

THE NEWS

OF THE

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

157

MARCH 1989

EDITION

PRICE 20 C

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SOCIAL COLUMN

YOUR NEW SOCIAL COMMITTEE HAS THREE MEMBERS:-

Stuart Hodgson 741 5592 Sue Clarke 259 9599 Penny Stapley 578 5623

**** ALL SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE EVENTS WILL BE MET WITH WARMTH AND GRATITUDE ****

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AN EVENT WHICH WILL ENABLE YOU TO RUB SHOULDERS (LITERALLY!) WITH MEMBERS OF SEVERAL OTHER CLUBS:-

The YHA "BUSHIES BALL" at the MALVERN TOWN HALL, FRIDAY 31st March at 8.00 pm. Casual Dress. BYO Supper and Drinks. Tickets \$8.00 Featuring the "SHEARER'S TALLY" Bush Band. Remember - no skill required - a caller will tell you what to do in time (hopefully) to the music. Contact Stuart on 741 5592.

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The 1989 Committee of the M.B.W. requests the pleasure of your company - that's all members, prospectives & friends, at our first big whiz-bang social function for the year! An

APRIL FOOL'S DAY PARTY

FANCY DRES

Come dressed as your FAVOURITE FOOL. Prize for the most Foolish-looking!! Bring a Plate & BYO.

When?
Sat. the 1st of DINE Glen Iris.
April, fool: DANCE Phone 259 9599
DALLY 7.30 pm to ----?

Meet new bushies, slightly older bushies and ones who havn't been seen for years - they'll all be there. If you like, bring LP's, tapes for dancing, too!

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We'd like to organise a CINEMA NIGHT in April, to see the Academy Award Nominated Film "RAINMAN". Substantial concessions if we get enough takers. Expressions of interest, disgust etc. to Stuart.

Correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary,
Melbourne Bushwalkers,
Box 1751Q, G.P.O.,
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.

SOCIAL PROGRAM MARCH/APRIL (Continued)

RAFTING TRIP DOWN THE GOULBURN RIVER - SATURDAY 22nd APRIL -

We start at THORNTON (near Eildon Weir) at 10.00 am & finish at ALEXANDRA at about 5.00 pm. \$32.00 per person, includes CHICKEN & CHAMPAGNE lunch, Billy Tea and Damper etc. etc. No rafting expertise necessary: Our two experienced instructors have been running these trips on and off for over five years and havn't lost anyone yet. But you WILL be expected to PADDLE! Numbers limited to 20, so hurry. Ring Stuart on 741 5592

That's all Folks:-

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DAY WALKS APRIL 1989

SAT. 1 APRIL DANDENONGS EXPLORER - DOONAGALLA ESTATE EASY

LEADER BOB AUJARD

TRANSPORT CARS

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

SUN. 2 APRIL MT. BEENAK - SEVEN ACRE ROCK - EASY/MEDIUM CHANCELLOR SPUR TRACK - FEIGLIN TRACK

LEADER WENDY BARNES

TRANSPORT BUS FROM NOLAN STREET, 9.00 am

EXPECTED RETURN 8.00 pm

MAP REFERENCE GILWELL & BEENAK 1:25,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 16 KM

This walk will be in the area of tall timber and fern gullies, to the south of Powelltown. We will start at Basan Corner and head up to Mount Beenak to sample the view, then head off to the Chancellor Spur Track and thence to the Feiglin Creek Track which will lead us to the end of the walk on the outskirts of Powelltown. There will only be one walk, an easy/medium variety, with an approx length of 16 kms.

SAT. 8 APRIL CYCLE TRIP

LEADER ART TERRY

TRANSPORT BUS FROM NOLAN STREET, 9.00 am

MAP A GOOD ROAD MAP

FARE \$16.00

If the wind direction is suitable the ride will start from Bena (Sth. Gippsland) riding north to Poowong - Sea View - Yanathan, Bayles, Cora-Lyn and finish at Tynong. We need a south wind for this ride, should the wind be blowing from the north, then the ride will be elsewhere. A ten speed cycle is a requirement to participate on club trips. Cyclists are also required to carry a pump, a spare tube and tools suitable for their own cycle.

