



# THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 295(2)

JUNE 1974

Price 3c

## COMMITTEE NOTES

### ELECTION OF TREASURER

As Dave will be away from Melbourne for some time towards the end of this year, he will be relinquishing the position of Treasurer in the near future. An election for this position is to be held at the next General Meeting (26.6.74). It was impossible, alas, for me to finish "News" in time for you to receive it before the election.

### BUS OR VAN?

Due to the loss in takings on the recent bus trips it was decided that transport for future weekend walks would be by van, unless two or three weeks before the walk it could be seen that there were enough people on the Walks List to guarantee a full bus. For those of us who like to travel by coach occasionally, maybe the leader could be helped to secure the necessary numbers, by the people who are going on a walk doing a bit of canvassing also.

### DOES THE LEADER PAY?

There seems to be some misunderstanding as to whether the leader pays to go on his walk. The only time the leader is exempt from paying is if he has travelled specifically to the area of his walk in order to preview it, thereby incurring personal expenses.

### LCC SUBMISSION

The MBW's submission to the LCC on the alpine area in Victoria is now completed and is available for members to read if they wish.

### WILKINSON LODGE

The following note comes from Rod:

"Wilky is situated on land controlled by the SEC and they allow us to use the access track from the main road down past Wallaces, under certain conditions. They have requested that we do not drive off this track on to the snow grass to the Lodge. The reason for this is that the snowgrass is very easily damaged by a vehicle and erosion can start very quickly. This condition is clearly stated on the Wilky booking list. Recently a member of the Club who was taking food into the Lodge for winter, drove around the white posts, down a slight slope and right up to the Lodge, leaving tracks in the grass clearly visible 10 days later. The Committee has decided that should such an incidence be repeated by this, or any other member of the Club, they would have no alternative but to refuse the use of the Lodge to the person(s) concerned."

### TRACKS AND HUTS

A note from Sue:

"I would like to thank those people who have put pen to paper with regard to Tracks and Huts policy. More comments will be most welcome."

### WAGES FOR WALKING

If anyone is interested in talking a group of about 10-12 young people bushwalking and camping would they please ring or see Graham Mascas. The invitation has come from one of the Councils and they are willing to pay for experienced walkers to lead each group.

### MBW IN AFRICA

It seems that we have a very good Ambassador for our Club travelling through Africa. For the many people who know Peter Bullard I am copying out a few

All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Secretary  
Melbourne Bushwalkers  
P O Box 1751Q G P O  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

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

extracts from a letter received some time ago from someone travelling on the same trip as Peter through Africa. Unfortunately, the writer of the letter has a name common to both sexes so we don't know whether it is male or female!

The writer says "One of our prized members on the Encounter Overland expedition heading north to London from Johannesburg, is your, or rather our one and only Peter Bullard. What a find!" The writer goes on to say all the various things that Peter does for them such as, fire lighting, firewood finding, billy making, damper making, packing the trailer each morning and in fact have given him a nickname of Dawgwood Dan with his Dainty Damper Digital Digits! The writer goes on to say a few other things and concludes by saying: "Seriously Melbourne Bushwalkers, this note was written to thank you for laoning us Pete on this expedition, for without him wo'd be lost. He's a tremendous help and you'd be proud of his effort up Kili."

For anybody who would like to read this letter, it will be pinned on the notice board.

I've just read the back of the letter and see that it is actually from a Miss, which/leaves much room for speculation!

now

#### JULY WALKS PREVIEWS

July 7th HIGH CAMP - MT WILLIAM Easy

Leader: Ed Lawton  
Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am - Fare \$2.00  
Map: Pylong 1 : 50,000  
Approximate Distance: 10 miles

Forested undulating countryside with the Western end being clear on top with good views in all directions.

July 14th YOU YANGS Easy

Leader: Verle-Ann Johnson (b) 314-7052  
Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am - Fare \$2.00  
Expected time of return: 7.00 p m  
Map: Meredith 1 " = 1 mile  
Approximate distance: 7 miles

Starting from the east side of the reserve, we walk around the north east border. Lunch will be on the rocky rise at the northern end. We then walk along the back and finish on Flinders Peak.

