



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

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Price 3c

REPORT ON FEDERATION ACTIVITIES

Unfortunately, there is insufficient room in this month's "News" to report fully on Federation affairs, but several important matters have come up which need to be brought to everyone's attention.

1. The Victorian Alps Book The Victorian Alps Book Committee under Dick Johnson reports that they are nearly ready to print the book on the Victorian Alps which has been prepared under FVWC auspices. They are looking for good photographs taken in the Victorian Alps, and have sent an appeal out to all members of Victorian walking clubs. If you have any good (i) colour slides or (ii) colour prints or (iii) black and white prints, which you think worthy of publication, please forward them to the Federation at GPO Box 815F, Melbourne, where David Bover will be waiting to collect them. (I believe Joy posts him a ham sandwich once a week!)
2. The Federation is concerned that bushwalkers have not been getting a fair go at Wilsons Promontory, and delegates were asked to get club members' views on this. Please give any details of relevant recent experiences you may have had at the Prom to myself or Jerry Grandage (Observer) to forward to the Federation as soon as possible.
3. Although Federation's concern is with bushwalking rather than Conservation, conservation matters are inescapable and have been taking up to 50% of the Secretary's (David Bover) time. Their importance to you is illustrated by the following list of issues on which Federation was involved in the last 12 months as indicated in the Secretary's report to the Federation AGM on the 23rd April:
 - (i) Premier's Dept (Vic) conference on future use of alpine areas
 - (ii) Yarra Brae Dam (iii) Dartmouth Dam power line (iv) Snowmobiles on the Bogong High Plains (v) Proposed development of Harrietville and Mt Feathertop (vi) Rumours of development of Mt Bogong (vii) Cattle grazing on Mt Feathertop and Mt Bogong (viii) Extension of logging activities on the Long Spur (Mt Bogong) (ix) Precipitous Bluff (x) Lake Pedder (xi) Possible closure of the Baw Baw Plateau by the MMBW (xii) Silting of Lake Tarli Karng (xiii) Assisting the Westernport Bay Environmental study (xiv) Submissions to the Land Conservation Council on the North East, South Gippsland, Melbourne and Alpine areas (xv) Support for the Victorian Alps Book Committee.

Because the work-load connected with conservation issues is continuing to increase, Federation has had to set up a Conservation Committee and an associated Working Group. MBW must appoint a Delegate to the Committee and we are also looking for members who can help on the Working Group. Please get in touch with Jerry or myself if you can be of assistance. Copies of more detailed reports on FVWC'S current activities made to the MBW Committee are available from Committee members to those who are interested in knowing more of what is going on.

Graham Wills-Johnson,
Federation Delegate

JUNE SOCIAL EVENTS

- June 5th Slides on Europe, Scandinavia and the Middle East - Stuart Hodgson
- June 19th Film - The Small World - Colour - 45 Minutes
- Insects have existed for 250 million years and their evolutionary process, their "way of life" and their social systems, are explored in this comprehensive and, at times, dramatic film.

All correspondence should be addressed to:-

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers
P O Box 1751 Q 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 pm. Visitors are always welcome.

COMMITTEE NOTES

WALKS

Owing to a number of people putting their names down for the Day Walks and then not turning up, it has been decided that in future, fares for all day-walks are to be paid in full. Apart from resulting in only a partly full van, the did-not-turn-ups take up places on the booking list of people who would like to go on the walk, but because of the apparently full list, are unable to. We hope that by having to pay the full fare, it will sort out those who really want to go on the walk from those who are vaguely thinking about it.

TRACKS AND HUTS

Please read Page 7 on which there is an article where your opinion is needed.

"WALK" 75

Is there, among our 280 members, SOMEONE who knows SOMETHING about ADVERTISING? Your help would be very much appreciated by Athol Schafer who is our Advertising Manager for "Walk". Athol can be contacted at work on 67 4445 or at home 211 2649.

TRACKS AND HUTS (Again!)

A request is going to be put to the FVWC that the Bogong Summit Hut and Snow Pole Line be repaired and maintained.

ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

As Joyce Dunn is unable to continue as a member of the Committee, there will be an election for a new Committee Member at the next General Meeting. As the ratio of male and female on the Committee has to be 2 : 3, and there are three males on the Committee, the election will be for a female Committee Member.

