



DECEMBER 1999



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(Graeme Thornton)
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Social Scene

Christmas Party

in the Club Rooms (in the big hall)
Wednesday 15 December 7pm onwards.

Please bring a plate of food to share and a cup or a glass

Photo Competition

Winners of the various sections of the photo competition will be announced by the Club President, and presented with commemorative certificates, as part of the celebrations at the Club Christmas Party on 15 December from 7pm

(Please see Clare to collect your slides and prints)

Wilkie Open House

Jan 13, 14 & 15

This is the traditional "Introduction to Wilkie" weekend but being in January it'll be much more impromptu. E.g. You want a good long walk? We'll do it. Want to do local historical sights? Likewise. Hot weather/awful weather we can accommodate it. Just come! Wilkie is the best thing about the Melbourne Bushies – what me biased? You've just got to come and experience this wonderful resource.

Talk to me – Sylvia Ford

BBQ on the Yarra

Friday 14 January from 5.30/6.00pm

At the public BBQs on the Yarra next to the Morrel Bridge

BYO meat, salad, drink, blanket

For more details call Fiona on

From the President

Christmas will soon be upon us and, apart from the partying, there are lots of opportunities to get out in the bush. Then there's that vexed question - where should we be when the lights go out on New Years Eve? I'm going to be in the bush!

I mentioned in my last message that we were looking at the Club's finances. Well, we've had a finance sub-committee give the topic a long, hard look and at the last Committee meeting we agreed upon several actions. These will be explained - hopefully in this *News* - so that we can discuss the details before the AGM, when we'll be asking members to agree the action.

Have a good run up to Christmas. See you at the party!

Derrick Brown

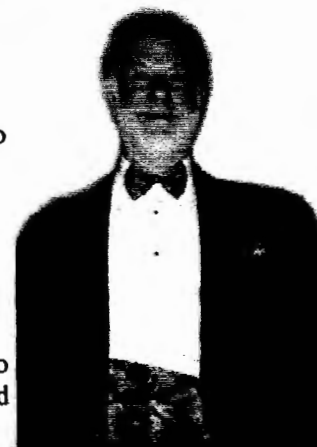
Who's Who in the Melbourne Bushies

Graeme joined the Melbourne Bushies in 1972 and by his own admission it was not a straightforward process. His visits to the clubrooms always seemed to coincide with special club meetings. After tackling one particularly wet and muddy Sunday walk Graeme was ready for weekend walking. However it transpired that Graeme had delicate feet and was sensitive to track-bashing. In 1980 he discovered cross-country skiing which was not a hot and dusty pastime and he actually got to lie down a lot in pleasant surroundings !!

I have been fortunate to have been away with Graeme on several weekend trips which were a hoot. I have noticed however that Graeme has a predilection for dressing as a waiter and I believe one of his ambitions is to ski in top and tails! When I think of Graeme I remember Zorba's comment in *Zorba the Greek* - "A man needs a little madness" Graeme is the Club's conservation convenor and has been so for quite a period of time. As such he has a very strong interest in environmental issues and has worked tirelessly and hard to safeguard the Alpine and other areas for future generations of bushwalkers.

Recently all Bushies were invited to a BBQ party at G.T. & Tracey's 'Muddie'. We were made very welcome and a great time was had by all.

Clare Lonergan



'GT'
Graeme Thornton

The *News* is the official newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and is published monthly.
Edited by **Clare Lonergan**.

Articles, walk reports, poems, snippets of news, photographs of club events, 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 sent to Clare Lonergan by:

- ◆ Placing article in the Red Box in the clubrooms
- ◆ Mailing to:
- ◆ Fax:
- ◆ E-mail:

Advertising Rates:

¼ Page 1 Issue - \$20; 3 Issues - \$50; 12 Issues (1Year) \$180
½ Page 1 Issue - \$30; 3 Issues - \$75; 12 Issues (1 year) \$270
Full Page 1 Issue - \$50; 3 Issues - \$125; 12 Issues (1year) \$450
Only advertisements directly relating to bushwalking will be accepted (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, etc)

Members Ads - FREE

**Closing date for January News is
Wednesday 26 January, 2000**

Adapted in part from Weiss, B. (Ed.) 1994. *Melbourne Bushies: Fifty years along the track*. Melbourne Bushwalkers Incorporated. Melbourne.

Meetings are held in the Clubrooms, MacKenzie Street, Melbourne (rear of the Royal Horticultural Society Building) on **WEDNESDAY** evenings between 7.00pm and 9.00pm

*Visitors are always
Welcome!!!*

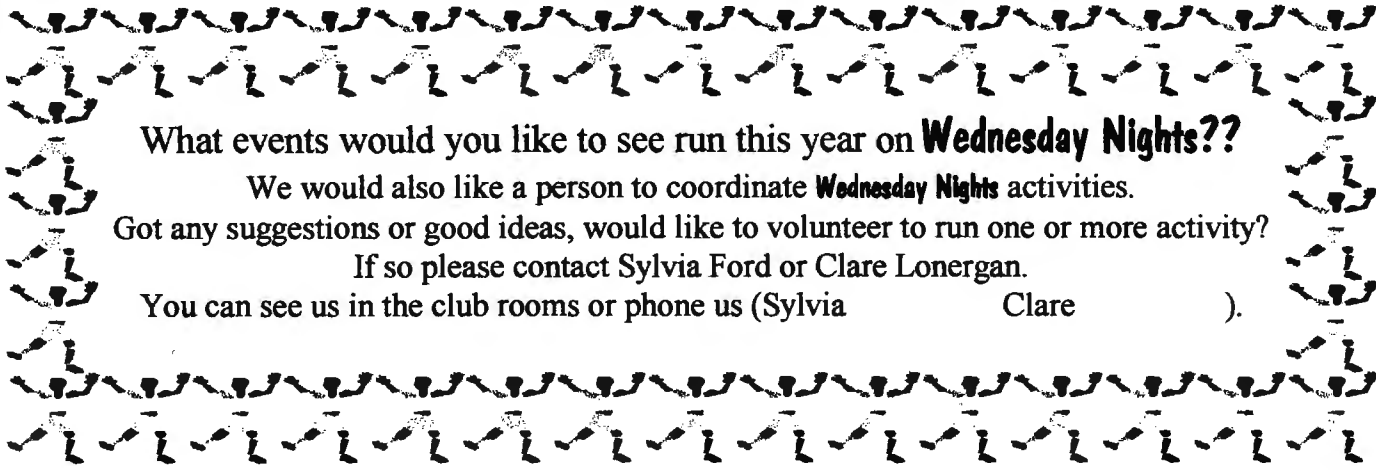


*General correspondence should be directed to:
The Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
PO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, 3001*

Wednesday Night Capers



Fun & games at the Club Rooms on Wednesday Nights!



