



# THE NEWS

OF THE

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

EDITION 505

MARCH 1993

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## SOCIAL EVENTS

### SLIDE NIGHT 21 APRIL TREKKING IN NEPAL

In late December a group of Melbourne Bushies led by Doug Pocock travelled to Nepal for a trek in the Himalaya. We spent 2 weeks on the trek, passing through varied and spectacular country. Come along to the slide show where Mark Tischler will be presenting a selection of slides and telling tales of what we saw the illness we suffered and the helicopter rescue.

*Bill Metzenthien*

### SUGGESTIONS WANTED

As the recently elected Social Secretary I feel it appropriate to advise all members of the role I intend to take in Club activities this year. Where possible I will be involved in the organisation of Club functions, but my main task will be the co-ordination of other people's ideas and efforts.

If you have any suggestions for drawing the members together in a social sense please contact me in the clubrooms, or on a Sunday walk, or phone

Suggestions received so far include:

- Cycling on the banks of the Yarra**
- Monthly movie nights**
- Hotel Hop (a refined pub crawl)**
- Restaurant nights**
- Pre-meeting BBQ**
- Slide nights**
- Games evening**

Please help me by contributing ideas and becoming involved during the next 12 months.

*Andrew Low, Social Secretary*

### THE MERRY WIDOW

I have made a group booking to see the Australian Opera's The Merry Widow, provisionally for Friday 30 April.

The cost will depend on numbers, being \$49 each for 10 or more, or \$45.10 each for 20 in the group. Non-members are of course welcome to come.

On Wednesday 17 Feb I had a delightful preview at the Arts Centre at the launching of the Group Bookings. The Australian Opera performed an abridged version of the operetta in full costume - 40 minutes of impudent fun. Christa Leahmann and Donald Stevens are well cast in the leading roles, and are delightfully impish. Christa Leahmann played Carlotta in The Phantom of The Opera, and many of you will have enjoyed her performance. The performance I have nominated stars Christa as the Merry Widow.

Tickets will be allocated on a **first paid** principal as I shall have to put up money myself in advance. So if you want to see this classic operetta, presented with classic style, let me know as soon as possible. Phone (W)

*Ron Garrett*

Correspondence should be directed to:     The Secretary  
   Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.  
   PO Box 1751Q  
   MELBOURNE 3001

Meetings are held in the clubrooms, MacKenzie St Melbourne (rear of the Horticultural Society building) every Wednesday night 7.00-9.00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

Please note that articles for "The News" may be faxed to the News Editor on

Closing date for the April edition is Wednesday 31 March 1993.

## **COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT FOR 1993**

At the AGM on 24 February 1993 the following persons were elected to the Committee:

President	Jean Giese
Vice Presidents	Derrick Brown
	Merilyn Whimpey
Secretary	Janet Norman
Treasurer	Alan Clarke
Walks Secretary	Max Casley
Assistant Walks Secretary	Alan Miller
Membership Secretary	Chris Lynch
Social Secretary	Andrew Low
Wilky Lodge Manager	Doug Pocock
News Editor	Gina Hopkins
Ordinary Members	Peter Day
	Peter Havlicek
	John Kittson
	Mary Leonard
	Elizabeth Spriggs
Auditors	Liz Telford
	Mark Walters

Your Committee welcomes any suggestions from members for the smooth running of the Club or to increase our enjoyment and sensitivity in the bush.

## **PRESIDENT'S PAGE**

I am honoured to have been elected again as President of our great club. I look forward, with you all, to a good 1993.

Congratulations to **Art Terry** and **Robert Ayre** elected at the AGM to be Life Members.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **WALK (AND CAMP) 'SOFTLY' IN THE BUSH**

As we begin our new year, perhaps it is the time to inform new members (and remind veterans) of the practices of the Club in order to keep to a minimum our impact on our precious bushwalking areas.

**TRACKS** - If there is a track, use it.

Don't cut corners on steep zig-zag tracks or create new tracks - this increases erosion.

In untracked country, spread out. This disperses damage. If a plant is only walked on once it has more chance of survival than if the whole party has stomped on it.

Be as 'soft' as you can with your footwear. Light weight boots or sandshoes with rounded heels and small lugs on the sole can be worn for non-arduous areas. These lessen the impact of each footstep. Wear sandshoes around campsites.

**RUBBISH AND WASTE** - Take all your rubbish out. Collect any lying around as well if you can. Consider using hankies instead of tissues to avoid accidentally dropping them (as well as saving our trees).

