



FEBRUARY, 2000



In this Issue

- *Walkers' Wanderings*
- *Walk Previews for February & March*
- *Committee Reports for 1999*
- *Conservation Forum*
- *Equipment for Hire*
- *New Map*

60th anniversary picnic at gilwell park GEMBROOK come one come all to celebrate the melbourne bushwalkers 60th anniversary in the year 2000!

Join past and present members, with friends and family for lunch and afternoon tea on Sunday 26 March from 12 noon. BBQ facilities available. Sunday walkers will not miss out. Your walk will finish at the park around 3pm for afternoon tea.

contact fiona OR
jenny
for more details and to RSVP

NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc will be held on **Wednesday 23 March, 2000 at 8pm**, in the Horticultural Hall, Victoria Street, (enter from the Clubrooms, MacKenzie Street) for tabling of Annual Reports and Election of Office Bearers. All Welcome.

Only Members can vote.

Agenda

- ✓ Minutes
- ✓ Treasurer's Report
- ✓ Election of Committee and Office Bearers
- ✓ General Business

Spend a Weekend in the Bogong Alpine National Park 17-19 March 2000

Wilkinson Lodge is the Club Hut in the Bogong National Park. This weekend is a chance for Club Members to "wave the flag" and put something into the National Park.

In the past we have removed fences, cleaned up rubbish, cut down pine trees, set up snow pole lines, track maintenance and a host of other jobs. It is also a good opportunity to be introduced to Wilkinson if you have not been there yet (if not, why not?????).
















































Evening meal and lunches will be provided. **BYO** breakfast. Limit of 8 people. Contact the leader, **Doug Pocock Ph:** , for further information.

From the President

The AGM will be held on *Wednesday 23 February* at the clubrooms. We shall be electing the new Committee and there is a motion to increase the subscription so it's important that you are there to have your say. The financial background to this was published in the January edition of *The News*. We shall also be reporting on the Club's activities and we are going to try improving the presentation this year.

This is my last President's message as I shall not be standing for re-election. I'd like to thank the Committee for their conscientious work and for keeping me in order. The Club has many enthusiastic people – Committee and members alike – who are always ready and willing to step in and do the many jobs that need doing and this has made my role an easy and most pleasant experience.

Derrick Brown

												
	Life Members											
	Honorary Members											
	Single memberships											
	Family memberships											
	Total membership											
												
												
												
												
												
												
												
												
												
												
												
												

From the Editor

It has been a pleasure to edit *News* in 1999. I would like express my thanks to all members who have given me encouragement, constructive criticism and lots and lots of material to publish. The consideration shown by members and committee by getting material to me ahead of the deadline is much appreciated and allows me the indulgence of spending more time on layout, etc. I would especially like to thank Rod Novak who stood in as Editor for me in August and September so I could prepare for and go on holidays without trying to fit in two editions of *News*.



Alan sitting atop Mt. Scheffau, Austria, August, 99

Last and not least my heartfelt thanks to my partner, Alan Miller, who with grace and good humour puts up with me taking over his computer at all odd hours of the day and night while he plies me with milo. He also proof reads the copy, takes it to the printer for photocopying, collects and delivers the finished product (about 500 copies of *News*) to the Club Rooms. I could not produce *News* without his help, understanding and patience.

Clare Lonergan

The *News* is the official newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and is published monthly.

Edited by *Clare Lonergan*.

Articles (max 1000 words), 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 (artwork ready)

¼ Page 1 Issue - \$30; 3 Issues - \$80; 12 Issues (1 year) \$300

½ Page 1 Issue - \$50; 3 Issues - \$135; 12 Issues (1 year) \$500

Full Page 1 Issue - \$80; 3 Issues - \$220; 12 Issues (1 year) \$800

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

Members Ads – FREE

Closing date for receipt of material for *The News* is the last Wednesday in each month.

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 February & March, 2000

Saturday 26 February Easy	Dandenongs Explorer
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Leader	Michael Humphrey
Map Reference	Melways Maps 120 & 122
Approximate length of walk	10 kms
Transport	Private
Area	Olinda
Expected time of return	3.30 – 4pm

Come along and join me on the first Dandenongs Explorer walk for the year. We will meet promptly at 10.15am at the Over Flow Car Park at Silvan Reservoir (Stonyford Road) - Melway Map 120 H 11) - it is just past the main entrance (on the right) to the Silvan Reservoir Car Park.

As this time of year is hot, the walk is predominately in shade although there are some open parts and one or two hills. Be sure to bring plenty of water, sunscreen and a hat. Afternoon tea is in a converted Church !!!

If you are not coming by private transport please ring me at home on _____ and I will try and organise something.

Sunday 5 March Easy & E/Medium	Moorabool River – Sheoaks
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Leaders	Sally Bouvier & Alan Miller
Map Reference	Mainly Lethbridge 1:25 000 But also Medina 1:25 000
Approximate distances	13 & 17 km
Transport	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9.00am
Area	South of Meredith
Expected time of return	7pm

Both walks follow the Moorabool River up from just north of Maude to Sharpes Crossing. The easy walk will stay on the tops with extensive views, while the easy medium walk will stay much closer to the river, and probably cross it once or twice. It may be possible to cross the river without getting your feet wet!!

About 2 km from the end of both walks, there is an excellent swimming hole. Bring your swimming costume if it is a warm day. This is open eucalypt country with lots of koalas. They prefer to remain close to the river so the easy medium walkers are more likely to see them.

Sunday 12 March E/Medium & Medium	Lake Eildon National Park (formerly Fraser National Park)
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Leaders	David Arnold & Bill Donald
Map Reference	Coller Bay 1: 25 000
Approximate distance	14 km & 18km
Transport	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 8.30am
Area	West side of Lake Eildon, via Alexandra
Expected time of return	8pm

NOTE 8.30 AM START!!!

Our walks are in the western section of Lake Eildon NP (this part of the Park was previously called Fraser NP before its amalgamation with Eildon State Park in 1997). Both walks start near the caravan park and camping area at Devil Cove. After a short warm-up in the direction of Wallaby Bay, the E/M walk climbs 240m to Blowhard Spur. Rest breaks will be provided, as this is a pretty steep climb - but the views are worth it! From there, the track follows a ridge and another spur down to Aird Inlet, and lunch will probably be taken a little further around the circuit, at School Point. The walk then follows the shoreline of the lake back to Devil Cove. The track is somewhat non-existent in places, but there is not much scrub and the walking is never difficult.

The Medium group starts off along a peaceful nature trail, but the pleasure is only short-lived. Very soon there is a steep climb up Keg Spur, to join Blowhard Spur which is taken for another 2km to the western border of the Park. There is scattered tree cover along most of this route, and there are also some good views from the top of Keg Spur. The walk then goes cross country (off-track) in the direction of Aird Inlet. Lunch will be taken somewhere along this segment, which consists of fairly open eucalypt forest. From Aird Inlet, we follow the shoreline back to Devil Cove as per the E/M walk.

Monday 13 March (Labour Day) Easy	Historical Walk
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Leader	Lance Mobbs
Transport	Private



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

Wednesday 15 March **Barwon River –**
Easy **Buckley Falls**

Leader Trevor Thomson
 Map Reference Melway Map 227
 Approximate distance 15 km
 Transport Private
 Area Geelong
 Expected time of return 5.30pm

Meet 10:00am Barrabool Rd, Belmont, opposite Billabong Deli. Melway Map 227 H7.

An easy walk along the banks of Geelong's majestic Barwon.
 From Barwon Valley Park, we cross the river on a footbridge, then proceed upstream past Banyule Sanctuary to Fyansford Common, Buckley Falls, the Old Paper Mill with its wide aquaduct and National Trust classified residence, and a lookout. To return, we will probably cross the river via the weir above the falls, and take the Lewis Walk back to the start.

Sunday 19 March **Cape Woolamai**
Easy & E/Medium

Leaders Lynda Larkin & Jan Palich
 Map Reference Phillip Island Special
 1: 25 000
 Transport Bus from South Bank
 Boulevard at 9am
 Area Phillip Island

No preview has been received for this walk, which is through the Cape Woolamai Fauna Reserve on Phillip Island.
 The usual walk starts near the Surf Lifesaving Club and is partly along the beach and partly on tracks through heathland. The highest point on the cape is Woolamai Hill which is only 110 m above sea level – so there are no big hills. The usual return route is along a track parallel to the cliff edge. If it is a hot day, bring your swimming costume.

Saturday 25 February **Dandenongs Explorer**
Easy

Leader Michael Humphrey
 Transport Private



Please telephone Michael on for more details with respect to this walk

Sunday 26 March **Ship Rock – Kurth Kiln –**
Easy & E/Medium **Gilwell Park**

Leaders Vicki Scrivenger & Ian Hoad
 Map Reference Gembrook 1:25 000
 Approximate distance 12 & 14 kms
 Transport Bus from South Bank
 Boulevard at 9am
 Area Kurth Kiln Park
 Expected time of return 6.30pm

I like a walk with variety & this walk has it! Both the E & E/M walkers will do a circuit walk from Ship Rock car park in the morning. We will smell eucalyptus & hear kookaburras as we pass picturesque farmland. We will also see vineyards, treed hills (& electricity pylons!)

