



The NEWS

of the

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

OCTOBER 1994

EDITION 524

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PRICE 60 cents

PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND

18-20 November 1994

Hughes Creek near Seymour

The President invites all members to join her for either the whole or part of this weekend.
Sunday walkers (bus as usual) will combine with the weekenders.

Features:

- Choice of three lovely walks on Saturday and three on Sunday - easy, medium & medium/hard
- 3 km walk-in BASE CAMP beside Hughes Creek, arriving Friday evening before dark, or Saturday morning. Saturday walks leave from campsite at 10.00 am
- Pre-dinner nibbles and drinks provided by President on Saturday evening plus fruit salad for supper. BYO everything else.
- Bush concert on Saturday night. Bring instruments, songs, party pieces etc
- Swimming in Hughes Creek
- Afternoon tea provided at conclusion of Sunday walks at picnic spot near Hughes Creek, where there is parking for bus and cars. BYO mug.
- Happy Time - - Celebration - - Meet Old and New Bushies

Map reference: Mt Stewart and Mt Bernard 1:25 000. (Location map available from Jean)

BOOKING ESSENTIAL for Catering and Planning

Movie Night

Thursday 13 October 1994
at 7.30 pm

GETTYSBURG

Starring Martin Sheen, Tom Berenger & others

This is what the critics have said about this film:
"It is an achievement of magnitude...Gettysburg is a film that historians and all lovers of film should make every effort to catch" *Movie magazine*

"*Gettysburg* is fascinating viewing for Australiansa stirring indictment of the sheer insanity of war"
Sun-Herald

At the ASTOR THEATRE

Corner Chapel Street & Dandenong Rd, St Kilda
See the beautiful architecture of this historic theatre

Please book EARLY with George.

SPANISH FLAMENCO NIGHT

Saturday 5 November 1994 at 8.30 pm
at

CARMEN RESTAURANT

74-76 Johnston Street, Fitzroy

After our last successful visit there in May this year, I have had numerous requests to organise a night there again.

See and hear live Flamenco Dancing & Music by professional dancers. Enjoy the richness and vitality of this energetic dance form.

A Spanish Tapas Bar/Eatery offering Melbourne's largest choice of traditional tapas and other main courses of typical Spanish cuisine.

Big main meals from \$12. No entry charge

This should be a very exciting and fun night.
Please book early with George in the Clubrooms so we know how many places to book.

From the Editor

By the time you are reading this, I'll be travelling up the east coast of NSW, enjoying better weather (I hope) and doing some walking in the coastal National Parks. So I hope the weather is improving in Melbourne. I'll be back in time for the November NEWS, so please write some interesting articles for the November edition.

I'm pleased to have received a number of items for this NEWS, in response to last month's editorial. Thank you.

The President's Weekend looks very interesting. Those who went last time had a great weekend, and we even managed to drag out some of the older, semi-retired members! So put it in your diaries now.

George has arranged another visit to Carmen tapas bar in Fitzroy. It was very good last visit, although a bit crowded. I hope to be going again.

See you all when I get back.

Bob

The NEWS is the official newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and is published monthly. Edited by Bob Steel. Articles, walk reports, poems, snippets of news, reports of new gear, book reviews, letters "to the Editor", advertisements, etc are always welcome. The Editor reserves the right to edit articles, contributions, letters etc submitted for publication, where space, clarity, propriety, etc dictates, and to maintain editorial consistency.

Please note that articles for **The NEWS** may be put in the Red Box in the clubrooms or mailed to me, Bob Steel.

Advertising Rates

**1/4 Page 1 Issue-\$20; 3 Issues-\$50; 12 Issues (1 year)-\$180
1/2 Page 1 Issue-\$30; 3 Issues-\$75; 12 issues-\$270
Full Page 1 issue-\$50; 3 issues-\$125; 12 issues-\$450**

Only advertisements directly relating to bushwalking will be accepted (ie, gear, maps, trips, tours, etc)

Members Ads - FREE

**Closing Date for November News is
2nd NOVEMBER 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

President's Weekend

Details of the plans for this celebratory occasion are on the front page. We are trying to cater for all members in the program.

