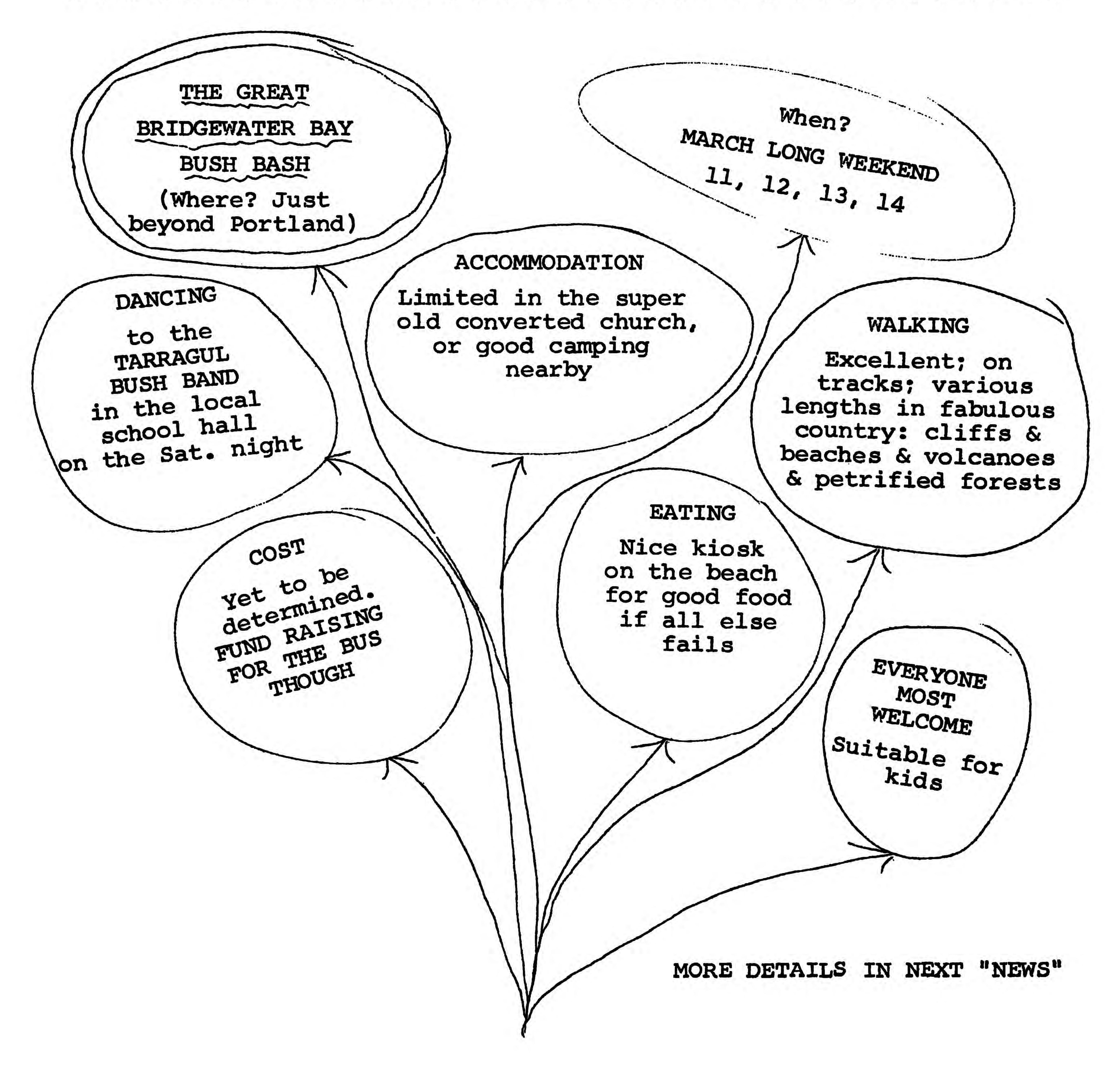


NOTE: AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND WALKS THIS YEAR ARE FOR FOUR DAYS.

CHANGE OF MEETING POINT FOR BUS

Starting from Sunday, 24 January, the bus will be parked in Nolan Street just around the corner from St. Kilda Road, i.e., beside the Victorian Arts Centre. This move has been brought about by the increasing number of closures to Batman Avenue due to the advent of the Tennis Centre. You can park your cars in Nolan Street, St. Kilda Road or Sturt Street. Nolan Street is less than 5 minutes walk from Flinders Street Station down St. Kilda Road.



