

THE NEWS

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MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

416

OCTOBER 1985

PRICE 20 C

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

PEOPLE ON PRITIKIN DIETS NEED NOT READ THE LAST PAGE.

SOCIAL COLUMN

Friday October 18th

A COMET CALLED HALLEY

We have a booking at the Melbourne Planetarium on <u>Friday October 18th at 8.00 pm</u> for a program on Halley's Comet. The presentation takes about 45 minutes, and will be followed by a question and answer session. The cost is \$1.50 for adults and \$1.00 for children. The Planetarium is in the Museum building at 328 Swanston Street. Come along and find out what you always wanted to know but didn't know who to ask (about Halley's Comet), without fear of interruption by bad weather. To book, see Hugh in the clubrooms. And don't forget the starting time, because latecomers cannot be admitted!

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For those of you who cannot resist the temptations of good Chinese food, then this is a function not to be missed.

Date: Saturday 19th October

Venue: King Wah

1st Floor, 233 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

Time: 1.00 pm

Price: \$10.00 per person

We will be served 11 courses and then assured that nobody will leave hungry.

For bookings, please see Andrea Mann or Caroline Strickland in the clubrooms. Closing date for bookings Wednesday 9th October.

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Joyce Dunn has very kindly offered to "Bake us a Cake". Tickets 20c each or 6 for \$1.00. Tickets available in clubrooms. To be drawn at Club Breakup, 18th December. Also 2nd Prize Basket of Fruit and 3rd Prize Mystery Package? Thanks, Joyce.

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

wants volunteers to help out either in the office or in sales, especially over the Christmas period. Anyone with a bit of time on their hands and an interest in conservation?

If you can help, please contact Anna or Jan at the Wilderness Society, phone 67 2867.

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)

Saturday 16th November

WERRIBEE PARK

A wood Bar-B-Q has been booked in a shady area of the park's picnic grounds from 12 noon, Saturday 16th November. To drive from Melbourne take the Geelong Road, via either the West Gate Bridge or Flemington Road and turn off to Werribee, following the 'Werribee Park' signs. Drive to the car park. Our Barbie is the last one to the left - wood is provided. From the road Werribee Park looks deceivingly flat and bare. Not so. The formal garden with some 400 trees and shrubs buffers the park mansion from the windy treeless plains and features a colourful parterre set around a fountain, sweeping green lawns, an ornamental lake with island grotto and glasshouses. One of the earliest Australian ha-ha walls, built to keep stock from the garden without impeding the view, encircles the 1850s homestead. The landscape changes suddenly from flat grassy farmland to the steep cliffs of the Werribee River, with its flood plain and majestic river red gums. The features are too many and varied to mention here. Be warned though. THERE ARE MOSSIES!! Oh yes, not to forget the Zoo Safari Tours which are conducted by bus for \$3 (adults) and \$1.50 (children). It also costs to get into the mansion.

No need to book. Just turn up. And BONUS, folks. Stuart Hodgson has invited us back to his place afterwards. Will 12 Quartok Avenue ever be the same again? Thanks Stuart!

Date:

Saturday 16th November

Time:

From 12 noon

Venue:

Werribee Park - MMBW

Admission: Free

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YHA BUSH DANCE

Friday, 22nd November - South Melbourne Town Hall

\$5.00

See Mick Mann in clubrooms.

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Friday 22nd November

"THE GONDOLIERS"
(+ chicken & champagne)

by Gilbert and Sullivan

This is another in the popular series of enjoyable nights of entertainment by Loyola Musical Society. Sherries served at 7.15 pm at Loyola Music Theatre (behind St. Ignatius Church), 326 Church Street, Richmond. Cost is \$12.50. See Graham Harding for bookings. 266 4222 (H).

SOCIAL COLUMN (Continued)

AUSTRIA HOUSE

Something for the children and the Christmas season. Termed a 'Celebration for Children', Krampus & Nikolaus at Austria Haus. Haven't all the details yet but it's on December 8th (Sunday). See Tracy in clubrooms for further details.

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CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY AT THE CUCKOO - OLINDA

Have been out to The Cuckoo to 'case the joint' and am pleased to report that we have been allocated good tables near the dance floor and not on top of the food (won't get trampled under foot etc.). Looking good. 20 seats booked so far. We will be on the ground floor level to the left as you enter.

