



The NEWS

of the
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

FEBRUARY 1995

EDITION 528

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**Don't Forget the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
to be held on Wednesday February 22nd 1995
in the main Horticulture Hall (enter from Clubrooms) at 8.00 pm.
Business is to receive Annual Reports, Election of Committee for 1995
and General Business. *Be there!***

After the longest gestation period known the Melbourne Bushwalkers
are *most* pleased to announce the arrival of:

'The Melbourne Bushies - 50 years along the track'
(the book)

and cordially invite you to the launch on

Friday/Saturday 3 & 4 March 1995

There will be two events and you may attend either or both!

Friday, 3 March

7.30 p.m. for dinner at the Metropolitan Hotel
Cnr Meat Market Craft Centre, 42 Courtney Street, North Melbourne
(Melway 2B A9). Cost \$25

Saturday 4 March

2.30 p.m. Maranoa Gardens, Parring Road, Balwyn. (Melway 46 F7)
for Afternoon Tea - scones, jam and cream - what else!
Compliments of the Club. **Bring a chair and mug.**

RSVP for either by Wednesday 22 February to Sylvia Wilson in the Club Rooms;

Collect your ordered book from either venue or buy it for \$18
**Help! Help needed for the book launch in any shape or form.
Please ring Sylvia**

From the Editor

Another Club year has passed successfully, with many great trips and adventures. Our membership has increased, walk attendances are increasing and we have had an active social calendar. You can read all about these things in the Annual Reports from the various Office-bearers in the back pages of this NEWS. Please bring this NEWS with you to the Annual General Meeting.

Due to the size of this NEWS, I have had to hold over an article by Dave Andrews on Jean's Christmas Trip. It will be in next month's NEWS.

Apology: January edition of The NEWS was incorrectly labelled as Edition 519. It should have been Edition 527. This issue is 528.

At my Parker River Base Camp at Christmas, someone left an aluminium water bottle (not a SIG bottle). If it is yours, please contact me.

Pam & I had an eventful trip to Freycinet Peninsula in Tasmania over the Australia Day weekend. We got rained on quite heavily, and as a result, our plane was marooned in a paddock! We had to stay on the farm for two extra days before we could fly home. Nevertheless, we had a great trip, Dave!

Bob Steel

From the President

RETIRING TREASURER

Our current Treasurer, DENISE TRIFFETT, is undertaking further studies this year and has decided that she will not stand for re-election. The job is a constant one, requiring attendance at the Club nights each Wednesday and at the Committee meeting each month, as well as keeping the books of a big organisation. Denise has been most conscientious and efficient in carrying out her duties as well as being forbearing with those members who are a bit vague about money matters. Our grateful thanks to you, Denise.

NEWS DISPATCH

For seven years DOUGLAS WILHOFT has been attending to the labelling and posting of our NEWS. Doug has now "handed in his mailbag" so we want to take the opportunity of thanking him very much for his years of service. Not everyone would know Doug, but he knew you—your name and which category in the bulk mailing system you fitted into—and has humped your "News" in the full bag to the Post Office each month. Doug is a regular Wednesday walker and saddles up for a pack-carrying trip two or three times a year. Our Membership Secretary, Peter Havlicek, who has been printing the labels for some time, will now also see to the dispatch. Our thanks to you, Peter.

CLUB'S PHONE

Perhaps this is a good time to also thank MARGARET BORDEN who houses the Club's phone and answering machine. She very promptly sends programmes and information to those who leave a sending address and rings those who want other information or have queries they would like answered. I'm sure Margaret's efficiency in attending to enquiries straight away is largely responsible for the steady flow of visitors on our walks and from whom new members are drawn. Margaret is not giving up the job but we want to acknowledge her work and express our thanks.

See you all at the AGM and good-bye to this column from me as I hand in the President's mantle (but not my boots!).

Jean Giese

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
or faxed to me on

Advertising Rates

¼ Page 1 issue-\$20; 3 issues-\$30; 12 issues (1 year)-\$180

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

Full Page 1 issue-\$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 March 1995 News is

Wednesday 1st March 1995.

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 Day Walks

Sunday 5 March CAPE WOOLAMAI Easy & Easy/Medium

Leaders: Alan Miller & Clare Lonergan
 Transport: Bus at 8.30 am from South Bank Boulevard
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: 127 kms
 Expected time of return: 1915
 Area: Phillip Island
 Approx length of walks: 12 and 18 kms
 Map Reference: Phillip Island Special 1:25 000

The easy walk will be around the Cape Woolamai Faunal Reserve and much of it is along beach or cliff-top, including the mutton bird rookeries. The easy/medium walk will continue along the beach and rocks past Forrest Caves to Smiths Beach

Sunday 12 March CASTELLA - TOOLANGI - VICTORIA RANGE Easy & Easy/medium

Leaders: David Gibson
 Transport: Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: approx 80 kms
 Expected time of return: 1800
 Area: north of Healesville

Editors Note - Interesting forested area close to Melbourne. Walks will be mainly on tracks. See leader in clubroom for details

Monday 13 March COAST WALK: Easy TRUGANINA SWAMP - CHERRY LAKE

Leader: Athol Schafer
 Transport: Private
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: 12 kms
 Expected time of return: 1700
 Area: Altona
 Approx length of walk: 9 kms
 Map Reference: Melways maps 54 & 55

Meet under the clocks, Flinders Street Station at 1000

Pioneer William Cherry gave his name to a coastal swamp which, in the late 1960's, had a weir built along it's eastern border, thus converting it into huge lake. The walk starts at Westona and finishes at Altona,

taking in other nearby wetlands and a seaside walk under ancient tamarisks and younger Norfolk Island pines.

