

THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 409

MARCH 1985

Price 20c

Registered by Australia Post Publication VBH1297

1985 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE!

\$16 - ordinary member

\$24 - couple

\$ 8 - student/unemployed/pensioner

\$ 8 - news subscription

Please pay 1985 dues to:-

Winifred de Souza, 3/107 Wilson Street, MOONEE PONDS. 3039.

Members have three months (March, April, May) to renew membership so please get your subscription to me within that time. Make cheques payable to Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

SOCIAL COLUMN

So far (after 6 days in office) so good!! With the support of five able helpers our 1985 social calendar should be full and varied. I hope to carry on Rosemary's good work and will endeavour to have entertaining club nights, for the enjoyment of all. As Rosemary pointed out, this is a good opportunity to include new members and make them feel valued. Your views and suggestions would be appreciated. We will also try to include social functions for family groups and dream up something to bring the different cross sections within the club together. Again, suggestions please. See me in the clubroom or phone me at home. I work shift work, so keep trying!

EVENTS FOR APRIL:

AMADEUS

As a play Peter Shaffer's 'AMADEUS' won five coveted Antoinette Perry awards. Now Miles Forman and Saul Zaentz, the Academy Award creators of 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest' have transformed and expanded 'Amadeus' into a magnificent and unforgettable motion picture experience. Amadeus is based on the life and times of Mozart, the most exciting and controversial musical figure in history, who died mysteriously in poverty and disrepute. Winner of four Los Angeles Critics Awards and nominated for six Golden Globe Awards, Amadeus is a front running contender for major honours at this year's Academy Award presentations. Don't miss this one! Limited number of seats in "block". Bookings close Wednesday 27th March. Tickets available from Tracy or Mick Mann, in clubroom.

AMADEUS - The Motion Picture Hoyts Cinema Centre, 140 Bourke Street, City
Tuesday 2nd April - 8.30 pm
\$5.00
Meet in foyer or just go in.

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 (Continued)

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

"A whirling, twirling, fast moving load of fun" - The Australian. Come along and enjoy the Australian Opera with Hayes Gordon in this ensore season of the ever popular "Fiddler on the Roof". An excellent opportunity to visit the State Theatre if you haven't already done so, and to join in the fun. Again, book early. I have to collect and pay for tickets two weeks prior to the show, so bookings close Wednesday 3rd April. Tickets from Tracy or Betty Spencer in clubroom, or phone Betty 233 8865.

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF - The Australian Opera State Theatre, Victorian Arts Centre, St. Kilda Road 22nd April - Monday \$15.50 Time 7.30 pm. Meet in foyer.

YHA Bushwalking

ANNUAL BUSHIES' BALL

with "Shearer's Tally"

Malvern Town Hall Friday, March 29, 1985 at 8.00 pm TICKETS \$5.00 EACH BYO Basket Supper, Drinks, Glass

Last year's Bushies' Ball was a great success, as those club members who were there will testify. Merilyn Whimpey has tickets to sell in the clubrooms, or ring her on 386 0150 (H).

YHA Badminton/Portable Hostels

BUSH DANCE

Friday, May 31, 8 pm - 1.30 am South Melbourne Town Hall TICKETS \$5.00 EACH

Friday, 24th May

Gilbert & Sullivan - "RUDDIGORE"

Loyola Singers - Loyola Music Centre 326 Church Street, Richmond

Chicken & Champagne Supper Approx. \$12.00

See Tracy in clubrooms or talk to Graham Harding, who is one of the Loyola Singers.

* * * YACHT TRIP REFUND * * *

There is still a \$10 refund awaiting ten people who booked for the yacht trip on February 16th. Tlease see Rosemary Cotter. Any monies not collected by March 2. ... will be added to club revenue.

DAY WALKS APRIL 1985

APRIL 7 KING PARROT CREEK - FLAGPOLE HILL EASY & MEDIUM

LEADER PENNY STAPLEY - EASY

STEPHEN COURTNEY - MEDIUM

TRANSPORT VAN FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 7.30 pm MAP REF. FLOWERDALE 1:25,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 17 km - Medium; 13 km - Easy

The medium walk will include climbing, and of course descending. However, the views make this well worthwhile.

The easier walk will have more gentle ups and downs.

Be prepared for prevailing weather conditions.

