



# THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 398

APRIL 1984

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DONT BE A  
**DONKEY**  
PAY YOUR SUBS

IF THIS DONKEY HAS A  
RED NOSE  
THIS IS YOUR LAST  
COPY OF NEWS



|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| SUBSCRIPTIONS    |      |
| ORDINARY MEMBERS | \$12 |
| STUDENTS         | \$6  |
| COUPLES          | \$18 |
| NEWS SUBSCRIBER  | \$6  |

Correspondence should be directed to:-

the Secretary,  
Lymington Bushwalkers,  
Box 1751Q, G.P.O.,  
LYMINGTON, 3001

Meetings are held in the clubrooms, 388 Lt. Bourke Street, entrance  
from Racing Club Lane, every Wednesday night 7-9 pm.  
Visitors are always welcome.

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DEGENERACY STRIKES  
AGAIN !!

THE MARYSVILLE WEEK-END IS TO BE REPEATED

THE DATE IS FRIDAY 22ND - SUNDAY 24TH JUNE

THE ARRIVAL TIME IS AFTER DINNER ON FRIDAY

THE DEPARTURE TIME IS AFTER LUNCH ON SUNDAY

THE VENUE IS THE MOUNTAIN LODGE

THE PRICE IS \$60 PER PERSON

THE DEPOSIT IS THE PRICE

THE EXTRA FOR A ROOM WITH "PRIVATE FACILITIES" IS  
\$10 PER ROOM

THE TIME TO BOOK IS WEDNESDAY 16 TH MAY IN THE

CL BROOM

\*\*\*\*\* FUN DAY - SUNDAY 13 MAY - \*\*\*\*\*

The Navigation & Map Reading exercise is for everyone. Set in the varied country south of Werribee Gorge, it consists of a circular course with constant map and navigation exercises to sharpen and consolidate your map and navigation skills. It caters for all levels, slowies to the real heavies. It will be a great change from blindly following the leader or walking along tracks.

More details in the Day Walks Preview Section.

NAVIGATION EVENING - MONDAY 30 APRIL

This will be held in the clubrooms at 7.30 pm and is intended for those new to map reading and navigation or who are a bit unsure of their skills. We will cover theory and exercises. You will need a compass, pencil, biro, clipboard and paper. An excellent compass is the Silva Type 3, costing about \$11. You will also need an Ingliston 1:25,000 map. The cost will be about \$4.00 for the map.

Please book as soon as possible so I can get the maps.

- Jopie Bodegraven (80 5654)

S O C I A L C O L U M N

FILM NIGHT - "SILKWOOD"

Tuesday, April 17th - price \$3.50.

As there are no prebookings for Tuesday, let Mick Mann know if you are interested in going. Meet at East End Cinema, Bourke Street, half an hour before show.

SATURDAY BARBEQUE AT STUDLEY PARK - May 12th

Meet on the west side of the Corben Oval (Melways Map 44 H4) at 12 noon. Bring along lots of food for a BBQ lunch, portable BBQs, chairs, frisbees, etc. A good chance to meet friends - old and new.

After lunch activities:

- \* boating on the Yarra River
- \* orienteering - map for Studley Park available at kiosk
- \* continue socialising

BUSH DANCE - May 25th 8 pm - 1.30 am

Tickets are being arranged for the YHA dance with Patterson's Curse at South Melbourne Town Hall. BYO supper, glasses. Cost \$5.

Bookings in clubroom - see Rosemary Cotter or Mick Mann or Betty Spencer.

GILBERT & SULLIVAN NIGHT - June 2nd

Tickets are being organised for "Patience", which is being produced by the Loyola Music Theatre (located behind St. Ignatius Church, 326 Church Street, Richmond). Cost \$7.

Bookings in clubroom - see Rosemary Cotter or Penny Stapley.

- AND EVEN MORE - SEE NEXT PAGE -

SOCIAL COLUMN (Continued)SLIDES

We will be holding slide showings on a more regular basis than in the past, in fact once a month, on the last Wednesday of the month at 8 pm, except when this clashes with a General Meeting, in which case it will be the second last Wednesday. Also our first showing will be May 2nd due to Anzac Day and Easter.

Tentative dates and times are -

May 2 Whitewater Rafting - See below  
 May 30 Tasmania - recent trips  
 June 27 Skiing  
 July 25 Personality slides  
 Aug 29 Your six best slides  
 Sep 26 Day walks  
 Oct 31 New Zealand  
 Nov 28 Previous Christmas trips

Start taking/saving up your slides for future showings, especially the "Personality" and "Your Six Best Slides".

