



The NEWS

of the

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

JANUARY 1996

EDITION 539

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Notice
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of **Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.**
will be held on
Wednesday 28 February 1996 at 8.00 pm
in the **Horticultural Hall, Victoria Street,**
(enter from the Clubrooms, Mackenzie Street)
for tabling of **Annual Reports and**
Election of Office Bearers
All Welcome. Only Members can vote.

Walhalla Weekend

26 to 28 January, 1996

This popular weekend is now

FULLY BOOKED

and there is a waiting list.

Brian appreciates the interest in his weekend, & would remind those who have booked to pay the balance of the money to ensure your place on this weekend

Bush Dance in Bendigo

Saturday 16 March at

Flora Hill Secondary College

Time: 8.00 pm to 12.30 am.

Cost: \$12.

In Aid of

BENDIGO BUSHLAND APPEAL

We will also organise a gentle walk on Sunday along O'Keefe trail & Axedale Reserve.

Camp spot organised. If enough interest I'll see if I can organise the school bus.

Ring me for more details.

Sylvia Wilson

Jazz at the Zoo

now on!!

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

all through January & February

\$12

Will someone organise a Club evening?

Info. on Notice Board in Clubrooms.

Don't forget

MYER MUSIC BOWL

FREE CONCERTS on

WEDNESDAYS & some SATURDAYS in

February at 7.30 pm.

We sit on the grass in the middle

and bring picnic tea & plonk.

Ring me & I'll look out for you or see you there.

Sylvia Wilson

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Committee Duty Roster for next four Club nights:
17 Jan Doug & Nigel 24 Jan Denise & Derrick
31 Jan Alan & Pearson 7 Feb Janet & Peter H.
Next Committee Meeting - Monday 5 Feb. 1996

From the Editor

A new year begins, with still two months of Summer to go. Hopefully we will now get some warmer weather after the unusually cold & wet December.

The Club year is drawing to a close, with the Annual General meeting occurring on Wednesday 28 February. Time to think about the year ahead and what contribution you can make towards the running of our Club.

There are a number of important tasks that our office-bearers perform, notably the Walks Secretary & Assistant, the Treasurer, the President, and the Secretary, as well as those that bring you **The NEWS**. There are also many behind-the-scenes jobs that keep the Club running smoothly, such as Equipment Officer, Map Custodian, Librarian and the Club Contacts.

A number of positions will become vacant at the Annual General Meeting, so think about it, ask a Committee member for information & advice, and consider "having a go". Detailed 'job specifications' are available.

Which brings me to the position of **NEWS** Editor. I have edited **The NEWS** for two years now and would like a break. I would really like to hear from anyone who is willing to take it on.

You don't need to be a typist (I'm not). Just have access to a computer with a Word Processing package, and have some sense of layout. Not a lot of editing is involved as most copy comes ready to insert. If you have Word for Windows I can supply a template which has the 'masthead' and all the page headings, etc. I have also created glossary entries for the walks and certain other features. So it is not hard, just takes a bit of time, perhaps 10 to 12 hours a month. The job could be split into two - one person to key in the walk previews, articles, committee notes, etc, and the other to assemble the material, put it in order & lay it out ready for the printer. We send the pages to Colour Copy Centre in Richmond & they make the number of copies required & deliver them back to the Clubrooms.

Also a note to Office Bearers who supply an Annual Report for the February **NEWS** - please try and get them to me as early as possible, preferably typed (so I can scan them) or better still on disc. Thank you.

We have heard a report that the ARC is seeking tenders from the public to operate mechanised over-snow tourist excursions from Falls Creek! The FVWC and the Victorian National Parks Association are aware of this.

The Club has received a brochure about campfires, from the Dept of Conservation & Natural Resources. This specifies that in National & State Parks camp fires are allowed only in fireplaces provided to reduce damage to the environment. In State forests, use a constructed fireplace where available, otherwise light your fire in a trench 30 cm deep. Ground around must be cleared of flammable material & fire must be at least 3 metres from tents, trees, stumps, overhanging branches etc. There are also prescribed conditions for the use of stoves. Even stoves are banned on days of Total Fire Ban, even in a tent

Finally, a sad note. An old member of the Club, Warren Olle, passed away just before Christams. He was active in

the early days of the club, & I knew him in the 60's as a day-walker.