What events would you like to see run this year on **Wednesday Nights??**

We would also like a person to coordinate **Wednesday Nights** activities.

Got any suggestions or good ideas, would like to volunteer to run one or more activity?

If so please contact Sylvia Ford or Clare Lonergan.

You can see us in the club rooms or phone us (Sylvia Clare).

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

SOCIAL CLIMBERS MOUNTAIN TOP DINNER

We need your Help Picnic in Gillwell Park, April 2000

The organisers of this social event of our sixtieth year have found an ideal location. Flat, grassy, excellent views, good camping, and best of all - not far to walk to!

It will be formal wear although we haven't quite decided what that means yet. Seating will be on rugs (we thought of tables but who wants to carry all that wine and furniture!) Therma-seats will be ideal but if you don't have one grab one of those low-slung folding chairs. We are planning four courses but so as to not burn the grass (and in case its a total fire ban) you'll need to think up your best summer recipes.

Camping is plentiful beside the dining site but you will need to carry water a short distance. Otherwise you can camp at good spots a little further away, or if a group of people would like to use Wilky please let Alan Clarke know as it has been set aside that weekend for people attending the dinner.

There will be some entertainment and a door prize is planned.

Further information will be made available in the next NEWS.

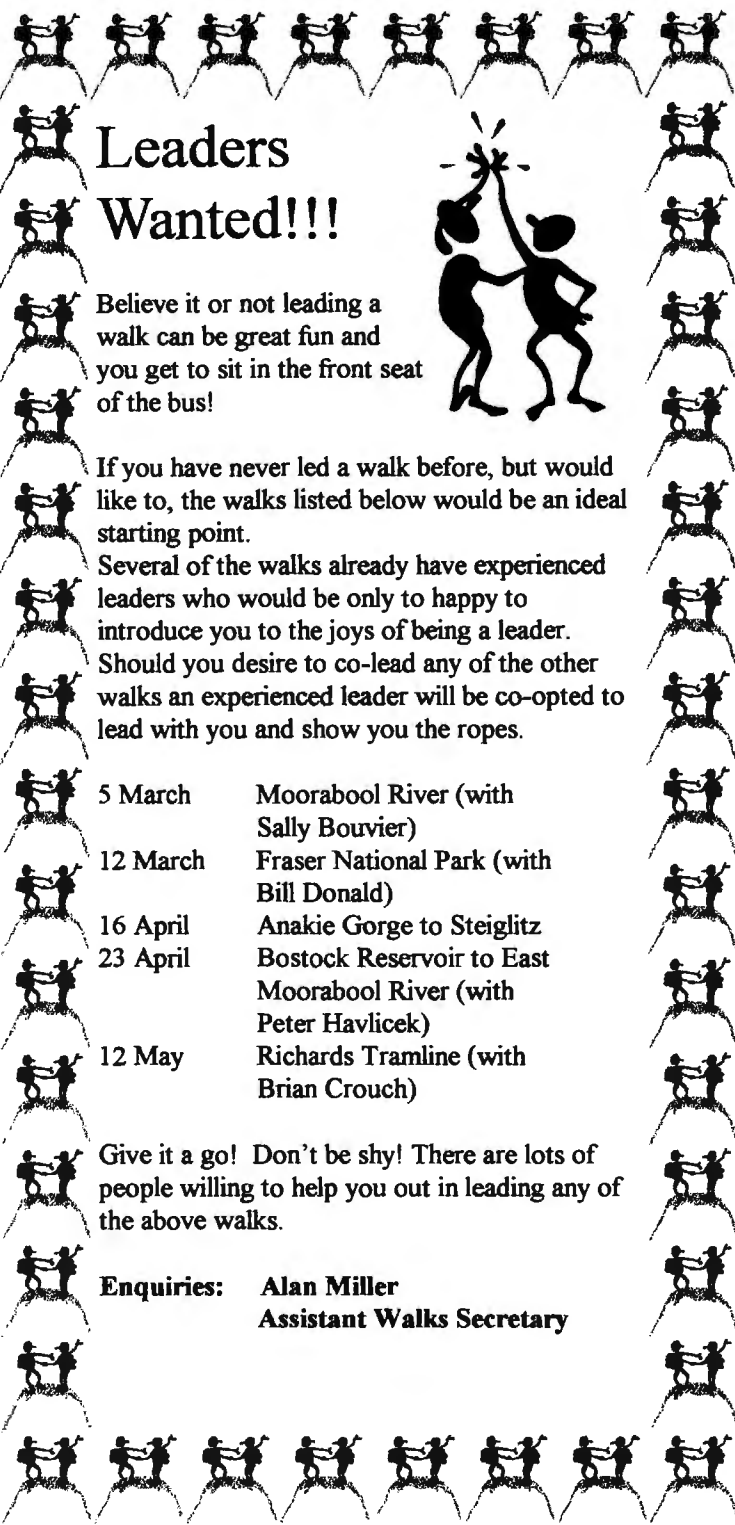
Date: 18-20 Feburary, 2000

We want to invite all veterans of the Club to our celebration picnic in April and are currently compiling a database of addresses of old members who may no longer receive *News*.

If you have contact details for anyone who was in the club prior to the 1980's would you either drop us a line care of the Committee or speak to Fiona or Jenny

We are also looking people who would be happy to help out on the day.

Day Walks for January, 2000



Leaders Wanted!!!



Believe it or not leading a walk can be great fun and you get to sit in the front seat of the bus!

