



The NEWS

of the

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

FEBRUARY 1997

EDITION 552

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PRICE 60 cents

Saturday 1 March 1997
Tough

SPIT ROAST
Al's Place in Cockatoo

Leaders: Marisa Rizzuto, Alan Ide
Transport: Private
Area: 19 Caroline Avenue, Cockatoo
Map Reference: Melways 188 H6
RSVP: Marisa by 14th Feb (9529 8026)
Cost: \$8.00
BYO: Salad/Desert, Drinks, Sleeping Bag(?)
Time: 4.00 pm till whenever you leave

All Bushies are cordially invited to attend the above social at my place up in the hills. When you RSVP Marisa she will tell you whether to bring a Salad or Desert. Meat is provided. If you don't want to drive back late and/or intoxicated bring a sleeping bag and book some space on the floor. Bring CD's to play if you wish. Badminton and dodgy pool table also available. (Lloyd please note: I have a spa and will fill it with ice cold water especially for you!)

NOTE: Marisa would appreciate that all who are interested in attending to please RSVP by Feb 14th and the cost of \$8.00 is also to be paid by that date.

SLIDE NIGHT

Wed 12th March 7.45pm Clubrooms

Marian Lester of "Sirius Adventures"
Kununurra, East Kimberley, WA

Will present a slide show featuring the Kimberley, Kakadu and Keep National Parks to whet everyone's appetites for the wonders that are northern Australia

Myer Music Bowl Free Concerts

Wed 5th, Sat 8th, Wed 12th, Sat 15th
February

Come and join us with a picnic lunch and/or bottle of vino in the middle of the middle as far before 7.00pm as possible.

Sylvia Ford (Wilson)

Notice

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc

will be held on

Wednesday 26 February 1997 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.

Carnarvon Gorge, Qld, Warrambungles, and New England Rainforests.

Sept 20th - Oct 3rd, 1997

Expressions of interest needed asap as I have to book camp sites.

Private transport Approx \$300
til 20.2.97
thereafter Sylvia Ford (Wilson)

Murray River Canoeing 28 Feb - 2 March

Suitable for Beginners

Please make your bookings to George Zamora on

Wilky Winter Bookings

open
5th March, 1997

See article in **News**

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Missing

Wonnangatta Moroka National Park

by John Sizeman

This book has gone missing from the clubrooms. It would be appreciated that whoever borrowed it return it as several walks are planned in that area and it would make a useful reference.

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

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 **MARCH 97 News** is **26th February 97**

Annual Report for 1996

President's Report

The Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. has continued to thrive with an enthusiastic and energetic membership.

Our Walks Program is always interesting and encompasses a wide variety of walks and other related activities. The Walk Secretaries do an excellent job of enlisting leaders. It is pleasing to note the expertise of these leaders in handling the various incidents that occur along the track. The maintaining and development of these skills and knowledge is one the Committee considers important.

At this stage we are able to maintain the current fee for our Sundays trips.

We have continued our commitment to conservation and this year from the interest gained from our "Special Account" designated to Conservation we donated \$1450 to the V.N.P.A. for their "Hands off the Prom" campaign and \$400 to the Federation to assist with the publication of a Conservation Pamphlet.

Our accommodation at McKenzie Street has been uncertain for most of the year as changes are being made to the use of the building. Alternative accommodation has been investigated but as our requirements have not been realised as yet, we have opted to stay until we are given definite notice. We envisage this happening in the new year.

The Committee in 1996 has again proven to be a very hard working and competent Committee and on behalf of you the Members I thank them for all the time and effort they devote to the Club. There are many members who do a lot for the Club but I would like to particularly thank Margaret Borden who answers all the requests for prospective members as well as the general public.

After seven years on the committee, two as president, I have decided not to stand again, I have enjoyed my time on the committee and wish you all the best for 1997.

Janet Norman

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

Previews for March Day Walks

Saturday 1 March 1997
Easy/Medium

Cockatoo
Cycling

Leaders: Pearson Cresswell
Transport: Private
Area: Dandenongs
Approximate length of trip: 40 km

Please note change of location from Walks Program.

Although listed in the programme as "Kinglake" I have changed the venue to Cockatoo to tie in with Alan Ide's spit roast: a bit of fitness training before the main event. The ride will start and finish at Alan's place (Melways 188 H6) and cover 40-50 km in the general direction of Beenak. I'll keep the distance down as I believe there are hills out that way.

Sunday 2nd March
Easy & Easy/Medium

Moorabool River

Leaders: Ian Hoad & David Laing
Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Area: Bungal State Forest, south of Ballan
Approx time of return: 6.30 pm
Approximate length of walk: 12 & 16 km
Map reference: Lai Lai, Yaloak 1:25,000

The Easy walk will be along the bank of Bungal Creek and then a short stretch of the Moorabool River, returning via woodland along a road. The Easy/Medium walk will be along a longer section of the Moorabool River, returning along Bungal Creek. Both walks will require occasional climbs over or around bluffs. Sock-length gaiters may be handy against burrs and grass seeds.

