



THE NEWS

OF THE
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

425

JULY 1986

PRICE 20C

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST PUBLICATION NO VBH 1297

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

TORVILL AND DEAN FANS
FITNESS FANATICS
AND OTHERS

I C E S K A T I N G AT

THE MYER MUSIC BOWL
ON

THURSDAY 14TH AUGUST

COST: \$5 including skate hire
JUST TURN UP

ENQUIRIES: GRAHAM HARDING
TEL: 266 4222 (H)

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BEGINNERS - INTERMEDIATE - EXPERIENCED
RIDERS

TRAIL RIDE ON HORSEBACK THROUGH DELIGHTFUL BUSH COUNTRY

For those who enjoyed the trail-ride on the 14th June, and for those who would like to try it, another home ride has been arranged. The details are as follows:

SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

AT

10.00 A.M.

"GLENELGIN", SUNDAY GREEK, NEAR BROADFORD

(A location map will be supplied when you book)

COST, \$30 for whole day (BYO lunch)

N.B. i) PREVIOUS RIDERS

If you wish to ride a different horse this time., please make it known at time of booking.

ii) It has been suggested that a half-day ride might suit some people better - in addition to the whole day ride. If there is enough support for this idea, we will try to arrange it

BOOKINGS: Contact DAVID PICKUP in the clubrooms not later than Wednesday 27th August.

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Correspondence should be directed to:-

The Secretary,
Melbourne Bushwalkers,
Box 1751Q, G.P.O.
MELBOURNE, 3001.

Meetings are held in the clubrooms, 377 Little Bourke Street, entrance from Racing Club Lane, every Wednesday night 7-9 pm. Visitors are always welcome.

S O C I A L C O L U M N
(Continued)

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY
10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

BUSH DANCE
AND FOREST FUNDRAISER

with

BUSHWAHZEE

and

IAN PAULIN

AUGUST 1st BOX HILL TOWN HALL 8 PM

Tickets available from T.W.S. - Phone 67 5229
Adults \$10 Concession \$7 Children (7-15) \$5

Light snack provided. BYO drink and a glass. Booking essential. Group bookings of 10-12 per table available.

---oOo---

13th September in Boronia

WINE BOTTLING & SPIT ROAST

Estimated cost \$12 per head
(salads, etc. included)

40 people limit

Wine bottling will commence at 12 midday.

More details in next month's "News"

- Robyn Kennedy.

H E L P !

The editor of 'Walk' desperately needs assistance with typing, for which we are prepared to pay a modest fee. Word processing would be ideal. Even better would be WP on an IBM compatible computers as then only draft typing onto disc would be required, and the editor could do the rest, one-finger style, on equipment to which he has access.

TRACK NOTES URGENTLY NEEDED FOR "WALK '87"

We are terribly short of track notes for the next issue of "Walk", and I need them URGENTLY. Please -- let's have track notes on all those walks you've really enjoyed! Send them direct to me at P.O. Box 61, World Trade Centre, Vic. 3005.

NOEL TOLLEY, Editor "Walk '87"

D A Y W A L K S
AUGUST 1986

SUN. 3rd AUGUST SAN REMO-KILCUNDA COAST WALK EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS BRIAN COSTA AND ED LAWTON
TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 a.m.
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 7.30 pm
MAP REFERENCE KILCUNDA 1:25,000
APPROX. DISTANCE 12 km

Features of this walk include glorious views of cliffs, rock platforms, ocean waves, sandy beaches and hopefully sunshine that would highlight the above features of this section of coastline.

SUN. 3rd AUGUST LAKE MOUNTAIN - CROSS COUNTRY SKIING EASY

LEADER GRAHAM HARDING
TRANSPORT CARS

Lake Mountain has about 24 km of ski trails of gentle gradient in the treeline and is only 2 hours drive from Melbourne. We will select trails of length and duration to match the standard of the group(s).

Meet at Lilydale railway station carpark at 7 am. Please contact leader the Wednesday before for any last minute changes to arrangements.

SUN. 10th AUGUST COLIBAN AQUEDUCT - MT. PROSPECT - MT. ALEXANDER EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS CHARLES ANDERSON AND IAN NEWBOLD
TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 7 pm
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE EASY 10 km; MEDIUM 15 km

Near Harcourt and Castlemaine on the Calder Highway.