APRIL 13 (SAT.) ALPHINGTON HISTORICAL WALK EASY

LEADER ATHOL SCHAFER

TRANSPORT MEET UNDER CLOCKS IN TIME TO CATCH THE 1.30 PM TRAIN EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 5.00 pm

Did you know that the denizens of Alphington once voted with their boots? Marched away from Heidelberg and joined up with Northcote, figuratively speaking. Come along and see why and also the noteworthy landmarks of this tiny suburb flanking the Yarra.

APRIL 14 3:: .)KINGLAKE CENTRAL - JEHOSAPHAT GULLY EASY & MEDIUM

LEADER GRAHAM HARDING - EASY (Phone 387 9831 (H) - not as in STAN ATTWOOD - MEDIUM calendar)

TRANSPORT VAN FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 7.30 pm MAP REF. STRATHEWEN 1:25,000

APPROX. DISTANCE Easy - 16 km; Medium - 17 km

The easy walk starts with a short climb to Mount Beggary from the Heidelberg Kinglake road and follows the ridgetop to Mount Everard before descending to Jehosaphat Creek. This is followed by a long steady climb to Mount Jerusalem. We finish at the Jehosaphat Gully car park. Walking is mainly on vehicle access tracks with pleasant views through the trees of surrounding bushland. As you can see there is some exertion of energy involved because of the hills.

The medium walk will be fairly strenuous as it is 17 km, and being at Kinglake it is naturally nearly all either uphill or downhill; however there are some excellent views and a variety of interesting terrain which makes it all very worthwhile. Starting where the Bowden spur meets the Whittlesea-Kinglake road we will descend the spur, some 400 metres with some superb views of Melbourne to the west. Turning south-east and by devious hills and gullies we will climb Mt. Beggary before joining the Cookland track to Jehosaphat Gully and the waiting van. Bring water for lunch.

APRIL 25 (THURS.) BRIDGE ROAD - YARRA RIVER - CHANDLER HWY EASY

LEADER JOPIE BODEGRAVEN

MAP REF. MELWAYS APPROX. DISTANCE 10 km

Most of us whizz over our Yarra in cars without giving it much thought, but it is a surprisingly beautiful river. This will be an opportunity to discover this for yourself. There is only one section in Kew where we cannot get access to the river banks, but the streets there are really very pleasant to walk through anyway. We will start with morning tea at Barbara Weiss's flat at 8/42 Creswick Street, Hawthorn, which is very close to Bridge Road. Let's be there at 10 am so everyone can sleep in a little. Then we walk 10 km, with a halfway break near Studley Park boatsheds, finishing finally at my house at 57 Park Cres. Fairfield for afternoon tea. We'll organise a short car shuffle for those not using public transport.

DAY WALKS (Continued)

SAILORS FALLS - DAYLESFORD SPRINGS APRIL 21

MEDIUM

LEADERS

PETER LENCH

DAVID DAVIES

TRANSPORT

VAN FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

For details of these walks please see the leaders in the clubrooms.

APRIL 27 (SAT.)

DANDENONGS EXPLORER NO. 2 -

EASY

PIRIANDA GARDENS - SASSAFRAS CREEK

ANNE BULLARD

TRANS.OMT: ENIVATE CARS I.OOP.M. SRAR!:

AP REFERENCE: LY 124 ar Roll DISTINC: 12

This walk has something for everyone. The Findra Gardens are something to see by themslves. e malk through the quiet undulating areas of Monbulk, Olinda and fallista. The scenery of beautifull grays, blues and greens all blend in together. Tall gums, cooling ferns and flowers that seem to be saying ello as they peep out at you every so often. Je are meetin and returnia to the C ravan Park on Baynes ark id. turning right of the onbilk id. comin from felbourne. After the walk I was wondering if you would care to join me in an all inclusive h.k.0 - h.d.d to round the day off perfectly. Please if you have any more questions about this wal do not hesitate to si ne in the Ulabroon

LERDERDERG GORGE - SWAN ROAD - LONG POINT APRIL 28 EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS

PENNY STAPLEY (MEDIUM); STUART HODGSON (EASY)

TRANSPORT

VAN FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN

MAP REF.

LERDERG CORGE FOREST PARK (F.C.V.) 1:25,000 APPROX. DISTANCE 15 km (medium)

On the medium walk we have two 300 m descents into the gorge, with beautiful views. Since what (or who) goes down must come up, we also have two challenging 300 m climbs up out of the gorge. This should keep everyone happy.

The area is regenerating well after the fires of two years ago, and wildlife seen on preview included a black snake and three goats.

