



# THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 300

NOVEMBER 1974

Price 3c

### "WALK 75" IS NOW AVAILABLE

Our annual magazine has just been published and is now available in the club-rooms. "Walk 1975" has a colour cover photo of the Viking from Mt Howitt, and the contents include articles on Nepal, the Kimberleys, Leeches and Astrology! Plus the regular features of Track Notes, Mountain Muster, Books for the Bushwalker, etc. And wait until you see the centre page!

Copies are available in the Clubroom, or by mail order.

Assistance is required from club members for sale and distribution of the magazine. Sell some copies to your friends and work mates. Give copies as Christmas presents. Approach your local newsagent or bookseller and ask him to put a few copies on display. Club members voted to publish "Walk" - it is up to club members to assist in selling the magazine. If you can assist see Bob Steel on clubnights or phone him 6527417 (work) or 473743 (home).

Back issues of "Walk" are available: 1951, 1967 to 1973 (all 30c each) and 1974 (40c). All are available at the Clubroom Bookstall. See Lorraine Richey or Bob Steel on clubnights. Also available at the Bookstall are copies of "Melbourne Walker", produced by the Men's Club, "Wayfarer" from the Melbourne Women's Walking Club, and the excellent colour magazine "Wildlife in Australia" from the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland.

"Walk 1975" costs 75c. If you would like copies of "Walk 1975" and/or back issues posted to you, please complete the tear off slip below and send to the Distribution Manager. If you are able to assist in distribution of the magazine, please indicate details. Please include the cost of postage with your remittance. The high cost of postage forces us to request this. Postage rates are as follows:

1 - 2 copies	-	33c
3 - 4 copies	-	48c
5 - 8 copies	-	54c
9 - 16 copies	-	58c

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TO: Business Manager  
 "Walk"  
 Melbourne Bushwalkers  
 Box 1751Q, GPO  
 MELBOURNE VIC 3001

A. Please supply me with the following copies of "Walk" magazine

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 I enclose my remittance of \$  
 for cost plus postage

B. I am able to assist with sale or distribution of "Walk 1975". Details are as follows: .....

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 Name ..... Phone No. ....  
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All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Secretary  
Melbourne Bushwalkers  
GPO Box 1751Q  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

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

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COMMITTEE NOTES

**GENERAL MEETING**

There will be a general meeting in the Clubrooms on the 27th November 1974. This is not to be confused with the general gathering of bushies at the Diggers Den on the 26th November, after which we are sure you will be fit and eager to air your views on the 27th!

**THE AFOREMENTIONED DINNER**

Please see October "News" for detailed information re the Dinner

**VAN FARES**

We have recently been informed that Gronows will be increasing their prices by 33% from December 1st, which, unfortunately, owing to this very large increase, will most likely mean that we will have to increase our fares.

**MAPS**

Warwick Deacock has very kindly donated to the Club some maps of Nepal, so those members who are likely to be heading off in that direction, you are welcome to look at them.

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*With the recent publication of "Walk 1975" it seems an appropriate time to print the following article which Geoff Mattingley's mother discovered in the magazine "Wildlife" (which I think I was told is no longer published). The editor was P. Crosbie Morrison and the magazine edition was February 1950.*

BUSHWALKERS' JOURNAL

"Walk", 1949; Journal of the Melbourne Bushwalkers;  
digest size, 64pp. plus paper cover, illust.  
Melbourne Bushwalkers; 1/6 nett.

Volume 1, No. 1 of what promises to be an annual publication, represents a further step forward by that very progressive body of bush-lovers, the Melbourne Bushwalkers. The articles are all of walking interest, and sufficiently varied to present something for everyone - hints on such matters as crossing streams; detailed accounts of walks short and long, easy and "tough", close to Melbourne, and far afield; and accounts of walking tours abroad more as a matter of interesting narrative than of directions to others who might follow the same trail. The booklet is generously illustrated with photographs, and contains several maps and diagrams also - a very good purchase for anyone, whether a member of a walking club or not, who intends doing any bushwalking.