Cost: \$25

Time: 7.00 pm - 12 midnight Venue: The Cuckoo Restaurant,

Mt. Dandenong Tourist Road, Olinda

(Licensed)

Date: Saturday 14th December

Contact: Tracy for bookings, either by post or in the

clubrooms. Please let me know if you would be interested in using our van for transport.

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WHAT'S ON IN THE CLUBROOMS

Phil Larkin has some slides of the MacDonnell Ranges and Ayers Rock which will be shown on Wednesday 16th October. Promises to be an interesting evening with Shutterbug Phil. Coffee at 9.00 pm.

SLIDES

Jopie's turn for overseas slides on Wednesday 6th November. These will include shots of Switzerland, U.S.A., Japan and Holland. Yea Jopie!! Coffee at 9.00 pm.

CLUB AUCTION NIGHT

Then on Wednesday 20th November the CLUB AUCTION is ON. Get all that unwanted gear sorted out. Bob Douglas will be wielding the hammer at 7.30 pm and as usual the club will get a 10% commission on items sold. Always a good night with a few laughs.

END-OF-YEAR CLUBROOM CHRISTMAS PARTY

Don't forget Wednesday 18th December for end-of-year breakup.

The booking at the Ballarat Observatory for Saturday 12th April has been confirmed. We have decided to kick off with a Bar-B-Q 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.

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NEW ADDRESS: TRACY GUEST,

11 WALNUT STREET, MALVERN 3144. PHONE 20 5795.

DAY WALKS NOVEMBER 1985

SUN. NOV. 3 QUO VADIS - MURRINDINDI CASCADES EASY & MEDIUM

LEADER PHILIP LARK (813 2271)

PETER BULLARD (SUB LEADER)

TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE

MAP REFERENCE VICMAP 1:25,000 KLONDYKE, MONDA;

FCV 1:100,000 TOOLANGI-BLACK RANGE

APPROX. DISTANCE 15/20 KM

This walk takes you through some less known rain forest around Melbourne, containing some excellent stands of mountain ash, shining gum and messmate from the regeneration after the forest fires of 1939, with a variety of other tree species on the lower slopes. Within these forests there is abundance of bird life, including smaller varieties from the yellow robin to the blue wren.

Both walks start from the higher slopes and gradually continue down to the Murrindindi Valley to finish at the tranquil and picturesque Murrindindi Cascades. An ideal walk for the warmer weather, so bring along your bathers for a dip in the river at the finish of the walk.

TUE. NOV. 5 HEPBURN - DAYLESFORD SPRINGS (CUP DAY) EASY-MEDIUM

LEADER PHILIP LARKIN (813 2271)

TRANSPORT PRIVATE CARS LEAVING FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 8.30 am

MAP REFERENCE VICMAPS 1:25,000 DAYLESFORD, EGANSTOWN

APPROX. DISTANCE 15 KM

This walk offers you many mineral springs which were discovered by the early settlers and prospectors in the gold boom era. The walk follows old gold miners' tracks and water races from the mining era, with visits to several springs during the day. Bring along a cup for mineral water tastings along the track. The walk will start from Batman Avenue at 8.30 am and drive out to Daylesford for a pleasant day's walk.

SAT. NOV. 9 HISTORICAL WALK - MOONEE PONDS EASY

LEADER ATHOL SCAHFER

TRANSPORT Meet under The Clocks by 1.30 p.m.

Ticket: Inner Neighbourhood

Mention 'The Ponds' and most think of poor old Sandy Stone and the mythical Humoresque Street. In reality the location was a stage on the way to the Mount Alexander gold diggings. We will inspect a number of buildings, monuments and sites of historical significance.

SUN. NOV. 10 MINTO HILLS - JUNCTION RIDGE EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS

ROSEMARY COTTER & STEPHEN COURTENAY
TRANSPORT

BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 7.30 pm

MAP REFERENCE FLOWERDALE 1:25,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 18 KM and 14 KM

Walks in the Flowerdale area are always popular, and this should be no exception. Both walks take in two ridges (the Minto Hills and Yea Spur), which afford magnificent views towards the Goulburn Valley to the north, and the Three Sisters - Strath Creek panorama to the south. There is plenty of birdlife, as well as rabbits, kangaroos, rabbits and rabbits.

N.B. There is one major descent and one climb for each walk.