DAY WALKS (Continued)

SUN. 9 APRIL O'BRIEN'S CROSSING - MT. BLACKWOOD EASY & EASY/MEDIUM

LEADERS ROB AYRE & SYLVIA WILSON

TRANSPORT BUS FROM NOLAN STREET: 9.00am

EXPECTED RETURN 7.00pm

MAP REFERENCE FCV LERDERDERG 1:25,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 14 KM - both

Owing to a last minute change of leaders there has been no opportunity to preview. However it is envisaged that the easy party will spend most of its time beside the Lerderderg River. The medium party will probably have a couple of scrubby hill climbs thrown in for good measure. Both will be about 14 kms. Rocky gorges along the river and good views from the hill tops are highlights of the area!

SAT. 15 APRIL HISTORICAL WALK - KEW EASY

LEADER
TRANSPORT
MEET UNDER THE CLOCKS FLINDERS STREET STATION

TRANSPORT MEET UNDER THE CLOCKS, FLINDERS STREET STATION

BY 1.30pm

The North Balwyn tram (Route 48) takes us to Stop 35. There we walk from the Wallenberg Memorial up through some of the older parts of Kew. Don't miss the opportunity to see "Willsmere's" beautiful landscape before much of this prime Crown Land is sold off by a govt. making up its cash shortfalls! Taking advantage of the high elevation here we will admire the views of the Yarra Valley to which we descend via the National Park and, later on, pass what was a Catholic enclave - i.e. Raheen, Barke Hall etc. - to the footbridge at Victoria Street (Stop 28). Bring a picnic afternoon tea.

SUN. 16 APRIL MILL CREEK - PULPIT ROCK - MEADOW EASY
HILL - GOULBURN RIVER & MEDIUM

LEADERS
STAN ATTWOOD & VERLE-ANN ATTWOOD
TRANSPORT
BUS FROM NOLAN STREET, 9.00am

EXPECTED RETURN 7.00pm

MAP REFERENCE SEYMOUR 1:25,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 13 KM easy 16 KM medium

Mill Creek descends from the Tallarook State Forest plateau through granite country to the Goulburn River providing a very picturesque setting for the walk. The medium group will climb up the gully, visit the lookout of Pulpit Rock which offers expansive views over the Goulburn River, and follow the edge of the plateau to Meadow Hill. The easy group will avoid the rock hopping by climbing up a well graded track overlooking the valley.

WED. 19 APRIL CEMENT CREEK - ACHERON GAP EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER TREVOR THOMSON

TRANSPORT MEET EITHER AT TREVOR'S AT 8.45am at 20 YANIGIN DR.

GLEN WAVERLEY (MELWAY 62 Cl2) TO SHARE TRANSPORT,

OR AT CEMENT CREEK TURNTABLE AT 10.00am (MELWAY 256 T2).

EXPECTED RETURN 5.00pm

EXPECTED RETURN 5.00pm APPROX. DISTANCE 16.5 KM

A walk through magnificent mountain forest, climbing from the Cement Creek Turntable to walk along the ridge linking Mt. Donna Buang, Mt. Boobyalla and the Knobs, before descending to Acheron Gap, and returning along the Acheron Way.

DAY WALKS (Continued)

SUN. 23 APRIL SANDY CREEK - CHEROKEE - SANATORIUM EASY/MEDIUM
LAKE - MT. MACEDON & MEDIUM

LEADERS MAUREEN PECK & STUART HODGSON

EXPECTED RETURN 7.00pm - BUS FROM NOLAN STREET, 9.00am
MAP REFERENCE RIDDELLS CREEK 1:25,000/MACEDON 1:25,000

APPROX. DISTANCE MEDIUM 17 KM EASY 12 KM

There's something for everyone on this trip. Sometimes we walk on tracks, sometimes straight through the bush. Some of the walk is on level, or gently undulating country, but be warned, - both easy and medium walks will involve some climbing; they don't call Macedon a mountain for nothing! Should be some great views, weather permitting.

