



The NEWS

of the

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

DECEMBER 1995

EDITION 538

Print Post Approved. P.P. No. 338888/00016

PRICE 60 cents

The Committee of Management of the
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
would like to wish all Members and readers of
The NEWS a Merry Christmas,
a most enjoyable Festive Season, and may your
New Year exceed your expectations.



Come to our **Christmas Party** in the
Royal Horticulture Hall
on **Wednesday 20th December 1995.**
Please bring a plate of food to share.
There will be wine and soft drinks supplied.

Reminisce about your memorable trips, plan
new trips, renew old acquaintances, make
new friends, and join with the Committee in
celebrating a great year for the Club.
Thanks to Betty Spencer for organising the Party.

Please note that the Clubrooms will NOT be
open on **Wednesday 27th December**, so if you
want to go on walks early in the New Year,
you should book before Christmas

Walks featured in this edition of The NEWS

- Australia Day Weekend
 - Walhalla Lodge weekend
 - Niggerheads-Fainters-Bogong Village
 - Mt Nelse-Ropers Hut-Mt Wills-Big River
- Update on Kosiusko Xmas/New Year walks
- Lorne Waterfalls day walk
- Murray River Canoeing
- Wednesday walk - Werribee Gorge
- Athol's Bayside Beaches walk
- Plus others - see pages 3 to 7.

Mozart by Moonlight

Thursday, December 14th 1995
Melbourne Botanical Gardens

Enter at Gate F (in Birdwood Avenue, next to
the Herbarium - Melway 2L-A1).

Meet for a Picnic Tea at 6.00 pm.

Performance is at 8.00 pm.

Those people who have ordered tickets please
pay ASAP (\$35.50). If you would like to join us
you're most welcome

.....it'll cost you more, though.

Sylvia Wilson -

Contents of December NEWS

	Page
Christmas Party Door Prize	7
Club Archivist Required	4
Club Cloth Badges	5
Committee Duty Roster	2
Committee Notes	7
Coopracambra walk - <i>Jopie Bodegraven</i>	8
Day Walks	3,4
First Aid Kit supplies <i>Sylvia</i>	2
From the Editor and President's Prose	2
New Members	7
Poems by <i>Jill Dawson</i>	9
Social Events	1
Track Clearing Day <i>Stephen Rowland</i>	7
Walking Wilderness to Death <i>Athol Schafer</i>	8
Weekend Walks	5,6,7
<i>Willis's Walkabouts</i> advert	9

From the Editor

Another year draws to a close, and looking back there have been some memorable trips - Bill's arduous walk in the Gheehi area, the bus trip to the Little Desert, some great skiing up at Wilky, Sylvia's momentous expedition to Mootwingie, Dave Vincent's flying trips to everywhere, (including the last one to Frenchmans Cap, which enjoyed perfect weather!), the almost disastrous Major Mitchell Plateau walk, Athol's informative rambles around Melbourne, the exciting li-loing trip on the Snowy River, the inaugural Walhalla lodge weekend last January, a very successful Rawson weekend, the Barjarg weekend - the list goes on. I'm sure you all have memories of other great or memorable walks. Many of the walks have been chronicled in the pages of **NEWS**. Thank you to my Contributors for your efforts through-out the year.

The Annual General Meeting is in late February, 1996, and although it is still a bit early, I would like you to think about serving on the Committee in some capacity next year. Some positions become vacant, and we can always have nominations for all positions. Remember, the Club is only successful through the efforts of Members who volunteer their time to administer the Club, plan the Walks Programme, bring you the **NEWS**, and lead the walks. So think about it - no experience necessary - we "old hands" can guide you!

I hope to see many of you at the Party on Wednesday 20 December (see front page), but in the meantime, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best for 1996.

