

THE NEWS

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MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

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DECEMBER 1985

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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 Little Bourke Street, entrance from Racing Club Lane, every Wednesday night 7-9 pm. Visitors are always welcome.

SOCIAL COLUMN

Wednesday 18th December

END-OF-YEAR CLUBROOM CHRISTMAS PARTY

Don't forget Wednesday 18th December for end-of-year breakup. Raffle will be drawn. Four prizes - Fruit Cake, Basket of Fruit, Mystery Tin, Plum Pud. Bring a plate of food. All drinks provided.

Tuesday 14th January

FILM NIGHT - BURKE AND WILLS

Time: 2 pm

Venue: Hoyts Cinema Centre

140 Burke Street, Melbourne

For further details please see Caroline Strickland in the clubrooms.

Wednesday 29th January

FILMS IN THE CLUBROOMS

Erstwhile club member John Davis has just returned from two years in W.A. John has made two films which he thinks would interest us. One is of W.A. National Parks and Reserves (Part 1), 32 minutes, and the other is of the Avon Descent, which covers a two day, 133 km boat race starting at Northam and finishing near Perth, about 20 minutes. Boats include canoes, surf-skis, dinghies and power boats. 8 pm start. Supper 9 pm.

8 8 8

Saturday March 22nd 1986 " C A T S "

8 8 8

A group of us are going up to Sydney to see this excellent show on March 22nd. We depart on Thursday night train, stay Friday and Saturday nights in a Kings Cross hotel and have three days free to look around, then return Sunday night, arriving in Melbourne on Monday morning. Total inclusive cost of ticket, train and hotel is about \$210 (deposit \$70).

If interested please contact Graham Harding - 266 4222 (H) ASAP.

Saturday April 12th

BALLARAT OBSERVATORY

Star of the night will be Halley's Comet. Kick off with a barbecue in the Observatory grounds at 5.00 pm. BYO everything. There will be a charge of \$5 per person for the viewing session, with tea and coffee provided. More later.

DAY WALKS JANUARY 1986

WED. JAN. 1 DANDENONGS EXPLORER NO. 10

EASY

SHERBROOKE FOREST - FERNY CREEK

LEADER ATHOL SCHAFER

TRANSPORT MEET UNDER THE CLOCKS, FLINDERS STREET STATION, IN

TIME TO CATCH 9.26 am TRAIN TO BELGRAVE

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 5.52 pm CITY

Step off on the right foot into 1986! Spend New Year's Day in the cool green light that filters down through the leafy canopy of the tall trees! Lose your seeing-the-new-year-in hangover in the depths of the forest! The walk leaves Belgrave 11 a.m.; lunch at the Falls; the afternoon route goes via Ferny Creek, the fire break, and back to the station.

SUN. JAN 5 HARMERS HAVEN - CAPE PATTERSON -

EASY

EAGLES NEST

LEADER HAROLD GRAVE

TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

MAP REFERENCE WONTHAGGI 1:100,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 12-14 km

The section from Harmers Haven to Cape Patterson hasn't been walked for at least 10 years so should be interesting. It looks rocky on the map. The rest of the walk is n old favourite, and for good reason. Cliffs, headlands, beaches and rock platforms. It'll be just the walk for a hot day, so bring your bathers for a swim/swims. The clubrooms will be closed for the two Wednesdays prior, so please ring the leader on 509 7438 and pay on the day. If you've forgotten to book by phone, come along anyway as we're unlikely to have a full van. N.B. This is not normal practice but is OK for this walk.

SUN. JAN 12 CHARLIE CREEK - ADA RIVER

EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS STEPHEN COURTNEY & PHIL LARKIN TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN BEFORE MIDNIGHT MAP REFERENCE VICMAP ADA RIVER 1:25,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 20 & 15 km

A pleasant walk through excellent rain forests, following the old pioneer tramways from yesteryear. Cool your feet in the bracing mountain streams during meal stops. Bring sufficient drinking water.