SAT. 29 APRIL DANDENONGS EXPLORER - FERNTREE GULLY EASY
NATIONAL PARK

LEADER GRAHAM BREEN

TRANSPORT CARS

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

SUN. 30 APRIL DISTILLERY CREEK - CURRAWONG FALLS - EASY/MEDIUM
IRON BARK GORGE - MOGGS CREEK & MEDIUM

LEADERS
GINA HOPKINS & TRISH ELMORE
TRANSPORT
BUS FROM NOLAN STREET, 9.00am

EXPECTED RETURN 8.00pm

MAP REFERENCE AIREY'S INLET 1:25,000

APPROX. DISTANCE 15 KM & 20 KM

Pleasant walking in the OTWAY STATE FOREST, mostly on well-defined tracks with some beautiful coastal views, a visit to some waterfalls and finishing at Moggs Creek. The medium walk will finish on the beach.

WEEKEND WALKS

APRILL 1989

7 - 9 APRIL PORT CAMPBELL - BAY OF ISLANDS EASY

LEASER SPENCER GEORGE

TRANSPORT CARS
EXPECTED RETURN 9.00pm
APPROX. DISTANCE 30 KM

This is a walk mainly along the cliffs of the rugged coast. Bring your cameras and your favourite foods. We visit London Bridge, The Twelve Apostles, Lochard Gorge and the Arch. Saturday night's camp will be in the National Parks' camping area at Port Campbell, where there are even hot showers. Ninety one species of birds have been recorded in the park.

14 - 16 APRIL DOORWAY CREEK - MT. BOGONG HARD

LEADER MARK TISCHLER

An interesting trip up Bogong via an unusual route. A weekend not for the faint hearted, especially with the final dramatic scramble to the summit. Fitness will be a major necessity and a light pack, as we climb up a ridge west of Doorway Creek before dropping in to it for the final ascent. We will camp near Mt. Bogong West Pk and observe the brilliant sunset from here. Sunday will see us descend to Little Bogong and we will make our way through scrubby terrain to Mountain Creek back to the cars.

WEEKEND WALKS (Continued)

There is a possibility of others doing an easier walk up Staircase Spur and camping up on high and then returning via the same route, or down through Little Bogong. Please see me if interested in either walk. Remember to travel light, but well protected. The weather can be dubious at the best of times.

MAP USED: TRAPPER CRK 1:25,000 Vicmap. TRANSPORT - CARS.

14 - 16 APRIL MACMILLAN WALKING TRACK - WOODS POINT - MEDIUM

O'CONNORS PLAIN

LEADER BRIAN MARRIOTT

TRANSPORT CARS

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

21 - 25 APRIL GLENELG RIVER NATIONAL PARK EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER GRAEME THORNTON

TRANSPORT CARS

EXPECTED RETURN TUESDAY AFTERNOON

MAP REFERENCE "GREAT SOUTH WEST WALK" MAPS 1 - 7

APPROX. DISTANCE SHORT -- LONG

I had a problem in preparing this preview. There were too many options available.

The hon. Walks Secretary has given me a clue though. He has graded the walk Easy/Medium. With ANZAC day on the Tuesday and the Monday off, we have 4 days and could perhaps combine an Easy walk with a Medium walk.

Medium, what around Bridgewater - there are no real hills - ridiculous! No, not really. One long-hot-dry afternoon last year, I estimated I was climbing 500 ft. per km travelled (the mixed units being a result of sinking an average of 10 cm per 60 cm step, in the soft sand). Reckon I climbed 3,000 - 4,000 ft. that afternoon.

So what I am thinking is if there is sufficient interest, we could combine an Easy-cum-mobile-base-camp group with a Medium group that walks coastal sections west of Bridgewater Bay and perhaps a section of the Glenelg River. The Easy group could provide a rolling car shuffle for the Medium group and perhaps even CARRY MOST OF THE PACKS on one or two days.

