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MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

DECEMBER 1998

Internet: <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~bushwalk>

EDITION 574

Print Post Approved. P.P. No. 338888/00016

PRICE 60 cents

Merry Christmas

Christmas Party

Come dressed in Christmas Spirit and reminisce, renew old acquaintances, plan new trips and have a really good time.

Everyone is welcome.

Come and help celebrate the conclusion of another, successful year for the Melbourne Bushwalkers.

**Wednesday 16th December
7pm Clubrooms**

Please bring: Plate of food to share

All drinks will be supplied but BYO glass/Mug

Lucky Door Prizes

Clubrooms closed

23rd December

**Make your walk bookings at the
Christmas Party**

From the President

The weather that I ordered for the President's weekend turned up on time so that we had a most relaxing weekend exploring the bush and hills around Hughes Creek. Immediate past President Janet Norman, ex-Presidents Jean Giese and Sylvia Wilson were all there to help which was just as well as I couldn't get there until after lunch on Saturday. For pre-dinner drinks and nibbles we saw some very smartly-dressed bushies then around the camp fire we were entertained with many concert contributions. On Sunday while some campers chose to well, camp, others did a similar walk to the Sunday walkers. Then the day walkers and weekenders joined up for afternoon tea. It was good to see so many there – the weather, the place and the people made it a particularly pleasant and relaxing weekend for me. When nearly everyone had left Lloyd Young and myself took a swim in the creek – there was a deep swimhole close by. Thanks to all of you who lent a hand.

The Christmas party is close and I hope to see many of you there. In any case have a great Christmas and a wonderful 1999.

Derrick Brown

Mt Juliet

Saturday November 7, 1998

For those people wanting to do a very steep hill climb close to Melbourne Mt Juliet is perfect. Only nearly 8 km past Healsville on the Maroondah Highway Mt Juliet is in the Old Board of Works Water Catchment area now open in parts to Bushwalkers.

On Saturday morning six of us climbed to its summit along a well worn track through changing vegetation. At the summit there are no views but you do feel a sense of achievement for having made it there.

Leaving the Summit we followed an old fire trail track down to a vehicle track where we had lunch surrounded by lovely tall straight trees, singing birds and a few leeches.

After lunch we followed the vehicle track around Mt Juliet back to the cars taking in hazy views of the Cathedral Ranges and Mt St Leonard.

Back in Healesville we had Devonshire Teas with no homemade jam ! Oh well you can't have everything!

Thankyou Rod for leading a very challenging and rewarding walk.

Party: Rod Novak (Leader), Max, Gina, Linda, Person and me.

Cameron McMillan

BUSHWALKER TRAINING

Over a period of several months a sub-committee consisting of Pearson Cresswell, Fiona Gallery and Alan Clarke has been examining the training needs of the club. The aim is to improve the ways in which the club develops its members skills for safe and enjoyable bushwalking. An early result was the 'Bushwalkers Card', the yellow card issued to all members covering some basic DO's and DON'Ts of bushwalking. A similar card with tips for leaders and whips is also being produced.

The team has written or revised a series of information sheets:

- Introduction to Melbourne Bushwalkers
- Introduction to Leading Day Walks
- Introduction to Overnight Walks
- Introduction to Cross-Country Skiing
- Introduction to Navigation
- Introduction to Liloing

Copies of these information sheets are available in the club-room. Members and visitors are encouraged to make good use of them.

Within the new club committee, to be elected in February, we shall be appointing a 'Training' coordinator to look after training issues, including the organisation of courses in navigation, leadership and First Aid. So look out for these and take the opportunity to learn some new skills. It all adds to the enjoyment of walking.

Pearson Cresswell

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,
emailed to
faxed 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 **JANUARY 99 News** is **30th December, 98**

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 January Day Walks

Sunday 3rd January 1999 **Lake Mountain**
Easy/Medium & Medium

Leaders: John Kittson & Peter Havlicek
Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 8.30 am
Area: Near Marysville
Approximate distance from Melbourne: 116km
Expected time of return: 1900
Map Reference: Marysville & Lake Mountain
 Outdoor Leisure Map

Note 8.30 start and the E/M & Med

The medium group will start at the Snowy hill playground car park GR005474 and head out along the Upper Taggery Road. We will then climb up onto the Boundary East Trail, via the Gould's No 2 track making the lunch stop at The Keppel Hut, GR992 532. After lunch, via the Ski Trails we will head back to Gerraty's Car Park, GR006493, and then up over the Summit of Lake Mountain, taking in the views of the surrounding countryside, ending back at the Snowy Hill playground car park.

While the easy/medium will leave the Snowy Hill car park and head onto the Summit of Lake Mountain, GR011485, alt. 1420m and down to Gerraty's car park and out along the Royston Gap Road for lunch and then down the Grace Darling Track and back to the Snowy Hill car park, via the Upper Taggery Road. This area at this time of the year with its mountain air and wild flowers is by far, hard to beat.