NO SMOKING PLEASE

The observant members will have noticed the recent "No Smoking" signs in the Club room. It was agreed to have the signs put there at the last Committee Meeting, following complaints from club members.

DUTY ROSTER

May 22nd Jerry Grandage and Geoff Crapper
May 29th Ian and Marion Hills

GRAMPIANS WATER STORAGES (Continued from Page 4)

and Yarriambiack Creeks. These were regulated to hold supplies, and water was carried more than twenty miles from the main streams to water the squatters' back country. Droughts in 1887 and 1881, with fairly dry years in between, brought the question of water conservation to the fore. The Shires of Dunmunkle and St Arnaud carried out some work on this, and then the Wimmera United Water-Works Trust and later the Shire of Wimmera Trust in the 1880's constructed many miles of distributory channels. In 1882, the first of the Wimmera-Mallee storages, Wartook, was begun. Lake Lonsdale followed, and, in 1906, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission was formed, and further projects were undertaken. The construction of Bellfield took place between 1963 and 1966, with all the benefits of modern earth-moving equipment, a very great contrast to the 'pick and shovel' methods of earlier times. For example, during the construction of Taylor's Lake from a natural lake to a reservoir (1915 to the early 1920's), horse-drawn scoops moved 1,000,000 cubic yards of earth for a new bank, each scoop making three trips to obtain one cubic yard.

JUNE WALKS PREVIEWSDAY WALKS

June 2 **MURCHISON GAP-LONE TREE HILL-MT TALLAROOK** **Medium**

Leader: Bob Chadwick (p) 83 3592
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am - Fare \$2
 Expected time of return: 8 - 9 pm
 Map: Tallarook 1 - 50,000 Sheet 792311
 Approximate Distance: 10 miles

Starting through farm land, entering the State Forest to Mt Tallarook where good views of the surroundings catch ones eye, finishing at an old sawmill.

June 9 **STEIGLITZ-BRISBANE RANGES-STAUGHTON VALE** **Medium**

Leader: Peter Ashby (b) 329 6711
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 am - Fare \$2
 Expected time of return: 6.30 pm
 Map: Meredith 1" - 1 mile
 Approximate Distance: 10 miles

A walk on well defined tracks through the Anakie Gorge will be the highlight of this trip, whilst reservoirs and lightly timbered country will provide splendid scenery throughout the day.

June 16 **MT ELIZA - MT CHARLIE - RIDDELL** **Medium/Hard**

Leader: Sandy Ireland (p)93 5246
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 am - Fare \$2
 Expected time of return: 7.00 pm
 Map: Lancefield 1" - 1 mile
 Approximate Distance: 8 miles

This walk is not for beginners. Please see Sandy for details on the walk if you are interested in going.

June 23 **SUGARLOAF - MT DISAPPOINTMENT - TOOROURRONG RES.** **Easy/
Medium**

Leader: Lindsay Barrow (b) 6634811 X 234
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am - Fare \$2
 Expected time of return: 8.00 pm
 Map: Kinglake 1 - 50,000
 Distance: Approximately 10 miles

A medium walk, not for beginners, in forest areas. The walk ends at Torourrong Reservoir, which, though a tourist spot, is well worth seeing.

June 30 **MT BULLENGAROOK-SCOTTIES GULLY-BLUE GUM TRACK** **Easy/Medium**

Leader: Stuart Hodgson (p) 728 1734
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am - Fare \$2
 Expected time of return: 7.00 pm
 Map: Ballan 1" - 1 mile
 Approximate Distance: 9 miles

An easy amble through undulating timbered country. Numerous old gold diggings en route. An absolute minimum of fences!

WEEKEND WALKS

**May 31st/
June 2nd** **MT STANLEY - YACKANDANDAH** **Medium**

Leader: Graham Mascas (p)25 6940
 Transport: Bus leaves Batman Ave 6.30 pm - Fare \$7.50
 Expected time of return: Yes
 Map: Yackandandah 1 - 50,000
 Approximate distance: 19 miles

This preview is not really a preview at all and the walk as planned is taken from the map only. It does look interesting though with a 2,400 ft climb first thing Saturday morning. Then it is downhill all the way (perhaps). Good views are expected as we are high up most of the weekend. So freshen up your sense of venture and come exploring to an area I haven't been to before either.

