

THE NEWS

OF THE

MEI BOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

No. 442 EDITION

DECEMBER 1987

PRICE 20 C

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST PUBLICATION NO. VBH 1297

SOCIAL COLUMN

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP PARTY

This annual party will be held in the clubrooms on Wednesday, 23 December, 1987 at 7.30 p.m.

Come along and share with others your thrills and spills of 1987 and your plans for 1988.

Bring along a plate and something to drink.

There will be a raffle, with prizes kindly donated by Joyce Dunn.

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FAREWELL PARTY

SUNDAY 10TH JANUARY MIDDAY ONWARDS

Rex and Sue Filson, who have been club members for many years, are retiring next year and moving to northern New South Wales (the lucky sods). A send-off has been organised, to be held at Doug Pocock's home, 55 Railway Parade, Wandin North (phone 059-64 4974).

BYO grog, meat and a salad or sweet to share.

PLEASE NOTE

THE CLUBROOMS WILL BE CLOSED ON 30TH DECEMBER. BUSINESS AS USUAL ON JANUARY 6TH.

SNOWY MOUNTAINS IN JANUARY

If anyone would like a cheap "Happy Walker" base camping trip to the Snowies, please contact Jenny or Jopie on 723 3632. We need to fill a small number of seats to get the trip to optimum strength. You may be asked to help with a few camp chores.

The tour leaves on January 9th, goes for 9 days and takes in the Main Range in detail as well as Yarrangobilly and Cave Creek Gorge in the northern Snowies.

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 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

DAYWALKS

JANUARY 1988

SUN. 3 JANUARY STARLINGS GAP - ADA RIVER - EASY & MEDIUM FEDERAL MILL

LEADERS BOB BELL AND A VOLUNTEER (?)

TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 A.M.

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 7.00 P.M.

MAP REFERENCE ADA RIVER 8022-2-4, VIC MAP 1:25,000

This is a pleasant track walk through the Ada Valley. There are still signs of past logging industry and we negotiate some of the gullies previously spanned by log bridges to arrive at the derelict mill sites. The last part of the walk is on dirt road.

Due to the time of year the walk or walks will vary according to the numbers and ability of the walkers who turn up on the day.

SUN. 10 JANUARY SAN REMO - KILCUNDA - POWLETT RIVER EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS

MAUREEN HURLEY & SYLVIA WILSON
TRANSPORT

BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 A.M.

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 7.00 P.M.

APPROX. DISTANCE 15 KM

At the time of writing this description the walk had not been previewed. It is expected that it will be a pleasant beach walk of an easy/medium duration. If the weather is good there will be time for swimming and sun-bathing, so don't forget bathers and, most importantly, water! See you there!

SUN. 24 JANUARY WOODMORE RANGE - MT. DESPAIR - EASY & MEDIUM MURRINDINDI RIVER

LEADERS FRED HALLS & BOB BELL

TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 A.M.

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 8.00 P.M.

MAP REFERENCE KLONDYKE 8023-3-3 & MONDA 8022-4-4 (1:25,000)

APPROX. DISTANCE 15 & 18 KMS

Starting points of the walks are GP 718477 Monda and 721500 Klondyke. The medium walk starts at the first reference point, and the easy walk at 721500. Both finish at GR 725594, situated on the Murrindindi Road.

The easy walk follows the Dindi River Road (earth) north along the valley of the Murrindindi River. After crossing Tin Dish Creek, we turn left and follow the lovely valley of that creek's northern head to an earth road rising upwards along the Woodmore Range to a lunch spot at a road junction. After lunch, we continue along the Mt. Despair ridge to the trig point at Mt. Despair, 881 metres. The way to this point has been mostly through good forest of mountain ash, some shining gum and myrtle beech groves.

Hence forth, the route north is along a drier, steep and narrowing ridge through dry sclerophyll forest of messmate and peppermint. Near a gate, we head due east to the finishing point on the Murrindindi Road.

The medium walk will be somewhat similar but will start out along the southern end of the Woodmore Range, but may follow the Gin Case

DAY WALKS (Continued)

Track, a narrow, steeper and more rocky approach to the Mt. Despair ridge.

It would be advisable to carry some water as the northern end is quite dry. There may be a change of plans if fire danger threatens; on a mild-warm day this would be a pleasant and interesting walk.

SUN. 17 JANUARY CUMBERLAND RIVER - KALIMNA FALLS - EASY & MEDIUM SHEOAK FALLS

LEADERS PHIL LARKIN & RICK CHATER

TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 A.M.

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

SUN. 31 JANUARY SANDY POINT - COOLART - POINT LEO EASY

LEADERS WINIFRED DE SOUZA & FELICITY TOPP TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 A.M.

