



The NEWS

of the

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

April 1996

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Queen's Birthday Weekend Bus Trip to Hattah-Kulkyne National Park

This is our third year of running a bus trip on the Queen's Birthday weekend. The Hattah-Kulkyne National Park is in the north-west corner of Victoria, between the Calder Highway and the Murray River, not far from Mildura. A major feature of the park is a system of lakes, some of which are usually dry.

There will be four sub trips:

- A base camp led by Alan Miller,
- A more gentle pack-carry under the care of Jean Giese,
- A slightly more challenging pack-carry led by Alan Ide,
- A canoe trip along the Murray led by Bill Metzenthien. Only a small number of canoes are available so a priority booking system with a waiting list will be used for this trip.

Previews will appear in the next issue of the **News**.

Once again please book and pay early. Contact the leader(s) of the trips which interest you first and then pay your \$65 deposit to Clare Lonergan (cheques are preferred please). Clare will be in the club rooms from the 15th of May. Telephone bookings are acceptable but must be followed by payment with two days.. Your place on the bus is not assured until you have paid your deposit.

Because of the high cost in hiring the bus, the trip may be cancelled if we cannot get enough bookings by the 29th of May. Deposits are non-refundable after 28th May (unless you break a leg).

Similar to previous trips, the bus will leave Surrey Hills at 6.00 pm sharp and Southbank Boulevard in the City at 6.45 pm (sharp).

A short newsletter with some further information is available in the club rooms.

Wilkinson Lodge

There are still some vacant weeks in winter so please contact Doug Pocock for bookings

Members Slide Night

Nepal

Wednesday 1st May
at 8pm in the clubrooms

Members will show their slides of Nepal
Refreshments will be provided

Club Archives

Ralph Blake is keen to contact anyone who has any materials related to the club. This could be anything at all and if in doubt please speak to Ralph about it.

He plans to compile a list of all relevant material.

Any donations of any suitable material would be very welcome

Please contact Ralph Blake

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From the Editor

I hope that the photographs in this newsletter print. They look quite good on my printer and if they are successful please send in some with your walk reports. I may even introduce a caption competition if some sufficiently esoteric photographs are submitted.

Judy Gipps

Presidents Prose

This month it is not so much prose as preaching.

Some of the leaders have mentioned that there a few people each walk who don't turn up for one reason or another. As the leaders usually have a waiting list, it would be appreciated if you would let the leader know that you are not going, even if it is Saturday night. Then someone else can take your place and a seat on the bus wont be wasted.

The equipment which we hire out to people so that they can try it out and see if the like camping and overnight walks is being well used. Please REMEMBER EQUIPMENT IS FOR CLUB TRIPS ONLY. Some of the Bushwalking Shops hire out gear if you are going on a private trip. DO NOT RING THE EQUIPMENT OFFICERS AT HOME UNLESS IT IS URGENT. There is always someone at the club rooms to answer questions and hire out gear.

The various jobs on the committee have been appointed.

CONSERVATION	Bill Metzenthien
EQUIPMENT	Jean Woodger & Patricia Ronchini
MAPS	William Cone
LIBRARY	Ralph Blake & Bernie Webster
TRACKS	Stephen Rowlands
SEARCH & RESCUE	Stephen Downs
FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVES	Bill Metzenthien, Athol Schafer & Stephen Rowlands

We still don't have a Social Secretary. Surely there is someone out there with a little time to organise a nosh-up or film night.

Cheers

Janet Norman

Federation

You probably know that about \$4 of your annual subscription goes to the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs. Your Club usually has one or more delegates representing your interests at the monthly Council meetings of the Federation. At the March meeting, the following issues were considered, amongst others:

- There is talk of removing Federation (and perhaps MUMC) hut from Mt Feathertop. Crowding and the behaviour of people attracted to the huts are cited as reasons.
- The Alpine Resorts Commission seems set to allow cross country skiers a trail-fee free route at Falls Creek from Windy Corner to the far side of the dam wall.
- The boundary of the Bogong National Park is being negotiated following the formation of Southern Hydro.
- Most of the remaining copies of "The Scroggin Eaters" are to be pulped.
- The Federation now has a home page on the Internet.

Your current nominated delegates to the Federation are Athol Schafer, Stephen Rowlands and myself.

Bill Metzenthien.

