



The News

of the

Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc



JUNE 1999

Social Scene

Music Lovers Night at the Boite World Music Cafe



The Boite is a unique venue which is very supportive and friendly of a wide range of music from all cultures. On Saturday 3 July English Fold singer Danny Spooner will be featuring with Celtic songs, stories and tunes. A great way to spend a winter evening with the open fire and warm wine as well as yummy cakes. Danny Spooner will be supported by Harp and pipe players. I plan to meet somewhere in Clifton Hill or Fitzroy for dinner before moving on to the Boite after 8pm

Saturday 3 July at 8.15
Bookings essential
Very limited numbers
Call Brian Crouch 9878 5053

Enjoy the winter atmosphere at the Quiet Man Irish Pub in Kensington. Friday 18 June 7.30pm
This pub has very positive vibes with real atmosphere. Irish décor, friendly staff, good music and delightful Irish fare on the menu. Two course meals come at around \$20 and vegetarian meals are available. Come and enjoy some friendly company, take in some stirring music, enjoy Irish beers and scrumptious meals. Bookings essential as numbers are limited. Ring Fiona on before 10 June.

Warm up at an Irish Pub



From the President

With all the person-kilometres of walking that we do as a club, sometimes over rough untracked terrain, it is inevitable that we will incur an accident from time-to-time. Just recently we've had four accidents on walks, none of them too serious fortunately. The worst of them is a broken ankle. In each case the leaders did all of the right things, resulting in the injured people receiving attention and being taken out to safety within a short time. The leaders were ably supported by their walkers, who provided expertise in the form of first-aid, stretcher making and in one case a stretcher carrying team.

At the time of an accident it may appear that things are a little chaotic. The leader has to assess the injury and decide upon the best plan. He or she has to take into account the weather, the terrain, estimated time to get help, whether the injured party can be got out without outside assistance, the strength of the party and, in the case of Sunday walks, where the other group is and the position of the bus. The other walkers may have to forgo the rest of the walk and may get back late, as happened recently. Most of us will be understanding about this, although it may be frustrating that the expected walk did not materialise.

It is easy with the benefit of hindsight to be critical of the leadership and to suggest alternative strategies. Let us be thankful for the good sense of the leaders, for the able support they received from their walkers, and perhaps for the training and guidelines that we as a club supply. We have focussed on training a little more over the last few years and although it can never be enough, we are working on training issues now. As a responsible club we have to do the right thing to minimise the risk that we all take when venturing into the bush.

Derrick Brown

Who's Who in the Melbourne Bushies

Margaret Borden, who joined the club many years ago, and has walked a lot with Jean Giese, was reluctant at first to lead walks but as she wanted to contribute offered to clean the floors and loos at the club rooms.

As her navigation skills improved she was eventually persuaded to lead walks. Many of us remember her charging on ahead, with her flock in tow, or waving her walking stick in the air in a slightly threatening manner in order to give the odd tardy member (me) a slight poke to get me moving.

I have only ever known Margaret to lose two members on a walk, but fortunately they both found their way to the local police station, so all was well.

Margaret organised the Wednesday walks for several years and apart from leading Sunday walks walked with the Womens Walking Club. Although we don't see her too often on Sunday walks Margaret still walks with friends.

Since Margaret has become the Club Contact Person the number of people actually attending the club and subsequently becoming members has increased due to her prompt response to enquiries.

We would all like to thank you Margaret for the fantastic job you are doing.



Margaret Borden
Club Contact Person.
(and she said I would never publish her photo!!)

Clare Lonergan

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

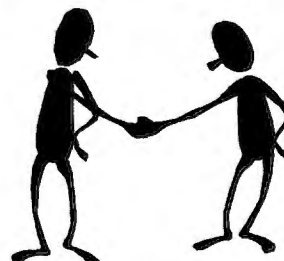
Only advertisements directly relating to bushwalking will be accepted (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, etc);

Members Ads – FREE

Closing date for July News is 30 June, 1999

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

Day Walks for June & July, 1999

Saturday 5 June Cross Country	Lerderderg Gorge
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Leader(s)	Alan Ide
Transport	Private
Limit	12 People
Map reference	Conservation, Forests & Lands Lerderderg Gorge Map 1:25,000
Distance:	150km (return to Melbourne). Cost per passenger approx \$10.00

This is an exploratory walk down an untracked section of the Gorge. The terrain may be challenging in places, but I am not planning to break any land speed records.

We will start from the Razorback 4WD Track and walk down to Whisky Creek (as I have done on some Sunday bus trips) but we will then head down the river. According to the map this section should be fairly interesting with lots of cliffs on either side of the river.

Participants should expect to at least get wet feet, and a change of attire is always prudent if planning to walk down a river. I am not sure how far down the river we will get but we will walk back up to Loh Lane near Mt Blackwood on one of many tracks marked in the area. The plan is to get back to the cars significantly before nightfall. If you want to come, please call me.

Home:
Work:
Mobile:

Saturday 13 June Easy & E/Medium	Barwon Heads - Pt Lonsdale-Queenscliffe
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Leaders	Alan Miller & Lynda Larkin
Map reference	Melways Pages 234-6
Area	Bellarine Peninsula (Geelong)
Transport	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am
Approximate distance	Easy 13 & E/M 16 km

High tide at Barwon Heads will be at 11.13am, so that we will not be able to get around the point at Barwon Heads. Most of both walks will be along the beach, except for a stretch past Ocean Grove and rounding the point at Pt. Lonsdale Lighthouse. The easy walk will start at Ocean Grove. Both walks will finish at the WHITE lighthouse at Queenscliff.

