



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

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NOTICE OF MEETING

By-monthly General Meeting will be held in the Clubroom
on

25th NOVEMBER 1981

8.00 p.m.

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COMMITTEE NOTES

MEETING 2nd NOVEMBER

TREASURER: Bank Balance at end of October \$8866.21
Accounts totalling \$845.19 were passed
(mainly for transport.)

WALKS SECRETARY: September figures - 124 members,
34 visitors; 130 day walkers and 28 week-end
walkers. Total 158 people. Profit \$142.

MEMBERSHIP: 406.

"WALK": All advertising space sold - magazine is
at printer.

EQUIPMENT: Income for October \$24, total for year so far
\$100. We will be buying some new day packs
and sleeping mats.

DUTY ROSTER: 11th November Art Terry, Keith White
18th November Peter Bullard, Bob Steel
25th November Joan Locke, Caroline Strickland
2nd December Rod Mattingley, Sandra Mutimer
9th December Art Terry, Marijke Mascas

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Correspondence should be directed to:

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

Meetings are held in the clubroom, 377 Little Bourke Street,
entrance from Racing Club Lane, every Wednesday night between
7.00 and 9.00 p.m.
Visitors are always welcome.

NOVEMBER - WALK PREVIEWS

DAY WALKS

DECEMBER 5 BIRD OBSERVING: M.M.B.W. FARM, EASY
WERRIBEE
(SATURDAY)

TRANSPORT: Private
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: Not Far.
LEADER: Ken McMahon

The M.M.B.W. farm at Werribee is one of the best bird observing spots in the state, and with migrating birds such as dotterels, stilts, sandpipers, etc. winging in from the northern hemisphere to enjoy our summer along the shores of Port Phillip Bay it should be a good time to pay a visit. The lagoon system flanked by a network of roads is great for close observation of aquatic life while the irrigated pastures are a Mecca to ibis, egrets, herons and the like.

The Board is providing a bus and driver and hopefully someone skilled at identification. It will be necessary to find your own way to the farm office by 9.00 a.m. This trip should take about 4 hours so we will probably spend the afternoon in the You Yangs. Some beach walking will be involved so bring normal day walking clobber plus reference books, binoculars, etc.

By the way, pegs for noses won't be necessary. The farm is actually one of the showplaces of the state and many visiting dignitaries find their way down there - one way or another.

So if you are interested in learning about aspects of natural history that bushwalkers often overlook, come along on what will be an enjoyable outing.

DECEMBER 6 ACHERON GAP - MT. BOOBYALLA - MEDIUM
CEMENT CREEK

LEADER: Hugh Duncan
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9.00 a.m.

FOR DETAILS OF THIS WALK - SEE LEADER IN CLUBROOM

DECEMBER 13 CHURCHILL ISLAND -AND CAPE WOOLAMAI EASY

LEADER: Eileen Ayre
 TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9.00 a.m.
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7.00 p.m.
 MAP REFERENCE: Military Map; Queenscliff,
 Westernport No. 868 or
 British Surveys, Projection Chart,
 Australian South Coast,
 Westernport. (maps are out
 of print.)
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 12 km (If it is a fine
 day for swimming, some may opt
 for less.!)

Churchill island is a place of historical interest, and it is the first time the Club has been there. Before lunch we will see a 12 minute film in the homestead, and walk around the island. Over lunch, people will have time to look through the homestead. Some may even find time to spot one of the 80 varieties of birds seen there in any week.

In the afternoon, the van will take us to Cape Woolamai, where we will walk around the well made track through mutton bird rookeries. The views are fantastic! If the weather is great, some may choose to swim instead, but be prepared to walk if it is not.

Bring lunch, bathers and towels, and an extra \$2.00 for entry onto Churchill Island, a Victorian Conservation Trust property.

DECEMBER 20 WERRIBEE GORGE EASY

LEADER: Prue Hardiman
 TRANSPORT, Van from Batman Ave., 9.00 a.m.
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7.00 p.m.
 MAP REFERENCE: Ballan 1:100 000

A very pretty walk along the scenic Werribee Gorge. Really it is an easy ramble along the Gorge with colorful rocks and some cliffs that the keen climbers may climb if they wish. Lunch and rests will be long and peaceful with time to enjoy the wildlife and early summer wildflowers.

