

# THE NEWS

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MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

EDITION 453

#### NOVEMBER 1988

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#### SOCIAL PAGE

# TRAIL RIDE ON HORSEBACK

#### SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 1988

The second horseback trail ride will be on 3rd December. As usual, it will be held on Chester Wallis' beautiful 2000 acre property at Glenelgin, Sunday Creek, near Broadford. (Maps will be provided.)

The ride is designed for all levels of riding experience, but is not suitable for people who haven't ridden a horse before. It will be an all day ride starting out at 10 am. BYO lunch and water.

The cost is \$30.00 (a \$5.00 deposit to be paid at time of booking.)

Bookings can be made with Darren Miller in the clubrooms or telephone 391 5089. (Please advise of your horse riding experience, so that a suitable horse can be allocated to you.) It will be limited to 20 riders.

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#### END OF YEAR PARTY

Our end of year do will be held on the 21st December Wednesday, 7 pm, in the main hall of the Horticultural Society. Members are asked to bring a plate (with food on it). There will be a raffle held on the night. Anyone willing to donate something for the night please let Darren know, or Betty Spencer.

DARREN 391 5089

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#### CHRISTMAS BARBEQUE

We would like to hold a Christmas BBQ on the 10th or 17th of December (Saturday), 12 noon in the Doncaster Municipal Gardens where they have electric BBQs in a great setting. Anyone interested in going please let Jan know and we will pick a date that suits the majority. At this stage we'd like to make it the 17th.

There's a chance of Father Christmas coming too. Parents could buy a small present for their kids and he'd be able to give them away (the presents that is).

JAN 596 3976

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PLEASE NOTE: Lack of interest shown by club members over the last couple of months has prevented us from putting on as many social events as we would like.

DARREN & JAN

Correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary,
Melbourne Bushwalkers,
Por 1751 GPO

BOX 1751, GPO, MELBOURNE, 3001.

Meetings are held in the clubrooms, Mackenzie Street, Melbourne (rear of the Horticultural Society building), every Wednesday night 7-9 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

#### DAYWALKS

#### NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1988

#### SUN. 20 NOVEMBER ADA TREE, FEDERAL MILL, HIGH LEAD EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS JEAN GIESE & SYLVIA WILSON

TRANSPORT BUS FROM NOLAN STREET, 9.00 A.M.

EXPECTED RETURN 7.00 P.M.

MAP REFERENCE NEERIM 1:50,000 OR ADA RIVER 1:25,000

APPROX. DISTANCE MEDIUM 18 KM, EASY 12 KM PLUS OPTIONAL 4 KM

You'll think you are in Tassie as you walk beside Island Creek through a pocket of Myrtle Beech forest which escaped the '39 fires, emerging at an enormous tree. The Department of Conservation, Forests & Lands has recently cut this access track and named this old giant the "Ada Tree".

We continue on to the remnants of the Federal Mill and along the route of the old timber tramline to the Ada Mill and the La Trobe River.

The easy plus walk offers an optional 4 km along the La Trobe at the end; the medium follows the same route but with an extra loop at the beginning.

This walk is not for those who can't enjoy slippery logs and leeches (and if it's warm, snakes). But if you can, and love a bit of history and deep forests, this is for you.

#### SAT. 26 NOVEMBER DANDENONGS EXPLORER - SHERBROOKE FOREST EASY

LEADER WINIFRED DE SOUZA

TRANSPORT CAR OR TRAIN FROM CITY AT 8.49 A.M., ARRIVING AT

BELGRAVE 10.03 A.M.

STARTING TIME 10.30 A.M. FINISHING TIME 4.00 P.M. APPROX. DISTANCE 14 KM

A slight change in plans from that shown in the last "News". Meet at 10.30 a.m. at the Puffing Billy Picnic Ground (Melways Map 75 G9). From the picnic ground we will walk through the delightful Sherbrooke Forest along pleasant tracks. No serious hill will make this a delightful walk. Please bring sufficient water for all day. We should be back at the starting point approximately 4.00 p.m.