Sat 9th January 1999 **Introduction to**
Easy **Liloing - Yarra River**

Leaders: Gina Hopkins
Transport: Private
Area: Wonga Park
Map Reference: Melways 23-24

Please note the change of date to Saturday 9 January. This is an easy lilo trip for beginners and a chance to work off those kilos of Christmas tucker. It's only a short distance from Melbourne so there are no travel problems. You will require a box lilo – with straight sides, not rounded – a safety helmet, a life vest and paddles. You can hire or borrow most of the gear, just talk to me. You'll also need a rucksack to lean against, with your gear inside plastic bags. Bring thermals, sunhat, sunblock.

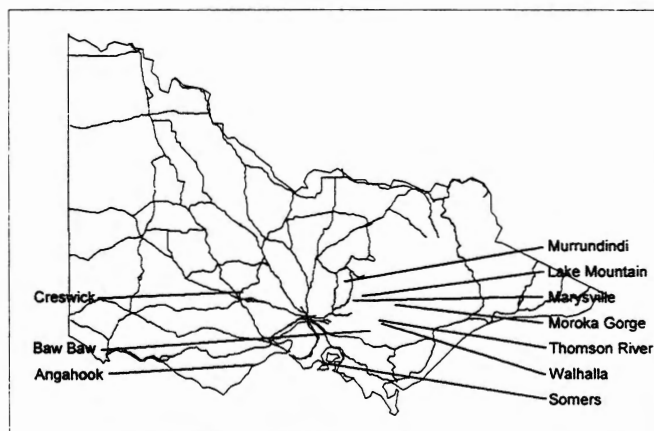
We'll do a short car shuffle before we start the trip at Wittons Reserve. The river is easy and shallow – no nasty surprises. We get out at Jumping Creek Reserve and there are other exit points in case of

problems. Pick up a leaflet on liloing in the Clubrooms

Sunday 10th January 1999 **Marysville Lookouts**
Easy/Medium & Medium **Stevenson Falls**

Leaders: Maureen Hurley & Darryl Weinert
Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Area: Marysville
Expected time of return: 7.00pm

This area will be lovely and cool on a hot summers day with spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.. Stevenson Falls are quite spectacular so come along and take in the mountain air under the canopy of the tall trees.



Sunday 17th January 1999 **Lake St George**
Easy & Easy/Medium **Slatey Creek**

Leaders: Peter Gipps & Bill Donald
Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Area: Creswick
Approximate distance from Melbourne: 120 km
Expected time of return: 7 pm
Approximate length of walk: 13 & 17 km
Map Reference: Creswick 1:25,000

These are attractive walks through old goldmining country where the signs of earthworks dating from last century are still clearly visible. Both walks start and finish at Lake St George where there are toilets, and changing facilities if you feel like a dip after the walk.

The Easy group start by following a track clockwise around Lake St George until we reach the eastern end, when we strike SE along a foot track to Eatons Dam. The route then turns more northerly along before

sweeping back to the west along a series of vehicle tracks. Finally we turn south again, cross our outward route and continue our circuit of Lake St George.

The Easy/Medium group start by heading south past Blue Waters then down Slaty Creek Road to Wrights Gully. Here the route leaves the road and heads cross country, grazing Wolfes Road before reaching Bush In Road. The group now meanders north on track of varying standard of definition, until it crosses Creswick-Dean Road near Eatons Dam and turns west along the path followed by the Easy group on their outward path.

Wednesday 20th January 1999	Coolart
Easy/Medium	Somers Beach(Westernport)

Leaders:	Joan Haigh
Transport:	Private
Area:	Westernport Bay
Expected time of return:	6pm
Approximate length of walk:	12-16km
Map Reference:	Melways 193 8H

A wander around Coolart followed by a beach walk, direction dependent on the tide. Time for a swim if the weather is suitable. There will be a \$4.00 charge to visit Coolart.

Meet at Jean Giese's, 9 Albert Cres, Surrey Hills at 8.30am or Coolart at 9.45 am.

Sunday 24th January 1999	Angahook
Easy & Easy/Medium	Heathlands

Leaders:	Jean Woodger & Julie Cassar
Transport:	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Area:	Anglesea
Expected time of return:	7pm
Approximate length of walk:	13.5 & 18km
Map Reference:	Otways & Shipwreck Coast Outdoor Leisure Map

Both walks begin just north of Aireys Inlet at Distillery Creek Picnic Ground, and follow a circuit walk through the attractive Ironbark Gorge.

The easy walkers will continue to Painkalac Sam for lunch, a quiet spot, where it is not unusual to be joined by a group of kangaroos. Pleasant walking tracks with occasional stunning views of the ocean, will lead us to Moggs Creek Picnic Ground for afternoon tea, then a couple more kilometres to a viewing platform overlooking Bass Strait, before heading gradually downhill to the finish where Moggs Creek meets the ocean.

The easy/medium group, after Ironbark Gorge, head NW to a trig point at Loves Track, with views of the gorge below and across to the coastline. The walk winds through heathland to cross Painkalac Creek, and

follows Gentle Annie Track below Painkalac Dam to Moggs Creek Picnic Ground, and continues as the easy group. Expect some more hills, a faster pace, and less breaks with the easy/medium walk.

