



# THE NEWS

OF THE  
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

EDITION 474

AUGUST, 1990

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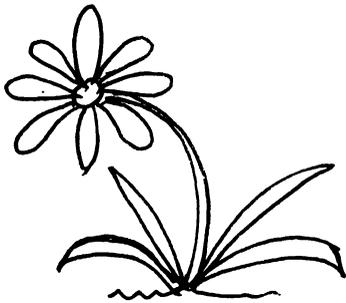
## S O C I A L   C O L U M N

**\*\* DATES TO REMEMBER \*\***

### THE 2ND GREAT BRIDGEWATER BAY BUSH BASH

#### BASE CAMP OR ACCOMMODATION

SHOW DAY WEEKEND  
26TH - 30TH SEPTEMBER

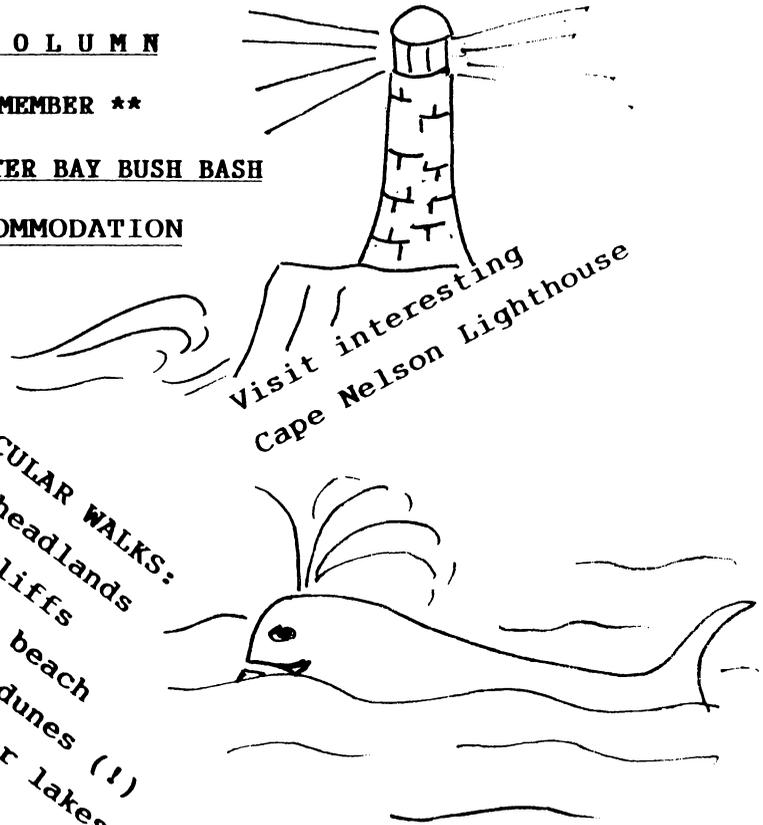


Visit the Wales  
at Warrambool on  
the way! (This you  
have to do)



Tennis matches for the  
"Bush Bash Trophy"!

- SPECTACULAR WALKS:
- over headlands
  - along cliffs
  - along the beach
  - behind the dunes (!)
  - by fresh water lakes
  - over a volcano
  - through a petrified forest
  - and limestone caves, a blow hole & .....
- AMID FABULOUS SPRING FLOWERS



Maybe see the  
seals at play  
below Cape Bridgewater

See Page 8 for Further  
Details

THE BUSHIES 50TH BIRTHDAY GATHERINGSUNDAY NOVEMBER 25TH, 1990AN ALL DAY PICNIC AT GILWELL PARK, GEMBROOKEVERYONE WELCOME

We have started to gather together names and addresses of Melbourne Bushies over the last 50 years **AND NEED YOUR HELP!** We began with the current club address list and added those who have dropped out over the last two years. Athol Schafer went through the lists of 1952 to 1954, and the 1983 list has been sifted through for those people whom we think would be interested in receiving information about this.

- \* Do you know anyone who was an old member who might want to join us?
- \* Do you know anyone who might know others?
- \* Have you got any recent addresses of old members especially interstate ones?

The computer print-out list is at my telephone, so give me a call ASAP in the late afternoon/evening on (03) 83 6634.