SUN. 4 DECEMBER ALLENVALE - PHANTOM FALLS - EASY/MEDIUM KALIMNA FALLS & MEDIUM

LEADERS FRED HALLS & SYLVIA WILSON

TRANSPORT BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 9.00 A.M.

EXPECTED RETURN 8.30 P.M.

MAP REFERENCE F.C.V. - LORNE FOREST

APPROX. DISTANCE 18-19 KM

The route from Allenvale to She-Oak Creek and Falls includes track walking to various waterfalls in the district: Phantom Falls, Henderson Falls, Won Wondah Falls, Upper & Lower Kalimna Falls, She-Oak Falls & Cascades. Easy-medium walk 18 km, medium walk 19 km. Good walking through forests of blue gum, mountain grey gum, manna gum, etc.

DAY WALKS (Continued)

SAT. 10 DECEMBER HISTORICAL WALK - EAST KEW EASY

LEADER ATHOL SCHAFER

TRANSPORT MEET UNDER THE CLOCKS, FLINDERS STREET STATION,

BY 1.30 P.M.

MAP MELWAYS 46

We will take the North Balwyn tram (Route 48) to Stop 43, High Street, where an old iron bridge pinpoints the Outer Circle Railway. The 2-hour walk follows a grassy section of the railway disused since before the close of the nineteenth century, and a number of other reserves and parks, to make it a circular trip back to the tram stop.

SUN. 11 DECEMBER DOM DOM SADDLE - CLEFT ROCK - MEDIUM/HARD & EASY

LEADERS NIGEL HOLMES & JEAN GIESE

TRANSPORT BUS FROM NOLAN STREET, 9.00 A.M.

MAP REFERENCE JULIET 1:50,000

APPROX. DISTANCE MEDIUM/HARD 17 KM, EASY 10 KM

Medium/Hard: This is a walk for the cardio-vascular system as well as the mind and soul.

A net climb of 2,300 feet is rewarded by views from grassy clearings along the summit ridge of Mt. Vinegar. The curiously (anatomically?) shaped Cleft Rock signals a less strenuous climb to the summit after a gain of 900 feet over 700 metres. We will pass through temperate rain forest, on to the drier north west slopes of Mt. Vinegar, noting the interesting changes in vegetation.

The homeward leg follows an MMBW track to Carters Gap and then the delightful Morleys Track to Fernshaw Reserve. Bring your own water and a strong pair of legs. Gaiters are optional.

Easy: From Dom Dom Saddle along an MMBW track through tall timber and rain forest to Carters Gap. Morleys Track, a foot track along a cool ferny creek, leads from the Gap to Fernshaw Reserve where some interesting locality walks will be selected to provide a finish appropriate to the group and the weather on the day.

## WEL. 14 DECEMBER POINT NEPEAN STATE PARK EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER JEAN GIESE

TRANSPORT CARS
APPROX. DISTANCE 12+ KM

Since the 1850's Point Nepean has been off limits, first as a quarantine station for arriving immigrants and later as an Army base. 200 hectares of Commonwealth land has now been transferred to the State to become part of a new National Park. It will be opened in November 1988.

Because the natural environment is very fragile there is to be a limit on the number of people in the park at any one time. Bookings have not opened yet, but I don't anticipate any difficulty in booking for our Wednesday walk on the 14th December.

Besides a spectacular natural environment, including magnificent, unspoilt coastal panoramas, our visit will take us on a trip back in time to the early days of European settlement. Walking tracks have been opened, there is an orientation centre with audio visuals and an "open-air-transporter" to take us back to the car park if we overdo our exploring.

Transport arrangements and meeting places are on booking list in clubrooms, or ring Jean Giese (890 2189) or Margaret Bawden (690 3104).

