



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 328

MARCH, 1977

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MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS COMMITTEE 1977/1978.

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	Hugh Duncan	(B) 630.221 x4109
	Bob Douglas	(B) 630.5694

To all the retiring officers we extend our thanks for the work completed in the last twelve months.

To the officers who have been appointed for this year, we thank you for your co-operation in accepting office, and trust that the Club will have a successful year under your guidance.

All correspondence should be addressed to:-

The Secretary,
Melbourne Bushwalkers,
Box 1751Q, G.P.O.,
MELBOURNE. VIC. 3000.

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

APRIL WALK PREVIEWS

Day Walks

April 3 COBAW RANGES Easy/Med

LEADER: Shirley Allott
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9-15 a.m. Fare \$2
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9-30 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Pyalong 1" = 1 mile
 Lancefield 1" = 1 mile
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 8 - 9 miles

We will walk through mostly bushland, starting at Gr. 623040, walking across ranges and finishing near Cobaw (ie. making a semi circle). The route is subject to alteration without notice. Same for time of return.

I would like some-one to lead a walk on a different route in the same area (ie. split the party). Interested person(s) please see me for details.

April 10 PUFFING BILLY - LAKESIDE - Easy
MONBULK FOREST - UPWEY

LEADER: Not available as yet, therefore
 no preview.
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9-15 a.m. Fare \$2

April 17 YEA RD. - MT. SLIDE - JEHOSEPHAT VALLEY - Med/Hard
MT. JERUSALEM - ST. ANDREWS.

LEADER: Michael Griffin
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9-15 a.m. Fare \$2
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Yan Yean 1" = 1 mile
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: ?

This walk is in the Kinglake area. My last effort in that direction yielded a deluge, so we may get snow this time! Whatever the weather, we are in for a long and reasonably strenuous trip. The medium-hard bit comes in when we try to go against the grain of the country between Mt. Slide and Mt. Everard. If we all survive that, there is a longish trek into St. Andrews by the most devious route I can manage. Overall, the trip provides some spectacular walking and probably a few tired muscles. Please be fit and bring a water bottle (we could be anywhere at lunchtime!). The van ride will be a relatively short one and the cost is modest indeed. Be prepared for some scrub.

April 24 PYRAMID ROCK - SMITHS BEACH - SUNDERLAND BAY Med

LEADER: Janet White
 TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9-15 a.m. sharp
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9 p.m. Fare \$2
 MAP REFERENCE: ?
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 10 miles

Please note that this is not the walk listed on the program and that it is graded medium. It may not be swimming weather in late April but this is a pleasant walk, nevertheless. It's a lovely coastline, with interesting color changes in rock and vegetation and pretty rock pools around the points.

The van will take us through San Remo and onto Phillip Island, leaving us at Pyramid Rock where we descend to the beach. We will be walking partly along the cliff and on the beach, with some rockhopping. (Please wear good-gripping boots as the rocks can be slippery.)

The preview took us 4 hours actual walking time and we were moving fairly smartly. As the van drive could be 2½ hours we will need to walk at a steady pace to reach the van by 6 p.m.

Water for lunch, parka and warm jumper are essential, and bathers if you fancy the ocean in April.

Weekend Walks

April 7 - POINT HICKS - WINGAN INLET - BENEDEORE RIVER - MALLACOOTA Med/Hard

LEADER: Simon Arnold
 TRANSPORT: Private
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9 p.m. Approx.
 MAP REFERENCE: Cann + Mallacoota Govt. Printer 1971
 Scale 1:100,000
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 56 km.. (35 miles)

Limit - 15 people. Have to be fit.

Friday - Recouperate from the long drive.
 - Shuttle cars to Mallacoota.
 - For the rest of the day we can have a bludge.

Saturday We leave at 7 a.m. covering 24 km. (15 miles) in the day. Lunch at Ram Head, and then over this most difficult patch to Wingan Inlet. A side trip (unpreviewed) will be taken although it will be short.

Sunday Start 9 a.m. by boat over the inlet. Lunch at Red River then on a track for an hour or so, over some jagged rocks to camp at Bendore River. 16 km. (10 miles).

