



# THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 316

MARCH 1976

Price 3¢

Registered at the GPO for transmission by post as a periodical. Cat B

## MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS COMMITTEE 1976/1977

<b>PRESIDENT:</b> Dave Oldfield	(B) 317-222 X613
<b>SECRETARY:</b> Rob Hayes	(B) 615-4262
<b>VICE PRESIDENTS:</b> Geoff Mattingley Gerry McPhee	(B) 544-2011 (P) 387-3417
<b>TREASURER:</b> Ross Hoskin	(B) 677-332 x51
<b>WALKS SECRETARY:</b> Alex Stirkul	(B) 314-0222
<b>SOCIAL SECRETARY:</b> Geoff Crapper	(B) 615-4262
<b>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:</b> Paul Gray	(B) 949-6386
<b>"WALK" EDITOR:</b> Malda Jekabsons	(B) 489-1073
<b>WILKINSON LODGE MANAGER:</b> Rod Mattingley	(B) 350-1222 x771
<b>"NEWS" CONVENOR:</b> Caroline Strickland	(B) 620-081 x255
<b>GENERAL COMMITTEE:</b>	
Janet Whyte	(B) 328-0241 x292
Sylvia Withall	
George Telehin	(B) 387-1066 x366
Charles Knight	(B) 680-571
Max Wilkinson	

### SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE.

Rates as last year i.e.	Member (over 21)	\$6.00
	Junior Member (16 to 21)	\$3.00
	Husband & Wife	\$9.00
	Visitors, one day	\$0.50
	Visitors, two days or longer	\$1.00

To be paid to Paul Gray.

### SOCIAL PROGRAM

- Mar 27 Wine Bottling at Tony Morris' place 15 Wellman St, Box Hill South. (See Tony for details)
- Mar 31 Forum on Travel arrangements for Club trips - Van vs Buses Vs Private Transport etc. Come along and have a say, Chairman: David Oldfield.
- April 7 Slides and talk on the Alpine Guides Climbing Courses at Mt. Cook by Gary Wills. Great scenery and interest insight into mountaineering in the heart of the N.Z. Alps.

APRIL WALK PREVIEWS.

Apr 4 MOUNT DESPAIR - WILHEMINA FALLS Easy  
 Leader: Tony Morris  
 Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 am Fare \$2.50  
 Expected time of return: 8.30 pm  
 Map reference: Taggerty "C" 1:31,680  
 Approximate distance: 8 miles

From the Murrindindi river we climb a spur to Mt. Despair Fire Tower from which there are good views to the west and north. Lunch there. Then off the ridge to Wilhelmina falls which are visible from the fire tower.

Apr 11 STARLINGS GAP - ADA VALLEY Easy  
 Leader: Keith White (P) 94-7439  
 Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 am Fare \$2.50  
 Expected time of return: 7.30 pm  
 Map reference: Neerim 1:50,000 Dept. of National Development.  
 Approximate distance: 9 miles

Pleasant easy walking under the shade of Mountain Ash Forest and groves of Myrtle Beech along the routes of the old tram tracks used for transporting timber from the Ada River area. One testing stretch of track drops 280 metres in 1 kilometer to add interest towards the end of the day.

Apr 18 CHETTELS RD. - CLEARWATER CREEK-  
THE TUNNEL - O'BRIENS ROAD Easy/Med  
 Leader: Bob Aujard (P) 509-6164  
 Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 am Fare \$2.50  
 Expected time of return: 7.00 pm  
 Map reference: Ballan & Daylesford. Military Survey.  
 Approximate distance: 10 miles

The walk is through light forest in the Blackwood area. It consists of 6 miles of 4 wheel drive track, 1 mile across a now overgrown goldfield beside the Lerdederg River, another mile of 4 wheel drive track up from the river finishing with 2 miles of dirt road - there are no fences.

