



The NEWS

of the

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

MARCH 1995

EDITION 529

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

PRICE 60 cents

As a result of the Annual General Meeting held on February 22nd 1995, the following were elected as the Committee of Management for 1995.

President:	Janet Norman
Vice Presidents:	Pearson Cresswell Derrick Brown
Secretary:	Peter Chalkley
Treasurer:	William Cone
Walks Secretary:	Bill Metzenthien
Assistant Walks Secretary:	Alan Miller
Membership Secretary:	Peter Havlicek
Social Secretary:	Nancy Belyea
Wilkinson Lodge Manager:	Doug Pocock
NEWS Editor:	Bob Steel
General Committee:	
Denise Triffett	Jean Woodger
Nigel Holmes	Stephen Rowlands
Lloyd Young	

Program Presented by our New Social Secretary - Nancy Belyea. So mark your calendars for March 11, 17, 18, 24, 29, and 30, starting with:

FREE "Movies at the Bowl" FREE

6:30 for 8:00 pm - Two Evenings

Bring a picnic - Meet in the middle (the centre) of the lawn

Sidney Myer Music Bowl

Saturday, March 11,
CASABLANCA
Starring
Humphrey Bogart &
Ingrid Bergman

Friday, March 17,
**THE
FLINTSTONES**
the recent "blockbuster"
movie

Live Entertainment from 6:30 pm
Movie starts at 8:00 pm

I'd appreciate knowing if you are planning on attending - Nancy Belyea -

see More Social News on Page 11

Jazz at the Zoo - "Zoo Twilights"

6:00 to 8:00 pm Meet near the band shell.
Free with Zoo admission - \$11.50
(non-concession price)

March 18 - Paul Williamson's Hammond Combo

Bring a picnic, buy food from the Zoo-B-Cue, or book a hamper (your picnic baskets can be left at the gate)

Make a day at the zoo
I'll be there from 3:00 pm- ring me if you'd like to meet. Nancy Belyea
(phone, answering machine & fax)

FREE Ruth Cracknell Film Screening FREE
Friday, March 24 at the KINO - 45 Collins Street

"The Night Belongs to the Novelist"

&

"Spider and Rose"

Watch the white board for times.
Please ring Nancy Belyea if you would like to attend, in the event that bookings are required
(phone, answering machine and fax)

SPECIAL EVENT

Wednesday, March 29, 1995 8:00 pm
in the Clubrooms

Margaret Borden will present slides taken on her trip to

ANTARCTICA

The pictures I have seen are breath-takingly rich and colourful. **NOT TO BE MISSED!!**

From the Editor

Another Annual General Meeting has come and gone, and the 1995 AGM was notable in its brevity - nothing controversial, in fact no general business at all! We have a new President in Janet Norman. Welcome, Janet. A new Secretary and some other new members on the Committee. Thank you to all the retiring office bearers and committee members, especially Jean Giese, who did a sterling job "mothering" our club for almost four years.

I am continuing as NEWS Editor, and would again encourage you, my readers, to contribute to this Journal. It is your articles, anecdotes and news that make **The NEWS** enjoyable to read. I would also like to remind Leaders that it is your responsibility to get your walks Previews to me by the Closing Date, or earlier if possible. I can't write them for you.

Day walkers Barbara & David Smissen have moved to Sydney, and have sent a letter resigning from the Club. They write to say they enjoyed their time with the Bushies and wish to thank everyone for making them so welcome. They would appreciate being advised of any "user friendly" walking group in Sydney. Their address in Sydney is 26/10 Carr Street, Waverton 2060

Our 50 year Book - *The Melbourne Bushies - 50 Years Along the Track* - has now been well and truly launched at an excellent dinner held at the Metropolitan Hotel in North Melbourne on Friday 3 March, attended by 45 people, including the book's Editor Barbara Weiss, and the book designer Pauline McClenahan. Derrick gave a stirring speech and finally produced what we had all been waiting for - **The Book!**

Barbara related the difficulties in editing contributions from the 15 authors. Egon Donath, our Clubs Founder also spoke of the early days and congratulated the Club on producing such a great record of the Melbourne Bushies first 50 years.

The Book was again launched at a very pleasant picnic at Maranoa Gardens on Saturday, 4 March, attended by about 80 people, including a number of members from the 40's, 50's & 60's, including Egon Donath and Norm Richards, our First President. It was great to see many people I had not met up with for some time.

So, now you can buy the book, for \$18 in the Clubrooms or order from Trish Elmore c/o the Club.

Bob Steel

From the President

Well! Who would have thought when I staggered home from my first walk with Melbourne Bushies 7 years that I would be writing this! All part of life's rich tapestry - as someone once said. Actually my first walk was with Michael Humphries in the Dandenongs, and I enjoyed that walk and every other one (to varying degrees) since.

