



# THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 336

NOVEMBER, 1977

Price 3¢

Registered at G.P.O. for transmission by post as a periodical — Category B.

# CHRISTMAS DINNER



WHERE: "Gypsy Princess" Restaurant,  
Sherbrooke Road, Sherbrooke.

TIME: 7-30 p.m. till ? ! !

DATE: 17th December, '77.

DRESS: Semi-formal

ALL VERY WELCOME, PARTICULARLY SINGLES.

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE.

BOOKINGS: See Shelly Hayes - clubrooms  
or ring 288-1244 (bus.).

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NOTICE    NOTICE    NOTICE

30TH NOV. 1977

GENERAL MEETING

Rob Hayes

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WILKINSON LODGE

The committee decided to increase Wilkinson Lodge fees from 1st December  
to        \$1 a night for members and  
             \$2 a night for non-members.

Briquettes still to be provided by those using the lodge.

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ARTICLES FOR "NEWS".        Closing date for Dec. issue - WEDNESDAY, 7TH.

Thank you to all members for your contributions this month, particularly to  
Greg and Bob for their 'Along the Track' articles.



Week-end Walks

Dec. 2 - MOUNTAIN CK. - MT. BOGONG - BIG RIVER - QUARTZ RIDGE - Medium  
4 LITTLE BOGONG. Hard

LEADER: Geoff Law  
TRANSPORT: Private  
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9.00 p.m.  
MAP REFERENCE: Bogong High Plains and Adjacent Peaks. 1" : 1 ml.  
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: Far enough.

Mt. Bogong trip in December has become an annual event; the usual comments apply: Be fit (Saturday is hard). Carry warm clothes in case of blizzard (like last year). A water bottle is essential. Early starts. Starting from Mountain Creek we will climb Staircase Spur, eventually descending Granny Spur to the Big River. To have a good chance of going over Little Bogong on Sunday we'll have to get to Bogong Ck. Saddle by Saturday night. Party limit of about 15.

This walk is an extra and is not listed on the Spring program.

Dec. 2 - MT. FEATHERTOP Easy  
4 Medium

LEADER: Rod Mattingley  
TRANSPORT: Private  
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9 p.m.  
MAP REFERENCE: Feathertop - Algona Guides.  
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: Not too far.

I felt there was a need for an easier walk than Geoff Law's Bogong marathon on this weekend. We'll climb Feathertop via Bungalow Spur and camp on the top of the Diamantina Spur.

This is an easy-medium walk so you need not worry about your lack of hill climbing ability. If you haven't been up Feathertop before, then you must come.

Dec. 9 - A.W.T. Project No. 4. THE KNOBS - MT. SPECULATION Medium  
11 Hard

LEADER: Alex Stirkul  
TRANSPORT: Private

WALK PREVIEW NOT RECEIVED.

CHRISTMAS WALKS

Dec. 27 - 6000 ft. PEAK BAGGING. WILKY - MT. COPE - MT. HOTHAM - Medium  
31 MT. FEATHERTOP - MT. FAINTER - MT. BOGONG - MT. SPION KOPJE -  
WILKY.

LEADER: Graham Mascas  
TRANSPORT: Private  
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: Unknown  
MAP REFERENCE: Algona Guide to Bogong High Plains.  
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 55 Miles over 5 days.

Before metrication makes it all meaningless come and walk off all those Christmas excesses and "bag" all of Victoria's mountains over 6000 ft. The walk will start on the morning of the 27th Tuesday, allowing you to have your Christmas at home, if you wish, then travel to Wilky on the Monday. Though we climb these mountains we do it fairly gradually (and Bogong can be tackled without packs). We aim to return to Wilky on Saturday afternoon so that we can join in the festivities of New Year's Eve, (if you have any energy left that is!) The return to Melbourne can be made either Sunday or Monday with or without a day for recovering.

NEW YEAR'S WALK

(January 2nd → about two weeks)

Provisionally

HOWQUA RIVER TRACK, MT. BULLER HOSTEL, ALPINE WALKING TRACK, BAW BAW HOSTEL, NOOJEE.

Party at present 3 - will accept an absolute maximum of 8. Persons interested should contact Shirley Allott or George Telehin 387-3675 (P) or Athol Schaffer 211-2649 (P).