Where there is a toilet, use it.

Where there is no toilet, **bury** faecal waste and paper (or burn paper) **at least 100 metres** away from campsites and water courses. Dig a hole 15 cm (6 inches) deep within the soil's organic layer - you'll need to carry a hand trowel or snow peg. Carry out sanitary pads/tampons that are unlikely to biodegrade. In snow, find a place where it is possible to dig down into the soil, remembering the snow melts in spring!

**CAMPsites** - Camp at an existing campsite rather than create a new one. Look for low impact campsites - sandy or hard surfaces are better than vegetated areas.

Leave campsite in a better state than you found it by removing rubbish and dismantling unsafe or unnecessary fire places.

**FIRES** - Fuel stoves should be used in highland areas (where growth rates are slow and firewood scarce) and rainforest communities which are particularly fire sensitive. Any dark, spongy soil with decayed plant material in it may be peat and should never have fires lit on it.

It is recommended that fuel stoves be used in all national parks.

However, if you are in a situation where a fire is needed:

- Use an area that has already been scarred by a fire.
- If in an unspoiled area, carefully take out the top layer of soil and vegetation in blocks, protect it and replace it before leaving.
- Keep fire small.
- Don't put rocks around it (these just create another visual scar).
- Use only dead, fallen wood. Dead standing trees are a home for wildlife and a part of the scenery.
- Do not put foil, including foil-lined drink boxes etc., or plastic on the fire. Search the ashes when cold for any bits of aluminium etc. and take home.
- Be absolutely sure that the fire is out before leaving. Feel the ground underneath the coals - if it is still warm the fire is not out. Put fires out with water, not soil.

**WASHING** - Wash away from streams and lakes.

Detergents, tooth paste and soap (even biodegradable types) harm fish and waterlife. Wash 50 metres away from lakes and streams, scatter the washwater so that it will filter through the soil before returning to the stream. Use gritty sand and a scourer to clean dishes instead of soap. Avoid putting food scraps into streams or lakes.

Remember the motto printed on our programme each quarter -

**TAKE NOTHING BUT PHOTOS  
LEAVING NOTHING BUT FOOTPRINTS.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**WEDDING BELLS**

For two who have given much to the Club over the last few years,

**Gina Hopkins** (News Editor)  
and  
**Derrick Brown** (erstwhile Secretary,  
now Vice President)

The knot is to be tied on March 20th and I'm sure everyone joins me in wishing Gina and Derrick many years of happiness together.

*Thank you, but please note everyone that Gina will continue to be known as Gina Hopkins (except to Marilyn who may call her Mrs Brown, and Derrick who may refer to her as 'hun' or 'lump of lard'). Ed.*

**Jean Giese, President**

\* \* \* \* \*

**WILKINSON LODGE - WINTER BOOKINGS 1993**

Bookings will open on Wednesday 17 March and will follow the system proposed by the previous Lodge Manager.

1. For 2 weeks (i.e. March 17 & 24) only members can book bearing in mind that 3 weeks are put aside for outside groups.
2. After those 2 weeks members' families and friends can then fill vacancies.
3. As in previous years one member shall be leader for the week and it is the leader's responsibility to collect Wilky fees up front - NO PAYMENT, NO BOOKING. Leaders should collect food kitty at the same time.  
Refunds will only be for exceptional circumstances; apply to the Committee via the Lodge Manager.
4. If weeks are not filled, the Manager may offer extra places to visitors.
5. The weeks run Saturday to Saturday and groups are expected to book for the entire week.

6. Fees are the same as last year - \$42.00 per week for members, \$84.00 per week for visitors. Note that children under 16 take their parents' status, 16 and over are visitors unless they are members or have applied for membership.

7. In the event of disputes the Manager will make a decision based on brownie points gained through work parties, committee positions, bribes, etc.

Fees outside the winter period are \$5.00 per night for members and \$8.00 per night for visitors. These fees are waived for official work parties.

Remember this year NO pumpkins, onions, potatoes or other fresh vegetables are to be stored. Make sure that leakables DO NOT LEAK.

The theme for this year will be "Go easy on the gas, conserve the kero, and watch the wood".

**Note:** Please do not perform any alterations or additions to the Lodge without discussion with the Wilky Manager. Report any emergency repairs carried out.

