



OCTOBER 1999



Social Scene

In this Issue

- *Who's Who in the Melbourne Bushies (Jean Giese)*
- *North with SuperDope - Part 2*
- *Walk Previews for November*
- *Details of Sunrise Walk on 27/11*
- *Bushies "Good Food" Guide*
- *Wednesday Night Capers*
- *Conservation Forum*

Included with this Issue

- *1999 / 2000 Summer Program*

Tennis Round Robin and BBQ Lunch

At Tulip Street Tennis Club
107 Tulip Street, Sandringham
Saturday 16 October

We will play from 10.30am to 12.30pm
followed by a BBQ using the Tennis Club
facilities.

Beginners Welcome!!

Rackets can be hired for \$2. Approximate cost of court hire
will be between \$5 and \$10 per person, depending on
numbers.



Second Hand Sale, Billy Boiling & Tent Pitching competition

Club Rooms on Wednesday
27 October at 8 pm.

Bring in any secondhand (or new)
gear that you want to sell or swap.

For more information contact
David Arnold

See page 3 for
more details



Maldon Folk Festival

29 October to 1st November

*A great time to be had by all singing and dancing the weekend away!
There will be a dance on the Friday night and all sorts of music and
entertainment over the whole weekend.*

*We will be meeting up with the Bendigo Alpine Club and generally
having a fun weekend.*

The cost is \$40 for the weekend.
See Sylvia in the Clubrooms or the notice
on the board for further information.



For Social Scene Information call Fiona on

From the President

Spring has sprung, the snow has gone, let's get our walking gear back on! Yes, I know that it's not a good rhyme and that the snow has been noticeable by its absence, but the better weather is here, along with the Spring flowers. We've had some excellent day and weekend walks and base camps recently, with more to come. Many of these are suitable for Sunday walkers who would like to try something a little more adventurous. So if you are one of these, why not be bold? The Club will help you if you need some gear. You won't regret it!

Derrick Brown

Thanks a Million, Rod

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Rod Novak who very kindly offered to step in and edit *News* for the months of August and September so that I could go overseas on holidays.

Rod has done an excellent job and left things in such a way that it is very easy to pick up the threads again. The only down side is that I did learn to yodel in Austria and I intend to demonstrate this new skill to fellow club members when they will least expect it!

Clare



Who's Who in the Melbourne Bushies



Jean Giese

Jean Giese, whom I first met some five years ago when I joined MBW, has to be the person who has had the greatest impact on my ability to enjoy bushwalking and the bush. She introduced me to the skills of pack carrying and camping with warmth and humour, although at times she did seem a little astonished at the mess I managed to get myself into.

Jean is a life member of the MBW and when I joined was the President of the Club. I know many members have immensely enjoyed the day walks and extended pack carries that she led for many years, especially at Easter and over the Christmas break. She was given the accolade of being "a great little navigator" and she certainly never led me astray! Jean never ceased to amaze me as to just how many goodies one little woman could pull out of a small back pack to provide comfort for herself and others when it was most needed.

Jean currently spends a lot of her time leading her U3A team all over the countryside and I am sure they treasure her just as we do.

Clare Lonergan

Found

A set of keys, in a small leather purse. Found at _____, probably left behind after a 'do'.
Contact Derrick or Gina on _____

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 (1 Year) \$180

½ Page 1 Issue - \$30; 3 Issues - \$75; 12 Issues (1 year) \$270

Full Page 1 Issue - \$50; 3 Issues - \$125; 12 Issues (1 year) \$450

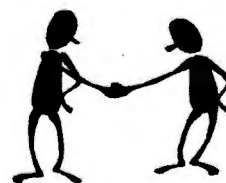
Only advertisements directly relating to bushwalking will be accepted (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, etc);

Members Ads - FREE

**Closing date for November *News* is
27 October, 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

Wednesday Night Capers



Fun & games at the Club Rooms on Wednesday Nights!



Billy Boiling and Tent Pitching Competition

Venue: Club Rooms

Date: Wednesday 27 October 7.15pm

Bring along your for a competition in billy boiling and tent erecting

Tent categories:



Single pole



Two poles



Couples

From all packed up to all pegged out.

Billy boiling: Half litre water

Bring your stove/fuel/billies/matches (as you carry them in your pack).

\$1 entry fee

For further information contact
Sylvia

Colour Slide and Photograph Competition

Theme : Walking around the World

Judge: Don Weston

Date: Wednesday 17 November 1999

Prints will be on display from 7.30pm and colour slides will be shown at 8pm

This competition is open to all club members. Just submit up to five 35 mm colour slides and/or five mounted prints.

Prints: Will be classified in 2 groups small (up to 15 x 10cm) and large (13 x 18cm and above). Prints must be mounted on cardboard and identified on the back with the member's initials.

Slides: Please draw a black dot on the bottom left hand front corner of the colour slide mount and identify your slides by writing your initials on the mount.