SYLVIA WILSON

BUSH DANCE**"Grab your partners, swing right round"**

Don't Miss this Bush Dance:

WHERE: SOUTH MELBOURNE TOWN HALL, BANK STREET  
 WHEN: SATURDAY 18th AUGUST, 1990 AT 8.00 P.M.  
 BYO: SUPPER AND DRINK  
 COST: \$9.00 ADMISSION  
 BOOK: WITH STUART HODGSON ON (H) 741 5592

---0--- DON'T FORGET: BOB STEEL'S BACK YARD B.B.Q. SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER ---0---

MITTAGUNDI - NOW THERE IS A WOLLANGARRA

A talk and slide night by Ian Stapleton - Founder at **CAMBERWELL CIVIC CENTRE** at 7.30 p.m. **FRIDAY 24TH AUGUST, 1990.** Supper served. \$14.00 per person. All proceeds to Wollangarra.

Wollangarra is a non-profit making outdoor education project designed around mountains and young people. It aims to foster an understanding and respect for the environment and to develop a practical program of care and maintenance.

---0--- DON'T FORGET: BOB STEEL'S BACK YARD B.B.Q. SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER ---0---

**FEDERATION OF VICTORIAN WALKING CLUBS**

O.K. How many of you know what the Federation is all about? Do you know our club belongs to the Federation, that we pay a substantial capitation fee, that we use the Federation's insurance cover?

What do we get out of this? Well now is your chance to get all the answers -

Keith Lierse the Federation President will be a guest speaker at our meeting on 5th September. He will speak at 7.30 p.m. for approximately 30 minutes.

Please note the extract from the Federation's newsletter in this issue of "The News" and in particular Keith's intention to review the role of the Federation in line with the views of the members. Come and voice your views.

GRAHAM BREEN

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The trip to **Flinders Ranges** is now booked out but there are still 3 places left on the Tassie trip. For those who would like more information, here it is:

**3-6 NOVEMBER, 1990 - TASMANIA**

A group of five bushwalkers is needed for an expedition to Tasmania over the period 3-6 November, 1990. (Melbourne Cup holiday weekend). I will be planning and leading the walk to Maria Island National Park and to Strzelecki National Park over the four day period. The walking will be easy to medium and will make use of a base camp at each location.

Maria Island has two steep forested masses linked by a low isthmus providing secluded peaceful bushwalking. Mount Maria is 709 metres. Most of the sheltered western shore is lined with sandy beaches where swimming will be possible. The island comprises dry eucalypt forests, open heathlands and ferny creek gullies. Prominent mammals include forester kangaroos and Bennett's wallabies. Sheer limestone cliffs around the island are spectacular.

In the Strzelecki National Park, granite peaks of the Strzelecki Range, topped by Mount Strzelecki (800 metres) dominate a park of 4200 ha at the South-West corner of Flinders Island. Excellent views are had from the top of the range. Vegetation includes dry eucalypt forests and dense stands of blue gums and peppermints.

The milder weather in November will enable swimming and appreciation of the wild flowers in both parks. The estimated travelling cost by aircraft from Moorabbin in Melbourne is only \$150 each (for a group of five including myself). If you are interested in going or want more details please phone (H) 819 4656).

DAVE VINCENT

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**A FEW WORDS ABOUT ONE OF THE CLUB'S QUIET ACHIEVERS:**

The previous committee must have received the letter reproduced hereunder with considerable regret and the recognition of the end of an era. Dennis's letter was intended for publication in "The News" much earlier, but somehow became mislaid. It would be inappropriate to publish the letter without first acknowledging the extensive and dedicated service rendered by Dennis. There must be countless anecdotes members could relate, however, I will summarise just some of the things that made Dennis special and for which we are grateful:

- \* He drove the van for some 37 years;
- \* As the van was also used for weekend trips, he spent many weekends away from home;
- \* He never missed a trip, even returning from holidays to drive the van;
- \* He exercised remarkable patience on many occasions waiting for overdue parties;
- \* He always managed to find the finish points and could be depended on to be there;
- \* He often manouvered the bus with calm skill along bush roads that were little more than 4WD tracks;
- \* And at all times he was a friend.

Thank you Dennis

GRAHAM BREEN, PRESIDENT

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1 Coane Street,  
CLAYTON. VIC. 3168.