In the afternoon the two groups will do different walks but both will visit Kurth Kiln Picnic Ground. Kurth Kiln was a kiln built during the Second World War to produce charcoal to power motor cars in place of petrol which was severely rationed. Both afternoon walks are through forests & the terrain is undulating but there are no great hills. One views: beautiful ghost gums, stringybark trees, tree ferns, bracken & evidence of past bushfires. Bring at least 2 litres of water & remember to "Slip, Slop, Slap".

We will finish both walks early (around 3pm) to join other Bushies for the Club's 60th Anniversary festivities at Gilwell Park Scout Camp. Come along & celebrate our great Club! (see flyer for more information).

* * * * *

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).

* * * * *

Duty Roster

16 February* Rod & Fiona
 23 February* Clare & Alan
 1 March* Darryl & Debbie
 8 March Trish & Peter

**Date of next committee meeting:
 Monday 6 March, 2000 at 7PM**

Weekend Walks for February & March 2000

12-13 February **Thompson River Lilo**
Easy Medium

Leader Mark Tischler
 Phone 9885 6607

Transport Private

A challenging but enjoyable river trip from Bruntons Bridge to Cowwarr Weir. A great summer trip with good company, food, and thrills and spills. Participants must have helmet and boyancy vest and be good swimmers. A box lilo and paddle also are required for a fun trip. Contact leader at Club Rooms for equipment needs. Beginners Welcome!!

4-17 March **Abel Tasman Nat. Pk, Nelson Lakes & Heaphy Track (NZ)**
Easy Medium

Leader Sylvia Ford

Map reference E.g. Lonely Planet Walking Guide

Transport Private

Approximate distance 50; 76 & ?km

Area North of South Island (NZ)

To find our NZ legs we'll first do the easy Abel Tasman Coastal Walk taking 4.5 days. Then after a rest and restock day in Nelson we'll do the famous Heaphy Track. This has some spectacular scenery but of course is not like the Alpine areas. Perhaps if we have time afterwards we'll do a day trip into the Nelson Lakes. We shall travel by bus - of which there seem to be plenty - and although hut fees are \$6-\$8 per night I think it will be a relatively inexpensive holiday. We have six definite goers and this will probably be a good number.

3-5 March **Cathedral Range Pack Carry**
Easy

Leader Trish Elmore

Map reference Cathedral Range Outdoor Leisure Map

Transport Private

Plans are to camp at Neds Gully and climb up on to the Cathedral Range, this will involve a bit of a climb of 500 metres but we have a lot of time so don't let that be a deterrent. We will then continue along the range and camp near the Jawbone Peak which isn't far but it is along the rocky ridge. Please consider coming if pack carry walks are new to you as the walk is not long and we have enough time to make it enjoyable for everybody.

10-13 March **Moroka Gorge - Snowy Bluff**
Medium/hard

Leader Gina Hopkins

Map reference Tamboritha-Moroka 1:50 000

Transport Private

Approximate distance 32 km

Area Alpine National Park - Wonnangatta Moroka section

Although the Club has done trips to Snowy Bluff in the past, I seem to have missed out on them. As they turned out to be "epic" trips where camp wasn't reached until late at night perhaps I am not that sorry I wasn't on them. This Labour Day weekend I am planning to approach by a different route from those done before and I cannot guarantee that this route will be easier or more successful. However, it will have an interesting start.

We will meet at 0830 at Arbuckle Junction then drive to the start of the walk at Horseyard Flat. There is reasonable camping at Arbuckle Junction or you can stop at Breakfast Creek on Friday night. We will then walk into Moroka gorge and after enjoying the superb scenery and waterfalls we will climb steeply out of the gorge and make it to Shanty Hollow for camp. There will be an optional side trip to the summit of Mount Kent - the highest point of the trip - which I'll expect everyone to do. From there we head for Snowy Bluff along the Dawson Ridge, and the return route will be to Doolans Plain via the Moroka River Track. Most of the walking will not be on marked tracks, and there will be plenty of steep ups and downs, but hopefully we shall have some good views along the way. Because of the largely unknown nature of this walk it is graded medium/hard and is only suitable for reasonably fit and experienced walkers.

10-13 March **Macalister Springs Walk in Base Camp**
Medium

Leader Alan Ide
 Ph 9569 7349H 9623 8761W
 041 853 0006 Mob

Map reference Howitt-Selwyn 1:50 000 (DU706-858)

Transport Private

Area Alpine National Park

Cost Approx 650 km return@6c/km = \$39

Originally this base camp was to have been in the Dargo High Plains, but I am not familiar with this area so with Pearson's approval I have relocated to Macalister Springs. The plan is to drive up through Traralgon and Licola to the Alpine National Park. We will camp the first night at Breakfast Creek. On day

two we will drive up to the High Plains Carpark where we will "saddle up" and carry our gear to Macalister Springs. This involves a 4.5 km easy pack carry over a grassy track with a total climb* of about 120 meters. Once we have set up our base camp you can decide which (if any) walks you intend to do for the next few days. Depending on whether other people are prepared to do a bit of leading, several walks should be available each day. Possible day walks are:

- 1 Mt. Howitt 300m total climb, 4km return. Easy track
- 2 Mt. Magdala 900m total climb, 10km return. Medium track with steep sections.
- 3 Mt Buggery 800m total climb, 12km return. Rough track. Steep sections & rock hopping.
- 4 Wonnangatta River 1,200m total climb, 18km return. No track. Very steep.

A lot will depend on what you want to do and what the weather is doing. Be aware that this is an Alpine area. It might snow, we could have horizontal driving hail, or it might be nice and sunny! Fortunately there is an excellent hut at Macalister Springs which we can hide in if we have to. (But bring a tent as the hut is for emergency use only!) There is also a toilet.

(* 'Total climb' is my estimated total of all climbed meters. Eg. if you went down 400m and climbed 300m this would be a 'total climb' of 300m)

Bushies Good Food Guide

Mt Beauty – the Workmen's Club in town has a good menu and is quick and tasty. Mains are from \$12 to \$15. Worth a try. During the day if the bakery is very busy, then try the better value deli directly opposite.

10-13 March	Barmah Forest Canoeing
Easy	Murray River
	Suitable for Beginners
Leader	George Zamora
Map reference	River Murray Charts – Maureen Wright
Transport	Private
Area	Barmah Forest Park
Approx. distance from Melbourne	250 km

On Friday night we will camp at Morgans Beach at the start of the Barmah Forest. On Saturday we start our paddle downstream to the Barmah Township. The next two nights we will camp along the river, wherever we see a nice beach (and there are plenty on this trip). We should arrive at Barmah Town on Monday afternoon after smooth water paddling all the way.

You will see magnificent River red gum trees (the park contains the largest natural River Red Gum forest in the world), Grey Kangaroos, and many types of birds (more than 200 bird species inhabit the Park), but you will not see people. It will be an easy trip with lots of swimming stops and breaks. It will be hot – old pyjamas and plenty of 15+ and a hat is a necessity. We will hire canoes at Barmah. The two person Canadian canoes are supplied with life jackets, waterproof barrels, details maps, bird ID book, fact sheets and compasses. A deposit of \$10 will be required to secure the canoes. Book at the club rooms or ring .

Arnhem Land Success!

Last
Chance
BOOK NOW!

**Jawoyn
Explorer:
14 May
– 3 June**

The Jawoyn Association, which represents the traditional owners of the region near Katherine, has given us permission to repeat our 1999 trip to the headwaters of the Katherine River in the south-east corner of Kakadu and the south-west corner of Arnhem Land. Both areas are normally out of bounds to bushwalkers.

We will be accompanied by an Aboriginal guide and/or member of the Jawoyn Association staff. We will have a helicopter food drop at the halfway point.

We cannot be sure we will be allowed to run this trip again.

It took us more than ten years to get permission for the first trip. That trip was a resounding success, but the traditional owners have stressed that we cannot take continued access for granted. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Where else can you spend three weeks walking through the bush with an Aboriginal guide? If you want to find out more, please ask for the trip notes.

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



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



Conservation Forum



The following items were discussed at the VicWalk - Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs' Conservation Committee meeting on 19th January 2000.

Mt. Stirling – At the Mt Stirling Users' Group meeting on the 17th January 2000, a new infrastructure proposal was presented based on developing new roads, car parks and user facilities at higher elevations on the mount.

Apparently the poor snow cover of recent years has resulted in skiers having to walk to the snowline from the current car park!! The plan suggests a new combined Mt Buller and Mt Stirling ticket office in Mirimbah, better road access to Craig's Hut, more car parks, allowing better car access to the summit area. The Federation is still advocating minimal development.

Snowy River – the compromise offer of 15% of headwater flow made in January has been rejected.

Forests – RFA's for Western Victorian and Gippsland are now open for public consultation.

Eildon State Park – it has been reported that 4 wheel drive clubs have been given access to management tracks in return for work parties. The Federation is investigating this claim and will request management tracks are designed for "management vehicles and walkers only".