**Doug Pocock, Wilky Manager**

**CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Conservation Sub-committee meets every 2 months and is open to all Club members. The next meeting is **Wednesday 31 March** at 7.30 in the clubrooms.

*Peter Day*

**DAY WALKS - APRIL 1993****SUN 4 APR 93    FEDERATION DAY: MAROONDAH RESERVOIR AREA    EASY & MED**

LEADER : INGRID MOOREN  
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 8.30 A.M.    \*\*\* NOTE EARLY START \*\*\*  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.30 P.M.  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 14 KM

This year the Federation Day walks and afternoon tea are being organised by the Waverley Bushwalkers.

The medium walk will be a circular walk on forest roads and tracks to Graceburn Weir. Then to the summit of Mt Riddell with views of the Reservoir. The easy walk will start at Watt's River Footbridge and includes parts of Echo Tunnel Track, Condons Track and lunch at Donnell's Weir.

BYO mug for afternoon refreshments available from 3.30 with members from other participating clubs.

**SUN 11 APR 93    LAL LAL RESERVOIR - MT DORAN    EASY & MEDIUM**

LEADERS : PETER HAVLICEK & CHRIS LYNCH  
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.  
 MAP REFERENCE : LAL LAL 1:25,000  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 12 & 15 KM

The Mount Doran area is timbered but with an open undergrowth. We shall be walking mainly along bush tracks but there may be some bushbashing. There are numerous old mines and abandoned habitations in the area. At the Lal Lal (Bungal) reservoir there is a well preserved blast furnace dating from the 1870's. Good views.

**MON 12 APR 93    DAREBIN PARKLANDS    EASY**

LEADER : ATHOL SCHAFER  
 TRANSPORT : TRAM/TRAIN  
 MEETING PLACE : 10.00 A.M. NEAR INFORMATION DESK, GROUND LEVEL, SPENCER STREET STATION  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 5.00 P.M.  
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS 19,31  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 20 KM

From Mt Cooper, which rises above the Bundoora fauna reserve in the north to the Yarra River in the south, the 20 km long Darebin Creek Pathway winds through leafy cover. This is one of the best linear parks in the metropolitan area.

This long distance walk starts at the Latrobe Uni tram stop (60) and finishes at Alphington railway station.

**SUN 18 APR 93    PORTSEA - POINT NEPEAN - SORRENTO    EASY & MEDIUM**

LEADERS : ALAN TOMSETT & JAN GROSS  
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.

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

**WED 21 APR 93      BLACKWOOD LOOKOUTS****E/MEDIUM**

LEADERS : ROSEMARY & TREVOR THOMSON  
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE  
 MEETING PLACE : 8.30 A.M. JEAN GIESE'S, 9 ALBERT CRES, SURREY HILLS, OR  
 10.00 A.M. GARDEN OF ST ERTH, BLACKWOOD  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.00 P.M.  
 MAP REFERENCE : TRENTHAM 1:25,000  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 14 KM

We plan to take the Easter Monday Track past the old mine and across to Fosters Lookout with views over Blackwood and the Wombat Forest to Macedon. Then to McLoughlin Lookout with its 360° views, and to follow a spur leading down to the upper reaches of the Lerderberg River. The return along the river will include the Crown Dam walking track.

There should be plenty of time to view the Gardens afterwards for those interested.

**SAT 24 APR 93      FERNTREE GULLY NATIONAL PARK****EASY**

LEADERS : GRAHAM & JILL BREEN  
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE OR 10.09 A.M. TRAIN FROM FLINDERS ST TO UPPER FERNTREE GULLY  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 4.00 P.M.  
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS MAPS 65 & 74 COMMENCES & FINISHES K11  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 10-12 KM

We will start from the Upper Ferntree Gully Railway Station bus stop at 11.20 a.m. The train from Flinders St arrives at 11.14 a.m. Note - there is ample parking at the railway station.

Although the area is hilly we will avoid the steep climbs and stay on tracks through a mixture of open forest and lush fern gullies. From time to time there will be extensive views. Sulphur-crested cockatoos and crimson rosellas are the birds most evident. Although the quieter ones such as yellow robins, thornbills, tree creepers and grey thrushes will also be seen. Please bring your drinking water with you.