Wednesday 15 March MT WORTH Easy/Medium

Leader: Margaret Borden
 Transport: Private
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: 103 kms
 Expected time of return: approx. 1800
 Area: near Warragul
 Approx length of walks: 15.5 kms
 Map Reference: Mt Worth State Park leaflet

Meeting Place: Tuhan St. Chadstone (Melway 69 G2) at 0830 or outside Mt Worth Park Office (now closed) on McDonalds Track at 1000. Ring me for details on

This is a beautiful walk and there will be plenty of shade if it is a sunny day. There are a few interesting ascents which will provide time to listen to the birds - whip birds, lyrebirds, rosellas, yellow-tailed black cockatoos, King parrots & pigeons to name a few. Also seen on the preview were wallabies and an echidna and plenty of sheep. The route follows old roads and walking tracks through lovely fern gullies with mountain ash regrowth and blackwoods, plus a huge old mountain ash seven metres in circumference and over 300 years old. The walk back to the start is along the delightful Moonlight Creek Track which follows the creek through a valley lined with magnificent tree ferns and young mountain ash.

HELP!

The assistant Walks Secretary (Sunday Walks) has disappeared into the wilds(?) of Tasmania. You may see from the walks programme that I don't know who (if anyone) has agreed to lead many of the Sunday Walks! If you think that you should be listed as a leader of one of these walks, please let me know a.s.a.p.

Bill Metzenthien
Walks Secretary

Previews for Day Walks continued

Sunday 19 March **FRASER NATIONAL
Easy/medium & Medium** **PARK**

Leaders: **John Kittson &
Margaret Borden**
Transport: **Bus at 8.30 am from South
Bank Boulevard**
Approx. Distance **145 kms**
from Melbourne:
Expected time **1930 to 2000**
of return:
Area: **Eildon, NE of Melbourne**
Approx length of **15 and 22 kms**
walks:
Map Reference: **Fraser National Park,
Coller Bay 1:25 000**

Both the easy/medium and medium walks will start and finish at the Devil Cove Camping Ground on the shores of Lake Eildon.

We will then head inland up along the Keg Spur. It will be a short, steep climb and not an endurance test, but the views of the surrounding mountains and the Lake itself will be of the first order and well worth the effort. "Trust me", (to quote our Coach Captain, Uncle Bob).

We should see grey kangaroos and black-tailed wallabies. The birds of the area include white cockatoos, kookaburras, magpies, crimson rosellas and other smaller species as we walk through open forests of the area.

Our trek will then lead us along the tree-lined banks of Lake Eildon, and if the weather is fine maybe some swimming will be in order.

Saturday 25 March **DANDENONGS
Easy** **EXPLORER - MONBULK
(JOHNS HILL)**

Leader: **Michael Humphrey**
Transport: **Private or Train**
Approx. Distance **45 kms**
from Melbourne:
Expected time **1630 - 1700**
of return:
Approx length of **14 kms**
walk:
Map Reference: **Melways Maps 124 & 125**

Those people who are regulars on the Dandenong Explorer Walks would know this walk well from previous years, under the tender care of Mike Clode. (Thanks, Mike, for allowing me to lead your walk - I'll

take good care of it for you!). To those of you who haven't done this walk, why not come along and join us - you are sure to enjoy yourselves.

We will meet at Johns Hill Reserve Lookout (Melway 124 K11) at 11.00 am sharp. If you are coming by public transport, the train arrives at Belgrave Station at 10.43 am - please be sure to call me at home on if you need to be picked up at Belgrave station for a lift to the starting point.

I have ordered good weather for the day so that we can really enjoy - as Sandra Bardwell says in her book - this "English-style country ramble along streams and lanes". An added bonus is the spectacular view from Johns Hill. See you all there!!

Sunday 26 March **MT ST LEONARD
Easy/medium & Medium**

Leaders: **Sue Ralston & Nigel Holmes**
Transport: **Bus at 9.00 am from South
Bank Boulevard**
Approx. Distance **75 kms**
from Melbourne:
Expected time **1900**
of return:
Area: **near Healesville**
Approx length of **15 and 22 kms**
walks:
Map Reference: **Juliet North and Juliet South
1:25 000**

The medium walk will commence with a short walk to the summit of Mt St Leonard. We will then go along the ridge to Mt Tanglefoot and sidle back towards St Leonard along a mixture of jeep tracks, foot tracks and some scrub bashing. Good views and cardio-vascular exercise are assured.