20th December, 1989.

The Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.,

Dear Mrs. President and Committee Members,

It is with sincere and deep regret that due to ill helath I am compelled to inform you that I will be unable to drive the Club's van in the future. Driving for the Bushies has been a labour of love for me and I am sad that a most enjoyable era of my life has ended.

I derived immense happiness driving for the weekenders in years past and in the latter years with the day walkers. I will miss the friendship and company of the Bushies and am very grateful to you for having me as your driver. It was this association with the Melbourne Bushwalkers that enriched my life so greatly. I wish you well in the employment of future drivers.

I am,  
Yours sincerely,



LIFE MEMBER M.B.W.

**NOTES FROM THE WALKS SECRETARY - INSTRUCTIONS FOR VAN DRIVERS:**

There have been a couple of recent incidents in which the instructions for the van driver have been unclear. This raises the danger of confusion and the chance of the van and the walkers being in different locations at the end of the day.

Would all leaders please ensure that drivers are provided with a copy of the map of the route they should cover together with **WRITTEN** directions on how to get there.

Please remember that the van is not as manoeuvrable or light as your car and it is very easy to bog the van - **CHECK ROAD CONDITIONS.**

**TRIP REPORTS**

Some leaders have been very slow to return booking sheets and trip reports. Lists should be returned by the Wednesday following the walk and the trip reports as soon as possible.

**ATTENDANCE ON WALKS**

There seems to be an increase in people not turning up on Sunday walks with no advance notice. Your co-operation is sought to reduce this problem.

**CLUB CONTACTS**

Leaders, please don't forget to ring the club contacts on return from a trip - any trip. A quick call can save lots of time later.

Happy Walking

PHILIP TAYLOR - WALKS SECRETARY

P.S. The Spring Program will be published next month. There are still a few walks without sub-leaders. If you would like to help, please see me.

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**NEW MEMBERS:**

The Club would like to welcome:

John CIELINSKI

Judy WATSON

Lloyd REYNOLDS ('News' Subscriber)

Rosa d'ANGELO

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DAY WALKSSEPTEMBER, 1990SUN 2 SEPTEMBER BARWON HEADS - QUEENSCLIFF E/MED & MED

LEADERS : WINNIFRED DE SOUZA & ANNE BULLARD  
 TRANSPORT : VAN FROM SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD (NOLAN STREET) AT 9.00 A.M.  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 PM  
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS  
 APPROX. DISTANCE: E/MED 16 KMS, EASY 13 KMS.

This is a walk which hasn't been done for sometime. The E/Med walk will start at Barwon Heads with the alternative walk commencing at Ocean Grove. Wide open sand beaches cliffs and interesting caves will make this a very pleasant walk. We will all finish at the historic Queenscliff pier.

SAT 8 SEPTEMBER HISTORICAL WALK -MALVERN HILL EASY

LEADER : ATHOL SCHAFER  
 TRANSPORT : MEET UNDER THE CLOCKS, FLINDERS STREET STATION BY 1.30 P.M.

Walk starts and finishes at Malvern Town Hall, corner Glenferrie Road and High Street, Malvern Hill, because of its fresh water springs, became a camping ground on the way to Dandenong and beyond. It was around this area that an early settlement grew. The following 150 years have left some very interesting traces - which this weekend will reveal. Bring something for a picnic afternoon tea.

SUN. 9 SEPTEMBER STEEL'S CREEK/WATSON'S CREEK/MT.EVERARD- EASY/MED  
KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK & EASY

LEADERS : GRAHAM BREEN &  
 TRANSPORT : VAN FROM SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD (NOLAN STREET) AT 9.00 A.M.  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 PM

The easy walk will be on tracks. A short section of bush will be included in the medium walk. Distances will be in line with the normal standards. Water should be carried. See Leader in club room for further interesting details.

WED 12 SEPTEMBER - WESTERN MACEDON RANGES EASY/MED

LEADER: : JEAN GIESE  
 TRANSPORT : MEET JEAN GIESE'S (NEAR SURREY HILLS STATION) 8.30 A.M.  
 OR RIDDELLS CREEK 9.45 A.M. RING LEADER FOR MEETING PLACE  
 ON 890 2189  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.00 P.M.  
 MAP REFERENCE : RIDDELLS CREEK 1:25,000  
 APPROX. DISTANCEA: 16 KMS

Two new walking tracks have been opened in the Western Macedon Ranges area - Conglomerite Creek Track and one to Mt. Teneriffe. We'll walk these and along the ridge towards Mt. Robertson plus a climb up Mt. Charlie. There has been a lot of development around Riddells Creek but we'll be rewarded and surprised by the lovely pieces of forest, flowers and great views and all quite close to Melbourne.

