



# The NEWS

of the

## MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

JULY 1995

EDITION 533

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### FILM NIGHT

Friday July 14, 1995, at the ASTOR THEATRE - corner Dandenong Road and Chapel Street, St. Kilda. **THREE COLOURS:** (all on one evening) - *Blue* 7:00 pm; *White* 9:00 pm; *Red* 10:40 pm. All three \$12/\$10 - 2 consecutive \$10/\$9. Meet at Cha Cha's (restaurant and bar) 6:00 pm. Entree about \$6 - Main course about \$15. Please let me know if you would like to attend. Nancy

### ICE SKATING

at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl. Enter from "Back Stage" delivery ramp. Saturday July 22, 1995 - 6 pm. \$7.50/ \$6.50 includes Skate rental. Time and Place for Meal afterwards to be determined by group. Please let me know if you would like to attend. Nancy

### Nepalese Restaurant

Saturday July 29, 1995 - 7:30 pm

**THE BASE CAMP**, 648 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, (beside the Glenferrie train station). Fixed Menu \$17.50 - B.Y.O. Includes Entrees - Momo, Pakoda; Main Course - Balti Beef & Potato, Chilli Chicken, Meatball Curry, Cabbage & Potato Stir Fry, Rice, Salad. Ring me if you want to know ingredients - special dishes can be arranged for vegetarian etc. Please let me know if you would like to attend. Nancy

### Down Hill Skiing

If you are a beginner or advanced downhill skier, put your name down for Winter trips to the mountains for action-packed weekends.

Escape the boredom of the wintery city. Phone the downhill skiing guru - George Zamora on Phone any time and leave a message, or see George in the Clubrooms any Wednesday.

### Skiing at Mt Buller

The Melbourne Walking Club (Men's Club) has offered our Members the use of their luxurious ski lodge at Mt Buller. It is available from Monday to Friday on two separate weeks - July 24-28 and Sept 4-8. Tariff is \$33 per night - bring own pillow slip & sheets or sheet-sleeping bag, and all food. Ski equipment can be hired on the mountain. Can take parties up to 16. Mt Buller is not just a down hill resort, there are a number of cross-country trails and Mt Stirling is not far away. If you are interested, contact George Zamora in the Clubrooms or phone him on . George will liaise with the Melbourne Walking Club.

### Notice of Meeting

Under the Articles of Incorporation, we are required to hold an **Half Yearly General Meeting** and this will be held on **Wednesday August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1995 at 8.00 pm sharp.**

### Contents of July NEWS

	Page
Bushies Good Food Guide	7
Committee Duty Roster	2
Committee Notes	6
Day Walks	3, 4
From the Editor <i>and</i> From the President	2
Great South West Walk <i>Wendy Truscott</i>	7
<i>Happy Walker Adventure Tours</i> advert	9
Members Free Ads	4, 5
Mootwingie Update <i>Sylvia Wilson</i>	6
More on Tali Karng <i>Jean Giese</i>	7
New Members	2
Notice of Half Yearly General Meeting	10
Proposed First Aid Course	6
Queens Birthday Weekend reports	8, 9
Skiing - XC and downhill	1, 3, 5
Social Events <i>Nancy Belyea</i>	1
<i>Vale Alec Proudfoot</i>	6
Weekend Walks	5
<i>Willis's Walkabouts</i> advert	9

## From the Editor

We enjoyed a really good weekend away in north west Victoria over the Queen's Birthday weekend. The weather was kinder than we might have expected, only getting rained on intermittently, and then mainly in the Little Desert. We filled the bus, which was good. The only problem was at the very start when Bob found he wasn't getting enough power for the bus. We soon located the problem - the battery connections were loose. We quickly fixed that and were away. See reports on page 8 & 9.

On Tuesday 27 June, I had the sad duty of attending the funeral of a long-time friend, and ex-President of the Melbourne Bushies - Alec Proudfoot. I first got to know him in the mid 1960's, and although he hadn't walked with the Club since the early 80's, I have kept in touch over the years. Funerals are not usually occasions for mirth, but at Alec's service, we had to laugh at the recounting of some of the humorous events in Alec's life. He was a remarkable man. See Obituary on page 6.