July 21st GISBOURNE-MT GISBOURNE-TOOLERN VALE Easy/  
Medium

Leader: George Telehin - (b) 387 1066 X 343  
Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am - Fare \$2.00  
Expected time of return: 6.30 p m  
Map: Sunbury 1" = 1 mile  
Approximate Distance: 11 miles

A walk through some of the nearest heavy scrub to the west of Melbourne with views of Melbourne, weather permitting. The walk will cover some eleven miles in all, by far the most interesting part to be done before lunch. Bring water for lunch. Wear boots or stout shoes otherwise don't moan about your sore feet and/or blisters. The grading of this walk has been changed to easy/medium depending on weather conditions. There will be a van limit of 40.

July 28th      SNOW WALK: BIG PATS CK - MT BRIDE - BRITANNIA CK      Medium  
 Leader: Darrell Sullivan (b) 67 8428  
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am - Fare \$2.00  
 Expected time of return: 8.30 p m  
 Map: Nerrin and Gembrook 1 - 50,000

This walk will begin at the Big Pats Creek Fire Trail and climb steadily up onto the summit of Mt Bride, where a suitable lunch spot will be found. From the summit of Mt Bride we continue to Mt Tugwell and along the cemetery track to the Cunningham Spur Road, then down to the Britannia Creek via Hustlers Gully and on to the finish at the Girl Guide Hostel.

#### WEEKEND WALKS

July 12th -      GRAMPIANS (VICTORIA RANGE)      Medium/Hard  
 14th  
 Leader: Max Wilkinson (b)666 0231  
 Transport: Private  
 Expected time of return: 8.00 p m  
 Map: Grampians 1 : 100,000  
 Approximate distance: 15 miles

This is superb country. Camp will be made Friday night near Dunkeld (take water) and following an early morning rendezvous, the party will drive to Billywing where vehicles will be left. The route climbs Mt Thackeray, follows the Victoria Range southeast to The Fortress and returns to Billywing. On good authority this is the best walk in the Grampians. Please check with the leader if you are interested in going.

July 26th -      SNOW WALK: MT BOGONG      Medium/Hard  
 28th  
 Leader: Dave Oldfield  
 Transport: Private  
 Expected time of return:

Probably the most serious snow walk in Victoria - not for novices. The leader would like to hear from any sherpas resident in Melbourne.

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#### JULY SOCIAL EVENTS

July 3rd - Mountains of Europe - slides shown by Bob Steel  
 July 17th - Film - The Changing Face of Australia. 7 45 start - lasts 1 hour  
 The film deals with the continent's formation through its land forms and fossil life during the last 300 million years.

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#### CAUTIONARY TALE

There was a young walker called Fred  
 Who thought he'd have breakfast in bed  
 But poor Fred has expired  
 For his foam mat he fired  
 And the HCN went straight to his head

Did you know that the universally popular foam mats which most bushwalkers sleep on nowadays are made from polyurethane foam? This material burns very readily and in doing so gives off large amounts of deadly hydrogen cyanide, the gas-chamber gas. So next time it's raining and you light your choofer in your tent remember Fred and move your foam back a bit further.

Polly Mer

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We were very sad to hear that John Simpson had died recently as a result of a car accident. John joined the Club in June 1973, and although not a very active member, we hear from Mrs Simpson that the walks on which John did go he enjoyed very much. Our sincere sympathy has been extended to Mr and Mrs Simpson.

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### PHANTOM FOSSIL

#### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Joy Bover to husband David - "You've only got one bottle. How do you expect me to get drunk on that?"

A recent trip involved walking alongside an aqueduct at 1000 at night. One daring soul, however, decided to walk into the cold watery blackness. The person concerned, a female, (not that the sex matters much, in this case anyway) did not possess a torch and was following dim flashes about 100 yards ahead. Unfortunately, she did not walk in a straight line and travelled off the bitumen onto a grass verge, through two white posts, one fence up onto a high bank and straight into the watery grave. Her screams were heard quite audibly some  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile ahead and those concerned thought she had been accosted or something. She was duly rescued, however, and not too shaken by her ordeal.

