



THE NEWS

OF THE
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

EDITION 507

MAY 1993

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*DON'T BE A DONKEY,
PAY YOUR SUBS!*

*If this donkey has a
red nose then this
is your LAST copy
of THE NEWS.*



SOCIAL EVENTS

BUSHDANCING

We will have at least 2 tables at the
YHA's Bushdance

Friday 21 May

SOUTH MELBOURNE TOWN HALL
8.30 till 1.00

BYO Everything, \$10 per head

Top Band - BUSHWAHZEZ

See Mick Mann for tickets!!

**BE THERE TO SEE THE SOCIAL
SEC. WITH 2 LEFT FEET!!!**

SATURDAY BIKE RIDE

22 May

2 rides are planned. Both rides finish near
rail stations for easy return to city.

Catch the 9.00 a.m. train to Glen Waverley.

Bring: Pump
Spare tube
Lunch etc

Some indication of possible attendance would be
appreciated.

Please contact Art Terry or Andrew Low.

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 June edition is Wednesday 3 June 1993.

MAY MOVIE

Take advantage of the current cheap movie prices. Join the Club movie buffs for a movie and a meal.

Friday 14 May

Film: Sommersby
Venue: Village City Centre
206 Bourke St
Time: Mid evening session

DON'T FORGET PETER CROHN'S GEOLOGY NIGHT

8.00 p.m. Wednesday 26 May

Have you ever wondered why our mountains are where they are, and look the way they do? Have you ever picked up a rock or a mineral specimen on a walk and wanted to know more about it? Peter Crohn, with the help of slides and specimens, will try to explain it all.

Andrew Low, Social Secretary

FIRST AID FOR LEADERS

The Committee is looking for an indication of interest from members who feel their walks leadership skills could be improved (and encouraged!) by undertaking a first aid course. An 18 hour senior first aid course is offered by St John Ambulance which can be taken at the following times:

- Over a 6 week period, 3 hours a week from 6.00 to 9.00 p.m. in the St John's Elizabeth St, Melbourne, training centre, or from 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. at various suburban locations;
- Over 3 consecutive Sundays from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.;
- From Monday to Wednesday from 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Some areas covered in the course are:

- Safety
- Resuscitation
- Shock
- Bleeding, wounds, burns
- Limb injuries
- Head, neck and spinal injuries
- Facial and chest injuries
- Poisoning
- Bites and stings
- Overexposure to heat and cold

The cost of the course is \$95.00 per person and the Club is willing to subsidise this cost as an incentive for members to lead walks. A certificate is awarded at the successful completion of the course.

If you are interested, please sign the form on the notice-board in the Clubrooms or contact me for further information.

Elizabeth Spriggs

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

VALE "THE KING OF THE SHOALHAVEN"

It is with a great sadness that we record the sudden death of our member and friend Spencer George. As many will know, he collapsed and died while taking part in the Puffing Billy fundraising race which he had helped organise on Sunday 18 April.

We can number in the hundreds the past and present Bushies who have spent delightful weeks being introduced to the joys of liloing on the Shoalhaven River by Spencer, or being led on varied and interesting weekend or Wednesday walks. Always there was careful preparation and good leadership and we shared the benefit of his years as a teacher in being told the history of the area where we were walking, often illustrated with old photographs and articles.

Spencer was a great encourager to those who were just starting off as walkers, campers and skiers, and many of us owe a lot to the patience he showed. His distinct personality, his cheeriness and enthusiasm will be remembered by us all for a long time to come.

The regard and friendship of the Bushies was expressed by the fifty or more members who attended the funeral service, the fine tribute in words paid on our behalf by Doug, and the Pocock sheath of wildflowers which bore the inscription:

"A tribute to our friend Spencer
with memories of happy walking together
and a great contribution to our Club over 30 years.
Our sympathy to his sisters and family.
With love from the Melbourne Bushwalkers."

* * * * *

BUSHIES IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

In the week just past as I write these notes, we have had:

- three members out in the search and rescue of the Melbourne man lost in the Victorian Alps;
- one in the SES out searching the Bay for the man, sadly, found drowned there;
- nine engaged in track clearing the Cement Creek track near Donna Buang;
- four members and three visitors working on erosion control in the Bogong High Plains.

We are proud of you all.

