



The NEWS

of the
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

AUGUST 1994

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Contents August 1994 The NEWS

Social Notes and Events	Page 1 & 9
From The Editor	Page 2
From the President	Page 2
Day Walk previews	Pages 3 & 4
Weekend and Pack-Carry walks	Pages 5 & 6
Prowling Pussy Cat	Page 6
Vicwalk news	Page 6
Letter to the Editor from Art Terry	Page 7
A Very Striking Piece of Research	Page 7
Beginners Ski Day update	Page 8
Committee Notes & Roster	Page 8
New Members & Changes	Page 8
Willis's Walkabouts advert.	Page 9

SNOWGUM GEAR NIGHT

THURSDAY 25 AUGUST 1994

The Staff of the Snowgum invite members of the **Melbourne Bushwalkers** to a special night in their store

Guest speaker **Andrew King** from **Aiking Equipment** will reveal some of the secrets of rucsac construction

Snowgum's experienced staff will be available to show people through their range.

And don't forget to take advantage of the **20% discount** off all gear this night only.

Please book early with **George**, in **Clubrooms** to arrange a group.

Any queries, see **George Zamora**, Social Secretary. Or don't hesitate to call the staff at their city store. See you there.

SNOWGUM
360 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne Ph 670 1177

RIALTO OBSERVATION DECK

Friday 26 August at 6.30 pm

Meet outside Rialto and we will go up to the newly-opened Observation Deck for a magnificent view of Melbourne at Sunset

We will walk to somewhere for Dinner afterwards.

Bookings close with **Sylvia Wilson** on **Wednesday 24 August**
Deposit of \$6 required

Be There Or Be Square!

DONT FORGET

**HALF YEARLY GENERAL
MEETING**

**Wednesday 24 AUGUST at 8.00
PM
in CLUBROOMS**

**SLIDES by LES SOUTHWELL
AUGUST 17, at 8.00 PM in
CLUBROOMS**

From the Editor

I've been laid low by the dreaded Lurgi this past couple of weeks.....not at all pleasant. But there is a lot of it about, by all accounts. So I hope the rest of you have managed to avoid it. This current strain seems particularly virulent and hard to shake off. Still, I'm coming good and have managed to get **The NEWS** out on time. And I hope to be out walking again soon.

As Jean has mentioned, the **Half Yearly general meeting** is on this month. So please come and air your views and participate in the running of our Club.

As I write, I hear on the news of a couple who were airlifted off the Major Mitchell Plateau after becoming lost on a walk preview. I know that some of our leaders preview walks alone! I must admit I've done it. But one should really have at least one companion, and of course leave detailed notes of your plans with someone at home. The afore-mentioned couple had left good instructions and so were quickly found when they became overdue. Another thought that struck me was the way the authorities react when they find someone lost. They wrap them up in blankets, put them on stretchers and whisk them off to hospital! Fair enough I suppose, but how many times have we finished trips, cold and wet and possibly suffering mild exposure - and shrugged it off with bravado, hopped into our cars and driven home. Think about it.

I've had a postcard from Jenny Flood (of Happy Walker Adventure Tours) and she reports that the first two Kimberley trips went very well, with very few hitches. Jopie and Jenny are looking forward to the third and longer trip now, which includes the Hammersley area. Two of our members are going on that one, and Max, Trish, Derrick & Gina were on the middle Kimberley trip, just finished. (I was there with Jenny and Jopie last year, on the preview trip). A magnificent area of Australia, well worth the visit.

I belong to the Society for Growing Australian Plants, Maroondah and I am on the organising committee that is staging our annual **Wildflower Show** on 13 and 14 August at the Ringwood Cultural Centre, Mines Road, Ringwood from 0900 to 1700. Admission \$4 and you get a free plant! So if you are not going to Rawson, or on George's Buller weekend, why not come out and see some of our wonderful Australian wildflowers.

As you will have noticed, I have been trying various ways of presenting the Walks Previews, in an attempt to improve their readability. I would appreciate comments

and suggestions (polite) about having them in columns, with or without centre line, or would you prefer them across the page. Are the details of leaders, transport, map, distance, etc clear and easy to find? Please let me know. I aim to please and welcome constructive criticism.