If you can carry a full pack for 3 kms, then do join us for the whole weekend, including the "concert", at a secluded spot on the banks of Hughes Creek on Saturday night.

If you are only free on Saturday, then walk into the campsite (map supplied) by 10 am to participate in either the easy, medium & m/hard walk.

On Sunday we will have the bus transport as usual and again there will be three grades of walks to choose from followed by afternoon tea for everyone at a picnic spot beside Hughes Creek. Family groups could come by car, but please book to help my catering arrangements. Those who are nursing injuries could come to the picnic area and share the afternoon tea on Sunday pm. I'll be at the picnic spot from Sunday lunchtime.

Please note that Alan Miller is shown on the Spring program as being leader for the bus bookings. However he will be visiting his elderly mother in the UK at that time. Michael Bauer will do this now and also lead one of the walks. Other leaders will be Sylvia, Max and Janet.

Let me know about your items for the concert and I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Jean Giese

xx

Members free ad.

For Sale

Thermarest Ultra Light 3/4 length, hardly used.
Stove - Trangia metho. stove, two-person, complete kit. Very good condition.

Prices are negotiable.

Denise Triflett

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Members free ad.

For Sale

Tent Eureka two-man tent with annex
Good condition. Bargain price c. \$125
Pup Tent, one-man. Used twice. \$60
Monika

PREVIEWS for NOVEMBER - DAY WALKS

Sun 6 November **ELPHINSTONE-TUNNEL-FRYERSTOWN**
Easy/Med & Medium

Leaders: **Dave Gibson & Les Southwell**
Transport: **Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard**
Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **105 kms**
Expected time of return: **c.1900**
Area: **South east of Castlemaine**
Approx length of walks: **14 & 17 kms**
Map Reference: **1:25 000 - Chewton, Castlemaine, Guildford & Drummond**

An interesting walk through dry forest rich in relics of gold mining in the 19th century. The walks, partly on tracks & partly off, will finish in historic Fryerstown, with its many buildings that have survived from the mining era.

Sunday 13 **KINGLAKE NATIONAL PARK**
E/Med., & M/Hard **- ACROSS THE GRAIN**

Leaders: **Geoff Mattingley & Janet Norman**
Transport: **Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard**
Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **65 kms**
Expected time of return: **approx 1830**
Area: **Kinglake area**
Approx length of walks: **Both walks about 15 kms**
Map Reference: **Vicmap: Strathewen 1:25 000, or Outdoor Leisure Map - Kinglake National Park**

Kinglake National Park, despite being close to Melbourne, offers interesting walking in relatively undisturbed bush once one gets away from the picnic grounds. At this time of year, there should be wildflowers, including orchids. The Park has a resident population of lyrebirds, which are more easily heard than seen.

We will start and finish this walk at the Steels Creek Picnic Ground, with the easy/medium walk staying on tracks all day. Although there will be some climbing, most grades will be relatively easy.

The medium/hard will be considerably more challenging, spending as little time on tracks as possible, and with several steep climbs and descents. Despite this, the bush is mostly fairly open, and quite pleasant to walk in.

Wednesday 16 November **SUNDAY CREEK**
Easy/medium

Leader: **Jean Giese 890 2189**
Transport: **Private**
Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **65 kms**
Expected time of return: **1730**
Area: **SW corner of Broadford State Forest**
Approx length of walk: **15 kms**
Map Reference: **Wandong & Reedy Creek 1:25 000**

Ring leader for pooled transport arrangements OR MEET at corner of Ryans Rd and Broadford-Epping Road (or Broadford-Wallan Rd on some maps.) Map 61 B6, in Vicroads Country Directory. Leave Hume Freeway at Sunday Creek/Clonbinane exit, 8 kms N of Wandong.

I haven't explored this area near Sunday Creek Reservoir before and if you haven't either, come and join me and walk on quiet forestry roads & walking tracks. There are some climbs (first one - 300m) and steep descents but there are rewarding views, plus forests and flowers to be enjoyed.