Sunday 9th March 1997
Easy/Medium & Medium

Anglesea East & West

Leaders: Monika Hollander & Peter Havlicek
Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Area: Anglesea
Expected time of return: 7.00 pm
Approximate length of walk: 17 & 21km
Map Reference: Anglesea 1:25000 (7721-3)

The walks follow the "Surf Coast Walk" track. We plan to start at Bells Beach but if the weather is too hot, we shall downgrade the walks to Easy-Medium and Easy by starting from Point Addis, so taking 4 km off. The state of the tide means that only the first few kms will be on sand with most of the walk to Anglesea in the coastal bush with the occasional spectacular view of the ocean. The easier walk will conclude with a circuit of Anglesea, a chance to pickle tootsies in brine and to assail the local ice-cream shops. The harder walkers continue past the Anglesea golf course ('roos galore!), over Mount(!) Ingoldsby (121 m) to Urquart Bluff lookout with the bus waiting for them before picking up the easy walkers in Anglesea.

Sunday 16th March 1997
Easy/Medium & Medium

Noojee State Forest
Bellbird Creek-Tarago

Leaders: John Kittson & Stuart Mann
Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Area: South of Warragul
Approximate length of walk: 12 & 21 km
Map Reference: Neerim & Tarago maps 1:25,000
Expected time of return: 7.00pm

The two walks are in a heavily forested area but are on good tracks.

The medium group will pass close to the Tarago reservoir.

This should make a good autumn walk.

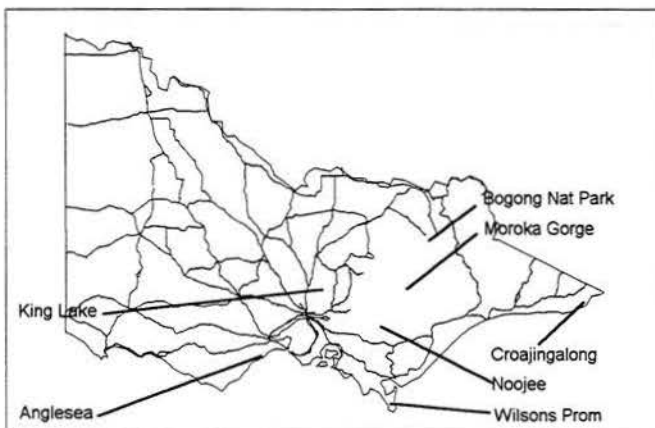
Wednesday 19th March 1997
Easy/Medium

Nepean State Park

Leaders: Joan Haigh
Transport: Private
Area: Greens Bush
Expected time of return: 6.00 pm
Approximate length of walk: 14 -16 Km
Map Reference: Melways 253,254,259,260

Meet at Jean Giese's Alfred Cres, Surrey Hills at 8.30am or Baldrey's Crossing 10am.

Commencing at Baldry's Crossing we shall walk along the edge of the park. Limestone & Rogers Rd to Long Point and return along the Highfield to Baldry's Crossing track. A lovely area with fern gullies and grass trees.



**Saturday 22nd March 1997 Dandenongs Explorer
Easy**

Leaders: Helene Hunt
Transport: Private
Area: Olinda State Forest
Approximate length of walk: 13 km
Map Reference: Melways 66KZ
Expected time of return: 4.30 pm

Come and join me on a ramble through Olinda Forest. We will meet at The Falls Reserve Picnic Area (M66 KZ) at 10.45am.

We will leave at 11.00am, have lunch at Silvan Dam, afternoon tea at Valley Picnic Ground and then through lovely bushland back to the Falls Picnic Area. The walk is easy, with a few slight inclines.

If you are coming by Public Transport the train arrives at Upper Ferntree Gully station at 10.32. Please ring me at home on 9579 2309 to arrange to be picked up from the station.

We have done this walk last year at the end of May, but it should be slightly different in different weather conditions. You may remember the lovely cakes that we found at the Coffee Shop after the walk ? Please join me for coffee and cake at the Teddy Bear Coffee Shop afterwards - the more the merrier !

My office telephone number is

**Sunday 23rd March 1997 Federation Day Walk
Various Kinglake**

Leaders: Margaret Borden
Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 8.30 am
Area: Kinglake
Expected Time of return: 6.00 pm
Map Reference: Kinglake Outdoor Leisure, etc

The host club for this Federation Day walk is The Walking Club of Victoria and leaders for all walks will be members of this club. The starting times for the various walks commence from 8am but we do not anticipate being at the meeting place at Kinglake West until approx 10am, hopefully in time for the following walks only -

10.00am	Mason's Falls/Mt Sugarloaf	14km
10.00am	Victoria Range from Marginal Rd	16km
10.15am	Mystery walk	15km
11.00am	Boundary/Wallaby Track	4.5km
1.15pm	Boundary/Wallaby Track	4.5km

The first three will possibly be an Easy/Medium category and the last two "easy" and may be of some interest to those with young children.

Please note the hosts advise there will be a \$1 levy from all to cover park fees and petrol from the meeting place to commencement of walks. It is also necessary to register for chosen walk and pay the levy 10 mins prior to starting time. Afternoon tea will be provided and please bring a mug.

If anybody would like to do any of the earlier walks i.e. 8am for 22k "3 mountains" walk, 8.30 for 16km, Mt Robertson Forest, 8.45 for 19km "3 mountains" plus others 11-16km, please contact me for details. Private transport will be necessary.

Native Plant Sale

**March Long Weekend
Frid-Mon 7th-10th March**

*Bindelong Nursury
55 Railway Pde
Wandin Nth*

Membership Secretary's Report 1996

The Membership Secretary's regular duties include: the maintenance of the register of members' particulars (address, 'phone, subscription status) the collection of subscriptions giving advice about membership to potential or new members assisting in the preparation of membership lists and in mailing the **News**.

