

# THE NEWS

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MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

431

## JANUARY 1987

PRICE 20 C

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## SOCIAL COLUMN

## WINE FOR SALE

Following our wine-bottling, we still have the following red wines from the Vermont Winery for sale:

- 1. 1982 Cabernet Shiraz \$2.60 per bottle
- 2. 1983 Bleasdale Malbec \$2.80 per bottle

For orders contact David Pickup or Robyn Kennedy in the clubrooms.

## ANNUAL GENERAL

## MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Melbourne Bushwalkers (Incorporated) will be held in the clubrooms, 2nd Floor, 377 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne at 8 pm on Wednesday, 25th February 1987.

Correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary,

Melbourne Bushwalkers,

Box 1751Q, G.P.O., MELBOUPNE, 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 FEBRUARY 1987

SUN. 1 FEBRUARY LERDERDERG GORGE - OLD RIVER EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS ROB AYRE & MICK MANN

TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 AM

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 8 PM

MAP REFERENCE LERDERDERG FOREST PARK 1:25,000 : FORESTS

COMMISSION VICTORIA

APPROX. DISTANCE 12 & 14 KM

Both walks start and finish near Mt. Blackwood. The medium party will descend the fairly scrubby Bears Head Range track to the Lerderderg, then follow the Old River Gorge upstream for a couple of km. After that will climb up the spur and descend again to the Lerderderg, returning to Mt. Blackwood via the Ah Kow track.

The easy party will spend most of its time on the Lerderderg (and happily will avoid the scrub).

Both parties will have swimming stops if weather permits.

SUN. 8 FEBRUARY FAIRHAVEN - GRASSY CREEK - LORNE EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS PHIL LARKIN & WINIFRED DE SOUZA
TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 AM

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

SUN. 15 FEBRUARY QUEENS FALLS - MITCHELLS FALLS EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS

GRAHAM HARDING & STEPHEN COURTNEY
TRANSPORT

BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 AM

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

SAT. 21 FEBRUARY HISTORICAL WALK - CAULFIELD CENTRAL EASY

LEADER ATHOL SCHAFER

TRANSPORT MEET UNDER THE CLOCKS IN TIME TO CATCH 1.44 PM

TRAIN TO MALVERN

Those who enjoyed the North Caulfield walk will find much interest in the extension of that route, which the Caulfield Central area covers. Bring something for an outdoor afternoon tea. Back in City about 5 pm.

## FORSALE

Alp Sports fibre pile jacket, navy, ½ zip, decent size, as new. \$45 o.n.o.

Scarpa boots, worn some, biggish size. \$40 o.n.o.

## FREBIES

2 oiled japara parkas, middling and big sizes, still waterproof. Collection of ski waxes.

Owners going overseas. Contact Sylvia Wilson 836 6342.

DAY WALKS (Continued)

## SUN. 22 FEBRUARY COOKS MILL - LITTLE RIVER FALLS EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS

JOPIE BODEGRAVEN & JENNY ROSS
TRANSPORT

BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 8.00 AM

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN COULD BE LATE

MAP REFERENCE ALEXANDRA 1:100,000; THORNTON 1:50,000

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS AN EARLY START WALK. THE BUS WILL LEAVE BATMAN AVENUE AT 8.00 AM. This is because of the distance from Melbourne. Anybody who has difficulty getting in to Batman Avenue by 8 should ring me and I'll do my best to organise a lift in.

The walk area is just east of the Cathedral Range, where Little River descends from the Blue Range via some lovely cascades and a very impressive waterfall. Normally we don't travel quite so far but the area warrants it so we're having this one off special trip.

Both walks will require some rockhopping, so bring good gripping shoes. The medium involves more rockhopping and considerably more climbing. Also bring bathers for swimming in a rock pool if it is hot.

## WEEKEND WALKS FEBRUARY 1987

6-8 FEBRUARY WILSONS PROMONTORY BASE CAMP

VARIOUS

LEADER GRAHAM HARDING

TRANSPORT CARS

Wilsons Promontory National Park is renowned for its scenic beauty and abundance of flora and fauna. Combined with its expansive beaches and nature walks, it is the right place to be at this time of the year.

Tidal River camping ground has all facilities. Walks will be planned to suit each day.

Please note the date has changed from programmed date.

It is important to check with leader for full details when booking.