It is even possible that some may like to come down just for the weekend. Those interested should indicate their preference and I shall make final arrangements the Wednesday before.

WANTED

Person, 25 yrs. plus, to share 2 bedroom Victorian House in Hawthorn. \$70 p.w. plus expenses.

Please Phone Jill 882 5192

Lindle off off off

Jean Giese

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890 2189

WANTED KNOWN

For anyone interested contact LLOYD WONG (? the name was illegible due to runny ink). He is wishing to hear from club members who may be visiting his area, with a view to going on walking trips.

Address:- P.O. Box 2133, WOOLOOGONG. 2500.

Phone:- Home (042) 264555 Work 285444.

REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

15th FEBRUARY

The following were elected to the Committee:

President:

Vice-Presidents:

Secretary: Treasurer:

Walks Secretary: Membership Secretary: Social Secretary:

Wilkinson Lodge Manager:

"News" Editor:

General Committee:

Sylvia Wilson Jean Giese Robert Ayre

Winifred De Souza

Rick Chater Phil Taylor Wendy Barnes Stuart Hodgson

Mick Mann Tracy Guest Roger Harris

Nigel Holmes Gina Hopkins Graeme Thornton Barbara Weiss

Subscriptions for 1989 were set at the following:

Ordinary Members \$24.00 \$36.00 Couples Concessions/Students \$12.00 "News" Subscribers \$12.00

Rodney Mattingley was elected as a life member of the club with thunderous applause.

The following were elected as Honorary Members for 1989:

Anne & Peter Bullard Sue & Graham Errey Sue Filson Merle Halls Jenny & Geoff Kenafacke Libby & Jim Marsden Fay Pitt Edna Richards Doug Wilhoft

Jan and Doug Pocock were the recipients of a Memorial Club Spoon.

Pat Grey and Rosemary Cotter agreed to be the Club Auditors again.

A word from Tracy. A big thank you to this month's contributors for their legible handwriting. It does make things much easier... so take note ANYONE ELSE who will be writing for "News". Clear writing especially of names (print), as I don't know my way round maps like Merilyn. Apologies herewith for any mistakes in this issue.

I'd just like to say it feels great being "Editor" and typing away at "News" at long last. The prospect was just a little daunting, but now the ice is broken, it feels good. I recall, many years ago at my first A.G.M., when the job came up, it sounded very grand. It is exciting. You are in the thick of things and it is very rewarding.

Merilyn says the thing she'll miss the most is not knowing all the news etc. first. And the thing we'll miss is Merilyn's dry brand of Editorial comment and humour. All I can say is, Thank God I've got big feet!

COMMITTEE NOTES MEETING HELD ON 6TH MARCH 1989

1.1 The new committee were bade welcome and jobs sorted out as follows:-

Transport (liase with Dennis) Robert Ayre Equipment Officer Roger Harris Trevor Thomson Maps Search & Rescue Federation Athol Schafer Phil Larkin CCV Graeme Thornton VNPA Jean Giese ACF Robert Ayre STAV Gina Hopkins Wilderness Society Graeme Thornton Friends of Bogong Wendy Barnes - liase with Dave & Sylvia Andrews Archives Ed Lawton Tracks Nigel Holmes

- 1.2 Just for the record there are sub-committees too:-
 - (a) Social: Stuart Hodgson, Sue Clarke, Penny Stapley
 - (b) "Wilkie": Mick Mann, Graeme Thornton (Bookings)
 Robert Ayre
 - (c) "Introduction" leaflet: Robert Ayre, Sylvia Wilson
 - (d) 50 years publication: Jan Llewelyn, Bob & Lynne Douglas
 - (e) Walks Committee: Phil Taylor, Keith White, Jean Giese, Nigel Holmes
 - (f) News production: Doug Wilhoft and friends
- 2. Correspondence:
- 2.1 O.R.C. were making enquiring noises of us. Winifred to send off info. O.R.C. to go on our mailing list.
- 2.2 "Walk Against Want" Sunday 16th April info. on board.
- 2.3 Palm Sunday Peace Rally, Sunday 19th March. Info. on board.
- 3. Reports:
- 3.1 Treasurer:

Balance 28/2/89 \$22,746.54

Payments to be ratified: Faith Smith (Bridgewater) 35.00 Association Office 20.00 Mick Mann (Septic Pumping) 200.00 * Merc. Mutual (Bus Insurance) 432.28 * \$687.28 Bills to be paid: Merc. Mutual (Personal Accident) 335.12 Printed Matter (Autumn Programme) 64.80 Rampower (Fuel) 175.12 \$575.04

3.2 Walks Secretary:

(i) January Figures: 156 Total: Income \$1,264.00 124 Day Walkers 32 Weekend walkers 112 Members 44 Visitors

(ii) Sub Committee meeting March 20th for Winter Walks Programme.

^{*} Paid since month-end.

Committee Notes (Continued)

- 4. Social Secretary:
 YHA Bushies Ball Friday March 31st.
 April Fool's Day Party BYO Sue Clarke's place
 Rafting Saturday 22nd April Goulburn River \$32
 Minimum 10/maximum 20
- 5. "Wilkie"
- 5.1 Mick Mann: Preliminary investigations re. new Septic System: Good spot between existing tank and Wilkie, good for drainage, plans to be drawn up. Negotiations begin. Ready for next..?
- 5.2 No news on wood-shed/refuge. Stay tuned.
- 6. Equipment:
 Roger to investigate the purchese of a tent. Input from weekend walkers much appreciated.
- 7. General Business:
- 7.1 Pat Grey requesting a closer liason (for want of a better word) between Social Secretary, Walks Secretary and herself, so events don't clash. Quite right too.
- 7.2 See section on Woodchipping elsewhere.
- 7.3 We have outstayed our welcome! Mr. MacMahon has issued marching orders re. old copies of Walk, stored in his garage. Work party organised for Saturday 18th March.

BUY your copies NOW from the desk at 10c each. Procrastinate no more!

- 8. Duty Roster:
 - March 8 Sylvia & G.T.
 - 15 Gina & Winifred
 - 22 Tracy & Rob
 - 29 Jean &
 - April 5 Jean & Gina
- 9. Next Meeting:

Monday 3rd April at 7.15pm promptly.

STOPPRESS

SLIDE NIGHT - Phil Larkin on Day Walks. Wednesday 3rd May. 8.00pm.

MORE STOPPRESS

Invitation from BENDIGO ALPINE CLUB to a Bush Dance in Bendigo on Saturday April 22nd. 8.00 - 12.00. Supper provided. Family \$24. Single \$10. Concession \$8. A fund raiser for Mittagundi.

Poster up soon!!

Sorry Folks - more Committee Notes found lurking under the Treasurer's Report..... Donation to Anti-woodchipping Campaign in Gipps-land.

The Committee would like your reaction to a proposed donation of \$200 to the Wilderness Society from club funds. If you feel strongly enough about it and would like to make a personal donation as well, there will be a collecting tin on "the door" table.

WALK NOTES

Now that summer is over, there is no better way to spend some of the pleasant autumn weather, than to go out walking.

This coming month there is a wide range of walks to suit everyone.

Sunday walks to Kinglake National Park on the 26th March will provide excellent walking in an area close to Melbourne.

Early April - 2nd - there is Mt. Beenak - Chancellor Spur Track, with its combination of scenic views and giant trees. On the 9th April, O'Brien's Crossing - Mt. Blackwood provides interesting walking through some rugged country remarkably close to Melbourne.

Weekend walks include trips to the Watchtower and Snowy Bluff. A little further afield, Easter provides an opportunity to travel to the Cobberas and Southern Snowy Mountains in far eastern Victoria and Cape Otway. On the 7th-9th April, Port Campbell - Bay of Islands is an interesting trip to a beautiful part of the state.

