



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 291(2)

FEBRUARY 1974

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N O T I C E (Again)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AND

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

on Wednesday 20th February at 8.00 pm.

Nominations for any position will be received at the meeting if you haven't yet got round to volunteering for your true vocation. There are jobs to suit every one!

(Come along and elect a new NEWS Editor, my two typing fingers are dropping off).

COMING SOCIAL EVENTS

With the passing of the steaming hot evenings (we hope) we are shortly to resume our regular clubroom slide shows, with two really good ones to set things rolling.

March 6 Escapades on the Island of New Britain - Stewart Hodgson

March 20 Foothills of the Himalayas and Base Camp of Everest - Alex Stirkul

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Stewart MORONEY, Resident Medical Quarters, Wangaratta Base Hospital,
Queen Street, Wangaratta 3677

Shirley HOADLEY, 7/15 Auburn Grove, Hawthorn 3122 (p)025094 (b)63 4411

Rai ANAKI, Royal Childrens Hospital Nurses Home, Gatehouse Street, Parkville
3052 (p)347 7644

Doreen and Alan PARKER, 5/5 Darby Cres., Carnegie 3163

Ralph and Barbara BRYAN, 7/9 Irilbarra Rd., Canterbury 3126 Ralph (b)070 0900

SPECIAL FEATURES IN THIS ISSUE

Lindsay Barrow's condensation of an article from the 'Alpine Observer' on
CATTLE ON THE HIGH PLAINSPage 6

Graham Wills-Johnson's findings on SOFT PACKED AIR DROPSPage 8

All correspondence should be addressed to
 Hon. Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers,
 Box 1751 Q, G.P.O.
 MELBOURNE, Victoria 3001

Meetings are held in the clubrooms every Wednesday night at 7.30 pm. 14 Hosier Lane at the rear of the Forum Theatre. Visitors are always welcome.

MARCH WALK PREVIEWS

DAY WALKS

3 SOMERS - PT. LEO - SHOREHAM

Leader; Shirley Allott (p) 763 6028 Easy
 Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am. Fare \$ 2.00
 Map; Western Port Bay

This will be a pleasant walk taking views of French Island and the coast right up to Flinders. We shall leave the van near Somers Campng ground and walk along the beach, stopping at Balnarring beach for lunch. Then we shall continue on walking around to Pt. Leo, where we will stop for afternoon tea and fine weather permitting those who wish will be able to have a swim. We will finish off the walk along the beach, meeting the van near Shoreham camping site gate about 6.30. So do come along and dont forget to bring your bathers.

10 BLACKBERRY WALK - BELGRAVE

Leader; Lorraine Richey Easy
 Train leaves Flinders St. 9.28 am. Expected back 6.00pm

An easy bludge through Monbulk Forest, Picking Blackberries, Bring water for lunch. Stroll back through Sherbrook Forest.

17 FEDERATION DAY WALK

Delegate; Joy Bover (p) 544 2763

The Federation Day Walk this year coincides with Matthew Flinders Di- Centenary celebrations. It will be a coastal walk possibly down Point Nepean way but has not been finalised yet. A notice will be put in the clubrooms as soon as available, or ring for further details.

24 KYNETON - PATTONS HILL - BELLTOPPER HILL - MALMSBURY

Leader; Tony Walstab (p) 81 2732 Easy- Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am. Fare \$2.00

31 CLEARWATER GULLY - BLACKWOOD

Leader; Brian Busby Easy - Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am. Fare \$2.00. Expected return; 6.30 pm.
 Approx walking time; 4½ hours
 Map; Gallan 1" to 1 mile

A brisk climb up Mt. Blackwood, while were still fresh, to see views southwards to the You Yangs and northwards over the thickly wooded ridges, knobs and spurs surrounding the Lorderberg. A pleasant track down to the river for lunch. (drinking water) and swimming. A leisurely climb up and along a northwards ridge follows Clearwater Creek to the van.

WEEKEND WALKS

0 - 11 LADOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND

There are several walks all leaving Batman Ave at 6.30 pm. Either van or private transport is yet to be arranged depending on the numbers and the nature of the walk.

1) MT. KENT - SNOWY BLUFF - MOROKA RIVER

Leader; Alex Stirkul (b) 46 4841 Medium - hard

2) MOROKA GORGE

Leader; Joy Bover (p) 544 2763 Medium - hard
 Map; Moroka, Mines Department 1" to 1 mile

For information on this walk, see Track Notes '73 or Walk '72. Also articles have been written in Walk '65 and '66. This is a seldom visited area by bushwalkers

MARCH WALK PREVIEWS Cont.....

and is certainly not a trip for people who like an easy walk. If you are prepared to get wet feet, (the Moroka is beaut to swim in any way), scrub bash, rock hop, etc., then this is the trip for you. There is a limited' campsite, so not a great number is advisable.

8 - 11 3) DENNISON PLAINS - MT. REYNARD - SNOWY PLAINS

Leader; Doug Pocock Easy - Medium
 This will be a pleasant walk through typical alpine country, lots of time to admire the alpine flora, keen botanists will not be hurried on. Depending on the number of botanical stops, we may have time for a packless visit to Dryces Gorge. Ideal for decrepit walkers to come out of retirement. (such as the leader).

22 - 24 MILLERS HUT - TARLI KARNG - WELLINGTON RIVER

Leader; Graham Mascas (p)25 6940 Easy
 Private transport leaves 6.30 pm.