Enclosed with this edition of **The NEWS** is the Clubs Membership List. Please note that this is for the use of Members ONLY and is not to be made available to any outside organisations, particularly commercial interests. Our membership records are confidential.

*Bob Steel*

**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, at  
or faxed to me on

### Advertising Rates

¼ Page 1 Issue-\$20; 3 Issues-\$50; 12 Issues (1 year)-\$180

½ Page 1 Issue-\$30; 3 Issues-\$75; 12 issues-\$270

Full Page 1 issues-\$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 AUGUST 1995 News is  
31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 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

The Sunday walks continue to be very popular and the bus is often booked out early on Wednesday night. There have been various suggestions for accommodating the demand, so the Committee has discussed the problem and decided that the quality of the walk and the safety of the walkers would be compromised if the groups were any larger. The point was also made that the impact of large numbers tramping across some areas of the bush is detrimental. Sometimes a third leader can be roped in at short notice but we don't have a surfeit of leaders, as Alan and Bill will tell you, so this is not often possible.

I have heard that some walkers who have missed out on getting on the bus have organised a private walk. I think that this is the best alternative at this stage.

I guess like me your diary is pretty full with all the great walks and social events on offer. The Trivial Pursuit night was great fun and I promise you I really DO know who is on the Committee!

Cheers.

*Janet Norman*

## Spring Walks Programme

With this issue of News you have received the Spring Programme. This is the first programme to be produced to our earlier publication schedule and so far this has caused no unusual problems.

## Summer Walks Programme

Let me remind you that in early August the Walks sub-committee will meet to plan the Summer Programme. The time to think about what you would like to see on the Summer Programme is NOW. Please get your ideas to me as soon as possible.

*Bill Metzenthien*  
Walks Secretary

**New Members** See Addresses & Phone nos. in Membership List enclosed with this NEWS

Deborah HENRY  
Eimar LYONS  
Kathy ANDISON

Douglas MENON  
Julie MAURER  
Stephen CARUANA

## Committee Duty Roster

Wed. 12 July - Derrick & Jean  
Wed. 19 July - Stephen & Nancy  
Wed. 26 July - Doug & Alan  
Wed. 2 August - Lloyd & Derrick  
Wed. 9 August - Peter & Peter

## Previews for August Day Walks

### Sunday 30 July      BLUE MOUNTAIN - Easy & E/medium      BLACKWOOD

Leaders:                    **Les Southwell & Peter Gipps**  
 Transport:                **Bus at 9.00 am from South  
Bank Boulevard**  
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne:                **c. 80 kms**  
 Expected time of return:                                **1900**  
 Area:                                **near Trentham**  
 Approx length of walks:                                **14 and 19 kms**  
 Map Reference:                **Trentham 1:25 000**

The walks start at Jubilee shaft near Newbury, passing the TV set for *Snowy*, over Blue Mountain, along the Old Blackwood track & Albion track, then across to Shaws Lookout, to finish at Blackwood township. The medium walk diverts east to the Yankee mine and Golden Point road. Both walks follow old mining tracks with a bit of cross-country through fairly open forest.

### Sunday 6                    TARADALE - FRYERSTOWN- Easy & Medium                    VAUGHAN SPRINGS

Leaders:                    **Bernice Webster & David  
Gibson**  
 Transport:                **Bus at 9.00 am from South  
Bank Boulevard**  
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne:                **104**  
 Expected time of return:                                **c. 1900**  
 Area:                                **north west of Kyneton**  
 Approx length of walks:                                **14 & 20 kms**  
 Map Reference:                **Drummond & Guildford  
1:25 000**

These walks are through open forest in the Fryers Ranges State Forest. We should see plenty of wattles & some Grevilleas & heaths. There is also the historical interest of old gold mining country. The walks will be a mixture of along tracks, through bush & beside creeks. Both walks will start at Taradale and head west to Fryerstown where the easy walk will finish. The medium walk will continue on, via Glenluce mineral springs and then along the Loddon River to Vaughan Springs.

#### Stop Press

**Beginner Ski Day at Lake Mountain**  
 Originally scheduled for Saturday 22nd or  
 Sat. 29th July now can not be either. Sorry.

