



THE NEWS

OF THE
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

EDITION 419

JANUARY 1986

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S O C I A L C O L U M N

Wednesday 29th January

FILMS IN THE CLUBROOMS

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

2 pm onwards - Saturday February 22nd

ALPHINGTON BOAT HOUSE

We are proposing to go boating at the newly restored Alphington boat house. You can hire rowing boats or canoes. If you are interested see Mick Mann or Hugh Duncan in clubrooms. Possibly we'll have a BBQ afterwards.

Saturday 22nd March

" C A T S "

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

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

Saturday April 12th

BALLARAT OBSERVATORY

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Melbourne Bushwalkers (Incorporated) will be held in the Clubrooms, 2nd Floor, 377 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne at 8 pm on Wednesday, 26th February 1985.

DAY WALKS (CONTINUED)

Both walks will start at Pt. Leo and stay together till Flinders. The easy walkers can relax at Flinders and perhaps inspect the local public house. The medium walk will continue to the Blowhole, meet the van, and return to Flinders.

A pick up will be arranged at Moorabbin Town Hall if required.

SAT. FEBRUARY 8 CYCLE TRIP

LEADER ART TERRY
 TRIP CHARGE \$12
 TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 AM
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 7.30 PM

ROUTE - I haven't decided where we will be going as yeti however it will be a wind assisted ride.

SUN. FEBRUARY 9 KENWORTHY TRACK - LERDERDERG GORGE - EASY & MEDIUM
O' BRIEN'S CROSSING

LEADERS TONY STAPLEY & ROSEMARY COTTER
 TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 AM
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 8 PM
 MAP REFERENCE LERDERDERG GORGE FOREST PARK 1:25,000 (F.C.V.)
 APPROX. DISTANCE 11 KM (EASY); 18 KM (MEDIUM)

Easy Walk

Do not be deceived by the short distance. In places on the preview it took ten minutes to travel 100 metres. Hence the deletion of Mt Blackwood from this walk, Hopefully by February the tramping of others will have smoothed our ways

The first five km is on jeep tracks. There follows a steep descent over loose shale for lunch at the river, When previewed the gorge was lushly verdant, the ash from the fires three years ago having presumably acted as a fertiliser. We turn upstream along narrow East Walk. Be prepared to scramble over many fallen trees and log jams. There may be one or more swimming stops at deeper rock pools.

Groovy non slip soles are a musty also bring bathers and (since Blackwood Caravan Park is upstream) water.

Medium Walk

The medium walk follows the same route as the easy one, but continues upstream from O'Brien's crossing. Good views are obtained from a track following an old aqueduct. We have a side trip to the tunnel, another relic of energetic gold miners. We may even finish at the Blackwood mineral springs, subject to preview.

SUN. FEBRUARY 23 CAT BAY - THE NOBBIES - KITTY MILLER BAY EASY &
MEDIUM

LEADERS MAUREEN HURLEY & HELEN LIGHTFOOT
 TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 AM
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 8 PM
 MAP REFERENCE PHILLIP ISLAND SPECIAL 1:25,000
 APPROX. DISTANCE EASY 12 KM; MEDIUM 16 KM

A pleasant, rocky beach walk mostly along the coast, but with some walking on the road where it was considered too dangerous to take the risk of losing some of the party to enormous waves. (Apparently some fishermen in the area at The Nobbies have been lost this way.)

Essentials to bring are a hat, suntan lotion and plenty of water. There is little shade on this wall, so be prepared. There are also some nice swimming areas, so bring your bathers if it's hot. Both walks follow the same route, with the easy one being at less distance. See you there!

W E E K E N D W A L K SF E B R U A R Y 1 9 8 631 JAN. - 2 FEB. WILSONS PROMONTORY BASE CAMP VARIOUS

LEADER GRAHAM HARDING
 TRANSPORT CARS
 MAP REFERENCE SE & SW WILSONS PROMONTORY 1:25,000

Wilson's Promontory is very scenically beautiful, with white sandy beaches, a large range of flora and fauna and a wide selection of walks.

