

THE NEWS

OF THE

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

415

SEPTEMBER 1985

PRICE 20 C

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST PUBLICATION NO. VBH 1297

SOCIAL COLUMN

Wednesday 25th September

MYSTERY MOVIE EVENING - PLUS CHEAP EATS

Melbourne boasts some excellent "alternative" movie houses, which show good films at modest prices. Plus they usually are good fun to visit! We plan to sample one of the Cheap Eats Restaurants advertised in The Weekender some time ago, and then off to the movies. Unfortunately programmes, except for Valhalla, aren't available so far in advance, so MYSTERY all round! A fun night, and no work the following day (Show Day public holiday). No need to book - just turn up - but please be on time.

Cost: Film approx. \$3.50

Meal - main course approx. \$3-\$5. BYO

Time: Meet at 6 pm sharp

Place: 194 Faraday Street, Carlton Date: Wednesday 25th September

---000---

GILBERT AND SULLIVAN

For those who enjoy comic opera, a treat. The Savoy Opera Company is staging a season of Trial by Jury and Pirates of Penzance, both in the same performance. This is by way of an "extra" for October. If you would like to arrange your own party please contact Mrs. Valk, 11 Stirling Street, Ferntree Gully, 3156, telephone 758 1939. When writing for tickets, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Cost: \$7.50 Time: 8.00 nm

Place: Camberwell Civic Centre

Dates: October 1-5; matinee Saturday 5th at 2 pm

---00---

WHAT'S ON IN THE CLUBROOMS

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

---000---

A COMET CALLED HALLEY

We have a booking at the Melbourne Planetarium on <u>Friday October 18th</u> at 8.00 pm 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!

Correspondence should be directed to:-

The Secretary,
Melbourne Bushwalkers,
Box 17510, 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)

YUM CHA

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.

---000---

YHA BUSH DANCE

Friday, 22nd November - South Melbourne Town Hall \$5.00

See Mick Mann in clubrooms.

---000---

Friday, 27th September

ICE SKATING

A group of us are going to Iceland Footscray, in Hyde Street near Lyons Street, from 8 pm to 10 pm. Entry, including skate hire, is about \$4, a cheap night out.

After this we may go for a pizza in Lygon Street, Carlton. Just turn up to this fun night out.

Graham Harding - 266 4222 (H)

---00---

Don't forget that club auction night is going to happen. Probably in November. Details in next "News".

---000---

Saturday, 14th December

CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY AT THE CUCKOO - OLINDA

Here it is fast approaching, that time of year when the Christmas season brings good cheer and closes yet another chapter. A time for reflection perhaps, but certainly a time for gathering friends together. Our patronage goes this year to the Bavarian Restaurant in the Blue Dandenongs, The Cuckoo, which had its humble beginnings in 1914 as a cafe called The Quamby Cafe. Extensions were made in 1917 and in 1958 the cafe was sold and became The Cuckoo Restaurant.

SOCIAL COLUMN (Continued)

We may use our bus if enough people are interested. Please let me know when booking. Bookings close Wednesday 11th December. Full price deposit please. Bookings by post welcomed. NO bookings by phone. We have 80 places. Please note that the venue is completely booked out, so get your seats early as once the 80 go, that's it folks!

Cost: \$25

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

Mt. Dandenong Tourist Road, Olinda

Date: Saturday, 14th December

Contact: Tracy for bookings, either by post or in

the clubrooms.

The dinner consists of The Cuckoo's famous smorgasbord, with ample provision for non-meat-eaters. There will be dancing with a Bavarian band and the restaurant is licensed.

---000---

END-OF-YEAR CLUBROOM CHRISTMAS PARTY

Scheduled for Wednesday, 18th December Another diary date.

---000---

April, 1986

BALLARAT OBSERVATORY

This is to let you know we will be having a viewing night at the excellent observatory in Ballarat manned by volunteers, with Halley's comet as the main event - again - weather permitting, on <u>Saturday</u>, <u>12th April</u>. We are organising a day walk in the area for the Sunday. Further details nearer the time, but a date for your diary.

