



# The NEWS

of the

## MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

JUNE 1995

EDITION 532

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PRICE 60 cents

### QUIZ/TRIVIA EVENING

Saturday, June 17, 1995 - 8:00 PM  
at Derrick Brown and Gina Hopkins Home

Optional: BYO Potent Potables and food that can be eaten without the aid of plates and forks.

Questions Designed by  
Doug Pocock and Jan Llewelyn  
(I have suggested that they make quite a few easy ones.)

Questions will include some  
Melbourne Bushwalkers trivia.

Game contestant "Bells and Whistles"  
designed and built by Stuart Hodgson.

RSVP - Nancy Belyea

### Alan Miller's BYO Wine Tasting

Saturday 1 July 1995 at  
8.00 pm SHARP

Phone 9592 5085  
Melways: Map 76 ,J4

More details on Page 6

### Beginners Nordic Skiing

#### Lake Mountain

on Saturday 29 July (if there is enough snow!)

Information night on Wed. 12 July

See Page 4 for more information.

### EQUIPMENT EVENING

Wednesday, June 28, 1995 - 7:30 PM  
Club Rooms (Main Hall)

Mick Whitty - Mountain Designs (Hawthorn)

Mick will give us some ideas on what to look for,  
when purchasing equipment.

His shop, at 654 Glenferrie Road (only) will give  
club members 15% off (rather than the usual  
10%), for 10 days after his demonstration  
(from June 29 to July 8).

### 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.

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## From the Editor

There are a couple of graphic accounts of adventures on Club Trips recently, especially Bill Metzenthens Easter trip to Lady Northcote's Canyon. We certainly have some intrepid members! The Razor-Viking trip was less eventful, and was much enjoyed by the participants.

The Club bus trip to the Little Desert and Wyperfeld National Parks over the Queen's Birthday weekend will be under way by the time most of you are reading this. We have got a full bus of 45 people, so that is quite impressive. There will be three pack-carry walks, led by Doug, Sylvia and Max, and a base camp, which I am leading. Lets hope the weather is good!

Nancy & George have got some great activities planned for your social calendar, and George would also like to hear from any down-hill skiers in the Club, as he wants to organise a weekend Ski trip to Mt Buller.

See you along the track

*Bob Steel*

## From the President

My first bit of news is that there are changes afoot for our lease of our Clubrooms. The Historic Building Management Committee have written to inform us that they have called for tenders to manage the leasing of the whole building. Depending on to whom they give the lease, we may have to find new Clubrooms. So I'm asking all members to keep a look-out for something that may suit us - in the Central Business District - with storage space and large enough for our Wednesday meetings, all at a reasonable rent! We will hearing from our current landlord in the next month or so.

Congratulations are in order to Alan Clarke on his election to the position of Secretary of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs. It's an honour for Alan and for us to have a member on the executive of the Federation.

It was very disappointing to hear that the track clearing weekend at Otway National Park had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. Standing on my soap box now, I'm reminding every bushwalker that if we don't all do something towards the care of the bush and the areas we walk in, we will be the losers. Think of this - if every member of our Club attended *one* track clearing day or weekend *once* every 10 years, we would have 40 people track clearing every year.

Last Wednesday I was stumbling around our Map File when a bearded gentleman gave me a very quick lesson (it was able to be quick because it's pretty straight forward) on how to find out what maps we have and how to borrow them. Ron Garrett has finished putting the maps on "a disc" and has the new borrowing system up and running. He will give you all a quick lesson at the half-yearly General Meeting.

I've heard on the bush telegraph that the Australian Alps Walking Track (AAWT) has absorbed the Alpine Walking Track in Victoria and put in new track markers and totem poles from Walhalla to Canberra. A half-metre high totem is placed at each track junction with a confirming totem placed 50 metres up the track in each direction. the poles have an Australian National Park sign on top, a pale blue-grey triangle, with the words "Australian Alps Walking Track" on two sides, is placed below this, showing the direction of the track. In more remote areas (in Victoria only) an 'Aeroplane Blue' reflectorised marker is also used.

There is some controversy over these markers, as blue is probably not the easiest colour to see in the bush and the height of the totem is much lower than the generally recommended height. I guess the message is don't rely on the markers, but take your map and compass on the Alpine Track.