Depending upon the time and temperature, there should be the opportunity for a splash or a paddle at the end of the day, so pop the bathers in just in case.

Wilky Update

The hut survived winter very well and despite doubts about the roof we'll keep it for a bit longer. However the paint work is looking shabby so Pearson has offered to start the ball rolling by painting the loft in mid January (should anyone want to earn some Brownie Points please offer your services to Pearson (phone)).

I shall be away from Dec 20th till the end of January so please direct any Wilkie thoughts/ problems/ bookings to Pearson.

The hut is booked over the holiday period in bits and pieces but there is still some room to fit more people around these dates. I was up at the beginning of November, the purple Hovea was at its most beautiful and many spring flowers were coming on. The grass was incredibly green and the snow gums seem to be recovering from the long drought. The place was glorious. It was supposed to have an Introduction to Wilkie weekend two weekends prior to this but as the road to Falls Creek had been washed out in at least two places (must have been spectacular) we didn't get there so I'll have another go on the 16th to 18th April.

Alas the bridge over the aqueduct has been removed so don't hoot down from Wallaces next winter on your skis and expect to make it non-stop! (Of course the boring bridge with the concrete tubes is still there).

Don't forget there will be an Alpine National Park work party on 12-14 January which is based at Wilkie. Another brownie point score and lots of fun.

Sylvia Ford

Previews for January Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks

8-10th January 1999 **Baw Baw Plateau**
Easy/Medium

Leaders: **TBA**
Transport: **Private**

Ralph Blake can't take this walk so we need another leader. Anyone interested please contact Pearson Cresswell.

15-17 January 1999 **Upper Wongungarra**
Medium/Hard

Leaders: **Bill Metzenthn**
Transport: **Private**

Please talk to the leader about this walk in the clubrooms.

22-26th January 1999 **Moroka Gorge**
Medium

Leaders: **Jopie Bodegraven**
Transport: **Private**
Map Reference: **Tamborith-Moroka 1:50,000**

This trip was originally planned for Australia Day 98 but unfortunately bad bushfires thwarted us. So here we go again. Friday night we will camp at Breakfast Creek just north of Licola. On Saturday we drive to Horseyard Flat and do a half day mostly off track pack carry into a point on the Moroka where we will base camp for 3 nights. Then follow two days of rockhopping with day packs to explore both the spectacular and occasionally visited upper gorge and the beautiful but almost unknown lower gorge. Bring heaps of film because there are some lovely waterfalls and cliffs. Tuesday will be a reversal of Saturday's walk, namely a 680 metre climb and 6km walk mainly off track. We should get back to Melbourne relatively early.

22-26th January 1999 **Murray River**
Easy **Echuca to Cohuna Canoeing**

Leaders: **George Zamora**
Transport: **Private**
Area: **Echuca Torrumbarry Weir**
Map Reference **River Murray Charts -**
 Maureen Wright
Approx Distance from Melbourne: **250km**

Come and explore the Murray River wonders, beautiful beaches and natural bush setting, with lots of swim.

Sleep under the stars on the warm summer nights, or swim in the nude on the warm Murray River waters.

You can come early Friday and spend time exploring the historic port of Echuca. At the Port of Echuca, the charm of Australia's rich colonial heritage is evident everywhere. You savour the spirit of the riverboat days. Look beyond the busy street, past the bustle of horse drawn carriages and the old steam operated red gum sawmill and there sits the historic Echuca wharf, built in 1865.

Eucha holds a place in history as Australia's busiest inland port during the late 1800s.

On Friday night we will camp in one of the beaches in Moama (across the river from Echuca).

On Saturday we start our paddle downstream to the Torrumbarry Weir. The next two nights we will camp along the river, where we see nice beaches (and there are plenty on this trip). We should arrive at our destination on Tuesday afternoon after smooth water paddling all the way.

For those people who have been on previous canoeing trips, this is a completely new area, it has never been explored by our club, the local residents around Echuca say "is one of the nicest places on the river", the paddle steamer have regular weekends to this area with tourists.

You will see magnificent River Red Gum Trees, kangaroos and many types of birds, and you will see people swimming in the nude (warning :This is not recommended for people with heart problems, you may look the other way). Beautiful camp sites will provide a trip to remember. It will be an easy trip with lots of swim stops plus lunch and afternoon breaks.

WARNING: It will be hot - old pyjamas or loose cloths and plenty of +15 and a hat!

We will hire two person Canadian canoes, which are supplied with life jackets, waterproof barrels and detailed amps. A non refundable deposit of \$10 will be required to secure the canoes.

A great adventure and a photographer's dream.

THIS TRIP IS A MUST.

Book at the club rooms or ring on (AH) or (BH)

23-26th January 1999
Easy/Medium & Medium

Walhalla Lodge
Weekend

Leaders:
Transport:
Area:
Approximate length of walk:

Brian Crouch
Private
Gippsland
Various

The Walhalla Base Camp on Australia Day weekend will be different from other years. **Note change from dates shown on Walks Program. We will be staying for 3 nights namely Sat 23/1, Sun 24/1 and Mon 25/1.