Tremendous views from Mt Alexander and probably sunny weather - as it's north of the divide.

The easy walk only climbs 200 metres in height, the medium about 600 metres.

End in Koala Park.

SAT. 16TH AUGUST HISTORICAL WALK - NORTH CAULFIELD EASY

LEADER ATHOL SCHAFER
TRANSPORT MEET UNDER THE CLOCKS IN TIME TO CATCH THE 1.44 pm
 TRAIN TO BALACLAVA. TICKET: INNER NEIGHBOURHOOD.

The walk, which starts at Balaclava station shortly after 2 pm, takes in the Caulfield Arts Centre sited in a lovely garden setting once surrounding a stately colonial house, This could be your last chance to visit the centre as the Council is pushing ahead to sell it all. Then there will be "Labassa" to see, grandiosely conceived and built in 1887, but now bought by the National Trust (1982). Bring something to eat for an afternoon break in Greenmeadows. The walk ends at Malvern station about 4.30 p.m.

A guide describing many of the places visited is available from the Caulfield Town Hall - ask for "Caulfield's Building Heritage" - \$3.

SUN. 17TH AUGUST UPPER MURRINDINDI AND WILHELMINA FALLS EASY/MEDIUM - MEDIUM

LEADERS PHILIP LARKIN 813 2271 (H), 569 5472 (W)
 STEPHEN COURTNEY
TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 8.00 pm
MAP REFERENCE VICMAP 1:25,000 KLONDYKE
APPROX. DISTANCE 16-20 km

This walk takes you through some magnificent rainforest in the Black Range just north of Healesville. The rainforest has some excellent stands of mountain ash, shining gum P and messmate from the regeneration after the forest fires of 1939, with a variety of other tree and plant species on the lower slopes. Within these forests there is an abundance of bird life, including several smaller varieties from the yellow robin to the blue wren.

DAY WALKS (Continued)

UPPER MURRINDINDI AND WILHELMINA FALLS (Continued)

Both walks will visit the picturesque Murrindindi Cascades, then follow the old timber tramway, passing several tranquil pools along the Murrindindi to reach the spectacular Wilhelmina Falls.

The medium walk will climb to the top of the range to finish the walk above the falls, to give you magnificent views across the Murrindindi Valley.

So bring along your cameras for breathtaking photography and a pleasant day's walking in the Black Range.

SUN. 24th AUGUST MOORABOOL FALLS - BUNGAL DAM EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS ROSEMARY COTTER AND ANNE BULLARD
 TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am
 MAP REFERENCE LAL LAL 1:25,000

We will start at the banks of Lal Lal Reservoir (the lake behind Bungal Dam) and follow the shoreline around until we reach the most attractive Moorabool Falls. From here we walk across a high plateau with terrific views, and around the more well known and spectacular Lal Lal Falls. Lunch here (shelter and toilets available). After lunch we wander through forest and emerge at a lookout overlooking the dam wall. There are historic ruins of an iron mine near here.

(Description largely based on that for 5/8/84; see leaders in clubrooms for up-to-date information after we've previewed it!).

SUN. 31st AUGUST MORNINGTON PENINSULA NATIONAL PARKS EASY

LEADER ART TERRY
 TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 7 pm
 APPROX. DISTANCE 15 km

A delightful bush walk embracing four National Parks on the Mornington Peninsula. Our walk starts on a recently completed track which climbs steadily to Seawinds National Park, where excellent views of Port Phillip Bay are obtained.

From here we make a ridge traverse to Kings Falls National Park, then travel a few miles by the van to Baldrys Crossing National Park., where we do a traverse of this bushland before following Main Creek through to Highfield National Park.

W E E K E N D T R I P SAUGUST 19862-3 AUGUST FEATHERTOP - SKI TRIP MEDIUM/HARD

LEADER BILL METZENTHEN
 TRANSPORT CARS
 MAP REFERENCE "MT. FEATHERTOP AND APPROACHES" - ALGONA; NUMEROUS OTHERS
 APPROX. DISTANCE 20 km

My plan for this trip is to ski from Diamantina Hut to Mt Feathertop and back, camping for Saturday night somewhere on the way, possibly near High Knob. Since the Razorback is extremely exposed, the weather will dictate the details of the trip. In the event of really bad weather, the trip may be switched to a more sheltered area. If the weather is good then the trip is one which no experienced skier should want to miss.