Water is available for lunch at Clearwater Creek 3 miles from the start where there is also a Forests Commission fire-place. Water is again available for an afternoon stop at a very picturesque spot where Clearwater Creek meets the Lerdederg River. A small amount of easy bush-bashing is necessary and 3 creek crossings, but we kept our feet dry while previewing in February.

The tunnel was built by miners to divert the Lerdederg River and there is a fine example of a mud and log hut nearby. There is a short stiff hill up from the tunnel 3 miles from the finish. The popularity of a couple of good swimming holes will probably depend on the prevailing temperature and zeal.

A very pleasant walk, and don't forget tomorrow is a holiday.

Apr 25 LIMESTONE CREEK - TAGGERTY Easy/Med  
 Leader: Graham Hodgson (P) 24-4230  
 Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 9.15 am Fare \$3.00

For details see Graham in Clubrooms.

WEEKEND WALKS.

Apr STRONACHS CAMP - MT. WHITELAW - MT. ST. PHILLACK Easy/Med  
 2-4 Leader: Michael Griffin (P) 435-7829  
 Transport: Van from Batman Ave. 6.30 pm Fare \$7.00  
 Expected time of return: Who knows.  
 Map reference: Walhalla A & B 2" to 1 mile, Lands Dept.  
 Baw Baw Plateau. 1" to 1 mile, VMTC  
 Approximate distance: -

Should be a relatively easy trip, so long as I don't lose my way. Saturday's walk will be from Stronach's camp to Mustering Flats, with an optional climb of Mt. Whitelaw en route. On Sunday you

All correspondence should be addressed to:-

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

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

---

can choose from a casual stroll without packs out towards Talbot Peak or a bludge at camp, before descending to Neulynes Mill via Mt. Baw Baw after lunch. Racehorses may be able to do a few extra side trips. In other words, I hope to cater for all standards of walkers. Bring some water just to be on the safe side. Should be water for camps.

Apr SHEEPYARD FLAT - MT. McDONALD - MT. CLEAR - MT. LOVICK  
15-19 Leader: Alex Stirkul (B) 314-0222 x84 Med/Hard  
Transport: Private  
Expected time of return: Who knows.  
Map reference: VMTC "King, Howqua & Jamieson Rivers" 1"=1m  
Approximate distance: 40 miles.

Hands up all those who thought Mike Griffin's Viking-Cobbler trip was "interesting". I thought so. Well I can almost guarantee that this walk will surpass it on that score. Especially on the second day when the members (dare I say victims?) of this Easter jaunt might have to carry enough water not only for that day, but for the evening also. Quite apart from this minor matter, the country itself promises to offer panoramic views and alpine scenery second to none.

Apr GRAMPIANS - BASE CAMP Easy  
15-19 Leader: Graham Mascas (P)25-6940  
Transport: Private  
Expected time of return: --  
Map reference: Grampians 1:100,000 or 1:87,080 FCV  
Approximate Distance: Depends.

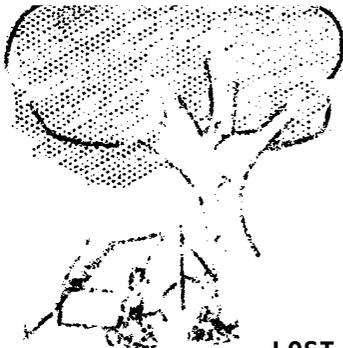
Here is your chance to explore a lesser known part of the Grampians. The Black Range has everything, rocky escarpments, Aboriginal shelters and lovely Grampians scrub. We intend to have a base camp so the walking, if you want it, will be without packs and if you don't you can bludge in idyllic camp sites. The plural because we will move camp on the Saturday. The first site will enable us to explore the northern end of the range, but is dry so bring water for 2 nights. There is no trouble with the second site from which we can explore the lower part of the range with plenty of water even enough to swim in if you are so inclined. Private transport trips like this means everyone is welcome just arrange passengers between yourselves and see me for detailed instructions on how to get there - your map reading needs to be good!