P.S. You will need to bring water.

SAT. NOV. 15 CYCLE TRIP

LEADER

ART TERRY

TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE

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

DAY WALKS (Continued)

SUN. NOV. 17 MT. HELEN - HUGHES CREEK - DROPMORE EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS GERALD YOUNG & NEIL PRIESTLEY
TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9,00 am

MAP REFERENCE YEA AND LONGWOOD 1:50,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 11 & 16 KM

This is a walk in delightful farming land high in the Sutherland Ranges. There will be some gentle climbs and quite a bit of creek hopping. It is mainly open country with lots of good long views. The medium walk is similar to the easy one, just a bit longer. Bring water for lunch as the creeks are in grazing land.

SUN. NOV. 24 POWELLTOWN - 7 ACRE ROCK - EASY & MEDIUM KOBIOLKE TRACK

LEADERS FRED HALLS & DAVE LEGERTON

TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

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

SAT. NOV. 30 DANDENONGS EXPLORER NO. 4
JOHN'S HILL - MENZIES CREEK TRACK - MONBULK

LEADER MIKE CLODE

TRAIN FROM MELBOURNE ARRIVES BELGRAVE MIDDAY

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 5 pm

MAP REFERENCE MELWAYS page 124 Kll to Hl via page 125 E6

The walk from John's Hill, Clematis to Monbulk takes three or four hours. A shuttle of cars will (hopefully) be laid on from Belgrave station at midday, with a fee of \$1 being payable to your driver (plus an extra dollar if you're a visitor).

From the top of John's Hill there is a magnificent panoramic view of the mountains and dams - particularly Cardinia. The descent is fairly reasonable but the whole of the route can be muddy in parts at this time of year. Following the creeks (Menzies, Sassafras and Woori Yallock) is very pleasant, the path running through a swathe of indigenous bush, and involves crossing the creeks on wooden bridges in varying states of repair - one, in typically antipodean fashion, is crossed upside down.

Apart from John's Hill, it is all on the flat and, if they can cope with the numbers, the "Chelsea Bun" teashop at Monbulk is waiting to undo all our good work, figure-wise.

The only things to be wary of are the two dogs at the narrow bridge and Jim (Gymnorhynchus), the territorial magpie, who has kamikazi tendencies (the only effective defence I found was an umbrella. (Ref. Melways p.124 Kll, p.125 El2; E6; A6; p.124 Hl.)

WEEKENDWALKS

OCTOBER 25-27 BASE CAMP - BRYCES GORGE

EASY

LEADER SPENCER GEORGE
TRANSPORT PRIVATE CARS
EXPECTED TIME OF RETUPN 9.00 pm

MAP REFERENCE VMTC KING, HOWQUA & JAMIESON

VMTC MACALISTER RIVER WATERSHED

APPROX. DISTANCE 25 KM

Two day walks are planned. One will be to Mt. Howitt, from which may be viewed the Crosscut Saw. The Viking, The Razor and Terrible Hollow. The other will descend into Bryces Gorge to photograph the waterfalls. A campsite will be found within walking distance of the cars. This is a walk, NOT a bludge.

WEEKEND WALKS (Continued)

NOVEMBER 1-3 MT ERICA - BAW BAW - STRONACHS GAP

MEDIUM

LEADER DAVID LEGERTON

TRANSPORT PRIVATE

We will leave from Stronachs Camp at the northern end of Mt. Baw Baw National Park and walk along the Alpine Track. Overnight camp may be at Mustering Flat, depending on time and weather. We will most probably finish the walk at the Mt. Erica Car Park. We would need at least two cars because of the distance between start and finish points. The walk is undulating, with no very long climbs and is on a good foot track (not four wheel drive).

NOVEMBER 1-5 (INCLUDES CUP DAY) ERRINUNDRA PLATEAU

BASE CAMP

VARIOUS

LEADER GEOFF MATTINGLEY

TRANSPORT PRIVATE

MAP REFERENCE NATMAP 1:100,000 BENDOC; FCV 1:63,360 ELLERY

"The Errinundra Plateau carries some of the oldest surviving vegetation in Australia, with the oldest eucalypts being estimated at 400-500 years..." The VNPA and others have been campaigning to have this unique area reserved from logging and clear-felling, but some of the scenic and wilderness values have already been destroyed. This trip provides an opportunity to see the area before any more of it is lost. Because of limited camp sites and thick undergrowth, it will be run as a base camp. There will be ample opportunities for botanising, etc. As far as I know, the club has not been to this area before, so I am relying on notes from a previous VNPA trip. Although a long way from Melbourne, we will have four days including Cup Day, for what promises to be a very interesting look at some of Victoria's most spectacular forest country.