2-3 AUGUST MT. ST. GWINEAR - SKI TRIP

LEADER SANDRA MUTIMER
 TRANSPORT CARS

On August 2-3 Sandra Mutimer will be leading a ski trip to Mt. St. Gwinear. This will consist of two day trips and optional overnight accommodation at a hostel nearby.

(Continued)

WEEKEND TRIPS (Continued)

MT ST GWINEAR (Continued)

I have booked accommodation for 10 at the Rawson Holiday Resort (which was formerly the accommodation centre for Thompson Dam workers) below the mountain.

This is for one night only (Saturday 2nd August). It is twin-shared hostel accommodation and includes dinner Saturday night and breakfast Sunday morning for \$20 each.

Other grades of accommodation are available if you would like to organise it.

First in first served. Let me know if you're interested. I may not be able to get in to the clubrooms each night beforehand. Ring me at 387 5363 (NOT MORNINGS PLEASE!).

Anyone wishing to join us for either day's trip can meet us at the beginning of the trail (just past the Intentions Box) at 9.30

9-10 AUGUST MT STIRLING SKI-IN BASE CAMP EASY & EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER KEITH WHITE
TRANSPORT CARS
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 7.00 pm
MAP REFERENCE ALGONA - MT STIRLING

On Saturday morning, we will ski up the road to King Saddle and set up our base camp a short distance along one of the trails, leaving the afternoon for touring on the Mt . Stirling side of the saddle.

On Sunday we can explore the Razorback spur area, returning around lunch-time to decamp and return to our cars.

16-17 AUGUST MT ARBUCKLE, BENISON PLAINS EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER GRAHAM BREEN
TRANSPORT PRIVATE CARS

The location for this trip should perhaps be called the snowline north of Licola. The plan is to meet at Licola Saturday morning, drive to the snowline, ski till lunch time, set up camp, then ski-tour as far as conditions permit. The aim will be to try and reach Mt Reynard, which is a superb cross country ski area. On Sunday ski back to the cars by lunch and drive home.

30-31 AUGUST HOTHAM AREA BASE CAMPS, DAY TRIPS MEDIUM

LEADER OTTO CHRISTIANSEN
TRANSPORT PRIVATE CARS
APPROX. DISTANCE 40-50 km

The weather at Hotham is always very unpredictable. If we are lucky and have good weather then one trip will be along the Razorback towards Mt. Feathertop and the second day trip will be in the Mt Loch - Swindlers Spur -- Spargo's Hut area. If the weather is bad we'll have to ski in a more sheltered area such as Dinner Plain. You'll need to be a reasonably good skier to ski along the Razorback. Saturday night's camp will be somewhere along the road to Omeo near the cars. Snow chains may be required.

E X T E N D E D T R I PFIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER JAGUNGAL - SNOWY MOUNTAINS MEDIUM

LEADER MARK TISCHLER
TRANSPORT PRIVATE CARS
MAP REFERENCE KOSCIUSKO 1:100,000; KHANCOBAN NSW MAP AUTHORITY

The ski trip will involve a moving base camp spending a few days in the Jagungal area to capture its beauty in the best weather. Trip starting point will depend upon the ability of the group. Either Cabramurra Road or Guthega.

Please contact me as soon as possible if interested in skiing in this remote area. 25 6607 afternoon/early evening.

FROM THE WALKS SECRETARY

The full Spring program should be out with August "News". Meanwhile, here is the September walk program:-

Sept.