I am planning a "rock hop" (medium) in the area of coastline between Derby River and Squeaky Beach, This stretch of coast has fascinating sea creatures and plants and secluded coves and beaches. Other walks will be arranged as required, or Sunday could be a good day for a laze at the beach.

We will be staying at Tidal River, All meals and camp fees will be included at \$12. Our facilities include camp kitchen and sleeping tents or BYO tent. Overnight car parking fee is \$2.30 per night.

FEBRUARY 7-9 SNOWY PLAINS - OLD YARD FLAT MEDIUM/HARD

LEADER ROD MATTINGLEY
 TRANSPORT CARS
 MAP REFERENCE VMTC KING, HOWQUA & JAMIESON; HOWITT 1:100,000
 APPROX. DISTANCE 25 KM

Another trip to find Old Yard Flat on the upper Macalister: This time we will approach from the Jamieson River side, meaning a shorter drive on Friday night. We will make use of the logging road which follows the Upper Jamieson River (Brocks Road), to reach the track junction just south of King Billy No. 2 on Friday night, This road is trafficable to normal vehicles. Travelling time from the bitumen and via Sheeppark Flat is about 2½ hours. Also, to shorten Sunday's walk a little, we will do a car shuffle on Saturday morning, to leave a vehicle where the jeep track swings around the northern side of Mt. Clear.

Early on Saturday morning we will follow High Ridge out to the south east, with a side trip to The Crags. We'll follow the ridge all the way to the junction of Peters Creek and the Macalister. Old Yard flat is then only 2 km downstream.

On Sunday, another early start up to the Macalister Spur and Mt. Clear. Promises to be a great trip.

FEBRUARY 14-16 ART'S HIGHFIELD-CAPE SCHANK WEEKEND EASY

LEADER ART TERRY
 TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, FRIDAY 14/2, 7 PM
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 7 PM SUNDAY

Highfield National Park, once a grazing property situated on the Mornington Peninsula midway between Rosebud West and Flinders, is our beautiful campsite for the weekend. Accommodation is provided for 26 people in large bunkhouses - a modern kitchen provides electric stoves, refrigerators etc., 'hot water service: showers and septic toilets. Highfield is adjacent to beautiful bushland and only one hour's walk to the coast, so you will have much to choose from. You will need to bring your sleeping bag or blankets and sheets and sufficient food for the weekend - crockery; cutlery and cooking pots and pans are provided. Also bring your own salt, sauces and tea towel.

Cost per night is \$3.50, van fare is \$10. The booking list will be displayed from the beginning of January so you can book early. Please pay the full amount of \$17 to me, either personally or by cheque made payable to the Melbourne Bushwalkers.

WALKS SECRETARY'S NOTES (CONTINUED)Duties

Prepare walks programmes with help of walks and skiing subcommittees. Find leaders for trips. Keep trip lists board up to date. Handle day to day problems, leader changes and generally keep the walks running smoothly. Keep records of walks attendances and income. Attend monthly committee

During my time as walks secretary I have found the job great fun, educational and personally satisfying. It is rarely routine and gives great scope for initiative.

The job could easily be broken up between a walks secretary and an assistant walks secretary. One could do programming, the other the trips board and records or one overall co-ordination and day walks, the other weekend walks.

Why not have an election for the position this year?

I intend being available to help the new walks secretary wherever possible. I would be only too happy to answer anyone's queries on the position between now and the elections in late February.

Jopie Bodegraven - 489 2221

C O M M I T T E E N O T E SMEETING 6TH JANUARY 1986Correspondence

The burglary at Wilkinson Lodge has been reported to police, and acknowledgement received. (Our insurance broker will be consulted to determine if a claim can be made.)