**Try Saturday 15th July.**

Come to the blurb night anyway,  
 on Wednesday 12th July, 1995

*Sylvia Wilson*

### Saturday 12                    ST GWINEAR SKI SKILLS Easy                                IMPROVEMENT DAY

Leader:                                **Sylvia Wilson**  
 Transport:                                **Private**  
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne:                **190 kms**  
 Expected time of return:                                **1630 at cars**  
 Area:                                **Baw Baw National Park, east side**  
 Approx length of walk/ski:                                **yes!**  
 Map Ref.:                    **leaflet - Baw Baw Plateau Ski Trails**

We will leave St Gwinear car park at 0930, having hopefully all met up/hired skis and drunk famed hot chocolate (actually that's at the end; and the carrot cake...). We will go up the track to the first suitable flat spot and practice all the basic skills. This is not for beginners as we might have to go a long way for the snow; nor is it for flash skiers, just those a bit rusty, or newish, on technique. I am working on an instructor for whom we might need to chip in a bit. We will go for a tour around later.

### Saturday 12                    HISTORICAL WALK: Easy                                CARLTON

Leader:                                **Athol Schafer**  
 Transport:                                **Tram - Meet under the clocks  
at Flinders St. Station at 1315**  
 Expected time of return:                                **1600**  
 Approx length of walk:                                **3 kms**  
 Map Reference:                                **Melways map 2B**

A cut above the largely unplanned neighbouring working class suburbs of Fitzroy & Collingwood, Carlton became, by the 1880's, a fashionable residential and commercial area. Laid out by the surveyor Robert Hoddle in the 1850's, Carlton is blessed with wide streets, parks and squares, and that is what this walk will mostly cover.

### Sunday 13                    DYERS CREEK - BUNYIP RIVER Easy/med. & Medium

Leaders:                                **John Kittson & Brian Crouch**  
 Transport:                                **Bus at 9.00 am from South  
Bank Boulevard**  
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne:                **c. 80 kms**  
 Expected time of return:                                **1900**  
 Area:                                **east of  
Gembrook**  
 Approx length of walks:                                **?**  
 Map Reference:                                **Gembrook South 1:25 000**

*See leaders in Clubroom*

## Previews for August Day Walks continued

**Wednesday 16**      **BRISBANE RANGES**  
**Easy/medium**

**Leader:** Margaret Borden  
**Transport:** Private  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** 90 kms  
**Expected time of return:** 1800  
**Area:** South of Bacchus Marsh  
**Approx length of walk:** 16 kms  
**Map Reference:** Staughton Vale 1:25 000

Meet at Westgate Car Park (Melways 56 F1) at 0900  
 OR in the Brisbane Ranges, on Thompsons Rd at  
 junction with McLeans Hwy, at approx 1015. (Vicroads  
 Country Directory map 77, F6) Ring me for details on 9818  
 8641.

The walk will be on foot-tracks & mainly unused old  
 roads, and will cover both the eastern side, visiting some  
 slate quarries on the way, and the western area. Most  
 of that walk will be at around 400m asl, with good  
 views, but we will go up & down quite a few times.  
 There should be wildflowers, birds and the occasional  
 wallaby & kangaroo, and if you walk looking upwards  
 (taking care not to trip over anything!) you may see  
 some koalas.

**Sunday 20**      **EAST MOORABOOL R. - LAKE**  
**Easy & E/Med.**      **BOSTOCK - MT EGERTON**

**Leaders:** Jean Woodger & Julie Ralph  
**Transport:** Bus at 9.00 am from South  
 Bank Boulevard  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** c. 100 kms  
**Expected time of return:** 1900  
**Area:** near Ballan  
**Approx length of walks:** 15 and 17 kms  
**Map Reference:** Ballan 1:50 000; Lal Lal,  
 Yaloak & Clever Hill 1:25 000

Both walks start at a bridge over the East Moorabool  
 River near Ballan, and follow a roughly parallel course  
 to Lake Bostock. The easy group will walk to Lake  
 Bostock through open forest & scrub, and the easy-  
 medium group will navigate some ups & downs to  
 follow the course of the river to the spillway. Both  
 groups will visit Ballan mineral springs, return to the  
 Reservoir, and follow various tracks in a westerly  
 direction to Mt Egerton township. From here we climb  
 gently-sloping Mt Egerton & continue down the other  
 side to finish at an interesting old graveyard. Some  
 variations on the above are yet to be explored.