SUN. 18 DECEMBER LAKE MOUNTAIN ALPINE RAMBLE MEDIUM & EASY

LEADERS PHIL LARKIN & PETER BULLARD

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

# WEEKEND WALKS DECEMBER 1988

2-4 DECEMBER STRATHBOGIE RANGES EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER JEAN GIESE

TRANSPORT CARS

MAP REFERENCE EUROA 1:100,000 OR VIOLET TOWN 1:25,000 AND

MT. WOMBAT 1:25,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 26 KM

A number of farmers have kindly given permission for us to walk through their properties for this mainly ridge-top weekend walk. The views all over the Strathbogies and away to the distant mountains are spectacular. We will visit some lovely waterfalls and camp in an idyllic spot beside Faithful Creek.

Saturday we'll climb 340 m and walk 11 km to camp by mid afternoon, allowing time to enjoy and explore the falls 1½ km downstream. Sunday we follow Faithful Creek upstream and then climb again for a glorious 6 km ridge walk.

We have a Friday night camp site but maybe some would like to join Saturday for a 9.00 a.m. start. An obliging farmer is allowing us to leave cars near his shearing shed.

#### 9-11 DECEMBER RAZOR - VIKING, NORTHERN APPROACH MEDIUM

LEADER CERI LAW

TRANSPORT CARS

MAP REFERENCE NATMAP HOWITT 1:100,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 25 KM

This walk should be an adventure as I will not have time to preview it beforehand.

On Saturday we start from the West Buffalo Track and head up along ridges until we reach the Razor which has impressive rock formations and views. Camp on Saturday night will most probably be in the saddle between the Razor and the Viking. On Sunday we climb the Viking which also has great scenic merit. Then the Alpine Walking Track is followed to the north east until a ridge is reached that will take us back to the cars.

### 16-18 DECEMBER 8 MILE SPUR - THE BLUFF - 16 MILE SPUR MEDIUM

LEADER ROBYN MILIUS

TRANSPORT CARS

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

#### FOR SALE

#### HALLMARK SOLO TENT

Rarely used. Bought March 1988. Flyscreen inner. Able to withstand light snow. \$120.

#### 2 KARRIMOR REAR PANNIER BAGS FOR BICYCLE

Compatible with all pack racks. \$100.

Contact Russell Jones, 531 3891

### CHRISTMAS TRIPS

25-30 DECEMBER OTWAYS BASE CAMP EASY

LEADER PHIL LARKIN

TRANSPORT CARS

Walking, eating, swimming.

27 DEC. - 1 JAN. KIANDRA - THREDBO MEDIUM/HARD

LEADER OTTO CHRISTIANSEN

TRANSPORT CARS

MAP REFERENCE KHANCOBAN 8525 - I & IV,

MT. KOSCIUSKO 8525 - II & III

APPROX. DISTANCE 100 KM, BUT WHO'S COUNTING

Starting from the historic gold mining town of Kiandra, we will traverse the "Roof of Australia", visiting some of the higher peaks of the Main Range on the way and finishing at Dead Horse Gap.

Please note that the standard of the walk is on the hard side of medium and that no fires are permitted in the area of the Main Range.

If there is sufficient interest some or all of us could leave a few days earlier to do a pre-walk walk in the same area.

28-31 DECEMBER PRETTY VALLEY - MT. FAINTER - EASY/MEDIUM
MT. COPE - WIL INSON LODGE

LEADER DOUG POCOCK

TRANSPORT CARS
APPROX. DISTANCE 29.74 KM

This is a walk for club members only. We will start with something I have wanted to do for a long time, follow Pretty Valley from Cope Saddle to the pondage. From there across to Tawonga Huts. Mt. Fainter can be done as a side trip. Following the edge of the high plains south, another side trip can be done from Mt. Jim, exploring down towards the ruined hut shown on the map. Returning to Wilky around the back of Mt. Bundara, checking out waterfalls and swimming holes on the way. We can welcome in the New Year at Wilky, hoping for better weather than last New Year.

Let's hope for fine weather, but full cold/wet gear must be carried as it can snow in summer.

### MONTHLY MID-WEEK WALKS

These have been taking place now for over six months so perhaps a short report is of interest.