Bob Steel

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

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

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 1996 News** is
31ST JANUARY 1996.

TREKKING, SIKKIM, HIMALAYA



Starting 5th April 1996; a 21 day trip including 12-13 days of trekking.

*\$1950 land cost ex Calcutta.

*Small, private group.

*Bookings close end February, 1996

☞ For information contact

☞ **Darren Miller ph/fax**

Walks Secretary Report for November 1995:

Day Walks - 4, ave of 42¾ (cf. 36½ in 1994. Annual ave 39)

W/E pack-carry walks - 3, ave of 10 people;

Base Camp - 1, with 13 people;

Wilky Lodge trip (Intro to Wilky) - 7

Wed, Dandenongs, & Historical Walks - 3, ave 6¾.

Please note that the recommended rate for reimbursement of car costs for private transport trips has been increased to 6 cents a kilometre.

Previews for February Day Walks

Sunday 4 Feb ANGLESEA - AIREYS INLET Easy & Easy/medium

Leaders: **Denise Triffet & Patricia Ronchini**
 Transport: **Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **109 kms**
 Expected time of return: **1900**
 Approx length of walks: **14 & 17 kms**
 Map Reference: **Anglesea & Aireys Inlet 1:25 000**

Interesting coastal area not too far from Melbourne, noted for its wildflowers and ocean views. At time of going to press, the leaders had not previewed the walk, but it will be an interesting walk, with possibilities for a swim. See leaders in Clubrooms

Sunday 11 Feb LAKE MOUNTAIN Easy/medium & Medium Note: 8.30 am start

Leaders: **Jean Woodger & Nigel Holmes**
 Transport: **Bus at 08.30 am from South Bank Boulevard**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **118 KMS**
 Expected time of return: **2000**
 Area: **near Marysville**
 Approx length of walks: **16 & 19 kms**
 Map Reference: **Outdoor Leisure Map - Marysville - Lake Mountain**

We climb via tracks & ski trails to walk amongst the snow gums. In Spring we saw masses of tall violets & musky Caladenias; in Summer we should see billy buttons & silver daisies. Both walks start from Snowy Hill playground. The **Easy/medium** walk will head north-west on an open forest track. Good views to be had from Panorama Lookout, where you can see Mt Torbreck to the north-east. This group will make their way south to Gerraty's car park via ski trails, from here climbing Lake Mountain & visiting several lookouts en route to the bus. The **Medium** group may start with the lookouts, and head East off-track to further climbing & ski trails, back over to the north-west, & return by track & trail to the bus at Snowy Hill playground.

Sunday 18 Feb ACHERON WAY-Mt. VINEGAR Easy/med. & Medium FERNSHAW

Leaders: **Peter Havlicek & Marisa Rizzuto**
 Transport: **Bus at 8.30 am from South Bank Boulevard**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **92 kms**
 Expected time of return: **before 7:00 pm**
 Area: **Healesville-Marysville-Warburton**
 Approx length of walks: **E/Medium 16 km, 550 m ascent Medium 20 km, 630 m ascent**
 Map Reference: **Juliet & Juliet South 1:25 000**

(NOTE CHANGED TIME for BUS - 0830 from Melb.)

I think this will be a perfect walk for the late summer season with a good mixture of all sort of landscapes. The climbing may seem like bad news, but it is all over before lunch and the gradient is not bad. On our preview, we saw rosellas, wallabies and even a lyrebird running across the road. Starting at Acheron Gap, the **Medium** walk goes up The Knobs, steeply down to Vinegar Rd, then again up Mt Vinegar. After lunch a reverent visit shall be paid to the petrified mates of the long extinct Titananthropus australianus superspuriosus (the "Australian titanic man who lived on the spurs of hills" - also known as Split Rock), another steep descent. The **E/Medium** walk starts at Somers Park Picnic Ground, up Vinegar Rd and up Mt Vinegar, all on moderate gradients. Both walks continue towards Carters Gap where they branch off on Morley's Track. This is a delightful shaded track which in its later stages follows Watts River to the pleasant Fernshaw Picnic Ground.