Bob Steel

The NEWS is the official newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and is 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. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles, contributions, letters etc submitted for publication, where space, clarity, propriety, etc dictates. and to maintain editorial consistency. Please note that articles for **The NEWS** may be put in the **Red Box** in the clubrooms or mailed to me, Bob Steel, at P.O. Box 157, Ringwood, 3134 or faxed to me on

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

Only advertisements directly relating to bushwalking will be accepted (ie, gear, maps, trips, tours, etc)

Members Ads - FREE

Closing Date for January 1996 News

is Wednesday 3rd JANUARY 1996.

President's Prose

It's a great time of the year for walking - not that there is a time when it is not great! - and the demands on the bus are high.

There have been problems with mail bookings arriving late so to be absolutely sure you are on a walk it is wise to mail in your booking to arrive two Wednesdays before the advertised walk.

The Autumn Walks programme has been drawn up and leaders are needed so do help the Walks Secretaries by offering to lead walks.

Our Christmas Party is on Wednesday 20th, so I hope to see you there.

Season's Greetings and a Wonderful New Year of Bushwalking.

Janet Norman

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

First Aid Kit Supplies

Sylvia has tracked down a place where you can get items to stock (or re-stock) your First Aid kits in time for Xmas, at prices much below your corner Chemist store. The place is **Club Warehouse Sports & Medical Supplies**, 156 George Street, Fitzroy; Ph

Committee Duty Roster for Dec. 1995 & Jan. 1996

13 December 1995	Derrick and Peter
20 Decemeber 1995	Nigel & Jean
(27 Decemeber	No meeting)
3 January 1996	Doug and Denise
10 January 1996	Peter and Alan

Member's Free Ad

For Sale

Mont Main Range sleeping bag. Restuffed in June - good for cold conditions. Total weight 1.9 kg

New price was \$539; I will sell it for \$150
Cameron McMillan Home Ph

Previews for end December '95 & January 1996 Day Walks

Sunday 31 Dec 1995 TANGLEFOOT TRACK Easy/medium MT ST LEONARD

Leader: **Brian Crouch**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **75 kms**
 Area: **North of Healesville**
 Approx length of walk: **17 kms**
 Map Reference: **Juliet North 1:25 000**

This is a private transport walk on New Years Eve and as I anticipate it may be hot, I am planning to start at 10.00 am from Mt Tanglefoot Picnic Area. Access is via Sylvia Creek Road off Myers Creek Road near Toolangi. This will be a pleasant walk through beautiful mountain ash forest, with some climbing (c. 300m over the day) and we should get some excellent views from the summit of Mt St Leonard (1 027m). We will start our walk along Myrtle Creek Walking track, have a short diversion to Wira Willa Rainforest Walk and maybe visit Sylvia Creek Falls before climbing towards Mt St Leonard.

After enjoying the extensive views from the top of Mt St Leonard we will walk gradually downhill on the Tanglefoot track through some lush bush which is home to many lyrebirds. Our walk will end back at Tanglefoot picnic area, hopefully early enough for people to get to their New Year Eve's parties!

I would like people who definitely intend doing the walk to register your names before Christmas. This allows me to plan the day & organise transport, if needed. See me in the Clubrooms on Dec 20 (Xmas Party) or 'phone for more info. Home or work

Sunday 7 Jan FLINDERS - BLOWHOLE Easy & Easy/medium - HIGHFIELD

Leaders: **Peter McGrath & Joan Haigh**
 Transport: **Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **92 kms**
 Expected time of return: **1900**
 Area: **Pt. Nepean National Park**
 Approx length of walks: **15 & 17 kms**
 Map Reference: **Flinders & Cape Schanck 1:25 000**

The medium group will start at Highfield, pick up the "Two Bays walking track" and proceed to the Boneo Road. Both groups will then walk from Boneo Road to Bushrangers Bay via the Main Creek Walking track. On a clear day Bushrangers Bay presents a marvellous vista of sparkling ocean views to Cape Schanck. From Bushrangers Bay, both groups will proceed to Flinders Ocean Beach (there are change-rooms at this beach).

The Walk from Bushrangers Bay to Flinders presents some great views of this rugged coastline and towards Phillip Island & The Nobbies, particularly if the weather is fine. Walkers need to note that there is not much protection from the sun on this walk so if the weather is good (even if overcast), a hat and sun screen will be essential.