Meetings are held in the Clubrooms, MacKenzie St., Melbourne (rear of the Royal Horticultural Society building) on **WEDNESDAY** Evenings between 7.00 pm and 9.00 pm.

Visitors are always welcome.

General correspondence should be directed to:
The Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
PO Box 1751Q, MELBOURNE 3001

The NEWS is the official newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and is published monthly.
Edited by **Judy Gipps**.

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, letters or other contributions, where space, clarity or propriety dictate. and to maintain editorial consistency

Please note that articles for **The NEWS** may be :
placed in the Red Box in the clubrooms or
mailed to Judy Gipps,
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 (eg gear, maps, trips, tours)

Members Ads - FREE

Closing Date for **MAY96 News** is **1ST MAY 96**

Previews for April Day Walks

Saturday 30 March 1996	Dandenongs Explorer
Easy	Johns Hill to Monbulk

Leaders:	Michael Humphrey
Transport:	Private or Train
Area:	Walhalla
Approximate distance from Melbourne:	47 km
Expected time of return:	4.30 pm
Map Reference:	Melways maps 124 & 125

Sandra Bardwell describes this walk in her "50 Day Walks Near Melbourne" as an 'English style country ramble along streams and lanes'. Towards the end of the walk there are a couple of hills to negotiate in order to get to Ridge Rd for the return journey back to the cars.

We will commence the walk at 10.30 am from the Johns Hill reserve Lookout (Melway ref 124 k11). If you are coming by public transport the train arrives at Belgrave Station at 10.03 am. Please telephone me at home on _____ if you need to be picked up. See you there!!

Monday 1 April 1996	Purgatory Crk
Challenging	- Everlasting Hill -Hells Gate

Leaders:	Nigel Holmes & Bill Metzenth
Transport:	Bus at 7.30am from South Bank Boulevard
Area:	Walhalla
Approximate distance from Melbourne:	160 km
Expected time of return:	Late
Approximate length of walk:	20 km

Purgatory Creek is noted for its lush rainforest vegetation. It is a wilderness of splashing, silver water with thick mosses, filmy ferns and other epiphytes clinging to tree trunks, and huge boulders above leaping streams which enter from side gullies. We will need to cross the track once or twice (well 11 times to be precise), but unless there has been recent rain, it should not be more than waist deep. The "tiger" leeches are a special feature of this section of the walk; they are a deep olive green colour with a thin gold stripe.

At the top of the creek it will be necessary to cross and climb up the side of Purgatory Falls.

During the Plasticine Era, the earth's crust was forced up to form Everlasting Hill, which is about 70° to the horizontal in places. To scramble up the sections, you must be prepared to hold onto tree roots, clumps of grass or the ankles of the person in front. The leader will have an ice axe. This section has two good features — the looks on the faces of your fellow walkers, and the absence of snakes (it is too steep for them). A late lunch will be taken at the top of the hill.

The descent to the bus is down Damnation Gully via Hells Gate. The Gate is a large block of granite which completely blocks the gully. It has caused a lake which you must first swim across. The water gushes through a small gap between the stone and the wall of the chasm. You will be sucked towards this but an old tractor tyre will cushion your collision with the rock. Climb onto the tyre, then climb the steel ladder onto the top of the rock where an old track will be found. The bus should be found perched on the cliff edge about 5 km down this track. Sorry, Bob, you will just have to reverse the bus out. Everything needed for a good walk is here: leeches, snakes, steep hills and creek crossings. Nobody should be disappointed.

Sunday 7 April 1996	Mount Martha - Two Bays
Easy & Easy/Medium	Walking Track- Point Nepean

Leaders:	Brian Crouch & Maureen Hurely
Transport:	Bus at 9am from South Bank Boulevard
Area:	Mornington
Approximate distance from Melbourne:	50 km
Expected time of return:	7.00 pm
Approximate length of walk:	10 & 14 km approx
Map Reference:	Melways maps

These walks will be in two parts and will probably involve a bus shuffle from one area to another.

It is planned to walk around the Mount Martha Foreshore and then travel in the bus to Sorrento.

The second part of the walk will include the Peninsula Coastal Walk through the Point Nepean National Park.

Please see Leaders in the Clubrooms.