Tuesday 26th Jan I expect too be a Public Holiday for Australia Day. I will plan on being at Walhalla Sat 23rd mid afternoon onwards and will arrange walks for Sunday and Monday with Tuesday being optional easy with return to Melbourne.

We will do walks around Walhalla as well as maybe car pool to Mt St Gwinear. Things are changing at Walhalla so best see it before it changes too dramatically. Electricity is being connected to much of the town but not to Tisdall Lodge. There is a new pub under construction and a "Rail Trail" has been

developed which allows easier walking access from Thompson Station back to Erica.

It will be a fun weekend with a max of walks and socialising. Book early as I am involved in the Murray Marathon between Christmas and New Year. Booking close 23/12/98

Ring (Business) (Home) or Fax

Conservation Convenor required by the Federation

The Federation require a Conservation Convenor. This club considers this a very important role.

What you need is energy and enthusiasm and have a passion for the bush.

If you are interested please talk to Derrick or anyone on the Committee

Explore the unknown!

The exploration of Australia is far from complete!



On previous Explorer trips we've found Aboriginal art sites, beautiful pools, pockets of rainforest, gorges and waterfalls — no hint of which appeared on any map.

These are the kind of trips that let us discover the walking routes we regularly use today.

We offer different exploratory trips each year. In 1999 our NT exploratory walks include the Gulf of Carpentaria region, Gregory National park and central Australia. Our Kimberley exploratory walks

include the Morgan River, lower Isdell River, the Richenda Gorge area and a wet season trip to the Bungles.

If you have ever dreamed of being among the first non-Aboriginals to discover an area, our Explorer trips could be your dream come true.



Willis's
Walkabouts
12 Carrington St
Millner NT 0810
Email: walkabout@ais.net.au

Phone: (08) 8985 2134

Fax: (08) 8985 2355

THE Really GREAT PROM WALK 15th - 29th November 1998.



Thirty years ago it was a "career highlight" experience to visit South Point with a small party of Melbourne Bushies. The place was wild and very remote, and it required a considerable amount of commitment to get there. Five years ago, again with the Bushies, it was a case of sauntering along a wide footpath. The place was still beautiful - but eighty percent of the magic had gone. The very presence of the footpath drove away what those who put it in had sought to make it access. If this is clumsiness on a lesser scale, many thousands of Victorians have become alarmed at the way it is being driven on a far more massive scale by commercial pressures which the present government seems to find irresistible. The riposte to its intentions to carve the wilderness into even smaller pieces with what it chooses to call The Great Prom Walk was to stage a REALLY Great Prom Walk, from Tidal River to the steps of Spring Street, to try to bring home to this government just how badly wrong it is getting the whole thing.

The first Sunday morning, at Tidal River, was a real eye-opener for those like myself who may not have noticed how much some things have changed in the past ten years. There was a good crowd - but most of it was of South Gippsland locals. I don't think it would be unfair to say that the driving force this time has been rural, with backing from the Melbourne end,

rather than the other way around. This is not to underestimate the tremendous efforts of the VNPA and the Federation, or the wonderful support of Rob Gell and Channel 9 (with publicity that money can't buy) - but the prime movers were all from South Gippsland.

So, in a great column, we started out along the road, banner up front and Channel 9 helicopter circling overhead taking footage. We marched 3km to Lilly Pilly Gully. Then things got serious. Our much-appreciated "rent-a-crowd" turned back to Tidal River leaving ten of us dazed and shivering wrecks (lashings of chilly rain had begun to fall) facing the fact that Melbourne was an awful long way away and we had to get on with it. Rob and Toni Hill had stated their commitment to do the whole thing before the walk ever began, but the rest of us were only doing selected stages because for a number of reasons there was a need to keep the numbers down in many places. Cold and wet, but in a surprisingly short time, we made it for lunch to Darby Saddle.

Things had by now slowly begun to sort themselves out in my confused mind. Michael Buckingham was leading the first nine days and his wife Glenda was also on the walk. He and Maurice Poulton, who would lead the remaining stages, had been behind the organisation and commitment from the start. The enthusiastic young woman with the Canadian accent

was Lesley Sorensen, who was the VNPA liaison and who nearly stressed-out worrying about things like party safety, permits, constabulary (who drove past tooting and waving merrily once or twice a day for the first few days until they were convinced that we were a menace neither to ourselves nor to society at large) and media coverage.

After lunch it was downhill to the Darby River and the sun came out and it was all just a little bit less intimidating. There is a steep pull up after crossing the river, which you never notice in a car, but before long we got to the airstrip and realised that we had survived our first day! An emu followed by fourteen chicks 60cm high (Lesley frantically counted) crossed the road ahead of us. I don't think she believed me when I explained the unusual domestic arrangements of emus, but surely not all fourteen of them could have been his? I suspect that not only his missus but also some of his mates knew a mug when they saw one!

