

OFTHE

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

EDITION

463

SEPTIMBER

1986

PRICE 20 C

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST PUBLICATION NO. VBH 1297

# EXIRADRINARY

A special invitation (and plea) is extended to: Old members with fond memories of "Wilkie"; New members wishing to know more about "Wilkie"; to attend this extraordinary meeting to discuss the club situation and options regarding the club cottage "Wilkinson Memorial Lodge", on the Bogong High Plains.

As most readers of "News" will be aware, the club has to install both a new septic tank/sullage waste system and build an emergency shelter at Wilkie. This will considerably stretch the club's resources in time and money. Can the club manage this? Should the club manage this? What resources can we muster from our ranks?

If you would like to have more information, have a contribution to offer or an opinion on "Wilkie", pro or con, please write this date in your diary now, come along and enter into the discussion.

---000---

### SOCIAL SCENE

16mm movie buffs enjoyed a 3 hour assortment of old and new comedies on the big screen. We might have a similar presentation later on, maybe an Alfred Hitchcock night. Is there anyone out there with a big long lounge room, who wouldn't mind turning it into a "cinema" for one night? Please contact Stuart 741 5592 if you can oblidge.

---000----

### PENNY'S EATURDAY ARVO MOVIES

9th September DEAD POETS SOCIETY Ring Penny 578 5623 Next Date 14th October 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 Scene continued:

BUSH DANCE
Saturday 30th September
South Melbourne Town Hall

8pm - 12mn
BYO Supper & Drinks
MUSIC - PARADIDDLE

Admission \$9

Members and Visitors most welcome.....Book with Stuart 741 5592 or see him in the club.

~--000---

### FRIDAY BALLROOM DANCING

Don't forget this now regularly attended informal dancing class at Coburg from 8.30 - 10.45 pm. It is run by a family, is very friendly and great fun. You don't have to get dressed up and it's only \$5.00 per session. Supper is included. Your first lesson is free! It's on the corner of Bell Street and Melville Road. Come along and get into practice for our big end of year do at Alexanders. Ring Stuart on 741 5592 for more details.

---000---

### HORSE RIDE

7th October at Glen Elgin near Sunday Creek Broadford. Starting at 10 am. Bookings close 4th October, Cost \$30.00. \$5.00 deposit. BYO lunch. You will need some experience.

---000---

### DINNER BEFORE THE MEETING

Don't forget Wednesday nights at 6.00 pm at TOTOS in Lygon Street. We have a regular table set aside for hungry bushies.

### DAY WALKS

### SEPTEMBER

SAT. 30 SEPTEMBER DANDENONGS EXPLORER

BELGRAVE - THE PATCH - KALLISTA

EASY

LEADER MICHAEL HUMPHREY

TRANSPORT TRAIN DEPARTS FLINDERS ST. AT 8.49 am

Platform No. 4 or Private Cars

EXPECTED RETURN 4.00 pm (approx)

MAP REFERENCE MELWAYS MAPS 75 & 124

APPROX. DISTANCE 12 kms.

An easy and very relaxed walk starting promptly at 10.30 am from the Puffing Billy <u>Picnic Ground</u> (Melway Map 75, G9). If you are coming by public transport, the train arrives at Belgrave Station at 10.03 am. The picnic ground is just a short walk away.

### September Day Walks continued: Dandenongs Explorer:

The walk will depend very much on the weather. I plan to have lunch at the Menzies Creek/Hermans Saddle Reserves and eventually make our way to Grants Picnic Ground for a Devonshire Tea. However, if the weather is not so good we will do the walk in reverse and head for Grants for lunch.

For further details please see me in the clubrooms on the Wednesday night prior to the walk or ring me at home 598 7317 after 7.30 pm.

### DAYIALKS

### OCTOBER

SUN. 1 OCTOBER BLACKWOOD RANGES

MEDIUM & EASY/MEDIUM

LEADERS

NIGEL HOLMES & PHIL LARKIN

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

SUN. 8 OCTOBER LONDON BRIDGE - RYE BACK BEACH MEDIUM & EASY/MEDIUM

LEADERS
BARBARA WEISS & VERONICA SHEEN
TRANSPORT
BUS FROM NOLAN STREET AT 9.00 a.m.