Titles: Please write appropriate titles on both slide mounts and photo mount.

Winners and runners up of the various categories will be presented with certificates on the evening.

For more information contact Clare
or Sylvia

Forthcoming Events in Club Rooms



Choofer/stove

"cook up"

with Anne Wilkins

Wednesday 1st December

Club Christmas Party

Wednesday

15th

December



EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

Get ready for those Millennium celebrating summer trips up in those hills. And with those e x t e n d e d trips, the trick to real enjoyment is to have a really light pack. So do yourself (and your back) a flavour. Hire the Club's food dehydrator and prepare some tasty dishes for that big trip. Impress your friends with your culinary treats. And to help you along, the food dehydrator kit comes with an instructional video and a recipe book, which contains the secret successes (and failures) of past gourmet delights. The investment is only \$5 per fortnight with a \$15 refundable deposit. Give it a try.

Rod Novak

Day Walks for October & November, 1999

Saturday 30 October Dandenongs Easy

Leader Michael Humphries
 Map Reference Melways Map 127 G3
(meeting spot)
 Approximate distance 12 km
 Transport Private
 Area Monbulk-Emerald
 Expected time of return 4.30pm

Monbulk to Emerald. This is a pleasant easy walk along the Sassafras Creek to Butterfield Park where we will have lunch. We then walk alongside Menzies Creek where we climb the steps to the last part of the walk towards Emerald Lake. Lovely views from here. Meet 10.15am Emerald Reserve – third roundabout through Emerald on the right. Car shuffle involved. Phone me on 9848 4883 for further information.

Saturday 6 November Historical Walk Easy

Leader Lance Mobbs
 Transport Private

This time we will visit Prahran and I'm hoping with time permitting, we will split this walk in two where we will see both sides of Prahran, the working class area and the mansions.

This should be an enjoyable stroll through a leafy suburb. So if you want to come, either see me in the clubrooms or write to me at

We will meet at Flinders Street Clocks at 10am.

Sunday 7 November Yea Spur – King Parrot E/Medium & Medium Creek

Leaders John Kittson & Bill Donald
 Map Reference Flowerdale & Homewood
Maps. Scale 1:25,000
 Approximate distance from Melbourne 130km
 Transport Bus from South Bank
Boulevard at 9am
 Area Near Yea (Goulburn Valley
Highway)
 Expected time of return 7.30pm

This walk is in open farmland with wonderful views. Both walks involve a fairly steep climb of about 150 meters to get you up onto the spur. The medium group will start near Mt. Marianne and the E/Medium group a

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).

few kilometers further on. The two walks will follow the Yea Spur along to Junction Hill and then onto the bus. This area is fairly exposed so it would be advisable to bring warm clothing and your coat just in case. You will need to bring a supply of water. Don't forget that change of clothing and shoes for the end of the walk. The bus will be travelling out along the Hume Freeway and turning off at Tallarook.

Sunday 14 November Wilkes Creek – Mt Easy & E/Medium Strickland

Leaders Jean Woodger &
Brian Crouch

Map Reference Juliet Nth/Steavenson
1:25,000 & Marysville-Lake
Mountain Outdoor Leisure

Approximate distance 15 & 18 km

Transport Bus from South Bank
Boulevard at 9am

Area Narbethong (Marysville)

Expected time of return 7pm

Starting near the Marysville Trout Farm, we will be walking on tracks through lovely forest on the slopes of Mt. Strickland and beside a gurgling creek with beautiful fern gullies. The easy medium group have one fairly long steep uphill climb to Mt. Strickland, and then inevitably, down again! The easy route has still to be decided, but we are trying to work out how to avoid the steep climb without missing out on the fern gullies. The solution to this will be revealed at the time of booking.

Wednesday 17 November Belgrave/Emerald Easy Medium Puffing Billy

Leader Alister Rowe

Transport Private

Meet at Grants Picnic Ground off Monbulk Rd (Melways Ref 75K4) at 10 am. Walk to Emerald Lake via Sassafras & Menzies Creeks and beside Puffing Billy line from Clematis. Catch 3.40pm train at Lakeside for return to Belgrave at 4.37pm. Fare \$10 seniors, \$11.50 for the younger ones. May visit Johns Hill Lookout if time permits. Although a generally easy walk this should be a "fun" day with plenty to see, and (not least) a ride on our famous train. Distance of walk approximately 16 km.

Sunday 21 November Easy & E/Medium	Kilcunda – San Remo
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Leaders	Lynda Larkin & Clare Lonergan
Map Reference	Melways pg 527
Approximate distance	E/M 15-17km E 12 km
Transport	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am
Area	South Gippsland
Expected time of return	7pm

Commencing on the cliff tops at Kilcunda we will cover varying terrain overlooking Bass Strait – caves and beaches of geographical and geological interest to be explored. There will be rock hopping and a few undulations to achieve desired cardiovascular effect, wonderful ocean vistas to take in and green, hilly grazing lands to pass through. Please take sunscreen, sun hats, plenty of water and good sturdy footwear. This is a most enjoyable walk and there is nothing like a little wine tasting and/or a good coffee at a picturesque winery to finish off a great day. We will see what we can come up with. Stay posted!!!!