It was a greta night on Friday evening when we launched The book, and I was reminded once again of how many members contribute so much to the activities of this Club. The Committee looks to me to be one that will carry on that hard working tradition

Janet Norman

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

Advertising Rates

1/4 Page 1 Issue-\$20; 3 Issues-\$50; 12 Issues (1 year)-\$180

1/2 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 April 1995 NEWS is

Wednesday 29th MARCH 1994.

Contents of March edition of **The NEWS**

Day Walk Previews	Page 3,4,5.
Week-end Walk Previews	Page,5,6.
MORE SOCIAL NOTES	Page 11
Articles, reports of walks etc	Page 7,8,9.
Committee Notes	Page 10.
New Members	Page 10.
Changes to Members' Information	Page 10.
Changes to Walks Program	Page 11.

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 April Day Walks

Sunday 2 April	MT WORTH
Easy & Easy/medium	STATE PARK

Leaders: **Margaret Borden & Liz Telford**
 Transport: **Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard**

Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **103 kms**
 Expected time of return: **1900**
 Area: **South of Warragul**
 Approx length of walks: **12 and 17 Kms**
 Map Reference: **Mt Worth State Park leaflet**

Both walks will be circuits starting from the Mt Worth Park Office (now closed) and both will cover the beautiful Moonlight Creek Track with its lovely tree ferns and young mountain ash. The E/medium group will go up this track to meet the bus at the finish and the Easy group will take the easier downhill option at the start. Both walks will also visit the large old mountain ash (*Eucalyptus regnans*) in the Giant's Circuit.

The E/medium group will follow tracks & old 4WD roads to the south of the park with some views to Westernport, & then head NE to the Moonlight Ck. picnic area. After lunch there will be the Giant's Circuit, then a detour to an old mill site & finally along the Moonlight Ck. track.

The Easy group will spend some time around the Picnic ground after the Giant's Circuit in the farm area, and then head back along the Moonlight Divide track with some good views of Mt Worth & hills as far away as the Baw Baws. There should be plenty of birds to see & hear and maybe the occasional wallaby or echidna.

Sunday 9 April	FEDERATION DAY WALK
Easy & E/medium	POWELLTOWN AREA

Leaders: **Brian Crouch and Alan Miller**
 Transport: **NOTE - Bus at 8.30 am from South Bank Boulevard**

Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **83 kms**
 Expected time of return: **1930**
 Approx length of walks: **12 & 15 kms**

Both walks will start and finish at Powelltown which is a beautiful forest area that contains the remains of many historic timber tramlines and other relics. The walks are being organised by the Koonung Bushwalking Club, who are the Hosts for the Federation Day Walk this

year. The walks will end by 4 pm at Powelltown oval where afternoon tea will be provided and we can socialise with members of other Walking Clubs. There will be a number of clubs participating on a variety of walks & it is an opportunity to mix with other walkers. Both walks will be on tracks through lush forest with the Easy/medium having more distance & steeper sections. Please come along and enjoy the walks, plus meeting other bushwalkers.

Sunday 16 April	BLUE MOUNTAIN - BLACKWOOD
E/medium & Medium	

Leaders: **?**
 Transport: **Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard**

Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **95 kms**
 Expected time of return: **1830**
 Area: **near Trentham**
 Approx length of walks:
 Map Reference:

Interesting area not too far from Melbourne, with old gold mining relics and a mineral spring. See leader in Clubrooms for more details. Editor

Monday 17 April	MERRI & WESTBREEN
Easy	LINEAR PARKS

Leader: **Athol Schafer**
 Transport: **Tram - Meet under the clocks at Flinders St. Station at 10am**

Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **10 kms**
 Expected time of return: **1600**
 Area: **Coburg**
 Approx length of walk: **8 kms**
 Map Reference: **Melways maps 16 & 17**

Starting at Batman and finishing at Pascoe Vale, the walk takes in two linear parks plus a number of other reserves. The Merri is followed northwards from Coburg Lake and the Westbreen from near its rise to where it joins the Moonee Ponds Creek valley

Previews for April Day Walks continued

Wednesday 19 April CATHEDRAL RANGE Easy/medium

Leader: **Max Casley**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **111 kms**
 Expected time of return: **approx. 1830**
 Area: **Near Buxton**
 Approx length of walk: **13 kms**
 Map Reference: **Cathedral Range 1:25 000**
 Meeting place: **9 Albert Cres. Surrey Hills at 0830 OR at Neds Gully car park at 1000. (Telephone the Leader for details on)**

The Cathedral Range State Park offers varied walking through dense forest, fern gullies and along rocky razorback ridges which give magnificent views into the Acheron River valley. The walk starts and finishes at Neds Gully and takes in Neds Saddle, Cathedral, Farmyard, Cooks Mill and finishes along the Little River walking track. Optional side trips include Ten Fathom Ridge, Little Cathedral and North Jawbone. The route includes some rocky sections which need to be taken slowly. A beautiful area.