As at the beginning of 1997, the membership of the Club was 483 (1996: 469) including 11 Life and 11 Honorary members.

The number of members increased during 1996 with 87 new members (1996: 103) joining and only 73 (1996: 67) members relinquishing their membership.

In parallel with the activity of Margaret Borden, who responds to enquiries received on the Club's 'phone number, the Membership Secretary responded to postal enquiries, some 20-30 over the year, by mailing walks programmes and other information about the Club.

In conclusion, members would help very much if they could let the Secretary know as soon as practicable when their address, home or work 'phone have changed. It has happened that quite suddenly, the **News** have started returning with a "Not at this address" stamp. Also, prompt payment of 1997 subs within the subscription period (within 3 months after the AGM) would be greatly appreciated. To help as a reminder as necessary, the mailing label during these months will carry a discreet 'SubsDue' message.

On Behalf of all Leaders Collecting Money

Please try and have correct money for walk booking if possible - it really helps and particularly if paying on Sunday. We've recently had people offering \$100 notes - we're not bus conductors with bags of change !

Previews for March Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks and a new one in February

15-16th Feb 1997 **Lake Mountain**
Easy **Pack Carry**

Leaders: Jean Giese
Transport: Private
Area: Lake Mountain
Approx Distance for walk: 30km
Map Reference: Marysville - Lake Mountain 1:30,000
Outdoor Leisure Map

This is not on the printed Walks Programme but Walks Secretary Pearson has given the O.K. If you are not into liloing (programmed activity this weekend) you may like to join me in wondering around Lake Mountain. We hope to carry our packs to a campsite and then do some exploring with only a day pack.

We'll start from Garraty's car park at 9.30am Saturday. If terribly hot weather is forecast we may call it off.

28th Feb - 2nd March 1997 **Murray River Canoeing**
Easy(Suitable for Beginners)

Leaders: George Zamora
Transport: Private
Area: Echuca
Location: Barmah to Echuca
Approx Distance from Melbourne: 238 km
Map Reference: River Murray Charts - Maureen Wright

I propose to start at Barmah next to the Barmah Bridge and paddle downstream to the Port of Echuca. We will camp on the river on Saturday night and should arrive at Echuca Wharf on Sunday afternoon. The distance is 50 km and it is smooth water paddling all the way. You will see magnificent river red gums, sandy beaches, no people, the chance to catch a fish, beautiful camping sites - in short a trip to remember. It will be an easy trip with lots of swim stops.

Echuca holds a place in history as Australia's busiest inland port during the late 1800s, handling cargo from hundreds of river boats annually. It is the centre of steamboat activity. The old wharf and restored port of Echuca add to the historic atmosphere.

Now a word of warning - it will be hot - old pyjamas and plenty of 15+ and a hat! A car shuffle will be necessary.

For those people who don't know the area of Echuca [THIS TRIP IS A MUST](#)

7th -10th March 1997 **Moroka Gorge**
Medium **Pack Carry**

Leaders: Jopie Bodegraven
Transport: Private
Area: North of Licola
Expected time of return: Late Monday
Map Reference: Tamboritha-Moroka 1:50,000

The mission for this long weekend is to thoroughly explore Moroka Gorge and further downstream just to see what's there. Meeting point will be the Horseyards at 9.00am on

Saturday morning. Saturday we will walk into the gorge and camp well into it where there are some campsites which hopefully haven't been nicked by some other group. We will also check the route through the narrow possibly tricky part of the gorge for the following day. On Sunday we will traverse said tricky bit for which we may need to float packs and swim a short section so bring 2 big orange glad bags for waterproofing. We will then proceed downstream as far as we feel inclined to a hopefully nice but unknown campsite. On Monday we will climb out over Cromwell Knob (900 to 1000m climb) and walk back to the cars.

7th -10th March 1997 **Moroka Gorge - Tarli Karng**
Easy **Pack Carry**

Leaders: Jean Giese
Transport: Private
Area: Wonnangatta - Moroka Nat. Pk
Expected time of return: Monday night
Approximate length of walk: 62 km (4 without packs)
Map Reference: Tamboritha-Moroka 1:50,000 & Licola Wellington 1:50,000

This long-weekend walk is graded easy because we'll only carry packs for about 22km but we will have strenuous day walks without them.

Day 1: Day walk into Moroka Gorge and return to camp at Horseyard Flat (14k - 200m descent and ascent)

Day 2: Early start drive to McFarlane's Saddle and carry packs 11k to camp at secluded spot I sussed out 2 years ago near Nigothorouk Creek. Side trip down Riggalls Spur to Tarli Karng and back up Gillio's Track (14k., 600 climb back)

Day 3: Side trip to Sentinels and back (10k) then return with packs to cars.

I think this is a lovely way to visit Tarli Karng without joining the hordes camping in the small area available at Tarli Karng but you have to be prepared for early starts and fairly long days - but we'll have time to appreciate the beauty.

14th-16th March 1997 **Wilson's Prom**
Easy/Medium **Roaring Meg & Lighthouse**

Leaders: Anne Wilkins
Transport: Private
Expected time of return: Sunday evening
Area: Southern end of Wilson's Prom NP
Map Reference: Outdoor Leisure Map - Wilsons Prom NP
Length of walk: 37km
Distance from Melbourne: 230km

Wilson's Promontary National Park is the southern most point on the Australian Mainland, and this walk will take us to the Lighthouse with some great views over Bass Strait, camping at the Roaring Meg Camping Area along the way.

