



# THE NEWS

OF THE  
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

No. 438

AUGUST 1986

PRICE 20C

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 \*  
 \* Due to unforeseen circumstances the \*  
 \* \*  
 \* HALF-YEARLY \*  
 \* GENERAL MEETING \*  
 \* \*  
 \* has been changed to \*  
 \* \*  
 \* WEDNESDAY, 26TH AUGUST \*  
 \* AT 7.30 P.M. \*  
 \* \*  
 \* Matters to discuss \*  
 \* \*  
 \* No "Walk" this year \*  
 \* A tracks policy \*  
 \* A huts policy \*  
 \* Election of one committee member - \*  
 \* nominations now open \*  
 \* \*  
 \* and more? DO COME! \*  
 \* \*  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*

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

### TRAIL-RIDE II

The second whole day trail-ride on horseback will be on Saturday, 19th September on Chester Wallis' property - Glen Elgin, Sunday Creek, near Broadford (about 1¼ 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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### BIRDS - BIRDS - BIRDS

We are negotiating for an expert from the Bird Observers' Club to talk to us on a Wednesday evening in late September about our feathered friends that can be sighted in and around Melbourne.

Further details will be in next month's newsletter and on the notice board 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 Facing Club Lane, every Wednesday night 7-9 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

SOCIAL COLUMN (Continued)

TENNIS

It has been suggested by some sporting types within the club that it would be good fun to have a social tennis afternoon. It seems a very good idea.

Would anybody interested in such an event please contact DAVID PICKUP in the clubrooms. If there is sufficient demand, it will be arranged.

D A Y W A L K S

SATURDAY, 29 AUGUST      DANDENONGS EXPLORER      EASY  
BELGRAVE - MT. MORTON

LEADER                    BOB AUJARD - PHONE 509 6164  
TRANSPORT                MEET UNDER THE CLOCKS AT 10.30 A.M. TO CATCH  
                                 THE 10.49 TO BELGRAVE  
                                 TICKET: ANYWHERE TRAVELCARD \$5.00 (\$2.00 CONC.)  
MAP REFERENCE            MELWAYS 75 and 84  
APPROX. DISTANCE        12 KM

An njoyable walk, mainly along wooded, unmade streets with fairly new houses on country size blocks. Belgrave Lake provides a good lunch spot and there are all round views from the top of Mt. Morton. Start at Belgrave Station - lunch at Belgrave Lake - then Zig-Zag Road, Mt. Morton, Kaola Street, Belgrave Walking Track back to Belgrave Station.

SUN. 6 SEPTEMBER      CHERRY TREE RANGE/GOULBURN RIVER      MEDIUM/EASY

LEADERS                    DAVID PICKUP & BOB BELL  
TRANSPORT                BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 A.M.  
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN    7.30 P.M.  
MAP REFERENCE            YEA 1:50,000; TALLAROOK 1:50,000  
APPROX. DISTANCE        16 KM

This walk will include open ridge tops, bushlands, rocky outcrops and farmland. The wattles on the Goulburn River should be in full bloom. We should encounter a variety of wild and domestic animals and some interesting bird life.

Bring water.

SUN. 13 SEPT.            WILHELMINA FALLS ROUND TRIP      EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS                    PHIL LARKIN & STEPHEN COURTNEY  
TRANSPORT                BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 A.M.

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

SAT. 19 SEPT.            HISTORICAL WALK - BRIGHTON      EASY

LEADER                    ATHOL SCHAFER  
TRANSPORT                MEET UNDER THE CLOCKS IN TIME TO CATCH  
                                 1.44 P.M. TRAIN TO GARDENVALE

Brighton land first sold at £1 per acre - eight square miles bought by Henry Dendy. Subsequently he went bankrupt and the mortgage





C O M M I T T E E   N O T E S  
MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 6TH 1987

Correspondence

Letters in from Jim Stockton and a visitor re the dog on a recent day walk. (Please see this and reply from leader elsewhere in "News".) The Committee thoroughly endorses the decision of the leader being the right and sensible thing to do.

Letter from the Alpine Planning Project which includes the report published in June. The latter is in the clubrooms. Please read it, especially the relevant bits that might affect us. The Committee is getting onto it and would appreciate any input.

Treasurer

Balance at 31.7.87 : \$6736.60 (30.6.87 : \$4721.05)

## 1. Payments to be ratified:

"News" Account	\$196.93
Yum Cha Restaurant - booking	\$200.00
Yum Cha Restaurant - balance for Annual Dinner	\$469.00
Art Terry - reimbursement	
Highfield weekend deposit	<u>\$50.00</u>
Sub Total	\$915.93

## 2. Bills to be paid:

Rampower - fuel & oil June 67	\$211.62
Driving and. Garaging	\$430.00
Gestetner - "News" supplies	<u>\$199.45</u>
Sub Total	<u>\$841.07</u>
Total bills & payments	<u>\$1757.00</u>

## 3. Other:

The "Walks" account is now in the black,  
at +\$900 on July 31.

