



The NEWS

of the

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

JANUARY 1995

EDITION 519

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NOTICE

Annual General Meeting

of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

Wednesday 22nd February 1995 at 8.00 pm

in the Horticultural Hall (enter from the Clubrooms, Mackenzie Street)

Business to be transacted will be:

1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Half Yearly General Meeting held on 24 August 1994
2. Receive & consider the Committee's reports of the activities of the Association during the previous year, including the statement to be submitted in accordance with Section 30(3) of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (the financial statement)
3. Election of Office Bearers and Ordinary Members of the Committee for 1995
4. Determination of Annual Subscription
5. Election of Honorary Members
6. Election of Auditors
7. General Business.

All members are welcome and are urged to attend. Visitors may observe but cannot vote.

Jean Giese President

Merilyn Whimpey Secretary

Social Function

Chinese New Year - Year of the Pig -
is on 30 January 1995

Come and celebrate Chinese New Year
with a genuine Chinese meal at

Zen Chinese Restaurant (BYO)

23 Andersons Creek Road, Doncaster East.
(Melways map 34, D9)(Restaurant ph. 841 7566)

on **Tuesday 31st January 1995**
at 8.15 pm

Cost will be approx \$30

We have booked for thirty.

To ensure your place, please book with Sak by
no later than Wednesday 25 January

You can phone Sak on _____ after 7.00 pm

BARBECUE

at

Lysterfield Lake

at about 5.30 pm on

Saturday 25th February

after Michael Humphrey's Saturday walk.

Location is in the Picnic Area at the
Southern Car Park

(near Dam Wall Melway map 108 D3)

There is an entry fee for Lysterfield Lake Park

See preview of Michael's walk for more
details.

Everybody welcome - you don't have to
be a Saturday walker to join in.

BYO everything

From The Editor

I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year, and had a good holiday. We had quite a few people out walking over the break. I had 27 people down at Parker River, including Jenny & Jopie, who did some longish walks of their own (including one walk of about 35 kms towards Apollo Bay and back!) The rest of us had a fairly laid back time - some walking, swimming, reading, talking, and a visit to the lighthouse for a tour. One group even drove to Gibsons Steps (Twelve Apostles) and returned via the Glow Worms at Melba Gully.

I have had a letter from Pat & Paul Gary recounting their adventures while living in Geraldton. They have done some good trips into the Kimberley, including the Bungle Bungles & the Mitchell Plateau, as well as into the Pilbara area. They also went on a turtle egg-counting expedition to Exmouth. They will be moving to Canberra in early 1995. They can be contacted at: Mr & Mrs P Gray, c/o .

The Annual General Meeting is coming up in February and while some of the present committee are standing again, we welcome new people to assist in running the Clubs affairs. So think about it. I intend to stand again for Editor but maybe someone out there might even want to take on **The NEWS!**

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

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 February 1995 News is

Wednesday 1ST February 1994.

From the President

While many of us were off walking and having a lovely time over the Xmas-New Year break, others were confined to barracks. Vice President Derrick has a prolapsed disc in his spine and we are pleased to hear it is mending slowly. Gina stayed home to tend the sick. Gerry Grandage's Avon Wilderness trip had to be cancelled because his back was giving him trouble.

Sadly, Peter Arden has not recovered completely from the brain haemorrhage he had last year and is now a resident at Queenscliff Manor (11 Learmonth Street, Queenscliff, ph. 052 521 814). He remembers everyone from the past but his current memory is affected. He really enjoys going for a walk so if any of his old friends have time & are down that way, I'm sure Peter would be delighted to see you. I suggest you phone Queenscliff Manor before hand to arrange a visit & an outing for Peter.

Mark & Kate Thompson send greetings to everyone from the Bicentennial Trail which they are walking with their donkeys carrying their packs. They are headed for Brisbane and are having a great experience. Their letter says in part "Having burnt our bridges and leased our home for 12 months, it is just as well we are enjoying things as much as we are. We are continually meeting the most extraordinary people whose generosity & good will are inspirational". The journey began in Bendigo and when writing before Xmas they had reached Howitt Hut. Mark says he will write again, as they meander along, to let us know of their progress.

Tracey, still working in Darwin, also sent season's greetings to Club pals. She intends returning to Melbourne early in 1995.