29 - 31 1) BOULDER RANGE - SOUTH PEAK - ROARING MEG

Leader; Dave Thomson Medium - Hard

2) OBERON BAY - ROARING MEG - LIGHTHOUSE

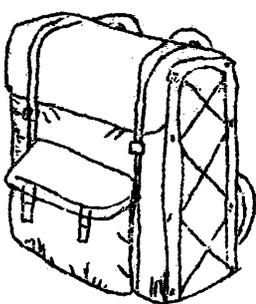
Leader; Norbert Hendrych (b)51 0321 ex177 Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30 pm Fare \$6.00 (Both walks)

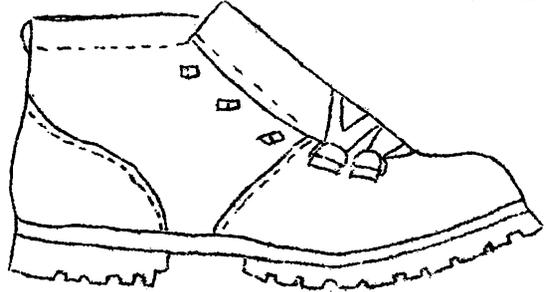
More details next NEWS.

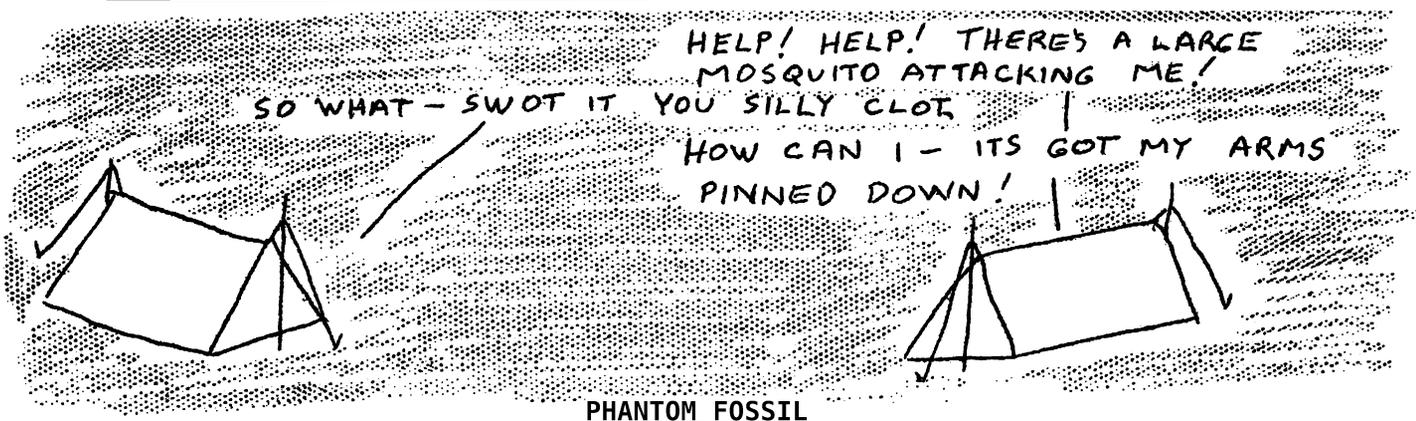
CHANGES OF ADDRESS

No room here try Page 1 !

<p><i>molony's</i></p> <p>197 ELIZABETH ST. MELBOURNE 67-8428&9</p>	<p>STILL TOPS FOR BUSHWALKING, SKIING, AND CLIMBING NEEDS</p> <p>INSPECT OUR RANGE</p> <p>1ST & 2ND FLOORS</p>
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<p>AUSKI</p> <p>THE BUSHWALKING SPECIALIST</p> <p>PADDYMADE EQUIPMENT, PACKS, ETC.</p>	<p>9 HARDWARE ST PHONE 671412</p>	
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	<p>SEE LOCH WILSON AT</p> <p>BUSHGEAR PTY LTD</p> <p>46 HARDWARE ST MELBOURNE</p> <p>FOR ALL BUSHWALKING AND CLIMBING GEAR</p>
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The lilo derby was the usual mad carry on and many congratulations to Greg Lawson for winning the men's section, to Bernice McKelvie for the women's section and Marian Ross and Peter Thomson for the mixed doubles. The prizes were sticks of candy rock with Melbourne written all the way through. The rock was made in BLACKPOOL!! of all places.

After the above races, Dave Thompson was heard to say that he had never been so clean for ages. Someone else was also heard to say that the water was much drier at the race site than further down stream??

Many congratulations to Lindsay Barrow and Les Markham on the announcement of their engagement. I think everyone was wondering just when something was going to happen. Hope everything goes really well for you both.

Sweet, innocent, angelic, pure etc. Norbert has been at it again. This time he openly admitted that on one of his stopovers on the way to Australia he spent \$5 and indulged in a bit of fun at a Bangkok massage parlour. Just what the fun consisted of he won't divulge but he reckons it wasn't worth it.

You must have felt how painful it is when a March fly bites you, but have you ever wondered just how powerful those proboscis (or something like that) really are. Gary Wills' left boot was attacked by a huge March fly. The insect must have been travelling pretty fast when it came in contact with the boot because the proboscis became fairly entrenched in the leather. The fly was seen tugging away frantically trying to free itself - imagine if that boot was you!

Why was Dorrie sitting on Tyrone's lap on a recent van trip?

Art and Alwyn were sunbaking at Somers recently when Art noticed a whole stream of people sauntering by. Amused, he and Alwyn decided to follow and to their dismay, delight, shock, pleasure etc. the mob started to strip. Art and Alwyn had joined on to the tail of a Nudist Group. Art was elated and joined in - we are not sure what Alwyn decided to do or not to do. Anyone for a day trip to Somers?

