

THE NEWS

OF THE

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

434

APRIL 1987

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SOCIAL COLUMN

SATURDAY APRIL 25TH

On Saturday 25th April 1987 another whole day trail ride on horseback has been organised on Chester Wallis' property at Clonbinane near Broadford (about 14 hours along the Hume Highway).

We shall ride out at 10 a.m.

Horses are available for both novice and experienced riders.

The cost will be \$30 (BYO lunch).

ENQUIRIES - DAVID PICKUP in the clubrooms

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YHA BADMINTON & PORTABLE HOSTELS

presents a

BUSH DANCE

starring

THE HARRIS BROS QUINTET

FRIDAY 29TH MAY 1987

SOUTH MELBOURNE TOWN HALL

BYO SUPPER, DRINK & GLASS. TEA & COFFEE SUPPLIED.

TICKETS \$6.00

Traditionally, we support this excellent function. The NEW band is fantastic. There will be no square dancing. If you would like to make up a table or two (12 to a table), contact DAVID PICKUP in the clubrooms.

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EARLY WARNING

"THE MUSICAL OF THE CENTURY"

IS

COMING TO MELBOURNE

We have made a group booking (20 seats) for this show - the megahit of the decade. If you have missed out on the Sydney production, this is your big chance to see it. The details are:-

Location: HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE

Date: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4TH 1988 Cost: \$36 (a saving of \$3.00)

ENQUIRIES - DAVID PICKUP in the clubrooms.

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.

DAY WALKS MAY 1987

SUN. 3 MAY TOOBORAC - HAYES HILL - EMU FLAT Easy & Medium

LEADERS
TRANSPORT

STAN ATTWOOD & JENNY ROSS

BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 7.30 pm

MAP REFERENCE PYALONG/REDESDALE

APPROX. DISTANCE 18 & 15 KM

Starting with a stroll up a pleasant country lane from Tooborac, we climb a gentle grassy ridge to the west, passing through some of the most attractive farmland in Victoria. There are historic homesteads and views of the surrounding countryside with the wandering McIvor Creek in the valley.

The ascent continues to Mount Koala and we follow the ridge to Hayes Hill where there are further views to the west.

From Hayes Hill we descend gradually over undulating farmland with some natural vegetation in small ravines, until we reach Emu Flat.

SUN. 10 MAY EAST WARBURTON - BIG PATS CREEK - Easy & Medium STARLINGS GAP

LEADERS

PHIL LARKIN & KEVIN LARKIN Phone 813 2271

TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 8.00 pm

MAP REFERENCE VICMAP 1:25,000 GLADYSDALE, ADA RIVER

APPROX. DISTANCE EASY 12-12 KM; MEDIUM 18-25 KM

This area offers excellent walking at this time of year, particularly along the upper Yarra River, with a spectacular display of autumn tonings amongst the avenue trees and peaceful water reflections along the river. The Upper Yarra region has some of the tallest timber in Victoria which can be seen on the slopes of the range, with original stands of myrtle beech, lush wet fern gullies, tall tree ferns, majestic mountain ash forests on the higher slopes, and messmate and silver top at lower elevations. Within these forests numerous mountain streams flow all year round, giving life to a rich flora and fauna habitat, including a large bird population from the scarlet robin to the superb lyrebird.

The walking tracks within the East Warburton, Big Pats Creek area, and across the range to the Powelltown system, consist of approximately 40 kilometres of historic timber tramway routes which wind through fern gullies and across several mountain streams, with some examples of what were once fine old trestle bridges. Also beside the tracks are boilers, part of an old locomotive, winch cables, wheels and other relics from the past timber industries. All this gives you a feeling of admiration for the ingenuity and determination shown by the timber pioneers.

Both groups will walk along the tranquil upper Yarra River, with a colourful display of autumn foliage amongst the trees. There will be a climb of approximately 600 metres following an old tramway alignment up to Starling Gap.

(Continued)

DAY WALKS (Continued)

The easier walk will take a shorter route from East Warburton, while the medium walk will take a much longer route over the range. Which makes this one of the most interesting and invigorating walks around Melbourne.

Bring water and cameras for an enjoyable day.