EXPECTED RETURN
MAP REFERENCE

APPROX. DISTANCE 16 and 20 kms.

This area offers a great diversity of walking along the sand, through bush, and on top of the cliffs. Over rocks too. There are many spectacular views to be had and there is much of interest in terms of vegetation, birdlife and rock formations, as well as the big surf that rolls in along that section of the coast. October is a good time of year to visit this area before the tourist season sets in. Remember that it can be still very cold along the southern coast at that time, so bring wind proof clothing.

SAT. 14 OCTOBER BIKE TRIP - STONY POINT - SORRENTO VARIED

LEADER ART TERRY

TRANSPORT BUS FROM NOLAN STREET AT 9.00 am.

EXPECTED RETURN 7 pm.

MAP REFERENCE A GOOD ROAD MAP

APPROX. DISTANCE 70 kms.

This trip will start from Stony Point on Westernport Bay, head inland to Red Hill to Rosebud West and from here we make our way through quiet suburban streets to Sorrento - this will be a change of scenery, a ten speed cycle is required for Club Trips, tools, pump and a spare tube for your cycle are also requirements. Twelve cyclists is the limit.

SUN. 15 OCTOBER SEA WINDS - KINGS FALLS - GREENS BUSH MEDIUM & EASY

LEADER ART TERRY & JOAN HAIG

TRANSPORT BUS FROM NOLAN STREET AT 9.00 am,

EXPECTED RETURN 8.00 pm

APPROX. DISTANCE 2.2 & 14 kms.

There will be two walks, one easy and the other medium. The easy walk starts at Baldry's Crossing to Greens Bush, to Highfields, this walk embraces beautiful bushland, creeks, fern gullies and open farm land with views at Highfields.

### October Day Walks continued: Sea Winds-Kings Falls-Greens Bush:

The medium is much further and starts on the slopes of Arthur's Seat to "Sea Winds" State Park. This park is always a delight to behold and for a new comer, it is indeed a beautiful surprise. From Sea Winds we do a bushland traverse to a lake below "Waterfall Gully", where we are picked up by Dennis and transported to Baldry's Crossing where we follow in the footsteps of Joan's party. However, we do not terminate our walk at Highfield, but continue on to Bushranger's Bay and Cape Schank.

WED. 18 OCTOBER	CRANBOURNE ANNEXE OF ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS- EASY
LEADER TRANSPORT	MARGARET MAC GREGOR 509 7056  Meet at Margaret MacGregor's - 26 Denbigh Rd.  Armadale at 9.00 am - or small parking area, cnr.
	Lamb St. & Cranbourne-Frankston Rd., Cranbourne, (Melway p.133 J5) - or Jean Giese's, Surrey Hills (890 2189) at 9.00 am.
EXPECTED RETURN APPROX. DISTANCE	4.00 pm - Armadale

This is a bludge rather than easy. However, it's an opportunity to view a native Botanic Garden in the making. At the initial preview the Garden wasn't open to the public, but opening day is expected to be 17th September.

The Garden has been divided into zones - Heathland, Woodland, Arboretum, Special Collections and Native Botanic Garden. Walking tracks intersect the Garden and there is a trig point with views across to Westernport and the Danderongs. This is a walk for native plant lovers rather than walkers.

SUN. 22 OCTOBER	BLCWHARD RANGE - COCKPIT CREEK (WARBURTON)	EASY/MEDIUM & MEDIUM
LEADERS TRANSPORT EXPECTED RETURN	GRAHAM HARDING/STEPHEN BENTLEY BUS FROM NOLAN STREET AT 9.00 am. 6.30 - 7.00 pm.	
MAP REFERENCE APPROX. DISTANCE	1:25,000 TOOLANDI, GLENBURN, KLOND 13 - 16 kms.	YKE & MONDA

This outing will provide very pleasant walking through the varying woods of the Toolangi State Forest over the Blowhard Range. Walking is through dense forest on tracks with climbing and descending.

The climbing will ascend approximately 330 m. to an altitude of 830 m. at the top of the range we have an eastward view. The tall timbers of this forest are quite mature and the grandeur is most impressive.

Both an easy/medium and medium walk through this area have been planned.