If you have never led a walk before, but would like to, the walks listed below would be an ideal starting point.

Several of the walks already have experienced leaders who would be only too happy to introduce you to the joys of being a leader. Should you desire to co-lead any of the other walks an experienced leader will be co-opted to lead with you and show you the ropes.

- 5 March Moorabool River (with Sally Bourvier)
- 12 March Fraser National Park (with Bill Donald)
- 16 April Anakie Gorge to Steiglitz
- 23 April Bostock Reservoir to East Moorabool River (with Peter Havlicek)
- 12 May Richards Tramline (with Brian Crouch)

Give it a go! Don't be shy! There are lots of people willing to help you out in leading any of the above walks.

Enquiries: Alan Miller
Assistant Walks Secretary

Sunday 2 January Easy

Phantom Falls – Keppels Falls

Leader

Margot McNamara

Map Reference

Marysville – Lake Mountain
Outdoor Leisure Map
1:30,000

Transport

Private

The walk will start at Sands Road, at the intersection of Lady Talbot Drive. We will have a steady climb up to Camerons Cascade Track then downhill to the Phantom Falls and onto Keppels Falls (clearly marked).

The tree ferns are quite beautiful and the growth is lush, with lots of bird life. Lady Talbot Drive is a logging track so is well maintained (no trucks on Sundays), and the track is easy walking – just what we need for the New Year. We will meet just outside Healesville (at the Information Board) at 9.30AM. It is extremely difficult for me to attend the Clubrooms but I will take bookings, and answer questions on We will organise car pooling then too.

Sunday 9 January Easy & E/Medium

Arthurs's Seat-Greens Bush- Cape Schanck

Leaders

Peter McGrath and Lynda Larkin

Map Reference

"Discovering the Peninsula" - Conservation Forests and Lands

Approximate distance

15 and 17 km

Transport

Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am

Area

Mornington Peninsula

Expected time of return

7pm

The Easy/Medium walk will commence at Boundary Road, Dromana, and walk via the OT Dam to Arthur's Seat. This is an interesting and pretty walk offering pretty views over Port Phillip Bay. OT Dam is very interesting and offers a great place for morning tea. The Easy/Medium walk will then proceed to the start of the Easy walk.

The Easy Walk will commence at Baldry's Crossing and progress via Green's Bush to Cape Schanck. This walk offers some splendid grass trees and some of the original flora that occupied the peninsula before a lot of it was felled in the early days of the settlement. The walk progresses to Bushrangers Bay where excellent coastal views may be enjoyed. In fact, this coastline, to Cape Schanck, offers some of the best coastal views to be seen in Victoria.

Bus fares

The bus fares for the Sunday walks are as follows :

Members \$15.00,

Concession \$10,

Visitors \$20

Late fee of \$2.00 (for both members & visitors who attend on Sunday without having booked on the walk).

We are not doing the new "Two Bays" walk, which has just been completed. This walk would have been too long to incorporate into a day's walk. The walk, offered here, offers the best of both Port Phillip Bay and Bass Strait, without being excessively long.

Sunday 23 January **Lake Mountain**
E/Medium & Medium

Leaders John Kittson & David Arnold

Map Reference Marysville & Lake Mountain Outdoor Leisure Map

Approximate distance 16 & 20 Km

Transport Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 8.30am

Area Near Marysville

Expected time of return 6.00pm

NOTE 8.30 AM START
 The medium group will start at the Snowy Hill playground car park GR005474 and head out along the Upper Taggerty Road. Then climb up onto the Boundary East Trail, via the Could's No. 2 track making the lunch stop at The Keppel Hut, GR 992 532. After lunch, via the Ski Trails we will head back to Gerraty's Car Park, GR 006493, 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/mediums will leave the Snowy Hill car park and head onto the Summit of Lake Mountain, GRO11485, 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 Taggerty Road. This area at this time of the year with its mountain air and wild flowers is by far hard to beat.

Sunday 16 January **Ada Big Tree**
E/Medium & Medium

Leaders Stephen Bentley & Susan Ralston

Map Reference Ada River 8022-2-4, Spion Kopje 8022-2-3, Neerim

Approximate distance 15 & 19 Km

Transport Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 8.30am

Area Powelltown – Latrobe & Yarra State Forest

Expected time of return 7.30pm

NOTE 8.30 AM START
 We will be spending the day in the majestic Latrobe and Yarra State Forests, in the hills above Powelltown. The area contains fine specimens of Myrtle Beech, Sassafras and Mountain Ash trees.

On both the E/Medium and the Medium walks we will visit the ruins of old timber mills, follow the course of timber hauling tramlines and see the very tall Ada tree.

Wednesday 19 January **Mt Tanglefoot – Mt St Leonard**
E/Medium

Leader Max Casley

Map Reference Juliet North 1:25,000

Approximate distance 15

Transport Private

Area Healesville

Expected time of return 6pm

MEET 9.45 AM at Healesville, Melway Map 270 D11, corner of Maroondah High and Myers Creek Road (also known as St. Leonards Road) opposite Pizza shop. We will then drive to Mt. St Leonard Car Park and start the walk there. Contact me for transport, car pooling, etc.

This is a beautiful area through tall forest on the Dividing Range above Healesville. The track has recently been re-routed. We will be able to walk up Mt St Leonard (an option) for spectacular views. A good opportunity to escape the city heat and to get some fresh mountain air.

Wednesday 26 January **Historical Walk: Mullum Mullum Creek**

Leader Lance Mobbs

This walk will start near Heatherdale Station and walk towards the Yarra River. We will meet at Flinders Street Station under the Clocks at 9am. Anyone wish to come could you contact me either in the Clubrooms or phone me on or drop me a line at

Sunday 30 January **Pt Leo-Merricks Beach-Somers**
E/Medium

Leaders Peter McGrath & Jan Palich

Map Reference Melways Map Reference: 261,262,256,257, 192 TO 194

Approximate distance 15 and 17 Km

Transport Bush from South Bank Boulevard at 9.00 am

Area Mornington Peninsula

Expected time of return 7.00 pm

The Easy/Medium walk will commence at the Blowhole. Jeff Kennett chose this spot to launch the 1997 campaign so I thought this was a good spot to launch this walk. This part of the walk can be a bit difficult due to long grass and some fence hopping. It is recommended only for really keen walkers as it offers some excellent coastal views. It is part of the Mornington Peninsula National Park. The rangers advised me that they don't like to cut the grass along here because the cliff lines can be a bit hard to find. So if you are one of those walkers who likes off track walking, you will like this track.