---

**WALK '77** - Articles needed (of all varieties and styles)  
- Photos, Slides etc.  
- Track notes (if you led a walk)  
- Don't wait to be asked. Contact Malda in Clubrooms any Wednesday or ring (B) 489-1073

---

CLUB T - SHIRTS: Peter Bullard has offered to print T-Shirts and wants suggestions for designs etc. in a hurry. You will have to provide your own shirt to be printed in a pale blue.



# ALONG THE TRACK

## LOST HORIZONS AT THE BAY OF ISLANDS

Bringest thou plenty of water for the weekend my children as the ground will be stoney and barren. With these wise words mighty leader Brother Busby gathered his flock on the Friday eve and carefully perused the results of his sermon. Some brought large casks, some brought small, there were urns, jugs, bottles and pails. in fact there was to be more water in the ancient Gronows chariot than had ever been seen before.

At about 6.30 of the sundial the mighty engine roared and the children were whisked off into the setting sun. The night was long but the enchanting sounds of heavenly voices singing praises from the Rugby book of psalms helped to relieve the monotony.

The Chariot after much stopping, starting, swaying and swerving, arrived at its final resting point and the children, led by Brother Busby, were gently coaxed out into the stormy night to seek new adventure in this timeless land of garbage bins and dunnies.

The dawn was clear and the prophets were kind, the young folk were well rested and ready for the sandy wilderness ahead. The country was rugged, tall cliffs rising majestically out of the azure sea, in all a superb backdrop to the great journey.

After many minutes of walking had passed the children were allowed to feast and loaves and fishes (Granny Davis and John West) were distributed. After feasting some of the flock anointed themselves with the holy water of the Southern Ocean, holy because many were heard to say CCCChrist its cold.

Skins turned brown, sands turned white and uneaten food turned green as the hot sun beat down upon the contented travellers.

Eventually after many hours of sheer paradise the tent city on a distant cliff came into view and the adventurers clambered up, gathered around and foretold of the days delights.

Meanwhile in the heavens, storm clouds were brewing and prophecies of the big wet were passed around along with cups of red liquid. The Sabbath day was indeed very wet and considering that it was February the 29th, leap year and all that, it was thought that the rain god Huey was relieving himself of all his problems and having an extra long leap.

Rain was the commandment of the day and Brother Busby said he was still going on the planned journey. in fact for a while it looked as though he would be the only one going, but after threats of "Ve have vays of making you walk" two thirds of the party decided to risk it. It was a trip straight out of Wuthering Heights i.e. mist swirling around awesome drops into a white foaming sea and chilly winds turning hands blue.

However the end came quickly and soon a green and yellow matchbox was seen perched on a cliff top waiting to take the children back to reality in a sideways direction. Sideways due to some inconsiderate mud that grabbed the van and pulled it off its forward directional course. This was later corrected by some strong bushwalking types who just happened to be in the area and offered their assistance.

Finally, thank you Brian for a weekend of contrasts, I look forward to future trips of note.

... Reincarnated Phantom

100 WALKS IN RURITANIA: Walk No. 102 - PUFFALONG PLATEAU

**WARNING:** This walk is graded 4days/tough, and should not be attempted by persons over the age of 35 years unless they are in exceptional physical condition.

Commencing at Nug Nug, a beeline should be made for the nearest scrub-choked creek. Unless thriving beds of nettles are encountered on the precipitous descent into it, the wrong creek has been chosen and another attempt should be made. If any survivors emerge from the nettle beds, they should be directed to a precipitous rocky spur that will be found in the near vicinity. Pause five hundred feet up this spur, ostensibly to take in the views, but in fact to make a surreptitious check on how many walkers remain in the party. Pause again on top of a knoll a further three hundred feet up and declare morning tea. It must now be faced that any who still remain in the party cannot be killed off by brutal methods, and a change of tactics is called for. Kill them with kindness. Call frequent stops on the next stage of the climb, which is steep enough to dispose of anyone unwary enough to fall asleep while the party is resting, by simply pushing them off the edge. A good after-lunch ploy is to send the whip on ahead: with luck this will cause some to think they are going the wrong way, and, acting on the assumption that the leader is in front of the whip they will head back to Nug Nug, and no longer be a cause for concern.

