



# The NEWS

of the  
**MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.**

JUNE 1994

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**DON'T FORGET THE SPECIAL SLIDE SHOW**  
featuring the **INCOMPARABLE EAST GIPPSLAND FORESTS, PARTICULARLY THE ELLERY CREEK AREA, with PRISTINE RAIN FOREST and TALL, OLD-GROWTH EUCALYPTS.**

This Talk and Slide show will be presented by Calvin Hall from the Wilderness Society. Originally scheduled for 13 July, it will now be on **WEDNESDAY 20 JULY.**

## BEGINNER CROSS-COUNTRY SKIERS

There will be a **DEMONSTRATION and INFORMATION NIGHT** in the clubrooms on **Wednesday 13 July** for those intending to go on Sylvia Wilson's **Beginners Ski Day at Lake Mountain** on **Saturday, 23 July,**

## ICE SKATING at the MYER MUSIC BOWL

The Sydney Myer Music Bowl has opened its ice rink for the winter season. Ice Skating is a lot of fun. If you have never tried it before, now is the time! Proposed dates are Saturdays on 25 June, 2 July and 16 July. Cost is only \$7, including hire of skates. After ice skating we could go and eat at the Southbank Cafes (cheap eating) I suggest meeting at the entrance between 1345 and 1400. Please phone me (George) on so I will have an idea how many will be coming.

## Greek Dinner Dance

Saturday 9 July at 8 pm  
At **ZIPPOS TAVERN, 840 High Street, Kew.** See and hear live Greek music and dancing by professional musicians. Enjoy the richness and vitality of this traditional music and dance form which dates back many centuries. *Superb Greek cuisine and fantastic banquets of 9 courses, which include everything you can imagine, for only \$30 a head.* You better not eat for three days prior to coming! This should be a very exciting and fun night.  
Please book early so we know how many places to book at Zippos. Phone George on or see him in the Clubrooms.

## EVERY SUNDAY

Don't forget that some of the day walkers usually go to the cafes on Southbank after the walk, for a meal and make a pleasant end to the day. Everyone is welcome, and casual dress is quite okay.

## Save cooking.

Enjoy conviviality before Club nights. Meet at Totos in Lygon Street at about 6 pm any Wednesday night. We have been doing it for years. There are always a few regulars in attendance. Enter at **FIRST** entrance past Queensbury Street.

## From the Editor

By the time you read this edition of **The NEWS**, I will be on a Bus trip to the South West of Victoria. It is the first weekend bus trip the Club has run for many years. It was quite common in the Sixties and Seventies, when the Bushies would gather in Batman Ave. on Friday evening and head out to the bush, sometimes as far as Hattah Lakes, for a weekend of bushwalking. Now everyone likes their cars! So this is a revival of an old tradition. At time of writing we have about forty participants, about half of whom will be doing pack-carry walks. The rest will be base camping. Some are even going to stay at a B&B farm with Bob, our Driver! I will be camping, I hasten to add. I'm quite looking forward to it. Perhaps this will be the fore-runner of more weekend bus trips.

I have been reading a very interesting book by an English adventurer and "madman", Ranulph Fiennes. He and a companion man-hauled 220 kg sledges right across the Antarctic continent in the Summer of 1992-1993. It took them 95 days and they covered 2 380 kms! An average of 25 kms per day! Their body weight dropped dramatically, they suffered blisters, chafing, frostbite, snow blindness, hunger, and mild hypothermia! Next time it rains on a winter walk, or you have to ski into a blizzard on the Bogong High Plains, just think how much worse it was for them. The book is *Mind Over Matter* by Ranulph Fiennes, (Sinclair-Stevens, 1993)

There are more interesting social activities coming up over the next month or so. A Greek dinner, film night, dinner-dance at Potters Cottage, slides and talks in the Clubrooms, etc. And George is looking into a Buying Night, with up to 20% off, at a Bushwalking store. More details later.

*See you on the track.*

*Bob Steel*

Edited on behalf of the Melbourne Bushwalkers by Bob Steel. Articles, walk reports, poems, snippets of news, reports of new gear, book reviews, etc are always welcome. Please note that articles for **The NEWS** may be put in the Red Box in the clubrooms or mailed to me, Bob Steel, or faxed to me on

Closing Date for July 1994 News is 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE 1994.

Meetings are held in the Clubrooms, MacKenzie St., Melbourne (rear of the Royal Horticultural Society building) on WEDNESDAY Evenings between 7.00pm and 9.00pm.

*Visitors are always welcome.*

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

## From the President

### Auditor needed

Mark Walters needs to relinquish this job so we are seeking someone to join Liz Telford as our second auditor. You don't have to be an accountant, and would just have to check the Club financial records in early February, in time for our Annual General Meeting on the last Wednesday in February. If you are interested in this easy but important job, please contact me.