Please feed ideas and slides to Jopie.

Slide Show - May 2nd - Whitewater Rafting

In February of 1982, Les, Mark and Jopie did a trip down the Franklin. They each had a waterproof camera. Les has combined the best of them all into a fascinating slide show, with lots of action on river shots. It's taken this long to get the act together but it's worth waiting for. Since then there have been trips on the Mitta Mitta and Upper Murray. Some shots from these will be shown to finish off. Come along and find out what this wild, wet sport is all about.

GUEST SPEAKERS

We are hoping to have guest speakers on a more regular basis too, but we need help with ideas and leads. Anyone with either of these please pass them on to either Rosemary (481 2205) or Jopie (80 5654).

?? GOSSIP COLUMN ??

Seen in "The Mercury", Saturday 3rd March -

PEARSON - PALMER - Mr and Mrs Richard Pearson, of Balwyn, Victoria, have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their daughter Gail, to Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs George Palmer, of Kingston.

COMMERCIAL COLUMNFOR SALE:

RAVNESKAR NORRONS - 3 man tent, nearly new, with double zippered entries double skin interior and extra eye vents.

\$395 -- ONO

Contact **Stuart Thorley**  
 2 Hammond Street,  
 Yackandandah, 3749.  
 Tel. (060) 271 497 (home)

DAY WALKS - MAY 1984

MAY 6th                    MT. DANDENONG - HAMER ARBORETUM                    EASY AND MEDIUM  
(2 walks)

LEADER: PETER ARDEN (MAIN)  
         OTTO CHRISTIANSEN (SUB)  
TRANSPORT: VAN FROM BATMAN AVE., 9.00 am  
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: EARLY  
MAP REFERENCE: MELWAYS MAPS 66 and 122  
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 12 km

The walk starts from the lookout on top of Mt. Dandenong. We then go downhill to the Olinda State Forest, and then uphill through the Hamer Forest Arboretum, past the golf course, and finish at Olinda Creek. Bring water.

There is a much harder walk in the same area, led by OTTO CHRISTIANSEN, which should start at the foot of the Dandenongs somewhere.

MAY 13th                    NAVIGATION & MAP READING EXERCISE                    FOR ALL GRADES  
PARWAN VALLEY (SOUTH OF WERRIBEE GORGE)

ORGANISER: JOPIE BODEGRAVEN  
TRANSPORT: VAN FROM BATMAN AVE., 9.00 am  
MAP REFERENCE: INGLISTON 1:25,000

The area contains open eucalypt forest, farmland, gentle country, a little steeper stuff and good views, ideal for a navigation exercise. Any speedies who finish the course too early can do a second, different course so they'll get all the exercise they want while the rest of us potter around, concentrating on each of the myriad of little navigation and map reading chores. As an extra point of interest, the course notes identify seven species of eucalypts and a wattle. Participants will go around in pairs but everyone will do all the exercises so everyone gets the benefit. Numbers are not limited because we will use private cars if the van is full. Several of the checkpoints will be manned by competent map readers to give on-the-spot instruction if needed.

Bring along a clipboard, pencil, biro, plastic bags to cover maps and notes if wet, and a compass. Everyone needs a compass. An excellent one is the Silva type 3, costing about \$11. Everyone will get a photocopy of the section of map we are on, but it will be very desirable to also have a copy of the whole map, at least one between two people, which I can get in bulk just prior to the day at about \$4 each.

Let's all come and lift the level of navigation skills in our club.

MAY 20th                    DOM DOM SADDLE - DONNELLY'S WEIR                    EASY/MED. & MED.  
(2 walks)

LEADER: STEPHEN COURTNEY  
TRANSPORT: VAN FROM BATMAN AVE., 9.00 am  
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8 pm  
MAP REFERENCE: JULIET 1:50,000; MARYSVILLE & MONDAH 1:25,000  
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 16-20 km

A pleasant walk through tall timber country, starting with a steady climb.

The medium walk will pass in the vicinity of Archer Lookout and explore the upper reaches of the Murrindindi River, then continuing to Condons Track, finishing the walk at Donnelly's Weir.

The easy walk will follow a more direct route to Condons Track via Mt. Monda.

Don't forget - cameras and drinking water.