We are willing to accept suggestions for changes of route.

Shirley and George will have two weeks remaining in which to go on another stroll through part of the Alps. Any suggestions?

NOVEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A telegram was sent to the Sydney Bushwalkers on the occasion of their fiftieth anniversary (21 October).

**TREASURER:** Figures for September now finalised. Balance 30SEPT: \$6359-55. Balance 31OCT: \$5203-00. Bills passed for payment at the meeting totalled \$151-75, but a Gronow bill is imminent. \$2000 in fixed term deposit to be transferred to current a/c 25NOV to help pay for "Walk 1978" (approx \$3000).

**WALKS SECRETARY:** SEPT 155m + 93v = 228 = 112m + 30v = 142. LOSS \$54. The weekend sector of the club's activities is weak at present. As far as figures for October can be estimated the proportion of weekenders is lower than for September. The weekend program has not been financially viable for many months past. The following points were among those variously raised in the lengthy subsequent discussion: "Bridging"-type activities such as the Saturday-start walks, meant to encourage day-walkers to try something new, have not been successful lately; newcomers find the attitudes of a small group of "heavies" intimidating; weekend leaders no longer approach people in the clubrooms in an attempt to assure reasonable numbers on their walks; "there are too many hard walks" - which was immediately countered by "it is the easier walks which have been failing to make up the numbers lately"; and so on. No definite conclusions were reached, but the problem is serious.

**NEWS CONVENER:** The address on the back of the Spring program is wrong. It should read 3/67 King William Street, Reservoir, 3073. Closing date 7DEC.

**SOCIAL SECRETARY:** Bookings for the Christmas Dinner are going very well - only 14 vacancies left (at 7NOV), so those who haven't yet booked had better hurry.

**WALK EDITOR:** "It's done". And so it is - so please sell as many copies as possible: every member of the club should be able to help here.

**WILKINSON LODGE:** From 1 December fees are \$1 per night (members) and \$2 per night (visitors).

**COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT:** Clubroom cleanup 5.15p.m. Wednesday 23 November. Please come along and help - it always seems to be the same faithful few.

**FEDERATION:** Daywalk 19MAR78; Search & rescue practice 7-8APR78; next Council meeting 6DEC, venue uncertain.

**DUTY ROSTER:** 23NOV Sylvia Withall, Eileen Ayre; 30NOV Alwyn Bloom, Shelly Hayes; 7DEC Shirley Allott, Eileen Ayre; 14DEC Rod Mattingley, Graham Wills-Johnson.

Meeting held 7NOV77.

Next meeting 5DEC77, 14 Hosier Lane, 7 pm.

Visitors are welcome.

Three (3) Monthly Clubroom Clean-up.

From 5-15 p.m. Wed. November 23 at Clubrooms, 14 Hosier Lane.

WHAT DO YOU USUALLY DO ON WEDNESDAYS BEFORE THE CLUB OPENS - HAVE A MEAL?  
BETTER STILL, THIS TIME PUT IN ½ HR. AT THE CLUBROOMS TO WORK UP AN APPETITE.

YOU'LL BE AMAZED AT HOW GOOD YOUR DINNER TASTES.

COME IN OVERALLS, BIKINIS, OR.....!

See you there - Janet & George.

DUTIES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS: PRESIDENT.

Er, well - I don't actually DO anything much. As one of my predecessors was heard to say occasionally, the club practically runs itself. I never cease to be surprised by the enthusiasm and dedication of those members, both on the Committee and behind the scenes, who actually make the club work. Without them nothing would be possible. If this is so, then what is the Presidency all about?

Firstly, I think people have a right to know what they are letting themselves in for when they join any organisation. They have a right to know, on reading the Objects in the constitution that the club is not likely to become involved in, say, party-political action, or law reform issues. It is my job to guarantee that right. On the other hand the job is full of the problems of reconciling apparently contradictory principles: it is also my duty to assure the freedom of speech of every member within the ambit of the club against often covert pressures which occasionally arise.

If one basic right is freedom of speech, another is freedom of information. It is not merely a case of making information available to those who take the trouble to seek it, and who know what there is to ask for..... it is a case of putting it in a convenient place where anyone who is interested will come across it on a regular and routine basis. I seem to remember being rather outspoken on this subject as an ordinary "backbench" member.