Alpine National Park – Hooray! The proposed cattle grazing in the Wellington Plateau area will not proceed on

ecological/scientific grounds as the fire-damaged area is still recovering. At Mt McKay, the return of the 284 hectares of excised land back to the national park looks promising. The Mt Hotham proposed powerline has yet to be approved by Parks Victoria and with the onset of autumn/winter it may be delayed until 2001. The Federation and VNPA have requested the Minister to examine other viable options. Parks Victoria has created a new ranger position to monitor the environmental requirements of the renewed alpine cattle licences.

Western Victoria – a Greater Glenelg N.P. – a submission has been presented for uncommitted public lands west of the Grampians, and south of the Wimmera River to be declared a national park.

Wilson's Prom – a new management plan is currently being developed.

Tasmania – a Track Assessment Group has been established to investigate bushwalker impacts in wilderness and/or world heritage areas. This group will examine (1) strategies to "harden the environment" eg. developing tracks (duckboard?) and elevated campsites (platforms in the Arthurs?), (2) education eg. advising bushwalkers / behaviour to reduce impact, and (3) regulation eg. recommending seasonal and permanent bushwalking track closures. For further information see the Tasmanian National Parks website.

Rod Novak

EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

The Melbourne Bushies has some great equipment for hire. We suggest that you 'try before you buy'. Autumn is the best time to enjoy the great outdoors with lots of base camps, beginners pack carries and canoe trips. Our gear is very inexpensive to hire. All we ask is to take care and to ensure the gear is clean and dry on its prompt return. Here is the equipment list and with the current hiring fees and deposits.

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

If you need help with hiring the club equipment ring me on AH 9561 2407, or ask me (or the Door Duty members at Clubnight) for help
Rod Novak



New members:
GILLY HAY



KEITH LLOYD

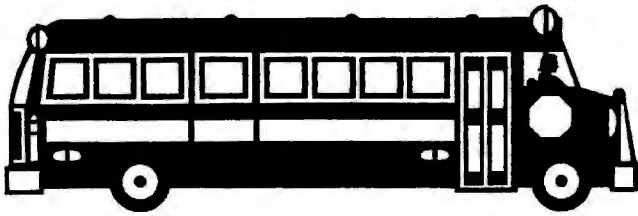


Altered Address/Phone:
DAVID BRETT



LYN CANT





While the bus is in motion...

As a kid I'm sure that I remember a notice that began with these words. I'm unsure how it ended but I was probably prohibited from doing something that I was doing. The Committee was asked recently about behavior on the Sunday bus so I'd like to put down a few points (again):

1. We hire the bus and the driver every Sunday. While the bus is in motion the bus driver is in charge of the bus and the passengers.
2. Driving a bus full of people requires a degree of concentration. On public buses passengers are asked not to talk to the driver for this reason. Now while we would not want to isolate Bob it would seem to be sensible not to engage him in a deep and meaningful conversation, at least until after the bus stops.
3. The Sunday walk leader plans the route, which includes the put down and pick up points.

4. The walk leader (and *only* the walk leader) liaises with the driver about loo stops and refreshments stops. These are at the leader's discretion and are subject to timing. The driver has to consider the safety aspects, e.g. stopping on a busy road for a loo stop.
5. Eating and drinking on the bus – for obvious reasons it may not be a good idea to tackle your hors d'ouvres, lamb hot pot and jam roly-poly on the way home. The driver would not appreciate having to scrape off the remains from the back of the seat where you accidentally deposited it. There's nothing against a snack of something suitable, but a little thought and care is required.
6. When we get back on the bus we are sometimes a trifle wet and dirty, occasionally half drowned. This is to be expected, but we ask everyone to do his or her best not to completely mess up the inside of the bus

We very rarely get any problems, as most people are sensible and thoughtful. The point is, the bus trips are extensions of the walk and the leader is basically in charge. So, we do ask that members and visitors accede to the request of the leader regarding these and any other points that may arise on a walk. Very occasionally the leader may need to remind a visitor about these points and we expect members to know and abide by them.

Derrick Brown

Lost at Walhalla

The following items became separated from their owners over the 21-24 January weekend.

- # Pink table cloth
- # Dark blue Laura Gayle top
- # Black fishnet stockings
- # Bowl of sugar
- # Paddy Pallin Gingera bag
- # Red high heeled shoes
- # Light green Alexis K top

Anyone wishing to claim these items contact:
Brian Crouch on 9878 5053

Walks Stats for November & December 1999

November:

	No.	Average	Last Year
Sunday Bus	4	32.8	43.8
Pack Carry	3	5.3	6
Base Camp	-	-	9.3
Other Day	3	11.3	10.6
Cancelled	2		

December:

	No.	Average	Last Year
Sunday Bus	3	29.3	32.7
Pack Carry	2	8	6.8
Base Camp	2	12.5	4
Other Day	1	12	9
Cancelled	4		

New map for Lerdererg and Werribee Gorge State Parks

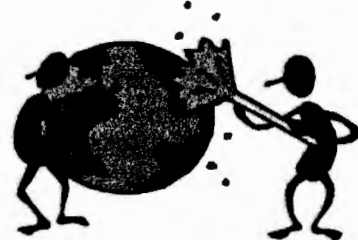
The Club now has a new map which covers both Lerdererg and Werribee Gorges in their entirety. As we do a number of walks in these areas from time to time the leaders may like to refer to this map in future. It can be found in the folder marked Bacchus Marsh in the maps filing cabinet.

The 1:35,000 map details the whole of Lerdererg and Werribee Gorges State Parks and parts of the adjoining Wombat State Forest. Features include creeks and lakes, tracks and roads, cultural and historical features, as well as fences and other linear features to help navigation. There is also information on the parks' history, flora and fauna, and conservation.

The area between O'Briens Crossing and Blackwood has been enlarged to 1:20,000 on the reverse of the map, along with the whole of Werribee Gorge. These enlargements highlight the facilities, walking tracks and features of those areas.

Gina Hopkins

Walkers' Wanderings (or Wonderings)



Four seasons in one day at Walhalla

Walhalla lived up to its reputation for changing weather over our weekend lodge trip from 21 to 24 January.

Saturday was drizzle with occasional pauses but we still enjoyed our walk to Poverty Point Bridge and a train ride. We then walked back to Walhalla along the train track, most people enjoyed the leeches and the weather.

Saturday night saw a sensational banquet thanks to everyone who cooked the various yummy dishes. Following our sumptuous dinner we were treated to a wonderful concert of dance, song, poetry and general fun. All in all a great night by the warmth of the wood heater.

Sunday saw a typical Walhalla day with 30 minutes of sunshine followed by 30 minutes of rain, etc., etc. Some people opted for exploring the Walhalla township and enjoying the ambiance of the school camp. Another group of bushies walked along the rail trail to Platina through lush forest and tree ferns.

Sunday night dinner at the Pub was popular and then the remaining 'magnificent seven' returned to the cottage for a relaxing evening in front of the fire.

Monday morning was clear up time and then a short walk at Mt Erica. All in all a thoroughly enjoyable weekend in a beautiful area with great company.

Thanks to Ian for his hospitality and guidance and to Tracey for her whipping.

Brian Crouch

Mount McDonald and The Bluff

November 1999

Cameron was down to lead a weekend trip to The Bluff via Mt McDonald. A really nice place to visit in late spring and a rather energetic route. Just what I'd like to do, I thought. Unfortunately no one else was interested in going on the trip so Cameron and I decided to go anyway. A rather leisurely 8 am start on Saturday found us at Jamieson Hut to begin the ascent of Mt McDonald. After consulting the map and compass we headed off into the bush. In a short while we picked up a rough track and we crossed a vehicle track (or two), so we knew we were going in the right direction. Then we lost the track but after some careful map and compass work we managed to find the saddle which would lead us onto the spur heading straight up to the summit. The ascent was steep and there were numerous cliffs to negotiate. The day was getting hot and it was hard work climbing up the exposed ridge.

Finally we made it to the top of Mt McDonald to enjoy the magnificent views. Lunch was had at a nice grassy spot overlooking a bed of flowering snow daisies. After scoffing down my avocado salad sandwich we were off again, this time to descend via another ridge which took us to the Jamieson again further upstream. It was a very steep drop and at one stage we lost our compass bearing and ended up on the top of some precipitous cliffs. Eventually we made it down to the Jamieson at about 4 pm

and cooled off. Now the real work was to begin with a 900 metre ascent to the summit of the Bluff.

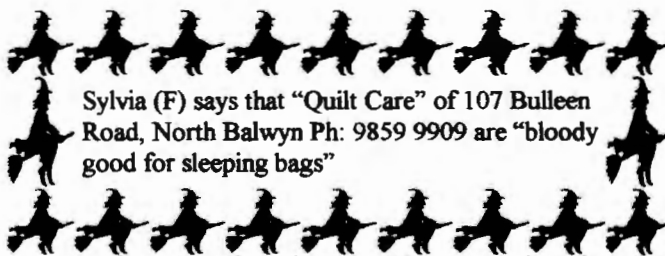
Cameron and I charged off into the scrub heading up the other side of the valley. It was extremely steep with thick scrub. We made our way through prickly bushes, stinging nettles, past numerous fallen and broken trees and the odd bull ant nest. At one stage I was walking along a fallen tree trunk and it gave way under me. It was totally rotted through and I fell quite heavily onto the ground injuring my knee. This resulted in my progress being even slower in addition to the hinderances of the difficult walking conditions.