Monday 7 am. start for 16 km. (10 miles) along a track to the cars. It will take about 2 or 3 hours. Good scenery to be had throughout the walk.

Bring water for Saturday and Friday.

April 7 - PRECIPICE PLAIN (NEAR HOTHAM) Easy

LEADER: Graham Mascas
 TRANSPORT: Private
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: ?
 MAP REFERENCE: FCV 1:63360 Feathertop and Dargo
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: ?

(Cont.)

This is a base camp with optional day walks of varying standards. The camp is in a beautiful snow plain on the edge of the Hothammassive looking south over Gippsland. The turn off is about 5 miles past Hotham Hotel and Dinner Plains following a track SE $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Precipice Plain. I will have sketch maps available in the club rooms the Wednesdays before the event.

The day walks planned are to Mt. Tabletop (Square Mount) Mayford, Mt. Loch and Spargo's Hut and possibly a trip out to Feathertop and back. So we have plenty of options.

As the trip is by private transport everyone is welcome and there is no limit, but please try and make your own transport arrangements and save me a lot of the problems of fitting people without to people with!

April 7 - THE PLAYGROUNDS, MT. COBBERAS, Med
11 COWOMBAT FLAT, THE PILOT, BERRIMA RIVER.

LEADER: Rod Mattingley
TRANSPORT: Private
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: ?
MAP REFERENCE: Jacobs River 1:100,000
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: ?

The Cobberas area is one of the most spectacular areas in Victoria and is well worth travelling the 290 odd miles. We'll leave cars at Native Dog Flat and follow up Native Dog creek. First camp will be between Moscow and Cleft Peaks. Next day will be an early camp on Pilot creek at Cowombat Flat with a visit to The Pilot, without packs, in the afternoon. On Sunday we'll follow the Macfarlane Flat track to camp on the Suggan Buggan River with side trips to Forest Hill and also down Moscow Creek towards the Berrima River. Last day is up a little hill back to the Playgrounds and thence to Native Dog. We will be back at the cars by lunchtime on Monday. For those lucky people who have the Tuesday off as well, there is plenty to keep them occupied for the extra day. Don't forget to bring cold weather gear as the weather can change rapidly. Remember Spencer's letter in "News" after his Easter trip in '75 to Wombargo and Reedy Creek chasm.

April 22 - GOLDIES SPUR - BUFFALO PLATEAU - Med
25 BUFFALO RIVER

LEADER: Graham Mascas
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 6.30 p.m. \$8
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Alguna: Mt. Buffalo Nat. Park
or 1:100,000 Mt. Buffalo
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 24 km

ANZAC WEEKEND

This is not a hard walk. We will leave Buckland Bridge and climb Goldies Spur, the original route to the plateau, taking most of the day. After a good night's rest in idyllic surroundings we will spend Sunday crossing the plateau between the rocky outcrops and snow gums. The original intention was to traverse the plateau to North Buffalo and drop down into Buffalo Creek, however recent investigations may necessitate a descent into Buffalo River instead. It looks rather hairy around those N. Buffalo cliffs.

Here is your chance to traverse the Mt. Buffalo Plateau over an easy 3 days with 2 nights camped high above the surrounding valleys. I've even ordered good weather.

Committee meetings are normally held on the first Monday of the month in the clubrooms at 7p.m. Visitors are always welcome, particularly if you have a grumble - after all, we can't do anything about it if we don't even know about it!

Of course it won't do us any good, but at least they DID say it: in the Final Recommendations of the LCC for the Melbourne study area (Jan 1977, p43) we read "Despite their importance these water catchments are subject to long-standing inconsistencies in management policies, particularly with respect to timber production and public access." In our club's submission on the Upper Thomson (a copy of which went to the LCC) the difference in MMBW and SRWSC policies was pointed out, and we asked how many of the latter's paying customers were dying as a result of drinking water from Eildon and elsewhere. On page 44: "The Council believes that wherever possible there should be multiple use of catchments." Perhaps, too, our call for the monitoring of a more relevant parameter than crude coliform counts when assessing the supposed impact of public use on water quality is reflected in the statement on page 45: "The Council recognises the need for research to provide guidelines for such management." Of course I'm quoting the LCCas far as I know the MMBW is sittin' tight and sayin' nuffin'.