### News From Afar

Membership Secretary Peter (and Gemmina) send greetings from Czechoslovakia and suggest we plan to walk the 150 km track from the Danube at Straubing in Bavaria through Bohemia and back to Furth im Wald. Anyone want to organise it?

Pauline Elvins writes from Queensland to say hello. She prefers Melbourne's crisp weather to the warmth of Maryborough and hopes to return before too long. In the meantime she offers a welcome and a bed to any Bushies heading north

### And No News

Has anyone heard from Vice president Janet since she disappeared into the Northern Hemisphere, or of ex-committee member Elizabeth Spriggs since she left to take up employment in Perth?

Appreciation is expressed by Mary Marshall in a letter saying she is not renewing membership because the dreaded arthritis is attacking her knee joints. She does want us to know "how much I enjoyed the walks I did with you and how impressed I was with the care, welcome and encouragement given to old and new members alike. Impressive also is your organisation (lists, times, suggestions about sensible clothing, etc.) and the care shown for our environment." Very nice to receive such a message.

### More Knees

A member (who shall remain nameless) said he was scared to mention his knee trouble for fear of appearing in the Presidents Column! We haven't seen Graham Todd for a while, so I rang him and he sends best wishes to everyone. His knee is no better yet. He has acquired an exercise bike but says it is not nearly as much fun as going out with us all. Also Jan McElroy, who was a regular day walker, has been kept away by knee problems. The price we sometimes have to pay for bushwalking. We hope your knees improve, Jan and Graham.

*Jean Giese*

## DAY WALKS

<b>Sunday 3 July</b>	<b>COBAW RANGES</b>	<b>Easy &amp; E/Medium</b>
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**Leaders:** Alan Clarke & Jan Gross  
**Transport:** Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** c. 100 kms **Expected time of return:** 1830  
**Area:** Near Lancefield **Approx. length of walks:** 14 and 18 kms  
**Map Reference:** Taylor Hill and Theaden Hill 1:25 000

When this walk was done about two years ago, it was described as a terrific walk, with great views and interesting granite boulders. Well, the area hasn't changed that much since then. We will alter the walk a little to take in more of the Cobaw State Forest, with views towards Hanging Rock to the south. Also, this area is not too far from Melbourne.

<b>Sunday 10 July</b>	<b>MT BLACKWOOD-LOWER CHADWICK Track-WHISKY CREEK</b>	<b>E/Medium &amp; Medium</b>
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**Leaders:** Dave Gibson & Ron Garrett  
**Transport:** Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** 70 km **Expected time of return:** 1900  
**Area:** Bacchus Marsh/Lerderderg area. **Approx. length of walks:** 15 km  
**Map Reference:** Lerderderg Gorge 1:25 000

The easy/medium walk will all be through forest on either walking tracks or 4WD tracks, with two crossings of the Lerderderg River. The medium walk will be cover a similar distance but will involve walking along the river if the weather and river conditions are suitable.

<b>Sunday 17 July</b>	<b>BUNYIP STATE FOREST - MORTIMER RESERVE</b>	<b>Easy &amp; E/Medium</b>
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**Leaders:** Brian Crouch & Alan Miller  
**Transport:** Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** 70km **Expected time of return:** 1830  
**Area:** East of Gembrook **Approx. length of walks:** 12 kms and 16 kms  
**Map Reference:** Gilwell and Beenak 1:25 000

The walks will be from Mortimer (or is it Mortimore?) Reserve to the Dyers creek Picnic Ground. Both walks will be along old tracks which are becoming overgrown with Melaleuca, Correa and mint bush. This is Eucalyptus forest with an understorey of shrubs, including quite a lot of Banksia spinulosa whose black and gold hairpins were attracting large numbers of honey-bees at the time of the preview.

<b>Wednesday 20 July</b>	<b>YOU YANGS - SERENDIP BIRD SANCTUARY</b>	<b>Easy</b>
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**Leader:** Margaret Borden  
**Transport:** Private. MEET at 8.45 am at Westgate Park (Melways 56 F1) OR 10 am at Serendip (Melways 222 E1) ....or phone me.  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** 60 km **Expected time of return:** 1730  
**Area:** Lara, near Geelong **Approx. length of walks:** 14 kilometres  
**Map Reference:** You Yangs Regional Park map; Melways Maps 222 & on p9. (22<sup>nd</sup> Edition; see Map 255 in earlier editions)

We will have a short walk in Westgate Park to look at the new 'earth' sculptures, the birds and the river, and then travel approx. ½ hour to Serendip Bird Sanctuary, which opens at 10 am, (entrance fee is \$4 or \$5, depending on numbers). Bring your binoculars as we could well spend several hours at this excellent bird research station - brolgas, bustards, magpie geese, tawny frogmouths, lots of duck varieties, plus kangaroos and emus. After all that and maybe lunch, we'll travel about 9 kms to the You Yangs for an afternoon walk around and up Flinders Peak, with it's magnificent views. (\$3 per car entry fee). It will be a rather easy walking day, but should be interesting.