JUNE WALKS PREVIEWS (CONTD..)QUEENS BIRTHDAY

June 14th-17th HATTAH LAKES - FARE \$10 - BUS Easy/Medium

Leader: David Bover (b) 609 5770
 Transport: Bus leaves Batman Ave 6.30 p m
 Map: FCV Kulkyne Forest 2" - 1 mile
 Approximate Distance: 30 miles

Saturday will be spent in the vicinity of the Lakes. On Sunday we will follow Chalka Creek to the Murray. Monday will see us following the Murray for a few miles, eventually coming out on the Murray Valley Highway.

Leader: Bob Steel (p) 47 3743
 Transport: As above
 Map: Hattah Lakes N.P. - FCV
 Approximate Distance: 15 miles

Easy ramble among the Lakes and water courses of Hattah Lakes. Plenty of time for watching wildlife, photography, eating, sleeping and sundry other decadent pastimes. Ideal walk for newcomers to weekend walking.

Leader: Graham Wills-Johnson
 Transport: As above
 Map: Kulkyne Forest Resources Map (FCV) 2" - 1 mile
 Approximate Distance: 26 miles

This is the round-trip, and I am hoping we will be able to take in nearly all the Lakes in the three days. Working east from Hattah we have Bulla, Arawak and Brockie, and then there is a long hop to Kramen. (Those who don't like hopping may walk as a special concession). We then head north to the Murray and follow that to the vicinity of Lake Cantala. Return to Hattah is by way of Bitterang, Knoardin, Mournfoul, Yelwell, Yorang, Lockie and, for the enthusiastic, Roonki. Remember your cameras - I got some of the best pictures I have ever taken last time!

June 28th-30th STONY RISES-LAKE CORANGAMITE Easy/Medium

Leader: Spencer George
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 6.30 pm - Fare \$5
 Expected time of return: 9.00 pm
 Map: Colac 1 - 250,000
 Approximate Distance: 18 miles

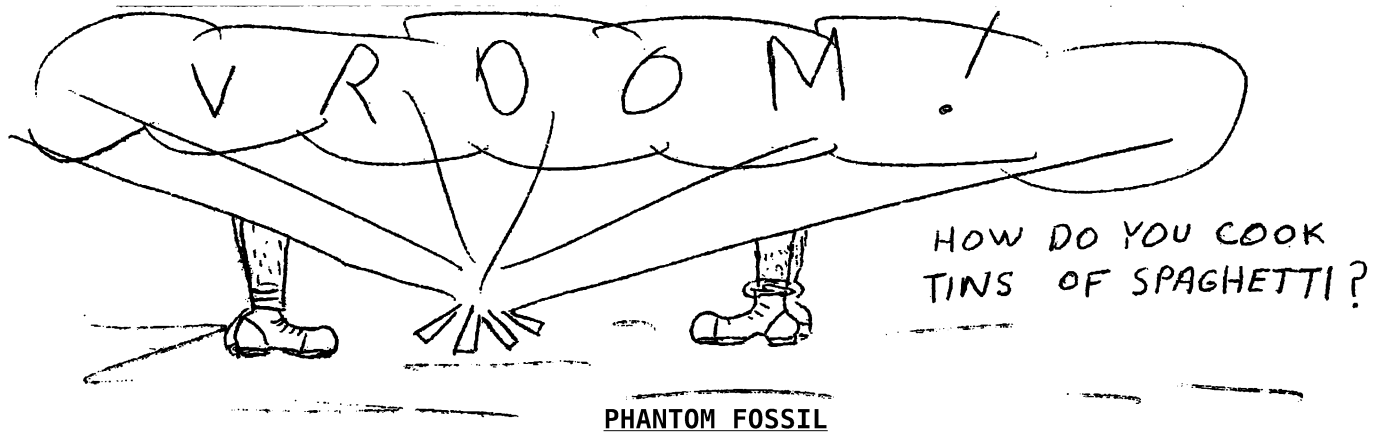
A tourist trip to volcanic lakes and craters. Unfortunately there are many fences and houses. Please bring a large water container so that we do not have to camp too close to civilisation. The area is described in 1967 "Walk".

