



THE NEWS

OF THE
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

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MARCH 1994

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COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT FOR 1994

At the AGM on 23 February 1994 the following persons were elected to the Committee:

President	Jean Giese
Vice Presidents	Derrick Brown Janet Norman
Secretary	Merilyn Whimpey
Treasurer	Denise Triffett
Walks Secretary	Bill Metzenthien
Assistant Walks Secretary	Alan Miller
Membership Secretary	Peter Havlicek
Social Secretary	George Zamora
Wilky Lodge Manager	Doug Pocock
News Editor	** Vacant **
Ordinary Members	Stephen Rowlands Alan Clarke Nigel Holmes Bernice Webster ** Vacancy **
Auditors	Liz Telford Mark Walters

Your Committee welcomes any suggestions from members for the smooth running of the Club or to increase our enjoyment and sensitivity in the bush.

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 still be faxed to the News Editor on

Closing date for the April edition is Wednesday 30 March 1994.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

NEWS FROM THE AGM

Listed on the front page of "News" are the Office Bearers and Committee of Management for the year which begins on the 1st March.

Unfortunately we were not able to fill the position of News Editor. Gina has been Editor for three years and really wishes to relinquish the task. Is there anyone who would consider taking on this job? Give Gina a ring on 853 3788 for a chat about what is involved.

There is also a vacancy for a woman on the Committee. We had four men nominate for the five ordinary members' positions but our Rules require a 3:2 mix of the sexes.

ALPINE AREAS

Those who visit, walk or ski in the Victorian Alps are confronted with increasing evidence of damage to this sensitive environment. Conservationists are also concerned about the effect of discharge from Alpine resorts on mountain streams. (On my Christmas trip four of the party of eight suffered from stomach upset and diarrhoea and we attributed this to drinking water from the creeks below the Mt Hotham resort.)

The Alpine Resorts Commission appears to be a law unto itself. No plans are made known to the public of intended developments and there are no environmental impact studies required. There doesn't appear to be any accountability to anyone.

The Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) is the main organisation which has been endeavouring to keep an eye on what is going on in the Alps, obtaining media coverage from time to

time and raising public awareness off the problems. At the AGM our members voted to donate \$4000 to the VNPA to help maintain this watch on the Alpine resorts, half the amount to come from Wilky surplus and half from the accumulated reserves in the walks account. I'm sure all those who did not attend the AGM will be pleased with this decision.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

For the third year in a row it was decided that membership fees remain the same as in 1991. Good management, a steady flow of visitors and interest on our reserves make this possible.

SPOON PRESENTATION

Spoons bearing the Club badge were presented to those couples who are members of the Club and who married during the last year.

Happy to accept were:

Gina Hopkins and Derrick Brown

Merryn Mitchell and Stephen Rowlands

Pauline Smith and Peter Lucas

Jean Giese, President

DAY WALKS - APRIL 1994**SUN 27 MAR 94 FEDERATION DAY: WARBURTON AREA VARIOUS**

MBW ORGANISER : BERNIE WEBSTER
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 8.30 A.M. **** NOTE EARLY START ****
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.
 APPROX DISTANCE : 4- 20 KM

This year the walks for Federation Day are being organised by the Melbourne Walking Club in the Warburton area. The walks they offer cover a range of standards and distances and are organised to finish around 3.00 p.m. to allow time for socialising between walkers from the various clubs over afternoon tea.

A prompt 8.30 a.m. start by the bus is required as most walks are scheduled to start before 11.00 a.m. Details of the various walks and their starting times will be available in the Clubrooms. We are hoping to arrive in time to have a choice of 4 walks which could include tram lines, relics of 1800's gold mining, Mt Little Joe and the sights of Warburton depending on the walk.

Note : As walks are scheduled to leave from the Warburton Football Ground at 15 minute intervals starting at 7:45 a.m. private transport arrangements will be necessary for any who wish to take one of the earlier walks.

SUN 3 APR 94 TIPPERARY TRACK - HEPBURN SPRINGS EASY & E/MEDIUM

LEADERS : PETER HAVLICEK & ALAN MILLER
 AREA : DAYLESFORD
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : DAYLESFORD 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 14 & 18 KM

A beautiful autumn walk through the regrowth forests around Daylesford and Hepburn Springs. We shall climb from the Hepburn Springs area to Jackson Lookout (good views). Features of the walk include the Blowhole (a diversion tunnel on Sailors Creek) and numerous springs (Hepburn, Argyle, Golden, Liberty, Fairy Dell, Tipperary, etc) - taste sparingly!

The easy walk is all on tracks, the easy/medium includes some bush navigation.

