



# THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition

385

JANUARY, 1983

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column

22/1/1983 Visit to National Museum to see  
Dinosaur found in China. Meet  
under clocks (Flinders St.)  
2 p.m. Entry fee \$2.

2/2/1983 Slide night of xmas walk/camps.  
Anyone with relevant slides  
please contact Athol. Supper.

26/2/1983 Walk/Black Rock House Visit.  
for details see day walk notes.

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N O T I C E IS HEREBY GIVEN FOR -----  
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A N N U A L   G E N E R A L   M E E T I N G

W E D N E S D A Y

23rd F E B R U A R Y , 1 9 8 3

at

377 L I T T L E   B O U R K E   S T R E E T

(Entrance from Racing Club Lane)

8 p.m.

To accept the Committee's Reports.

For the elections of President

2 Vice Presidents

Secretary

Treasurer

Walks Secretary

Social Secretary

Membership Secretary

"walk" Editor

Wilky Manager

News Convenor

Five General Committee Members.

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Will all members please note that membership fees are  
due at the Annual General Meeting.

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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 clubrooms, 377 Lt. Bourke St., entrance from Racing Club Lane, every Wednesday night 7-9 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

## FEBRUARY WALK REVIEWS

### DAY WALKS

#### FEB. 6 PT. ROADNIGHT-AIREYS INLET EASY

LEADER: Robyn Haby  
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave., 9 a.m.  
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7.30 p.m.  
MAP REF: Geelong 1: 100,000  
APPROX. DIST. 9 km.

If the weather is fine this will be an enjoyable beach stroll. There are a few safe spots for swimming so bring togs, towel - preview was done in thongs. There is an abundance of rock pool life, bird life and plenty of fresh air. Hat, sunburn cream and water are essentials.

#### FEB. 13 SHE OAKS-MOORABOOL GORGE EASY

LEADER: Rob Wills  
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave., 9 a.m.  
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7-7.30 p.m.  
MAP REF. Bacchus Marsh 1:100 000  
APPROX. DIST. 10 km

This will be a pleasant stroll along the Moorabool River. There will be plenty of time for swimming in some of the large pools. Bring water for lunch.

#### FEB. 20 KILCUNDA-CAPE PATTERSON EASY

LEADER: Carol Strickland  
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave., 9 a.m.  
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9 p.m.  
MAP REF. Kilcunda 1: 25,000 Wonthaggi 1:100,000  
APPROX. DIST. 16 km

This will be a very pleasant beach walk along some of Victoria's most beautiful coast line. The length of the walk will depend on the weather. If we are faced with a hot day the walk will be shortened with plenty of time for swimming.

Fresh water will need to be carried. For further information please see leader in clubrooms.

#### FEB. 26 BLACK ROCK HOUSE & BEACH WALK EASY (SAT.)

LEADER: Athol Schafer  
TRANSPORT: Train/Bus (route 901) Meet Flinders St. in time to catch 2.24 train to Sandringham. Bus leaves Sandringham 2.57. Travellers from city buy travel card 1, 2 & 3. Entry fee to house \$2.  
MAP REF: Melways 85-K5  
TIME OF RETURN: 6 p.m. city.

Black Rock House (National Trust) gives its name to the suburb. We will travel directly down to the premises, and after inspecting it will walk back along the beach to Sandringham - swimming weather permitting.

FEBRUARY WALK PREVIEWSDAY WALKS (CONT.)FEB. 27 MT.TANGLEFOOT AREA(Healsville) EASY

LEADER: MAX CASLEY

TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave., 9 a.m.

For further details of this walk see leader in clubrooms.

WEEKEND WALKSFEB.11-13 McFARLANES SADDLE-SPION KOPJE-GABLE END- EASY/MEDIUM  
MT. WELLINGTON

LEADER: Peter Bullard

TRANSPORT: Private

FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF THIS WALK SEE LEADER IN CLUBROOMS.

FEB.18-20 MT.ST.BERNARD-MT. MURRAY- BLUE RAG RANGE MEDIUM/HARD

LEADER: Glenn Sanders

TRANSPORT: Private

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 10 p.m.

MAP REF: Howitt &amp; Dargo 1: 100,000

APPROX. DIST. 35 km.