Bob Steel

From the President

A Note for your Diary: Presidents weekend and Sunday walk on November 18-20. It will be two years since the last Presidents weekend, so we think it's time for another. The venue will be the same as last time - Hughes Creek. A walk-in base camp (about 3 kms), three grades of walk on Saturday. The President will entertain with hors-d'oeuvres & drinks in the evening and a grand bush concert on Saturday night. There will be the bus as usual to transport the Sunday walkers, to join the weekenders for another 3 grades of walks, followed by afternoon tea beside Hughes Creek. Book up the dates for a happy 'Bushie' occasion.

The Half Yearly General Meeting is this month, on Wednesday 24th August at 8.00 pm in the Clubrooms. This is an opportunity for any club member to bring up any matter s/he would like discussed by the whole membership, rather than just leaving it to the Committee of Management. We still have a vacancy for one woman on the Committee. Anyone interested?

Jean Giese

The NEWS - official newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalker Inc. and published monthly. Edited by Bob Steel.

Articles, walk reports, poems, snippets of news, reports of new gear, book reviews, letters "to the Editor", advertisements, 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,

Advertising Rates

¼ Page 1 Issue-\$20; 3 Issues-\$50; 12 Issues (1 year)-\$180

½ Page 1 Issue-\$30; 3 Issues-\$75; 12 issues-\$270

Full Page 1 issues-\$50; 3 issues-\$125; 12 issues-\$450

Members Ads - FREE

Closing Date for September **News** is

31ST AUGUST 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

PREVIEWS for September - DAY WALKS

4 September EAST MOOROOLBOOL RIVER-LAKE BOSTOCK- Easy & E/Medium MT EGERTON

Leaders: **Bill Penrose & Jean Woodger**
 Transport: **Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **c. 90 kms**
 Expected time of return: **c. 1900**
 Area: **near Ballan**
 Map Reference: **Ballan 1:50 000, sections 1,2,3 &4; Lal Lal, Yaloak & Cleever Hill 1:25 000**

The Walks will take roughly parallel courses to Lake Bostock. The area is gently undulating with native scrub and pine forests. The lunch stop will probably be by the lake - however it may be a little cold for a swim. Then we continue in a westerly direction, mainly on tracks, to Mt Egerton township. At this point both parties will have completed an easy walk. We will then climb gently-sloping Mt Egerton and continue down the other side where we will have an opportunity to inspect an ancient graveyard.

4 September BROADFORD to YEA RUN Hard

Leaders: **John Roseman**
 Transport: **Mini-Bus at 0830 SHARP from South Bank Boulevard**
 Cost: **\$15 - \$25 (depending to numbers)**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **70 km**
 Expected time of return: **1930**
 Area: **Yea**
 Approx length of walks: **50 kms**
 Map Reference: **Yea 1:50 000**

Come and share the excitement of this run as a spectator. The spectators will have exclusive use of the mini-bus throughout the day to go where-ever they like and do whatever they like so long as they are back at the Yea Hospital by 1700 to join in the celebrations with the runners and for a light meal in Yea. Numbers are strictly limited so you will need to book early to guarantee a seat on the mini-bus.

11 September Mt DISAPPOINTMENT Easy & E/Medium

Leaders: **John Kittson & Fay Pratt**
 Transport: **Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **65 kms**
 Expected time of return: **c. 1900**
 Approx length of walks: **14 and 22 kms**
 Area: **North of Whittlesea**
 Map Reference: **Kinglake West 1:25 000**

Our trek for the day will be in a nice forested area. Both walks will start at the Picnic ground and then on to the summit of Mt Disappointment. The theory is that Hume and Hovell (who visited the mountain on their journey from Sydney to Port Phillip), were 'disappointed' that they could not see in any direction because of the tall timber growing there. Good views are now available from a nearby spot along Harpers Creek Rd. The two walks are of a similar standard, with the medium walk being a few kilometres longer.

