



# THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 402

AUGUST 1984

Price 20¢

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## I M P O R T A N T   N O T I C E

The Half-Yearly General meeting will be held at 8 pm on Wednesday 29th August. At this meeting, a proposal "that the club purchase one of Jack Baxter's vans" will be discussed. This is a crucial issue which will affect the whole future of the club. It is essential that as many members as possible attend the meeting to discuss and vote on the Proposal.

For more information, see page 9 of this issue.

## W E E K E N D   W A L K I N G - B E G I N N E R S '   I N F O R M A T I O N   N I G H T W E D N E S D A Y ,   S E P T E M B E R   1 2 T H - 8   p m   I N   T H E   C L U B R O O M S

So you'd like to try a base camp or a pack carrying walk but you're unsure about it, what you need to bring, footwear, transport, camping, what food to take, what problems may crop up, how other people do it. Then this evening is designed for you. Several relatively experienced weekend walkers, including at least one non-he-man-type female, will give hints, answer questions and show you the contents of their weekend packs. We'll need a bit of floor area for this one! Don't wait till then to try a weekend walk, though. There are some great walks in late August and early September (see other notice).

## S L I D E S - D A Y   W A L K S W E D N E S D A Y ,   S E P T E M B E R   1 9 T H - 8   p m   I N   T H E   C L U B R O O M S

Bring along those slides you've taken on those day walks and share them with everyone. We've been to some lovely areas that others should know about. A few diehard weekend walkers may even be surprised. Please note that the date is not the last Wednesday in September. The change is so that those going on the President's 4-day Show Day long weekend trip to Coopracambra don't miss out.

## A T T E N T I O N   B E G I N N E R   A N D N E W E R   W E E K E N D   W A L K E R S

Winter is fading and Spring is rapidly taking over. Spring just happens to be about the best time of the year for weekend walking and an ideal time to try out weekend walking for the first time. The days are getting longer, the nights are getting warmer and the flowers are blooming. It's a delight to be out there. Beginners and easy walkers are particularly well catered for this spring. See the article further on in our newsletter for more details on our spring weekend programme.

Correspondence should be directed to:-

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

Meetings are held in the clubrooms, 377 Little Bourke Street,  
entrance from Racing Club Lane, every Wednesday night 7-9 pm.  
Visitors are always welcome.

N O T I C E   T O   N E W S   R E A D E R S

Due to both the News editor and printer going on holidays in August,  
the August News is a few days late. Sorry for any inconvenience.

S P R I N G   W A L K S

Owing to a delay in printing, the Spring Walks Programme will be in  
the next issue of News. The September walks are:

Sun. 2	East Warburton - Starlings Gap	Van	Easy/Med.	Stephen Courtney
	Big Pats Creek - Starlings Gap	Van	Easy	Sub Phil Larkin
	Run/Walk - Big Pats Creek - Powelltown	Van	Medium/Hard	Mark Tischler
8-9	Mt. Wombat - Charman Falls - Seven Creeks Gorge	Priv.	Easy/Med.	Jopie Bodegraven
9	Strath Creek - Three Sisters - Flowerdale	Van		Rosemary Cotter
	Broadford - Yea - Marathon walk	Van	Hard	Art Terry
14-16	Mt. Samaria State Park	Priv.	Easy/Med.	David Dundas
16	Tooborac - Emu Flats - Hayes Hill	Van	Medium	Penny Stapley
21-23	Warby Ranges - Navigation Weekend	Priv.	Easy	Bob Steele
23	Brisbane Ranges Botanical Walk	Van	Medium Easy/Med.	Marijke Mascas Sub Ivor Davies
27	Yarra Valley Board of Show Day Works Reserve			Art Terry
27-30	Coopracambra - Croajingolong National Parks	Priv.	Easy/Med.	Geoff Mattingley
30	Kinglake West	Van		Stephen Courtney

DAY WALKS -SEPTEMBER 1984SEPTEMBER 2           BIG PATS CREEK - POWELLTOWN           MEDIUM/HARD

LEADER:           MARK TISCHLER  
 TRANSPORT:       VAN FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am  
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8.00 pm or later  
 APPROX. DISTANCE: 35 km

This run/walk will be on the old tram lines in the Powelldown area from Big Pats Creek gradually upwards to Starlings Gap, then slowly descending to the Ada Valley and down the steep High Lead to Powelldown. Expect mud (usually plenty), leeches (sometimes), but an interesting day. Pace will be consistent to complete it in time. We will be picked up by the day walkers in Powelldown.

SEPTEMBER 2           EAST WARBURTON - STARLINGS GAP           EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER:           STEPHEN COURTNEY  
 TRANSPORT:       VAN FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am  
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 5.00 pm or later  
 For details of this walk see the leader in the clubrooms.