Saturday 27 November Easy	Dandenongs Explorer
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Leader	Michael Humphrey
Transport	Private



Please see the leader in the Club Rooms for more details with respect to this walk or telephone leader on .

Saturday 27 November Standard of Walk – Sleepy	Sunrise Walk (Not a Surprise Walk as I have been asked by some!!)
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Leader	Stuart Mann (Ph)
Map Reference	Yes, there is one somewhere
Approximate distance	16 km – whatever
Transport	Private or Taxis!
Area	MELBOURNE
Expected time of return	7.30AM

PLEASE NOTE EARLY START
12.00AM (Or is that a Late Start?)

Now for something completely
different!!



OKAY!

All I want to do is start walking at Midnight along the Yarra and finish in the heart of Melbourne. I then want to see, as dawn comes up, whom I have been talking to. Hopefully there will be someone there because I don't talk that much.

The starting point will be the Boathouse at Fairfield Park, Melway Map 30 J 12. Barbecue facilities are available at the park for those who wish to use them.

Items of interest:
Red wine. There will be a Full moon. There will be a beautiful starry night. There will be no clouds and there will be no rain. There will be delusions of Godhood.

Items to bring
Batteries, coffee, tea, red wine, torches, nibbles, batteries, red wine, raincoats, sun cream, etc.

The last sentence subtly implies there will be a lot of stopping on the way.
And that last sentence does not subtly imply that there will be a lot of stopping on the way.

THERE WILL BE NO SINGING ALOUD OR ALLOWED!

And all song sheets shall be used to start fires!
We may finish the walk by waving the Sunday Bus off!!

I doubt that this walk is going to be a "Qualifying Walk", but that depends upon what you want to get qualified in. To be truthful, I even doubt that this preview qualifies as a "Preview".
Sleep walkers are welcome.

Sunday 28 November E/Medium & Medium	Tanglefoot – Mt St Leonard
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Leaders	Debbie Henry & Sally Bouvier
Transport	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am



A preview for this walk will be in the next edition of *News*. Alternatively, see the leaders in the Club Rooms for more details with respect to this walk.

August Walks Statistics

	Number	Average	1998
Sunday	5	41	38
Pack carry	1	7	10
Base camp	1	9	16
Lodge	1	10	-
Other day	3	10	12
Cancelled	1		

Weekend Walks for October & November

5 – 7 November **Keppel Hut – Cathedral Range**
E/Medium

Leader Darryl Weinert
 Transport Private



Please see the leader in the Club Rooms for more details with respect to this walk or telephone Darryl on

12 –14 November **Mt Hotham – Paling spur – High Plains**
Medium

Leader Gina Hopkins
 Map reference Bogong Alpine National Park
 Outdoor Leisure Map
 Area Pyalong (Northern Highway)
 Transport Bus from South Bank
 Boulevard at 9am

Approximate distance 15 & 17 km

Expected time of return 7.30pm

Approximate distance from Melbourne 90 km

We'll have an early start on Saturday morning, heading off down the Big Spur towards Swindlers Creek and its junction with the Cobungra River. From there it's a steep climb up the Paling Spur to the High Plains south of Youngs Hut. We'll continue up Young Spur enjoying the beautiful alpine scenery along the way and head over to Mt Jim to find a campsite for the night amongst the snow gums. The next day we go steeply down to the Kiewa River via Weston Hut and Blair Hut and then it's a fair climb (about 780 m) up the Machinery Spur to the summit of Mt Loch where we should be rewarded with spectacular views.

With the amount of ups and downs on this trip, and the distance to be covered each day, you will need to be pretty fit. Some of the walking on the first day may be through thick scrub so be prepared for anything, including the possibility of snow.

19-21 November **Stronachs Camp – Mt St Gwinear**

Leader Lance Mobbs
 Transport Private
 Approximate distance 20 Km

On this walk we shall start at Stronachs Camp and finish at Mt St Gwinear car park. This is an easy walk so if time permits, we could do a bit of exploring. If the weather is

fine and the flowers are out this should be a pleasant walk. Come along and enjoy the weekend.