5-7	Seven Creeks - Charman Falls Base Camp	Anne Bullard
Sun. 7	Kinglake National Park	Geoff Mattingley
Sat. 13	Dandenongs Explorer	Mike Humphrey
Sun. 14	Glenluce - Glenlyon	Phil Larkin
Sat. 20	Historical Walk - Inner Circle Railway	Athol Schafer
19-21	Warby Ranges	David Dundas
Sun. 21	Meadow Hill - Mill Creek	Jopie Bodegraven
Thur. 25	(SHOW DAY) Warrandyte	Graham Breen
24-26	Grampians - North End) Jopie Bodegraven
26-23	Mt. Stapylton - Golton Gorge)
Sun. 28	Junction Hill - Yea Spur - Mt. Marianne	Graham Hodgson

If you'd like to lead a walk on the Summer program (December/January/February), I would be delighted to hear from you! There's a wide choice of walks needing leaders at present.

Salary - a free van trip and the Walks Secretary's eternal gratitude.

PENNY STAPLEY

BOOKING PROCEDURE FOR WILKY

There are still a few vacancies during winter 86, although anyone booking now would have to carry in their food.

The Committee apologises to members for not reprinting the booking procedures at the start of this season. It had been assumed, perhaps incorrectly, that members who did not recall the procedures would ask for details.

Some suggestions were published in "News" last month and these, together with comments from other members, have since been considered by Committee. The majority of those who commented strongly supported the new procedures as published in "News", February 1985, and as a result Committee resolved that there should be no change.

Basically, the scheme is as follows:

There is an organiser (leader) for each week. They should have been to Wilky at least once before in winter.

A list is posted on the booking board in February for organiser nominations. When there is more than one nomination for any week, the Lodge Manager will select one.

The list of winter trip organisers remains on the booking board. Anyone wishing to go on a winter trip must contact the organiser for the week concerned, and pay a deposit of \$10 to secure their place.

Organisers are able to refuse any application on the following grounds:

- (a) when their list is full, i.e, at least 8 people;
- (b) if they consider that the person is not a sufficiently competent skier;
- (c) if the person concerned has medical problems that could endanger the person or the group's safety;
- (d) if she/he thinks that the person will not fit in with the rest of the group (this is necessary because of the very confined living conditions in bad weather).

The organisers should keep a waiting list if necessary. Any disputes are to be referred to the club executive. Those who have been on recent working bees have priority over others, and members have priority over non-members if a conflict arises in selection of organisers or party members.

All those wishing to go to Wilky in winter must have done some skiing with a pack beforehand: when the weather is bad on the high plains it can be atrocious and they must be prepared for a slow and hard trip in or out.

COMMITTEE NOTES
MEETING 7 JULY 1986

Correspondence

letter from Marion Siseman, replying to David Dundas and Merrian McCarthy's letter on the subject of the Wilky booking system.

Treasurer

Balance as at 30/6/86	\$4282.53
Bills already paid - to be ratified:	
STAV membership	\$ 25.00
Wilky insurance	333.94
Mountain Lodge - Marysville	3660.00
Marysville refunds	278.00
Reimbursement to Melbourne	
Walking Club of cheque paid	
paid to our a/c by mistake	<u>155.00</u>
	\$4451.94
Bills to be paid:	
Rampower - bus petrol	258.68
Dennis - driving etc.	390.00
M. Siseman - refund of phone rental	40.50
Melbourne Map Centre - maps	80.65
P. Gronow - bus maintenance	<u>716.98</u>
	\$974.26

Walks - May

Day walkers	217	Members	193
Weekend	<u>45</u>	Visitors	69
	262		
		Income	\$1263.50

Duty Roster

16 July	David/Neil
23 "	Sylvia/Noel
30 "	Phil/Winifred
6 August	Sylvia/Rob

Next Committee Meeting -- 4th AugustOther

1. Visitors' fees will be increased to \$2 per walk commencing from 1st September (new program)
2. Wilky winter booking procedure was discussed, in response to letters on the subject. It was decided to keep the existing system unchanged, as -
 - (a) no-one has been prevented from going to Wilky by members taking their families;
 - (b) the old system was unsatisfactory;
 - (c) the present system was agreed to by a General Meeting last year;
 - (d) compatibility of party members is paramount in such close quarters;
 - (e) next year school holidays will not coincide with the peak of the snow season.

A summary of the booking procedure is printed on page 6 of this issue.

3. Federation have been negotiating with insurers for public liability cover for all member clubs at a discount rate.

L E T T E R SMORE ON VISITORS' FEES

Thank you Art, for an excellent comment on visitors' fees in June "News".