**DAY WALKS** continued

<b>Saturday 23 July</b>	<b>LAKE MOUNTAIN BEGINNERS SKIING</b>	<b>Easy</b>
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**Leader:** Sylvia Wilson      **Transport:** Private - see leader for arrangements  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** 100 km      **Expected time of return:** 1800  
**Area:** Near Marysville      **Approx. skiing distance:** from 2 to 10 kms, depending on ability.  
**Map Reference:** Outdoor Leisure Map - *Marysville - Lake Mountain* 1:30 000 and 1:10 000

It's on again. The Bushies Beginners Cross-Country Skiing Experience. Lake mountain is the most accessible of our snow areas. It is less than 2 hours from the eastern suburbs, an easy day trip. We'll get up there early on Saturday morning and find a nice sunny possie on a gentle slope and learn the basic manoeuvres of X-C skiing. A little bit of how to get along, a little bit of how to go up, and ditto down. How to tackle corners with aplomb and even how to fall over decorously, making the least mess of yourself. Belinda (daughter no 2 and the skiing one) will be chief assistant and will take the more confident out for a bit of a spin in the afternoon, while the rest of us go for a short potter about.

However, to get the low-down on gear, how and where to hire skis, etc, etc, and to fine tune travel arrangements, please come to a blurb session on **WEDNESDAY, 13 JULY** at 7.45 PM if you possibly can. Please note: snow chains **MUST** be carried if you intend driving up to Lake Mountain.

<b>Sunday 24 July</b>	<b>YOU YANGS</b>	<b>Easy &amp; E/Medium</b>
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**Leaders:** John Kittson & Nigel Holmes  
**Transport:** Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** 50 kms      **Expected time of return:** 1830  
**Area:** Lara, near Geelong      **Approx. length of walks:** 12 km and 16 km  
**Map Reference:** You Yangs Forest Park

*Editors note: I don't know quite where the leader intends to walk, but here is some information about the area.* Flinders Peak is the highest point in the You Yangs, at 352 metres, and gives panoramic views over the Werribee lava plains, from Melbourne to the north, across the bay to Mt Martha and Arthurs Seat, and down to Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula. The Granite blocks of the You Yangs were uplifted and intruded into older sedimentary rocks about 320 million years ago. The softer rock has been eroded away, leaving the You Yangs standing out on the plain. Originally named Ude Youang or Wurdi Youang by the Aborigines, the mountain was first climbed by Matthew Flinders in 1802. There are many interesting rock formations, including huge rounded granite boulders, and the area is noted for its abundant bird life, with over 200 species reported. Sulphur-crested cockatoos, eastern rosellas, sacred kingfishers, honeyeaters, and birds of prey are commonly seen. Mammals include kangaroos, sugar gliders and possums.

It is definitely an area worth visiting. See the leaders in the Clubrooms for more details.

<b>Saturday 30 July</b>	<b>DANDENONGS EXPLORER</b>	<b>Easy</b>
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**Leader:** Michael Humphrey  
**Transport:** Private meet at Wicks Reserve at 1100 (see below)  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** 40 kms      **Expected time of return:** 1630  
**Area:** Dandenongs      **Approx. length of walks:** 12 kilometres  
**Map Reference:** Melway maps 65 and 66

We will meet at 11.00 am (sharp) at Wicks Reserve (Melway Map 65, J7). If you are coming by public transport, please ring me on (after 7.00 pm) and I will arrange for you to be picked up at Boronia station. Train departs Flinders Street station at 9.29 am and arrives at Boronia station at 10.27 am.

At the time of writing this, I hadn't previewed the walk, but it will be an easy walk in an area where we haven't walked for 3 or 4 years. So, why not come along and join me!!