HAPPENINGS IN QUEENSLAND

Our immediate past Walks Secretary, Phil Taylor, has not only been working hard up there in Queensland since taking on his new job but has been finding time for some bushwalking. Unfortunately it has not all been joyous as he has recently broken his foot. Alan Treasurer Clarke saw him recently and can give details. Phil is still a member so will receive this "News" so here we send you, Phil, our wishes for a quick, sure mending and early return to the track.

* * * * *

FAMILY WALKING GROUP

This informal group was started some years ago by our members who had children and wished to provide opportunities for families to take their children bushwalking in the company of others. They welcome all comers. The emphasis is on the teaching of enjoyable, safe and responsible bushwalking to the children.

Day walks are on Sundays usually from 10-4, BYO lunch. Weekend events entail camping except at Wilky. To book in on a walk one phones the leader a few days beforehand to find the meeting place.

Here is the programme for the remainder of 1993:

16 May	Cape Woolamai (Phillip Island)	Rolf Herrman
12-14 Jun	Warby Ranges (Glenrowan)	Alex Stirkul
25 Jul	"Seawinds" (Mornington Pen)	Les Markham
15 Aug	Werribee Gorge	Janet Clough
12 Sep	Bike Ride (Melbourne area)	Steve Roberts
10 Oct	Angahook State Park	Trevor Bear
30 Oct - 2 Nov	Melville Caves	Ken McMahon

Parents are responsible for their own children. Each family must be self-sufficient and must carry a first aid kit. All children must carry whistles, not

pick wildflowers, not bring dogs. All rubbish must be carried out and local regulations observed.

Some of our new members may not know of the existence of this group. We will publish the 1994 programme. Any of the leaders would be pleased

to give further information and welcome new walkers.

Jean Giese, President

TRIBUTES TO SPENCER GEORGE

Spencer was a very good and close friend to us. Unfortunately I didn't know him as long and as well as some, but time that I spent with Spencer will always be well treasured.

From the first time I met him when I attempted to burn his table, to the evening around his place when he entertained us with his slides. The great cream sponge, the scones and jam and cream, it really was a memorable evening.

Spencer always had a great story at hand and always kept me amused for hours - especially when by the end of the day all you really wanted to do was to get to camp and collapse.

I will really miss walking and liloing alongside him, and was looking forward to my first skiing season with him. I knew Spencer's presence would ensure a fun time - and with him, one *always* expected the unexpected.

Thank you to Doug for the kind words and interesting stories he told at the funeral. I was unfamiliar with many of the anecdotes about Spencer and appreciated hearing them. Thanks also to Jean for the food and drinks.

I know I will be amongst many who will sadly miss Spencer.

Merryn Mitchell

It is with much regret that I am to inform you of the death of Spencer George on 18 April 1993. Spencer died of a heart attack while competing in the Great Train Race against Puffing Billy.

I met Spencer just 20 minutes prior to the start of the race and he showed a great sense of excitement at our meeting. True to his character to the very end, Spencer George has always been full of life, much loved by everyone in the Club. He will be missed by all those who have come to know of his warm bright personality.

It is a great tragedy that at 58 years of age, Spencer should reach every runner's nightmare, however he died as an active member of the Puffing Billy Preservation Society in pursuit of one of his own great loves.

John Roseman

CLUB'S ACCUMULATED FUNDS

So far we have had 3 written responses to the question of what to do with the Club's accumulated funds. These are summarised below:

I propose that the most appropriate use for these funds is to subsidise bus trips over the next, say, 10 years. The money has been collected from day walkers, and should be used for their benefit, even if the individuals who benefit are not exactly the same as those who paid the money.

Using the funds for anything other than day walk transport would be extremely unfair to those who have contributed.

As for the other options suggested:

1. Keep it for a possible future need:
There is no doubt that we don't actually have to spend the money now.
2. Purchase a piece of land:
This would commit the Club to future expenditure in rates, maintenance etc, and land would be unlikely to be self-funding as is Wilky.
3. Donate the money to another organisation:
While it might give us a warm feeling, giving the money away is unlikely to benefit present or future members of the Club in any way.