NOVEMBER 8-10 EIGHT MILE SPUR - THE BLUFF - SIXTEEN MILE SPUR - HOWQUA RIVER

EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER GRAHAM BREEN
TRANSPORT PRIVATE CARS

MAP REFERENCE VMTC - WATERSHEDS OF THE KING, HOWQUA &

JAMIESON RIVERS

APPROX. DISTANCE 26 KM

Friday night - Camp at 8 Mile Flat

Saturday - Ascend the steep, rough track up the 8 Mile Spur through
forest about 4 km then easier going for about 2 km then almost
straight up for 1 km, with the last bit involving a bit of easy
rock clambering. Magnificent views from The Bluff in all directions,
then a short 1 km to an idyllic camp site in an alpine meadow.

Sunday - Easy walk to Bluff Hut then descend to the Howqua via
16 Mile Spur 4-wheel-drive track. The rest of the walk follows a
foot track above the Howqua with picturesque riverscapes along the
way back to 8 Mile Flat.

NOVEMBER 15-17 MT LOCH - COBUNGRA RIVER - WHISKY FLAT EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER ROD MATTINGLEY
TRANSPORT PRIVATE CARS

MAP REFERENCE FEATHERTOP 1:25,000 or 1 inch/mile

A pleasant walk in the Mt Hotham area with some interesting walking down the Cobungra River. We'll camp at Freeburgh on Friday night and meet again Saturday morning at the Loch car park and shuffle cars down to the Brandy Creek mine track. We will follow Machinery Spur past Mt. Loch and then down Dibbins divide to Cobungra Gap and camp some distance down the river.

The interesting part will be on Sunday, following the Cobungra all the way down to Brandy Creek and then up to the cars.

Total distance only about 20 km.

WEEKEND WALKS (Continued)

NOVEMBER 22-24 PRESIDENT'S BASE CAMP - GRAMPIANS EVERY (NOT AVON RIVER)

LEADER THE PRESIDENT TRANSPORT PRIVATE CARS

MAP REFERENCE GRAMPIANS 1:100,000; FCV GRAMPIANS TYRONE'S "50 WALKS IN THE GRAMPIANS"

Although originally programmed for the Avon River, recent inspection of possible sites showed that the only suitable one intthe area, where we have had base camps before, is affected badly by trail bikes. There is also very little firewood. Accordingly, the venue will be The Grampians, at a recently discovered "ideal" camp site just west of the Victoria Range. Lots of opportunities for day walks of every degree of difficulty, or just enjoying the outdoors. Should be lots of flowers, too. Please bring all your own food etc. and any musical instruments, songs, comedy acts, or other entertainments you may have. Everyone welcome. Maps of "how to get there" will be provided beforehand.

NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 1 BENNIES - MT COBBLER - MEDIUM/HARD
MT LITTLE COBBLER

LEADER MERILYN WHIMPEY
TRANSPORT PRIVATE CARS
MAP REFERENCE HOWITT 1:100,000

We will meet at Bennies on Saturday morning (or camp there on Friday night) and drive down the road to a very small car parking area at the foot of Little Cobbler. We walk up an open spur which will get us on to the Mt. Cobbler road a bit below Lake Cobbler. Lake Cobbler has been taken over by 4-wheel-drives and trail bikes, so we won't camp there. I know an interesting camp site on rocks in a creek gully - tents not really possible - or nearer the summit of Cobbler there's a very nice camp site in the snow gums.

Sunday will be the harder day - we go over Cobbler and rock-scramble down the other side, then up Little Cobbler and down the ridge back to the cars. Water will have to be carried for the whole of Sunday.