**Saturday 26**      **Dandenongs Explorer -**  
**Easy**      **KALORAMA-Mt DANDENONG**

**Leader:** Michael Humphrey  
**Transport:** Private  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** c. 45 kms  
**Expected time of return:** 1730  
**Approx length of walk:** ?  
**Map Reference:** Melway map

*Phone Leader, Michael Humphrey, on 9584 5676 for  
 more details, including meeting time and place.*

**Sunday 27**      **Mt BULLENGAROOK-**  
**Easy/Med. & Medium**      **PYRITES CREEK**

**Leaders:** Sally Bouvier & Lloyd Young  
**Transport:** Bus at 9.00 am from South  
 Bank Boulevard  
**Approx. Distance from Melbourne:** 61 kms  
**Expected time of return:** 1830  
**Area:** near Gisborne  
**Approx length of walks:** 12 and 14 kms  
**Map Reference:** Toolern Vale & Macedon  
 1:25 000

Both walks start at the same point in the State Forest  
 near the locality of Bullengarook, proceeding south  
 across country through sparse bushland for 1 or 2 kms  
 until fire tracks are met. The easy-medium group will  
 follow an undulating track for some 5 kms, descending  
 to Pyrites Creek for lunch. There is a steep climb after  
 lunch, then along Sugarloaf Track, with a possible off-  
 track excursion, before emerging from the forest,  
 crossing over farmland and ending the walk near the  
 Gisborne-Melton Road. The medium walkers follow  
 tracks before descending a pleasant spur for several kms  
 to the creek and rejoining the Sugarloaf Track as above.

Please note that the phone contact number on Walks  
 Program is incorrect. Contact Sally during business  
hours only on

**Found - at Wilky in early May 1995: a ladies  
 automatic wristwatch. If you think it is yours, contact  
 Art Terry on**

Members Free Ad

### For Sale

One pair of 14 inch diameter snow chains.      \$40.00  
 Phone Stephen Rowlands on      before 2030

## Previews for August Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks

### 4-6 August MT STIRLING SKI TRIP Easy

Leader: **Stephen Rowlands**  
 Transport: **Private**  
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **205 kms**  
 Expected time of return: **Sunday evening**  
 Area: **near Mansfield & Mt Buller**  
 Approx length of ski: **depends on snow**  
 Map Reference: **Outdoor Leisure Map  
1:25 000 Buller-Stirling**

With our camping gear left in our cars at Telephone Box Junction, we will be able to ski around Saturday and Sunday with day packs. Saturday night we should be able to cook in the shelter at TBJ before going a short distance to camp away from the shelter. People who don't want to snow-camp can arrange their own accommodation at the foot of the mountain and rejoin us on Sunday.

### 11-13 August RAWSON LODGE Easy/Med. WALKING & SKI WEEKEND

Leader: **Max Casley & Alan Miller**  
 Transport: **Private**  
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **172 kms**  
 Expected time of return: **Sunday evening**  
 Area: **near Walhalla & Baw Baws**  
 Approx length of walks & skiing: **various**  
 Map Reference: **VMTC-Baw Baw National Park**

Rawson was originally built for workers constructing the Thompson River Dam. It is near Erica, north of Moe, about 2 hours drive from Melbourne.

**Accommodation:** The Lodge has twin-share rooms with heaters, electric blankets & tea making facilities. Bathrooms are down the corridor and there are drying rooms and a common room. The cost, including a big-as-you-like breakfast is \$58 per person for two nights. Some single accommodation at \$72 may be available. A counter meal at extra cost is available on Friday & Saturday evenings. The Skiing & Walking groups will be sharing the accommodation. We have booked for a total of 20 people. Please pay a deposit of \$20 to secure your place.

**Skiing led by Max Casley:** With any luck there will be plenty of snow on the Baw Baw Plateau for cross-country skiing by the middle of August. We will have several groups catering for different abilities (except complete beginners). Sylvia Wilson will be organising a "skills improvement group" on Saturday.

**Walkers led by Alan Miller:** Day walks on Saturday & Sunday. The Saturday walk will probably be along the route of the old Walhalla Railway, and will give people the chance to ride the last few metres into Walhalla on the train along the short section that has been restored. The route of the Sunday walk is a mystery at this time!