Wednesday 21 Feb MURRINDINDI Easy/medium CASCADES

Leader: **Allister Rowe**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **100 kms**
 Expected time of return: **around 1800**
 Area: **north of Healesville**
 Approx length of walk: **15 kms**
 Map Reference: **Klondyke 1:25 000**

Meet at Dindi Mill site at 1000.

Take Myers Creek Road from Healesville & turn right onto Sylvia Creek Road just north of the Potato Research Station. At Siberia Junction, continue to Murrindindi Road, the second on left heading north. Cross the Murrindindi River at Xylophone Bridge, Another km to signpost to Dindi Mill site on the right. This is Winch Road & mill site is 500m on left.

Relics of timber milling days and the Murrindindi Cascades are interesting features of this walk. However lovers of native flora & fauna will be delighted by the wide & ever-changing variety of species encountered during this pleasant stroll through the Murrindindi Scenic Reserve. We will see the remains of tramways used to move logs, with sleepers & wooden rails, as well as a reconstructed loader timber jinker. Lunch will be on the bank of the river where it looks most inviting for a swim. There is just one moderately long & steep climb, otherwise the walk through shaded forest and along the river will make it a most pleasant way of spending a hot Summer day

Previews for February Day Walks

continued

Saturday 24 Feb Dandenongs Explorer
Easy SASSAFRAS - SHERBROOKE FOREST

Leader: **Michael Humphrey**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **45 kms**
 Expected time of return: **1600**
 Approx length of walk: **12 kms**
 Map Reference: **Melways maps 66 & 75**

Come along & join me in this very beautiful part of the Dandenongs. Beginning at Grants Picnic Ground (Melway map 75, K4) we make our way to Beagleys Bridge where we pick up the walking track which skirts Sassafras Creek to Olinda.

We will lunch at Ferny Creek Reserve after which we make our way into Sherbrooke Forest for the return journey.

I have chosen this area for its cool & shady surrounds as this time of the year can be very hot.

We will commence the walk promptly at 10.30 am at Grants Picnic Ground. If you are coming by public transport, the train arrives at 1003 at Belgrave station. Please phone me at home on _____ if you need to be picked up. See you there!!

Sunday 25 Feb LONDON BRIDGE-
SORRENTO BACK BEACH-
Easy & Easy/med. RYE OCEAN BEACH

Leaders: **Fay Pratt & Clare Lonergan**
 Transport: **Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **102 kms**
 Expected time of return: **1900**
 Area: **Mornington Peninsular**
 Approx length of walks: **?**
 Map Reference: **Melway maps 156, 167, 251.**

A great beach walk, just the thing for a hot summers day, with plenty of opportunity for swims. Bring your bathers & a towel. See leaders in Clubrooms for more details.

Membership Statistics:

Life Members 11
 Honorary Members 10
 Single memberships 344
 Family memberships 96 (= 2x 48)
 Total membership 461

New Members:

Leanne Caddy Fiona Mary Gallery

Robbi Page Delwyn Rance

Changed Address/Phone:

David Vincent

Labour Day Weekend Bus Trip to Lower Glenelg National Park

Following our very successful Queen's Birthday bus trips of the last two years, we have decided to also run a bus trip on the Labour Day weekend this year.

The trip is to the Lower Glenelg National Park, which is due west of Melbourne, near the South Australian border. The heart of the park is the Glenelg River, and we will run a canoe trip in addition to pack carry and base camp trips.

Doug Pocock is leading the canoe trip, Sylvia Wilson is organising the pack carry walk(s). We still need a leader for the base camp.

The bus cost for all trips is the same, \$55 per person. Your place on the bus is not assured until you have paid your {\$55 deposit}. All deposits should be paid to Clare Lonergan. Once again, please book and pay early. Because of the high cost in hiring the bus, the trip may be cancelled if we cannot get enough bookings by the 28th of Feb. Deposits are non-refundable (unless you break a leg) after 28th Feb.