DAY WALKS OCTOBER 1985

RHODODENDRON GARDEN - HAMER ARBORETUM

OCTOBER 5 (SAT) DANDENONGS EXPLORER NO. 7 -

DEAD EASY

LEADER SYLVIA WILSON EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 6.00 pm

MAP REFERENCE SASSAFRAS CREEK WALKING TRACK - ALGONA

MELMAY MAP 66 J7

MEETING PLACE THE GEORGIAN ROAD ENTRANCE AT 12 O'CLOCK

APPROX. DISTANCE 10 KM

If you haven't been to the National Rhododendron Gardens before I can thoroughly recommend them. Apart from being an ideal place to take an aged aunt or visiting dignitaries, it's quite delightful in its own right. The setting is most attractive, there are a variety of plants and the views are quite something. We'll have lunch here then head off to the R.J. Hamer Arboretum. There are countless walking tracks here, so we'll meander about taking in the lookouts and finish at about 5.00. If anyone wants to be picked up at Croydon Railway Station please let me know. Afterwards we could have a BYO barbecue tea at nearby Kalorama Park which has excellent facilities.

OCTOBER 6 (SUN) HIGH CAMP - MT. WILLIAM

EASY & MEDIUM

LEADER

GERRY KOTTEK

TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

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

DAY WALKS (Continued)

OCTOBER 12 (SAT) HEIDELBERG HISTORICAL WALK

EASY

LEADER IVOR DAVIES

RENDEZVOUS HEIDELBERG RAILWAY STATION, 2 pm

(A train departs Flinders Street Station 1.30 pm)

Our stroll will take us back to past reminders of the early village dating back to when the first overlanders camped and later set up their cattle stations, and past relics left by the aboriginal tribes whom they displaced. Heidelberg will always be remembered, too, for its association with the greats of art and architecture. So we will visit the sites where Roberts, Streeton, Condor and Withers, through their Heidelberg School of Impressionist Painting, brought in a new way of looking at the Australian landscape; and where the innovative Desbrowe Annear built his houses; where, after laying down the design of Canberra City, Walter Burley Griffin brought contoured streets and parks, and designed houses on heights overlooking the picturesque Yarra.

Note: No visitors' fees.

OCTOBER 13 (SUN) REEDY CREEK - MT CONCORD (YEA AREA) MED. & EASY/MED.

LEADERS TRACY GUEST (MEDIUM)

MAX CASLEY (EASY/MEDIUM)

TRANSPORT FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 7,00 pm

MAP REFERENCE ALEXANDRA 1:100,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 15 km -- MEDIUM

12 km - EASY/MEDIUM

Max and Tracy previewed this walk on a windy, pleasant day in early September. The main feature of Mt. Concord, apart from the glorious views, was the long, steady climb to the top. For this reason the walks are easy/medium and medium. The climb is well worth the effort for the views are indeed lovely. On the way up climbers will note large, flat expanses of what appears to be granite on the steep slopes to the left. More granite, this time huge boulders and slabs, some reminding me of Stonehenge, please the eye on the steep descent to Reedy Creek. The creek is interesting up to a point, but it does become lost in unpleasant scrub further down. The raw scars of future pine forests also diminish interest. There are a few alternative routes and lovely ridges to follow. We do cross fences and several farmers have been contacted re permission to walk on their land. All appear friendly! A very pretty and rewarding walk. Carry water.