October's walk was typical of the pleasant medium-grade walks we have been enjoying. Led by Trevor Thompson (recovered from his skiing injury), we explored the northern section of the Brisbane Ranges. We walked at times through open bush and Manna Gum forest, sometimes on tracks, sometimes beside a pretty creek. The wild-flowers were a picture and we enjoyed watching three koalas disturbed from their slumber by our presence. We welcomed two visitors from a Bendigo club and also a prospective member - a nurse on her days off.

Our numbers have ranged from 6 to 14 and share-transport arrangements have been organised by leaders.

We feel the venture has been highly successful and the Walks Committee plans to include a Wednesday walk on the programme each month.

JEAN GIESE - Co-ordinator

# COMMITTEE NOTES MEETING NOVEMBER 7TH

#### Correspondence

Wilderness Society asking for submissions to LCC re the Mallee. Brian Marriott (& Rod Mattingley?) to organise.

Adelaide Bushies asking about our old insurance company - they're having problems - Brian to reply.

#### Federation

- 1. Minimum Impact Bushwalking leaflet on noticeboard.
- 2. List of metropolitan trail networks for future use (see next month's "News")
- 3. Victorian Outdoor Education Association has produced a booklet "Sharing the Countryside". \$6.00 (p.p.) from Book Sales VOEA, GPO Box 1896R, Melbourne, 3001.
- 4. More books: "Australian Alps - World Heritage Nomination Proposal" by Geoff Mosley. Covers region from Canberra to the Baw Baws. RRP \$25.00 from VNPA. "Victoria Needs an Alpine National Park" - CF&L booklet.
- 5. Out soon: Bogong unit of Alpine Planning Area.

Newsletters from other clubs: Melbourne Walking Club (Men's), Hobart, MWWC (Women's), Brisbane, Sydney.

Holiday brochures: NZ Summer (Venturetreks), High Country Camel Treks, World Expeditions. (See Yellow Box for all.)

A German alpine magazine, in German!

Habitat (ACF). Good list of Christmas presents inside.

Prospectors & Miners Association of Victoria telling us what they're about.

#### Treasurer

1. Balances at 31/10/88: Club Account: \$2,321.04
Social Account: \$532.19
Walks Account: \$8,615.06
Trade Account: \$216.25
Wilky Account: \$2,291.78
Reserve from 1987: \$6,873.31

Total: \$20,849.63

2. Payments to be ratified:

None

3. Bills to be paid:

Van servicing
Driving and Garaging - October
Rampower - Petrol & oil, Sept. & Oct.
R. Harris - Pack for rental
Sestetner - white foolscap
S130.20
\$540.00
\$526.33
\$220.00
\$341.20

\$1,757.73

The monthly rental for the van garage space has risen from \$30 to \$40.

#### Walks Secretary

September	Total Walkers	230
	Day	194
	Weekend	36
	Income	\$2,094
October	Total Walkers	257
	Day	201
	Weekend	56
	Income	\$1,674

### COMMITTEE NOTES (Continued)

On a recent weekend walk in the Avoca area (where there's a lot of private land), the locals were concerned about our cars being left unattended at the side of the road and notified the local constabulary. Rosemary Cotter attended to all this, but the point being that perhaps a call to the local cop shop prior to another walk here or a similar area would be a good idea.

#### Social Secretary

Christmas Dinner - Saturday, 26 November
Trail ride - Saturday, 3 December
Christmas break-up in clubrooms - Wednesday 21 December

#### Wilky

Max Chapel, the National Parks man in Bright, got our last letter re Wilky refuge shelter, but will recommend another idea to the central office. Tune in later for more thrilling instalments.

Wilky Users' Manual - draft copy now out (one on notice board). ALL COMMENTS ASAP to Mick Mann, Hugh Duncan.

#### Equipment

Brand new fantastic weekend pack for hire: \$5 per weekend, \$20 deposit.