Geoff Mattingley has supplied the following information for all those people who have walked in the Grampians and wondered what the various water storages are used for.

There are numerous reservoirs in and close to the Grampians, in western Victoria, located on the Wimmera River system and the Glenelg River with a total capacity of 628,000 acre feet. They are used to supply the Wimmera-Mallee Stock and Domestic System. This system, the largest of its kind in the world, serves 11,000 square miles of agricultural land, equal to one-eighth of the State. It supplies 19,500 farm storages through 6,600 miles of Commission channels and 4,000 miles of farmers' channels. Near Horsham and Murttoa 7,500 acres are irrigated. Winter and Spring distribution reduces evaporation and seepage, and farmers have to provide excavated storages to hold their needs for the following twelve months. Lake Bellfield provides a reserve storage of water for this System for drought periods.

This reservoir is the latest link in a long history of water conservation and distribution in the dry Wimmera and Mallee area, where rainfall ranges from 12 inches to 20 inches, with no permanent streams.

The Wilson brothers are regarded as the first to initiate water conservation in the Wimmera, when, about 1855, they dammed the Wimmera River at Ashens ...P.2



QUOTES OF THE MONTH

- (1) Well I reckon we've got two chances of clambering down this 1000 ft cliff, i.e. Buckley's and Mattingley's, and neither impresses me.
- (2) Margaret Grogan - "I've not had anyone on the floor for ages".
- (3) Geoff Crapper to Ken McMahon - "Gee, this will be the first time we've slept together since New Zealand".

Only ~~out~~ bushwalking could you sit back and enjoy the beauty of a 4000 ft mountain and then be confronted by 35 Toyota Land Cruisers in convoy who also just happened to be in the area.

Everyone has heard of the yellow peril, but it may be closer than you think. Brian Busby is our yellow delegate, in as much as everything he owns is yellow (Well almost everything). Brian possesses a bright yellow tent that makes even the dullest morning look beautiful, in fact on a sunny day, you need a pair of sunglasses to venture anywhere near it. Brian also has a yellow parka which gleams in the night. It would appear that the only thing that is not yellow is his skin, but I wonder.

Never put a can of spaghetti (unopened) onto a fire, the results are somewhat dramatic to say the least. After about 3 minutes in the hottest part of the fire the tin explodes and boom!!! instant spaghetti a-la-eucalypt, long strands of the stuff hanging in neat rows alongside the nearest tree branches, all with a neat blob of tomatoe sauce carefully balanced ready to drop onto an unsuspecting victim.

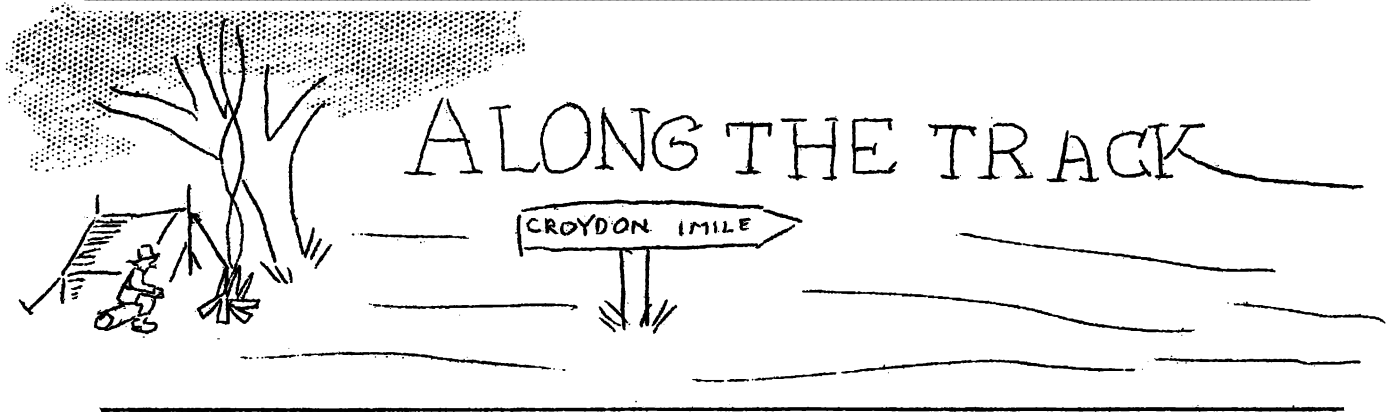
If you're ever travelling in the N E part of the State, beware of the Suggan Buggan Flying Blue Bishop. She, (yes, she) excells in leaping across creeks, blue robes flying in all directions, and generally startling everyone. I'm not sure how far up the episcopal scale Blue is, but at least she plays the part very well.