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FIRE LIGHTERS

Whoever said where there is smoke there is fire evidently has never camped out with the bushwalkers!

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WALK PREVIEWS

DAY WALKS

December 1st ACHERON GAP-BOOBYALLA-CEMENT CREEK Easy/Med

Leader: Peter Van Der Borgh (p) 58 7222  
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 a m - Fare \$2  
 Expected time of return: 7.30 p m  
 Map Reference: Mt Juliet 1 - 50,000  
 Approximate Distance: 8 miles

Good tracks well marked through rain forest. Magnificent stands of timber and dense fern gullies (see "Walk 73" Page 69). Acheron Gap climb to The Knob then downhill to Boobyalla Saddle and uphill to the top of Mt Boobyalla. The descent is through beautiful Fern Gullies. There will be clear fresh water near the end of the walk at Cement Creek, but please bring water for lunch.

December 8th FAMILY WALK: MENZIES CREEK TRACK NATURE RAMBLE

Leader: Lorraine Richey (48 3885)  
 Transport: Private  
 Meeting place: Belgrave Station 11.00 am  
 Map: Broadbents Dandenongs 199

An easy stroll - 4 miles - returning to picnic ground at junction of Monbulk-Emerald Road and Wooriyallock creek. At this time of the year many native plants are flowering, as well as bird orchids, and it is possible we may see an echidna.

December 8th ANGAHOOK PARK-AIREYS INLET Easy

Leader: Helen Dent (b) 69 7661  
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 a m - Fare \$2.50  
 Expected time of return: 8 - 9.00 p.m.  
 Map Reference: Anglesea - 1" - 1 mile military  
 Approximate Distance: 11 miles (18 km)

Easy walking through varied vegetation along footpaths. Views of Aireys Inlet and the park to be had. We'll aim to have lunch at Currawong Falls and afternoon tea at Irobark Gorge. From there it will be downhill gradient most of the way to the finish with a swim (weather and time permitting) at Aireys Inlet. Bring water for lunch, please.

December 15th SOUTH HELLS GATE-QUARTZ CREEK-TARAGO RIVER Easy/Med

Leader: Peter Clunas  
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 a m - Fare \$2  
 Expected time of return: 8.30 p m  
 Map Reference: Neerin 1:50,000  
 Approximate Distance: 10 miles

1500 ft climb in 4 miles to South Hells Gate walking on overgrown tracks. Descent via Quartz Creek fire break to Tarago River. Bring Water for lunch, please.

WEEKEND WALKS

November 29th - BOULDER RANGE-SOUTH PEAK-ROARING MEG Med/Hard  
 December 1st

Leader: Alma Strappazon  
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 a m - Fare \$6  
 Expected time of return: 9.30 p m  
 Map Reference: Wilsons Promontory Topographical  
 Approximate distance: 24 miles

Saturday will be a rock hopping, hard scrub bashing day over the Boulder Range. Please carry water for Saturday's lunch. We expect (!) to camp at Roaring Meg. Sunday will be along tracks. The leader hopes she won't get lost. Bring bathers for Sunday, long pants for Saturday.

November 29th - SEALERS COVE Bludge  
 December 1st

Leader: Bob Steel (p) 47 3743  
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 a m - Fare \$6  
 Expected time of return: 9.30 p m

WEEKEND PREVIEWS (Contd..)

November 29th - SEALERS COVE  
 December 1st

Map Reference: Algona Wilsons Promontory or 1" - 1 m le Yanakie

Easy stroll down to Sealers Cove. Beautiful campsite - good water - delightful beaches. Walks without packs or just laze in the sun. Bring swimming togs (beware of sharks!), fishing lines etc.