OCTOBER 20 (SUN) KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK - EASY/MEDIUM & MEDIUM/HARD MILTONS BRIDGE

LEADERS MAUREEN ADCOCK (EASY/MEDIUM)

GRAHAM MASCAS (MEDIUM/HARD) PHONE 29 3923

TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

EXPECTED TIME OF PETURN 7 pm

MAP REFERENCE STRATHEWAN 1:25,000, YARRA GLEN 1:50,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 11 km - EASY/MEDIUM
16 km - MEDIUM/HARD

Easy/Medium Walk -

Beautiful spring walk in Kinglake National Park, starting on Healesville-Kinglake Road. We follow the spur down to Jehosaphat Creek, then take a gentle climb up to Mt. Everard. From there we follow track for 1 km, and finish up going cross country to Miltons Bridge. Don't forget to bring water with you.

Medium/Hard Walk -

This is truly a medium-hard walk where we will walk east to west across the grain of the country. Starting on the Yea-Yarra Glen Road we will include Mt. Jerusalem and Mt. Beggary, with six major climbs, and finish in St. Andrews. It is a superb walk in magnificent country - well worth the challenge. Come along and enjoy a most rewarding day. Please note new phone no. - 29 3923.

DAY WALKS (Continued)

OCTOBER 26 (SAT) DANDENONGS EXPLORER NO. 8

KALLISTA - NICHOLAS GARDEN - SASSAFRAS CREEK

EASY

LEADER JOPIE BODEGRAVEN

APPROX. DISTANCE 10 km

The Dandenongs are beautiful at any time, but especially so in October with so much in bloom. This walk takes in some of the best of the Dandenongs, the lovely Nicholas Gardens, towering eucalypts, bubbling Sassafras Creek. It'll be a lovely, easy and hopefully sunny afternoon's walk. We will rendezvous at Belgrave Station (south side) when the first train after 12 noon arrives, and then shuttle everyone the short distance up to Kallista.

OCTOBER 27 (SUN) COBAW RANGE - GRANITE RIDGE EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS VARIOUS - Co-ordinator is Jopie Bodegraven (489 2221)

TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

MAP REFERENCE REDESDALE 1:50,000

This walk was done last year and the general consensus was that it was magnificent - one third forest and two thirds open ridges decorated with super granite outcrops and blessed with glorious views and, to top it off, last year we timed it so that we were wading through fields thickly carpeted with yellow capeweed daisies. So this year we are repeating the walk on as close to last year's date as we could manage.

The Walks Secretary (me) led the medium last year and, because I liked it so much, I am going again but don't want to lead. I've come up with a better idea. It's going to be a leader training walk with the group split into 5 or 6 small groups, each group under the leadership of one or two trainee leaders. It is a relatively easy walk to navigate, with two-thirds being open. I have personally contacted the farmers involved and they are all friendly, provided, of course, that we use gates where possible and leave gates as we found them. I'll also organise photocopy maps. If you're interested in having a go, let me know and I'll clue you up.

WEEKENDWALKS

SEPT. 27-29 GRAMPIANS - VICTORIA RANGE - MEDIUM/HARD EXPLORATORY BASE CAMP

LEADER JOPIE BODEGRAVEN (He knows it now)

TRANSPORT CARS

MAP REFERENCE FCV GRAMPIANS, GRAMPIANS 1:100,000

I can't duplicate Merilyn's feminine charms (What? - Ed.) but I can stand in for the other qualities. The Victoria Range is a great place with lots of rocky peaks, outcrops, cliffs, interesting rocky gorges, etc. Base Camp will be at Buandik Picnic Ground and we'll probably spend one day to the north exploring the Red Rock area, and of course climbing Red Rock, and the other day to the south around Deep Creek Gorge and the western side of the Fortress. I strongly recommend long trousers, and be prepared for some interesting rock scrambling. Participants must have some confidence on rocks.

Anyone who just wants to poke around camp and relax is also welcome, and anyone on the Pritikin or other low fat diets is especially welcome.