13-15 FEBRUARY BUNGALOW SPUR - FEATHERTOP - EASY/MEDIUM DIAMANTINA SPUR

LEADER PHIL LARKIN

TRANSPORT CARS

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

## 20-22 FEBRUARY CCBUNGRA RIVER - BOGONG HIGH PLAINS MEDIUM

LEADER PHILIP TAYLOR

TRANSPORT CARS

MAP REFERENCE BOGONG 1:100,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 20 KM

The area east of Mt. Hotham in the upper reaches of the Cobungra River contains some excellent walking country. This trip will commence at Brandy Creek, approximately 10 kilometres east of Mt. Hotham. We will walk down to the Cobungra and then explore along the river, gradually working our way along to Dibbins Hut. A walk up the Swindlers Spur to Mt. Loch and then back to Mt. Hotham.

A pleasant walk, not too difficult, with time for swims.

#### HCUSEMATE WANTED

for 3-bedroom brick veneer house - near bush!, parks, public transport and freeway.

\$60.00 per week - share food: semi-Pritikin.

- CHARLES ANDERSSON 895 1290 (W); 850 1406 (AH)

#### FROM THE WALKS SECRETARY

A Walks Planning meeting for the winter program will be held on February 5th. Any ideas for day or weekend walks would be most appreciated. Offers to lead walks would also be most welcome. Please contact Penny with day walk suggestions, or Phil Taylor with your weekend walk suggestions, by the end of January.

## COMMITTEE NOTES MEETING 5TH JANUARY

## Correspondence - In

Melbourne Women's Walking Club history has been published - to be launched Wednesday 21st January.

Letter from Greater Daintree Action Centre with copies of petition to Federal Government requesting listing of Daintree area as World Heritage. (This will be held at the information table in the clubrooms.)

Letter from Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands re Dandenong Ranges Parks Management Planning project, with application form for registration of interest.

Letter from David and Merrian Dundas re Wilky bookings - see page 6 of this issue.

## Business Arising

An interest will be registered for the Dandenong Ranges project.

#### Treasurer

Balance at end December estimated \$4000 (bank statement not received).

Accounts for payment

Driving and garaging \$430 Abbtype - typesetting for "Walk" 87 \$977

Accounts already paid - to be ratified

"News" printing \$162.25
FVWC subscription (overdue) \$250
P. Gronow - bus maintenance \$65

Discussion held with ANZ bank re overdraft limit (currently \$10,000). They expect us to reduce this by \$2000-\$3000 each year. However, will remain the same this year, but may be reduced by double this amount at end of 1987.

#### Walks Secretary

November 1986

Day Walkers 188 Members 168
Weekend Walkers 35 Visitors 55

223 Income \$1412.50

#### Duty Roster

January 14th Hugh/David 21st Merilyn/Jan 28th Robert/?

February 4th Sylvia/Merilyn

## Next Committee Meeting

February 2nd

## COMMITTEE NOTES (Continued)

## Other

Annual General Meeting 25th February. Nominations required for all positions.

Wilky work party - January long weekend.

Federation day walk - 12th Anril.

#### THE OLD LADY OF THE ROCKS

Well, what do you want first: the good news or the bad news? The good is terrific, the bad diabolical.

Good news: as previously mentioned, our erstwhile Treasurer has now done the right thing and made an honest man of David Morgan. They had a small, quiet family wedding, and large noisy parties afterwards so their friends could help celebrate. The latter was done with great enthusiasm! Rosemary looked charming in the wedding photographs. She wore a pale pink suit with a lace inset and a smashing big hat. They've decided to live in Rosemary's Clifton Hill house and David will start at his new job at Haileybury in February. Latest reports are that they are not having good weather on their honeymoon at Cowes, but who needs good weather on a honeymoon? Seriously though, we wish you all the very best for your future happiness together, good luck in your new job, David, and hope to see you on lots more walks.

Now the bad news, both bits. Alas, we have to say goodbye to two old stalwarts of the club, both of whom are moving interstate, but in opposite directions. Gerry and Mary Young are going to Perth, while Graeme and Dot Laidlaw are going to Manly. I mean how much further can you get from the snow?

Graeme, alas, has had a touch of arthritis and has been advised to move away from Melbourne's damp climate. In days gone by Graeme was a very keen hard weekend walker, but has lately been seen on the snow usually going in the opposite direction saying "Can't stop, I'm late for a race". We shall miss "The Voice" no end; hope the move and everything else goes well for you both.

Gerry has more family in Perth, and having some here still threatens to come back often. But it won't be the same. One of the best day walks I've ever been on was led by Gerry. It was freezing cold, howling gale, downpour, slippery logs, arrived back in the dark, the whole bit. And what made it so good? Laughing non stop and Gerry's endless string of funny stories and his cheerfulness and enthusiasm kept us all going. The club will lose a leader of the very best, but I guess it's that very special Gerry presence we shall miss most of all. As one of the Bushie ladies once said, "Oh, all the girls are in love with Gerry." I don't know how the fellows quite feel about this, I'm sure they'll miss your smiling face too!