Day 2 (after hot showers at Stockyard Camp - delightful spot, but not enough room here to tell all) started at the Yanakie newsagency, where we dropped a couple of the car-shuffle cars and bought *The Age*. Quite a big report on the Tidal River send-off, and what is more, they'd got it wrong to the extent of making a government spokesperson say exactly what we would want to them to say about how the government was ignoring the wishes of the public. That would mean more publicity next day in a "We Were Wrong" column (as it happened the Archbishop of Melbourne upstaged us and was rewarded with the scalp of an Editor, no less; but we were satisfied with that of a mere sub-editor, any publicity being good publicity!). The day's walk, from the airstrip to Yanakie was a bit of a slog, but there were plenty of other matters of interest, ranging from Leonid meteorite showers to historic graves in the sandhills.

On the evening of Day 6 (having been back in Melbourne in the meantime) I found Rob and Toni in the excellent Korumburra caravan park. Lesley had by then gone back to Melbourne, they had done the biggest hill of all (out of Foster), and the smallest number on any day had been three - the two of them and Glenda, with Mick driving the support vehicle. So only Glenda was now in the running, apart from themselves, for completing every step of the way. Next morning, by the time we disentangled ourselves from the crowd that had come to see a group of Tibetan monks who were on their way to the summit of Mt Oberon to bless the Prom (maybe their intercession will cause something to get through to the Premier, if we failed!), we found we had a crowd of forty to do a Saturday morning leaflet-run and banner-wave down the main street of Korumburra. Once again, the "rent-

a-crowd" was entirely local, and the reception from the throng of shoppers (26? Maybe even 33!) was excellent.

We had ten walkers for the main part of the day, which ended with a stiff climb up a big hill to the Poowong pub and a reviving ale. The next three nights saw three tents (not always belonging to the same people) on the front lawn of the Buckingham's farm outside Nyora. Saturday night was an old-fashioned country barbecue there, and Sunday saw a crowd of forty start out from the pub at Poowong and finish at the pub at Nyora. In between was our only REAL bushwalking, and after so much road bashing the bushwalkers were nearly as pleased to see a patch of bush as the mosquitoes were to see forty juicy bushwalkers at the lunch spot! On Monday, amazingly, walkers were thirty-one, swelled by a large crowd which came up from Wonthaggi. Our youngest walker for the entire trip was James, all of four weeks old, in a sling around his mother's neck, with a proud maternal grandfather very much in attendance. The whole of Monday was along the now little-used railway line from Nyora to Lang Lang. A sign of the modern shrinking world.... Lesley, in Melbourne, but still worrying about us, caused much consternation by ringing on a mobile phone which was in Glenda's pack. The pack had so many pockets in it that for a while it looked as if she would never find the phone before it stopped ringing.

When I left them at Lang Lang Glenda was rather down - it wasn't her feet that were hurting, it was her back - but I tried to gee her up with the fact that she would be one of only three if she could make the next few days. So it was wonderful, on the last Saturday of the walk at Huntingdale, to hear that she'd managed to get things together (Lang Lang was the lowest point, she said afterwards) and with Toni and Rob was now a dead cert for completing the entire distance. It was also great to see a very large Melbourne Bushies contingent there - the largest of any club - with a big banner and a line of t-shirts. I said I would have to buy a VNPA one as well, but I was told I was too late, and lucky to have an MBW one to say it all. The party was the biggest of the entire walk of course, and a good thing, too, because the media seem to have noted the fact and on both the Channel 9 news (which went into a bit of detail) and the ABC (which was more brief) the Wilson's Prom Centenary story was qualified by adding the details of our protest. This would not have happened if we'd had a small turnout.

Sunday was Big - but most of you were there, and know that already. The minister and the premier were not there. One way or another, however, they will hear about it in due course.

Graham Wills-Johnson.

FLINDERS RANGES TRIP, SEP/OCT 1998

THE BODS

Stephen James (writer), Sylvia Ford, Max Casley, David Laing, Sandra Mutimer, Rick Chater, David Arnold, Marisa Rizzuto, Mark Tischler, Alan Miller.

THE SEASON

Luckily, there had been some rain in the month prior to the trip so all waterholes had water. Water was also available in many smaller creeks and tributaries where bedrock formed rockpools. Large creeks with alluvial beds of course held no surface water. For information we phoned Balcanoona National Parks and Arkaroola sanctuary a few days before the trip. Rainfall data for the previous week and month can be viewed on the Bureau of Meteorology's web site: follow the links under observations.

Late September in this, the far north Flinders, gave unexpectedly hot, unsettled weather, with frequent hot humid north winds, rain or threatening rain and mosquitoes. In mid winter, central and northern Flinders usually enjoys better weather: clear blue days, cold nights and no rain. So I said, but I don't think anyone believed me.

GAMMON RANGES WALK

Formalities: Phoned park headquarters at Balcanoona before arrival to discuss the water situation. On arrival, checked in at Balcanoona and paid \$3 per person per night bushwalking fee. Checked out at Balcanoona after the trip. The ranger said that campfires would probably be forbidden in the next year or two. We desisted from fires except at one site where there were existing fireplaces and lots of wood. Map: 1:50,000 Illinawortina, plus free sketch map from Balcanoona for access roads.