Sunday 23 April TEA TREE CK - DUNNS HILL E/Medium & Medium - MT BULLAMALITE

Leaders: **Jean Giese & Keith White**
 Transport: **Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **c. 100 kms**
 Expected time of return: **1900**
 Area: **near Yea**
 Approx length of walks: **15 and 20 kms**
 Map Reference: **Mt Caroline 1:25 000**

This is essentially a ridge walk through open farmland with glorious views most of the way. Of course we have to get up on to the ridge, so we begin with a 330 metre climb. The easier walk will conclude with another 300 m. climb to the summit of Mt Caroline, but there will be the option of omitting this and walking 2 kms along the road to the bus.

The medium walk will cover roughly the same route but with an extra hill or two.

If we haven't had some rain before April 23rd, we may have to change the walk to another area.

Tuesday 25 April PARK WALK: Easy MT. COOPER - LATROBE LAKES

Leader: **Athol Schafer**
 Transport: **Tram - Meet under the clocks at Flinders St. Station at 10am**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **12 kms**
 Expected time of return: **1600**
 Area: **Bundoora**
 Approx length of walk: **9 kms**
 Map Reference: **Melways maps 19 and 66A**

A 3 km circuit around Bundoora Park takes us up to its highest point, Mt Cooper. After lunch we follow the chain of lakes through their landscaped setting in the grounds of LaTrobe University. Lastly a section of the Darebin Creek linear park leads to the tramline.

Saturday 29 April SHERBROOKE FOREST Easy

Leader: **Mike Clode**
 Transport: **Private or Train*. MEET at Grants Picnic Ground Melways 75/K4**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **c. 45 kms**
 Expected time of return: **c. 1800 in City**
 Approx length of walk: **10-12 kms**
 Map Reference: **Melways 75; Esmap 710; also Dandenong Ranges N. P. Map**

Dandenong Explorer Series - The Feel of the Forest
 Join us at Grants Picnic Ground on the last Saturday in April, to explore Sherbrooke Forest, extending as it does to East and West of the Belgrave-Kalista Road. We shall probably have some mud, a little sweat, but hopefully no tears!

We warm up by ambling along Coles Ridge track, branching off at the Tregellas track (named after the wildlife photographer who lived in the forest). We join the track that runs parallel with the main road for a short while (just to give our city friends a whiff of petrol fumes to keep them going), crossing at Micawbers for a steady pull up the Hill Climb track. We reach Sherbrooke Falls (something of an exaggeration) via the Adele Stream and have a break at O'Donohue's. From here it is downhill via the Tree Fern track back to Grants. Depending on time, weather, light and the assembled company, we can explore the Hardy Gully Nature Trail and/or the Margaret Lester Forest Walk.

Continued next Page

Previews for April Day, Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks

Dandenongs Explorer Walk continued

On my Recce I spent 5 minutes keeping station with a lyrebird and some weeks ago I watched a lyrebird go through his full display & repertoire. We may be lucky on this walk.

*Please phone me on [redacted] if you need a lift from Belgrave station or if you want to chat about this Walk.

Sunday 30 April Easy & E/Medium	GLEN NAYOOK - NEERIM
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See next month's NEWS for the preview of this walk

Weekend Walks

Easter 13-17 April Easy	COBBERAS BASE CAMP
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Leader: **Jean Giese**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **c.480 kms**
 Expected time of return: **late Monday evening**
 Area: **NE of Omeo**
 Approx length of walk: **12 to 20 kms**
 Map Reference: **Suggan Buggan 1:50 000**

Our camp will be at Native Dog Flat beside the headwaters of the Buchan River - a delightful spot.

We plan easy to hard walks to Mt Cobberas No 1 via the Playgrounds, The Rams Head Range and Mt Wombargo and the Buchan Tops. If we have some harder walkers with us they could do Cobberas No 2, Middle Peak and Moscow Peak. Bob Steel will lead some of the walks.

It's a long drive (480 kms from Melbourne via Bairnsdale, Omeo and Benambra) but it will be great to explore this area.

Wanted - Expressions of Interest!

I would very much like to lead a trip to Mootwingee (in western NSW, c. 130 kms NE of Broken Hill) in the last week of September into the first week in October. (ie the school holidays). I've never been to this wonderful place and have been meaning to go for ages. We would go via all the interesting places along the way, like Hattah Lakes & Lake Mungo NP, and spend several days at Mootwingee having a good poke around. 4WD vehicles are not essential, apparently, but it would be good to have one or two if possible. Waddaya say?