The Easy walk will commence at Flinders and progress to Somers via some of the best beaches in Victoria. On the preview, I can gladly say that I really enjoyed myself. The beaches were lovely and clean with hard sand which made the walking quite easy. The view commenced of a slowly evolving view of Phillip Island from the Knobbies to Cowes. The proximity of the Westernport shipping channel added to the romantic views that the walk afforded with steamers (Ok oil tenders) anchored just off Cowes. The beaches visited were quite good – Shoreham, Point Leo, Merricks and Balnarring.

It is recommended that walkers wear sandshoes on this day. Walking boots will not like the sand. There will be no requirement for them. There will be time for a swim at lunchtime at Merricks if walkers so choose.

EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

With great Christmas trips such as Sylvia's Cobberras to the Pilot via the source of the Murray River, Lance having a moving base camp up in the Snowy Mountains and Jopie checking out the canyons of the Blue Mountains – then if you need some gear.

	W/end	Weekly	Deposit
Tents	10	20	20
Weekend Packs	5	10	20
DayPack	2	4	8
Sleeping Bags	5	10	20
Sleeping Mat	2	4	4
Trangia Stove	3	6	6
Compasses	2	5	10
Food Dehydrator	5	15	

If you need help with hiring the club equipment, then see me at clubnight or ring me on

Rod Novak

Weekend Walks for January 2000

21-24 January Walhalla Lodge Weekend Easy & E/Medium

Leader	Brian Crouch
Transport	Private
Map Reference:	Walhalla 8127-2-21
Area	Gippsland
Expected time of return	Late Monday
Approximate Distance	Various km

Due to popular demand it's on again. We are returning to the traditional format I.e. arrive Friday night, walk Saturday and Sunday with Monday 224 January as an option for those who have the time and interest. Note the Australia Day holiday will be on Wednesday 26 after our return.

Walhall is in a beautiful part of Victoria about 2.5 hours drive from Melbourne. It combines rugged mountain scenery with gold mining history and heritage buildings. The lodge provides comfortable domirtry accommodation which means you don't need to bring much other than food.

This is always a fun weekend with a mix of challenging walks, great weather and find company. Come along if you want some exercise and some socialising and relaxation. Please make your bookings direct to me before 14 January 2000 on NB I will probably be away from Christmas to New Year.

26-30 January Mt Bogong Circuit Medium

Leader	Pearson Cresswell
Transport	Private
Map reference:	Bogong Alpine Area 1:5000
Area	Alpine National Park
Approximate distance	60 km

This year Australia Day falls on a Wednesday, so no long weekend! For those with a bit of flexibility I have decided to celebrate the occasion with a five day ramble around our highest mountain. This will take in the Staircase – Mt Bogong – Quartz Ridge – The Grey Hills – Spion Kopje – Ropers Hut – T-Spur – Bogong – Eskdale Spur, or something similar. A good change to do some classic routes in the Alpine Area



Conservation Forum



I've got some good news! I've finally had a response to the Feb and June submission on behalf of The Bushies to ex-state-minister Maclellan on Mt McKay. It took getting the ex-minister out of office for it to happen, but it happened and fairly quickly after Mr Maclellan was removed. The response actually came via the Conservation ministry rather than the ex-minister's Planning and Local Government office and was simply an assurance that the letter(s) had been received, comments noted and that the panel evaluating the proposed Mt McKay development would follow due process. It was over the signature of the D.N.R.E. representative on the panel.

The current labour government made a promise that Mt McKay would be returned to the Alpine National Park provided no significant development had taken place (this was obviously with an eye on the cost of any compensation). No development has occurred. About a month ago, as MBW Cons. Conv. I reminded the new minister for Cons. & Env., Sheryl Garbutt, of her promise and asked when we could expect to see it take place. I haven't had a reply yet: hope it's only due to settling in overload!

Some Bushies will have received copies of a pamphlet *Alpine Action* (issue 2) put out by the V.N.P.A.. It calls for people to write to the premier and minister's and keep alpine issues on the government agenda. I think this is a good idea as there might be a temptation on the part of the new government to play to its new critically-important swinging seats. Many of these are in country electorates and I'm pretty sure the proponents of Mt McKay developments will be pressuring country parliamentarians on just how valuable a developed Mt McKay will be for their electorate.

Alpine Action had 3 main themes: all actioning the premier/ministers as below

- Mt McKay. To cease consideration of the proposed developments; to return the excised 285 hectares, plus of nearby sensitive areas, to the A.N.P.; to order an enquiry into the process that lead to the excision.
- Mt Loch power line. There is a proposal to take power to Mt Hotham from the Kiewa valley via Mt Loch. The scheme involves an underground line that will complete disturb the soil and plant communities over a swathe of at least 3m in width. The power company will not consider alternate routes or even reducing the width of the swathe by using alternate trenching technology. The main factor behind this intransigence is, as I understand it, because the power company can only pass the costs on to consumers if they use the *lowest cost solution* possible, irrespective, it would seem, of the cost to the environment.
- Raising of the Rocky Valley reservoir water level by 4'. This proposal by Southern Hydro flood 16.5ha of alpine vegetation, including 8ha of alpine bogland. This represents 5.5% of the bogland remaining within the A.N.P. and includes other threatened and critically endangered flora & fauna.

Keep these new contacts in your diary; we're bound to need them:

- ⇒ The Hon. Steve Bracks, Premier of Victoria, 101 Douglas Parade, Williamstown 3016.
Email steve.bracks@parliament.vic.gov.au.

- ⇒ The Hon. John Thwaites, Minister for Planning, 281 Coventry Street, South Melbourne 3205.
Email john.thwaites@parliament.vic.gov.au.