The easy/medium walkers will visit the summit of Mt St Leonard after strolling around Mt Tanglefoot and staying on defined tracks between the two peaks.

Walk The Great South West Track?

I would like to walk 10 days of the Great South West Track in western Victoria in May or June. Anyone interested can contact me in the Clubrooms or phone me on

Jean Glese

Previews for Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks

3-5 Mar	WILSONS PROM IN A DAY
Hard	

Leader:	Stephen Rowlands
Transport:	Private
Approx. Distance from Melbourne:	230 kms
Expected time of return:	Sunday evening
Approx length of walk:	42 kms
Map Reference:	Outdoor Leisure Map Wilson's Prom.

After a 7.30 am start on Saturday morning we will follow the classic round trip of Tidal River-Sealers Cove-Refuge Cove-Waterloo Bays-Oberon Bay-Norman Bay and back to Tidal River. We will also be swimming at all the main beaches (danger - nude swimmers may be seen). Sunday will depend on the weather and how everyone feels.

10-13 March	MOROKA GORGE and TARLI KARNG
Medium	

Leader:	Jean Giese
Transport:	Private
Approx. Distance from Melbourne:	c. 340 kms
Expected time of return:	Monday night
Area:	Wonnangatta-Moroka National Park
Approx length of walk:	60 kms (40 without packs)
Map Reference:	Tamboritha-Moroka 1:50 000 or VMTC Snowy Plains-Mt Kent-Tarli Karng

I've graded this walk easy to easy/medium because we will only carry our packs for about 20 kms but we will have quite strenuous day walks without them.

Day 1: Day walk into Moroka Gorge & return to camp at Horseyard Flat (14km - 200m descent & ascent)

Day 2: Early start, drive to McFarlane's Saddle, carry packs 10 km to camp near Nigothorouk Creek on plateau above Tarli Karng. Side trip down Riggalls Spur to Tarli Karng & back up Gillio's track (13 km, 600m climb back)

Day 3: Side trip to the Sentinels & back (12 km) then return to cars.

If you haven't been to these wonderful areas, here's your chance. It's a long way to drive but well worth it.

10-13 March	BOGONG HIGH PLAINS - MT BOGONG
Medium	

Leader:	Max Casley
Transport:	Private
Approx. Distance from Melbourne:	370 kms
Expected time of return:	late Monday evening
Area:	NE Victoria
Approx length of walk:	45 kms
Map Reference:	Bogong Alpine Area 1:50 000

From Howmans Gap we will climb up Frying Pan Spur. If we still have enough energy we will avoid Falls Creek Resort and go round the south side of Rocky Valley Reservoir to camp on Heathy Spur. The next day will be easier. We will head north past Mt Nelse and Ropers Hut and down Duane Spur to camp beside the Big River. On the last day, with renewed energy, we will climb the T Spur, over Mt Bogong and down The Staircase to finish at Mountain Creek picnic area. This should be a great walk.

17-19 March	CAPE LIPTRAP- WALKERVILLE NORTH
Medium	

Leader:	Merilyn Whimpey
Transport:	Private
Approx. Distance from Melbourne:	220 km
Expected time of return:	8 pm Sunday
Area:	South Gippsland
Approx length of walk:	15 km
Map Reference:	Maitland Beach 1:25 000 Walkerville 1:25 000

This walk follows spectacular rocky coast, with time for swimming and exploring rock pools and terrific views of Wilson's Prom. Expect a bit of rock scrambling and rock hopping which is all that makes the walk medium.

There's a car camping area at Bear Gully, about the half way point, so we will be able to leave our overnight gear there and carry day packs on the walk itself. I'd recommend you bring water from Melbourne for the whole weekend as the ranger wasn't too sure about the quality of the water.

It took me only about 2½ hours to drive from Melbourne to Walkerville, so it would be possible to drive up on Saturday morning. Otherwise we can camp

continued next page

Previews for February Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks Continued

Cape Liptrap Walk continued

at Bear Gully on Friday night, meeting at 8.00 am Saturday as there's a fair bit of car shuffling to do and I want to get going before the tide gets too high. Bear Gully is a popular fishing spot, and some people might like to spend the whole weekend there (and incidentally keep an eye on our gear).

24-26 March Easy	BOGONG NATIONAL PARK WORK PARTY
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Leader: Doug Pocock
 Transport: Private
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: 386 kms
 Expected time of return: 2000 Sunday
 Approx length of walk: short
 Map Reference: Bogong Alpine Area 1:50 000

Our Annual time to wave the flag & show the National Parks Service we care & value the High Plains. There will be a communal meal on Saturday night. Even if you are not yet a Wilky user, please support this work party. Note - Limit of eight.