Cheers,

*Janet Norman*

**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

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½ 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 **JULY 1995 News** is 28<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

## Previews for July Day Walks

### Late Preview - Sunday 18 June - Easy & Med. TREE FERN TRACK - GEMBROOK

Leaders: Peter McGrath & Brian Crouch  
 Transport: Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard  
 Approx length of walks: 12 and 18 kms

We will walk in the Bunyip State Park & Gembrook Park with the highlight being the Tree Fern Track. This track passes through beautiful lush forest with tall tree ferns & some very large black wattles. It is a designated walking track which means no horses and vehicles. Other parts of the walk are on tracks passing through thick eucalyptus forest and more open, dryer areas of bush. Both walks will provide plenty of contrast & interest with some challenges & great views.

### Sunday 2 ANDERSON'S PICNIC GROUND - Easy & E/Medium SUNDAY CREEK

Leaders: Jean Giese & David Laing  
 Transport: Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard  
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: c. 75 kms  
 Expected time of return: 1830  
 Area: Western edge of Mt Disappointment State Forest  
 Approx length of walks: 12 & 16 kms  
 Map Reference: Wandong & Reedy Creek 1:25 000

This walk is in fairly dry, open forest around the Sunday Creek reservoir, at times on a walking track, on little-used forest roads and also through the bush. The distances are not great, but there are some real ups and downs. Both walks begin with a 200m climb but the easier group will take it at a slower pace. There are rewarding views and some patches of mountain ash forest. Platypus have been seen in the reservoir.

### Sunday 9 LAL LAL FALLS Easy & E/Medium near Ballan

Leaders: Chris Lynch & Angela Ho  
 Transport: Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard  
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: c. 110 kms  
 Expected time of return: 1900  
 Approx length of walks: 14 - 18 kms

Map Reference: Lal Lal 1:25 000

Enjoy a pleasant walk in the heart of the Central Victorian goldfields not far from Ballarat. The walk will begin at Lal Lal reservoir, continue along the Moorabool River & onto Champion Hill & beyond. The area features open bush terrain and is dotted with old mine shafts. Wildlife is abundant in this area

### Sunday 16 MT ROBERTSON STATE PARK Easy/med. & Medium GUM CREEK

Leaders: Alan Miller & Clare Lonergan  
 Transport: Bus at 9.00 am from South Bank Boulevard  
 Approx. Distance from Melbourne: c. 85 kms  
 Expected time of return: 1900  
 Area: S. of Flowerdale  
 Approx length of walks: 14 and 18 kms  
 Map Reference: Pheasant Creek 1:25 000

The walks will be along tracks through dry eucalypt forest with good views in places. On the easier walk, the only steep part will be the descent and climb required to cross Gum Creek. The medium walkers will get more exercise!

### Wednesday 19 YARRA R.: WESTERFOLDS Easy/medium - WARRANDYTE

Leader: Jean Giese  
 Transport: Private  
 Expected time of return: 1700  
 Approx length of walk: 16 kms  
 Map Reference: Melways 33 & 21-23

with permission from some private land-owners it is possible to walk beside the Yarra River from Westerfolds Park to Warrandyte State Park. It might be a bit scratchy or wet in parts but Wednesday walkers are used to taking whatever comes, & enjoying it!

Meet at Porter St. car park (Melways 33 F3) at 9.15 am or at 9 Albert Cres, Surrey Hills at 8.30 am. Please book with leader as I have to arrange a car shuffle.

Members Free Ad.

#### For Sale

Two-piece ladies Ski Suit, Pink, nice looking.

Size 10-12. \$20.

Contact Alena after hours on .

## Previews for July Day Walks continued

<b>Saturday 22</b> Easy/medium	<b>SEARCH &amp; RESCUE SKI SKILLS IMPROVEMENT Mt STIRLING</b>
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Leader: **Stephen Down**  
Transport: **Private**

All S&R members are welcome to attend. See more details on Page 12. Stephen Down is overseas at present but should be back in time for this trip. Contact Stephen in Clubroom or on .

<b>Sunday 23</b> Easy & E/Medium	<b>SUGARLOAF RESERVOIR</b>
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Leaders: **Jean Giese & Maureen Hurley**  
Transport: **Bus at 9.00 am from South  
Bank Boulevard**

Approx. Distance **c.50 kms**  
from Melbourne:  
Expected time of return: **1830**  
Area: **between Eltham & Yarra Glen**  
Approx length of **Easy 16-18 kms, Med c. 20**  
walks: **kms**  
Map Reference: **Park Pamphlet, Christmas Hills  
1:25 000 or Melway map 273**

There is a walking track around the perimeter of this off-stream Melbourne water storage reservoir, with great views from the hilltops, of the City, Yarra Glen & the distant mountains. Mobs of kangaroos graze on the grasslands. There are sections of dry, open forest which, together with the proximity to Melbourne, make this a suitable mid-winter walk. The harder walk will leave the track to climb higher up the hills.