Then, too, there may be occasions when, either through excessive zeal or through over-long establishment, the Committee may not always see things from the same point of view as the ordinary member would. It is part of my job to keep the ordinary member's point of view constantly in mind at Committee meetings, just as it is to try to defend the Committee against uninformed or unrealistic expectations on the part of the ordinary membership. Once again, it is a question of having to reconcile apparent contradictions when they arise.

What else is there? Perhaps a former President of a concern that is somewhat larger than the Melbourne Bushwalkers put it best: "The buck stops here."

W-J.

NEXT MONTH: Ross Hoskin  
Treasurer.

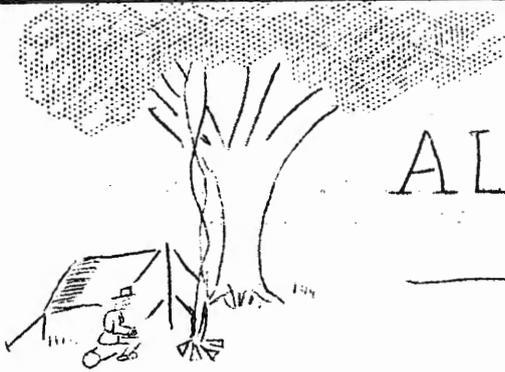
CAIRNS BUSHWALKERS.

During August I had the pleasure of walking with Cairns Bushwalkers. The Club is small by our standards with about twenty paid up members, but there is often a good number of visitors on walks. Being small, the Club is very flexible with walks being planned about one month ahead, although it is not unknown for a walk to be changed on the day depending on who turns up, and the weather.

Walks are done in the cooler months March through to November. If any member of M.B.W. is in Cairns during this time of the year the Cairns bushwalkers can introduce you to some incredibly beautiful country. Contact is through the President (Toni Scott) Cairns Bushwalkers, C/- Adult Education, Railway Station Building, Cairns.

Arthur Francis.

\* \* \* \* \*



## ALONG THE TRACK

### A.W.T. No. 1 - WALHALLA TO THE THOMSON RIVER.

This 35 mile weekend walk must rank as one of the hardest club walks ever. The distance is not particularly long, nor was the 4500 feet climb on Saturday unusually difficult. However the 10 miles of walking in constant snow was extremely exhausting and the length of the day's journey 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. on both days didn't assist matters. I feel not one of the 18 participants would have fronted if they had known about the snow conditions that existed on the Baw Baw plateau.

Two 12 seater 'Budget' vans conveyed the adventurers to Walhalla on Friday night the 7th Oct. We were awakened on Saturday morn. at about 4 a.m. to the sound of keen campers chopping firewood with a 'sharp sledgehammer.' The A.W.T. sidles around the valley containing Walhalla until it reaches the Thomson River and the old iron timber-getting bridge which was restored in 1976. The track follows the river a short distance and eventually climbs over the ridge containing the Thomson Valley Road not far from the M.M.B.W. township Parker's Corner. The route then follows fire trails down to the East Tyers River and up a steep but beautiful ridge system, finally joining the Mt. Erica Road, 2 miles below the Erica car park.

Several of our team raced ahead (they always do - the rats!) and established themselves in a nice sunny clearing near Mushroom Rocks, whilst the rest of us slogged away at the climb.

Two of our number found the going not challenging enough and established early camp (4 p.m.) below the snowline on Mt. Erica (lucky blighters). The remaining 16 idiots continued on over the plateau through solid snow varying in depth from one to three feet. Not only was this cold on those with sandals but made progress difficult because the marking cairns were covered and no tree markers were evident. However we struggled on till 8 p.m. when we found ourselves on an unknown ridge somewhere between St. Phillack and Givinear. As it turned out we were less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from where our two van drivers were camped. They had left the vans at the Mt. Givinear car park and sallied forth to intercept us.

The next day three more dropped out and the remaining 13 nuts continued on to make this trip surely the longest snow walk for many years. The edge of the plateau wasn't reached near Mt. Whitelaw until mid-day and we didn't finish walking in snow until 3 p.m. By then of course my boots were thoroughly soaked and my feet suitably 'softened' for a long road bash.