18 September BRISBANE RANGES Easy & Medium Anakie Gorge to Little River

Leaders: **Alan Miller and Brian Crouch**
 Transport: **Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **c. 100 kms**
 Expected time of return: **c. 1900**
 Area: **between Geelong & Bacchus Marsh**
 Approx length of walks: **14 and 17 kms**
 Map Reference: **Staughton Vale 1:25 000, also C&E map of Anakie Gorge**

This area is too hilly for an easy grade walk, though the first part from Anakie Gorge picnic area to Stony Creek is very gentle. This is usually a good place to spot koalas. We will leave Stony Creek before it gets too thick with the day trippers from Geelong, and the air filled with the smells from their barbeques! Up the hill we will go to the so-called Maclean Highway, which we will follow to the Little River. There should be a good display of wildflowers along the "highway", which is pretty boring otherwise. There is a very nice ridge to the north of the river, for the easy-medium walk, while the hardier souls can follow the river back to the bus, with a good possibility of wet feet.

Continued next page

PREVIEWS for September - DAY WALKS continued

18 September Easy & Medium	BRISBANE RANGES continued Anakie Gorge to Little River
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For those that believe that koalas don't need to drink, it was at one of the crossing places near Little River picnic area that we came across a koala on the stepping stones drinking the water.

21 September Easy/medium	Mt MACEDON Wednesday Walk
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Leaders: Trevor Thomson
Ph 053 487686

Transport: Private: Meet in Mt Macedon Village, main street, near the Hotel, at 1015

Approx. Distance from Melbourne: 65 kms

Expected time of return: c. 1630

Area: Near Woodend

Approx length of walks: 15 kms

Map Reference: Macedon Ranges Walking Trail (DCNR - available in Mt Macedon)

The Walk follows the newly-established Macedon Ranges Walking Trail. From the Village we will have a steady climb up the mountain, but after that it is easy going with a circuit around the high peaks before descending back again to our cars. There are several excellent viewpoints, including from the memorial cross (which is surrounded by snow grass) and from the Camels Hump.

24 September (Saturday) Medium	Mt EVELYN-OLINDA and Area; Dandenongs Explorer
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Leader: Pauline Williams

Transport: Private see below

Approx. Distance from Melbourne: c. 40 kms

Expected time of return: 1700

Approx length of walks: 25 km

Map Reference: Melway Maps 120, 122, & 66

Looking for a challenge on a Saturday? This is a walk for those who think Saturday walks are too easy. It has everything. What better way to spend a chilly early spring day in Melbourne than climbing over the northern foothills of the Dandenongs. By this time the

exotics in the R.J.Hamer Arboretum should be greening up. Great views of the plains north of the Dandenongs,

and the Dandenong Ranges themselves. But the highlight of the walk is *lunch!* I know a cosy little place in Olinda where they serve great Devonshire teas, with King Island cream & home made light lunches in front of a Coonara heater. (Last time I was there I finished with a steamed date pudding with caramel sauce and King island cream). Alternatively you can bring lunch and we will leave you a bit down the track at a really nice lookout while we indulge.

If 25 kilometres (more or less) seems a long way - it is; that's the reason for the 9.00am start. But you only need to carry water, a waterproof jacket and some money for lunch. Even the water can be left behind if you don't mind drinking from the local creeks. So come on you walkers who have been telling Michael that Saturday walks are no challenge, put on your shorts and come out for a brisk warm-up! This walk rivals some I've done three times this distance from Melbourne.

MEET at 15 Oak Grove, Mt Evelyn (Melway 52.- K4), at 0900. Or better still come about 0845 and I'll whip up an early morning tea before we leave.

25 September E/Medium & Medium	THREE SISTERS- FLOWERDALE
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Leaders: Peter Havlicek & Peter McGrath

Transport: Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard

Approx. Distance from Melbourne: c. 75 kms

Expected time of return: 1830

Area: between Kinglake West & Yea

Approx length of walks: 17 kms and 17+ kms with c. 250m. extra climbing.