Treasurer

Balance as at 1st January 1986	\$729.62
Bills to be paid:	
D. Barson - driving and taxi expenses	\$322.20
Rampower - petrol December 1985	180.74
Gestetner - supplies for programmes	17.88
Rod Mattingley - Wilky supplies	<u>90.90</u>
	\$611.72
Bills already paid ratified	
P. Gronow - Iris towing and brake repairs	\$718.55
Chariot Body Works - roof ventilators for bus	800.00
J. Hedstrom	<u>149.37</u>
	\$1667.92

Arrangements have been made with the ANZ Bank to reduce our overdraft limit to \$10,000

Walks Secretary

November	Day	163	Members	174
	Weekend	<u>63</u>	Visitors	52
		226		

Total income \$1242.00

Telephone Answering

No comments or offers have yet been received re the phone book entries; as mentioned in the last "News". The (expensive) alternative of an answering machine and dedicated phone appear to be the only way of providing an enquiry service to would-be walkers. Would anyone like to volunteer to have the answering machine (with an extra phone service) at their house? No work

COMMITTEE NOTES (CONTINUED)

involved in answering the phone, but your address would appear under the directory entry "Melbourne Bushwalkers", and some mail would be received for the club (mostly junk mail, unfortunately).

Conduct of Walks

An unfortunate incident occurred on a recent walk when a member was left behind by a car driver (not a member) at the conclusion of a walk. Surely we can expect that a driver will bring back his/her passengers, or at least ensure that they get back with someone else. The committee resolved to reimburse the member concerned her expenses (\$38) incurred in staying at a motel overnight. (Luckily there was one.)

It is anticipated that leaders, in undertaking the leadership of a walk, will ensure that everyone completes the walk back to the return transport. Also, in normal circumstances, assistance in running a walk (e.g. whip) should not be delegated to a visitor. The name and address of visitors must be recorded.

B O X I N G D A Y 1 9 8 5

"When are we going to do the January walk preview?"

"I don't know, I have a preview and walk for December, then an extended Christmas walk."

"When!!! are we going to do the January walk preview?"

"What about Boxing Day?"

"What about!! Boxing Day?"

"It's a good way to work down Christmas dinner."

"(Groan!!)"

Boxing Day - 7.45 am - Five walkers (fools) set off in two vehicles for a day in the mountains. Nearing journey's end, the road narrowed to a track - fine for the first vehicle (a convertible 4WD) and (phew!) okay for the second vehicle. The rest of the morning went smoothly enough; check down track, check out off track, inspect flowing creek, remove leech from sock, inspect ferns, flick off two more leeches, head back to cars, then de-leech again. All people into one car (4WD), and back around to the other end to head off down another track for lunch at an old mill site. On trip around, remove leech from sock and another crawling along leg of screaming passenger. Lunch stop was as beautiful as lunch itself, only companions were some well-behaved reddish coloured large flies.

1.30 pm - Lunch is over and time to start 11/2 km bush-bash through forest to (hopefully) join up with track we were on that morning, and back out to second car.

5.30 pm - We have made it (just) to second car, so let's review proceedings since lunch.

There seemed to be more trees lying down than growing upwards, the ferns were quite exquisite, the undergrowth ranged from slight to b----- thick, the wire grass -----!!, the ground firm to - oh yuk!

The women donned long trousers for the bash: those clothes will need laundering. Two of them had a competition to see who could spend the most time sitting down. The guys stayed tough in their shorts, both helped nature by feeding some leeches on premium blood, and the legs ended up with more red marks than a drunk's bloodshot eyes. All footwear was one colour (mud brown).

Back at the car, and it's time for a final leech check; that one has gone, salt on this one, flick one off shoe, remove one from sock, check pack and then each other.

BOXING DAY 1985 (CONTINUED)

Right, it's now time to move off (hopefully), so with half load second vehicle drives off slowly through slush, large pool, more slush, negotiate fallen tree, through second pool, up rise and wait at top (success). All persons and packs were loaded on and then off to first vehicle then Melbourne, all happening without further incident.

Have I ever told you about the preview we did at?

Anonymous
(to protect the guilty)

Author's note - Firstly, the section we have just completed will NOT be included in the day walk (thank _____).

Did we enjoy ourselves? Sure did.

Would I do it again? Yes, given another time and place, and yes, I probably would grumble and groan until reaching the finish.