We then had 12 miles or so of solid road slogging until we met the vans on the Thomson River at Whitelaw Hut. To make matters interesting thousands of trees and logs were placed across the tracks at suitable heights to assist us in practising crawling on our hands and knees and jumping obstacles at a single bound. The last hour was downhill (Victorian vertical variety) in total darkness and light rain.

I have been on a harder walk where we finished later, but I have never struck a walk with such a variety of weather, vegetation and physical conditions. My image of the M.B.W. as being an easy club was surely shattered forever by A.W.T. 1. A.W.T. 2 anybody?

Greg Hutchison.

BAW BAW PLATEAU - THE HARD WAY

One does not have to be a member of this club for long before hearing stories of epic walks which have taken place in the past. My first experience of one occurred last month, on G.W-J.'s walk of the first stage of the Alpine Walking Track. This proved to be one of those events which, like the Israeli raid on Entebbe airport, are transposed instantly from reality to legend. We walked the greatest distance in recent club history (61 kilometres), walked for the most extended time (two 12 hr. days) and, contained within that, completed one of the longest snow walks in a weekend (21 km., 9 hours).

The walk started uneventfully enough on a bright clear morning in Walhalla and continued that way, despite leeches, during the brisk walk around an old train track to the rebuilt bridge on the Thomson River. After the short break here for morning tea the party dispersed as individuals made their own pace until after lunch, which was had at a number of scattered spots below Mushroom Rocks on Mt. Erica. Those who ate at Mushroom Rocks were able to enjoy a warm, relaxing time in the sun until the rest of the party caught up. This took some time, and it transpired that some walkers were having trouble with cramp. This was G.W-J.'s last worry-free moment for the weekend.

After a conference at the Rocks it was decided that the two with cramps should camp early on Saturday and make their way on Sunday to the selected camp-site to meet the van drivers; the rest of the party should head for the original camp - with an advance group being sent ahead. By now it was 3.30 with still some distance to be covered. At 4.00 we entered the snow line at about 4900 ft. - and we were not to see the last of it until after lunch on Sunday. The snow not only slowed our pace but also concealed the walking track - which is not at all well marked above ground level - with the result that we often lost the track and in fact seemed to spend more time off it than on. The combination was disastrous. We began to feel the effects of the heavy going and end of day weariness, one person particularly so, and with the onset of dusk our situation began to look serious.

G.W-J. was determined to reach the camp-site pre-arranged with the van drivers but this possibility was becoming more and more remote. It had been difficult to judge our pace through the snow and, as it became darker, to make out landmarks with the consequence that we became 'lost'. Although knowing we were not far from the camp-site we did not know precisely where we were and, by 7.30, the condition of one of the members of the party had become so serious that it was decided to camp where the main and advance parties had regrouped. This was a windy, exposed spot with soggy wet ground between the snow drifts. There was sufficient wood and water was readily available from melted drifts. While three people carried in the exhausted walker, others pitched her tent, lit a fire, collected wood and water. The flickering torches, bustle of people, the noise and movement of the wind and the tentative then leaping fire made the scene strangely atmospheric. The situation soon righted itself. Once all tents had been pitched and the immediate worry about the exhausted person removed we were able to enjoy a relatively normal meal. Afterwards even the constant buffeting wind did not prevent me from the deep sleep of the exhausted.

Meanwhile G.W-J., on a nocturnal stroll, had determined our position in relation to the planned camp. The landmarks we could see in the early morning confirmed his analysis and within 15 mins. of starting we were talking to the van drivers who had camped as planned. This meant that we could safely go on, leaving behind the two who had camped early on Saturday plus another three who felt they should not go on. Now down to 13 the rest of us thought the Sunday should be relatively easier. We were wrong. Again the snow slowed us by impeding progress and concealing the track. Nevertheless W-J. was able to navigate by zig-zagging along the ridge dividing the watersheds. Michael claimed that the slow pace here sent him to sleep. The welcome sight of the old chimney near Mt. Whitelaw established that we were on the right course and soon afterwards we came to the first of the jeep tracks/roads which we were to be on for the rest of the day and which initially gave promise of a satisfactory walking pace.

(Cont.)

BAW BAW PLATEAU - THE HARD WAY (Cont.)