Similarly to previous trips, the bus will pick up passengers from Surrey Hills at 6:00 pm and from Southbank Boulevard in the City at 6:45 pm.

Bill Metzenthien - Walks Secretary

Further on March Long Weekend

As outlined above, our Walks Secretary (all praise to his name!!) is organising the Trip to the Lower Glenelg. As I have long wanted to canoe that section of the river, I volunteered to lead a canoe trip starting at Moleside Creek and finishing at either Nelson or Donovans. I have booked some canoes & these will cost about \$46 for hire, delivery and camp fees in the National Park. This, of course, is on top of the bus fare.

think about this as an interesting alternative to walking. If you haven't tried canoeing then I could possibly organise a few hours practice at Lilydale Lake or somewhere if you would like to try.

Doug Pocock

Previews for February Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks

2-4 Feb EIGHT MILE GAP - The BLUFF Easy/medium HOWQUA RIVER

Leader: **Trish Elmore**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **224 kms**
 Expected time of return: **Sunday evening**
 Area: **near Mansfield**
 Approx length of walk: **20 to 25 kms**
 Map Reference: **Buller South 1:25 000**

Interesting Alpine area not too far from Melbourne. Starting at Eight Mile Gap, there will be an easy travers of Rocky Ridge before climbing the Bluff from which we should get great views, and then to camp nearby. On Sunday we descend from the Bluff to the Howqua River for a swim. See leader in Clubrooms.

9-11 Feb MITCHELL RIVER LILO Trip Medium

Leader: **Stephen Rowlands**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **c. 290 kms**
 Expected time of return: **Sunday evening**
 Area: **Mitchell River National Park**
 Approx length of walk: **20 kms**
 Map Reference: **Cobbannah-Tabberabbera
1:50 000**

We will start on Saturday morning at Bull Point (Dam Site) and follow the river downstream, finishing at the Den of Nargun on Sunday afternoon. You'll need a box-walled lilo, a paddle, patching material, Selley's Quick-grip or equivalent and your usual weekend walking gear. Clothing that covers you from head to toe should be worn while on the river to stop sunburn.

Please note that under Club By-law 6.4, all participants are required to use buoyancy vests & helmets.

16-18 Feb OTWAYS BASE CAMP Easy/medium

Leader: **Sylvia Wilson**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **200 kms**
 Expected time of return: **Sunday - 2100**
 Approx length of walk: **2 x 15 kms**
 Map Ref: **Lavers Hill & Wangerrip 1:25 000; Outdoor
Leisure Map - Otways & Shipwreck Coast**

It's not that I'm biased but I think the Otways are terrific. If you haven't been before they're well worth a visit. The base camp beside the Triplet Falls will be retained as it's a pleasant and convenient spot. Saturday's 0900 walk will take in the treed part of the

National Park and we'll try to find the Aire River Falls. This will involve on & off track wandering. Sunday's walk will continue the tradition of going to the Blue Johanna area, visiting a couple of falls, up & down ridges with mighty views and ending up at the ocean at the amazing Cannonball Cove. N.B. Upgraded to E-M; map on application; BYO water carrier; limit 20.

23-24 Feb WILSONS PROMONTORY Medium

Leader: **Pearson Cresswell**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **230 kms**
 Expected time of return: **Sunday Evening**
 Approx length of walk: **20 to 30 kms**
 Map Reference: **Outdoor Leisure Map -
Wilsons Prom**

Wilsons Promontory is one of the best places to walk in Victoria - or anywhere else for that matter. In the spirit of Summer, this will be a reasonably leisurely trip: walk in and camp at Sealers Cove with a half-day side trip to Refuge cove. Plenty of time for swimmin & snoozing at the best coastal scenery. Party limit is twelve due to National Park restrictions.

23-24 Feb WILSONS PROMONTORY Medium/hard IN A DAY!