24-26 March Medium/hard	MT McDONALD THE BLUFF
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Leader: Bill Metzthen
 Transport: Private
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: c. 200 kms
 Expected time of return: Sunday evening
 Area: Beyond Mansfield
 Approx length of walk: 25 kms
 Map Reference: VMTC "King-Howqua-Jamieson"

We will ascend Mt McDonald via the usual route from Jamieson Hut, then descend via a spur towards the Bluff. Camp will be on The Bluff and on Sunday we return to the cars along Rocky Ridge. The walk has not been previewed and we may encounter significant amounts of scrub.

31 March - 2 April Medium	PORT CAMPBELL AREA COAST WALK
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Leader: Graeme Thornton
 Transport: Private
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: 230 kms
 Expected time of return: Sunday night
 Area: SW Victoria
 Approx length of walk: 22-28 kms
 Map Reference: Otways & Shipwreck Coast
 Outdoor Leisure Map 1:50 000

Over the years the club has had quite a few coastal walks in the Otways area. Jopie Bodegraven lead a walk in 1982 between Glenaire and Wattle Hill and Stephen Rowlands took a party from Glenaire to Cape Otway. But, as far as I can determine, we have never walked the coast to the immediate west of Wattle Hill.

This walk is planned to be between Princetown and Milanesia Beach. With luck, and favourable tides, the section from Princetown to the Devil's Kitchen should be a beach walk/rock scramble. Further east, the coast becomes very broken and precipitous, and there will be much scrambling up and down over cliffs and headlands, with patches of scratchy scrub thrown in for good measure.

Water and campsites will be a problem and we had better carry all water with us. To help, I'm asking everyone to bring water to last for the whole weekend, and if necessary we will come back to the cars for water on Saturday night. Don't be put off by this; the coastline is spectacular. The cliffs at Moonlight Hill plummet into the sea.

This is an exploratory trip and not for inexperienced walkers. It will involve cliffs, tides, scrub, rocks and sand.

Free Concerts - Myer Music Bowl

Join a Melbourne Bushies group at these enjoyable concerts on:

Wednesday 8 February, Saturday 11 Feb.,
 Wednesday 15 Feb., & Saturday 18 February
 at 7.00 pm, but come earlier if you can and bring your tea. The Bushies traditionally sit in the middle of the grassed area. Bring something comfortable and waterproof to sit on and spread yourselves out to make room for the late comers. See you there!

Sylvia Wilson

NORTH TO ALASKA!

"Alaska - at the top of the World" Did you read the lead article in the Autumn 1994 issue of *The Hosteller?* (YHA magazine). Well I did and was caught hook, line and sinker. After contacting the writer of the article, purchasing a copy of the Lonely Planet guidebook *Alaska*, and wading through most of Michener's *Alaska*, I began exploring ways and means of setting foot on The Last Frontier.

I could join an adventure tour sharing a four-man tent, back-packing all-weather gear and covering a very limited area, or sell up the family loot and go on a posh cruise ship up and down the Inside Passage. Other alternatives were to buy an Alaska Pass, plan my own itinerary and find my own accommodation, or to respect my age and do a comprehensive study tour of Alaska and the Yukon for three weeks in October with the Council of Adult Education, everything paid for before departure.

My heart said do what the writer of the article did - buy an Alaska Pass and walk all the tempting trails Lonely Planet describes so well, but my mind said for a comprehensive grasp of this fascinating area in a limited time, go with CAE. My mind won and I have no regrets.

Free time in the itinerary gave opportunities to walk some of the unique glacier- and Northern Hemisphere forest trails, where Autumn's golds and reds contrasted with the dark green conifers, and porcupines nuzzled in the leaf mould and colourful fungi. The itinerary also gave opportunities to walk part of the notorious Chilkoot Trail where the lives of 46 hopefuls were lost in one avalanche, while trying to get to the Klondike Gold; and to climb rocky tracks up to mountain lakes to catch a birds-eye-view of the towns below - towns which are museums of history of the lawless gold rush days.

Being a study tour we were offered a generous diet of information on the political, social, economic and cultural history of Alaska - a land whose history is both so old, going back to when there was a land bridge across the Bering Straits allowing migration from Siberia, and also so new that it was not until the discovery of gold in the 1880's that towns, railways and roads sprang up.

As I have said, I had no regrets that I chose to avoid the busy tourist time and travel in October. Predictably I missed the migratory birds but thanks to the taxidermists I saw all Alaska's birds and beasties in museums AND enjoyed six days of beautiful snow in Fairbanks and Anchorage AND three days on the State ferry in the Inside Passage with occasional sightings of

killer- and humpback whales, sea lions and dolphins, AND twelve hours on the Alaska Railroad travelling 541 kms through scenery that is better than the Rockies AND I weathered the cultural shock of being in a country where subsistence farming in many areas still means that trapping, shooting and fur-trading raises few voices of protest.

What more could I ask?

Will Rolland

(For a photocopy of The Hosteller article or more information, ring me, Will Rolland, on 830 4530. I am going back later this year doing my own thing this time and adding the Pribilof and St Lawrence Islands in the Bering Sea to my itinerary.)

ARTHUR-PIEMAN PROTECTED AREA

We were met at Devonport airport by Doug and Jan, who had brought their car across on the ferry, and we drove past the Arthur and Frankland Rivers to Balfour along the Heemskirk Road.