Trip: The general aim was to see most of the classic Gammons sights in just three and a half days by doing a fairly compact loop in the middle of the park. The route omitted Mainwater Pound, Mt. McKinley and western parts, for lack of time. We drove into Illinawortina Pound via Mr. McTaggart bore at last light and camped by the side of the road somewhere short of Grindell's hut. The track was easy in the 4WDs. It would have been possible but a bit slow in ordinary sedan cars.

Day 1: Next morning, we parked the cars about 2km past Grindell's hut at track junction 263 270 and started walking about mid morning with 1 or 2 litres of

water each. The track to Loch Ness Well was easy walking but would have been a bit rough for driving, as the ranger had said. Walked on up the creek, took left branch at 246 294, dropped packs at 224 309, clambered up the log over the waterhole in the narrow cleft-like side creek leading up to Bunyip Chasm and followed the creek up to the waterfall a bit short of Bunyip Chasm. The rocks of the waterfall were wet and treacherous so we did not climb up and hence did not see Bunyip Chasm. I surveyed a safe but hilly route around the waterfall leading up to the east side of the creek starting about 100m below the waterfall, but the rest of the party had already turned back.

Lunched back at the packs, loaded up 5 litres of water each and ascended westwards at about 228 307. This was heavy going at first: very steep, loose rubbly surface, lots of porcupine grass and heavy packs. But the grade eased after a way and we staggered up to camp on Steadman Ridge a bit north of Mt. John Roberts. The idea was to enjoy a glorious Flinders peak campsite on the bluff of John Roberts, sunset and sunrise, but the weather turned windy and rainy giving a bad night's sleep.

Day 2: After enjoying the view from John Roberts, descended south westwards, crossed the North Branch of the Italowie, ascended Wildflower Creek, siesta and gear drying stop mid-morning, lunch on the saddle at 184 283. Four of us did a little side jaunt to the first peak of Cleft Peak. Although a bit knife-edged and breezy, the ridge is an easy rock-hop. Then collected our packs and followed the others down to camp at creek junction 181 280 where there were plenty of tent sites, and rubbish left by others. Visited the shallow pools below the waterfall at Rover Rockhole. Climbing the waterfall to the upper, more reliable pools looked tricky though I have done it plenty of times in the past. Water was also found in side creeks near campsite e.g. 180 277. That evening, we lit a fire, cooked a damper and a fox stole one of my food bags.

Day 3: Day trips for everyone. Up the Italowie South Branch to the Terraces, which starts with a mildly tricky waterfall, but everyone made their way up. Half of us made a loop by following the terraces up to the saddle at 157 288, easy rock hopping down Streak Gorge, swam in Junction Waterhole which is set amongst absolutely stunning cliffs and scenery, then creek bash downstream then upstream back around to the campsite. The other half of the group spent a bit more time negotiating the numerous small waterfalls up the Terraces and explored the upper Terraces, which they said were wonderful, towards Prow Point.

Day 4: Starting with 2 or 3 litres of water each, creek bash down the Italowie to where the hills finish at 231 263. Then across the plains and up Red Hill for the

traditional End-of-Gammons-Trip lunch to enjoy the panorama. The group straggled back to the cars by an assortment of bee-lines and track segments across Gibber Plain. Mark had some cans of beer in his car which were still sort of cold!? Drove to Arkaroola that evening.

ARKAROOA WALK

Formalities: Phoned Arkaroola resort before arrival to discuss the trip and water situation. On arrival, checked in at reception, booked into the campground and paid \$10 per person per trip bushwalking fee. Checked out afterwards. Map: 1:50,000 Yudnamutana & Wooltana, 2nd ed.

Trip: Four of the party decided to do day trips from the camping ground and found plenty to do and look at: water holes in many directions, ridgetop tour which is surprisingly good, astronomy night, light aircraft flight, geological museum, and of course the bar and restaurant. The rest of us saw both Mawson Plateau and central Arkaroola by a rather ambitious 5 day route. Optional extras were the Armchair, Mt. Painter and Humanity Seat, none of which we did. Escape routes were the 4WDs of the ridgetop tours on the Sillers Lookout track and East Painter foot track out to the Paralana Road, which I needed after twisting an ankle.

Day 1: The whole group drove to Paralana Hot Springs, lunched and set off upstream. We parted from the daytripping four at creek junction 489 623 on the Yudnamutana sheet. They turned back to the hot springs and drove the cars back to Arkaroola. The rest of us followed the side creek north and climbed the ridge starting 484 634. Once on Mawson Plateau, walking was sometimes easy, sometimes obstructed by bush and granite slabs. Camped at a lovely site at 482 658 with rock pools in the creek nearby.

Day 2: Day trip. Headed east from camp to see the views over the "Granite Escarpment", then north west to the waterfall, then down the creek to Tee Junction Waterhole, another km down the creek admiring the waterholes, west then south back to camp. Navigation was sometimes made confusing, and walking slow, by the numerous little granite tore. The waterholes in the creeks were great but some of the country looked like it had had a bushfire within the last few years; scrappy-looking regeneration.