The sun was getting lower and we still hadn't made it onto the main ridge. I had to keep on calling out to Cameron to wait for me as I was continually dropping behind and I couldn't see him because of the scrub. By sunset we'd gotten through the worst of it and we were finally on the ridge. That was a great relief. In the twilight we continued to climb, reaching open ground and then we got to the tree line as darkness set in. It was relatively easy to follow the ridge with the starlight and using our torches when required.

I was totally exhausted, hungry and sore and at about 10 pm we set up our tents just below the summit. The sky was brilliantly covered with countless stars. I can't remember having seen it so clear before. Oh what a luxury it was to be able to lie down and not move! I wasted no time at all in getting some sleep after a quick bite to eat.

The next morning we slept in and after an unhurried breakfast we checked out the wonderful view from the summit. Then we made our way down via the more conventional route of the walking track to Refrigerator Gap. My knee was still very sore so once again progress was slow. Upon reaching Refrigerator Gap we met Anne and David. They were heading up to the Bluff and glad to hear that we had survived the previous day's exploits. We left them to go on their walk and we headed along a little used and uneventful four wheel drive track which would take us back to where we began our journey. Cameron walked at a brisk pace and I staggered along. Thanks Cameron for volunteering to lead such a memorable trip. I'm sure I'd like to visit The Bluff and Mt McDonald again but perhaps not on the same day! I think I'll give the memorable trips a rest for a while.

Ralph Blake



Sylvia (F) says that "Quilt Care" of 107 Bulleen Road, North Balwyn Ph: 9859 9909 are "bloody good for sleeping bags"

The Cobberas – Dec 1999-Jan 2000

Sunday. Brown paddocks waited patiently for spring showers that barely showed that year, as we drove through the hills north of Buchan. Drizzle brought the smell of parched earth and eucalypt, dampened after rain, into the vehicles as we wove our way up the Gelantipy Road, deep in East Gippsland. Camp on the first night was at one of those odd spots that you find beside the track with some flat grass and not far from water. The drizzle continued and a fire for warmth and a tarpaulin for shelter were most welcome.

Monday. Leaving the cars we followed the Alpine Walking Track for a short distance before heading bush. Laden with food we ascended the Bulley Creek gully, through trees and low undergrowth, breaking out for a time into a snow plain, and using brumby trails where we could. The drizzle continued and the paths became waterlain, green grass squelching underfoot. Thighs, unused to such heavy packs, strained as we pushed up the slope towards lunch. The saddle attained, camp was just the other side on flat and unsodden grass.

With day packs we walked up into the cloud to a knoll on the ridge, to be rewarded with brief glimpses of nearby Cleft and Middle Peaks. Climbing down from Middle Peak the first sound of a brumby was heard. The gentle stroll up to the top of Cobberas 1 was rewarded with a short rock scramble and - more cloud and drizzle!

That evening Jopie's fire-lighting skills were put to the test and passed after help from lots of tiny twigs, firelighters, and much foam mat waving. We were to wonder later if in fact he could light one under water! Its presence was very welcome although it was not especially cold. Trish blew her stove up but steadfastly refused to convert to a Trangier.

Tuesday. With the cloud seeming to slowly lift we headed for Moscow Peak. Cobberas 2 was reached easily enough although the rocky terrain made the going slow. Half way through lunch the weather came in again and by the time we left it was drizzling once more, and colder to boot. Wet rocks made for even slower progress, although regularly accompanied by the tinkling of robins calling, and by the time we made the flat green grass of Cowombat Flat we had taken eight hours to do seven kilometres. Firm ground for tents (still drizzling), another fire-lighting success and a hot cup improved the situation significantly, although one person still had the energy to go for a walk. Before the light faded a small mob of brumbies charged through the Flat and back again five minutes later, in case we had missed them the first time. We retired to the sound of frogs croaking in ponds a few metres away.

Wednesday. Up early today to find the source of the Murray, while Sylvia and Ed walked back to the cars (via the track) to get some supplies. We found the source spring easily enough and then the first of the border cairns. It was still drizzling. Back then to the Flat, past the plane wreckage, and down the Murray to explore for an hour or two. The river was bigger there having been joined by Pilot Creek, and some falls and cascades were seen. Walking back through the scrub gave us all a case of scratched knees, and it was good to be back at camp for a cuppa. A single large kangaroo joined us for a bite of grass. It was still drizzling.....

Thursday. The next morning the air is still and quiet save for the steady call of birds as they twitter, grind, whistle and cough their way into a new day. Old redgums stand around low grassy ridges that reach between the narrow streams that flow into the large green expanse of the flat. Big, old kangaroos hop through the trees to graze on the grass, while brumbies run through once more. The rain has left for a while although the clouds linger on, on this cool, moist morning.

Leaving camp late we moved uphill to a new site on a saddle beside The Pilot. By lunch it was drizzling again, and we had visions of a wet New Millennium. One bright spot was the sighting of an apparent route to the top of the pilot - a promise of less bush-bashing and fewer skinned knees! The drizzle continued, but that night we had another good fire - we were getting skilled at lighting fires with wet wood (look for the dry bark on the underside of leaning trees). This time we had a log to sit on - with a bit of effort and some cunning engineering - heaven knows we had enough engineers with us! Before we retired the sky appeared to be clearing at last.

Friday. We awoke to large areas of blue cloud, only for them to soon disappear. Today it was sans packs, and a relaxing stroll of a few kilometres along the track and then through the trees and light scrub brought us to the top of a steep ridge. The scramble down was a bit tricky, but the biggest problem was the loose rock underfoot. However we were soon rewarded with a good view of the rarely-seen Tin Mine Falls (I know - I had tried before), and in full flood. Then a large protruding rock was spied and the scramble over to it was well worth the effort - unimpeded views not only of the falls from top to bottom (about 40 metres high) from about 100 metres away, but also way down the creek towards the Murray River.

On the way back the sky cleared, and then came in yet again with more drizzle. We chatted to some people from Boort (small world, eh Trish and Dianne?), who were staying at Tin Mine Huts, unfortunately with their pack horses in what we thought was a wilderness area. On return to camp another David had joined us after a long walk in from the cars. The decision was made not to climb the Pilot that evening and New Years Eve was spent around the camp fire savouring the treats that some had carried for five days. Thanks especially to Brian, David, Max and David for the drinks.

Saturday. Dawn was like most days so far - it looked as if it might lift. The apparent route up The Pilot disappeared fairly quickly although the going was not hard. A steady climb with lightening packs brought us soon enough to the top - in cloud but no rain. As we sipped morning tea and took photos on the cairn the cloud lifted slowly, but not enough to see far, although Cowombat Flat was occasionally visible several kilometres away. We moved to the south knoll and through the snow gums on the wide saddle.

Probably because they are in a high, sheltered spot, the gums here are particularly distinctive. Their boles are twisted and gnarled and weather-worn as only very old trees on a mountain top can be. Their branches are bent into flowing shapes like seaweed in the ocean currents. Trees, boles and branches all lean to the north, minimising the effects of what must at times be fierce, chilling southerly winds. Here is a campsite well worth the haul, although few of us regretted not having been here the previous night as planned - it had gotten below zero.

By the time we reached the south knoll the sky was definitely lifting for the first time that week, and we had lunch in full sun on a little knoll on the southern spur, admiring stunning views. After days of drizzle some of us were to get mild sunburn! The stroll down the ridge was very pleasant save for more scrub at the bottom, this time scraping on sunburnt legs. Cowombat Flat was even more pleasant the second time, and we camped at an excellent spot beside the Murray. Some even washed.

Sunday. The walk out took longer than expected - either the map was wrong or we were getting slow, despite the warmer weather. Probably the latter as almost everyone declined the opportunity for an extra day's walking and we headed for home via Orneo and Trafalgar. Thank you Sylvia for organising the trip, Jopie for leading the walks, and everyone for such good company. Party: Sylvia, Jopie, Brian, David, Rod, Trish, Dianne, Max, Alan, David, Ed.

Alan Clarke

A Wet Weekend 21-23 January 2000

I've been a keen liloer for many years, so Geoff Kelly's joint VMTC/Melbourne Bushwalkers trip down the Big River sounded interesting. But which Big River? If it was the one that comes off Bogong it might be too interesting. Fortunately he meant the one near Jamieson that runs into Eildon Reservoir, so Bill and I were in.

Mark, Bill and I drove up on the Friday night and stopped at Healesville for dinner. We chose the Healesville Hotel because it was slightly closer to where we had parked than the other one. We found Geoff and Marianne already in there, so we all dined together. Put this one down on your list of places to eat – it's a little dearer than most pub meals, but quite a lot better. Apart from the pleasure of our friends' company at dinner, we were able to follow them to the camping spot, which was new to us. The other member of the party, Joy from Albury, found us as we were setting up tents.