Sun 20 November **HUGHES CREEK**
Easy & E/Medium. **Presidents Weekend**

Leaders: **Sylvia Wilson & Alan Miller**
Transport: **Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard**
Approx. Distance from Melbourne:
Expected time of return:
Area: **NE of Seymour**
Approx length of walks:
Map Reference: **Mt Stewart & Mt Bernard 1:25 000**

See notes on front page for full details of the President's Weekend. The Bus will go up on Sunday morning and the day walkers will join the campers on a choice of three walks in the area, with afternoon tea at the conclusion of the walks. So if you can't come for the weekend, you can still participate in this annual event.

PREVIEWS for NOVEMBER - DAY WALKS continued

Saturday Easy 26 November	DANDENONGS EXPLORER BELGRAVE - MT MORTON	Sun. 27 November Easy/Med. & Medium	WERRIBEE GORGE
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Leader:
Transport:
Approx. Distance from Melbourne:
Expected time of return:
Approx length of walk:
Map Reference:

Debbie Gomm
Private (see below)
40 kms
c. 1600
12 kms

MEET at Belgrave Station Car Park (Melway 75G10) at 1100. The 0929 train from Flinders Street arrives at 1043.

An enjoyable walk, mainly along wooded, unmade streets. Belgrave Lake provides a good lunch spot and there are all-round views from the top of Mt Morton. We then head into Birds Land Reserve where hopefully there will be some birds at home. Please join me for afternoon tea back at Belgrave.

Leaders:
Transport:
Approx. Distance from Melbourne:
Expected time of return:
Area:
Approx length of walks:
Map Reference:

Sylvia Wilson & ?
(co-leader required)

Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard c. 60 kms

c. 1830

near Bacchus Marsh
14 & 18 kms

Ingliston & Lerderderg 1:25 009

This is a terrific walking area. We'll do various loops down into the Gorge, along the river, up to various surrounding cliffs/lookout points, and along minor feeder creeks. It is fairly rough under foot, a bit steep in places and there are tricky rocky patches along the river. It is, however, a quite delightful area and has a special charm of its own. Maybe we will see the famed Peregrine Falcons and hopefully lots of wildflowers.

THE GREEN SEASON

Have you ever wondered what the North Australian monsoon season is like?
Would you like to experience rain which is a *pleasure* to walk in?
Would you enjoy seeing Kakadu's waterfalls like they look in the pictures rather than as a dry season trickle?

If your answers are all 'yes', read on.

If you quote this ad and you book and pay for one of the following trips within 3 weeks of the receipt of this newsletter, we'll give you a 20% discount on the prices listed below. (No credit cards, direct bookings only.)

Dec 27 - Jan 7: New Year in Kakadu, \$875. Jan 4-21: Kakadu Super Circle, \$1050.
Jan 18-28: Kakadu Highlights No. 2, \$825. Feb 2-18: Nitmiluk National Park, \$975
Feb 19 - Mar 11: Green Kimberley, \$2100.



For more details, contact:

WILLIS'S WALKABOUTS

12 Carrington Street
Millner NT 0810
Phone (089) 85 2134
Fax: (089) 85 2355



PREVIEWS for NOVEMBER - WEEKEND and PACK-CARRY WALKS**4-6 November**
Easy/Medium**BICYCLE TRIP**

Leader: **Ed Little 379 7007 (home)**
 Transport: **Private & Bicycle**
 Approx. Distance **156 kms**
 from Melbourne:
 Expected time of
 return: **Sunday 1800-1900**
 (if no meal stop)
 Area: **In & around Bendigo**
 Approx length of
 ride **90 kms**
 Map Reference: **Bendigo, Huntly, Lockwood &
 Raywood 1:50 000
 and/or Bendigo 1.100 000**

All the cycling will be done in the Bendigo area.
First day: will be mainly on "off road tracks" with a reasonable surface, with a couple of climbs, but generally moderate gradient. These tracks were originally used during the Gold Rush digging days & have recently been developed & upgraded to encourage cycling & tourist trade. (We may also visit Balgownie Winery if time permits)

Second day: mainly riding around city & suburbs, sightseeing, with (time permitting) a ride out to the famous Bendigo Pottery

Camping/accommodation: I have contacted Orana Caravan Park, Marnie Road (4 km E of Bendigo, off Eppalock Rd - 054 433061). There are tent sites and on-site vans available

Getting there: Vicrail travel to Bendigo with bikes couldn't be guaranteed with any certainty, hence private transport! Take lunch on first day, you can buy lunch if preferred on Sunday. Counter tea on Saturday night. Rides start at 9.00 am, possibly from Orana park (this will be confirmed when I know how many starters).