**DAY WALKS** continued on page 11

**WEEKEND and PACK CARRY WALKS****8-10 July****GRAMPLANS - NORTHERN END****E/Medium**

**Leader:** Geoff Kelly      **Transport:** Private      **Area:** Near Horsham  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** 280 kms      **Expected time of return:** late Sunday  
**Approx. length of walk:**      **Map Reference:** Outdoor Leisure Map - *Northern Grampians* 1:50 000

I'm not sure where the leader intends walking, but the northern end of the Grampians is quite spectacular, with lots of rock, cliffs, some waterfalls and even Aboriginal rock art. Briggs Bluff provides magnificent views to the north and east and Mt Difficult affords views to the west. The Mt. Stapyilton-Hollow Mountain area is very dramatic, with some exposed rock scrambling for the more adventurous. Golton Gorge is interesting with waterfalls and rapids, and rock overhangs. See leader in Clubrooms for more details

**15-17 July****FALLS CREEK - BOGONG HIGH PLAINS: Ski Trip Medium**

**Leader:** Peter Chalkley      **Transport:** Private  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** 375 kms      **Area:** Mount Beauty-Falls Creek  
**Expected time of return:** 2300 Sunday night      **Approx. length of ski trip:** 20 kms  
**Map Reference:** *Bogong Alpine Area* 1:50 000 (Outdoor Leisure Map Series)

A two day jaunt skiing the bogong High Plains. We'll set out from Falls Creek and ski Heathy Spur and the Nelses, and camp in a sheltered spot somewhere below Spion Kopje. Most of the weekend will be spent in the pursuit of the ideal slope or gully off Spion Kopje to ski down!

**22-24 July****KAMAROOKA****Easy**

**Leader:** Jean Giese      **Transport:** Private  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** 200 km      **Expected time of return:** 1830 Sunday  
**Area:** Near Bendigo **Approx. length of walk:** 25 kms + 5 kms w/out packs  
**Map Reference:** *Mayreef and Summerfield* - 1:25 000

The Kamarooka State Park is 24 km north-east of Bendigo and is one of the southernmost areas where Mallee is to be found. We will be walking through box and red ironbark forest as well as the Mallee. We will see four main species of Mallee Eucalypt - *E. viridis* (green), *E. polybractea* (blue), *E. behriana* (bull) and *E. froggatti* (Kamarooka). Green and blue mallee are the source of top grade eucalyptus oil. We will see the remains of old distilleries and, at the end of the walk, we can visit a distillery that is still operating. The Wirrakee wattle (*Acacia hakeoides* var. *angustifolia*, which occurs only in this area, should be in bloom and there are many species of birds to enjoy.

The walking is mainly flat with a few little hills (bumps, really) from which to view the surrounding countryside, so this walk is quite suitable for beginner pack-carriers. The area is also not too far from Melbourne if you want to travel up on Saturday morning if you prefer.

**29-31 July (+1 August)****SNOWY PLAINS: Ski Trip****Medium**

**Leader:** Graeme Thornton      **Area:** North of Heyfield & Licola  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** 305 kms      **Transport:** Private  
**Expected time of return:** Very late Sunday night, or Monday night  
**Approx. length of ski trip:** 10 to 15 kms with packs, plus day trips.  
**Map Reference:** VMTc: *Snowy Plains, Mt Kent, Lake Tarni Kang* 1:50 000

First the bad news. This trip has been cancelled three times due to insufficient snow - it is marginal ski country.

I plan to make this an optional 2 or 3 day trip so that we can enjoy this remote and infrequently skied area. Saturday morning we will drive to the vicinity of the Lost Plain and ski in to camp, probably along Holmes Plain. The afternoon will be a toddle around Mt Reynard.

Continued on page 7

## BUSHWALKING IN HONG KONG

**Shopping**, some would say, is the *only* thing in Hong Kong. Not so.

During a recent stay in Hong Kong, Kate and I were able to mix the cacophony of sights, sounds, and mayhem in Kowloon, with the peace of rural China (New Territories actually. Look it up in your atlas). A peaceful environment does include the regular din of an approaching 747; however it beats the jade market in Jordan Street.

A regular ferry service leaves from Hong Kong for the outer islands, most notably Lamma and Lantau. Most islands are sparsely populated and generally support a community of commuters, peasants and some farming. The dog population is also in abundance away from the throng of the city.

Lamma Island is a pleasant days walk from west to east. This should be co-ordinated around a seafood lunch in Sok Kwu overlooking the harbour of residential junks, rafts and lean-tos. Most paths are concreted and the major pleasure is the constant views over the small beaches and the constant parade of small boats on the South China Sea.

Where Lamma Island is small and relatively flat, Lantau Island is impressive with its steep hillsides and expanse (about the same size as Kinglake National Park). It does however have a wonderful 70 kilometre trail that effectively runs east-west along the length of the island.

I left Kate to solve the troubles of the Sheraton Hotel, and set off for a two day walk along the Lantau trail. Commencing in Tai O, the trail crosses old salt flats before rising steeply for five hundred metres. It then levels out and follows a creek up its valley. I found the whole environment quite extraordinary as there is little thick vegetation and few trees. Quite unlike what I had expected. The views were constant and, despite an overcast day, quite panoramic..