Sunday 14 Jan VAUGHAN SPRINGS Easy & Easy/medium LODDON FALLS

Leaders: **Alan Miller & Clare Lonergan**
 Transport: **Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **c. 115 kms**
 Expected time of return: **1900**
 Area: **Nth of Daylesford, W. of Calder Hwy**
 Approx length of walks: **13 and 17 kms**
 Map Reference: **Guildford & Daylesford 1:25 000**

Both walks will start at Vaughan Springs. The easy walk will be along the creek to Glenluce Springs, from where the bus will carry you to the second part of the walk. The slightly harder walk will be along old 4WD tracks, mainly along a ridge with good views. Several old gold mines will be passed including the old town of Sebastopol (not even shown on the map!). No steep hills! No leeches! Both walks will end at Loddon Falls which is a good swimming spot provided the leaders can find time to clear away some of the blackberry.

Wednesday 17 Jan WERRIBEE GORGE Easy/medium FALCON'S BLUFF

Leader: **Margaret Borden**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **58 kms**
 Expected time of return: **around 1800**
 Area: **near Bacchus Marsh**
 Approx length of walk: **13 kms**
 Map Reference: **Ingleston 1:25 000**

Meet at Westgate Park car park (Melway map 56 F1) at 0900 OR at Quarry carpark in Werribee Gorge park at 1030 OR ring me for other arrangements.

We will start with a short walk around Westgate Park, down to the river & back, which will be a chance to see Westgate Bridge from a different perspective. Then drive to the Quarry car park at Werribee gorge. There is a climb to the top of the gorge with good views across to Falcon's Lookout and down into the gorge, then a descent to a walking track alongside the river & through the gorge. We will cross the river & climb to Falcon's Lookout for lunch, with magnificent views down to the gorge.

Continued next page

Previews for January 1996 Day Walks continued

Werribee Gorge walk *continued*

Then back to continue through the gorge where we will follow an old water race built in 1928, to a picnic area & a further climb back to the start. There are often some koalas in this area. The walk is probably best categorised as between Easy & Easy/medium. The climbs are not too strenuous but there are several rock falls to negotiate with care & several rock faces above the water to be handled carefully. Sandy beaches & pools will prove attractive if the day is warm. so come prepared for a swim, and also bring plenty of water. The area is geologically interesting & photogenic.

Sunday 21 Jan **LORNE WATERFALLS**
Easy/medium & Medium **Note 0830 Start!**

Leaders: **Peter & Judy Gipps**
 Transport: **Bus at 8.30 am from South Bank Boulevard**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **140 kms**
 Expected time of return: **c. 1900**
 Approx length of walks: **10 & 16 kms**
 Map Ref.: **DCNR Lorne Forest Walks pamphlet**

The **easy** walk starts from Sheoak picnic ground, the **medium** walk from Allenvale carpark, and each will follow separate routes to Phantom Falls. From there both walks follow the same route around Allen Dam to Cora Lynn car park, then up to Cora Lynn creek to Cora Lynn falls. This section of the walk attempts to set a record for the number of creek crossings per kilometre, and puts on a very good performance. The crossings are all fairly trivial - just frequent. After Cora Lynn falls we will climb steadily to Blanket Leaf picnic ground, where the **easy** walk finishes. The **medium** walk will continue across the Lorne-Erskine Falls road & after a short bush-bash downhill, meets Erskine River foot track which leads downstream to Lorne.

Friday 26 Jan **COWDEROY CREEK -**
Easy **(Middle Park) - GREEN POINT**

Leader: **Athol Schafer**
 Transport: **Light Rail - see below**
 Area **Bayside Beaches**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **10 kms**
 Expected time of return: **1700**
 Approx length of walk: **10 kms**
 Map Reference: **Melways maps 57, 58, 67, & 76**

Meet near information desk, ground level, Spencer Street station at **1000**

An appropriate way to celebrate Australia Day is to come on this popular bayside walk taking in various points of interest along the coast. The walk starts at

the Fraser St. light rail stop, Middle Park and finishes at Green Point, opposite Brighton Beach Station.