MON 4 APR 94 EASTER MONDAY: FRANKSTON - MT ELIZA EASY

LEADER : ATHOL SCHAFER
 AREA : FRANKSTON
 TRANSPORT : TRAIN/BUS
 MEETING PLACE : UNDER THE CLOCKS, FLINDERS STREET STATION BY 9.20 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.00 P.M. CITY
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS MAPS 101, 102, 105
 APPROX DISTANCE : 9 KM

From Frankston it's an easy, rambling exploration of quiet back streets, shady nooks and by-ways going to Mt Eliza. The route takes in some excellent viewpoints, parks and nature reserves. If warm enough there should be time for a swim. Bus back to Frankston departs Mt Eliza at 4.30 p.m.

SUN 10 APR 94 KINGLAKE ACROSS THE GRAIN EASY, E/MEDIUM & M/HARD

LEADERS : JOHN KITTSON, DENISE TRIFFETT & GEOFF MATTINGLEY
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.

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

WED 20 APR 94 LOST CHILDRENS TRACK**EASY/MEDIUM**

LEADER : TREVOR THOMSON
 AREA : DAYLESFORD
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 MEETING PLACE : 8.30 A.M. JEAN GIESE'S, 9 ALBERT CRES, SURREY HILLS, OR
 10.15 A.M. DAYLESFORD P.O.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : DAYLESFORD, BULLARTO & EGANSTOWN 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 15 KM

This walk introduces a bit of Daylesford's early history by approximately retracing the wanderings of 3 small boys who strayed from their Daylesford home in June 1967. A search by up to 700 people was unsuccessful, the bodies of the children being discovered 3 months later in a hollow log near Musk.

We will follow Sailors Creek south past Muskvale (where the children were sighted) down to Sailors Falls for a lunch stop. We then cross into the Wombat Forest past a disused railway cutting to Specimen Hill Dam (former mine and place of second sighting near dusk), then follow Cockatoo Creek to the Wombat Creek Dam.

SUN 24 APR 94 DOM DOM SADDLE - MT VINEGAR - FERNSHAW**EASY & E/MEDIUM**

LEADERS : NIGEL HOLMES & BERNIE WEBSTER
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.

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

MON 25 APR 94 ANZAC DAY: EDWARDES & COBURG LAKES**EASY**

LEADER : ATHOL SCHAFER
 AREA : MELBOURNE
 TRANSPORT : TRAIN
 MEETING PLACE : UNDER THE CLOCKS, FLINDERS STREET STATION BY 9.25 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 5.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS MAPS 8, 17, 18
 APPROX DISTANCE : 9 KM

This mid-autumn walk starts at Keon Park station (zone 2). From there open parkland, spacious playing fields and the course of a barrelled tributary of Edgars Creek leads us to a lakeside lunch. Afterwards, a secluded leafy track is followed to Merri Creek which widens out into Coburg Lake - where afternoon tea will be partaken in the surrounding gardens.

SAT 30 APR 94 DANDENONGS EXPLORER**EASY**

LEADER : MAUREEN HURLEY

Details of this walk will be given in April "NEWS".

WEEKEND WALKS - APRIL 1994**31 MAR-4 APR 94 LEANING ROCK FALLS - KOSCIUSKO NAT. PARK MED/HARD**

LEADER : MERILYN WHIMPEY
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : MONDAY NIGHT
 MAP REFERENCE : MT KOSCIUSKO 1:50,000

I was intrigued by Leaning Rock Falls when I first saw them in the distance from the Main Range, and we came down that way at Easter a few years ago. This time I plan to go in from Geehi Dam, provided the road is open, and climb up Windy Creek to the falls. There will be a lot of rock scrambling and some scrub. Above the falls there is lovely camping beside the creek. Then we'll try to follow Windy Creek up to Consett Stephen Pass and descend back to Geehi Dam via Tate West Ridge. I don't know how long this will take, but there may be a free day for a side trip. If the road to Geehi Dam is closed we'll rearrange things.

31 MAR-4 APR 94 SPION KOPJE - BOGONG HIGH PLAINS EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER : JEAN GIESE
 AREA : BOGONG NATIONAL PARK
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : MONDAY NIGHT
 MAP REFERENCE : BOGONG ALPINE AREA OUTDOOR LEISURE MAP 1:50,000

We had such a good time in the mountains in the Christmas holidays that I'm returning for Easter. On that occasion, we started from Hotham and explored the Western and Southern edges of the Bogong High Plains.

This time we will commence in the North at Howman's Gap, take a steep climb (slowly) onto Spion Kopje and then concentrate on the Eastern part, visiting a few huts, walking Heathy Spur and returning to Howman's Gap via Frying Pan Spur. Do join me.