LEADER ATHOL SCHAFER
TRANSPORT MEET UNDER THE CLOCKS IN TIME TO CATCH 1.37 PM
TRAIN TO COBURG

It was the bluestone yielded from the lava plains that made Nineteenth Century Coburg. The walk in the vicinity of the stockade takes in a number of historical sites and the gorge of the Merri Creek.

SUN. 17 MAY

NAVIGATION DAY WALK / MAP READING EXERCISE YOU YANGS

LEADER

A DO-IT-YOURSELF DAY, CO-ORDINATED BY ROB AYRE
TRANSPORT
BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE AT 9.00 am

EXPECTED RETURN
7 pm
MAP REFERENCE
YOU YANGS 1:25,000 - VICTORIAN LANDS DEPARTMENT
APPROX. DISTANCE 10 km (plus any side trips)

A chance to learn or refresh those navigation skills, and have a lot of fun at the same time. Participants will find their way around a course of about 10 km in small groups. The country is varied, part cleared, part forest, some flat, and some interesting hills with granite boulders and good views. A number of exercises in mapreading and compass work will be provided at some of the checkpoints, and at many checkpoints an experienced walker will be "in residence" to help with any problems.

YOU WILL NEED a copy of the map, and a compass. I will have a number of maps available for sale; book early with me if you want one. Photocopies will also be available; these are OK but don't show coloured information. If you are buying a compass, the Silva type 3NL or type 3 are recommended. The shorter ones are a little cheaper, but not as useful.

IF YOU CANNOT USE A MAP OR COMPASS, or would like to refresh your memory, please come to an <u>Instructional Evening</u> in the clubrooms on <u>Monday 11 May</u> at 7 pm, when we will run through the basics and do a few exercises. Bring your compass, pencil and paper, and a copy of the map (or buy one on the night).

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO NAVIGATE, but would like to come on a walk anyway you would be welcome to accompany one of the groups and lend moral support.

SUNDAY 24 MAY COLIBAN FALLS - GRANITE CREEK FALLS Easy & Medium

LEADERS

CHARLES ANDERSSON & IAN NEWBOLD

TRANSPORT

BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

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

DAY WALKS (Continued)

SAT. 30 MAY

DANDENONGS EXPLORER - OLINDA FOREST

EASY/MEDIUM

AND HAMER ARBORETUM

LEADERS PAT & PAUL GRAY

TRANSPORT PRIVATE TRANSPORT OR TRAIN FROM FLINDERS STREET TO

UPPER FERNTREE GULLY, 10.00 am, THEN CAR.

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 4.30 PM AT OLINDA FALLS PICNIC AREA MAP REFERENCE "OUTDOORS IN THE DANDENONGS" (TYRONE THOMAS)

MAP 32, WALK 16; OLINDA STATE FOREST, FORESTS

COMMISSION

APPROX. DISTANCE 11 KM

The walk will start at the Olinda Falls Picnic Ground (Melways P66 K2) at 11.45 am. The circuit follows tracks of varying grades through the Olinda State Forest to the Hamer Arboretum for a late lunch, then back to the Forest. The route is generally undulating, with one fairly long, steep climb.

Train travellers should take the 10.09 am from Flinders Street, arriving at Upper Ferntree Gully at 11.14 am. Please see the leaders in the clubrooms if you need to be picked up at the station or if you are willing to pick up train travellers for the 20 minutes drive to the start of the walk.

SUN. 31 MAY PARWAN VALLEY MEDIUM HARD/EASY MEDIUM

LEADERS KEITH WHITE & MAX CASLEY

TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 am

The Parwan Valley stretches out towards the west between the Werribee Gorge across the north east section and the Brisbane Ranges along the southern edge. Long, flat-topped ridges overlook the valley of Parwan Creek. It is open grazing type country with some fences to negotiate.

Both walks will start and finish at approximately the same points. The hardish medium walk will cover a much wider arc than the easier walk.

Recommend you bring water as this is farming country.

WEEKEND WALKS MAY 1987

2-3 MAY LAKE MOUNTAIN PRE-SKI SEASON HUT CRAWL EASY-MEDIUM

LEADER ANNE BULLARD

TRANSPORT CARS

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN SUNDAY AFTERNOON-EVENING

MAP REFERENCE ROYSTON 1:25,000; MARGARET 1:25,000;

LAKE MOUNTAIN 1:25,000; STEAVENSONS 1:25,000

This walk is on the Autumn Programme to be led by Sandra Mutimer. Due to circumstances Sandra is unable to lead it.