SUN 16 SEPTEMBER BRISBANE RANGES NATIONAL PARK EASY & EASY/MED

LEADERS : JOAN McMAHON & WENDY BARNES  
 TRANSPORT : VAN FROM SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD (NOLAN STREET) AT 9.00 A.M.  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 PM  
 MAP REFERENCE : VMTC - BRISBANE RANGES  
 APPROX. DISTANCE: EASY 10 KMS, E/MED 16 KMS.

At this time of the year the Brisbane Ranges are quite delightful. Two walks are planned. Joan will take one group on a ramble to look at and identify the wildflowers of the area. Wendy's walk will be a little longer and center around the Anakie Gorge area with its cliffs, flowers and koalas.

**SUN.23 SEPTEMBER KALATHA - MT.KLONDYKE****MEDIUM & EASY/MEDIUM**

LEADERS : FRED HALLS & MAX CASLEY  
 TRANSPORT : VAN FROM SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD (NOLAN STREET) AT 9.00 A.M.  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.  
 MAP REFERENCE : KLONDYKE  
 APPROX.DISTANCE : 18 KMS

Starting from the Crossing of the Yea River, we follow the valley of the Yea River northwards to near the head, then down to Starlight Flat. From there on to the Klondyke track, and follow it to Mt. Klondyke; all this walk through tall forest along slightly overgrown tracks. Then along Klondyke ridge to the northern section of Kalatha Creek valley. From there on to the Kalatha North Track. From there southwards to finish at Kalatha Saddle.

Usually, there are several lyrebirds, if we are reasonably quiet in our movements, also yellow tail black cockatoos. Maybe some early flowering plants of the forest.

**SAT.29 SEPTEMBER DANDENONGS EXPLORER-DOONGALLA ESTATE-KALORAMA****EASY/MEDIUM**

LEADER : PAT & PAUL GRAY  
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE CARS OR TRAIN 9.29 A.M. FROM FLINDERS STREET TO BORONIA  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 4.00 P.M.  
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAY MAPS 52,66  
 APPROX. DISTANCE: 12 KM

If you want to welcome spring with an outdoor activity or start your "get fit for summer" campaign, you might like to join us on this walk. We will follow tracks through the forested Doongalla Estate to Kalorama Park for lunch and return via the eastern edge of the Estate. There are some long moderate climbs and occasional views of the surrounding country. We would recommend strong footwear as the tracks are quite rough in places and can be rather muddy after rain.

We will meet at 10.45 a.m. at the car park at the top end of Doongalla Road (Melway Map 66 D5) behind the home site. Train travellers should take the 9.29 a.m. from Flinders Street to Boronia where a pick-up can be arranged at 10.27 a.m. For further details of the walk or to arrange a train pick-up, please see Pat and Paul in the clubrooms on **Wednesday September 26th** or Phone them on **809 2445**.

**SUN.30 SEPTEMBER LERDERDERG GORGE - BLACKWOOD RANGES****EASY & MEDIUM**

LEADERS : NIGEL HOLMES &  
 TRANSPORT : VAN FROM SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD (NOLAN STREET) AT 9.00 A.M.  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.00 P.M.  
 MAP REFERENCE : FCV LERDERDERG GORGE FOREST PARK 1:25,000 1974  
 APPROX.DISTANCE : 12 - 14 KMS

Both groups begin walking from the southern slopes of Mt. Blackwood. The easy walk is along the Blackwood Ranges track on the western rim of the Lerderderg Gorge with short side track excursions to take advantage of views into the gorge. The medium group will follow a variation of the easy walk, involving some overgrown tracks and scrub bashing so long sleeves, trousers and/or gaters are recommended.