- ⇒ The Hon. Sheryl Garbutt, Minister for Environment & Conservation, 591 Grimshaw St Bundoora 3083.
Email: sheryl.garbutt@parliament.vic.gov.au

I think it is important to keep these issues before both the new government and the opposition as a new political balance is still being reached. To avoid *The News* editor going apoplectic, I can provide further details privately via e-mail on

Graeme Thornton, Conservation Convenor

News from the Federation

The current issue of *VicWalk NEWS* is on the club noticeboard. Have a read next time you are in the clubrooms. Of interest are:

- 1 Old rucksacks are required for East Timor. If you have an old rucksack that you no longer use, then drop them off at the 1st floor of Trades Hall Council (near the clubrooms).
- 2 Mt Buffalo - There is a new remote camping station located at Rocky Creek (near the Half Day bridge). It is restricted to a maximum of 10 walkers, no camp fires are allowed and the site can only be booked from the 1st November to 30th April. For bookings/permit please contact staff at the Park Entrance Station on (03) 5757 2328.
- 3 Mt Stirling needs volunteers to help with re-vegetation days on Saturday 22nd January and Saturday 8th April 2000. Native grasses and plants will be planted on the summit. Great views. Meet at the Ticket Office at 10.am. Contact Elizabeth Doery on for bookings and/or more information.

Rod Novak

From the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs Conservation Committee (24/11/99)

This committee promotes conservation issues that specifically impact on our bushwalking areas. If you would like to raise an issue or report track and/or hut damage, then please contact Rod Novak at Club Night on 9561 2407. At the meeting of 24/11/99 the following issues were discussed: -

Mt McKay - The VNPA Alpine Committee is asking the Victorian government to reinstate the excised land back to the Alpine National Park and to include a newly discovered *Burramys* habitat adjacent to Mt McKay. It has been

suggested the removal of the disused fire tower would be of benefit.

Rocky Valley Dam – the proposed raising of the dam wall will inundate endangered alpine boglands. The Consultative Committee have finished their meetings. Some economic issues of hydro power generation have been labelled “secret” ie commercial in confidence. We await the decision from the Department of Infrastructure. There is a rumour that water skiing is proposed for the lake!

Alpine National Park – biological control of English Broome has commenced.

Mt Loch Powerline – Section 27 permission of the National Parks Act has yet to be granted. The VNPA is asking the new Minister to re-visit this issue and to examine other viable alternatives.

Falls Creek Gully – An application has been placed by the Falls Creek Alpine Resort to install a pipe in this area. The VNPA and DNRE have raised objections to this.

Australian Alps Walking Track Working Group – Bill Metzthen represented the Federation at this Parks’ Working Group on the 18 & 19th of November 1999. Bill reports that:- (a) A summer Track Construction Crew based at Mt Beauty will improve the track along the Razorback to Mt Feathertop, and if time permits, to repair the track on the Staircase on Mt. Bogong. Parks Victoria have engaged a Walking Track Expert from Scotland - an expert in stone construction techniques - to help the local crew in the design and/or repair of walking tracks. (b) The bridge at Poverty Point (over the Thompson River) is in urgent need of repair. Estimated cost is \$250,000 with possible funding by Heritage Australia. (c) Taylor’s Crossing Bridge (over the Mitta River) due to flood damage is in need of replacement at a cost of \$250,000. (d) The toilet at Mt Wills will be replaced. (e) A water tank will be installed on the ‘dry’ Beloka Range – between Mt Wills and the Cobberras. (f) There is a proposed feasibility study to remove the plane wreckage at Cowombat Flat as it is a wilderness area? (g) There is a proposed study to re-align the Australian Alps Walking Tack off the 12km bitumen road bash to Guthega Power Station. (h) The Cotter Catchment and Baw Baw Plateau are fuel stove only areas. (i) There is a proposal from the AAWT Working Group to support a walking party to walk the entire track in one go, and to write a detailed report. The three Park Authorities are still discussing this but they would be willing to help with logistics. (j) The AAWT “Clubs to Adopt a Section of Track” is to be re-investigated.

Mt Stirling – The 15 year moratorium stopping the alpine resort development needs new legislation. There is a proposal to build a 300 car park at the Cricket Pitch due to a lack of snow at TBJ in recent years and the hassle of shuttling skiers. Bushwalkers are against this development. Craig’s Hut is being used as a publicity shot in advertising for the Sydney Olympics – and this will create more demand for 4 wheel drive access – drive to the hut??

Wilsons Prom - The VNPA are recommending:-

- (1) Immediately declaring a moratorium on all commercial developments in all parks. At the Prom this means calling a halt to the proposed development of roofed accommodation, shops, cafes, new walking tracks and standing tents – pending a review.
- (2) Implement a new management plan with community consultation,
- (3) Re-instate the Ranger-in-Charge at Tidal River, and
- (4) Amend *the National Parks Act 1975* so that it excludes inappropriate commercial activities.

There is a suggestion of the Prom being nominated for World Heritage status.

Rod Novak

**WIRE PLAIN - HIGH PLAINS - MT. LOCH
12th - 14th November**

Just as they neared Euroa, Derrick and Gina chatting and Cameron dreaming of chocolate cake, a Long Necked Tortoise decided to play ‘chicken’, causing serious swerving of the new presidential wagon. Gina decided to rescue the wayward beastie, however it had other ideas and emptied it’s bladder with great force and gusto, narrowly missing feet but flooding the road!

Saturday morning found eight sleepy adventurers at Loch car park. After a quick car shuffle to Wire Plain, we started our walk. Following the ski trails to the Big Spur gave us a gentle start to the day. Dropping down the spur, we scrub bashed to the aqueduct, which we followed for a short period, until we descended to Swindlers Creek.

The creek was crystal clear and very inviting, although no-one was game enough for a swim. However we were forced to remove our socks and boots to cross both Swindlers Creek and the Cobungra River. It was freezing! - so much so that we were forced to have morning tea to defrost our toes, before our ascent of Palin Spur! (This Gina shot up at a rate of knots, leaving a trail of dust and us ‘mere mortals’ in her wake!)