Our overnight camp was at the foot of Mt Hazleton on the button grass, at the embryonic Daisy River. The next morning we climbed Mt Hazelton and after an extremely steep climb we were surprised to find an enchanting temperate rain forest, full of beeches, leatherwoods and laurels. A cairn marked the summit with extensive views of the Norfolk Range. Max sighted Barn Bluff in the distance.

After two and a half days through button grass intersected by tangled gullies through which Doug and Max took turns to bash a passage on our 2 crossings of the upper reaches of the North Pedder and Native Nut creeks we were delighted to drop into to cool ourselves off and were dry again by the time we ascended.

On day 3 we turned westwards and were lured by the ocean sound. We came upon a grassy spur and a wombat trail which took us straight to where the Italian River met the Southern Ocean at a delightful swimming hole.

Camping there for two nights allowed us to explore as far south as Lagoon River, with enormous sand dunes, middens and ocean beach. We were saddened to see that off-road vehicles had penetrated that far into the wilderness and we could see lots of evidence of damage caused by these vehicles. We saw many animal tracks in the sand showing wallabies wombats and Tasmanian devils all of which were sighted and enjoyed with the exception of the devils. We sighted wedge tailed eagles, terns, cormorants, dotterels, white-faced herons, ground parrots, quails, larks, currawongs and wrens

Arthur-Pleman Protected Area continued

We headed north along the beautiful white sand and camped for two nights at Pedder River whilst our leader was laid low with a bowel bug. En route we passed Sandy Cape lighthouse and called at a lonely fisherman's shack where Bill the fisherman and Ian his deckhand (who was also a Cookery teacher at Don College in Devonport), produced for us last night's leftovers of crayfish Pizza!

It was with regret we left the superb beaches, sand dunes and bays, the lovely walks and evening strolls with grazing wombats and wallabies, and headed back east through the button grass to our car, along the way passing three copperhead snakes within 100 metres.

Our final night was spent at Stanley where we enjoyed a lovely seafood dinner to cap off a memorable and highly recommended area of Tasmania. Many thanks to Doug, Jan, Jean and Max for enjoyable company on a great trip.

Jan Petersen

WILKINSON LODGE - WINTER BOOKINGS

Bookings will open on Wednesday March 1st and will follow the system used in previous years.

1. As in previous years, one experienced member shall be leader. It is the leaders responsibility to collect fees up front - NO PAYMENT, NO BOOKING. Leaders are also responsible for organising the food party so should consider collecting the food kitty at the same time.
2. For two weeks (ie. March 1st and 8th) only members can book, bearing in mind that at least three weeks are put aside for outside groups. If you want to book please talk to the leader first.
3. After those two weeks, then members families and friends can fill vacancies up to the full group of eight. Note this is the maximum number for a group.
4. The weeks run from Saturday to Saturday and groups are expected to book for the entire week. If groups are not filled the Manager may offer the extra places to visitors.
5. Fees will be the same as last year - \$42 per week for members and \$84 for visitors. Note that children under 16 take their parents status, 16 and over are visitors unless they are members or have applied for membership. Refunds will only be for exceptional circumstances. Apply to the Committee via the Lodge Manager.

6. In the event of disputes the Manager will make a decision based on group members brownie points gained through work parties, committee positions, bribes, etc.

March 1st is only a few weeks off so start thinking now about whether you want to go in to Wilky this winter and who you would like to go with. And start saving - NO PAYMENT - NO BOOKING!!!!!!

Doug Pocock, Wilky Manager

WALHALLA HOSTEL BASE CAMP

20-22 January 1995

Twenty two people had a very enjoyable weekend based at Tisdall Camp and doing various walks around Walhalla. Due to persistent rain all Friday and through the night, it was decided to drive to Mount St Gwinear on Saturday and walk on the open tracks of the Baw Baw Plateau. This proved very successful with one group returning after reaching the summit whilst Lloyd and Bernie led another group on a longer walk to Mt Baw Baw village and return, which provided a challenging but rewarding walk. Some people took the opportunity to spend Saturday afternoon exploring Walhalla township, before enjoying a hearty dinner.

Sunday dawned a much better day, perfect for walking - sunny but not hot. Bernie and Lloyd led an easy-medium walk which included viewing "Little Joe" gold mine, then traversed several rugged gullies to reach the Thompson River Road bridge and railway. They then ascended steeply to the Alpine walking track and returned to Walhalla with great views of the town en route.

I led a group of medium walkers on a longer walk along the Alpine walking track. We walked from Walhalla to Poverty Point Steel Bridge with many spectacular views along the way and passed through a number of beautiful fern gullies. After lunch we walked along the other side of the Thompson River valley to reach the Thompson River road bridge and railway. After exploring the newly restored railway our group walked along part of the disused railway line until the track became impassable. We then opted to walk the last 3 kms into Walhalla along the main road, which rewarded us with spectacular views into the Stringers Creek gully. After a brief refreshment stop, this group arrived back at base and then everyone departed for Melbourne.