This walk was written up in 'Walk 1982'. On the Saturday we will walk from Mt.St.Bernard to the Twins, Mt. Murray and down to the Wongungarra River. On the Sunday we climb up to the Blue Rag Range and follow it back to the road.

PLEASE NOTE: It will be necessary to carry water on both days although water will be available on Saturday night. Water is also not available ;on Friday night/Saturday morning. Campsites are very limited and it is most unlikely that we will be able to put up tents: bivvy bags, flies & groundsheets only are recommended.

Oh, and by the way - NO FIRES (see editorial, Walk 1983).

FEB.18-20 SEALERS COVE BASE CAMP EASY

LEADER: Mick Mann

TRANSPORT: Private

A very short walk to Sealers Cove where we will make camp and if it is hot will explore the Beach and if it is cold we will do some walking. The group is limited to 12 people.

MAR.4-6 BAW BAW BASE CAMP EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER: Martin Elias

TRANSPORT: Private

MAP REF: Baw Baw Plateau 1: 25,000 Baw Baw National Park  
VMTC

We will camp Friday night at a spot near the Mt. St.Gwinear road. On Saturday we will shift camp to somewhere beyond Mt.St.Gwinear, possibly one of the flats, from where we will make a couple of excursions to surrounding peaks. For more details see February News.

ALONG THE TRACK  
WITH PHIL LARKIN

TALBOTVILLE - CROOKED RIVER BASE CAMP - 27/12/82 to 2/1/83

Four car loads of us met at the Dargo Pub and headed off for the horrendous trip down McMillan's Track - what a journey - it took approx. two hours to do 18 kms. down a steep winding track with sheer drops far below. In first gear, with foot on the brake, we clattered, bumped and crashed our way over rocks until, with perspiring hands, we reached the bottom. When we started unloading my car and I saw the quantity of food Phillip was hauling out, including an 8 lb. fruit cake, it is no wonder we touched bottom most of the way.

We couldn't find Eileen and Stuart so we pitched our tents in an idyllic spot by the Crooked River (aptly named). After dinner Roger and I went looking for them and found them two river crossings later. They joined us next day.

Our main task on the Tuesday was to collect a huge pile of firewood which had to be manhandled from across the river. Swimming was the order for the rest of the morning, and after lunch Phillip suggested we walk along the river for some distance. As it was very hot, we were in the river most of the time. On the way back Robert and Paul nearly stepped on a red-bellied black snake. On arrival back at camp we found that Helen and Peter Hamann, also Helen and Mick had arrived, which made 14 of us in all. Phillip, true to his form, made a delicious cheese cake for dinner.

On Wednesday, Phillip got 10 eager walkers lined up by 8.30 a.m. for the "stroll" up Cynthia Spur. We set off blissfully, little dreaming we would not arrive back in camp until 7.30 p.m. - Penny's death march had nothing on this one. We all got up to the top of the spur and Roger decided that he would climb Mt. Cynthia - Paul suggested it was to find Miss Cynthia. We had breath-taking views along the spur, especially at the end of it. The track down seemed to go on endlessly and when we eventually reached the river everyone plunged in and drank the clear cold water. Unfortunately, this wasn't the end as we had a very long walk back to camp over numerous river crossings - Harold and I did two too many as we inadvertently took a wrong turning, and this was nearly the straw that broke the camel's back. We all limped into camp after having walked 25 kms.

Next morning Helen H., Peter and Paul picked plums from the numerous fruit trees for Philip to make plum jam - is there any end to Philip's culinary achievements? I was to make the pancakes to go with the plum jam, so got the mixture made in the morning, which was then deposited in the river to keep cool. The river was an excellent cool spot for ice boxes, buckets containing food, wine casks, etc. Ivor found a hole in his ice box and we presume a water rat got hungry during the night. After everyone had consumed their first course, the cook got busy - Mick supplied the gas stove and frying pan. After cooking 14 pancakes, the cook downed tools and Helen and Mick took over for seconds. We savoured the pancakes while watching the eclipse of the moon.