Geoff Mattingley

I offer the following suggestions:

1. Make a loan, or donation, or pay fees in advance to the Federation of Bushwalking Clubs to enable them to avoid having to pay interest on money borrowed to publish *The Scroggin Eaters*. Not enough copies have been sold yet to break even and interest on money borrowed is still being paid.
2. Do something to assist disabled people to enjoy the bush. This could be in the form of:
 - a) a donation to a National, State or Melbourne Water operated park to upgrade a track for disabled people's use;
 - b) purchase a piece of equipment which would assist a disabled person to enjoy the bush;

- c) pay the expenses of volunteers who are needed to assist a disabled person on an outdoor trip.

Ann Crawford

I would like to suggest that the Club set aside a part of its accumulated funds in the form of a permanent trust.

If the trust is invested in appropriate interest bearing deposits then an amount equal to the rate of inflation, if added to the capital, will maintain its value. The interest in excess of inflation could then be donated to an appropriate cause, e.g. the VNPA.

Graeme Thornton

CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The next Conservation Sub-committee meeting will be on Wednesday 26 May at 7.30 p.m. in the Club rooms and is open to all members.

This month we will be discussing the Land Conservation Council's report on proposed recommendations for the Central Highlands which has just been released.

As the Club does a number of walks in this area it is in all our interests for the Club to take an active stand in support of the Central Highlands. This will include writing to Government Departments.

At this stage it is anticipated the the sub-committee will list the bullet points and then actively encourage fellow members to write their own letters. This will probably be best achieved by setting up a table in the Club rooms.

Peter Day

SUNDAY WALKS QUESTIONNAIRE

At the time of writing I have received only 36 responses. 17 people indicated that they are doing less Sunday walks than 12 months ago. Of these, 13 said this was mainly due to factors external to the Club.

A number of issues were mentioned, but if the small number of replies are to be taken as representative, then it seems that we are only going to increase the number of Sunday walkers by increasing the number of members.

To this end, a sub-committee has been formed to explore the options available and to make some recommendations to the Committee.

Peter Day

SHARE ACCOMMODATION

Tracy is still looking for someone to share her leafy Fairfield house. The Easter Bunny told her there were some good eggs still around, so how about it?

We are close to shops, train, 10 minutes from city. Relaxed cottage setting with lovely garden. Open fire and gas space heating. Large room \$80 p.w. plus bond and bills.

Suit house-trained non-smoking ABC listener.

Enquiries (AH)

SKI TOURING BOOTS FOR SALE

Lightweight 3 pin ski touring boots, ASOLO
Size 43 Excellent condition \$50.00

Call Tracy (AH)

DAY WALKS - JUNE 1993**SUN 6 JUN 93 MICKEYS HILL - HUGHES CREEK EASY & MEDIUM**

LEADERS : JEAN GIESE & SYLVIA WILSON
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 8.30 A.M. *** NOTE 8.30 START ***
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.15 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : UNFORTUNATELY WHERE MT BERNARD, MT STEWART & DROPMORE 1:25,000 JOIN.
 ALSO HALF EACH ON LONGMORE & YEA 1:50,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 10 & 15 KM

This is a walk we were going to do on the President's Weekend last December but the weather was unsuitable - heat followed by rain. Now we are going to have beautiful late autumn sunshine to enjoy the glorious views towards Yea, Seymour and the Great Divide as we walk among the huge granite boulders and ancient trees.

Sylvia will lead the medium walk with a stiff 250 m climb to begin with and lots more ups and downs. The easier option also entails a good climb but I've graded it easy as we will take our time getting to the tops. The views will be reward enough for the effort, even to those who favour more level walking.

NOTE 8.30 START.

SUN 13 JUN 93 BLUE MOUNTAIN - BLACKWOOD EASY & MEDIUM

LEADERS : TREVOR & ROSEMARY THOMSON
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : TRENTHAM 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 13 & 17 KM

The easy group will start and finish at the Garden of St Erth, following forest tracks leading to Fosters and McLoughlin lookouts, which provide good views over the surrounding forests. The circuit will include the crown dam walking track alongside the Lerderderg River.

The medium group will climb Blue Mountain, and make their way down to the Lerderderg River with a mixture of forest tracks and cross country walking. From there they will climb to the lookout section of the easy group circuit before descending to St Erth.