Wots this I hear!! Mr Wills (Gary) getting a parking ticket for leaving his car at a BUS STOP!! thinking that no one would notice it. Shame, shame, you deserve everything you were fined for.

More shameful tactics. I hear a good proportion of the mob on the recent Buffalo trip had afternoon tea at the Chalet. Tea and crumpets, raisin toast, fruit cake etc. etc. all served up on silver plates on table cloths beside silver flower containers by bow-tie festooned waiters. Tut, tut. Evidently the following day the same mob stopped at the Tatra Inn for more afternoon tea and Apple Strudel. I think decadence has taken over, but oh boy, is it good!!

Never say that GWD is not interested in women. He is very crafty and has one of his delectable students placed in suitable areas all around Australia. Just watch his tactics sometime, you'll be amazed at what he pulls out of the hat or bush.

Stop Press: I hear Alex Stirkul is doing a fair bit of driving lately, and it's not for business either (or is it!!!)



WALKING TOURS POPULAR

Croydon is fast becoming known in Melbourne as the starting point for those who like country walks. Some 350 members of the 3AR Broadcasting Company Hiking Club detrained at 11 am at Croydon last Sunday, and their hike was from Croydon to Eltham. Special arrangements had been made with the Railway Commissioners for trains from Melbourne to Croydon and Eltham to Melbourne. The 'Fox Movietone' motor car accompanied the party from Croydon to Eltham, taking pictures and generally recording the hike. When the party left Croydon the sun was shining, but soon afterwards rain came down. The members of the party, however, were well equipped for the wet weather. It was interesting to note the various modes of dress, both of ladies and gentlemen; some were in ordinary town attire, while others dressed to suit the occasion, this included startling coloured pullovers and caps to match. Again, some had packs on their backs, which made one think they were going away for a week; others contented themselves with a small handbag, and, of course, with the ladies, a powder puff. (which, believe it or not, are still being carried in 1974, and on weekend walks too! - Ed.)

Their chief refreshment while on the march appeared to be P.K.'s and Minties, but no doubt, a good meal awaited them when they arrived at their respective homes.

(The above article was unearthed by Geoff Mattingley from the June 1931 edition of the "Ringwood Borough News").

THE MEN FROM PURGATORY

by Pancho Batterson

There was movement in the club-rooms and much excited talk
Of how their time at Easter they would spend
The keenest of our members decided they would walk
To Purgatory and on to Gable End.

Mr Harding of the light pack was there to cart his lot
The old man with his hair as white as snow
But few could stay beside him when the pace was really hot
He could go wherever man and pack could go

Mr Bover from the Men's Club came down to lend a hand,
They say that he's the fastest man alive.
The leader was so happy to have Bover in his band,
Even though he didn't own a four-wheel drive

Mr Griffin from Tasmania flew over for the trip
To show us mainland walkers how to go
He had battled through the button grass and scrub without a slip,
And now he thought "to Purgatory I'll go".

Mr Mattingley from Heidelberg was with us all the way
Soon his trusted pack was hanging torn to shreds
It didn't last the distance, but it's owner stood the fray
Leaving others as if standing on their heads

And one was there - the leader - a long and lanky beast
He was something like an undersized giraffe
He pushed us up the Spur to Hell - to Purgatory at least
And all the way he tried to make us laugh,

Cont'd. P. 7

For food he had bananas from a thousand years ago
 We asked him "why so old" - he couldn't say
 They'd been dried and well natured by Loch Wilson and Co.
 Perhaps he thought they'd give him power to stay.