WEEKEND WALKS (Continued)

OCTOBER 4-6 SHAWS CREEK - MT TAMBORITHA -

MEDIUM

THE CRINOLINE

LEADER MARK TISCHLER

TRANSPORT CARS

MAP REFERENCE HOWITT 1:100,000 & MAFFRA 1:100,000

VMTC SNOWY PLAINS & MACALISTER RIVER WATERSHED

APPROX. DISTANCE 30 km

Friday camp at Breakfast Creek before organising cars to the Lost Plain area, the start of our walk. We climb Mt. Arbuckle and Mt. Reynard for views before making for camp near Tamboritha. We hope to get great views of the Macalister River Valley. Sunday over to The Crinoline and down to Breakfast Creek. As I will have missed most of the ski season with a broken hand, if snow is still around this may develop into a Snowy Plains ski tour plus a walk. Hope to see you there.

OCTOBER 5-6 GRAMPIANS BASE CAMP - MT. STAPYLTON

EASY

LEADER NEIL PRIESTLEY

TRANSPORT CARS

Those persons who expressed interest in the August-September walk but had prior arrangements! The base camp in the vicinity of Mt. Stapylton has been rescheduled to the beginning of October. Actually this later date should be more suitable for the varieties of wildflowers as well as the wattles which should be a mass of colour.

Please see the leader for details, particular the proposed camp spot/water.

OCTOBER 11-13 GRAMPIANS BASE CAMP - BOROUGH HUTS EASY/MEDIUM

LEADERS PHILIP TAYLOR & JOPIE BODEGRAVEN

TRANSPORT CARS

EXFECTED TIME OF RETURN 8.00 pm APPROX. DISTANCE PLEASE YOURSELF

Base camp will be at Borough Huts, which are situated approximately 10 km south of Halls Gap. On Saturday we will be walking around and through the Wonderland area. The walking will be on tracks so no scrub bashing will be involved. The views are excellent from the many vantage points and lookouts. At this time of the year the wildflowers should be in full bloom. On Sunday we can either do a short walk to Mt. Rosea or head across the other side of the valley to walk around the Seven Dials area. As this is a base camp, all mod. cons can be brought along. A day pack is essential.

OCTOBER 18-20 SEARCH AND RESCUE PRACTICE 1985

CO-ORDINATOR PETER BULLARD
FORMAT A traditional
EQUIPMENT Full equipmen
MAP VMTC BAW BAWS

TRANSPORT

A traditional bush search in rugged country Full equipment for a 3 day search VMTC BAW BAWS

POLICE BUS

- A) Meeting place Wattle Fark Primary School Melways 60 H4. Enter from Bansia Street Time 6.30 pm October 18
- B) Seats on the bus should be booked directly with Peter Bullard (568 5972) as soon as poss.

Current S&R members are especially requested to attend because - a) with so few searches lately we need the practice to maintain effectiveness

- b) experienced "old hands" are needed to help induct new prospectives
- c) we will be training with police from both the S&R squad and local Gippsland members.

WEEKEND WALKS (Continued)

OCTOBER 19-20 MT. TORBRECK - SNOBS GAP (SATURDAY START)

EASY

BEGINNERS' PACK CARRY

LEADER GERRY KOTTEK

TRANSPORT CARS

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

OCTOBER 25-27 GUYS HUT - DRY RIVER - WONNANGATTA MEDIUM

LEADER PHILIP LARKIN - PHONE 813 2271

TRANSPORT CARS

MAP REFERENCE NATMAP 1:100,000 HOWITT, FCV 1:63,360 HOWITT, MOROKA,

VMTC 1:126,720 MACALISTER RIVER WATERSHED

This walk offers you spectacular mountain scenery with breathtaking views over the Wonnangatta Valley to the mystery surrounding the old Wonnangatta Station. In the late spring and early summer months you will find along the higher ridges and snow plains numerous wildflowers and abundant bird life. The walk commences from the junction of Howitt Road and the track down to Guy's Hut (GR 787720), with a visit to Guy's Hut. Then to one of Victoria's most spectacular gorges, hidden within the upper reaches of Conglomerate Creek. From here the walk proceeds down along the Dry River track to reach the fertile Wonnangatta Valley for overnight camp. The next day the walk starts in the lower reaches of Conglomerate Creek, along cattle pads, before a steep climb to Mt. Darling. After reaching Mt. Darling we will proceed back to Guy's Hut through magnificent stands of snowgums to finish the weekend walk.