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.

DAYWALS

FEBRUARY 1988



FRANKSTON TO MORNINGTON BEACH WALK - TUESDAY 25 JANUARY - SEE PAGE 3.

SUN. 7 FEBRUARY HEADS OF WERRIBEE AND LERDERDERG EASY & MEDIUM RIVERS

LEADERS GEOFF MATTINGLEY & JEAN GIESE BUS FROM NOLAN STREET, 9.00 A.M. (see page 1) TRANSPORT EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 8.00 P.M. VICTORIA 1:25,000, BULLARTO & TRENTHAM MAP REFERENCE ALSO CFL "WOMBAT STATE FOREST" APPROX. DISTANCE 15 KM

Both these rivers rise in the Wombat State Forest (between Bacchus Marsh and Daylesford), as do the Moorabool, Campaspe, Coliban and Loddon Rivers. These walks offer a sample of the area, including the upper Lerderderg, the forest itself, and the second highest point around (Mt. Wilson). It is planned to finish at the old goldmining town of Barry's Reef, near Blackwood. Some road walking and some through the bush, with moderate climbs and descents.

Don't forget to bring drinking water.

SAT. 13 FEBRUARY CYCLE TRIP

LEADER ART TERRY TRIP CHARGE \$14.00 BUS FROM MOLAN STREET, 9.00 A.M. (see page 1) TRANSPORT EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 7.30 P.M. MAP REFERENCE A GOOD ROAD MAP APPROX. DISTANCE 50 TO 90 KM

As on all of our rides, we will have the wind on our backs as much as possible. If the wind is from the north the ride will start at Wallace then to Mt. Egerton, Meredith, Steighty and Maude. Dennis will be behind us, so you can decide for yourself how far you wish to pedal. Pump, spare tube, and the necessary tools for your bike are compulsory items. If the wind is blowing from the south we will start at Lara, skirt around the western side of the You Yangs - Staughton Vale, Balliang, Bacchus Marsh, Mt. Bullengarook, Gisborne.

LEADERS DAVID PICKUP & BRIAN MARRIOTT BUS FROM MOLAN STREET, 9.00 A.M. (see page 1) TRANSPORT EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 8.30 P.M. LETHBRIDGE 1:25,000, MEDINA 1:25,000 MAP REFERENCE APPROX. DISTANCE 10 KM

This walk has a little bit of most things people look for when bushwalking. Rock-hopping and climbing, rock pools for swimming, easy river crossings, hills to climb, forested areas and abundant wildlife (e.g. koalas and wallabies).

It will leave Johanne on the Sheoaks-Maude Road, from which we shall make our way down to the Moorabool River, and follow it upstream to Sheoak. The latter part includes the interesting gorge.

Bring bathers and drinking water.

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No. of Concession, Name			

DAY WALKS (Continued)

SAT. 20 FEBRUARY HISTORICAL WALK - SOUTH YARRA EASY

LEADER ATHOL SCHAFER RENDEZVOUS UNDER THE CLOCKS, FLINDERS STREET STATION, 1.30 PM

We will then take the No. 8 tram to stop 25 at Christ Church, the start of a walk along a route described in a recent guide to the area. The author, Mr. Oscar flater, has lived in South Yarra for 10 years, researching and compiling the local history. Bring something for a picnic afternoon tea in the Botanic Gardens. The 3-hour walk finishes 5 pm. For a copy of "Walking Tour of South Yarra West" - containing maps, notes and a list of classified and recorded National Trust properties, try Readings or Hill of Content (\$5.50).

SUN. 21 FEBRUARYFRENCH ISLANDEASYLEADERART TERRYWALK CHARGE\$10.00FERRY FARE\$10.00TRANSPORTBUS FROM NOLAN STREET, 9.00 A.M. (see page 1)

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN 7.30 - 8.00 P.M. APPROX. DISTANCE 15 KM

I haven't quite decided exactly where we will walk on the Island this trip, but I can say it will be well away from the area where we were almost devoured by mossies on our last trip. The ferry operator has suggested several places around the Island where we could be put off and picked up. I will have a look around when I can manage to get away for a day. The ferry fare is approximately \$10.00.