#### <u>ccv - Newsletter</u>

Fast train to Sydney environmental impact study. Salinity articles. 10% discount at "Greens" Environment and Community Bookshop, 247 Flinders Lane between Swanston and Elizabeth Streets, City. Card for this kept in President's pigeon hole.

#### Stop Press

The long-awaited excellent HOW TO RUN DAY WALKS MANUAL has finally been completed and is being printed. These will be issued to every day walk leader and sub leader. It's a terrific list of recommendations from grading walks, planning, what forms to fill in and when, procedure on the day, the aftermath and heaps more handy hints that we assume everyone knows and now it's down in writing. Particular thanks to Rob Ayre and Keith White who did most of the nitty gritty.

#### Duty Roster:

November 16th Hugh, Barbara

23rd Roger, Sylvia

30th Rob, Jean

December 7th Ceri, Sylvia

Next Meeting Monday 5th December

THE CLUB NOW HAS A NEW PACK FOR HIRING - an Outgear Kakadu, 70 1. \$5 per week (Wednesday to Wednesday), \$20 deposit.

See Roger Harris or the committee member on the door.

The new location for dinner before the club meeting is GERRY'S LYGON STREET TAVERN, corner Lygon and Pelham Streets, Carlton. Bistro/Italian cuisine. 6.00 onwards every Wednesday.

(However, we struck a very rude waiter last Wednesday, and we may keep looking for a more friendly place. - Ed.)

# A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

On your behalf on Saturday 8th October I attended a barbeque lunch in honour of Stewart Brooks who had recently been awarded the OAM for services to bushwalking. Stewart was originally a Melbourne Bushie until he and several others formed the breakaway VMTC forty years ago exactly. You'll mostly see Stewart's name on several Victorian maps, these days being a great cartographer, but behind the scenes he helped set up the BMLC (Bushcraft and Mountain Leadership Courses), was very active in the Federation (of Victorian Walking Clubs) especially on Tracks, and set up the Search and Rescue section. He's also spent hundreds of hours making submissions and recommendations and fought many small and large battles to help preserve some bush for us to walk in.

He mentioned walking across the Bogong High Plains in 1936. In those days you could walk from Harrietville right over to Licola without encountering a track or anything, except on this trip they did pass a couple of bulldozers beginning to work on Rocky Valley Dam, but thought no more of it, there was lots of bush out there. Thereafter they saw an incredible increase of activity and every time it was time to update his maps Stewart found there were always new roads to put in. This activity has slowed to almost a halt now, probably because all the major spurs have a road down them anyway, he says. But better still, there are signs that some of these roads are being blocked off.

Stewart Brookes is truly a dedicated bushman and a great bloke to boot. The Melbourne Bushies have sent their thanks to him and congratulations for his OAM, and wish him all the best for the future.

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While I'm on about it, I'd like to tell you a bit more good news. Those of you who have gone down the Mittagundi Track (Track 107 from the Bogong High Plains leading down to the Omeo Highway which was once the old Gold Miners track) will remember Wild Horse Creek snow plain which is just down from Kelly's Hut. It's one of the very remote corners of the High Plains and is magic. It's used every fortnight by the Mittagundi organisation as they walk their groups of kids in and out of camp. Anyway, we were horrified to learn some time ago that some part of the southern boundary of the snow plain was to be logged. There was a small pocket of valuable trees there in a designated logging area, all quite straightforward, legal and so on, except that it would totally stuff up this hollow for a good fifty years. Just before the letters, pleas, etc. were sent off to the logging company and owners and the big guns called in, Ian Stapleton (then director of Mittagundi) had a bright idea: why not try a direct approach and explain exactly what this little corner of the world means? Hey presto! Apparently the trees were only of marginal profitability as the area was so isolated, and they could forgo them. Hooray! And thank you, Ian!

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Whatever happened to weekend walks being written up in "News"? I heard about a recent epic up on Feathertop: wind, snow, hail, rain, sun and the trots. What a combination!

Leaders: if you nominate a scribe at the beginning of a walk then they can even take notes as they go along . . . But please censor the campfire jokes!