Congratulations to Nancy Belyea and Gordon Anderson on their recent marriage.



Bus fares

From 1 June 1999 the bus fare for the Sunday walk will be \$15.00 for members, concession \$10, and visitors' fee remains at \$5.00.



Lerderderg Gorge - 5 September
Macedon Area - 12 September
Middle Brisbane Ranges - 26 September
Tallarook - 3 October
Heathcote - 10 October
Ironbark Basin - Anglesea - 17 October
Toolangi - 24 October
Daylesford - 31 October
Yea Spur - 7 November
San Remo - 21 November
Mt. St Leonard - November



If you can help please contact Alan Miller on for further information

Sunday 20 June E/Medium & Medium	Mt Everard-Mt Beggary-Mt Jerusalem
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Leaders	Brian Crouch & Lloyd Young
Map reference	Kinglake Outdoor Leisure 1:25 000
Area	Kinglake National Park
Transport	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am
Expected time of return	7pm
Approximate distance	14km E/Medium & 17km Medium

Both walks are within the beautiful Kinglake National Park and will include some spectacular scenery in lush forest. There will be climbing involved in both walks and due to the nature of the area it could be damp and/or muddy, but still a very pleasant winter walk is assured. Boots are highly recommended and a change of clothes and thermos in the bus would be handy. This area has a dense forest of tree ferns and is lyre bird territory. Wet weather gear definitely required.

Saturday 26 June	Dandenongs Explorer
Easy	

Leader	Maureen Hurley
Map Reference	Melways Page 66 J6
Approximate distance	9 km
Transport	Private

Meet 10.30am. Falls Road opposite National Rhododendron Garden's car park

This is an oldie but goodie! We'll traverse the Rhododendron Gardens and Olinda State Forest. There are views at the Silvan Dam. Bring warm clothes and wear shoes with a good tread because we will be well into winter!

We will finish up with the mandatory Devonshire tea. The walk will end about 3.30pm. See you there.

Saturday 3 July	Mt. Alexander State Park
E/Medium	

Leader	Max Casley
Map reference	Chewton & Barker 1:25 000
Area	Harcourt, North of Kyneton
Transport	Private
Expected time of return	6pm
Approximate distance:	14 km

This is a lovely walk and not a difficult one. Meet at Harcourt at 10.15 outside the General Store on the Calder Highway (perhaps park in the service road opposite). Telephone me on _____ for car sharing arrangements.

From our meeting point we will drive to The Oaks picnic ground which is the start and finish of the walk. We will walk up a creek gully through pine forest and open eucalypt forest to the Koala enclosure where we might see a koala. We will then walk to Dog Rocks and up to Mt. Alexander for excellent views from Longs Lookout. We will then walk down through the forest to The Oaks picnic ground.

Sunday 4 July	Bungal State Forest - Moorabool River East
E/Medium & Medium	

Leaders	Jean Woodger & Bill Donald
Map reference	Lal Lal, Yaloak 1:25,000
Area	South of Ballan
Transport	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Expected time of return	7pm
Approximate distance	E/M 14km & Med 15 km

The Moorabool is a picturesque river, with numerous water holes and gorges. Negotiating steep slippery slopes, gullies and scrubby undergrowth along the river bank can be hard work, but the rewards are many. A pair of wild ducks on a quiet bend in the river, a lean and hungry fox stealing through the forest, koalas looking down from overhead branches, wallabies watching motionless, before bounding effortlessly up an impossibly steep track, and crimson rosellas adding brilliant flashes of colour to the sombre winter hues of the open forest.

Because of the nature of the terrain, the walks are graded easy/medium and medium. No easy walk is possible. We follow 4 wheel drive tracks into and out of the area, but the rest of the walking is along the Moorabool River and Bungal Creek, where it's up and down all the way.

The easy/medium group will explore along the banks, but will mainly stay on the high side of the river, before descending to the creek, which we will cross several times before picking up the track back to the bus.

The medium walk will be more strenuous, involving a good deal of leg work, having to cross the river several times as well as the creek. Gaiters wouldn't go astray. Be sure your footwear has good grippy soles.

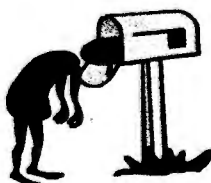
Saturday 10 July	Beginners Ski Day
Easy	

Leader	Pearson Cresswell
Area	Lake Mountain (probably)
Transport	Private
Expected time of return	About 6pm Saturday

This is the Ski Day for everyone: first timers, second or third timers who want to go further and experienced skiers who can show the others how it is done. We will follow the successful formula of dividing the party into small groups each with an experienced leader. The venue will probably be Lake Mountain (near Marysville) but both date and venue may be changed if conditions are not suitable. Cost will be about \$20 for transport and resort fees, plus another \$20 if you need to hire skis. Contact the leader for more details ()

Sunday 11 July	Elphinstone Tunnel-Fryerstown
Easy & E/Medium	

Leaders	David Laing & Jean Giese
Transport	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am



Please see leaders in club rooms for more information on this walk.

Sunday 18 July Pyrites Creek – Mt Sugarloaf
E/Medium & Medium

Leaders Darryl Weinert & Anne Wilkins
 Transport Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am

Yes, yet another Sugarloaf, this one is located basically just off the road from Melton to Gisborne, west of Melbourne. It should be an interesting walk dependant wholly on which of the leaders gets to lead which particular walk. You see we haven't figured it out yet and we would both like to lead the medium one. If I win the arm wrestle then I'm going to take the walk up the creek and if Anne wins (she gets to use both arms and a leg if necessary) it will go where she likes to go. If somehow I loose the arm wrestle and end up leading the easy/medium walk it will be the best walk all year so make sure you book early.