SAT. 28 OCTOBER	DANDENONGS EXPLORER OLINDA STATE FOREST	EASY
LEADERS	MARIE ORMONDE & PAM WESTGATE	

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

SUN. 29 OCTOBER	MT. DORAN - LAL LAL FALLS MOORABOOL FALLS	EASY/MEDIUM & MEDIUM
LEADERS TRANSPORT EXPECTED RETURN MAP REFERENCE APPROX. DISTANCE	KEITH WHITE & KEN BAIRD BUS FROM NOLAN STREET AT 9.00 am. 7.00 pm. LAL LAL 1:25,000 12.5 & 17.5 kms.	

Pleasant walking through undulating light eucalyptus forest, sometimes following tracks to Champion Hill for lunch. After lunch there are several interesting options, a dip in the Moorabool, inspection

OCTOBER DAY WALKS continued: Mt. Doran-Lal Lal Falls-Moorabool R.

of the Blast Furnace built in the 1890's, and views across Bungal Dam, Lal Lal and Moorabool Falls. The easy walk finishes at Lal Lal Falls Picnic Area and the medium walk, beside the Moorabool River, at Yendon Blue Bridge. Bring water for lunch.

### WEEKENDWALKS

### OCTOBER

7 - 8 OCTOBER

BARNEWELL PLAINS - MT. TORBRECK

EASY/MEDIUM
ROYSTON RANGE

LEADER
JEAN GIESE

TRANSPORT CARS EXPECTED RETURN 6.30 pm.

MAP REFERENCE TORBRECK 1:25,000 or THORNTON 1:50,000 APPROX. DISTANCE 28 kms. but only 5 ks. with packs.

This is a good one for those wishing to try themselves out with a weekend pack, as you'll only have to carry it for 5 ks. The remainder will be with day packs, (make sure you bring one).

Walk commences cnr. Snobs Creek Rd. and Conn Gap Rd. Saturday morning at 9.00 am. An hour's walk (and climb) will find us at the lovely Barnewell Plains where we make camp, pack lunch and head for Mt. Torbreck (350 m. climb). Then it's South to Conn Gap and back to camp.

Sunday we return to the cars, take a short drive, then walk up to Morris Lookout for great views. We follow the ridge of the Royston Range for several ks. then descend to Snobs Creek. There is a fair amount of climbing, but without the big pack, it should be most enjoyable. Those lucky enough to have Friday afternoon off, can join the leader in walking in to the campsite in the daylight. Otherwise, meet as above on Saturday morning.

### 20 - 22 OCTOBER ELDORADO - BEECHWORTH EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER
TRANSPORT
KEITH WHITE
PRIVATE CARS

EXPECTED RETURN 8.00 pm. Melbourne

MAP REFERENCE 1:25,000 ELDORADO & 1:25,000 REIDS CREEK

APPROX. DISTANCE 34 kms.

Beechworth is a picture at this time of the year with its green fields and gardens filled with flowers. In the forest, many native flowers, particularly orchids are at their peak. We will probably stay at Lake Sambell Camping Park on Friday night.

The walk starts near Eldorado and follows tracks or crosses open forest to reach camp shortly after lunch - an excellent grassy site amongst trees, with plenty of fire wood. This allows time for a side trip to Mt. Pilot, which has wide views.

On Sunday we eventually emerge onto farmland for morning tea. The rest of the walk into Beechworth is done without packs, following Reedy Creek to Woolshed Falls, then Spring Creek to the gorge below the Powder Magazine. NOTE: Wear long trousers or gaiters, as there are snakes in this area.

If you like cream cakes, then Beechworth is your spot!

27 - 29 OCTOBER	HELICOPTER SPUR - HELLS WINDOW - MT. HOWITT	MEDIUM
LEADER TRANSPORT EXPECTED RETURN	MERILYN WHIMPEY CARS 9.00 pm. Sunday	

MAP REFERENCE VMTC WATERSHEDS OF THE KING, HOWQUA & JAMIESON

HOWITT 1:100,000

October Weekend Walks continued: Helicopten Spur.

This is wonderful country, especially in spring. We start in Mountain Ash forest and climb to Snow Gums on the ridge that runs from the Bluff to Mt. Howitt. Expect early wildflowers, great views and maybe patches of snow on the high peaks.