We'll stay at Tidal River on Friday Night and start the walk from the Mt. Oberon Car Park on Saturday morning. It will no doubt be a fantastic summer weekend.

**14th-16th March 1997
Hard****Wilson's Prom in a Day**

Leaders: Marilyn Whimpey
Transport: Private
Area: South Gippsland
Expected Time of return: 9pm Sunday 16 March
Approx length of walk: 45km (Saturday)
Map reference: Wilsons Promontory National Park (Algona)

Starting at 7 am, we will walk the standard circuit: Sealers Cove – Refuge Cove – Waterloo Bay – Oberon Bay – Tidal River, swimming whenever we come to a suitable beach. (Warning – nude bodies will be seen.) The walk takes 11-12 hours and you need to be fairly fit.

On Sunday we'll see how we feel before deciding what to do, but it won't be anything strenuous.

**14th-16th March 1997
Easy****Bogong National Park
Work Party**

Leaders: Doug Pocock
Transport: Private
Expected time of return: Sunday Evening
Map Reference: Bogong High Plains Leisure Map

Now is the time for good and true people to rally to the cause and fly the Melbourne Bushies flag by helping the rangers on a project on the High Plains. I hope we will have a good turnout of willing workers. This can also double as an "Introduction to Wilky" weekend.

As usual this will be "Lunch and Dinner Catered For" come along for a fun filled satisfying weekend.

**21st-23rd March 1997
Medium****Cobbler Plateau & Waterfalls
Pack Carry**

Leaders: Pearson Cresswell
Transport: Private
Approximate length of walk: 20-25 km
Map Reference: Howitt-Selwyn 1:50,000

Dandongadde Falls are well known, but the map indicates a number of falls around the Cobbler Plateau. The object of this trip is to try to find some of them. We shall camp at Bennies on Friday Night. Starting from Cobbler Lake we will explore the plateau, look for waterfalls and climb the peaks too. Be prepared for scrub bashing.

**28th March - 11th April 1997
Medium & Medium/Hard****Budawangs-Woila Ck
NSW South Coast
3 Backpacks**

Leaders: Jopie Bodegraven
Transport: Private
Area: Southern NSW

This trip is in 3 parts.

The first is a 3 day backpack in the Woila area east of Cooma where the Monara Tablelands break away towards the coast. It is described by the Canberra Bushies as "some of the most magnificent ridge walking country in South East Australia." It includes one day with day packs which could probably be classified as hard.

The Budawangs is well known for its spectacular and conglomerate cliffines, its beautiful rock formations and its

superb views and our remaining 2 sections are spent in this wonderland.

The first is a 3 day walk taking in Quilty's Mountain, Hidden Valley, Sturgiss Mountain, Folly Point and Sluice Box Falls.

The second is a 5 day walk including Monolith Valley, The Castle, Shrouded Gods Mountain, Mt Owen, Mt Tarn, Crooked Falls and more. Two of the 5 days will be with day packs only.

We will drive up in daylight on Friday and we can get to a supermarket in Ulladulla between the 2 Budawang sections. We may also do some short half day walks to waterfalls and other scenic places if we have time before returning home.

If you are pressed for time and only have one week, you could still do the Woila, the 3 day first Budawangs section and if weather hasn't delayed us, a day walk up the spectacular caste and still have Sunday the 6th to drive home.

Please let me know on ph _____ by the end of February if you wish to be part of this exciting trip.

**28th-31st March 1997
Easy & Medium****Croajingalong National Park
Base Camp & Pack Carry**

Leaders: Stephen Rowlands & Lloyd Young
Transport: Private
Approximate length of walk: 40-60km (Pack Carry)
Map Reference: Cann-Point Hicks 1:50000, Outdoor Leisure and Topographic Map Mallacoota

Hopefully by the time of printing of the "News", I should have more information about the campsite at Thurra River or Ingan Inlet. The base camp will hopefully be staying at one of the two campsites which we can use as a base to explore coast and hinterland, or maybe just lying around the beach, depending on the weather. Campsite fee(s) will be divided up among the users (cost not known at this stage).

Lloyd will be leading the pack carry which will start just outside Mallocoota and follow the coast back to the base campers.

More information can be obtained from "Walk 82" page 82 or from Grant Da Costa "Car Touring & Bush Walking in East Gippsland or ring one of the leaders.



Enjoying the flora and fauna at Fraser NP
(Photo by Harry Dimech)

Walks Secretary's Report 1996

Yearly attendance totals for the 5 years 1992 - 1996

Year	Total	Day	Weekend		Members	Visitors	No.tripps
			total	pack carry			
1996	2,937	2,443	594	335	2,337*	600*	148
1995	2,993	2,402	591	323	2,256	737	146
1994	2,719	2,189	530	304	2,058	661	139
1993	2,651	2,127	524	287	2,035	616	138
1992	2,630	2106	524	236	2,090	540	134

*Estimate: data for visitor numbers are incomplete

Jan-Dec 1996 Statistics (1995 in ())

Walk type	No. trips		Average attendance	
Sunday bus	51	(50)	37.9	(39.1)
Pack carry	40	(36)	8.4	(9.0)
Base camp	15	(15)	11.7	(11.3)
Lodge	5	(5)	16.8	(19.4)
Wednesday	12	(12)	10.1	(10.1)
Dandenongs	11	(10)	13.9	(11.6)
Historical	7	(10)	12.1	(12.9)
Other	7	(8)	7.4	(10.1)
Cancelled	7	(7)		

1996 was another good year for the club with the level and spread of activities being remarkably similar to the previous year. This may mean that we are becoming set in our ways, but I have not heard anyone complaining. I have reintroduced cycle trips to the programme for added variety.