SAT. 27 FEBRUARY	DANDENONGS EXPLORER GEMBROOK TO EMERALD
LEADER	WINIFRED DE SOUZA
For details of th	is walk please see the leader in the clubrooms.
SUN. 28 FEBRUARY	ANAKIE GORGE - LITTLE RIVER GORGE EASY & MEDIUM
LEADERS TRANSPORT	STEPHEN COURTNEY & WENDY BARNES BUS FROM NOLAN STREET, 9.00 A.M. (see page 1)
For details of th	is walk please see the leaders in the clubrooms.

SPECIAL NOTICE RE FRANKSTON TO MORNINGTON BEACH WALK - TUESDAY 25 JANUARY

As our good friend Athol is unable to lead us on his very popular walk this year I will take the reins from him and invite members and visitors to come along and have a happy day walking and swimming our way along the beaches to Mornington.

The train to catch from Flinders Street is the 8.56 a.m. to Frankston which arrives at 10.03 a.m. We will leave Frankston Railway Station at 10.15 a.m.

There is no need to book for this walk, in fact there will be no booking list displayed. All you have to do is turn up at Frankston Railway Station by 10.15 a.m.

Buses back to Frankston leave Mornington at 4.20 p.m., 6.50 p.m. and the last at 8.15 p.m.

NOTE: Australia Day this year is on Tuesday and not Monday

ART TERRY

EASY

MEDIUM

WEEKEND WALKS FEBRUARY 1988

5-7 FEBRUARY WILSONS PROMONTORY BASE CAMP

LEADER GRAHAM HARDING TRANSPORT CARS

Wilsons Promontory National Park has an abundance of varieties of fauna and flora. It also has magnificent scenery comprising beaches, mountains and forests. Walks will be arranged to suit the group. Bring your swim wear. All facilities are available at Tidal River Camp Ground.

5-7 FEBRUARY HOWMANS GAP - SPION KOPJE - HEATHY SPUR

LEADER GRAEME THORNTON TRANSPORT CARS EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN SUNDAY NIGHT MAP REFERENCE ALGONA GUIDES FALLS CREEK 1:25,000, 8324 BOGONG 1:100,000 APPROX. DISTANCE 26 KM TO FALLS CREEK

We'll start off at the Howman's Gap Camp and after a refreshing crossing of Rocky Valley Creek we start the interesting ascent up to Spion Kopje. Spion Kopje links the Nelses via a pleasant open ridge. Saturday's camp isn't fully determined but will be somewhere between Spion Kopje and the New Country Spur. I hope to have a look around Batty's hut because:

(a) I haven't been there

(b) It's at about 1600 metres and in winter . . .

Sunday will be over the Nelses and back to Falls Creek via Heathy Spur.

We will probably have to rely on the aqueduct for water so bring a container to carry Saturday night/Sunday morning's water.

12-14 FEBRUARY BAW BAW PLATEAU

EASY/MEDIUM

LEADERALEX VOLTANTRANSPORTCARSEXPECTED TIME OF RETURNBEFORE 8.30 MOVIEMAP REFERENCEMATLOCK 1:100,000APPROX. DISTANCE30-40 KM

This is largely terra incognito; however a weekend spent in the area during May last was one of my most enchanting weekends. I hope my companions on that occasion as well as any others who care to come along will join me in what I hope will be a very pleasant weekend.

26-28 FEBRUARY	HIGHFIELD WEEKEND	EASY
LEADER TRANSPORT	ART TERRY CARS	
	in what was the farm house, now referred to as is equipped with beds, mattresses and pillows,	the

shower and toilet facilities, dining and lounge rooms, ample cooking facilities (electric stoves), two refrigerators, toaster, urn, food mixer. All cooking utensils, cutlery and crockery are also supplied. What you need to bring:- sleeping bag, pillow case, food, including salt, pepper, etc., tea towel, personal toilet items, insect repellant, etc.

There are many places to walk. The area ranges from open farmland to bush to coast.

You may prefer to have your Saturday evening meal at the Flinders Hotel which is about 5 miles away.

Highfield is situated on the Rosebud-Flinders Road (Boneo Road), approximately 15 km from Rosebud (Nepean Highway) and 8 km from Flinders. The entrance is between Main Creek and the Coastal Radio Station which is adjacent to Highfield.

The cost is \$3.50 per night.