26-28 November **Mt McDonald – The Bluff**
Hard

Leader Cameron McMillan
 Map reference Watersheds of the Howqua,
 King & Jamieson Rivers
 1:50:000

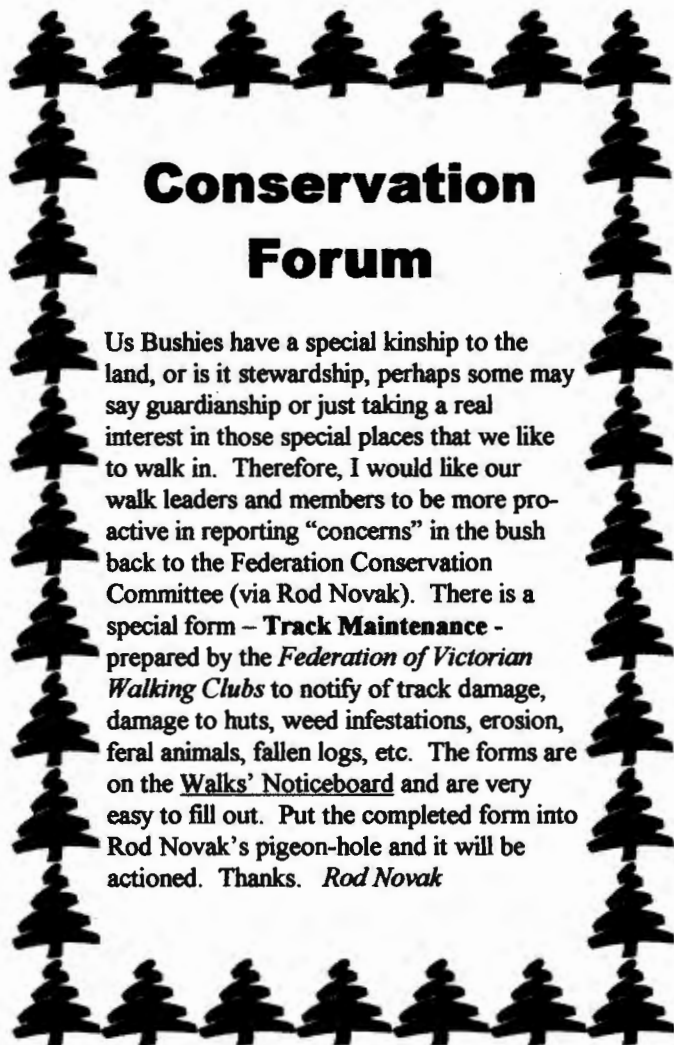
Area North East of Mansfield

Transport Private

Approximate distance 22 km

Expected time of return Sunday evening 9pm

This walk will be a repeat of Bill's March 1995 trip with a slight variation of the route on Sunday. From memory it was quite physically demanding. Saturday is a big day so it is not suitable for beginners. For more information see me in the Clubrooms or contact me at home on



Conservation Forum

Us Bushies have a special kinship to the land, or is it stewardship, perhaps some may say guardianship or just taking a real interest in those special places that we like to walk in. Therefore, I would like our walk leaders and members to be more proactive in reporting "concerns" in the bush back to the Federation Conservation Committee (via Rod Novak). There is a special form – **Track Maintenance** – prepared by the *Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs* to notify of track damage, damage to huts, weed infestations, erosion, feral animals, fallen logs, etc. The forms are on the Walks' Noticeboard and are very easy to fill out. Put the completed form into Rod Novak's pigeon-hole and it will be actioned. Thanks. *Rod Novak*

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



60TH ANNIVERSARY RECIPE BOOK

Calling all you culinary experts!

Another way the club is celebrating it's 60th birthday is with a very special recipe book

with your recipes.

What I need from you, is your favourite "tried and true" recipe that you have taken out into the bush, and where others have envied you with your amazing meal. Or, you may have some great hints from your bush kitchen. I welcome any suggestions and at this stage there are no categories, as these will develop as your recipes arrive.

It doesn't matter if it is just nibbles - or a 4-course meal (like the recipe suggestions Gina shared with us at the Clubrooms recently)

I am also calling anyone who could assist in sketching / drawing / artwork for our Recipe Book. Or, if you would like to include your own artistic design with your recipe/s then that would be great too.

SO WHAT ABOUT IT - hunt out your favourite camping / hiking recipes so that we can have the Melbourne Bushies Recipe book for prosperity.

If you would like to discuss anything with me, please call on my home phone number and I will get back to you.

These magic culinary recipes would be available some time during the celebrations next year - selling cost would cover printing.

Tel:

Jan Palich

WALK 60?

Reel me in! There is no way I could fail to take the tentative suggestion for a one-off issue of "Walk" hook line and sinker. In fact, whether it goes ahead or not, my contribution is already half-written (at least in my head!) and will be sent in anyway. Although it is not about Tassie, I do need an accurate up-to-date factoid about the South Coast Track for it.

The first time I crossed the Ironboudns was in 1974. The next time was 1988. I was horrified to realise that fourteen years had slipped by just like that - and now it's getting on for another 14! More horrifying was to find that where in 1974 the path had crossed an open stony hillside west of High Camp, by 1988 this had eroded into a very deep gully (above head height in a number of places!) for nearly a kilometre. In 1998 I tried to get a clear idea from someone who had recently done the trip of what the present state of things is there. They didn't seem to have noticed the gully, or anything unusual about the track, which I can only presume to have been established with parallel planking or stone paving. However I am not convinced that they knew exactly the place I was asking about, or if they did, that they could really remember what is now there.