**SUN 25 APR 93      CEMENT CREEK - MT DONNA BUANG****EASY/MEDIUM**

LEADER : MARGARET BORDEN  
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 8.30 A.M.      \*\*\* NOTE EARLY START \*\*\*  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.  
 MAP REFERENCE : JULIET SOUTH 1:25,000  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 12-13 KM

The walk will start at Cement Creek turntable and we'll climb approximately 250 m to the Boobyalla Saddle with its glorious mountain ash and remnants of old beech forests. After lunch there will be a further climb up the Boobyalla Track to Mt Boobyalla and on to Mt Donna Buang, where hopefully it will be fine enough to climb the fire lookout tower to enjoy some mountain scenery. Then we face the challenge of returning to the bus down the Cement Creek track, hopefully made easier by the track clearers.

If it is a fine day it will be a beautiful walk; if it is wet it will still be worth it, **but there will be leeches.** If this happens wear long trousers and long socks, and carry in your pocket a good supply of "Rid".

**SUN 25 APR 93 CEMENT CREEK - TRACK CLEARING**

LEADER : JOHN KITTSON  
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 8.30 A.M. \*\*\* NOTE EARLY START \*\*\*  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.  
 MAP REFERENCE : JULIET SOUTH 1:25,000

Permission has been obtained from the Federation of Walking Clubs to go ahead and clear the section of track from GR 859252 to GR 843266. If we have enough people on track clearing there could be a second party organised to do a small amount of clearing along the Mt Victoria track, which runs almost to the summit of Mt Donna Buang.

From what I have learnt this Cement Creek track was originally a timber tramline, having been built last century, which ran down from a bush sawmill near the Boobyalla Track and on down to the Cement Creek junction. From here the logs were taken down to Warburton to the sawmills, cut up and sent to the 'big smoke'. This type of track has a lot of history regarding the early colonial days of Melbourne.

The section which we are going to clear, with your help, is in the nicest part of our mountain country within two hours drive of the city and 12 km from Warburton. This track starts at Cement Creek and makes its way up to the summit of Mt Donna Buang at a height of 1280 m, so when this has been cleared it will make for a lovely day walk. In sub-alpine mountain country like this, our majestic tree ferns grow at a tremendous rate along with all other moisture loving vegetation which grows profusely, and so therefore we have this problem, and it's called 'track clearing'. In a mountainous area like this it can be rewarding to see a tunnel like clearing being left behind you as you clear the fallen logs and ferns from your path, making it a lovely walk back at the end of the day.

For all who come along and help with the track clearing there is no charge for the bus. Those doing the day walk (and all are welcome - see preview for walk above) will be subject to the normal fare rates.

If the bus is full, as it is a circuit programme cars can be used regarding track clearing only.  
*More hands make light work.* Please see me on booking night.

## KIMBERLEY EXPEDITIONS

For a limited time, Willis's Walkabouts is offering special discounts on some of our 1993 Kimberley Expeditions. All trips are planned to use air transport to and/or from Kununurra to minimise the amount of time you have to spend cramped up in a vehicle.

### Drysdale River National Park: May 30 - June 20, June 20 - July 4

Drysdale River is the largest and least accessible of the Kimberley parks. It contains a variety of landscapes, a wealth of aboriginal art and numerous beautiful pools, perfect for swimming and fishing. The first expedition will be a leisurely exploration of the northern part of the park, using a food drop so that we won't need to carry more than a week's food at a time. The second is planned as a through walk from the southern end through the central section.

### Mitchell Plateau: May 9-30, August 22 - September 4

Located in the north central part of the Kimberley, the Mitchell Plateau is blessed with a milder climate than much of the region. It's wealth of different habitats gives it a larger variety of native flora and fauna than most of the Kimberley. Both trips include two weeks concentrating on the area close to the Mitchell River. The May trip includes our first exploration of the Lawley River. Both include numerous aboriginal art sites and plenty of time for swimming. The area continues to be threatened by mining so see it while you can.

For details of these trips and others (please ask for the trip notes and specify where you saw this ad to be eligible for the discount) contact:



### WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

12 Carrington Street

Millner NT 0810

Phone (089) 85 2134

Fax: (089) 85 2355



**WEEKEND WALKS - APRIL 1993****2-4 APR 93      MT HOWITT - CROSSCUT SAW - MT SPECULATION      E/MEDIUM**

LEADER : ALAN CLARKE  
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE  
 EXPECTED RETURN : SUNDAY EVENING  
 MAP REFERENCE : HOWITT-SELWYN 1:50,000, VMTC KING, HOWQUA & JAMIESON RIVERS  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 28 KM

This walk follows a superb part of the Alpine Walking Track. Starting from the southern access to Mt Howitt, the route follows the Crosscut Saw to Mt Buggery, and then to Mt Speculation where we will camp at a campsite with a million dollar view. With a little luck the weather should still be good and the views in all directions are breathtaking. We'll return the same way the next day.