### 18-20 August MT BUFFALO SKI BASE CAMP E/medium

Leader: **Pearson Cresswell**  
 Transport: **Private**  
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **322**  
 Expected time of return: **Sunday evening**  
 Area: **near Bright**  
 Approx length of skiing: **depends on snow**  
 Map Reference: **Mt Buffalo N.P. map (CNR)**

Mt Buffalo offers some delightful skiing, provided that snow conditions are good (start praying now!). "Base Camp" will be at one of the camping grounds at Porepunkah. This trip is suitable for all but absolute beginners.

### 25-27 August FRASER NATIONAL Easy/medium PARK

Leader: **Jean Giese**  
 Transport: **Private**  
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: **145 kms**  
 Expected time of return: **Sunday evening**  
 Area: **Eildon**  
 Approx length of walk: **?**

This walk is quite suitable for beginners to weekend and pack carrying walking as distances are not great and there are good camping facilities. There will be more details in August NEWS.

Members Free Ad.

### For Sale

**X-C Skis - (never used!)**  
 Fischer Country Crown - Airtec, 180cm, with  
 3-pin Nordic Norm bindings. **\$190**  
**Merrell X-C Boots - used but in good condition**  
 navy leather, size 40 **\$50**  
**Caribee Down Jacket (never worn)**  
 Blue, small size **\$65**

Contact Sue Phillips on (home)  
 or (work)

## Obituary - Alec Proudfoot

A true gentleman departed this life on Saturday 24 June 1995. Alec would have been 89 this year.

Alec was born in Mt Lyell, Tasmania in 1906 and moved to Victoria in 1910 with his father and settled at Coopers Creek, near Walhalla. He attended a local school, then Warragul High school, and Melbourne University. In his early years he helped his father in the bush around Coopers Creek, felling trees and cutting sleepers. He also helped his father build the road into Coopers Creek and the Platina Siding on the Walhalla railway. His academic ability was recognised early, and he gained a scholarship to study at Melbourne University. He taught secondary school for a while then joined Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, where he worked until his retirement. He rose to the position of Deputy Head of the Maths Department at RMIT, and published four mathematical text books, which were standard texts used in Victorian secondary schools for many years. In his youth he also played a few games of league football for StKilda & Melbourne.

His love of the bush never waned, and he joined the Melbourne Bushwalkers in the mid 1960's, becoming President from 1968 to 1970. He participated in many walks, and led trips to his favourite area - the Coopers Creek-Walhalla region. He was an inveterate traveller, visiting Europe a number of times (including a memorable trip in 1973, in company with Dorrie Warton, Tyrone Thomas and me).

Alec was instrumental in starting Tyrone on his career as author of bushwalking guide books - he introduced Tyrone to his publisher in 1974 and the result was 100 Walks in Victoria, plus many other titles since.

Alec and his second wife Jean moved to Paynesville about 1990 and it was there that he died peacefully close by the sea, which he also loved.

A few Bushies (including myself) attended the memorial service in Bairnsdale, and Mark Walters said a few words on behalf of the Melbourne Bushwalkers, paying tribute to his contribution to the Club. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

*Bob Steel*

*"Discomfort, when it is honestly uncomfortable and makes no nauseous pretensions to the contrary, is a vastly humorous business; and people well steeped and stupefied in the open air are in a good vein for laughter"*

R.L. Stephenson, *An Inland Voyage*.

## MOOTWINGIE UPDATE

Trip to outback NSW, Mootwingie, Lake Mungo & Kinchanga N.P. is still very much alive and kicking. Only a few places left for Saturday 23 September to Saturday 7 October, 1995, in private cars. Fred Halls and Rosemary Cotter have agreed to give us an info, photo & slide night on:

**Thursday 31 August at**

Promises to be an excellent night

*Sylvia Wilson*

## Committee Notes

**Treasurer: Report for June.**

Opening Balance	\$58 911.40
Month's Receipts	\$ 5 025.87
Month's Payments	\$ 6 506.10
Closing Balance	\$57 431.17

**Walks Secretary: Report for May Walks.**

Sunday day walks: - 4; ave. 42.5 (cf. 35,8 in 1994)

Weekend Pack-carry walk: - 1, with 5 walkers.

