



The NEWS

of the

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

MAY 1996

EDITION 543

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PRICE 60 cents

North American Cross Country Skiing Slide Night.

Wednesday 29th May in the clubrooms.

Mark Tischler and Jenny Sykes have recently returned from a skiing trip in the United States and Canada. Mark will be showing a selection of the slides he took on the trip.

Come along and get into the mood for our coming ski season! Refreshments will be provided as usual.

Bill Metzenthien

Bush Dance

Featuring Bushwahzee Bush Band

Friday 31 May at 8.30PM
Moonee Ponds Town Hall

Bookings

Ron Bell Organiser YHA
Keryn Lientschnig YHA Bushwalking

Cost \$10

BYO Drinks/Supper Free Tea & Coffee

1 Free Ticket with each table sold (10 per table)

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

PLEASE BOOK AND PAY NOW.

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

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 (unless you break a leg) after 28th May. Similarly 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). We will have a short dinner stop in Kyneton. Some members find it better to take a prepared dinner rather than rely upon the sometimes indifferent quality of local take-away food.

The bus will take us all to the Lake Hattah camping ground on Friday night. There is a \$1 per person per night camping fee applicable at this camping ground. This is in addition to the \$65 bus fee.

The Hattah-Kulkyne National Park is up in the north-west corner of Victoria, not far from Mildura, between the Calder Highway and the Murray River. A major feature of the park is a system of lakes, some of which are usually dry.

Contents of May Edition of the News

Page

Day Walk Previews	3
Weekend Walk Previews	6
Articles etc	7
Committee Notes	9
New Members	8-9
Changes to Members Information	9

Red Nose

~~This is Red Nose month.~~

If you have a Red Nose on your mailing sticker this will be the last Issue of the NEWS you receive unless you pay your subs.

From the Editor

Unfortunately we have no photos this month as I forgot to take my camera and nobody gave me any for the **News**. Please send them in.

Also, as the Club does not currently have a Social Secretary we need some members to organise a few social events over the next few months, such as an evening out at a restaurant or whatever. Please talk to Janet or any of the committee members about this.

Please book, as soon as possible on the Hattah Lakes trip. Clare will be in the clubrooms from the 15th May but you can book by telephone and mail your deposit. This should be an interesting weekend to an area not easily accessible from Melbourne. It will be lovely to get away for a weekend to escape the current drizzle and see clear blue skies.

Judy Gipps

From the President

We are very fortunate that many landowners give us permission to cross their land on our walks and seeing Rick Chater in the clubroom (it was his idea) reminded me that we were going to send these farmers greetings at Christmas time.

So a book will be kept at the table in the clubrooms and could leaders write the name and address of any farmers who allow us to cross their land during the year.

At the last committee meeting the committee discussed the Broadford /Yea Marathon and moved a motion to the effect that it will be treated on the program in the same way as other club events run with private transport, that is it will not be subsidised, participants, as with other activities covering their costs.

This is the season for fine walking and we seem to be into a drier spell. Walks are still very heavily booked so please remember if you are sending in a mail booking aim to get it in two weeks in advance to avoid disappointment.

Janet Norman

Conservation

The EES (Environmental Effects Statement) for Mt Stirling is still being prepared by the consultants. It appears that progress was delayed following the discovery of Mountain Pygmy Possums (Burrmys) on Mt Buller. The Public Display period for the EES will now probably not begin before June.

Introductory talk on cross-country skiing

The Club includes a range of cross-country skiing activities in its program each year. Many members may be interested in having a go at skiing, but need more information about what is involved.

The Club meeting on Wednesday, 20 June will include a talk on the equipment and clothing needed for cross-country skiing. There will be skis and other gear to look at, and a demonstration of how to fit snow-chains. The talk will start at about 7.30 pm, leaving time beforehand for the usual Club activities such as booking into walks.

The talk is being jointly organised with STAV, the Ski Touring Association of Victoria, to which this Club is affiliated. Inquiries to Ian Hoad ().