This weekend offers a great chance for budding backpackers to taste some of the best alpine scenery there is, and although there will be some climbing, there are plenty of rewards.

**8-12 APR 93      BRYCES GORGE BASE CAMP      E/MEDIUM**

LEADER : BOB STEEL  
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 8.00 P.M. MONDAY EVENING  
 MAP REFERENCE : TAMBORITHA-MOROKA 1:50,000  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 30 KM

I plan to camp either near Guy's Hut or over on Conglomerate Creek - a walk-in base camp - about 3 km walk in from cars. Depending on weather and inclination we may move camp to another location. Walks will be around Conglomerate Creek and Piemans Creek and the escarpment with its waterfalls. Also to Minogues Lookout and Upper Caledonia River area.

Camp at Breakfast Creek on Thursday night, or drive up on Friday morning.

**8-13 APR 93      NORTHERN SNOWY MOUNTAINS      MEDIUM**

LEADER : GRAEME THORNTON  
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE  
 EXPECTED RETURN : LATE TUESDAY EVENING  
 MAP REFERENCE : KHANCOBAN 1:50,000, EUCUMBENE 1:50,000  
 APPROX DISTANCE : ? KM

At the moment of writing this my maps seem to have gone absent without leave so I have to make it up. The plan was to have a look at the country east of Round Mountain. The northernmost extent would be around Happy's Hut then generally south west across the numerous snow plains. The walking should generally be gently undulating. Depending on which direction we enter the area, the valley of the Tumut River may provide a couple of climbs and descents.

I daren't estimate the distance as the route isn't fixed as we will surely have to make some of it up as we go to avoid areas of scratchy scrub - note that this may not be 100% effective so be prepared for the odd bit of scrub bashing and fickle weather. Also be prepared for the last day or two to be long ones when I realise how far we've strayed from the cars.

**9-12 APR 93****MARIA ISLAND, TASMANIA****EASY/MEDIUM**

LEADER : DAVID VINCENT  
 TRANSPORT : LIGHT AIRCRAFT - COST \$160 EACH  
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.00 P.M. MONDAY

Maria Island is unique amongst Australia's National Parks; an off-coast island saturated with natural grandeur and colonial history. Over 20 km long and 30 km across at its widest point, Maria Island has spectacular limestone and sandstone cliffs, sparkling white sandy beaches, a coastal mountain range with lush rainforest gullies and a rich variety of flora and fauna. Add to this a tangling web of human history that includes the aboriginals of the Oyster Bay tribe, two rugged convict eras, the romance of wine and silk production by an Italian entrepreneur, as well as cement production and sheep and cattle farming and you have an extremely exciting national park.

There are a number of walks ranging from coast to mountain top. Facilities on Maria Island are basic. There are no shops which means you must arrive totally self-sufficient.

We will depart Melbourne on the Friday morning and arrive back on the Monday afternoon. The route will be via Flinders Island then south to Maria Island. For a group of six, including myself, the estimated cost of the aircraft hire is only \$160 each.

For further details and to book a place on this walk, contact David Vincent at home on

**17-18 APR 93 CAMPASPE RIVER****EASY**

LEADER : RON GARRETT  
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE  
 EXPECTED RETURN : SUNDAY EVENING  
 MAP REFERENCE : PYALONG  
 APPROX DISTANCE : 13 KM

A perfect walk for beginners in backpacking, including (good) kids; a perfect bludge for the experienced. The walk is fully described in Tyrone Thomas's book "120 Walks in Victoria". The walk starts near Barfold on the Campaspe River and proceeds along the river to the Mitchels Falls. Explore the falls, caves, organ pipes and tessellated pavement and have lunch, followed by an easy couple of kilometres to the junction with Pipers Creek and an early tea. The next day is an easy 7 km up the creek (literally not literarily) back to Barfold. Total distance for two days is 13 km. A good walk for a relatively new family, new to camping - or for anyone else who wants to really enjoy delightful river scenery.

**23-25 APR 93 KIEWA VALLEY BASE CAMP****E/MEDIUM**

LEADER : PAUL STRIPEIKIS  
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE

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

***SNATCHES OF CONVERSATION  
 OVERHEARD ON A RECENT TRIP***

*"Does yours glow in the dark?"*

*"Take that great pink thing out of my face!"*

***WANTED***

Does anyone have a good quality internal framed backpack, approximately 70 litre capacity, they want to sell?