Two Club members who have been very quiet about certain things recently decided to get married and nobody knew anything about it until they returned from their honeymoon in the Mt Gambier area. Many congratulations to George Telehin and Shirley Allott. We hope you have many years of happiness.

Phantom Fossil is very sorry that there is not much to say this month (stop your sighs of relief) but really if people don't do things, say things, etc. then he, she, it can't put pen to paper.

### IMPROVED PACKBED

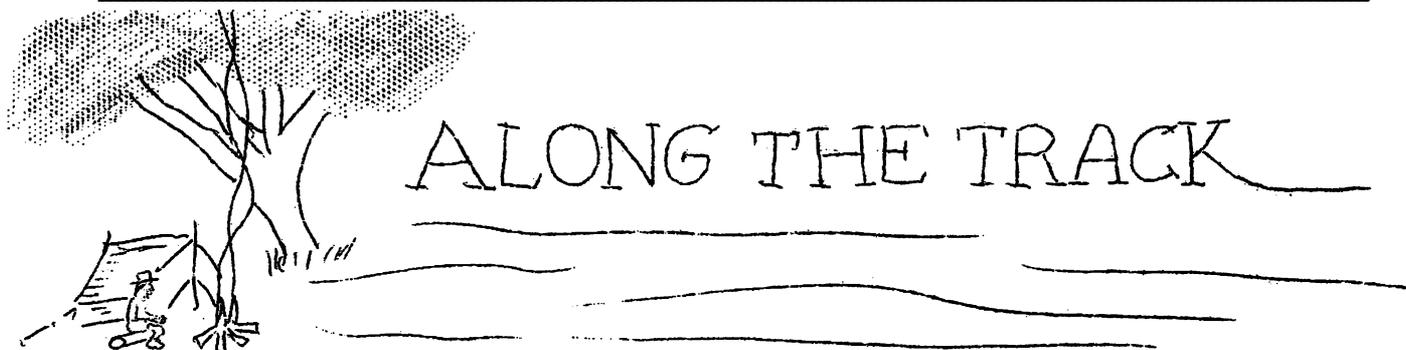
Geoff Kenafacke sent us the following article which he read in "Inventors" Week". Many thanks Geoff.

"This invention from a WA inventor is an improved packbed designed to provide a camper or bushwalker with a backpack, sleeping stretcher, chair and tent (if required) in one unit. Total weight is only slightly more than for conventional packs. The packbed comprises a rectangular rigid frame hinged at two points along its length to allow the frame to be folded. Three legs are pivotally mounted on the frame. Together with the back support frame, which is also used as a leg, these elevate the packbed when it is being used as a sleeping stretcher or chair.

A canvas or similar material is attached to the frame to form the base of the bed. A piece of material is sewn along three sides over 1-3 the length of the stretcher base and forms the carrying bag when used as a bushwalking pack. When camping, the camping gear is removed from the carrying compartment and the unit is unfolded in a few seconds to form a stretcher or chair. The tent version takes less than five minutes to erect. A built-in inflatable pillow is provided and the total weight of the pack is 3.6 kg. The inventor is seeking a manufacturer interested in entering a licensing agreement. Contact Mr K R Kaehne, Inventors Association of Australia, GPO Box 3400, Sydney 2001."

NOTICE IN A SANDWICH BAR: If you wish to extinguish your cigarette in your plate the waitress will gladly bring you your food in an ashtray.

I should like to thank all contributors to this month's "News" and to Tim for helping with the typing.



### PURGATORY SPUR

One day, John Siseman had a vision. It was a good vision, broad and handsome, telling of an Easter walk that would avoid tracks and tourists. You may be excused for thinking that such a thing could only be possible in Tasmania, but no, John's visual conjuring was firmly planted in sunny Victoria. I can imagine him sitting back in his cosy armchair, dreaming of virgin bush and unsullied camp-sites, far from the roar of trailbikes & much litter. He was contemplating that abomination called Purgatory Spur, which rises steeply and scrub covered from near where Stockyard Creek joins the Little River, and continues to rise steeply and scrub-covered all the way to Mt. Hump. At this point, the steepness diminishes but the scrub gets worse, and the light of day is lost until one is finally propelled into it on a near-vertical climb up to the Gable End.