Day 3: We set off early with enough water for the morning, easy walking at first following the ridge around to the northern side of Freeling Heights. Ascended, zigzagging a bit between the rock bands, great view from the top of Freeling Heights.

Descended south west on a little compass bearing, crossed a small saddle to descend in the right creek, up a little tributary and over a little saddle to lunch at Willigan mine. The mine consisted of a trench in the ground. We were hot, dry and tired by now, and thankful for the track to the ruin on Junction Creek. Easy creek-bashing down Junction Creek, which was quite speccy, until it was time to camp. Plenty of water holes in the creek, but some not looking or tasting very clean. We lit a fire and cooked damper for desert.

Day 4: Another early start to use the cool of the morning. Down Yudnamutana gorge, cutting off a small loop at one spot, turned up Commonwealth Mine Creek, turned south up a tributary leading towards the Armchair where we were blocked by a waterfall. Dave and Mark climbed it and hauled the packs up. The rest of us climbed over a knoll to the west, where I twisted an ankle descending. On up the creek, turned up a scrubby tributary to join the ridgetop tour track. Lots of old mineral exploration tracks criss-crossing the hills around here, most of which are washed-out. Slogged up the hill on the track, over the ridge and dropped down the East Painter foot track. Armchair, Mt. Painter and Mt. Ward side trips were summarily voted down owing to the distance walked already and heat of the day. Lunch and siesta down the hill a ways, then on down the track to camp in the creek a little past East Painter camp. Only one small dirty pool of water in the main creek but found a better pool up a side creek. Lots of mossies that night.

Day 5: Mark and I set off early so he could accompany me out as far as East Painter Bore (which could produce no water). I walked on out to the Paralana road to hitchhike back. A driver radioed Arkaroola, who by luck were able to tell Alan, who drove out to collect me by mid-morning. Mark rejoined the rest of the group and they passed through the ranges from East Painter creek to Barraranna Gorge via a saddle to the east of Humanity Seat. It was heatwave conditions, the saddle was high and the steep-sided gullies had no shade. The ranges here are much barer than further north. By the time they reached the saddle, they were apparently screaming expletives in unison! As a last trial for the group, Barraranna waterhole was large, deep, flanked by high cliffs on both sides and blocked their path. However with Mark's intrepid leadership, they somehow traversed the cliffs and walked out to the rest of us waiting in Barraranna gorge carpark with the cars. Back to the resort, hot showers and all-you-could-eat BBQ put on by the restaurant.

Final Things

We drove back via Copley to a) hit the coffee and cakes at Tulloch's Bush Bakery/Quandong Café in Copley, and b) see the central Flinders from the western plains on the road to Hawker. We also stopped for an hour at Alligator Gorge near Wilmington: a pretty little gorge with steps leading into it, and lots of wildflowers. Those driving back to Melbourne headed east via Burra, Mannum and Mildura, while Alan, Sylvia and I drove back via Adelaide.

Suggestions for next time – go a bit earlier in the season so it's cooler, keep packs as light as possible because most walking is on rough ground.

Hattah Lakes

31st October to 3rd November

In mid October I was in northern Pakistan wondering whether to head for home in the next few days or to stay in the Karakoram for a few more weeks. One of the incentives for returning was the likelihood of a good four day walk during the Cup Day weekend. On my return I was delighted to learn that Max Casley was offering a trip to an area which I had never walked in before, Hattah Lakes. My only worry was that the weather might be too hot.

In the event it was tolerably cool and the walk was a good way of touching base with Australia again. Max had planned a circuit which showed us the various vegetation types and also the lake/creek/river system. We camped two nights at different points on the Murray and one night at Lake Mounpall. The Mallee environment is great, and in a different way from most of the other localities where we walk. It is uncompromisingly horizontal, whereas bushwalkers generally look for places where there is at least some verticality. Its appeal is more subtle and I personally find that it induces a kind of mental relaxation that I don't experience in other areas. Others might call this lethargy.

The first day saw us walking eastwards from Lake Hattah to the Murray through the typical vegetation types of the area, namely mallee eucalypts, native pine woodlands, casuarina woodlands, black box and red gum forests. Wildflowers were noticeable although we were too late for the best of the spring display. Birds were in abundance and the bird watchers had much to observe and discuss. The second day combined some walking through red gum forest near the Murray with cross-country walking to finish at a magnificent sandy beach on the bank of the river. Good swimming was had by all. A feature of the third day was a walk along Chalks Creek, the anabranch of the Murray which is responsible for the

Hattah/Mounpall lake system. We passed stagnant pools where European carp will soon be in their death throes. This day finished at the beautifully serene Lake Mounpall. On approaching this lake we saw what appeared to be a group of people standing in the shallows near the edge of the lake. A keen bird watcher in our group questioned whether they were naked ladies. They soon revealed themselves as pelicans. And we'd only been out for three days. A highlight of the fourth day was a visit to a lookout tower located at one of the few spots in the area above the 70 metre contour.

