

THE NEWS

OF THE

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

EDITION 455

JANUARY 1989

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SOCIAL

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BARBEQUE PLANNED FOR FEB. 4 HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Melbourne Bushwalkers (Incorporated) will be held in the main hall, Horticultural Society building, Victoria Street, Melbourne (enter from the clubrooms in Mackenzie Street), Wednesday, 15 February, 1989, at 8.00 p.m.

MAPS - WANTED TO PURCHASE

We have almost completed an updated index of our library of maps. Over the past 3-5 years, a number of new maps have been issued by the various authorities. Some of these maps may need to be added to our library, in particular current editions of the Natmap and new additions to the Vicmap series.

If you have recently purchased a current edition of a Natmap or Vicmap for the purpose of leading a club walk, then the club would be happy to purchase these maps provided they are in good condition and we do not already have a copy.



Correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary,
Melbourne Bushwalkers,
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.

DAY WALKS FEBRUARY 1989

SUN. 5 FEBRUARY ST. GEORGES RIVER - SHEOAK CREEK - MEDIUM & EASY CUMBERLAND RIVER RESERVE

LEADERS MARTIN WILLIAMS & ANNE BULLARD
TRANSPORT BUS FROM NOLAN STREET, 9.00 a.m.

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

SAT. 11 FEBRUARY CYCLE TRIP

LEADER ART TERRY

TRANSPORT BUS FROM NOLAN STREET, 9.00 a.m.

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

SUN. 12 FEBRUARY MT. ST. LEONARD - CONDONS TRACK - EASY/MEDIUM

DONNELLY'S WEIR

& MEDIUM

LEADERS TRISH ELMORE & TONY STAPLEY

TRANSPORT ***** BUS FROM BATMAN AVENUE, 8.45 a.m. sharp *****

EXPECTED RETURN 8.00 p.m.

MAP REFERENCE WARBURTON, JULIET 1:25,000, MONDO

APPROX. DISTANCE 20 KM

Medium - 20 km

We start the walk from Donnelly's weir and there is a long, steady climb of 923 metres through dense forest to the summit of Mt. St. Leonard. The reward of standing on the Great Dividing Range is wonderful, worth all the effort of getting there.

We start our descent on the Mondo Road, then continue down the rather steep Condons Track which is abundant with tree ferns and mountain ash, then on to a vehicle track and back to our starting point.

This is a long walk necessitating an early and punctual bus departure at 8.45 a.m. Please bring adequate water and appropriate sun protection as a hot day is predicted.

Easy/Medium - NO EASY WALK

This will be a variation of the medium walk and is definitely not an easy walk for beginners.

A few alternatives exist for the start, the leader will know on the day! Whatever transpires, you will descend via Condons Track, have beautiful views and it will be a long, enjoyable walk of about 16 kms.

See you there.

DAY WALKS (Continued)

WED. 15 FEBRUARY MURRINDINDI AREA

EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER JEAN GIESE

TRANSPORT PRIVATE CARS. MEET AT JEAN GIESE, 8.30 a.m.

EXPECTED RETURN 5.30 p.m.

MAP REFERENCE KLONDYKE 1:25,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 12-15 KM

If it's hot it will be lovely walking in the ferny glades by the Murrindindi, under the towering eucalypts. We'll visit the cascades and take in the history of the area. We'll need to be back in good time for the club's AGM, so will make a prompt start.

SAT. 18 FEBRUARY HISTORICAL WALK - ARMADALE

EASY

LEADER ATHOL SCHAFER

TRANSPORT MEET UNDER THE CLOCKS, FLINDERS ST. STATION,
IN TIME TO CATCH 1.44 p.m. TRAIN TO ARMADALE.

Armadale was the name given by the politician and land speculator, the Hon. James Munro, to his mansion in memory of his boyhood place of education in Scotland. His grand house still stands, although most of its surrounds were sold in Edwardian times as an aftermath of his land rorts which became exposed during the collapse of the building boom in the 90s. Munro, then Premier of Victoria, fled first class by P&O liner, informing his cabinet by telegraph that he had created himself Victorian Agent-General in London. We will see many of the relics left from this period as well as other interesting bits and pieces of the local scene. Start and finish at Armadale station. Picnic afternoon tea.

SUN. 19 FEBRUARY BRIDGEWATER BAY - GUNNAMATTA SURF BEACH

EASY & EASY MEDIUM

LEADERS SYLVIA WILSON & BABRBRA WEISS TRANSPORT BUS FROM NOLAN STREET, 9.00 a.m.