EASTER EXTENDED TRIP - ADVANCE NOTICE

BUDAWANGS - ETTREMA GORGE - BLUE MOUNTAINS

LEADER JOPIE BODEGRAVEN

This will be a 10 day trip for those who can take off the days between Easter Tuesday and the following weekend. If there is demand, it could be extended to a full 2 week trip. The 10 days will most likely consist of three separate pack carrying bushwalks, three days in the southern Budawangs, three days in the northern Budawangs and two days in Ettrema Gorge. The possible 7 day extension would take in parts of the Blue Mountains and would be a mixture of one and two day walks. Those who can only get Easter off could still come for the first three day circuit. More details later.

HELPING DISABLED PEOPLE ENJOY THE BUSH

Recently our club received a letter from Bush Wheelers. Bush Wheelers is a bushwalking club that caters for people with disabilities. Since 1983 the club has held several one and two day trips. Most trips are planned to be accessible for wheelchairs by following fire access tracks and walking in flat country.

The club is having difficulty finding leaders for club trips and has asked if we can help. They can provide people to assist but lack people with the skills to organise and lead a trip.

(Continued)

HELPING DISABLED PEOPLE ENJOY THE BUSH (Continued)

A copy of the letter, together with a brochure on Bushwheelers and trip planning information is on the permanent noticeboard in our clubrooms. Anybody interested in helping can contact Bush Wheelers Walks Committee c/- Sally Legge, 330 Canterbury Road, Ringwood 3134, phone 561 1233 (BH) or 870 0016 AH.

WALKS PROGRAMME FOR DECEMBER

To let you plan your weekends in December well in advance, here's a sneak look at what's coming.

Date	Location	Grade	<u>Leader</u>
Sun 1	Wild Dog Creek - Old Strzelecki Railway	Easy & Med.	Jenny Ross & Jopie Bodegraven
6-8	Mt Stirling - Mt Buller Youth Hostel - Mirimbah	Easy/Medium	Keith White
Sun 8	Fairhaven - Lorne	Easy & Med.	Ed Lawton & Anne Bullard
13-15	Crosscut Saw - Devil's Staircase	Med. Hard	Mark Tischler
Sun 15	Mt Grant - Mt Strickland - Marysville	Easy & Med.	Phil Larkin & Ian Newbold
Sun 22	Lades Falls - Switzerland Range - Jacks Creek	Easy & Med.	Rob Ayre & Brian Costa
26-29	Roof of Victoria - Exploring Mt Bogong	Medium	Doug Pocock
	Base camping - Snowy Mountains & Ben Boyd National Park	Easy	Phil Larkin
?	? Other extended trips ?	?	

TASSIE TRIPS

The Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service is asking walkers in the State's South-West and Central Plateau areas to carry and use portable stoves instead of lighting campfires.

Tasmania's rainforests and highland areas are unique. Escaped campfires can destroy these areas forever. Many of Tasmania's highland plant species do not regenerate after fire.

Much of the State's ground surface, particularly in South-Western and Central Tasmania, consists of peat. Peat fires can burn underground for many months.

Firewood is a diminishing resource around many highland campsites.

Please help to conserve our heritage. Carry and use a stove.

Have you noticed that with all The Age's new features, the bushwalking and other outdoor activities section, formerly in the Weekender, has now disappeared?

Ring Peter Wilmott (66 0421) to register your complaint.

- SANDRA MUTIMER

HOUSE TO SHARE

Our three person household is losing one member. We're in Fairfield near the Yarra and are looking for a non smoker to bring us back to full strength. If interested ring Jenny or Jopie on 489 2221.

COMMITTEE NOTES MEETING 7TH OCTOBER

Correspondence

Circular re "minimal impact" walking in Tasmania. Questionnaire on Track and Hut maintenance from FVWC. Invitation to opening of Mt Worth State Park on 3rd November.

Treasurer

Accounts paid since last committee meeting and ratified:

Mercantile Mutual	bus insurance	\$432.28
	Dennis compensation i	nsurance 151.94
RACV	membership	28.00
Dennis Barson	driving for August	300.00
Mountain Designs	clubroom rental Jan-J	une 85 672.00
Nicholas Kinsman	Public Liability Insu	rance 458.00
G. Crapper	"Trivial Pursuit" gan	le
	for Wilky	45.50
P. Gronow	Bus repairs	203.79
Rampower Clayton	Petrol August 85	238.64
Bermel Business Systems	"Walk 1986" typing	34.50
R. Hill & Son	"Ecos" subscription	7.00
		\$2571.65

Bank Balance as at 1/9/85 \$1786.58

Accounts to be paid this month:

Dennis	- driving etc.	\$378.00
Melbourne Map Centre	maps	27.85
P. Gronow	- bus repairs (fuel tank)	100.00
Alpine Observer	- subscription	28.75
Bermel Business Systems	- "Walk 1986" typing	135.00
Rampower Clayton	- Petrol September 85	262.36
		\$931.96

Bank Balance as at 1/10/85 \$1477.22

Auditing

Resolved that the two Auditors (required by Club Rules) may share the auditing task as they see fit. (Clarification needed.)