Camp is in the gap between Mt. Magdala and Big Hill. Sunday we climb Mt. Howitt and descend via Howitt Spur. Come prepared for a heatwave and a blizzard. Bring something large to hold water at camp, as it's often quite a long way down to the spring.

### COMMITTEE NOTES

### MEETING HELD 4TH SEPTEMBER 1989

### 1. Correspondence:

- In 1. East Gippsland Coalition: Sept. 28th 30th October.
  - 2. C.F. & L.
  - 3. Heidelberg Tree Planting
  - 4. C. MacLean request for estimated bus "travelling times" to be published with each walk. Seen as too complicated suggests she asks leader when she signs on.
  - 5. Duke of Edinburgh Award, Adelaide thanking M.B.W's retrip to Wilkie, in glowing terms.
  - 6. EPA acknowledging letters re. Wilkie.
  - 7. Outdoor Recreation: see elsewhere
  - 8. Dept. of Sport & Recreation: see elsewhere

# 2. Reports:

2.1	Treasurer:

	Balance:	\$32,713.15
	Payments to be ratified: Rawson Lodge M. Williams (Postage)	1,210.00 91.44
		\$1,301.44
	Bills to be paid: Driving & Garaging (August) RACV Rampower (July Acct.) Gestetner Mercantile Mutual (Van Insurance) Horticultural Society (Six Months Rent	440.00 38.00 304.50 188.20 432.28 800.00
lso	thanks to Gina for holding the fort!	\$ 2,177.98

### 2.2 Walks Secretary:

Marys secrecar	<u>Y</u> •					
July Figures:	Total	244	August	Figures:	Total	158
	Day	244				158
	W/end					4*
	Members	187				109
	Visitors	57				49
	Income	\$2,292				\$1,522

\* excludes 30 at Rawsons Ski Weekend.

Walks Sub Committee putting together summer programme - meeting 12th September. All offers to help LEAD will be appreciated. Walks Programme layout now out with minor alterations. Thanks Merilyn.

Phone numbers of Club Contacts will now be kept INSIDE LIDS OF FIRST AID BOXES ON BUS, as well.

# 2.3 Membership Secretary:

Thanks Penny for holding the fort.

### Committee Notes continued:

### 2.4 Wilkie:

- (i) Article in Alpine Observer "TALE OF A TOILET" see elseshere in News. There are many alarming inaccuracies in this article, which have been commented upon.
- (ii) Septic Tank: quotes for total installation, possibly \$3,500 just for parts; composting toilet options.
- (iii) Stove repairs e.g. insulating rings. Leave for time being.

### 2.5 Maps:

New Dandenong Ranges Vic. Map. Trevor asked to get same; also renew some tatty well used ones.

2.6 Tracks:

Track clearing Sunday 12th September ready to go.

2.7 CCV subs. due.

Roster Duty: Sept. 13 Nigel & G.T.

20 Jean & Sylvia

27 Wendy & Rick

Oct. 4 Tracy & Gina

Next Committee Meeting on Monday 2nd October at 7.15 pm.

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1. New Mugs on shelf Thanks Stuart. Washing Up DO IT YOURSELF.
- 2. Public Transport Survey: Phil Taylor has been asking regular Sunday walkers if they catch public transport to the bus. 12.34 people do, so changing bus starting times to 8.30 am. is not on. However occasional early starts a possibility.
- 3. Submission in re. Whipstick area. Thanks Jean.

### BUSHWALKING AND SKI TOURING

### LEADERSHIP COURSES

These leadership courses provide training for teachers, youth leaders and others wishing to improve their skills, understanding and confidence in leading groups of bushwalkers and ski tourers. They are open to those who can produce evidence of an acceptable level of basic skills in the activity. Each course has a number of compulsory elements.

### BUSHWALKING AND MOUNTAINCRAFT LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE COURSE

- (a) Appraisal weekends: One at the end of November or early Dec. 1989 and one in late February 1990.
- (b) Initial training period: One week residential (21-28 April '90)

(c) An Interim Training period: One or two years.

(d) Final Assessment period: One week, July vacation 1991 or 1992.

Applications close 20th October 1989.