Sunday 28 Jan **BUNYIP STATE FOREST**
Easy/medium & Medium

Leaders: **John Kittson & Fay Pratt**
 Transport: **Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **80 kms**
 Expected time of return: **1900**
 Area: **near Gembrook**
 Approx length of walks: **14 & 18 kms**
 Map Reference: **Gilwell & Beenak 1:25 000**

Both walks will start from Mortimers Reserve and finish at Dyers Creek Picnic Ground. Our track for the day is on good grade climbing through the forest & foothills, with an abundance of flora. Gums, banksia & ferns should be in their prime this time of year. Bring fresh water and don't forget your raincoat, just in case.

Club Archivist

We are looking for someone who will take on the responsibility of looking after the Club's valuable archival material, including old photos, log books, membership lists, publications, maps, documents, unpublished memoirs etc. You would need to establish what we have, where it is located, assess its condition, develop an inventory of our Archives and arrange safe storage. If you think this is the job for you, or if you have any suggestions regarding our records, please contact the Editor or any Committee Member.

At present the material is stored at various Members' houses and in the back room in the Clubrooms. We will probably buy a steel cupboard for storing the material, so if anyone has a spare space in a back room or weather-tight garage, please let me or any Committee member know.

Editor

Previews for end December '95 & January 1996 Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks

26 Dec to 1 Jan KOSIUSKO National Park
Medium

Leader: **Lloyd Young**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **c. 550 kms**
 Approx length of walk: **50 kms**
 Map Reference: **Tantangara 1:100 000 & Eucumbene 1:50 000**

The 27th will be spent walking into the Cave Creek area. Here we will meet up with Bill's party (*the 9-day trip - see note from Bill*). There will be some gentle undulations. Generally the trip will be easy walking on tracks. This is basically a shortened version of Bill's trip for those unable to get away before Boxing Day & people who want a 5-day trip.

It is an interesting area with caves, water holes, and historic homesteads. It is not a hard trip, but is not recommended for beginners.

Note from Bill: The 9-day trip from Honeysuckle Creek to Kiandra (see November NEWS) is now fully booked, but you can still contact me if you want to be added to the waiting list.

12 - 14 Jan KING SPUR - MT SPECULATION
Medium QUEENS SPUR

Leader: **Peter Chalkley**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **c. 265 kms**
 Expected time of return: **2300 Sunday Evening**
 Area: **East of Mansfield, near Mt Stirling**
 Approx length of walk: **25 kms**
 Map Reference: **Howitt-Selwyn 1:50 000**

On this weekend walk we will climb through the rock ramparts of Mt Koonika to camp just below Mt Speculation. Sunday will see us visiting Mt Buggery and perhaps a stroll along the Crosscut Saw before descending Queen's Spur to the Pimple and back to the cars. There will be some bush-bashing.

19-21 Jan LAKE MOUNTAIN
Easy/medium

Leader: **Bernice Webster**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **118 kms**
 Expected time of return: **Sunday Evening**
 Area: **near Marysville**
 Approx length of walk: **c. 25 kms**
 Map Ref: **Outdoor Leisure Map Marysville & Lake Mountain**

The walk will start at Gerraty's car park and follow the ski trails to Keppel Hut. We'll spend the night at a nearby campsite. Next day we will follow a section of the Bicentennial National Trail to Keppel Falls Scenic Reserve and go along the Beeches Walking Track which features giant mountain ash and groves of myrtle beeches and tree ferns.