# NOTES FOR WEEKEND WALKS NEAR PRIVATE PROPERTY

A recent incident on a weekend walk highlighted the problems that can occur during walks which involve the leaving of private cars on or near public roads/private land.

In the particular instance cars were left by the road over the weekend. The police were notified by local land owners who were concerned that the cars may have belonged to illegal shooters, or to walkers who may have become lost. There had been several instances of problems with shooters and people becoming lost in the area.

This incident ended without any problems but the possibility of our club being embarrassed in the future could still occur.

It would seem wise for leaders of walks which venture into areas where there are private property owners to advise the local police. It would be particularly so if cars are left beside public roads.

There is a "let someone know before you go" policy endorsed by the Federation which could be useful for letting the police know. Brochures are available from the Walks Secretary.

A little bit of pre-planning may save a lot of explaining later.

PHILIP TAYLOR, Acting Walks Secretary

# LCC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MALLEE AREA

The Land Conservation Council's proposed recommendations for the Mallee area have been released for comments. The Wilderness Society is calling for all interested people to provide some kind of response by the closing date, November 21st. To assist this, they have provided a summary of the recommendations with their comments. This summary is on the club noticeboard for perusal.

The semi-arid Mallee is a subtle and fragile environment loved passionately by those who know it well. It contains the largest areas of high wilderness quality anywhere in the state. It currently suffers from overgrazing, clearing, broom-brush cutting, mining and other land degrading practices. Many of the flora and fauna communities in the area are unique to south-eastern Australia and some of these are severely threatened by the above practices.

Please give some of your time and energy to this, as the Mallee area is important to all Victorians, particularly bushwalkers. For further information contact Brian Marriott.

#### NEWMBERS

Gillian Moxom, 3/6 Banksia Court, Heathmont, 3135 (H) 720 1657, (W) 842 9433 Bernadette Osborne, 81 Blackburn Road, Mt. Waverley, 3149 (H) 233 9492, (W) 536 2222

### CHANGES OF INFORMATION

Graham Harding, (H) 725 7588
Alec Glogowski 21 Tasman Road, East Bentleigh, 3165
(H & W) 579 1308
Russell Jones, 1/13 Southey Street, Elwood, 3184
(H) 531 3891
Tracy Guest, 92 Palmerston Street, Carlton, 3053
(H) 347 6140

Philip Taylor, (W) 628 5285

#### THE LAST WALTZ

This time there were only three on the Broadford to Yea run: Art, Mark and me. Conditions were much better than I had expected: cool but not cold, relatively dry underfoot, and a wind that more often than not was behind us. While the larger party of walkers headed off in the van towards the Mount Disappointment State Forest, we paid our respects at the Broadford railway station, crossed the line, and commenced running.

Art has been programming this "walk" for 20 years or so. In the early days, there was a train to catch at both ends. A few close calls resulted, when time was cut fine by slow parties and the train whistle threatened to sound while the last paddocks still lay ahead. Later on, a bus replaced the train home from Yea, and in recent times the club van has provided transport at both ends. The use of the van has in fact reduced the time available because other day walkers are waiting to be picked up. Art now aims to be in Yea by 5.30 or so, whereas the train and bus left later in the evening.

A decision is required at King Parrot Creek, which forms a rough half-way point. There is time here to stretch out in the grass, but the punishingly steep climb up Mt. Marianne seems an even more daunting prospect from such an angle. The body sends out its signals of fatigue and they need careful interpretation. The extended run just finished was over ground chewed up by cattle and the legs have taken quite a pounding.

Can each runner keep up the pace necessary to reach Yea on time? If anyone drops out at this stage, there are roads to follow into that town, with the hope of a lift from a passing car. Today we all get the nod from our bodies to keep going - on our feet, over a fence, and straight up the spur.