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Elsebeth Hansen - 9/172 Wattletree Road, Malvern 3144. (p) 5090172
 Marian Ross - 14/623 Drummond St, N. Carlton. (p)3476082 (b)3477111 X 410
 Laurie Pagliaro - 171 Wattletree Rd, Malvern 3144 (p)502800
 James Brown - Lot 18 Ashley Rd, Yarrambat 3091 (p)436 1460 (b)436 1460
 June Clay - Nursing Staff, Essendon and District Memorial Hospital, Moonee Ponds -
 (p) 37 3446
 Chintaman Datar - 16 Spring Road, Springvale 3171 (p)547 3134 (b)663 4811
 Eric Penny - 16 Heffernan St, Laverton 3027 (b) RAAF Laverton
 Peter Reeve - 20 Florey Crescent, Mulgrave 3170 (p)560 1687 (b)600281
 Ian Walker - 7 Brian St Mitcham 3132 (p)874 1559 (b)874 3748

CHANGES OF ADDRESSES

Ted Brown - 13 Field Street, McKinnon 3204
 Jerry McPhee - 43 Lyle Street, Brunswick 3056
 Barry Richards, 41 Larisa Road, St Albans
 Graham Gutteridge, 55 Bollen Street, Kilkenny SA 5009. CONTD... PAGE 3



STAN ATTWOOD'S ADA RIVER ADVERSITY

As I climbed aboard the van at Blackburn I could only count 13 Bushies. Alas, I thought the grog he has grabbed them at Graham's. It was undoubtedly the smallest group that has ever been on a day walk, to my knowledge, anyway. As we ground our way out of Powelltown the weather appeared to be very threatening, which is never very surprising in this part of Victoria. Finally the van came to a halt at the ever-familiar "Starling Gap" from where the ordeal usually takes place. Slowly and with much trepidation we prepared to face yet another mammoth leech-encounter.

At the very onset of the walk, they made their little presence felt. Firstly, we endured the very small offspring and this, as Harold put it, was a carefully contrived plot by the leech paternity because at lunchtime numerous large adults attacked us with considerable ferocity. All part of the plan of course. Poor Joyce had to repel a continual invasion of hungry parent leeches, while she attempted to eat her lunch at a rattling pace.

I feel it is a great pity that the trestle bridges along the Ada river railway have been allowed to fall into disrepair. They are undoubtedly a tribute to the ingenuity and skill of the men who built them out of the virgin bush.

The walk continued until we came to the junction of the old tramway, also known as the High Lead. Here we paused to consider the nostalgia of past days. An enormous steam winch was used at this point to drag logs up the High Lead to the railway at the top. As we were descending this very long grade we could not help but marvel at the enormous power the machinery must have possessed in order to do such work.

Along the way we also came to an old saw mill site set out in a flat area of the bush. The huge boiler, which was the source of power for the mill was still in place and so were several other mill features. As we sat there and reminisced we could almost hear the howl of the circular saws as they ripped into the heartwood of the logs, accompanied with the continual hiss of steam as it drove the machinery with unrelenting power.

The day began to draw out and as we walked across a series of small log bridges which firstly caused us to cross the La Trobe River, we were sorry to see the end of this excellent walk.

This of course, was the last club day walk for 1973 and I would like to thank Stan for an excellent walk in a very interesting area.

Sandy Ireland

CATTLE ON THE HIGH PLAINSA TRAGIC NATIONAL DELUSION?

A great deal has been said about the merit's or otherwise of controlled grazing on the High Plains. In Jan. 1973, the Mountain District Cattlemen's Association of Victoria arranged a symposium to study the effects of grazing on the High Plains. Conservantionist bodies and most Government departments were represented at this symposium, which started on the Dargo High Plains in Victoria and continued on to Mt.Kosciusko in N.S.W..

It was discovered that, although it has been a particularly dry year, the pastures and flowers of the Victorian High Plains, where cattle grazing is allowed, were very satisfactory and many supposedly rare plants were flourishing.

However, on Mt.Kosciusko, where grazing is not permitted, conditions were found to be very different. Mr. Oliver Moriarty of Aldgate, S.A. is extremely concerned about this and in a report headed "Kosciusko National Park - a tragic national delusion", he sets down several comments to ensure all concerned know the exact situation. He states that thick growths of inflammable woody shrubs and dense thickets of snowgum seedlings are now spreading rapidly in a malignant growth through the Kosciusko National Park as they have in the Snowy Mountains. Wildflowers are being invaded by and disappearing before these dense shrubs. Grasses are overgrown and rotting. Between the tufts of grass there are patches and strips of soil where nothing can grow owing to the covering of dead grass and the fact that light and air, which enable plants to live, cannot penetrate. The cover of dead grass is so thick that when a fire races through it the roots of the grass tufts will burn deep into the ground, leaving a scorched loose earth, easily washed away into the rivers by rains and melting snows. This causes the dams and reservoirs of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme to be choked with eroded soils carried from the mountains.

Wildlife is disappearing for two main reasons. Animals are being destroyed in the fierce fires fed by the thick overgrown scrub, and their habitats of woodland and grassland are being destroyed by the thick scrub.

Across the border in Victoria, graziers still have freehold and leasehold country on the Dargo High Plains. Here there is the most prolific and colourful growth of wildflowers in all our Alpine regions. Where the stocking is heaviest the wildflowers grow in greatest profusion nourished by animal droppings. The grasses are kept to a thick short healthy sward. Grazing also lessens the areas which need controlled burning.