Walks Secretary

August	Day	164	Members	136
	Weekend	41	Visitors	69
		205		205

Total Income \$1298

Walk 1986

Out in November, hopefully.

Maps

Resolved to purchase 24 FCV l":1 mile maps for most used areas.

Search and Rescue

Resolved to make up first-aid kits (two suitable for day walks, one for weekend walks) for use by walk leaders. Co-operation will be required to ensure that:

- (a) kits are actually taken on walks, and
- (b) are handed on to next leader;
- (c) anything used is replaced.

Day walk kits will be kept in the bus, and weekend kit in the clubrooms. Peter Bullard to make up kits in accordance with S&R recommendations.

COMMITTEE NOTES (Continued)

Duty Roster

October 16 Geoff/Merilyn

23 Sylvia/Hugh

30 Rosemary/Rod

November 6 Phil/Athol

13 Geoff/Winifred

Next Committee meeting

November 11th (note date).

SNOW-MOBILE VENTURE PLANNED FOR THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS!!!!

This extremely important issue which is of grave concern to ALL cross-country skiers is yet another venture which is out to exploit the Victorian Alps.

Apparently a group has formed at Falls Creek calling itself the "Snow-mobile Association of Victoria." The people behind the scheme are believed to have commercial ventures at Falls Creek already, such as hoteliers and commercial lodge owners etc.

To have any form of snow-mobile activity on the High Plains other than for search and rescue and management purposes would fly in the face of the Government accepted recommendations of the Land Conservation Council.

It has also been reported that this newly formed skidoo club intends to vigorously lobby the Government in the hope that the current restrictions on snow-mobiles regardless of their use are significantly relaxed.

This skidoo club also intends to establish itself at most of the other resorts. We have already witnessed maverick developments at the Bluff and a similar gross intrusion of skidoos cavorting all over the High Plains cannot and will not be tolerated!

It cannot be stressed enough that a development such as this will have a devastating effect on both the environment and the experience sought by cross-country skiers.

THIS PROPOSAL MUST BE STOPPED DEAD IN ITS TRACKS!

It is strongly recommended that members write to the following people to express their serious concern:

Chairman, Alpine Resorts Commission, 280 William St. Melbourne 3000 Chairman, Land Conservation Council, 464 St Kilda Road, Melbourne 3004 Director, National Parks Service, P.O. Box 41, East Melbourne 3002 Director, State Forests and Lands Service, P.O. Box 41, East Melbourne 3002

Ms Joan Kirner, Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, P.O. Box 41, East Melbourne 3002

The Honourable Mr John Cain, Premier of Victoria, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne 3001.

If you don't like trail bikes around while you're bushwalking you will detest the presence of any ear piercing skidoos buzzing around and destroying our Alps. Make sure you write to the above people and show your concern.

(From SKITOUR, the official newsletter of the Ski Touring Association of Victoria (Inc.))

A CHILLY MUSTER AT MUSTERING FLAT

"I mustn't yell out!" she cheerfully shrieked across the carpark to her two children as they set out from the St Gwinear carpark with another group.

So this was it. The beginning of a weekend of wind and snow and sleet and rain. The start of a new adventure for many of us who were unfamiliar with snow camping. Sylvia had greeted and introduced her offspring, and now she led us on a thoroughly enjoyable (despite the weather) tour of the Baw Baw Plateau, with "ski-in base camp" at Mustering Flat and Sunday morning coffee at Baw Baw Village.

It began as an ego trip. Beginners and tourists and day trippers stared in disbelief as we threaded our way between them with our heavy loads, feigning indifference to their amazement at our foolhardiness. But later, when we left the crowds behind and began to feel the rhythm of skiing with weekend packs, we became much more aware of the incredible peace and beauty of the area, and the sheer joy of skiing in perfect snow.