OCTOBER 25-27 BASE CAMP - BRYCES GORGE EASY

LEADER SPENCER GEORGE

TRANSPORT CARS

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

NOVEMBER 1-5 SNOWY RIVER SIDE GORGES HARD

LEADER JOPIE BODEGRAVEN

TRANSPORT CARS

MAP REFERENCE MURRINDAL 1:100,000

This is a trip involving clambering up and down rocky gorges with waterfalls and possibly some abseils. I intend to do it some time and will do it on the cup 4-day weekend provided I can get 4 or 5 others who have contacted me three weeks before, i.e. before October 12. I'm not sure if there is demand for this sort of trip in the club as it is fairly hard and specialised but terrific fun. This will test out demand.

Day 1 would be a day trip down Boundary Creek. Day 2 we would walk with packs down Devil's Backbone track to camp on the Snowy and have a bludge afternoon to recover from day 1. Day 3 we would go up and down the creek coming west from Mt. Gelantipy and which looks very interesting on the map. Day 4 we would sleep in and then climb 600 metres to the cars and go home after a memorable trip. Any takers?

DON'T LET IT HAFPEN AGAIN!

On 25th/26th August your club was called upon to contribute members to the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs' Search and Rescue team to look for two skiers lost and ultimately found dead on Mt. Stirling.

Because so many of our experienced skiers were off on a leadership training weekend, only David Dundas and myself were able to go from the Melbourne Bushwalkers.

Neither of us were experienced in snow and ice work and indeed, at one stage it did not seem that such expertise would be necessary. In the event, we were called upon to commence the search by going high up on Mt. Stirling, through thick snow and using snow shoes in difficult terrain. As things turned out, I was unable to cope with these new skills and had to turn back and needed assistance to reach the snowmobile.

It is perhaps unlikely that the combination of the demand for search and rescue personnel and the artificially created shortage will occur again for a long time. However, the incident can be used to highlight three significant elements:

- (1) The need for care on our mountains, especially in winter
- (2) The fact that your club operates a vigorous and involved Search and Rescue Section
- (3) That the Search and Rescue Section needs recruits to maintain a pool of members experienced in a variety of conditions to enable it to meet any demands made on it.

So, contact Peter Bullard, your friendly Search and Rescue delegate, NOW and put YOUR skills at his disposal.

DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!

- MIKE CLODE

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ALL MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS MEMBERS

Are you an experienced walker and have you done some	
weekend walks?	YES/NO
Can you navigate by yourself?	YES/NO
Can you cook and look after yourself on dehydrated rations?	YES/NO
Do you have all your own equipment?	YES/NO
Are you reasonably fit?	YES/NO
Can you get occasional time off work to help the Victoria Police with search and rescue with your bushwalking/skiing	
skills?	YES/NO

If some of the answers to the above questions are YES, please contact Peter Bullard on 568 5972 as soon as possible. We need YOUR SKILLS in Search and Rescue NOW,

- HOUSE TO SHARE --

2 bedroom house, West Brunswick, located in quiet street with nice garden. Close to city, shops and transport. Reasonable rent.

Would prefer a female.

Please cali Jenny (H) 383 1064

(W) 329 6899

SEARCH AND RESCUE PRACTICE 1985

When

October 18-19-20

Format

A traditional bush search in rugged country

Equipment

Full equipment for a 3 day search

Map

VMTC Baw Baws

Transport

Police Bus

- a) Meeting Place Wattle Park Primary School, Melways 60 H4. Enter from Bansia Street. Time: 6.30 pm, October 18.
- b) Seats on the bus should be booked directly with Peter Bullard (568 5972) as soon as possible.