Probably by now the hard core that remains is impervious to things like blazing unobstructed sun and lack of water, but an exposed heap of rock can be found near the top of the climb where this stratagem can be tried in the hope that one or two more will perish. Remain hidden in the bushes below this high point in hope that some will think that the walk has been called off and they should go home by the shortest possible route. (With luck they will head directly for Lake Puffalong and disappear into the scrub forever). By now it will be late in the day, so you are probably stuck with those who are left until the next day. Still, by lurking out of sight for an hour or so it may be possible to provoke a conflict between mutineers and loyalists over the choice of a campsite. There is always a chance that the waverers will die of vacillation, while the committed may well come down with fatal attacks of apoplexy when you point out a very good reason why their choice was wrong five minutes after they have their tents up.

Your best weapon is the unexpected. In the morning set a blistering pace for the first hour. There are several good rock galleries on the Puffalong Plateau in which there is every chance of disposing of several more walkers down among the crevices between the great boulders. You should also take advantage of a cunning scheme of duplicated signposts to Mollason's Chalet in order to convince the credulous that you are leading them in circles. Either they will emulate their avian forerunner in the business of going round in ever-decreasing circles and tracelessly self-destruct, or they will wander off in their own alternative circles. Either way they cease to be of any further significance.

If, by the time you sit down for lunch, any members of your party are left, you have not been following these instructions properly. Time is now short, and desperate measures will have to be resorted to. Nothing short of losing the entire party will now suffice. Those who have survived all your other stratagems are likely to be both cunning and perceptive. It is no good trying to lead them up (or in this case down) the garden path hoping they will not recognise it as such. It is not even any good hoping to fool them into thinking it is not a garden path. No-it is necessary to face squarely up to the fact that they know it is a garden path. Tell them boldly that along this garden path there

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN.

It seems to me that there are times when things need to be said without the cloak of anonymity of a simple note in News. If you disagree violently on any issue drop a line to the News Convenor, your views will be printed. An impression seems to exist at times that we are a secret society, this could not be further from the truth. Committee meetings, usually held on the first Monday of the month in the clubrooms, are open to all and the minute book has always been available to anyone interested on request. A copy of the committee meeting minutes is now being displayed in the committee room on the second floor.

Our contact system is not being used as it should be; before you leave on a club walk make sure that anyone who will be anxious for your safe return has the phone numbers of the club contacts as printed on the back of every walks programme. These are the people to get in touch with if you are late back. Leaders of walks have a special responsibility to phone the contacts at the head of the list (Graham & Sue Errey ) as soon as they return to the city even if private transport has been used. If for some reason the walk has been delayed the leader should phone the contacts from the first available phone, and reverse the charges, to let them know of the late return so that the contacts can reassure any anxious callers.

Finally, members who think they know best and race off ahead of the leader should remember that if they get lost as a result they may have to make their own way home. If you don't want to walk at the leaders pace perhaps you shouldn't be on the walk.

Well that's more than enough for one month .

..... Dave.

WALK 1976.

The following is a survey of the financial status of Walk 1976 as presented at the A.G.M.

<u>Expenditure.</u>		<u>Income.</u>	
Printing - 3000 Copies (Humphreys Formula Press)	\$2,150	Advertising (- Invoiced	\$1,105)
		- Received to date	\$ 849
		Sales	
		- Clubroom	\$ 261
		- Other	\$ 401
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$2,150	INCOME AT A.G.M.	\$1,511

Note - Income to date plus outstanding advertising = \$1,767. This figure is very close to the break even point of Walk 1976. - Max.