On Sunday 29th March, Peter and I previewed it, and much to our surprise it started snowing. Due to this fact, when you are planning or thinking of coming on this walk, which is two months after the preview, make sure you have adequate gear. Walking boots, NO sneakers, woollen socks, jumpers, gloves, beanies, a good tent, sleeping bag of a good type and warmth, parkas that are water-proof, also packs of good quality. If you have any reservations about your equipment please do not hesitate to ask me or Peter. You will also need a bag (a bladder out of a wine cask) to carry water from the creek, unless you prefer to hump heavy water all weekend. A water bottle for carrying your day's supply is also required.

I will be supplying a photo copy map on the day of the walk for those who want one. For any more questions about this walk, please feel free to see me in the clubrooms.

WEEKEND WALKS (Continued)

9-10 MAY BAW BAW

LEADER MARIANNE DRIVER

TRANSPORT CARS

MAP REFERENCE VMTC - BAW BAW NATIONAL PARK

This weekend could rival the debauchery of Marysville, so come along for a good sociable weekend. Accommodation will be at Ed Ski Lodge. All mod cons but you will have to supply your own food and booze plus help clean up. A lightweight sleeping bag should also be taken. Cost is \$9.50 per night. Please contact me for full details.

The programme has this marked as easy/medium. Those who wish to sample the medium may follow me on Saturday to the hut below Mustering Flat and back via Little Boys Creek. Sunday will probably be an exploratory amble along some of my favourite skiing routes.

If Hughie turns on the snow we could even sample the improved Baw Baw nordic trails.

16-17 MAY GRAMPIANS: TOWER HILL - CALECSTASIA EASY/MEDIUM FALLS - BASE CAMP

NOTE: THIS WALK HAS BEEN CANCELLED AS PHIL IS NOT ABLE TO LEAD IT DUE TO BUSINESS COMMITMENTS.

1. WALKS PROGRAMME - JUNE (A PREVIEW)

Date	Location	Transp.	Std.	<u>Leader</u>	Phone	(H)
Queen's	Birthday weekend					
58	HATTAH/KULKYNE	Train	M	Charles Andersson	850	1406
5-8	HATTAH LAKES -	Cars	E/M	Keith White	534	7439
Sun 7	KINGLAKE	Bus	E & M	Rod Topor &	578	3945
	CENTRAL -			Maureen Hurley		
	JEHOSAPHAT GULI	LY				
Mon 8	MT RIDDELL	Train/		Athol Schafer	211	2649
13-14		Bus				
	CATHEDRAL RA.	Cars		Doug Pocock	059-64	149/4
Sun 14	MT WORTH	Bus	E & M	David Pickup &		
	STATE PARK			Stuart Hodgson		5592
19-21	MARYSVILLE	Cars		Graham & Marijke	29	3923
	GUESTHOUSE WEEKEND			Mascas		
Sun 21	E. WARBURTON -	Bus	M/H &	Phil Larkin &	813	2271
	BIG PATS CK -		E	Jim Hedstrom		
	STARLING GAP					
Sat 27	DANDENONGS	Cars		Graham Breen	758	3193
	EXPLORER -					
	FERNTREE GULLY	NATIONAL	PARK			
Sun 28	GELLIBRAND	Bus	E	Art Terry	583	3617
	STATE PARK					

2. SPRING PROGRAMME

The Walks Committee has drafted a walks programme for spring, i.e. September, October and November. It now needs some fine tuning, particularly in regard to the balance of weekend walks.

I would like to hear from members who are interested in leading a programmed walk or would like to suggest a particular walk (day or weekend) for inclusion in the programme. You can contact me either -

In the clubrooms on Wednesday nights
By phone at home (534 7439) or at work (314 0022)
Post a brief note to 22 Odessa Street, East St Kilda, 3182.

SPRING PROGRAMME (Continued)

The programme contains a wide range of walks to suit the seasoned campaigner, regular leader or new leader. New leaders are always welcome and will be given assistance by a more experienced leader if required.

KEITH WHITE - WALKS SECRETARY

ARTICLES FOR "WALK 1988"

Articles are <u>URGENTLY</u> required for "Walk 1988". Although, at the time of writing, an editor has not yet been found to do the job of editing "Walk", there can be no magazine without something to be published.