Stuart Hodgson will lead an easy walk in the same area, for those who feel that their knees can't take all that climbing!

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Single male bushie, mid 40s, requires share accommodation eg. house, flat etc. Phone Noel Tolley 611 3402 (business hours).

FOR SALE

1 LOWE FITZROY PACK - 55 litre capacity. Suitable small to average sized women. Used 3 times.

\$99 (retail \$160)

Phone: Marion Siseman 878 1839

WEEKEND WALKS APRIL 1985

APRIL 5-9 WONNANGATTA STATION - VIKING - RAZOR - MEDIUM/HARD
MT SPECULATION - MT HOWITT - MACALISTER SPRINGS

LEADER PHIL TAYLOR
TRANSPORT PRIVATE

MAP REF. HOWITT 1:100,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 45 km

Last year this walk was attempted at Easter and it rained for two days. Next the snow prevented access - who knows what will happen this time. Fortunately, Easter is a little earlier so the chance of better weather is increased.

We will walk from Guy's Hut down to the Wonnangatta Valley for the first night. Second day will be over the Blue Hills to climb the Viking and then dropping down to Viking Saddle for the night. The next days involve climbing the Razor and Mt Speculation, then heading out over the Cross-Cut Saw to Mt Howitt and then on to MacAlister Springs to complete the trip.

This is an excellent trip through some of the best walking country in Victoria. Be prepared for bad weather, maybe even some snow. We should finish the walk early Tuesday morning to enable a pleasant trip back to Melbourne.

APRIL 13-14 FRASER NATIONAL PARK - MOUNTAINEER GULLY

For details of this walk see MARK TISCHLER in the clubrooms.

APRIL 19-21 MT BUFFALO BASE CAMP

EASY

LEADER MICK MANN
TRANSPORT PRIVATE

We will be base camping at the National Park camping ground at Lake Catani. From here we will walk some of the many walking tracks in the area. I don't intend to preview the walks but choose them from the National Park literature. As it is a base camp the walks are optional.

APRIL 24-28 FEATHERTOP - NIGGERHEADS - FAINTER -

EASY

JIM - HOTHAM

LEADER ROD MATTINGLEY

TRANSPORT PRIVATE

MAP REF. BOGONG 1:100,000; BOGONG HIGH PLAINS - ALGONA

APPROX. DISTANCE 72 km

As Anzac Day falls on a Thursday this year, by taking the Friday off, you get a full 4 days to enjoy the high country. The first day will be a relatively easy climb up the Bungalow Spur to camp below the High Knob on the Diamantina. Next day will be down to the West Kiewa and Blairs Hut, and then up to the High Plains and on to camp somewhere along the Niggerheads, with a side trip to the Fainters. On Saturday we will backtrack somewhat to climb Jim and then down to Cobungra Gap. There should be time for a side trip down the Cobungra for a while. Camp will be in the vicinity of Charlie Derricks Hut.

Sunday will be a long day and require an early start to take us over Mt. Hotham and down the Bon Accord Spur back to Harrietville.

Great scenery, good climbs and excellent campsites!

Please bring suitable water containers as we will have to carry water about 3½ km for Thursday night's camp.

EXTENDED WALK

MARCH 31 -	WILKY WANDERS BASE CAMP - EASY/MEDIUM
APRIL 8	BOGONG HIGH PLAINS
LEADER TRANSPORT MAP REF.	PHILIP LARKIN PRIVATE 1:25,000 - Cope, Fainter, Feathertop, Mount Wills, Nelse, and Shannon Vale - Vicmap 1:15,000 - Hotham, Pretty Valley and Rocky Valley - published by the Victoria Conservation Trust

APPROX. DISTANCE 120 km

This walk offers you a great variety of bushwalking over the nine days, with spectacular scenery, breathtaking views from the mountains and abundance of f and life on the high plains.

It features all of Victoria's major peaks such as Mt. Bogong of 1986 metres, Mt. Feathertop of 1922 metres and seven other major peaks. While in fine weather a visit to one of these mountains is a rewarding experience, there is always a feeling of satisfaction to have climbed one of these major peaks.

There is a great variety of flora, such as the snow gum, often forming extensive forests, with a large understorey of native plants. Another common feature of the Bogong High Plains are large areas of sphagnum moss bogs, kept permanently wet by underground springs and ground water. At this time of year and all year round there are numerous wildflowers to be found in this region.