Monday 8 April 1996	Bally Shannassy
Easy	Damper Creek - Valley Reserve

Leaders:	Athol Schafer
Transport:	Tram - MEET under the clocks at Flinders St Station at 10.00 am
Area:	Walhalla
Approximate distance from Melbourne:	14 km
Expected time of return:	5.00 pm
Approximate length of walk:	10 km
Map Reference:	Melways maps 61 & 70

In the Irish tongue *Bally* means *Town*, but there is only a large open reserve! Both Damper Creek Nature Reserve and Valley Reserve have been upgraded recently and are well worth a visit. This Easter Monday walk starts at the East Burwood Shopping Centre, corner of Burwood Highway and Middleborough Road (in Travel Zone 2) and finishes at Mount Waverley Station.

Sunday 14 April 1996 **Hughes Creek**
Easy/Easy Medium & Medium

Leaders: Tuan Packeer & Keith White & Adam Read
Transport: Bus at 8.30am from South Bank Boulevard
Area: NE Seymour
Distance from Melbourne: km
Expected time of return: 8.00 pm
Approximate length of walk: 12km, 15km 18 km approx
Map Reference:

Another return to this popular area with rolling hills, sweeping spectacular views, photogenic granite bolder, not too thick bush, cliffy bits and the delightful Hughes Creek running through it all. Be prepared for some wading, probably only knee deep stuff, a small towel might be handy.

Wednesday 17 April 1996 **Blackwood Area**
Easy/Medium

Leaders: Max Casley
Transport: Private Car see below
Approximate distance from Melbourne: 90 km
Expected time of return: 6.00 pm
Approximate length of walk: About 14 km
Area: North of Bacchus Marsh

Meet at 9.00am Westgate Park car park (Melway map 56 F1) or Blackwood at 10.15am; please confirm exact location with me

This walk was inspired by the walk we did on the leaders exercise day. This was a walk through open forest and quiet tracks. There were some areas of prickly bushes, but I will try to rearrange the route to miss those. On the leaders' day there were some contrived 'incidents' to test the leaders - I don't want any of these please !

Sunday 21 April 1996 **Mt Macedon & Zig Zag**
Easy/Medium & Medium **& Braemar Tracks**

Leaders: John Kittson & Fay Pratt
Transport: Bus at 9.00am from South Bank Boulevard
Approximate distance from Melbourne: 160 km
Expected time of return: 7.00 pm
Approximate length of walk: 15 & 18 km
Map Reference: Macedon & Woodend 1:25,000

Mt Macedon is an area with excellent views, tall trees and cool fern gullies, and what is more - it is not far from Melbourne. The medium walk has a slight climb at the start. This plus the extra 3 km separates it from the easy/medium walk. Both walks start near the township of Mt Macedon and make their way up onto the Camel's Hump, from where you can see the famous Hanging Rock a few kilometres off in the distance. A short while later at the summit of Mt Macedon the views are spectacular. Firstly looking down on the townships of Mt Macedon and Macedon,

and out in the distance, the big smoke. The best part is the quietness. No trail bikes!! Then both groups will make their way down the Braemar Track back to the bus.

Saturday 27 April 1996 **Beach Explorer**
Easy

Leaders: Maureen Hurley
Transport: Private Meet at 11.00 at Pt Ormond Reserve.
 Near cnr of Ormond Esplanade & GlenHuntly Rd
Area: Elwood to Beaumaris
Approximate distance from Melbourne: 10 km
Expected time of return: 4.00 pm
Approximate length of walk: 13 km

For a change I have decided to explore another part of Melbourne — the walking/bike track from Elwood to Rickett's Point Beaumaris. A walk along the bike track in this area is described in Discovering Melbourne's Bike Tracks as "a picturesque Bayside path, the further south one travels the more interesting and secluded it becomes, as it winds through sand and tea-trees at cliff top level over looking magnificent Port Phillip Bay."

Come and join me; we will finish up at the Rickett's Point Tea House to sample some coffee and cake as we watch the wind surfers come gliding in. (We will need to do a car shuffle at the start of the walk.