MAP REFERENCE MELWAYS MAP 194 - 197

APPROX. DISTANCE 16 KM

The walk starts at South Beach and follows the coast around westward to Flinders. We walk along the beach and foreshore with a few creek crossings and one fence to clamber over! If the weather is good, bring bathers. There will be plenty of time for swims. See you there.

WEEKENDWALKS

JANUARY 1987

8-10 JANUARY SNOWY BLUFF MEDIUM

LEADER RUSSELL JONES

TRANSPORT CARS

MAP REFERENCE MACALISTER RIVER WATERSHED - VMTC

The walk will start at the Watchtower, descend off this down to the Moroka River, then up the other side (water to be carried) to Snowy Bluff, then on Sunday down to the Moroka. Then up the four-wheel-drive track to Doolans Plain.

22-25 JANUARY SNOWY PLAINS BASE CAMP
(AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND)

LEADER ROSEMARY COTTER

TRANSPORT CARS

MAP REFERENCE HOWITT 1:100,000

Yes, you have read this preview before - in February's "News". Unfortunately the weather last Labour Day weekend prevented us from achieving some of what we'd intended to do.

The idea behind this weekend is to give access to a variety of day walks of different standards. On the Saturday we will be heading for Mt. Howitt, going by way of Howitt Hut and Macalister Springs, with the possibility of a side step or two to the Cross Cut ridge. The whole area affords magnificent views of the surrounding mountains.

On the Sunday and Monday the menu is varied: a) a walk to Bryces Gorge and Guys Hut or b) a wander down the valley from camp to Kelly & Huggins Huts, c) a gentle plod up to the top of Mt. Reynard, or d) exploring the area for other cattlemen's huts and/or waterfalls.

WEEKEND WALKS (Continued)

JANUARY 22-25 BOGONG - LONG SPUR - MT. WILLS - MEDIUM (AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND) - MITTAGUNDI TRACK

LEADER PETER ASHBY

TRANSPORT CARS

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN MONDAY 9 P.M.

MAP REFERENCE NATMAP BOGONG 1:100,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 60 KM

East of Rocky Valley storage dam, park cars on the road opposite Watchbed Creek, for 8.30 a.m. walk start. First camp site on the Long Spur. Water will need to be carried 2 km downhill from the Maddison Hut area. Most of the walk will be along very attractive mountain walking tracks shaded almost entirely by trees. After climbing the summit of Mount Wills, on to the picturesque beauty of the Mittagundi track, snaking its way through shaded gullies from Big River bridge to Kelly's Hut.

JANUARY 22-25 COWOMBAT FLAT - TIN MINE FALLS - THE PILOT MEDIUM

LEADER PHIL LARKIN

TRANSPORT CARS

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

WEDNESDAY WALKS

Following our initial proposal in September "News", a number of members have expressed interest in going on walks on a Wednesday.

So far we have 12 names on the list on the notice board, and I would guess that a small number of other members and visitors could also be interested.

However, before we can program Wednesday walks on a regular basis, we will need a co-ordinator in much the same way as Pat Gray organises the Dandenongs walks, i.e., a person to arrange for leaders and assist in the selection of the walks. The Walks Secretary and Walks Committee are always available for assistance if required.

In this regard, the following walks have been tentatively suggested for inclusion on the 1988 Autumn Program:

Wednesday 30th March - Wilhelmina Falls Wednesday 27th April - Angahook Forest Park

Wednesday 25th May - Lerderderg Gorge

Do we have a volunteer to act as co-ordinator for 1988 and potential leaders of the above walks?

SATURDAY EXPLORATORY WALKS

So far, 10 members have expressed interest in leading or participating in these walks.

The walks are intended as unpreviewed explorations into walking areas new to or little used by our club - a bit of an adventure.

It is thought that these walks will probably operate best on an informal basis, i.e., someone comes up with an idea for an exploratory walk, decides on a suitable date and then advertises the walk in "News" (if sufficient lead time) and on the bookings board.

If the initiator wants to lead the walk that's fine, otherwise a leader could be agreed upon by those participating in the walk.

All we need now is for someone to take the first step forward.

NOTE SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY IN YOUR 1988 DIARY

This is an opportunity to test your navigating skills and to join in the fun of the first Rogaine for 1988.

The event will run for 10 hours (10 a.m. - 8 p.m.) and will explore the creeks and parkland in the hilly eastern suburbs.

Spencer George and Keith White have aimed to set an interesting course suitable for family groups and beginners but also catering for more competitive groups. No fences or blackberries.