When a call for concrete support was made during the AGM, about a dozen people but up their hands to indicate that they would write articles. These people know who they are, and there must be a few others who didn't attend who would write.

What is required is something on a bushwalking/tramping/trekking theme of around 600-1000 words in length. Poems will also be welcome. The writing need not be based on experiences in this country (or Tasmania), though they should concentrate on local themes.

Oh yes, make sure technical terms and foreign expressions are correctly spelt and translated in parenthesis. Spelling errors travel in translation.

There is a readership out there awaiting OUR magazine and, with the year already a quarter the way through there is very little time left. Don't leave it to August to do it, it will be too late. Don't worry about supposed lack of experience: Eric Newby was a fashion designer before he tackled the Hindu Kush. So get to it, give it your best shot and WRITE AWAY!

Send articles, track notes, etc. C/- "Walk" Editor.

ALEX VOLTAN

COMMITTEE NOTES MEETING HELD ON 6TH APRIL 1987

Correspondence

- 1. The 2nd Seaford scout group wrote to ask if anyone would be willing to instruct in bushwalking and backpacking. Any offers?
- 2. Post card from Gerry and Mary Young from W.A. saying they have bought a house on 3 acres 30 km from Perth and 20 km from the sea but don't move in till September. Meanwhile they're going overseas for four months to England, Austria and Switzerland. Lucky them.
- 3. Letter from Martin Elias saying he is not keeping up the reputation of being a hard ex Melbourne Bushie (not good enough, Martin), and also don't forget to give him a call when passing through Canberra.

Walks Secretary

February: Total walkers 245: day walkers 191, weekend 54 members 136, visitors 109.

Income \$1,607

COMMITTEE NOTES (Continued)

Treasurer

Balance 31.3.87	\$1921.86
Bills to be paid	
Melbourne Map Centre	15.80
Australia Post (P.O. box)	66.00
Rob Ayre - Wilky stove	711.00
Melbourne Map Centre	7.90
Chariot Body Builders	2809.00
Max Casley - Tilley parts	170.00
Wild Publications - ad.	14.00
Rampower - fuel & oil	237.74
Gestetner	58.65
Mercantile Mutual	335.12
Driving and garaging bus	630.00
	5055.21

Wilkinson Lodge

The new stove has been bought (\$711.00) and will be installed this weekend (11-12 April). Jolly good, Mick, Rob, Hugh and company, a lot of people will be grateful this winter.

Duty Roster

May

Next Meeting

April 15th Merilyn, Mick

Monday, May 4th

22nd Neil, Sylvia 29th Wendy, Merilyn 6th Neil, Alex

Further Points of Interest

- 1. Ed Lawton can now legally drive our bus and will do so when needed.
- 2. A reminder to members, and new members especially, that they may not propose or second any prospective member until they have been in the club for 6 months.

CROSS COUNTRY

SKI CARNIVAL

SUNDAY MAY 31

11 am to 4 pm

POWER HOUSE, LAKESIDE DRIVE, ALBERT PARK RESERVE

FUN AND EVENTS FOR ALL THE FAMILY

ENTRY \$1

- * Films & video
- * Equipment displays tents, skis, clothing
- * Fitness tests
- * Food and drink available
- * Roller skiing

- * Search, rescue and survival display
- * 5 km fun race, 12 noon start
- * 400m ski race, 2 pm, all ages prizes
- * All 1987 information courses, races, tours and accommodation

Bring your gear to sell or buy at the Ski Gear Mart...
Nordic skis, boots, clothing, chains and other sports gear
... BARGAINS!

Organised by

the Ski Touring Association of Victoria

A LETTER FROM TRACY

Dear Friends,

I would like you to know that I'm suffering from a severe case of Homesickness, having just received two issues of "News", long awaited and looked forward to. Dear familiar faces instantly conjured up before my eyes, familiar places previewed, with new names and places interwoven to let me know that time's passing and we are all moving inexorably forward, getting on with life. Times are a-changing. Must just congratulate Madame President. Jolly good show, Sylvia! And I'd like to say I'm missing everyone to pieces, plus I'm getting soft. All those budding Nepalese muscles have vanished. And to hear that the Wilky bookings are open, is more than flesh and blood can stand. Have tried to get out camping here, but it's pretty impossible. Being a single Western woman is worse than having leprosy. You're such a liability, and can't officially go out alone unless chaperoned by a married couple. Plus I didn't bring any camping gear. In my whole 57kg of luggage I brought all the wrong things. Typical. However it's an experience like no other, and one I wouldn t have missed out on for anything. Have my National Parks Bogong poster up on my wall, which I never tire of looking at, and my Wilderness Diary, which I show round whenever the opportunity arises.