Sunday 28 April 1996 **Dom Dom Saddle**
Easy/Medium & Medium **- Donnellys Weir**

Leaders: Peter & Judy Gipps
Transport: Bus at 8.30am from South Bank Boulevard
Area: Healesville
Approximate distance from Melbourne: 110 km
Expected time of return: 7.00 pm
Approximate length of walk: 13 & 20 km
Map Reference: Juliette North 1:25,000

Both walks start from Dom-Dom Saddle and climb steadily in a general NW direction up a wide grassy route sprinkled with towering Mountain Ash and glorious tree ferns. The beauty of the route almost masks the fact that the climb to Archer Lookout is 400 metres. At archer lookout the two walks diverge. The easy/medium walk bears north and then roughly east descending along the Bicentennial trail until it reaches the Maroondah Highway at the caravan park at the foot of the range. The medium turns SW from Archer Lookout following the Bicentennial trail in the opposite direction. It passes over Mt Monda and swings further round to the south before descending Condons Track, passing near Donnellys Weir before a final road bash to where we meet the bus.

Previews for April Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks

4-8 April 1996 **Round Mountain - Jagungal**
Easy/Medium **(Kosciusko NP)**

Leaders: Lloyd Young
Transport: Private
Approximate distance from Melbourne: 520 km
Expected time of return: 7.00 pm
Area: Kosciusko National Park
Approximate length of walk: 40 km
Map Reference: Khancoban 1:50,000

Day 1 - Round Mountain to Bogong Creek.

Day 2 - Bogong Creek to O'Keefes Hut.

Day 3 - O'Keefes Hut to Tumut River.

Day 4 - Return to Round Mountain.

If the group is fit enough we may do this in reverse with a side trip. The area is extremely good for walking. The weather can be excellent or appalling, so be prepared for any conditions. As this is an extended pack carry, I would prefer anyone interested in coming to have completed a pack carry with the club.

4-8 April 1996 **Round Mountain - Jagungal**
Medium/Hard **(Kosciusko NP)**

Leaders: Marilyn Whimpey
Transport: Private
Approximate distance from Melbourne: 520 km
Expected time of return: 10-11 pm Monday
Area: Kosciusko National Park
Approximate length of walk: 50 - 60 km
Map Reference: Khancoban 8525-N

Starting at Round Mountain car park, we will take the scenic route to Jagungal, possibly visiting Far Bald Mountain, Happy Jacks Plain, Mackeys Hut, Cup and Saucer Hill and Valelentes Hut. We will be covering fairly long distances, mostly off track, keeping out of thick scrub as much as possible.

4-8 April 1996 **Island Bend Base Camp**
Easy **(Kosciusko NP)**

Leaders: Bob Steel
Transport: Private
Approximate distance from Melbourne: 580 km
Expected time of return: Monday Evening
Area: Kosciusko National Park
Approximate length of walk: 40 km
Map Reference: Kosciusko 1:100k, the CMA 1:50k maps of the area are also useful

This is an opportunity to experience the magic of one of Australia's premier national parks.

Bob is currently enjoying an overseas holiday so we can't be specific about the details of the walks for this trip, but he will probably be doing the following:

Thursday night the party will camp at the Geehi camping area which is on the Alpine Way between Khancoban and Thredbo.

On Friday morning the party drives past Thredbo and Sawpit Creek to Island Bend where camp is set up. Island Bend was the site of a village during the construction of the Snowy Mountains scheme.

From Island Bend it is a short drive to the start of many walks region. Interesting walks include Charlottes Pass - Mt Kosciusko (the highest point on mainland Australia), Guthega - Mt Tate - Mt Twynam - Snowy River, Charlottes Pass - Mt Stillwell - Abandoned chair lift - Rams Head Range, etc, etc.

Many of the walks are mostly above the tree line and include stunning views. From some points you can see Mt Bogong and the Bogong High Plains.

The last walk will probably be on Monday morning, with everyone departing for Melbourne after lunch.

This trip is to an alpine area and so the weather may range from quite warm to very cold. Also, the weather can change quickly. Be prepared. Ask Bob if you are unsure about suitable clothing and gear.

Note that Park entry fees are applicable

12-14 April 1996 **Jordon River Goldfields**
Easy/Medium **Walhalla**

Leaders: David Laing
Transport: Private
Approximate distance from Melbourne: km
Expected time of return: Late Sunday evening
Area: Walhalla
Approximate length of walk: 25 km
Map Reference: Matlock 1:63,360 Mt Easton 1:25,000

Leaving a car at Roberts we drive to Mt Victor for a 9.30 start Sat Morning. We follow the Alpine Track down the Victors Spur Track to Red Jacket on the Jordon River. Depending on the group and the blackberries we may be able to divert to some old gold mine areas. From Red Jacket we follow the Jordon River downstream to camp by Blue Jacket. On Sunday we backtrack to Red Jacket and follow the Jordon upstream to Jericho for lunch. Then up the spur to Roberts. The blackberries will force most of the trip to be along 4 WD tracks, thus the easy/medium instead of the advertised medium rating.