Our Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday February 22nd at 8.00pm when the Committee of Management will be elected for 1995. All positions become vacant at the Annual General meeting so consider standing for office or general committee (see Committee members for a nomination form). We hope there will be a good turnout of members. There were at least 150 at the Xmas party which was a great occasion for catching up with those we hadn't seen for a while. Reports from the office bearers as to how they have discharged their duties in 1994 will appear in the February NEWS.

Jean Giese

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 February Day Walks

**Sunday 5 Feb. DOM DOM SADDLE -
Easy & Medium FERNSHAW RESERVE -
Mt MONDA - MAROONDAH DAM**

Leaders: Sue Ralston & Tony Ralston
Transport: Bus at 9.00 am from South
Bank Boulevard
Approx. Distance 77 kms
from Melbourne:
Expected time c. 1900
of return:
Area: Healesville
Approx length of 10 kms + poss. extension
walks: and 20 kms
Map Reference: Juliet North & Juliet South
1:25 000

The Medium walk, from Dom Dom Saddle (508m) to Mt Monda (900m) and down Condon's Track to Maroondah Dam (160m) is a peaceful and pretty one through lush mountain ash & messmate forest, with grassy hills, blackwoods and tree ferns. Rosellas abound and two lyrebirds were seen at close range. Much of the walk is in shade or semi-shade. There are two steepish climbs, totalling about 500m, (both before lunch!) & a descent of 700m at the end. The walk is mostly on tracks which vary from fire tracks to grassy fire breaks to barely discernible blackberry-strewn ones! We will finish at Maroondah Dam (which boasts a kiosk) rather than at Donnelley's Weir, due to a potential "bus hazard" at Donnelley's Weir road.

The Easy walk also starts at Dom Dom Saddle and follows a track looping south east and then west to Fernshaw Reserve, through mountain ash forest. The walk is only 10 kms and descends c. 300m, although it includes a short ascent, & there are several creek crossings. A pretty and pleasant walk for a hot day. Depending on the temperature & the group's interest, an optional extension of the walk may be arranged.

**Saturday 11 Feb. BRIGHTON HISTORICAL
Easy WALK**

Leader: Athol Schafer
MEET: Under the clocks at Flinders
Street Station at 1315
Expected time 1700
of return:
Approx length of 6 kms
walk:
Map Reference: Melways map 67

The walk starts and finishes at the North Brighton railway station & takes in the heart of Tommy Bent's

domain - Middle Brighton - now the centre of Brighton's famous heritage areas. Bring a picnic afternoon tea.

**Sunday 12 Feb. BELLBIRD CREEK -
Easy/med. & Medium TARAGO RIVER**

Leaders: Lloyd Young & Doug Pocock
Transport: Bus at 9.00 am from South
Bank Boulevard
Approx. Distance 107 kms
from Melbourne:
Expected time 1900
of return:
Area: Neerim, Gippsland
Approx length of under 20 kms
walks:
Map Reference: Neerim & Tarago 1:25 000

Both walks are on good tracks as the area is heavily forested. The medium walk has an extra loop near the reservoir.

**Wednesday 15 Feb. GEMBROOK REGIONAL
Easy/Medium PARK**

Leader: Max Casley
Transport: Private
Approx. Distance 63 kms
from Melbourne:
Expected time 1800
of return:
Approx length of 12-14 kms
walk:
Map Reference: Gembrook South 1:25 000
ESMAP 740

Meet at Mortimer Reserve (ESMAP 740 G8) at 1000.
Phone leader on for transport arrangements.
Alternatively meet at Tuhan Street, Chadstone at 0830.

We will be walking in the shade of giant Eucalypts with an understorey of Banksias & Correas, in the hills of West Gippsland. There is a nature trail and a section of track with thick tree ferns. We will start & finish at Mortimer Reserve picnic area.

Previews for February Day Walks - continued

Sunday 19 Feb.	KEPPEL'S FALLS - THE BEECHES - WHITEHOUSE CREEK
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Leaders:	Jean Woodger & Nigel Holmes
Transport:	PLEASE NOTE: Bus at 0830 am from South Bank Boulevard
Approx. Distance from Melbourne:	110 kms
Expected time of return:	1900
Area:	near Marysville
Approx length of walks:	16 and 20 kms
Map Reference:	Outdoor Leisure Map 1:30 000 Marysville-Lake Mountain

This is an absolutely delightful walk in an area between Marysville and Lake Mountain. The easy/medium group will leave Lady Talbot Drive to walk up Sands Road, with views across the valley near the top of a steady climb, then descend along Camerons Cascade Track to the Taggerty River and a side trip to visit Phantom Falls. From here, with the Taggerty River on our left, we will follow a bush track (overgrown at time of writing) which leads us up to Taggerty River Crossing Picnic Area. We then walk through wonderful pockets of rainforest and on to The Beeches picnic ground, featuring giant mountain ash & groves of myrtle beech. Another track will lead us back through open Eucalypt forest to Taggerty River crossing.