I would like to know who is coming as early as possible (at least 1 week prior to trip) to avoid problems with bookings (travel, camping & counter tea).

11-13 November Mt BULLER - Mt TIMBERTOP
Medium

Leader: **Mary Leonard**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance **235 kms**
 from Melbourne:
 Expected time of
 return: **Sunday evening**
 Approx length of
 walk: **21 km**
 Map Reference: **Buller South 1:25 000**

This walk is on the easier side of medium, involving about 11 kms per day & only 1 000 metres of climbs for the weekend.

A longish car shuffle will be needed before the walk begins from Howqua Gap. We start with a nice climb through snow gums to the top of Corn Hill and then a descent before climbing once more. The traverse of the Buller village is a "low" point of the trip, unless of course one takes advantage of the refreshments which should be available. Then from the summit of Buller most of the higher points of the Victoria Alps can be seen.

The descent from the summit of Mt Buller along the narrow West Ridge is the "high" point of the walk. Some sections here are quite steep and rocky and require some care. This part of the walk represents one of the finest stretches of walking in the State. We should reach our campsite near Round Hill with plenty of time to fetch water.

Much of the walk on the second day will be on old roads which will take us towards Mt Timbertop. Our route takes us over Mt Timbertop and then there is a steep descent to the cars at Timbertop Saddle.

18-20 November PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND

Leader: **Jean Giese**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance **c. 120 kms**
 from Melbourne:
 Area: **NE of Seymour**
 Map Reference: **Mt Stewart & Mt Bernard 1:25 00**

>>>See details on front page of this NEWS

25-27 November OTWAYS NATIONAL PARK
Medium

Leader: **Stephen Rowlands**
 Transport: **Private**
 Approx. Distance **217 kms**
 from Melbourne:
 Expected time of
 return: **Sunday evening**
 Area: **Cape Otway**
 Approx length of
 walk: **24 kms**
 Map Reference: **Outdoor Leisure Map The
 Otways & Shipwreck Coast**

This walk will take in the coast line between Castle Cove and Blanket Bay. The terrain will consist of sandy beaches, rock hopping, a river crossing and some bush bashing. If time allows we should be able to look around the Lighthouse and grave yard at Cape Otway.

On First Travelling with Happy Walker Tours

I had asked for the Happy Walker brochure to be mailed to me more out of curiosity than any fixed intention to travel. Having spent three weeks in New Zealand in February, *another* holiday was not in my plans, but there in the program was that magic word "Pilbara"!

I had been to the Hammersley Ranges briefly with another tour company three years ago and loved the area so much that I was determined to return and see more of it. Here was my opportunity, so without considering pros & cons I rang to say my deposit was in the mail. It appears, however, that as this would be longest and most remote camping trip that Jenny and Jopie had ever conducted, they wanted to ensure that there would be peace and harmony amongst the group who would be together for a whole month. Therefore they wanted to talk to applicants first. Fortunately I passed muster and was accepted into possibly the only group ever to explore the Karajini Gorges with Happy Walker Tours.

What a talented bunch they were too! Mostly from Victoria, with a sprinkling from NSW & Qld., they had all been on Happy Walker tours before except for two of us. Every night after dinner we were entertained with music (produced on combs and toilet paper) songs lauding the mental and physical qualities of all members, poetry describing the magnificent country we were passing through, doggerel recounting the humorous events of our days, which had us weak with laughter, and works of art in the form of water-colours of the gorges. There is now a very considerable collection of the writings of the group, and these will be printed and circulated to those who were there. They will prompt great memories of the time we spent travelling together.

The tour started in Darwin, travelling south to Katherine, then west to Kununurra, a side trip to Wyndham, then into Purnululu (the Bungle Bungles), we continued down Highway 1 to Halls Creek and Fitzroy Crossing, then to Tunnel Creek and Windjana Gorge. We went up the Gibb River road as far as Mt Barnett station, visiting gorges along the way, then down to Derby and Broome. We continued along the Eighty Mile Beach to Karajini National Park and finished in Port Hedland. The scenery was stunningly beautiful, the colour, climate and clear light making this a photographers paradise.