Other Points

Current members are especially requested to attend because,

- a) with so few searches lately we need the practice to maintain effectiveness;
- b) experienced "old hands" are needed to help induct new prospectives
- c) we will be training with police from both the S&R squad and local Gippsland members.

BENNISON PLAINS SKI TRIP

Lack of snow at Bennison Plains forced our party higher up to Lost Plain. From Lost Plain we skied across to Holmes Plain, which was bare of snow and basking in sunshine. We trudged to the northern end and set up camp at a delightful site where one could choose either to stay on the grass or on a snow drift. From there we went to Mt. Reynard via a long traverse up "The Valley" and "Snowy Plain". The skiing was excellent, wide open spaces and good snow.

The return to Lost Plain was by the timbered range running south to Mt. Arbuckle. This was true!! cross country skiing, tramping over logs, weaving through trees, clambering through branches of fallen trees (millions of them). Despite the difficulty, we fought our way out and regained the track to Lost Plain.

P.S. Overheard quotes - "I'll make a man of him."

"If you don't stop it I'll scream."

"These boots are no good - my feet are wet."

"I keep falling in the creeks."

- GRAHAM BREEN

COMMITTEE NOTES

MEETING 2nd SEPTEMBER, 1985

Treasurer

No report.

Walks Secretary

<u>June 1985</u>

Day 199
Weekend 80 (incl. Marysville)

Members 198 Visitors 81

279

Total Income \$4811 (includes \$1461 for Marysville)

COMMITTEE NOTES (Continued)

Members July 1985 Day Visitors 40 Weekend

148

Total Income \$1069.50

Transport

The club's bus has just been re-registered and its "Private Omnibus Licence" renewed. We have thus completed a full year of operation.

Membership

358 total (slightly down on last year)

Walk Magazine

Progress report on Walk 85

Copies sold to 15.8.85 1077 Advertising \$2200 15.8.85 Income to 1430 Sales 3630

Cost of printing, etc. 4692 \$1062 Deficit

(Outstanding invoices \$320)

Federation

Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation will have a stand at the Royal Show this year. Federation and other bodies will have space to publicise their activities. Volunteers are sought to hand out information (they get a free pass to the Show!).

Search and Rescue practice 18th-20th October

Duty Roston

Sept. 11 Sylvia/Mick

18 Tracy/Rose

Merilyn/Geoif

Phil, Athol Oct.

Neil/winifred

Next Committee meeting

October 7th.

WAINTED KNOWN!

EQUIPMENT OF

CHEAP RATES!

Day packs / overnight packs.

Tents and sleeping bags suitable for base Edmos

Our most recent addition being a new sleeping bag of super quality

ASK FOR NEIL - EQUIPMENT OFFICER.

WALKS SECRETARY WAFFLE

1. SUMMER PROGRAMME

September is Putting Together the Summer Programme Month. We're getting some ideas together but this time I'm expecting problems getting enough willing leaders. I must thank several members who have done a terrific job leading walks and helping generally. However, each person can only do so much and we need more to share the load. Nobody should be expected to lead more than two walks a year unless they're particularly keen. Day walks are the main problem and this is largely I think because (a) we are running two walks each Sunday to cater for different standards and to avoid gigantic groups and this uses a lot of leaders; (b) day walks need to be previewed and we all have limited time; (c) there is a large turnover of walkers who are inexperienced and not yet confident enough to try leading; (d) many experienced navigators are weekend walkers and don't go on day walks; (e) some day walkers who are capable of leading don't want the hassles and responsibility of leading because they feel it takes away from their relaxation and enjoyment.

What can we do about it?