The Medium group will follow a similar route, but continue from The Beeches to follow the Whitehouse Fire Line towards Mt Margaret, then south-west via various tracks to return to Marysville.

Saturday 25 Feb.	LYSTERFIELD LAKE PARK
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Leader:	Michael Humphrey
Transport:	Private
Approx. Distance from Melbourne:	35 kms
Expected time of return:	1730
Approx length of walk:	12 kms
Map Reference:	Melways maps 82, 83 & 108

Come join me on the first Dandenongs Walk for 1995. Access to the Park is via the entrance & ticket office in Horswood Road (Melway Map 108 D2, off the Belgrave-Hallam Road). There is a nominal entrance fee per car. We will have lunch before commencing the walk so if you want to join me for lunch, meet at 1200

in the Southern Car Park (near the dam wall). We will commence the walk at 1300 sharp.

We should arrive back at the cars around 1730, & I invite you all to have a barbecue with me (BYO everything). The picnic area we will be using is located next to the only swimming beach in the Park, so bring your bathers if the weather is warm. Please note that the park closes at approx. 2000, but this should give us plenty of time to have a leisurely dinner. What better way to end a walk! Of course if the weather is hot you may choose not to do the walk and instead just soak up the sun by the lake, or you may like to meet us at the picnic area at approx. 1730 for the barbecue only.

If you need transport, please ring me at home on & I will try to organise something.

Sunday 26 Feb.	CUMBERLAND RIVER & Easy/medium and Medium FALLS
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Leaders:	Margaret Borden & John Kittson
Transport:	PLEASE NOTE: Bus at 0830 am from South Bank Boulevard
Approx. Distance from Melbourne:	140 kms
Expected time of return:	approx. 1930
Area:	near Lorne
Approx length of walks:	14 & 17 kms
Map Reference:	Lorne 1:25 000

This is a beautiful area & on a lovely summer day will be cool & magnificent. Both walks will start at the Cumberland River Reserve and finish at the Sheoak Creek car park, at the ocean. If it is hot there may be time for a swim.

The easy/medium group will cross and re-cross the Cumberland River several times along a shaded track with ferns & various trees, and then leave it for a steep 180m climb to a 4WD track for a short distance. Then down & up another walking track to the beautiful Upper & Lower Kalimna Falls. Another walking track follows the Kalimna Creek, joins up with Sheoak Creek and descends to Sheoak Falls. We continue down a broad gorge with beautiful views of the ocean.

The Medium group will follow the same route but take an extra approx 3 kms detour from Sheoak Creek picnic ground to visit the Wonwondah & Henderson Falls, which will involve a bit of extra climbing.

Bring some coffee or whatever to have before the long trip home, and plenty of water if the day is warm, also your bathers if you want a swim.

Previews of February Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks

3-5 February Easy/medium	HEATHY SPUR-SPION KOPJE- HOWMANS GAP
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Leader:	Max Casley
Transport:	Private
Approx. Distance from Melbourne:	375 kms
Expected time of return:	late Sunday
Area:	Bogong High Plains
Approx length of walk:	22 kms plus side trips
Map Reference:	Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Leisure Map

Escape from the summer heat and come to the high country where the flowers will still be blooming, I hope. Starting from Watchbed Creek we will go north over Mt Nelse to a lovely camp site we used some years ago. Bring a small day pack for side trips (optional) to Roper's &/or Batty huts or even Timmins Lookout if we feel keen. On Sunday we will go over Spion Kopje, then down steeply to cross Rocky Valley Creek and finish at Howmans Gap.

10-12 February Medium & Med./hard	MT BULLER HOSTEL WALK-IN
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Leader:	Paul Stripeikis & Keith Langham
Transport:	Private
Approx. Distance from Melbourne:	205 kms
Expected time of return:	Sunday afternoon
Approx length of walk:	15-20 kms & 30 kms
Map Reference:	Outdoor Leisure Map - Buller-Stirling

Medium/hard walk: We will camp at Sheeppark Flat on Friday night & start early (especially if it is hot!) on Saturday morning at Timbertop Saddle, climb Mt Timbertop then follow walking & 4WD tracks to Mt Buller (c. 18 kms). A lot of climbing involved so it's a fairly hard day. We will stay at a lodge on Saturday night. A much easier day on Sunday as we follow a walking track down Four Mile Spur till we meet the Howqua River.