Mr. Moriarty can see several solutions to the problems:- "The National Parks and Wildlife Service should be confined to small selected manageable areas which will not be a major fire hazard and nurseries for noxious weeds and havens for rabbits and foxes.

The Soil Conservation Service should be made a section of the Department of Agriculture, because all agriculturists, farmers and graziers intensively practise soil conservation as a most necessary part of their land husbandry.

The Snowy Mountains should be removed from the control of the Lands Department and placed under the control of the Departments of Forestry and Conservation and of Agriculture.

Farmers and graziers can work in co-operation with practical scientists in the Departments of Forestry and Agriculture".

He concludes that though action and action are needed immediately to prevent what he terms as "urban man's destruction of the national heritage of our Alpine environment".

(This full article appeared in the Alpine Observer)

* Lindsay Barrow *

WE CROSSED THE SHOALHAVEN

Again and again!

"Come to the sunshine state" advertised Spencer. "Lots of swimming, sun baking, beaches, etc." This was just what I needed, after several Christmas holidays in succession paddling through the soggy, boggy mud of Tasmania. "This year will be different" I told myself "This year I will keep warm and dry and no wet feet."

So it was that together with ten stalwart companions, after a couple of false starts and a 900 ft. descent, we found ourselves, hot and bothered, scratched and smarting from the attacks of stinging nettles, at last on the banks of the beautiful Shoalhaven River.

She-oaks line both banks of the river, rugged cliffs drop down to the waters edge, here and there are delightful little beaches ringed with boulders and these make entrancing campsites. However the difficulty of progress around rocks and clifflines kept us constantly close to the water, and the cry of "river crossing" from the leader became a regular password. Into the water we went, some gingerly, some reluctantly, cameras and food and sleeping bags all tucked away more or less securely in plastic bags, and just as well, for there were several spills off the slippery rocks into the swift water. Sam wondered whether his pack would float and soon found out that it did, indeed, as he stepped into the river out of his depth and he and pack were carried merrily along in the current, while we heartless ones stood on the bank and laughed.

By the third day we felt we were experts in river crossings, but then came the "Dlock up" and a 1/4 mile swim with packs. Here the river is hemmed in by great rocky walls with wild creek beds cutting tortuous ways through the cliffs, the whole scene presenting a picture of rugged grandeur.

Stan threw his pack into the river and we pensively watched it float away on the deep waters of the gorge. One by one we entered the water pushing our packs ahead of us, looking like a flotilla of small ships. Spencer paddled his lilo up and down the gorge watching us carefully. At least one member had to be rescued from the water due to cramp, and he was floated down on the lilo with Spencer providing push power. My unseaworthy pack was by now waterlogged and another ten minutes may have seen it sink irrecoverable into the deep water. But at last all reached a grassy bank where we recovered our energies and spread our belongings all over the rocks to dry in the sun, as not all packs had proved to be water proof.

Day followed day of river crossings, swims, struggles through the "rocky scrub" but we were compensated for our efforts with sudden grassy banks, diverse flowers and vegetation alien to our Victorian eyes. We became quite blasé about the many beautiful places to choose from to camp.

It was a memorable "walk" but we seemed to be more in the river than along it. And yes, I did get wet feet, in fact they and the rest of me were always wet!

While en route we visited the Dungonia Gorge and this was a highlight of the trip, with sheer 900 ft. walls on both sides of a narrow passage blocked up at the entrance with huge boulders.

On the last day we came out into civilization again with the meeting of the Shoalhaven and Kangaroo Rivers and the ugly dusty workings of the new wall which will dam up the waters and drown many of the lovely riverbanks along which we had wound our torturous way. These places along the river are obviously rarely visited even by bushwalkers and canoeists, and since the dam will be used for drinking purposes, walking and canoeing will almost certainly be no longer allowed along the river.

We once again crossed the Shoalhaven through its now deeper and more quiescent waters and bid it a sad goodbye. Then climbed up and up again to the tops and a vantage point from which we could look back along the river as it wound between its rocky hills and relive the passage of pleasant days spent along its banks.

THEN

Two enthusiastic Shoalhavers and one unenthusiast decided some days could be well spent in the Budawang Range. Still hoping for dry feet, I beetled along the dirt track after them, but alas, the closer we got to the Budawangs

the heavier became the rain and mist. We stumbled away from the cars, vainly searching for the bridle track, and found ourselves wet scrub bashing to the top of a mountain we agreed must be Mt. Wog Wog. All rain and fog and no visibility at all, we couldn't work out our position accurately, so disconsolately we made our way back down to the valley. At last we found the bridle track and up we went again into the swirling mists. The two enthusiasts became glummer by the minute, but the web footed terror now came into his own, and he fairly flew along through the mud although one boot sole was only half hanging on, and depending entirely on a piece of string wound round it. I slogged along thinking dire thoughts, here we are again, still wet, mud, slush, rain cold, can this really be N.S.W., until suddenly I am transported in time and place - no, its not true! it cant be! but - it is! There slap bang in the middle of the patch is BUTTON GRASS! The real Tasmanian stuff, the scourge of the marshes, growing happily here at one with its elevated environment.

(Spencer, you didnt tell me!) I felt that I should sit in the mud and howl after all I came here to get some of that famous sun shine!

But late in the after noon I cheered up when we found a great rock overhang, and we became troglodytes for the night, dry and warm and cosy in our spacious cave, watching the dripping forest outside.