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WEEKEND WALKS (CO	ntinued)	
26–28 FEBRUARY	BRANDY CREEK - BOGONG HIGH PLAINS - MACHINERY SPUR	MEDIUM/HARD
LEADER TRANSPORT MAP REFERENCE APPROX. DISTANCE	PHIL TAYLOR CARS BOGONG 1:100,000 32 KM	
A delightful walk The walk, althoug	TE FROM THAT GIVEN ON SUMMER PROGRAM. to a little-visited portion of the Hig h long, should be completed in sufficie Camp will be either on the High Plains	ent time to

West Kiewa River, depending on group desires. The climb up Machinery Spur is steep but is not too bad and should be quickly conquered. A pleasant walk through some of the prettiest country in the State.

<u>ADVANCE NOTICE</u>

NAVIGATION COURSES

In view of the popularity of the one-day navigation exercise last year, we have decided to put on more such activities this year.

On the next programme there will be two such exercises listed. The first will be a weekend base-camp in the Warby Ranges near Wangaratta, on the 25-27 March. The second will be a Sunday trip, as last year, on the 8th of May, venue yet to be arranged. We are also thinking about another one late in the year, probably also a one-day trip.

Instruction evening

I will be running an instruction evening in the clubrooms, covering map-reading, use of the compass, and some practice exercises, shortly prior to the day trip in May. I would also be happy to run another such evening before the March base camp if potential attendees would like it, but I'd need to know approximate numbers to decide whether to hire the clubrooms or use another venue.

Would anyone who may be coming on the base-camp and who would like to attend an instruction evening beforehand please let me know.

ROB AYRE

EASTERN PARKLANDS METROGAINE

SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

As a follow up to the item in December "News", I forgot to mention that the event fees include a cold buffet style meal at the end of the event. Also entries close on the 12th February; after that time a late fee is charged.

What is rogaining? Rogaining is basically an extended orienteering event. On the day of the event you are given a 'clue sheet' with a list of 45-50 check points, which you mark on your map prior to the event. The check points are given different score values depending on their distance from the admin. centre (Hash House), difficulty in location, scenic value, etc. Few competitors expect to complete the whole course, so the secret is to plan a comfortable route which will gain maximum points in the given time (10 hours in the case of this Metrogaine). Check points can be visited in any order.

The Metrogaine can be a fun day out where you learn to apply your navigating skills or it can be a good introduction to the more serious 12 and 24 hour country events held later in the year.

I have pinned entry forms on the notice board in the clubrooms.

KEITH WHITE

WALKS PROGRAMM- AUTUMN 1988

The Autumn Walks Program is due to come out with February "News", but here is a list of the March walks.

Date Location Trans. Std. Leader Phone (H) 4-6 Mt Buffalo - Twin Cars Leader required M Falls Base Camp Wilsons Prom in a M/H Cars Russell Jones 386 0150 Day station & Carson

Sun. 6	Noojee State Forest	Bus	ESM	Phil Larkin & Trish Elmore	813	2271
<u>Labour</u> 11-14		Cars	E	Sylvia Wilson	836	6342
	Mt Bogong from the Omeo Road	Cars	H	Bill Metzenthen	578	1062
Sun. 13	Bushrangers Bay - Cape Schank - Rye	Bus	ESM	Penny Stapley & Winifred de Souza	578	5623
18-20	Stanleys Name Spur- Mt Howitt - Square Head Jinny	Cars	M	Russell Jones	386	0150
Sat. 19	Historical Walk - Rosstown Railway	Train	E	Athol Schafer	211	2649
Sun. 20	Rubicon Tramways	Bus	E	Phil Taylor	386	0797
25-27	Navigation Weekend Base Camp	Cars	E	Rob Ayre	580	2560
Sat. 26	Dandenongs Explorer Lysterfield National		E	Michael Humphrey	598	7317
Sun. 27	Federation Day Walk (CAEX): Castlemaine - Chewton area	Bus	A11	Keith White	534	7439
Easter 31-5	Mt Jagungal	Cars	E/M	Keith White	534	7439
	Snowy Mountains Main Range	Cars	M/H	Alex Voltan		4768
	Grampians: Victoria Range Base Camp	Cars	A11	Fred Halls Neil Priestley Phil Larkin	557	3724

WORTH VISITING

LEONE RYAN'S AUSTRALIAN BUSH LIFE EXHIBITION

at The Banana Alley Vaults Cnr. Flinders & Queen Streets, City \$5.00 adults \$2.50 children Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-4.30 p.m. Saturday, Sunday 12 noon-5.00 p.m.