One of the features on Lantau is the newly constructed statue of Buddha. Rising almost 30 metres from the crest of a ridge, Buddha gave me guidance this day as the best compass bearing mark on the horizon. I mean no offence to Buddhists, but the statue *is* a colossal monument and it also happened to be my goal 13 kilometres away.

Due to the clearing of all trees one hundred years ago, every corner provided a new vista. As the trail is essentially paved, I was able to watch my course snake along the ridge tops towards Buddha in the distance.

Despite 747s constantly circling the island it was really quite pleasant away from the hordes below.

A constant worry during The Wet are landslides. In many places the trail was theoretically closed. The Chinese have a higher level of obedience to such signs and, apart from a bit of casual rock hopping where the trail used to be, there were few problems.

By mid afternoon I arrived at Ngong Ping monastery. Prior to the erection of the new Buddha, the monastery invited overnight guests and has always encouraged visitors to join the nuns and monks in a vegetarian meal. Surrounded by a dozen or so monks in saffron robes, and the noisiest table of elderly Chinese women, my American guests and I enjoyed the best vegetarian dish we had ever had.

I booked into the nearby youth hostel and met a delightful retired American chap who was just "wandering around". He'd been to Australia and most of South East Asia and was about to head into China itself. At A\$5.00 per night, the hostel wasn't very expensive and I only wished I had my loyal sleeping bag as the blankets weren't too flash.

Lantau peak beckoned, and due to the cold and a locked kitchen, I climbed over the barbed wire fence and hit the trail at 6.10am. The peak itself was less than a kilometre away but rose almost 500 metres. The record ascent is 25 minutes, but I was happy to be munching my muesli bar at 7.00am. The sun wasn't yet strong enough to take the chill off the biting N.E. breeze so after a quick photo it was time to away.

The mountain range is of "razor back" description, and the balance of the morning was spent descending ridges before another 300-400 metre ascent and a muesli bar for lunch at 10.00am. The sun was burning away the swirling mist and as the cloud dissipated, the town of Mui Wo appeared far below. The constant sea traffic never ceased to amaze me. Many of the barges were simply taking dirt from one island to make or enlarge another island.

They say there is more vertical land than horizontal in Hon Kong, and by the time I arrived at the bottom of the last hill, my shaking knees were testimony to the rigours of the Lantau range. After 6 hours I had covered about 15 kms and close to 2 000 metres of ascent and descent, and it was time for a real lunch.

*Continued on page 8*

## YET ANOTHER SNOWY BLUFF EPIC

Every time the Club has a walk to Snowy Bluff it seems to turn into an epic. There have been several times in summer when it's been hot and people have run out of water. The first time I tried it we spent hours looking for a way through the cliffs and camped at 11 pm.

But last Anzac weekend it was going to be a breeze. It was autumn so it wouldn't be too hot, there had been plenty of rain during the summer so water wouldn't be a problem, and we were going in the easy way, from the Moroka River.

Saturday was a beautiful sunny day. After checking out the view from a point on the main road, we walked down to the Moroka River. After the crossing, some of us even had a very brief and invigorating dip. By lunch time we had climbed up a reasonably open ridge to our camp by a waterfall. It was pretty hot in the afternoon, so we all ended up socialising in the shade at the bottom of the waterfall.

We shared our campfire that night with a group from YHA and I reminisced with a walking companion from way back.

Early on Sunday morning we set out for Snowy Bluff, a reasonably strenuous climb, but with lots of views, flowers, sunshine and the exhilarating feeling of being in real alpine country. I wrote in the log book at the summit 'Melbourne Bushwalkers. Not an epic this time (so far).' We followed the ridge to the second, lower bump of Snowy Bluff. This was really lovely as it was open country, unlike the main summit which is covered in trees. We had a second break at this knoll, before continuing to stroll along the Dawson ridge.

Mt Dawson was a highlight – as we approached the summit we crossed a beautiful grassy slope with a rock wall on our right. But it was getting on in the afternoon, and the other side of the mountain was covered in thick

scrub. I heard some talk between Bill and Paul about what we'd do when it got dark.

Well, it did get dark as we were still walking. By that time we were out of the scrub, fortunately. We knew we were on the right spur leading down into the Moroka, but we had to traverse it to get onto the 'nose'. There was a full moon, so visibility wasn't too bad, and we were all keen to keep going. Then we struck cliffs! Bill, Paul and Max spread out looking for a way through them, while we women sat and waited and talked about dry camps and sleeping on 30 degree slopes.