31 MAR-4 APR 94 BRYCES GORGE BASE CAMP EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER : GEOFF MATTINGLEY
 AREA : WONNANGATTA - MOROKA NATIONAL PARK
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : MONDAY EVENING
 MAP REFERENCE : TAMBORITHA-MOROKA 1:50,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : VARIOUS

This is a walk-in base camp - about 3 km from cars. We will camp on Conglomerate Creek at a very picturesque campsite. Walks will be around Conglomerate Creek and Piemans Creek and the escarpment with its waterfalls. Other options are to Mt Howitt, Mt Reynard and the Upper Caledonia River area.

Camp at Breakfast Creek on Thursday night, or drive up on Friday morning.

9-24 APR 94 GAMMON RANGES & MAWSON PLATEAU HARD

LEADER : JOPIE BODEGRAVEN
 AREA : SOUTH AUSTRALIA

This trip has been cancelled.

15-17 APR 94 BLACK RANGE - GRAMPIANS EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER : ROSEMARY COTTER
 AREA : W OF GRAMPIANS
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M. SUNDAY EVENING
 MAP REFERENCE : CFL - THE GRAMPIANS, MT TALBOT 1:25,000, BLACK RANGE 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 17 KM

The Black Range, west of the Grampians, is a little known area; little known to the Club and not much in the State Park "Notes". Walking along the range affords views of the length of the Grampians from the west. On the Saturday I've planned a walk from the Black Range Picnic Ground to the cliffs of the north escarpment, viewing aboriginal art en route, then following the base of the cliff to a hanging gully. From there we will walk down to the southern end, drop down to the Muirfoot Track, visit Mt Byron and return to the track for the car shuffle to camp (either picnic ground or Mountain Dam).

On Sunday we'll bush bash to an adjacent minor peak and visit Mt Talbot. Although this is a base camp the full-day walk is recommended for experienced walkers only. Need to take water if camping at picnic ground.

22-25 APR 94 MOROKA GORGE - SNOWY BLUFF MEDIUM

LEADER : PAUL STRIPEIKIS
 AREA : WONNANGATTA - MOROKA NATIONAL PARK
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE

For details of this walk, please see the leader in the Clubrooms.

22-25 APR 94 MT BUFFALO BASE CAMP EASY & MEDIUM

LEADER : ALAN CLARKE
 AREA : MT BUFFALO PLATEAU
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : MONDAY EVENING
 APPROX DISTANCE : VARIOUS

The Mt Buffalo Plateau is well known for lovely scenery and walking. We will camp at the Lake Catani campground, and there will be both easy and medium walks. At this time of year the weather should be very good, although please be prepared for cool nights.

29 APR - 1 MAY 94 DANDONGADALE RIVER - MT COBBLER MED/HARD

LEADER : GINA HOPKINS
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : SUNDAY NIGHT
 MAP REFERENCE : HOWITT-SELWYN 1:50,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 25 KM

Friday night we will camp near Bennies. Starting from the Cobbler Lake Road, I am considering approaching Little Cobbler along a northern spur, and then climbing the steep rocky western side of Mt Cobbler. I am told that the views are terrific - I have only been there in the mist. Saturday night we will camp somewhere on the Cobbler Plateau, possibly near Lake Cobbler. On Sunday we will visit the Dandongadale Falls - the highest in Victoria. Then we will make our way northwards along a ridge top, with good views of Mt Cobbler, and then descend to cross the Dandongadale River and back to the cars.

This walk will have its share of steep ups and downs, including some un-previewed spurs which may be scrubby. However, the scenery will be spectacular and well worth the effort.

30 APR - 1 MAY 94 SEARCH & RESCUE INTRO - MT DISAPPOINTMENT**MEDIUM**

LEADER : STEPHEN DOWN
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE OR POLICE BUS
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.00 P.M. SUNDAY EVENING

The practice will take the form of a series of workshops led by instructors and allowing opportunities for hands-on practice and group discussion. Workshops will include line searching, stretcher hauling in steep terrain, feature searching, map reading and radio procedure. This practice is aimed at current and prospective Search and Rescue members.

BAW BAW PLATEAU 28-30 JAN 1994

For some of us this area was a new discovery, while for others it was well-known through walking (including a 24-hour VMTC walk by Bill and Merilyn) and cross-country skiing.

The plateau does not rise above the tree-line so the appeal of this walk was not in spectacular alpine views but in the varied terrain, flora and fauna, reminders of the old cattlemen's days and the fresh fragrant smell of wildflowers and grasses.