Feral goats, koalas and wallabies were noted on previews. Early wildflowers and wattle blooms should also be features. The Blackwood Ranges track has gentle gradients, although if the river level is favourable (i.e.more than waist deep ....) both groups will descend a spur into the gorge at the end of the walks, making the easy walk and easy-medium, otherwise the walks will finish at the end of the Blackwood Ranges track.

Walkers should wear appropriate clothing as noted above and carry sufficient drinking water as none is available on the walk (unless you're partial to 1000' descents to the river - 1 hour each way).



## C O M M I T T E E   N O T E S

MEETING HELD ON 6TH AUGUST, 1990

1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- . **Insurance** - Following a report from Athol Schafer our delegate to the Federation, Graham Breen and Rick Chater to attend next meeting of Federation when the insurance cover provided by the Federation is to be discussed.
- . **VFT** - The ACF has advised their total opposition to the East Gippsland route and are sending us some relevant papers.
- . **50th Anniversary Publication** - some quotes for printing have been obtained.
- . **Federation** - Keith Lierse will give a talk about the Federation at our meeting on 5th September.

2. CORRESPONDENCE:

- . **Conservation and Environment** - Statement of Resources, Uses and Values - Otway Forest Management Plan; also - Central Gippsland Forests.
- . **Workcare** - Levy notification.
- . **Rosemary Cotter** - Commercial use of the mailing list.

3. REPORTS:3.1 TREASURER'S REPORT JULY, 1990

## BALANCE

Reserve for Bus Replacement/Wilky Repairs	\$25,500.00
Current Account	<u>\$15,066.29</u>
	\$40,566.29

## PAYMENTS TO BE RATIFIED:

AC Printing (News/Phone List Printing)	\$390.00
Rampower (Fuel June)	\$259.23
Melbourne Map Centre (Maps for NAV day)	\$100.00
J. Norman (Costs for Auction Night)	\$ 34.81
R. Chater (Bus Towing)	\$ 50.00
Printed Matter (Winter Programme)	\$ 74.40
Vic Roads (Bus Registration)	\$375.00
Driving (July)	\$500.00*
Cleaning & Garaging (July)	\$165.00*

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\$1,948.44

## BILLS TO BE PAID:

Steeves Lumley (Wilky Insurance)	\$308.00
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\$308.00

\* Payment made since Monthly Cut-Off

**3.2 WALKS SECRETARY:**

- . **June Walks** - 220 walkers, 198 day, 22 weekend.  
163 members, 57 visitors  
Received \$1,554.00
- . Some problems with inadequate information provided to bus driver - see Phil Taylor's note on Page 5. Seems to be increase in number of people not turning up to catch the bus. Leaders please ring the club contacts on return.
- . **Spring Program** - is with the printers.

**3.3 TRANSPORT:**

Rob advises the bus painting job will extend over eight days and a replacement bus will be arranged for the Sunday it is not available.

**3.4 SOCIAL:**

The end of year dinner was discussed and rather than have it clash with the 50th birthday picnic it will be staged towards the end of the present committee's term in February. Janet Norman has volunteered to organise it.

**3.5 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:**

385 members (including corporate bodies)  
237 Single Members,  
44 Couples,  
17 News Subscribers  
9 Life Members  
11 Honorary members

**3.6 WILKINSON LODGE:**

GT advises that except for 1 1/2 weeks Wilky is booked up till mid October

**3.7 EQUIPMENT HIRE:**

The auction of gear to be replaced raised \$101 for the Club.

**3.8 FEDERATION:**

See reproduced extracts from Vic. Walk Newsletter in this edition.

**3.9 CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF VICTORIA:**

Penny advised our subscription of \$84 was due. Our continued membership was discussed and although the original reason no longer exists there will be a review process on all management plans and we need to have a voice.

**4. NEW MEMBERS:**

3 new members were admitted.

**5. DUTY ROSTER:**

15 August	Gina and Derek
22 August	Janet and Janet
29 August	Penny and Phil
5 September	Jill and Graham

**6. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- . After some discussion it was agreed that the mailing list should not be used for commercial purposes. A suitable notation will be made on the list next year and members will be given the option of having their phone numbers and/or addresses included.
- . Some confusion with the Workcare Levy was sorted out by Gina saving the club several hundred dollars.