Highlights of the year included the very popular bus trips to Lower Glenelg and Hattah/Kulkyne National Parks, mountain rescue at Mt. Speculation, the Rawson weekend (31 present) and a Dandenongs Explorer to Olinda which attracted 30 keen people. Less memorable was the generally awful weather during the ski season, though that did not stop us from getting out amongst it.

The Sunday Bus trips continue to be the mainstay of the club's programme. Attendances in 1996 ranged from a low of 23 to a high of 53 (ie. a full bus + some cars). There was concern last year that the demand for bus transport was rising and that we were going to hit the roof. This does not seem to have happened as the average attendance has remained steady at about 38. 'Bus full' days occur, but not so often as to need action.

The supply of leaders remains a problem. Out of a total membership of 480, less than 40 are regular leaders which is barely sufficient to support our busy programme. Some of our leaders are definitely over-worked. So, to all you prospective leaders out there: It's not so hard and the skills that you pick up are very valuable and much appreciated by your fellow walkers. Get into it.

Thanks to all those who attended meetings of the walks sub-committee, which is responsible for drawing up the programme. Special thanks to Lloyd Young (Assistant Walks Secretary, responsible for Sunday walks), Margaret Borden (Wednesday walks), Michael Humphrey (Dandenongs Explorers) and Athol Schafer (Historicals).

Pearson Cresswell
Walks Secretary 1996

Wilkinson Lodge Report 1996/7

Lodge usage for the twelve months was 680 visitor nights which includes 359 non-member nights. Non-member includes members' families and groups from other clubs. These figures are down on last year (759 and 429 respectively).

The Lodge was booked for only 10 weeks over winter this year, being six MBW groups (some of which included visitors) and 4 other club groups. This lower winter use was only partly offset by higher summer use, hence the reduction in income.

Works carried out this year have been ongoing cleaning, painting and general repairs etc. Many thanks to Maroondah Bushwalkers for their usual sterling job in carting, splitting and stacking the wood supply. The National Park work party was a success with a new pole line installed from the aqueduct to Wallaces Hut. I would like to thank all those members, and non-members, who have worked and supported Wilky this year.

There are only two members who made use of the introduction weekend. I would urge members to take the introduction opportunities offered so they can become official Wilky "drivers" and can use the lodge whenever they want (other bookings permitting).

It has been noted that some people are still having trouble turning on the water correctly and some are still lighting the Tilly lamps incorrectly. If the instructions for these operations are followed (and they are in plain English) then they should have no problems.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone (as I do every year) that prompt return of keys, fees, and report forms helps in the smooth running of the Lodge.

Doug Pocock
Wilky Manager

Conservation

There is still no news about Mount Stirling. The State Government appears to be "sitting" on the recommendations of the review panel.

Nobody seems to know why. Many of you will have noticed the announcement by the Premier that the government has abandoned plans for a 150 bed "lodge" for Wilsons Prom. This is good news for us and most other people who care about the Prom. However, the government intends to proceed with much of the other proposed commercialisation of the Prom including a 45 bed "lodge" for commercial groups, etc.

In late January I attended another one-day consultative meeting on proposed developments on or related to Mt Hotham. The company expects approval soon to construct three new ski lifts around the headwaters of Swindlers Creek. A number of the towers of these lifts will be visible against the skyline as seen from a large part of the walking track along The Razorback. I have made some computer-generated pictures of how this will appear, contact me if you would like to see these.

Bill Metzenthien

Treasurers Report for 1996/97

This year, as in past years, the operating statement is presented on a cash base in five separate sub-accounts representing five different areas of activity:

- Club (subscriptions, equipment hire, printing of "The News", insurance)
- Wilky (management of the lodge at Falls Creek)
- Walks (the club walks programme)
- 50 Year Publication (Booklet commemorating the club's 50th anniversary)
- Special Account (donation of the interest from a \$20,000 term deposit to worthy causes (e.g. conservation))

Overall, the club achieved a \$3,475 cash surplus and a \$2,068 reduction in net worth. The highlights are as follows:

- reduction of printing expense of "The News" by \$500 per annum after obtaining a Sales Tax exemption
- significant reduction in the cost of general insurance from \$1.90 to 0.60 per person
- personal accident insurance obtained for \$1,300 per annum
- no major expenditure on Wilky or publication
- declining sales of the 50 Year Publication causing a price reduction from \$18 to \$5

There are no known future costs increases. Continued occupancy of the Horticultural Hall is the only element of uncertainty. At this stage, it would appear that the rental, if the club is forced to relocate to other premises, will not be more than present.

No increases in fees and subscriptions are recommended.

