



THE NEWS

OF THE
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INCORPORATED

EDITION 516

FEBRUARY 1994

PRICE 60 C

Registered by Australia Post

Publication No. VBH 1297

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDS 23 FEBRUARY 1994, 8.00 P.M.

The Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne Bushwalkers (Inc.)
will be held in the Horticultural Hall
(entrance from the Clubrooms, MacKenzie St).

All members are welcome to attend.

SOCIAL COLUMN

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM BOTANIC GARDENS

8.30 p.m. Tuesday 15 Feb

Hopefully summer will be with us in February.
The Gardens are magic at night and
the play is great fun.

BYO picnic supper and a thermarest
(or similar) to sit on.

Contact Merilyn Wimpey in the Clubrooms.

1994 SIDNEY MYER FREE CONCERTS

7.00 p.m. Sidney Myer Music Bowl

**Saturday 12 Feb, 19 Feb
Wednesday 16 Feb**

Bushies may be seen gathering in the middle of the
middle of the music bowl for these occasions,
bringing their rugs and their tea and often nibbles
to share.

See you there.

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 March edition is Wednesday 2 March 1994.

VALE ROSEMARY THOMSON

It is with a personal sense of loss that I inform members of Rosemary's death last Saturday night (5th February). She was loved by those of us who knew her well.

The Club meant a lot to Rosemary and she and her husband Trevor led many walks for us. She had been the Co-ordinator of the Wednesday walks for the last two years and, although sick, prepared and served us a lovely "Christmas tea" at the end of the December walk which Trevor led.

The Wednesday walkers especially join me in extending our deepest sympathy to Trevor and the family.

ALSO -- Representing the Club, I attended the funeral last week of member John (Jock) Reeve. He had walked regularly, until his illness, with the Wednesday walkers.

AND ALSO -- We offer our condolences to Vice-President Derrick Brown whose father died in England in January. Derrick is just back after attending the funeral.

Jean Giese, President

A new NEWS EDITOR is required.

You will need to have, or have access to, a word processor. Anyone interested in this role, please contact me before the Annual General Meeting.

Gina Hopkins

BOOTS FOR SALE

Personal import from Italy
Size 45 - Brand New
(only worn on to and off from the aeroplane)

\$100 o.n.o.

Phone Tony Stapley (H)

RAILS TO TRAILS

An organisation known as "Rails to Trails" has a plan to convert the Bairnsdale to Orbost railway line into a recreation path for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The local authorities are in favour of the plan.

You are invited to submit your own ideas on what should be done. Submissions are to be made through the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs, c/- The Secretary.

DAY WALKS - MARCH 1994**SUN 6 MAR 94 KEPEL FALLS - THE BEECHES EASY & MEDIUM**

LEADERS : BERNICE WEBSTER & GEORGE ZAMORA
 AREA : MARYSVILLE
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 8.30 A.M. **** NOTE EARLY START ****
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MARYSVILLE - LAKE MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR LEISURE MAP
 APPROX DISTANCE : 12 & 16.5 KM

The highlight of this walk is the Beeches Walking Track which features mountain ash giants and groves of myrtle beech trees (some over 300 years old) and tree ferns. The track criss-crosses, over well made walking bridges, the Whitehouse Creek and the Taggerty River. Lyrebirds are common in the area.

The easy walk starts with a return trip to Phantom Falls and then Keppel Falls, then follows Lady Talbot Drive via the Keppel Falls Lookout and concludes with the Beeches Walking Track circuit. The medium walk follows Surds Road for a steady climb of 500 m over a distance of 4.5km with views across the Taggerty River valley. Phantom Falls and Keppel Falls will then be visited. The Beeches Walking Track circuit will conclude the walk.

Both walks are along well made tracks and roads, with the exception of a 150 m climb on the Medium walk along an overgrown track.

SUN 13 MAR 94 WIRRA WILLA - TANGLEFOOT TRACK E/MEDIUM & MEDIUM

LEADERS : JOHN KITTSON & PETER MCGRATH
 AREA : TOOLANGI STATE FOREST, NE OF MELBOURNE
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 9.00 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.30 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MONDA 1:25,000, ES MAP PAGE 628
 APPROX DISTANCE : 16 & 20 KM

The Tanglefoot Track runs between Mt Tanglefoot and Mt St Leonard through tall mountain ash country and fern gullies. The views from Mt St Leonard on a clear day are excellent and well worth the climb.