Ian Hoad

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,
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 **JUNE 96 News** is **25th MAY 96**

For Sale

50 Years Along the Track
by Melbourne Bushwalkers

\$18

Melbourne Bushwalkers Badges

\$3 or 2 for \$5 or 3 for \$6

Available at the clubrooms

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

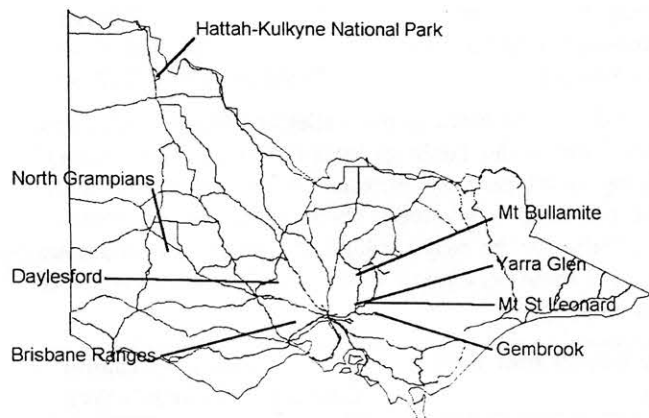
Previews for June Day Walks (and one for May)

Saturday 25 May 1996 Easy	Dandenongs Explorer
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Leaders:	Helene Hunt
Transport:	Private
Area:	Olinda State Forest
Expected time of return:	5.00 pm
Approximate length of walk:	12-14 km
Map Reference:	Melway 66 K2

We will start the walk at the picnic area in the Olinda Falls Reserve (Melway 66 K 2) at 11 am. Lunch will be at Silvan Dam picnic area and we should be back at the cars around 4.30 pm. Most of the walk will be on made tracks, through lovely bush and fern gullies. The train arrives at Upper Ferntree Gully at 10.33 am. If anybody needs a lift from there please contact me and I can arrange for you to be picked up.

Helene Hunt: (H) 9579 2309 & (W) 9580 8700



Sunday 2nd June 1996 Easy and Easy/Medium	Ship Rock - Tomahawk Ck - Kurth Kiln - Gilwell Park
--	--

Leaders:	Ralph Blake and Brian Bowditch
Transport:	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9 am
Area:	Gembrook
Expected time of return:	5.00 pm
Approximate length of walk:	13 km & 20 km
Map Reference:	Gembrook South 1:25,000

Both walks will start and finish at Ship Rock where there is a waterfall and a large rock formation. The Easy walk will be totally on well formed trails and the Easy/Medium will involve some scrub and a creek crossing on a log.

The easy walk will proceed SW to Kurth Kiln Picnic Ground and Tomahawk Creek. Lunch will be further along at Gilwell Park and then returning to Ship Rock via Shepherd Creek. The Easy/Medium walk will do an extra loop to the NE of Ship Rock returning to Ship Rock for lunch. It will then proceed towards Gilwell Park crossing Tomahawk Creek upstream from Kurth Kiln and returning to Ship Rock via Shepherd Creek.

Some features of the walk are views towards Mt Donna Buang, abseilers on Ship Rock, the charcoal kiln and workers cottages at Kurth Kiln, mountain ash forests, and banksia/hakia scrub. Make sure you have appropriate footwear as the tracks may be quite muddy in places.

Sunday 9 June 1996 Easy & Easy/Medium	Lost Children's Walk Daylesford
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Leaders:	Peter McGrath & William Cone
Transport:	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Area:	Daylesford
Expected time of return:	7 pm
Approximate length of walk:	15 km & 17 km
Map Reference:	Bullarto 1:25,000

The Three Lost Children Walk is located on the outskirts of Daylesford, an old gold-mining town built on Wombat Hill on the edge of Wombat State Forest, Daylesford and noted for its mineral spas.

The Three Lost Children's Walk was developed as a Bicentennial Project. It commemorates the tragic deaths of William Graham 6, Alfred Burman 5 and Thomas Graham 4 who went missing in the area on 30 June 1867. The boys were seen twice during the day but failed to heed generous words of advice.

The Easy walk visits Lake Daylesford and Jubilee Lake as well as numerous spas along the way. The Easy/Medium walk visits Sailors Falls which also has a spa. During the preview, Daylesford was quite spectacular with the trees in their autumn colours. We probably won't see those colours during the walk but if you are looking for a nice place to stay or go for a drive, I recommend Daylesford. Particularly recommended is the replica 1950's lolly shop over the road from the Post Office.