Sub Account	Opening Balance	Years Receipts	Years Payments	Closing Balance
Club	\$7,956.16	\$15,209.37	\$14,145.84	\$9,019.69
Wilky	\$13,652.55	\$5,467.00	\$3,506.20	\$15,613.35
Walks	\$10,194.62	\$30,761.40	\$30,654.30	\$10,301.72
Publ	\$962.28	\$347.50	\$9.45	\$1,300.33
Spec	\$20,000.00	\$1,855.06	\$1,850.00	\$20,005.06
Total	\$52,765.61	\$53,640.33	\$50,165.79	\$56,240.15

Peter McGrath
Treasurer

Wilkinson Lodge

Winter Booking 1997

Booking will open on Wednesday March 5th and will follow the system used in previous years.

1. As in previous years one experienced member shall be leader. It is the leaders responsibility to collect fees up front -NO PAYMENT, NOBOOKING. Leaders are also responsible for organising the food for the party so should consider collecting the food kitty at the same time. It is preferable to have at least one other experienced Wilky user in the group.
2. For two weeks (i.e. March 5th & 12th) only members can book, bearing in mind that at least three weeks are put aside for outside groups. If you want to book please talk to the leader first.
3. After those two weeks then members' families and friends can fill vacancies up to the full group of eight. Note this is the maximum number for a group.
4. The weeks run Saturday to Saturday and groups are expected to book for the entire week. If groups are not filled, the Manager may offer the extra places to visitors or to those wanting part week only.
5. The winter fees will be \$35 for members and \$70 for visitors. Note that children under 16 take their parent's status, 16 and over are members unless they are members or have applied for membership. Refunds will only be for exceptional circumstances, apply to the Committee via the Lodge Manager.
6. In the event of disputes the Manager will make a decision based on group members brownie points gained through work parties, committee positions, bribes etc.
7. March 5th is only a few weeks off so start thinking now about if you want to go in to Wilky in winter and who you would like to go in with. If you have not been to Wilky before but would like to then talk to me and I may be able to suggest a group for you.

REMEMBER, NO PAYMENT - NO BOOKING !!!!!!!!

Doug Pocock
Wilky Manager (Depending on elections)

Upper Murray Canoe Trip

December 1996

If you needed to relax and unwind after the Christmas rush (and who doesn't) this trip sounded like the one to choose - and it was indeed the perfect "unwinder".

We launched our five Canoes at Bringanbrong Bridge, having been transported there from Walwa in vehicles belonging to the Upper Murray Canoe Experience: around mid-day on Boxing Day. The locals told us that more than 110l of rain had fallen on Christmas Day so the river was high and running quite fast for this time of year. The cloud was still hanging around when we left Walwa but by the time we started canoeing the sky cleared to a perfect mild

sunny day. The sun stayed with us for the four days, except for some thunder clouds and fork lightening on Friday evening and Saturday. This necessitated using and interesting variety of protective clothing ranging from Doug's old "Jamie" daks, through the phantoms head thermals and the cheap cotton pants from the asian market to Bob's very expensive Paddy Pallin walking trousers. An entertaining selection of gloves to keep the sun from hands was also observed - gardening gloves with reinforced palms being the most popular - but the gleaming white woven cotton gloves with the scalloped edges could have been worn by the Queen to open the Opera House (and probably date from that time). In spite of many nude and near nude dips in the river during the heat of the day no-one sustained anything but mild sun-burn so the protective clothing and tattered straw hats served their purpose.

There is very little river traffic on the Upper Murray, so, though there were campers at various points along the bank, they never intruded on the peace and quietness which can be experienced when the only sound is the splashing of the paddles, the song of the birds, and the occasional lowing of cattle. At our first camp site the quiet was disturbed by the noise of a motor running which, on investigation, was found to be a local farmer who urgently needed to harvest his crop of hay. He was on his tractor till after midnight and then out again before 6.00am.

Our days were more relaxed. We pushed our canoes into the water around 9.00am each morning after a leisurely breakfast, often with before and after breakfast swims. We paddled till mid-morning, always finding a secluded beach where more swimming was in order. The days proceeded in this manner with swims at every stop, or more accurately "floats" as with the fast flow, we had only to put on our buoyancy vests and lie down in the current to be carried rapidly to the end of the beach, scramble ashore again and walk back up the beach for more.

Many interesting birds were about including several eagles and kites, and owl with two chicks who soberly observed our playful splashing in the water for over an hour, several pairs of Rainbow Bee Eaters, two Kingfishers, Nankeen Night Herons, Swans, Pelicans and many others.

The tranquillity of the trip was undisturbed until, on the final day, two of the front paddlers (who shall remain nameless) decided that they wanted to have a go at paddling in the back of the canoe, with disastrous results. After considerable letting off of steam the paddlers resumed their original places in the canoes, hopefully with their relationships consolidated by the experience.

At lunch time on Sunday we arrived back at Walwa and sadly watched our canoes being loaded back on the trailers. Bob and I had another free night so we decided to camp and do some short walks in Burowa Pine Mountain National Park which has some very interesting and unique vegetation and is a very beautiful area.

Pam Rosso

KIMBERLEY / TOP END BACKPACKING

MAY to AUGUST

Organisers: Jopie Bodegraven & Jenny Flood
ph

From May to Mid August we will be in Northern Australia to do some serious backpacking bushwalks in exciting areas. Being social creatures and for safety reasons we are inviting other keen walkers to come up and join us for parts of our adventure. This is a unique opportunity.