I must confess to feeling that visitors were advantaged following our membership fee increase at the last A.G.M. but have since realised how important they are to us. What actual cost or inconvenience is caused by a visitor? - as a leader, all I can see is some extra writing and a little advice on food, clothing, etc. (i.e., none at all). It costs no more to transport a visitor than a member, so the \$1 fee is extra funds. I feel sure any serious walker would join our club after completing the qualifying walks, whereas a larger visitors' fee may deter those needing some encouragement.

As a leader, I derive great satisfaction from taking out a full bus, but certainly not for the dollars income. With the time and effort involved in preparing a walk, I wish to share the beauty of an area with as many as possible. If visitors are interested enough to join us and also help to fill empty seats, then so be it (we were all visitors once). Is our main objective to be sharing a common interest or "the almighty dollar".

From the previous six months attendance figures, we had an average of 14 visitors per walk, so should be gaining two or three new members each month. The members' attendance may show at 2½ times greater, but with a total membership of 300+, it should be. What these figures don't show is the ACTUAL numbers of people participating, given that some members walk almost every week. A visitor should only be showing three times, then into membership.

I feel the only time a larger fee should be considered necessary is if the visitors' attendance causes numbers of members to be constantly turned away from walks due to lack of room.

Until then, remember -

VISITOR THIS WEEK = (hopefully) MEMBER IN THREE WEEKS,
and a larger and stronger club will be OUR benefit.

STEPHEN COURTNEY

VAN DEPARTURE TIMES AND FAMILY WALKS

As a member who does not own a car, I was relieved to see Art Terry writing in support of 9.00 am van departures. As the first train on Sunday morning on my line does not arrive in Melbourne till after 8.30 am, I would be one of those people unable to participate in Sunday walks if van departures were 8.00 am or 8.30 am. Usually I meet another member on this train, who comes from even further out from Melbourne, and he does not have a car either. I am lucky. I know that some suburban trains are not due in Melbourne till 8.50 am, and, given our transport system's record for punctuality, that trip must be an anxious one for the members travelling on it.

There is another matter I would like to raise in this letter. It concerns Ian Hill's plea for some consideration to be given to members with families. I would really like to see some program items catering for families. I don't have a family myself, but I am sure there are other members, like me, who would like to give children - a nephew, niece, neighbour's child - an opportunity to appreciate our beautiful countryside and enjoy exercising their bodies.

When extolling the virtues of the Bushwalking Club to friends and acquaintances I always say that one of the things I like is that the club includes a wide range of ages. I mention in particular members who provide such excellent, vigorous and interested older role models. Then, I usually add, "Of course, we seem a bit light on down the other end of the age spectrum."

(Continued)

LETTERS (Continued)

Perhaps Ian's suggestions, if taken up, might mean this situation was rectified in the future.

CYNTHIA A. FLATMAN

VAN DEPARTURE TIMES

An anonymous walker writes that he/she catches a train at 7.55 am which arrives at Flinders Street at 8.35-8.40. She/he agrees with Art that the van departure time should remain at 9.00 am. He/she suggests that if an earlier start is necessary the day could be changed to Saturday, when the timetable is the same as on week days.

Thank you, Stephen and Phil, for your reply to my May "News" article. I agree the Lorne walk would be one off the longest van trips that we undertake for a day's walk. However, with respect, I disagree with you fellows that it was necessary to leave Batman Avenue at 8 am on 29th September 1985 in order to complete your walks in the daylight when the number of hours off daylight at that time of the year is 12 or more. You did state that all early van starts are requested so that walks can be completed in daylight. This statement is inconsistent with the date of your walk, particularly in view of the fact that the time of sunset on the day of your walk was 6.23 pm.

You did forget to mention that the time of your arrival back at Batman Avenue was 9 pm. I consider this rather late in view of the fact that you left at 8 am, 12 hours away is fair enough on that long trip; 13 hours away is a bit over the fence, would you agree? Maybe we have lost prospective members through observing our solid, stick-in-the-mud rules, and we possibly have lost some through being caught out in the dark on walks at times, but then we lose some for other reasons too. It's like punting - you lose some, you win some.