Wednesday 21 July Foothills of the Dandenongs
E/Medium

Leader George Sawenko
 Map reference Melways Map 66 D5 and Map 52
 Area Mt Dandenong
 Transport Private
 Expected time of return 4.30pm
 Approximate distance 10-12 km

At 10am meet at Doongala Car Park (Melways Map 66 D5) behind the park ranger's residence.

This very pleasant circuit walk will cover much of the western face of Mt. Dandenong. Some initial climbing via The Channel 10 Track takes us through attractive ash and stringybark forest to Burke's Lookout Reserve adjacent to the TV transmitter towers. The trail continues past the Kyeema Memorial and onto the Mt. Dandenong Observatory area for lunch. The return will be via the fireline and Camelia Tracks (mostly down hill). Please contact me by phone regarding sharing of transport or if you require directions for getting to Doongala.

Bookings can be made by telephone: or by email:

Saturday 24 July Dandenongs Explorer
Easy

Leader Michael Humphrey
 Transport Private



Please phone leader on or see him in club rooms for further information

Sunday 25 July Lysterfield-Churchill Park
Easy & E/Medium

Leaders Margot McNamara and Julie Ralph
 Map reference Melways Map 83
 Transport Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
 Area Lysterfield Park (from Nixon Road)
 Expected time of return 6.30pm
 Approximate distance Easy 16km & E/M 19 km

For this circuit we will walk down an undulation from Glenfern Road, past Monbulk Retarding Basin and Birds Land Reserve into Lysterfield Park and down to the lake. Although we walk alongside the lake we don't see much of it because of the trees. The easy group will walk north of the lake and the easy medium group will add extra kms by walking south (depending on fees – more on that later) and then back north through the park and an uphill undulation to the bus. Tracks are mainly fire access "roads" and are well maintained.

We will see and hear lots of birds, some lovely trees and spectacular scenery, walk one or two undulations and a general good time will be had by all.

Because of park fees and bus logistics this walk will not include Churchill Park but will stay within Lysterfield Park.

Book Review

'60 Walks in Central Victoria's Gold Fields and Spa Country' by Tyrone Thomas, Hill of Content, Melbourne, 2nd edition 1998. ISBN 0 85572 292 4 rrp \$19.95.

While previewing a walk in the Mt. Franklin area recently, we stopped to talk to a local sheep farmer. He said that the best way to find out about the area was to read a book by someone by the name of Thomas. We told him that Tyrone had been a member of our club for many years. The farmer also advised that we should visit Tarilta Gorge, which we did. We were sufficiently impressed by the gorge, which Tyrone has renamed Mt. Franklin Gorge, that I plan to put a walk on the next autumn's programme which will include walking the full length of the gorge.

This book follows Tyrone's familiar format. Most of the walks are in the area bounded by Castlemaine to the north, Romsey to the east, and the Western Highway in the south, though there is also one walk at Bendigo, and three at Melville Caves. The book is now available from the club library.

Alan Miller

Weekend Walks for June & July

11-14 June Easy	Wyperfeld National Park
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Leader Peter McGrath
 Map reference Wyperfeld National Park, Natural Resources and Environment, 1: 100,000
 Transport Private

Wyperfeld National Park is a five hour drive 450 kms north east of Melbourne. I will be arriving at 6:00pm on the Friday night. We are staying at the main camping ground (Wonga) and there will be signs for late arrivals to follow.

We will start the walk on Saturday to Lake Brambuk and Black Flat at 10.00am. The signs will still be up for late arrivers. On Sunday we will walk to the Eastern Lookout and on Monday do the half-day "Desert Walk".

There is some water available in the park for cooking and washing but the ranger has requested that we bring some water if we can. There are toilets but no showers.

Please register that you are coming. There is a list in the club room or ring me (). I want to know that you are coming and also that you get home safely. This is a long drive so drive safely and watch for kangaroos (there are plenty at dusk in the area). We should be back in Melbourne around dinner time.

25-27 June Easy	Snake Island
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Leader Deb Henry
 Transport Private

Snake Island is a small isle located near the north eastern tip of Wilsons Promontory. This walk will be a boat trip which always seems to be a popular way to travel. We will catch the boat at Welshpool on Saturday morning and return on Sunday evening.

I am reliably informed that this is an extremely beautiful isle. This is a particularly good trip for those who are familiar with the Prom and its lovely sea vistas. There will be a trip limit of 12 so book early to avoid disappointment

2-4 July E/Medium	Bogong High Plains: Start of Ski Season
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Leader Pearson Cresswell
 Map reference Bogong Alpine Area 1:50 000 (Vicmap)
 Transport Private
 Expected time of return Late Sunday evening

This is the first scheduled trip for our ski program. Where we go and what we do will depend on conditions. Probably ski out to Heathy Spur to set up camp and then explore around looking for some good white stuff. Contact the leader for more details ()

9-11 July Easy	Kooyoora (Base Camp)
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Leader Anne Wilkins
 Map reference Rheola North
 Area NW of Bendigo
 Transport Private
 Expected time of return Sunday pm
 Approximate distance 2 day walks

Kooyoora National Park was declared because of its scenic value and wide range of forest types – open woodlands with several types of gum, wattles, etc. and smaller mossy spots with lillies, orchids, etc. More than 100 bird species have been recorded including the ring necked parrot, rainbow bee-eaters, and of course echidnas, kangaroos and wallabies.....(the last 3 aint birds though – ha ha).