Did I gain anything from it? Yes again, First was the experience of struggling through bush along with the navigational side of following map and compass. Secondly, I now have much less fear of leeches, with which I had had very little past experience. Last gain was for some of the group collecting moss and fungi for special garden projects, whilst I saw many of these things for the first time.

P.S. - Previews can be well meaning, serious, frustrating, fun, exasperating, even an apparent waste of time, but most of all they are absolutely necessary to ensure a day walk proceeds smoothly without unforeseen hassles.

You, too, can experience these emotions by accompanying a future leader. Simply contact- the leader as listed on the Walks Programme, they often welcome the company of a small group to do a preview.

THE OLD WOMAN OF THE ROCKS SECTION

Now here, folks, we have the unabridged, uncensored version of WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED at the annual club dinner at The Cuckoo (and what's more, I was there).

That lady of words, Jan Llewellyn, was discovered to have a hidden talent as a bell ringer; she gave a very creditable performance. Rumour also had it that her dress was diaphanous, but this was quite unfounded.

Our social secretary, Tracy, made news too by becoming a Cuckoo bird, complete with silly hat. But what was a trifle confusing was that the compere referred to her as Mrs. Tracy Guest, yet only a year ago at a similar function she was known as Mrs. Bob Steel. Hmm.

However there was no confusion with the all singing and dancing Melbourne Bushies who outsang and outdanced all present. Mind you, our superior numbers helped. A jolly fine evening. Thank you, Tracy.

As a further thought: the lack of newer club members makes me wonder if they realise that one can attend these functions on one's own. We really are quite a sociable lot: one ex social secretary was seen dancing every dance with a different partner.

Graeme Laidlaw brought his new fiancée in to visit us in the clubrooms recently. Unfortunately I wasn't there and my spies have FORGOTTEN what the lady's name is.. What an unforgivable social gaffe, I shall have to threaten them with a dose of the salt mines. (Fortunately the editor remembered -- Graeme is engaged to Dot.) Please forgive us, Graeme, and heartiest congratulations to you and Dot, your lady love.

THE OLD LADY OF THE ROCKS (CONTINUED)

CONGRATULATIONS to Libby and Jim Marsden and the new addition to their family : Andrew,, He was born on 13th December and all is well.

Overheard on the President's weekend -

While sitting round the fire in the evening in the Grampians 'neath a starry sky, Peter Hamann started waxing lyrical about astronomy. His view was that in fact you didn't need to know a thing about it, just drop enough of the right words and you'll convince everyone. "Not so", says the President., "There are a few people in the club who are really knowledgeable about the stars, so you'd better be careful who you talk in front of." Undaunted . and with many waves of the arms heavenwards, Peter let slip a stream of names which included The Seven Sisters. "Humph", says the President in not quite an undertone. "He probably thinks that's a Carlton knock shop."

N E W M E M B E R S

We welcome the following new members -

JIM STOCKTON 6/68 Banksia Street. Heidelberg; 3084. 459 7584 (H); 652 4383 (W)	KATHLEEN HUGHES 15/29 George Street, East Melbourne, 3002. 419 5538 (H)
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C H A N G E S O F A D D R E S S

ROBYN & MIKE ANDERSSON 124 Cole Street, Elsternwick, 3135.	MARTIN ELIAS 126 Scrivener Street, O'Connor, A.C.T. 2601 470-885 (H)
JOHN MARRE 57 Park Crescent, Fairfield, 3078. 489 2221 (H)	

F O O D C O L U M N

The Craft Shop (or something like that), Dunkeld. Forgot to tell you about this other favourite eating place of mine. Dunkeld is at the south of the Grampians, the Craft Shop on the corner of a street in the main drag. All home made goodies. Haven't been there for ages but the memory of their soup and quiche lingers on. Recent visitors say it's just as good. While you are eating you can have a good sticky at the remarkably varied and interesting handicrafts. (You can have take-away things, too; no, I mean take things away.)

- Sylvia

Closing date for February "News" - Wednesday, 5th February. Articles should be placed in the red box in the clubrooms or sent direct to the editor, Merilyn Whimpey; 17 Phillips Street, Coburg, 3058.

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