DAY WALKS - MAY 1984 (Continued)MAY 27 TARADALE - ELLIS FALLS - MALMSBURY EASY & MEDIUM

LEADER: GRAHAM BREEN (MAIN)  
HUGH DUNCAN (SUB)

TRANSPORT: VAN FROM BATMAN AVE., 9.00 am  
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 6.30 pm  
MAP REFERENCE: CASTLEMAINE 1:100,000, DRUMMOND 1:25,000  
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 11 km - Easy, 18 km - Medium

MEDIUM WALK - Starts where many finish, the road to Elphinstone Cemetery. The dirt road becomes a forest track then a couple of kilometres across country through undulating open forest, lots of kangaroos, and a mysterious blue artifact, before following Bendigo's water and a back lane ramble to Taradale, where the easy walk is followed.

EASY WALK - Before leaving Taradale, a few pulls on the pump will gush up some spa water, then a short stroll beneath the impressive propped up railway bridge to the far bank of the Coliban. The route follows grassy flats by shady pools till the hills crowd in and the banks become steep. Here is the old mill, ruins and ghosts, the flooded mine and abandoned mineral spring bottling enterprise. Some kilometre or so further on past "The Falls", formerly Ellis's property, are the Ellis Falls (not big), then the country opens up to easy grassy flats and Malmsbury, with its old bluestone buildings, huge stone arched railway viaduct, the old mill winery (closed on Sunday) and, yes, the ubiquitous milk bar. Hooray!

Note - Water should be carried.

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WEEKEND WALKS - MAY 1984MAY 4-6 HORSEHILL RANGE - THE CRINOLINE MEDIUM

LEADER: STUART MATTINGLEY  
TRANSPORT: PRIVATE - DETAILS TO BE ARRANGED  
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9 pm  
MAP REFERENCE: MAFFRA & HOWITT 1:100,000  
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 30 km

Starting a billy's throw north of Licola, a climb up the Horsehill Range on the first day and the climb up the Crinoline (optional) comprise the medium parts of this walk. Views, forest and a pleasant camp at Kendall's Flat fill out the remainder.

Bookings on the evenings of 18th April and 2nd May only.

MAY 18-20 BASE CAMP - CATHEDRAL RANGE & LITTLE RIVER GORGE MEDIUM

LEADER: PETER BULLARD

For details of this walk see Leader in the clubrooms.

MAY 25-27 FRASER NATIONAL PARK EASY

LEADER: DAVID DUNDAS  
TRANSPORT: PRIVATE  
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8.00 pm  
MAP REFERENCE: ALEXANDRA 1:100,000  
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 22 km

If you haven't tried weekend walking, here is your chance to give it a go.

The park is on the shore of Lake Eildon, so it is a relatively short drive from Melbourne. On Friday night we will enjoy the comfort of the park's Devil Cove camping ground.

Saturday's walk will take us up and down a few hills, but the pace will certainly not be hectic. Good views across the lake and surrounding hills will be had during the day. The camp for the night

WEEKEND WALKS - MAY 1984 (Continued)FRASER NATIONAL PARK (Continued)

will be at Mountaineer Creek, just outside the northern boundary of the park.

We will return to Devil Cove on Sunday, via a track which follows the shore of the lake.

Remember that this walk is ideal as an introduction to weekend walking. If you don't have the necessary equipment, hire it from the club, borrow it from a friend and consider sharing a tent.

BUDAWANGS IN MAY?

Is anyone else interested in a trip to the Budawangs in May? Date would be Monday 14th to Sunday 20th or possibly till Wednesday 23rd. Contact Jopie - 80 5654 - or Merylyn - 386 0150 - as soon as possible.

WALKS PROGRAMME FOR JUNE

To enable you all to plan for June without waiting till the May News, here's a sneak look at what's planned.

June

- 3 Mt. William - Mollisons Creek Gorge - two walks, easy and medium - Mike Clode
- 8-11 Queen's Birthday base camp - Wyperfield National Park - Dave & Sylvia Andrews
- 10 Breech Peak - Mill Creek (Tallarook) - 2 walks, easy and medium - Roger harris
- 11 Gardiners Creek - Maranoa Gardens - easy - Athol Schafer
- 17 Pyrites Creek (north of Bacchus Marsh) - 2 walks, easy and medium - Hugh Duncan
- 22-24 Marysville Guest House weekend - a bludge - Graham & Marijke Mascas
- 24 Boundary Creek - Mt. Tickatory - 1 walk - easy/medium - Rod Mattingley
- 29 June - 1 July Beginners' Ski Touring - easy - Keith warburton

SPRING AND SUMMER WALKS PROGRAMMES

A meeting will be held early May to plan the forthcoming spring and summer programmes. Ideas for walks and other trips are encouraged to be submitted to me before hand or on the night by interested people. The club is also interested in seeing new leaders on trips. You will be given lots of advice and help and we can start you off on an easy to navigate walk or subleading an easy walk. New blood is always required in any club and especially ours.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

- Mark Tischler (Walks Secretary)

COMMITTEE NOTES

from meeting held 2nd April 1984

Matters arising from last meeting:

- (a) Keith White has agreed to act as Federation delegate.
- (b) Peter Bullard has agreed to act as Search and Rescue delegate.