SEPTEMBER 2           BIG PATS CREEK - STARLINGS GAP           EASY

LEADER:           PHIL LARKIN  
 TRANSPORT:       VAN FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am  
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8.00 pm or later  
 For details of this walk see the leader in the clubrooms.

SEPTEMBER 9           STRATH CREEK - 3 SISTERS - FLOWERDALE   EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER:           ROSEMARY COTTER  
 TRANSPORT:       VAN FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am  
 MAP REFERENCE:   YEA 1:100,000  
 APPROX. DISTANCE: 17 km  
 NYP               (Not yet previewed)

The main walk will leave Strath Creek and make for Homestead Hill and Lade Hill, then with some ups and downs to the ridge to the SSW. After following the ridge for 2-3 km we will descend over and around The Three Sisters before dropping down to King Parrot Creek and thence to Flowerdale. I hope to arrange an easier walk of 10-12 km which will be in the same area.

NB: The preview or landowners may dictate that the walk is other than here described! See leader in the clubrooms for further details.

SEPTEMBER 9           BROADFORD TO YEA           TOUGH

LEADER :           ART TERRY  
 TRANSPORT:       VAN FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am  
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 6 pm  
 APPROX. DISTANCE: 50 km

By popular request I have much pleasure in presenting this cross country journey - this is an energetic and stimulating day's outing. Travel light, running shoes, socks, pullover, a light weight parka, small water bottle, several energy bars and a light pack - no lunch as we won't be stopping. We will have van transport so make sure you have a complete set of warm clothing in the van to wear on arrival in Yea. A special cheerio to you, Mike. You asked for it so here is your opportunity to fly across from Hobart and join us. Hope to see you on Sunday 9th September - only 4 starters last year.

DAY WALKS (Continued)

SEPTEMBER 16                      BAYNTON - HAYES HILL - TOOBORAC                      MEDIUM

LEADER:                      PENNY STAPLEY  
 TRANSPORT:                  VAN FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am  
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8.00 pm  
 MAP REFERENCE:              WOODEND 1:100,000  
    or PYALONG 1:25,000 and REDESDALE 1:25,000  
 APPROX. DISTANCE:        23 km

This is a beautiful walk along open granite ridges. There is a steep climb at the beginning of the walk, up on to the ridge, and another about one third of the distance.

If a sub-leader can be found I hope to arrange a shorter walk of Easy standard.

Please remember plenty of warm clothes, as it can be real "brass monkey weather" up on those ridges. Please also note that although the walk is not difficult, it is quite long.

SEPTEMBER 23                      BRISBANE RANGES BOTANICAL WALK                      MEDIUM & EASY/MED.

LEADER:                      MARIJKE MASCAS (Main leader - Medium walk)  
    IVOR DAVIES (Sub leader - Easy/Medium walk)  
 TRANSPORT:                  VAN FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am  
 For details of these walks see the leaders in the clubrooms.

SEPTEMBER 27                      YARRA VALLEY MMBW RESERVES                      MEDIUM/EASY

LEADER:                      ART TERRY  
 TRANSPORT:                  TRAMWAYS BUS  
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 6 pm  
 MAP REFERENCE:              MELWAYS STREET DIRECTORY  
 APPROX. DISTANCE:        15 km

An interesting and pleasant walk along the Yarra Valley starting at Lower Templestowe and taking in several MMBW Parks on the way. We finish the walk at Heidelberg so we will return to the city by train. Transport to the start of the walk will be by MMBW bus which starts from the corner of Russell & Flinders Streets - the Tramways have not yet made up a special time table for Show Day so will have to let you know later on the time of departure of the bus.

W E E K E N D   W A L K S   -  
S E P T E M B E R   1 9 8 4

AUG. 31 - SEPT. 2                      APOLLO BAY - CAPE OTWAY                      EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER:                      ANNE BULLARD  
 TRANSPORT:                  PRIVATE  
 APPROX. DISTANCE:        30 km  
 MAP REFERENCE:              OTWAY 1:100,000

This walk is a good one for a beginners' weekend introduction. We are all meeting at the Cumberland River Caravan Park on Saturday morning. This enables those who wish to, to come down on the Friday night or leave on Saturday morning and join us there. I hope to leave the Caravan Park NO LATER THAN 5.30 am, the reason being that this area has good views early in the mornings especially and it would be a pity to miss any of the beauty of the Great Ocean Road scenery.

The walk is from a base camp, and two completely different walks have been planned. We leave our cars at grid ref. 668 087, and from here we walk along a track to Parkers Hill. We camp just below this spot near two reliable sources of fresh water. Saturday I propose to go to the Cape Otway Lighthouse down past Point Franklin, Seal Point and

WEEKEND WALKS (Continued)

Crayfish Bay. All these sections will be beach and a few rocks (none impassable though). After Crayfish Bay we climb up to the top before the cliffs, to the lighthouse. We return inland through the bush with clean air and good views. Back at camp in time for a hot cuppa and a good campfire.