The facilities at the Tisdall Hostel were ideal for our needs and Walhalla provides a great base for walks or drives. Warm thanks to Bernie and Lloyd, my sub leaders and to everyone for their support and cooperation in making this a great weekend, even though we couldn't get a cappuccino!

Brian Crouch

Vale "Bob's Old Girl"

I know everyone will be sorry to hear that Bob's "Old Girl" has "thrown a leg out of bed" and all Sunday walkers know that the "old girl" is the love of Bob's life, perhaps with the exception of his dog.

To the uninitiated in mechanical terminology, this means that our Sunday walkers Coach Captain, Bob McLellan's bus put a piston through the block. Still confused? Let me explain.

On Sunday 8th January, whilst on our way to Lorne, as we were travelling along Montague Street overpass of the Westgate Freeway, there was a horrendous bang, the bus shuddered, and Bob pulled over and stopped the bus on the side of the ramp. At first it was thought that a tyre had blown but after Bob had a good look he found there was significant damage to the engine and we could go no further.

The nearest phone was some 100 metres away and Bob set off to walk that distance to call for help (we also know that Bob does not enjoy walking, just driving). A little way along the road a couple stopped and offered Bob the use of their mobile phone. Bob soon had things organised and took off in a taxi back to the depot, escorted by John Kitson, and was back within 45 minutes with another bus. I know all the Sunday Walkers were very appreciative of the manner in which Bob organised alternative transport so quickly for us. We were also appreciative of the couple who stopped to render assistance, particularly in view of the fact that the wife was on day leave from hospital.

The rest of the day went very smoothly, the weather became fine and I think everyone enjoyed the walk along the beach.

Clare Lonergan & Fay Pratt

PS. We hear also that the "Prowling Pussycat" turned fifty over Christmas. A belated Happy Birthday, John

Committee Notes

Treasurer

January Accounts

Opening Balance	\$52 837.63
Months receipts	\$ 3 490.01
Months payments	\$ 1 778.00
Closing Balance	\$54 549.64

Walks Secretary

For December 1994

Day walks	3;	ave. attendances	33
W/e Pack carry walks	2;	ave. attendances	10
Base camps	2;	ave. attendances	16
Wed. & Historical	2;	ave. attendances	11

Membership

Total Members a/a end January 1995 435.
Comprises:-11 Life members; 12 honorary members;
310 Single members; 102 Couples (51 couples);
Also 11 NEWS Subscribers

New Members

Kristina KAULENAS James MARSHALL

Changes to Members Information

Janet CLOUGH Barbara BURTON

Angela HO

Julie WHITE

Mary LEONARD

Peter CHALKLEY

Bob STEEL

Duty Roster:

8 February	Derrick and Merilyn
15 February	Stephen and Janet
22 February	Nancy and Peter
1 March	Nigel and Doug
8 March	Janet and Denise

Annual Reports

PRESIDENT

Jean Giese

I have felt very privileged to be the President for the last four years of such a great club as the Melbourne Bushies. I have decided that four years is enough of one President for any club and so will not stand for re-election. I therefore take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support and affection which I have enjoyed during my term at the helm. These have been special years for me.

The Club is in good health. Our membership stands at the highest it has ever been, despite the formation of many new clubs around Melbourne and environs. We have a comprehensive and interesting walks programme, the finances are in good shape and the Club is a friendly group to belong to with the opportunity for new members to experience the joys of bushwalking and learn some of the arts associated with it. All this is due, in no small measure, to the splendid band of office bearers, leaders of walks and others who work quietly in the background. I pay tribute to them and say thank you on behalf of the whole membership.

Within the month, the 50 year history of the Club will be in our hands and a cause for great rejoicing by those who have contributed their words, their editorial skills and management to the enterprise. It is something that we, as members, look forward to very much. It will be great to have this record of the first fifty years of the Club's journey. Our congratulations to all involved.

During the year we have made our contribution to the various environment issues and debates, with Club letters and submissions as well as individual member's efforts and donations. Our substantial donation of \$4000 (approved at the 1994 AGM) to the Victorian National Parks Association in support of its work in our alpine areas was put to good use. After discussion at the October, November and December meetings, the Committee decided to invest \$20000 in a term deposit with the ANZ Bank at a higher rate of interest, to be called the "Special Account". The annual interest from this account is to be used for conservation projects, or as the committee of the day decides. A donation of \$150 was also given to the Federation of walking Clubs of Victoria to assist in the purchase of a FAX machine which will help the Federation in its efforts to put forward the views and claims of bushwalkers. We are cognisant of the resources which are available to 4WD clubs, commercial horse-riding groups etc. to make their views known in the places where it matters.

Looking back, I think 1994 was a good year for us and we look forward to keeping up our high standards and having great times together in the bush in 1995.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Peter Havlicek

The Membership Secretary's regular duties include:

- The maintenance of the register of members' particulars (address, phone, subscription status)
- The collection of subscriptions
- Giving advice about membership to potential or new members
- Assisting in the preparation of mailing and membership lists.