MON 14 JUN 93 LOWER MARIBYRNONG EASY

LEADER : ATHOL SCHAFFER
 TRANSPORT : TRAM/TRAIN
 MEETING PLACE : 10.00 A.M. UNDER THE CLOCKS, FLINDERS STREET STATION
 EXPECTED RETURN : 5.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS 27, 28, 42
 APPROX DISTANCE : 14 KM

This could be the first Club walk along Melbourne's other river, now rivalling the Yarra with many riverside features such as the Teagardens, the Scenic Lookout and many parks and reserves.

We start at Cordite Avenue and finish the 14 kilometres at Footscray.

WED 16 JUN 93 PHEASANT CREEK - CHYSER CREEK**EASY/MEDIUM**

LEADERS : TREVOR & ROSEMARY THOMSON (053) 48 7686
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 MEETING PLACE : 8.30 A.M. JEAN GIESE'S, 9 ALBERT CRES, SURREY HILLS, OR
 9.45 A.M. PHEASANT CREEK (CNR. WATSONS RD/KINGLAKE RD)
 EXPECTED RETURN : 5.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : PHEASANT CREEK 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 14 KM

A walk along forest tracks following and crossing creek valleys with occasional viewpoints. Several options are possible; we will probably skirt around and cross the Mt Robertson pine plantation, then head into the McRobertson forest after crossing Pheasant Creek. From there we might descend into the Chyser Creek valley, or perhaps opt for a bit longer route following a pleasant partly overgrown track alongside Boggy Creek.

SUN 20 JUN 93 GELLIBRAND HILL STATE PARK**EASY & EASY/MEDIUM**

LEADERS : ART TERRY & JOHN KITSON
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 - 7.30 P.M.

A delightful walk close to Melbourne in rural surroundings with stands of red gums and set in the upper reaches of Moonee Ponds Creek. The historic homestead Woodlands was the first prefabricated house bought from England and built in Victoria.

SAT 26 JUN 93 DANDENONGS EXPLORER - EMERALD**EASY**

LEADER : HELENE HUNT
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE OR TRAIN
 EXPECTED RETURN : 4.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS MAP 127 & 188
 APPROX DISTANCE : 12 KM

We will meet at 11.10 a.m. (sharp) at the Emerald Reserve/Football Ground (Melway 127 G3 - turn right at the 3rd roundabout in Emerald). If you are coming by public transport please ring me on _____ and I will arrange for you to be picked up at Belgrave Station. (Train departs Flinders St at 9.29 a.m. Platform 4 and arrives at Belgrave Station at 10.43 a.m.)

Lunch will be at Emerald Lake Park so shelter will be available if necessary. From here we make our way towards Cockatoo and then back to Emerald.

If the weather is cold I strongly recommend plenty of warm clothing and wet weather gear.

SUN 27 JUN 93 WERRIBEE GORGE**E/MEDIUM & MEDIUM/HARD**

LEADERS : KEITH WHITE & CHRIS LYNCH
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : INGLISTON 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 12 & 16 KM

The Werribee Gorge offers spectacular views and varied walking terrain in a compact area. The easy/medium walk will circle the main section of the park, along the Werribee River.

The medium/hard walk will cover a broader circuit, exploring all three gorges - Werribee, Ironbark and Ingliston - in the park. There will be some ups and downs and rock hopping.

WEEKEND WALKS - JUN 1993**4-6 JUN 93 NORTHERN WILSONS PROMONTORY EASY/MEDIUM**

LEADERS : LLOYD YOUNG & JOHN ROSEMAN
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE, INCLUDING BOAT TRIP
 EXPECTED RETURN : SUNDAY NIGHT
 MAP REFERENCE : WILSONS PROM NATIONAL PARK OUTDOOR LEISURE MAP
 COST : APPROXIMATELY \$20 FOR BOAT AND PROM FEE, PLUS PETROL

The trip begins with a boat trip from Port Welshpool to the Northern Prom. After making camp there will be an afternoon track walk with an optional rock hop along the coast. On Sunday we will walk along the beach then cut across the prom to the other side where the boat will pick us up. We will probably visit the Foster pub for tea on the way home and John Roseman has promised fresh seafood.