### SKI TOURING LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE COURSE

- (a) Appraisal (bushwalking) weekends: One at the end of November or early December '89 and one in late February 1990.
- (b) Initial training period: One week residential (21-28 April '90)
- (c) An Interim Training Period of 2 or 3 winters, including 4 days of on-snow training.
- (d) Final Assessment Period: 4 days on-snow and 2 days off-snow.

Applications close 20th October 1989.

NOTE: Exemptions from the Initial Training phases of the Courses are available to BMLC/STLC Graduates.

Further details and application forms available from:

Department of Sport & Recreation
7th Floor, 123 Lonsdale Street
MELBOURNE. 3000. Telephone: (03) 666 4341 or 666 4342
GPO Box 239V, Melbourne 3001.

### "SELL YOURSELF...!!"

The Outdoor Recreation Centre is looking for people to run day activities/courses for the general public at Westerfolds Metropolitan Park in Templestowe.

Those activities might include Orienteering, Bushwalking, Fishing, Bicycling Skills, Billy Cart Races etc. and would simply be instructional sessions run for all-comers for a small fee.

We would like to run these before the end of this year and continue through subsequent years. If you have any interests or skills in these activities or others and would be willing to lead or assist in the planning and/or running of those activities, please get in touch with Fred Preston at the OUTDOOR RECREATION CENTRE - (03) 457 5432.

### "GREAT MUG DRIVE of '89"

We have done away with the noxious plastic cups hitherto used in the clubrooms for hot drinks. We would now like to collect some of the crockery type to take their place and would appreciate donations of pre-loved mugs for this purpose. Hunt through those cupboards - you're bound to find at least one unused mug!!! Bated breath being suitably held.

### ADVERTISEMENT:

### HAPPY WALKER ADVENTURE TOURS 1989/90 PROGRAMME:

Jenny & Jopie of Happy Walker Adventure Tours have released their programme of tours for the next 12 months. For those of you not familiar with their operation, they run tours involving camping with comfort, such as large tents, mattresses, chairs, lights and delicious food and leisurely to moderate bushwalks of a day or shorter.

All prices are ex. Melbourne,

You can obtain a brochure and more information by ringing Jenny and Jopie on 725 2723.

```
1989:
       Oct 14-22 Grampians & West Coast
                                                       9 days $560
            28-31 Grampians
                                                       4 days $285
        Nov 4-7 Otways & Port Campbell
                                                      4 days $285
            11-19 NSW South Coast & Mountains
                                                       9 days $630
     Nov 25-Dec 3 Wilsons Promontory & Alps
                                                       9 days $560
        Dec 8-11 Wilsons Prom & Walkerville
                                                       4 days $285
            15-18 Mt. Buffalo
                                                       4 days $285
     Dec 26-Jan 2 Snowy Mountains & Far South Coast
                                                      8 days $610
1990: Jan 6-14 Victorian Alps
                                                       9 days $615
            20-28 Snowy Mountains & Far South Coast
                                                       9 days $665
        Feb 12-22 Tasmanian Highlands (cabins)
                                                      10 days $975*
                                                     16 days $1390**
    Feb 24-Mar 12 Tasmanian Grand Tour (camping)
       Mar 22-25 Wonnangatta-Moroka National Park
                                                      4 days $310
     Mar 29-Apr 1 Wilsons Prom & Walkerville
                                                       4 days $310
        Apr 13-16 Grampians
                                                       4 days $310
    Apr 21-May 1 NSW Volcanics & Sandstone
                                                      11 days $815
       May 10-13 Otways & Port Campbell
                                                       4 days $310
       July 7-22 Red Centre No 1/16 days $1345 ex Melb to Alice
                                         $1245 ex Alice
   Jul 29-Aug 11 Red Centre No 2/14 days $1245 ex Alice Springs
   Aug 18-Sept 2 Red Centre No 3/16 days $1345 ex Alice to Melb
                                          $1245 ex Alice.
                  See transport connection sheet for plane/bus options.
```

\* ex Melb. (ferry/fly) \*\* ex Melb. (fly/ferry)

Sept 22-Oct 7 Flinders Ranges Grand Tour 16 days \$1165 ex Melb.