November 29th - SEALERS-REFUGE-WATERLOO Medium  
 December 1st

Leader: Art Terry  
 Transport: Van leaves Datman Ave 6.30 a m - Fare \$6  
 Expected time of return: 9.30 p m  
 Map Reference: Algona Wilsons Promontory Military 1" = 1 mile  
 Approximate distance: 25 miles

A varied walk taking in coastal ranges, beautiful swimming beaches, sand ridges etc. We will camp at Tidal River on Friday night. Saturday will find us somewhere the other side of Kersops Peak.

December 6 - 8th 8 MILE HUT-ROCKY RIDGE-THE BLUFF-HOWQUA RIVER Med/Hard

Leader: Max Wilkinson (b) 266 961  
 Transport: Private  
 Expected time of return: 9.45 p m  
 Map Reference: King Howqua - Jamieson Rivers - VMTC  
 1" - 1 mile or Buller 1:50,000 and  
 either Howitt 1:50,000 or Howitt  
 1" = 1 mile  
 Approximate distance: 18 miles ( 29 km)

Friday night's camp will be at Sheepyard Flat. Saturday it will be necessary to carry water for lunch. Leaving cars at 8 Mile Hut (13 km Hut!) we will follow a spur south-east to Rocky Ridge, walk east along Rocky Ridge, then south-east, climb to the summit of The Bluff, then head north-east along the tops to Bluff Hut where we will camp Saturday night. On Sunday we will walk north to the Howqua Valley and follow a track down stream to the cars at 8 Mile Hut. If the weather is fine, the walk offers good views and hopefully we will be able to enjoy the alpine wild flowers.

CHRISTMAS WALK

December 22nd - COBBERAS-MT PILOT-TIN MINE FALLS-BERRIMA RANGE Med/Hard  
 28th  
 (7 days)

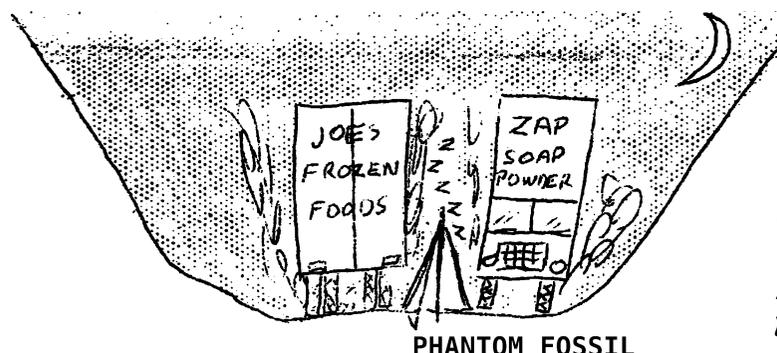
Leader: Alex Stirkul  
 Transport: Private  
 Map Reference: Jacobs River 1:100,000  
 Approximate distance: 45 miles

This walk will take in some of the most rewarding bushwalking country in south-eastern Australia. It will be mainly through bush as jeep tracks will be avoided as much as possible. The party limit is 12. Once-a-year and the inexperienced need not apply.

WORMS AND CHOCOLATE AND YELLOW SIGNS!

Jerry Grandage has provided us with the following notes. The first one, especially, is worthy of note:-

1. One of the water-courses at the Mt Speculation campsite is now polluted with worms - presumably from cattle. This is the more obvious watercourse near the old jeep track. A less obvious watercourse just north of this is clear.
2. In the Speculation-Howitt area the FCV have removed some of the controversial chocolate and yellow T-style signs and replaced them with less conspicuous upright signs which have vertical lettering and are also chocolate and yellow



WAKE UP GRAEME!  
 I TOLD YOU THERE  
 WAS SOMETHING  
 VAGUELY FAMILIAR  
 ABOUT THIS BIT OF  
 FLAT GROUND!