We were still walking through snow until shortly after lunch and the efforts of the previous day were starting to make themselves felt. Nevertheless Stronach's camp, allegedly 8 km. from our goal was reached at 3.00. Forsaking a short cut through the bush we set off along the road in the reasonable expectation of reaching the vans before dark. The first few hundred yards dashed that hope. The heavy snow-falls of the winter had brought down a large number of trees and at times our progress was like struggling through horizontal scrub. We soon came to a sign which said 'Road Passable for Two Wheel Drive Vehicles for 10 km.' - 10 km!, and what was the road like after that! But Ken confidently said we turn off to the vans well before that. Realisation sank in 1½ hrs. later - the scale of the M.M.B.W. map was 1:100,000 and we still had 'miles and miles' to go. And at our speed of 2 m.p.h. through the fallen trees we were certainly too slow to get to the vans in time for the last public transport in Melbourne. The images of the previous evening re-asserted themselves - the gradual then sudden onset of dark, delaying the use of torches to get the maximum benefit of night vision, then the flickering torches and calls and yells to one another for security, the tripping over unseen things on the ground. Then an extremely, steep down gradient marked the last stage of our ordeal, an orange light in the distance became a small fire not far away, then a large fire close up and then beside this beacon were the vans, blessed sight, and the five walkers we had earlier left behind. It was 8 p.m.

Special mention should be made on this occasion to the van drivers, Rob and Hugh, who were precisely where they should have been on Saturday and Sunday night although circumstances on either day could potentially have prevented this, and to W-J. who navigated well and who made the right decisions at the right time - particularly in regard to not camping earlier than we did on the Saturday night. The walk - graded 'Hard' - probably also contained lessons for those who had forgotten what this grading meant.

Bob Douglas.

# WALK '78

Walk '78 is now available. In addition to the regular articles, the contents include an appreciation of Myles Dunphy, a history of the early explorers in Victoria, and descriptions of the Cocopara and Kanangra-Boyd National Parks.

The price is \$1 and bulk orders are accepted at 70c each. Postage is extra. (40c for single copies).

Copies are available in the clubroom or by completion of the order form below.

Volunteers are called for to distribute copies to newsagents, bookshops etc. Please contact Bob Douglas if you can help.

ORDER FORM

To: Business Manager Walk '78,  
Melbourne Bushwalkers,  
Box 1751Q G.P.O.,  
Melbourne, Vic. 3000.

Please supply me with .... copies of Walk '78.

Please find enclosed payment of \$.....

OR Please forward me an account.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

A receipt will not be forwarded unless specifically requested.



The first Alpine Walking Track journey got off to a good start when the party posed in front of the sign indicating the start of the track. After being photographed by Hugh, the party started to take off down the old tramway from Walhalla to the Thomson River. The drivers, then potted around Walhalla and had a counter lunch at the Walhalla Pub. After getting supplies they drove to the St. Gwinear Car Park then walked through the snow to the Alpine Track to camp at the appointed spot and wait for the walkers. As dark approached Rob and Hugh discussed the size of the "minimum requirements fire" and thought that a fire visible for a few miles across the Baw-Baw Plateau would be minimum requirements. However, the wind was blowing too strongly for such a conflagration to be safely maintained. At 8-30 on the Sunday morning the main party arrived, with two other groups wandering along behind. The first group of "dropouts" or "sensibles", depending on your point of view arrived at morning tea time. The others arrived later and went back to the vans. After arriving at the end of the walk the drivers etc. looked at Easton Portal. The hard walkers arrived at 8-30 p.m. after walking down an overgrown track in the dark for an hour. Thus finished one of the epic club walks of 38 miles of mountain walking in one weekend, including 10 miles of snow 2 ft. deep. The trip was two 12-hour days.

Malda and John Burton arrived at the bushwalking club a few weeks ago with the latest addition to their family - a son, Max. The proud parents showed him off and at least one of the club's newlywed women (Rusty Springs) went all starry eyed when she held him, and gave a longing look across to her husband (Curly Tops).