11-14 JUN 93 WYPERFELD NATIONAL PARK MEDIUM

LEADER : JANET NORMAN
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M. MONDAY
 MAP REFERENCE : ALGONA WYPERFELD NATIONAL PARK
 APPROX DISTANCE : 40 KM

If you are a supreme optimist, then dust off your langlaufers and head for the hills - good luck. But if you are a more sober bod then come for a weekend exploring the subtle delights of the mallee where the days are clear and sunny, the nights a touch chilly but the sky magnificent. This will be a base camp.

Over the weekend we will cover a wide variety of Wyperfeld terrain during two fully day medium standard walks. There may also be a tempting moonlight stroll across the dunes. On Monday we can visit Lake Albacutya before returning home.

Facilities in the large camping area include toilets and cold water for hand washing. Don't forget your day pack and binoculars.

12-14 JUN 93 MARIA ISLAND, TASMANIA EASY

LEADER : DAVID VINCENT
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 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 we must arrive totally self-sufficient. All walks will be from a base camp.

We will depart Melbourne on the Saturday 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 private hire is only \$160 each.

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

ADVANCE NOTICE OF SKI TRIP

I will be leading an extended ski trip from The Bluff to Lake Cobbler in the week 13-22 August.

I would like to do a food dump, probably near Mt Howitt, so if you are interested in this trip please let me know a.s.a.p. - there is little time left before the snows start to fall!

Bill Metzenthien

* * * * *

WILKINSON LODGE - A 60TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY - 27-28 MARCH 1993

It certainly was a weekend to remember - the celebration of 60 years of Wilkinson Memorial Lodge on the Bogong High Plains; best known as "Wilky" to all of us, and once described as "the jewel in the crown of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Club". And that has not changed.

Built in 1933 by the SEC to house staff employed to collect data prior to building the Kiewa Hydro-Electric Scheme, Wilky was initially known as the SEC Cottage. It was lived in continuously from 1933 until 1947, when the Ski Club of Victoria purchased it for the sum of one pound, using it intermittently during the following winters until the mid-1950s. The Ski Club renamed it "Wilkinson Memorial Lodge" after Robert Wood Wilkinson, their president, and a pioneer skier of the era, and the name was retained when ownership transferred to our Club.

In the late 1950s, the SEC approached the Ski Club with an ultimatum: "either you clean it up and look after it properly, or we'll bulldoze it down". At that point, word got around that it might be for sale, and three Bushies pricked up their collective ears, thinking that it would make an excellent base for the growing number of members with young families. The idea of using it in winter was less of a thought; more particularly, what a superb base for summer on the High Plains.

Those three, Gwynnyth Taylor (my mother), Jack Coffey and John Fitzgibbon, spent an adventurous Easter checking out the idea; quite a tale in itself, as Bushies' tales are wont to be. Especially in those days, when transport, road conditions and camping equipment was fairly primitive. Gwynnyth recalls that they arrived late in the afternoon to find an appalling mess confronting them; the practice in winter had been to simply chuck everything out the door - rubbish, food scraps, tins and bottles - and of course, the next fall of snow did the rest.

Undaunted, they swept enough of the floor clear of rat dirt and rubbish to spread groundsheets and sleeping bags, leaving the following day thoroughly convinced that the Club should grasp the opportunity for acquiring the Cottage.

What foresight! They could not have known then but what a gift to the Club it has proved to be. And 'gift' is in fact the operative word. Twenty-nine members each donated five pounds, fifty of which was paid to the Ski Club of Victoria, and the balance retained for the start of repairs, which were urgently needed. Those members then gave Wilky to the Club.

That was in 1960, and the following decade saw huge amounts of energy and practical activity expended on raising Wilky from the depths of squalor. Many many people, notably Alan Bennett amongst others, devoted every spare moment to working parties, in themselves wonderful fun as well as immensely satisfying.

By the early 1960s, Wilky was ready for not merely summer use but for the first winter trips. The Log Books from those early days of MBW ownership tell it all.

These days, with Wilky in such beautiful and well-loved condition, a bit of polish now and again is all that is needed to keep it shining. And whilst the Club membership inevitably changes, as it should, the special place Wilky holds in the Club's heart remains unaltered.

Doug Pocock conceived the idea of celebrating Wilky's 60th birthday with a party on the High Plains. He spent months contacting past members who had a special bond with those early days; organised accommodation to be available for 30 or so in the Rover Lodge; liaised with the National Parks personnel and with the SEC Historian; and issued personal invitations to the Fitzgerald family of Shannon Vale who had been intimately involved

in the very early years. He took care of all the food requirements, and obtained permission for special vehicular access to the Rover Lodge.