<b>Saturday 29</b> Easy	<b>DANDENONGS EXPLORER FERNTREE GULLY FOREST</b>
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Leader: **Rosemary Cotter**  
Transport: **Private**  
Approx. Distance **c. 37 kms**  
from Melbourne:  
Expected time **c. 1530**  
of return:  
Approx length of walk: **10 kms**  
Map Reference: **Melway map 65 & 74**

This is a lovely walk embracing the western side of Ferntree Gully Park (Dandenong Ranges NP) which is a haven of peace away from the muted roar of vehicular traffic driving to Belgrave. We will meet by the underpass at Upper Ferntree Gully railway station and we will start walking at 10 am - (catch the 0845 train from Flinders Street - journey takes c. 1 hr.)

This park has been the unofficial training ground for those going to Nepal etc. Although it is said that there are "1 000 steps" on one ascent/descent, I am reliably informed that there are fewer than 800! This will be a circuit walk on tracks amidst, & at times overshadowed by, tree ferns and forest trees (peppermint, messmate and stringybarks)

Following on the heels of former President Graham Breen and Jill Breen, afternoon tea may not be precisely the same, but I'm sure an acceptable substitute can be found.

<b>Saturday 29</b> Easy	<b>BEGINNERS SKI DAY - LAKE MOUNTAIN</b>
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Leader: **Sylvia Wilson**  
Transport: **Private**  
Approx. Distance **c. 120 kms**  
from Melbourne:  
Expected time of return: **c.1900**  
Area: **near Marysville**  
Map Reference: **Outdoor Leisure Map -  
Marysville-Lake Mountain**

The Beginners Ski Day is a wonderful opportunity to have a go at Cross Country Skiing and see if you're going to like it. It's usually heaps of fun and totally exhausting! All the relevant info is given at a blurb night in the Clubrooms at 8.00 pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July. This covers equipment & where to get it, what to bring, where to meet, approx. cost, transport arrangements and of course meeting each other. If there is no snow at Lake Mountain on THE day (Sat 22 July) we will make arrangements for another day and keep our fingers crossed. This is not an unusual occurrence so even if you are remotely interested but can't make the 22 July, come to the info night anyway.

<b>Sunday 30</b> Easy/med. & Medium	<b>BLUE MOUNTAIN - BLACKWOOD</b>
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Leaders: **Les Southwell & Peter Gipps**  
Transport: **Bus at 9.00 am from South  
Bank Boulevard**  
Approx. Distance **c. 80 kms**  
from Melbourne:

*Old gold mining area fairly close to Melbourne, with lots of interest. See leaders in Clubrooms Editor*

## Previews for July Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks

7-9 July  
Medium

WILSONS PROM.  
NORTHERN END

Leader: Lloyd Young  
Transport: Private  
Approx. Distance from Melbourne: 204 kms to Port Welshpool  
Expected time of return: Late Sunday evening  
Approx length of walk: 12 km on Sat, 14 km on Sun.  
Map Reference: Outdoor leisure map - Wilsons Prom 1:50 000

The trip begins with a boat trip from Port Welshpool to Johnny Souey Cove. Camp for the night is at Johnny Souey Cove - the rest of Saturday is a walk to Five Mile Beach and return. Sunday involves a walk north along the coast, with some rock hopping, to Lighthouse Point, from where we cross the peninsula and come out at Chinaman Long Beach. From there we will walk to Tin Mine Cove where the boat will pick up the party. Water is available at the campsites.

14-16 July  
Medium

BOGONG HIGH PLAINS  
SKI TRIP

Leader: Peter Chalkley  
Transport: Private  
Approx. Distance from Melbourne: 375 kms  
Expected time of return: 2300 on Sunday  
Approx length of ski: 20 kms  
Map Reference: Outdoor Leisure Map - Bogong Alpine Area 1:50 000

A leisurely tootle around the southern parts of the Bogong High Plains. We will visit Mt Jim and ski out Young's Spur to Young's Hut and camp nearby. Sunday will see us visit Basalt Temple and perhaps Weston's Hut before returning to the cars.

### Mootwingie Update.

We gain in numbers and more places to visit! I've been hearing about Kinchega N.P., 100 kms S.E of Broken Hill. It's amongst the Mendindee Lakes system and sounds terrific. Also Rosemary Cotter has agreed to come and talk to us re her experiences in this wide area and show her photographs, so we will have a blurb night early in September. Keep ya posted.