And a last bit of good news to cheer you up: those of you who remember American Ron will be pleased to hear he married his Australian girlfriend, Margaret, recently, so is back here, and is threatening to come weekend walking again. Jolly good!

#### JUST MARRIED

Merrian McCarthy and David Dundas were married on 29th November 1986. Congratulations and best wishes to you both!

#### WILKINSON LODGE BOOKINGS

The following is a letter expressing the opinions of two club members. The views are not necessarily those of the club or the committee, and the questionnaire is not an official club one. A statement from the Wilkinson Lodge Manager follows the letter.

"It will soon be time to start taking bookings for Wilkie for the winter of 1987. Whether or not you intend going to Wilkie you should read and respond to the following, which has been written in the interests of establishing a fairer club.

When making arrangements to go to Wilkie during the winter of 1986, we fell victim to some deficiencies in the booking procedures. In a letter to the committee the deficiencies were highlighted and a summary of the letter was published in "News". The only response received was in favour of the existing rules which were published in February 1985.

The existing rules can be summarised as follows:-

- 1. People who wish to be organisers must place their names on a list between the 3rd Wednesday in February and the 3rd Wednesday in March. Where there is more than one name on the list for one week the Lodge Manager will select one.
- 2. A list showing the organisers will remain on the booking board and anyone wishing to go should contact the organiser.
- 3. The organiser will be able to refuse any application on the following grounds:-
  - (a) If she/he thinks that the person will not fit in with the rest of the group.
  - (b) If the list is already full, i.e. at least 8 people.
  - (c) If the person is considered to be not a sufficiently competent skier.
  - (d) If the person has a medical problem that could endanger the person's or the group's safety.
- 4. Disputes arising from the above are referred to the club executive.
- 5. Those who have been on recent working bees will have priority over others, and members will have priority over non members if a conflict arises in the selection of organisers or party members.

We believe that there are a number of deficiencies in these rules which discriminate unfairly against new members and members who do not have the "right" contacts in the skiing fraternity. We will deal with the deficiencies one at a time and suggest fairer alternatives.

#### Selection of organisers (item 1 above)

The current selection of organisers by the Lodge Manager leaves the system open to favouritism. A fair alternative would be for the organiser's name to be drawn from a hat.

## Refusal because of incompatibility (item 3(a) above)

The fact that a person may not fit in with the group is not a generally applied rule when accepting nominations for bushwalks and should not be applied to Wilkie bookings.

Some may contend that compatibility is particularly important at Wilkie because of the potential of a long stay indoors, but it must be remembered that when difficult situations arise on bushwalks people can be forced into equally close proximity and can be even more dependent on each other.

## WILKINSON LODGE BOOKINGS (Continued)

## "Refusal because of full list (item 3(b) above)

Under the current rules there is no requirement that the list of applicants be displayed on the booking board, so an applicant cannot tell whether the list is genuinely full. This system allows the organiser to fill the list with his or her friends before anybody else has had a chance.

A fair system would be to have a list placed on the booking board. Applicants could record their names on the list by a specified date and if over-subscribed the successful applicants could be drawn from a hat. Couples could be listed on the same ticket. By the same means a ranking could be given to all unsuccessful applicants in case they are needed as emergencies.

## Priority to club members (item 5 above)

At present a club member can be excluded because of incompatibility with a non club member or because the list is filled by non club members.

The rules state that priority is given to club members. However, to exercise that right an appeal must be lodged to the club executive. In setting this rule the club is making life harder for its members than non members and if anybody exercised the right they would, having created such a fuss, leave themselves open to being excluded because of incompatibility.

Many members would also feel reluctant to create the fuss necessary to achieve the priority which they deserve.

Club members should be given priority without the need to appeal to the club executive.

## Priority to Working Bee Participants (item 5 above)

Club members who have been on working bees in recent years (say 3 years) should have priority over other club members without the need to appeal to the club executive.

#### What should you do now

In making decisions the club executive takes into account responses to letters such as this. You may respond by completing and returning the attached questionnaire or by writing directly to the committee.

#### Questionnaire

		Yes	No
		(Ticl	
	Selection of organisers should be decided by a draw from a hat after giving priority to club members and recent working bee participants	appropria	ate DOX)
2)	Incompatibility should not be a ground for refusal		
3)	All applicants must place their name on a list on the booking board by a specified date		
4)	A full list should not be a reason for refusal		
5)	Where there are too many applicants the successful ones and emergencies should be drawn from a hat		
6)	Club members must automatically receive priority		
7)	Club members who have participated on recent working bees must automatically receive priority over other club members		
Nam	e (optional)		

## WILKINSON LODGE BOOKINGS (Continued)

"Return by 31.1.87 to:- Merrian & David Dundas 17 Trevelyan Street Elsternwick, 3185.