If so please contact Tracy Guest on

(H)  
(W)

## LETTER FROM ART TERRY - LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The moment I walked into our club room on the evening of the AGM I was overwhelmed by the friendship and genuine warm-heartedness extended to me by many members who had walked with me years ago, and others who have been walking, cycling and running with me in recent times, and who were congratulating me on being nominated for Life Membership.

I am extremely grateful to Spencer George for his hours of research into the Club's records and for his article in support of his nomination of me. Thank you Spencer, and thank you Neil for seconding the nomination. I am also very grateful to my member

friends, some of whom I walked with 20 plus years ago, who thought kindly enough of me to support me with their proxy votes. Humbly, thanks a million.

I sincerely thank Spencer, Ken Baird, Alex Farkas, Verna Millis and Derrick Brown who spoke with genuine feeling on my behalf, and to everyone who supported me in this matter I say thank you very much, for Life Membership is an honour indeed that I value and which I humbly accept with gratitude and pleasure.

*Art Terry*

### LILO DERBY, LETHBRIDGE

SUNDAY 7 FEB 1993

9.00 a.m. 21 bods plus freeloader "Piglet" ready and waiting. At ten past we are off, over Westgate like a cork out of a bottle. Passed Laverton airfield, You Yangs, Avalon and hit Geelong outskirts. Turned off the main road as usual, ended up under a gum tree as usual. Time 11.00 a.m., temp 30°+. Good shady spot. Why go anywhere? Smartly reminded we are a bush - **walking** - club. Head count, introductions - can't remember them all, figure it out later.

Toddled off, ripper country, open bush with large gums, enough shade. A lone sulphur crested cockatoo screeches overhead. We followed the rim of the Moorabool river gorge, some half a kilometre wide, 100 metres deep. Steep enough in patches. Pretty country - the slopes, trees, gorge, river and backdrop. Calendar picture material, all of it, ideal for restoring battered and bent city senses of perspective.

The temperature was rising and the group split. Max Casley led the heroes on an easy walk 7 km upstream along the river. Us chickens followed Sylvia Wilson on the disgustingly easy (her words) walk around the rim to the bus and farmhouse. Max's lot descended steeply to the river and were lost to view in the shrubbery. We upped and downed a little, nothing serious, and made the bus an hour later. The temp was pushing 40°. Our driver Dave thoughtfully carried 4 gallons of water in the boot of the bus.

Down past the turnip patch, and down the side of the gorge to the water. The navigation of that last

few metres was the most complex of the day. We could see the water 30 m away, but how to get to it. In short we did. A quick change and in.

1.00 p.m. and play time, soaking up the cool - luxury unbeatable in that river setting. After lunch Max's lot arrived. Then began the lilo derby, a triangular course with three 18 m legs. Derrick Brown, Martin Williams, David Laing, Marijke Mascas and Nicole Sinclair won their heats. Nicole led in the finals, she was flying along, but crashed at the final turn. The others cut the corner - cheats, boo, hiss. Derrick was declared the winner. Nicole deserved the consolation prize. Graham Mascas officially presented a tin mug a la Americas Cup to Derrick.

Welcome to Alan Williams, a first time walker. Steve Crump and Max Stewart completed their third walk and hope to step up. Why was Sylvia heading into the bushes followed by two men? Mmmm. Who is Piglet? Thought you'd never ask. Not telling you anyway. He was no trouble on the walk, very well-behaved - Aaron Sutherland vouched for him.

Others who added pleasure to the day were Ron Garrett, Ming, Sylvia Harris, Rene Domsek, Jan Brooksbank, Bill and Marilyn, and Gina.

Congratulations to the leaders, Sylvia and Max, and next year if you don't fill two buses you are all nuts.

*Max Stewart*

**A TALE OF BUCKETS AND BREWS**

It rained on Lavers Hill - all weekend! Even the locals said it had "bucketed" down.

Since our walking area was just a few minutes away by car, it was only to be expected that it would pour down overnight - and we were certainly not disappointed. During the day, however, we were really lucky. Sure, parkas were on and off repeatedly on Saturday, but on Sunday for the spectacular views the weather was fine (even sunny) virtually all day.