Monday 10 June 1996 Easy	Upper Gardiners Creek and Parks
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Leaders:	Athol Schafer
Transport:	Tram MEET under the clocks at Flinders St Station at 10.00 am
Expected time of return:	5.00 pm
Approximate length of walk:	8 km
Map Reference:	Melways Maps 60 & 61

This Queen's Birthday walk takes in parks and reserves along and around Upper Gardiners Creek in the Burwood area. The Illustrated Area History Trail and pioneers' bridge and hut will be included. The walk starts at tram stop 60 - corner Toorak Rd and Oberwyl Rd and finishes at Riversdale Rd outside Wattle Park.

Saturday 15 June 1996
Easy

Dandenongs Explorer
Emerald to Gembrook

Leaders: Michael Humphrey
Transport: Private
Expected time of return: 4.30 pm
Approximate length of walk: 13 km
Map Reference: Melways Maps 127, 188 & 189

I have been thinking for some time now that perhaps we should have the Dandenongs Explorer walks more frequently than just the last Saturday of every Month. So I have decided to give it a try and if we get enough people attending, mid month Dandenongs Explorer walks may become a regular item.

We will meet promptly at 10.30 am at Gembrook Park (Melways Map 189 H 11) which is off the Gembrook-Belgrave Road and Redwood Road. If you are coming by public transport the train arrives at Belgrave Station at 10.02 am - please ensure that you ring me at home on so that I can meet you at the station.

Please note that this is not a circuit walk, so we will need to organise a car shuffle. Bearing this in mind we will take sufficient cars to get us all to the beginning of the walk which is at Emerald Reserve. As this is not a circuit walk I would appreciate it if everyone intending to come on this walk ring me at home in order to book in.

We follow the Puffing Billy Railway track almost all the way from Emerald to Gembrook, so this is a good walk for this time of year, especially if it is very wet underfoot. We finish the walk at Gembrook where some of us may care to call into the now "renowned" Gembrook Pottery (well at least the leader will) then we make our way to the cars and the return journey to Emerald. Of course we will finish with our traditional Devonshire Tea - so why don't you come along and join us!! See you there!!

Sunday 16 June 1996
Easy/Medium and Medium

Ti Tree Creek - Dunn Hill
- Mt Bullamalite

Leaders: Keith White & Jean Giese
Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Area: Yea
Expected time of return: 7.00 pm
Approximate length of walk: 14 & 18 km
Map Reference: Yea 1:100,000

Ridge walking in the rolling countryside south of Yea.

Both walks are circular and start with a climb of Dunn Hill then follow the long ridge to Bullamalite. Depending on expectations the medium walk can be extended for a grunt over Mt Caroline.

Bring water for lunch.

Wednesday 19 June 1996
Easy/Medium

Pauls Range
Yarra Glen

Leaders: Peter Havlicek
Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Area: Yarra Glen
Approximate length of walk: 17 km
Map Reference: Toolangi 1:25000 7922-1-1

After going through Yarra Glen, continue for another 8 km to Dixons Creek, turn right into Bedford Lane, continue eastward along gravel road about 2.5 km to start of walk. We shall walk anticlockwise to climb Pauls Range, follow crest for some 6 km, then return to cars along Pauls Creek. There are some fine views over Chum Valley towards Blue Mount and Mt St Leonard.

Sunday 23 June 1996
Easy/Medium & Medium

Headwaters of Dixon,
Paul & Chum Creeks

Leaders: Peter Havlicek & Brian Crouch
Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Area: Yarra Glen
Expected time of return: 7.00 pm
Approximate length of walk: 14 km & 17 km
Map Reference: Toolangi 1:25000 7922-1-1

This walk will be between the Valleys of Dixons Creek and Chum Creek in the Toolangi State Forest and Pauls Range. Walking is all on very pleasant tracks and forest roads. Some climbing is involved, about 450m for the medium walk, 350m for the easy medium; the grades are moderate. There are some very good views. No leeches, no wet feet creek crossings.