- (a) I could try twisting arms but I hate doing it, it is against my nature, will irritate people and is self defeating. I don't consider it any way to run a club.
- (b) Have fewer subleaders and therefore bigger groups on some walks. This may be viable with some walks and some leaders.
- (c) Have more repeat walks that require minimal or no previewing.
- (d) Have fewer walks on private property. These are some of our best walks with open ridges, boulders and views. I find them great fun to preview but some people find them harder to preview and they can take more time. Rarely a hostile landowner can cause heartburn.
- (e) Encourage newer leaders to sublead by haveing a more experienced leader preview with them and attend the walk as a back-up. This depends on having more experienced leaders willing and able.
- (f) Keep the "easy to lead walks" for newer, less confident leaders. These would be mainly beach walks or ridge walks.
- (g) Have leader training walks where, instead of two groups of 20, we have five groups of eight with a trainee leader or two leading each group and treat the walk as a navigation and training exercise instead of a 15 km chat.

My <u>suggested action plan</u> is as follows. In the short term we may have to do some of (a) to (d), but starting as soon as possible, I hope, with the co-operation of some other leaders, to introduce the (g) plan and the (e) plan and also (f). I hope to be overrun with new leaders within six months.

There is a sheet entitled "Notes for Leaders" which sets out the duties of a leader, but very briefly this is what is expected.

- l. Preview the walk, talk to any landowners, sort out start and finish points for the van. Subleader liaise with main leader.
- 2. Main leader puts a "preview" or brief blurb on the walk in the "News".
- 3. Main leader is present in clubrooms for the two Wednesday clubnights prior to the walk to collect moneys and answer queries.
- 4. On day of walk, main leader tells Dennis where to drop off and pick up groups and instructs subleader.
- 5. Soon after walk main leader fills out walk report listing all walkers, phone numbers and names of any landowners and a photocopy map with routes marked on and any comments, etc. attached. The sub leader may also add comments or simply put them on a separate walk report form.

WALKS SECRETARY WAFFLE (Continued)

2. EXTENDED SUMMER TRIPS

Please whisper in my ear if you wish to lead an extended summer trip so I can put it on the summer programme. I have heard rumours about a Snowy Mountains trip, a lilo trip down the Upper Murray from Cowombat Flat to Tom Groggin using wet suits and Chinese worry beads (good grief!). Anyone doing a Tassie trip? I hope to have some more concrete information for the October "News".

3. WALKS SECRETARY '86 POSITION VACANT

Much as I have enjoyed being Walks Secretary for three years, I feel it will be time in February of '86 to step aside. This will let me concentrate on other things and will let someone else have a go at this interesting and rewarding job.

The attributes you will need are a fair knowledge of Victorian walking areas, some skills of persuasion, some familiarity with most potential leaders (not that sort of familiarity, dope!), some spare time and availability on most Wednesday nights for club nights. You can count on help from me and several other people. If we can divide up the workload, e.g. day/weekend or programming/day to day, so much the better. If you're interested, now's the time to discuss it with me and learn about it. How about an apprenticeship?

4. STILL MORE WAFFLE

The club changes and we have to take note accordingly. It seems obvious that there is minimal demand for weekend bushwalks in winter. What I will suggest to next year's Walks Secretary is that we have two weekenders in May, only Queen's Birthday and the Guesthouse Decadence Weekend in June and leave July and August vacant with weekend bushwalks starting the second weekend in September. June seems too cold and dark for most people and July, August and September seem to cause an affliction known as ski-fever amongst otherwise perfectly healthy and sane bushwalkers. (G.T. gets afflicted well into November!) If anyone wants to lead a trip during winter she/he would be more than welcome to put it on the programme or simply advertise it in "News". Any comments on this?

5. AND YET MORE WAFFLE

Does anybody know of a guesthouse or similar in or near Halls Gap that is not too expensive, could accommodate 50 or more and is run by nice people. I envisage something along the lines of our Marysville weekend or Art's Highfield weekend. Halls Gap and the Grampians in October could be a wonderful place for old and new members to get together for a fun weekend of flowers, walking, good food and good company. Any suggestions or leads?

This is your Walks Secretary finally signing off.