*Sylvia Wilson*

21-23 July  
Easy

MT KOOYOORA -  
MELVILLE CAVES

NOTE - Change of Date for this walk from that on the Program

Leader: Janet Norman  
Transport: Private  
Approx. Distance from Melbourne: c. 215 kms  
Expected time of return: Sunday evening  
Area: Near Inglewood (NW of Bendigo)  
Approx length of walk: 2 x 15 kms approx.  
Map Reference: Dunolly 1:100 000

Kooyoora State Park is delightful winter walking country. It is mainly open woodland with interesting rocky outcrops that create caves and shelters fit for bushrangers! The walking will be on tracks and cross country, but no scrub bashing! The area is full of interest, with views, Aboriginal relics, bushranger hide-outs, remnants of gold mining days, as well as birds, wildlife, etc etc.

We will base camp at a most civilised spot, so lighten up your winter blues and head north!

28-30 July  
Medium Hard

MT BOGONG  
SKI TRIP

Leader: Bill Metzthen  
Transport: Private  
Approx. Distance from Melbourne: 350 kms  
Expected time of return: Sunday Evening  
Approx length of walk: 20+ kms  
Map Reference: Outdoor Leisure Map - Bogong Alpine Area

Depending upon transportation, we ascend the Eskdale or Staircase Spurs. The weekend will be spent sampling the various gullies of Victoria's highest mountain. Camp on the snow - a stove is essential. This trip is for experienced skiers only - the ascent and descent are dangerous if the conditions are icy.

The last time we tried this trip (at this time of the year) the weather was dreadful and we spent most of Saturday playing cards in Bivouac Hut. If the weather is bad this year then the trip may be changed to somewhere less exposed, perhaps Mt Buffalo.

### Alan Miller's BYO Wine Tasting Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 1995

The idea is as follows. Each person brings along a bottle of wine. The retail price must be under \$15. No spirits, champagne, beer, etc. The label is covered up and everyone scores the wines out of ten. I will average the scores after everyone has finished their tasting and there will be a prize for the person who brought along the best wine.

Please be punctual - 8.00 pm start. Otherwise the empty bottles signify the best wines!

Nibbles only provided; I am not cooking dinner for several dozen Bushies!

PS. I suggest that couples bring 1 bottle between them, otherwise there could be too many bottles to taste.

PPS. *Melbourne Weekly* has just distributed a Melbourne restaurant guide, including a list of 40 best wines. At a similar wine tasting which I attended recently, the worst wine out of 17 was the only one on the *Melbourne Weekly* list!

### 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. One of their members will be there to show you how to drive the Lodge. 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.

### Tennis: Outdoor or Indoor

Thursday 22 June at 7.30 pm

at Tulip Tennis Centre, Sandringham.

Come along and have a lot of fun in a friendly game. A great social night. I would like to make this a regular event. For more info. & bookings, see George Zamora in the Clubrooms or phone me on

### Obituary - Pam Nowak (nee Abbott)

Once more the old members of the Club mourn the passing of one of their popular and early members.

Only two months after attending the launch of the Melbourne Bushwalkers book, at Maranoa Gardens in Balwyn, Pam Nowak (better known by her maiden name as Pam Abbott) passed away peacefully on Mar 9th

Pam's association with the Club during its formative years was an especially close one as the Club used the Abbott family's bathing box at Sandringham as the Club's official beach meeting place.

In those early days, when Pam was perhaps 20, she was still so small and young in appearance that she would manage to travel on a child's railway ticket, without ever being asked her age.

This writer had only limited contact with Pam in later years, but recalls that her husband, who was very active in union affairs, won a Churchill scholarship, which saw the Nowak family travel overseas in the late 60s or early 70s.

In recent years Pam ran a specialist (toy?) shop in the Albert Park area, and seemed to be in good health and spirits at the Book Launch in March.

*Horst Eisfelder*

An early 19<sup>th</sup> Century bush remedy for corns.

"...for a painful corn on the toe....take a few grains of gunpowder, dig a tiny hole in the corn, and touch it off. It was always successful, away went the corn."

Quote from *Portrait in a Mirror* by Alexandra Hasluck

Members Free Ad

For Sale **TRANGIA STOVE** - one person size.

Consists of frypan, two x 1l saucepans with gripping handle, adjustable burner & windshield. Complete with original box & instructions. I will sell for \$48. Also *Nalgene* fuel bottle for Meths, 500ml, \$6.