The men returned without finding a way down, so we began to erect our tents. Then Paul noticed an easy way to scramble down right near his tent, so there was

further discussion. Bill and Max were keen to get to water, while others didn't feel like packing up and setting off again. So Paul, Rosa, Jen and Trish camped where they were, while Bill, Max and I headed off in the moonlight.

There was one other little scrambly bit, and wild rose bushes sometimes caught at us as we went by, but it took us only 50 minutes to reach a nice sandy camp site by the Moroka, where we put up our tents, lit a fire, drank lots of water and had a good night's sleep. Next morning the others took only 35 minutes to get from their camp to the river. Max guided them in. He wasn't intending to be a hero; he had gone up the hill for what turned out to be a very quick toilet stop as they closed in on him!

Monday was another sunny day as we followed the MacMillan track back to our cars. Paul had certainly organised some terrific weather!

Thanks, Paul, for an interesting and enjoyable weekend. But one of these days I'm going to have an uneventful trip to Snowy Bluff.

*Marilyn Whimpey*

**Weekend Pack-carry walk** continued from page 5

### **Snowy Plains Ski Trip 29-31 July, 1994 (continued).**

Sunday will be a long day trip, either out toward Bryces Gorge, or Neilsons Crags and the Watchtower. Both are about 30 kms return so perhaps we won't make the full distance. Those leaving on Sunday evening will get home very late! If the weather is kind, the remainder will pack up on Monday morning for a more leisurely trip home, with the odd play along the way. If the snow is low (ie. down to 1 000 metres or so), we will park near Bennison's Lookout and ski up the road, to camp around Tamboritha Saddle. We will then make up the rest of the trip from there.

## VALE BOB BITTNER

Those who knew him will be saddened by the death of BOB BITTNER on 1<sup>st</sup> April this year.

An active member in the running of the club, he served in different capacities on the Committee from the mid 1950's to the mid 60's.

His likeness was featured on the cover of *WALK* magazine in 1958, the artist being his first wife Bernice (nee Ffund). It was Bob who showed me how to keep food fresh on a long trip, - butter up to 10 days - and where to purchase the nicest salami! He is remembered for the sound, good-natured advice he usually offered at meetings.

*Athol Schafer*

### Overheard on recent walks....

Sometime member Peter was seen to be doing a concentrated chatting-up of new-comer Helen. He hardly drew breath all morning. we were impressed. This was serious stuff!

However, later that day sitting around the campfire, Peter was mentioned by name. "Who?" says Helen, "Who's Pater?"

On a day walk recently, a female voice was heard to cry out towards the rear of the party. Some wag then observed "That's a Sylvian Shriek if ever I heard one!"

The party was struggling to climb some rocky outcrops, through some almost impenetrable scrub, when someone observed that the walk was a somewhat "Grampianesque" walk!

### Bushwalking in Hong Kong continued from Page 6

The swankiest (only) pub on the foreshore wasn't sure they wanted me but I was keen, so I grabbed the table behind the palm plant and reflected on an excellent days walk.

There is more to hong Kong than the shops and I only wished I'd taken all my gear and had the opportunity to walk both the entire Lantau trail and then the Maclehorse trail in the New Territories.

A map of Lantau Island is now available in the clubrooms, and for those interested, the Government printing office in Hong Kong produce an excellent series of countryside maps incorporating the main territories and islands.

Our Club library also has two books entitled "magic Walks" by Kaarlo Schepel and these detail some of the alternatives available. I found all quite useful and fairly accurate. It's a fascinating place unlike anywhere I'd been before and well worth a more extensive visit.

*Mark Thompson*

Just a small endorsement for Ajays in Heathmont. Four days before I was to leave for Hong Kong, my Zamberlan boots came apart and as they couldn't guarantee repair and return before my departure, they just replaced them instead. Six months after purchase, no requirement to search through files trying to find receipts, and no questions.

.....Now that's customer service!!

*Mark Thompson*

# Lombok and Sumbawa Islands

## 3 weeks Aug - Sep 1994

- An Indonesian holiday with a difference.
- Climb the volcano Gunung Rinjani and visit its crater lake.
- Visit the Moyo Island game reserve.
- See the Komodo dragon, the world's largest land-based reptile.
- Travel with a small group of like-minded people, sharing the expenses and keeping your own costs down.
- Let your Bahasa Indonesia speaking guide handle the hassles while you enjoy your holiday.



Sound interesting? Write for details.



**WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS**

12 Carrington Street

Millner NT 0810

Phone (089) 85 2134 Fax: (089) 85 2355



## DANDONGADALE RIVER to MT COBBLER

Weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1994

As I had never been to Mt Cobbler before I was keen to climb it, having seen its knoblike peak on previous trips, from other summits in the surrounding high country.