EXPECTED RETURN 7.00 p.m.

MAP REFERENCE MELWAY 166 D5; 198 A12

DISCOVERING THE PENINSULA - CF&L

APPROX. DISTANCE 10 KM & 15 KM

At the time of writing your two intrepid leaders have yet to preview this walk due to an excess of Christmas, New Year, holidays and so on, but they will be on the job very soon. However, they have it on good authority (Marion Siseman) that it's lovely scenery and cliff, rock and sand walking. Most probably both walks will start from Bridgewater Bay, with the easy one finishing at Rye Ocean Beach and the Essy/Medium one finishing 5 km further on at Gunnamatta surf beach. If this looks a bit short we might start further west. Bring your bathers, sun hat, sun tan cream, etc., to psych the sun into coming out, which it isn't doing right now.

SAT. 25 FEBRUARY DANDENONGS EXPLORER: LISTERFIELD STATE PARK EASY LEADER MICHAEL HUMPHREY

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

DAY WALKS (Continued)

SUN. 26 FEBRUARY STARLINGS GAP - UPPER YARRA TRACK EASY & MEDIUM - BENNIE CREEK

LEADERS GRAHAM HARDING (New home phone 725 7588)

& SUB LEADER

TRANSPORT BUS FROM NOLAN STREET, 9.00 a.m.

EXPECTED RETURN 8.00 p.m.

MAP REFERENCE ADA RIVER & McCARTHY 1:25,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 15-20 KM

Old timber mills, historic tramways, rainforest and Ada River big tree native walk are highlights of this walk. The walk will be on tracks through mountain ash and myrtle beech forest, the ideal place to be in hot weather.

WEEKEND WALKS FEBRUARY 1989

10-12 FEBRUARY WILSONS PROMONTORY BASE CAMP

LEADER GRAHAM HARDING (New home phone 725 7588)

TRANSPORT CARS
APPROX. DISTANCE 10-20 KM

Sun, sand, surf and sea - ideal for hot February. The Prom. has beautiful coastal and mountain scenery, with a range of walks through a large variety of flora and fauna and also along the beach and over the rocks.

Various walks will be planned to suit the mood of those attending. We will be camping at Tidal River which has all facilities.

10-12 FEBRUARY MT. BOGONG

MEDIUM

EASY

LEADER BRIAN MARRIOTT

TRANSPORT CARS

MAP REFERENCE BOGONG 1:100,000; TRAPPERS CREEK 1:25,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 20 KM

This is the classic Bogong trip. We will start from Mountain Creek and climb the Staircase to the summit, then visit West Peak before camping in Camp Valley or at Madisons Hut site. Those who have energy left can then do a side trip to Howman's Falls.

On the Sunday we will return down Eskdale and then walk around to the cars.

17-19 FEBRUARY VALENCIA CREEK

LEADER RUSSELL JONES (531 7605)

TRANSPORT CARS

MAP REFERENCE MAFFRA 1:100,000?

APPROX. DISTANCE 25 KM

Russell has changed his mind about the Mt. Bogong, Wilky, Feathertop walk, and has decided to do a river bash instead.

A great river walk, lots of great swimming holes. 1½ days in the river, ½ day along tracks. Limit 8 - limited campsites.

24-26 FEBRUARY MT. SELWYN, MT. MURRAY, THE TWINS MEDIUM

LEADER CERI LAW TRANSPORT CARS

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

COMMITTEE NOTES MEETING JANUARY 9TH

Correspondence

ACF: having a membership drive.

Federation: new leaflet "Bushwalking for Beginners". See notice board.

Tourist bus service: Hoys buses will run from Harrietville to Mt. Loch car park, Hotham village and Dinner Plain village. See notice board.

Melbourne Walking Club encouraging us to read their 60th issue of "Walker" magazine.

Conservation Council of Victoria asking for addresses of individual members. If individual members can become members of CCV this is not an issue. If not, to be put to AGM.

Howmans Gap: facilities available, group accommodation June to September. On notice board.