19-21 Jan MURRAY RIVER CANOEING -
Easy YARRAWONGA to COBRAM

Leader: **George Zamora**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **280 kms**
 Approx length of trip: **c. 66 kms**
 Map Reference: **River Murray Charts - Maureen Wright**

I propose to start at the bottom of the weir at Yarrowonga & paddle downstream to Cobram. We will camp on the river on Saturday night & should arrive at Cobram on Sunday afternoon c. 1600. The distance is c. 66 kms (45 miles - the Murray markers are in miles) and it is smooth water paddling all the way. In addition the river flows about 1 mph so don't be deterred by the distance. You will see magnificent river red gums, sandy beaches, no people, the chance to catch a fish, beautiful camping sites - in short a trip to remember. Now a word of warning - it will be hot - old pajamas & plenty of 15+ & a hat! A car shuffle will be necessary. Please note that Club Bylaws require that you wear a safety vest & a helmet on all canoeing trips.

Club Cloth Badges For Sale

The Committee decided to purchase some Cloth Club Badges, featuring our symbol of a walker climbing a hill against a blue background.

They are very well made & quite strong. Ideal for sewing onto your pack or clothing.

The price is **\$3 each** or you can have **two for \$5**.

Why not buy one for your Day pack, one for your Weekend pack and one for your hat fibre-pile jacket (not recommended for Goretex® parkas!).

Get them while the're hot!

Previews for Australia Day Weekend 25 to 28 January 1996 Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks

WILKY to BOGONG VILLAGE

Easy/medium

Leader: **Jaen Giese**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **385 kms**
 Expected time of return: **Sunday evening**
 Area: **Bogong High Plains**
 Approx length of walk: **35 kms with optional side trips**
 Map Reference: **Outdoor Leisure Map Bogong Alpine Area**

We will follow the Australian Alps Walking Track from Wilky past Mt Cope and Mt Jim (the energetic can do a side trip up both) then head NW to camp at a favourable spot south of the Niggerheads.

Day 2 will find us travelling N along the Niggerheads to the Fainters, camp site that night depending on availability of water at the end of January.

Day 3 - on to Bogong Jacks Saddle, to the Springs Saddle and descend on a 4WD track to Bogong Village. It's wonderful walking up on the High Plains - grand views are guaranteed and there should be lots of flowers. Be prepared for any weather including snow!

WATCHBED CREEK - ROPERS HUT

Medium/Hard - LONG SPUR- MT WILLS

Leader: **Gina Hopkins**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **380 kms**
 Expected time of return: **2200 Sunday**
 Area: **Bogong High Plains**
 Approx length of walk: **57 kms**
 Map Reference: **Outdoor Leisure Map Bogong Alpine Area**

This is a long walk - planned for the Australia Day weekend, visiting part of the Alpine National Park that I haven't yet been to. On Friday morning, we'll meet at Watchbed Creek at 0900, head north over Mt Nelse to Ropers Hut, down to the Big River & up the other side. We'll probably camp near the site of Maddison Hut. Camp Creek has some lovely waterholes for an evening bathe.

Saturday will be a very long day - about 25 kms. We'll follow the Long Spur, then do a side trip without packs to Mt Wills. We will then continue to the Big River to camp. Sunday we will follow the Mittagundi Track up to Kelly's Hut and back to the cars.

This walk is only suitable for fit and experienced walkers as we will be covering a lot of distance in very

steep terrain, most likely in sweltering temperatures! However there will be ample rewards and time enough to enjoy the magic of the alpine country.

WALHALLA LODGE WEEKEND

Standard - various

Leader: **Brian Crouch**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **c. 150 kms East**
 Expected time of return: **2000 Sunday**
 Approx length of walks: **various**
 Map Reference: **Walhalla 1:25 000**

This promises to be a "fun filled" weekend following last year's Australia Day weekend success. This year I am planning on spending the nights of Thursday 25 to Saturday 27 Jan. at the Tisdale Hostel.

I will arrange various walks on the Friday, Saturday & Sunday ranging from Easy/medium to Medium grades. Where we walk depends largely on the weather and could be along the Alpine Walking Track, on the Baw Baw Plateau, or on many of the old tramlines and walking tracks closer to Walhalla township. It is feasible that a small group could do an expedition to walk into the "Morning Star" mine near Donnellys Creek to see one of the few remaining large water wheels, situated in a deep gully, and hard to find. To do this trip will require some people to bring 4WDs, as the track is too rough for ordinary cars.