And don't forget the Saturday afternoon Dandenongs Explorer trip to Donnagalla Estate. A chance to do the shopping and walk all on the same day.

The Wednesday walk to Marysville - 15/3, and Cement Creek - Acheron Gap - 19/4 - provides mid-week walking suitable for all.

And if that is not enough, don't forget our own Historical Walks. On the 15th April, we will visit beautiful Kew.

Happy walking.

Philip Taylor
Walks Secretary.

WILKY BOOKINGS FOR 1989

For those interested in using the club lodge "Wilky" this winter, the committee have formulated the following guide-lines for 1989 which will hopefully profit from 1988's experiences.

GROUP LEADERS

The Wilky booking lists went up on Wednesday 1st March. At the moment these lists are only for people wishing to nominate as group leaders. Any number of people may nominate as leader for a particular week and if there is more than one nominee the Wilky Lodge Manager will choose one. To qualify, group leaders must have visited Wilky and be familiar with its winter eccentricities.

Group leaders will be allocated by Wednesday 29th March and the lists opened for the balance of parties.

BOOKING BOOKING

Preference is to be given to people who have attended work parties at Wilky followed by those booking for the full 7 days. Members have priority over non-members. As usual, PLEASE discuss your intention with the group leader prior to booking. A satisfactory level of competence is required before contemplating the trip and bear in mind that safety is of the utmost importance, as Wilky is rather remote and isolated, particularly in times of emergency.

It is proposed to charge a non-refundable deposit of \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members, on the accommodation bookings this winter. The deposit will be deducted from the final amount payable, and is due at the time of booking, to secure the place.

Wilky Bookings for 1989 (Continued)

The accommodation charge for 1989 will remain at \$5 per night for members and \$8 per night for non-members.

Party sizes are normally 8 people with a maximum of 10. But, as we have had enquiries from individuals and small groups outside the club, then leaders of groups numbering less than 8 may be approached with a view to accommodating any such requests that are considered practicable and likely to be harmonious.

Also, please remember that Wilky can become very confined in bad weather, so the group has to function as a group and not a collection of individuals. The group leader must have the final say on eligibility of members of the party.

If more than 9 people book on a particular week and the group leader feels this to be too congested, then he/she is expected to resolve this by trying to accommodate the overflow with leaders of less congested weeks, or by keeping a waiting list. Disputes are to be referred to the club committee.

3. LOCKERS AND SUPPLIES

10 x 12kg. (or equivalent amount) bags of briquettes and heavy duty "Dolphin" lantern batteries for the toilet and shower, are to be taken in by each group. Locker spaces were at a premium last year, so it is intended to limit groups to ONE LOCKER EACH this year, at least until the situation is clearer. Not all lockers are of equal size, so any small groups will be allocated the smaller ones.

The contents of lockers automatically reverts to communal property unless cleared by 31st December 1989.

Group leaders should be aware of the fact that the High Plains road is closed at both ends by the F.C.A.M.C. when it considers that the first regular snow has arrived. This is normally in May but could be earlier.

4. Please direct general booking enquiries to the Wilky Booking Officer, Graeme Thornton and specific enquiries to the nominated group leader at the appropriate time.

CHANGE OF INFORMATION

TRACY GUEST 7 Norwood Street,

Flemington. 3031. PHONE (H) 376.2434

IAN DUNNAGE 11 Prior Road,

Chadstone, 3148

Phone (H) 569,8282 (W) 654.1333

MICK I Phone (H) 497.4674 (W) 669.4946

NEW MEMBERS

AYIN CHING: 1/21 Federal Road, Ringwood East. 3135

Phone (H) 870.0758 (W) 817.2462 EXT. O.T.