Sunday we go to Blanket Bay, following the creeks for a while then through bush, having lunch at Blanket Bay. We return along the beach this time. It- has been suggested that for some an extended walk may be arranged. We shall see on the day how the party feels.

This area is in my blood. I was brought up along the coast. The fires of Ash Wednesday have proven to be incredibly rejuvenating - the trees now have black trunks and beautifully rich many-shaded green leaves, grass is everywhere and the wildflowers are in abundance. Native wildlife and birds are gradually re-populating. I personally am looking forward to this weekend, so please do come and enjoy it with Peter and me - we know you will love it.

Oh! Don't forget your cameras. Remember, "Take nothing but photos, leave nothing but footprints."

SEPTEMBER 8-9	BEGINNERS' INTRODUCTORY WEEKEND	EASY
	CHARMAIN FALLS - STRATHBOGIE RANGES	

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LEADER:	JOPIE BODEGRAVEN
TRANSPORT:	CARS - Suggested cost \$14 for full cars
MAP REFERENCE:	EUROA 1:100,000

This weekend is designed to encourage first timers to give camping out a try. We will leave our predetermined meeting place in Melbourne at 9.00 am Saturday for the 2-2½ hour drive. Saturday will involve a short 5 km or less explore of the Charmain Falls area with day packs and an early camp beside the cars in forest near Mt. Wombat. We will need to bring our own Melbourne water. We will then get stuck into the serious business of erecting tents, collecting firewood, lighting fires, cooking delightful dinners, sitting around fires for several hours and generally having fun. On Sunday we get up at a reasonable time after hearing the birds, relight fires, have a good camp breakfast, pack up and do an easy climb to the summit of Mt. Wombat for excellent views. Next is a short drive to the Seven Creeks Gorge and an easy 9 km walk through the spectacular gorge and over a lovely rocky hill with more good views, still with day packs. We will try to teach some navigation and map skills too, as the area lends itself to this. I would like some non beginners to come along too to help with their knowledge and enjoy an easy fun weekend.

SEPTEMBER 14-16	MT. SAMARIA STATE PARK	EASY/MEDIUM
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LEADER:	DAVID DUNDAS
TRANSPORT:	PRIVATE:
MAP REFERENCE:	WHITFIELD 1:100,000
APPROX. DISTANCE:	35 km

The park is situated to the east of Lake Nillahcootie and the Midland Highway between Benalla and Mansfield.

Samaria Well at the northern end of the park will be our camp place on Friday night, and the walk will start with a climb of about 600 metres to the summit of Mt. Samaria. This will be the only significant climb for the weekend.

During Saturday we will visit Wild Dog Falls and Back Creek Falls where Saturday night's camp will be made. The return trip on Sunday will probably be made via the Blue Range.

N.B. Despite the name of the camp site on Friday night, there will be no water available until Saturday afternoon.

S E A R C H   A N D   R E S C U E  
P R A C T I C E   W E E K E N D  
O C T O B E R 13-14

This is a weekend open to all club members. The venue is near Mt. Disappointment. There will be a search practice on Saturday afternoon. Saturday and Sunday mornings will see five sessions covering stretchers, ropes, knots, first aid, equipment and a structured talk.

If you would like to go or require more information, contact Peter Bullard.

Also information will be passed on to those going, but you MUST let ME know by 21st SEPTEMBER AT THE LATEST!

\* \* \* \* \*

C O N T A C T I N G   T H E   W A L K S   S E C R E T A R Y

Owing to the nature of my work (at night) I can be contacted at home around 2.00 pm each day when I wake up. If not at home, messages can be left with my mother,, but PLEASE state name and phone number and if possible nature of business. I will try to return your call when possible.

R A F T I N G   T H I S   S P R I N G ?

This spring if water levels allow I will be again organizing some rafting on the Murray River near the Murray Gates. This is demanding water and is usually for experienced rafters or canoeists.

Show day weekend is a possible time as later water levels may fall.

Interested parties should contact me as soon as possible on 25-6607.

- MARK TISCHLER

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C O M M I T T E E   N O T E S  
M E E T I N G   6   A U G U S T   1 9 8 4

Walks Secretary:

June 1984	Members	170	Weekend	40	
	Visitors	<u>56</u>	Day	186	
		226			Profit \$304.20

Membership:

376 members (including honorary and life)  
19 "News" subscribers

Maps:

Would all persons borrowing maps from the clubrooms please advise Phil Larkin.

Federation:

Has decided to incorporate.

Search and Rescue:

Practice 13-14 October.

The Wilderness Society:

Have found new premises in Equitable Place.