The caves with their generous handy supplies of food, water and shelter have had an interesting history – well used by Aborigines (the Jaara people being the locals) in the past, as well as bushranger Captain Melville. There has also been mining for mica, gold and clear quartz crystals once used in wireless sets.

Mt. Kooyoora at a whopping 479m!! is the highest point so with its granitery outcrops, rock cliffs and massive boulders and the caves we should do two reasonable day walks – so as to justify the base camp eat-a-thon. Only people interested in having a fun July weekend need contact me.

16-18 July	Mt. Stirling
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Leader Graeme Thornton (and associates NL)
 Map reference Mt Stirling special recreational map.
 Transport Private
 Expected time of return Very late Sunday night
 Approximate distance 20-30 km depending

We will meet outside the Mt Stirling entrance tollgate at 9:45AM on the Sat. morning. This gives people the choice of driving up that morning and also give the ice on the road a chance to melt. We will then pack people into the minimum of the most suited cars for the trip up the mountain - don't forget radiator anti-freeze.

Provided there's enough snow on the circuit road, I plan to go up what I know as the River Spur; it's slightly longer but more pleasant, particular the rocky knolls toward the top. If the weather is kind we will camp within a few hundred metres of the summit (we used this spot a few years ago). It's a spectacular camp with 270 degree panoramic views from the tent door (excluding Buller, the-garbage-dump-in-the-sky). If the weather looks like being bleak we will seek shelter lower down in the tree-line.

This is an early winter trip, the skiing conditions may be difficult or near impossible. It's not suited to beginners who aren't proficient on steep slopes with a pack and on possibly icy, rocky snow. But it is an exciting mountain to ski - whee!

23-25 July E/Medium	Introduction to Snow Camping (Ski)
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Leader	Ken MacMahon
Transport	Private
Expected time of return	Late Sunday evening

Approximate distance 10km with packs

Camping in the snow can be a sublime experience or it can be really miserable. The difference is having the right equipment and being well organised. Let's wait and see what the snow season delivers before settling on a venue, but regardless we won't carry packs any further than necessary. If you want to give snow camping a go for the first time this is the trip for you.

23-25 July Easy	Black Range (Base Camp)
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Leader	Max Casley
Map reference	Black Range and Mt. Talbot 1:25 000
Area	South of Horsham, West of Grampians
Transport	private
Expected time of return	Late Sunday evening
Approximate distance	16km & 10 km

The Black Range lies to the west of the Grampians and is less frequently visited, but it has some excellent walking. There are many kangaroos, aboriginal art and good views from rocky escarpments. Due to lack of water in this area this will be a base camp at the picnic ground near the centre of the park. Bring all your water requirements in the car.

We will do the walk to Mt. Byron and other short walks pioneered by Rosemary Cotter in 1994. We may even find the caves used by Wild Man Ross around 1870. Bring warm clothes. We will have a camp fire - I will check the firewood situation.

July 30 - August 1 Easy	Downhill Ski Weekend at Mt. Buller
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Leader	George Zamora
Transport	Private
Area	Mt Buller/Mt Stirling
Approximate distance from Melbourne	237 km

Mt. Buller offers a huge variety of skiing terrain. That means plenty of gentle, groomed runs for skiers on their first day, right through to some of the most challenging terrain any Australian ski resort has to offer.

If you are in a party mood, catch the top band or dance the night away in one of the many night spots. We will be staying at the luxury Walking Club Lodge, located in the centre of the village, which allows you to ski to and from the front door.

The cost is \$40 per person per night for this luxury. Book and pay EARLY because the lodge has limited places. July and August is one of the busiest times of the year in the village.

Bring your favourite foods. Come along and have a great time.

Book at the club rooms or ring on or

July 30 to August 2 Medium	Ski Trip: The Bluff- Mt Lovick-Mt Magdala
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Leader	Peter Chalkey
Transport	Private



Please see leader in club rooms or telephone him on

Get well Ilsa

On a recent walk Ilsa Schuller twisted her foot descending a hill. Unfortunately she fractured her ankle and has had an operation in which pins were inserted into her ankle.

Ilsa, we all hope you are up and about very soon and no doubt you will be back to bushwalking before you know it.





**I don't
want to
be a
leader!**

butI would like to know how to read a map; when and how to follow a compass bearing; how to avoid "rolling off the edge" of a broad spur or ridge line.

Well if you are interested in these things the only way you are going to learn them is to get involved. Experience is something you get just after you need it ! So don't be put in a position where you desperately need it, get involved in the activities the clubs organises for your benefit and get the experience in a controlled and unstressed manner. These activities will include Navigation Days, First Aid courses or Rogaining competitions (members of the club sometimes enter and they are the ultimate in navigation practice, the meetings are organised by the Rogain Assoc. Vic.).

You could also become involved in walks by just asking the leader for a copy of the map. When the group comes to a stop you can use the map to find out where you are, then ask the leader. Who's right? But more importantly ask why and how you both arrived at your answers? Leaders are more than willing to pass on their vast knowledge.

Duty Roster

9 June -- Darryl & Anne
16 June -- David & Alan
23 June -- Fiona & Deb
30 June -- Pearson & Darryl
7 July -- Rod & Derrick

For Sale

Cross Country Skis FISCHER Size: 210 cm -- metal edges
Boots Alpina Size: 41

The lot \$50

Call George Zamora on

Letter to Editor

Dear Ed,

A couple of weekends ago I was on the Tara-Bulga base camp. During the course of the Saturday walk my knee seized up. It is an old ski injury which gives trouble from time to time but I was just surprised at the severity of it. After some strapping I was able to get to the nearest road and eventually was picked up by the members of the group who walked out to a vehicle.