A circuit walk will take in Wirra Willa, a section of rainforest with well maintained tracks and pine log bridges, cared for by the Friends of the Forest. All in all, it should be a good day's walk.

MON 14 MAR 94 BOAT HOUSE - MERRI CREEK VALLEY EASY

LEADER : ATHOL SCHAFFER
 AREA : FAIRFIELD
 TRANSPORT : TRAIN/TRAM
 MEETING PLACE : UNDER THE CLOCKS, FLINDERS STREET STATION BY 10.15 A.M.
 EXPECTED RETURN : 5.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS 30, 31, 45; MELB WATER: MIDDLE YARRA AND MERRI PATHS
 APPROX DISTANCE : 10 KM

Starting at Fairfield the tour features a section of the Outer Circle Railway, Yarra River, Boat House, Tea Gardens, pipe bridge, wetlands, Wind Energy Farm and various reserves and gardens.

Along the Merri Valley the bike path will be mostly avoided by taking pleasant alternative less-frequented by-ways. The walk finishes at either Northcote (near Batman Park) or Brunswick (near Allard Park) depending on the time.

WED 16 MAR 94 COOLART - SANDY POINT**EASY**

LEADER : JOAN HAIGH
 AREA : SOMERS, MORNINGTON PENINSULA
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 MEETING PLACE : 8.30 A.M. JEAN GIESE'S, 9 ALBERT CRES, SURREY HILLS, OR
 9.45 A.M. COOLART CAR PARK
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS 193, 194
 APPROX DISTANCE : 14 KM

Approximately one hour will be spent at Coolart where wetland areas have been extended in the last 2 years. There is an admission charge. We shall then walk eastward, mostly on the beach, to Sandy Point, or as the party feels if it is swimming weather. We retrace our steps for the return but stopping short of Coolart for our annual Devonshire tea at my home. Please bring water and dress according to the weather.

SUN 20 MAR 94 PENNYROYAL FALLS - NORTH OTWAYS**E/MEDIUM & MEDIUM**

LEADERS : MARGARET BORDEN & JEAN GIESE
 AREA : NORTH OTWAYS
 TRANSPORT : BUS FROM SOUTH BANK BLVD. AT 8.30 A.M. ** NOTE EARLY START **
 EXPECTED RETURN : 7.00 P.M.
 MAP REFERENCE : BOONAH 1:25,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 12 & 15 KM

These falls are on the 'other' side of the Otways, near to Deans Marsh. The bush is drier on this side so we shouldn't have any leeches. The easier walk will be entirely on tracks ranging from walking tracks to old 4WD tracks. I have graded this walk as Easy/Medium as there is a short steep section and part of it could be muddy. The medium walk will go further up the creek (no track) to another but smaller set of falls, and I hope we will have time to scramble up a side creek to see some cascades which I have not seen yet.

This is only the second time that this walk has ever been on the Club's programme. You will not find any mention of the Pennyroyal Falls on the map or in books on the Otways.

SAT 26 MAR 94 DANDENONGS: JOHNS HILL - MONBULK ROUND TRIP**EASY**

LEADER : MIKE CLODE
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE OR 8.49 A.M. TRAIN FROM FLINDERS ST TO BELGRAVE
 MEETING PLACE : 10.00 A.M. BELGRAVE STATION CAR PARK (train from Flinders St arrives 10.02)
 MAP REFERENCE : MELWAYS MAPS 124 & 125. COMMENCES & FINISHES K11
 APPROX DISTANCE : 14 KM

Sandra Bardwell describes this walk in her *50 Day Walks Near Melbourne* as "an English-style country ramble along streams and lanes". Being the end of March we might also have to cope with some English-style rain and mud but, if the weather is kind, the panoramic views from Johns Hill across to Port Phillip Bay and Western Port can be captivating.

Descending Johns Hill, we join Menzies Creek at Avars Picnic Ground. We continue to follow the creek after it changes its name to Sassafras and then on to Moxhams Picnic Ground. We cross the streams quite frequently, though (with some notable exceptions) sturdy bridges have been/are being built. Up to this point we have been using defined paths through thick vegetation and trees, walking close to the road, though largely unaware of it. From Moxhams we follow Priors, Portman, William and Ridge roads to return to the cars. The return is a steady climb and some of the roads are steep so we may leave a car/s at Moxhams for anyone wanting to call it a day at that stage.