Nothing in life is perfect and during the first day we painfully discovered that some of the vegetation species were producing seeds or burns. Worst of all was a widespread type of grass whose seeds consisted of a viciously pointed business end with a long tail, the assembly designed to anchor itself in a bushwalker's sock such that your point was in contact with the ankle. Our leader was one of the minority who were wearing gaiters. The rest of us endured the pain for a time and eventually encased our feet in plastic bags or simply removed our socks,

The leader did a good job in planning the trip and making things happen with the minimum of fuss. The group was impressed on two occasions when we had been aiming for a fixed point on a compass bearing and we hit the target with mathematical precision,

Thank you Max

Jerry Grandage

Women on Water

Update on Women on Water (WOW). An all women team participating in one of the main fundraisers for the Australian Red Cross - the Murray River marathon.

This is a five day, 480km kayaking event held annually between Christmas and the New Year on the Murray River in northern Victoria.

The event is world renowned and attracts national and international media coverage together with thousands of participants, support crews, organisers and sponsoring business.

Our motto is 'Fun and Finish'. We are already having 'fun' moving from the status of 'non-kayakers' to 'marathon achiever'. And 'finhs' well, that the journey, not the destination.

The thing that bought many of the WOW team together is their common love of the outdoors and involvement with the Melbourne Bushies, more than half of those involved are members of the Bushies. The team are

thrilled with the diversification of the paddle team and support crew.

The team commenced serious training in June of this year under the watchful eye of the ex Olympian Zolly Szlegi. The team is now training at least twice a week, muscles and enthusiasm are building quickly. The team are taking on a major challenge with lots of commitment and a very positive attitude. Financially the purpose of the Murray Marathon is to raise money for the very worthy cause of the Red Cross, to achieve this each paddler had to Fund Raise to fund their entry fee.

We urge Bushies members to add their support to this very worthy cause in any one of many ways:

- Moral support by offering encouragement or attending training sessions or even travelling north after Christmas to watch the event.
- As a paddler of reserve or as part of the vital ground crew.
- Financial support is always welcome either by donation or in purchase of wine, chocolate or Raffle Tickets.
- Talking to potential corporate sponsors you may know about. Any support is welcome regardless of size or form.
- The WOW team are highly organised and passionate about what they are doing but would greatly appreciate any help you can provide.

Contact either

Carole Patterson
Brian Crouch
Jan Palich

New members

BARBARA L BANN

DEBRA BRYANT

JOHN COE

JAMES GOLDEN

Altered Address/Phone

RALPH BLAKE

ALAN CLARKE

MONIKA HOLLANDER

MARGOT MC NAMARA

MERRYN & STEPHEN ROWLANDS

Committee Reports

Treasurer: Accounts for November 1998

Opening Balance	\$51,344.62
Receipts	\$4,087.00
Payments	\$2,931.00
Closing Balance	\$52,500.32

Walks Secretary: Attendances for October, 1998

	Trips	No	1997
Sunday Bus	4	38.8	39
Pack Carry	4	7.5	4
Base Camp	2	4.5	12
Other	3	12.7	12.5
Cancelled	3		

Membership:

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	369
Family Memberships (2x 48 =)	96
Total membership	486

Duty Roster

16th Dec	Fiona & Jan & Sylvia*
23rd Dec	Closed
30th Dec	Peter H & Alan
6th Jan	Peter G & Jean Woodger*
13th Jan	Jenny & Derrick

Next committee meeting 11th January, 1999

Walks in December/January 1999

Date	Location		Stand	Leader
11-13	OTWAYS	Private	E/M	Jerry Grandage
13 Sun	PT NEPEAN - QUARANTINE AREA	Bus	E & E/M	Peter McGrath & David Laing
16 Wed	OLINDA FOREST -	Private	E/M	Margaret Borden
20 Sun	KINGLAKE-ST ANDREWS-ISLAND CK	Bus	E/M & M	John Kittson & Jean Woodger
27 Sun	NO WALK			
CHRISTMAS TRIPS:				
26-3 Jan	HIGH PLAINS PACK CARRY	Private	Easy	Jean Giese & Judy Gipps
26-3 Jan	HIGH PLAINS BASE CAMP	Private	E	Lance Mobbs
26-3 Jan	KOSCIUSZKO MAIN RANGE	Private	M	Stephen Lake
26-3 Jan	SNOWY RIVER LILO TRIP (NSW)	Private	M/H	Jopie Bodegraven
27-31 Dec	ETTREMA CREEK (NSW)	Private	M	Pearson Cresswell
3 Sun	LAKE MOUNTAIN (8.30 START)	Bus	E/M & M	John Kittson & Peter Havlicek
8-10	BAW BAW PLATEAU	Private	E/M	TBA
9 Sat	INTRODUCTORY LILO TRIP	Private	E	Gina Hopkins
10 Sun	MARYSVILLE LOOKOUTS	Bus	E/M & M	Maureen Hurley & Darryl Weinert
15-17	UPPER WONGUNGARRA	Private	M/H	Bill Metzenthien
17 Sun	WHITE SWAN RESERVOIR	Bus	E & M	Peter Gipps & Bill Donald

The NEWS of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

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