Map Reference: Flowerdale & Reedy Creek 1:25 000

The easy-medium walk starts on the Wandong-Flowerdale road and passes through ash and ironbark regrowth. There is evidence of earlier gold mining along the way. The medium walk climbs from Hazledene. Wombats seem to abound in this area (one sighted, with numerous scratchings). The last third of both walks is along a ridge with views on either side (Three Sisters) and after descending, we should locate the bus down the road near the Flowerdale Hotel.

#####

PREVIEWS for September - WEEKEND and PACK-CARRY WALKS

2-4 September
Medium SKI TRIP

**FALLS CREEK -
BOGONG VILLAGE**

Leader: **Stephen Down**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **375 km**
 Expected time of return: **c. 2100 Sunday**
 Area: **Bogong High Plains**
 Approx length of ski trip: **30 kms**
 Map Reference: **Outdoor Leisure Map-
Bogong Alpine Area 1:50 000**

What we actually get to do on this trip will be determined by the amount and cover of snow. Ideally we will ski from Falls Creek past Pretty Valley and camp in the Fainters area. Sunday we will descend to Bogong village. We will make use of the local bus company to do the driving for us. If the snow is not low enough we will start and finish in Falls Creek.

9-11 September
Medium

THE BLUFF - SKIING

Leader: **Geoff Kelly**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **240 kms**
 Area: **near Mansfield**
 Map Reference: **Buller South 1:25 000**

No preview supplied!

The Bluff area is a bit inaccessible in winter so be prepared to carry skis some distance, depending on snow cover. Once on top there is some magnificent country to ski over, unmarked by other skiers. (Editor)
See leader in Clubroom for more details

9-11 September
Easy/medium

**MAJOR MITCHELL
PLATEAU**

Leader: **Alan Clarke**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **c. 270 kms**
 Expected time of return: **Sunday evening**
 Area: **Grampians**
 Approx length of walks: **24 kms**
 Map Reference: **Outdoor Leisure Map-
Southern Grampians 1:50 000**

This is a well-known walk up the walking track to Mt William, south across the Major Mitchell plateau and back down to the road via the Jimmy Creek track (or vice versa). Splendid Grampianesque geology abounds, fabulous views are plentiful and in September the wildflowers should be ubiquitous. Numbers will be limited due to the smallish camping areas.

9-18 September
Medium/hard

**SNOWY MOUNTAINS
SKIING**

Leader: **Peter Chalkley**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **530 kms**
 Expected time of return: **Late - as late as 2300 on 18 Sept.**
 Approx length of ski trip: **60 kms**
 Map Reference: **Khancoban and Mount
Kosciusko sheets - 1:50 000**

To ski Mt Jagungal and the Main Range - this is a trip I have aspired to do for some time now. On a previous attempt I had to exit prematurely after being drenched by a rain storm while camped under Mt Twynam. This seven day ski trip in the Kosciusko National Park will begin at Round Mountain and take in places with such wonderful names as the Cup and Saucer Hill, the Brassies, the Kerries, and the Rolling Ground, and mountains such as Jagungal, Gungartan, Tate, Anderson and Twynam. There will be some flexibility in the route to allow for bad weather. The trip may even be done in reverse to avoid bad weather on the Main Range. Early expressions of interest would be appreciated

23-25 September
Medium

**MT FEATHERTOP -
SKIING**

Leader: **Derrick Brown**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **360 kms**
 Expected time of return: **Late!**
 Approx length of ski trip: **25kms**
 Map Reference: **Outdoor Leisure map 1:50 000
Bogong Alpine Area**

We will start from Diamantina Hut on Saturday morning and ski along the Razorback. Depending on the weather and snow conditions, this can be tricky, so
continued next page

PREVIEWS for September - WEEKEND and PACK-CARRY WALKS Continued

MT FEATHERTOP -SKIING continued

this is not a trip for beginners. You will need to be able to ski with a pack along a ridge top. We will camp at the top of Champion Spur around lunchtime, leaving the afternoon for skiing to Feathertop and a few gullies. On Sunday we'll explore around the campsite area and nearby gullies before making our way back along the ridge to the road. No fires are allowed so you must bring a stove (one between two will do) and sufficient fuel to cook and melt snow for water. There is no running water at the campsite. Bring clothing and gear for all weathers