Our days were long, often starting before dawn and finishing after dark but none of us wanted to miss any of this spectacular part of our country.

During this holiday I experienced li-loing with my (day)pack for the first time, and this part of the trip was probably the most memorable for me. Most of the group tried Lennard Gorge, where the walls are sometimes very close and sometimes wide apart so the sun reflecting from the green rocks below gives the water a luminous glow. The colour in the walls ranges from pure white to deep ochre and the flood water in the wet season has sculpted the rock into niches, huge amphitheatres, rock platforms and hanging gardens. Because carrying packs and li-los down the steep paths and routes (sometimes almost sheer rock walls!) to the floor of the gorge was not easy, we met no-one else down there.

On this trip I watched people who were afraid of cold deep water, swim in freezing, bottomless pools; people who are claustrophobic, climb into small black holes to see caves formed by underground rivers; and people who were afraid of heights stand on narrow ledges many metres above the ground and forgot where they were standing because of the sheer beauty of the location.

It was inspiring for us all to watch Jenny and Jopie exploring this area which they love and their enthusiasm was infectious.

Some of us were even inspired to poetry. Here are two verses from Joy:

*Jenny feeds us far too well
So Life's one glorious party.
What tastes the best is hard to tell.
P'raps rye bread and havarti.*

*Wittenoom Gorge is a piece of cake,
Chocolate layers rich and enticing.
Grander than any human can make.
And topped with spinifex icing.*

Pam Rosso

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Additional Film Night

To See the Acclaimed Australian Movie
"Muriel's Wedding"
at the Nova Cinema, in Carlton
on
Tuesday, 25 October, 1994
Please Note - Film starts at 7.15 pm

Contact Sylvia Wilson in the Clubrooms

A Broken Nose on the Prom!

I had never been to the northern end of the Prom so I accepted one of those invitations you can't refuse, to lead a trip there on the weekend of 5-7 August. It was a weekend Mary Leonard has good cause to remember.

We stayed overnight at the Foster caravan park and set off from Port Welshpool just after 8.00 am on the *Elizabeth*, a small boat operated by a local fisherman, Frank Roberts, with his son and grandson. The weather was blowing up a bit and after a two hour trip, Frank was able to drop anchor at Johnny Souey Cove. Just before we went ashore in the dinghy we saw an emu sauntering along the beach. We waded ashore and made camp at a pleasant area in the trees. Some of us even had a sea view.

We climbed up the Johnny Souey track as the sun broke through the clouds, giving us fine views of Five Mile Beach down to Sealers Cove and to the Yanakie Isthmus to the West. We continued on to St Kilda Junction and Five Mile Beach where we lunched and laid around in mild sunshine. We then walked back to camp along the coast, past the Five Mile Beach camping area and around Monkey Point headland. This is a rocky all the way and is difficult in parts. It was while she was negotiating some slippery rocks that Mary Fell. Her face looked like a split tomato, but it improved after the blood was wiped away. Mary was a bit shaken, but was able to continue. With a fast-closing eye and a bruised face, she looked like she'd been in a good scrap. It took more than three hours to traverse the rocks back to camp, and at one point we were not sure that we would be able to get back to camp in daylight. The two fastest walkers were sent on ahead to collect all the torches, but in the event we got back with time to spare.

We enjoyed a good meal around a cosy fire (after some confusion, it was established that fires are allowed in the northern section) although the wind was increasing. We had some rain during the night, but the morning dawned bright and blustery. A search and rescue boat and a helicopter came by, searching, so we found out later, for a missing fishing boat. (The boat and occupants were found, all safe, after an unplanned night out)

Mary's eye was by now a shiner, but she was otherwise OK. We set off up the coast past Three Mile Point, initially over more rocks, then miles of beach. We took an early lunch at Lighthouse Point (just a beacon) where Julia was inspired by the ions or vibes to run and dance in the surf. Then it was up through the mud of Mount

Margaret track and Tin Mine track to Chinaman's Long Beach, on the western side, in intermittent rain. We arrived at Tin Mine Cove in time to light a fire and boil the billy before the boat came into view. The wind had changed in the night and the surf was fairly heavy, so the boat anchored off and let out the dinghy on a rope. We waded out to it and were then hauled back to the boat. Two such trips and we were on our way. An hour later and we were ashore, heading for tea and cakes. Mary's nose turned out to be broken but I'm pleased to report that it has made a full recovery!