A very good beginners walk or if you are coming out from your winter slumbers.

WEEK-END WALKSDECEMBER 11-13 BAW BAW PLATEAU MEDIUM

LEADER: Jopie Bodegraven
 TRANSPORT: Private
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: Sunday Evening
 MAP REFERENCE: Baw Baw Touring Asst. Maps;
 Matlock 1: 100 000
 Walhalla 2" = 1 mile
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 35 - 40 km

Baw Baw is a lovely place in December with bubbling brooks, open snow grass plains and rocky hillsides covered in snow gums. There is a total of 8 km of heavy pack carrying, to and from Saturday night's campsite by a lovely creek. The main part of each day consists of a day walk with light packs so we can enjoy this beautiful area properly. Parts of the walk have been previewed but other parts have not, so be prepared for some exploring. Also long pants are suggested for the few sections of low scrub joining the good bits.

DECEMBER 12-13 F.V.W.C. TRACK CLEARING-BUNGALOW SPURSEE "NEWS" FOR DETAILSDECEMBER 19-23 DEAD HORSE GAP - TIN MINE FALLS THE CASCADES MEDIUM

LEADER: Rod Mattingley
 TRANSPORT: Private
 MAP REFERENCE: Jacobs River 1:100 000

The Cascades is a very interesting area south of Dead Horse Gap and the Ramshead Range, with lots of brumbies. We will spend a day visiting Tin Mine Falls. The Falls are very spectacular but to get a good view requires scrambling down some fairly steep hillsides. Ask Geoff Crapper or John Fritze. The rest of the trip will be pleasant alpine country and excellent campsites are guaranteed. The walk is fitted in between the school break-up and Christmas, which I have found, is the best time to go away at this time of year, as most people are still at home.

CHRISTMAS WALKSDECEMBER 26-30 DEAD HORSE GAP - PURGATORY HILL - TIN MINE HUT - MURRAY RIVER - LEATHER BARREL CREEK - SOUTH RAMSHEAD MEDIUM

LEADER: Graham Wills-Johnson
 TRANSPORT: Private
 MAP REFERENCE: Jacobs River 1:100 000
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 60 km

Well - after my brilliant effort at Hattah, where I managed to find Lake Konardin instead of Lake Lockie, I'm rather surprised that they've trusted me with another walk. Rest assured, however, that this walk is in country where even I should find it impossible to get lost, and that horrid compass with its needle bent 18° out of true will be able to stay at the bottom of my pack. I have decided to leave from Dead Horse Gap at 10 a.m. on Dec. 26th - your program may have the date as 24th - so that those who want to spend Christmas in Melbourne could get there by leaving around 4 p.m. on the afternoon of 25th and camping at Geehi (you'd be there by 1 a.m.) - while those who do not, could drive up in a more leisurly style on 25th. The first part of the walk is a traipse across the alpine meadows, which should be at their best, then to the Tin Mine Huts. Then those who, like myself, have wondered what the Murray River does between Cowombat Flat (where it is a little creek) and Tom Groggin will learn part of the answer at least as we follow it down from Dales Creek to Leatherbarrel Creek. I'm not sure how much pioneering will be involved in the next stage, but by then you will all no doubt be so fit that, with the prospect of more alpine meadows ahead of you, you will hardly notice the climb up to the South Ramshead. A side trip to the summit of Kosciusko, depending on time and enthusiasm, would be a distinct possibility (about 3 hours the return trip) before returning to the cars by way of a delightful spot known to the leader as "Snowblind Camp".

CONGRATULATIONS TO HELEN, TIM AND KATHRYN DENT
 WITH THE BIRTH OF A BOY, EARLIER THIS MONTH.