Walhalla offers many different activities in terms of short or long walks to view historic areas or just admire the beautiful bush. The Thompson River area, which is nearby, is very picturesque and there are good walking tracks along its edge. Due to the fine work of volunteers there is now a train running on the recently restored Goldfields Railway. The train runs regularly on weekends and provides some breathtaking views into the valley of Stringers Creek, along which the train runs. If people wish, on Saturday they can offer to help lay some more railway track.

The Hostel provides very comfortable dormitory accommodation for 32 people. The road in to Walhalla from Erica is now sealed all the way (just for you, Chris!). I would like to finalise bookings before Christmas if possible, so see me in the clubrooms at the Christmas Party (Dec. 20th) or phone me, as the limit is 32 people. *Brian Crouch - home ph. ; work*

Bus Trip for the Labour Day weekend in March 1996

Following the success of this year's Queens Birthday weekend bus trip, the walks committee has decided to organise a weekend trip by bus to the Lower Glenelg National Park for the 1996 Labour Day weekend (8 to 11 March). We hope to provide pack-carry walks, a base camp and a canoe trip along the river. The cost for the trip will be similar to our last bus trip.

TASMANIA IN FEBRUARY

FRENCHMAN'S CAP & TRAVELLER RANGE

14-29 Feb

Medium

Leader

Jopie Bodegraven

This trip didn't get on to the summer programme because this time slot has only become available to us due to a recent change in commitments. It will consist of 2 sections, a 4 day Frenchmans Cap walk and an 8 day trip exploring the Lake St Clair area, in particular the Traveller Range, the Mountains of Jupiter and possibly Pine Valley area. We will meet in Devonport on the 14th. We will have a vehicle at our disposal to get us to Lake St Clair from where we will use Maxwell's or Redline buses to get us to & from the Frenchman's track. The plans for the Traveller Range are still fuzzy and will depend on further information regarding possible routes and vegetation etc. We should be back in Devonport for late afternoon flights on the 29th.

Please ring me on _____ if you are interested and don't worry about the Happy Walker Adventure Tours recorded message if you get it: leave a message anyway.

New Members:

IAN HOAD

IDA MARCOLA

DEREK MORRIS

DIANNE CALLAGHAN

Changed Address/Phone:

ARESH FRASER

FAY PRATT

PAMELA ROSSO

Ph W) 9850 1960

Committee Notes

Treasurer: Financial Report as at 30 Nov 1995

Opening Balance:	\$54 710.82
November Receipts;	\$ 4 976.00
November Payments	\$ 4 831.72
Closing Balance	\$54 855.10

Walks Secretary: Report for October 1995

5 Day Walks - ave of 34.4 walkers (cf. 37.8 for 10/94)
4 Pack-carry Walks - ave of 7.75 walkers
2 Wednesday & Dandenongs Explorer - ave of 11.5
1 Leader training day

Membership Statistics

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	10
Single memberships	340
Family memberships	96 (= 2x 48)
Total membership	457

Track Clearing 12 November 1995

On behalf of the Club, I would like to thank **Bill Metzenthén, Ralph Blake, Cameron McMillan, Ed. Little, Max Casley & Alan Miller** who took part and worked extremely hard on the Kinglake National Park Track Clearing day. A new track was cleared in the Masons Falls area.

Thanks. *Stephen Rowland*



Christmas Party Door Prize

As the year draws to a close, and Christmas approaches, we look forward to our Christmas Party on Wednesday 20 December. We intend having Door Prizes on the evening, and it would be most welcome if Members could donate small gifts to be used as prizes.

Items can be given to me, or to any Committee Member.