So - can anyone tell me about the track starting at a point about 200 metres west of High Camp and completely distinct from the gully in which High Camp itself is situated, heading north west up to the top of the ridge - in other words north westwards from grid reference 568827 on sheet 8110, South West Cape 1:100 000? (My copy is first edition 1972. The track west of High Camp is in roughly the correct position, but it is completely wrong on the east side, where it is shown coming down the wrong ridge and missing Lousy Bay altogether. The real track (unless it has been significantly realigned since 1988) crosses marked creeks at approximately 571805 and 576800 and reaches the coast at Lousy Bay. Perhaps later editions have corrected this).

Please answer in "News" rather than directly. The point is that this will make it a matter of public record (I assume we still conform with the Copyright Act and send a copy of each issue to the State Library), accessible to all, where a phone call evaporates as soon as you hang up.

Graham Wills-Johnson.

The Kilcunda – Anderson's Hill – Kilcunda Walk

*Our toilet stop was simply grand
So it doesn't matter that it wasn't planned
To be the Maru Fauna Park.*

*That treasure of a place near Grantville
Was to be revisited for a tour and a fill
On our way home after the walk.*

*Meanwhile, down at the old trestle bridge,
T'was my time to start leading "ridgely didge"
For the easy-medium group.*

*Some history about the coal-mining days
And the railway line where cattle now graze
Was mine for the giving at first.*

*Then we wended our way around the coast
Near the water's edge where I like most -
Thank Heaven the tide was low.*

*Once past Kilcunda and the old coal mine.
We slopped through mud and water and slime
Along the dismantled track.*

*T'was peaceful and beautiful out there alright,
With those rolling green hills and the ocean in sight,
And always the running bulls.*

*Many more gates than fences were met,
But I doubt that some of us won't forget
Those minor electric shocks!*

*After passing one barking dog with some fear,
T'was time to lower our leg-working gear
For the climb up Anderson's Hill.*

*Out of the cow pats and muddy pools
To the magnificent heights and more running bulls,
And a welcome break at the top.*

*Then a slow descent to the road and a blister
To be treated at once so the afflicted young mister
Could continue to enjoy his walk.*

*Westward along the highway to a track
Where "Grumpy" promptly turned us back -
For it was private property.*

*No harm was done, for we managed to veer
Toward our desired turnoff point near -
Too near for my liking to "Grumpy".*

*But we heard no shotguns ring out from behind
And the incident was forgotten as we continued to
wind
Our way downhill to the coast.*

*Just one more electric fence to be crossed,
Then onto the sand dunes where back-packs were
tossed
Aside for a welcome lunch-break.*

*Poor Chris was worried about the incoming tide,
That he'd be washed away with his lunch inside,
But alas, his fears were unfounded.*

*We back-tracked along the cliffs for a while,
Enjoying magnificent vistas in style,
'til the time came to head for Kilcunda.*

*From the Sandy Waterholes beach we rose,
And sighed the other group wetting their toes -
Well, Chris thought that he saw John Kittson.*

*Though we thought that we'd passed the easy group
well,
There were so many walkers, it was hard to tell -
Out there on the George Bass Highway!*

*We were torn between absorbing the view
And returning to the bus in time for Maru
Where the baby koala beckoned.*

*Thank Goodness the easy group made it back quite
soon,
For we all had time to sup and to swoon
At the Maru Fauna Park, as planned.*

*And so I say thank you Bob; it ws a great day for all of
us!*

Jill Dawson.



ELUSIVE PLAINS WANDERING

(or the great escape weekend ... from the AFL GF)



A party of 7 visited the little known Terrick Terrick National Park 77 Km north of Bendigo 24-26 September. Found within this National Park of 3850 hectares is an outstanding area of Northern plains grassland and Victoria's most significant stand of Cypress Pine (rare to this region) on a ridge of old granite composed of three main hills. Whichever way you approach this park you'll travel on roads straight and flat as a chess board. The only other campers were a group of 8 cyclists from Bendigo. There is no water provided and the area is dry, though some of the granite outcrops held pools of water.

Sandra and I were the first to arrive at the camping area and selected the flattest area we could amongst the Cypress Pine, Grey Box and Yellow Box.. It was a balmy evening with a golden moon as bright as a street lamp - is this why the Willie Wag tails sang all through the night?

On Saturday we set off on an easy-paced day to 'collect birds and flowers'. We started from the lofty Mt. Terrick (95m) with a 360 degree view of the surrounding areas taking in Pyramid Hill in the west and south to the Dividing Range around Avoca and Bendigo. We continued through open forest to Bennett's Rock (where Tree Martins disappeared into a dead branch) and then on to Regals Rock (where Gina was nearly bowled over by a startled swamp wallaby). At times during the day the pollen from the Pines drifted like smoke through the trees. After lunch 2 of the party returned to camp whilst 5 others 'swept' in an arc across the grassland area hoping to flush out a Plains Wanderer - but no such luck. The only compensation was that I did see the tail end of a tree goanna disappear into an overhead bough.