SUN 27 MAR 94 FEDERATION DAY: WARBURTON AREA**EASY & MEDIUM**

Information about this Federation Day will be printed in the March News.

WEEKEND WALKS - MARCH 1994**4-6 MAR 94 CATHEDRAL RANGE - JAWBONE SADDLE EASY/MEDIUM**

LEADERS : KATE & MARK THOMPSON
 AREA : NARBETHONG/BUXTON, NE OF MELBOURNE
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 6.00 P.M. SUNDAY
 MAP REFERENCE : CATHEDRAL RANGE
 APPROX DISTANCE : 20-25 KM

Friday night camp at Neds Gully. Ascend to Mt Cathedral via Neds Saddle on Saturday morning and to Little Cathedral for lunch. Traverse ridgetop south to Farmyard and camp. Sunday follow ridgeback to Mt Sugarloaf with canyon walks and caves to explore. Afternoon walk along tracks adjoining road northwards, including afternoon frolics in the delightful Little River.

Walk status: moderate climbs, wonderful views. Lyrebirds abundant on preview. Popular walking area with clearly marked tracks, signs, warnings, prohibitions etc.

Camp fees payable Friday night \$2 per weekend.

11-14 MAR 94 TULLOCH ARD GORGE - SNOWY RIVER LILO TRIP MEDIUM

LEADER : PETER CHALKLEY
 AREA : SNOWY RIVER ABOVE BUCHAN
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : 11.00 P.M. MONDAY EVEINING
 MAP REFERENCE : MURRINDAL-YALMY VICMAP 1:50,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : ? KM

This is a 3 day lilo trip down the Snowy River. The trip starts with a 2 hour walk down to the Tulloch Ard Gorge. There follows three large rapids, including the infamous "A-Frame", over about 2 kms. For the brave there will be little portaging. The Snowy continues with long deep pools and several more rapids. The exit point will be up the New Guinea Jeep Track.

The Snowy, contrary to its name, is fairly warm though thermals or a spring wet suit would be useful. Strongly recommended are a helmet, a buoyancy vest and aluminium shaft paddles. Box-wall lilos are the best and a repair kit should be taken.

18-20 MAR 94 EAGLES PEAKS - THE BLUFF - MT BULLER - MT TIMBERTOP TOUGH

LEADER : PETER DAY
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : SUNDAY EVEINING
 MAP REFERENCE : BULLER SOUTH 1:25,000; HOWITT-SELWYN 1:50,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : 60 KM

If you hate car shuffles, love early starts, like to walk all day, enjoy stiff climbs with no rests, can walk at a good pace no matter what the angle and want to see some truly fantastic views, then this walk might just be for you.

Friday night we camp at Sheeppark flats. Just after first light we walk up to Eagles Peaks then down to 8 mile gap and onto The Bluff via Rocky Ridge and Refrigerator Gap. Once on the Bluff we will pass the Blow Hole on the way to Bluff Hut. Then it's down to Pikes Flat to camp for the night. This is the only guaranteed water for the trip so fill up. Sunday morning we head up the Corn Hill logging road before heading north-west after the switchbacks which takes us to the quarry on the Corn Hill Road. From here it's on to Mt Buller and then along to Timbertop and down to the Timbertop Saddle.

The key to this trip is to walk at a good constant pace with no long rests. There is no need to race.

25-27 MAR 94 BOGONG HIGH PLAINS WORK PARTY

LEADER : DOUG POCOCK
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE

A chance for members to represent the Club by helping on a project on the High Plains. It will probably be in the vicinity of Wilkinson Lodge.

We will stay at Wilky and it will be catered for - probably about \$10 for food and Wilky fees are waived.

31 MAR-4 APR 94 LEANING ROCK FALLS - KOSCIUSKO NAT. PARK MED/HARD

LEADER : MERILYN WHIMPEY
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : MONDAY NIGHT
 MAP REFERENCE : MT KOSCIUSKO 1:50,000

I was intrigued by Leaning Rock Falls when I first saw them in the distance from the Main Range, and we came down that way at Easter a few years ago. This time I plan to go in from Geehi Dam, provided the road is open, and climb up Windy Creek to the falls. There will be a lot of rock scrambling and some scrub. Above the falls there is lovely camping beside the creek. Then we'll try to follow Windy Creek up to Consett Stephen Pass and descend back to Geehi Dam via Tate West Ridge. I don't know how long this will take, but there may be a free day for a side trip. If the road to Geehi Dam is closed we'll rearrange things.