At the top of the spur we were greeted by a cold vigorous wind, encouraging us to seek shelter for lunch amongst the snow gums. Following lunch we battled the wind across the plains to Young’s hut. After a much welcomed respite from the wind, we ventured forth again. Picking up the Alpine walking track poles, we trundled toward Mt. Jim. As we neared Mt. Jim, Gerry was observed to bob up and down, in some sort of ritual dance. However on closer inspection, he was actually testing the magnetic anomaly that is well known in this area.

As we approached our campsite (nestled amongst a group of majestic Snow Gums and a Brumby grave-yard) a group of Brumbies was seen. They seemed as curious and inquisitive of us, as we were of them and for a long period didn’t venture far away, despite all our pottering around.

The evening gave us a beautiful sunset. As darkness fell, a strange light was seen flashing on the opposite hills. The progression of the light across the countryside, was a cause of great discussion and hilarity as to what or who it was. However since the 'light' didn't come to visit us, we all went to bed and thus never unravelled the mystery.

In the morning, the wind rejoined us as we wandered across the plains to Weston's Spur. At the head of which, we were rewarded with magnificent views of the Niggerheads, Feathertop, Fainter's and beyond. Much time was spent admiring the view before we dropped down the spur and onward to Weston's hut. Around the hut was a proliferation of birds. Gina was in her element, 'Twitching' and talking to her feathery friends! One Mrs. Flame Robin had her eye on Pearson's legs but couldn't quite fit him in her beak!

From Weston's we continued down hill to Blair's hut, where we stocked up with water supplies before our long climb up Machinery Spur. Crossing the Kiewa River (this time without getting the feet wet), we followed the track to the start of the spur. Again Pearson demonstrated his amazing ability to spot a Bird Orchid at a hundred paces. (The flowers throughout the walk were plentiful and varied).

The scrub bash up Machinery Spur was long and hard. However after an hour we had reached our lunch spot and the end of the scrub bashing. Here Gina went in hot pursuit of a Fan tailed Cuckoo followed closely at heel by Rod (Gina's 'Birding' apprentice!). After lunch we continued up the spur to Red Robin Gap, where we picked up the 4WD track, which we followed to Mt. Loch. Afternoon tea at the summit was more than a little breezy and found us huddled together for warmth and shelter at the base of the cairn, whilst admiring the views.

The wind didn't abate and seemed stronger when we reached the car park, however it couldn't mar what was an excellent and enjoyable weekend's walking.

The walkers: Our illustrious leader - Gina, Derrick, Pearson, Gerry, Rod N, Cameron, Craig and Amanda.

Amanda Smith

Two weeks in Northern New South Wales – one more waterfall – or a day walker does a base camp

On September 1999, 15 intrepid bushwalkers set out to explore the North Eastern New South Wales area with Jopie Bodegraven. This was a very pleasant experience with 26 waterfalls visited in 14 days (is that a record?).

The Warrumbungles provided some interesting scenery on the way up to where the majority of the walk took place in the Armidale/Dorrigo region. We saw in this north eastern part of New South Wales so many waterfalls that some members of the party became "waterfalled out". Yet that is what we had come to see ... and see them we did!

The waterfall at Gibraltar Range National Park was one of the finest ones that we saw in this writer's opinion. LT Oxley, who discovered this region, wrote in 1812 or thereabouts, when he came to Apsley Falls: "Of all the many falls that are to be found in this area, this is surely the most sublime". As twentieth century explorers of this same region, we can only echo his remarks – there are many fine waterfalls in this region and they come in all different shapes and sizes.

Many fine sights were witnessed during this walk, the highlight being for me the Rainforest Walk at the Dorrigo Rainforest Centre. This walk introduced us to some of the native timbers to be found here – rosewood, cedar and the like which demonstrated why this region has seen so much environmental protestation. The timber is rare and valuable. The World Heritage Listing has preserved the region for future generations.

Dorrigo also provided the most interesting part of the walk. It rained for the three days that we were there. As someone remarked: "Well we came to Dorrigo for a rainforest experience, and we had one."

I would like to thank the organisers of the walk – Sylvia for suggesting it, and Jopie for planning and organising it. It was fun and the best holiday I have had for about twenty years.

Peter McGrath

Duty Roster

22 December	Rod & Sylvia
5 January	Gina & Derrick
12 January	Peter & Debbie

Date of next committee meeting:

Monday 10 January, 2000 at 7PM OR SHARPER

Blue Mountains Canyoning

Leader: Jopie Bodengraven

Unfortunately I have to cancel this trip due to unforeseen family commitments. The Blue Mountain has some wonderful relatively easy canyons and I fully intend to put the trip on at some future time.

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	10
Single memberships	364
Family memberships	96
(= 2x 48)	
Total membership	481

A midnight walk with Stuart

Is midnight bushwalking your cup of tea? I frankly had never thought of it until I heard that Stuart planned one. At first, I did not consider going because I thought the idea stupid.

How wrong one can be. A party of 7 set off from Fairfield Park, on Saturday, 27 November 1999, to walk along the Yarra to Southbank. Not too big an "ask" one would think. After all, Fairfield is an inner suburb, approximately 12 kms. from the city.

Our dear old Yarra bends around a lot as it winds its way into Melbourne as rivers are wont to do. We finished walking at Southbank at 8.30 on Sunday morning. If one's arithmetic is right, this leads one to the conclusion that the distance walked was much greater than 12 kms.

The highlights of the trip included:

- Fairfield Women's Prison, lit up at night, for security.
- Walking under the Eastern Freeway twice (freeways are mammoth structures from the bottom up)

New members:

BRIAN R ALDRIDGE

DAVID EVERITT

SUSAN E MC INNES

CATHY OSTRYZNIUK

PATRICK ROGERS

NICOLE SINCLAIR

Altered Address/Phone:

RALPH BLAKE

JENNY GRICE

DEBORAH HENRY

MARIKA JAGOW / SAK-HONG WAN

- Supper at Kew Boathouse at 2.00 am, while interrupting some late night parkers, one of whom seemed to drive off, angry, his "plans" defeated.
- Inspecting Dights Falls at 5.00 am.
- Walking past the Fosters plant at Abbotsford (it is immense).
- Walking through the Abbotsford "farm" before daybreak.
- Discovering the Yarra Boulevard and seeing the Burnley School of Horticulture for the first time (again a slice of rural life in Melbourne).
- Discovering that if one lives in Hawthorn, riding a bike into the city is a very pleasant way to come in for work or whatever.