There are over 100 species of birds - some species noted included Diamond Firetails, Rainbow Bee-eaters, Hooded Robins, a pair of Cockatiels (male inspecting a prospective nest site in a hollow tree), Black Kite, Small Eagle, Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, White-winged Chough, Mistlebird, Crested Pidgeon, Striated Pardalote, Red-rumped Parrot - not to mention lots of Gallahs. Flora noted included Creamy Candles (*Stackhousia*), *Wahlenbergia sp.*, and Grey Mistletoe. In fact we had 2 books claiming to cover this area and they included pictures of different species of the same genera!

On the Sunday we drove down to Shadbolt Picnic Area in the Whipstick, followed a nature trail, on to Flagstaff Hill (where the beacon indicated we were equidistant from Melbourne and Benalla), through the Old Tom Mines with the extensive man-made watercourse, having lunch at the Notley Picnic Area. Leaving her brood for afternoon tea, our leader took off to find a Crested Bellbird - heard but not glimpsed on this occasion. The flora in this area was

quite different with masses of Rosy Baeckea, Cat's Claw Grevillea, Broad Lipped Diuris, *Glossodia*, an emerging Purplish Beard Orchid, lots of Lady's Fingers, Twining Fringe Lily, Rough Mint Bush, and Daphne Heath.

It was a most relaxing weekend - thanks to Gina for patient bird instruction (visual and auditory) and to fellow companions Derrick, Sandra M, Jean G, Debbie Collie, and Rachel for a great weekend. Oh - and we recommend dinner on the balcony of the Shamrock Hotel in Bendigo for starters!

Rosemary Cotter

Duty Roster	
13th October	Gina & Derrick
20th October*	Rod & Debbie
27th October	Fiona & Alan
3rd November*	David & Sylvia
10th November	Peter & Trish

**Date of next committee meeting:
8th November 1999 at 7PM SHARP**

<u>Treasurer:</u>	Accounts for August 1999	
Opening Balance		\$48,478.02
Receipts		\$3,467.00
Payments		\$2,647.25
Closing Balance		\$49,297.77

Wanted to Buy

One Macpac Child Carrier
(Possum or Vamoose model)
Contact: James Marshall on

wilkie update

There is nothing in Spring like Spring Cleaning at Wilky! 23 & 24 October, 1999

Can you imagine spending a weekend in the High Country in a small and cozy lodge; sitting around a glowing fire in the evenings after a scrumptious dinner, with convivial company drinking a nice red or nursing a good port!!

This fantasy can become reality with very little cost to yourself. All we ask is that you give us some of your time to help clean up the lodge after winter.

For more information please contact Doug Pocock on

applications, it is not intended to be relied on as the sole navigation tool. No-one would recommend throwing away the compass and contour map that you use when bushwalking, but GPS can be a very useful companion to these traditional tools.

By using a GPS receiver, you can find your position either in terms of Latitude/Longitude, or map grid reference such as the Australian Map Grid which is the one used on all our bushwalking maps. When the unit is switched on, it looks for as many of the GPS satellites as it can find in the sky (it needs to find at least three but the more the merrier), and then calculates its position from the satellite geometry. GPS was designed to provide an accuracy of 20 metres or better, however the US Govt has so far kept this level of accuracy to themselves! For security reasons, it is deliberately degraded to 100 metres for civilian use. Fortunately, this is still quite sufficient for our purposes, and it is the same level of accuracy to which we usually quote our grid references, which are to the nearest tenth of a kilometer, i.e. 100m.

Handheld GPS receivers are about the same size as a mobile phone. Depending on the model, they will operate for a period of between 10 and 24 hours on one set of batteries (providing you are using the rather expensive alkaline batteries, as opposed to rechargeable varieties which have significantly less capacity). Of course, you can conserve the batteries by turning the unit on only when you want to take a reading, and this would normally be quite OK for bushwalking purposes, since you wouldn't be using it very often (or would you!). Each time you turn the unit on again, you will have to wait a few minutes for it to find the satellites and recalculate its position to an acceptable level of accuracy.

GPS – My experiences with this new toy

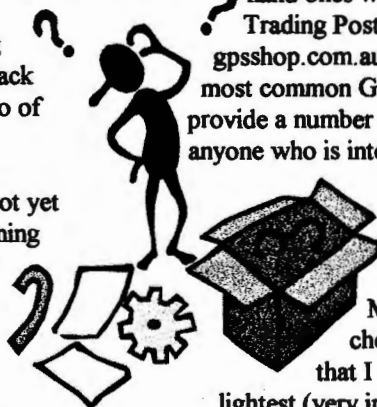
For some time, I had been considering buying a handheld GPS unit. When I became "lost" several times while previewing a walk last month, I decided it was time to get one. Anything which will save the hours of time that can be used up in backtracking to establish your position, and the worry of whether you are going to make it back by dark (or in this case make it back for the millenium choir performance featuring two of our members), has got to be worthwhile!