General Business:

1. It was resolved to appoint Jill Campbell to the Committee vacancy.

COMMITTEE NOTES (Continued)

2. It was resolved to accept an advertisement from "Melbourne Map Centre" to go in News, the charge to be \$30 per month. This decision is to be reviewed after 6 months (at the Annual General Meeting).

Duty Roster:

August 15th	Mike/Athol
22nd	Neil/Winifred
29th	Heather/Neil
Sept. 5th	Penny/Phil

Next Committee meeting:

3rd September.

W H A T ' S O N  
I N T H E C L U B R O O M S

SEPTEMBER 12 - 8 pm - WEEKEND WALKING - BEGINNERS' INFORMATION NIGHT

More details on page 1.

SEPTEMBER 19 - 8 pm - SLIDES - DAY WALKS

Note that the date is not the last Wednesday in September. More details on page 1.

OCTOBER 10 - 8 pm - GUEST SPEAKER

Shirley McInnes will speak on FIRST AID & BUSHWALKERS. More details in September News.

OCTOBER 31 - 8 pm - SLIDES - WEEKEND WALKING AREAS

A theme in keeping with our weekend walking campaign.

NOVEMBER 14 - 8 pm - GUEST SPEAKER - BUSHWALKING EQUIPMENT

Our guests from one of the bushwalking supply shops will explain and show us some of their wares and answer our questions.

NOVEMBER 28 - 8 pm - SLIDES - CHRISTMAS TRIPS

- To whet your appetites.

DECEMBER 12 - 8 pm - POSSIBLE SLIDE COMPETITION

This needs researching. Any ideas welcome. Please register your interest and willingness to participate.

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

Congratulations to Lynne and Bob Douglas on the birth of their daughter, Sarah Jane.

Congratulations also to Gwen Morris on the birth of her daughter Jennifer. Gwen is married to Ueli Spyger and living in Zug, Switzerland.

A T T E N T I O N -  
BEGINNER & NEWER WEEKEND WALKERS

Following on from the walkers' questionnaire (findings yet to be published), we are conducting a campaign to woo/seduce/entice/suggest you to give weekend walking a try. It is a delightful pastime. You'll see beautiful areas you just can't get to on day walks from Melbourne. You'll experience the fun of camping out, the camp cooking, the campfire socialising, the camaraderie that develops when you spend a whole weekend with a friendly group in the bush. You'll enjoy the waking up in a lovely environment with birds and trees around about, the sense of excitement and adventure, the pleasure of a complete two day break from the city.

To seduce you we've arranged a variety of suitable walks, including full weekend base camps, a Saturday morning start base camp, a full weekend pack carry. There is also a special navigation base camp weekend and a bus trip. In the clubrooms we are holding a weekend walking information night and a slide showing of weekend walking areas.

Let's look at them in chronological order -

Friday August 31 to Sunday September 2 - Apollo Bay - Cape Otway area  
An easy non-pack-carrying coastal exploration trip. You'll be camping both nights within sound of the surf breaking. I believe Anne and Peter have a harder option for anyone interested.

September 8-9 - Beginners' Introductory Weekend - Charmain Falls - Strathbogie Ranges  
This is a Saturday morning start especially designed for beginners. You will carry only day packs.

September 12 - Weekend Walking Information Night in clubrooms.

September 14-16 - Mt. Samaria  
A full weekend pack carry. If you're keen, talk to David on 268 6211 (W)

September 21-23 - Navigation Base Camp - Warby Ranges  
Ideal for learning navigation skills as well as camping skills.

October 5-7 - Grampians Bus Trip  
A must for your Spring Calendar. Includes a base camp with walks of all standards. Lovely wildflower.

October 19-21 - Wychitella Forest  
More beautiful Spring flowers.

October 31 - Weekend Areas slides in clubrooms.

Equipment

The major items you'll need are pack, sleeping bag and tent. The club has for hire four weekend packs and two 2-man tents but no suitable sleeping bags. You will need to hire or borrow these main items from somewhere if you don't already have them. Tents can often be shared and leaders may be able to arrange this. A good place to learn about what to buy is on club trips where you'll see items in use. Other items include sleeping mat (or lilo on base camps), ground sheet (if not part of tent), sufficient warm clothing, spare dry clothing, waterproof parka, cooking and-eating gear, food, personal first aid kit, torch, water bottle, matches, toilet paper, and comfortable footwear. A map, compass and camera are also good to have. Some people prefer boots, others prefer runners, even on pack carrying walks. On base camps you can, of course, take more.

Most leaders and more experienced members are very helpful and very free with advice, so feel free to ask for help or advice.