Over the nine days there will be two extended walks out from Wilky staying out overnight. One trip will take in Pretty Valley, West Kiewa River and return via Cobungra Gap, Mt. Jim and Mt. Cope. The second overnight trip will take in Kelly Track down to Big River, Shannonvale and return via Middle Creek. Also there will be day walks to Mt. Nelse, The Niggerheads and Mt. Fainter.

This will all add up to an excellent and magnificent week of bushwalking over Easter. Over the week the walks will vary from easy, medium to hard to offer you some of Victoria's spectacular mountain scenery to magnificent valleys below the plains. Also I hope to visit several of the huts and many points of interest over the different walks.

Essentials for the week are tent, day and weekend packs, summer and winter clothing for the dubious alpine weather.

DEGENERACY CONTINUES 21 - 23 JUNE

The Marysville weekend is on again! A weekend of walking (and possibly lazing) while enjoying the delights of the Mountain Lodge Guest House, Marysville.

This is a really degenerate weekend where you have a choice of walking, eating and/or lazing in magnificent surroundings - bushwalking taken to its extremes. The walks are good, the food excellent, the accommodation dry and company unique. Come and enjoy a really different weekend with the Bushies.

COST: \$60 if we get over 50 people, \$65 if not

This includes full accommodation and meals, arriving after dinner Friday and departing after lunch Sunday.

Booking opens Wednesday 8th May, 7.30 (no phone or postal bookings please).

- MARIJKE AND GRAHAM MASCAS

WHAT'S ON

INTHE CLUBROOMS

March 27 - 8 pm PHOTO COMPETITION

Showing of entries and announcement of winners

We have got four categories for slides and the same four for prints. The slides will be shown as a slide show at 8 pm and the prints will be displayed from 7 pm onwards. All winners will be announced on the night and awarded their certificates and gift voucher prizes. We should see some top quality shots displayed. Come along and see if you agree with the judges. Absent winners will have their winnings, net of tax capital gains, death duties, etc. posted to them.

April 24 - 8 pm SLIDES - JAPAN

Lesley Forbes has recently been to Japan. Being a trigger-happy soul, she took heaps of slides which she has meticulously pruned down to a ¼ hour showing. She was enthralled by what she did and saw. Let's see if she can pass on those feelings through her slides and narration.

May 8 - 8 pm GUEST SPEAKER - SANDRA BARDWELL

Most of us have read either Sandra's bushwalking articles in The Age or her bushwalking books. She will be speaking on Long Distance Walking Tracks in Britain and Australia. I'm sure she would be only too pleased to answer questions on other areas too.

COMMITTEE NOTES

MEETING 4 MARCH 1985

Correspondence

A request was received from a market research firm wanting access to our mailing list. The request was ignored.

Treasurer

Balance as at end February approximately -\$4070.48 (debit) (no statement yet received)

Bills for payment:

Dennis	\$378.00
Melbourne Map Centre	105.00
Petrol	166.54
Printing of Programs	111.60
Conservation Council membership	15.00
Repairs to van	78.35

Walks Secretary

January 1985

Members	128	Weekend	56
Visitors	52	Day	124
			180

Sub-committees

The Transport sub-committee consists of Jim Hedstrom and Tony Stapley.

A sub-committee consisting of Neil Priestley, Rosemary Cotter and Athol Schafer has been formed to examine the By-Laws and recommend new ones.

COMMITTEE NOTES (Continued)

Neil Priestley and Hugh Duncan are to examine the hire equipment and recommend what can be disposed of and what is required to be of practical use to hirers.

Other Business

Alan and Lil Kitchener were granted an extension of their Absentee Membership.

The Committee decided that the existing concession membership rate (now \$8 per year) should apply to students, unemployed, and pensioners.

Duty Roster

March 13th Neil/Merilyn

20th Phil/Sylvia

27th Leonie/Hugh

April 3rd Noel/Athol

Next Committee meeting

l April

IS YOUR EQUIPMENT GETTING LAZY?

If you have any bushwalking equipment in good condition which you no longer use, the club may be interested in buying it. We are looking at ways to upgrade our equipment for hire, and would like to know whether good quality second hand items would be available.

The equipment would need to be of fairly recent design, and in better condition than our present stock of hire equipment. If you are interested, see Neil or Hugh in the clubrooms.