Leone has spent 12 years working on clay sculptures. These represent a collection of stories, scenes and everyday events of outback life. The detail in these models is tremendous and I'm sure you'll spend a great deal of time wandering around the display and will be most impressed with it. Thoroughly recommended.

<u>COMMITTEE NOTES</u> MEETING HELD ON 11TH JANUARY 1988

PAGE

Correspondence

- 1. Federation minutes and newsletter see the yellow box.
- 2. C.C.V. re Flora & Fauna Bill which protects 500 species. Request groups to register willingness to be involved in the campaign to fight the cause. Hugh Duncan to investigate further.
- 3. Ministry of Conservation, Forests and Lands concerning the Government's initiatives for East Gippsland. Two National Parks, Errinundra and Coopracambra will be created and Snowy River National Park substantially enlarged. Copies of details available.
- 4. Letters from Art Terry and Graham Todd re cancellation of the January 3rd 1988 walk. Please see page 9 of "News", with the Committee reply.

Treasurer

Bank Balance 1/1/88: \$5673.41 Payments to be ratified: 2. 100.00 Mountain Lodge - Deposit for June weekend Rampower - Fuel and oil November 1987 247.87 Bills to be paid: 3. Gestetner - "News" supplies 50.11 Driving & garaging bus December 1987 330.00 100.00 Tarragal Bush Band Deposit - Rawson Lodge 100.00 \$927.98

November 1987 Total number of walkers 264 Day walkers 198 Weekend walkers 66 Members 193 Visitors 71 Income \$1685.50

Wilky

Plans for the refuge shelter have been finalised, now need to go to National Parks for their comments. A formal break-down of costs for this plan will be tabled at the next committee meeting. Discussions continue.

Bird and flower spotting books will once again be bought for Wilky for not more than \$50.00. Hopefully they won't grow legs EVER.

Duty Roster

January 20 Hugh, Merilyn 27 David Pickup, Wendy February 3 Sylvia, Rob

Next Committee Meeting

Monday, February 1st.

N.B.

- 1. Although it didn't appear in "News", all the January long weekend walks are to include that extra day: Tuesday 26th.
- 2. Members are requested to make their letters as succinct as possible for printing in "News".

COMMITTEE NOTES (Continued)

3. As the Melbourne Bushwalking Club will be 50 years old in 1990, it has been suggested that we should bring out a publication to commemorate the anniversary. This could well take the form of an oral history (that means you, older members!) but anecdotes and stories from all through would go down well I'm sure. So apart from contributions from individuals, the oral part needs to be collected and put into order, the archives need the dust blown off (they're all in Ted Lawton's care, he'll

give us the run down on what's actually there next month), and old "Walk" magazines need to be gone through. Any more ideas? And of course the whole lot needs to be put together, ho hum, printed and published. Hugh Duncan is presiding over the Wilky story, yes, I'm sure he needs a hand; Phil Taylor has expressed definite interest and several more have made "good idea" noises already. How about you? Prepare for arm twisting.

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 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 24th February 1987.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Christmas break-up party was the usual delightful event with lots of talking, eating and imbibing by the 100 or so members who came. The raffle made about \$50 profit and we are especially grateful to Joyce Dunn for making the first two prizes, a cake and a pudding, and contributing the third, a box of biscuits. There were other prizes of wine (left over from the wine and cheese night), and also Phil Larkin donated a book on the Otways. Thank you for all that; also for the sellers of raffle tickets and to everyone who contributed, from Ted who blew up the balloons to Betty, the chief organiser of all. It was a terrific evening.

The farewell to the Filsons at Doug Pocock's was held last Sunday. A good number of ex members and members turned up to see them off. Rex Filson was mostly active in the 60s (and earlier too, I think), met and married his delightful wife Sue with the club approval, served on the committee on and off for years, and has been to just about every AGM right up to the present time. He has always been good for a stir and a bit of controversy, which all adds up to honestly having the club's interests at heart. We will miss them a lot, hope that their new life near Newcastle, NSW is terrific and gladly accept their kind invitation to visit them when passing that way.