But his final touch was nothing short of genius.

He located Brian and Barbara Trimble, who had spent their early childhood days, from 1941 to 1947, living with their parents, Stan and Eva Trimble, in the Cottage.

Brian and Barbara both now live in Brisbane, with their respective families. They immediately accepted Doug's invitation to be present at the celebrations, and allowed themselves a little over a day for the journey from Brisbane to the High Plains. Brisbane to Goondiwindi, on the border, then a 16 hour slog from Goondiwindi to the Rover Lodge - arriving about 10.30 p.m. on the Friday night, much around the time that various members were arriving.

That Friday night certainly set the scene for the whole weekend; much reminiscing and poring over photograph albums, reconnecting old friendships and reliving the many memories which Wilky has given us all over the years.

Brian and Barbara had gathered together two huge photo albums, as well as numerous magazine and newspaper clippings and stories; their own memories of their childhood days are extraordinarily clear, particularly those of Barbara, who is a little older than Brian. We all spent much time studying their photos and asking endless questions; I think they were a little surprised at the depth of our interest in their time at Wilky.

Following breakfast on Saturday morning, people scattered in various directions, the main group going to Rocky Knobs to view Wilkinson's plaque. The two Trimbles disappeared almost before the sun was up, unable to wait any longer to see their home.

In the early afternoon, we all gathered outside Wilky where a magnificent celebratory cake, beautifully made and decorated by Jill Breen, and carefully transported in a cunningly made box, lay in pride of place. As well, a bronze plaque commemorating Wilky's early days had been prepared, to be unveiled during the formal proceedings.

At 3 o'clock, with probably 60 or 70 people present, Doug made the introductions of the special guests, representatives from the SEC and National Parks Service, and members of the Fitzgerald family; the plaque was unveiled by Brian and Barbara Trimble, together with an expression of their gratitude for the way their home has been

cared for. Gwynnyth Taylor spoke warmly of the early days of the Club's ownership of Wilky and of the many people who had given so tirelessly of their time and energy during those years.

Finally, the 60 candles surrounding the cake were lit, and blown out by the many children present, and it was duly cut by Gwynnyth and Alan Bennett. Quantities of tea, coffee and cake were consumed amid friendly chatter and much photographing of the occasion. Martin Pocock led a short historical ramble down to the remnants of the weather station, the tennis courts and the site of Joe Holsten's hut below the aqueduct.

As the gentle afternoon shadows lengthened, most of us quietly wandered back to the Rover Lodge, to give a hand with getting dinner ready, and just to absorb the feelings of the day.

Just over forty sat down for a delicious meal which Jan and many helpers had prepared, followed by an evening of slides and stories of Wilky trips past and recent.

Sunday dawned clear and bright, tempting a few to walk to Cope, a traditional Bushy walk if ever there was one; others spent the morning in other directions. Following lunch, it was packing up and cleaning up of the Lodge, with special thanks being expressed to the Rovers for making the facilities of the Rover Lodge available. Having a central venue made the weekend activities much more focussed and easier to cater for, and the co-operation of the Rovers, particularly the two Tonys who "drove" the Lodge for us, was much appreciated.

For Brian and Barbara, it was a weekend of extraordinary emotional upheaval. To begin with, they did not even know that their home still existed; when they left in early 1947, they believed it was to be demolished, following the damage caused to the cottage by the severe winter of 1946, when it "collapsed beneath the snow."

As well, the Bogong High Plains of their childhood had no roads, no tracks other than their own, certainly no Rocky Valley Dam, no Falls Creek and the trappings of the ski industry; it was almost pure wilderness, and it was their back yard. They knew it so well, with the familiarity bred from being allowed their freedom, even as tiny children. Their mother, in particular, must have been a remarkable woman, coping with the stresses of living in most unusual, not to say difficult, conditions.

But I don't think they'd have missed the weekend for anything. And neither would we.

Thank you, Doug.