Party: Bill Metzenthen, Marilyn Whimpey, Jerry Grandage, Gina Hopkins, Alan Clarke, Peter Chalkley, Mary Leonard, Michael Saxton, Julia Haywood, Pam Kirkham and scribe Derrick Brown

At its September meeting, the Committee looked at the question of stops en route to and from Sunday walks. The guidelines agreed to at the December 1991 meeting (and published in the January 1992 NEWS) were confirmed.

Given that the main reason for the Club's existence is to go walking in the Bush, these guidelines are that we:

- aim to get to & from the bush as quickly as possible, leaving the maximum time for enjoying just being out there;
 - leave Southbank Blvd promptly at 9.00 am;
 - limit pick-up and set-down points;
 - have a toilet stop on the outward journey but none on the way home, it being assumed walkers can attend to this before boarding the bus, whereas in the morning they have already travelled from home to the city and there are no toilets (or bush!) near Southbank Blvd.

Visitors are invited (& members already know) to bring a change of clothes & refreshments (if desired) to leave on the bus to be available at the end of the walk. If a stop for refreshments is made on the way home when up to 40 people are to be served, it can waste a lot of time which might have been spent enjoying the bush. Also, often one group has returned to the bus earlier than the other party, and may already have had a long wait. Of course, there are times when a walk is cut short or delayed, because of bad weather or mishap, when a refreshment stop may be appropriate. This is the leader's decision, possibly after consultation with the walkers.

Committee

Meeting Report - Mt Stirling VSA Meeting 12 Sept. 1994

In March this year the Victorian Government announced that Mt Stirling would be developed by the Grollo Group as a resort with downhill ski-lifts. Public opposition caused the Government to suspend signing the agreement to proceed, and instituted a review of the ARC (now complete, but results have not been made public), and promised an 18-month study (EES) before a decision is made.

On the evening of 12 September 1994, the VSA held a meeting, with around 80 attendees, at La Chateau (Melbourne) as an information meeting about future plans for Mt Stirling development. The meeting included presentations by two VSA officials (Andrew Ramsay and Mike Coldham) and Mike Larson (USA ski-field developer), followed by questions from the floor. The VSA presentations were clearly favouring downhill ski-lifts, Mike Larson's position was fairly neutral, but most of the questioners from the floor were anti-ski-lifts. Whilst the anti-ski-lifts people were not given opportunity of a presentation, they were satisfied that they were at least given a fair go in asking their questions. The meeting was well conducted, rational and without aggression, which was surprising given the polarisation of the issue.

The VSA presentations showed the 1991 proposals of downhill ski-lifts on the southern slopes of Mt Stirling, including Stanley Bowl. The proposal included retaining the northern slopes (mostly lower and softer snow) for cross-country skiing. There was little or no apparent audience interest in the proposed improved XC facilities (race-track etc) for the northern parts of Mt Stirling (perhaps there were no racers or track skiers present). The EES was explained as a study which would consider all options (no change, XC skiing only, downhill skiing etc) for Mt Stirling. The EES is not just "environmental" in the sense of flora, fauna, water etc, but would include everything (financial viability, local community impact etc). The VSA is "trying very hard to give an even-handed approach, ... wants to be inclusive rather than exclusive, and is happy to have members involved in the process". (My comment: this seems in stark contrast to past statements and actions of the VSA, with reports of behind-the-scenes pressure.)