My injury was more of a nuisance value than anything but I was impressed by the organisational skills of the leader, Darryl Weinert, and the level of care of the bandagers/ car drivers/clothes and stick lenders and of course Stuart Mann, who was my main support and carer.

All these new and newer members showed that the Melbourne Bushwalkers are just as much on the ball as ever, rallying round to help a stricken mate with the minimum of fuss and maximum of efficiency as it always has been. I just thought I would record this and also say thank you to everyone who helped me.

Sylvia Ford.

Sticky Date Pudding

170 grams chopped dates
1 teaspoon carb soda
60 grams butter
170 grams castor sugar
2 eggs
170 grams self raising flour
1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Mix dates and carb soda, pour 300 mL hot water over and leave to stand. Cream butter and sugar till pale, add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Gently fold in the flour, stir in date mixture and vanilla and pour into well buttered tin. Bake at 180 degrees Celsius for 30 to 40 minutes until skewer comes out clean.

Butterscotch Sauce
150 grams brown sugar
150 mL cream
1 teaspoon vanilla
50 grams butter

Combine sugar, cream, vanilla and butter in saucepan, bring to boil while stirring and simmer for 5 minutes. Set aside until ready to reheat and pour over pudding. I find the sauce much too rich, even substituting milk for the cream. If anyone can come up with something better I'd love to know.

Marilyn Whimpey

Major Mitchell Plateau

7-9 May 1999

Never having been to the Major Mitchell Plateau before I was looking forward to my first visit. On Friday night we met up with Jerry who like us and Gina and Derrick had a navigation exercise in finding the Bomjinna Camping Ground in the dark.

In the morning we started the walk after a long and bumpy car shuffle, climbing up the Jimmy Creek Track to a helipad and then climbed up to the 1103 metre high point where we had lunch with great views surrounding us.

Following The Major Mitchell Track up onto The Plateau a cool breeze moved around us in our exposed position. A fall off the cliff edge could be fatal so we didn't venture out too far. Parts of the track are duckboarded to stop erosion and damage from the legions of walkers who use it every year. We arrived at the main camping ground late in the afternoon just in time to beat two other groups to the best tent sites and settled down around a camp fire.

The next morning we descended steeply down rocks to Boundary Gap into lovely forest country where we started our morning's stiff climb up to a high point where group photos were taken in the pleasant morning sun. At the Mt. Williams summit, 1167 metres above sea level, we paused to look at the stone marker erected in 1963 giving distances to towns and mountains in miles.

Walking down behind Mt. Williams along the Bomjinna Walking Track back to the camping ground we had great views of the cliffs which brought back memories for Jerry who had climbed some of its routes in years gone by. Back in Ballarat we had a lovely meal at Craig's Hotel, which is under new management, to cap off a great weekend. Thankyou Ralph for leading a great walk. Party: Ralph, Jerry, Monica, Steve, Gina, Derrick, Ritchie and me Cameron MacMillan.

Bushies "Good Food" Guide

Here are some ideas for carbohydrate loading (snack attacks) on the way to, or coming back from, another re-energising weekend bushwalking trip. I have included the telephone numbers for those upwardly mobile bushwalkers who happen to have a mobile phone in their car. You may want to phone ahead and book a table.

Ballarat Golden City Hotel 427 Sturt Street (main street). Telephone 5331 6211. This classic goldfields pub is on the corner near the blue stone churches – look for the verandahs. Excellent meals, great value, the fish is recommended as is their wood-fired pizzas. Also, pasta and steaks look and taste delish. This is historic pub (classified by the National Trust) and it has attitude. Always very busy – but they are quick to serve meals. Ideal for those Grampians, Little Desert and Wyperfield trips. My favourite!!

(west) Drouin the Robin Hood Hotel on the old Princes Hwy (off the Freeway). Telephone 5625 4884. Cosy pub & family run. Tasty meals. I believe some bushies are working their way through the extensive desert list – there are over twenty deserts on offer. Go for the Raspberry meringue cake. Simply scrumptious.

Fish Creek The Promontory Gate Hotel on the Old Waratah Road, Fish Creek. Telephone 5683 2404. An excellent menu, and I love their fish of the day. A great place on the way to the Prom. Cosy open fire to toast the toes in winter and friendly locals for a yarn.

Glenburn The Glenburn Hotel. Discovered by Derrick, Gina and Trish. Tasty meals, and reasonably quick. Trish recommends the Chicken a la Mediterranean and Gina raves about the Steamed Vegies.

Harrierville – the Snowline Hotel. On the Mt. Hotham road. Telephone 5759 2524. Typical bush country fare. Can't go wrong with steak and chips. My favourite desert is Local Blueberries (in season) and cream.

Lakes Entrance The Central Hotel, on the esplanade. Telephone 5155 1977. Excellent meals, great fish dishes. Mains about \$16. Quick service. A good stop-off for dinner for those Far East Gippsland trips.

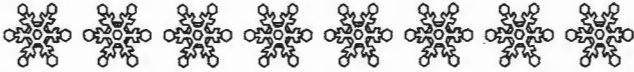
Mansfield – the old favourite is the Delatite, but on a Gina trip, it did not live up to Trish's expectations. As an alternative, there are some great bistro restaurants which target the upmarket ski crowd. Try **Mingo's Bar and Grill** 101 High Street (main road- next to the Delatite). Telephone 5775 1766. I can recommend the Spaghetti Marinara. The Paella is also recommended. Also, there is the **Come and Get Stuffed Bistro** at 50 High Street. Telephone 5775 1955. Excellent. We had the Pasta and Risotto of the day, a stubby of light beer and proper coffee for \$16 each. Gerry had a superb Noodle and shredded chicken dish, complete with fresh garden herbs.