Base Camp: - 1, with 14 campers.

Wednesday, Dandenongs 1 of each with average  
& Historical walks: of 10.75 attendees.

**Membership:**

Life Members - 11; Honorary Members - 10  
Single Members - 302; Couples - 47 x 2 = 94,  
making a total of 417

## First Aid Course

Committee discussed the proposal to arrange another First Aid Course, most likely through the Red Cross, later in the year, most likely in October or November.

The likely cost would be c. \$83 per person (with group discount based on getting at least 15 participants) for the Senior First Aid certificate. The Club is prepared to subsidise current Leaders of walks and people willing to lead walks in the future to the tune of \$20 per person. At this stage we are seeking expressions of interest from any Members who would like to do this course. We would also like to hear from people who did the course a couple of years back and who may need to update their qualification. The First Aid Certificate is only valid for 2 years.

Please let Nancy Belyea know if you are interested. She will coordinate with the Red Cross and will keep us posted.

## Great South West Walk

Would I like to go on the GSWW? I haven't back-packed for ten years and I've just started bushwalking. "Yes," I said in a rash moment. "You can share my tent," said Jean. That left me with a sleeping bag, pack, Thermarest and thermals to purchase!

We started our walk at Moleside Camp on the Glenelg River in pouring rain. I had a coat but no brolly. Well, what's a drop of cold water? It just runs down the backs of your legs and into your socks. Fortunately, the rain eased to intermittent showers and we set up camp at Post and Rail in the dry. Nothing wet to go in the tent, of course. Where to put everything; where to sit? Is this what back-packing is all about? More rain so we ate tea in the tent. I must say lying in bed in the tent all cosy and warm with the rain pattering is wonderful.

The rain slowly dissipated. We walked for three days down the Glenelg, a gracious, tranquil river, picking mushrooms for tea. The smell of the bush, freshly washed, as we tramped along with the sun filtering through - truly magic. I was glad I had come. We stayed a night in the Nelson pub, built in the 1830's, where a hot bath was most welcome.

Now for the big one - seven days carrying all from S.A. border to Portland. The weather was kind to us with only a little more rain. We slogged 16.5 kms along Discovery Bay beach one day. I opted for the hard sand, dodging the waves - but wasn't quick enough on one occasion, resulting in two wet feet! We had a cheery warm fire each night, which was great as the nights were cold.

Jean said she would cook the evening meal which was more than OK by me. Can you believe: Green Thai curried prawns with coriander, fresh garlic, lime leaves, coconut milk & ginger served over noodles with peas? Scrumptious & followed by pears & custard. What a treat! I also got breakfast in bed - a mug of piping hot tea, followed by hot muesli. Thank you, Jean.

Swinging along now in the warm sunny days, we saw a koala (in the Mt Richmond National Park), an echidna, emus & kangaroos as well as lots of birds and flora. The basalt and limestone coastline is rugged and treacherous, carved out by the heaving ocean pounding relentlessly - you could watch it all day. In Bridgewater Bay we watched a pod of seals, some asleep on the rocks and others frolicking gleefully.

Every day was a new adventure and a good time was had by all.

Wendy Truscott

## More on Tali Karng

From Jean Glese

As leader of the Club's last walk to this magical spot, I was very interested to read the contributions from Will Roland and Barry Short (NEWS April and May 1995). I have been awaiting, impatiently, permission from Penguin Books so I could share with you the following lovely poem by Aboriginal poet W. Les Russell (Boolidt Boolidtha). He was born in Melbourne in 1949 and his dedication and hard work in the Black community has earned him wide respect. His poems were first published in 1985 and "show a control and imagery far beyond the parameters of the majority of Australian poets" according to Kevin Gilbert, editor of *Inside Black Australia*.

### Tali Karng: Twilight Snake

Tali Karng: twilight snake:

In the crater lies the lake.

Water tan; deep 'n dark;

Cold lake bed of leaves and bark.

Rugged steep crater wall

Covered o'er in grey-green tall

Alpine and Mountain Ash

Where dainty birds cavort and flash;

Branch to branch, and sweetly sing

Til sudden comes the gold evening,

And;

Tali Karng: twilight snake:

Hunts near waters of the lake.