23-25 September CHILTERN BASE CAMP Easy

Leader:	Paul Stripeikis
Transport:	Private
Approx. Distance from Melbourne:	274 kms
Approx length of walks:	20 kms

Chiltern State Park is an extensive ironbark forest (E. sideroxyton), just north of Wangaratta on the Hume Freeway. The park is divided into two parts split by the Freeway. We will walk through the east side on Saturday, which I found was the most attractive of the two parts of the park, with its rolling grassy landscape. On the Sunday we will explore the west side where we can look at old gold mine sites and an old cemetery. I hope to finish early on Sunday afternoon so we can drive into the old Chiltern township and wander around the quaint little shops, or we can have a browse through some of the wineries in the area, if people are interested. Orchids abound in the west side of the park; in fact twenty different varieties have been recorded, and I expect wattles to still be in bloom. Two rare birds are found in the Park, the Regents Honeyeater and the Olive Whistler, as well as numerous others, so bring your binoculars! Camping will be by a large dam on the east side of the park. Though very pretty, the water is not suitable for drinking so please bring your own water for drinking and cooking. I do not expect to walk more than 10 kms on either day.

#####

Prowling Kitty Cat

The *Prowling Kitty Cat* has been informed of a new leader by the name of Fay Pratt. Whilst on her maiden walk, a segment of the conversation between herself and her whip went something like this. He said "This way" and she said "No, that way!". So between the *this's* and the *that's* it was decided *this* and *that* had to be the

makings of the Zig Zag Track. And yes, they were both correct. This particular track goes north then south about four times in under half a kilometre.

The Prowler had a busy day in fact. A new female club member, who shall remain nameless, on this very same day found out just how slippery the top step can be! Yes, she knows to whom I'm referring. But then our gallant Coach Captain of long standing was to be seen flying - for the first time in his life - to her side, to offer his shoulder for support and strength for her to lean on in this moment of possibly her greatest need. For I am told it fairly took her breath away!

"Meow"

Vicwalk

The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs

Vicwalk has recently issued a new pamphlet "Bushwalking, make a start..." aimed at new bushwalkers. Very limited copies are available in the Clubrooms if you want to see one. A new "Tread Softly" brochure on minimal impact bushwalking has been written and is currently being printed. It should be available soon. Vicwalk is also working on another brochure on Hypothermia and Hyperthermia.

Vicwalk also have a number of videos on Bushwalking. I have previewed two and I think that they are excellent. A showing of them will be arranged for a forthcoming Clubnight, so stay tuned.

Copies of the history of the Federation - "The Scroggin Eaters" - are still available if you would like a copy.

New Clubs continue to sprout up around Victoria. The latest are in Cobram and Pakenham.

\$5 of your membership goes to Vicwalk as a subscription. Vicwalk is the peak walking body in Victoria and does a tremendous job in representing walking at all levels, and in the general co-ordination of bushwalking activities, mostly by voluntary labour. At less than 2 cents a day (per member), it is an absolute bargain. Unfortunately, one club (Waverley) recently left Vicwalk as they felt it was too much to pay. I personally think that that was a very selfish and shortsighted decision, as it is vital that we fully support the one body that is capable of effectively representing bushwalking at higher-level forums. Fortunately this Club fully realises the importance of Vicwalk to us all.

Alan Clarke

UPDATE

Nordic Skiing Beginners Day

The Beginners Day for Saturday July 23 has been postponed due to lack of snow. The Lake Mountain trip has been rescheduled to

Saturday August 13.

Transport costs will have to go up a bit to cover the cost of chain hire. Approx. \$18 now. Other costs: Ski hire approx \$20 plus \$50 deposit, and trail fees of \$7. We will be leaving Melbourne at 6.00 am! Ring Sylvia. Wednesday nights 9.30-1030 pm if you can't make it to the Clubrooms.

Sylvia would like the assistance of a couple of experienced Nordic skiers to assist her with the expected crowd!