SUN. JAN. 19 MOORABOOL GORGE

EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS DAVID PICKUP & PETER LENCH
TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 8.30 pm

MAP REFERENCE LETHBRIDGE 1:25,000; MEDINA 1:25,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 10 km

This interesting walk caters for most tastes. Rock-hopping and clambering - rock pools for swimming - hills to climb - forested areas - abundant wildlife (Jopie saw a platypus on the preview).

It will start near Johanna Park on the Sheoaks-Maude Road, from which point we shall make our way down to the Moorabool River, and follow it upstream to Sheoaks. The latter part includes the interesting gorge.

Bring your own bathers and drinking water.

DAY WALKS (Continued)

SUN. JAN 26 ANGAHOOK FOREST PARK

EASY & MEDIUM

LEADER PETER BULLARD

TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

For details of this walk, please see the leader in the clubrooms.

MON. JAN. 27 FRANKSTON - MORNINGTON

EASY

LEADER ATHOL SCHAFER

TRANSPORT MEET UNDER THE CLOCKS, FLINDERS STREET STATION, IN

TIME TO CATCH 8.50 am TRAIN TO FRANKSTON

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 7 pm (APPROX.)

Our traditional Australia Day walk will entail barefoot beach walking, rock scrambling, cliff climbing, headland wading, not to mention swim stops (and the expected bayside sights!). Those who wish, and if it's a nice evening, may also bring tea and catch a later bus back to Frankston.

WEEKEND WALKS JANUARY 1986

EASY/

JANUARY 10-12 HARRIETVILLE - MT. FEATHERTOP - HARRIETVILLE MEDIUM
(i.e., up and down Bungalow Spur)

LEADER GRAHAM LAIDLAW TRANSPORT PRIVATE CARS

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN SUNDAY EVENING

MAP REFERENCE ALGONA - BOGONG HIGH PLAINS & ADJACENT PEAKS

BOGONG 1:100,000; HARRIETVILLE, FEATHERTOP 1:25,000

This is intended to be as easy as possible for those who would like to get to the top of Feathertop while still keeping a worthwhile sense of achievement. We will meet at the beginning of the Bungalow Spur track just outside Harrietville at 8.45 am on Saturday. This track allows comfortable walking to Federation Hut, The Cross (where we drop packs) and then the final ridge. Camp is among snow gums at the top of Diamantina Spur.

- N.B. 1. A proper parka is absolutely essential.
 - 2. As we carry 4 litres/l gallon of water for about 30 minutes, bring a wine cask ideal as it can go in the pack or a water bucket.
 - 3. Because of possible fire bans, prepare a cold tea and breakfast for use if necessary. If no ban, we cook as usual.
 - 4. Extra phone no. for leader 459 1516.

JANUARY 24-27 NATIONAL PARKS ASSISTANCE WEEKEND

SLAVING

LEADER DOUG POCOCK - 059 64 4974

TRANSPORT PRIVATE CARS

In past assistance weekends much valuable work has been carried out by the Bushies, such as cleaning up old fences and digging the toilet at Wallace's. This work is highly valued by the Park staff; indeed, it often gives them a chance to carry out projects which they would otherwise not be able to fit in. It is also good public relations for the club.

At this stage we don't know specifically what is planned, but willing workers welcome whatever degree of skills.

As we will be staying at Wilkinson Lodge we will have group catering if everyone is in agreement. (Please note I will be in Tassie from 6th-17th January.)

JANUARY 18-19 MOORABOOL GORGE BASE CAMP

EASY

LEADER

MAX CASLEY

For details of this walk please see the leader in the clubrooms.