Reprinted with permission from *Inside Black Australia*, an Anthology of Aboriginal Poetry, edited by Kevin Gilbert and published by Penguin Books Australia Ltd.

Fred Halls, one of our Life Members, tells me he first visited Tali Karng in the mid 1930's, and met Andy Estoppey and some fellow cattlemen, outside Millers Hut, which is on the plateau above Tali Karng, on the track to The Sentinels.

Editor

### Bushies Good Food Guide

**Marysville** Old Yarra Track tea rooms, opposite public conveniences. For REAL food apres skiing at Lake Mountain.

**Broken Hill** Mario's Pub. Thank you Rick Chater, wew'll all check it out on our way to Mootwingee....

Any more contributions?

### Little Desert and Wyperfeld National park trips, Queens Birthday Weekend, June 1995

The 1994 Queen's Birthday bus trip to the Cape Bridgewater area was such a success that another bus trip was programmed for this year, this time to the North-west of the state.

After a few hiccups before we left Jean's at Surrey Hills, we collected the rest of our passengers at the Art Gallery, filling the bus. We arrived at Horseshoe Bend campsite on the Wimmera River in the Little Desert N.P. (near Dimboola), at around 1.00 am. After a short sleep we were woken early by kookaburras, & later by many other birds.

Two groups of eleven, lead by Doug and Sylvia, set off in opposite directions for three days, using the Desert Discovery Track recently created by the National Parks service. Doug's group started with the longest day - 20 kms - while Sylvia's group *finished* with this distance. Two other groups, led by Bob and Max, took the bus to Wyperfeld & Lake Albacutya for a base camp and two-day walk.

#### Little Desert with Doug Pocock

As one of Doug's group, I found the walk easy and interesting. It was largely on the flat, initially on slippery mud along the Wimmera River, then later on sand. The flora was varied and very different from anything I had seen before. First there was almost a monoculture of *Banksia ornata*, re-colonising areas previously cleared and grazed by sheep. In other areas there were native pines (*Callitris*), mallees, yellow gums & bulloaks (*Casuarinas*). Our first day of 20 kms had daunted me but we were in Yellow Gum camp by 3.00 pm. Unfortunately we did not see the four lowans (mallee fowl) we had startled on our preview a few weeks earlier.

The weather fluctuated from sunshine to showers, with many sun-showers (& rainbows) in between - a great improvement on the heavy rain we had had all week. We saw many winter flowers - *Banksia ornata* & *B. marginata*, *Hibbertia* (guinea flower), bright red *Correa reflexa*, red flame heath, pink peach heath & white beard heaths - most were new since our visit a few weeks earlier (when the drought broke), although there were fewer *Banksias* in flower. Our interest in the spring flowers was aroused and Doug & Bill have now changed the Warby Range trip on the Spring Program to a return trip to the Little Desert.

There were many emu, kangaroo &/or wallaby and wombat droppings, but all I saw apart from some emus near the road down from the main campsite near the entrance to the Park, was a blind kangaroo, a problem

in north-western Victoria at the moment. Doug, however, assures me that those up the front saw wallabies and kangaroos.

The bush campsites, on the more open flats, with larger trees, were charming. They had water tanks adjacent to small huts, newly built in old bush style & from second-hand materials. Pit toilets in a similar style and enclosed fireplaces were provided.

The second & third days were shorter. We met up with Sylvia's group late in the morning of the second day and finished the day's walk at the Mallee Camp just after lunch. We spent some time exploring around and admiring the waterhole before enjoying a sociable evening meal. Next day we made our way back to Horseshoe Bend with views of distant Mt Arapiles from the top of sandy rises. A side trip without packs filled in the short time we had to wait for Sylvia's group.

Eventually the bus arrived with the other two groups who, having had a little more sunshine, looked mildly sunburned. We were back in Melbourne around 9.30 pm, less tired than we might have expected after such a long drive.

*Jan Llewelyn*

#### Little Desert and Wyperfeld contingent:

Max Casley led a group of nine backpackers (Margaret, Pauline, Tracey, GT, Cameron, Alan Clare and Dave). It was a lovely walk, despite it raining most of Saturday, which was spent in the Little Desert (what a misnomer!). There were fields of *Banksia* and the terrain was very sandy, but it was wet and cold and there were big puddles everywhere. I only saw the tops of my boots and the inside of my hood for most of Saturday.