BEGINNERS AND NEWER WEEKEND WALKERS (Continued)Transport

Some trips are by bus or van, but most are by car. The leader will generally try to organise people into cars. Costs are generally worked out using 11c/km for 4-cylinder cars holding three people; 14.5c/km for 5-cylinder cars and Combis taking 4 people; and 18c/km for land cruisers taking 5 people. Often the leader or secretary will predetermine a suggested cost per passenger which assumes the numbers of vehicle occupants above. If the driver wants to take the full quota but has fewer, then he/she should charge a bit more, say add on one-third if only two people in a 4-cylinder.

Weather

Occasionally we strike bad weather. If this happens to you, remember that we have more good weather than bad, take it philosophically and hang in there till the next trip when the weather will probably be better.

Happy Weekend Walking

- JOPIE BODEGRAVEN

P U R C H A S E O F V A N

Due to illness, Jack Baxter has decided to dispose of his vans and retire from the business. Neither of the two remaining van operators are interested in purchasing them, and it has been proposed that the club purchase one of them to ensure that van transport continues to be available to the club. (The proposal follows this introduction.)

Given that van transport is crucial to the conduct of the club day walks as we know them, the possible loss of such transport is of major importance. (There are no other available van operators, buses are considerably more expensive, and private transport is unsatisfactory.)

The committee has discussed the matter, and has not yet made a resolution. Points raised so far include:

- Club would be taking on a large debt
- No guarantee of continuity of TRB licence from year to year
- No guarantee of Dennis' availability in future
- Additional administrative workload
- Day walk prices would have to increase slightly
- Possible low resale value of van if urgent sale is required
- High probability of loss of van if club does not buy it.

In conclusion, do you, the members, care sufficiently about keeping vans for the club to make a large financial commitment?

Your views required

Please come along to the half-yearly general meeting and have your say A decision must be made!

If the meeting rejects the proposal then a lot of work will still be required to examine alternatives for day walk transport in future.

- GEOFF MATTINGLEY  
PRESIDENT

\* \* \* \* \*

PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE OF VAN

Members may be aware that Jack Baxter wishes to dispose of his vans and that he and I have had discussions on this matter.

PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE OF VAN (Continued)

Recent events have precipitated Jack's desire to finalise the disposal and in order to allow the club time to explore the possibilities and to consider what action it can take to assure continued access to the type of transport it desires, I have placed a deposit on the two vans with a final settling date on September 30th 1984.

The price is \$35,000 which includes the two vans, the business and the two TRB passenger licences which, I believe, are transferable.

My intention is to offer one van to the club and to dispose of the second as I have no desire to enter the transport business.

Jack has since confirmed that due to his happy association with the club he would be prepared to offer one van to the club at \$14,000 particularly if the club is prepared to hire Dennis as the driver. Jack is also willing to continue garaging the vans until alternative accommodation can be arranged.

Attached is a summary as I see it, of the income and costs relating to the club's use of one van for day walks for one year. The summary also shows additional costs and income possibilities as follows:-

If the club put up a deposit of say \$4,000 it would require a loan of \$10,000 which at overdraft rates of 13.5% would add \$1,350 to the costs per annum.

Garaging is a problem which I believe can be solved. For example the garage who supplies the petrol and service may be prepared to allow the van to be parked on site, particularly if we offer them say \$20 per week on top of our custom.

Repayment of the loan, say over three years, should be well within the club's capability even if it means a small membership levy, fund raising activities plus an allocation from club profits.

Your concern as to taxation is understandable, but I feel that should this issue arise the club's finances could be adjusted in such a way that no profit is made.

The additional income possibilities allow for a \$1 per head per walk levy, an additional levy of \$1 per head on visitors and Saturday hire of the van as per Jack's list.

The reason for my concern is that I believe suitable transport is critical to the continuance of the day walk program as we desire it and that alternative transport, such as private cars, is impractical, or buses which are dramatically more expensive, not suited to where we wish to go or capable of providing the social contact and communication which are so important to club members.

There are problems involved in these proposals, but I believe that what problems there are will be much easier to solve than the problem of finding satisfactory alternative transport should we lose the use of Jack's vans.

You will recall the trauma re transport when Gronows sold their vans and the club was forced to seek alternative transport. It was only Jack Baxter's almost miraculous appearance that saved the day.

If the same positive thought and action is put into meeting our continuing transport needs as went into freeing the club from that miserable cubby hole in Hosiers Lane and the same effort and enterprise is also employed as that which produces and distributes the Walk Magazine, then I really believe that we as a club can manage to own and operate our own van.