7. **NEWS CORRECTION BY ATHOL SCHAFER:**

It was incorrectly reported in the July "News" that I donated a map. This was a complimentary copy given to delegates at the last Federation Council meeting through the courtesy of Stuart Brooks who draws the maps published by the Victorian Mountain Tramping Club. Stuart regularly supplies free copies of new editions of his map series to Vic Walk Clubs so as to help keep their map files up-to-date. If you have any new information that you think should be included as amendments in these maps, please advise per the V.M.T.C., GPO Box 1340L, Melbourne 3001.

8. **NEXT MEETING:**

3 September, 1990 at 7.15 p.m.

G.B.

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**CHANGES OF INFORMATION**

Mufutan AMUSA

Graham BREEN

Derrick BROWN and Gina HOPKINS

Anna HEPI

Diane WRIGHT

Tom WILCOX

Ken MACMAHON

Les MARKHAM

Marian ROSS

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# VicWalk Newsletter

## AROUND THE FEDERATION

### 1990/1991 Planning Goals For FVWC

1. Determine from member clubs what role(s) they wish the Federation to take in the future.
2. As a result of 1, recast the aims of the Federation.
3. Review the annual subscriptions of the Federation, consistent with the future needs e.g. paid assistance to prepare reports and submissions.
4. Set up official meetings with the Minister for Conservation at least 3 times a year to put the Federation's views.
5. Wherever possible, visit member clubs to put Federation views.
6. Encourage leadership, First Aid and safety issues within the club environment by means of financial incentives and other programmes.

Keith Lierse who prepared this list would appreciate feed-back from clubs by August, particularly in regard to what fees clubs are prepared to pay in 1991-92.

Fees will be reviewed in November, 1990.

**There is a new bushwalking club at Camperdown.** Contact person is Jeff Collins of 113 Scott St., Camperdown 3260.

**The Federation has made an advance of \$150** to assist in the formation of the South Gippsland Bushwalking Club. Further information will be given when available. Contact person is Jim Williams, P.O. Box 153, Leongatha 3953.

**Council would like to welcome several new faces among club delegates for 1990.** These include Graeme Allen (Geelong), Colin Herbert (WCV), Geraldine Fraser (Boroondara), Jennifer Dunt (Gisborne) and Andrew McCann (Koonung).

**Federation Clubs are urged to encourage their members to undertake first aid training.** Members who are at present on Search & Rescue callout list are offered an incentive of \$40 for this purpose. Training

is available from St John Ambulance or the Outdoor Recreation Centre, details from Fred Preston (03)457 5432.

**Over the last couple of years CAEX Club** has been looking at ways to help the disabled. They have received a grant from the Victorian Health Dept. to assist in the provision of two bushwalking rickshaws which could be used in certain areas such as Wilsons Promontory N.P.. It is hoped these will be available by November and any Federation bushwalking club will be able to use them. Progress reports will be given in this newsletter or information is available from Miran Segon (03)417 1673.

### Thank You, Phil Waring

The 1990 AGM saw Phil Waring stand down as Secretary and VicWalk Editor from the Federation after a long innings. Phil still remains the FVWC representative on the BMTAB, and serves as its Chairman.

Phil's achievements in the Federation were one as a quiet achiever. Sound administration as Secretary in a timely and regular manner was his forte. Phil was one of the driving forces behind the setting up of the Outdoor Recreation Centre in its initial days, and the subsequent support of the ORC's activities.

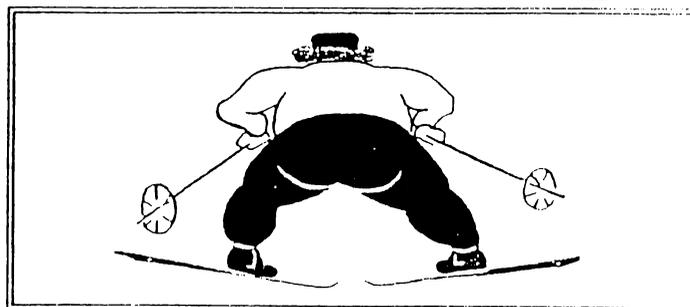
Under his editorship, the VicWalk has blossomed into a newsy and relevant magazine for the clubs. Wherever possible, Phil gave assistance to the formation of new clubs throughout the state, and has seen the number of FVWC affiliated clubs grow from 26 to 50 during his time as Secretary.