31 MAR-4 APR 94 SPION KOPJE - BOGONG HIGH PLAINS EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER : JEAN GIESE
 AREA : BOGONG NATIONAL PARK
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : MONDAY NIGHT
 MAP REFERENCE : BOGONG ALPINE AREA OUTDOOR LEISURE MAP 1:50,000

We had such a good time in the mountains in the Christmas holidays that I'm returning for Easter. On that occasion, we started from Hotham and explored the Western and Southern edges of the Bogong High Plains.

This time we will commence in the North at Howman's Gap, take a steep climb (slowly) onto Spion Kopje and then concentrate on the Eastern part, visiting a few huts, walking Heathy Spur and returning to Howman's Gap via Frying Pan Spur. Do join me.

31 MAR-4 APR 94 BRYCES GORGE BASE CAMP EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER : GEOFF MATTINGLEY
 AREA : WONNANGATTA - MOROKA NATIONAL PARK
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE
 EXPECTED RETURN : MONDAY EVENING
 MAP REFERENCE : TAMBORITHA-MOROKA 1:50,000
 APPROX DISTANCE : VARIOUS

This is a walk-in base camp - about 3 km from cars. We will camp on Conglomerate Creek at a very picturesque campsite. Walks will be around Conglomerate Creek and Piemans Creek and the escarpment with its waterfalls. Other options are to Mt Howitt, Mt Reynard and the Upper Caledonia River area.

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

ADVANCE PREVIEW**JUL/AUG 94 LORD HOWE ISLAND****E/MEDIUM**

LEADER : DAVID VINCENT
 TRANSPORT : PRIVATE AIRCRAFT

I'm planning a Club trip to Lord Howe Island for one week some time during July or August 1993 - probably during the school holidays, but the dates are flexible. We would depart Melbourne in a twin engine aircraft on a Saturday morning, refuel at Port Macquarie and arrive at Lord Howe about midday. We would return the following Saturday or Sunday. No camping is permitted on the island so we could rent a self-contained lodge for one week. The standard of bushwalks on the island ranges from easy to hard so individuals can be selective based on their ability.

For a group of 7 to 8 an indicative cost share would be about \$500 each for the private aircraft hire and about \$250 each for the accommodation. At this stage I'm attempting to gauge the level of interest in order to make the trip viable. If you have further questions or would like to book a place on this walk, please ring me at home on

FAMILY WALKING GROUP

This informal group was inaugurated some years ago by our members who had children and wished to provide opportunities for families to go walking together. New families are warmly welcomed. The emphasis is on the teaching of enjoyable, safe and responsible bushwalking to the children. Telephone the leader for details.

PROGRAMME FOR 1994

Feb 13	George Howson	Lerderderg Gorge and swim
March 12/13/14	Peter Clunas	Sawmill Creek, foot of Mt Buller
April 1/2/3/4	Alex Stirkul	Wilkinson's Hut, Falls Creek
April 17	Janet Clough	Anakie
May 15	Les Markham	Sherbrooke Forest
June 11/12/13	Alex Stirkul	Warby Ranges, Glenrowan
July 24	Trevor Bear	Organ Pipes, Keilor
August 21	Les Murray	Walk part of Yarra Trail
Sept 11	Gaile Rogerson	Mystery Walk, Melbourne area
Oct 9	Steve Roberts	Bike ride (from a railway station)
Oct 29/30/1	Ken McMahon	Grampians
Nov 13	Palston	Warburton
Nov 20	Steve K.	BBQ and planning for 1995

ANNUAL REPORTS 1993

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1993

We've had another good year in the Club with membership passing the 400 mark. We had a total of 138 Club trips (despite 12 ski trips being cancelled for want of sufficient snow) and of these 34 were pack carrying. I think we offered a great variety in our programme and all events were participated in with enthusiasm.

On behalf of all our members I thank our Committee of Management. We've had a happy time working together on the Club's behalf. There is a lot of work to be done and that work has been carried out cheerfully and efficiently. I especially thank those who are unable to stand for re-election.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSES AND RULES

At the last AGM the appropriate resolutions were passed to change Rule 14(2) "The Officers of the Association shall be..." to delete "a Magazine Editor" and insert "an Assistant Walks Secretary", and also to clean up an anomaly in our proxy form.