After meeting the rest of the group at "Bennies" - a camping area at the end of the Rose River road - on Saturday morning, a car shuffle was organised, (Derricks car being left near Lake Cobbler)

The walk now began, from the Lake Cobbler track, heading south-west up a spur, which took us to the Little Cobbler track, between Little Cobbler and Mt Cobbler. Looking at Mt Cobbler front-on is imposing, (like The Viking, 12 kms to the south east). Gina said that we would go straight up through "the Nose" or rock band that we could see looming up above us - and so we did. It was a good challenge that sometimes involved pack - and people - hauling.

Finally we reached the summit where a cool breeze was blowing. The views were excellent in all directions, with many prominent peaks visible far away on the horizon. As time was getting on and we were running out of water, we made smart time descending Cobbler's south side into the tree line, where we found a very good campsite with an established fireplace.

After a mild night we started walking in search of the Dandongadale Falls, but before reaching them, Derrick

left us to dash back to Melbourne because of work commitments. So with one less member of the group, we had morning tea near the falls, which dropped away 15 metres below us. Morning tea over, we skirted around the lake on the Lake Cobbler road, and were fortunate to get good views of the falls from a convenient high point.

Leaving the road, we headed uphill along the Lake Cobbler-Abbeyard track, before turning north along a ridge. After following this for quite a while, we began to look for the right spur to descend to the Dandongadale River. Gina and Max, who were studying all the relevant maps, went on ahead searching for it. Soon Gina joyfully proclaimed "I've found it!"

We commenced our descent but soon encountered thick scratchy scrub. All the party (except Ray - who wore long trousers all weekend) donned overtrousers. Thus more comfortably attired, we made our way down, across the Dandongadale River and up to our cars beside the Lake Cobbler Road. Thank you Gina for an excellent and ably led trip.

*Cameron McMillan*

Party- Gina Hopkins (leader), Derrick Brown, Ray Dentwith, Max Casley, Jerry Grandage, Peter Hanneman, Cameron McMillan

## Conservation Issues

There is still concern over proposals to develop down hill skiing on Mt Stirling. Stirling is by no means safe, despite the public outcry. As a result, the Government has set up a committee to review the operations and decision-making processes of the Alpine Resorts Commission.

Alan Clark is making a submission on behalf of the Club, stressing our concern that the ARC has been very pro-development, catering more for commercial interests, and emphasising the need to consider other recreational users, especially bushwalkers and cross-country skiers. The ARC has made some environmentally disastrous decisions in the past, and caused erosion problems in the Hotham area in particular.

The Review is an unprecedented opportunity to achieve better all round (including environmental) management of our alpine resorts and to overhaul the poorly performing ARC.

Club members are encouraged to make their own submissions to the committee. You can send them to:

**Executive Officer**

Review of Alpine Resorts Commission

Level 9, 240 Victoria Parade,

EAST MELBOURNE Vic 3002

**Closing Date is 14 June 1994**

The telephone number for enquiries is (03) 412 4405

(John Bales, Executive Officer),

Alan Clark would also like to hear from anyone who would like to participate in a conservation sub-committee. It was running fairly well last year with 5-6 members, but most of those people have moved on to other things. Alan would welcome fresh input, so here is your chance to do something extra to help preserve the natural environment, which is essential to our Club activities.

You could also consider joining the Victorian National Parks Association, which is a respected advocate for the environment and works hard to influence Government decisions.

**New Members**Tuan **PACKEER**Helen **PRICE**Lynne **FARRELLY**David **BARTON**Grace **YOUNG**Stephen **WILKS**Jane **BAWDEN****Changes to Members  
Information**Tony & Penny **STAPLEY****New phone numbers**Ingrid **MOOREN**Brian **MARRIOTT**Richard **CHATER****Delete work phone numbers**Pauline **LUKAS**  
Sue **FORRESTER**  
Julie **PROE**  
Philip **HEATHCOTE**  
Rob **HARRIS****New Home phones**Jane **FRASER**  
Robyn **SLOAN**  
Shirley **FROST****New Work phone numbers**Alec **GLOGOWSKI**  
Alison **HATFIELD**  
Alwyn **BLOOM**  
Andrew **BÖDEGRAVEN**  
Andrew **LOW**  
Babara **BURTON**  
Bob **STEEL**  
Graham **HARDING**  
Gregory **NUTTING**  
Hugh **DUNCAN**  
Ian **DUNNADGE**  
Jan **GROSS**  
Janet **HALL**  
Jean **WILSON**  
Jill **CAMPBELL**  
John **KOWARSKY**  
Margaret **TUOHEY**  
Michael **BAUER**  
Michael **HUMPHREY**  
Noel **TOLLEY**  
Pearson **CRESSWELL**  
Robbie **FINCHAM**  
Rose **OVENDEN**  
Shirley **VEENSTRA**  
Stephen **BENTLEY**

Crunch goes the snow, boys,  
crunch, crunch, crunch.  
Put in the boot, boys, its time for  
lunch.  
The leader looks around and is  
stricken by the sight,  
Of twenty other shivering fools  
completely clothed in white!