On Saturday morning I spotted a satin bower bird bower near the toilets. There was the classic bower of twigs, with lots of blue things around – cord, a plastic fork, a blue sticking plaster, a shotgun cartridge. Gina said she saw the male bird on the Sunday morning, and a female looking interested.

This was a lilo trip with a difference – a base camp. No heavy packs to lift on to our lilos. No constant worry about whether our sleeping bags were getting wet. We drove up to a popular fishing spot near Enoch Point to start our paddle. Bill changed his flat tyre while the rest of us pumped up lilos.

Most of us used our weekend packs on our lilos as back rests. I partially inflated my spare lilo inside my pack, and that worked well. Mark had a barrel inside his pack, and that was OK too. Joy just had a barrel, and it kept rolling off her lilo. Geoff was a good leader and swapped the barrel for his pack, and the barrel kept rolling off his lilo for the rest of the day.

The river was very scenic, with not too much flat water, and easy rapids. Most of it was close to a road, and we saw lots of fishermen. Nobody admitted to catching anything. There were a lot of snags, but on day one there were no punctures. The weather wasn't ideal, rather cool and a bit of rain. I was glad of the wetsuit Mark had lent me. Fortunately at lunch time we had some sun. At about 2 pm Mark recognised the cairn he had put at the water's edge near our camp spot. The paddling was over already! Well, it was for the drivers. Mark, Marianne and I paddled another hour and a half, sheltering under the ti-trees from a couple of heavy showers, till we reached a picnic spot. We started to walk back along the road until we met Bill in the car coming to pick us up. Mark declined the lift, but Marianne and I accepted with gratitude.

Then it was a leisurely evening sitting on our folding chairs, sheltering under Mark's tarpaulin when it rained, eating off tables. Gina and Derrick arrived and joined in the eating, drinking and socialising.

It rained on and off overnight, but by the time we got out of our tents on Sunday the rain had finished for the day. There was another car shuffle, then we started down the river again. The lower section had slightly bigger rapids than the upper part. And Bill managed to hole two lilos, carrying on from the Thompson River trip last year where nearly everyone got at least one puncture and Bill had three. At one point I passed Gina and Derrick having a

territorial/matrimonial dispute about a rock. Gina got stuck on it first, then Derrick, not seeing the rock, ran into her, pushed her off, and got his lilo stuck. Hey ho! Later I passed them in a backwater kissing, so I guess the divorce party's off.

Not long after lunch we reached the picnic area where the cars were parked. They tell me this is normally part of Eildon Reservoir, but it certainly didn't look it. Gina said that they had travelled up through Mansfield and the lake at Bonnie Doon was grassed and indistinguishable from the surrounding hills. Joy left us to continue her holiday, while the rest of travelled home, stopping at Narbethong for afternoon tea.

Well, thanks Geoff for leading another great lilo trip. And thanks to the rest of the party for being such good company. We had five VMTC members and eight Melbourne Bushwalkers, making a total of eight people. I'd certainly like to lilo the Big River again, and would recommend it for people who haven't tried liloing before. It's great fun.

Merilyn Whimpey

Cruising the Kowmung (Blue Mountains)

I was hot and sticky, rainwater was trickling down my face, my pack was heavy, (containing a lilo, paddles, lifevest plus the usual) and I was hanging onto a tree, trying to stay more or less vertical, on a *very* steep spur. Peering through the rain I failed to see anyone else. Moving on I slithered and stumbled over sliding stones as I traversed the slope. A shout from the mist told me the others were not far away. I caught up with them and we surveyed the scene. The Kowmung river was far below, just visible through a dense blanket of greenery. We were on the edge of a cliff, the Dicksonia Bluffs, looking for a route down. We found the break in the cliff that we were looking for and continued down the spur. It was nearly 5pm before we were at the river. My knees were wobbly. It had taken us all day to walk the 18km into the Kowmung river, in the Blue Mountains.

Crossing the river with some difficulty – the river was thigh-deep and running fast – we searched the bank for a campsite. A sandpatch looked suitable until we identified what we'd thought was a pile of stones as a coiled python, a rather large coiled python. We moved on and found another site! Later, after a meal, the rain eased. Despite the rain, the river level actually dropped overnight which was a relief. These still looked a bit tense – it was her first lilo trip. The other three of us were veterans and we knew that a fast river could be tricky.



That first morning – the last day of 1999 – proved to be the most exciting. We were scarcely out of one set of rapids before we were into the next. The river cut its way through a very deep valley, running fast and furious in places. We all took involuntary swims. Therese quickly got the hang of steering the lilo through the rapids, although often we'd go through sideways or backwards. I found that going backwards seemed to work quite well, as all the weight was at the front. The only problem was that I was facing backwards... by lunchtime my lilo was in need of repair, and so was I. The river became calmer in the afternoon and we had some relaxing, lilo cruising, just paddling now and again, letting the current take us along. Then Mark snagged his lilo causing a long rip. A convenient beach was in sight, so we camped. The rain, which had been intermittent, stopped and we dined on our beach, and declared that it was the year 2000 at nine o'clock! Our firework display wasn't quite as good as Sydney's but it was the best on the Kowmung! The roman candles reflected off the cliffs and the river, and our sparklers Sparkled.

January 1, 2000 – the sun was shining so evidently the world hadn't needed. Back onto the river. That first moment when your bum gets wet is memorable. A more gentle day today with some limboing required to get under

fallen tree turnks. An occasional spill in the rapids and a patch or two later saw us making camp on a pleasant beach. As we collected firewood a large red-bellied black snake slithered across the beach and took up residence in a hollow log just two metres from my tent. We took care not to disturb him (or her) and it didn't disturb us.

Our last day was again quite exciting, with many rapids. I hit a few rocks and fell off a few times. Gina took a spill and almost lost her paddle when it became wedged under a tree trunk but we managed to extract it. A huge cliff – Orange Bluff – was awesome. I drifted under it, savouring the changing views. The grey sky eventually gave forth a thunderous downpour. After sheltering for a time, we gave up and continued to paddle in the rain. We were surprised to see a couple of cows by the river, and later when we camped there was more evidence of them. National Park as well....

We had a day's walk to get out, back to the Boyd River camp site. A large lace monitor (1.5 metres or more) took to a tree when we disturbed it. The weather improved as we reached the top and we had glorious views of the Kanangra Walls. A fitting end to 1999 and a good start to 2000).

(Participants – Mark Tischler, Therese Pollard, Gina Hopkins and me, Derrick Brown.)

<div data-bbox="172 993 392 1233"> <p>5 Day Sand Island Wilderness Safari</p> </div> <div data-bbox="384 993 744 1102"> <p>Fraser Island Depart Brisbane</p> </div> <div data-bbox="423 1113 744 1168"> </div> <div data-bbox="423 1179 744 1496"> <p>The most extensive hiking and walking tour of world Heritage listed Fraser Island. Two great National Park campsites. Experienced Eco-guide/driver and first class equipment. Delicious meals (including wine) and secure outdoor living with comfortable 4WD transport. We'll look after you!</p> </div> <div data-bbox="180 1255 399 1485"> <p>Explore 8 different lakes • Walk in a rainforest & eerie sandblows • See dingoes, turtles, wild dolphins and humpback whales (in season) • Birdwatching</p> </div> <div data-bbox="250 1485 399 1572"> <p>All inclusive \$700</p> </div> <div data-bbox="180 1583 689 1659"> <p>Address: 1 Eversleigh Road, Scarborough, Qld. 4020 Phone/fax (07) 3203 4241</p> </div> <div data-bbox="344 1659 736 1736"> <p>Quote "Bushy" for 10% discount in 1999 Group (5 or more) discount 15%</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="862 993 1277 1059"> <p>Carnarvon Gorge</p> </div> <div data-bbox="791 1092 1348 1168"> <p>6 Day Outback Explorer</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1183 1179 1356 1212"> <p>Depart Brisbane</p> </div> <div data-bbox="995 1212 1356 1343"> <p>Camped in Camarvon National Park under a palm and cycad forest: native animals abound, platypus in Camarvon Creek, birds galore.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="784 1266 1003 1572"> <p>10% discount</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1011 1375 1309 1463"> <p><i>This is Queensland's Outback Oasis</i></p> </div> <div data-bbox="1011 1474 1356 1648"> <p>And more - from the campsite depart magical walking and hiking trails to the moss garden, hell hole gorge, the amphitheatre, cathedral cave, aboriginal rock art, and on and on..... For the best walking in Outback.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="784 1616 940 1703"> <p>All inclusive \$770</p> </div> <div data-bbox="948 1681 1348 1725"> <p>Quote "Bushy" for 10% discount in 1999</p> </div>
<p style="text-align: center;">For registration or a brochure please contact Terry Howard</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunover Expeditions <i>10 years touring service</i></p>	

COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR 1999

Walks Secretary's Report

Yearly attendance totals for the 5 years 1995 - 1999							
Year	Total	Day	Weekend	Members	Visitors	No. trips	
			total	pack carry			
1999	2,734	2,230	499	213	2,208	526	139
1998	2,916	2,411	505	201	2,368	548	138
1997	3,019	2,488	531	234	2,403	616	135
1996	2,937	2,443	594	335	2,337	600	148
1995	2,993	2,402	591	323	2,256	737	146