Reports

Treasurer

Balances at 31/12/89: Club Account:	1,753.76
Social Account:	\$543.14
Walks Account:	9,255.12
Trade Account:	\$216.25
Wilky Account:	2,399.78
Reserve from 1987:	6,873.31
Total: \$2	21,041.36
Payments to be ratified:	
Bob Steel (for projector stand)	70.00
Rampower (for November petrol & oil)	208.61
Gestetner (for "News" supplies)	77.10
Mountain Lodge (deposit for June)	100.00
	\$455.71
Bills to be paid:	
Driving and Garaging - December	340.00
Rampower - Petrol & oil in December	170.57
Printed matter - Information sheets	164.40
2nd Great Bridgewater Bay Bush Bash September 1989. Deposit for	
St. Peters	50.00
	\$724.97

Walks Secretary

Total walkers, November 1988 - 210 180 day walkers, 30 weekend walkers 171 members, 39 visitors Income - \$1798

Transport

Two new tyres needed for bus.

"News"

Typewriter clean required.

COMMITTEE NOTES (Continued)

Wilky

- 1. Minor work party on January long weekend. All offers of help to Rob Ayre.
- 2. "Track closed for revegetation" a possible sign required for top of Wilky track (down from Wallaces) as erosion and general wear on track has been very bad recently. Please use the old 4WD track further down. Rob Ayre to contact local ranger.

Equipment

\$143 in hire so far this year.

Maps

Keith half way through index system. Need for map custodian to administer maps next year.

Duty Roster

January 18 Hugh, Rob

25 Keith, Wendy

February 1 Roger, Merilyn

Jean, Sylvia

Next Meeting

THURSDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY, 7.00 p.m.

Other Business

Greens Bush. Article in "The Age" that Government will compulsorily acquire the rest of Greens property to join on to National Park and hopefully before it gets bulldozed any more. Very pleased to hear about this.

Note to members

- 1. If you can't come into the clubrooms on a Wednesday night to put your name down for a walk, a cheque is quite acceptable, but do post it IN GOOD TIME.
- 2. Picking up by the bus en route will be restricted to no more than three pick up places. The leader to decide, and also to decide the route to be taken by the bus.
- 3. Please try to do ALL your arranging on Wednesday nights. The number of phone calls to leaders is noticeably increasing and is becoming a bother. This applies to Sunday walks.

Clubrooms. Storeroom reorganised, shelves up, space for Gestetner. Fan up and projector screen up. Terrific work. Thank you Peter Bullard, ably assisted by Anne.

Projector screen manufactured by Bob Steel and projector stand purchased. Great stuff. Thank you too.

Christmas break up. Another enormous thank you to Betty for organising a super evening. Approximately 120 came and all seemed to enjoy themselves, especially those who thought they were at a beer and wine tasting night instead! Thank you to all the helpers; the raffle prize donators and the kids selling tickets and to you for coming.

Does anyone know how to contact INGRID NICHOLSON?

Introduction to Bushwalking - our handout to be rewritten.

COMMITTEE NOTES (Continued)

Committee members reminder

Please get your reports to Merilyn by Wednesday February 1st.

President Secretary Treasurer Membership Secretary Walks Secretary Social Secretary

Wilkinson Lodge Manager

Old and new committee BBQ at Rob Ayre's Saturday 25th February, 6.30 p.m. onwards. BYO everything, including chair, salad or sweet to share.

N.B. next committee meeting THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2nd.

MT. HOTHAM LANDSLIDE

In early January I spent an enjoyable few days walking in the Mt. Hotham area with several other Bushies. We were astonished to see an enormous amount of uprooted trees which had been swept down Swindlers Creek by recent floods, as well as other debris such as broken pipes presumably from the Hotham resort area. By contrast, the adjacent Cobungra River (which has an undeveloped upper catchment) had very little flood debris.

It seems there has been bad erosion in Slalom Gully near the Brockhoff Ski Run at the top of Swindlers Creek. Since returning to Melbourne I have been told that this was reported on ABC-TV, 7.30 Report, with the Alpine Resorts Commission denying blame. If anyone has more information I am interested to hear about it.

Max Casley

Real ecological disaster this time! After Dougo's walk we went to Hotham and eventually ended up in Swindlers Creek about 6 km up from the Cobungra junction. WHAT a mess! On the flood plain where we camped there was an ENORMOUS mess of uprooted trees and bushes, long dead tree trunks, bits of plastic, planks of wood and so on to a height of 10' above the existing water level. You could SEE a tide mark on the valley side. Another group from within our extended party went further up Swindlers Creek and saw damage they reckoned at 18' above river height and even got a ski pole out of the mess.

COULD this have something to do with the over-grooming of Hotham ski slopes and heavy rain which fell on December 10th, 1988? How come no other creek valler showed this devastation AT ALL?