NEWS SUBSCRIBER -

Ms S. Nevile

35 Henry Street, Windsor 3151

CHANGES OF INFORMATION -

Eve Kinnear

2/19 Park Street, Hawthorn 3122 818 8367 (H)

Andrew Menk

22 Erskine Avenue,

478 2662 (H)

East Reservoir

Delete work number

CONGRATULATIONS

To Sissel and Peter Clunas on the birth of their daughter, Camilla Anita, on 21st January 1985, weighing 3600 grammes.

FOR SALE

BUSHWALKING BOOTS

l pair Army GP Size 8E

\$30.00 O.N.O.

l pair Size 42 Italian walking boots

\$40.00 O.N.O.

Good condition. Price negotiable.

Ring Sergio Rizzi

- (W) 615 5352; (H) 435 5978

REPORT OF

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD 27th FEBRUARY

1. The Annual Subscription was set as follows:

Individual \$16 Couple \$24 Student \$8 "News" Subscriber \$8

2. "Walk 86" is to be published.

3. The following Office Bearers and Committee were elected:

President: Geoff Mattingley
Vice-Presidents: Hugh Duncan
Athol Schafer

Secretary: Athol Schafer
Rosemary Cotter

Treasurer: Rob Ayre

Walks Secretary: Jopie Bodegraven Membership Secretary: Winifred de Souza

Social Secretary: Tracy Guest
"Wilky" Manager: Rod Mattingley
"News" Editor: Merilyn Whimpey
"Walk" Editor: Noel Tolley
General Committee: Phil Larkin
Sylvia Wilson

Leonie Duncan Neil Priestley

Mick Mann

4. The following were elected as Honorary Members:

Peter and Anne Bullard
Ken Briscoe
Graham and Sue Errey
Geoff and Jenny Kenafacke
Jim and Libby Marsden
Marion Siseman
Sue Filson
Merle Halls
Fay Pitt
Edna Richards

5. Wedding spoons were presented to:

Robyn and Michael Andersson Freda and Stephen Ennor

- 6. A motion that the system of Wilky bookings remain as it was last year was defeated.
- 7. A motion that a compulsory levy be struck to pay off the van was defeated.
- 8. A motion that "any visitor going on their first walk be strongly advised to go on a walk graded easy" was carried.

CLOVER DAM - MT. BOGONG ROCKY VALLEY

"You can't walk across there, can't you bloomin' people read notices?" A bad-tempered and cranky elder stood at the entrance to Cleve Cole Hut and pointed to the eroded track winding across the gully towards Maddison's and then to a small printed notice on the door. He escorted us grumpily and hostilely along the new track away to the side of the hut, where he left us at a stile over a new wire fence, muttering all the while about how the national parks people ought to know better and put up track-closed signs. We told him as cheerfully as possible of the other 18 members of the party following us who would also probably set off along the old eroded track as they had done for years but I don't think he heard. Besides, the weekend had been so enjoyable that none of us was prepared to spoil it with arguments. Although he did have a valid gripe, the tracks and the grounds about the hut were a mess, of erosion and litter, and apart from its delightful setting seen from a distance it was a much less attractive place than I had remembered.

We had reached Cleve Cole Hut on the second morning of the Australia Day expedition from Bogong to Rocky Valley, and after a long, tiresome first day's slog up from Clover Dam on the Falls Creek road. That day had started pleasantly enough with an easy climb in the cool morning from the Clover Power Station to a low saddle where the road met the SEC railway line that ran alongside an aqueduct feeding the hydro scheme. We followed the railway to a spacious clearing with a swimming hole shaded by willows and wild apples where Bogong Creek was channelled in the head of the aqueduct. The pool was irresistible and was a welcome stop before starting the endless climb beneath a steadily strengthening sun. It took several hours to reach where the ash and the woollybutts met the snowgums on Bogong Creek Saddle and another hour to reach the treeline on Quartz Ridge where the mountain breezes wafted deliciously cool across the herb fields and golden tussock grasslands of Bogong's summit.

That first night we camped on a broad saddle between West Peak and a small hillock that marked the end of the Quartz Ridge track and which, appropriately, was capped by an outcrop of pure white quartzite. Below the saddle was Cairn Creek deep in its catchment, with Bogong summit to the north and Granny Spur further to the east, and to the west of the saddle where the ground dropped away equally as dramatically into a steep rocky gully, the headwaters of Bogong Creek cascaded between banks of sphagnum moss and vigorous growths of silky daisies, and handsome specimens of leek-orchids. Much further to the west, beyond the desiccated summer farmlands of the Kiewa Valley, squatted the distinctive tableland bulk of Buffalo shaded by a dense pall of brown smoke that turned our sun first a dull golden hue and then to a deep scarlet. The temperature dropped suddenly and it became unpleasantly chilly and very soon we all reached for pullovers, parkas and woolly hats in which to last out the evening.