<u>CHANGES</u>

INFORMATION

Graham & Sue Errey	17 Dobell Street, Blackburn South, 3130.
	Same phone number.
Ed Lawton	Phone (H) 569 4584
Maureen Peck	82 Railway Place, West Melbourne 3003.
	Phone (H) 329 6341
Paul Photios	Phone (W) 656 9035

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<u>A LETTER TO MEMBERS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE</u> <u>RE CANCELLATION OF DAY WALK ON SUNDAY 3RD JANUARY 1988</u>

It is my opinion that the members of the committee responsible for the decision to cancel this Sunday walk lacked imagination and showed no consideration whatever to the two leaders and to the eight members who were booked on the walk by 23rd December and to other members and visitors who were desirous of going on the walk. I spoke to two of them who were unpleasantly surprised and annoyed at the decision.

The cancellation was a big disappointment to a number of people. The leaders had spent time and money in previewing their walk. No doubt it was a labour of love for them to preview but it was a bitter disappointment to them also to have their walk denied them. This sort of treatment dampens the enthusiasm of leaders and it does nothing to promote attendances on our walks. There is just no excuse for cancelling a day's walk; our motto has always been - "Leaders will be there rain, hail or shine". It is a bit difficult for them to uphold this boast if their walk is unnecessarily cancelled.

I have assumed that the decision to cancel walks is a committee decision and I would bet dollars to peanuts that their reasoning behind a cancellation is based on a trip showing a loss. So what, many trips return a handsome profit. To break even I believe there has to be a return of \$150, i.e. 15 starters at \$10 each. With eight starters a loss of \$70 is incurred. Compare this with 45 starters, and we have many such numbers on our day walks, say 40 at \$10 and five at \$5 (concession), a total of \$425, subtract the break even figure of \$150 and we get \$275, enough to cover the loss of four trips with only eight starters. Even with trips which return only \$300 we can still cover the loss of two trips with only eight starters. So where is the justification or logic in cancelling any day walk just because a loss in dollars will result. We are primarily a walking club and as such should concentrate on the promotion of walking and attracting people to us. Short-sighted action in cancelling day walks (our bread and butter these days) could prove harmful to us.

I am quite aware that we have an overdraft, nobody else in the club would be more aware of that than me, however even with an overdraft of \$4900 we have money, \$3000, to place in an interest-bearing account, so it's no defence to claim that we cannot afford to run a trip at a loss, the losses are more than covered by the profitable trips anyhow. Years ago, when the club was as poor as a church mouse, a defence on these grounds would be acceptable.

In cancelling this walk no consideration was given to the fact that the clubroom was to be closed on the Wednesday prior to the Sunday walk, thereby preventing normal booking. In such a situation people turn up on Sunday without being booked on and should not be required to pay a late fee.

While I'm on this business of late fee, I will state a fact or two on the matter. A minority of leaders enforce the late fee rule which is a mandatory condition for any walker who has failed to prior book. It is quite a ridiculous and frustrating situation when some leaders enforce this rule but the majority do not. It would be a sensible move to scrap this rule of late fee and make a firm rule that any member or visitor who wishes to participate on the day walk must be fully paid up by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday walk. This arrangement would save the leader the hassle of being concerned with people who just turn up. Some make a habit of it, they consume a lot of other people's time and have been responsible for the van's late departure on many trips. If a person hasn't made up his or her mind by the Wednesday night then they should get their act together and make other arrangements for their Sunday's entertainment without imposing on the leader to help them out of their indecision or whatever.

CANCELLATION OF DAY WALK (Continued)

To run a tight and efficient ship you cannot afford to be wishywashy in such matters. In short, you just cannot have it both ways, it has to be no late fee and no seat on the van unless prior booked because it is impossible, human nature being as it is, to get or even expect the majority of leaders to enforce the late fee rule. On the other hand, you could make it even more sloppy and frustrating than it is now by allowing all people to turn up on Sundays without any prior booking. The ball is in your court.

Letters in defence and support will be welcome.

ART TERRY

It was with disappointment that I heard the announcement at the break up party that there was to be no walk on the third. I feel that with walks cancelled the whole purpose of the club is lost, and it would be in my view rather than cancel it better to put an extra charge per head to contribute towards covering the loss. Of course there is the possibility that a few more may have also put their names down that evening.