The walk gave me a new perspective on our famous river. It is the reason our city was built here. The early settlement at Sorrento failed due a lack of water. The Yarra is a very pretty river until it reaches the part around Richmond where it has been diverted at many different times during the history of our city to accommodate new gardens, suburbs and freeways. This leads one to think that maybe the reason why our famous river has earned a reputation for its brown appearance is because it flows, not through its own natural watercourse, but along man made channels with the character of large ponds rather than a natural river bed.

Thank you Stuart for leading this walk. We wonder what may come next - a nude beachwalk for example? Keep your eyes posted on the program.

"The News" Archives

Have you ever wondered about past editions of "The News"? What was our club doing when Gough Whitlam got the sack or when humans visited the Moon for the first time? What kind of trips were organised who led them?

Well, there's no excuse not to find out because most past editions of "The News" are archived. The earliest edition goes back to 1945 and it goes through to the present. The archive provides a valuable resource for research into the club's history and it is located in the clubrooms for use by all club members. The "News" editions are sorted by year and the seasonal walks programs are also filed by their year of issue.

Unfortunately we do not have a complete set of all editions of "The News".

The following years are missing:

- 1940 to 1944 (inclusive)
- 1946 to 1948 (inclusive)
- 1954 to 1963 (inclusive)
- 1965 (only)

If anyone knows of the whereabouts of the club copies for these years or if you have them and would like to donate them to the club please contact the committee. It will be greatly appreciated!

Ralph Blake

Mt Darling – Wonnangatta

29 October to 2 November, 1999

Max C., Susan Mc and Bob O departed Friday night, dinner at Traralgon, then to Tamboretha Saddle and joined leader Jerry and Rod N for o'night camp.

Sat AM. After taking a car to Howitt Road car park we departed from Dimmick's Lookout, 1500m and superb views. Light rain this morning along an overgrown 4WD track of medium grades, hearing several lyre-birds along the way, arriving early PM at a small snowplain, 1260m, by Mt Darling Creek. We camped on a nearby rise, had a late lunch and as rain fell we relaxed in our tents. Some went exploring when it eased off.

Sunday we awoke to a fine crisp morning, and after a gentle climb we made our way north along the crest of Mt Darling range in pleasant open forest country with many flowers in bloom, Hardenbergia being particularly colourful.

Just after admiring a friendly red breasted robin, we looked to the west for a front on view of Pieman Falls approximately 6km away.

Good views along the ridge as the track narrowed with rocky sections nearing Mt Darling, 1510m for lunch and views of Wonnangatta Valley 1,000m below.

After a careful descent we crossed Conglomerate

Creek and passed the historic homestead site to camp by the creek as Max's birthday (today) was a poorly kept secret we enjoyed some celebratory items including red wine, which one person had generously carried 2 litres.

Monday dawned another nice day. We proceeded along the valley, partly up Zeka Track then north east to the Wonnangatta River for lunch. Rod couldn't resist a quick dip. Astute scouting by Jerry discovered the river track which we followed including approximately 10 river crossings and lots of deer prints until we arrived at a creek tributary. Susan found a spot with just enough space between flowers for our tents.

As a good climb was on the agenda next morning, we lightened our packs by enjoying the last of our party items including Max's port and Susan's fruit cake.

Tuesday morning we passed flowering mint bush and Hibbertia as we went a short distance to the foot of a spur to begin our climb. We enjoyed the views as we rested and at the top we had lunch with views of The Viking, Mt Speculation and The Crosscut Saw. We were surprised to see Mt Darling in the opposite direction approximately 15 km away.

A short distance to Macalister Springs, then the car park completed a very enjoyable walk and camp fire.

Many thanks to Jerry Grandage for his skilful navigation and interesting itinerary on this unforgettable week end.

Bob Oxlade

Wanted

Unused/outdated/superceded weekend and day packs to assist East Timorese Refugees carry their goods back home.

The Walks Federation of Victoria has been approached by people caring for or are involved with East Timor Refugees. Apparently the refugees are in desperate need of backpacks to carry their personal belongings. They have specified only backpacks – no hand held luggage (sensible people).

So Bushies if you haven't used your pack or it has been superceded by something fancier please get right into the spirit and generously donate to people in need.

Please note they are required by Christmas.

Contact Trish Elmore for more details.

Information for walkers on dinosaur sightings

In October and November the ABC screened "Walking with donosaurs". This had contemporary outdoor scenes from all over the world, with computer generated creatures superimposed, rather like Jurassic Park. There were shots of Tasmania.

Tassie scenes included Solomons Jewels, the West Wall and Lake Salome at the Walls of Jerusalem, and Lake Elysia, Geryon, the Acropolis and (I think) Ida Bay at Cradle. The list is not necessarily comprehensive, or accurate!

Comments about the beasties included:

- ⇒ Glad they died before we came through
- ⇒ Inviting a bushwalker in for lunch has a new meaning
- ⇒ You can't eat the tree, it's a fuel stove area, and trees are protected!

Stephen Lake

September 1999 Walks Statistics

	Number	Average	1998
Sunday	4	28.8	41.8
Pack carry	1	8	9
Base camp	3	6.7	21
Tour	1	11	-
Other day	3	11.7	10
Cancelled	1	11	-

October 1999 walk statistics

	Number	Average	1998
Sunday	5	29	38.8
Pack carry	3	4	7.5
Base camp	3	10	4.5
Lodge	1	7	4.5
Other day	3	11	12.7
Cancelled	2		

From the Editor



I have included in this issue a couple of letters I have recently received.

I am very pleased that so many Members have commented favourably on *The News*. However I am mindful that there would be nothing for me to present without the fantastic response I receive from members sending in walk reviews

and articles of interest to us all. I am also very grateful to the leaders who in general get their walk previews to me well before the closing date for *News* each month.