DECEMBER 28 - 31 WILKY - HOTHAM - FEATHERTOP - MEDIUM
FAINTER - WILKYLEADER: Graham Mascas
TRANSPORT: Private

Here is your chance to walk off the excess of the Christmas week-end. Starting at Wilky on Monday 28th at 9.a.m. we will walk over the high plains to Mt. Lock, Hotham and Feathertop then down the Diamantina Spur and up to Tawonga Huts with the optional trip to Fainter or back to Wilky for the New Years Eve celebrations. Generally a medium walk with a couple of ups (and downs) but magnificent walking among Victoria's finest peaks.

DECEMBER 27 - BOGONG HIGH PLAINS MEDIUM
JANUARY 3LEADER: Keith White
TRANSPORT: Private

I plan to do a circuit of the Bogong High Plains starting from and finishing at Howmans Gap. The walk will be medium grade covering nine of Victoria's eleven mounts over 6000ft and many alpine huts in the area.

The walk will start on Sunday 27th December for 8 days passing by Wilkinson Lodge half way.

Party limit will be around 10 walkers.

If interested see Keith White in the clubroom or phone on 534 7439 for details.

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F.V.W.C. TRACK CLEARING - BUNGALOW SPURDECEMBER 12 - 13

Mr. Tom Kneen is organising a track clearing weekend working on the Bungalow track, Mt. Feathertop on 12 - 13th December.

For information and transport arrangements contact Tom Kneen 29 Naroo Street, Balwyn, 3101. Phone 859 1262 (Home) or see Keith White in the clubroom or phone 534 7439 (Home)

COST SHARING ON PRIVATE TRANSPORT TRIPS

Committee has decided to adopt, on a trial basis, a policy on private transport cost sharing.

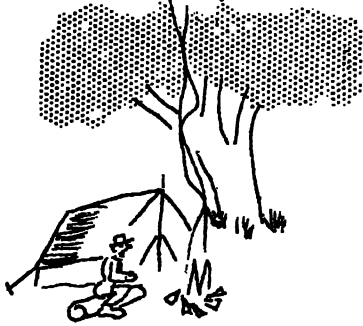
It is based on a formula, suggested by Ted Wishart in July '81 "News", whereby the total fuel cost for a particular trip is doubled and then divided by the number of occupants in the vehicle (including the driver).

This formula assumes that the general costs of running a vehicle e.g. "wear and tear", broken windscreens, punctures, accidents, etc. approximately equals the cost of fuel consumed.

It should be noted, particularly by passengers who grumble at the cost of transport, that these incidental costs and risks are solely the driver's responsibility.

This is deliberately an uncomplicated policy and I expect it will prove fair provided the leader of particular walk distributes passengers equitably amongst the drivers, bearing in mind the size of their vehicles.

Continued Page 8.



ALONG THE TRACK

WILDFLOWERS AND WILD LIFE IN THE GRAMPAINS

This was to be my first "normal" weekend walk since I had stood, transfixed, watching Graeme Thornton's pack cart-wheeling through the air from a ledge somewhere well below Hells Window.

How heavy would my pack feel? Were my boots still comfortable? And was the leader going to outdo Alma in searching for the thickest hakea?

The feeling of being in the bush again came with the sight of Neil by his roadside fire, having waited five hours for us. The two walking groups collected gear and soon settled down in surroundings especially pleasant for a Friday night's camp.

After breakfast Prue soon showed her leadership style by leaving ten minutes earlier than previously stated. Gail, also doing the B.M.L.C. course had this point, and as it turned out, many others to ponder. We walked up what must have been a very gently graded track. I just can't remember any feeling of hard work and yet, there we were, dropping packs, ready to go across Briggs Bluff.

The views are spectacular. The drop is awesome. For miles one could see the green farmland and many of the Grampians ridges. Close at hand, the obvious point was the care with which one chose a spot to sit - very close to the edge, but with whatever safety margin was felt necessary.

As always, we had to leave this magnificent spot, but of course much more was ahead. We met Geoff's group, datted, and then reached our packs. It was Neil's (Geoff's group) pack that was so invitingly open. The stone that went in about the size of two bricks, was covered, and his tent carefully replaced!

Next we were rock-hopping in earnest as we moved towards Mt. Difficult. We passed the area where a year earlier Tyrone, and Alma had camped. After tea we had gazed in wonder as the moon had risen behind behind Lake Lonsdale before turning its surface into a golden plate.