The Little River flowing fast was where our trial began
 The track notes said at least three hours would do
 To splash along the river to where Purgatory began
 But our valiant leader got us there in two.

The spur was steep and rocky, and wet and scrubby too
 But eventually we got there one by one
 And all the time we thought "what a crazy thing to do"
 And the leader kept pretending it was fun.

The Razor Back was mighty tough, for up and down it went
 But our hardy mountain walkers struggled through
 There were trees and scrub and boulders and our energy nearly spent
 And lots of hidden wombat holes for Sue

At eventide the Sentinels and Gable End aglow
 With moonlight - our reward was grand indeed
 To see our Mother Nature with her greatest gifts on show
 This satisfied our spiritual need.

TRACKS AND HUTS?

I quote below an article written by Loch Wilson of Bushgear in the hope that it will stimulate members to write their comments to me. Personally, I am in full agreement with him, but would like to have the opinions of club members. (If no replies are received it will then be assumed that members of MBW are not in favour of tracks, huts etc. and this view will be conveyed at the next meeting of the Tracks and Huts Committee of the Federation, which is to be held fairly soon. Therefore, if you are in favour of tracks and/or huts, please put pen to paper - Ed.)

Sue Ball, Tracks and Huts Delegate

"In offering this selection of gear it is my hope that it will enable you to travel lightly and live comfortably and safely in the bush, the mountains, the snow. I hope that it will enable and encourage you to enjoy these places with the greatest possible independence from outside support in all its forms: offroad transport, bush-littering airdrops and the various fixed installations which can unnecessarily and even dangerously intrude into the wilder areas in which many of us like to walk, ski, climb or paddle. I refer not only to logging roads, ski-lifts and tourist resorts, but also to tracks, markers, snowpole lines and huts.

The pressure on unspoiled areas has never been greater - let no bushwalkers, ski-tourers and climbers add too much to that pressure. If you aim to leave an area as you found it, for others to find anew, as you found and enjoyed it, then this aim surely should not only be confined to care with your camp fire and carrying out your rubbish. I think it should extend to not putting in tracks and markers or snow pole lines because those who follow should have the opportunity and satisfaction of discovering the way for themselves. I think it should extend to not building huts because those who follow should have the opportunity and satisfaction of being self-supporting.

I am sure you will get more lasting satisfaction from your sojourn in the bush and snow if you make your own way, developing your own skills at reading country, map and compass and you go self-sufficient, carrying all your needs of food, clothing and shelter. If you do feel a need of well-marked tracks and a permanent roof over your head, would it not leave more wilderness for future wanderers if you used these facilities in defined controlled and limited areas such as the existing resorts and villages.

Frequently, tracks and huts are justified, or excused on the grounds of their 'safety'. Some study of available case histories or deaths from exposure has led me to form the opinion that they may well create more dangers than safety by encouraging people with too little experience and/or gear to venture into places they would otherwise either avoid or at least go to better prepared.

I have not always thought thus, I may change my views again. I am expressing them in the hope that you will also think about these matters and express your own opinions. "I hope you enjoy your times in the bush!"

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Peter Clunas - 1066 Burke Road, North Balwyn 3104. (p) 855879
Peter Denny - 41 Fitzwilliam Street, Kew 3101 (p) 811 176
Stanley Klusik - 8 Station Avenue, St Albans 3021 (p) 396 0215

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Stan Attwood - 1/4 Foam Street, Elwood 3184. (p) 91 6616
Yvonne Lees - 434 Albert Street, West Brunswick 3055
Michael Griffin - 12 Law Street, Launceston, Tas 7250
Robyn and Derek Powell - 807 Toorak Road, Hawthorn East 3123 (p) 208021
Graham Guttridge - P O Box 2087, Konedobu, Papua New Guinea
Gwynneth Taylor - "Burrong", Brimpaen Wayside, Horsham 3400
Roger Abbott - C/o No. 1 Stores Depot, RAAF Base, Tottenham 3012 (b) 698 7314

CHANGES OF TELEPHONE NO

Lindsay Barrow - (b) 6634811 X 234
Peter Ingram - (p) 053 417519
Ian Hill - (b) 792 8502

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