GRAHAM TODD

REPLY TO ART TERRY AND GRAHAM TODD

The decision to cancel the January 3rd 1988 walk was based entirely on financial considerations. It had to be made quickly at the Christmas Break-up Party on December 23rd as there was not the usual Wednesday night meeting immediately prior to the walk. The decision was made at the suggestion of the leader.

Although there were eight people on the walk, it must be remembered that two of them (the leaders) don't pay. Six paying walkers would have made a hefty loss. (Only two of those had even paid deposits!) It had not been considered to ask those members to pay the shortfall to make the trip viable as suggested by Graham Todd, a premium of about \$30 sounds a bit out of the question. The leader thought that doing the trip by car would be too difficult and so chose to cancel it entirely. The committee upholds his decision. The committee also understands that two people on the list were not informed of the cancellation. We extend our apologies for the inconvenience caused. They were not informed because another member volunteered to lead a walk in lieu, but this arrangement later fell through.**

Various other suggestions were made in light of the problem:

- (1) that there should be no walk scheduled for that Sunday of the year;
- (2) that a circular one could be arranged to make using cars possible;
- (3) that the clubrooms could be opened between Christmas and New Year
- (** The proposal for an alternative walk fell through because no one on the list was prepared to take a car on the walk. The visitor could not be contacted, nor could the club member whose telephone number was incorrectly listed.)

The Walks Secretary and committee will consider all these alternatives for next year's walk because we, too, find it regrettable to cancel a walk and disappoint people, however few in number. However it must be pointed out that weekend walks are not infrequently cancelled through lack of numbers. Nobody suggests that the club is falling to pieces, it's just a sensible decision which under the circumstances has to be made.

CANCELLATION OF DAY WALK (Continued)

The finances of the bus are looked at over a twelve month period. Consideration is made for paying the driver, petrol money, insurance, registration and maintenance. The last has cost a lot this last year and it takes 28 to 30 people to break even, on a regular basis. The cost of running an additional trip (i.e., not counting standing costs) comes out to \$200. As a rule of thumb we take 15 to be the absolute minimum. To run at such a substantial loss we consider to be irresponsible to all members of the club.

Furthermore the committee stands by its decision in regard to late fees, as stated in last month's "News".

FOOD COLUMN

Update on places already mentioned:

Benalla

Chip shop behind police station, i.e. on right hand side when driving into town from Melbourne, before the rose gardens: hamburgers as good as ever, ditto chips; still nowhere to sit; still good fast service.

Benalla

The Lettuce Snack in the main street is now a greasy Joe's; we didn't stay.

Benalla

A <u>new</u> healthy sandwich type place but ONLY has shop hours: turn left at cross roads by bridge when going away from Melbourne; 50 yards on right. Really good stuff.

Milawa

The Royal(?) cafe and shop diagonally opposite Cobb & Co. restaurant. Plenty of space to sit on comfortable chairs but we preferred to take our 9/10 hamburgers down to the river as music, etc. wasn't quite to our taste.

Oxley

Pearl and Ted had a slap-up meal at the new bistro there, said it was fantastic, but don't think we can recommend this for your average bushwalker . . .

WANTED

"NEWS" EDITOR FOR 1988

You need about 6 hours spare a month, and you need to be able to type. You get custody of the club's Adler electric typewriter, and you get to hear 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 FEBRUARY "NEWS" - WEDNESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY

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. Anonymous articles will not be published.

CANOEING ON THE MURRAY

We must have looked a strange bunch - the women in pyjamas, GT in blue longjohns with natty contrasting shorts, Jan and Gareth wearing blockout "warpaint", all in a varied assortment of hats. This was the Melbourne Bushies preparing to enter their canoes for the first time on the banks of the Murray, at Bringenbrong bridge. We had gathered on Boxing Day at Cudgewa Bluff Falls campsite in the Burrowa Pine Mountain National Park and had driven with our canoes hired from Boris, of the Upper Murray Canoe Hire centre.

We soon learnt that canoeing upstream was more difficult than canoeing downstream and the four kayakers discovered that kayaks go round in circles but are most reluctant to move in a straight line. The more conservative of us were in two-person canadian canoes, with our gear stowed in "water-tight" barrels. After some practice we set off in wonderful sunshine, trying to avoid running into each other, the banks, and submerged logs and rocks. GT and Val were the first to run into bother when their canoe was carried into some willows and overturned. Val hung tight to the willow asking "What do I do now?", whilst GT, canoe and assorted gear were swept away. Peter looked back to observe the fun and promptly capsized. During the ensuing rescue everyone else got wet and we found out how strong the currents could be. Val named the campsite that night "Damsel Dry-out". The area outside Bob and Peter's tent looked like a garage sale as all their gear was spread out to dry.