One night before a meeting the Muroomba Moselle was flowing freely across the dinner table at Tamani's when first the Shady Scorpion and then the Phantom Phossil dropped their glasses after a single sip of the wine. It must have taken their breath away. The same night, Rod was seen asking "Son of Hodge" whether he had left his parka in Rod's vehicle. On seeing the parka, Max Casley identified it as his, and went so far as to point out his name on the size tag. I think Rod must have had a bit much to drink, or forgot how to read. Another night, Tony Morris was seen with his 'B.Y.O.', a bottle of metho!

The second Alpine Trip fared almost as badly as the first, with snow-falling on the Saturday night as camp was being established. The two well known pikers pulled out (again!) and missed a gruelling hike on the Sunday. After the walk a few were heard to mention "Never Again", and Ken was so tired he forgot to count the survivors to see if he had lost anyone.

Rosemary Price is recovering at home after an operation to remove a chipped bone from the sciatic nerve and we all hope that she is back on her feet again very shortly.

"Walk 1978" is now available and could all clubmembers assist in distributing the magazine in their local area.

A certain female visitor was seen to be tantalizing the male walkers on an easy Sunday walk recently. Her address went back and forth across the dinner table as prospective admirers vied for her presence in their teepees/tents.

Our well known "Man of the World", Tyrone Thomas, was taken to and collected from the Australian Ballet by a chauffeur driven Rolls Royce.

PRE-OPENING ACTIVITIES

To the few members who remain in the city after work on Wednesday and who have been at a bit of a loss as to how to fill in the time before the club opens, it would seem that there really are a lot of things for you to do.

You can have a meal, do some reading, play sport, relax, look at some art or you would be extremely welcome at the club clean-up night.

Cafes & Restaurants.

Go along and enjoy the meal and company of other "bushies" at Tamani's Bistro. Club members usually meet there from 6-00 p.m. onwards. Two further suggestions of eating places with pleasant surroundings that have reasonably priced courses and if eating alone, you would feel quite happy at, are the Athenaeum and Wild Cherry.

Tamani Bistro Restaurant, 5 Hosier Lane, Melbourne. 63-7638.

Athenaeum Cafe, 294 Collins Street, Melbourne. 63-9041.

Wild Cherry Tea Rooms, 163 Collins St., Melbourne. (opp. Georges) 63-8441.

Book Shops and Library

Angus & Robertson, 107 Elizabeth St., Melbourne. 60-1711. Closes 6 p.m.

Collins Book Depot, 144 Swanston St., Melbourne. 662-2124. Closes 7-30 p.m.

Reference Library & Latrobe Library. Swanston St. & Latrobe St. Melbourne.

SportSwimming

City Baths are open for public swimming until 8-30 p.m. Occasionally carnivals are held and then all public swimming must cease at 6-00 p.m. Towels and men's bathers are available for hire.

City Baths. Swanston St., Melbourne 347-1240.

Swimming & Exercises.

At the Y.W.C.A. you possibly may need to join a course, but an invitation is extended to go along for a free swim and to make further enquiries then.

Facilities for both men and women.

Y.W.C.A. 489 Elizabeth St., Melbourne. 329-5188.

(To be continued)

Note: Closing times stated only refer to Wednesday evening.

If time is not stated closing time is after 7-30 p.m.

Don't forget club clean up night - NOV. 23.

WALKERS WANTED

Bill Jessup, Walks Secretary for Y.H.A. and a member of M.B.W. will be organizing a trek into the Mount Everest regions of Nepal from 11th March to 9th April, 1978. The cost will be around \$1,450.00 which is a good deal cheaper than the normal commercial rates. Members interested should contact Bill on 874-5329. (P).

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS.

CONNOR, Mark - 34 Gloucester St., Reservoir, 3073 (P) 47-1294 (B) 389-1411  
DOCHERTY, Lucy - 43 Chelmsford St., Kensington, 3031 (P) 33-1182 (B) 396-2777  
HOLLOWAY, Jeanette - 847 Riversdale Rd. E. Camberwell, 3124 (P) 836-4947 (B) 42-4741  
JENNINGS, Tad - 5 Kernot St. Sth. Kingsville, 3015 (P) 391-3857 (B) 341-5027  
LANZENDOERFER, Christa - 41 Errington Rd., St. Albans, 3021

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

BOVER, Joy & David - 72 Pokana Circuit, Kaleen, A.C.T., 2617 (P) 062 41-2297  
BOLGER, A. - C/- Radio 3SR, 368 Wyndham St., Shepparton, 3630. (P) 21-6768  
(B) 21-2390