19-21 April 1996
Easy/Medium

Black Range
Base Camp

Leaders: Max Casley
Transport: Private
Approximate distance from Melbourne: 360 km
Expected time of return: Late Sunday evening
Area: Grampians
Approximate length of walk: Two day walks
 about 15 and 10 km

Map Reference: Mt Talbot & Black Range 1:25000, park leaflet

To the west of the main Grampians area lies the Black Range State Park in an area rich in flora and fauna. It is an area less frequently visited than some but offers excellent walking.

Owing to lack of water in this area in April this will be a base camp, probably close to the picnic ground in centre of the park. Don't forget to bring all your water requirements in the car. However, dry conditions means fine weather, doesn't it?

We will do the walk to Mt Byron which gives magnificent views to the western Grampians. There is much aboriginal rock art in the area and Rosemary knows of a hermit cave. Should be good !!

24-28 April 1996 Sheeppark Flat - Mt McDonald -
Medium/Hard The Bluff - Howqua River

Leaders: Bill Metzthen
Transport: Private
Approximate distance from Melbourne: km
Expected time of return: Sunday evening
Area: Howqua
Approximate length of walk: 57 km
Map Reference: VMTC 'King Howqua & Jamieson'

This walk will be similar to an Easter trip led by Alex Stirkul more years ago than I care to admit. Starting from Sheeppark Flat, one route takes us over the Governors and down to the first campsite by the Jamieson River. The next day is the hardest, beginning with an ascent of Mt McDonald and then following the AAWT over The Knobs, High Cone (perhaps), Square Top and Mt Clear to the campsite at Chesters Yards. Water is scarce along this section so expect to carry at least two litres up from the Jamieson. The third day is easier, following the tops around the camp on the bluff, probably at the Blowhole. A gentle stroll, mostly down-hill takes us over Rocky Ridge and down to the cars (a car shuffle is needed on the first morning) at Eight Mile Flat on the last day.

24-28 April 1996 Mt Margaret - Dolodrouk River
Easy/Medium Tali Karng - Crolls Gorge

Leaders: Jean Giese
Transport: Private
Approximate distance from Melbourne: km
Expected time of return: 7.30 pm
Area: Avon Wilderness
Approximate length of walk: 42 km
Map Reference: Licola - Wellington 1:50,000

If you can have the Friday off after Anzac Day why not come with me into Tali Karng the hard way i.e. Via Mt Margaret. I have never done it but would like to. Ex walks Secretary Bill tells me we don't have to be afraid of the big climb up over Mt Margaret as the hard walkers did it last year and were at our campsite by lunch, so we should make it in time for tea!

Day 1: Starting 4½ km from Licola, we climb 720m over 5 km then drop 520m over another 5½ km to camp near the Dolodrook River.

Day 2: Up and down another 200 m to reach the Wellington River which we then follow up stream to Tali Kaing on the Clive Langan Memorial Walking Track - about 11 km leaving plenty of time to explore and enjoy Tali Karng.

Day 3: 220m climb up to Echo Point then down hill all the way on Riggall Spur Track and along the Wellington River where we'll arrive at camp with wet feet having crossed the river several times.

Day 4 Continue down the Wellington River Walking Track with a side trip to explore Crolls Gorge.

The Perils of Walking Alone

A call-out on that very wet January 1 saw 25 members of the Federation Search and Rescue Section in action looking for a 28 year old walker missing in the Mount Cobbler area. His friends were unable to give the searchers any clue as to the whereabouts of the missing man for while they were absent completing a car shuffle he had gone out on his own with leaving any notice of his intended route.

He was found suffering many injuries, including multiple fractures to the legs, both kneecaps smashed, having fallen twice, the last fall being very severe. Somehow he had managed to drag himself to the shelter of a rock overhang lying there barely conscious for two days. He was lucky to have been found relatively quickly and still alive.

A salutary lesson on the dangers of solo walking, especially when you do not leave notice of your intentions.