A brief overview first of all for those who have not yet dabbled in this technology. GPS (Global Positioning System) is a navigation facility which is operated by the US Department of Defense, using a system of 24 satellites to provide global coverage. Although it was implemented primarily for military purposes, it has also been made available for civilian use. It has already gained significant acceptance among maritime and aviation users, both commercially and privately (e.g. boating/fishing enthusiasts). Land-based applications include the tracking of fleet vehicles, computerised street directories as seen in some new car models, and recreational use by 4WD-ers and bushwalkers. I hasten to add that for any of these

There is a variety of handheld units on the market, the most common makes being Garmin, Magellan, and Lowrance. They start at around \$280, or less for second-hand ones which you will find in places like the Trading Post. There is a handy table at www.gpshop.com.au which compares the features of the most common Garmin and Magellan units. I can provide a number of other useful web references to anyone who is interested (send an email to

), or of course you can perform your own search.

The model I chose in the end was the Magellan 315. This was not the cheapest but had a number of features that I was looking for, and it is one of the lightest (very important!). In the field, it proved to be quite reliable in establishing its position to the nearest 100m. I was using the unit in grid reference mode (as opposed to Lat/Lon), and had selected the 1966 Australian Map Grid datum since that was the one used by the map I was carrying at the time. Other reference systems can be selected if required, including the 1984 Australian datum, the worldwide UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) and



dozens of foreign datums. Since the signals from the satellites are extremely weak and it is not practical to use a large antenna such as the ones used for satellite pay TV reception, handheld GPS receivers can experience some difficulty if there is a heavy tree canopy, or even heavy cloud cover. I found that the unit took longer to lock onto the satellites under these conditions, but it did always find them in the end. If it is a tree problem, it should normally only be necessary to move a short distance to a clearer location.

There are whole lot of gimmicky things that many of these units can perform, such as drawing a chart of your journey, telling you your speed (useful for checking the speedo in your car), or even dropping a trail of electronic breadcrumbs so that you can retrace your steps! Oh, and one side-benefit of having a GPS receiver is that you will always know the correct time to within one third of a microsecond, because that's the accuracy that is supplied to it by the satellites for the purpose of calculating distances travelled by radio signals at the speed of light! The only other feature I would like to have is for the unit to be able to let you know where it is, if you lose it in the bush. What a pity that it knows exactly where it is but it has no way of telling you!

David Arnold

New members:
DONALD J ADAMSON

COLIN D DUNN

REGAN R TESSIER

Add to membership list:
CHARLIE DARVAS

Altered Address/Phone:
BILL DONALD

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MARGOT MC NAMARA

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Honorary Members	10
Single memberships	353
Family memberships	94 (= 2x 47)
Total membership	468



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

North with Superjope – Part 2

After our first Kakadu walk we returned to Jabiru and for several days enjoyed the benefits of civilisation. Two of the original group returned to Melbourne and Derrick, Gina and Max joined us, making a group of eight. Those of us who had been on the first walk were starting to feel acclimatised. The planned route for our second walk was a 15 day circuit starting and finishing at Jim Jim Falls, allowing time for numerous side trips. A side trip to the Twin Falls area was on the programme but this had to be cancelled because the park managers had several items of work in progress including the eviction of a saltwater crocodile. Jim Jim and Twin Falls between them drain a large part of the Kakadu escarpment and are a major draw-card for Kakadu in the eyes of many tourists, particularly in the wet season. Our circuit was well known to some of the group and the walking was reasonably predictable.

Our transport dropped us near the base of Jim Jim at lunch time on the appointed day, and after admiring the falls from below we shouldered our heavy packs containing 15 days food and grunted our way steeply up the escarpment in the heat of the afternoon. It was hard work in the conditions and reaching the top was a welcome relief. We followed Jim Jim Creek a short distance upstream to the first of many delectable campsites that we were to enjoy in the next two weeks. That evening the weather was uncharacteristically cloudy. However we had every reason to expect a dry night because our illustrious leader had decreed that it never rains in June (in Kakadu). Rain can be a problem given the standard practice of not carrying tent, sleeping bag or wet weather gear in the dry season. So we were surprised to hear and feel the gentle patter of rain in the night. Next morning an embarrassed Jopie was forced to eat his words. To ensure that the occasion wasn't forgotten, the campsite was named "It never rains in June". Before starting the second day's pack carry we back-tracked to the edge of the escarpment to see Jim Jim Falls from the top. We spent a couple of hours in the area enjoying the awesome splendour of one of Australia's most spectacular waterfalls, surrounded by mind-boggling cliffs which drop 200 metres vertically to the plunge pool and the valley below. We then put our packs on and followed Jim Jim Creek about six kilometres upstream to a point where several imposing rock monoliths projected themselves out of the water and the river bank. This was the next campside and guess what? - it rained again, and this time for much of the night. Some of us were sleeping under rock overhangs but others were not so lucky. Day three was fine and we enjoyed ideal conditions for the rest of the circuit. Superjope's failure to predict the rain was forgiven if not forgotten.