Sylvia Wilson

Easter 13-17 April Medium	COBBERAS PACK CARRY
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Leader: **Sylvia Wilson**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **c. 480 kms**
 Expected time of return: **late Monday evening**
 Area: **NE of Omeo**
 Approx length of walk: **c. 50 kms**
 Map Reference: **Suggan Buggan 1:50 000**

Day 1 Wild Dog Creek - Cobberas #1 - Moscow Creek.

Day 2 Cobberas #2 to Cowombat Flat, camp beside Indi River.

Day 3 Option of full day side-trip to Mt Pilot and find the source of the Murray River.

Day 4 Early start back along the road to Wild Dog Creek and the cars and so off home.

Keith White reckons this is a classic route. We take in the only peak above 6 000 ft. outside the Bogong High Plains, and there are smashing views of Kosciusko. I haven't been there yet & am looking forward to it no end.

Easter 13-17 April M/Hard	LADY NORTHCOTE'S CANYON
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Leader: **Bill Metzthen**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **c. 500 kms**
 Expected time of return: **Late Monday evening**
 Area: **Kosciusko National Park**
 Map Reference: **Kosciusko 1:100 000**

The main feature of this walk is the ascent of Lady Northcote's Canyon. We need to get an early start from Olsen's Lookout as we start by descending through scrub to the Geehi River then most of the first day will be spent ascending over large rocks in the Canyon. There is one large waterfall to bypass at the end of the day, otherwise we will have a very rough campsite below the falls. On Day Two there is further boulder-hopping to Lake albina, hopefully for an early camp. On Day Three we shift camp to Mt Twynum. On the last day we descend via Watsons Crags, then scrub-bash up from the Geehi River to an overgrown track which we will attempt to follow back to the cars.

The trip may be varied if the weather is bad, etc. Limit 8. Book early so that we can organise parking permits etc.

Previews for April Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks Continued

Easter 14-17 April KANGEROO ISLAND Easy

Leader: David Vincent
 Transport: Private - by light aircraft
 Approx. Distance: 800 kms by air
 from Melbourne:
 Expected time of return: Monday evening
 Area: SE South Australia

This four day adventure is planned over the Easter period. Access to Kangaroo Island will be by light aircraft departing from Moorabbin Airport and landing at Penneshaw on the NE coast of the island. The plan is to set up a base at the Penneshaw Youth Hostel. The Hostel is located overlooking spectacular coastal scenery. At night the hostel grounds are frequently visited by Fairy Penguins.

Planned is a bus day tour of the island's natural attractions including Seal Bay, Kelly Hill Caves, Cape De Couedic, Admirals Arch and Flinders Chase N.P. Also planned are coastal day walks and swimming.

For a group of six (including leader) the estimated cost of private aircraft hire is \$175 each. For further details and to book a place on this trip, contact leader (Dave Vincent) at home on

21-25 April (ANZAC Day) VIKING - RAZOR - Medium SPECULATION - HOWITT

Leader: Peter Day
 Transport: Private
 Approx. Distance: c. 340 kms
 from Melbourne:
 Expected time of return: 1900 on Tuesday
 Area: near Mansfield
 Approx length of walk: 40 kms
 Map Reference: Howitt-Selwyn 1:50 000 (8223-N)

This is a classic 4 day high country trip with fantastic views as far as the eye can see. On Saturday we meet at the Mount Howitt car park, from where we will follow the spur down to the Wonnangatta River at the base of The Viking. On Sunday we start out with a good climb to the top of The Viking. After exploring the top we will camp down in the Viking Saddle. Monday we climb and explore The Razor before crossing Mt. Despair and Catherine Saddle on our way to the incredible views from Mt. Speculation, where we spend the night. The final day sees us climb Mt Buggery, then along the Crosscut Saw & on to Mt Howitt before we return to the cars.

This trip is mostly on well defined tracks and would suit those weekend walkers who enjoy climbing mountains.

28-30 April LERDERBERG GORGE Medium/hard - THROUGH WALK

Leader: Trish Elmore
 Transport: Private
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne:
 Expected time of return:
 Area: near Bacchus Marsh
 Approx length of walk: Lerderberg forest Park map
 Map Reference:

We often go to the Lederberg Gorge on Day walks, but here is a chance to walk through the whole length of this interesting Gorge. See leader in Clubrooms

Editor

Willis's Walkabouts Drysdale River National Park #2 July 2-14 1995

I have just booked a place on this trip and would like the company of at least one or more Melbourne Bushies.

In June 1993 I went on a Russell Willis trip to the Western & Eastern MacDonnell Ranges (including Ormiston Gorge). In June 1994 I walked with them again in the Bungle Bungles and the West Kimberley. Both of these trips were very enjoyable, seeing lots of great country with like-minded people. Some of whom were from other bushwalking clubs, both local & interstate.