I thought, gentlemen, that you were being unkind, even hitting below the belt, in suggesting I was responsible for having the van leave Clayton at 8 am on Sunday 16th February 1986 on an official club day walk, and thereby branding me as a hypocrite. Let me straighten you two fellows out on that matter. Firstly, to deal with your statement (because of altered van arrangements), there was no altered van arrangement because there was no official programmed van arrangement for day walkers on the weekend of 15th/16th February 1986. The situation off the van leaving Clayton early on Sunday 16th February arose because instead of staying at Highfield National Park for the whole weekend, which is normal, Dennis had to return to the city on the Friday to meet work commitments on Saturday 15th February. On being informed of this, Jopie asked if I was prepared to accept day walkers to join my weekend party at Highfield on the Sunday. I told him I would be happy to accept 20 people; the only problem was I had instructed Dennis to be at Highfield National Park at 9.30 am on Sunday in order to fit in with my plans for that day. He suggested they would have to be at Dennis's Clayton address at 8 am - that's it.

Thank you, Penny, for replying to my article and for your understanding of my wishes. However, there are several points in your reply that, with respect, I disagree on. Firstly, you state that early departures would be very occasional and in winter, yet Stephen's and Phil's Lorne walk was an 8 am start on September 29th, 1985. Another trip left at 6.30 am in April 1986 and, with your and Harold's request to Dennis (request later withdrawn) for the van to leave at 8.30 on April 29th 1986, this would have made three early departures within those few months, two of them within the same month. Note: all of these walks were well clear of the winter months, and there was ample time to complete a 10 mile walk in the daylight, even with a long van trip.

(Continued)

LETTERS (Continued)

With much respect, Penny, I also disagree with your statement regarding the shortening of your walk by 5 kilometres. I say this in view of the following facts. I assisted Harold with his preview of the Mt Tenneriffe, Flat Rock, Pinnagers Monument, Purcupine Hill walk back in 1976 for his first walk there on 22nd August 1976. His second walk there was on 31st July 1983. This walk left Batman Avenue at 9 am. In 1976 the departure time was 9.15 am. These walks were completed in daylight and without haste, in winter months. The start and finish of these walks was from the corner of the Hume Highway and Oak Valley Road, a distance greater than your walk on 27th April 1966.

I appreciate your concern for Dennis, and it is not my desire or intention to ever withdraw consideration from him. However, Dennis is, as he has always been, our driver who is employed to meet our needs and wishes within reason. Consideration and appreciation of his splendid work should be extended to him at all times. I have been associated with Dennis on a leader/driver basis for many years, and he is a valued friend of mine. I appreciated his excellent service to the Bushies so much that I nominated him for Life Membership, an honour he now holds, and he is a most worthy recipient of this high honour. I have always extended consideration to Dennis, but have never lost sight of the fact that a leader's first consideration is of his party in providing a safe, interesting, relaxing and unhurried walk for the people in his or her charge.

It is my opinion that too much haste, insufficient time to relax in the sun for a decent lunch break, is creeping into our style of day walk. It appears there is a strong desire to get back to the city early, whatever the weather conditions and in all seasons. People go out for a day's walk to escape the undesirable features associated with the city. I say stay away from there as long as possible.

I realize, Penny, that some of our nearer walking areas are being gobbled up by subdivisions. However, there are still many areas this side of the divide and close to the city. These areas could be reserved for the winter months. Many interesting and beautiful walks could be planned in these areas which would offset any anxieties about finishing walks in the dark.

Following are a few suggested areas and walks:

Mornington Peninsula (Rosebud area), Westernport Bay - beach walks

Mt Robertson - Mt Turong - Camel's Hump
Riddell Creek - Mt Robertson - Cherokee - Camel's Hump
(Riddells Creek - Macedon area)

Gellibrand Hill - Deep Creek - Jackson's Creek
(Tullamarine-Bulla area)

Mt Towt - Diamond Creek - Black Snake Range
(Gembrook East area)

Toolangi - Paul's flange (Healesville)

Backstairs - Cemetery Track - La La Falls (Warburton)

Werribee Gorge

Wensleydale - Angahook Park - Airey's Inlet

Emerald - Gembrook (along the old railway line)

Yarragon - Strzelecki Range - Trafalgar

The You Yangs

Most of the walks here are old favourites. Many more are available from old walks programs. Another good close area is the Brisbane Ranges.