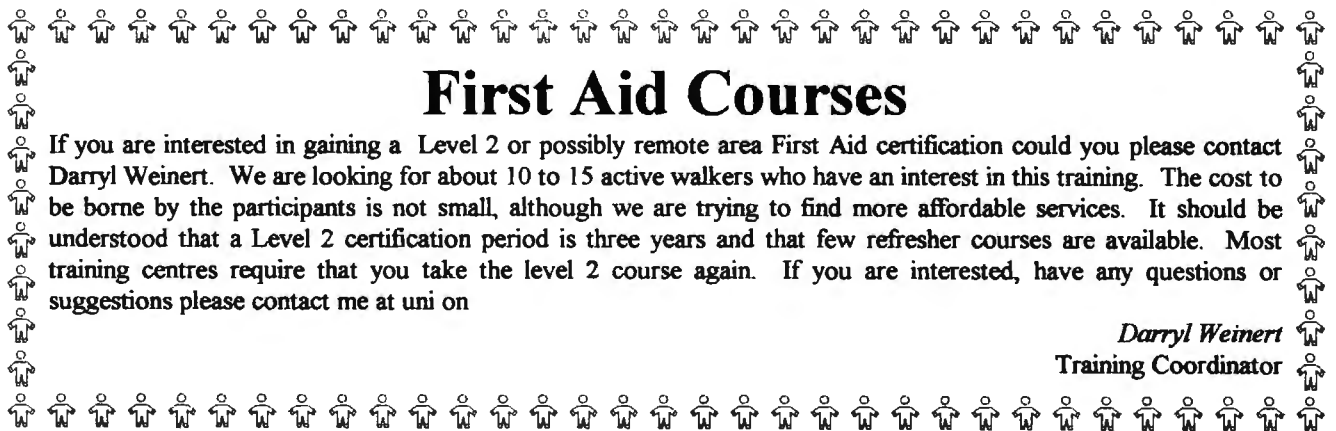
Jan-Dec 1999 Statistics (1998 in ())				
Walk type	Number of trips		Average attendance	
Sunday bus	51	(50)	36.6	(39.1)
Pack carry	27	(28)	7.9	(7.2)
Base camp	17	(16)	10.2	(11.6)
Lodge	7	(5)	10.7	(10.2)
Wednesday	12	(12)	11.6	(13.4)
Dandenongs	10	(10)	14.3	(15.7)
Historical	2	(2)	4.5	(13.5)
Saturday (M)	7	(7)	7	(7.7)
Other	6	(8)	10.3	(15.4)
Cancelled	20	(17)		

1999 was another good year for the club with the level of activity following the pattern set in previous years. The number of trips cancelled was high, mainly due to the poor snow season and the difficulty in getting trips organised for Christmas this year (a Y2K effect?).

Overall attendance was down significantly, mainly due to some low turnouts on Sunday walks in the second half of the year. We hope that this is only a passing 'glitch' as near-full buses are required to keep the cost down.

Thanks to all those who attended meetings of the walks sub-committee, which is responsible for drawing up the programme. Special thanks to Alan Miller (Assistant Walks Secretary, responsible for Sunday walks), Max Casley (Wednesday walks), Michael Humphrey (Dandenongs Explorers) and Lance Mobbs (trying to keep the Historicals going).

Pearson Cresswell
Walks Secretary 1999



First Aid Courses

If you are interested in gaining a Level 2 or possibly remote area First Aid certification could you please contact Darryl Weinert. We are looking for about 10 to 15 active walkers who have an interest in this training. The cost to be borne by the participants is not small, although we are trying to find more affordable services. It should be understood that a Level 2 certification period is three years and that few refresher courses are available. Most training centres require that you take the level 2 course again. If you are interested, have any questions or suggestions please contact me at uni on

Darryl Weinert
Training Coordinator

Social Secretary's Report

Marissa did a fantastic job as Social Secretary for 3 years from 1996 to 1998 (inclusive) and she has been a hard act to follow, however 1999 has seen, on average, one social event per month organised and well attended by Bushies.

Wednesday Night activities were transformed later in the year with photograph, tent erecting and billy boiling competitions as an addition to the regular slide nights. This year we hope to have a "Wednesday Night Activities Coordinator" to concentrate on facilitating the social side of the Club Nights.

I look forward to another year of socialising especially as 2000 is our 60th Anniversary. The Gilwell Park Picnic on the 26 March will be a reunion of present and past members gathering for a BBQ lunch with the Sunday Bus Walkers rendezvousing with us for afternoon tea.

Activity	Number held	Bushies attendance (average)
Slide Night	2	Full house
BBQ	3	20-30
Music/Dinner Night	5	20
Bush Dance	1	21
Tennis Day	1	6
Movie/Dinner	2	15
Xmas Party	1	Lots

Special thanks to Brian Crouch for organising the music/dinner nights.

Fiona Gallery
Social Secretary

Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary's regular duties include:

- the maintenance of the register of members' particulars (address, 'phone, subscription status)
- the collection of subscriptions
- giving advice about membership to potential or new members
- assisting in the preparation of membership lists and in mailing the News

As at the beginning of February 2000, the membership of the Club was 491 (1999: 488) including 11 Life and 10 Honorary members.

The number of members stayed almost static during 1999 with 73 new members joining and only 70 members relinquishing their membership.

Members would help very much if they could let the Secretary know as soon as practicable when their address, home or work 'phone have changed. It has happened that

quite suddenly, the News have started returning with a "Not at this address" stamp. Also, prompt payment of 2000 subs within the subscription period (within 3 months after the AGM) would be greatly appreciated. To help as a reminder as necessary, the mailing label during these months will carry a discreet 'SubsDue' message which no longer appears once you have paid.

Peter Havlicek

Wilky Manager's Report

1999 has seen the finances of Wilky remain in a healthy state despite capital outlay on a complete interior re-paint. Pearson and friends started the ball rolling doing the ceiling in the loft, a great improvement for reflecting the minimal natural light and hey presto! there are brackets to hang your torch on on the beams. During the Easter school holidays the rest of the interior was painted. Dave Hespe needs honourable mention as he was painting the kitchen to a deadline: an Introduction to Wilky was happening the following weekend. Thanks too to two visitors from Bunerong, Stuart Hodgo and Susan Maughan.

The intro. had 4 MBW members, 2 prospective members, and 2.5 from the Locksley Club (N.B. it has been Club policy in recent years to invite other clubs to use Wilky especially as we don't full occupy it ourselves). The Maroondah Club once again brought in the wood, chopped and stacked it.

The annual Alpine National Park work party removed some superfluous snow poles; and refixed erosion mats on Mt. Cope. The annual spring clean was headed by Doug Pocock. Thanks to all the willing helpers. Winter usage has been up considerably this year. Of the 14 winter weeks 13 were used and although not necessarily to capacity (8 people) they were nearly there. Of the 13 weeks, 5 were of other clubs; Maroondah, who pay special visitor rates, Bunerong, Border and VMTC official and unofficial.

As usual other bookings have been mainly over Easter, November and December was chockers. Disappointingly January is not popular, pity as the summer flowers are fabulous then. I hop the big booking white board on the end wall of the Club Rooms has made bookings more visible and easier to negotiate.

I'm now at the end of two years as Lodge Manager and am resigning. It's kept me busy but has been loads of fun. I've been particularly cheered to have so many people who's expertise I could tap into, and Rod Mattingley deserves special thanks. So many people who love and use Wilky have put in too, and that's great.

My priorities were to improve the place visually, make it a bit more comfortable and increase the occupancy rate, and I've done that. While I appreciate people's ideas for improvements I felt more solar panels and/or a generator were not in the spirit of Wilky (and we're having enough trouble with our solar powered cattle repellent fence around the water source as it is). Just go and look at the Rover Lodge for recent improvements, fantastic, but Wilky it aint.

Several ex lodge managers have offered to act as a team of official workers and advisors to assist on maintenance which would make the Lodge Manager's job less arduous (or daunting). A kind offer, thanks Mick Mann, I pass it on.

Although January and February 2000 is not part of our financial year I'm still here so I'll fill you in. In mid January we had an Open House. A Bendigo Alpine Club member and a Sydney Bushie came along with 3 MBW old hands, then 5 MBW members, and dare I say it 2 people from a prominent 4WD club (one of whom was the judge of our recent photo competition). However we had some interesting discussions, an amazing curry and all agreed that a ratbag element can give everyone a bad name.

Finally a minor winge: recently just a few people have been slow at returning keys and tea towels. Life is too short to worry about tea towels, please BYO. And when I have to ring people three times to return keys even I loose my sense of humour. So get a grip chaps or the next Lodge Manager will kill you.

Sylvia Ford

Training Report

Apart from the various activities listed below the training coordinator has looked at the formalisation of the club training activities into a more cohesive and easily understood program addressing specific skills. This was a continuation of the work compiled and completed by the Training committee of 1998. Other commitments unfortunately stopped the development of this beyond a very early stage.