COMMITTEE NOTES (Continued)Treasurer:

Balance as at end March \$8041.78  
 Bills for payment \$2113.90  
 (Bus from Warburton cost \$168)

Walks Secretary:

## Walks for February:

|          |           |                 |     |
|----------|-----------|-----------------|-----|
| Members  | 178       | Day walkers     | 206 |
| Visitors | <u>74</u> | Weekend walkers | 46  |
|          | 252       |                 |     |

Profit \$239.00

Wilkinson Lodge

Work party held on March long weekend.

Maps

Loan maps are now available for use by walk leaders. See Phi-Larkin for details.

Correspondence

1. A letter was received from Lynn James (formerly Lynn Ratcliffe) pointing out that the booking system for winter at Wilky had not worked satisfactorily this year, in that the practice of pre-arranged groups booking a whole week made it difficult for individuals to find space, and that many of these groups were able to write their bookings on the booking sheets before these became available in the clubrooms.  
 A number of alternatives were discussed, and the following problems were recognised:
  - (a) the increasing popularity of Wilky in winter
  - (b) the need for all members to get a "fair go" in bookings
  - (c) the undoubted preference for compatible groups.

It was decided that booking rules should perhaps recognise the preference for groups rather than pretending that it doesn't exist. As a result, the Wilky Manager is to draw up a new set of booking rules, which will be published for comment by members.

2. A letter was received from Doug Crocker referring to the recent day walk which got back late after getting lost. Doug believes that all walks must be previewed, whatever the cost to leaders or the club.

The committee resolved to make the following statement of policy:

"The leader of a walk is responsible for its successful navigation. Previewing of walks is strongly recommended."

Search and Rescue

As a result of the late day walk mentioned above, Peter Bullard is updating the list of club members available for S & R duties. Federation advise that searches arising from club walks should be handled within the club, if possible. If this is not possible the assistance of police should be sought, who will call out the Federation Search and Rescue if required.

A Federation S & R Practice will be held in October.



COMMITTEE NOTES (Continued)Club Contact System

Leaders should not need reminding that they must report the safe conclusion of a walk to the contacts, as well as delay or emergency if such things occur.

Duty Roster

|       |      |                              |
|-------|------|------------------------------|
| April | 11th | Phil/Neil                    |
|       | 18th | Angela/Robyn                 |
|       | 25th | CLUBROOMS CLOSED (Anzac Day) |
| May   | 2nd  | Penny/Mick                   |
|       | 9th  | Phil/Neil                    |

Next Committee Meeting 7th May at 7 p.m.

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ALONG THE TRACKEASY WALKING WITH A DIFFERENCE

Sunday, March 18th promised to be a warm, sunny day, ideal for walking along defined tracks and viewing the surrounding area from Mt. Donna Buang. The day gave us some of this and more.

We set off at 11.45 am, a large party (46) including 6 or 7 children. We were walking amidst eucalypt forest, up and down, busily chatting with people alongside, watching our footsteps, admiring the stands of trees, noting the leeches, etc. We were alerted that something was amiss late afternoon (4.30 pm). About turn - we had followed the wrong track.

We stopped at the next couple of side tracks whilst a few people investigated where the track might lead. Meantime small groups of the party huddled over the remaining maps whilst someone explained possible locations. As none of the tracks were marked on the maps we had, and taking 46 people at dusk across country wasn't the ideal solution, we had in fact to completely retrace our steps back to the starting point. When the party was informed of the state of affairs, there was no strong reaction, merely acceptance and/or resignation. As daylight faded, out came jumpers, overpants (for those who had them), etc. We did wonder how far we'd get in the dark along the tracks below tall trees. We knew there was a full moon but it wouldn't be useful till late in the evening, and a change had been forecast. Stories of previous late returns and even staying out all night were related. After three years in the club, my 'turn' had come.