I am sure that Russell (who was our guide on the Bungles trip) would greatly appreciate more Melbourne Bushies participating on his trips as he regularly advertises them in **The NEWS**. See the January 1995 **NEWS** - Drysdale River National Park for more information or contact me on (h)

Cameron McMillan

Editors Note: Mark Tischler hopes to be going on the Drysdale River trip #1, if his neck is OK.

It Never Rains But It Pours

In the pre-dawn light of the 26th January, Dave and Jin Vincent, Janet Clough, Bob Steel and Pam Rosso met at Moorabbin Airport ready to fly to Freycinet National Park for a four day base camp. We waited in vain for the sixth member of our party, and after unsuccessful attempts to contact him, we took off into the sunrise.

The flight over was uneventful, although visibility was poor once we left the Victorian coastline. We finally descended through the clouds to see Bicheno on the east coast of Tasmania. Dave landed the Piper on the private airstrip on the property of Mike and Julie Lyne, who will feature more prominently as my story continues.

We walked out to the main road, caught the local bus to Coles Bay and walked into the National Park in overcast but humid weather. We set up camp at the southern end of Wineglass Bay and spent the afternoon in sunshine, pottering about the beach and rocks in the area.

Friday dawned overcast but still humid and the whole party set off to climb Mt Graham (579m). Excellent views were had in all directions on the ascent, but from the summit we only caught a brief glimpse of the southern end of Freycinet Peninsula and Maria Island before they were obscured by cloud and light rain.

On our outward journey we met Klaus, a very talkative German backpacker, filling his water bottle at the spring on Mt Graham. We filled our bottles on the way back, as the creek at Wineglass Bay was stagnant and we were careful to boil all water before using it. The locals had told us the East coast area was in drought - no rain for four months!

Back at camp that night we found Klaus had taken up residence in our midst, pitching his tent in the space we had left, in the interests of privacy, between Dave's tent and Bob's! He entertained us and the other campers that night with stories of his exploits, around a blazing fire which he fed with our dry wood (except for a few branches secreted in the bushes by Dave, near his tent). Klaus did collect three loads of firewood himself.

On Saturday, three of our party set out to walk to Cooks Beach, attempting to shorten the distance by walking across the trackless southern part of the isthmus to the south end of Hazards Beach. This certainly shortened the distance but not the time taken as the scrub was particularly thick in places and we had to force our way through. Light rain commenced as we were leaving Wineglass Bay and by the time we reached Hazards Beach it had really set in. We were drenched, so after a quick lunch sheltering from the rain, we walked north along Hazards Beach, across the waterlogged Isthmus Track and back to camp. Wineglass Bay was no longer the tranquil turquoise semi-circle of water lapping onto

white sand. Huge grey waves crashed onto the beach and the strong easterlies blew up white-caps & banks of dirty foam collected on the sand.

It rained ceaselessly and though Dave maintained his jovial mood we could tell he was worried about taking off the following day. An early Sunday morning conference quickly agreed that it would be best to give the 2.00pm bus a miss and walk all the way into Coles Bay as early as possible to make a phone call to Mike to ascertain the condition of his air strip.

Mike had driven his ute the long way around to the run way and ascertained that the 'plane was ok but the run-way was too wet to take off that day. When Dave said we would go by bus to Bicheno and stay at a backpackers lodge, Mike offered to let us use the holiday cottage on his property, for less than half the normal price. Fortunately for us, there had been a cancellation due to the heavy rain.

The bus driver kindly drove us up to the farm house door & as we passed the paddock where we had left our 'plane, we were amazed to see that the Apsley River, which had been a trickle of water on Thursday, was now a 200m wide sweep of swirling floodwater, metres above the bridge we had walked across.

We arrived at Greenlawn Cottage just in time to watch the finals of the Australian Open on TV. We all had long hot showers, hot drinks and sat around a wood stove exclaiming our good luck.

The next day dawned fine and sunny. What were we to do with ourselves? The answer was obvious. Enjoy the chance of a two day holiday in luxury accommodation at a fraction of the normal price. We dried off our sodden camping gear, washed wet clothes, picked mushrooms in the paddocks, played tennis and "Take Two", read books and ate & ate & ate.

Julie's breakfast basket (which she delivered to us the night before) consisted of home-made bread and choc chip biscuits, fresh-laid eggs, bacon and home made jams.

What an effort it was to drag ourselves away from all this on Tuesday when the air strip dried out sufficiently. Mike & Julie could not have been more helpful, loaning us a car to run into Bicheno to buy food for a BBQ on Monday night, letting us use their phone for numerous phone calls to family & employers in Melbourne, and driving us over to our 'plane, perched on our packs in the back of the ute.