Sue Forrester

WALLS OF JERUSALEM NATIONAL PARK, TASMANIA EASTER 9-12 APR 1993

It all started in the tea room in the Bushies one Wednesday early in March. My family no longer required my ministrations for Easter, I'd discovered, so I was master (mistress? hmm) of my own time. I knew Dave Vincent was due to fly to Maria Island but I desperately wanted to go to the Walls of Jerusalem - for 15 years in fact. On mentioning this matter ever so casually, "So do I! So do I!" chirped numerous voices, a plane load and one reserve, in fact, instantly!

Alright then, now to persuade D. Vincent to go another way. Not so easy, he'd been there relatively recently, but the full plane bit did help. Then things got really difficult: the imminently future Mrs Hopkins-Brown wanted to join her imminently future husband, and who am I to stand in the way of true love? And Max said, "Not fair, I wasn't in the tea room at the time, I want to come too!" And mega pressure from the reserve list. Ha! Then Dave wanted to take his wife along. ("Wife," we said, "you didn't tell us about this!") Time for a Jumbo? No, Dave had the wonderful idea of flying over twice. So there we were, all ready and happy to go on Good Friday morning, except the first contingent left at 4.30 a.m. and gave the 8.30 a.m. lot heaps.

It was still morning when we left Lake Rowallan car park for the gentle stroll in warm sunshine up to Trappers Hut for lunch. Then on again up to Solomons Jewels where we pitched camp. If you've never been to this area before, these little interconnecting lakes are typical. The Pencil Pines around the edge, the scraped glacial rocks here and there, the alpine vegetation and the surrounding craggy peaks all reflected in the lakes make it so tranquil and beautiful almost beyond description. Most of the summer flowers were over but clumps of bright red mountain rockets were found later near the shore line. But in the forests we found the rare deciduous beech just turning colour, a great treat till we tried to walk past it: it has a spreading habit so you have to clamber almost through it; what a pain with a pack on. That night it was dark and cold early so we didn't muck about and the sound of gentle snoring and ferreting possum were soon apparent.

Next day we trudged off along the duck board and the stone covered paths - what, I thought, don't you even get your boots wet in Tassie any more? We dropped our packs at Herods Gate and scrambled and grunted our way to the top of King Davids Peak, the highest in the area at 1490 m, and was it worth it! You felt you could see peaks all over Tassie, visibility was perfect. Further on, we climbed The Temple and found Temple Hut, an amazing stone structure with an iron roof held

down by more rocks. Great for trolls or whatever the local equivalent of little people is.

That night we camped at Dixons Kingdom with the dearest mini creek running past our tents. Cameron retired early, the rest of us were savouring our final cup of tea and thinking perhaps 7.30 was a bit early to turn in when we heard much huffing and puffing, and swearing even from Cameron's tent. "What's the matter?" we asked. "Having trouble with my zip!" he said. Hmm, we wondered, which zip? At which Mark Tischler told us a revolting tale of some poor unfortunate male who got caught in his fly-front zip. Look I won't repeat it. Anyway later comes the happy exclamation from Cameron's tent: "Ah, I've got it up!" At which we all fell about laughing. But when he finally added "And it still works!!!" total collapse.

The next morning, Elsa set a trend for the day by demonstrating the rarely-seen flying-buttock leap. This requires special circumstances - a slippery surface, a convenient pool of water and a running body. Elsa had all of this and made a magnificent leap! I needn't have worried about getting my boots wet, the planks gave out long ago, and muddy tracks and squishy sphagnum moss makes you realise how important but regrettable they are in the well-used areas. So many glorious lakes we passed. Our final night was at Lake Poa which was outside the National Park so we were able to build a fire on a flat rock. How much we had missed the cheerful blaze. But next day we saw a great area of destruction where fire had gone through. The Pencil Pines do not recover and Lake Bill Hut was a mess of rusting iron and floor stumps sticking up like rotten teeth. But the gum trees were sprouting again, it was recovering.

We followed Jackson's Creek, the outflow from Lake Myrtle as it tumbled and fell, dividing and joining again, smashing and crashing and gurgling its merry way. Then finally we came to Lake Bill, perhaps the most perfect of all, its mirror surface reflecting the tree clad hillsides and these themselves gently rolling. How we wished we had time to explore further and linger for longer. But Dave and his delightful wife Jin, had walked out before and collected the bus to meet us on the Mersey Forest Road.