The past two years have seen sound and steady progress in the Club's affairs, and a greatly increased awareness of its wider responsibilities. I think we owe Dave our thanks. Incidentally Dave - I was glad to see you didn't get out from under completely unscathed....how's the involuntary unofficial assistant "Walk" editor?!!

-----W-J.

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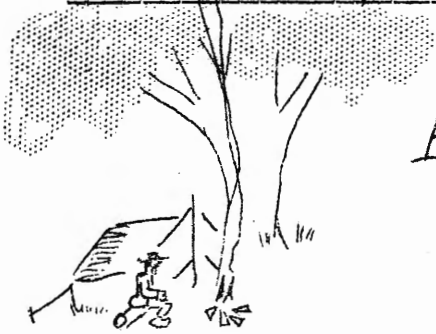
Assistance is still required to distribute "Walk" magazines. Assistance is especially needed to deliver magazines in the Frankston and City areas.

If you are able to help in any way please

contact: Bob Steel (B) 652.7432

Dave Oldfield (B) 317.222 x330

or see them in the clubrooms.



ALONG THE TRACK

TASMANIAN NOTEBOOK

During the Christmas holiday period, Geoff Law and I spent two weeks walking the the Reserve and Frenchmans Cap, before being joined by Gerry McPhee and Dick Evans for a further fortnight in The Arthur Ranges. Some highlights of the trip are presented below.

We began our walk with a climb up towards Cradle Mt. via Hounslow Heath and Riggs Pass, a very interesting variation on the usual "Overland" route. The weather was bleak as we reached the night's camp at Fury Creek, memories of coffee and biscuits on the 'plane earlier that day already far behind. There had been plenty of rain in the area for the last few weeks, and there was more ahead.

We pushed through to Old Pelion Hut the next day, and stayed on through two more days of rain and mist. Mt. Oakleigh was climbed and reluctantly yielded a view. Our patience was rewarded by fine weather on the morning of the fourth day, and we joyfully climbed Pelion East and Mt. Ossa before camping at Du Cane Hut.

Then began a series of superb days, beginning with a climb onto the Du Cane Range and a rocky traverse to The Labyrinth, where we set up camp across from the towering walls of Geryon. The sunset splendour of those vast slabs is an indelible memory. On over the Minotour and past Mt. Gould before descending steeply through thick scrub to Lake Marion. We waded along its edge in stifling heat, eventually meeting the track out to the "Overland" route.

From the Reserve, we journeyed to the start of the Frenchmans Cap track by bus, after replenishing some of our supplies. The days of sunshine would soon be replaced by three days of solid rain, during which we climbed Frenchmans in about zero visibility. Lake Tahune hut proved a luxurious refuge in such conditions. On the way down we became increasingly alarmed at the swollen creeks, and only reached the hut at Lake Vera after a tricky piece of pole walking across its outlet - the crossing log being a long way under water. Finally the Loddon, and we were stopped cold by an incredible torrent of water. Fortunately, it subsided during the night, allowing us to leave for Hobart on schedule, albeit somewhat soggy.

The trip into the Arthurs started with more bad weather. We climbed up towards Picton from Blakes Opening, heading for Low Saddle on the South Picton Range. North Lake was reached for lunch and we were happy to be making good time. That was the last occasion on which we made good time for several days! We lost the terribly overgrown route after lunch and indulged in several hours of scrub bashing and indecision before finally reaching Hewardia Ridge, which we followed to a late and rather soggy campsite. Next day we were surrounded by mist. Navigation was going to be difficult enough off the South Pictons in good weather, so we stayed put, waiting for it to clear. Clag again the next day, and we were using up precious time, so we finally decided to "abandon" the original route down to Cracroft Junction and head directly for Cracroft Crossing. The latter was a more central location from which to assess our situation.

(Cont.)

TASMANIAN NOTEBOOK (Cont.)