Mike Larson is the Director of Resort Development at the resorts of Vale, Beaver Creek (an \$800m development), and Arrowhead Mountain in the USA. The resorts combine a mix of downhill skiing, cross-country skiing and summer activities, and Mike said that he has planning experience in all these activities. Mike was in Victoria doing consulting work for the ARC and BSLL related to the Buller resort, and it was felt opportune by the ARC to call on Mike's expertise in relation to the ARC's VSA's and BSLL's submissions to the forthcoming EES. Mike stated that downhill skiing in Australia was amongst the highest priced and lowest quality in the world, that small ski resorts (eg. day-skiing only resorts) were dying world-wide, and that the only way of making Nordic skiing viable in Australia would be using snow-making (I interpret this to mean track skiing and skating). Two awkward questions were whether M.

Larson had expertise regarding possible Greenhouse impacts (his answer: no) and whether, if it were M. Larson's money, he would invest it in Mt Stirling ski-lifts. He hesitated for a long time, and finally answered that he felt it would be a reasonable investment if the resorts were run as a combined resort, but not if they were run separately.

Invitations to the meeting were a bone of contention. The MSDTF claims that they were advised by a senior VSA official that the meeting was public. The MSDTF therefore sent invitations to their supporters, only to have the VSA later phone back, stating that the ARC wanted it to be a meeting of VSA members and affiliated clubs only, as the ARC did not want M. Larson subjected to a hostile audience. VSA officials were heard declining door-entry to non-VSA members, causing some ill-feeling. MSDTF wondered why the VSA appeared to be at the beck-and-call of the ARC, with the ARC dictating who could attend a VSA meeting.

The audience was clearly polarised, with downhillers wanting ski-lifts, and others opposing. Around 6 MSDTF members from Mansfield attended the meeting.

I believe the meeting achieved:

- demonstration that it is possible to have a meeting of the polarised parties, and still have a rational and non-inflammatory discussion;
- the enabling of better understanding of each other's viewpoint, rather than knee-jerk abuse reactions of the past;

I would summarise the arguments in favour of downhill ski-lifts:

- they would increase the skiable areas for intermediate downhill skiers - this is Buller's biggest problem as the large number of skiers per unit area "wears-out" the snow;
- track and racing XC skiers might be attracted to the promise of improved facilities (some are not too sure about this, describing it as a "bribe" of XC skiers, in a location of suspect snow quality and duration of season)

I would summarise the arguments against downhill ski-lifts:

- They would spoil the aesthetic beauty of the mountain, especially the summit; ie. detract from one of the main reasons for its current visitors;
- their financial viability (return on investment, future downhill lift ticket prices) is very suspect. It is difficult to see evidence of market demand;
- the greenhouse effect may mean that both mountains become unsuitable for skiing, potentially leaving both mountains spoiled of their natural beauty and hence potential attraction to tourists;
- non-ski-season activities are important, and are often forgotten by VSA and ARC;

Continued on next page

A Wilky Adventure

We left Wilky at 4.50 am. There was a bright moon to guide us as we skied across to Basalt Hill and down to Langford Gap. The snow was like glazed concrete. I hurtled down to Langford Gap, my skis making a high-pitched whistle. We drew breath there, and looked at the snow glistening in the moonlight. There were just four of us - GT, Max Casley, Rod Mattingley and myself. It was cold but we didn't feel it. In the distance we saw a light, as a track grading machine prepared the track for Saturday's Hoppit race. We moved off, heading to the west of Marm Point and Mt Nelse. The sky lightened as we climbed so that by the time we had reached the Heathy Spur track it was almost light. We stopped to check a well-made igloo (unoccupied) before continuing our climb. An orange glow on the horizon heralded the appearance of the tip of the sun's disc, casting a pink tinge on the snow. The snow was still very fast as we approached Edmondson Hut, by now in the full light of a marvellous morning.

The two occupants of the hut were somewhat surprised to be woken up by us and even more surprised when we took from our packs a billy, frypan and firewood. "Travelling light?" said one, watching from the depths of his sleeping bag. We soon had the billy boiling and bacon frying in the pan. The bacon pita bread sandwiches and tea went down quickly, and then we were off again, towards our destination - Spion Kopje. A steep climb brought us to the Spion Kopje Spur, and then we hooted along to Spion Kopje itself. At 10am we were there, having morning tea while we enjoyed the brilliant views in all directions. We set up the camera to take a picture of the four of us, holding up an appropriate notice as to the time and place. Our next destination was Tims Lookout, where we had lunch. Our two friends from Edmondsons were there, expecting us to cook a three-course meal! I sat back in the sunshine, enjoying last night's leftovers curry in pitta bread, while I surveyed Mount Bogong.

