *Washing Machine*. If you fall off in rapids the best plan is to keep hold of the li-lo - the pack and paddles float and can be picked up later.

On Friday night we drove down through heavy rain and by Saturday morning it had eased to showers as we walked across farmland, then steeply down into the gorge. The water was not warm but not too cold, the sun shone briefly, and we inflated our li-los. There was a could flow in the river - 1.09 metres at McKillops Bridge according to Mick Mann. (The club trip in 1981 had 0.39 metres)

After a practice paddle we set off. The first set of rapids were fun and put us in a good mood. Next came George's Mistake (no relation to our George) which was big so we walked except for Peter who got halfway through before being dethroned in spectacular fashion on a rather steep drop.

We had been warned about the infamous A Frame but most were caught by surprise because it was just after a smaller set of rapids. Peter followed the correct route to the left, Geoff called "keep left!" but no-one heard over the noise. I was just recovering my composure from the previous rapids and then I have a blurred recollection of heading straight towards two rocks leaning together making the A-shape, with the water gushing through the narrow gap. Gina, who had escaped to the right, sat watching with interest.

What followed was an unpleasant experience indeed but I will just say that waterfalls produce aerated

water which does not give much buoyancy - flotation vests are a must! George followed me through on his

memorable first day on a li-lo! David showed control and wisdom and walked around. The recommended 'route to the left must also have been interesting because as I collected my gear on a beach downstream, I also collected Stan's pack and three sets of paddles, and Derrick's li-lo was nearby. His hat, however, was never seen again!

Marianne ran a ferry service for those in need. for this act of kindness she was rewarded by being tumbled in the "Washing Machine"! The rest of us walked around. Gentle Annie looked mean and rocky so we all walked, our bravado being somewhat subdued by now. That night we camped on a sandy beach and relived the exciting day around the campfire.

Sunday was the coldest day because of the almost continuous rain - the river water felt warm by comparison. Fortunately the rain eased for lunch as we huddled around a fire. The rapids in this part of the river were smaller and we most of them with only a few dunkings. Again we had a good campsite on a sandy bank of the river.

Monday was a great day, Stan was up early and lit a fire, and the rain had stopped. The rapids were excellent, giving long runs over standing waves which were like large corrugations almost a metre high, every few metres. These gave a fast bouncy ride and we were sorry to leave the river.

The paddles were useful hacking back the blackberries on the path up from the river to the helipad, where we had lunch and dried off. Then we climbed 660 metres up and up the New Guinea spur to the cars. We then rather unwisely tried to drive along short cuts back to the main road, but eventually we were all homeward bound. We are amazed that we had not seen any other people for the three days as normally the river is very popular with canoeists.

Thanks, Peter, for a great trip! Geoff has promised to lead a li-lo trip on the Thompson River next summer - watch out for it.

Max Casley



## Walkathon

Interchange is a community based support program designed to match host carers with families who have a child with a disability living at home. This not only gives the child's parents a break knowing that their child is receiving the care he or she needs in a second home environment, but also extends the child's social contacts, friendships and experiences.

Interchange is currently organising a Walkathon to assist them in funding their programs.

- ☺ 2 km and 5 km walks
- ☺ Free sausage sizzle for all walkers
- ☺ Entertainment
- ☺ Prizes for people who raise over \$100
- ☺ Peaked caps for all walkers

The walk will take place whatever the weather. Those interested in participating can phone Interchange for a sponsorship form on 836 9811 or arrive on the day and pay a small entry fee.

**Where:** Westerfolds Park  
Fitzsimmons Lane  
Templestowe

**When:** Sunday 1 May 1994

**Time:** Start walking anytime between  
11.00 am and 12.30 pm

## JOHN BROWNLIE

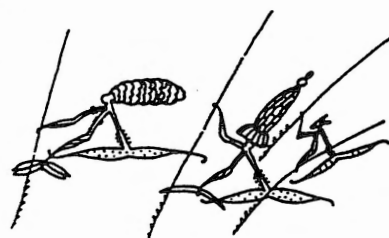
Some of you who have been members for some time may remember John Brownlie, who walked extensively with the club in the late 1950's and 1960's. He was President of the Club in 1966 and 1967. He started Algona Publications, publishing maps and guide books to various parts of Victoria. He has been living in N.S.W. for some time now and has recently lost his wife to cancer. He is also having difficulty walking, and is going into Dubbo Hospital on 14 April for a hip replacement operation.

I am sure that John would love to hear from his friends in the Melbourne Bushies, so why not send him a get-well card c/o Dubbo Hospital. We hope the operation goes well, John and that you are out and about very soon.

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