**FINKE GORGE AND WATARRKA NATIONAL PARKS**

Although thousands of people visit Palm Valley and Kings Canyon every year, only a tiny handful take the time to walk more than a couple of kilometres from their vehicles. Fewer still put packs on their backs and head out into the wilderness.

Our expeditions allow you to explore these areas in the company of an experienced guide who can show you the hidden delights which might be hard to find on your own.

Departures July 17 and August 28.

For full details contact:



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



**Day Walks continued from Page 4**

**Sunday 31 July**  
**RIDDELLS CREEK - CONGLOMERATE**  
**CREEK - MT TENERIFFE.**  
**E/Medium & Medium**

**Leaders:** Jean Giese & Brian Crouch  
**Transport:** Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard  
**Expected time of return:** 1830  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** 60 kms  
**Area:** Lower Macedon Ranges  
**Approx. length of walks:** 14 kms & 17 kms.  
**Map Reference:** *Riddells Creek 1:25 000*

Heath, wattles and Hakea should be in bloom by the end of July, making this a pleasant walk in winter. We will link two bushwalking tracks by going through some grazing properties and we should have great views of Mt Macedon and the city. The medium walk will be a bush bash up to the summit of Mt Charlie, on an extra 4 km loop. The easy/medium walk has some easier options for the less energetic.

**Walking in New Zealand**

Ed. Little is interested in visiting New Zealand sometime between December 1994 and March 1995. He intends doing various walks, including extended walks. He would appreciate hearing from anyone who would be interested in joining him.

You can contact Ed on

How about arranging a group. There is fantastic walking country in New Zealand, especially the South Island - Milford Track, Rees-Dart circuit, Routeburn & Greenstone tracks, Arthurs Pass, Nelson Lakes, Able Tasman, Mt Cook area etc.

**AUSTRALIAN TRUST FOR CONSERVATION  
VOLUNTEERS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

*Are you interested in doing something positive for the environment?*

Come and volunteer with the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers. ATCV undertakes projects throughout Victoria every week of the year.

Projects include: Revegetation, Erosion Control, Track Construction, Seed Collection, Habitat Protection and other environmental projects.

If you are interested in any of the above, contact us on 532 8446 for costings and bookings. Ask for Danny.

**Distracting the Bus Driver**

There have been expressions of concern about people talking to the driver and standing at the front of the bus while it is moving. We don't want Bob to feel unloved because nobody talks to him, but would people try to minimize their conversations with him while the bus is moving.

*Alan Miller*

**COMMITTEE NOTES** from 6 June Meeting.

**Walks Secretary** April attendance Figures:

**Day walks** - total of 204 people on walks, an average of 42 per trip. Very good (cf. April 1993 - 36)

**Weekend trips**, incl. pack carry trips - 88 people.

**Four pack carry trips** (average of 9 walkers) and three base camps (ave. of 17)

**Margaret Borden** reports that she sent out information to 53 people in May as result of phone requests. This doesn't include those who may have phoned our answering machine and subsequently came into our Clubrooms.

**Ron Garrett**, our Map Custodian, wants to cull our map files of old, duplicate and outdated maps, to make room for new acquisitions. Suggestions are invited re what to do with them.

**Please Note:** It is Club policy NOT to refund Bus fares to those who "miss the Bus". If there are extenuating circumstances, a credit can be arranged for a future walk. It is your responsibility to get to the Bus meeting point in good time so we can depart promptly.

**Duty Roster**

8 June George and Bernie  
 15 June Derek and Nigel  
 22 June Alan Calrk and Alan Miller  
 29 June Doug and Bob  
 6 July Stephen and Jean

Next Committee meeting is Monday 4 July 1994

**Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs News**

Federation Weekend this year will be in the Grampians on the weekend of 15 and 16 October, 1994  
 More details later.

Next years Federation Day Walk will be on the 9 April 1995 in the Powelltown area and will be hosted by The Koonung Walking Club

The NEWS of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

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### Change of Address and/or Phone Numbers

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PHONE (h).....(w)..... *Please Indicate Type of Membership*

Ordinary Member  Concession  Couple  NEWS subscriber

Post to: Membership Secretary, PO Box 1751Q, MELBOURNE, 3001