Saturday 29 June 1996
Easy

Saturday Explorer
Mt St Leonard - Donnelly's Weir

Leader: Pam Rosso
Transport: Private
Area: near Healesville
Approximate distance from Melbourne: 75 km
Expected time of return: 4.00 pm
Approximate length of walk: 12 km
Map Reference: Juliet North 1:25,000

We will meet in the car park at Donnelly's Weir Park (Melways Map 270, G5) at 10.00 am. Be prepared to ford Donnelly's Creek with your car, just before the car park. If the creek is in flood, we will leave some of the cars in Donnelly's Creek Road just before the creek crossing. It will be necessary to have a car shuffle to the start of the walk in the saddle at the top of Myers Creek Road (St Leonards Road) where Monda Road turns off to the right. (Esmap, map 650, ref. 11)

This walk is all on tracks. We will have a moderate climb to the Summit of Mt St Leonard, where we should have marvellous views. Then it is all downhill to Donnelly's Weir Park where we will conclude with Devonshire Tea provided by the leader. (No charge, all welcome)

If you have any queries, or wish to talk to me about the walk or transport arrangements, my home phone number is
Alternatively, you may contact Bob Steel on

Sunday 30 June 1996
Easy & Easy/Medium

NAVIGATION DAY
Brisbane Ranges
(Includes Day Walk)

Leaders: **Bob Steel & Brian Crouch**
Transport: **Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am**
Area: **Brisbane Ranges**
Approximate distance from Melbourne: **85 km**
Expected time of return: **6.30 pm**
Approximate length of walk: **14 & 16 km**
Map Reference: **Eclipse Creek 1:25 000**

Here is a chance to practice your bush navigation skills. Previous experience is not necessary, as there will be an instruction evening prior to the day (see below), and you will be organised into groups of 2 or 3 on the day. Maps will be available for purchase, and compasses are available for hire for the day.

You will be invited to visit a series of check points in the Brisbane Ranges, and do a few map-reading and navigation exercises along the way. Some of the check points will be manned (personned?) and a cup of tea will be available along the way.

For those who want to do a day walk but don't want to become involved in the navigation exercise. **Brian Crouch** will be leading a suitable **easy/medium** walk in this interesting old gold-mining area.

Note. There will be an **instruction evening** in the **Clubrooms** before the Navigation Day, where you can learn the basics of map and compass work before trying out your new skills on the walk. This evening will most likely be on **Thursday 27 June**. More details available closer to the day.



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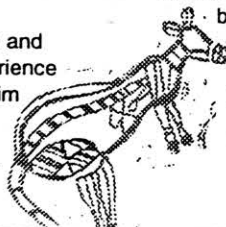
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Previews for June Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks

7 - 10 June 1996

Hattah Kulkyne National Park

Leaders: Alan Miller, Jean Giese, Alan Ide & Bill Metzenth
Transport: Bus from Surrey Hills at 6.00 pm
 & Southbank Boulevard at 6.45 pm

Area: North West Victoria
Map Reference: Nowinga 1:100k & Robinvale 1:100k

Pack Carry Easy **Jean Giese**

Saturday. Starting from the west end of Lake Kramen we will head off across country through Box and Mallee to the Murray River, crossing Chalka Creek at McGraw's (Messenger's) Crossing. The Murray R. is then followed north to camp near Fireman's Bend, cutting off some river bends if we are running out of time.

Sunday will find us exploring Lake Cantala on the way to a second camp on the Murray north of Kulkyne Station.

Monday we continue downstream, cross the north end of the Chalka where it rejoins the Murray and on to our rendezvous with the bus at Brown's. It is all flat walking and should be very pleasant with cold nights and warm June days.

Pack Carry Medium **Alan Ide**

Saturday Walk around the southern end of Lake Hattah etc and thence to McGraw's on the Murray River (southern end of Chalka Creek). Camp by the river, perhaps one or two km north of McGraw's.

Sunday Follow the river north to Sexton's and camp near there.

Monday Follow the river north to the northern end of Chalka Creek.

Base Camp Easy **Alan Miller**

Saturday The bus will take us to Lake Kramen from where we will walk back via Lakes Brockie, Arawak, Bulla and Hattah to the camping ground. About 17 km.

Sunday Walk around the lakes to the north of the camping ground, including Mourmpall, Konardin, Yelwell and Lockie. About 17 km if we do all the lakes. A shorter walk is possible cutting out Lake Konardin.

Monday. There will be a half-day walk, possibly along Chalka Creek.

The country is almost flat. The map shows contours at 10 metre intervals. We will only be crossing 50m and 60m contours; that should give us some idea of how flat it is ! Expect plenty of kangaroos, birds and other native fauna.