Leader: **Merilyn Whimpey**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **230 kms**
 Expected time of return: **Sunday evening**
 Approx length of walk: **45 kms**
 Map Reference: **Outdoor Leisure Map -
Wilsons Prom**

Come and try yourself out on a fairly leisurely walk-and-swim excursion from Tidal River up to Oberon Saddle, down to Sealers Cove, around to Refuge Cove & Waterloo Bay, across to Oberon Bay and back to Tidal River! We will get away early on Saturday morning and should be back at Tidal river for tea. And this is just on Saturday! On Sunday you can recover at leisure in the flesh-pots of Tidal River OR you can do some more walking!

On repairing a Therm-a-rest® mattress...

When I punctured my Therm-a-rest mattress I first repaired it using a bicycle repair kit. This lasted for a time but then I found myself waking up lying on the hard ground. Due to my natural inertia I suffered this for some time before I found myself on the point of buying a new one. I then discovered that one could send them away for a professional repair. Obeying the instructions, I parceled up the mattress and sent it off to South Australia with a cheque for ten dollars. That was early last July. I forgot about it for a time then, in October, realising that I had neither heard of, or received my mattress, I telephoned the company to be told that it had not arrived. My cheque had not been cashed either. I gave it up for lost, then a phone call several weeks later informed me that it had, at last, arrived. It obviously takes Australia Post three months to send things to S.A. There was I expecting it to only take a week or so. It has now been returned to me and

appears to be a good repair. So, if you have a damaged Therm-a-rest mattress and can afford to wait for five months, then ship it, with a ten dollar cheque, to: Therm-a-Rest Service Centre, Grant Minervini Agencies Pty Ltd, 19 Hindmarsh Avenue, Welland, S.A. 5007

Bushies Good Food Guide

Euroa - Chinese Restaurant (name forgotten): 7.30 pm Friday and the Jumping Jumbuk is closed (again!). An alternative is to turn left as you drive into Euroa from Melbourne where a sign points to the Shopping Centre. On the right is the Chinese Restaurant. Service & food are good. Bill had Bean Curd, Pork & Vegetables \$9.50; Ralph had sizzling Mongolian Steak ("delicious") \$12.50 and I had Combination Seafood \$14.50. Chinese tea \$1 and Rice \$1.50 each extra.

Max Casley

NITMILUK — Help preserve a park

You can make a significant contribution to the preservation of this important national park by joining our three week working holiday from March 31 through April 20 1996. To encourage people to take part, we are offering it at a special low price. Do any or all of the four sections, increase your knowledge, help the park and have a wonderful holiday.

- 1) **17 Mile Valley weed mapping.** The valley is one of the major features of the park. Introduced species cannot be controlled unless they are first mapped. Your assistance can help prevent future threats to the native plant and animal communities.
- 2) **Katherine Gorge.** A relaxing walk exploring one of the Territory's premier tourist attractions — away from the crowds.

- 3) **Gorge to Edith Walk.** We'll take our time, replace trail markers, do some minor track maintenance and show you some beautiful spots that lie off the track — unknown to 99% of those who pass by.

- 4) **Edith Falls and Stow Creek.** A special walk on Aboriginal land. If our training program for Aboriginal walking guides has progressed far enough, we will be accompanied by an Aboriginal trainee.

Please ask for the trip notes which give far more information than we can put in an ad like this.

Willis's Walkabouts

12 Carrington Street
Millner NT 0810
Phone (089) 852134
Fax (089) 852355



The DB Disaster Club

It all started for me on that Snowy River lilo trip, a year or two back. There I was, paddling nicely along, when shouts of 'There it is!' and 'The A-frame!' rent the air. Actually I had recently fallen off, so I was still getting myself back together - hat, pack, paddles - when my lilo began to gather speed, sideways on. Paddle I did, to little avail, and I crashed up against the rocks which blocked the way ahead. Unlike previous upsets, however, this time I was in trouble. The water was rushing through the gaps in the rocks, some of which were below the surface. I was sucked down, in the swirling white-water. I came up, I went down, I came up, gasping, I went down, I came up, blowing bubbles, found a hand, missed it, went down, came up and found the hand. It was Gina's. There she was, on a rock. She hauled me onto the rock, like a landed fish. I was more careful for the rest of the trip. One life gone.