I hope that such a formal approach will develop, mainly to ensure that those people new to the committee are easily able to establish training programs from year to year. Also that the membership become commonly aware of these activities so that new members can be easily informed of the various activities. This means that over time methods and resources for conducting training activities must be available easily within the club. For example if you want to run a basic navigation day or give a talk one Wednesday night on the principles of the Layering System for Warmth, you just have to pull out the information from the file and do it.

Many people have contributed to this effort already and to these people I extend my thanks and gratitude. I am very pleased that the members of the club were so willing to support and become involved in passing on their knowledge. More often than not without my having to ask; when I did ask help was supplied forthwith. Thanks for your help everyone.

Darryl Weinert January 2000

Training Activities

Year 1999:

- Two Navigation days were held. One basic and one intermediate Navigation Day.
- Green Leader Cards were produced and distributed.
- Level 2 First Aid courses have been examined for club

members, committee yet to debate and decide on the subject.

- Guiding policies on training have been produced, they have been included in the By-Laws of the club.

Suggested Actions For 2000:

- Leader training day, for first half of the year.
- 2 Basic Navigation days, each in one half of the year
- 1 Intermediate Navigation day, Autumn or Spring 2000
- 1 Advanced Navigation day, ie. 6 hr Rogaining event with a club team of interested people, for Spring/ Summer 2000.
- Level 2 First Aid courses
- Integration of activity lecture into Wednesday nights as a means of providing both entertainment and training, eg past activities arranged by other committee members such as "How to pack a pack", and "Cooking and drying of foods".

Equipment Report

The Club maintains a range of bushwalking equipment to help members and visitors enjoy the bush experience, with inexpensive hire of essential bushwalking gear, especially for our overnight trips. The equipment officer has placed regular articles in *The NEWS* promoting the range of equipment and fee structure. There has been no major equipment purchases this year. We have disposed of three (3) very old Japara sleeping bags due to their poor condition (mildew). Minor maintenance involved repairing small tears/holes in the tent floors, loops and replacing pegs. The club has purchased two Nalgene Meths bottles for the Trangia stoves and the food dryer required a replacement part. Thank you to the Committee for helping in the hire and return of the Club's equipment in 1999 on Wednesday Clubnights. The hiring statistics are:

		Weekend	Week	Fees
Tents	(4 hiking)	17	2	\$210
	(3 base)	1	1	\$20
			<i>Sub-total</i>	<u>\$230</u>
Packs	Weekend (3)	1	2	<u>\$25</u>
	Daypacks (2)		1	\$2
			Sub-total	<u>\$27</u>
Sleeping Bags	(4)	2	2	\$30
Sleeping Mats	(2)	1		\$2
Trangia Stoves	(2)	6		\$18
Food Dryer (1)		6 Fortnight)		\$30
Track Maint.		2		\$20
Tools				
Map Holders)		Nil		
Compasses)				
TOTAL				<u>\$357</u>

Rod Novak

Treasurers Annual Report for the Period 1 January 1999 to 31 December 1999

All receipts and payments are divided into the following four sub-accounts. During the year the amounts shown in last years Special and Publications accounts were consolidated and "publications" expenses are now included in the Club account. The performance for 1999 in each of the accounts is shown as follows:

<u>Sub Account</u>	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u> <u>(year end)</u>	<u>Profit/(Loss)</u>
Club	6,347.45	3,639.14	(2708.31)
Special/Public.	23,347.33	21,427.33	(1,920.00)
Walks	10,014.27	7,115.52	(2898.75)
Wilky	11,475.24	14,615.71	3,140.47
Total	51,184.29	46,797.70	(4,386.59)

Overall the Club made an operating loss of \$4,386. This was due to increased costs that have occurred over the past few years. The Club's net worth stands at \$54,149.88.

On the basis of the above operating loss, I am making the following recommendation:

"That the annual membership fees be increased from \$25 to \$35 per single membership and pro-rata for other membership"

This increase in membership fees should cover the increase in costs for the next 2 - 3 years. The club has a deficit at the end of this financial year of \$4,386 which will increase during the Year 2000. As from 1 July 2000, GST will impact the club's expenditure in excess of \$5,000 per annum. Between 1 July and 31 December 2000, GST will cost the club approximately \$2,700, which along with the projected increase in costs for the full year will amount to a \$5,880 deficit by the end of December 2000. The forecast for the next five years shows that due to the combined GST and increased costs there will be a deficit of between \$6,000 - \$9,000 per annum.

The Club's investments are in three separate accounts at the ANZ Bank, Melbourne.

\$20,000 is in a Term Deposit for a period from 1998 - 2002 at a rate of 4.6%. This gives an interest of \$920 per annum. In past years this investment was receiving a rate of 9.25% which gave the club an interest of \$1850 per annum. The current interest (used for conservation) has been dramatically reduced.

\$10,000 is in a Term Deposit for a period from 1996 - 2001 at a rate of 8.0%. This gives an interest of \$800 per annum, which is currently credited to the "Club" account and assists with the running of the Bushwalking Club.

\$16,000 is in a "V2 Plus" account (which is an "at call" account) at a variable rate of between 3.76% -3.96% during 1999. Interest from this account has amounted to \$610, which has been credited to the "Club" account. At the November Committee meeting, the Committee agreed that \$5000 from this account should be transferred to the ANZ Business Cheque Account to assist in cash flow.

Jan Palich

Treasurer - 31 December 1999

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1999

<u>Details</u>	<u>1/1/1998 - 31/12/1998</u>	<u>1/1/1999 - 31/12/1999</u>
Income		
Club	18,587	17,049
Special	1,850	980
Walks	24,890	25,570
Wilky	5,278	7,048
Total Income	50,605	50,648
Expenditure		
Club	20,190	19,232
Petty Cash adjustment i)		(300)
ii)		142
Special	1850	2900
Walks	24,070	28,469
Wilky	11,274	4,291
	57,384	54,734
Petty Cash		300
Total Expenditure	57,384	55,034
Net Revenue after Expense	(6,779)	(4,386)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1999

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>As at 31 December 1998</u>	<u>As at 31 December 1999</u>
Bank	51,184.29	46,797.70
Postage Float	500.00	500.00
Petty Cash Float	0	300.00
Camping Equipment	661.00	546.17
Wilky Equipment	5,152.00	4,268.50
Other Equipment	450.00	543.06
Maps & Books	460.85	444.45
50 year Publication	1068.00	600.00
Walk Fees not received	362.25	0
Total Assets	60,044.39	53,999.88
<u>LIABILITIES</u> -Accounts payable	(2,025.00)	(850.00)
NET WORTH	58,019.39	54,149.88

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1999

January - December 1998

January - December 1999

Income		50,605		50,648
Expenditure		57,384		55,034
Cash Surplus / Deficit		(6,779)		(4,386)
<u>Plus: Increase in Assets (purchases)</u>				
Camping Equipment	95.00		0	
Wilky Equipment	1,695.00		97.00	
Other Equipment	218.00		236.40	
Maps & Books	151.85		180.00	
Walks Fees not received	362.25	2,522	0	513
<u>Less: Decrease in Assets (depreciation)</u>				
Camping Equipment	131.00		132.83	
Wilky Equipment	965.00		980.50	
Other Equipment	108.00		143.34	
Maps & Books	141.00	(1,345)	196.40	(1,453)
<u>Less: Changes in Accounts Payable</u>		(736)		1175
<u>Less: Cost of Goods Sold</u>		(87)		0
Operating Profit / loss		(6,425)		(4,251)

Asset Register for the period ending 31 December 1999

(Depreciation is based on "straight line" principle)

	Original Value	Depreciation	Closing Written Down Value (WDV)
<u>Camping Equipment</u>			
Compasses (4)	76.00	8.00	0.00
Silk Inner Sheets (2)		5.00	34.00
Silk Inner Sheets (2)		22.00	0.00
Sleeping bag - Cloudmaker	339.00	33.00	200.00
Space Blanket x 4	95.00	15.83	79.17
Tent - Eureka Moonshadow		31.00	190.00
Trangia x No. 1		7.00	43.00
Trangia x No. 2	57.00	11.00	0.00
Total Camping Equipment		132.83	546.17
<u>Wilky</u>			
12 volt lighting system		38.00	41.00
Stove	4,842.00	538.00	2,152.00
Electric Fence	411.00	41.00	247.00
Cupboard		26.00	156.00
Kenya Coffee Maker		11.00	22.00
First Aid Cabinet		21.00	63.00
Photographs		11.00	33.00
Folding Chairs		8.00	24.00
Knapsack Fire Extinguisher		18.00	143.00
Six Folding Chairs	1,116.00	186.00	744.00
Photographs	79.00	15.80	63.20
Set of Knives	200.00	20.00	160.00
Fire Extinguisher x 3 & Blanket	370.00	37.00	333.00
Cushions for Folding Chairs *	97.00	9.70	87.30
Total Wilky		980.50	4,268.50
<u>Other Equipment</u>			
Calculator *	49.40	4.94	44.46
Coffee Urn		6.00	45.00
Computer Equip - Quicken *	67.00	13.40	53.60
Computer Equip - Software *	120.00	24.00	96.00
Video		7.00	32.00
Whiteboard	179.00	17.00	37.00
Filing Cabinet		27.00	105.00
Ezi Dri Snackmaker		44.00	130.00
Total Other Equipment		143.34	543.06
<u>Books / Maps</u>			
Books and Maps		24.00	0.00
Books and Maps		66.00	65.00
Books and Maps		2.00	2.00
Books and Maps	0.00	38.00	112.00
Books and Maps	152.00	30.40	121.45
Books *	69.00	13.80	55.20
Maps *	111.00	22.20	88.80
Total for Books / Maps		196.40	444.45
Total		1,453.07	5,802.18