Sure, the weather was a bit inhospitable. But if the weather had been different, would the snow have been as good? And in any case, we were well equipped and comfortably protected from the cold and wet conditions.

Would we try snow camping again? Well, some said they preferred camping below the snowline, thereby avoiding skiing with the weight of full packs. For me, the pack was not a real problem, but I did observe that choice of equipment - particularly tent - could be the deciding factor between enjoyment and misery in adverse conditions. And I could recommend some major modifications to that well-known brand of tent, which has now proved to be a sauna bath in all seasons.

- NOEL TOLLEY

CONGRATULATIONS

- * * * The very happy and private marriage of Jill Duffield * * * * and Graeme Breen. Congratulations to both of you.
- * * * Congratulations to Robyn and Mike Andersson on the * * * birth of their daughter Narelle Marie, born on Friday, 13th September. Both Robyn and Narelle are well and look beautiful.
- * * * Graham and Janet Hodgson announce the arrival of * * * * their second child, Alexander Robert, on 4th August.

 Congratulations to you too, Graham and Janet.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Linda Griffiths	11 Mary Avenue, Highett, 3190	555	2127	(H
Tidas OlCannas	190 Heatherdale Road, Vermont, 3133	874	1339	(H

Shiela Lowe 28 Larch Street, Blackburn, 3130 878 2387 (H

Mary-Louise Coutts
307 Balwan Road, North Balwan 3104, 857 9139 (H)

James Pittock

307 Balwyn Road, North Balwyn 3104

38 Yackatoon Avenue, Aspendale 3195

587 1704 (H)

677 Rathdown Street, Carlton 3054 348 1175 (H)

Philip Harvey

347 8480 (W)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Chris Little 5 Considine Close, Queanbeyan, N.S.W. 2620

Zoltan Jakab 5/111 Grosvenor Street, Balaclava 3183 527 6743 (H)

Helen Hare Lot 91, Koolbirra Road, Maryknoll 3812 (059) 428 375

Gary Wills 10 Mitchell Street, Brunswick 3056 383 4120

BY THE WAY

While driving through Marysville recently after a hard day's skiing up at Lake Mountain we thought a GOOD cup of something was in order. Mark said there was a decent place he knew of, but it was closed. Then he thought there was a nice Devonshire tea place around but couldn't remember where. I only knew of an awful cafe. There were a couple of milk bar/chip shop places left so we tried one of them. Awful again; and as we sat outside sipping our mediocre hot chocolates the idea was conceived of compiling a list of decent places to eat while on the run (walk or ski) around Victoria. If lots of people contributed we could probably get it together quite quickly, ie. before the premises changed hands. Standards will differ but a combination of pleasant surroundings, good value, good food, reasonable service, no loud music (thank you Rosemary!) will make a start. We'll put them at the end of News so people can tear them out, staple them together and put them in their glove box (it's the sort of thing I always leave at home).

More from Mark Tischler:

MT. ST. GWINNEAR - WINTER ONLY

Kiosk in car park. Carrot cake is excellent.

And me:

BRIDGEWATER BAY, PORTLAND. Kiosk on beach. Just as good as before; carrot cake is scrumptious.

HEALESVILLE, just north, on main road. Jo Bangles Restaurant. A bit up market this; white table cloths, fitted carpet and glorious Vivaldi; but genuine welcome despite our looking well snowed and rained on from Lake Mountain. All drinks were very reasonable but the cakes were part of the menu for lunch, beautifully decorated and expensive. Service moderately slow but a lovely experience.

BENALLA. Chip shop, just beyond Police Station, same side of road, do a screaming U-ey into a one way street. Hamburgers are good.

WARRAGUL. Chip shop, on the way home: over bridge, left at lights, 50 yards up on left. Hamburgers are good, chips moderate. (Souvlakis OK too - ED.)

MANSFIELD - The Witches' Brew, at end of main street. Home made everything, absolutely yummy; slow service, especially when full, but worth it.

PORT CAMPBELL - Muggins, on road out to Peterborough. Cancel walk and go here instead. NOT to be missed or rushed. Home made everything. Definitely 5 star stuff. (Home made bread can be bought to take home too.)

Any suggestions for Euroa these days? And which is the Myrtleford pizza place that's lots better than the rest?

Tom Kneen: Apparently his body was found last week.