Phil Waring joins that small band of people who are remembered as having a major impact on the fortunes of bushwalking in this state in a positive manner by influencing government, the policy makers, the clubs and his fellow walkers.

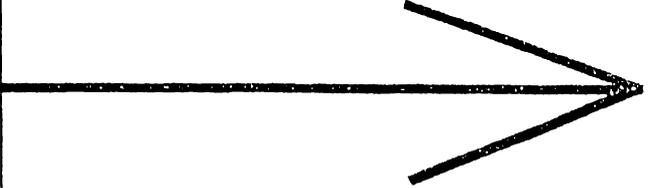
Our book "The Scroggin Eaters" is a reminder of Phil's tenacity to win through and produce a tangible result.

Thank you Phil for a job well done.

Keith Lierse - President.



# SCROGGIN



## Outdoor Leisure Map: "Cathedral Ranges".

This very useful sheet from VicMap covers portion of four 1:25000 sheets (Taggerty, Rubicon, Buxton, Margaret) in one. It is attractively produced in full colour, although there is no legend, and has notes on several walks in the area. Under "bush protection code" is the requirement that no fires may be lit in the months December to March anywhere in the State Park - this is an extension of the earlier ban. At other Times of the year, wood fires may be lit only in fireplaces in designated camping areas if such are provided. (There is designated camping at two places on the Jawbones and along Little River.) Names of bushwalkers are commemorated on the map in Wells Cave (MUMC Brian Wells) and Bissetts Pinnacles (Bissetts Knobs ?) (VMTC Ian Bissett). One minor criticism - the map calls The Sugarloaf or Sugarloaf Peak "Mt. Sugarloaf" for reasons known only to VicMap.

Covering the same area is the Stuart Brookes sheet "Cathedral Range State Park" at 1:50,000 scale in a limited range of colours, contour interval 50m. (compared to the VicMap's 20m.). Stuart's map covers a larger area and minor errors from his map (1986) have been copied unwittingly by the VicMap people.

## As We Were. From "The Argus" July 23, 1936.

Improved facilities for walkers were reported at the second annual meeting of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs, which comprises 12 clubs. Partly as a result of representations made by the Federation to the Public Works Department, and the subscription of money by members, a new hut has been erected near the Thomson River, on the Baw Baw track, and it is expected that the Edgar Track from the gap on the Acheron Way to Mount Strickland will be re-opened. The re-opening of other tracks is being sought.

At the last Council meeting, delegates were pleased to hear that MWC will continue to publish their well-known annual "The Walker". Bushwalkers and others can still look forward to reading the track notes and other interesting information for which this little magazine is renowned.

The Victorian Liberal Party has announced that it will support (without amendment) legislation to create new national park areas in the Mallee. This decision virtually assures the success of the Bill that will add 807,000 ha. to the National Park System in Victoria. Grazing will be phased out from conservation reserves in the Mallee over the next 6 years in accordance with the timetable recommended by the L.C.C. Joan Lindros (VNPA)

The SEC has started a clean up program on the Bogong High Plains. Work has included removal of abandoned buildings, rubbish, pines, signs, posts and telephone poles. SEC staff deserve credit for this overdue program. Jamie Pittock (VNPA)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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The bushwalking movement in Victoria is no longer the sole group who frequents and enjoys the outdoors. It is also clear that there are many other groups who are financially better off than we are, and who have a louder voice, who are demanding a share of the mountains, foothills and beaches.

Governments respond to individuals and groups who have a good argument, can clearly indicate benefits, have a past record of achievement and can be seen as a representative community attitude.

The Federation officially represents 6-8,000 club walkers, but also represents probably 80-100,000 other walkers and tourists who may only go walking once a year.

One of the main tasks I see this year is to review the role of the Federation in representing walkers. The definition of this role must come from the clubs, and all delegates at the June meeting were asked to go back to their clubs and seek out the views of the members. It is hoped to have these views in place by September.

An equally important question is how to finance the Federation. At present it is \$2.20 per year per member, which works out at 4 cents a week! The Federation is now competing with organisations such as 4 wheel drive clubs, mountain cattlemen, sawmillers etc. who have financial backing of thousands of dollars. One organisation has just received a \$10,000 donation from within its members to help defray administration costs.

The question is:

*how much is walking worth to you ?*