J. L. HEDSTROM

PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE OF VAN (Continued)SUMMARY - INCOME & EXPENSESOne year's operation of Van for Melbourne Bushwalking ClubIncome

Six months' operation as per Jack's list Was  
 24 walks = \$4,960 - whole year = \$10,000

Additional Income

One dollar levy per person per trip  
 Say average 40 persons per trip for 50 weeks 2,000

Extra \$1 being levy on visitors  
 Say average 10 visitors per trip = 500

Saturday hirings as per Jack's list  
 Income less costs 900

(These Saturday hirings could be readily expanded)  
 Total income \$13,400

Expenses on Yearly Basis

Petrol	\$1,200	
Wages @ \$50 per day	2,500	
Parts & Service as per list	1,000	
Registration	538	
Insurance - Comprehensive	576	
Insurance - Public Liability	<u>497</u>	\$6,311
Interest on loan \$10,000 @ 13½%		1,350
Garaging Allowance		<u>1,000</u>
		<u>\$8,661</u>

Deposit required \$4,000  
 Loan repayment over three years @ \$3,333 per year

Total Income	\$13,400
Expenses	<u>8,661</u>
Surplus	<u>\$4,739</u>

The surplus of approximately \$5,000 can be used to cover hidden and unexpected costs, to contribute to repayment of the loan and to establish a fund for the eventual replacement off the van.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS RE CLUB PURCHASE OF VAN

I have considered the questions you raised regarding the purchase of a van and now answer them to the best of my ability.

1. Continuance of bush walks

Answer: In the unlikely event of the disbanding of the Club I suggest that the van would be sold along with other assets, debts repaid and any balance distributed accordingly.

2. Fare increase of \$1.00. Club reaction

Answer: When the proposal to purchase the van is put to the members they will have the opportunity to discuss and vote on the issue. Personally I do not think there will be any serious reaction.

3 & 4. Operating and maintenance cost increases

Answer: Any minor cost increases would be absorbed in the profit margin. Any major cost increases could also be covered by the profit margin as far as possible then passed on to the Club as Baxters do at the moment.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS RE CLUB PURCHASE OF VAN (continued)5. Garaging

Answer: Jack Baxter is endeavouring to secure a garaging site and I have placed an ad in the local paper. Results will be advised. A garage has offered to park the van on site at \$8 per week.

6. Dennis' availability to drive, garage, clean and wash and carry out minor and regular maintenance

Answer: Dennis is willing to drive the van for \$50 per day, and to clean and check over the van for another \$10 per week.

7. TRB Passenger Licence transfer

Answer: Jack Baxter has to make an application to the TRB who will consider and decide.

8. Interest rate on proposed bank loan

Answer: I have checked this out and the 13½% rate is confirmed.

9. Van breakdowns

Answer: RACV Membership should take care of road problems. Major work could be undertaken by Jack Baxter's brother as at the moment.

10. Emergency breakdowns just prior to Sunday walk.

Answer: Dennis will check van on Saturday. Should van be inoperable for any reason at short notice the walk could be cancelled, or private transport could fill in. The same problem applies now.

11. Workers' Compensation for Dennis

Answer: Workers' Compensation Costs - S.I.O.  
 Salary \$2500 p/a = \$238 p/a  
 " \$4000 p/a = \$380 p/a

RELATIVE COSTS OF BUS HIRE

<u>Deep Creek - Lancefield</u>	Jack Baxter	\$180
	Bentleigh Bus Lines	\$350
	Quinces Bus Lines	\$300
<u>Noojee</u>	Jack. Baxter	\$210
	Bentleigh Bus Lines	\$400
	Quinces Bus Lines	\$335

Quinces could not guarantee - bus each week and prices would vary.

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BUDAWANGS TRIP

Having just returned from a trip of a couple of weeks in northern NSW, a journey to the club rooms on Wednesday evening to rub shoulders with the bushie crowd seemed in order.

"Are you coming on the Budawangs trip?" said Jopie.

"Err, well...", I replied, only vaguely aware that such a trip had been proposed...

Thus next Monday I was a fellow passenger with Jopie in Otto's car, speeding off on a trip to the wilds of south east NSW. Merilyn and Stephen had gone up with Gerry a day earlier and our two groups joined up on Tuesday morning.

After crossing the Yadboro River on a log we cruised up the spur towards The Castle, and soon came upon the first "interesting" bit of the trip - the track passed up a small gully in the rock. This occupied the party for a few minutes as each of us tackled it in his own way.

Later, after lunch in a cave, the party split due to some confusion about precisely where we were headed but mid-afternoon found us together in the saddle at the western end of The Castle, ready to attempt the ascent of this noble mountain of rock.

The way up The Castle is easy, provided you follow the arrows which previous adventurers have thoughtfully scratched in the rock. Deviate from this track and you will find yourself as I did, wondering how other people can describe the route as easy as you desperately haul yourself up the rock using a small tree which is just within reach. I mentally cursed Jopie and wondered how the others would follow us, or worse still . . . how we would all get down again. Fortunately, the track was only a few feet away so the others were able to retrace their steps and come up the track, thus avoiding this "interesting" bit.