NOTE OF MOTION. for General Meeting on the 28th April, 1976.

"That Dennis Barson be made a life member of the Melbourne Bushwalkers"

Proposed by: Art Terry                      Seconded by: Andy Price

ATTENTION WILKY WINTER PARTIES.

Those optimists who think there is going to be Ski-able snow this winter and want to book for a week at Wilky, please let me know by the 7th April.

Don't let it go too late as this winter promises to be the most popular.                                      ...Rod Mattingley

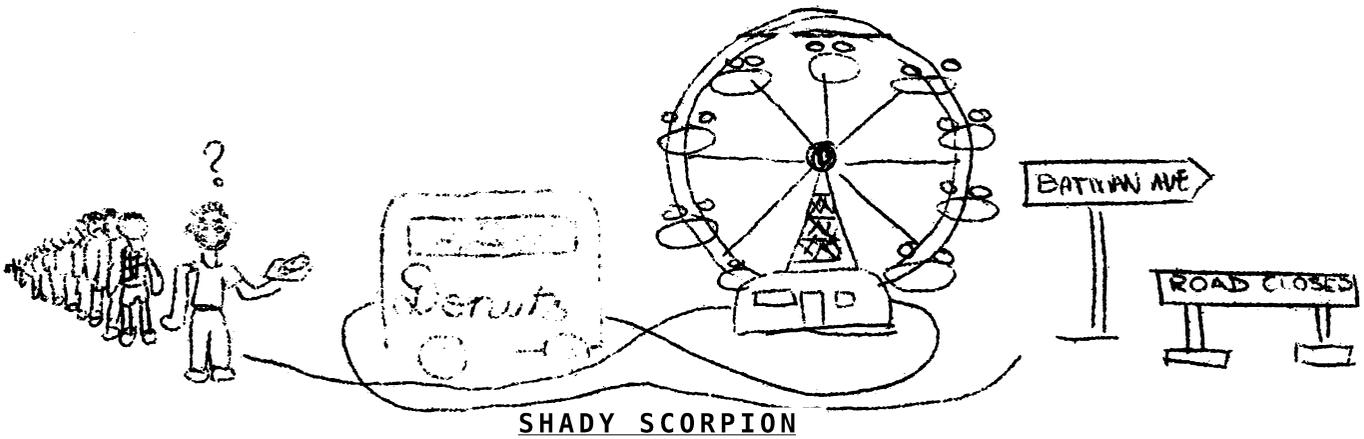
REGARDING TELEPHONE CALLS TO GEORGE TELEHIN.

By request of my employers (I received 24 telephone calls in two days) please restrict telephone calls to me to the following times:-

- 10.40 am - 11.00 am
- 12.40 pm - 1.20 pm
- 3.20 pm - 4.00 pm

If it is possible, see me personally before any of my walks, rather than ringing me.

George Telehin



The "insidious state of affairs" referred to by the Hon. Walk Secretary in his report was not evident on the recent weekend trip to Peterborough when 16 "nubile nymphs" (to quote a phrase) were present, taking all that nasty walking off the minds of the 16 remaining members of the party. Too bad Alex, it looks as though you've missed out again.

The weather was so foul on the same Sunday that even the hardened Mount Cook veteran mountaineer, Gary Wills, was forced to seek refuge from the elements in the Gronows Van instead of going on the walk. This didn't stop young Monique Mascas from heading out with the leader and his followers. Really, what would the Alpine Guides say back at the Hermitage!

One visitor to the Club didn't feel among strangers when she ventured out on her first walk recently. She might not have known everyone's name but she certainly knew all of their preferences in alcoholic beverages. No, the walk didn't develop into a grog on, actually the young lady in question was Molly, our regular Barmaid at the Duke. After months and months of being brainwashed by the Wednesday night mob Molly finally let curiosity get the better of her and found that the drunkards really were bushwalkers after all.