So if you aren't going to Rawson, contact Sylvia

Committee Notes**Walks Secretary: Attendances for June:**

Day Walks - 4, Total attendees - 140,
average of 35 each walk

Weekend pack carry walks - 4, 43 participants,
average of 11.

Basecamp - 1, 11 participants

Wednesday/Historical/Dandenong Explorers - 3,
total 49 people.

Financial for June:

Receipts \$5420.48; Payments 7622.69

Closing balance \$53 668.03

Figures for July not yet available.

Margaret Borden, who acts as Club Phone Contact for Enquiries, will be away in the Kimberley in August so Peter Havlicek will be handling enquiries in her absence.

It appears that the ARC (Alpine Resorts Commission) is insisting that trail fees are payable by all users of the road from Windy Corner to Watchbed Creek, even those people who are simply heading out into the National Park to snow camp or go to Wilky. Bill has written to the ARC and to the Minister, Mr Coleman, protesting against this imposition on ski-tourers who do not want prepared trails/track setting and are not racers or skaters.

Duty Roster

3 August	Derrick and Alan Miller
10 August	Alan Clarke and Stephen
17 August	Janet and Marilyn
24 August	Bernice and Janet
31 August	Bob and Peter
7 September	Derrick and Janet

New Members

Robert MOTTA	Pamela KIRKHAM
Sally LYNCH	Elizabeth LEAHY

Changes to Members Information.

<i>Add to Membership List</i> Julie SAMSON	<i>Add to Membership List</i> Paul STRIPEIKIS
<i>Add to Membership List</i> Peter HAMANN	<i>Add to Membership List</i> Carol LINGARD
<i>Altered Address/Phone</i> Allan KITCHENER	

Summer Programme

Early in September, the Walks sub-committee will be preparing the Summer walks programme. Now is the time to drag out your ideas for walks which you would like to see on that programme. The Summer programme includes the Christmas period, so we need more than the usual number of ideas, to include the extended trips. Please give me your ideas before the end of August.

Bill Metzthen

There will be no Saturday Historical Walks on the Spring Programme as Athol has a gammy leg. He intends to rest it and hopefully will be able to resume the Historical walks in the Summer Programme

Bill Metzthen
Walks Secretary

BUSH DANCE

Featuring

Bushwahzee Bush Band

Friday September 30 at 8.30 pm

South Melbourne Town Hall

\$10 \$10 \$10 \$10

Run by YHA Youth Hostels Association

BYO Drinks and supper

Free Tea and Coffee

1 Free Ticket with each table sold.

**See George in Clubrooms to
organise a Bushies table or two**

Bookings with Ron Bell
Frank O'Connor
or Mail Bookings to Ron Bell

Also, after the **Sunday Walks**.
Just a reminder that a regular group
goes to **Southbank**, for tea, from one
of the many eateries in the Food Court
which is down at the River level.

All Are Welcome.

AND

Some members (a select group!) meet
at **Toto's in Lygon Street**, before
Wednesday Clubnights, for tea.

All are welcome to join us.

Around 6.00 pm

NITMILUK NATIONAL PARK (Katherine Gorge)

EXPERIENCE THE WONDER OF THE WET

Nitmiluk's marked trails are easy to follow in the Dry, not so in the Wet. The land bursts into bloom, a year's growth compressed into a few months. Small dry creeks turn into torrents. Waterfalls spring to life. Only someone with an intimate knowledge of the park can take you off the track and show you the hidden gorges and waterfalls that the winter tourists never see.



SPECIAL OFFER

Join me next February for my 11th anniversary special, the most exciting Nitmiluk expedition Willis's Walkabouts has ever offered, a trip with plenty of time for swimming and relaxation, a trip I enjoy so much that I will personally run it for as few as two people, provided I have the confirmed bookings by 1 December. Book and pay four months in advance and you get a 20% discount. See you there.



Willis's Walkabouts

12 Carrington Street, Millner NT 0810

Tel: (089) 85 2134 Fax: (089) 85 2355

The NEWS of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

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