Thanks Dave for being so obliging and making this short trip so worthwhile. Thanks Alan Miller for being such a terrific navigator, and thanks Mark for your added info on the area. And thanks team (Alan Clarke, Elsa, the Hopkins-Browns, Cameron, Max and Jin) for being such smashing company and being a GOOD TEAM.

Sylvia Wilson

BOGONG HIGH PLAINS WORK PARTY 30 APR - 2 MAY 1993

The work party was based in Wilky and was a lot of fun - with good food, evening games, and, yes, some work as well which was erosion control. The Ranger, Ron Riley, soon had us laying a concrete surface drain across the road above Wallaces Hut. This was hard yakka indeed and much digging and concrete mixing using shovels. We inscribed "MBW 1/5/93" in the concrete. Later we found some upstarts had also carved initials but we rubbed them out - HA! Lynette and Rosa had prepared pumpkin soup and pasta for lunch. Ron quickly put his sandwiches away when he saw what was offering.

The next job was improving the track along the pole line above Wallaces which we worked on last year. This is mending slowly and we improved the drainage and added some retaining logs. That night we slept well after a yummy 3 course meal and a vigorous game of Pictionary.

Next morning, after pancakes, we collected large flat rocks and installed them as stone steps at Cope

Hut where there is bad erosion due to people and cattle. Ron the Ranger had plenty of good yarns - a disappearing body in the Godson Tragedy on Mt Bogong, a domestic dispute in Cope Hut involving an axe versus a pocket knife etc. etc.

During the weekend we learned that

Stephen and Merryn are engaged -

**CONGRATULATIONS
and BEST WISHES!**

The party was Stephen Rowlands, Merryn Mitchell, Japanese friend Hiro, Rosa D'Angelo and her friend Lynette (chefs extraordinaire), Vittoria Clerici and me.

Max Casle

RED CENTRE EXPEDITIONS

Leave the traffic, telephones and stress of the city behind. Join us on an expedition into the living heart of Australia. Enjoy magnificent views by day. Relax around a campfire while your guide serves you a delicious three course meal at night. Wake up to the call of the birds.

Macdonnell Ranges: July 4-17, September 26 - October 9

Each trip consists of three separate walks allowing us to show you some of the best scenery in the Macdonnells without your having to carry the heavy weight you would need for a major expedition.

Finke Gorge and Watarrka National Parks: July 18-31, September 12-25

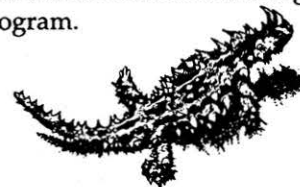
On these trips we take you deep into the back country to visit deep gorges and picturesque waterholes far from the crowds in Palm Valley and Kings Canyon.



Centralian Explorer: June 20-30, August 29 - September 8

Join our guide as he or she goes off to explore one or more of the fascinating areas we have yet to include in our regular program.

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS
12 Carrington Street Millner NT 0810
Phone (089) 85 2134 Fax: (089) 85 2355



Thorny Devil

COMMITTEE NOTES - 3 MAY 1993**TREASURER'S REPORT AT 31 APR 1993:**

	\$	\$
APRIL RECEIPTS:	6,206	
APRIL PAYMENTS:	2,987	
BALANCE:		
Current Account	11,007	
Reserves Account	52,000	
Postage float	500	<u>63,507</u>

WALKS REPORT FOR MARCH:

Total	Day walkers	W/E walkers	Members	Visitors	Fees
239	183	56	178	61	\$1763

This does not include the numbers for Wilky's 60 year anniversary weekend.
Average number of Sunday walkers 34. (For March 92, average number was 32.)

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Leaders to be encouraged to become proficient in First Aid.

Training for leaders - sub-committee set up to consider ideas for weekend and evening training sessions.

A sub-committee has been set up to consider ways of promoting the Club to bring in new members and to review concession rates.

DUTY ROSTER:

May	12	Andrew & Mary
May	19	Derrick & Gina
May	28	Janet & Jean
Jun	2	Peter D & Liz
Jun	9	Janet & John

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: 7 June 1993 at 7.00pm

NEW MEMBERS

The Club would like to welcome the following new members:

Elaine Merritt	Philip Heathcote	Linda Waller
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Bernice Webster	Susan Cohen	Pauline Smith
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Naomi Vallins	Carolyn Kett
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