We filled up our water bottles as we passed the river again - almost dark - and were told there could be three hours or more ahead. The possibility of being out all night seemed more likely. Progress would be slow with three torches/46 people. As we continued on our way, we started talking amongst ourselves: would the van still be there? Would the 'hard' group look for us? How much food did we have? At no time did I detect any feeling of panic or alarm. However it was obvious that some of us were not adequately equipped. Still the bright chatter continued, and cheerful singing (dampened only by the exertion on the uphill stretches). Passing the spot where we had lunch was a landmark as the rest of the way was all downhill to Acheron Gap.

It was indeed fortunate that more than a vanload had signed up for this particular walk, as one person had a vehicle at the walk's starting point. He took the other car owners down to pick up their cars and check whether the van was still around. Meanwhile the rest of the party breathed a sigh of relief on reaching the road (9.30 pm), and soon after a fire was lit. This was very cheering to the spirits, not to say warming for those short on clothing. Not a moment too

ALONG THE TRACK (Continued)

soon as the rain came down heavily and the fire had to be refuelled to prevent its extinction. Out came more parkas and plastic sheeting. Round the fire plans were discussed as to what the next step would be if the van had gone.

The cars returned. The van had gone.

Groups of people were then ferried down to Warburton (15 km) - many thanks to the drivers. The rain looked set for the night, and we drove down through patches of mist. A coach from the local bus company was organised and the club contacts phoned. It was fairly quiet on the coach, most people being somewhat tired, but heartily glad to be down the mountain and in the dry.

All in all the situation was handled well, and was quietly organised by three or four of the party. The situation could have been very different if there had been no cars. We would have been out all night.

What transpired that day could easily happen any time, anywhere, and highlights how each one of us has to take individual responsibility for carrying adequate clothing and food. Although a walker of some experience, I too fell into the trap of leaving out some essentials. Be prepared! For a day walk you should include the following items:

- woollen sweater
- if wearing shorts - trousers or overpants
- parka
- woollen hat and gloves (mountain walks)
- high energy food (chocolate, nuts, dried fruit)
- torch
- matches
- whistle

Leaders will look after the party, but can't be responsible for the contents of your pack.

- ROSEMARY COTTER

SOME MORE THOUGHTS ON THE ACHERON GAP-DONNA BUANG DAY AND NIGHT WALK

The day walk on March 18th became a night walk, and might even have become a camp out. There are lessons that all of us - even experienced walkers - can learn from what happened.

I would like to add a few points to Rosemary's list, based on what I have learned from that day.

Firstly, in preparing for a walk, check out alternative maps to the one suggested. The map recommended in this case was Juliet 1:50,000, and ordinarily that map series is one of the best to use. But this particular map does not show tracks in the Mt. Juliet area. Knowing that we were on a track, we were reduced to guessing where tracks might have been built, and where they might run. Between us, we had eight copies of that map. But if even one of us had instead brought Healesville 1:100,000 (which does show these tracks) we would have got out at least an hour earlier, and might even have been in time to catch the van.

A second point in preparation is to bring a torch. As Rosemary has said, we had only three in the whole party. We were particularly lucky to have a clear evening and a full moon, and we were able to cope with that number. I habitually keep a torch in my day-pack, so was prepared to that extent. But after two hours its light was fading noticeably, as its "supermarket special" batteries gave out. From now on I will be carrying a set of alkaline-type batteries (eg. Duracell or Energiser). They cost an extra dollar, and weigh a bit more, but they do give about three times the life when you most need it.

ALONG THE TRACK (Continued)

The question has been asked many times since that evening - "How could a party including '- - -' and '- - -' get lost?" The answer is "Quite easily!" Even experienced navigators enjoy talking to friends, examining flowers, and a host of other day-walk activities. And on a winding road in thick forest it is not easy to pick subtle shifts in direction.

Even when something is noticed to be amiss, it is easy to rationalise it away. For example, I was concerned that a "creek" at which we stopped was flowing the wrong way, and contained too much water. With others in the party announcing this as "Cement Creek", it was easy to rationalise this as being a map inaccuracy - "the track must be a bit below the saddle" - and continue walking. It was a couple of hours later in mentally re-tracing our route that I realised that our "Cement Creek" could only have been the headwaters of Watts River. Again, with hindsight - if you are troubled in reconciling features with the map and route, a discreet approach to the leader might be in order. Most leaders will happily discuss it with you. Even if you choose not to raise the matter, at least keep track of your route and geographical features, until you can again reconcile these with the map, or are convinced of an error in navigation.