On Saturday Sylvia was apologetic about the navigation. We looked in vain for a Phil Larkin track - a clear dotted line inserted on the map, but elusive until we spied the end of it, unfortunately more clear than the start. Our thanks go to Phil for keeping us on our toes and although at times he came in for his share of grumbling he is certainly immortalised in club navigation history.

We plunged down ferny gullies and scrambled out again as the maze of logging tracks gave way to dense jungle. But spirits were high, humour was good, we all had a great time and arrived back at camp in good time for our gourmet dinner - not before degenerating, however, to a luxurious Devonshire Tea at a Lavers Hill restaurant with a gloriously restful view over miles of rolling, green, misty hills.

We started out with a solid group of 19 - a clear indication of the drawing power of the leader - but by Saturday evening Kathy had disappeared. Well, as they say, 10% loss is acceptable, so we didn't do too badly.

**(OTWAYS BASE CAMP 19-21 FEB 1993)**

At tea-time Jean was banished to her tent because of her (extremely) noisy MSR stove, but some of us took pity and went over and SHOUTED at her over dinner. She was allowed back to the campfire only when she had finished cooking.

After dinner conversation around the campfire became a bit intense, as Keith firmly advocated his political views with a little bit of provocation from Jean and something in his teacup. Noel tried to point out that his small business would be decimated by the GST effectively causing a 15% hike in fees, but there was to be no distracting the fuehrer in his frenzy!

The Sunday swims did not eventuate except for Stan, who braved a chilly late afternoon sea breeze to consummate his afternoon dalliance with the might waves. There were plenty of opportunities, though, if the weather had been too hot for walking. Sylvia led us to breathtaking waterfalls, beautiful little creek valleys and idyllic pools with flocks of dipping fantails.

Lunch was had sitting on the crown of a large, steep, grassy hill in warm sunlight with no wind, overlooking a stunning view of the coast and in the company of a herd of very inquisitive horses and foals.

For us the landscape was perhaps more excitingly beautiful than the Bridgewater area now made famous by Sylvia, and a lot quicker to reach by car.

Thanks Sylvia; when can we go again?

*Gillian Sumner & Noel Tolley*

**1993 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE ....**

Subscription fees have remained at the same level as last year (and the year before). Now is the time to renew your membership, and it would be most appreciated if you would complete the questionnaire on page 12 and return it at the same time as your subscription.

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or see Chris Lynch in the clubrooms.



**REVIEW: "Australia on paper - the story of Australian mapping" John D. Lines, 1992, \$33**

(Fortune Publications, PO Box 1220, Box Hill 3128; available basement Map Room, Information Victoria)

Melbourne Bushies who have been around for quite a while will remember the long and frustrating wait for the Dargo and Bogong sheets, and Barry Short's annual listings of gaps that had at last been filled in. Those who have been around longer still hark back to the days of FCV 1" to 1 mile maps from which the topography had to be deduced on the basis of a stream pattern, a few spot heights, and precious little else. Any developmental project - say the construction of the road up the Bennison Spur past Mt Tamboritha - could not even reach a stage of preliminary planning without an expensive, one-off, time-consuming mapping project being completed first. This in the second half of the twentieth century in a supposedly advanced country which had had nearly 200 years to get the job done. How could such a deplorable state of affairs come to pass? John Lines' timely book tells us exactly how.

If Australia has never looked like becoming a "can do" country, at least there were a couple of decades there which probably owe as much to the imperatives of the Second World War as to anything, when there was a "must be done" atmosphere. Although the initiatives of that time have at last supplied the maps which in any comparable country would have been available decades earlier, that time has passed. As Lines points out, the benefits of the program are in danger of being lost as cutbacks in the withering fire of economic rationalism carry us even further in a "cannot be done" outlook than the inertia and cynicism of the first half of the century, when the job should have been done, and when it would have led to the greatest long-term savings.

Although a history of the mapping of this country is of obvious interest to most bushwalkers, it has to be admitted that from our point of view this book is a bit dry. This is because the author, as a professional surveyor who spent much of his career in the uppermost administrative reaches, takes the technical details in which "map freaks" like us delight somewhat for granted, and is more concerned with the various committees which met and the resolutions they formulated. However, a bit of fossicking around produces some wonderful

things from the bran-tub. For example, the triangulation of colonial Victoria was founded on a baseline of five miles laid down at Werribee in 1860 under the supervision of the Government Astronomer, J. D. Ellery. By 1913 the C.O. of the Survey Section R.A.E. is proposing to re-measure the line on apparently no better justification than that if the original measurement had been made so long ago, it couldn't possibly be accurate. There is no evidence that he ever completed this. By 1988, while the "terminals" are still intact, philistinism or ignorance has allowed what should have been preserved, if only for its historic interest, to be largely destroyed. Buildings now impede the intervening line of sight, making the use of electronic distance-measuring equipment impossible. It is, however, possible to check the length of the baseline using the global positioning system, and obtaining a precision of 3 parts per million. Ellery's 1860 work is shown to have been accurate within 6 parts per million.