The snow was much slower on the return journey - or were we just tired? We were back in Wilky by 4 pm, drinking tea. We left Wilky in the morning, returning to Falls Creek where the Hoppit was in full swing. Pearson Cresswell, nursing an injured head from an accident on Thursday, got fixed up by the Red Cross staff. Diane, less fortunate, went out on a skidoo with a broken leg. A memorable week!

Derrick Brown

Sneak preview of December Walks

This is the current state of the draft program for the first month of the Summer Program. Use this as a good indication of the December walks; some changes may be made before the program is finalised. In particular, I have been told that our insurance does not cover Li-lo trips; if we cannot arrange alternative insurance for Li-lo trips then the Christmas Li-lo trip will be removed from the program. Note that any Li-lo trips will require participants to use buoyancy vests and helmets.

2-4	Snowy Palins-Caledonia River Base Camp	E/M	Rod Mattingley
4	Donna Buang - Mt Victoria - Mt Boobyalla	E/M & M	Margaret Borden & John Kitson
9-11	Introduction to Wilky	E	Doug Pocock
10	Historical Walk - East Malvern	E	Athol Schafer
11	Brisbane Rangers: Northern End	E & M	David Gibson
14	Sugarloaf Reservoir - Christmas Hills	E/M	Jaen Giese
16-18	Mc millans Track - My Arbuckle - Breakfast Creek	E/M	Derick Brown
18	Wirida Track (Tyers River)	E & E/M	Leader required
Xmas	Base camp, possibly walk-in	E	Bob Steel
23-31	Bogong High Plains tour	M	Jean Giese
26-31	Shoalhaven Lilo Trip	M	Stephen Rowlands
26-31	Avon River Valley	M	Jerry Grandage

10-21 January 1995 - There will be trip to the Tarkine Wilderness in Tasmania, led by Doug Pocock.

Bill Metzenthin

New Members:

Catherine ROUSE

Stan CHIECHI

Stuart MANN

Martine ELLIOTT

Andrew BUCKLAND

Tony CROOKS

Margaret and Rhett WALKER

Changes to Members Details:

Add to Membership List:
Gail HASSETT

Change to Phone Numbers:
Debbie GOMM

COMMITTEE NOTES**WALKS for August:**

- 4 Sunday walks, average of 33.25 attendees, (cf 28.4 in August 1993);
- 1 Pack-carry walk with 11 people;
- 1 Search & Rescue practice with 1 person attending (Bill Metzenthen);
- 1 Base Camp with 14 people (Rawson);
- 2 Ski day trips with total of 27 participants;
- 1 Dandenong Explorer & 1 Historical Walk;
- 2 trips were cancelled;

Committee passed a resolution that it is Club policy that: "Participants on all Club li-lo, rafting and canoe trips are required to use buoyancy vests and helmets"

MEMBERSHIP:

- Life Members 11
- Honorary Members 12
- Single Members 287, of which 280 have paid (31 concession).
- Couples 96 individuals = 48 subs (1 concession).
- Total members a/a end September 406
- NEWS subscribers 11

WILKY:

Winter season Report. There were twelve weeks available; 6 were taken up by members & 6 by Visitors (ie. other clubs; VMTC x 2, Maroondah, Monash, Bayside & Winter Group).

There was a total of 567 'person/nights', comprising 246 member/nights and 321 visitor nights. This compares with 534 nights in 1993.

WILKY**Please Note - Winter parties:**

You MUST have cleared out your lockers of winter food by 31 December or you forfeit the food to general supplies.

CONSERVATION:

....see notes elsewhere in NEWS.

INVESTMENT:

The committee has resolved to invest \$20 000 in a suitable secure investment, the annual interest to be allocated to conservation or other appropriate causes at the discretion of the Committee. A sub-committee has been established to investigate the best investment prospect and make appropriate arrangements.

DUTY ROSTER

12 October	Nigel and Derrick
19 October	Doug and Nancy
26 October	Peter and Merilyn
2 November	Alan Clarke and Janet
9 November	Bernie and Nancy

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