On 6 October 1993, an Extraordinary General Meeting was held at which a resolution was passed effecting another change, this time to Rule 25, to satisfy the requirements of the Australian Taxation Office in the event of the winding up of the Club. Copies of the altered Rules will be available at the AGM on the 23rd February for any member who wishes to have one.

CLUB'S ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Over the past twelve months members' opinions have been sought on this issue. The feeling seems to be that the interest on accumulated funds should be used to keep fees and fares low, and the capital used if and when necessary for the Club's activities and smooth running, with some donations to be given in accordance with our Purpose No. 2 "To encourage an appreciation of the wild life and natural beauty of this country and to assist in its preservation."

To this end, at the Half Yearly General Meeting, a motion was carried unanimously that we donate \$4566 to the Victorian National Parks Association for a special project aimed at increasing the size of the proposed Central Highlands Park - an area where many of our walks take place. The research

and report have been done but no decision has as yet been made by the Land Conservation Council.

INTRODUCING MANY TO BUSHWALKING

Having a listed telephone number and answering machine enables us to respond to many from the general public enquiring about bushwalking. In twelve months Margaret Borden has attended to 570 requests for a walks programme or information (and the Membership Secretary to 50 more written requests). Of course not all come walking with us nor come through as members, but we do believe we are offering encouragement to many to try the joys of bushwalking. Having bus transport also assists people to get started as well as protecting the environment.

TRAINING FOR LEADERS

19 members completed and passed the 8 session Red Cross First Aid Course and 20 participated in the Leaders' Training Day in November. Those organising and participating are to be congratulated. It all helps us to be safer and better equipped in the bush and maintain the Club's high standards of which we are justifiably proud.

THE 50-YEAR PUBLICATION

When we celebrated the Club's 50-year birthday we decided to write our history. A team of writers was put together and the history began to take shape. Progressing the project from that point has proved to be a long and slow job as the laborious editing and checking process has been centred on one or two individuals who are hard-pressed for time.

However, I can report that this process is almost completed. We shall soon be laying out the design, using a professional designed, and putting in the photographs and other prepared material. From there it goes to the printer.

It has been a long road but the results will be worth the effort. We look forward to the publication during 1994!

Jean Giese, President

WALK SECRETARY'S REPORT 1993

Walks statistics for 1993 compared to previous years: (12 months January - December)

Year	Total	Day	Weekend Total	Weekend Packcarry	Members	Visitors	No. of Trips
1993	2651	2127	524	287	2035	616	138
1992	2630	2106	524	236	2090	540	134
1991	2993	2389	604	285	2317	676	140
1990	2842	2403	439	188	2131	711	130
1989	2584	2130	404	223	1815	764	120
1988	3020	2330	690	240	2280	740	127

Details for January - December 1993: (figures in brackets are for the previous year 1992)

Walk Type	No. of Trips	Average Attendance
Sunday Bus	50 (51)	33.1 (34.4)
Pack Carry	34 (31)	8 (8)
Base Camp	13 (15)	13 (13)
Lodge, Hostel	5 (9)	13 (13)
Wednesday	12 (12)	9 (10)
Dandenongs	10 (8)	17 (15)
Historical and Urban	11 (7)	15 (13)
Ski day; Run; Leader training	3 (1)	10 (7)
Total Trips	138 (134)	

1993 will be remembered as a poor year for snow. We programmed 17 ski trips but 12 were cancelled because of insufficient snow. Of the 5 trips that happened we had to look hard for the snow. Despite this the overall figures for pack carry trips were the highest for at least back to 1986 which was as far back as I checked.

Attendance on the Sunday walks has dropped slightly and so we need to make sure our walks are interesting and varied. With this in mind we held a Leaders training day at Lake Mountain which was well attended and successful. A Navigation Day is planned for May to help our leaders to have ability to lead more interesting walks off the beaten track.

Many thanks to all those people who helped run the Walks Programme.

Max Casley

EQUIPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT 1993

During the year the Club bought a Kathmandu overnight pack, a methylated spirits stove and a toilet tent for use on base camps.

We now have:

- 4 tents (3 x 2-person, 1 x 1-person)
- 3 overnight packs
- 6 sleeping bags and inner sheets
- 2 sleeping mats

- 1 stove
- 1 toilet tent
- 5 day packs
- 1 map case and several compasses

The packs and tents are very popular but we seem to just have enough for special weekends.