Canoeing Easy **Bill Metzenth**
Approximate length of trip: 44 km
Map Reference: Nowinga 1:100k and Robinvale 1:100k
Limit: 12 Canoeists.

We should have two and a half days of easy canoeing along the Murray River with time to do some exploring along the way.

It contrast to the Murray River where we usually find it on our bushwalking trips, here it is wide and without rapids. However, the flow should be good and there may be obstacles such as snags.

The three stages of the trip are: southern end of Chalka Creek to Retail Island, Retail Island to Tarpaulin Island, and Tarpaulin Island to the northern end of Chalka Creek.

The bus will take us to the start of the trip on Saturday morning and pick us up at the end at 2 pm on Monday.

When you read this, there may be one or two places still available on this trip, so if you are interested then contact me *as soon as possible* If you have booked with me but have not yet paid your deposit to Clare, please do it *now*.

- You must have prior experience in a Canadian canoe. You can get this by hiring a canoe for an afternoon before the trip. Make sure that you understand the purpose of, and be able to do, the J-stroke.
- Buoyancy vests and paddles will be provided, although you may find it more comfortable to bring your own vest if you own one.
- It will be Winter and perhaps cold. You should bring at least thermals, or if you own one, a wet suit.
- Have all you gear packed in a water-tight manner in your pack. Two garbage bags, one inside the other, should suffice.
- Don't have a overly heavy pack. If road conditions are bad on the day then you may have to carry your pack for some distance.
- Water in the canoe is inevitable. Bring along a large sponge or small container to help you bale.
- The cost of canoe hire should be about \$20 per canoeist.

21-23 June 1996
Easy/Medium

North Grampians Base Camp

Leader: Janet Norman
Transport: Private
Area: Western Victoria
Expected time of return: 6.00 pm
Approximate length of walk: 40 km
Map Reference: Outdoor Leisure Map Nthn Grampians

This base camp will be held in the drier part of the Grampians. A good spot for winter weekend walking.

There is a choice of walks in the Mt Difficult Range and Golton Gorge Mt Stapleton area further north. We will camp at either the plantation or Troopers Creek. Both have water. This part is noted for its spectacular sandstone formations and views.

ANOTHER CAT GETS OUT OF THE BAG

The last time I was out with the club (Field Marshall Pocock's Little Desert campaign) the subject of GPS came up. Bill, who was Walks Secretary at the time, told me that the club had been giving some consideration to buying a receiver. (Did we?). As is well known, the Pentagon has insisted that the satellite signals be encoded in such a way that civilian users are unable to locate themselves to better than about 100 metres. This corresponds roughly to the "resolution" of a 1:100 000 map - in other words you would be unlikely even to notice if you were using a map with any scale smaller than about 1:25 000.

We "gear freak" bushwalkers are in a position of hopeless internal conflict on this one - any competent walker should always know the party's position to about 100 metres anyway, and the days when every forestry worker was expected to get around with the aid of maps containing nothing more than a stream pattern and perhaps an indication of the ridge lines are only thirty years ago. On the other hand the technical gizmos are absolutely fascinating.

They get more fascinating. There is a very accessible article by Thomas A Herring (who is now at MIT, but who did his first degree at the University of Queensland) on the Global Positioning System in the February 1996 issue of Scientific American. The Pentagon has been completely outwitted by civilian users, who have now found ways of reading the purposely degraded signals to a precision adequate to land a jumbo jet, or, in the case of civilian geophysicists studying plate tectonics, to within MILLIMETRES! Even without signal degradation this exceeds the original specifications.

I wish there were space here at least to begin to explain, but obviously there is not. We are seeing, however, repeated examples of the "Canute effect" - GPS, PGP (secure encryption), regulations to introduce censorship of the Internet - misguided attempts to control the uncontrollable continue as ever. (For those who know their history this is exactly what the king was trying to demonstrate to his boneheaded advisers). The Pentagon still refuses to turn the degradation off. They only do so in times of war!

During both the Gulf War and the occupation of Haiti it was turned off. Why? The usual snafus - not enough restricted military receivers (which can read the degraded signal to the correct precision), but lots of troops with their own civilian equipment (such as the unenhanced set we were thinking of getting) bought from mail order outlets. No doubt the Pentagon will finally recognise reality a year or so after the Russian unencoded (GLONASS) system comes on line and makes any such decision completely irrelevant anyway.