My room is on the 4th floor, with an uninterrupted view into Riyadh, overlooking the suburbs. During the day it's unremarkable, but at night it's ablaze. Everything is lit up, whole roads, towers and bridges. It's fascinating gazing out the window at this twinkling carpet, 180° right to the horizon. Our compound is on fairly high ground too, which adds to the effect, so although it must cost a fortune I think it's great. Have been here 4 months now, a whole 3 of the way through. Hope I survive. For the main part it's bearable, except we do work very hard. It's a 48-hour week with four 12-hour shifts, with nights and days mixed, so one does tend to get tired. However, the compensations are many, not the least of which is the company and support of the other Western nurses. They are a terrific bunch - but it's all so transitory. There are people leaving all the time. I'm getting quite a collection of bequeathed treasures. I don't know how people can bear to part with things. It's spring at the moment, and the gardens here on the compound are kept beautifully. Such comforting flowers like zinnias, cosmers, snapdragons, pansies and, of all things, hollyhocks - so English!

Just a word to Stuart and Jan Mattingley - how lovely to have Katrina Lee born on my birthday. Aquarius is a beaut star sign I think. Also thanks to Peter and Anne for getting "News" to me. Will close now. Would love to hear from anyone with the time to write. Remember Tracy who sends lots of love from Saudi Arabia.

Sister Tracy Guest,
Male Medical Ward,
Security Forces Hospital,
P.O. Box 7838,
RIYADH. 11472.
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA.

Many members will be pleased to hear that CHRIS AND HELEN THOMPSON have returned to Melbourne. Their return was just in time to ensure that their new son (3.35 kg, born on 17th March, and at last report still un-named) would not be a Canberra-ite.

CARETAKER REQUIRED FOR SMALL TWO BEDROOMED HOUSE IN SOUTH CAULFIELD FROM 15th JUNE TO 30th SEPTEMBER 1987. RENT-FREE IN EXCHANGE FOR FEEDING CAT, FORWARDING MAIL AND MOWING LAWNS, ETC.

TONY STAPLEY
578 5623 (Home), 819 8139 (Business)

WONNANGATTA - CONGLOMERATE CREEK 28TH FEBRUARY - 1ST MARCH

From the map the walk looked a pretty straightforward affair.

Meeting at Guy's Hut, the party would follow the track across the plain then down to dry creek to the four-wheel-drive track in the Wonnangatta Valley. Lunch at the homestead and camp just up Conglomerate Creek. The next day's journey would take us up the creek to our takeoff point, a spur coming off the mouth of Bryce's Gorge, for the grunt up to the plains back to Guy's Hut. This trip was also to be my first as leader. Yes, it all looked straightforward and planning discussions beforehand gave no cause for concern over difficulties to be encountered.

But reality is never as it seems. Although all party members were experienced bushwalkers, a couple of interesting moments did occur which made me wonder if I'd bitten off more than I could chew. I had only the vaguest notion of what a leader is supposed to do.

As Friday evening was warm I had anticipated warm weather Saturday. It rained, it poured the whole day. We got a little confused with the cow pads criss-crossing the plain but the track was regained and on we went down the track to Dry Creek. There we found morning tea - blackberries. There are two edges to Von Mueller's curse, one of them is food on the hop. The rain added a warm touch to humans grazing on blackberries.

My first tough decision came upon reaching Wonnangatta homestead. It was 1.20, it was raining heavily, there was shelter and six hungry people. The leader was not hungry but cold, so making camp and getting into a warm bag had priority over six other people. 'I'm hungry', said one member. 'Yeah, I'd like something to eat, and now', came another as they started to make their way to the hut and out of the pelting rain. The next was on reaching a camp site on the Conglomerate Creek. Again I'd rather be out of the cold and rain so camp was made. A fire was also started, the rain stopped, we became more sociable, passing the evening in talk.