HAYES, Shelly & Rob - 104 Hanonook Av., Seaford Sth., 3202.  
HODGSON, Graham - 88 Chatsworth Rd., E. Prahran, 3181 (P) 529-4935 (B) 42-3496  
LAYS, Rene. - 12 Canterbury Rd., Toorak, 3142. (B) 6154332  
LITTLE, Roger - 7 Washington St., Corio, 3214. 052 - 75-4205  
STIRKUL, Marg & Alex - 4/9 St. James St., Moonee Ponds, 3039.  
STRAPPAZON, Alma - 5 Childers Street, Kew, 3101  
TAYLOR, Wendy - C/- Park Office, Mt. Buffalo National Park, 3745.

\* \* \* \* \*

Apologies to Alex who did infact post his walk preview form off in plenty of time and thanks to 'Amiss' for her/his article. Owing to my address being incorrectly listed in the Spring Program, I did not receive these articles, until after the stencils pages 1 - 10 were sent to Barry for printing. Hopefully, Barry and his helpers, may still have sufficient time to be able to add this page.

Thank you,

Alwyn  
News Convener.

### DECEMBER WALK PREVIEW

#### Weekend Walk

Dec. 9 -	<u>A.W.T. PROJECT No. 4. THE KNOBS - MT. SPECULATION</u>	Medium
11		Hard
	LEADER: Alex Stirkul	
	TRANSPORT: Private (Transit Vans).	\$10
	EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: Who knows?	
	MAP REFERENCE: V.M.T.C. "King, Howqua & Jamieson". 1" = 1 mile.	
	APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 35 kms.	

For panoramic views, this walk would be unsurpassed by the other trips in the A.W.T. series. For the energetic, side trips to Eagles Peaks, Mt. Buller etc. will be arranged by the leader. For the more sane amongst us, this walk promises to offer another chance to experience some of Victoria's most picturesque Alpine country.

### BEGINNERS OFF-COURSE

A glorious Saturday morning dawned as the participants in the Annual M.B.W. Navigation Course emerged one by one from their respective tents at the Melville Caves Camping Ground. Even at this early hour, such was the enthusiasm of two of their number, that they could not restrain themselves, and were seen racing up with gay abandon towards the summit of the rocks near the caves. They reappeared two hours later in time for breakfast (no comment).

At 8-30 a.m. the whole convoy assembled behind Mr. Iron and then followed him to what turned-out to be a very pleasant camping spot. There, the full force of the organizational fury behind the exercise was unleashed for the first time. Janet and Grime distributed maps and the grid references of the six check points to those taking part. The novices eagerly, although at first a little hesitantly, worked out their bearings before commencing the 10 kms. circuit. The "charlies" manning the check points were next sent frogmarching towards their respective posts and it was then on for young and old.

In groups of three they set forth in order to test their newly acquired skills only to be met by a loud cooee whilst in the vicinity of the first check point. This certainly made life easier for the group concerned who hoped this was a taste of things to come. In reciprocation to this kind gesture, some offers of help with his crossword puzzle were made. A couple of check points, such as the second, which was unmanned by a certain person when one group got to it, certainly tested the groups' compass work.

The rest of the course was straight forward and the majority of the groups had a very pleasant day, highlighted by a long lunch on the summit of Mt. Kooyoora. However, the day was not without incident, as one group through sheer persistence and perseverance, managed to geographically embarrass themselves for a while. This of course delayed their return to camp, thereby causing several search parties to be sent out. All ended well as they were eventually found by Brian who drove them back to camp. Apart from a few disgruntled searchers, the day ended well with everyone patronizing two roaring fires.

The following day emerged bleak and very wet. Eventually it was decided to dis-pense with manned check points and have groups accompanied by scrutineers, navigating around the course. Despite the bad weather, this turned out to be successful as most groups managed to complete the course and be back at the camp for lunch.

In conclusion, I feel that I speak for everyone when I thank Janet White, Graham Mascas and Bob Steel for organizing this year's navigation weekend, in spite of that same old adversary, namely the Dunooly 1:1000,000 map. The whole weekend was an un-qualified success and it is hoped that there will be another next year.

"Amiss"

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