Next day we visited the Valley of the Monoliths, not without some difficulty navigating in the fog, and there saw great grey shapes looming up eerily out of the mists. Certainly this is a place to revisit when visibility is fair.

The weather deteriorated even more, the two enthusiasts were drooping - visibly, while the webfooted highlander, gleefully enjoying every minute, disappeared ahead of me like a wraith in the swirling mist. Fierce winds blew the rain along horizontally, and miserably we decided to call it off and come back another time. The little we saw of the Budawangs was enough to make us want more. Next summer, maybe?

Chip. "Why you say bad word, Dale?"

Dale. " X1*?*@ ! Budawang alla same Tasmania,Chip."

Alma Strappazon

SOFT-PACKED AIR DROPS

The traditional method of packing air drops is, of course, that detailed in the Hobart Walking Club's "Safety in the Bush", and involves the use of steel drums "up to 3gallons capacity". The procedure is retained in the latest revision (5th Ed., 1973), but the remark on page 24: "Recent trials at the time of preparing this edition indicate that it is possible to avoid the use of press lid tins and pack the supplies inside two thick plastic bags" leads to the hope that a substantially modified procedure will be recommended in future editions. Certainly the steel drums used by some parties seem to have presented those parties with a disposal problem which they have been unable to solve, and must be largely responsible for the ban on high-level dropping within the South West National Park.

Drums or tins have other disadvantages as well. They constitute an additional item to be assembled (and perhaps paid for if you dont happen to have the right business acquaintances!). They are also liable, no matter how heavy the gauge of metal from which they are constructed, to be damaged if the drop lands badly (particularly if it lands on rock), and the resulting inward denting invariably damaging the contents. Matters are even worse if water subsequently gets in(which is more often than not the case) and food in damaged internal packs gets wet and begins to putrefy. On a trip to the Southwest two years ago (led by John Siseman) we used the HWC method with fairly good results, although several of the tins WERE damaged and did some damage to the contents. However, on a trip this January we met a party which had lost a lot of its supplies from this cause, even though their drops had been onto a button grass plain.

On the basis of the hint in the HWC book that soft drops could work, I decided to try these for our most recent SWT foray. The results were a complete success.

In four bags dropped at Prion Beach, four dropped at the Crossing River and three dropped at Pass Creek, the only casualties were a few broken biscuits (judged by my own supply of gingernuts I would say no more than 10% overall) and a cheese. Some nefarious character had forgotten to knock in the corners of a packet of chicken cubes, and these had pierced a plastic wrapped white Swedish Graddöst, which promptly turned into Danish Blue in the vicinity of the wound. Although it was probably a very good Danish Blue, it was never the less discarded in the interests of gastronomic safety; but the remaining 95% of the Graddöst was as delectable as ever.

In describing the method of packing we used I will start with the second layer from the outside and work inwards. The second layer from the outside was a superphosphate bag, and inside this was another. Between the two superphosphate bags was a layer of number 2 vermiculite. A coarser grade would have been preferable, but was unobtainable at the time we packed the drops. The great advantage of vermiculite is that, unlike newspaper or woodshavings, which are the other favoured shock absorbent packings, there is no disposal problem. Only the geological pedant could object to vermiculite being discarded, and even then only in areas where the natural micaceous content of the soil is low.

For the eleven packages dropped we used about 60 lb. of vermiculite. This is obtainable in 25 lb bags from Red Top Distributors Ltd., 51 Princes St. Port Melbourne at a price of \$3 per bag. An essential part of the packing layer between the inner and outer superphosphate bags, however, were four or five egg cartons. The function of these was not that of shock-absorption, but to hold the vermiculite in place so that it did not all migrate round to one side, leaving unprotected bare patches on the other. This would undoubtedly have occurred as a result of vibration during transit to the dropping zone if this precaution had not been taken.

Inside the inner superphosphate bag are two large rubbish bin liner bags, one inside the other. (The welded seam at the bottom should be checked, as these sometimes have holes in them.) These are then packed as tightly as possible with the individual items of food. The liner bags are sealed by twisting and knotting; like the plastic bags around the individual food items, there is no need to mess around with bits of plastic coated wire, rubber bands or string. The super bags are, however, too stiff (and in any case too full by now) to tie off in this fashion, and should be tied off as tightly as possible with binder twine, remembering of course to put a generous layer of vermiculite over the inner one before tying the outer one over it. That then is your entire air drop.

All that is needed is a hessian bag around the outside, which serves no purposes other than those of ease of handling and ease of labelling. Avoid the brightly-coloured-cloth-label-trap!! If Gary's mother had'n't come to the rescue we would STILL be sewing the wretched things on! What is more the dye faded so badly that what had been planned as brilliant red beacons visible at 1000 yards became so drab that we found our bags only by falling over them.

The individual food items were unpackaged wherever possible and double wrapped in plastic bags. Care was taken to exclude as much air as possible, which was quite easy with things like powdered milk and sugar, but not so easy with dehydrated peas and beans. I think it is significant that only bags which contained peas, beans etc., proved at all likely to burst (only two or three did so), so I stick to my recommendation that air should be excluded as completely as possible. As mentioned earlier, those things which cannot be reduced to soft plastic packages, such as soup cubes, chocolate, boxes of matches etc., should have their corners knocked in so that they will not damage anything else. Dicot mortality rates can be reduced to zero if they are planted in the centre with soft packages all round them, but we got a bit impatient after a while.