The way down was via Blandfordia Ridge and Baldy Spur. The horizontal distance is only just seven miles but we took two days to reach Cracroft Crossing. This was a highlight in reverse - unending scrub, practically no water, and usually surrounded by mist until the sun finally triumphed and brought us our first close-up view of the Arthurs. We forgot our scratches and our spirits rose. If only the weather

It did. Two days later we had successfully climbed Federation Peak in perfect conditions. An absolutely incredible journey to the top of that superb tower.

Back down to Pass Creek and then into the Western Arthurs via Lucifer Ridge. We experienced the delights of that range for several days before finally descending to the plains via Moraine K: once again the weather had closed in, and we decided not to risk the exposed section over High Moor in doubtful visibility. Geoff and I were getting a bit jaded by now, and Dick had departed after Federation. Gerry's enthusiasm was not sufficient to outweigh our mood, so we leisurely strolled along McKays track to Junction Creek. We were met at Scotts Peak by some friends, who drove us into Hobart at the end of a memorable trip.

Michael Griffin.

The 103rd Walk in VictoriaLIFE WASN'T MEANT TO BE EASY

"Oh well," said the Leader, as he informed us that a 7 o'clock Saturday morning start was necessary to beat the heat, "Life wasn't meant to be easy, you know". Sensing that this was a forecast of things to come we piled sheepily into the van near Mirimbah, at the appointed hour, for the suffocating drive to King Saddle.

The Leader pointed us in the direction of Mt. Stirling and we raced up to the Grammar School Hut, at the foot of the peak. It was here that the author wore himself out and for the rest of the day collapsed in a steaming heap on his foam, at every opportunity.

The Leader maintained a slave driving pace as we continued over the summit of Stirling and Howqua Gap, admiring the views of The Bluff, Cobbler, Howitt and the Mt. Buller Sewerage Works. We eventually arrived at the Mt. Buller Ski Village where we treated its hard working denizens with contempt and headed straight for the pub. Some of us decided that Ski Villages weren't so bad after all; in fact two degenerates even decided to stay for a counter lunch: (One of them had already revealed himself as an avid pinball machine fanatic). However, they caught us up later with the news that the pub was contracted to serve a hoarde of workmen before anyone else. After drowning their sorrows they deigned to have lunch with the rest of us. We commiserated and told them that Life wasn't meant to be easy.

When we reached the summit of Mt. Buller we saw what all those lovely workmen had been doing. New ski runs, recently gouged out of the snow gums scarred the Southern face of Buller, apparently destroying the campsite at Koffler's (which doesn't matter, of course, as it was illegal to camp there anyway). It seems that everytime I venture ANYWHERE into the Alps, the FCV or some like body has prepared some new devastation if just to prove that they haven't been wasting the taxpayers' money.

(Cont.)

LIFE WASN'T MEANT TO BE EASY (Cont.)

After lunch we fell down the spur and proceeded along the ridge to a comfortable campsite with a gushing creek nearby and lots of lovely wood not to be burnt (it was a day of Total Fire Ban). Most people disappeared into their tents to escape the flies. Emerging, later on, there was some uncertainty as to what to do. Rod's piece of paper labelled "Fire" was hardly a substitute but we sat around it anyway. The evening was spent trying to make ourselves heard above the blasting choofers, swatting march flies, telling rotten jokes, eating, swatting bush flies, killing bullants, throwing frisbee, sipping Rod's port, swatting march flies and telling each other that Life wasn't meant to be easy. There was also a competition as to who could make the feeblest insult about GWJ: a certain Simon Arnold won easily.

It was about this time that sitting, minding my own business, I happened to look up and see a lot of toothy grins and pointing fingers in the semi darkness and realized that I was responsible for writing up the walk for News. Over the next 24 hr. period I was told what to title the article, which quotes to quote and what complaints to make.

It was also about this time that the mosquitoes took over from the march flies, resulting in mass exodus.

The next morning we set off at a leisurely pace along a road for a few miles when suddenly the Leader pointed to a clump of scrub, telling us that this was The Track and where we had to go. "Aha!" I thought. At last! That extra ingredient - the difference between a TTT walk and a weekend walk. After all, the Leader was Tyrone and the trip had so far shown none of his usual trademarks: No abortive shortcuts, no map errors of vast magnitude; no bogged vans, 100° heat or "side trips" ending in vertical cliffs, so it was with some apprehension that I decided that this was the beginning of the changing of "a walk" into "an epic"....