From the summit, the views were great-vintage Grampians - and in good light. Heading off we met some of the energetic "botanisers" enjoying the endless delights of color and form. It was here I began to doubt the cohesion of our groups. Merilyn wanted to know if my natural covering kept me warm when wet, but did Ken have to keep introducing me as "My Gorilla"?

Before long, we had lost Ken, big deal, and the only authoritative report was that he had been waylaid by a nymph. The men immediately asked if the nymph was likely to keep acting thus. We haven't found out yet. When Ken did show up, Prue announced quite firmly that because of the cool breeze, Ken would be "chief wind-breaker". Apparently she hasn't reached the chapter on tact in her B.M.L.C. course. Ken kept up this spirit of bonhomie by announcing that Spencer only went to the Shoalhaven because it was time for his yearly wash.

It was becoming obvious that Prue had skipped a few lectures because earlier she had called out, "Right, Five minutes", and had moved on in rather less time than it takes to write this sentence. "Time doesn't stand still", muttered one. "Apparently neither does our leader", muttered another.

Prue, realising her hold was weakening, now opted for honesty as her policy. She confessed that the campsite was fairly small. Now I know who writes those seductive real-estate ads!

We had been wandering about the medium/hard grading. It was plain where it was to begin. This also marked the time when we all noticed that Prue spent ever-increasing periods of time gazing into the distance, poring over her map, followed by more gazing and searching.

We went over rocks, around boulders, down, up and through occasional scrub as well - and then at last - Prue's Patch. It was small, too small for all our tents but what Prue hadn't told us was how beautiful it was. Marilyn tucked herself under a rockledge, Spencer somehow squeezed in between a rock and shrubs, and I found a tiny spot further away. The tumbling creek was "twelve yards away", firewood was back in fashion and there were even rock shelves for pots and pans. One more bonus - tea was eaten in daylight.

We spotted a mountain goat. His bulk suggested he didn't sidestep around tents. The sunset brought out all cameras and by then lights of Horsham were twinkling far below.

During tea we discovered why Philly had occasionally been a little behind the rest of us. He had brought the complete stock from his local deli. If we needed it, he had it. No one there will forget Phil saying, "Just a mintue, I've got what you need", and then he would pass over some further edible treasure. Someone said that with all that food we could have left a tin of Phil's corned beef in Neil's pack but I thought that the stone we'd put in was quite heavy enough.

Hugo entertained us with his stories of taxi driving and Alex pleased us just by speaking. His Scottish accent was a delight by I found it hard to agree that it was little different from Australian as she is spoke.

Ken's tent had room upstairs. With a delicate manner he had previously concealed he had lured Prue and Gail inside. I don't know if they practised B.M.L.C. techniques on him but Gail certainly gave nothing away next morning. It was rather cool and windy, so we weren't up late. Spencer, needing rest being a growing boy, had turned in soon after tea. At breakfast Phil was at it again. The cliché about sardines will be replaced by "sausages in Phil's frying pan".

Soon we were on our way south - the only direction on Prue's compass. Apprehensively we heard the warning about scrub. Yes, Prue was still being honest. Up went the age-old cry "Women and children first". There was no hakea but our variety kept up the standard. Later when we saw a koala bounding straight up a tree, I decided that they must do their pre-flight training on Keith's legs. He had been wearing long trousers. By now, most of the "heavies" had theirs on too, and that doesn't happen often when it's warm.

By now the leadership strain must have really been dragging Prue down but she hid it well. I once heard an Antarctic veteran tell how a leader there had united his discordant men. He had placed them on half rations with an armed guard at the pantry door. The crew soon grizzled together and eventually worked together. Prue was more subtle. She kept building our hopes with remarks like, "just over that ridge", "just one more kilometre", "three quarters of an hour to go" Disbelief was our common band.

Finally, we must confess, we hear music. Not birds, not a creek but a trail-bike. A few more minutes and we were on a track, sitting lying, savouring its space. Spencer took his usual lunch time exercise by climbing into his bivvy bag, waves of sleep washing away thoughts of scrub. The rest of us thought about lining in front of Philip for goodies, but decided we might as well lighten our own packs.