Looking for a relaxing holiday, in comfortable accommodation, with great views, close to Freycinet and Apsley-Gordon National Parks? Contact Mike & Julie Lyne, phone 003 751114. We recommend it.

Pam Rosso

A Wet Weekend: Underwater Views of the Thompson River.

Right, they said, you get the First Prize for falling off your lilo the most number of times, no doubt about it. And for your first prize you get to write the article for NEWS! Ha! From the recently rechristened *Old Woman of the Rocks* to the *Old Woman ON the Rocks and UNDER the Rapids*, here is the tale of a novice's experiences of the gentle art of Liloing, down the Thompson River.

No troubles for a beginner, they said, just don't forget your thermals & helmet & life jacket & paddle & a box-shaped lilo & wrap everything in your pack in a zillion plastic bags. Right, got that, and off we set for the mighty Thompson River, only it wasn't very mighty - it was 'orribly short of water; nobody had ever seen it so low. Never mind, our party, plus a bigger VMTC group, a big school contingent complete with rubber rafts & canoes, and an even bigger commercial outfit in ditto - set off from much the same area to paddle for two days down to Cowwarr Weir. Somehow all these groups got lost on the river and weren't seen too often, and the peace & beauty of the river was immediately apparent. I mean you really wouldn't walk into these areas: tremendously steep sides and mostly thick or scrubby bush. There was a delightful gorge that just went on & on; kingfishers flashing back & forth plus other tweety birds; lovely trees. All incredibly beautiful. Except the rapids. Seen with an artist's eye, beautiful they may have been, but seen with the eye of someone who had yet to learn how to 'read' the river, and who didn't know how to paddle, they were daunting, fearsome, awesome and sometimes bloody terrifying!

It wasn't that they didn't tell me what to do, it was just getting out of the way of all those rocks and boulders that kept jumping up in front of me. If I had time to work out how to avoid this rock or that wall I was ok., but when things happened too fast - damn!, get tipped over AGAIN, paddle, lilo, pack and me all part company, kind friends retrieve the bits and pieces & hand them back. Why the lilo wasn't ripped to shreds I'll never know. We survived intact. (The VMTC group were constantly stopping to patch up theirs!) Like all beginners I felt completely uncoordinated & hopeless at times, and started gathering a good crop of bruises, but every now and then I'd get it right, or be lucky and stay on. Thermals are a good idea. I was cold once and that was eating lunch. Even sitting in a puddle for two days wasn't bad at all.

But then I got unlucky fell off at the top of a particularly rocky rapid - zap zap zap I hit nearly every one on my way down. I felt the one that bashed my ribs well and truly and I skinned my shins. Then we came to the last one and the river slowed down, the high sides gave way to

low hills, then farm lands and smattering's of civilisation. Just gently paddling through this area was delightful. Oops - that looks like a tiger snake swimming across in front of me. Oops, make like a log and stop paddling. No need to intercept its path. Now swallows were skimming and diving and lyrebirds were calling from nearby. Perfect tranquillity.

Would I go again? A week later I can only just blow my nose, gently, and still can't sneeze - a rib job is no laughing matter. My arm aches still, but the bruises are fading and it's amazing how the joy, laughs and fun remain and the rest are just occupational hazards. Perhaps I'll learn how to paddle a canoe first though.

Great Trip, great company; thanks in particular to Geoff & Marianne, and Mark, Max and Bill.

Sylvia Wilson

Wanderings with "Mother"

I am not sure whose idea it was but Jean ended up the leader of our Christmas Walk. Early on the evening of 23rd of December, Jean, Dave and Sylvia set up camp near Johnson's Hut below Mt Nelse. We rose early on Christmas Eve and, leaving a note for the rest of the party, set off for Batty's Hut.

As we climbed Mt Nelse, we marvelled at the recovery of the wildflowers since the cattle have stopped grazing this area. There were vast areas of silver daisies, yellow Kunzea and a sprinkling of buttercups, eyebrights and many others. The views of the surrounding mountains were a wonderful tonic as we slowly made our way to Batty's for lunch. We met Trish, Alan and Don on their way from Warby Corner, then we all headed back to camp. On Christmas Day we had a great walk to Spion Kopje and Crows Nets then back to camp for Christmas Dinner, which included turkey (or part thereof) brought in by Marc who arrived late in the afternoon because of car trouble. Just as we were enjoying the smoked oysters the rain fell heavily. So we adjourned to the hut where we had a delightful repast complete with Christmas Pudding boiled in a cloth on the choofer. The rain then ceased so we returned to the fire for the rest of the evening.