Milawa – The Commercial Hotel on the snow road. Telephone 5727 3208. Reasonably good pub fare. A good place to stop on the way to Mt. Buffalo.

Sea Lake – The Sea Lake Hotel on the Sea Lake to Swan Hill Road. An enormous old, classic rambling country Mallee pub. Almost reasonable steak and chicken dishes – typically outback pub fare. On the Friday night we visited they had some great specials. I enjoyed a Fillet Mignon drowned in mushroom sauce for \$7. Gerry and Cameron had a scotch fillet steak, and finished off with apple pie and ice-cream - all for \$10. A good stop-off on the way to Hattah Lakes.

Wodonga Blazing Stump Hotel on Tallangatta Road. Telephone 60242041. We stopped here on Bill's trip to Kossie in '98. It was on the Easter Monday and it was their half-price night. Lots of good meals and drinks at bar prices. A welcome retreat after a cold, wet and windy trip in the Snowys.

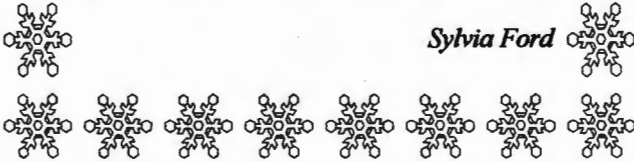




Wilkie Update

Thirteen of the fourteen winter weeks are occupied now and all food in lockers, it was a close call for Pearson though Les Sobey (from Albury) has put in a new ski rack so hopefully the falling-out ski problem will be no more. Now we just have to be patient and wait for the temperature to drop and the fluffy white stuff to appear in SUPER ABUNDANCE a.s.a.p.

Sylvia Ford



From the Membership Secretary

Excess of zeal 1.

Apologies for near heart attacks for those (angelic ones) who received a RED NOSE after having paid. The error occurred during despatch when an anonymous one started using the prepared red nose copies for **e-v-e-r-y-b-o-d-y!!!** (You can't get the elves, you know!)

Excess of zeal 2.

Apologies to the new members whose names should have appeared last month and were **v-e-r-y c-a-r-e-f-u-l-l-y** edited out of the list. The blush appears somewhere in this NEWS.

New members:

ALISON FUNG
DALE HALSTEAD

SIBYLLE HOLDHEIDE

SALLY MARTIN

MICHAEL WAYNE MILLER

JANE MICHELE SULLIVAN

ANNA ANSON

JOSEPH CUCE

COLUMBINA DENIS

DAVID HARBERTS

PAMELA JACKSON

DEIRDRE C LLOYD

Altered Address/Phone:

MARGARET & PETER ANDREW

CHRISTOPHER & PATRICIA CHEAH

SHEENA HALL

PHILIP HEATHCOTE

MICHAEL HUMPHREY

DIANNE MEASON

MERILYN WHIMPEY

CAROLE PATTERSON

SUSAN & TONY RALSTON

KEITH WHITE

Excess of zeal 3.

Thank you those members who sent in repeat subscriptions for the same year: Barbara Day, Marianne Gemperle, John Markham, Helen Pitt. Your cheques have not been presented. You may balance your cheque-books accordingly.

Life Members 11

Honorary Members 9

Single memberships 396

Family memberships 100 (= 2x 50)

Total membership 516 (This includes unpaid to date.

Next month's figure will be much lower!)

Equipment for Hire

The Melbourne Bushies has some great equipment for hire. We suggest that you 'try before you buy'. The equipment is very easy to hire. All we ask is that you return the gear in a clean and dry condition. Here is the equipment list and the current hiring fees and deposits.

<u>Tents</u>	W/end	Weekly	Deposit
MacPac Eclipse (2 person)	10	20	20
Salewa Sierra Micra (1 person)	10	20	20
Euraka Moonshadow (1 person)	10	20	20
Companion (1 person)	10	20	20
<u>Packs</u> (for weekend or longer)			
Outgear	5	10	20
Berghaus	5	10	20
Kathmandu	5	10	20
<u>Day Pack</u>			
MacPac	2	4	8
<u>Sleeping Bags</u>			
MacPac (3 season)	5	10	20
Paddy Pallin (3 season)	5	10	20
Snowdrift (3 season)	5	10	20
<u>Sleeping Mat</u> (foam)			
	2	4	4
<u>Trangia Stove</u> (& meths bottle)			
	3	6	6
Map Holders and Compasses			
	2	5	10
Food Dehydrator (per fortnight)			
		5	15
Track Maintenance Tools (secateurs for own garden use)			
	5	10	20

Goretex/Parka/Walking Boots

The Committee recommends that walkers should hire these from better outdoor shops for correct sizing.

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

Rod Novak

A Night in the Mountains.

**Bungalow Spur - Mt Feathertop - Bon Accord Spur.
May 1999**

A thin layer of ice on the insides of tent flies on a crisp, cold, Saturday morning heralds the start of a new adventure. Over breakfast, party members find each other from the various camp sites that they found when arriving at different times during the night. The sun peeks over a nearby mountain ridge, bathing isolated spots in mild warmth, as we pack our worldly possessions and head for Harrietville.

As we start the climb the air is cool and clear. A lyrebird welcomes us to his domain with a brief dance.

The wide, well-worn track climbs steadily, tracing its way up the face of the spur, and soon we have gain height and are treated to expanding views of the valley below. On we push, with pauses for rest, up onto the Bungalow Spur, past more camp sites, past the brief exchange between straight Mountain Ash and twisted Snow Gum, past old hut ruins, until the Currawongs greet us at Federation Hut. Another rest and then its the last push to Feathertop for lunch, leaving our packs beneath an old centurion of a snow gum on the way.