Note: * indicate new items during this financial period

Assets purchased after July 1998 and also for the full period during 1999 have been depreciated for the full year.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE - (QUARTERLY) JANUARY - DECEMBER 1999

	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec	Total
<u>Opening Balance</u>	51184.29	48179.97	47552.11	48,157.59	
REVENUE					
<u>Club</u> Advertising	0.00	910.00	125.00	270.00	1305.00
Cancelled Cheque	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
Equipment Income	251.00	74.00	80.00	200.00	605.00
Federation Day Income	1168.70	65.00			1233.70
Interest	157.51	150.57	950.97	153.51	1412.56
Other Income	8.92	25.00	0.00	18.00	51.92
Membership	2587.00	6292.00	742.00	120.00	9741.00
Visitors	705.00	645.00	355.00	695.00	2400.00
					17049.18
<u>Special Interest</u>	0.00	0.00	0.00	920.00	920.00
Publication sales	0.00	60.00	0.00	0.00	60.00
					980.00
<u>Walks</u> Sunday Walks Income	6830.25	7083.00	5526.00	6131.00	25570.25
					25570.25
<u>Wilky</u> Accommodation	480.00	5029.00	980.00	559.35	7048.35
					7048.35
TOTAL REVENUE	12188.38	20333.57	8758.97	9366.86	50,647.78
EXPENSES					
<u>Club</u> Accommodation	0.00	43.47	0.00	50.00	93.47
Annual Membership	0.00	145.00	0.00	0.00	145.00
Bank charges	0.00	24.20	25.58	20.35	70.13
Computer Equipment	0.00	116.50	63.48	0.00	179.98
Conservation	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Donations	0.00	0.00	60.00	0.00	60.00
Entertainment	159.40	31.30	45.25	433.81	669.76
Equipment Expense	315.40	11.80	0.00	11.80	339.00
Federation Day Expense	839.34	309.00	0.00	0.00	1148.34
Federation Insurance	0.00	5014.10	0.00	0.00	5014.10
Maps	14.95	66.50	14.00	15.50	110.95
News: Postage	501.75	453.47	416.14	464.46	1835.82
Printing	2262.82	1248.00	1176.90	1171.00	5858.72
Other Expenses	340.99	23.40	54.65	29.45	448.49
Other postage	135.60	54.90	99.00	47.00	336.50
Other printing	100.15	211.23	360.87	76.00	748.25
Petrol - trackclearing	0.00	62.40	0.00	0.00	62.40
Petrol - preview rebate	0.00	0.00	0.00	96.00	96.00
Publication expense	12.95	41.16	15.00	0.00	69.11
Rental	850.00	125.00	0.00	0.00	975.00
Stationery	0.00	0.00	69.92	41.90	111.82
Telephone	140.65	132.35	81.85	4.40	359.25
Travel advance	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
					19232.09
<u>Special</u> Donations	0.00	2900.00	0.00	0.00	2900.00
					2900.00
<u>Walks</u> Bus Hire	7920.00	6435.00	5445.00	7920.00	27720.00
Accommodation	440.00	174.00	135.00	0.00	749.00
					28469.00
<u>Wilky</u> Insurance	0.00	1092.07	0.00	0.00	1092.07
Petrol - Working bees	190.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	190.00
Wilky Supplies	452.60	865.48	0.00	154.23	1472.31
Wilky Working party	244.70	0.00	0.00	192.00	436.70
Wood for Wilky	0.00	1100.00	0.00	0.00	1100.00
					4291.08
<u>Petty Cash</u> Inflow	300.00	575.30	0.00	577.95	1453.25
<u>Petty Cash</u> outflow	-228.60	-294.20	-209.15	-579.10	-1311.05
					142.20
TOTAL EXPENSES	15192.70	20961.43	8131.49	10726.75	55034.37
<u>Closing Balance</u>	48179.97	47552.11	48,157.59	46,797.70	

FORECAST 2000 - 2004

	Actual '99	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Annual CPI - Revenue		2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
REVENUE						
<u>Club</u>	17,049	17,390	17,738	18,093	18,455	18,824
<u>Special</u>	980	1,000	1,020	1,040	1,061	1,082
<u>Walks</u>	25,570	26,082	26,604	27,136	27,679	28,233
<u>Wilky</u>	7,048	7,189	7,333	7,480	7,630	7,783
Total Revenue	50,648	51,661	52,695	53,749	54,825	55,922

EXPENSES (Excl GST)						
Club	19,232	18,445	18,812	19,185	19,566	19,956
Special	2,900	2,958	3,017	3,077	3,139	3,202
Walks	28,469	29,038	29,618	30,211	30,815	31,431
Total for Wilky	4,291	4,377	4,464	4,554	4,644	4,737
Petty Cash	142	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	55,034	54,818	55,911	57,027	58,164	59,326
GST on Expenses		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
GST Rate		10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Total GST	*	2,722	5,557	5,666	5,779	5,895
(* Total for 2000 is for period 1/7/2000 - 31/12/2000 only)						
Total Expenses incl. GST		57,540	61,468	62,693	63,943	65,221
Net Revenue after Expenses	\$ (4,386)	\$ (5,879)	\$ (8,773)	\$ (8,944)	\$ (9,118)	\$ (9,299)



TENZING'S HIMALAYAN TRAVEL CENTRE

Nepal / India / Sikkim / Bhutan / Tibet

PILGRIMAGE TO MOUNT KAILAS (TIBET)

Walk the ancient pilgrims' route over the Himalaya into Tibet. Three days at this magical mountain, with festival. Visit sacred Lake Manasarovar, drive onto Gyantse and Lhasa (Potala Palace), fly back to Kathmandu from Lhasa over Himalayan Range.

03 June - 03 July 2000 ex Kath \$6800

EAST HIMALAYAN JOURNEY (SIKKIM & BHUTAN)

This trip takes you trekking in the hills of Darjeeling, and visits the Tenzing family.

Then drive to Bhutan sight seeing in Paro and Thimphu, trek in remote area.

Fly back to Kathmandu. 05 Nov - 29 Nov 2000 \$4500, also Christmas departure

MANASLU / ANNAPURNA CROSSING & CLIMB OPTION (NEPAL)

Two options on the one trek. Walk the Manaslu Circuit, over the Larkya Pass (5020m) link up to the Annapurna Circuit for two days, attempt (optional) Pisang Peak (6091m) Cross over to Manang via Tilicho Lake & Mesokantu Pass (5120m).

Some may prefer not to attempt peak and walk out via Thorong Pass (5415m) then onto Manang. We all then meet up again in Manang and fly back to Kath via Pokara.

01 - 29 Oct 2000 ex Kath. \$2775 non - climb option, extra \$450 for climb option.

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

FEBRUARY 2000

11-13	THOMSON RIVER LILO TRIP	Private	E/M	Mark Tischler	
13 Sun	MT DONNA BUANG – CEMENT CREEK	Bus	E & E/M	John Kittson & Brian Crouch	#
16 Wed	SANDY POINT – WESTERNPORT BAY	Private	E/M	Joan Haig	
18-20	SOCIAL CLIMBERS MOUNTAINTOP DINNER (BOGONG HIGH PLAINS)	Private	E	Deb Henry & Alan Clarke	
20 Sun	LONDON BRIDGE – RYE OCEAN BEACH	Bus	E & E/M	Jean Woodger & David Laing	#
25-27	WILSONS PROM: SEALERS COVE	Private	E	Fiona Gallery	
25-27	WILSONS PROM: PROM IN A DAY	Private	H	Leader Required	
26 Sat	DANDENONGS EXPLORER	Private	E	Michael Humphrey	
27 Sun	MAN O'WAR TRACK – STEAVENSONS FALLS – 8.30 AM START	Bus	E/M & M	Janet Norman & Keith White	#

MARCH 2000

3-17	ABEL TASMAN NAT. PARK – HEAPHY TRACK (NZ) (FULL)	Private	E/M	Sylvia Ford	
3-5	CATHEDRAL RANGE P/C	Private	E	Trish Elmore	
5 Sun	MOORABOOL RIVER – SHEOAKS	Bus	E & E/M	Sally Bouvier & Alan Miller	#
LABOUR DAY WEEKEND					
10-13	SNOWY BLUFF	Private	M/H	Gina Hopkins	
10-13	DARGO HIGH PLAINS	Private	E/M	Alan Ide	
10-13	CANOE TRIP: MURRAY RIVER	Private	E	George Zamora	*

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