We have been lucky in that it has been several years since a day walk party was forced to camp out. We were lucky this time. But it is important to keep in mind things that we can do that might minimise the possibility of having to camp out, and things we can do in preparation that might make a forced camp out more comfortable if it does happen to us.

- ROB AYRE

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CHINA FLAT, ON THE TABLETOP

The leader changed his mind, put on his hat, picked up his pack. "We shall descend", he announced, "by way of Bar One Spur." For my part, I had been thinking of heading for the shade of the nearest tree to relax with a book for a while - it had, after all, been billed in the preview as a weekend for the indolent, for the gourmet, for those inclined rather to aesthetic intellectual contemplation than to lives of energetic action. The non-drivers, however, had clearly tired of the pleasant views across Lankey's Plain while awaiting the return of the shuffling steam-chariot. We therefore descended by way of Bar One Spur.

It was pleasant until lunch time. First there was deep soft snow grass, with only the most trifling inconvenience in the shape of a single fence, and even that innocent of barbed wire. Then there was gently sloping open forest. Lunch was taken on a grassy knoll, in a forest of snow gums through which glimpses of the dark recesses of the remotest reaches of the Valley of the Dargo delighted the eye. Even when the descent proper (indeed, what could have been more proper?) began, there was no scrub to speak of - certainly none to wax loquacious over. Only towards the bottom did the slope begin to become more extreme, and the surface to crumble underfoot. There was even a mild "Tut-tut" or two as a few drops of rain began to fall from a sky which had, perhaps, darkened ever so slightly.

All was, however, for the best in this best of all possible worlds. Not only did the blackberry bushes in the bottom of the valley part miraculously to let the errant wayfarers through, but they were laden with ripe fruit of the legendary tennis-ball dimensions. Soon upon the grassy swards of China Flat a circle of tents was to be seen around which, facing outwards, addressing their attention to the bushes, was a circle of bushwalkers, the figures of which themselves grew increasingly circular as they munched. The sun had miraculously returned to smile on a scene which was transformed, when the bodies had been fed on the fruits of the forest, to a circle

ALONG THE TRACK (Continued)

of bushwalkers lying flat on their backs around a fire, feeding their minds on the best on offer in paperback. (My author had a novel point of view, disapproving of Shakespeare, and having no hesitation in making these opinions known. Asked if he did not believe that Shakespeare's plays could have been written by a grocer from Stratford-upon-Avon he retorted that, on the contrary, they were exactly the sort of plays he would expect to have been written by a grocer from Stratford-upon-Avon.)

The sun at last departed from this idyllic scene, and then there was revelling and feasting, and eventually, rest. What a transformation, alas, came on with morning's light. It rained. All day. We toiled upwards. All day. Nothing altered the ever-so-steady, relentless nature of our advance - not even an occasional quiet popping sound, ever so much like a fuse burning out, from the direction of the leader. Gentle were the admonitions of his good lady as she enjoined on him the virtues of Patience. It was only much later in the day, after lunch in fact, as the thunder crashed around and the rain began to take on, ever so slightly, a hint of a sleety quality, that I thought I heard from her the words "Never again". I am sure I must have been mistaken in this, though one must admit to the temptation to think at such moments about what it would be like to be sitting in front of a warm fire with a good book and a hot drink. At home. Not in thick bossiaea scrub on top of the Great Divide somewhere three miles east of Mother Johnson's Hut. Such thoughts, of course, are instantly banished. Not only is this character-building, but it's fun, fun, fun, folks. H'mmmmm.....

In retrospect - and after drying out a little - it was a good weekend. In fact, now that I do think more carefully about it, it did stop raining politely enough so we could have lunch just under the edge of the Tabletop. And the weekend certainly dusted the cobwebs off some equipment (like legs) that one or two of us hadn't used much lately.

- Everageville Correspondent

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WILSON'S PROM CIRCUIT IN A DAY

The day dawned as we drove to the Prom. After only 4½ hours' sleep I was not at my best and the heavy clouds and mist we saw as we neared the coast did not lift my spirits. But we assembled as planned at 8.00 at Tidal River. 8.20 saw two runners - Roy Trelorn and myself - off and running to "do" the Prom circuit in a day, including a side trip to the Lighthouse. Four others were to walk an easier trip of just the circuit.