What kept me awake at night after the bags were sent off, and we were committed to surviving on what ever the results of our labours should prove to be? No - it wasn't the thought of burst bags every where. I reckoned I'd thought that one through pretty thoroughly and got the sums right. It was rats! How many of them would there be? How far would they gnaw, getting their mouths full of vermiculite, before they gave up? What other hungry wild life would there be? Possums? Worry, worry.

Completely wasted worry I'm relieved to report. All the bags were recovered in as near perfect condition as could possibly be wished, and apart from a couple of ounces of Graddöst the loss of food was zero.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Although I'm not too sure how to measure success in a club such as ours, I am convinced we have had a successful year. We have had good well attended Walks, we are financially viable and we have increased our membership yet again. All our periferal activities have been successful too - our first "Walk" magazine with a colour cover to elebrate the twenty-fifth edition is selling well, "Wilkie" our haven in the Alps is popular and well used and equipment hiring is at an all time high. This year we ventured forth into another publication, By selecting track notes from previous editions of "Walk" and collecting these together with relevant articles on safety in the bush we published a booklet called "Track Notes". This was completely sold before printing which ensured a financial success to the club.

This has been my third year as President and I have enjoyed it again. It never fails to amaze me that a club such as the M.B.W. which is a collection of very individualistic persons, can function so smoothly. My thanks go again to those who make this possible not only the office bearers and committee members but those out of the line-light too. One example of this is the printing of "News" which has never yet failed to appear. Thank you all

Graham Mascas

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I have been the first lucky secretary who has not had the time consuming job of replying to enquiries, our Membership Secretary Helen Dent, has done all that, for which I am very grateful to her.

The year has been fairly quiet, we have been keeping an eye on chairlift proposals for Mt. Feathertop, and are now preparing a submission to the Land Conservation Council on the Alpine Area. Our thanks go To Geoff Kenafacke, and his helpers for all the time he has put in on these areas.

I would like to thank the President and all the committee for the help they have given me and particularly Joy for the thankless task of collecting the piles of post.

Sue Ball

TREASURER'S REPORT

1973 has been a busy and successful year for our club. Total turnover of \$26,845.92 is \$5,345.92 larger than last year:

The aim of having all sections of the club's activities pay their way has been met with the exception of "Walk" 72 which should break even when all remaining copies have been sold.

A total of \$936.50 was received from subscriptions. This, together with the income the club gained from visitors' fees, covered all expenses involved in running the club.

Wilkinson Lodge fees covered all expenditure. In addition to all maintenance a lamp and some new saucepans were bought.

Income derived from the hire of club equipment \$109.00 provided for the purchase of new sleeping bags etc.

For the first time the club has published two magazines - "Walk" 74 and "Track Notes". "Track Notes" has met with a gratifying success and the returns amply justify all the hard work which went into its preparation.

Due to the large number of people walking and a very large number of visitors on day walks, the club has made a substantial profit on van fees over the year and \$218.00 of visitors' fees has boosted club income.

Sales of "Walk" 73 have not as yet covered the printing costs of \$800. The main reason for this has been the non-profitable distribution of about 1,300 copies by Gordon and Gotch. This avenue of distribution has been deleted since Geoff Greenwood was appointed as Business Manager and the sale of "Walk" should be more profitable to the club in future.

David Andrews

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE 12MONTHS TO 31.12.73

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>	\$	¢
Petty Cash at Hand		1.32
Bank Balance 1.1.73	2,228.09	
Subscriptions - Membership	931.50	
Subscriptions - "News"	6.00	
Visitors' Fees	218.00	
Bank Interest	97.29	
Equipment Hire	109.00	
Van Fares	7,239.30	
Magazine Sales	43.70	
Sale of "Track Notes"	800.00	
Advertising in "Track Notes"	40.00	
Advertising in "Walk" 73	471.20	
Advertising in "Walk" 74	245.00	
Sales of "Walk" Magazine	724.29	
Wilkinson Lodge Fees	185.90	
Advertising in "News"	40.50	
Guide to Bushwalking	1.00	
Miscellaneous, Donations Etc.	40.07	
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$13,422.96</u>

PAYMENTS:

Postage	96.48
Equipment (For Club Hire)	81.00
Stationery	280.65
Rental	325.00
Subscriptions	47.50
Directories P/L (Phone Listing)	37.00
Misc. - Includes suppers, projector hire, refunds, social etc.	78.85

contd...

<u>PAYMENTS (Contd.)</u>	\$	¢
Magazines		10.80
Wilkinson Lodge - Rent, Insurance, Repairs, Saucepans, Lamp etc.		179.57
Transport - Gronows	4,247.50	
Quinces	1,340.20	
Budget	286.51	
Walk Refunds	35.50	
Rodondo Trip	80.00	
"Walk" 73	800.00	
"Walk" 74	1,355.00	
Misc. "Walk" 73 expenses	4.90	
		<u>99,286.46</u>

BALANCE - 1973

Receipts	11,193.55	Payments	9,286.46
Bank Balance		I. B. D.	600.00
as at 1.1.73	2,228.09	Bank Balance	3,536.50
Petty Cash			
as at 1.1.73	1.32		
	<u>13,422.96</u>		<u>13,422.96</u>

SEARCH AND RESCUE REPORT

Possibly due to poor snow conditions throughout the winter months 1973 was a quiet year from the Search and Rescue viewpoint. There were two full-scale searches and one practice weekend for the year - the winter search practice time-tabled for July was abandoned due to poor attendance at this event in 1972.

The first search occurred in mid-March following an early fall of snow at Mt. Baw Baw. Eight of our members took part in this search which was successful late on the second search day when the missing man was sighted from a police helicopter. This search emphasised that we as bushwalkers should be prepared for all weather conditions, particularly on trips to alpine country.