Graham Wills-Johnson.

Sub-editor's Note

I recently had to investigate GPS for work and spent several days trawling the internet for information and would like to add a few comments of my own.

There is an inherent limit to the accuracy of even the military version of GPS of about 10 metres. The higher accuracy that GW-J refers to is obtained by a process called

differencing which employs two GPS stations - one of which is sited at a precisely known location and is used to calculate a correction for the second station. Commercially available systems as distinct from special scientific ones currently offer accuracy of 1 cm (at a price).

For gear freaks. AUSLIG is currently putting their maps into electronic form, and several GPS systems are available that plug into a notebook computer. So forget your paper map and to really locate yourself accurately and efficiently carry a 3 kg computer instead.

Peter Gipps

Anzac Day Weekend: Mt Margaret - Dolodrook River, Tali Karg - Crolls Gorge

The weekend was notable for its beautiful weather (huge blue skies) and having a diversion per day - more of that later.

Friday morning saw a 9 am. start after the car shuffle with the inevitable steady climb uphill. Jean had applied her lippy ... did she know something the rest of us girls didn't? As it turned out, the answer was yes. On the approach to Mt. Margaret a tall, blond, solo walker caught up with us, only to be monopolised by Jean. Apparently the reason was he was being inducted into the Club. The days diversion was provided when, amusement turning to knowing looks, the two new-found chums were seen tripping hand in hand down an extremely steep, stony slope. (Chris had been moved to assist our senior citizen). That evenings campsite was an attractive bow in the Dolodrook River.

At breakfast, next morning, our prospective recruit departed to return to his car and we took a collective big breath for an immediate climb up to Brandy Pinch. The bush was alive with birdsong, gang-gang cockatoos were in attendance, and a small grey streak bounced through the trees: I think I just say a kangaroo, - Alan. The 360° view at the top compensated for the grunt so soon after breakfast. Mt Margaret, The Crinoline and the Sentinels were all sighted, and we could clearly see the previous days progress and pinpoint the next day's walk.

We grappled with the climb through the wonderfully named Valley of Destruction, and there was a tangible eagerness to reach our destination:-

*TALI KARG: TWILIGHT SNAKE:
IN THE CRATER LIES THE LAKE.*

Just over the next hill, round the corner, through the trees... and there it was. Anyone for a swim? The second day's diversion saw us packless, setting off for the Snowden Falls, and a circumnavigational ramble around the Lake, with the aim of collecting some fresh waterfall water - a very fine vintage it was too.

Day Three - and another grunt on top of breakfast, this time up to Echo Point. We were rewarded with a stunning view of Tali Karg and time to retreat into private contemplations. The morning had started off with a light drizzle, but this, together with a shower at lunch, was our only bad weather. In between we walked along the Rigall Spur which added the special ingredient: That glad-to-be-alive, early morning

well-being. Day Three's diversion occurred when we came across some hunters hauling in a large deer.

The fourth day was Adam's 29th birthday. Unfortunately we had no goodies left over for his treat. He, himself, had eaten the remainder of his chocolate the previous day. However, the half a dozen of us who clambered through the gentle, soothing Crolls Gorge before lunch persuaded him to pose for a birthday photo - Conqueror of the Gorge !

Our final diversion occurred near the end of the walk when we came across a baby red-bellied snake. It was slightly concussed from someone's boots, but nonetheless was quite good at trying to look tough in front of the circle of onlookers.

Many thanks to all who made up a great party. Special thanks to our leader Jean, to Pearson, her deputy, and Alan, the intrepid trailblazer !

Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes

"I have not often enjoyed a more serene possession of myself, nor felt more independent of material aids... and yet even while I was exulting in my solitude I became aware of a strange lack. I wished a companion to lie near me in the starlight, silent and not moving, but ever within touch. For there is a fellowship more quiet even than solitude, and which, rightly understood, is solitude made perfect. And to live out of doors with the woman a man loves is of all lives the most complete and free."

Robert Louis Stevenson

A Recommendation

Do you like to read by candlelight in your tent, but don't enjoy carrying a bulky paperback ? You need a Penguin 60s, or a Penguin 60s Classic. These miniature books cost only \$1.95, so you can't go far wrong.