Athol Schafer

Richard's Tramline

The Sunday walk on March 17 will be along Richard's Tramline. I did some research to find out something about the tramline, and the other tramlines in the area. I found that a series of small books has been published on the tramways in Powelltown, Warburton, Gembrook and Britannia Creek. These have been published by either the Light Railways Research Society of Australia, or by a Mr Arthur P. Winzenreid. They are almost impossible to obtain from regular booksellers, but a few libraries have copies, and those in print can be obtained from Rail Fan, which is located at the corner of Market Street and Flinders Lane in the city. There are also associated articles in the magazine Light Railways.

Richard's Tramline is covered in the booklet Tram to Warburton by Jillienne and Arthur Winzenreid, Published by A.P.W. Productions in 1981. It is now out of print, but I tracked down a copy in Sandringham Library. The ISBN number is 0 949732 00 1.

The Victorian Railways line to Warburton was opened in November 1901. This effectively marked the start of the forestry industry in the Upper Yarra Valley as it offered cheap transport to Melbourne. There was rapid growth in the industry with the opening of the private railway to Powelltown and beyond but growth east of Warburton was slow until the upper Yarra Shire authorises a Mr. Herman to construct just over 4 miles of track from the V. R. terminus to Big Pat's Creek in 1910. Mr. Herman was granted a 21 year lease to operate the line on condition that he allow all companies running rights over the line. The terminus of this line was known as "The Points". Big Pats Creek Tramway was built with steel rails, had a 3ft gauge, and had steam locomotives operating on it. Several Private tramways converged upon "The Points". The line was purchased by Mr Richards when the lease expired.

During 1923, Mr W. Richards constructed a 3ft gauge line from "The Points" for a distance of 4½ miles up the southern side of the Mississippi Creek Valley over Gifford Saddle to a mill site just off the present Braham Road. From the head of the Starvation Creek Valley, several other tramways were constructed connecting into Richard's.

In the early years, horses were mainly used for traction on the line, but a home built steam locomotive was introduced followed by a converted International tractor. The steam locomotive known as 'Lumbering Liz' was very slow and gave frequent trouble.

Richard's Tramline was remarkable for the high quality and permanence of its construction. Some steel rails were used on bends, but most of the rail was

wooden. Very little use was made of the tramway after 1936 and it was finally abandoned after the bushfires of 1939. The steel rails were removed in 1941 to make tank traps as part of the war effort.

The section of the tramway which has been cleared as a walking track is from Mississippi Track to Gifford Saddle. Apart from the collapsed bridge at Mississippi Creek, it is in excellent condition.

Alan Miller

Tasmania In February - Frenchman's Cap and Traveller Range

I have just returned from a wonderful trip in good weather in Tasmania. It was a party of 9: Jopie (leader), plus Jenny, John and Robyn (Moroondah), Stuart and Kathryn (son and daughter of Jenny) and three Melbourne Bushies - Nigel, Amanda and Max.

We met in Devonport and then drove to Derwent Bridge to camp beside Lake St Clair. The first trip was 4 days to Frenchman's Cap, across to Loden Plains which were sodden as usual but drying out under the warm sun. We climbed the peak on the second afternoon and were rewarded with wonderful views from the edge of the cliff of the mountains to the east and north. To the west was Macquarie Harbour and the ocean. Back at the camp some of us swam at Lake Tahune but despite the sun the waters were icy. Much is said about the mud on the track to Frenchman's Cap, but in fact it passes through some of the most beautiful forest you can find with moss covered tree roots and stands of Huon Pine perhaps more than a thousand years old.

The next trip was an 8 day circuit from Lake St Clair out over the Traveller Range (which lies to the east of the main overland track) and back via the Du Cane Range (which lies to the west of the overland track). The ferry dropped us at the foot of Mt Ida and with the aid of inverted milk crates we stepped ashore with dry feet. What did the other passengers find so amusing? That day we managed just 3 km plus a climb to the sharp ridge of Mt Ida. "Auntie" Ida was in view for almost all of our trip. The Traveller range has hundreds of lakes and smaller tarns. We camped 2 nights beside one nameless lake 400 metres long and 200 metres wide. There were side trips to the Mountains of Jupiter and Mt Spurling. Cameras worked overtime as to the west we had continuous views across Cradle Mountain, Mt Ossa, Pelion East, Acropolis etc. Two years earlier I walked through the same area with Doug Pocock in rain and sleet. Now in warm sun you could swim in a lake every few hundred metres. (Lloyd would have been in heaven). As Du Cave Gap we joined the overland track and saw other people for the first time in five days.