The weather cleared to sunny skies for the next day's journey up the creek with the going easy, criss-crossing the creek along a track which passed through clearings which would have made excellent camp sites. However this track went up a spur to rejoin the track we took down. We were to go much further up and from this point on it was rock hopping, wet work but great for co-ordination. Fun. Along the way we passed numerous snakes, one being 2 metres in length and 5 cm in girth. Lunch time was announced by one party member declaring at a water hole, 'This looks like a nice water hole'. 'Yes, it certainly does, doesn't it, Alex', adds another.

From the map it was deduced that our progress was much slower than expected. It would be a late finish. We got to our takeoff point at 3.00 pm, resting 10 minutes before negotiating the wall which required scrambling up. When this was passed, the spur was steep but relatively clear. Up and up and up we went to the second obstacle. The nose of the spur was too risky to climb, the mudstone rock being unreliable, crumbling in our hands. A gap was sighted to our right and this was aimed for. The views from this point were wonderful, with the gorge to the left and the ranges to the right. Going up was slower work still, Arduous and very risky. I couldn't believe this could have been a route used by bushwalkers. Some one was wrong. The spur to our right looked like an inverted ski jump (or J-curve on its side). It just got steeper and steeper, the last 50 metres being near vertical. 'What if we reach an impassable wall?', I heard someone complain. Going back down would be positively dangerous. Nothing to break your fall; it would be senseless to quit now. I thought we had reached the top, but there was more to come. We were confronted by a wall made up of very loose mudstone. One person made it up, but not before sending a cascade of boulders pelting down on us below. That was his foothold distintegrating. I went up next,

WONNANGATTA - CONGLOMERATE CREEK (Continued)

and after seeing the very real probability of my demise, some unprintables were uttered. The others sidled around. I found myself straddled atop a knife edge of loose rock about a foot wide, looking down on my nemesis. I was now certain someone was mistaken. I had been misled. Others concurred. But we were on top, looking across to the plains. We hade made it.

From here it was a stroll down a spur to a plain, across Conglomerate Creek then on to a well marked track to the road and the cars. When we left it was 8.00 pm. I got home at 12.30 am.

How did I go as leader? My excuse is that I live in Clayton.

- ALEX VOLTAN

I was there, and I thought Alex did a commendable job. - ED.

A MEDIUM/HARD BLUDGE MT. BULLER - 13-15 MARCH

Russell was the leader, Bill and I were the party. We were to start on the Howqua River and climb up to a spur which would take us over Little Buller to Mt. Buller.

Bill daringly drove his 4-wheel drive Subaru down a side track, to find it went all of 50 metres. However it was a good parking spot, so we set off along a nice level horse track above the river till we were opposite our spur, then a quick descent, a wet crossing of the Howqua and a short bash up on to the spur. Nice walking through open bush with an easy gradient. Eventually the spur took a turn to the left and headed towards Little Buller. Then the going got a bit more interesting - some very steep bits and some rock scrambling, but without the element of terror that the Wonnangatta-Conglomerate Creek walk had held. We had lunch on a rocky outcrop with views of Timbertop, Eagles' Peaks, Mt. McDonald, The Bluff and all that. Then we continued through more rocky stuff to Little Buller, which might be a nice ski trip from Buller next winter. The hardest part of the walk was plodding up a ski run on grass with nothing to take your mind off the fact that you were climbing steeply. We walked up to the summit of Mt. Buller, hoping to give 'encouragement' to Keith's group struggling up, but no sign of them, so we headed down to the village. A cold beer in the pub, watching the end of a James Bond movie on video, and the others began to wander in.

We 'camped' in the Youth Hostel, comfortable, though rather cold, and we didn't have to carry it on our backs. Hot showers were appreciated, and the meal at the pub was of average quality and above average price.

Sunday's walk was a 'doddle' down 4-Mile Spur to the Howqua, where Russell and I had fond memories of a 4-star swimming hole at the bottom of Tunnel Spur. Things are never as you remember them. The weather was sunny and warm but not really warm enough to make us appreciate the shivery cold water, so the dip was brief. Then off to the Witches' Brew in Mansfield for lunch and an early return home.

- MERILYN WHIMPEY

FOR SALE

STAMINADE

LESS THAN HALF PRICE

SEE CHARLES ANDERSSON IN CLUBROOMS

LIMITED SUPPLY