The cost is \$9 Victorian Rogaining Association members/per head \$6 Juniors (17 and under)

\$18 Family (2 adults and up to 3 children in a team)

Membership fee is \$5 for those joining or renewing.

N.B. Under the rules of the VRA, competitors have to enter as a team of two or more members.

Enquiries: See Keith White in the clubrooms or phone 534 7439 (H) or 314 0022 (W).

Entry forms are available. More information on the event in January "News".

COMMITTEE NOTES

FOR THE MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER, 1987

Treasurer

Bank balance 1 December 1987 (\$4492.03 at 1/11/87)	\$5866.92
Payments to be ratified: "News" account	\$175.91
Bills to be paid: Driving and garaging of bus, Nov. '87 Rampower - fuel and oil, Oct. '87 Gestetner Pty. Ltd. Printed matter (Walks Programme	\$530.00 \$364.45 \$ 9.26
Summer 1987-88)	\$ 58.80
	\$1138.42

On the ANZ Bank's recommendation, the club has reduced its overdraft by \$5100 to reduce our fees (remaining overdraft \$4900). The bank also agreed it is advisable to place some of the cheque account funds into an interest-bearing account, and we have so placed \$3000.

Correspondence In

Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands concerning the proposal for establishment of Bunurong Marine Reserve in waters near Inverloch. They asked for submissions on a variety of issues - Hugh to investigate.

Australian Democrats - outlining draft of National Resources Policy.

The Wilderness Society - promoting the film "Earth First", to be screened on 19th December 1987. This film has been made to raise awareness of the plight of world rainforests.

Outdoor Recreation Centre, advertising two First Aid courses in 1988 which have a strong emphasis on outdoor activities. Both courses are accredited by St. John Ambulance. About half way through the year, the Outdoor Recreation Centre will follow up with an advanced Remote First Aid Course.

Conservation Council of Victoria - an update on their issues plus a questionnaire which Sylvia is to answer.

This correspondence can be found in the yellow folder, clubrooms.

COMMITTEE NOTES (Continued)

Club Insurance

The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs is offering insurance cover for all member clubs, which would reduce our costs by approximately \$200 annually if we can get a refund from our present insurer. The Treasurer is to investigate the feasibility of making the change.

Walks Secretary

October Total walkers 187 Day walkers 164
Weekend walkers 23
Members 140

Visitors 47
Income \$1633

Social Secretary

The Colonial Ball was well supported, and a good night. A profit of \$91 was made on the wine and cheese night. Those who attended the Christmas Dinner had a jolly good time.

General

A farewell party for the Filsons is to be held on 10 January at Doug Pocock's home - see front page.

Some walkers have complained of persistent parking problems in Batman Avenue. The committee decided not to change the bus departure point as Batman Avenue is easy to find for newcomers. Walkers are advised to allow extra time for parking - perhaps try behind the Arts Centre.

Leaders are reminded that a \$2 late fee should be collected from walkers who have not booked a place on the walk on the Wednesday prior.

Duty Roster

December 16 Ceri, David

23 Jenny, Neil

January 6 Hugh, Ted

13 Bob, Sylvia

Next Meeting

Monday, January 11, 1988, at 7.00 p.m.

FREE

RELAXATION MASSAGE

I will be doing an intensive professional massage course during January, and will need people to practise on (at no charge) during January and early February. I'd like lots of volunteers - males, females, young and old - so that I get to work with a good variety of physiques and personalities. If you'd be interested, please let me know in advance when you'd be available.

NOEL TOLLEY (481 1017)

ALONG THE TRACK

MIXING IT WITH THE SYDNEY BUSHIES

Visiting Sydney recently, we decided to see for ourselves what the Sydney "Bushies" were like. A couple of phone calls established contacts, and enabled arrangements to be made. We took the 8 a.m. train to Glenbrook, in the Blue Mountains, met up with a very friendly crowd, and then joined a convoy of cars on a brief trip to the starting point. We were able to start by 9.45 a.m. giving us a good long day. As the day proved to be very hot (at least for us poms not used to this bright stuff) we were well-pleased to find that we were to follow the Erskine creek. This took us through some beautiful gorges and to no less than four swimming holes which we made good use of. The absence of bathers did not deter any swimmers and one particular photograph was taken which I am desperately trying to locate and destroy. We discovered what was meant when we were told that the Sydney walks were back-to-front - they go down first, then up, in contrast to ours which tend to do the reverse. We also saw one snake (dead), two wedge-tailed eagles (very much alive) and many nude bodies. A good walk with some nice friendly people - we recommend that you try something similar when next in Sydney.