Then there was that Feathertop cross-country ski trip. When we reached the Big Dipper I went around the peak while the wiser ones took the longer, but - I was to find - the safer route, over the top. I slipped while traversing and started to slide down a very steep and smooth incline. I managed to stop myself with a self-arrest, using the sharp tip of my ski-stick. It was a long way down and I could have made it all the way at high speed. Two lives.

The third occurrence was a nice, gentle walking trip in the High Plains. I was getting over my bad back - when I had been bed-ridden for a few weeks - and this was to be my 'try-out' weekend walk. Gina and I stayed at Wilky, and ambled around. We went to High Plains Falls which we had only ever visited in the snow. We went to the top of the falls, I took some photographs, then I asked Gina to pose on a rock, while I positioned myself for a good shot. As Gina was mounting a rock, I stepped back and slipped, right at the edge of the waterfall, which is a smooth spiral chute at that point.

Now what are you playing at?' she said as she turned around and couldn't see me. I was hanging by one hand over the waterfall, legs dangling while water cascaded over me, holding onto the camera with the other hand. She hauled me to safety, again. Three lives.

The next occasion was on that Otways trip - the one that was all G.T's fault. There we were, walking along the beach beneath the cliffs, as the tide came in and the waves were crashing impressively against the shore. I went back to meet Gina, who had got behind the party. As I went up to the rock onto which she had wisely climbed, a mighty wave roared up and engulfed me. I managed to throw myself into a gap in the rockface and hold on as the swell threatened to take me off my feet and drag me into the sea. I was rather wet. If the sea hadn't soaked my shorts, they would have been wet anyway. Four lives.

On another ski trip in the Snowies I managed to lose a boot. How do you lose a boot on a ski trip? Well, there we were crossing the Snowy River with packs, holding on to skies, sticks, boots and socks, while wading thigh-deep through freezing water on slippery rocks. Halfway across I noticed GT, safely on the far bank shouting something at me. What with being half deaf, the noise of the rushing torrent and trying to remain in a vertical position I didn't hear him and paid him little attention. What I discovered that he was saying was 'Derrick, did you know that one of your boots has fallen into the water?' or words to that effect. I was foolish enough to go back into the water to look for it. It is probably home to a family of yabbies now. It's quite difficult to ski with one boot. I've more recently discovered that it's also quite difficult to ski with one ski. How do you lose a ski on a cross-country ski trip? Well, by now I'm quite an expert at these things and I can assure you that it's easy. Somewhere near Mount Whitelaw there is a two-metre ski nestling under the bushes that failed to be found even with a well-organised search and rescue party the other weekend.

I reckon that I've used enough lives for now, so I'm going to go carefully. To remind me of this, I've founded the DB Disaster Club. I hereby nominate several Club members for immediate honorary membership. It is noticeable that three of these 'disasters' occurred on trips that I was on, or was leading.

Diane McInley - for breaking a leg at Wilky, 1994.
Pearson Cresswell - for cutting his head open, requiring stitches, on the same Wilky trip, same day, different incident.
Lloyd Young - for dislocating his shoulder at Wilky, 1995.
Mary Leonard - for breaking her nose in a rock fall on a Wilson's Prom trip, 1994.

Applications for membership, in writing please, on plaster casts, bandages or other proof, to me. When you've done as many silly things as I have, you get a special mention.

Derrick Brown

Christmas in North Kosciusko

Faced with the prospect of nine days walking which would include Christmas Day some of us were wondering how we would manage to carry the turkey and trimmings. Our compromise was that we would celebrate Christmas Dinner on the evening of the first day away, the 23rd. A party of twelve set off that morning from Honeysuckle Creek in the ACT. This was the site of the Appollo Space Programme tracking station although there is little left of it now. A side trip to the Boorooma Rocks gave us views over Canberra while we lunched. After a fairly hot day's walking we found a lovely campsite in the Orroral valley where we dined on turkey, ham, salads, plum pudding and custard. Tracy decided that her Father Christmas sack was too heavy so she surprised us all by giving everyone a tee-shirt! Full of ideas, Tracy was also trying out paper knickers. These were most useful - cries of 'Get 'em off, Tracy, we want to light the fire' - were to be heard during the walk.