In the beginning there were few impediments on the way from Broadford to Yea. Settlement did not extend far along the roads from the centre of each town and there was nothing much but good bushwalking country in between. Houses spread out like fingers from Broadford over the years, threatening the exit route. Fences sprang up on the middle ground, along with buildings and roadworks. Now there is a bike racing circuit to negotiate and a rotary clothes line at the foot of a spur. Electric fences have sprouted like weeds during the last few years and detours are increasingly necessary. In addition, the cooling dam along the Yea spur is clogged with weed and the thirst-quenching spring below has been trampled by cattle.

The view is still superb from the Yea spur near Mt. Marianne and later from the summit of Mt. Jimmy. The years' encroachments fade from view in the panoramic sweep of ridge lines, valleys, and vegetation. The running is easy at such times, despite tired muscles and a paucity of energy. Art is likely to turn to us with a gleam in his eye as he spies the way ahead, and say "Shall we dance?" We do.

The club van is there by the fountain, waiting for us. Art and Mark have begun to find clean clothes as I arrive and we soon head across the road for a brace of milk shakes. It will be an hour before the van reaches the day walkers' pick-up point; time to ponder. Twenty years is a long time and the barriers increase. Broadford to Yea the Art Terry way - a sense of exhilaration at crossing so much interesting country with scarcely a pause for the occasional creek or rusty fence. Now that simple freedom is being lost, threatened by the space invaders. October 9, 1988 was a good day: but was this the last waltz?

#### MICHAEL GRIFFIN

#### Footnote:

Many thanks to Art for organizing the run once again and for always making it such a splendid occasion. Thanks to Mark for renewed friendship and for his help with high fences (barbed, not electric) when my balance was fading.

# ALPINE MATIONAL PARK

Although still a dream, management planning for Victoria's long awaited Alpine National Park is proceeding steadily. For more than a year, the Victorian Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands has been initiating a draft plan of management for the alpine area, covering the entire high country within Victoria and including the existing National Parks. Very soon now the first draft of the management proposals, covering Bogong National Park, will be released for public comment. A further three draft plans for the Lake Dartmouth area, Cobberas-Tingaringy and Wonnangatta-Moroka National Parks will be released next year. These proposals endeavour to address the diverse interests of a multitude of user groups with an interest in the alps and, if one thing is certain, it is that these interests will not be met to the total satisfaction of each group. It is therefore to be expected that there will be an almighty clamour for a larger slice of a very small pie.

As a member of the Alpine Area Advisory Committee, I have been closely involved with this planning procedure and it has been my unfortunate experience to note the woefully small number of responses from bushwalkers and the like that these management proposals have received in the past. If there is to be anything remotely resembling wild country in the alps for bushwalkers, ski tourers, climbers, etc. then it is essential that these people stand up and be counted now. All too often the task of writing letters to express our view is pushed under the carpet, hopefully for someone else to attend to it for us. But don't underestimate the resolve of those who would see free access to ALL of the alpine region for vehicle oriented recreation, for hunting, fishing, horse riding and commercial exploitation. These are all legitimate users of the alps and their requirements will be met in the planning proposals. It is not the Government's intention to exclude any user group. But it is a matter as to the degree of access that each group should have. And unfortunately, it is often the loudest noise that gains most recognition. And anyway, bushwalkers don't mind walking along vehicle tracks, do they? Don't be lulled into a sense of false security, some of the above mentioned groups will be screaming their lungs out if they think that they are being dealt an unfair blow. We will all be seeing something unfair in a management plan that has to accommodate such a wide range of interests and the more of us who respond to the public input to these proposals, the better chance there is of meturning at least some of the alps back to their former glory. Do something positive, put your views down on paper even if it's only to say that you agree with the proposal. But don't forget to spell out where your interest in the Alps lies. The alpine planning team at the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands would love to hear from you.

JOHN SISEMAN

(Reprinted from VicWalk Newsletter)

#### CLOSING DATE FOR DECEMBER "NEWS" - WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER

Articles for "News" should be placed in the Red Box in the clubrooms or posted to the club - Box 1751, GPO, Melbourne, 3001. Please make sure your name appears on any copy - anonymous articles will not be published.