Sylvia Wilson

OVERHEARD IN THE CLUBROOMS

Scenario: Jean fiddling with the new clubrooms cupboard, not being able to undo the lock, a fiendishly simple nail affair.

Jean: "Ah, there's Nigel, he can do this, he's a man of many parts." Wendy: "Yes, and all of them work."

Scenario: Christmas break-up. G.T. notices Trish drinking red wine, an unusual occurrence.

G.T.: "Trish, you're drinking red wine!"

Trish: "Yes, Christmas brings out the drinker in me."

ALONG THE TRACK

This was it. Poetic justice, my just deserts, you name it. There I was being a peaceful Indian standing outside Wilky in a circle with all the others at the beginning of Dougo Pocock's pre-New-Year-3-day-circumnavigation-of-the-Bogong-High-Plains-Special and after he gives us this pep talk on digging poo holes with his little shovel and not soaping up creeks when he ups and says, "And Sylvia will be our scribe." Well, I mean, I ask you. That's Presidential Privilege twisting other people's arms, or was, until now. Humph. And he said I had to get all the Latin names of all the flowers. Imagine that, with Dougo, Alpine Plant Propagator Extraordinaire!

I digress. We first headed for Cope Hut saddle and Pretty Valley Creek and went via the old track west from Wallaces rather than by the re-routed new pole line track. The latter follows the creek too exactly. Several of us had crossed Pretty Valley creek from time to time and walking down its entirety was delightful. We discovered umpteen little alpine plants, maybe the loveliest of which is the white (blue?) sky lily, so called as it reflects the colour of the sky. Crossing Pretty Valley Pondage on the causeway reminded me of the time on skis one winter years ago when the water was flowing over this from one pond to the other at knee deep height. And there was horizontal sleet, and no other way but across. The sun shone steadily down this time and we struggled up the Fainter fire track. Why is it so boring? However we were entertained by a group of adults with a collection of very small children in packs on their backs obviously intent on camping out. As only one adult had a spare back to carry a pack, they'd made a stretcher and put all their clobber on this; a man was at either end. No, they didn't last long, about 1/2 km up the track they parked their stretcher in a clumb of trees, presumably to collect later. Jan and I discussed the optimum age for taking children bushwalking. At Tawonga Huts after a rest and a lively ball game (ball game? Melbourne Bushies?) we carried on along the track for what seemed like ages till the first available relatively flat stretch of grass appeared, fortunately beside a creek. While collecting wood for the fire, G.T. from a prime position in the door of his tent started instructing Max. G.T.: "No, Max, you don't break dead wood off trees, you have to pick it up from the ground." Max: "Oh. (pause) Since when?" G.T.: "Everybody knows that. Really, Max, I would have thought you knew better!" Max: (pause) "Better than what, G.T.?" The truth was that a very scenic little dead tree was right outside G.T.'s tent. Some unappreciative lout devastated it anyway. Next morning two of our members felt sick (polluted water somewhere?) so didn't go to conquer Fainters north and south, but fortunately they recovered sufficiently to join in the retreat along the Niggerheads. This afforded magnificent views of Feathertop (called so because the clouds often look like feathers around the summit, I hear), the Razorback, Diamantina Spur, Machinery Spur, and so on. G.T. entertained us with stories of how the area looks under snow and hurtling and hooning off this slope and that. The track disappeared from time to time and it was all a bit scrubby. A non-reportable bit of conversation was later reported to me. Dougo to Martin: "Where's Sylvia, I can't see her?" Martin: "I can't either but I can hear her." G.T.: "She could be a long way off, though."

Eventually we trudged on to open grassland and across to Mount Jim, where we found a pleasant, if exposed, camp site overlooking the beginnings of High Plains Creek and the Cope West Aqueduct. However there were heaps of cattle about and even a mob of brumbies. The kids went off fishing, which they did by rather primitive means of dropping rocks on the fishes. Funny, they didn't catch anything except one who foolishly got stuck in the weir slip-way pool. (He got put into a water bucket later next day, but was DOA when

ALONG THE TRACK (Continued)

reaching Wilky. He tasted good all the same, Martin P. said.

With day packs on, we sallied forth next morning, heading south for Young's Hut and the SEC hut, and went via Mt. Jim. A great flock of crows had been making a fearful racket and were wheeling about. Bogong moths were discovered in their millions in the rocky crevices so making a fabulous feast. Having only seen one stranger in the last 24 hours, we were surprised to see two lonely figures in the middle of nowhere, and even more surprised to find we knew them. The tough and hardy Winifred was leading Phil Taylor astray - again. Or was it the other way about? The excuse was previewing a walk; I must say it sounded good.