I know that not all members are able to provide their material in an electronic form, but don't let that prevent you from sending in your hand written stories and anecdotes. I am particularly interested to hear from members who perhaps for one reason or another are not currently walking but would like to share their experiences.

Clare Lonergan

"I enclose walk report of Cup Weekend. Sorry I could not provide it in typed form.

I enjoy your Who's Who in the Melbourne Bushies and having been away with Max Casley I was most surprised to read of his broken ankle incident.

Yours sincerely,
Bob Oxlade

PS I could have written pages of the fantastic Cup Weekend in my report, but tried to condense it for you."

Old Bushies Still on the Go

At the recent Australian Rogaining Championships, (23//24 Oct) I teamed up with Rob Taylor to contest the Mens Super-Veteran Category (all team members over 55 years of age). We managed first place in this category and eighth place overall, from 183 participating teams.

Not many current members probably remember Rob or me – neither of us are active walkers in the Club these days. Rob was very keen in the early 1960's, having been MBW Secretary for some time. He was introduced to the Club by his uncle, Fred Halls, but is no longer a member. I was an active bushwalker in the late 1960's/early 1970's, together with my wife, Helen. Both myself and Rob (and our respective spouses) gained an interest in marathon running in the heyday of the marathon craze, Rob being more successful than me, whilst studying Medicine in Canada.

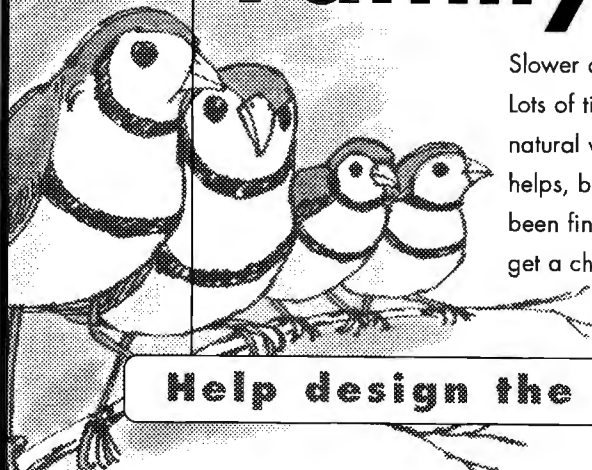
Nowadays I am very active in orienteering, having represented Australia twice in the early 1970's. I retain membership of MBW to 'keep in touch', but rarely participate in bushwalking. Rob has a medical practice at Horsham and lives in the western foothills of the Grampians, so with this residential locality he keeps in touch with our historical recreating. As a sport, rogaining combines our competitive urge with our bushwalking roots.

Other MBW members competing in the Rogaining Championships were Gina Hopkins and Geoff Kelly (35th overall and 3rd in Mixed Veteran Category) and Janet Norman and Keith White (101 overall and 13th in Mixed Veterans). There may have been others whose names I didn't recognise.

Thanking you for maintaining a quality publication with *The News*. Keep up the good work?
Tim Dent

Our first-ever children's discounts.

Family Bushwalks



Slower and more relaxed than any of our normal trips. Lots of time for swimming and for the kids to explore the natural world around them. Bushwalking experience helps, but not essential on some trips. Details have not been finalised. If you ask for the information sheet, you get a chance to help design the trip and choose the dates you'd prefer.

Help design the trip.

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



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Fax: (08) 8985 2355

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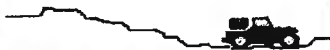
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Contact: Darren for details and to register your interest.

EVEREST CIRCUIT TREK & ISLAND PEAK CLIMB (6189 meters)

Departing Kathmandu 17 April - 15 May 2000

Fly to Lukla, trek via, Namche - Gokyo - Chugima Pass - Lobuche - Kongmala Pass attempt Island Peak, return to Lukla, fly back to Kathmandu

cost for 31 day trip including 24 day trek (including climb) \$4000 ex Kathmandu

Contact: Darren Miller (also after hours) ph 9395 1210 fax 9395 1216 email parbat@mira.net

"LET TENZING PUT THE WORLD AT YOUR FEET"

15 Wed	THE BEECHES – STEAVENSON FALLS	Private	E/M	Barbara Weston	
19 Sun	AIREY'S INLET – LORNE	Bus	E/M & M	Alan Miller & Jill Dawson	#
26 Sun	NO WALK				
CHRISTMAS TRIPS					
26-30	COBBERAS – THE PILOT	Private	E/M	Sylvia Ford	
27-2 Jan	FEATHERTOP – BOGONG	Private	M	Deb Henry	
26-9 Jan	ROUND MOUNTAIN (NSW)	Private	E/M	Lance Mobbs	*
Cancelled	BLUE MOUNTAINS CANYONS	Private	E/M	Jopie Bodegraven	
2 Sun	KEPPEL'S FALLS – THE BEECHES	Private	Easy	Margot McNamara	#
9 Sun	ARTHUR'S SEAT – GREENS BUSH – CAPE SCHANK	Bus	E & E/M	Peter McGrath & Lynda Larkin	#
14-16	SNOWY PLAINS-MT REYNARD	Private	E/M	Mary Leonard	
16 Sun	THE ADA BIG TREE 8.30 AM START	Bus	E/M & M	Stephen Bentley & Susan Ralston	#
19 Wed	MT TANGLEFOOT – MT ST LEONARD	Private	E/M	Max Casley	
21-23	BIG RIVER LILO TRIP (+VMTC)	Private	E/M	Geoff Kelly	
21-24	WALHALLA LODGE WEEKEND	Private	E	Brian Crouch	
23 Sun	LAKE MOUNTAIN – 8.30AM START	Bus	E/M & M	John Kittson & David Arnold	#
26 Wed	HISTORICAL WALK: MULLUM MULLUM CREEK	Private	E	Lance Mobbs	#
26-30	MT BOGONG – 5 DAY CIRCUIT	Private	M	Pearson Cresswell	
28-30	MT STIRLING	Private	M	Trish Elmore	
30 Sun	PT LEO – MERRICKS BEACH – SOMERS	Bus	E & E/M	Peter McGrath & Jan Palich	#

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