Next day was a hard climb up Mt Massif, including pack hauling and assistance to those less agile on rocks. Campsite was a huge green amphitheatre, and Nigel declared that the black things in the water were leech larvae. It was an exposed campsite, OK if the wind didn't blow hard. It did! And in the morning some tent repairs were needed. After that we got good views down to the lakes of the Labyrinth where we camped with the weather threatening. Some did a side trip out of the Mt Geryon Ridge with the mist closing down. We then followed a marked track down to Pine Valley and in the rain to Narcissus Hut where we caught the ferry back the next day.

Footnote 1: On the drive back we met Chin who had been rafting on the Franklin River. Unfortunately one of his party slipped during a portage, broke his back, but is expected to recover.

Footnote 2: The camping ground at Devonport had platypus in the creek which we enjoyed watching.

Thanks Jopie for a great trip.

Max Casley

Track Markers on the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT)

This is adapted from an article which appeared in the February 1996 edition of Vic Walk News, The newsletter of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs Inc. You can subscribe to Vic Walk News for \$15 per year.

As you may be aware, the AAWT now has a new set of signage, incorporating the AAWT logo and **directional indicators**, at intersections along the entire length of the track. The new signage is part of the new formalisation of the track across Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT.

As part of the process, the Victorian Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has decided, in consultation with *VicWalk*, to also continue with the existing yellow diamond **track markers**, at points other than intersections, in Victoria only. This will provide a total level of marking appropriate to Victorian conditions.

VicWalk has agreed to assist the DCNR with identifying sections of the track that need attention with marking.

Could Melbourne Bushwalkers walking along the track in the near future please keep the above in mind whilst on their travels and advise the Walk Secretary of any sections that they believe need attention to the markers. The Walks Secretary will forward the information to *VicWalk* who will advise the DCNR accordingly, who will address any problems.

If you do come across sections of concern, you should provide appropriate details such as the specific location (eg. map title and grid references), and the reasons that you felt the markers are not adequate (eg. no markers in an area where several similar tracks exist). In accessing the adequacy of existing markers, walkers should please bear in mind that:

- there are no markers in Wilderness areas;
- markers are an indication of the track location only and should be as infrequent as practical;
- the need for markers will depend on the quality of the track, with good tracks needing virtually none at all.

Any advice would be appreciated, even a verbal one to the Walks Secretary that the marking was found to be quite adequate. *VicWalk* wants to assist DCNR in ensuring that the track is kept safe for all walkers.

The Bushies Good Food Guide

N Z Tararua Biscuits

These high energy biscuits are possible 1 million times yummiier than commercially bought muesli biscuits/bars, no doubt cheaper, and will definitely get you up those hills !!

There are probably as many variations as trampers in New Zealand, but the following is an excellent recipe to experiment with.

250 g butter
 1 ½ cups (250g) brown sugar
 ½ tin (200g) sweetened condensed milk
 2 cups (250g) flour
 2 cups (190g) rolled oats
 2 teaspoons baking powder
 ½ cup (45g) coconut

Extras: 1 or more...½ cup chopped nuts, sultanas, choc chips, chopped apricots etc

Melt butter, sugar and sweetened condensed milk in large pot (or bowl in microwave). Add everything else and mix well. Spread out on a greased baking tray, Swiss roll type tin about 2 cm deep and firm down well, keeping edges square. Bake at 150° C for 10-15 minutes till light to golden brown. Remove from oven and cut into squares. Gently loosen and return to oven (which has been switched off) for another 10-15 minutes to harden a bit more.

Anne Wilkins

**Awards for Otways Base Camp
16-18 February 1996**

Awards handed out by the intrepid Leader, Sylvia Wilson

Shredded Shorts (with honours)	Liz Moore
Most Mosquito Bites	Mary Leonard
Best Fall off a Log (upside down, wrong way round with wire grass garland)	Merilyn Whimpey
Most Impressive Gash	Cheryl Cooksey
How-to-get-your-feet-tangled -in-an-electric-fence	Liz Moore
Most Chopped Legs	Judy Gipps
Wiregrass Strangulation Marks	William Cone & Liz Moore
Environmental Disaster (for rudely awakening a tiger snake)	Peter Gipps & Bill Metzthen
<i>Supplementary Award from the Editor.</i>	
Innovative Navigation (for finding direct gravity assisted route to the Aire River)	Sylvia Wilson