WEEKEND WALKS (Continued)

JANUARY 24-27 MOROKA GORGE - MT. WELLINGTON - EASY MEDIUM

MT. TAMBORITHA

LEADER PHILIP LARKIN - PHONE 813 2271 (H), 569 5472 (W)

TRANSPORT PRIVATE CARS

MAP REFERENCE NATMAP 1:100,000 HOWITT, MAFFRA;

VMTC MACALISTER RIVER WATERSHED;

ALGONA LAKE TALI KARNG

For details of this walk please see the leader in the clubrooms.

JANUARY 24-27 MT. MCKAY - MT. COPE - NIGGERHEADS MEDIUM/HARD

- MT. FAINTER

LEADER
TRANSPORT
PRIVATE CARS
MAP REFERENCE
BOGONG 1:100,000

COPE, FAINTER, FEATHERTOP, NELSE 1:25,000 ALGONA BOGONG HIGH PLAINS & ADJACENT PEAKS

This walk will be pretty flexible (meaning the leader hasn't given it much thought yet). I'm thinking of leaving cars at Falls Creek, walking via Mt. McKay down to Pretty Valley, maybe a side trip investigating the Pretty Valley Creek, and camping for two nights on the ridge above Tawonga Huts. Then on the Sunday we could visit Mts. Jim and Cope and Wilky and Rocky Knobs. And on Monday a trip to the Niggerheads and Mt. Fainter.

SUMMER PROGRAMME

CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

- 1. HARMERS HAVEN CAPE PATTERSON EAGLES NEST SUN. 5 JANUARY

 The leader for this walk will be Harold Grave (509 7438).

 Because the clubrooms will be closed for the two Wednesdays prior, please book with Harold by phone and pay on the day.
- 2. SNOWY PLAINS OLD YARD FLAT 7-9 FEBRUARY LEADER: ROD MATTINGLEY

The date of this walk has been put forward by two weeks. Rod may also be approaching Old Yard Flat from the west (Jamieson side). Promises to be an interesting trip.

3. BOGONG BEGINNERS' TRIP - 21-23 FEBRUARY LEADER: PETER BULLARD

This trip is designed to get to the summit of Mt. Bogong by the easiest possible means and would suit people who might otherwise never get to the highest point in the State, as well as those who would just like a more relaxed trip to Bogong.

Colin and Angelika Prohasky wish to announce the birth of a baby daughter, Kathleen Vanessa on April 25, 1985.

COMMITTEE NOTES 2ND DECEMBER

Present:

Hugh; Rosemary, Athol, Noel, Rod, Leonie, Jopie, Merilyn, Mick, Winifred

Treasurer:

Balance at list December 1985 \$3836.57 Bills for payment \$1584.21

Walks Secretary:

232 walkers - 183 day walkers 171 members

44 weekend walkers 61 visitors

Income for month = \$879.00

Walk Magazine

Is at printers. Still hope to have it available by Christmas.

Wilkinson Lodge

Was broken into two weeks ago. Tools, two lamps and wheelbarrow taken, but food and clothing appear to be OK. Advance of \$200 to Rod for necessary repairs and replacements.

New Member:

Rhiamon Jones

Next Meeting:

January 6

Duty Roster:

December 12 Winifred, Rod 18 High, Leonie

25. ** No meeting **

January i ** No meeting **

S Merilyn, Noel

General Business:

Our White Pages entry is to be deleted due to lack of volunteers. Alternative arrangements to be finalised by mid-year for Yellow Pages.

If no volunteers, best alternative is an answering machine giving information on activities, meeting times, postal address, etc. Cost is about \$600 initially, then \$120 per year. Costs to be investigated further.

An alternative would be to have no phone book entries. Any comments? (or volunteers?).

WILKY

Sometime between 18th and 22nd November Wilky was broken in to. We heard of the break-in thanks to various people - a passer by, a school group in a bus, and the Mount Beauty police.

Doug Pocock was up there a week later and found that the padbolt on the outer door had been broken, and the inner door forced open. No other damage was discovered, but all the tools, the Coleman lamp, the gas lamp, a sleeping bag and the wheelbarrow had been stolen. Some clothes from one of the lockers in the storeroom had been spread around. We don't know of anything else missing, but the next group up there may well find other things gone.