As at the beginning of 1995, the membership of the Club was 433 (last year 400) including 11 life and 12 honorary members.

The number of members increased markedly during 1994 due to both a greater number of new members and fewer old members leaving. During calendar 1994, there were only 50 (1993: 69) members who let their membership lapse and 90 (1993: 61) new members joined.

In parallel with the activity of Margaret Borden, who responds to enquiries received on the Club's phone number, the Membership Secretary responded to postal enquiries, some 20-30 over the year, by mailing walks programmes and other information about the Club. For the year ended 31 December, 1994, Margaret sent information to a total of 666 people (cf. 572 in 1993).

The Membership Secretary was absent during part of the year. He wishes to thank once again Fay Pratt and Stephen Rowlands who between them so stalwartly held the fort.

In conclusion, members would help very much if they could let the Secretary know as soon as practicable when their address, home or work phone has changed. It has happened that quite suddenly, copies of **The NEWS** have started returning with a "Not at this address" stamp. Also, prompt payment of 1995 subs within the subscription period (within 3 months after the AGM) would be greatly appreciated.

NEWS Editor

The year started with Gina Hopkins doing the first couple of **NEWS**'s and I took over with the April edition. I have enjoyed bringing **The NEWS** to you each month and I hope it has been interesting and informative to you, my readers. Of course, I do rely on you to contribute, and I have received many good articles and items over the months. Please keep up the good work.

NEWS Editor continued

My only beef is the lateness of receiving Walk previews - if possible please get them to me as early as you can so I can spread the work load over the month.

Don't be afraid to write something for **The NEWS**, even if you're not so good at expressing yourself on paper, or have trouble with grammar, spelling and/or syntax (whatever that is!). I can soon lick it into shape while retaining the spirit of the original.

I intend continuing as Editor in 1995 (if you will have me) but I would like someone out there to consider taking on the job in 1996. So think about it.

Wilkinson Lodge*Doug Pocock*

Usage this year was 822 visitor nights which included 474 non member nights. These figures are approximate due to the reluctance of some people to fill in report sheets.

A new stove was installed this year - many thanks to the willing workers, especially Rod Mattingley for his efforts. The annual Bogong National Park assistance work party was held with much useful work done cleaning and repairing Kelly's Hut. A Wilky spring clean work party had only 4 participants, two of these from Maroondah Bushwalkers!

I have found it necessary to have to chase some people for return of keys, report and fees. For smooth running of your lodge, please return these promptly after your stay.

Equipment Report for 1994

Readers are reminded that the club has basic bushwalking equipment available for hire for Club trips at reasonable rates. Tents, sleeping bags (with an inner cotton liner), sleeping mats, and large packs were the most popular items for hire, but we also have day packs, compasses and map holders, and a methyl stove for hire. Each item is available at a low hire rate plus a deposit that is refundable upon the return of the equipment in good condition on the promised date.

The proceeds for equipment hire for the year 1994 were \$610. Since there was never a time last year where equipment was unavailable because it was already out, the committee has decided not to buy any new equipment at this time; however, suggestions for new equipment purchases may be considered.

People interested in hiring any pieces of equipment are encouraged to speak to the equipment officers ahead of

time so that equipment can be reserved. The current equipment officers are Nigel Holmes and Nancy Belyea.

Treasurers Report - 1994-95 *Denise Triffett*

In accordance with the Club's Statement of Purposes and Rules, the financial records for the year 1994/95 have been passed to the auditors for clearance. The following summary of the Club's financial position as at 31 January 1995 is subject to change once the books are audited. A detailed Statement will be available at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 22 February 1995.

As usual all receipts and payments were classified into one of the sub-accounts. Another (special) sub-account was created when the Committee of Management recently decided to transfer \$20 000.00 from the Walks Account into a Term Deposit Savings Account for 4 years at 9.25%, maturing 11 November 1998. The interest will be paid yearly in November and the Committee at that time will then decide how best to use this money - ie. for conservation & environment issues etc.

The year's performance and end of year's balance for all accounts is as follows (losses in brackets).

Account	Year's Result	Year End Balance
	\$	\$
Club	4 644.33	12 422.24
Wilky	(2 908.83)	11 054.51
Walks	(104.44)	8 449.72
Special	nil	20 000.00
Publication	1 664.35	2 623.17

Overall the Club made an operating profit of \$3 295.41. This figure does not include a donation of \$4 000.00 made to the Victorian National Parks Association. This amount was paid out of the Wilky and Walks accounts and is also reflected in the above figures. The Wilky account had an increase in expenses over the previous year due to the installation of a stove. The Club's current equity stands at \$60 648.39, an increase of \$3 623.97 over the previous year.