You may pause for breath and sustenance, dear reader, just as John must have done as the full glory of his dream resounded. Having got himself stuck on top of Gable End, he paused in his consumption of a high protein biscuit, closed his eyes and let the vision continue. And behold, the scrub disappeared as the roar of trailbikes was heard. A track wound its way towards the Sentinals, from where the blue of Tali Karng lay unwinking in the early afternoon. Staggering from the effects of five measures of exhaust fumes, the vision led John along tracks up and tracks down. Mt. Wellington gave way to a steep descent before Miller's Gap, then weary miles to Moroka Hut for a bite of lunch and an additional pair of trail-bikes.

Good visions don't happen very often, so the redoubtable Mr. Siseman conferred with the Walks Secretary, another man of vision, and between them they wrote down a few place names to put in the next programme. Because his dream kept getting lost under masses of scrub, John decided it would be best to label the trip as hard, and limit the size of the party. Your Tasmanian author, wanting a change from button-grass wading, decided to fly over for the walk, and on a cold Thursday night found himself with eight others camped at the saddle under Ben Cruachan.

On Friday it rained, bitterly, as we squelched our way to Golden Point Hut. We spent the afternoon keeping visitors at bay, only to camp outside anyway that night and get our tents heavily wet. Amidst Felix's reminiscences of a bygone time when the track was free of scrub, we ploughed our way up the Little River and so to Purgatory Spur. Norm claimed he had spent the night clearing the scrub off the spur for us, but it had grown back again by Saturday morning. Intermittent rain meant a steam bath inside parkas as we pushed our way upwards, finally to camp just below Mt. Hump. We talked of elephant loopers and other fine things, sitting around a welcome fire, before settling down to combat the icy fingers of night. Sunday led us over Mt. Hump and along the Razorback, with a bout of thickening scrub before the final assault on Gable End tore us away from its embrace. From here it was tracks and trailbikes and tourists, with several cases of the dreaded hot foot as we tramped the many miles on a Monday morning.

The van, the food and the traffic... an end to nutritious meals, making one's own tracks, and wonderful visions. Until next time, with thanks.

Michael Griffin

Graham Gutteridge who is now living in Papua New Guinea, has sent us this "Along the Track" with a difference:-

KOKODA TRAIL - EASTER 74

Preliminaries: all sorts of advice from local people, Civil Defence - mostly against walking the trail - be not deterred! It's only 58 miles (93.6 km) and about 15,000 of climbing. We spread it out over 5 days travelling, from Kokoda village to Owers' corner, the latter being approximately 30 miles east of Port Moresby. All walking was done during daylight hours starting at daybreak (6 a m here) a total of 42 walking hours - the record is 25 (but with little enjoyment).

One starts at 1,000 ft climbs to 7,000 ft for the next two days, then steadily falls to Owers' corner crossing 6.5 mountain ranges in between. On the early part of the journey we bought tomatoes, bananas and mandarins at Alola village, oranges at Kagi. On the third day we arrived in Efogi village halfway, to be greeted by the Summer Institute of Linguistics Staff with afternoon tea, of 2 hours, 3 cups of coffee and tons of home-made banana cake. The villagers supplied mandarins, tomatoes, bananas, cucumbers, to our delight. About 30 walkers arrived in Efogi that night to those most welcome goodies - a feast was enjoyed by all.

It is recommended that one has a good map indicating the river crossings and track deviations to avoid wasting time and getting lost. We had no problems, thanks to our maps. The crossings are dangerous but good fun - a bit of a challenge. Since we were halfway at Efogi with two days to go, we walked for 11 hours per day for the remaining Monday and Tuesday. Coming into Nauro (the last village with an air strip) one was reminded of Tasmania - stamping through swamps of mud with that tropical sun and humidity maintaining your whole bit - soaking wet - one also smells quite ripe at this stage of the walk. Overall I think the Trail is an excellent, demanding walk but I would rate it as "hard"