### PEPPERCORN TREE ON THE SHORES OF LAKE YERANG, HATTAH NATIONAL PARK.

I was very pleased to read Alex Voltan's poem about this ancient and beautiful tree and to note that it had stirred his imagination - quote, "I am nonetheless intrigued at its existence in this chaos of dunes" - it certainly is growing in a very harsh environment, but these wonderful hardy shade trees thrive in these severe conditions. Like Alex, I often wondered who planted it there, as these trees are always associated with human settlement.

I figured some person or persons must have lived in a house there many years ago, well as it turns out, that was as close as possible to the truth, but quite an understatement, for as I recently discovered, the old peppercorn tree is all that remains of the Mournpoul Homestead and station buildings. During the 1920's, 20,000 sheep were shorn annually on the Mournpoul and Kulkyne Stations, the bales of wool were transported by paddle steamer from the Kulkyne Station, the remains of which are situated on the Murray River, a couple of miles downstream from Sexton.

An added item of interest is that James Mahon was a stockman who lived at the Mournpoul Homestead and the spot where he was drowned in the Inlet Chalka on 23/12/1923 was only a short distance from the Homestead.

Art Terry.

Dear Friends,

We are a group of individuals with a shared concern about the proposed developments at Mt. Stirling. We intend to take some protest action, and invite your participation.

The plan proposed by the Alpine Resorts Commission allows for:

- \* construction of a staging area for over 5,000 cars and a large ski centre at the head of the Delatite Valley,
- \* construction of a major road from Mirimbah to the staging area,
- \* construction of a gondola system from the staging area to Helicopter Flat for access to both Buller and Stirling,
- \* a 5,000 bed village constructed on the mountain, and
- \* destruction of sub-alpine forests for groomed slopes and tows on the south side of the mountain.

We would prefer to see minimal development of the mountain, preserving its remaining natural qualities and allowing for continuing use for low-cost, low-impact activities.

We are concerned that the proposed development:

- \* may not be viable for very long. The snow-line appears to be rising because of the greenhouse effect,
  - \* destroys the value of the area for year-round low-cost uses. Skiing at the proposed resort will be relatively costly, and available for ten weeks annually at the most,
  - \* is unnecessarily wasteful of resources,
  - \* will pollute the Delatite River, and
- \* fails to recognise the natural values of the area.

WE ARE PLANNING A PROTEST MARCH ALONG BOURKE STREET, STARTING AT THE CITY SQUARE AND CONCLUDING ON THE STEPS OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

DATE: WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18TH.....TIME: 12.00 (City Sq.)

We are requesting:

- \* your support on the day. You may wish to come dressed as a ski-tourer, bushwalker, tree, or possum;
- \* your assistance with publicity. Please pass the word about the march; and
- \* letters addressed to Tom Roper, mp, which will be delivered by sled to Parliament House at the conclusion of the march.

For further information, please contact: Andy Brookes (054)412 342(H) (054)403 222 (W) or Regina Weberruss (054)479 679 (H).

### TALE OF A TOILET ...

### "ALPINE OBSERVER" AUG 16TH

An inspection by an officer of the Environmental Protection Agency revealed that effluent from the septic tank at the Wilkinson Ski Lodge at Falls Creek was leaking into the Langford West Aqueduct.

The aqueduct feeds into the catchment for the Rocky Valley Dam.

The dam is the main source of drinking water for the Upper Kiewa Valley.

The Lodge is the property of the Melbourne Bushwalking Club, an organisation known for its concerns over the environmental impact of tourist development on the mountains.

As a result of the EPA inspection the club was advised that it would have to install approximately 20 metres of pipe to take the discharge to below the intake into the aqueduct.

It is understood that the club has objected to the notice which was issued by the EPA to this effect, and has, in turn, raised the matter with the ombudsman.

The club was also required to install a chemical toilet at the Lodge as a short term measure to alleviate the problem.

Bacteriological testing has been carried out in the aqueduct.

The results of these tests are not yet available. It is understood that the chemical toilet had not been installed by the end of July.

Reports recently to hand from the slopes however indicate that a lone skier, towing a bulky object, the shape of which was only partly disguised by a covering of what appeared to be garbage bags, was seen proceeding in the general direction of the hut last month.

Now follows our reply of 5th September to the Alpine Observer.