Thankyou, *Stephen Rowland*

LONG WET WEEKEND IN COOPRACAMBRA 3 - 7 November 1995

Our mission was to boldly go where not too many had gone before; into the depths and delights of the Genoa River Gorge in the far-off planet of Coopracambra National Park. Our leader was Captain Pearson, and his intrepid crew numbered 15. Unfortunately, Federation Intelligence was faulty. Instead of a planet of blue sunny skies and languid pools in peacefully flowing streams we found ourselves on a planet of thunder and lightning, torrential downpours, ferocious flooding rivers and out-of-control creeks!

All went well until our rendezvous point on Saturday morning. 20% of the crew must have had faulty transporters because they failed to materialize. Realizing that he had already doubled the acceptable Federation loss rate of 10% but knowing that crew member Alan was well briefed on mission details, the Captain set off anyway. Sure enough, the missing 20% soon overtook us and the Captain's long face shortened instantly.

It was 13km to a lovely campsite by the gently flowing Genoa River. There was time that afternoon for a delightful explore upstream and even a swim for the less sensitive ones (it was only early November you know!). It looked very promising for exploring downstream into the gorge proper the next day. Little did we realize that it was all a trick!

That night the true nature of the place was revealed. It rained and thundered, the morning looked miserable, the river rose and turned into a menacing, foaming, brown torrent, and our plans were aborted. A lie-in in bed was our compensation. It rained intermittently that day. We amused ourselves by watching rocks disappearing beneath the relentlessly rising waters and poking sticks into the sand to measure the rise. Black Jack Creek, a small stream that we had hopped across without getting our feet wet was now 10 metres wide. We waded back across it for a leisurely birding and botanizing ramble.

Just as we were getting ready to relight the campfire for dinner all hell broke loose. The heavens opened up with a renewed vengeance and quickly the river rose again, only much higher than before. Black Jack Creek was now a menacing swirling mass blocking our retreat. Oh dear! All night the river raged and next morning it had barely dropped. When it began to drizzle again the unanimous decision was made to abandon the area, retreat to the cars and head off to Cape Conran where there was no river to flood but oops! what about the creek? How were we going to cross that without getting washed down to the coast?

A rope was produced and somehow strung across. One by one we crossed through the swirling waist-deep torrent, determinedly hanging on to the rope. We all gasped when crew member Amanda tried to manoeuvre around the Captain and was swept off her feet, unfortunately not by the Captain but by the swirling waters. Quick thinking by crew member Alan and a long arm intercepted her on her way to

Bass Strait and one bedraggled, drenched Amanda was hauled to safety, much to everyone's great relief.

A brisk slog back to the shuttles and off we blasted, touching down briefly at the Cann River supermarket and bottleshop for some earthly delights on our way to the Cape Conran campground..

That night was dry and there was no raging river, only the pounding surf beyond the dunes. Hey, this is a good planet! Why didn't we come straight here in the first place. Tuesday morning was glorious and we enjoyed a beautiful dry coastal walk with lovely flowers, birds and wonderful scenery.

We found out that Genoa had had over 180mm of rain! The rain started again in the afternoon and followed us all the way home. All the Gippsland rivers were raging and the Latrobe at Rosedale had spilled out all over its floodplain - quite a sight!

The 4 days hadn't turned out quite as planned but it was nevertheless an exciting, fun trip with a great group. I fully intend going back and doing the full Genoa gorge, possibly using lilos, on some future trip.

Jopie Bodegraven

Walking Wilderness Away to Death

Currently some 20 000 people are spending 35 000 nights in Tasmania's wild areas every year. Of the 1 000 kms of tracks throughout the World Heritage Area, 200 kms have already been eroded by the tramp of bushwalkers to the depth of 25cm or more, and a further 400 kms will be badly damaged if action is not taken soon. It is estimated that over 500 kms of unplanned tracks could develop in areas, including those designated trackless, over the next 20 years.

The problem of disappearing wilderness in Tasmania is compounded by extreme fragility of the soil, rock and vegetation.

In response, the Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife Service has developed a Walking Track Management Strategy. Options under consideration include a permit system, a track works program, erosion control, minimising trampling damage in trackless areas, education, and on-going monitoring & research.