On Boxing Day we had a gentle stroll to Fitzgerald's and Kelly's huts, having left our packs in the bushes. We dropped down to Langford East Aqueduct where on the steep banks were a profusion of alpine Mint bushes (*Prostanthera cuneata*) and the alpine Pimelia. The snow gums (*Euc. pauciflora*) were also covered with blossom. We went on to Langfords where some of our party were picked up by car, while the rest went back for the packs via the Alpine Walking Track.

continued next page

Wanderings with "Mother" continued

We then drove to Strawberry Saddle to join up with those who were coming walking until January 2nd.

Next morning we said goodbye to Trish, Don & Alan, and started out with Max, Jean, Marc, Sylvia, Tania, Sac, Ralph and Dave.

What followed was one of the most enjoyable weeks I have spent in the Mountains. We were generally in camp by early afternoon, allowing for side trips to place of interest nearby. The weather was perfect all week, warm sunny days and mild nights (Tania would not agree about the nights!).

We camped on the west side of the hill near High Plains Creek and visited the falls for an invigorating swim. On Tuesday we made our way to Young's Spur (some went via Mt Jim) to camp SE of the SEC hut, on a grassy knoll. On Wednesday with Sac leading we made our way along the Dinner Plain track to the turnoff for Paling Spur. Here we had an interesting little navigation exercise for everyone. The problem was solved in the end and we started along Paling Spur, which was very steep descending to the Cobungra River where there is a very nice camp spot with cold and warm water in which to bathe. There had been no horse parties in yet and the campsite was free from dung and flies.

On the succeeding days we camped at Cobungra Gap, where we met horse parties, and had a chat with the local Ranger. We then spent 2 nights at the Niggerheads. We visited Mt Fainter on the last day after celebrating New Years Eve the previous night. Thanks for the port, Max!

On Monday we walked out into a cold east wind to be met by Ralph's father with cold soft drinks and lovely fruit cake for a late morning tea. Thanks for a lovely relaxing walk, Jean.

Dave Andrews

consideration to people was clearly apparent. She was the tops at pouring oil on troubled waters, and took endless trouble to talk to disgruntled, worried or concerned members. Everyone was certainly allowed their say. This carried on as her "Presidential Style" and was broadened to always having time to listen to anybody about anything. She even scored the nickname "The Godmother" for her mothering instincts*. Jean, you have left the club in terrific shape and we thank you for your dedication, concern and care over these years.

Sylvia Wilson

*Among the constant stream of things to get done, Jean did a wonderful job on the two President's Week-ends at Hughes Creek. These were massive tasks in co-ordinating everything. They stand as a tribute to Jean's exceptional organising skills.

The Great South West Track Walk is ON!

May 12 to 23, 1995

We have 3 starters so we are away. Is there anyone else who would like to join us for a wonderful walk incorporating both coast and bush? Please 'phone me (Jean Giese) on

The Plan is:

Fri. May 12 - Drive to a fair part of the way.

Sat. May 13 - Start Walking mid morning with a three-day pack.

Mon. May 15 - Evening: arrive at Moleside pub for tea and restock from our car(s) for next 7 days.

Mon. May 22 - Finish walk and retrieve cars.

Tues. May 23 - Drive home

Total distance of the walk is approx. 142 kms

Jean Giese

JEAN GIESE - President 1991-1995

A couple of weeks ago Jean had a slip of the tongue and referred to the forthcoming AGM as the MGM, to which I rejoined "Bigger than Ben Hur!" But I was only sorry there wasn't a bigger attendance at the Annual General Meeting, to swell and prolong the applause that followed Doug Pocock's Vote of Thanks for Jean's four years as President.

Jean was on the committee for 3 years prior to her Presidency, and even then her kindness and

Committee Notes

Treasurer: Accounts for February 1995.

Opening balance \$54 549.64

Receipts \$ 3 599.25

Payments \$ 2 981.69

Closing Balance \$55 167.20

Walks Secretary: for January

Day Walks: 4, average of 34¾ attendees

Week End Pack-carry Walks: 3, ave. 10.

Base Camps: 2, ave. 16.

Other Walks -Wed, Sat, Dandenongs: 3, ave. 13.

Cancelled: 1.

Membership:

Single Members: 321

Couples: 102 (51 couples)

Honorary Members: 12

Life Members: 11

TOTAL: 446

NEWS Subscribers: 11

Duty Roster

15 March: Nigel & Stephen

22 March: Nancy & Pearson

29 March: Jean & Alan

5 April: Lloyd & Denise

Subscriptions are due NOW and payable within 3 months of the AGM. 1995 Subscriptions Rates are:

Ordinary membership: \$25.00

Concessional (to students, holders of benefit cards, etc): \$17.00

Where a single copy of NEWS is sent to 2 members living at same address (ie. "family"): \$36.00

Non-member subscribers to NEWS: \$15.00

When renewing, please let Membership Secretary know of changes to your surname?, address, home & work 'phone numbers. Also if you change your mind about (not) letting these details be known to the general membership.