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*molony's*

197 ELIZABETH ST.  
MELBOURNE  
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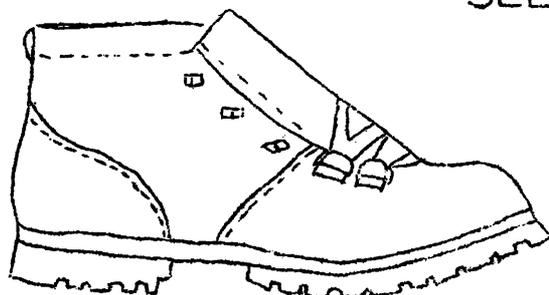
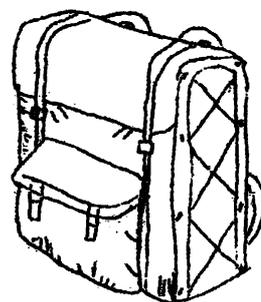
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CONSERVATIONISTS: DO THEY NEED SHARPER TEETH

An article by Jon Tinker which needs serious consideration by anyone hoping to act effectively on environmental issues appeared in the "New Scientist" on December 13th 1973. Tinker was concerned with the situation in Britain, and contrasted it in many respects with that in America. As usual, Australia probably falls somewhere between the two extremes: we may not be as far behind as the British (particularly if the lessons of Pedder stick), but we still have a lot to learn from the other side of the Pacific. In this regard Tinker says "It is constructive to compare the British environment movement in ..... respect (of their dealings with MPs) with organisations in the United States. For a start, every serious national environmental group in the US can tell you at a moment's notice how a congressman has voted on each of the various environmental issues which came up in the last session. He may be asked to justify this record publicly, or to receive a deputation to discuss his attitude. So far as I am aware, not one single conservation organization in Britain has this sort of information, yet it is all easily available in Hansard. It is as vital to political action as tide tables are to walking across mudflats. It is surely time conservationists realised that there is more to parliamentary lobbying than a vague request for everyone to "write to their MPs"

Tinker makes it clear from the outset - in fact it is an interesting comment on the British attitude that he feels it necessary to make the point, since here most people accept it as axiomatic - that the environment must be defended in the political arena. "Environmentalists may feel their subject belongs at the top of every political agenda," he writes, "... but to the politicians, the environment can never be more than one item among many. This is the one key respect in which the whole context of conservation has altered over the past five years: the environment has irrevocably become part of normal everyday political life. The environmentalists, therefore, must become political. For a start, they must learn to identify where the key environmental decisions are being made, and go there to press effectively for their point of view. These decisions may be being taken by government agencies such as the Nature Conservancy, by big corporations like Shell, by local planning officers or councillors, by civil servants or MPs or the Cabinet. At present, the conservation movement in Britain is abysmally negligent in lobbying people like this. For example, few conservation organisations are even aware of the names of those civil servants who deal with the environment. Big companies keep closely in touch with the mandarins whose decisions are likely to affect them. So should big conservation groups."

"The task of lobbying ..... should be shared among the thousands of active conservationists. It is they who must go and see their MPs, write to their local newspapers, ring up their county planning office. This requires some means of communication, which pinpoints another serious lack in the British environmental movement. Most of the large environmental groups in the United States publish a weekly newsletter which goes to local branches and activists, to sympathetic congressmen, journalists and so on. This keeps everyone informed of the progress or otherwise of any bills with environmental implications, and of all the latest news and development in the society's field of interest. By American standards the active members of British environmental groups are weeks if not months out of date in their information. Small wonder they cannot wield much immediate political influence, because one of the keys to successful lobbying is to do it at exactly the right time. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), for example, is better off than most UK organisations, with a bimonthly magazine, yet allowing for printing even this may mean it takes three or four months to bring important news to the attention of active members. The RSPB is right to be proud of its 100,000 members, but the political power this could represent will be largely wasted until it issues an up-to-date monthly or weekly newsletter".

Political action is one thing - party political action is quite another. Our own club has faced this question already over the Lake Pedder issue, as those members who attended the General Meeting on 26th April 1972 will know. The decision of the committee to make a donation via LPAC to the campaign funds of independent candidates (UTG) in the Tasmanian elections of that year was reversed by the meeting, and the distinction between the application of political pressure by non-partisan methods (such as lobbying) and party-political activity was firmly drawn. Tinker addresses himself to this same question, however, and reaches conclusions which indicate that real life may not be as simple as some of us were tempted to hope, and that truly effective environmental action may necessarily involve partisan action, with all the difficulties and elements of divisiveness that this would impose on the unity of the conservationist groups. He has this ...