Young's Hut is completely in ruins now and disappears under snow so the SEC hut is sometimes called the New Young's Hut or even Young's Hut. This has confused many a bushwalker and ski tourer with map in hand, a pity something conclusive can't be done about it. The SEC hut (with label over fireplace stating YOUNGS HUT) has recently been "restored" by the British Operation Raleigh people. When we got there a group of horse trekkers were in residence. We heard that another group of horsemen and women who had previously passed us was being led by an old fellow, Cec, who was an official brumby hunter. He culls them and occasionally deposes the reigning stallion and introduces a new one - an old riding horse - to improve the stock. However, those rounded up usually end up as pet meat rather than to be broken for riding horses. Mostly the brumbies are over Youngs Tops way. The whole area looked fascinating. Maybe we should go there one day?

We returned to our camp site, had lunch and set off for Wilky, keeping mostly to the aqueduct. We stopped off at the weir to collect the ill-fated fish. It was Jan who suggested the swim ... talk about cold: G.T. hoped Max wouldn't be a Casualty and Dougo asked if anyone saw small broken off bits floating over the weir to please bring them back. A small detour to view Bundara Huts (also known as Ryders Huts) was the only stop before we downed packs to go and see THE Waterfalls. I'd never even heard of them and after much struggling downwards was enormously impressed with water cascading down into an almost circular pool and numerous flowers on the surrounding precipitous banks. Couldn't miss another opportunity for a swim. More choruses of ooohs and aaahs.

Back at Wilky again we shattered the Stirkul family's peace and had a merry New Year and happy birthday to Martin W. We declared New Year an hour early, a trifling matter which the kids will take a long time to forgive us for.

Sylvia Wilson

NEWMEMBER

Welcome to Julie Samson 29 Reed Street, Albert Park, 3206 Phone (H) 699 9186, (W) 690 1633

CHANGES OF INFORMATION

Neil Priestley: 28 Larch Street, Blackburn North, 3130

Russell Jones: 1/40 Glenhuntly Road, Elwood, 3184.
Phone (H) 531 7605

Brian Marriott: 20 Edith Court, Mt. Dandenong, 3767

(H) 751 2009

CLOSING DATE FOR FEBRUARY "NEWS" - WEDNESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY

Articles for "News" should be placed in the Red Box in the clubrooms or posted to Box 1751, GPO, Melbourne, 3001. Please make sure your name appears on copy.

AUTUMN WALKS PROGRAM

To enable you to plan ahead, here is the March part of the Autumn Walks Program. The full program will be sent to you with your February "News".

March					
Sat. 4	Warrandyte - Jumping Creek - North Croydon	Cars	Easy	Graham 725 7588 Harding	
3-5	Mitchells - Jamieson River Track	Cars	E/M	Jean 890 2189 Giese	
3-5	Wilsons Promontory in a Day	Cars	M/H	Russell 531 7605 Jones	
Sun. 5	Myrtle Gully - Mt Tanglefoot Track - Sylvia Creek Falls	Bus	E/M or Med.	Philip 813 2271 Larkin Stephen Courtney	
Labour D	ay				
10-13	Upper Cumberland Valley (base camp)	Cars	E/M	Philip 813 2271 Larkin	
10-13	Mt Cope - Youngs Hut - Dinner Plain	Cars	E/M	Philip 386 0797 Taylor	
Sun. 12	Bells Beach - Ironbark Basin - Surf Coast Walk - Aireys Inlet	Bus	Easy	Paul (059) 786864 Photios	
Mon. 13	Beach Walk - Mordialloc - Frankston	Train	Easy	Athol 211 2649 Schafer	
Wed. 15	Marysville - Mt. Gordon	Cars	E/M	Bob 509 6164 Aujard	
17-19	Watchtower - Moroka River - Snowy Bluff	Cars	Med.	Russell 531 7605 Jones	
Sun. 19	Federation Day Walk			To be advised	
Sun. 26	Mt Beggary - Mt Jerusalem - Mt Everard - Kinglake National Park	Bus	Med. &/M	Fred 557 3724 Halls Martin Williams	
Easter					
24-28	Cobberas - southern Snowy Mountains	Cars	Med.	Keith 534 7439 White	