In early September a "man-missing" on Mt Wills was reported. Since many of our S & R members were on holidays at this time, only four attended the search which continued unsuccessfully for three days.

The practice weekend in May was exceptionally well-organized, but as usual poorly attended by our club members. The Saturday's activities included a mock search on Mt Donna Buang during the day, followed by excellent films in the evening, provided by St Johns Ambulance. Sunday was a day of lectures with various S & R members explaining such subjects as stretcher-making, first aid and search equipment. The practice for 1974 will be following a similar pattern so keep May 4th - 5th free to attend this weekend - membership of S & R is not a pre-requisite for attendance.

Club membership of S & R now stands at 19, this figure including three women. Anyone interested in learning more details of S & R activities can see me or my successor in 1974.

Finally, many thanks to the club contacts who have the job of co-ordinating MBW activities during a search. I would like to thank Fred and Merle Halls especially, who have been our number one contacts for many years, but now, due to Fred's retirement have stepped down from this job.

Tim Dent

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Club membership as at December 1973 can be summarised as follows:-

Male	123
Female	56
Couples 46 x 2	92
	<u>271</u>

By the end of May, many of the 1972 members had paid their subs. but there were still quite a few who had not. 37 did not rejoin and the remainder paid gradually throughout the year. During 1973 we gained 88 new members making an overall increase of 51 members for the year.

Thanks go to those members who paid promptly and with very little persuasion, and a request goes to those "forgetful" members - please try to pay your subs. on time. By leaving it late you do create a fair bit of extra work.

Since March 1973 information about the Club was sent to 79 people - 27 were telephone requests, the remainder were by letter. Possibly quite a few of these people have been on our walks but only four became members and one a "News" subscriber.

Helen Dent

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The year proved that people if influenced by others will attend social activities and enjoy them. I think this last year saw a greater number of club members going on all the events than did the previous year and it is gratifying to see that people are finally coming out of their shells and mixing a bit, rather than staying in their own select little groups.

The year saw close to 70 bods attending the square dance and the dinner, while the usual large numbers still patronized the club on Film and Slide nights. Such films as "Multiply and Subdue the Earth" and "Death of a Legend" brought capacity crowds and again I am indebted to Helen Dent and Geoff Greenwood for obtaining the films for me.

A few suggestions that we should attend more Live Theatre nights was put into practice and a total of 70 people enjoyed "Lloyd George Knew My Father" and "No Sex Please W. British". I hope we have more of these nights in the coming year.

Finally I would like to say that again I've enjoyed myself very much possibly more so this year due to the greater response of club members. I hope people continue to be social and that in the year to come even more enjoyment is had by everyone

Good Socializing.
Graham Hodgson.

"WALK" EDITOR'S REPORT

At the year's first Club Committee meeting the post of Business Manager for "Walk" magazine was created, with the dual aim of relieving the Treasurer of a great deal of work entailed in sending out invoices to retailers of the magazine, and of allowing the editor to concentrate on the task of editing the magazine without having to worry about problems of sale and distribution. Geoff Greenwood was elected to this position, and will report independently on sales, stocks currently held, outstanding accounts, etc..

The best quote Geoff received for the magazine we specified was again from Humphrey & Formula Press, who printed "Walk 1973", and whose price was \$1355 for a run of 3000 copies. He having handed me the piece of cloth, it was of course my responsibility to cut the coat to fit it. This was achieved as follows:

3000 sales @ 32¢	\$960
Advertising revenue	<u>\$615</u>
	\$1575
Printing costs	<u>\$1355</u>
Profit on edition	<u>\$ 220</u>

Several points should be noted: (1) Sales are priced here at 32¢. This is the price paid by retailers, and it is hoped that enough copies were sold by club members at 40¢ to cover the complimentary copies which had to go to advertisers, libraries, etc. (2) "Walk" is supposed to be a non-profit venture. The \$220 profit which the edition should show when all copies are sold is thus meant as a "safety margin" only. We break even on an edition basis when 2312 copies have been sold. (3) I must reiterate the point made by Warren Baker in his report last year, that if "Walk"'s finances are judged on a yearly basis rather than an edition basis, with this year's costs set against income from previous issues, the result cannot fail to appear as a loss in times when the cost of printing the magazine is continuously escalating. (4) The cost per copy of printing "Walk 1974" was 45.2¢. We are therefore selling each copy at a loss. This loss is made up by the advertising revenue of course. However, distribution through Gordon & Gotch at only 24¢ per copy return to the club would have been a luxury we could not afford. (5) I am afraid the editor of "Walk 1975" will find his Business Manager handing him a much more expensive piece of cloth, not only because of 13% inflation, but also especially because of the paper shortage. Another price rise to the reader seems unavoidable.

I wish to thank all authors of contributions - including those which could not be published this year because of lack of space and which will be passed on to the next editor. Eighty pages simply isn't big enough! I wish to thank Warren Baker, who had already collected quite a number of articles (several of which were used in the 1974 edition) together; Athol Schafer without whose magnificent work as Advertising Manager it would have been impossible to produce the magazine; Fred Halls who collected and typed most of the Track Notes section; all those people who made photographs and slides available; Ann Sullivan for her sketches and particularly for the maps, which as usual were magnificent; John and Sue Brownlie for permission to reproduce one of Sue's drawings (hope next year's ed. can get an original from Sue!); Helen Dent, Joy Bover and Fred Halls for typing manuscripts; and all those other members of the club who helped in many ways.