JOPIE BODEGRAVEN (489 2221)

CRISIS FOR TASMANIA'S FORESTS

Imagine standing on the top of Federation Peak in south-west Tasmania and seeing clearfelled slopes. Or burnt rainforest because of forestry fire escapes. Or imagine climbing Mt. Oakleigh in the Cradle Mountain - Lake St Clair National Park and hearing chainsaws and log trucks only a few kilometres away.

Logging is the next great threat to Tasmania's wilderness. Wood-chipping is a major part of that threat.

Woodchipping also devastates wildlife. You don't have to be an expert to realise that when a forest is clearfelled and burnt, most of the animals and birds are killed. But the long-term effects are more insidious. Because many birds and animals need very old forests - where the trees are full of hollows for nesting sites, and insects and larvae for food in the regrowth that follows a woodchip operation is utterly unsuitable. Birds and animals can't hang around for 150 years to wait until the forest is suitable, and the woodchippers' regrowth is cut down again every 85 years anyway.

To export woodchips, companies need export licences from the Federal Government. This gives the Government the chance to save our forests in the same way that Malcolm Fraser stopped sand mining at Fraser Island.

Their decision will probably be made this month. Please write to Federal Primary Industry Minister, John Kerin, asking him to stop woodchipping in Tasmania. All letters can be sent to Parliament House, Canberra.

Will he pay attention to your letter? Yes - because he knows that 99% of people are too lazy, apathetic or disillusioned to write to him!

TOM KNEEN

Although Tom Kneen was never a Melbourne Bushwalker, he has done so much for the walking fraternity I thought a few words about him were in order.

I knew Tom since his MUMC days, in fact the second time I met him was on some environmental weekend on the Bogong High Plains looking at small areas which had been cordoned off from the cattle years previously and noting the state of the increase of herbiage and lack of soil erosion (both remarkable). Tom was interested in all aspects of the environment about which his personal experience was great and his knowledge diverse and profound. His views even in those days were fairly radical but always sound, well thought out and well argued. He was often asked to give talks on the weather at official gatherings. His job was with the Bureau of Meteorology where he was the specialist in flood warnings (Mick Mann is the other half of this department). He was always willing to do his bit teaching beginners in bushwalking and ski touring and snow camping. Later this was with BMLC (Bushcraft and Mountain Leadership Courses). He had a very strong sense of community need and was known to go out on every search for which he was asked. I forget how many years he was secretary of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs, where he implemented many good ideas. He belonged to and was active in the Winter Group, the Baw Baw Touring Association and even started up his own group which never got a name. He wrote a Nameless Newsletter for it. His most recent venture was starting up the Friends of Bogong National Park. He always saw himself as a prize procrastinator, and indeed he used to mutter into his beard a lot and tell you all the things that he ought to do, but heavens, he did more than most of us put together.

He leaves a wife and three children, to whom we extend our sympathies.

OVERHEARD ON A BUSHWALK . . .

"I can't stand people who talk about themselves all the time, that means you don't have a chance to talk about yourself."

- Merilyn - Bogong.

"That's the trouble with enjoying yourself, you have to pay for it."
- Bill Metzenthen.

Oh all right, I'll give you the context. He'd just done a series of perfectly linked telemarks miles down a long steep slope on The Bluff and was struggling back up to the top with minimum grip.

On the subject of shared tents: "Nowadays I don't like sharing with just anybody . . . in fact I've drawn up a list of people I'll share with." (And for a consideration I'll tell you who's at the top of the list!)* (Oh dear, the Ed. might not print this.)

- Merilyn - The Bluff.

Actually this was quite a remarkable medium/hard trip where the females outnumbered the male 2:1. Is this a club record?

*Editor's Note:

If the perpetrator of this slanderous gossip has any consideration for her existence on this planet she'd better not tell!

CONGRATULATIONS

To Ross and Ruth Hoskin on the arrival of their new baby boy, JOHN RICHMOND

Closing date for October "News" - October 9th (Wednesday).
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.