Whatever had inspired me to attempt this trip was soon lost in a whirl and rush of passing trees, duckboards and sand as we made our way firstly to Sealers' Cove and then Refuge. We managed to relax on these descents, anticipating a slog up the hills on the other side. Waterloo beach was a welcome view as the cloud was parting and sun starting to shine and a third of the walk was nearly over.

Halfway Hut offered us a watering stop before a solid climb, by now wearing runners, up Martin's Hill, then a descent, slow though it appeared, to Roaring Meg and a lunch break. Here we had to decide whether we would get to the Lighthouse and back to Tidal. 5 km seemed not too far and reaching the fence at the halfway point was a relief. The afternoon soon passed as we retraced our steps to the Waterloo Bay turnoff, where we caught up with the four other walkers only doing the circuit. Keith and Graeme were up front, with Spence and Paul behind owing to spending short times dipping in the various beaches.

The groups then made their own ways to Tidal River via Oberon Bay at their own speed and we assembled at Tidal to spend a quiet and relaxed night going to bed early.

ALONG THE TRACK (Continued)

Sunday was to be a quiet day swimming and walking off any stiffness one may have worked up from the previous day's activity. But as it was raining heavily Peter Ashby (who had been seen briefly on the track) and others departed for Melbourne.

Spence, Paul and I had a lovely Devonshire tea on the way home after visiting the numerous beaches of the Prom, seeing them in a different mood. A nice way to finish a challenging weekend.

Thanks to all for a nice return-to-Vic. walk.

- MARK TISCHLER

INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER BUSHWALKING CLUBS

Have you ever wondered about other clubs, how they organise themselves, where they hold meetings, where they walk, and when. Maybe you'd like to make contact with a club when you're interstate. Here's what you can do.

The club receives newsletters from seven Melbourne clubs, eight interstate clubs and several non-bushwalking but closely related clubs and organisations. Current copies are often pinned to the notice board, five paces from the clubroom door on the left, and then filed in the top drawer of the right hand filing cabinet in the storeroom. They are there to be perused by anyone, including you.

We receive newsletters from the following walking clubs in Melbourne:

- Catholic Walking Club
- Maroondah Bushwalking Club (based in Ringwood)
- Melbourne Walking Club (the Men's Club)
- Melbourne Women's Walking Club
- Melbourne University Mountaineering Club
- Victorian Mountain Tramping Club
- Walking Club of Victoria

## Other Walking Clubs:

- Brisbane Bushwalkers
- Border Bushwalking Club (Albury-Wodonga)
- Canberra Bushwalking Club
- Geelong Bushwalking Club
- Hobart Walking Club
- Launceston Walking Club
- Sydney Bushwalkers
- Western Walking Club (Perth)

## Related Non Walking Clubs

- Victorian Rogaining Association
- Ski Touring Association of Victoria
- Youth Hostels Association
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Wilderness Society
- Victorian National Parks Association
- Native Forests Action Council

- JOPIE BODEGRAVEN

ARTICLES FOR "NEWS"

As I'm trying to combine two sometimes conflicting roles of "News" editor and bushwalker, I get Wednesday and Thursday evenings after the closing date for articles to type up "News". So if anyone has an article that can be typed up earlier and can get it to me earlier, as Noel did this month, I would really appreciate it.

- MERILYN WHIMPEY

. . . . . AND EVEN MORE "ALONG THE TRACK" . . .

### HI-JINKS IN THE OTWAYS

It all began with the Land Rover. Graeme saw the general thrust of it, but I was watching white-knuckled at where he was driving. Graeme insists it was procreation in progress but refused to turn back so I could confirm the sighting. Yet how often does such an opportunity arise in broad daylight and full view, right beside the Geelong freeway?

Then Phil was polishing his dancing pumps for the YHA shindig, when the phone rang from Cumberland River: "Shall we book the 6-berth for tomorrow night?" Being a leader of instant and masterful decisions, Phil said, "Wait. I think I hear someone at the front door." Finally he agreed, and the show was rolling.

Graeme and I snuggled into our sleeping bags and slept soundly in the 6-berth, while other bushies danced the night away and wondered whether they could get up again at four or five in the morning. We had a leisurely breakfast while they rushed down the highway to meet us.

A notable feature of the day's walking is that it went on, and on . . . and on. We turned so many corners that I got giddy. Morale among the party was high, and the forest rang with merriment. Members were often seen cavorting through the open bush with packs on backs. Phil proved his navigation skills by such feats as suddenly plunging headlong into impenetrable rainforest and emerging exactly at the Mt. Cowley Telecom tower, and skilfully negotiating the Great Ocean Road in pitch darkness. Paul kept a watchful eye on his navigation every inch of the way.