The views at the top are splendid on what remains a cool autumn day, and we pass a very pleasant hour eating, resting, and peak-spotting from our imposter peak as the real one is already occupied. All too soon its back down to the packs, collecting water on the way from a spring that never seems to fail. Then a short haul with water-laden loads until we find our camp site, an idyllic grassy location amongst more old snow gums.

Teas, coffees, and soups all taste wonderful along with campsite chatter, and before we know it we are partaking of a very early dinner. Derrick cooks sausages while the rest of us make do with dehydrated of various sorts. For good reason the area is fuel stove only and without a fire the cool night air soon drives us to our tents, the meagre light from three candles unable to hold us. Despite the early retirement most of us sleep soundly, the result of a good day's exercise.

Next morning the silence is so profound that you can hear the blood pumping through your ears. Soon it is joined by the familiar noises of a camp waking - zips unzipping; tent flaps flung back; greetings between friends; billys being filled; cookers being lit. Despite being over 1700 metres above the sea the night had been kind and the dew mild. The sun rises and highlights the fated few. Eventually bags are stuffed, tents collapsed, packs packed and we are on our way another day.

The views from High Knob in the early morn are wonderful. The Fainters, Buffalo, Hotham, Loch, et al rise above the smoke, thankfully trapped low in the valleys for a while at least. The Razorback is easy walking as we amble along, sometimes through thin snow, pausing regularly, drinking in the Alpine air, unwilling to leave this place too quickly. After a short uncertainty, resolved thanks to Debbie, we reach the Big Dipper and take our last break on the ridge, enlivened by the tale about the walker just rescued from the spur below.

Bon Accord Spur, the motive for this walk, is steeper than the Bungalow, and we were pleased to be past the worst section and reach the hut in good time for lunch and a brew. Then we pressed on, stopping occasionally for a breather, rapidly descending into the now risen smoke, which enfolds the surrounding ridges, until we reached the Ovens River. Afternoon tea and a dip for some toes, and an easy lope back to Harrietville and the cars.

Thanks to Derrick, Debbie, Max, Jerry, Brian, Charles, Lynne, Rod, and Ritchie for your company, to the Victorian Autumn for such excellent weather, and the Alps for just being there.

Alan Clarke

CONSERVATION FORUM

G.T reports that

As anticipated in last month's *NEWS*, the **Wongungarra** is coming under increasing pressure from vested interests, primarily logging interests. The Wongungarra in the last pristine river catchment in Victoria. It is habitat to the rare and threatened Spotted Tree Frog, Peregrine falcon, Smoky Mouse and the White-footed Dunnart. *The Age* Wed 26/5/99 carried an article about a visit to Mount Beauty by the Federal Minister for Forestry and Conservation, Wilson Tuckey. Mr Tuckey is playing to the vested logging interests, which are collectively furious about the Wongungarra being put in a special protection zone. About the frog Mr Tuckey says "... I am sure parts of it [the Wongungarra] need to be protected. We have the frog, but I need to know how far he jumps.". Oh dear! An audit by the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment found that logging the Wongungarra wilderness area was unnecessary as local timber mills have adequate access to timber elsewhere. I think the Club is going to have to lobby for the Wongungarra. Logging would total despoil the valley, it's steep and logging would be inefficient and destructive. It's just madness, pique and greed by the loggers.

Falls Creek Ski Lifts are pushing on on the premise that the **Mt McKay development** is a done deal already. All their actions indicate that they think it's a fait accompli. One of the developer's promises is that they won't remove any trees for either ski runs or the lift towers. When the same company (as Mt Hotham Ski Lifts) extend the ski runs out and around Mt Loch the gouged 15-20m wide swathes bulldozed through the snow gums for the ski runs.

We are trying to pin down the exact location of the proposed McKay ski run/lift lines with a view to surveying them in August when snow is on the ground, as distinct from summer pontifications. The Bushies can probably help here given our semi-permanent occupation of the High Plains in Winter. Any Wilky users prepared to help please contact me on _____ or _____ I'll have details soon.

Graeme Thornton
Conservation Convenor

At the 26th May Federation Conservation Committee meeting the following issues were discussed.

Wilson's Prom – The Federation met with Parks Victoria in May to clarify "bushwalking" issues at the Prom. Parks Victoria have assured the Federation that the Lighthouse will not be exclusive to commercial groups. All walkers will have access to the Lighthouse and environs. There will be no change to the number of permits for independent walkers (because of the commercial groups). The commercial lodge will be called Oberon Lodge and will be off the track near Oberon Bay. There are some questions about the water supply and sullage. The track to Sealers Cove was only temporarily widened for drainage works and will be returned to its original size. The North-east area of the Prom is a designated wilderness zone, with plans to rehabilitate the road.

The track to Johnny Suey Cove is now permanently closed. An alternative route is from Five Mile Beach (around the coast). Mt La Trobe and the Vereker Range are outside the Reference Area and can be accessed with a permit.

Environment Victoria are holding a forum on the 19th – 20th June 1999 on "Preparing ourselves for the challenges of today and the future". For more information telephone 9348 9055.

Track Maintenance Forms – these are available and help communicate track problems (fallen trees/damage) to the appropriate authorities. And they work.

The Federation met with the **Recreational Co-ordinator for State Forests (NRE)**. There has been some issues with user conflict e.g. forest tracks closed for car rallies. The 1999 track closures / permits for major events have been communicated by VicWalk (copies in the Clubrooms). This is to help with trip planning and to minimise problems. Also, a database is being compiled for all walking tracks in Victorian State Forests. This will be important register and will protect tracks with the 50 metre buffer zone requirement.