Titles include -

James Herriot	Seven Yorkshire Tales
Jan Morris	From the Four Corners
Paul Theroux	Down the Yangtze
Beowulf & Grendel	Hannibal's Crossing of the Alps

Susan Maughan

Ramblings

On Your Bike!

Cycling is one of the many pleasant activities in which the members of his club indulge. There has not been much of it on the programme of late, so I want to rectify that with a trip or two in the Spring. I would like them to be fun trips, a mixture of road and track, suitable for both mountain and touring bikes. Any keen pedal-ophiles with ideas for good routes or a desire to lead them should get in touch.

Track Condition Reports

Federation has circulated some 'Track Condition Report Forms' to get information on walking tracks that are in need of maintenance due to fallen trees, inadequate marking, etc. Any leaders who come across tracks that need work are welcome to submit a report. Forms are available from the Walks Sec.

Pearson Cresswell

An Era Ends at Yark.

Pam and Alan have sold "The Yark" (on the Maroondah Highway about 24 km from Yea). They close their business on the 12th of May and will be doing an around Australia trip. Many Bushies have enjoyed their meals and home made ginger beer. The new owners will open after making some alterations, at a date yet to be announced.

Bill Metzenthien

Federation

The Annual General Meeting of the Federation will have been held by the time you read this News. The affiliation fee for clubs is likely to remain at \$5 per member (less for clubs based outside of Melbourne).

A new insurance policy has been negotiated which has resulted in an improved cover for about 1/3 the cost (down from \$1.90 to \$0.55 per member). In addition, the Federation is negotiating a personal injury policy which may be of interest to our Club.

New clubs continue to be formed. The Keilor Bushwalking Club has been started. The Scout Bushwalkers have applied for membership of the Federation.

Feral Cattle Survey: Baw Baw National Park

The club received a letter from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Rangers in the Erica District thanking those members who contributed their time to participate in the Feral Cattle Survey on the Baw Baw Plateau held on Sunday 17th March.

The letter goes on to say:

"Recordings from the day have been collated and have proved to be most valuable in determining movements and campsites of cattle. Evidence seems to highlight that there are two groups of cattle (rather than three as first thought); one group at Mustering Flat that utilises the Alpine Walking Track as a link to the Mt. Whitelaw area. The other group roams in the Baw Baw Village area. Some people on the day expressed their feelings of disappointment when they returned with no findings. Their lack of findings on the day proved just as important as any major finding, as it highlighted that there are areas on the plateau that cattle are not present, i.e., the south east area around Mt. Talbot and Mt. Erica."

New members

KRISTIN ADRIAN

CHRISTINE DENISON

FLORA NAOD-TURNER

KENNETH WILLIAM RENNEY

JOHN ROWE

LUCY RIZZI

BRENDA SHANAHAN

Altered Address/Phone

MICHAEL & ROBYN ANDERSSON

PENNY & TONY STAPLEY (NEWS subscriber)

GWYNNYTH TAYLOR (NEWS subscriber)

JANET BROOKSBANK

PHIL TAYLOR

TECK LONG CHIN

Committee Reports

MARC ALAN CLASS

Treasurer:

Accounts for April 1996

Opening Balance	\$60,423.44
Receipts	\$5,660.95
Payments	\$8,227.13
Closing Balance	\$57,857.26

MICHAEL CLODE

Walks Secretary:

Attendances for March

CHERYL COOKSEY

GEOFF COPE

	Trips	Av
Sunday Bus	5	37.6
Pack Carry	2	12.5
Base Camp	3	10
Wed,Hist, Dandenongs	3	7.7
Canoe	1	16
<u>Total</u>	14	

ROS DEBENHAM

LOU GREEN

GRAEME LAIDLAW

Membership:

SHIRLEY LAVERS

Life Members		11
Honorary Members		11
Single Memberships		370
Family Memberships	(2x 48 =)	96
Total membership		488

MARY LEONARD

ANNE MC KENZIE

Duty Roster

MICHAEL PIROTTA

8th May	Ralph & Jean
15th May	Judy & Lloyd
22nd May	Patricia & Janet
29th May	Bill & Jenny
5th June	Jean & Peter

MICHAEL JAMES RAPSON

Next committee meeting 3rd June, 1996

LAWRENCE RENNER

The NEWS of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

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