



# The NEWS

of the

## MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

NOVEMBER 1996

EDITION 549

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### Christmas Party

Wednesday 18th December

7pm ..... Onwards

Everyone is welcome !! Come and help celebrate the conclusion of another successful year for the Melbourne Bushies at the

**Golden Gate Hotel**

239 Clarendon Street,  
South Melbourne

(change of venue, due to Hall unavailability)

\* Drinks at bar prices

\* Please bring a plate of food to share

**'Come dressed in Christmas Spirit'**

& reminisce, plan new trips, renew old acquaintances and have a really good time.



### Wilkinson Lodge Spring Clean

#### Work Party

December 14-15th

The previous work party had to be postponed as the road was not open

Things to be done include general cleaning, cutting and stacking wood, re installing electric fence, installing new cupboard and bench in store room etc.

Contact Doug Pocock on

#### Slide Night

Wednesday 27th November 8pm

clubrooms

Pearson Cresswell

Walking in Iceland

#### Movie Night

The First Wives Club

starring Goldie Hawn, Bette Midler and Diane Keaton

Saturday 16th November 9pm

Jam Factory Cinema

500 Chapel St

South Yarra

Lets meet around 7pm and have Dinner

Cost \$7.50 per ticket or  
a book of 10 tickets at \$6.50 each

Final numbers and payment by  
Wednesday evening 13th Nov.

See Marisa for more information or phone

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### Federation

Due to the timing of meetings, there has been no Federation Council meeting since my last Federation column, so there is little new to report this month.

Volunteers are still needed for critical functions, for example someone is needed to take care of Federation publicity. Contact Alan Clarke if you would like to help.

The Federation office is now open at 241 Swan St, Richmond (east of Church St).

*Bill Metzenthien*

### From the Editor

As most of the Committee were going on Melbourne Cup Weekend Walks the committee meeting will be held next Monday evening 11th November. Therefore there are few committee reports in this issue.

Also last month Janet gave me her President's Prose which I managed to lose. I do apologise to Janet. Next time I will type it into the computer as soon as I get it.

One thing I do recollect Janet mentioning in this was that Fred and Merle Halls have moved to the Kingston Centre. They have donated a large collection of walking books and material to the club which has been very much appreciated. Much of this material is now out of print and is a very valuable resource to our library.

I have just returned from a long weekend walk in the Grampians where the wildflowers were superb. One of the party has promised to write a walk report for the next issue. However it was a very good weekend. Thanks Jean.

To my knowledge the Club has still not heard anything further about the Clubrooms so we continue to look for alternative rooms. We have located a couple of places where we could hold meetings but they do not have any storage. If anyone knows of anywhere else to look please contact me or anyone else on the committee.

I know that everyone gets extra busy at this time of the year so could all leaders get their walk previews in promptly please.

*Judy Gipps*

**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 .  
**emailed** to peter.gipps@dbce.csiro.au

#### 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 **December 96 News** is 27th November 96

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



**Sunday 15th December 1996**  
**Easy & Medium**

**Flagpole Hill**  
**Flowerdale**

**Leaders:** Peter Havlicek & Jean Giese  
**Transport:** Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am  
**Area:** Mt Robertson State Forest  
**Expected time of return:** 7 pm  
**Approximate length of walk:** 14 & 19 km  
**Map Reference:** Pheasant Creek & Flowerdale 1:25,000

Both groups begin on tracks in light forest before reaching a ridge and open spur with glorious views for almost half the walk.

The medium walkers will climb 220 m then descend 100m to cross Gum Creek then climb another 200m before gaining the ridge.