Kerry sparked some lively conversation by disclosing why she wore a mushroom badge, and again when she expressed a penchant for sleeping under logs (or was it under sleeping logs?). And Sylvia's shrieks from the ablution block brought looks of consternation, even though she insists there was no dalliance involved.

But perhaps the highlight was Saturday evening's dinner back at the 6-berth. Chilled refreshments were provided, of course, and the banquet began with a delightful stock pot soup. This was followed with vegetables and piping hot stew. Well, not so much "piping hot" . . . rather more like a "raging furnace". Nobody has ever before seen Phil cry over one of his combination delicacies, so this was a memorable occasion. With tears streaming down his face and his glasses getting all steamy, he accused Graeme of contributing salami with a tangy pepper flavour. Nevertheless, half the party made a valiant effort and consumed two helpings. The stew "with a bit of a bite" (Phil is a master of understatement) was hastily followed by fresh fruit salad and cream, halva, and a dark liquid which seemed very popular and apparently was contributed by a Mr. Brown.

Comments were passed about segregation of the sexes into separate bedrooms and there was a suggestion that it had something to do with lack of showers. This prompted a stampede for the shower block, but the girls were unimpressed and refused to budge from the accommodation they had claimed as their exclusive domain.

ALONG THE TRACK (Continued)

We don't know what went on during the night because most of us slept like logs (or was it under logs?), but by morning Graeme was sporting a swollen knee and insisted on cleaning the 6-berth and shuffling cans while we went walking. We protested meekly but he was adamant, so off we went.

Kerry set the day's conversation in motion by declaring that a much-admired feature had a strawberry on it, and this stimulated speculation about cherries and other tasty items. It must have been the after-effects of the previous night's festivities.

The day's walking was easy, refreshing and spectacular. Phil had found a section of the grand Otways forest not cruelly violated by decimating wildfires. Lunch was enjoyed at a lovely, restful grassy spot beside the upper Cumberland River, deep in the heart of the forest. Here again the decadence of the weekend was in evidence with hot drinks and Mars bars. ("Salami" had become a forbidden word, rather like "curry" the day after a hearty Indian meal.)

For a change the walk was completed in daylight and at a leisurely pace in keeping with the general tone of the occasion.

It was my second trip with Phil and brings to mind the saga of the Swiss Army knife and the walnut - but that's another story. To those who haven't enjoyed the experience before, I thoroughly recommend a rollicking weekend, larkin' with Larkin.

THE PHANTOM WORD-BENDER.

P.S. I have a message for Merilyn from Sylvia. I forget the exact words but it was something about sharing the men next weekend. I can hardly wait . . . !!

. . . Neither can I - ED.

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Please post to WINIFRED DE SOUZA,  
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NEW MEMBERS:Welcome to the following members:

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Tel (H) 792 2759

Guest, Tracy,  
2/2 Union Street Armadale, 3143.

HUMPHRIES, Laurie,  
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KENNEALY, Denis,  
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Tel (H) 870 7286, (W) 669 7171

KREWNIVIEH, Andres,  
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Tel (H) 51 7479, (W) 269 3023

McDONALD, Bruce and Ann,  
Ellerslie Cottage, Wangaratta, 3678.  
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TOLLEY, Noel,  
38 Florence Street, Prahran, 3181.  
Tel (H) 51 4131, (W) 611 3355

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DOUGLAS, Bob - (W) 606 6479

DUNCAN, Hugh - (W) 615 5183

DUNDAS, David - (W) 268 6211

ENNOR, Freda & Stephen - 13 Curran Street, North Melbourne  
Stephen (W) 470 1655  
Freda (W) 347 5522 RMH

FORBES, Lesley - Tel (H) 898 4043

HARDING, Graham - Tel (H) 447 224

HODGSON, Stuart. - Tel (W) 741 2286

HODGSON, Graham - Tel (W) 428 1831

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LLOYD, Keith - (W) 652 9894

MATTINGLEY, Stuart - Tel (W) 895 1212

McVeity, Lorna - 7/243 Gower Street, Preston

SCARSBROOK, Jean - 34 MacGowan Avenue, Glenhuntly, 3163  
Tel 578 3942

TAYLOR, Phil Tel (W) 616 7020

WALKER, Tim - 3/40 Coorigil Road, Carnegie, 3163