Late afternoon we piled into the bus with Bob Steel's group and drove off to Wyperfeld National Park, where we set up camp for the night. Saturday morning we set out for Lake Albacutya. The country was really quite lovely, very green and quite flat, making for easy walking. We camped that night at an old bridge where the Ranger had left a water dump for us. Whilst on the walk, Max did well to spy two tawny frogmouths sitting in the branches of a tree. We walked across part of Lake Albacutya until it became too boggy and then headed off into sand dunes and followed deeply rutted sandy tracks which had been quite badly cut up by motor bikes.

*Continued on next page*

## Queens Birthday Weekend continued

Over the last two days, the weather improved. We picked times that were sunny to stop for lunch, however as soon as we undid our packs and spread out our food, it started to rain! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and thanks Max for the "sump oil" and GT for the "rocket fuel" on Sunday night - it warmed us up.

Clare

The Base campers did an interesting walk along foot tracks and 4WD tracks in the Little Desert, seeing some wildflowers, but it was too early for most things. We did a bit of cross-country, to regain one of the 4WD tracks, and then back to the Wimmera River, which we followed back to Horseshoe Bend. Yes, the river track was *very* slippery!

Heading north in the bus we were amazed at all the water lying about on fields and beside the roads, then north of Rainbow, there was none! Wyperfeld was

much drier, although they did have some heavy rain earlier in the week.

We collected firewood on the way to camp, and so had good fires each night. On Sunday I took my group (augmented by two from Max's party - he must be a hard leader!) out east, along side dry lake beds and up to Eastern Lookout, from where we had good views over much of the Park.

We backtracked a bit, then headed up to Lake Bambruck (dry - it last held water in 1975-6) and followed the nature trail back to camp. Near the camp I had the distressing experience of observing a kangaroo with the blindness virus which is affecting large numbers in Victoria and South Australia. The poor thing was hopping about in circles, completely disorientated. Its eyes were whited over, and its ears were twitching back and forth.

On Monday we did a short walk around the Black Flat & Little Round Plain area (using Geoff Mattingley's car to ferry us down and back) then on the bus to rendezvous with Max's mob at Lake Albacutya, and so home after collecting the Little Desert explorers.

Bob Steel

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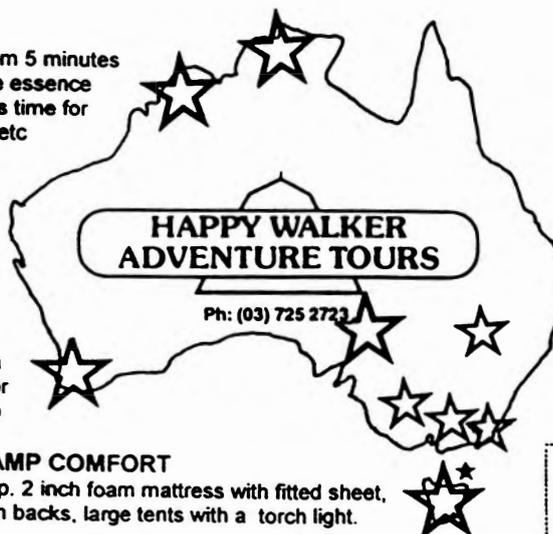
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 July4-21 Kimberley No 1  
 July27-Aug13 Kimberley No 2  
 Aug26-Sep8 Flinders Ranges Grand Tour  
 Sep16-Oct3 South West Wildflowers No 1  
 Oct 7-24 South West Wildflowers No 2

#### 1996

Dec30-Jan8 Victorian Alpine Highlights  
 Jan13-22 Snowy Mtns & South Coast  
 Jan27-Feb11 Tasmanian Grand Tour No 1  
 Feb16-Mar2 Tasmanian Grand Tour No 2  
 Mar13-18 Flinders Island  
 Jun to Aug Kakadu/Top End, Red Centre  
 Kimberley No 1 & 2

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Suddenly, a wind springs up. In a matter of minutes, the temperature drops five or even ten degrees. The first few drops of rain turn into a torrent as lightning flashes and thunder roars. Then it is over and still once more. The frogs began to call and the birds begin to sing. The land turns green again, almost as you watch. All nature rejoices in the change.

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