The following morning we crossed the bare grassy summit of Bogong while the day was still cool and breezy and dropped down to the scrubbier meadows of Horse Ridge, there to be beset by bushflies around our faces and marchflies around our legs and ankles, including a vicious and obstinate brute with bright green eyes and a maddeningly loud buzz. Having encountered the elderly bushwalker we walked on along the new track to Maddison's and on to Howman's Falls for a leisurely lunch under a hot sun and the dappled shade of snowgums. Again the sight of a cool cascade of mountain-fresh water proved irresistible and it was some time before we could leave our swimminghole for the long trek down T Spur to the stuffy humidity of the Big River.

The campsite on the Big River was small and overcrowded, and the hard-packed earth floor had been trampled bare of vegetation and was covered with a layer of fine, dry dust. The air deep in the narrow valley of the river was sultry and warm and smelled faintly of smoke.

CLOVER DAM - MT. BOGONG - POCKY VALLEY (Continued)

It was an unpleasant place to camp but the only alternative, to walk on and up to Roper's Hut in the hot afternoon, was even less appealling. But there was the tepid water of the river to swim in and a beach overhung with melaleuca to sit on to cook and talk, while the agony of the climb to Roper's was left until the morning.

There can be nothing more certain to infuriate sleepers just coming to consciousness in the early morning than the whispers of very early risers trying not to cause a disturbance. So it was not surprising that the advance party, who had been creeping around the close-packed tents since before dawn in the hope of reaching the cars by midday, were followed shortly afterwards by most of the main party. The threat of another very warm day urged on the steep, dusty scramble up the Duane Spur. The first climb, directly away from the river, was made in relative coolness but by the time we had reached the second steep climb the sun was again hot and glaring. Mt. Wills to the east faded into a pale blue haze as smoke from the bushfires crept along the valley of the Big River and curdled in the heat.

By then we were on the High Plains, revived by the breezes and a well-deserved rest at Roper's. A short deviation to Mt. Nelse across silver-grey meadows of snow daisies and rich yellow carpets of everlastings and scaly buttons rewarded us with glorious views of the High Plains and the sublime sweep of country from the craggy bluff of Timm's Lookout to the lonely grassy lump of Spion Kopje. Mt. Wills and beyond were still shrouded in a pale shining blue haze but from Bogong to Feathertop and round to Hotham the skyline was superbly clear and the colours of the mountains strong and dark.

We lunched at Edmorson's Hut, a prim well-built structure of new sheet-iron surrounded by short cropped grass completely devoid of fallen branches and twigs and as neat as a lawn, a place often visited by day-trippers and picnickers from Falls Creek. A short distance further on we climbed away from the road across a stretch of bare tussock and came on to Heathy Spur overlooking the rich blue waters of Rocky Valley Dam, ringed by low hills of snowgum woods and flowering thickets. Superb skiing country through which wound, beneath the hot summer sun, the dusty track skirting rocky outcrops and dried out bogs down to the icy-fresh waters of the dam.

Appropriately, the walk ended with yet another swim.

LES MARKHAM

And another report of the same walk . . . IT HAPPENED ON THE LONG WEEKEND

I am sorry to say, dear reader, that on this weekend not even Graeme could match his sighting last year of the couple in the Land Rover. But this certainly was a weekend of memorable sightings!

For the photographers, artists and meditators there were stunning views all weekend: glorious mountain tops covered in masses of brilliant wildflowers. And the campsite near West Peak on Saturday night was absolutely breathtaking.

For the voyeurs and humorists, there were the skinny dippers throwing snowballs in the sunshine at Howmans Falls, and there was a naked Noddy dangling upside down from a snowgum at Roper's Hut.

For the mountain cattle men, there were the lovely piles of fresh dung every three or four feet (that's a highlight you sure don't see in places like Tassie), just to improve the quality of the drinking water.

And for the socialites, there seemed to be representatives of every bushwalking club that was ever created. On Friday we camped with the men's club, then there was the VMTC, the VNPA, and the hordes of YHA groups, bumping into us all weekend and exchanging reports of

IT HAPPENED ON THE LONG WEEKEND (Continued)

conditions ahead and weather forecasts. Not to mention the private groups we encountered along the way (I told you not to mention them!).