With considerably lighter packs we set off the following day to walk a total of about 150 km. There were some very nice campsites, plenty of flies, lots of birds, and the flowers were magnificent. There were daisies, buttercups, billy buttons, alpine anemones, fairies aprons, and umm, some others. We saw many roos and a couple of snakes. We found several good swimming holes and the weather was hot enough even for the wimps to go in.

On the 27th we had an easy day when we explored the Blue Waterholes area. We went into two caves which were easy to explore and were full of stalagmites and stalactites. We explored the old Coolamine homestead which had ancient newspapers on the walls. I read a 1936 paper that said Hitler and Mussellini would need to be watched! Lloyd Young and his party of eight arrived and we more or less walked together for the rest of the trip, or at least we shared campsites!

At the Old Currango Hut (the oldest in the Park) there was real wallpaper on the walls and more ancient newspapers. This was once a substantial homestead and has been extensively restored. The wallcoverings are protected by sheets of plastic. An unusual feature was a live bat which seemed to be entombed under the wall protection.

There was more swimming when we crossed the Murrumbidgee river and more flies when we arrived at Witz Hut, much frequented by horse-riding parties. We finished the walk at the old ghost gold-mining town of Kiandra. There is little to show that once some 15,000 people lived here briefly and tried to get rich. New Year's Eve was celebrated at Corryong where we dined in style at the pub.

Our thanks to Bill for organising this great Christmas walk and showing us some of the apparently huge areas of the Namadgi National Park which adjoins the Kosciusko National Park. Party of twelve - GT, Tracy, Bill, Merilyn, Jean, Dave & Sylvia, Alan, Ralph, Ed, Gina & Derrick. Party of nine - Lloyd, Debbie, Sak, Stan, Lynn, Marika, Peter, Chin, Max.-

Derrick Brown



"Resolving the Xmas Dinner problem"

Chris Lynch

Looking For A Discount on Bushwalking Gear?

These bushwalking shops offer Club members a discount on their gear (on all goods excluding sale items):

- The Wilderness Shop - 10% discount.
(1 Carrington Rd, Box Hill moving during Jan '96 to 969 Whitehorse Rd)
- Mountain Designs - 10% discount.
(654B Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn)
- Kathmandu - 10% discount if you join their Discount Club. Free membership forms can be obtained from myself (normal joining cost \$10).
(373 Little Bourke St, Melbourne)
- Eastern Mountain Centre - 10% discount.
(401 Riversdale Rd, East Hawthorn)
- Ajays Snow Country Sports - 10% discount.
(115 Canterbury Rd, Heathmont)
- Paddy Palin - 10% discount.
(8 Market St, Box Hill)

Proof of membership of the Club will probably be required in which case a membership receipt or a copy of News with members printed name on it will suffice. This list will be updated regularly.

The Secretary
Chalkley

Peter

EQUIPMENT HIRE

ARE YOU AWARE THAT THE CLUB HAS THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR HIRE?

3x small tents	1 x A frame tent
3x backpacks	3 x day packs
6 x sleeping bags	2 x foam mats
	1 x Trangia stove

To reserve any item it is necessary to pay the hiring fee at time of reservation and a refundable deposit must also be paid before goods can be taken.

Deposits are \$20 per item on tents, sleeping bags & packs. **Hiring Fees:** \$10 weekend for tents
\$5 weekend for sleeping bags and backpacks
Less on smaller items.

Look for Jean Woodger or Nigel Holmes most Wednesdays in the Clubroom or ask any committee member who will be happy to advise you.

Outdoor Recreation RecFest at Westerfolds Park,

Fitzsimmons Lane, Templestowe
(Melway map 33, G2)

on

Sunday 11 February 1996

from 0900 to 1800

Organised by the Herald-Sun, Melbourne Parks & Waterways and various outdoor recreation organisations.

Entry is free

There will be static displays, food for sale, and a second-hand gear sale.

Try out many outdoor activities, including canoeing, bike-riding, ballooning, rock-climbing, orienteering, abseiling, bushwalking, etc.

See poster in clubrooms for more information

The NEWS of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

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