We will have bought a Landcruiser 4WD hopefully before April, so we will have it up there and will be able to fit in probably 2 other people plus use it to ferry more for short distances. This will be enough for the Kakadu, Gregory & Carr Boyd sector. For all the others we would either need someone else to have a 4WD or else hire one or

more. Kakadu & The Bungles are known quantities in that other bushwalkers regularly go there, but of course they will still be rough. All the other sectors are totally exploratory. They look fascinating on the maps. They will undoubtedly be very rough. The last sector is a 4WD expedition visiting a whole string of remote gorges, almost all of which are day walks from 4WD station track. They look interesting on the map and are in a very remote area not mentioned in any tourist literature.

Vehicle transport costs will be shared. All food will be organised individually. Everyone of course will be responsible for getting themselves to the designated starting points.

Programme

This is the tentative programme as at the 1 Jan 1997.

They may be some flexibility in the dates depending on all sorts of things:

7-17 May	Kakadu	8 or 9 day backpack	Reasonably well trodden area but still rough, hot & possibly humid at this time of year. Lots of waterfalls, pools and swimming. Greyhound-Pioneer bus from Darwin or Katherine and a 12 km shuttle by us to start point
20-29 May	Gregory National Park	9 day backpack	Exploratory although we have been told it is excellent. Map shows an extensive system of narrow gorges and we expect lots of swimming. It is about half way between Katherine and Kununurra. Bus from Katherine and a 60km shuttle by bus to start point.
3-9 June	Carr Boyd Range	7 day backpack	Exploratory. 2 very interesting gorge systems shown on map. Bound to be rough. 85 km by taxi from Kununurra and 20km shuttle by us to start point. We will do a scenic flight over our route first.
12-18 June	Bungle Bungles	6 day backpack and a day walk	Well trodden standard route. A spectacular gorge system. 300 km from Kununurra using hired 4WDs.
22 June - 6 July	Upper Prince Regent	8 day and 3 day backpack in an area with a long 4WD access trip.	However it looks fascinating on the map with lots of cliffs. It will be outside of the prohibited Prince Regent Nature reserve. It will be rough. Also Bachsten Falls which are a regular 4WD destination. Use hired 4WD from Kununurra 470 km one way. We will do a scenic flight from Drysdale River station to check on water and scenery.
10-28 July	Isdell River & Bell Creek	8 or 9 day backpack	In the Lower Isdell starting with an overnight stay at Mt Hart station (\$80 to \$90) plus a 4 or 5 day backpack to Bell Gorge plus a 2 day backpack on the Middle Isdell. We have limited information and it looks great on the maps. We will do a scenic flight either from Derby or from Mt Hart. It will be rough. 4WD from Derby. Hopefully we can use the 4WD hired for the Prince Regent.
31 July - mid August	St John & Moll Gorges & remote gorges nr Mt Wells & Bedford Downs		St John & Moll are standard tourist gorges. The others are close to 4WD tracks on pastoral leases. They look very interesting on the maps but the areas are well away from normal tourist areas. We must have at least 2 vehicles on this one. They are almost day walks. St John may involve liloing. We will finish in Kununurra after starting in Derby.

If you are interested, contact us on _____ asap. We will have a planning meeting on Thus 20th Feb at our house at 1 Wickham Rd, Croydon at 7.30 if we haven't organised one before that date.

YHA CELEBRATES IT'S HISTORY ON MT BULLER

On 4-6 April 1997, YHA will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of its presence on Mount Buller with a "Back to Buller" celebration. YHA members built their first hostel 'Silver Shanty', in April 1947 and completed the 'new' hostel in 1952. The hostel was enlarged in 1975, and has subsequently been updated to the present building.

An invitation to attend all or part of the weekend is extended to any club members who have skied with YHA on Mt Buller or used the hostel as a base for walking. An application/Registration form can be obtained by contacting the YHA office at 215 King St. Melbourne, phone (03) 9670 3802; fax: (03) 9670 9840

Letter to the Editor.

I was quite horrified when, on a recent walk, an echidna that was close to the track and attempting to conceal itself, was poked with a stick by a member of the walking group in order to get a good photograph. I noticed that a couple of other walkers who were new to the Club walked very close to the animal, increasing its distress. I understand that when an attempt was made to point out to the member who had poked the echidna what might be wrong with his behaviour, he was unable to see it.

Therefore, I'm wondering whether an effort needs to be made to emphasise the Club's policy of leaving the bush as we found it and stating explicitly that this also applies to wildlife? Perhaps leaders on Sunday walks could include such statements in their discussion of the walk or at the beginning of the walk as part of the numbering off and introduction process? I hope that the incident and my suggestions are given consideration by Club members and the Committee.

Yours faithfully,
Maureen Peck,

Letter from Graeme Laidlow (now living in Sydney),

I copied the verse below from a journal of the Hobart Walkers Club when I first joined the Bushies in 1971. Perhaps some members haven't read it before.

*Dirty days hath September,
April, June and November,
February sometimes is all right,
But often it rains from morn till night.
All the rest have thirty-one,
Without a single bit of sun
And if any have thirty-two
They'd be damp and dirty, too.*

I would love to claim authorship of the next item.