But it wasn't to be: the scrub soon disappeared and after a straight-forward climb to Timbertop, a 1½ hr. lunchtime and a run down to the road, the walk was at an end. The Leader, sensing that his reputation was at stake tried to make amends by cutting 15 minutes off the promised lunch time, raising the temperature by 15° and contriving to make the van an hour late. But these seemed only trivial and artificial inconveniences - the whole walk being very straightforward. Perhaps Life was meant to be easy after all.

....Geoff Law.

WALK 1978

Hopefully you have just read "Walk" '77 and are now fired up and ready to write your article for this year's edition. If you didn't like the articles, in "Walk" '77 this is your chance to do something about it. I would like articles about anything (remembering I can edit them), and lots of photographs. We don't want it to be the 'Oldfield Gazette' this year as well!

Sue Oldfield.

MARCH COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Full minutes will be posted in due course in the Committee room. Some points which came up:

TREASURER: Balance at 28FEB1977: \$6295-66. Bills passed for payment by the meeting totalled \$1553-16. Bill for "Walk 1977" pending \$2558.

WALKS SECRETARY: January 1977: 130 members + 95 visitors walked. Costs for buses have risen so dramatically that their continued use for longer trips (e.g. Hattah) seems out of the question. Private transport will have to be used.

NEWS: Notices of meeting, petitions, handout material etc. received in connection with environmental issues OTHER than those directly related to bush-walking cannot be given space in "News". Section 2 of the Constitution, esp. 2(b) is used as the guiding principle. Thus, woodchipping qualifies, but uranium doesn't. There is, of course, no objection to use of the noticeboard by members wishing to make matters connected with these wider environmental issues known.

"WALK 1978": Business Manager - Bob Steel.

FEDERATION: Delegate - Shirley Allott; Observer - Bob Douglas.
Next Council meeting: 5APR1977.

VNPA AND ACF: Delegate - Geoff Mattingley.

EQUIPMENT OFFICERS: Hugh Duncan, Bob Douglas.

SEARCH & RESCUE: Delegate - Shirley McImes.

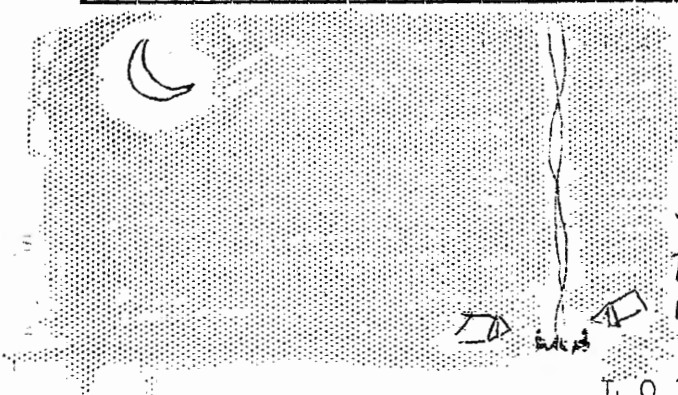
CONSERVATION CONVENOR: No appointment was made.

MAP CUSTODIAN: Ross Hoskin. A set of 1:25,000 maps of the Bogong/Bogong High Plains to be purchased, and errors notified.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT: Janet White, George Telehin.

Meeting held 7MAR1977.

Next meeting 4APR1977, 7pm, 14 Hosier Lane.



"IT WAS SO COLD THE TENT FLY
FROZE TO THE TENT."

"THAT'S NOTHING, SOME YEARS AGO
ON THE HIGH PLAINS AT CHRISTMAS
WE HAD A SUDDEN FREEZE AND
THE BUSH FLIES WERE SNAP FROZEN
IN MID-AIR"

LOPEZ

The first (scheduled) overnight day walk for many years was held in the Torbreck Ranges and was a huge success. The campsite was arrived at at 6 p.m., the tents hastily erected and the fire alight. The campsite was immediately attacked by leeches and mosquitoes and everyone then started looking around for firewood - the well known snowy haired West Australian gentleman said to go over to the trees about 50m away and not to bother with the "scrub" - the scrub was 7m tall wattles. Of course everyone knows how over there a tree isn't a tree until it's at least 30m high.