PHANTOM FOSSIL

QUOTES OF THE MONTH:

- (1) The topic of conversation had been on Tasmania and someone said "The New Lake Pedder is 12 miles from the old lake" to which another person disagreed entirely and was adamant that the Old Lake Pedder is 12 miles from the new lake!!!
- (2) A certain well-known member (male) was heard to say recently "I like my girls to be slightly crazy"
- (3) Sub Ball - "I haven't peered under my bonnet for ages"
- (4) GWJ - "Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder, not in the legs of the exhibitor".
- (5) DQ - "Luxury is a clean beard" (This said in his first shower for 4 days!)

Putt, Putt, Putt, groan, squeak and sudden silence. Yes the van had broken down, this time (yes, it has happened before) on a lonely stretch of the Hume highway about 85 miles from Melbourne and eleven o'clock at night. This happened about a month ago on our way to the Warby Ranges. The eleven o'clock bit was OK but the roar of the semis thundering past all night were not. The 5.00 am start on Saturday morning was given a mixed reception too, but I think when we reached our supposed camp site for the previous night at 8.00 am and had breakfast at the normal time everyone had perked up a bit (brightened up, not what some people are thinking).

Yes, van trips are always eventful. P F does not really like vans. In fact when one member started to climb out of the van only a second or two after it had stopped, someone made reference to a rat deserting a sinking ship.

Some people eat queer concoctions, but I still would have liked to have seen the meal that two MBW's described as looking like dried up bananas and smelling like fermenting horses' toe nails.

I hear we are losing two of our well known members i.e. David and Joy Bover. David has evidently been offered a very good position in which to further his studies, and so they are both shortly moving to Canberra. Very best wishes to you both from all of us. I bet the Canberra Bushies will have their hands full coping with those two!

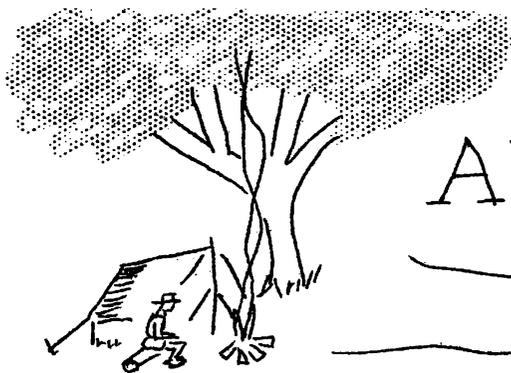
More wedding news. Many congratulations to Sandy Ireland and Liz Rudolf. Another quiet couple who tell us nothing, but we eventually find out you know. All the best to you both.

P F is going to crawl under a rock and pay a visit to some of his old mates for a while, so fortunately, he will not be featured for a while but he does take this opportunity to wish all his FAN (I would like to make that plural but that would be telling alie, and after all, I am honest, too!!) a very happy Christmas and hopefully a lecherous New Year.

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"Choice" magazine, September 1974, evaluated two commodities of interest to bushwalkers.

The first item was the range of portable gas stoves and the second was instant pudding mixture. The article on gas stoves was quite detailed but copyright laws prevent me from going into details other than saying the report included three different stoves weighing less than 2 lbs. Their cost ranged from \$5.75 to \$12.99. Setting times and the identity of three brands which require refrigeration are included in the article on Instant Puddings. This used to be a matter of concern to those of us who liked making "instant puds" during our short lunch stops on weekend and extended walks. Geoff Kenafacke



# ALONG THE TRACK

## WILKINSON DOES IT AGAIN!

(or how to sink in the Billywing)

Some time ago a party of hopefuls set out for the Fortress. We had a great weekend scrambling over and under every obstruction on the Victoria Range, but not content with this, some of us jumped at the chance to do it all again over Max's Grampians' stamping ground.

Hopefully we drove along the road through creeks, mud and sand, wheels slipping and sliding when suddenly a large expanse of water is seen to be covering the Billywing road. Bravely the VW van sailed through, followed by the Hunter, but alas, Peter tries to side step the water and ends up to the axles in mud. And there she stuck! Half an hour later, with the best part of the environment stuffed under the slowly sinking wheels, she strives and strains to free herself, but to no avail. Many and varied are the comments and suggestions. Four men pushed and pulled, and two females added their bright witticisms. Along the track came Jerry and his party and added to the push power. Finally we decide that the VW should do the work and pull Peter's car out. Alan has a nylon climbing tape, and mysteriously disappears for a long time under the VW. How long does it take to tie a tape knot?