Our way now went up, then steeply down. It was rough, rocky and most of us fell. The roadsides were dazzling with reds, golds, whites and purples. The final mile or so was the only time of the walk when we stepped it out. Even passing motorists seemed infected by the beauty. Hardly any of them threw up dust as they passed. Constant glances high up to the right reminded us of that other world we had passed through, not so very long before. Soon we were at the bus where all the others had had time to get themselves squeaky clean for our arrival.

A final word to those on the walk, and particularly to Prue and Ken. The snow Gods had taken my soul and seemed determined not to give it up. Before the walk I wondered how I would enjoy it. What could match Bogong and Wilky - so white, clean and exhilarating? This was different, it had to be, but the let-down I feared? Never! It was a memorable weekend, enhanced by the friends on the track.

Graeme Laidlaw.

COST SHARING ON PRIVATE TRANSPORT TRIPS (continued, from page 5)

Any disputes or comments regarding this matter, should be directed to the Committee.

Ken McMahon.

9.00 A.M. START ON SUNDAY WALKS

DON'T FORGET THE EARLIER DEPARTURE TIME FOR SUNDAY WALKS STARTING FROM DECEMBER 1981.

Ken McMahon

I am looking for a leader for a Sunday walk on 3rd January, 1982 to the Dandenongs. This walk appears on the Summer Program with Doug Crocker as leader. Unfortunately, he will now be unavailable.

Ken McMahon

FRANKLIN RIVER RAFTING

If anyone is interested in rafting the Franklin in January or February could they contact me, Jopie Bodegraven, on 874 6641 (Don't be put off by the answering machine) I'd like to get together a group of 4 to 6 people.

SNIPPETS FROM DEREK AND CUTHBERT

--- Weather wise we have ticked the lot. Snow enough to lie an inch on the sand, hail, rain, drizzle, fog, mist, gales, freezing nights and sunshine. It is more the wind than the cold which makes life unpleasant.

--- Have a couple of days off this weekend so I am going down to Green Gorge field hut, 10 miles down the island. Am looking forward to it as I have been told it's very wet and boggy. Tasmanian norm!

--- Cuthbert is sat on the shelf and gets a daily rub and tickle. He has settled in well.

--- We have two cats, Fido and Rover, who live in front of the stove. Very lovable and gentle.

You can write to Derek Condor
Macquarie Island,
C/ Kingston P.O.,
TASMANIA, 7150

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FOR SALEPRE-LOVED VILLA UNIT

Living Room, 2 bedrooms, large kitchen, double garage. Very convenient to shops and public transport.

Ring Geoff or Sandy Mattingley. 568 5127 (home)
or 561 4100 (Geoff - Work)

WANTED

1 or 2 person(s) to share/caretake house
in LOVELY RUSTIC NUNAWADING.

Must not be afraid of the outdoors-indoors.
Contact Graeme Thornton 878 0660 (home)
541 1222 (work)

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Georgette COURTENAY, 88 Headingley Rd., MT. WAVERLEY, 3149
H)232 7240 B)89 6242.
Alexander DICKSON, 4 Elphin Grove, CANTERBURY, 3126.
H)836 8145 B)651 1869
Anne GRANT, 162 Mitcham Rd. DONVALE, 3111 H)874 4469
Nikki TYSON, 12/309A Dandenong Rd., PRAHRAN, 3181 B)67 9681

CHANGE OF INFORMATION

Kathy KEEF, Dept. of Physiology, U.C.L.A., Los Angeles,
California, 90024 U.S.A
Gail PEARSON, 18 Argyle St. MACLEOD, 3085 H)459 6094
John STEDMAN, 2/61 Mary St. ST. KILDA, 3182

REDUCTION IN MEMBERSHIP FEES FROM NOVEMBER UNTIL FEBRUARY

Membership fees for new members joining in November,
December and January will be \$5.00.

CLOSING DATE FOR DECEMBER NEWS, WEDNESDAY 9th DECEMBER.
Please post all copy in the "Red Box" in the clubroom,
or send to Marijke Mascas, 12 Hillcrest Rd., Glen Iris, 3146