- DERRICK BROWN & GINA HOPKINS

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THE HIGH COUNTRY IN SPRING

I'd done the same walk less than a year ago, and enjoyed it so much that I was determined to be on Ceri's Hotham-Feathertop walk this November.

Bill, Peter and I arrived at Diamantina Hut at about midnight on Friday and, after waking the occupants, decided it would be more pleasant outside in tents, which we pitched and entered without delay. At the cruelly early hour of 8.30 a.m., in a cold wind and under an overcast sky, with Feathertop capped by cloud, we set off for the summit of Hotham. People were more interested in getting out of the wind than admiring the views, and we quickly headed towards Mt. Loch, then down along the ridge to our turn-off before we had a break. A short side trip to the Red Robin mine followed - nobody there. The hoons of the party threw stones onto the iron roof of the toilet while it was occupied. We returned to our packs and walked down Machinery Spur, firstly in snow grass along a narrow, rocky ridge, and finally on a logging track through mountain ash, to Blairs Hut for lunch. Two ageing 'children' threw a frisbee while the rest of us relaxed and ate.

The hard part of the day's walk was next - a grunt up Diamantina Spur. At the necessarily slower pace, it was good to admire the wildflowers - pink orchids, red alpine grevillea, white eriostemon, pink boronia, and purple hovea being the most common. When it first started to rain we grumbled about parkas being too hot, but by the top we were glad of the extra warmth.

The campsite at the top of the Diamantina Spur would rate three stars if it weren't for the lack of water and the abundance of ants. It's a large, flat, grassy area in snow gums, with views of Mt. Feathertop on one side and the Razorback on the other. Bill and I soon had our tent up and dry clothes on and snuggled under our sleeping bag to get warm. After a while the rain had stopped and we joined the others around the camp fire. By the time we went to bed the sky was clear.

Sunday was as near perfect a day as you are likely to get - sunny but not too hot, with a cool breeze. Warm enough to sit on Feathertop for a long time before going down to MUMC hut, where those in their second childhood again played the 'rocks on the toilet roof' game. Back to camp for lunch and to pack, then one of my favourite walks - and ski trips - along the Razorback to our cars at Diamantina Hut.

Thanks, Ceri, for a terrific walk, and congratulations on not losing either of the Peters.

NEWMBERS

We welcome the following new members:

Peter James 10 Thompson Court, Werribee, 3030

Phone (H) 741 2748, (W) 691 3728

Nathan Moshinsky 201 Amess Street, North Carlton, 3054

Phone (H) 380 5912, (W) 608 7444

Alexsandra Markovic 52 Holden Street, Fitzroy, 3068

Phone (H) 489 3844, (W) 357 5455

Raphael Byron 22 Studley Road, Ivanhoe, 3079

Phone (H) 49 5469, (W) 649 4222

Jacinta Bourke 4 Northam Road, East Bentleigh, 3165

Phone (H) 579 5045, (W) 235 3426

Maria Liew 14 Jessie Street, Sunshine, 3020

Phone (H) 311 8258, (W) 393 915δ

Sue Phillips 257 Raleigh Street, Thornbury, 3071

Phone (H) 484 1561, (W) 508 2666

CHANGES OF INFORMATION

Margaret Eyton 56 Havelock Street, St. Kilda, 3182

(H) 537 2219, (W) 699 9500

Simon Arnold 2/87 Spray Street, Elwood, 3184

Ken Briscoe 26 Wakley Crescent, Wantirna South, 3152

(H) 887 0847

Kenneth J, Baird 4 Pentlowe Avenue, Lower Templestowe, 3107

Lesley Forbes 41 Hilltop Crescent, Molly Mook, 2539

Ed Lawton P.O. Box 306, Carnegie, 3163

6/12 Sydney Street, Murrumbeena, 3163

Helen (Waddell) and Chris Thompson

19 Hawkins Avenue, Box Hill North, 3129

(H) 890 2601

If you change your address or phone number, please notify the Membership Secretary (Jenny Ross) and she will arrange to have the club's membership list amended and for your new address to be published in "News".

WANTED

"NEWS" EDITOR FOR 1988

You need about 6 hours spare each month, and you need to be able to type. You get custody of the club's Adler electric typewriter, and you know all the gossip before the rest of the members. You also get to be on committee, and have a say in the running of the club. Enquiries to Merilyn Whimpey, 578 1062 (home) or 690 2322 (work).

CLOSING DATE FOR JANUARY "NEWS" - WEDNESDAY, 13 JANUARY

Articles for "News" should be placed in the red box in the clubrooms, or posted to Melbourne Bushwalkers, Box 1751Q, GPO, Melbourne, 3001. Please put your name on "News" contributions. Unsigned articles will not be published.