Then Jim's car lines up and starts pulling, but it's too much for the VW and it sinks with a sigh into the mud. Two cars bogged, the road under water, - and surely bushwalkers have a droll sense of humour - the repartee is vivid, the comments colourful, the suggestions ingenious but impractical. We pile more forest under all 8 wheels, jacks are jacked - or whatever it is jacks do - we all lend our weight, and at last the VW breaks free. Again we attach it to the nylon tape, and this time success is ours and it is dragged out of the mire. A hearty cheer rises involuntarily from us all. But the water has still to be crossed. The VW paddles happily through the water hazard. Peter dons his racing cap, gives the thumbs-up signal and get set - Stan, in the best journalistic tradition, sets up his camera on the far side of the flood to film this thrilling event. Peter puts his foot to the boards --- and away she goes!! Stan executes a magnificent flying leap into the scrub as the amphibian car comes straight at him and onto dry land.

Two hours have passed struggling with the cars and now we have a good brew of tea to revive our energies. Back in the cars, gingerly we start to move off again, - but where is Peter? Carefully we back up to find Peter with a sheepish grin and a dead engine. Bonnet up, heads down, expert opinions aired by one and all. Peter crossly asked why Cynthia hadn't cleaned the carburettor this week, apparently it was her turn to do it, but someone pointed out the old saying of Confucius, "Car that play with water get fings wet." But Peter is not mollified, and is further upset when he discovers that she has forgotten to provide a cleaning rag, so to teach her a good lesson, he uses his best singlet to dry out the motor. Subsequently the long-suffering car roars into life and the rest of the way to Billywing is uneventful except for the Hunter which leant too amorously towards an unbending tree, and had its pack rack scraped off.

By now we felt we were on a cross country car rally instead of a walk, and were prepared for anything else that might happen. But strangely enough, all went well Grampians flowers were blooming everywhere, packs were hauled from hand to hand or gaily tossed into space, chasms were leapt over, rocks were scrambled across, and each time it rained, our leader unfailingly provided us with shelter caves. Our lunch time, though short for obvious reasons, (Max).. were delightful, as we perched up high with all the panorama of the Victoria Range spread before our eyes. We found a well sheltered campsite on a saddle, the men were sent to fetch water, and after a long and happy meal, we sank into our sleeping bags with sighs of relief. Oh, our aching bores! After all, it's not every day one climbs up waterfalls.

cont. page 7

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Next day we held a serious and democratic conference which resulted in all except one wishing to climb Elmer's Peak. The opposing side sulked bitterly, and eventually one party went to the peak, while the majority scrambled over the rocks to the Jackhandle, - sorry - Jughandle.

This is a most interesting rock formation in attractive and dramatic surroundings, close to Elmer's Peak across the Deep Creek gorges from the Fortress, and is well worth a much longer visit. When, Max?

Alma Strappazon

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#### A STROLL IN THE STREZLECKIS

On September 22nd, a pleasant walking day, 43 of us lined up on a curve of the road to Leongatha, about 4 miles from Yarragon, to answer the roll. From this elevated point, the land falls suddenly in a deep grassy gully terraced by cow tracks to the Cloverlea flats in the Great Rift Valley of Victoria which lies between the Strezlecki Ranges upon which we stood, and the misty blue Victorian Alps across the way. There we could see the great shoulder of Mt Erica and Baw Baw, snow-spotted a little beyond and to the west of it. Our leader picked this spot to stop at so that we might take in this vast panorama during the initial mile of our walk to the Childer's turn off. Wordsworth's words for a different occasion seemed equally apt for this one - *"Dull would he be of soul who could pass by a sight so touching in its majesty"*.