Photographs for the 50 Year Book

By the time you read this, the book will have been launched. I am told that the photographs have been reproduced very well by the printer (I have also been denied a peek at a copy before the launch!). With luck, I will have got the photos back from the printer and I will have been able in turn to return some of them to their owners. I will try to get all of them back to their rightful owners a.s.a.p. If you have not been contacted by me or have not yet had your photos returned, and are anxious, then please get in touch with me.

Bill Metzenthén - Photos Organiser for "The Book"

New Members

KAREN KERR

ANGELA DICKIE

MARGARET SEARLE

HARRY BAKER

JULIUS PEIKER

JULIA ANTICH

QUOC CHAU

MARY HARNAN

FRASER CHITTS

LYNN DOODSON

JUDITH & PETER GIPPS

Changes to Members Information

BOB STEEL

PETER CHALKLEY

ROLF SORENSEN

PETER MC GRATH

MARY LEONARD

Change of Schedule for the Walks Programme.

Following a suggestion by Margaret Borden, I intend to organise the 95/96 Summer Walks Programme one month earlier than usual. The programme will cover the same period as usual but will appear with the October issue of News, rather than the November issue. If this is successful then subsequent Programmes would also be prepared one month earlier than our current timetable.

Bharatan Dance Company presents
"BUDDHA - THE LIGHT OF ASIA"
 The Life Story of Siddharta and his Quest
 for Enlightenment

Thursday, March 30, - Dance starts 6:30 pm
 Meet in the cafe earlier for a light meal
CUB Malthouse - 113 Sturt St., Sth Melbourne
 (near Sunday bus)

PLEASE BOOK WITH ME, \$26, OR \$21
 CONCESSION

Last day to book - Wednesday, March 29
 -See Nancy in the Club Room
 If we get a group of 12, regular price is \$21
 (I will refund you the difference)

A Plea from Nancy regarding Social Activities:
 "Anybody willing to help or offer
 suggestions - Please contact me"

Contact her on _____, or see her in the Clubrooms

Conservation sub Committee
 Meeting in Clubrooms on Wednesday 29 March
 at 7.30 pm. All welcome
 Stephen Rowlands

Modification of the Walks Programme

There have been a few modifications to the Autumn Walks Programme, mainly the addition of leaders! If you enjoy our day walks then please consider leading one. Alan Miller has had trouble finding leaders for the Autumn Programme, resulting in lots of holes in the printed Programme.

Here are the changes to the Programme:

April Walks

- 2 Mt Worth State Park - E & E/Medium -
Margaret Borden & Liz Telford
- 9 Federation Day Walk - E & E/M - Brian Crouch
- 13-17 Cobberas Pack Carry - Medium Sylvia Wilson
- 16 Camels Hump-Mt Charlie - E/M & Medium -
John Kittson & Denise Triffett
- 23 Tea Tree Creek - Mt Bullamalite - E & E/M -
Jean Giese & Keith White
- 30 Glen Nayook - Neerim - E/M & Medium -
Peter Havlicek & Ralph Blake

May walks:

- 14 Coliban Falls - Granite Creek Fall - E & E/Med.
Denise Triffett & Nigel Holmes
- 21 Navigation Day at the You Yangs - E & E/Medium
Rob Ayre & Cheryl Cooksey}

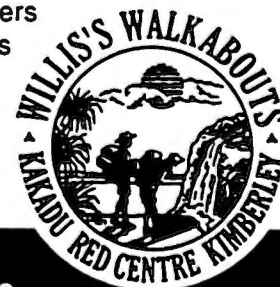
Bill Metzenthien Walks Secretary

THE PILBARA

Although the Pilbara contains some of the best bushwalking areas in Australia, the remote location and difficulty of access has prevented most bushwalkers from exploring the region and discovering the hidden wonders for themselves. We can't do anything about the distance, but we can offer you an easy way to get there. Our trips run in June and July when you can expect cool nights with daytime maximum temperatures in the mid 20's. Heavy rain early this year should ensure full waterholes and an excellent wildflower display.

Our Hamersley trip, June 25 - July 8, consists of three walks, the longest of which lasts about a week. Splitting the trip this way allows us to visit more of the lovely pools, waterfalls and deep, spectacular, red-walled gorges than would be possible on a single walk. Our Chichester trip, July 9-20, is a single long, exploratory walk deep into the heart of the ranges. On our first, all too brief, visit, we found masses of wildflowers and birds, numerous pools and cascades and magnificent views which seemed to go on forever. This time we'll be able to enjoy the area at the leisurely pace it deserves.

A short ad like this can't tell the whole story. Ask for our trip notes. Join us and see for yourself.



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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