New members:

GRAEME BARNARD

BRIAN BOWDITCH

MARGARET CAMPION

JENNY GREGORY

ROBIN HARPER

BOB MC LELLAN

**A hearty welcome to Honorary
membership for our bus driver**

VIVIENNE NEWTON-BROWN

NEIL KEVIN WILSON

Altered Address/Phone:

FRANK SHEW

JOY SHIELDS

ROLF SORENSEN

Marianne Driver to Marianne Watt

PAM WESTGATE

Committee Reports

Treasurer: Accounts for February 1995

Opening Balance	\$52,765.61
Receipts	\$4,217.85
Payments	\$1,363.37
Closing Balance	\$55,620.09

Walks Secretary: for January

	Trips	No	Av	95
Sunday Bus	4	126*	42	38
Pack Carry	5	47	9.4	10
Lodge(Walhalla)	1	33	33	
Wed,Hist, Dandenong	2	34	17	13
Canoe	1	?*		
<u>Total</u>	13	240*		

* Reports not available yet

Membership:

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	11
Single Memberships	359
Family Memberships	96 (= 2x 48)
Total membership	477

Duty Roster

13th March	Doug & Lloyd
25th March	Jean & William
27th March	Bill & Ralph
3rd April	Judy & Derrick
Next committee meeting 1st April, 1996	

The following is a letter written to VicWalk by Derrick Brown and he would appreciate hearing the views of our members to the contents of the letter.

Letter to VicWalk

The Editor
VicWalk News
55 Gardenia Street
Pakenham Vic 3810

Dear Editor

I notice that the Federation is looking for office space to improve the efficiency and profile of the Federation. I believe that this move is overdue and would be a great step forward. However, office space costs money, and the Federation does not have a lot of it.

Coupled with this, I know that when important issues on conservation arise, the Federation, speaking as the voice of around 5,400 bushwalkers, is not heard enough because it does not have the clout it should have. If an issue arises when say, the four-wheel drivers support an opposing view of the Federation, then the former have access to a much better infrastructure and financial resources than the latter, and are therefore able to mount a better campaign.

We bushwalkers hold dear the wilderness and unspoilt places that we walk in. What a pity that we don't put our money where our mouth is. The Federation annual contribution is \$5 or \$3.50 per person, for city and suburban clubs respectively. These are pathetically small sums. If we are to have a strong Federation that can speak for us all then we need to supply it with the financial resources so that it has an office and a full-time officer. I suggest that we get real. Every bushwalker should be more than able to contribute at least a \$20 subscription to the Federation. Yes, I know that some people have squealed when smaller increases have been suggested. But consider this: these bushwalkers often spend \$20 or more on fuel to travel to and from just one walk, their car drivers will spend much more. The same bushwalkers spend hundreds of dollars on equipment. One visit to the cinema can cost \$15. What is just \$20 a year to the value and pleasure that we get from following our bushwalking interest?

Let's move the Federation forward a big step. Let's really get it to a position where the bushwalkers' views become powerful, where club members and the public can contact a staffed office for opinions and expert advice, where facilities are available for the public to see what we're about. Let's override the whingers who have complained about a \$5 subscription. Let's deliver \$100,000 subscription fees.

I'm sure that our Executive Committee would welcome sufficient funding so that they could really get on with the job. So many things become possible: perhaps a special copy of Vicwalk news to every Club member once or twice a year to improve communications? Let's give our Executive the resources so that they can make these things happen!

Derrick Brown, Melbourne Bushwalking Club

(This is written as an individual member, and does not necessarily represent the views of the Club or of other individuals in it.)

Subscriptions are due NOW and payable within 3 months of the AGM 1996 Subscriptions Rates are:	
Ordinary membership:	\$25.00
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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
News Subscribers Overseas AirMail	\$20.00
When renewing, please let Membership Secretary know of changes to you surname, address, home and work phone numbers. Also if you change your mind about (not) letting these details be known to the general membership	

<p>WANTED: Position as master of household and chief (or subsidiary) cuddles receiver. A gentleman (guaranteed celibate) and of ravishing exotic appearance (lilac! Burmese!) with a sweet disposition to match my name ("Honey"), I promise you a purrfect companionship. For my references, ring my agent Peter on . Until I can give you my personal miaow: ciao!</p>
--

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