More quickly appreciated is a pair of aerial photographs centred on the junction of Middleborough Rd and the Maroondah Highway, taken 60 years apart. Taken in at a glance, perhaps, but I'll guarantee 20 minutes slips past unnoticed - particularly if you have the Melways open under one elbow to assist with interpretation. Then again, few people are around nowadays with direct memory of the importance throughout the 20s and 30s of Cootamundra in international aviation. Cootamundra?!! In the days when aircraft flew low and slow, they avoided mountains. Cootamundra first grew in importance as the half-way refuelling stop on a dog-leg route from Sydney to Melbourne. When the international mail run from London developed, it terminated at Cootamundra, not Sydney, on the other side of the mountains. The mail and any passengers completed their journey either to Melbourne or Sydney by train, while the returning aircraft flew due north to Narromine before turning left 45° and following the railway by line of sight out to Bourke. Skip through all the committees and names.... there are plenty of gems like these to be found.

*Graham Wills-Johnson*

## MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS Inc.

## TREASURERS REPORT FOR 1992/93

The Financial Reports for 1992/93 have now been cleared by the Auditors. The following is a summary of the club's financial position for the year.

The club as a whole made a profit of \$3,451.56 for the year, not counting \$9,000.00 from the sale of the van. The total equity at the end of the year was \$59,793.40, compared to \$54,869.00 the previous year. We are therefore in a healthy position.

Because it became important to know the positions of each of the sub accounts, an exercise was carried out during the year to establish a balance for each sub account. The year's performance and end year balance for each sub account is as follows (losses in brackets) -

	Year's Result	Year End Balance
Club	\$ 680.00	\$ 6,532.00
Wilky	\$ 4,537.45	\$ 12,446.45
Publication	\$(1,079.93)	\$ 920.07
Walks	\$ (474.77)	\$ 37,660.16
Social	\$ (211.19)	\$ 14.81

\$2,000 was transferred from the Club sub account to the Publication sub account to help cover costs, but is not included in the above Year's Result for these two sub accounts. The \$9,000.00 from the sale of the van is included in the Club sub account balance but not in the \$474.77 loss for the year.

It should be noted that several factors have had a significant effect on the result for the Walks Account for the year -

- The cost of bus hire has increased from \$450 per week to \$475 per week. Annual effect \$1275.
- The number of walkers declined by an average of about 2 over the previous year. Annual effect \$1100.
- The average number of concession walkers increased over the previous year. Annual effect approximately \$300.
- The rate of interest earned on our funds declined from the previous year. Annual effect \$370 per percentage point.

If the current situation does not change then the Walks sub account will make a significant loss in 1993/94.

Alan Clarke

**COMMITTEE NOTES - 1 MARCH 1993****BUSINESS ARISING:**

Max to find someone to be map custodian.

**CORRESPONDENCE IN:**

Mark Walkers - audit ors report  
Victorian WorkCover Authority - registration cancelled  
Rex & Sue Filson

**CORRESPONDENCE OUT:**

Victorian WorkCover Authority - cancel registration

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

See annual report on page 14.

**WALKS REPORT FOR JANUARY:**

Total	Day walkers	W/E walkers	Members	Visitors	Fees
173	125	48	139	34	\$1385

Average number of Sunday walkers 28.25. (Last year at same time 32.25)  
Discussion and actions on advertising the club.

**TRACK MAINTENANCE:**

The club is to pay the bus fares of the track clearers.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

None

**DUTY ROSTER:**

Mar	10	John & Mary
Mar	17	Peter H & Merilyn
Mar	24	Peter D & Liz
Mar	31	Doug & Janet
Apr	7	Gina & Derrick

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:** 5 April 1993 at 7.00pm

**NEW MEMBERS**

The Club would like to welcome the following new members:

Alena Kusalova

Julie Proe

Gillian Sumner

Maxwell Stewart

Registered Publication No. VBH 1297

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