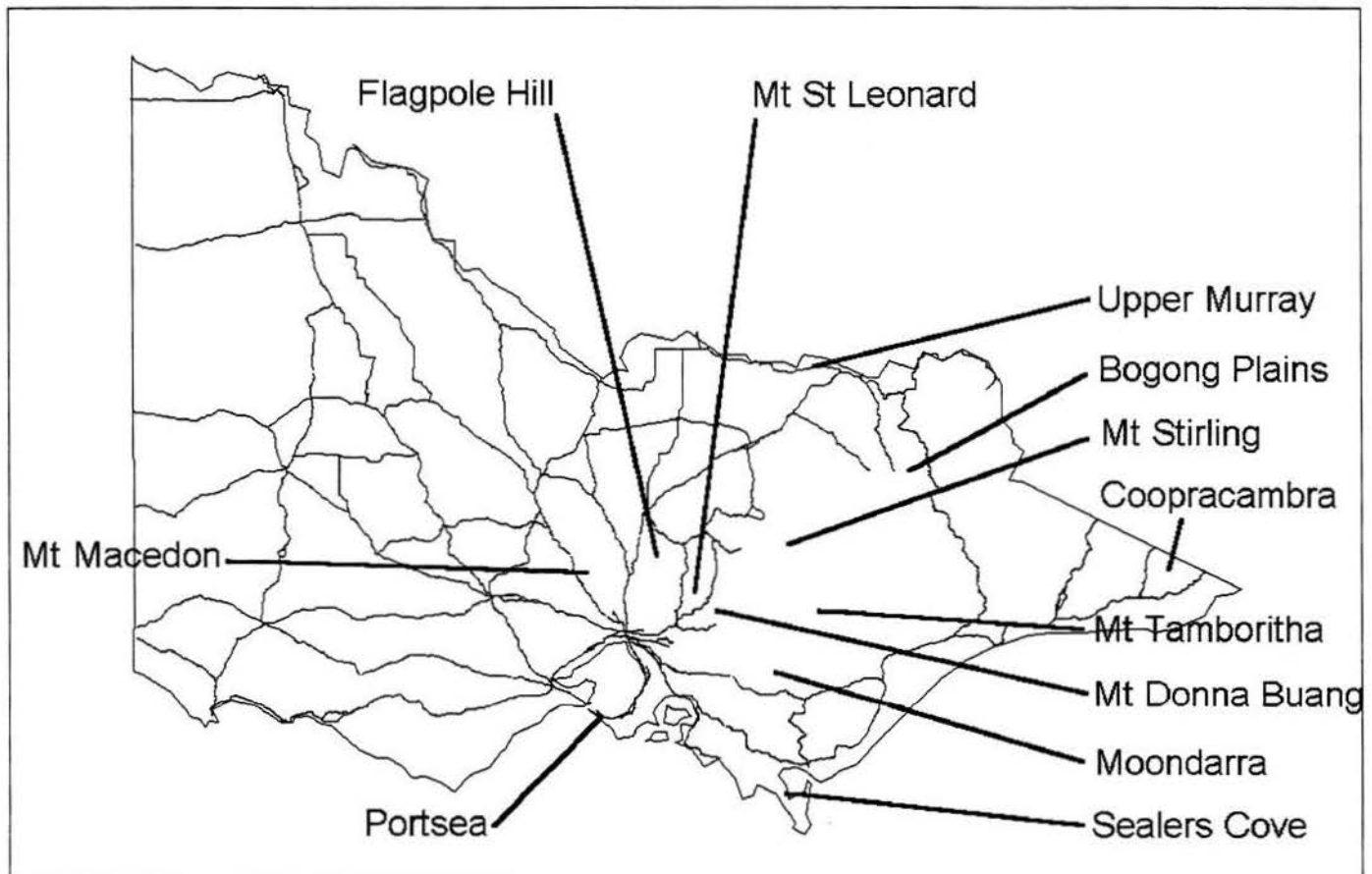
The easy group (well almost easy/medium) will have one climb only of 250m but we will take our time, making it suitable for easy walkers who enjoy a little challenge. The views are well worth the effort.

**Sunday 22nd December 1996**  
**Easy/Medium & Medium**

**Mt St Leonard**

**Leaders:** Brian Crouch & Anne Wilkins  
**Transport:** Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am  
**Area:** North of Healesville  
**Expected time of return:** 7.00 pm  
**Approximate length of walk:** 16 & 20 km  
**Map Reference:** Juliet North and Toolangi 1:25,000

Both walks will start by climbing through lush forest to the top of Blue Mount. We will then walk around the Toolangi Potato Research Farm before climbing Mt St Leonard. We expect to get spectacular views from Mt St Leonard Summit of surrounding Forest areas and distant peaks. After descending from Mt St Leonard we will walk via some 'little Known' tracks to a lookout below Blue Mount. The walk will then continue through more beautiful forest before ending at PATRICIA HILL's property 'THE RETREAT' with a possibility of Afternoon tea and maybe a swim. There is nothing like a good bush walk to get you into the Christmas spirit.