Walks Secretary

Total walkers 278      Day walkers 194      Weekend walkers 84  
   Members 209      Visitors 69

Income \$1702.50

Improving booking system:

- (1) Postal bookings: For those members who are unable to get in on a Wednesday night, would they please ensure that the leader has received their money a good 10 days in advance of the walk to guarantee a place on the bus.
- (2) Leaders: Walks have been full by 7.15 p.m. on a Wednesday. Can you please try to get into the clubrooms by 7.00 so no last minute confusion arises.

Thoughts from the Walks Secretary re track maintenance, fire precaution and leaders. All under discussion.

Acting Membership Secretary

Half-yearly review

Members: Ordinary	337
Life & Honorary	22
"News" Subscribers	11

COMMITTEE NOTES (Continued)Social

Only 30 people attended the half-yearly dinner and disco at the Yum Cha restaurant, which was a pity because it was good! Thank you, David, anyway.

Duty Roster

12th August	Rob, Sylvia
19th	Wendy, Merilyn
26th	The Bullards (Half-yearly General Meeting)
2nd September	Neil, Hugh
9th September	Mick, Sylvia

Date of Next Meeting

Monday, 7th September

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N E W M E M B E R S

We welcome the following:

Jack Morgan, 7/917 Punt Road, South Yarra, 3141  
(H) 266 4606 (W) 368 3382

(News Subscriber)  
Guilaine Bignoux, 15 Warmington Road, West Sunshine, 3020  
(H) 312 5770 (W) 393 0263

C H A N G E S O F I N F O R M A T I O N

Trish Elmore: (W) 418 2340

Alex Voltan: (W) 580 1244, ext. 227

Eileen Ayre: (W) 347 5649

Gwynnyth Taylor: P.O. Box 146 , Montrose, 3765

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CLOSING DATE FOR SEPTEMBER "NEWS" - WEDNESDAY. 10th SEPTEMBER

Articles for "News" should be placed in the red box in the clubrooms, or posted to the club's address, Box 1751Q, GPO, Melbourne, 3001. Please put your name on "News" copy.

AN OPEN LETTER  
TO THE PRESIDENT, MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Dear Sylvia,

On 19 July 1987 a dog followed our walking group at Mount Disappointment. Whether it had been encouraged to follow is not relevant. At the end of the day we had taken the animal away from its owners. Some of us proposed to drive it back to the start of the walk where it was first seen. It was loaded into the bus.

At this stage the dog's plight was discussed. Four arguments were offered.

1. It was a bush dog and would know its way home;
2. It could be driven back if I was prepared to pay the cost;
3. It is the leader's decision;
4. Dogs are not allowed on club trips, so it must be taken off the bus.

The dog was left on the road some 10 km from where it had been picked up (trip leader's estimate).

This is my letter of resignation from the Club.

I do not wish to be a member of a group that can use such spurious arguments to abandon its responsibilities on the roadside.

Yours faithfully,  
DR JIM STOCKTON

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LEADER'S REPLY

I appreciate your concern, but I cannot agree with you. It is true that you stated your opinion quite strongly at the time, and that at least three others generally agreed with you. It is also true that a number of people disagreed with you, some of them quite strongly, and the matter became a bit heated. By listening to the various opinions and adding my own views, I decided the matter as required by the club's Rules and By-laws. Several points were made, and you quote some of them, but they were not mine. To avoid further argument, I did not give my reasons at that time.

These are my reasons. This large and active dog, allowed to run free and demonstrably in the habit of following walkers, horses, and cars, had followed us for at least 16 kilometres. Because the walk was almost circular, he was left only five kilometres from where he picked us up, by tracks such as we had followed on the walk. The ten kilometres which you quote was the distance by bus (each way) to return him to that spot. I do not accept that he could not find the way back by himself. My concern is for the dog more than for his owner, who neither confined the dog, in this area of native wildlife, nor provided him with a name tag.

On the other hand, every extra kilometre travelled by road very slightly increases the risk to our passengers, even with the enviable safety record which we have come to accept as normal. To be caught by circumstances off our planned route, against the wishes of the majority of members present, doing something outside the bounds of the club's objectives, could be hard to explain to our insurers. This may not sound very rustic, but it is very real. There is more to leading a walk than following a map.

I am sorry that you are so upset by this. We try to be a friendly group, and nobody likes to make enemies. But you will agree that when opinions are so strongly divided, it is not possible to please everybody. A positive action would be for you to try to influence members by example and by debate, so that in a similar case in future you would have general support. If, however, you feel that you must resign because you disagree with a decision made in these circumstances, then I can do no more than support your decision.

HUGH DUNCAN, Walk Leader

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