At some stages the going was hot and tiring, but never boring. We all loved the swims Merilyn had promised us, and only carried our wet weather gear because our packs would have been too light.

Thanks Merilyn for a fantastic weekend.

NOEL TOLLEY

HIGHFIELD NATIONAL PARK

Our bus in Batman Avenue on Friday evening. Was this a mistake? No - thanks to our illustrious leader Art and the generosity of Sunday's day walkers we had the bus for a weekend excursion to Highfield National Park.

We boarded, complete with Eskys, liquid refreshment, bathers and other equipment considered a necessity for our weekend in the bunkhouse.

First major stop Mentone (Art's abode) when it was realised none of our stores were really necessary as box after box after box was loaded on to the bus.

On arrival we all selected beds, very comfortable bunks, mattresses and pillows supplied by the National Parks. Food was stored in the ample cupboards and refrigerators.

After a peaceful night we were joined by additional members on Saturday morning, some for just the day and others to stay the weekend.

Art led a morning walk through the National Park. We saw magnificent stands of blackboys meandering creeks, sharp steep banks, shaded gullies and, towards the end of the walk, an echidna crossed our track and tried to burrow under a bush. We returned to the bunkhouse for lunch and Art produced cold apple juice and "home-made" carrot cake.

Our afternoon walk was down to Bushranger Bay and this took about an hour. The track followed a very deep gully and we saw a lot of soil erosion. At Bushranger Bay the natural creek flowed into the surf.

Saturday evening following dinner a program of slides was scheduled. These were of previous walks and overseas travels. Graham and Marijka Mascas then shared their experiences of sailing to Tasmania from Queenscliff via King Island. They made us realize this trip, although very rewarding, could not be undertaken without a lot of preparation.

On Sunday we all set out to walk to Fingals Bay via Cape Shank. In spite of being well warned of a previous encounter in this area with an octopus in a rock pool, a few brave souls enjoyed a swim in this very pool. The water was deep, clear and very refreshing. The walk back from Cape Shank was made more interesting with the aid of a National Park brochure. Towards the end of the nature walk a pretty freshwater creek with bunches of watercress refreshed the tired walkers.

Werreturned to the hostel at about 3.00 pm, where Dennis awaited with the van and we commenced a leisurely drive back to Melbourne.

It was a most enjoyable weekend and we hope it becomes an annual event.

Thank you everyone for a very enjoyable weekend.

BYTHE WAY...

When I mentioned to some friends this time last year that I was thinking of going on the Palm Sunday March for Peace they asked: "Now what good do you think that's going to do?" I answered that I honestly didn't know, but at least it was doing something. It wasn't until a day afterwards that the real meaning of it struck home when the numbers of the people marching all over the world were published. One had stood up and been counted and it was heartening. The groups at the Melbourne rally wanted slightly different variations on the Nuclear Disarmament theme, but the common denominator was peace. I see this as the ultimate bit of conservation. In the crowd last year there were several other Bushies, so I thought perhaps we might join together this year, and if you're not doing anything else maybe you'll come too?

Date: Sunday 31st March.

Meet near corner of Wellington Parade and Spring Street at 11.30 a.m. Departing at 1.00 to march to Flinders Park (Melway Map 2G B8). Don't forget your lunch.

Further information 836 6342 after 4.00 pm or in the clubrooms.

During Christmas the brakes on my car gave out in Tawonga and after checking at the Mt. Beauty petrol station, Pyles garage in Tawonga South, I ended up at Dave Piera's garage in Tawonga - opposite the little store. He was most obliging, did a good job and was cheap. May I recommend him.

Apparently 8 Mile Creek to 12 Mile Creek along the Howqua River has been decimated by a freak wind storm. The trees have been snapped off 6 feet above ground, so creating a right shambles. The Forests Commission are rumoured to be clearing this in time. The same thing happened 40 years ago, it seems.

- SYLVIA WILSON

Closing date for April News - Wednesday, 3rd April. Articles for News can be put in the red box in the clubrooms, posted to the address shown on page 2, or sent to the editor, Merilyn Whimpey, 17 Phillips Street, Coburg, 3058.

Thanks Les, Noel, Margaret, Jan and Sylvia for your "extras". Let's hope you inspire others to make contributions.