On the Labour Day Weekend trip to Fainter-Hotham three anonymous gentleman just couldn't stand the strain of dehyds and scroggin any longer. The leader of this breakaway group (after complaining of how totally exhausted and physically incapacitated he was after the gruelling climb on Sunday) decided that lunch at Bon Accord Hut wasn't a very appetising thought. So, with the clock at 11.30 am, the three decided to make a valiant sprint for the Harrierville Pub some six miles away. To their ecstasy the counter lunch restored some degree of intestinal equilibrium (at least it did after the leader had bagged yet another loo to his already impressive Australasian record).

The Moomba Sunday walk finished on an unusual note with the Van driver taking a wrong turn at Swan Street and discovering that Batman Avenue had been blocked off in their absence. Not to be deterred the 30 or so scruffy looking individuals emerged from the furniture van and led by the unflappable Hugh set off on a compass course of 290° M via the Ferris Wheel and the Donut Stand back to the Tram Terminus, much to the dismay and disbelief of the onlookers present.

---

Continued from page 5

... is another path which is not the garden path, oh dear me no, but is in fact the Chosen Path, leading to a veritable paradise of ice creams and milk shakes and rivers of cold water for their aching feet. Meekly then will they follow you, not up, but down the garden path where, at the bottom, you can leave them standing in a circle around the First Lady, whom you have put into a trance by telling her that if she closes her eyes very hard she will at last be able to see the West (or is it the East?) Puffalong River.....

..... Y.Y.Y.

NEW MEMBERS.

AUJARD, Gwen - 5 Hillside Ave., Glen Iris. 3146 (P) 509-6164  
 AUJARD, Kathy - 5 Hillside Ave., Glen Iris. 3146 (P) 509-6164  
 HUSTEDDE, Pat - 4/18 The Explanade, Williamstown 3016 (B) 314-7052  
 JONGEBLOED, Christine - 26 Martin Rd., Glen Iris 3146 (P) 295-937  
 (B) 267-2433  
 (B) 652-6019  
 PETERS, Denis - 1/92 Perry St., Fairfield. 3078  
 SAVIO, Luisa - 29 Ashley St., Box Hill North. 3129 (P) 898-995  
 (B) 489-7422  
 STEWART, Ian - 127 Hedderwick St., Essendon. 3040 (P) 379-3015  
 (B) 350-1222 x661  
 FOLLEY, Noel - 2 Baron Court, Ringwood. 3134 (B) 652-6326  
 WILKINSON, Jacqueline - 27 Liston St., Burwood. 3125 (P) 295-769  
 (B) 347-7111 x3125

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

BOVER, David & Joy - 63 Carroll St., Hughes, A.C.T. 2605  
 JEKABSONS, Malda - (B) 489-1073  
 JORGENSEN, Margaret - 44 Balmoral Ave., Pascoe Vale South. 3044  
 (B) 341-6114  
 MCKENZIE Elizabeth - 4 Malvern Rd., Mont Albert. 3127 (P) 892-290  
 (B) 666-046 x 457  
 PORTER, John - 3/3 Corsewell Close, Hawthorn. 3122  
 CHRISTIANSEN, Otto - 29/92 The Avenue, Parkville 3052.  
 (B) 350-1222 x370  
 DEAN, Helen - "Bramoura" Baker Road, Harkaway 3806. (P) 707-1191.

<i>molony's</i>	STILL TOPS FOR BUSHWALKING, SKIING, AND CLIMBING NEEDS
197 ELIZABETH ST MELBOURNE 67-8428&9	INSPECT OUR RANGE 1ST & 2ND FLOORS

<b>AUSKI</b>	9 HARDWARE ST PHONE 671412	
THE BUSHWALKING SPECIALIST		
PADDYMADE EQUIPMENT, PACKS ETC.		

	SEE LOCH WILSON AT <b>BUSHGEAR PTY LTD</b> 46 HARDWARE ST MELBOURNE
FOR ALL BUSHWALKING AND CLIMBING	