JOHN DAVIES: 14 Arlington Street, Ringwood. 3134

Phone (H) 870.3149 (W) 797.2945

ALAN CLARKE: 59 Garfield Street, Richmond. 3121

Phone (H) 429.3264 (W) 490.2919

GENEVIEVE COUDERC: 5/96 Severn Street, Box Hill. 3128

Phone (H) 898.7801

KEVIN TOOHEY: 128 Canning Street, Carlton. 3053

Phone (H) 347.8961 (W) 616.6444

MORE CHANGE OF INFORMATION: BRIAN MARRIOTT

P.O. Box 628,

(Business) (002) 20 2370 SANDY BAY. TAS. 7005

ALONG THE TRACK

OF BIKES, BOOZERS AND LOST LEADERS

Art had in mind a Gippsland bike ride which hadn't been done by the club before. However the wind was unfavourable, so he decided on the popular Pyalong-Strath Creek-Broadford ride. Those of us who had done this one before remembered with greedy anticipation the milk bars en route. Some were off to buy junk food before we even started:

We were finally on our way, but not for long. A halt was called at a nectarine tree beside the road, but the fruit, though red, was about a week away from being ripe.

Lunch was at Tallarook, and here the first signs of degeneracy appeared. Some members of the party sought junk food at the shop, while others made for the pub, no less. Eventually everyone was back, refreshed, at the lunch spot and we rode off along the Goulburn River. At Trawool the sight of a new 'resort' incorporating the old hotel tempted most of the cyclists to look inside and sample the available low alcohol beverages. Dennis came along in the van and, seeing a number of bikes outside, came in to investigate. We tore ourselves away and remounted. At Kerrisdale we left the Goulburn Valley Highway. Some rode in the van and others rode their bikes along the King Parrot Creek to the township of Strath Creek, with two hotels and a milk bar. I don't know if anyone yielded again to temptation: for me and three others the temptation to ride up through Murchison Gap was stronger. I was overtaken by the van at the top of the climb, but three made it to the end at Broadford.

I was surprised when I boarded the van to see that Art and Ken were not there: they hadn't passed anyone. Remarks were passed about leaders who lost over 80% of their party. We recalled Art's warning at the beginning of the day - 'Dennis can't go driving all over the place looking for cyclists - if you get lost you'll have to make your own way home.' However, we had decided we'd better go back to Strath Creek to look for them when we saw two figures pedalling towards us. They had stopped for a swim in King Parrot Creek, and the van had rumbled past them, oblivious to their shouting and leaping around. So they, too, met the challenge of the climb up Murchison Gap. With all at last on board, we drove back to Melbourne.

Thanks, Art, for a terrific day.

MERILYN WHIMPEY

1989 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE

Members have three months (March, April, May) to renew membership. Failure to pay dues within the time specified means that qualifying walks will be necessary to rejoin.

Please tear off the form below and post, together with your remittance to:-

Membership Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers, Box 1751Q, GPO, MELBOURNE. 3001.

ON NO ACCOUNT send to Membership Secretary's private address.

Ordinary Member	\$24.00		
Concession/Student	\$12.00		Please tick one
Couple	\$36.00		
"News" Subscriber	\$12.00		

Name:

Address:

Telephone No. (H)

(W)

BUSHWALKER FINED FOR POLLUTING

Not really, but it has been noticed that some bushwalkers <u>are</u> causing avoidable pollution. The most noticeable of this is aluminium foil in fire places.

It seems that some walkers do not realise that many of the packages which contain the food that walkers consume on trips have aluminium foil. The humble "cup of soup" package is a prime example of a package which appears to be an innocuous combustible paper bag but in fact conceals the persistent polluter.

As people who enjoy the bush, most of us would like to minimize our impact on the bush so that others may enjoy an experience similar to that which we have had. Few of us are insensitive enough to leave cans at our campsites as a legacy of our visit. Why then do we still see people placing aluminium foil (or packages containing it) in fires? This stuff is very difficult to destroy. It will certainly melt if some effort is taken but it is difficult to burn completely. The normal result of a serious attempt to burn it in a camp fire are numerous silvery particles which will remain long after you and I have ceased to exist. Few camp fires are hot enough to convert all of the foil to this state. However, foil left in a fire for even a short time will begin to break up: it is then virtually impossible to remove all of the pieces from the ashes.