## Previews for December Weekend & Christmas Trips

**6-8 December 1996**  
**Medium/Hard**

**Mt Stirling**

**Leaders:** Gina Hopkins  
**Transport:** Private  
**Area:** Mt Stirling  
**Expected time of return:** Sunday Evening

This will be a weekend pack carry in the Mt Stirling region. Please contact Gina for details of this walk

**13-15 December 1996**  
**Easy**

**Sealers Cove**  
**Wilson's Prom**

**Leaders:** Mary Leonard  
**Transport:** Private  
**Area:** Wilson's Prom  
**Expected time of return:** Sunday Evening

Sealers Cove is an easy 11 km walk from the Mt Oberon Car Park at Wilsons Prom. This is an ideal time of the year to visit the Prom. The weather is good and there will be opportunities for swimming. For more details contact Mary.

**26-29 December 1996**  
**Easy**

**Upper Murray River**  
**Canoe Trip**

**Leaders:** Doug Pocock  
**Transport:** Private  
**Area:** Upper Murray  
**Approximate distance from Melbourne:** 400 Km approx

I have booked canoes for this trip, which will be a repeat of the trip done six years ago. As usual for longer trips it will be for members only and people must have had some canoeing experience. It is also necessary that participants have paddling experience with their canoe partner. This will be one day less than in other years but will still be an easy, leisurely trip with plenty of swimming. (Be warned there may be nakedness). Deposits will be required. Contact Doug Pocock for further details

**26-Dec 96 - 1 Jan 97**  
**Easy**

**Bogong High Plains**  
**Pack Carry**

**Leaders:** Jean Giese  
**Transport:** Private  
**Area:** Victorian Alps  
**Expected time of return:** 6 pm  
**Map Reference:** Feathertop 1:25,000

Commence at Diamantina hut at 9.00 am and walk the Razorback to camp at top of Diamantina Spur.

Day 2 will be with day packs exploring Feathertop part of the North section of the Razorback and NW Spur to MUMC hut.

Day 3 we'll descend the Diamantina Spur to West branch of Kiewa River and visit Blairs and Weston's Huts.

Day 4 onto the High Plains, Mt Jim and camp near High Plains Creek falls.

Day 5 up to the Australian Walking Track, Basalt Temple and Cobungra Gap.

Day 6 UAW Track up Swindlers Spur to Derrick Hut then a side trip to Spargo hut.

Day 7 Mt Lock, Mt Hotham.

**26 Dec 96 - 1 Jan 97**  
**Medium**

**Coopracambra National Park**

**Leaders:** Jopie Bodegraven  
**Transport:** Private  
**Area:** Far East Gippsland  
**Expected time of return:** Sometime on the 1st Jan  
**Map Reference:** Craigie 1:100,000

I've been trying to get to this area for a long time. Last November I tried it on Pearson's trip but heavy rain and floods made us abort that one. Here I go again. Grant da Costa describes this trip in his book "Car Touring and Bushwalking in East Gippsland". Also from other sources I know that the Genoa River flows through a beautiful gorge with red sandstone cliffs, sandy beaches, cascades over terraced rocks plus some scrubby bits. Negotiating the gorge will involve wading, some scrub and if the water levels are high, some swimming with packs waterproofed with garbages. Normally in summer the levels are too low to lilo (which is my preferred mode of river travel) but the water should be delightfully warm and swimming for fun is definitely on the agenda.

Day 1, Boxing Day, will be a leisurely trip to our finish point at Wangarabell where we will camp.

Day 2 is a shortish car shuffle and walking down a tributary creek to the main river.

Day 3 will be explore upstream.

Days 4 to 6 will be simply following the river downstream through its gorge and falling in the river if it gets too hot.

Day 7 is flexible but will probably find most of us getting back to Melbourne.

I may have to limit numbers on this trip.

26-31 December 96 Shaw's Creek-Mt Tamboritha  
Easy/Medium Base Camp

Leaders: Alan Miller  
Transport: Private  
Area: South End of Alpine National Park  
Map Reference: VMTC Snowy Plains,  
Mt Kent & Tali Karng 1:50,000  
Tamboritha-Moroka 1:50,000

A variety of day walks will be organised to some of the creeks, gorges and waterfalls in the area. We will be camping at about 1300m above sea level, so be prepared for cold weather - or hot ! Possible trips to Shaw's Creek Gorge and waterfalls, Bryces Gorge, Scrubby Hill - Mt Reynard, Mt Tamboritha-Breakfast Creek, etc etc. Camp site will be close to cars on back creek near where it joins Shaw's Creek.