The morning of day 2 was very wet and at lunch-time Doug lit a fire to warm our toes by. The sun shone again in the afternoon and we paddled contentedly on. By now we were becoming more confident and could pay more attention to the abundant bird-life including Rainbow Bee-eaters, Kingfishers, Pelicans and Nankeen Night-herons. Kayaker David seemed to be in the water more than on it at this stage so that when we stopped to make camp at "Cocky Screech" there was a great display of sleeping-bags and underwear drying by the fire.

Day 3 was very hot and frequent stops were made for swimming. The willows continued to claim their victims and both Gareth and David lost their hats while surveying their cances from underwater. Gina and Derrick also had an argument with a willow and GT gallantly swam to the rescue. Tintaldra came into sight at lunch-time with a convenient store and a pub where we relaxed and swapped stories. The campsite that afternoon was "Grasshopper Glen" where we saw a wonderful pink sunset and observed an echidna looking for his supper. Stan and Derrick had tried, without success, to catch some of the monster fish which we were assured were in the river. Gareth, Martin and Julian, however, managed to catch a dozen yabbies with their bare hands which provided a welcome starter for supper. The canadian canceists tried out the kayaks here and Verle-Ann disappeared upstream to avoid the high-spirited "sharks" in the water intent on "helping" her out of her kayak.

The next day was also very hot and we had made our first swimming stop by 9.30 am. By now we were very relaxed and the less experienced crew members, who had been paddling at the front, took over at the rear end to do some steering. This provided some amusement and some interesting manoeuvres on the rapids. A pattern had now emerged whereby the kayakers would be ahead of the main party closely followed by Maureen and Julian, making a strong pair in their cance. The rest of the party followed in a loose group, with GT and Val in her mosquito netting hat looking like something out of "The African Queen". The campsite at "Dead Cow Gulf" that afternoon was a lovely swimming spot marred only occasionally by a whiff of the dead cow. Relaxing in the shade of a red-gum, we watched the Swallows and Kingfishers at the nests which Martin had spotted.

The morning of day 5, being the last morning, was the time for carefully-posed "action photographs" before we set off. Two minutes later a willow branch whipped off Derrick's hat. It being a cherished possession, Derrick leaned out to retrieve it, thus gently tipping

CANOEING ON THE MURRAY (Continued)

Gina and canoe contents into the water. All too soon the finish point at Jingellic was in sight and our 80km trip was over. For me it could have gone on for another week - the idyllic combination of river canoeing, camping, swimming and the beautiful changing landscape was pure magic.

Most of the party made it to Wilky where we saw in the New Year, which was a great way to finish the trip and start 1988. Our thanks to Doug Pocock for organising and leading the trip and to fellowcanoeists Martin and Gareth Pocock, Jan Llewellyn, Felicity Topp, Roger Harris, Richard Charter, Bob Bell, Peter Dixon, Graeme Thornton, Val Elder, David Pickup, Maureen and Julian Peck, Stan and Verle-Ann Attwood, Gina Hopkins and Derrick Brown.

DERRICK BROWN

SKIP THE WILLOWS!

"I could come if I first practised!" So I did this and I went With Doug's canoeing party To the Upper Murray bent.

That was how it started And five days then did extend Through placid mirrored stretches And willow-laden bends.

Excitement came when GT In the willows did his best To drown me and demolish The canoe - hurrah for the orange vest! David in his kayak Took the cake for willow-spills, Gareth, Gina, Derrick All took their turn for thrills. The bird life was abundant, The camp spots extra grouse, Echidnas, snakes and cockatoos Lived in company with the cows. The river still flows onward With some booty as its due, We didn't give too much away -Just three hats and a shoe. Then New Year's Eve at Wilky,

Twenty years since my presence I'd bestowed, I was touched and most impressed by The care and love it showed.

For me the trip was 'triffic, Despite the ducking and day's rain, Topped off by Doug's recollections -"Do you remember...?" was our refrain.

It was fun to go canoeing, The Bushie welcome gave my heart a tug, It was great to spend some time with you, So here's my special thanks to Doug.

VAL ELDER (CANBERRA)