Minimal Impact Bushwalking

Please follow the common-sense approach of what you carry in, you must carry out. Do the right thing with litter, especially plastic and foil – take it home and bin it. Apple cores, banana skins and orange peel are not part of our bush, take these home and put them into your compost bin. Be careful with toothpaste and detergent. Clean your billies and teeth well away (100 metres) from the water source. Dig a hole for your toilet stop.

Alpine Action

This is the latest newsletter from the *Victorian National Parks Association* focusing on the current battle against unfettered development in the Victorian Alps. I have placed the current issue of *Alpine Action* on the Conservation noticeboard. Next time you pop into the Club – grab a cuppa and have a read of the campaigns to protect **Mt McKay** (Mountain Pygmy Possum prime habitat), an update on the proposed expansion of **Rocky Valley dam**, and the last chance to save the Wongungarra. If you would like some more information on this, see the posters in the clubrooms and read the updates on the Conservation noticeboard. You can also contact the Campaign Officer - Peter Barker - at the VNPA or on the net at peterb@vnpa.org.au

Thank You

A special thanks to all the club members who wrote their submission to the RFA Steering Committee asking for the Wongungarra to be included in the Alpine National Park. You will receive a chocolate frog for your efforts.

Rod Novak

A Highlands Day Walk

The day walk on Sunday 9 May started at a locality named Highlands on the Mt. Broughton Plateau. Seventeen easy medium walkers strode out across the pretty plateau with its magnificent stands of box, red gums and mountain ash. As we passed through a copse of eucalypts two koalas were observed in the lower branches. One in particular was very curious and watched us attentively for a long time. The weather was just perfect, sunny with a blue sky and a gentle breeze. We halted for morning tea beside a small creek and a stand of red gums.

We had lunch on the summit of Mt. Broughton where we were joined by the medium walkers who had started their walk from the valley below. After lunch we headed off to the Switzerland Range which is very steep. We picked up a fire trail on the narrow ridge and followed this to the Goulburn River valley. It is a beautifully wooded range offering occasional views of the valleys on either side. Once we cleared the forest we started on a very steep descent and the views of the valley and the surrounding ranges were superb. The weather was glorious and this must be one of the prettiest walks on the Autumn Program. Many thanks John (Kittson) for a great day.

Art Terry

Important Notice

Rod Novak has kindly offered to edit *The News* in August and September while I am on holidays. Email him on or phone

Search & Rescue

*Search Practice 31 July - 1 August 1999 Mt St Gwinear
Baw Baw National Park*

This practice will provide a great opportunity to learn valuable bushcraft skills, including of course a search practice in the snow. It is open to Search and Rescue members or any club members who are experienced in cross-country skiing with a weekend pack. You would need full weekend snow camping gear and your own skis. You are also expected to provide your own food. Transport will be provided by police bus which departs Glen Iris Primary School at 0630 Saturday. The return on Sunday is approximately 1900. Parking in the school grounds is available.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Peter Chalkley (AH) by 20 July.

April Walks Statistics

	Number	Average	1998
Sunday	4	43	37.5
Pack carry	4	9.5	6.8
Base camp	1	8	12
Lodge	1	8	12
Other day	1	10	-
Cancelled	2		

Arctic Spring—Last Chance

March—April 2000:

We may not be able to offer this trip of a lifetime again.

4 weeks above the 60th parallel in Canada's Northwest Territories

10 days across Baffin Island by Inuit dog sled

- Great views of the aurora.
- Temperatures well below Australia's record low of -23° C.
- Local bed & breakfast accommodation while you acclimatise.
- A week in the wilderness outside Yellowknife. Total cost about \$7500. Ask for our trip notes.

Too cold and costly? Ask for the brochure describing our many northern Australian bushwalking holidays!



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

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

July 1999

2-4	BOGONG HIGH PLAINS – START OF SKI SEASON	Private	E/M	Pearson Cresswell	
3 Sat	MT ALEXANDER STATE PARK	Private	E/M	Max Casley	
4 Sun	BUNGAL STATE FOREST – MOORABOOL RIVER	Bus	E & E/M	Jean Woodger & Bill Donald	#
9-11	KOOYOORA (BASE CAMP)	Private	E	Anne Wilkins	
10 Sat	BEGINNERS SKI DAY – LAKE MOUNTAIN	Private	E	Pearson Cresswell	*
11 Sun	ELPHINSTONE TUNNEL –FRYERSTOWN	Bus	E & E/M	David Laing & Jean Giese	#
16-18	SKI TRIP: MT. STIRLING (CAMP)	Private	M	Graeme Thornton	
18 Sun	PYRITES CREEK – MT SUGARLOAF	Bus	E/M & M	Darryl Weinert & Anne Wilkins	#
21 Wed	FOOTHILLS OF THE DANDENONGS	Private	E/M	George Sawenko	
23-25	SKI TRIP: INTRO TO SNOW CAMPING	Private	E/M	Ken MacMahon	
23-25	BLACK RANGE BASE CAMP	Private	E	Max Casley	
24 Sat	DANDENONGS EXPLORER	Private	E	Michael Humphrey	
25 Sun	LYSTERFIELD – CHURCHILL PARK	Bus	E & E/M	Margot McNamara & Julie Ralph	#
30-1 Aug	DOWNHILL SKI WEEKEND: MT BULLER	Private	E	George Zamora	*
30-2 Aug	SKI TRIP: THE BLUFF-MT LOVICK- MT MAGDALA	Private	M	Peter Chalkley	

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers
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