*On the chest of a barmaid from Sale
Were tattoos the prices of ale.
For the sake of the blind,
Upon her behind
Were the prices there tattooed in Braille.*

I have now been up here ten years, but it is great to see the "old" familiar names - Jean, Sylvia, Merilyn, Bill et al, thereby reminding me of the many great times I had, sweating my way around the Victorian bush. In particular I thank those members who write accounts of the walks they have been on. I am sorry to hear the news about Fred's health - a gentlemanly walker if ever there was one.

My thanks to all those on the committee and to all the others who help to keep the club alive.

Best wishes,
Graeme Laidlow.

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.

New members

ROBERT MORGAN

JOTS PURI

GREG ROBERTS

Altered Address/Phone:

DAVID BARTON / LYNNE FARRELLY

IAN BEASLEY

ANNE & PETER BULLARD

ADRIAN COLE

JANET HALL

GRAEME LAIDLAW

SHIRLEY LAVERS

CLARE LONERGAN

EIMEAR LYONS

DELWYN RANCE

BOB STEEL

Committee Reports

Treasurer:

Accounts for January, 1997

Opening Balance	\$55,832.53
Receipts	\$4,130.93
Payments	\$3,723.31
Closing Balance	\$56,240.15

Walks Secretary: Attendances for December, 96

	Trips	No	1995
Sunday Bus	4	39	37.3
Pack Carry	4	9.8	9.5
Wed, Hist, Dandenong	2	9	8.5
Base Camp	1	7	18.5
Canoe	1	10	
Cycle	1	6	
Lodge	1	7	

Membership:

Life Members		11
Honorary Members		11
Single Memberships		370
Family Memberships	(2x 46 =)	96
Total membership		484

Duty Roster

12th Feb	Bill & Ralph
19th Feb	Jean & Jenny
26th Feb	Marissa & Peter
5th March	Derrick & William
Next committee meeting 3rd March, 1997	

wilderness
winter
walking

JUNE-
JULY
1997

PILBARA EXPEDITION

Cyclone Rachel in January dropped enough rain on the Pilbara to guarantee exceptional water supplies and walking conditions for our expedition this year. The trip is divided into two sections, either may be done on its own.

Karijini National Park: June 22 - July 6

Walk through deep, red-walled gorges in a rugged landscape that seems to go on forever. We do two long walks, one of which includes an all-day lilo trip through some of the deepest gorges. For more information, see the Karijini feature in the January 1995 Australian Geographic.

Chichester Range: July 6 - 19

We plan to do a single long walk in one of the least known parts of the Millstream-Chichester National Park. You will see gorges, waterfalls and wildflowers. You won't see people - so few people know about this area that it's unlikely your group will see anyone else during the entire walk.

We can't put the details in a short ad like this. **Ask for our trip notes.** Get in early and take advantage of our advance purchase discounts.



12 Carrington St.
Millner NT 0810

Phone: (08) 8985 2134

Fax: (08) 8985 2355

Form of Appointment of Proxy

I..... of.....
being a member of Melbourne Bushwalkers (Inc), hereby appoint

..... of.....
being a member of Melbourne Bushwalkers (Inc). as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the annual general meeting to
be held on Wednesday 26th February, 1997 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

+ My proxy is authorised to vote (in favour of / against) the following resolution(s):

.....
.....
.....

Signed:

Date:

+ Delete if not applicable

* Delete as appropriate

Form of nomination of Officers and Members of the Committee of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

Nomination for.....

Enter President, Vice-president, Treasurer, Secretary, Walks Secretary, Social Secretary, News Editor, Wilky Manager,
General Committee, as appropriate.

Name of Nominee

Proposed by

Seconded by

Acceptance of Nomination.

I agree to stand for this position

.....
Signature of Nominee

.....
Date



Change of Address and/or Phone Numbers

NAME

Old ADDRESS

NEW ADDRESS

PHONE (h).....(w)..... *Please Indicate Type of Membership*

Ordinary Member Concession Couple **NEWS** subscriber

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Walks for February - March 1997

7-9 Feb	Moroka -Wonongatta	Private	Med/Hard	Ralph Blake
9 Feb Sun	Mt Worth	Bus	Easy & Med	Stuart Mann & Margaret Borden
14-16 Feb	Thompson River Lilp Trip	Private	Easy & Med	Geoff Kelly
14 - 16 Feb	Lake Mountain	Private	Easy	Jean Giese
16 Feb Sun	Rye - Sorrento	Bus	Easy & Easy/Med	Peter McGrath & Jenny Gregory
19 Feb Wed	Cumberland River	Private	Easy/Med	Margaret Borden
21-23 Feb	Razorback-Feathertop-Bungalow Spur	Private	Easy/Med	Deborah Henry
22 Feb Sat	Dandenongs Explorer	Private	Easy	Michael Humphrey
23 Feb Sun	Labertouche Caves	Bus	E/M & Med	Doug & Gareth Pocock
28 Feb - 2nd Mar	Mt Wills - The Lanes	Private	Hard	Bill Metzenthen
28 Feb - 2nd Mar	Murray Rver Canoeing	Private	Easy	George Zamora
1 Mar	Cycling: Cockatoo	Private	E/Med	Pearson Cresswell
2 Mar Sun	Moorabool River	Bus	Easy & Easy/Med	Ian Hoad & David Laing
7-10 March	Moroka Gorge (Pack carry)	Private	Medium	Jopie Bodegraven
7-10 March	Tarli Karng	Private	Easy	Jean Giese
9 Sun	Anglesea East & West	Bus	E/Med & Med	Monika Hollander & Peter Havlichek