New Year's Eve saw another display of food - Philip produced smoked oysters and smoked salmon, yours truly cooked fried rice. Keith took pity on the cook preparing the bits and pieces for the fried rice in the rain and offered the use of his tent. Unfortunately she left behind the smell of garlic and onions instead of a more exotic aroma of perfume. With Rosemary Cotter's plum pudding (thank you Rosemary, it was delicious), Philip's fruit cake, mince pies, shortbread, fruit and nuts, it was a veritable feast. A family of five came over later to sit around the fire with us and Stuart entertained with "Albert the Lion" and sang a song with Paul as his lady love. Eileen, Philip and I were the only takers for a skinny dip in the river and at about 1 a.m. on arriving at our tents we bumped into Elaine Collins and Robert Ayre who had just survived the trip down McMillan's Track in the dark. On New Year's Day 8 of us headed off to investigate Hog Town and Bull Town where most of the gold mining was done in the 1860's. Huge holes and seams still remain as evidence, plus piles of bricks from old houses, a cemetery, etc. It is hard to imagine that in 1864 there were over 1,000 people working on the Crooked River fields, plus 3,000 people living at Grant higher up McMillan's Track. The round trip, with various swims, took us about six hours.

We told Elaine and Rob about this wonderful waterhole a short distance away (it was actually 1½ hrs. away) so they decided to wander off to have a swim. Several hours later, with rain falling steadily, two drowned rats arrived back in camp in the shape of Elaine and Rob. The rain cleared enough for us to get our meal and to have our usual huge camp fire. Ivor was going to entertain us with a pas de deux from "Swan Lake" but somehow he decided to retire for the evening and entertained us instead with gargling noises from his tent. He informed us he liked the spearmint flavour of his toothpaste.

There was torrential rain during the night and everything was saturated so next morning in the rain we packed up all our gear and with the help of three 4-wheel drive vehicles we were going to attempt driving out through the six river crossings. However, after the first one, with Ivor's car having to be towed out, we decided to turn around and go back up the dreaded McMillan's Track. This was not as bad as we had thought, and with the encouragement of our friendly 4-wheel drivers it was reasonably smooth going. Harold said it reminded him of Hannibal's crossing of the Alps - we sure must have looked a sight. Eve split her tyre on the way up and it was changed in a flash with so many helpful men around. We went through thick cloud near where Grant used to be but eventually got to Dargo and invaded the general store for "hamburgers with the lot."

Thank you Philip for a most enjoyable week - it is one which none of us will ever forget. The hills constantly resounded to Eileen's flute and she rivalled the trills of the birds. I am sure she even charmed them.

Lesley Forbes.

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 ENGAGEMENT CONGRATULATIONS TO ::

Peter Bullard and Anne Dolly

THE FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE OF -----

Janet McCredie and Graeme Hodgson  
 is announced.

COMMITTEE NOTES 10/1/1983

(9 Committee Members at meeting)

Treasurer: Bank Balance \$8,712.60  
Bills totalling \$5,879.90 passed for payment -  
includes \$5,850 for Walk Magazine.

Walks Secretary: 190 people on walks in November, comprising  
156 members, 34 visitors; 74 weekenders 116 day walkers.  
Loss for month of \$272.50.

Duty Roster: 19/1/1983 Les & Robyn  
26/1/1983 Geoff and Phillip  
2/2/1983 Athol and Bob  
9/2/1983 Robyn and Phil.

Next Meeting: 7th February, 1983

REMINDER TO CLUB OFFICIALS -- get your Annual Reports to Robyn  
as soon as possible - but no later than end of January, 1983.

Annual B.B.Q. for committee members at the Presidents Villa,  
15 Laird St., Croydon at 6.30 p.m. on Monday 21st February, 1983.

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WANTED -- SHARED ACCOMMODATION

I am looking for accommodation. If anybody is  
interested in sharing house and expenses please contact  
me. Any area except Essendon, Footscray, Fitzroy or  
Carlton. Will pay as much as \$38.00.

Eve Kinnear, 853A Church St., Richmond.  
607 2735 (bus)

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DIARY DATES ::

22/1/1983 Chinese exhibit - dinosaur  
2/2/1983 Slide night - xmas walks/camps  
7/2/1983 Committee Meeting  
9/2/1983 Deadline for news  
23/2/1983 Annual General Meeting - Elections  
26/2/1983 Black Rock House/Beach Walk

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Items for News may be posted to 2 Keats St., Elwood 3184 or  
deposited in the Red Box in the Clubrooms.