The rest of the route to the top was mostly easy and once on top we drank in the views of the sheer cliffs below our feet and on the nearby peaks and blasted off a few frames for future memories. On the way back to our packs Jopie, Merilyn and I went through "The Tunnel" which is a mildly disappointing crack in the rock but provides a quick means of getting from one side of The Castle to the other.

It was now quite late in the afternoon and we set off to camp in a cave somewhat short of our original intended destination.

On the way to the cave we misplaced the track by a few feet. This saw us attempting to traverse a rock, the process being made difficult because another rock was placed on top in such a way as to push one off balance. "Will it go?" I thought as I edged my way around, relying on projections on the rock beneath my feet to enhance the inadequate friction. Then, a crucial projection parted from the rock under my foot. "Shit . . . I'm falling", I thought. "Oh well, it's only a few feet down into that bush, I had better make sure that I land on my feet if possible." As my flight progressed and I approached and passed the bush and peered into the gloom beneath it, I became horrified to see that it was nowhere near the ground. My mind then began to contemplate what the extent of the injuries to my body would be . . . perhaps a broken arm or maybe a broken leg. Yes folks! all these thoughts whilst still in the air! Luck was on my side that day and I landed on the track, my feet hitting the ground first, quickly followed by my pack as I collapsed on to my back. Apart from a bump or two I was unscathed! The enquiries from above indicated that my companions were as surprised as I was.

Over the next two days we poked around the general area of Monolith Valley, climbing or attempting to climb various features and having a good time in the process. This area, particularly Monolith Valley

Budawang's Trip (Continued)

itself can be heartily recommended for its exquisite combinations of rock formations, moss, and interesting lighting. I found myself regretting not having taken along more film on which to capture some of the essence of this enchanting place.

The following day we packed and headed down the pleasant mossy valley of Angel Creek. Soon we were at the top of the spectacular Crooked Falls and contemplating how we would get down. After picking our way down a rocky gully we came to the base of the falls and the pool looked as if it would be difficult to resist in warmer weather. Marilyn was not content to dither and simply look and was the only one of us with enough courage to brave the deep waters and go for a swim.

Shortly after leaving the pool we came across a group of young gentlemen from Adelaide who were travelling upstream. They had that day travelled an even shorter distance than we had, but had arranged a meeting which demanded that they cover a distance even greater than Jopie's optimism would dream up. They would need more than our sincere wishes of good luck to get anywhere near their destination by nightfall.

That afternoon we reached our campsite after first over-shooting the spot. We were soon sitting around the camp-fire planning an "Alpine" style start for the next morning, ie we were going to start just before day-break and do a side-trip to the lookout at Folly Point. Unfortunately the weather, which until then had been kind to us, changed overnight and rain started. At some wee small hour, along with the pitter-patter of the rain came the sound of a serious discussion between Jopie and our time-keeper. Straining to read my watch, I thought "Funny . . . we are not due to get up for hours yet." It turned out that our time-keeper, trying to read the time on an unfamiliar watch, had read the alarm setting instead, and taken this to be the current time! Anyway, the side-trip was called off.

The first half of this, the last day of the walk, was notable for the wildlife. Leeches! Not ordinary leeches, but ravenous buggers with GT stripes! That's right, they have a pair of parallel yellow stripes along them. As is usual, one of us got more than his fair share of them . . . unhappily it was me. Eventually they became less discerning and whenever the party stopped no walker had cause to feel rejected . . . a quick glance to ground level would reveal dozens of the hungry little blighters heading for the nearest warm blood. None of us was disappointed to leave the river valley and head up the spur to our leech-free lunch spot at the base of the cliffs of Byangee Walls. As we sat eating we pulled the remaining leeches off and gave them to Jopie who collected them in a plastic bag . . . what ever did he do with them?

After a few futile attempts to climb to the top of the Walls we walked through Castle Gap to the base of The Castle and followed a jeep track down to the Yadoro River. It was a pleasant end to a fine trip.

FOR SALE

1 Pair TRAK Cross Country Ski Boots

Size 39 - NOT High Ankle

\$30.00

These boots haven't been worn all that much as they're a size too small for me - I didn't wear enough socks when I tried them on in Bushgear 2 years ago.

MERILYN WHIMPEY - 386 0150 (H)  
690 2322 (W)

LAKE MOUNTAIN BEGINNERS' SKI TOURING WEEKEND  
29th June - 1st July

And now a few lines about winter sports. Skiing to be precise, though the lack of snow made it somewhat impractical at times and good old shanks pony replaced the diagonal stride! Intrigued? Read on.