Our attention has been drawn to an article appearing in your 16th August edition entitled "Tale of a Toilet". We are very concerned with this article as it is factually incorrect in several places.

- 1. Wilkinson Memorial Lodge is not at Falls Creek but is some 10-11 k beyond, on the Bogong High Plains, nor is it a "Ski Lodge".
- 2. Wilkinson's septic tank does not leak effluent into Langfords West aqueduct as implied; it is some 200 metres distant from the aqueduct. Bacteriological testing has been carried out. Water entering the aqueduct from the stream near our hut has lower bacterial counts than the water already in the aqueduct.
- 3. We do indeed have concern for the environment, most of all in relation to our activities, this is why we initiated contact with the EPA in early February seeking advice on upgrading our septic system. The EPA was not then concerned and indicated it was a matter to be taken up withthe Shire of Omeo. This we did and arranged with the Shire a timetable to install a bigger system this summer/autumn. The EPA subsequently issued their notice in June without reference to these arrangements.
- 4. The EPA proposal required a surveyed pipe length of 240 metres, not 20 metres.
- 5. The club was not "also" required to install a chemical toilet. This was at our own suggestion after we approached the Ombudsman to intervene in what we regarded as an impractical proposal. Also the chemical toilet was installed well before the end of July and not afterwards as you state. Clearly the incident with some allegedly

### Reply to the Alpine Observer continued:

poorly packaged, bulky and partly disguised object "proceeding in the general direction of the hut" a month after the actual installation had nothing to do with Wilkinson Lodge.

The first three paragraphs of your article create the impression that Wilkinson Lodge may be affecting the drinking water for the Upper Kiewa Valley. This is completely untrue. Reports obtained under F.O.I. from the Alpine Resorts Commission indicate that water quality in Rocky Valley reservoir is at its best when Lodge occupancy is at its highest and conversely is at its worst during the low or zero periods of Lodge occupancy. This pattern has been repeated year after year as far back as we have reports. The reports also include warnings about water quality, suggestions for improving the quality and possible likely causes. None of this involves Wilkinson Lodge.

We feel the unattributed article creates a completely incorrect impression due to both its factual inaccuracy and its style. We request that this be corrected.

Yours faithfully, Sylvia Wilson (President)

### ADVENTURERS OF OUR TIME

Tim Macartney-Snape
Mick Hull
Neville Walkley

Slide and Lecture Evening at The Fitzroy Town Hall organised by:WOLLANGARRA - (SIMILAR MITTAGUNDI)

SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

:TIME: 8.00 pm. ADMISSION INCLUDES CHAMPAGNE SUPPER. Contact Phone No. 376 5013 (AH) or Sylvia. Adults \$18 Students \$12 Child \$8.

### GOSSIP AND SCANDAL DEPARTMENT

A certain lady began a recent ski trip in the Snowy Mountains with the seat of her trousers a little threadbare. She fell over many times, and by the end of the week the pants were noticeably thinner. One of the members of the party remarked, "Your brakes could do with a re-line - they're worn out".

### Merilyn Whimpey.

### CHANGES OF INFORMATION

Georgina Mavor - 4/646 Toorak Rd., Toorak. 3142 (H) 822 7489 Mark Tischler - 885 6607

Barbara Weiss from No. 8 to 9/42 Creswick St. Hawthorn 3122 (H)8185639 Stephen Bentley - 10 Keeler Ave., Bayswater 3153 (H) 729 9219 NEWS SUBSCRIPTION: Peta Hughes, 40 Hanover St Brunswick 3056(H)3867359

A very warm welcome to the following New Members:

Edward RUSSELL, 26 Panoramic Ave Lower Plenty 3093 (H)439 3849

Brian PALM, 2/1 Hartpury Ave Elwood 3184 (H)531 7460 (W)697 3707

Club No. 2 Contact - Geoff & Jenny KENAFACKE (H) 889 7453.

CLOSING DATE FOR OCTOBER NEWS, WEDNESDAY 4TH OCTOBER 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.

Wilkie Summer Work Parties - Septic Tank - Wood Shed - Shelter. A list will be going up on the N.B. for volunteers willing to contribute to Wilkie work parties. An indication of dates would be helpful. This is to enable us to gauge our resources and get the ball rolling in this direction. Plumbers are still needed. Mick Mann.