



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

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

DAY WALKS (Continued)

holder, J.B. Weir took over, the land price soaring to over £1,000 per acre. Later, the former East Bently cabbage grower, 'Honest' Tom Bent, who became Premier of Victoria, speculated in the land and became a 'paper' millionaire.

The walk will take in landmarks left by Bent and the 80s Land Boom - and includes the route of the St. Kilda - Sea Beach railway (never built) and the Railway Tram (ran for 50 years). Walk finishes at Elsternwick at 5 p.m.

SUN. 20 SEPT. DYERS FALLS - LODDON RIVER EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS ALEX VOLTAN & TRISH ELMORE
 TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 A.M.

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

SAT. 26 SEPT. DANDENONGS EXPLORER EASY

LEADER DAVID PICKUP

This walk will either be along the Mullum Creek in Ringwood or the Doongulla Forest Reserve. Full details in next month's "News".

SUN. 27 SEPT. MOORABOOL FALLS - LAL LAL FALLS - EASY & MEDIUM
 MT. BORAN

LEADERS KEITH WHITE AND KEN BAIRD
 TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 7.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE LAL LAL 1:25,000
 APPROX. DISTANCE 14 & 18 KM

Pleasant walking through undulating light eucalyptus forest, sometimes following tracks, to the Bungal Dam.

A short side trip to see a blast furnace built in the 1890s and to view the dam wall.

Keeping to high ground, we will contour around the reservoir to Lal Lal Falls for afternoon tea. The walks will finish beside the Moorabool River at Yendon Blue Bridge.

Bring water for lunch.

W E E K E N D T R I P S

21-23 AUGUST KARA-KARA STATE PARK - BASE CAMP EASY

LEADER FRED HALLS
 TRANSPORT CARS, BY ARRANGEMENT
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 8 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE LOCAL SKETCH MAP
 APPROX. DISTANCE 25 KM

The main function of this base camp trip is that of exploratory walks to determine the possibilities of further, longer walking trips through the region.

The terrain is hilly, open forested lands, of gold mining hamlets active during the gold rush 130 years ago. Base camp will be situated at the Upper Teddington Reservoir. There should be very pleasant walking conditions in the hilly open forests of blue gum, manna gum, yellow box, grey box and among golden early wattles blooming on the West of England ranges above Teddington Reservoir.

The old gold mining town of Stuart Mill is situated on the Sunraysia Highway, not far distant from these reservoirs.

WEEKEND TRIPS (Continued)

4-6 SEPTEMBER SKI - MT. FEATHERTOP MEDIUM/HARD

LEADER BILL METZENTHEN APPROXIMATE DISTANCE 18 KM
 TRANSPORT CARS

Among Australian mountains, Mount Feathertop is truly remarkable. It has been described as "... unquestionably the Queen of the Victorian Alps, ... and is aptly named the Razorback".

In suitable conditions, the skiing from the Hotham road to Mount Feathertop is varied and enjoyable. In parts, one skis on almost level ground through snow-gum forest. Elsewhere, such as at the Big Dipper, there are slopes to offer suitable challenge for converted telemark skiers, although competent snow-plough devotees can, and do, negotiate these "obstacles" without too much drama.

Hopefully, we will reach a suitable camp-site by lunch-time on Saturday and ski unburdened to the summit of Feathertop in the afternoon. This would allow us to slowly work our way back to the cars on Sunday, stopping frequently to try the gullies on the sides of the ridge.

This mountain does have a nasty side - it has claimed several lives in recent years. If conditions are poor (e.g. the snow too icy, or a blizzard is in progress) the trip will be changed to elsewhere in the Hotham area.

11-13 SEPTEMBER SKI - THE BLUFF MEDIUM/HARD

LEADER MARK TISCHLER
 TRANSPORT CARS

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

18-21 SEPTEMBER SKI - MT. BOGONG MEDIUM/HARD

LEADER MERILYN WHIMPEY
 TRANSPORT CARS
 MAP REFERENCE BOGONG 1:100,000

Mt. Bogong is the place to go in spring. You have a longish climb carrying skis, but once you get to the top you can XCD exciting gullies or mess around on top visiting West Peak, Cleve Cole Hut, Howman Falls, etc. without over-excitement. We'll find a nice camp site in the trees below the main ridge, unless the weather is so good that we feel like camping on the top. With the aid of 4-wheel drive vehicles, we'll be able to get to the Eskdale Spur track, which will mean a shorter climb than the Staircase.

25-27 SEPTEMBER NORTH GRAMPIANS BASE CAMP EASY
 (FULLY CATERED FOR)

LEADERS JOPIE BODEGRAVEN & JENNY ROSS
 TRANSPORT CARS
 MAP REFERENCE MT. DIFFICULT & STAPYLTON 1:25,000

This weekend is basically so we can practise the catering for our "Happy Walker Adventure Tours" venture which starts operating in January. It will be a normal base camp except that you bring no food. You are trusting that to us.

The limit will be 16 catered for and this is restricted to adults because there will be no one under 18 on our commercial tours. However, as many as want, including of course kids, are welcome to join us camping and walking if you cater for yourselves.

The walks will be to Mt. Difficult and Briggs Bluff, Mt. Stapylton and Hollow Mountain and will be fairly easy, although we will probably divide into a harder and easier group.

The catering cost will be \$18, with a refund if we don't spend that much. For this you are required to be constructively critical of the service so that hopefully we will get it right when we are doing it for paying customers in 1988.

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

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

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

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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BUSHWALKERS INC.
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