Merilyn Whimpey

WILKINSON LODGE REPORT 1993

Lodge usage for the twelve months was 785 visitor nights which includes 387 non-member nights. Non-members include members' families and groups from other clubs. These figures show that we are fulfilling the requirements of the National Park Service.

The Lodge was booked for 13 weeks over winter, however some people dropped out due to perceived poor snow conditions. Summer use has been high but there has still been plenty of time available in spring and autumn. I would like to see more members using Wilky in those times. The Committee has clarified that booking Wilky does not necessarily give sole use: a group may be asked to share with others as long as the total does not exceed eight. (Everyone please note that this is the limit of people to use the Lodge at any time.)

The 60th celebrations were very successful, with 63 past and present members and visitors enjoying the weekend. National Park work parties are now an annual event and are much appreciated by the Rangers. A safe was installed during the year and log books are now stored inside it.

The winter booking system appears to be working reasonably well. The system of users passing on

the keys saves the Lodge Manager a lot of work and phone calls.

It has been decided that Wilky fees will now provide toilet paper, washing-up liquid and lamp batteries. Wilky users need to be trained to differentiate between ash and cinders: we have been finding ash cans (which I empty on my vegie garden) contain much unburnt material, even used batteries!

A spring-clean work party was cancelled as there were no volunteers. Luckily a later group carried out the work. Members are reminded that merit points gained through work parties etc. are taken into account if disputes arise over bookings. Work parties are advertised in "News" and I find it hard to accept when people complain that they couldn't go on work parties because they didn't know when they were on. I would like to thank all those members, and non-members, who have worked and supported Wilky this year.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that prompt return of keys, fees and report forms helps in the smooth running of the Lodge.

Doug Pocock

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT 1993

The Membership Secretary's regular duties include:

- maintenance of the register of members (address, phone numbers, subscription status)
- collection of subscriptions
- giving advice about membership to potential or new members
- assisting in the preparation of mailing and membership lists.

As at the beginning of 1994, the membership of the Club was 400, including 11 Life and 12 Honorary members.

During calendar 1993 there were 69 members who let their membership lapse and 61 new members joined. Sadly, Spencer George, a long-standing and valued member of the Club, died suddenly during the year.

In parallel with the activity of Margaret Borden, the Club's contact who responds to telephone enquiries, the Membership Secretary responded to

postal enquiries, some 40-50 over the year, by mailing walk programmes and other information about the Club.

The Membership Secretary also participated in initiatives to boost membership numbers by advertising campaigns in public libraries, sports equipment shops and sports centres. In this area, Chris Lynch assisted greatly by providing attractive graphic material and Mary Leonard did a great scouting job in finding locations to display it.

In conclusion, members would help very much if they could let the Secretary know when their address, home or work phone numbers have changed.

Also prompt payment of 1994 subs within the two months after the AGM would be greatly appreciated.

Peter Havlicek

MT FEATHERTOP - BOGONG HIGH PLAINS 29 OCT - 2 NOV 1993

An opportunity to walk through the Alpine National Park was too good to miss, so with Max Casley at the wheel and Peter Hannemann joining us for only his second walk with the Club, we settled onto the Hume Highway for the drive north.

The lamb cutlets at the Milawa Hotel were magnificent and, with a huge full moon and crystal skies, we found our way to Mt Hotham and Diamantina Hut. We were immediately joined by Dave Lang and Les Southwell and tents were erected in the least exposed positions.

The morning dawned magnificently with not a cloud in the sky. A breathtaking view north along The Razorback to Mt Feathertop and the last reminders of an all too short snow season. The majesty of these mountains is invigorating at the best of times but on such a morning we all stood and stared in wonder at its beauty.

Leader Jerry Grandage arrived promptly at 8.30 together with two new visitors Mick Wright and Jenny Counsell. Our total complement were introduced to one another and we set off northwards along The Razorback. Lunch at the memorial cross with the summit of Feathertop a short distance to the north east. A pleasant morning's stroll of 8 km. A delightful introduction to the Alpine area, and we all looked forward to the afternoon session.

The view from Feathertop at 1922 metres was quite spectacular. Jerry pointed to our destination. **DOWN THERE!!!** Hang on a minute, I like it up here. Plunging off the trail we followed the north-east spur down the mountain towards the West Kiewa Valley below. Trying hard not to damage scrub or body we bashed our way through virgin bush, descending over 1000 m in a little over 3 km.

The last bit is always the hardest. A **steep** scree slope had us all gingerly picking our way down, excluding Les who spectacularly demonstrated a forward three and half somersault. After six hours of hard slog, and light fading fast, we elected to camp on the river bed amongst the boulders.