### Tent Show - Outdoors

Sunday 17th November

10 am - 4 pm

Edinburgh Gardens, North Fitzroy

On display will be the full range of lightweight tents currently available.

### WALK ALSACE

Enjoy the gastronomic delights and superb wines of Alsace, France on a 7 day self-guided walking tour through vineyards, medieval villages and the forests of the Vosges Mountains. With a map and instructions provided by the local walking club and your picnic lunch you set off at your own pace for the next hotel (about 15 km) as your luggage is transported ahead.

\$900 per person twin share including excellent accommodation and all meals.

**PH: 9415 1588 FAX: 9415 1590**

*This is a private advertisement and is accepted as a service to Members only. These are NOT official Club trips.*

### Conservation

The Mount Stirling EES review panel has completed its hearings.

A wide range of people appeared before the panel. One of the most notable was a woman who had been skiing at Mt Stirling for a number of years with three generations of her family. In the few minutes of her presentation, by little more than simply recounting her own experiences, she presented a powerful and passionate case for leaving the mountain free of downhill skiing "development".

On separate days, Sylvia Wilson made a presentation to the panel on behalf of the school where she teaches, Ralph Blake made a personal presentation, and I made a presentation on behalf of the Club.

The submissions and presentations which promoted downhill development were relatively few and many of these were of relatively poor quality. Many of these submissions were simply "form" letters.

One of the points which was made by a number of parties in favour of downhill development was that Mt Buller is often over-crowded. Many of the submissions which opposed downhill development, including our own, addressed this issue. Amazingly, Buller Ski Lifts Ltd, which is the main potential beneficiary of development, boldly stated that in their view Mt Buller does not suffer from over-crowding. However, they expect over-crowding to occur in two or three years from now. Available information on the trends of skier numbers does not support this proposition.

The next stage will be political. If you have not yet signed the petition against the destruction of our values at Mt Stirling, then please do so. This will be important in getting the attention of the politicians. There are almost 20,000 signatures so far. In addition it will be essential to make sure that your political representatives know your views when they are making the crucial decisions.

Moving on to another topic, the Federation conservation committee has decided to try splitting responsibility for the background work required for making submissions etc. The work is being divided on the basis of the region of the State. I have agreed to do this work for the mostly alpine areas from the Bogong National Park to the western side of the Kosciusko National Park. A number of other people have also volunteered. More are needed. Please consider volunteering, especially if you have a favourite area which you care about; your help will be greatly appreciated.

*Bill Metzenthien*

**Past Members**

RICHARD GINTEL

Richard left Melbourne recently. He was a regular Sunday Walker and wishes all of his friends Best Wishes.

**New members**

(pending approval by committee):

GLENN BERRY

STEPHEN MIDDLETON

CARMEN RECKE

LANCE MOBBS

IRENE TKALCEVIC

**Altered Address/Phone**

DOWNAPHA EKINTUMAS

LARS LINDAHL

**Committee Reports**

*November Committee meeting had not been held at the time of going to press.*

**Membership:**

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Life Members                | 11  |
| Honorary Members            | 11  |
| Single Memberships          | 348 |
| Family Memberships (2x 45=) | 90  |
| Total membership            | 460 |

Next committee meeting 11th November, 1996

# NITMILUK

**Aboriginal Land.**

In combination with Manyallaluk Aboriginal Cultural Tours, we are proud to offer you the chance to experience a small part of their culture combined with a walk through the Katherine Gorge system, visiting places that the average tourist can never see.

The first day and a half is spent with Aboriginal guides. They will show you the bush tucker and medicines that are in season. They will show you their art, both ancient and modern, and tell you some of their stories. You spend the next five days carrying a pack as you follow the gorge for its full length, stopping to explore some of the cool and shady side gorges along the way.

**Help preserve a park.**

Introduced weed species cannot be controlled unless they are first properly mapped. This mapping is best done during the wet season. Our February trip offers you the chance to assist the park by helping us continue the mapping we began last year.

**Please ask for our bushwalking holiday brochure.**

**12 Carrington St. Millner NT 0810**

Phone: (08) 8985 2134      Fax: (08) 8985 2355

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