Annual Subscription Fees: I recommend that the annual subscription for 1995/96 be decreased to:

Ordinary Members	\$25
Concession membership	\$17
Couples	\$36
NEWS subscribers	\$15

Denise Triffett

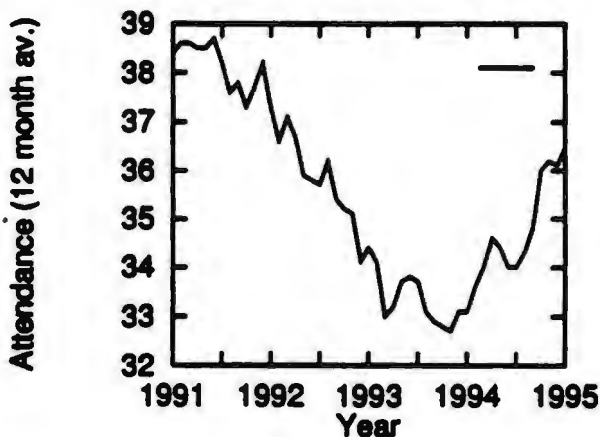
Walks Secretary's Report

Yearly attendance totals for the 5 years 1990-1994							
Year	Total	Day	Weekend		Members	Visitors	No. of trips
			total	pack carry			
1994	2719	2189	530	304	2058	661	139
1993	2651	2127	524	287	2035	616	138
1992	2630	2106	524	236	2090	540	134
1991	2993	2389	604	285	2317	676	140
1990	2842	2403	439	188	2131	711	130

Jan-Dec 1994 Statistics (1993 in ())			
Walk type	No. of trips	Av. attendance	
Sunday bus	50 (50)	36.5	(33.1)
Pack carry	36 (34)	8.4	(8.4)
Base camp	17 (13)	12	(13.1)
Lodge	3 (5)	7	(13.4)
Wednesday	11 (12)	10.6	(9)
Dandenongs	9 (10)	11.3	(16.9)
Historical	8 (11)	12.4	(15.1)
Ski day, etc.	5 (3)	8.6	(10.3)

1994 was largely a "business as usual" year. The main change from recent years was our bus trip on the Queen's Birthday weekend, which was very successful. The ski season was closer to an average of the last twenty years after a disastrous 1993 season.

An encouraging sign for the long term finances of the club is an increase in the average attendances on our Sunday bus trips, which had been in alarming decline until early 1993, as the following graph shows.



Each point on the graph gives the average attendance for the preceding twelve months. The decline and im-

provement in attendance was probably due to several factors. Several events occurred around the time and any of these might have had some effect. These events include the controversy surrounding the switch from van to bus, the recession and start of recovery, and a change in our telephone inquiries service. Perhaps someone might even like to argue that the change of State government somehow led to the arresting of the decline in numbers. The decline was noted in the annual reports of my predecessor (Max Casley) and actions were taken to arrest the decline. No further actions were initiated in 1994.

The financial situation for the bus is complicated by the fact that we have visitors (who pay a visitor's fee) and concession fares on most trips. If we did not have this complication, a typical Sunday bus trip would require 39 participants (including leaders) on a trip for us to avoid making a loss.

The Walks Programme is primarily the result of the efforts of the walks sub-committee. This year we have had the benefit of the involvement of Alan Miller (Assistant Walks Secretary), Jean Giese, Max Casley, Janet Norman, Keith White and Marilyn Whimpey. In addition, supplementary parts of the programme were contributed by Margaret Borden (Wednesday walks), Michael Humphrey (Dandenongs), and Athol Schafer (Historical and Urban). To these (apologies to anyone I have forgotten), and those members who give up some of their time and accept the responsibilities involved in leading a successful trip; thank you.

Bill Metzthen
Walks Secretary 1994

Form of nomination for Officers and Members of the Committee
of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

Nomination for
Enter President, Vice-president, Treasurer, Secretary, Walks Secretary, Social Secretary, News Editor, Wilky Manager,
General Committee, as appropriate.

Nominee

Proposed

Seconded

Acceptance of nomination I agree to stand for this position.....

Signature of Nominee

FORM OF APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

I of
..... being a member of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Incorporated, hereby appoint

..... of
being a member of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Incorporated, as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the

- * Annual General Meeting
- * Half Yearly General Meeting
- * Extraordinary General Meeting

to be held on the day of 19.... and at any adjournment of that meeting.

† My proxy is authorised to vote * In Favour of /* Against the following resolution(s):

- * Delete as appropriate
- † Delete if not applicable

Signed
Dated

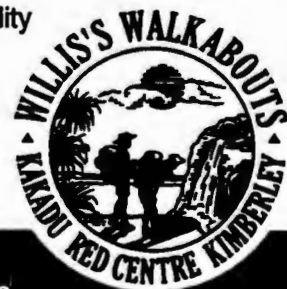
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If you believe the book by Bruce Chatwin & Paul Theroux, Patagonia is that place. Willis's Walkabouts can take you there. Why us? Ask our clients.

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(Helen O'Callaghan, Melbourne)

"Exactly the compromise between flexibility & company that we were looking for."
(Cathy & Cameron McAlpine, Melbourne)



We're heading to Patagonia again at the end of the year and offering a trip to Peru & Bolivia as well. Ask for details.

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