The best way to dispose of packaging which contains foil is to return it to your pack (don't put it in the fire) and place it in a bin when you leave the bush. This is also the best way to dispose of plastic packages - have you noticed how long it takes for some plastics to burn in a fire, giving off poisonous gases as they burn?

The packaging is only a small part of the weight of the food that we carry. Next time you see people throwing packaging onto a fire perhaps you can remind them:

IF YOU CAN CARRY IT IN THEN YOU CAN CARRY PART OF IT OUT!

- WOMBAT (Namd and address supplied)

DEVELOPMENTS ON MT. STIRLING

(from "SkiTour" - November/December 1988)

On Friday 2nd December the Alpine Resorts Commission held a seminar to outline their proposals for the Mt. Buller/Mt. Stirling development. The current proposals were developed by two consultants, Ecosign from Canada and MSJ, who are based in Sydney.

Broadly the proposal involves the establishment of a 5,500 bed village above 1500 metres on River Spur. The village will occupy 23.5 hectares.

To service this village and the existing village on Mt. Buller, a staging area at 1150 metres at the headwaters of the Delatite valley will be constructed.

The staging area will consist of a 5,240-car car park and other amenities including ski hire, basic food and beverage services, toilets and ticket sales.

Skiers will be transported from their cars below the snowline, to either village by a 6-person gondola. The gondolas will also provide transport between the villages, via the Delatite Staging area, in about 15 minutes.

The summit area of Mt. Stirling will be developed for downhill skiing. This will comprise 12 ski lifts carrying a total of 12,360 skiers per day. The northern side of Mt. Stirling will be developed for Nordic (their term) skiing.

DEVELOPMENTS ON MT. STIRLING (Continued)

To facilitate Nordic Skiing, a Nordic Centre is proposed for Baldy Creek.

A Nordic race course of 15 km will be built, as well as a 3.5 km lighted loop for night skiing. The total skiing capacity will be 7,500 skiers per day for Mt. Buller and 11,000 skiers per day for Mt. Stirling.

Several environmental problems have been mentioned but no detailed study has taken place.

Some of the environmental problems stated are:

water quality of the Delatite, Howqua and King catchments. These catchments will be affected by stormwater runoff and increased sedimentation during construction and slope grooming. Water for the Stirling Village will be drawn from either Baldy Creek or Bluff Creek. Sewage effluent will be discharged into the existing Buller system. The construction of roads to the Delatite Staging area and the Stirling Village will also affect water quality and present erosion problems.

The Ski Touring Association of Victoria (STAV) has vigorously opposed the development of downhill ski runs on Mt. Stirling and the Stirling Village.

Their main objections are:

- 1. The adverse environmental impact of the development on Mt. Stirling and the consequences for the neighbouring Wonnangatta-Moroka National Park.
- 2. The loss of available cross-country skiing venue suitable for all standards of skier.
- 3. The development of a multi-million dollar enterprise at the proposed altitude given the predicted climatic trends.
- 4. Downhill skiing will create conflicts of use on Mt. Stirling that already occur at Falls Creek and Mt. Hotham.
- 5. The building of a gondola and ski tows would have significant scenic impact.

On the other hand they support and suggest the development of Mt. Stirling as a dedicated cross-country skiing venue.

They feel that Mt. Buller/Mt. Stirling can be an integrated venue, with each mountain offering its own speciality. They also feel that downhill skiing development is more suited to the higher altitudes at Falls Creek and Mt. Hotham.

If you oppose this proposed development, please write to your local Member of Parliament, the Alpine Resorts Commission, or the Minister responsible, the Hon. Evan Walker. These proposals are imminent and our voice needs to be heard now.

CLOSING DATE FOR APRIL NEWS, WEDNESDAY, 5TH APRIL 1989
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.