The following morning we stretched our weary bones, then promptly faced the invigorating thigh-high West Kiewa river. A gentle meander south along the logging road before ascending the western slopes of the unfortunately named Niggerheads. Off the roads again, we followed the ever steepening spur easterly, finally emerging at Little Plain and the panoramic views west to Feathertop.

An early camp and an opportunity to take in the atmosphere of the High Country beside the camp

fire was a fitting reward after two fairly gruelling days. The resident fire enthusiast, Les, demonstrated his unusual manner of cooking and housekeeping which had us all in stitches. Freeze dried mountain chilli won't be gracing my table again, but it did give me plenty of opportunity to view the countryside.

After two days of glorious weather things were beginning to look threatening. However the morning's walk to North Fainter still allowed a terrific view to Bogong and the surrounding valleys. A brisk breeze blew us back to camp and lunch before we headed south to Tawonga Huts. Following the snow pole line we climbed to Mt Jim and debated the options of the night's camp. After assessing the deteriorating weather it was decided to camp at Youngs Hut instead of the more exposed option south of Mt Bundara. This option also reduced the following day's back-tracking and was ultimately a wise decision.

The winds kept trying to make my tent fly (pardon the pun); however, the emergency tent pegs (knife, fork and spoon) held tight. Things were getting pretty ferocious by 3.00 a.m. so I decided to don the full wardrobe just in case the tent really did take off leaving me "long johnned" in the middle of the High Plains!! Wind was tempered with incessant rain so breakfast was a retreat up the valley to the luxury of the hut itself. Following the Alpine Walking Track we descended to the Cobungra Hut for lunch and a brief respite from the rain. Loads were lightened as we donated dried food for future users and also prepared for the steep pinch up Swindlers Spur to Derrick Hut.

Snow was beginning to descend as we arrived, and a fire was a welcome thought. It had been a weekend of change and we were getting the full repertoire. Les was once again in control of the fire production and it was soon simmering along nicely. The final push over Derrick col under brooding clouds brought us to the ubiquitous car park and nearby naked ski slopes. The bitumen road was a rather jarring end to a fabulous introduction to the Alpine National Park and the Bogong High Plains. We had enjoyed breathtaking views and just a small taste of the mountain environment which we all agreed required many more visits.

My thanks to Jerry for some inspired leadership and a challenging route which made the skies bluer, the views more spectacular and the experience all that more rewarding.

Mark Thompson

THE HIGH PLAINS GRAND TOUR MODIFIED 27 DEC 93 - 3 JAN 94

Heavy rain greeted us as we got off the plane at Hobart Airport early on the 28th. However, we were also greeted by Kevin of Tasmanian Wilderness Tours and we were soon heading north. The weather gradually cleared and by morning tea break at Mole Creek things looked hopeful for our trip. The drive to Lake Mackenzie on the plateau was quite spectacular and after a quick lunch in the cool wind we shouldered our ten-day packs and bid Kevin, and civilization, goodbye.

Despite leaden skies the leader's camera was soon in use as we saw *Telopea truncata* (Tasmanian waratah) and *Boronia citriodora* (lemon scented boronia). A staked track brought us to some tumbledown huts and our first creek crossing. Wet boots for the rest of the trip. That crossing was shorts high but the next looked deeper and more awkward so we elected to stay on the south side of Explorer Creek. We eventually found a spot where we could put up the three tents so that was camp. Rain set the pattern of evening weather that we would experience for most of the trip.

Next morning we wet off leaving Lake Explorer and on to Nameless Lake where we picked up the line of cairns leading to the Walls Of Jerusalem. "You'd expect better weather being close to Cairns" muttered GT. It wasn't too bad and we wandered on, heading south, and gradually The Walls came into view. We were most impressed by the number of kangaroos we saw. Camp by a delightful tarn with the rain falling as we cooked dinner.

The third day was our fair weather day with sunburn despite the copious quantity of sunburn cream we applied. We met a lone human on Mt Jerusalem and later two more at the bottom of the Great Pine Tier (a very scrubby descent!), the only people we say in nine days. After camping at Ah Chees Lake we headed east through valleys reminiscent of the Dargo High Plains. On to the Chinamans Plains and we found a sheltered camp for New Year's Eve. Celebrations were kept low key because of the weather (rain, you might have guessed) but we did enjoy the port that Joe produced from his pack.