A copy of "A field guide to the flowers and plants of Victoria" by Willis etc. also could not be found. Would a thief be interested in flowers and plants? Maybe someone has borrowed it and has yet to return it.

All we can do now is to replace things and perhaps install deadlocks on the doors to make it hander for those bastards to break in again.

ALONG THE TRACKK

SNOWY RIVER SIDE GORGES - 1-5 NOVEMBER

Ever since Glenn Sanders' Little River Gorge trip of several years ago, I had wanted to return to the area to explore more gorges. The contour maps showed several potentially worthwhile creeks, ones in steep sided valleys or gorges where the creek dropped rapidly towards the Snowy. We explored one such creek on Glenn's trip after the Little River. It was called Currie Creek and it was magic - waterfalls, cascades and waterworn rocks.

The recent Melbourne Cup weekend saw six adventurous souls arrive at the Boundary Creek campsite late on Friday. A short car shuffle next day, leaving Alex's car in the carport of an empty farmhouse so the bull wouldn't rub up against it, and we were off. The plan was for a long day down Boundary Creek; and it was long. I didn't bother counting the lovely waterfalls, the cascades, and the lovely waterworn rocks; I just made sure I captured some of them on film. We all got steadily tireder with all the rock hopping and then we had that b---y great climb of 600m back onto the ridge. The last half hour of track was in the dark, sometimes avoiding cow pats and sometimes not. It had been a 12 hour day, roughly 9 to 9, and most of us felt wrecked.

So the next day was a bludge as planned. Sleep in, leisurely relaxed morning, pack up, drive a short way and walk 5 km down to the Snowy at Devil's Backbone, loaded to the hilt with base camp goodies plus abseiling gear because tomorrow's creek was a total unknown. There could be 40 metre cliffs that we had to go down for all we knew.

The next day's plan was to lilo across the Snowy, climb a spur, drop down into our target creek and follow it back to the Snowy, hoping to find copious quantities of "waterfalls, cascades and rocks", take photos, survive and get back to camp before breakfast next day. I took two torches!

Did you know that much of the Snowy is lined with an impenetrable wall of blackberries? I had overlooked that till the afternoon of our bludge day when I tried to find a place to cross the river. We had had visions of battling across a raging flooded river, but that was no sweat. Those blackberries were something else. I picked the most likely spot in a 1 km stretch, paddled my lilo over and started to explore. There I stood, one human, naked except for runners, confronting a 30 metre thick barrier of blackberries. I retreated in despondent defeat. How would we get across? Aha! I realised. Blackberries occur where the banks are gentle but not where they are steep. This was shown to be correct and next day we all crossed with no hassle.

Up the spur and after twice apologetically explaining why we weren't where we were supposed to be we hit our target creek. In we went for a dip. Out we sprang. Too long in that creek and you'd be a hypothermia case.

The creek drops 500 metres over a 3 kilometre distance from the Gelantipy plateau south-westwards towards the Snowy. This should mean lots of those things that I mentioned earlier, and it did. It was an absolute delight and met all my expectations. It even moved fully grown men and women to send sticks and rocks sailing or slithering down waterfalls. The absell gear? We were carrying the darned stuff so we used it once for the hell of it, but we could've just as easily walked around, in fact it would've been quicker.

We couldn't follow the creek all the way to the Snowy because . . . you guessed it . . . blackberries choked the lower creek, but we'd seen the good bit, so up and over a very interesting knoll and back toward camp on the landward side of the blackberry belt until we came to our crossing point, just as it started to rain. It had been another 12 hour day.

SNOWY RIVER (Continued)

Six people stripped and paddled furiously through the intensifying rain, six people dived into tents, six people got wet cooking out in the rain. It rained almost all night and I cursed myself for not putting the tent up properly so the inner and outer weren't touching and letting water through.