Easy/medium walk: We will stay at the Lodge on Mt Buller for two nights and do two day walks from there. Cost per person will be about \$25-30 for the Lodge. More information will be handed out prior to the walks.

17-19 February Medium	THOMPSON RIVER LI-LO
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Leader:	Geoff Kelly
Transport:	Private
Approx. Distance from Melbourne:	195 kms
Expected time of return:	2100
Area:	west of Heyfield
Approx length of walk:	25 kms
Map Reference:	Deep Creek & Seaton 1:25 000 or Matlock & Maffra 1:100 000

Rendezvous at Cowwarr Weir on Saturday morning at 0800, where we will leave one vehicle, then drive to the start at Brunton's Bridge.

We will lilo down the river, camping overnight beyond the gorge. Plenty of grade 1 & 2 rapids will be encountered on day 1. Next day will be more of the same with one grade 3 rapid (but this can be portaged).

NOTE - Buoyancy vests & helmets, and thermals or wet suits will be compulsory.

24-26 February Easy/medium	MT BUFFALO BASE CAMP
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PLEASE NOTE: The Wilsons Prom Walks planned for this weekend have been postponed to a later date.

Leader:	Bob Steel
Transport:	Private
Approx. Distance from Melbourne:	322 kms
Expected time of return:	Sunday Evening
Approx length of walks:	12-15 kms each day
Map Reference:	Eurobin & Buckland 1:25 000

We will camp at Lake Catani for two nights and do day walks from there. On Saturday we will go out to Mt Dunn & towards Mollisons Galleries, & on Sunday we will visit Chalwell Galleries, the Underground River & Chalet area including the Gorge. There is a camping charge at Lake Catani, which has water, toilets etc.

Change to Summer Walks Programme

Due to a number of events, the Summer Walks Programme has been changed. Rosemary Cotter's trip to Wilsons Prom. has been cancelled (we wish Rosemary a speedy recovery). Stephen Rowland's "Prom-in-a-day" trip has been shifted to the Autumn Programme (see the sneak preview) and Bob Steel will now be leading a base camp trip to Mt Buffalo on the last weekend in the Summer Programme. The list of weekend walks for the last weekend of February in the revised Summer Programme now consist of:

24-26	Mt Buffalo Base Camp	E/M	Bob Steel
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Sneak Preview of March Walks

Here is the current state of the first month of the Autumn Programme. Use this as a good indication of the March Walks; some changes may be made before the Programme is finalised

3-5	Wilson's Prom -in-a-day	H	Stephen Rowlands
5	Philip Island Rookeries	E & E/M	
10-13	Bogong High Plains - Mt Bogong	M	Max Casley
12	Castella-Toolangi-Victoria Range	E & E/M	David Gibson
13	Coast walk: Truganina Swamp-Cherry Lake	E	Athol Schafer
15	Mt Worth	E/M	Margaret Borden
17-19	Waratah Bay-Cape Liptrap-Venus Bay	M	Merilyn Whimpey
19	Fraser National Park (Lake Eildon)	E/M & M	John Kittson & Margaret Borden
24-26	Bogong National Park work party		Doug Pocock
24-26	Mt McDonald - The Bluff - Eight Mile Hut	M/H	Bill Metzenthén
26	Mt St Leonard-Condons Track-Donnelly's Weir	E/M & M	Nigel Holmes
31-2	Port Campbell Coast Walk		Graeme Thornton

WALK IDEAS

Just as Summer sets in, it's time to start thinking of winter trips! The Walks sub-committee will be meeting to draft the winter programme in a few weeks. Remember, the success of the programme depends on how well it suits your needs. Please let me know your ideas of suitable winter trips, including ski trips, by the middle of February. Also, if you have a broad experience of day &/or overnight walks and would like to contribute, have you considered attending a Walks sub-committee meeting? We meet on one evening every three months to plan the next programme, based upon ideas from club members (including sub-committee members). Let me know if you would like to attend a meeting.