Walkers who have experienced the Tasmanian Wilds are welcome to make comments on ways they think the Strategy could be improved. Comments and suggestions should be sent to:

The PWS Track Management Team
P.O. Box 44A, Hobart, 7001

Copies of the Strategy document - titled *Walking the Fine Line* - are available in the Clubrooms.

The Cathedral Ranges Walk 26 Nov. 1995

T'was on the way to Marysville
 (to Little River and old Cook's Mill)
 when a dire warning by Margaret was given,
 that walkers had died when they had striven
 to walk on high where eagles dare,
 in the Cathedral Ranges way up there.

T'was way too hot for some to straddle
 that lofty peak and Jawbone Saddle,
 the easy walk seemed more inviting
 (though not so daring or exciting),
 for us, a slow pace we chose to forge
 on the way to Little River Gorge.

T'was there that we rested and dined in style,
 watching white water all the while;
 forever tumbling over rocks mid-stream,
 hypnotic, I found myself lost in a dream,
 and though our arrival was somewhat belated,
 we returned to the gully invigorated.

T'was a walk that I will indoubtedly recall
 most by the memory of the mating call
 of the deafening ubiquitous cicadas,
 there in abundance to serenade us,
 and the cockatoos and kookaburras
 joined the cacophony just for us!

T'was a safe and leisurely Sunday hike,
 enjoyed by young and old alike,
 only a blister or two was had
 (not so the baby who was carried by dad)
 and I must say it was great to see Marissa
 back from the gods, for we'd surely miss her!

The Strath Creek Falls Walk 5 Nov. 1995

Our walk commenced with a gradual descent
 to the Falls that were quite spectacular,
 then a grinding and rather gruelling ascent
 that proved to be rather unpopular.

On top of the mountain, we had to concede
 that the walk would be far from easy,
 yet we found the climb worth the effort indeed,
 having recovered after morning tea.

We followed a pebble-strewn river bed
 where the water flowed underground,
 but the river resumed it's course ahead
 where waterfalls a-plenty were found.

Several creek crossings were necessary,
 which became increasingly hazardous,
 for rocks and pebbles were wet and slippery,
 when a hailstorm fell heavily on us.

Before our final ascent was done,
 we waited for stragglers to reach us,
 t'was the time and place for having some fun,
 while inspecting ourselves for leeches.

The sight of the bus was welcome for sure,
 and though we were wet to the bone,
 we voiced our approval of the day's adventure,
 by singing all the way back home.

Both Poems by Jill Dawson

KIMBERLEY COAST EXPEDITION

March 24 - April 27 1996

Space is still available but time is running out.

This is the longest, most adventurous trip we offer. It is not an endurance test.

You begin with a boat from Wyndham to the head of the spectacular, 20 km long Berkeley Gorge. After a day's walk to and from Berkeley Falls, you walk back north along the gorge, past a number of side gorges and waterfalls, then walk from creek to creek as you move overland to King George Falls. Here the river plunges 90 metres into the sea at the head of one of Australia's most spectacular gorges. From the King George, you walk to the Drysdale River where we do a week long loop along one of the largest rivers in the Kimberley. The expedition ends with a seaplane ride back to Kununurra.

Too long? The trip is divided into three sections. The seaplane that brings in the two food drops provides transport for those doing only one part of the trip.



The more people we have, the less it costs us per person. Book together with two friends and we'll give the three of you an additional 5% discount on top of any other discounts which may apply. For more information about this expedition and the rest of our bushwalking program contact

Willis's Walkabouts

12 Carrington Street, MILLNER NT 0810

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



The NEWS of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

Print Post Approved. PP No 338888/00016

If Undelivered, please return to:

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

PO BOX 1751Q, MELBOURNE, 3001

SURFACE
MAIL

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA



Change of Address and/or Phone Numbers

NAME

Old ADDRESS

NEW ADDRESS

PHONE (h).....(w)..... *Please Indicate Type of Membership*

Ordinary Member Concession Couple NEWS subscriber

Post to: Membership Secretary, PO Box 1751Q, MELBOURNE, 3001