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to say: "If the conservation movement is to act in the political arena, it might remember Stalin's sour remark when told that the Pope was supporting Hitler's invasion of Russia: 'How many divisions has the Pope?' In exactly the same way, I suspect, Cabinet Ministers being pestered to do something or other for the environment are likely to ask cynically: 'How many votes have the conservationists'"

"Of course, it would be suicide for the conservationist movement to link itself with any one political party. But it occasionally, where a key environmental issue was at stake, conservationists were able to influence the result of an election by campaigning for one candidate or another, or even by putting up a candidate of their own, their pressures would have that much more effect in the future."

There can be no doubt that environmental issues in general and Lake Pedder in particular played their part in the Federal elections of 1972. Perhaps in view of the sorry events which have occurred since then the following paragraph from Tinker's paper could be taken to heart: "Again, as the major political parties complete their manifestos and policy documents for the next general election, conservation organisations must subject them to critical scrutiny, not take refuge in a holier-than-thou belief that the environment is above politics. Conservation cannot be kept out of the party battle unless it is to be relegated to the political status of decimalisation or the colour of London buses."

Perhaps when it comes to the next election we should get each party to spell out its policy - on Pedder which can always be restored, and on every other issue of interest to conservationists - in minute detail, and to account, also in detail, for its performance (either in government or in opposition) on these issues since the last election. Both parties are accountable, whether in power or not, and if our party-political actions do no more than force both equally to account for themselves publicly, they will to that extent be more effective than they have been in the past. Is it time we began to take the game a lot more seriously?

*Graham Wills-Johnson*

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and not "tough" as most people seem to here. Upon reporting into Civil Defence at Moresby (this is a requirement at both ends of walking the trail) we found out that over Easter four people turned back and 8 people flew out from the various airstrips adjacent to the villages along the Trail - slackers! If anyone wishes to walk the trail please contact me (me, being Graham). Flights to Kakoda village are readily available here, but watch out for Cessnas - they're suspect. Malaria pills are recommended one month before and after. Pt Moresby has not problems normally, but the trail is different - there's a few bugs around.

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WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Stan Batic - 18 Stanley Ave., East Hawthorn 3123  
 Ian Duncan - 15 Unit 2 State Street, Oakleigh 3166 (p) 5440005  
 Meg Gordon - 10/25 Rotherwood St, Richmond 3121 (p)425281 (b)635474  
 Charles Knight - 4/67 Murphy St, Sth Yarra 3141 (p)2673161 (b)680571  
 Geoff Law - 52 Brinsley Rd, Camberwell 3124 (p)824314  
 John & Lola Oxley - Union Rd, Langwarrin 3910 (p)059 782235 (b)5441133  
 Christopher Pidd - 22 The Pass, Croydon 3136 (p)870 7259 (b)609 2327

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Fred Anchell (Petty Officer) LIMAS Harman, C/o GPO, Canberra ACT 2600  
 Rai Aniki - 62 Gatehouse Street, Parkville 3052  
 Peter Breier - C/o Ridley College, Walker St, Parkville 3052 (from June to October)  
 Nick Cole - 81 Ann Street, Dandenong 3175 (p) 7924220  
 Bill and Lisa Downing - 23 Yarralea St, Alphington 3078  
 Margaret Grogan - Flat 5, 76 Canterbury Rd, Toorak 3142  
 Tage Kristiansen - 3/41 Robinson Rd, Hawthorn 3122 (b)972801  
 George and Shirley (nee Allott) Telehin - 731 Park St, W Brunswick 3056  
 Sue Ball (b) 393 1000  
 John Sparksman - (b) 795 4200  
 Verna Millis - (p)49 5128 (b) 602 0131  
 Bob Steel - 6527417

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WHEN MEMBERS HAVE ANY CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND/OR TELEPHONE NUMBERS WOULD THEY PLEASE FORWARD THEM TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

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