G. Wills-Johnson.
Editor "Walk 1974"

FEDERATION OF VICTORIAN WALKING CLUBS REPORT

The Federation has been very active this past year, especially the Secretary and Information Co-ordinator!

Work on various Submissions to the Lands Conservation Council has been done. Final Recommendations on Submissions for the North East Area District 1, and South Gippsland Study Area District 1, were released last year. Study of the Alpine Area has now been pushed forward to this year. The regions have been split up amongst the Federation member clubs and their information should be submitted to the Federation by next April. Private submissions are also encouraged for this important area.

Once again, another beautiful area of Tasmania is being threatened. A private company has applied for a mining licence in the Precipitous Bluff area. This case is to go before the Court of Appeals, so hopefully another "Lake Pedder" won't occur.

Protests to the S.E.C. have been given over the proposed Power Line from Dartmouth to Mt. Beauty, suggested route through Trappers Gap. The S.E.C. is prepared to receive written cases presenting views on choice of route. The Federation and other interested groups are preparing these.

As usual, last winter the snowmobiles were back on the Bogong High Plains and don't seem to be opposed by the various Government departments. Aircraft were also making regular flights in the area.

Some excellent bushwalking posters have been published by the Federation and are available for sale at \$1.00, and have proved popular in the shops. Also the Huts Survey prepared by Sue Ball was printed and sold well. Further information is required on huts to make a reprint.

Reprints of the "Death by Exposure is not an Accident" pamphlets and printing of a new pamphlet "Are you going walking in the Mountains" are available free from bushwalking shops or direct from the Federation. These have proved extremely popular and obtain valuable information for walkers. The Federation received a grant of \$600.00 from the Department of Youth, Sport & Recreation to cover printing costs of these pamphlets. Mr. Dixon, the Minister for this Department has expressed interest in the F.V.W.C. and its activities. He has requested a Moomba Walk for this March to coincide with the Matthew Flinders Bi-Centenary celebrations.

The Federation welcomed one new member club during the year - Geelong Bushwalking Club.

The F.V.W.C. Weekend last year was hosted by a fairly new member club, the Wimmera Bushwalkers. This was a successful weekend. It is good to see the various Clubs get together as much enjoyment can be derived from meeting fellow bushwalkers from other clubs.

* Joy Bover *

NEWS EDITOR'S REPORT

We managed to produce a "NEWS" each month during 1973. Special thanks are due to Helen Dent and Joy Bover for regular help with the typing, and also to Marijke Mascas for helping type the reports. Barry and Gwenda Short, again, did a great job on the Gestetner. Thanks to them and their many helpers.

* Ann Sullivan *

WILKINSON LODGE MANAGER'S REPORT

1973 was quite an eventful year for Wilky. The Lodge being used by up to 50 people over the period.

Quite a few successful walking trips were held over the year.

The general condition of the building is quite sound and no major repairs are needed apart from the kitchen floor and perhaps a new coat of paint on the lounge room walls.

Despite the poor snow season, the lodge was well patronized, so heres hoping for a successful 74.

* Darrell Sullivan *

EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

73 was a year for a large demand for club equipment.

The Income is broken down as follows:-

Tents	-	\$ 34.85
Packs	-	25.10
Sleeping bags	-	25.70
Ground sheets	-	6.45
		<hr/>
		\$92.10
		<hr/>

* Peter Bullard *

WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT

Once again walks attendances set a record with 2355 persons out walking and with 808 visitors.

Buses were used on 4 weekend trips and 1 day trip.

Repeating what I wrote last year but none the less sincerely, my thanks to all walk leaders for their efforts and especially to the walks sub-committee for their help in preparing the walks programs. The walks sub-committee comprised Tim Dent, Fred Halls, John Siseman, Alex Stirkul. and Art Terry.

In these days of women's lib. it is surprising to find that, despite my efforts, only 13 walks out of the total of 90 were led by females. I shall retire gracefully in the hope that my successor will be able to correct this imbalance. (Typist's note: Girls make sure you accept if the Walks Sec. bothers to ask you to lead a walk. In fact, why not a female Walks Sec.?)

Although the figures below look impressive, they highlight a growing problem - the increasing number of people who use the bush for recreation.

This has manifested itself in such ways as -

- (i) more clashes with angry "get off my land!" farmers.
- (ii) increasing numbers of 4 wheel drives and trail bikes.
- (iii) littering of campsites, particularly along the Alpine Track.

(iv) increasing restrictions at places like the Prom. I feel our only hope for preserving areas for bushwalking as we know it lies in Z.P.G.

Details of Attendances -

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>DAY WALKS</u>		<u>WEEKEND WALKS</u>		<u>EXTENDED WALKS</u> <u>3 days or more</u>		<u>OVERALL</u>		<u>VISI-</u> <u>-TORS</u>
	<u>TRIPS</u>	<u>WALKERS</u>	<u>TRIPS</u>	<u>WALKERS</u>	<u>TRIPS</u>	<u>WALKERS</u>	<u>TRIPS</u>	<u>WALKERS</u>	
66	47	847	17	294	10	155	74	1296	*
67	44	824	23	411	9	137	76	1372	*
68	43	942	20	343	6	103	69	1388	433
69	47	1007	22	445	7	128	78	1580	519
70	49	1269	21	567	7	140	76	1976	576
71	47	1247	29	511	14	262	90	2020	601
72	51	1417	29	573	13	194	93	2184	715
73	51	1605	29	579	10	171	90	2355	808

* Not available

* Rod Mattingley *