First of all my apologies to that intrepid band of stalwarts for not getting this in the appropriate month's News! Just couldn't be managed. Now on to business. Only 15 out of a possible 38 a.b.s's (able bodied skiers) actually arrived at Far Away Forests (Marysville) to take part in the Beginners' Ski Touring Weekend. The Far Away Huts ranged from Smart Casual to Damp Mouldy, and being the last to arrive Friday night Ingrid, Otto and Tracy duly took up residence in the damp mouldy! To be fair though it was only a little damp in the bathroom with the steam, and a little mouldy, round the edges. In fact it was quite fun, and the setting very picturesque, with a clear stream bubbling along close by, overhung with lovely trees and straddled by a little bridge. Quite charming. And so was the company. Ian, Keith, David, Mick, Helen, Tony, Rod, Jenny, Otto, Alexia, Andrew and Ingrids, two. Some had their own skis and some had to hire. The dilemma. To hire skis and head for the hills where there may, or may not, be any snow, or to reconnoitre first - which of course would take hours. The decision taken, we set off in high spirits. Then we saw the first lumps of what looked like ice on the road side. Then something that looked like lumps of snow and then lo and behold, snow, looking like the very real thing, carpeting the ground. However it was raining and continued to do so most of the day. At this stage I might mention I was sporting a new pair of woollen gloves of the large variety. More later.

We arrived at Gerraty's Car Park and took the plunge out into the cold. Those with skis started off with Otto, whilst Keith was organising the rest with hiring. The two groups joined up around 10.30. We were put through our paces in the cold and rain near the old snow gauge. It was great being out there and the snow cover was quite good. Otto worked on diagonal stride and Keith on downhill control. This continued until around 12 noon, when Mick took over from Keith and covered diagonal stride until 1.00, with Keith concentrating on remedial work. Then back to the shelter, absolutely frozen, for lunch. My hands were much the worse for wear, as during the morning I noticed that my new gloves were slowly creeping up my hands. The fingers were now about 4cm long, and only half my hand was covered. Square gloves. Nordic are going to put them in their "Rogues Gallery" and replaced them with lovely Norge mittens. Lucky me!

By this time the snow was getting slushy on the trails and round the car park and we were pretty bedraggled. There was a slow fire burning at the shelter and we huddled round, munching on this and that regaining our strength, though the consensus was that it wouldn't be worth going out again. However, I don't know what happened but out we all traipsed again quite cheerfully, though somewhat wet and cold - only three pikers!! And the rain stopped. We skied to the camp and then round the East Loop Trail. Although this was marked "Not for Beginners" everyone went well, notwithstanding a few spills, it was good fun. We skied to the bridge. Up to this point the skiing had been good but now the trail roughened and the snow wasn't deep enough to cover the bracken. We struggled along, mostly uphill. Oh, my new skis, I thought. Whack, bang, slip, crunch!! Bloody hell!! Off with the skis. By this time it was quite misty and the light seemed to be failing. What was the time? Was it turning nasty? How far was it? What have I got on me to eat? Will I survive a night in the open. Trudge, trudge. Whack shin. Silent curse. There was no danger really, as we were following the markers, there just wasn't enough snow. Actually in retrospect this was the best part, and broke the back of "skiing revisited" for me, and I know the others enjoyed the exertion too - especially when we were safe and sound

BEGINNERS' SKI TOURING WEEKEND (Continued)

back on skis heading for home. What could have been shown, though, was a "trail closed" sign in warning. However in ski touring one has to take the rough with the smooth, and especially for the true beginners - they did a tremendous job and came through with flying colours. They should have been very pleased with themselves. A very educational ski and I know the opportunity to get away from the ski school atmosphere of the morning and actually get moving was appreciated by all. Teaching on the run is much more fun and realistic.

That evening we had a meal at the Marysville Hotel Motel and later sat round a huge log fire swapping experiences, ideas and stories. We never did find out anything about the wind chill factor though, Keith. Perhaps next time! Ian was so enthused he was all for buying skis as soon as he got back to Melbourne and Tony was surprised and very pleased to find out how good it felt out there amongst it all. There was an overall feeling of accomplishment and bonhomie around the "camp" fire, notwithstanding the fact that the snow, for that weekend, was finished.

Sunday saw 10 set out for a walk led by Otto in the Cathedral Range State Park. Starting from Little River Road straight up Little Cathedral on to The Cathedral then The Farmyard and back via Blackwood Flat and Ned's Gully. Everyone was tired but happy and hopefully satisfied with themselves. A great weekend over. Our thanks indeed go to the organisers and leaders. Your efforts were much appreciated.

- TRACY GUEST

P.S. Two people lost walking boots. Mick Mann has one pair, and the other pair's at the club rooms. See Mick if you've lost same.

C H A N G E S   O F   I N F O R M A T I O N

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Closing date for September News is Wednesday, 5th September. As I will be away on holidays again that week, I guess you'll get your September News late too!