The next few days saw us walking up Jim Jim Creek to one of its headwaters, over a divide and into the Twin Falls catchment. The scenery was typical Kakadu with its mixture of vegetation types, colourful sandstone rock and usually a delightful creek as a centre-piece. Often the creek would be lined with flat rock platforms, which made for straightforward and satisfying walking. Where scrub-bashing was necessary the vegetation was fairly

open. Deep swimming pools were frequent and much time was spent in them. At the end of day six we reached a particularly attractive campsite where we were to spend two nights. The kitchen/dining area was established on a clean flat rock platform just above a deep circular pool and sleeping areas were defined at higher levels. A small waterfall fed the pool and the water approached via a series of little cascades tumbling down the layers of rock. Across the pool was a patch of rainforest vegetation. It all seemed just right – a campsite that scored ten out of ten for ambience, with great swimming and ready supplies of water and firewood.

Day seven was a full day's side trip and was probably the most enjoyable day of the circuit. It was also Derrick's birthday and I know he will remember it as a happy one. We explored a small side creek which, judging by the map topography, looked "interesting". On reaching an area where several branches of the creek tumbled over a small escarpment, we were amazed to find not merely some beautiful waterfalls but also a cave system where a creek had cut itself an underground channel. The whole area was loaded with atmosphere and our joy was heightened by the fact that we had not known what to expect from it. It might have been anti-climatic but in the event it surpassed our expectations.

The next four days were spent generally following Twin Falls Creek downstream although sometimes we walked across country, either to cut corners or for the sake of variety. We had one memorable night in a beautiful patch of rainforest, which has a totally different ambience from the more typical woodland or rock environment of Kakadu. The creek increased in size. Sometimes it was swampy and difficult to follow, but elsewhere progress was easier where the creek was rocky or its banks were less densely vegetated. One night we camped in an area which we simply called "Paradise". Apart from the general atmosphere of the place the sunset was superb.

Our last night on Twin Falls Creek was at Amphitheatre Falls, a spot where a waterfall drops into a huge pool surrounded by a semi-circular amphitheatre. It was here that a member of the group, who shall remain nameless, caused a minor sensation by dropping a boot into the fast flowing creek. The boot was carried over the waterfall and into the pool. It was located with the aid of a pair of binoculars, but the incident reminded us of how vulnerable we are – how we depend on our gear as well as on our personal health and fitness.

On day thirteen we left Twin Falls Creek and headed across country to the well-named Rainforest Gorge. This is probably the largest area of rainforest in Kakadu and it was one of the highlights of our circuit. We had a great afternoon and morning there before moving on, and our campsite was on a rock platform surrounded by rainforest vegetation, waterfalls and pools. After exploring the creek downstream from the campsite we reluctantly left and walked the short remaining distance to Jim Jim Creek. We camped again at the place where it-never-rains-in-June-but-it-did. This time it didn't. The next morning we walked past Jim Jim Falls thus bringing to an end another great adventure.

Jerry Grandage



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22-24	WILKY WORK PARTY	Private	Easy	Doug Pocock	
22-24	FEATHERTOP – NW SPUR	Private	M	Deb Henry	
22-24	KARA KARA BASE CAMP	Private	E	Rod Novak	
23 Sat	DANDENONGS EXPLORER	Private	E	Michael Humphrey	
24 Sun	PAULS RANGE – CHUM CREEK (TOOLANGI)	Bus	E/M & M	Margot McNamara & David Arnold	#
CUP DAY WEEKEND					
29-2	MT DARLING – WONNONGATTA	Private	M/H	Jerry Grandage	
29-2	WILKY – TAWONGA HUTS – BOGONG VILLAGE	Private	E/M	Lance Mobbs	
31 Sun	DAYLESFORD – HEPBURN SPRINGS VIA TIPPERARY TRACK	Bus	E & E/M	Lynda Larkin & Roger Harris	#
5-7	KEPPEL HUT – CATHEDRAL RANGE	Private	E/M	Darryl Weinert	
6 Sat	HISTORICAL WALK	Private	E	Lance Mobbs	#
7 Sun	YEA SPUR – KING PARROT CREEK	Bus	E/M & M	John Kittson & Bill Donald	#
12-14	HOTHAM – HIGH PLAINS – PALINGS SPUR	Private	M	Gina Hopkins	
14 Sun	WILKES CREEK – MT STRICKLAND (NARBETHONG – MARYSVILLE)	Bus	E & E/M	Jean Woodger & Brian Crouch	#

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