As everyone was sitting down to lunch, looking at what the others were eating John Cole produced a thing about 30cm in diameter and 2 cm thick - it was pronounced to be unleavened bread - a sort of commercial damper. Upon hearing it was a damper, everyone was curious as to where one could buy such stuff. "Why, in a Lebanese shop" said Shelly. "But we don't want to go that far to get it" said Tom. Then came the discussion about how it was made in different parts of the world and the classic was, "They cook it on the footpath in Lebanon and after you scrape the gravel off it's very good to eat." - Just what I always wanted, a recipe for the gravel sandwiches that Fred Flintstone used to eat.

After hearing such a weighty discussion at lunchtime and deciding that that's how bushwalkers got rocks in their head, Peter and Rob decided to pike out (again!) and took a shortcut back to the van.

On the same trip, George and Shirley thought that the party was too large and started a breakaway trip down the Raysten Range. They arrived at the van half an hour after everyone else.

.....

When Tom, Mick and Hugh went to Tasmania for 10 days at the end of February, they threw the tent up on the first night in the Cradle-Mtn.-Lake Sinclair National Park. The cold night took them by surprise and the next morning they took out their icepicks and spent half an hour removing the frozen fly from the tent. Later in the trip they visited all of Tasmania's Wineries one afternoon. IT is located in the Huon Valley about 60 km from Hobart..

The new benevolent dictator is making a clean sweep of the clubrooms on Wednesday nights by making loud noises to the effect that talking to visitors etc. is thirsty work and shouldn't everyone go off to the lower clubrooms forthwith.

The Social Secretary asked me to inform you that the 1st Annual Dinner will be at Emu Bottom Homestead at Sunbury and will cost \$11.00/single. The date is FRIDAY, 27TH MAY.

WANTED: GIRL TO SHARE FLAT

2 Bedroom flat in Hawthorn available
from end April to end August this year.
If interested, contact ELSEBETH HANSEN

82.3321 x49 (B.H.)

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

Increased rates for this year are as follows:

Member (over 21)	\$8	"News" Subscriber	\$3
Student or Junior Member (16-20)	\$4	Visitor, one day	.50
Husband and Wife	\$12	Visitor, two days or longer	\$1

1977/1978 SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM

Please complete and post to Membership Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers, P.O. Box 1751Q, G.P.O., Melbourne. Vic., 3000.

OR

Complete and give to Membership Secretary, Sylvia Withall or Peter Bullard, in club rooms, 14 Hosier Lane, Melbourne.

Enclosed please find cheque/money order/cash for \$..... (Member/Student or Junior Member/Husband and Wife/"News" Subscriber) for my/our renewal of membership to The Melbourne Bushwalkers.

MEMBER, STUDENT OR JUNIOR MEMBER, "NEWS" SUBSCRIBER)

NAME in full: Mr. Miss (Surname) Ms. (Given name)

ADDRESS: Post Code:

TELEPHONE: (Private) (Business)

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

(HUSBAND AND WIFE)

NAME in full: Mr. Mrs. (Surname) (Given name)

ADDRESS: Post Code:

TELEPHONE: (Private) (Business) (Mr.) (Mrs.)

SIGNATURE: (Husband or Wife)

DATE:

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

BEARDWOOD, Brian - 4 Annandale Crescent, Glen Waverley, 3150.
(B) 615.4309.

HAYES, Rob & Shelley - 2/43 Royal Av., Glenhuntly, 3163.

WILLS-JOHNSON - (P) 527.4720 (B) 341.2127.

WITHALL, Sylvia - 6/30 Oak Grove, East Malvern, 3145.
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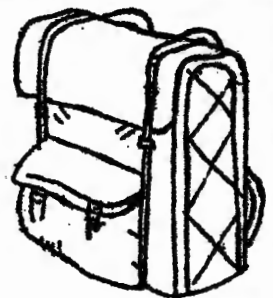
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