Three of us (Tony, Lyn and I) drove up on Friday night, deciding to camp overnight at Erica Caravan Park (distinguished by the Manager's amazing array of garden gnomes and variants). Tents were pitched under a clear starry sky and a rising Harvest moon. The next morning was surprisingly shrouded in thick mist. A 15-minute drive took us to our meeting point: the Mt Erica turnoff. During the car shuffle to Mt St Gwinear Car Park, Lyn and I had a lovely walk up the road, through myrtle beech forest, fern gullies and fast-flowing streams, breaking through the mist into sunshine just before the end of the road at Mt Erica Car Park. We then met up with the rest of the group (Bill, Merilyn, Tony, Max, Adrian, Janet and Keith) and began the walk in earnest.

Half an hour or so along the track up Mt Erica, Merilyn sent us out to play among beautiful granite boulders (Mushroom Rocks) near which we found a ski hut. Puffing up Mt Erica under hottish sun gave us sympathy for the plight of Charles Watts (outlined on a plaque on a cairn near the summit) who died here while marathon training in 1969. We stopped for lunch at a grassy clearing, watching the swifts dip and glide in the thermal currents, and swatting March flies.

A short distance on brought us to Sheltering Rocks where there followed a long and amiable democratic discussion as to whether or not to climb to the highest point of the plateau, Mt St Phillack. Those with books and a penchant for snoozing decided to stay: the rest of us set off, perhaps inspired by Adrian's tales of "peak-bagging", a

strange Tasmanian custom, whereby points are awarded according to difficulty for the ascent of various peaks. Unfortunately, the view of Baw Baw at the top was, as forewarned, nondescript, but honour was satisfied. Then followed an interesting trip through boggy plains, during which a squelching, gurgling sound revealed Lyn in a muddy predicament! Then over a creek to our campsite, a pretty clearing near Mustering Flat, covered in purple flowers.

A rather warm Baw Baw frog was found round the campfire, but managed to escape before First Aid (in the form of cold water) could be administered. Mist descended with nightfall and the only sounds to be heard were the distinctive call of the shrike thrush and the murmur of campfire conversation (lowbrow).

The next morning again dawned in heavy mist which soon gave way to a beautiful day. Having gone to considerable lengths to get away from civilisation, we promptly set off after breakfast in search of the nearest man-made structure: Scraggs Hut. This took us through more boggy plains, and a beautiful descent into a misty woollybutt forest where Janet discovered a bird orchid. An old mustering yard was passed before an overgrown track led to the ancient cattleman's hut. This was the real thing, complete with lanterns and rust-caked tins of salmon and bully beef.

After a leisurely lunch at the campsite we headed back to St Gwinear car park via Mt St Gwinear. Retracing our steps through the bog, Lyn discovered the point at which she had fallen in and promptly gave us a repeat performance - which inspired me to follow suite! At the top of Mt St Gwinear, Bill described the view we might have seen had it not been obscured by mist. The ski run which followed sent the skiers among us longing for winter. We arrived back at the car park at the very civilised hour of 2.30 p.m. Thank you, Bill and Merilyn, for a very enjoyable and rejuvenating weekend.

Sue Ralston

TENT FOR SALE

Great quality NZ MacPac Eclipse 2 person tent

One owner - good condition, good price.

Only 2.4 kg; vestibule; integrated fast pitching,
and more

Contact Barbara Burton

FAREWELL TOM AND HANNAH

Dear Bushies,

Hannah and I shall not be renewing our membership of the Melbourne Bushwalking Club as we are returning home to England.

I would like to thank the Club for introducing us to the wonderful countryside of Victoria.

Tom Broughton

NEW MEMBERS

The Club would like to welcome the following new member:

Fav Pratt

Anita & Adrian Burgess

Rolf Sorensen

Peter Horyna

Jan Petersen

John Doering

CHANGES OF INFORMATION

Elizabeth Spriggs

Edward Lawton

Ron Garrett

Amanda Smith

Neil Priestley

Bob Steel

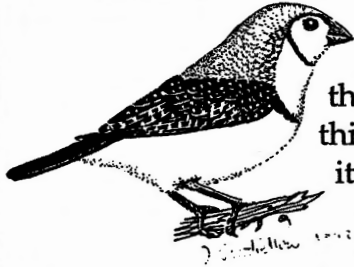
Allan Kitchener

Catherine Tenni

Vittoria Stojanov nee Clerici

Peter Day

RED CENTRE BUSHWALKING HOLIDAYS



The Red Centre is one of the most dramatic and inspiring landscapes in the world. Our trips let you experience this timeless land at the leisurely pace it needs. We enjoy spectacular views from the mountain tops and gorge bottoms as we journey from one



oasis to the next. During the day there is time to rest beside the pools, cool off with a swim and watch the birds as they come in to drink. At night, you enjoy a three course meal as you relax around a campfire before falling asleep under a blanket of stars.



WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

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The NEWS of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

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