Snow was falling to greet the new year as we started off next day. We were glad we camped where we had as there were no more decent spots for quite a while. Through snow flurries we made our way down to the Ling Roth Lakes where we did battle with *Nothofagus gunnii*, the dreaded

tanglefoot. It took an hour to travel the 200 or so metres across the neck of land between the two lakes. Climbing up the Mountains of Jupiter we had a quick cold lunch before going on to find a camp spot on a bed of *Astelia* which raised us out of the bog. Max and GT opted for a slack afternoon while Jan, Joe and Doug went to the summit. They were rewarded by the clouds lifting enough to give views of the Ducane Range close by and as far as Cradle Mountain to the north and The Walls to the east. Naturally it rained in the evening.

Another wet morning and we headed east to the Traveller Range, keeping more south than originally planned because of the lack of views. More tangling with tanglefoot causing us to probably double the map distance with detours. Lunch near Lake Pallas and enough sun to dry our tents. Here we found the only King Billy Pine we saw for the trip though we saw lots of Pencil Pine. Past Lake Athena and some rock scrambling, a short scrub bash and we found a delightful camp spot in a cliff lined valley. A waterfall thundering nearby was tempting to investigate but the rain kept us in our tents.

Mt Spurling was left unclimbed next day as we wandered generally south. A hoped for camp spot at Rim Lake was non-existent, a wasted scrub bash in the rain prove this, so we climbed out and eventually found a rather miserable, vaguely flag spot for the night. We had some very pleasant walking next day as we followed down Travellers Rest Lake eventually finding delightful camp spot with a lovely sandy beach.

The wind blew a gale that night with heavy rain next morning. Setting off, we found a track which initially took us the direction we wanted, but this gradually headed too far east so we took a compass course which brought us out to within 20 metres of Derwent Bridge. First stop in civilisation was for a hot pie and cappuccino where Joe and GT amused and horrified other customers by picking leeches off their legs. Luckily we were able to get rooms at the pub for the night and that evening, for the first time that trip, we ate our meal together. We dined on large steaks with red wine and in the warm shelter of the lounge we laughed at Jupiter Pluvius through the window.

Doug Pocock

COMMITTEE NOTES - 7 FEBRUARY 1994**TREASURER'S REPORT AT 31 JAN 1994:**

	\$	\$
JANUARY RECEIPTS:	3,732	
JANUARY PAYMENTS:	2,567	
BALANCE:		
Current Account	3,492	
Reserves Account	52,000	
Postage float	500	<u>55,992</u>

WALKS REPORT FOR DECEMBER:

Total	Day walkers	W/E walkers	Members	Visitors	Fees
152	97	55	122	30	\$1053
Sunday Bus	3	78	average 26 (last year average 27.3)		
Pack Carry	5	40			
Base Camp	1	15			
Urban/Historical	1	11			
Wednesday	1	8			
TOTAL	11	152			

DUTY ROSTER:

Feb	16	Liz & Mary
Feb	23	Ron & Peter D
Mar	2	Alan M & Keith
Mar	9	Doug & Gina

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: Tuesday 15 March 1994 at 7.00pm

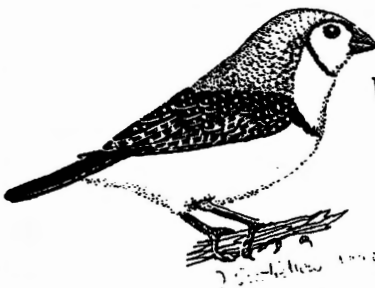
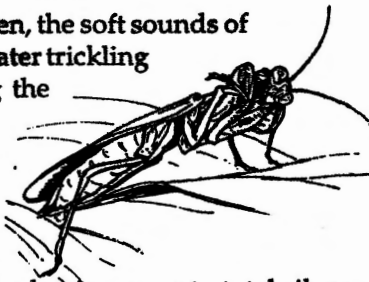
SOUNDS OF THE WILDERNESS



For those who sit quietly and take the time to listen, the soft sounds of the bush bring tranquility and peace of mind: water trickling down a small creek, a gentle breeze rustling the leaves, a calling bird.

You might be lucky enough to hear a flock of honey eaters flitting through the trees. Perhaps the quiet call of a single bird will break the silence. Or perhaps it will be the reverse as the droning chorus of thousands of cicadas seeking mates suddenly gives way to total silence.

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