Bill Metzenthén, Walks Secretary

Book Reviews

The Club has recently received copies of two recently published books: "*Camping and Tramping in Australia's National Parks*" and "*The Abels: Tasmania's Mountains over 1100m High, Vol. 1*". Both books will be on display in the Club rooms for four weeks before becoming available for loan.

Camping and Tramping in Australia's National Parks by Keren Flavell covers 300 national parks, state forests and reserves. It is "for people at all fitness levels and at all levels of camping experience. It does not assume that readers have special expertise or equipment". It includes - information on park location and access
- more than 120 maps
- information on campsite facilities
- recommendations for the best walks
- advice on the flora and fauna to look for.

Copies of the book are available for purchase from Reed Books Australia at \$16.95.

The Abels: Tasmania's Mountains over 1100m High, Vol 1 is edited by Bill Wilkinson and gives the nomenclature, history and detailed descriptions of the main features of each mountain included. This includes discussions on the best ascents and the flora and fauna to be seen on walks and attempts "to capture both the unique qualities of each mountain as well as the feel of being on each summit".

Copies of the book can be ordered from Bill Wilkinson, P.O. Box 224, Kings Meadows, Launceston, Tasmania, 7249 (ph. 003 446616) for \$29.95 plus \$10 for postage and handling. Also available from this address are a hard cover version for \$39.95 and a 56 page book with black and white illustrations presenting all 'The Abels' in schematic form for \$14.95.

Bernice Webster

New Member

Alistair ROWE

Changes to Member Information

Alan MILLER:

Sephine BARTLEY

Michael HUMPHREY

Michael VERNI

Membership as at end December 1994:**Total of 431 members**

Life Members 11

Honorary Members 12

Single Members 310

Couples 2x49 98

Walks for November:

Day walks 4 ave of 36.5 walkers

W/e walks 2 ave 10.5 walkers

Wednesday/

Dandenongs walks 2 ave 10.5

Base Camp (Presidents Weekend) 34 campers

Conservation:

You will have noticed that the Federal Government has not only granted woodchip export licences but also extended them! There has been a considerable backlash against this decision, so much so that Mr Keating has had to do some fancy back-peddalling. If you want to register your protest at this decision you can write to the Prime Minister c/o Parliament House Canberra. Or better still, phone Paul Keating's office on 06 277 7700.

The Socialist left of the Labour party is fighting to have the decision rescinded or at least modified and would welcome your support. You could write to Senator Child c/o Parliament House, Canberra to support their efforts. Remember the Timber Industry & the Timber workers union will also be putting pressure on the back benchers.

Next Committee Meeting will be on Monday 6 February 1995 in the Clubrooms.

Duty Roster:

11 Jan. Stephen & Alan

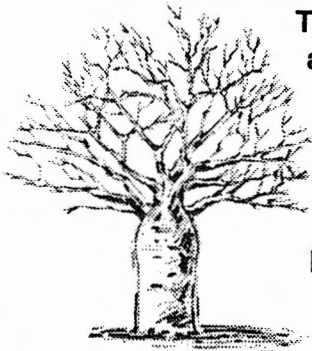
18 Jan. Nancy & Nigel

25 Jan. Peter & Bernie

1 Feb. Jean & Doug

8 Feb. Derek & Marilyn

DRYSDALE RIVER NATIONAL PARK

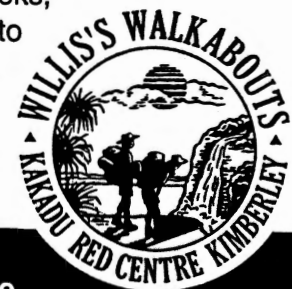


The largest (over 4300 sq km) and least accessible (no road access, no airstrip) national park in the Kimberley.

Drysdale River is a birdwatcher's paradise, full of gorges, waterfalls and pools. The wildlife in the rivers (freshwater crocs, tortoises, fish) exists in an abundance we have never found in Kakadu. It contains the best known collection of Bradshaw style Aboriginal rock paintings.

We offer two trips. The first, three weeks, May 28 - June 18, includes a food drop. The second is two weeks, July 2-14. To minimise the driving time, we provide air transport to and/or from the Mitchell Plateau, where you meet the 4WD which takes you to where the walks begin.

We cannot possibly describe these trips in a short ad like this. For more information, please ask for our trip notes.



WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS
12 Carrington Street, Millner NT 0810
Phone (089) 85 2134 Fax: (089) 85 2355

The NEWS of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

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