(Continued)

LETTERS (Continued)

In conclusion, Penny, as one of your leaders let me assure you that I am behind you in your office of Walks Secretary. I am sorry that we don't exactly see eye to eye on this matter. However, you won't find me lacking should you need assistance.

ART TERRY

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Dear Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to congratulate you on the Committee Notes as published each month in "The News". I appreciate being put into the picture as to what goes on in Committee as well as a general coverage of the running of the Club. I was particularly interested in the statistics on the members'/visitors' attendance averages. It is most interesting to note that the average is 2½ more members than visitors. My estimate was 10 to 15 visitors per walk; your figures indicate that with an attendance of 45 people, 13 of these people would be visitors who contribute an average of \$130 per walk, \$6700 per year.

I note also with pleasure that my article on van departure times was discussed. I hope that although Committee has not received any complaints in this matter you will not consider no members or visitors have been or are at risk of being disadvantaged. There are quite a few, but most people are not as outspoken on matters as I am (thank Heaven for that, you will probably say) and prefer to keep quiet.

Could you please let me and the rest of the members know in Committee Notes next month what has been decided regarding the fitting of a safety automatic brake system on the van. I understand a valve has been fitted to the compressed air tank to release the air and any moisture and so prevent corrosion of the valve which caused the brakes to fail at Powelltown months ago. I understand this valve should not fail again, but perhaps some other part of the braking system could malfunction and we would be placed in another dangerous situation as at Powelltown.

ART TERRY

CHILDREN ON WALKS

As long time members of this club and parents we would like to comment on Ian Hill's letter in April "News" re the Family Walking Group.

He has asked Club members to consider running a few day and weekend walks suitable for children. As far as we know the Club has always allowed members' children on walks at the discretion of the leader and, in fact, from time to time members' children do come on base camps and easy day walks. In the past, quite often, parent members have organized suitable base camps so they could bring their children, and surely there is still nothing to stop this happening. The Walks Sub-Committee is always looking for ideas and leaders. Of course members would have the right to know at the time of booking that children would be attending.

We do think that the Family Walking Group's activities could be advertised more widely club-wise, a program printed in "News" more often than it has, even coming walks and a contact person advertised every month.

LETTERS (Continued)

As telephone contacts for the Club, we have referred quite a number of people to the Family Walking Group in the last 18 months. However we would expect that newcomers into the Family Walking Group would have to qualify as Club members before they could take any children on official Club walks, as under present rules only members' children are allowed on walks as mentioned above.

We are sure that the activities of the Family Walking Group are fostering a value of walking, camping and the bush, but we question that they are creating future members of the Club. The values will last a life-time perhaps and may carry over into other outdoor interests, but very few children grow up having the same interests as their parents. How many members have we had whose parents had belonged to the Club beforehand? We can think of only one!

MARION AND JOHN SISEMAN

WHAT DOES A BUSHY DO WHEN HE OR SHE IS "GROUNDED" FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD??

I'm one of those grounded Bushies at the moment. I've had some lovely walks and long weekend hikes with the Club - each one being very special and memorable to me, the last one being the 3 day full pack hike across the Bogong High Plains with its many breathtaking moments. And now since I've been grounded with the so called "get on with the living" routine, I have besides my little walks along the beach and through the parks only my dreams fired on by beautiful memories. So on Friday the 13th of June (no Black Friday - oh no - a brilliant sunny winter's day, my longing for the wide open country - the Bush - the Mountains - Nature's brilliance, tranquility and serenity just overwhelmed me and I became so terribly aware of our limited, cramped up and jail-like City existence that I was just asking to be out there . . . somewhere . . . And in my little closed-up backyard surrounded by fences and houses and city noises all around me, I sat in that lovely winter's sunshine and with a longing heart I sent off my thoughts . . . here is the result, a poem I like to share with all grounded Bushies:

OH WANDER MY DREAM - OH WANDER

Oh wander my dreams - oh wander
beyond the tin fence and brick wall
out - out into the blue yonder
through scrubs and forests so tall . . .
beyond the City's roads and busy people
with big words and useless explanations -
to the mountains' holy church steeples
where the birds sing the songs of revelation.