Next morning the rain had stopped. Six people walked back up the 600 metre hill faster, would you believe, than walking down, and drove to Buchan for refreshments.

For me it was a very satisfying trip. It satisfied my urge to explore and find lots of "you know whats". Next Melbourne Cup weekend I intend to return and do Little River Gorge plus another unknown, Minchin Creek (past McKillops Bridge), which looks very interesting on the map. Any takers?

JOPIE BODEGRAVEN

CHANGES OF

INFORMATION

890 9922 (H) Bob & Lynne Douglas

606 5818 (W - Bob)

John Hillard 6 Webb Street, Seaford, 3198

Stephen Ransom 5 Keys Road, Warrnambool, 3280

11 Walnut Street, Malvern, 3144 brian Troke

205 795 (H)

MEMBERS

Welcome to -

Geoff Counsell 7, The Mews, Vermont, 3133

874 4039 (H)

Rhiannon Jones Lot 23, Dingley Avenue, Warrandyte, 3113

844 3512 (H); 347 3211 (W)

Christopher Nobbs 2/44 Morang Road, Hawthorn, 3122

818 6727 (H); 628 2211 (W)

FORSALE

ASNES General Touring Skis 190 cm wooden skis with step pattern. Good condition

BOOTS - 75 mm

A. Alfa size 46, double tongue

B. Brixia size 42 Both pairs V.G.C.

\$20 each

BICKERTON Portable Bicycle 3 speed. Has had very little use. V.G.C. \$190

BICYCLE, 27", 10 speed. G.C. Has very good dynamo light which offers very little resistance.

FLINDERS RANGES H-frame

\$10 pack. Quite sound.

\$80

KITCHEN TABLE - red Laminex, drop sides 22 cm each, \$20 centre section 76 cm

GRAEME LAIDLAW - 428 4485 or 459 1516

ACCOMMODATION

CHARLES ANDERSON is looking for one or two housemates to live in Mitcham or Montmorency area in late January. Charles is currently working at Box Hill TAFE. Phone 895 1290/1/2 (W), 754 6492 (H).

FOOD PAGE

La Vie en Rose in Church Street, Brighton is probably not the place to stomp into after a weekend walk, but is worth remembering even so. It is a no smoking French restaurant with a high standard of personalised and sometimes idiosyncratic service. If you think a venture like this is worth supporting, keep it in mind for that birthday, anniversary, or other occasion when you are prepared to spend rather more than usual. We've been several times, and thoroughly recommend it.

HUGH AND LEONIE DUNCAN

Benalla

The Lettuce Snack in the main drag, on the right as you drive from Melbourne, serves jaffles with interesting fillings, with a choice of white or brown bread. Also hamburgers, steak sandwiches, egg and bacon sandwiches. They have a granita machine which wasn't working last weekend. They sell home made cakes, too. The people are friendly, but beware the young girl!

MERILYN WHIMPEY

Good value for bushwalking tucker

F.G. AMORE at 23 Pascoe Vale Road, Moonee Ponds - 370 1970 sells nuts ... dried fruits ... lentils ... beans and other pulses at reasonable prices. There are other temptations such as chocolate-coated nuts and raisins, sugar coated almonds, coconut and banana chips. Good value for extended trip provisions - or for general use. The hours are usual shopping hours.

Also - a refreshing alternative to the powdered drink mixes such as Lemon Barley Water, Tang, etc., is Nestles Tea Sling, a lime flavoured iced tea powdered mix.

HAVE YOU NOTICED ANOTHER "FOODIE" GROUP - deep in discussion during breaks in walks? It's the Scroggin Analysis Group, and its members can be seen sharing information, offering advice and, most important of all, sampling.

SANDRA MUTIMER

Closing date for copy for January "News" - Wednesday, 8th January. Articles should be placed in the red box in the clubrooms or sent direct to the editor, Merilyn Whimpey, 17 Phillips Street, Coburg, 3058.