Results of the questionnaire will be published in February "News"."

## MERRIAN DUNDAS DAVID DUNDAS

The committee discussed David and Merrian's letter and decided to repeat here the reasons for keeping the existing booking system, as published in the July "News".

- 1) No one has been prevented from going to Wilky by members taking their families.
- 2) The old system was unsatisfactory.
- 3) The present system was agreed to by a vote at the 1985 AGM.
- 4) Compatibility of party members is paramount in such close quarters.

It was agreed that David and Merrian's suggestion of having all the names of the party members on the booking lists should be followed in future.

Finally, during the 1986 winter season, there were several vacancies, and everyone who wished to go, did.

ROD MATTINGLEY

## ALONG THE TRACK

## LORNE WATERFALLS BASE CAMP

#### 7-9 NOVEMBER

The number of people was a little disappointing when Ross, Verle-Ann and I met up with Phil and Doug at the Cumberland River Caravan Park on Saturday morning. We had expected a few more to turn up for walks in this beautiful part of the State, but it was a very pleasant morning and we were all glad to be out.

After a short car shuffle, we followed a pleasant grassy track, lined with the colourful mint bush for a short distance, before following our intrepid leader down a dubious looking overgrown tramways track, to an even more densely overgrown and precipitous section of the Upper Cumberland River. The Otways scrub, however, was not as bad as anticipated and we soon reached the Upper Cumberland Falls, a seldom visited and beautiful spot with superb ferns and rock pools.

After lunch, we followed the river with its cascades, waterfalls and many very large tree ferns which lined the steep banks. A photographer's joy with surprises round every bend. Eventually Phil led us up a westerly branch of the river to find a track and a steep climb out to the cars.

Sunday was quite different, starting with a short walk from the coast to the base of the magnificent Carisbrook Falls. Here a broad expanse of water cascades down the rock from high above the valley to a deep pool below the falls. Climbing the 750 rough steps to the top of the lower falls, we continued on past the equally spectacular upper falls, to explore the river further up until it disappeared into a narrow rock-lined gorge.

After lunch, as time was running out, we left the river, climbing a ridge across open farmland to an interesting property aptly named "Drizzle Downs", although for us the sun was shining. The farmhouse was interesting, with an unusual sod roof growing a heavy crop of grass, making it almost invisible from the hills above.

Following a pleasant track high above the river with excellent views of the surrounding countryside, we found a side track leading to the old Carisbrook timber mill site, and went down to investigate. The mill operated from 1938 to 1948, and an old boiler and other relics of the past are still there on a beautiful river spot which would make an excellent camp site today. It's an area well worth further exploration, but saving this for another time, we reluctantly climbed back up the steep track to find the cars and back to Melbourne.

Thanks, Phil, for a most enjoyable and interesting weekend. Hope this gives the others some idea of what they all missed.

#### STAN ATTWOOD

#### ALONG THE ALPINE TRACK

#### 21-23 NOVEMBER

The walk was planned to take in the spectacular section of the Alpine Track between Mt. McDonald and Mt. Clear. 12 intrepid bushies rendezvoused at 8 Mile Creek on Saturday morning and drove on to where a recent timber track links the Low Saddle Road with the route up Mt. McDonald. The walk started off easy, the sky was blue horizon to horizon and the sun filtered down through the tall trees. The climb began to steepen and the vague track lost itself in the rocky crags. The leader found it easy to look after the tailenders, but eventually all sat on the top and admired one of the finest views in Victoria. The next section along the Alpine Track saw a foray to obtain water and then to the summit of The Knobs. Again a spectacular

## ALONG THE TRACK (Continued)

view. A reappraisal of plans and progress indicated an overnight stop in the saddle below Mt. Squaretop, a gully running to the west looked a likely water source. Eventually we arrived at a pleasant snow grass area in the saddle and the gully had plenty of sweet pure mountain water.

The weather held good on the Sunday and we pushed on, the machos over the top of Squaretop and the weakies (including the leader) sidled around via the track but arrived first for the climb up Mt. Clear. From Mt. Clear we pushed on, finally leaving the Alpine Track to bush bash (easy) down to Brock's Road and an easy amble back to the cars.

GRAHAM BREEN

## CLOSING DATE FOR FEBRUARY "NEWS" - WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 1987

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" contributions. Unsigned articles will not be published.