* * *

Oh wander my dreams -- oh wander
and leave behind the pain of existence.
Join the hearts which are open in wonder
to the flow of love n our only assistance!
Through pastures filled with the sweet smell of living -
where our souls join hands in the eternal giving.
Oh yes - I can see _ I can smell _ I can feel -
I'm here in the midst - in the centre of the wheel!!

* * *

VERA DIELENBERG

CHEERIOS

Hello Mike - a few words to let you know the Hounds of the Baskervilles will be waiting for us on Sunday 12th October. I hope to have your refreshing company on that day. The way things are shaping up indicates the route won't be overcrowded.
Cheers - Art.

NEW MEMBERS

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PETER GOMM
34 Avon Street
Bulleen. 3105
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* KATHY HUGHES
15/29 George Street
East Melbourne

* Became a member at the beginning of the year but somehow was not put on the computer sheets and has not received any copies of the "News"

Welcome to all you new members, and happy walking.

CHEERIOS

Hello Alan and Lillian - How is life treating you in the Solomon Islands? Hope you are fit and well, and that when you return, Alan, you will lead more of your splendid casual walks.

Cheers - Art Terry

A FURTHER EPISODE IN THE LIFE OF THE INJURY-PRONE M.T.

Last weekend our hero injured himself before he got out of bed! He turned his head to look at the snow and cricked his neck. Didn't stop him hooning down the slopes, though. Does anyone have a design for a sort of bubble which would protect him while allowing him to climb, walk, run, ski, etc.?

CLOSING DATE FOR AUGUST "NEWS" - WEDNESDAY, 6th August

Articles for "News" should be placed in the "Red Box" in the clubrooms, or posted to the club's address, Box 1751Q, G.P.O. Melbourne, 3001. Please put your name on "News" contributions, as a sign of good faith. I won't publish your name if you don't want me to, but won't publish your article either if you don't sign it.

THE NEWS, JULY 1986

S T O P P R E S S !

A LETTER FROM JOPIE

5 July '86
Somewhere between
Kununurra & Turkey Creek

Dear Merilyn & Fellow Melbourne Bushies

I hope this gets to you in time for the July "News". The writing is a bit wobbly because I'm sitting in the front of Russell's (of Willis's Walkabouts) Pajero whizzing along at 100 ks in the general direction of the Bungle Bungles. I'm very excited because this morning we took a tourist flight over the Bungles and I was amazed. It far exceeded my expectations. Incredible sheer-walled gorges and majestic domes. We're so lucky because on Monday 60 mm of rain fell in nearby Hall's Creek and as a result there is plenty of water in the Bungles to drink and swim in. The rain was entirely unseasonal; it's supposed to be dry! In fact Falls Creek had its highest daily June rainfall since the 1800s.

We caught the edge of the rain, getting showered on at our Keep River campsite. We were most indignant at having to put up a tarp shelter during the dry when it never never (or almost hardly ever) rains.

The Keep River Range was superb, great sandstone towers and cliffs plunging down to the sandy plain. Parts look like the edge of Ayers Rock and the whole range is incredibly dissected with some superb gorges.

After our week in the Bungles, Jenny and I will go on to Katherine Gorge and then after restocking in Darwin, go on to 15 days in Kakadu, still with Russell (Willis's Walkabouts). Lesley Forbes and Maureen Hurley will join us for that trip and Melbourne Bushies will comprise a third of the total group.

We're taking lots of slides and providing they all come out OK we'll organise a slide night later in the year to share them with everyone.

Cheers for now and see you in August.

P.S. Save us some good weather and snow for skiing in August and September.

- JOPIE

F O R S A L E

MACPAC OLYMPUS TENT
Ideal snow tent
\$250 o.n.o.

TRANGIA STOVE - \$15

Contact RUSSELL JONES
380 9760 (Home)

In case you're wondering about the three different typewriters used this month (what - you hadn't noticed!) - it's a long story but has to do with the petrol shortage