The gravel road to Childers took us through more alpine dairying land so typical of these Gippsland mountains but also through natural forest of young mountain ash, glorious blackwoods in bloom, wattles, dogwoods, and tree ferns in the sheltered gullies. About a mile from the Leongatha road the road to Childers forked and we took the right hand branch. This lead through a forest of Pinus radiata planted about 1930 and now well into the millable stage. Along the margin of the forest parallel to the road (from which traffic was noticeably absent) a forest access track was pleasant underfoot and at one point along it Wordsworth was again brought to mind by clumps of daffodils, self sown, flourishing and in bloom.

The forest opened out into more farmlands, our road merged into the other branch to Childers and we followed this back to the van.

It would be hard to find country more beautiful than this in the springtime, or more varied; and along the length of the Strezleckis there are miles of it. If you have a free, fine weekend, I recommend that you load the car with a few necessities and leisurely wind your way along the Grand Ridge Road from Loch towards Traralgon leaving it at intervals to explore interesting byways. You could come down to the Princes Highway by any of the numerous northbound roads along the way.

The walk we did followed roads but they were pleasant, easy on the feet and trafficless. To avoid the roads it would be necessary to seek permission of many landholders and to vault innumerable fences.

Our thanks for 12 miles of pleasant walking go to the matriarch of the Club who firmly but kindly marshalled us along the way, to her competent and cheery lieutenant who ensured that she followed the road in the correct direction, and to one of our youthful intelligensia who, accompanied by the gentleman of her choice, whipped us along the way.

Alec

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Interstate track notes: A few weeks ago a visitor to the club left me a copy of the newsletter of the NSW National Parks Association which contained detailed track notes of several walks in that State. For those contemplating a walk in the Mount Olga area of Central Australia, such information is given in Jeff Carter's "A Guide to Central Australia" (Sun Books.) After much chasing about I finally obtained a copy at McGills newsagency.

Athol Schafer

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CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP ADDRESS LIST

- Briscoe, Ken - b) 600441 X 421
- Crapper, Geoff - b) 615 4262
- Davis, Graeme - 4 Grandview Street, Glenroy 3046
- Fritze, John - 13 Glendale Street, Surrey Hills 3127 (b) 652 8359
- Hespe, David - P O Box 37, Heidelberg 3084
- Markham, Les & Lindsay (nee Barrow) - 5/12 Auburn Grove, East Hawthorn 3123
- Mattingley, Geoff - Unit 4, 39 Coorigil Road, Carnegie 3163 (b) 544 1666 X 395
- Poloniato, Diego - 12 Hillcrest Drive, West Meadows 3049
- Telehin, George - (b) 387 1066 X 202
- Trotter, Shirley - 1/12 Rigby Ave., Carnegie 3163

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBER

Stevens, Robert - 17 Jervis Street, Burwood 3125. (p) 292119

My thanks go to all contributors to this month's "News" - Please keep those articles and news snippets rolling in! I still have one or two articles in hand, so to those people who have not seen their articles inprint, I hope to publish them in next month's "News".



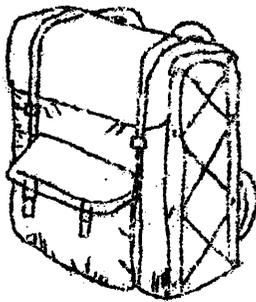
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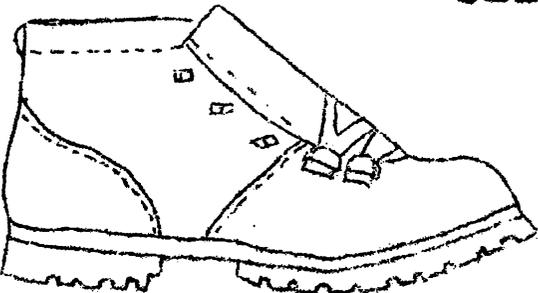
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