.....Contact Max Casley on

Overheard on a Bushwalk:

"I might be old but I've still got my feeling!"

....Margaret Borden

Sotto Voce "Wait for me, I'm the leader!"

...Alan Clarke

## FOUR DAYS IN THE ALPS

On Saturday morning we met at the carpark. A cold night beforehand - for some, reaching below freezing - promised a mild and sunny day. With our details in the intentions book, we departed. A relatively brief walk through the snow gums and grasses of Clover Plain brought us to the turn-off along the Wonnangatta Spur and the Zeta Spur track. However, the trudging (sic) of walking along a vehicle track was not to be for us.

After following the walking track for a few kilometres, we turned off to the north and followed our fearless leader down the trackless scrub of a side spur. The scrub was at times a little thick, and at other times gave way to rocky knolls, several with good views (pausing for lunch upon one of them). Generally, though, it was fairly open. Even open enough for Lyn to perform a perfect double somersault with pack and tree (degree of difficulty 3.4). Our descent was regularly joined by an exquisite lemon scent, which we eventually identified as a very small flowering bush through which we were walking. We arrived at our campsite in good time and with only one crossing of the upper Wonnangatta to make.

The campsite at the Wonnangatta was smallish, but pleasant. Blackberry bushes were in abundance, but appeared to be affected by some disease. Perhaps the rust fungus released 3 - 4 years ago? After some general ruminations around a small campfire, we went to bags early with the sound of running waters around us.

The next morning we set off up the Viking Spur with rather heavier packs. Having been advised by walkers the previous evening that the Viking Saddle was dry, we all carried 3, 4, or even more, litres of water to see us through. A brisk start soon eased off to a steady climb, which we were able to maintain throughout the morning. The trees changed steadily from Ash and Wattles, as we gained height, and by lunch we were in snow gums at the top of the Viking. It was a fine day and the views were superb. Buffalo, Bogong, Feathertop, and Hotham were all quite evident to the north, while Buller peeked over the Crosscut Saw to the east.

Sans packs we explored the ridge and the campsite at the northern end. We then dropped off the steep side down to the Viking Saddle and an early camp. It was just as well, as the saddle is a justifiably popular campsite and by the evening, there were 26 people there, and good spaces were becoming scarce. Some, who had come from the opposite direction, were unaware of the lack of water and had to spend some time looking for it. Firewood, however, was plentiful, and a very pleasant evening was spent sharing a fire

with fellow travellers, although for some reason the smoke seemed to favour one trio over all others!

It rained that night - the only time of the whole trip, but it had cleared the next morning and we were not to need our waterproofs during the entire walk. The next morning we were glad to share our leftover water with less fortunate travellers, and departed with considerably lighter loads.

The track to the Razor was very enjoyable with open forest highlighted by the low early morning sun. The relatively flat track gave one the opportunity to appreciate some of the beauty of the native, unspoilt bush, and we proceeded at a steady pace.

The Razor proved to be an adventurous side trip. The views from the top differed from those on the Viking, with Cobbler becoming very evident, and Stirling replacing Buller over the Crosscut Saw. The Alpine track off the Razor is a bit of an adventure in itself, but under Peter's experienced leadership we were off it soon enough and up onto Mount Despair for lunch and a restful lie in the warm sunshine. The conditions on the mountain certainly belied its name.

A steady decline into Catherine Saddle and we saw the first vehicle track (unused) for nearly three days. Following the track for a short distance it was decided to take the shorter although much steeper alternative to Mt Speculation.

The top of Mt Speculation, like other mountains of its height, is covered with grassy vegetation and a few snow gums. Just off the top, on the Eastern side, there is a small plateau with a few extra trees, and a few good campsites. This small plateau falls off almost vertically on its eastern side, down to the upper reaches of the Wonnangatta River over a thousand feet below. To camp on the edge of this little plateau, with its magnificent views, is one of nature's great pleasures, and a bushwalker's delight. To watch the sunrise from there on a clear, crisp, morning was the wonderful experience that was exclusively ours the next morning.

That evening it had been obvious that it was going to be a cold night, and we had searched around for a suitable supply of firewood, which was a little scarce. Lighting a fire of appropriately limited proportions, we gathered around it for another enjoyable evening of chatter and the odd silly game. The most memorable involved Volkswagons, caftans, and pansies! The lights of the ski resort on Mt Hotham could be clearly seen.

*Continued next page*

## Four Days in the Alps continued

Andrew ate and ate, while Lyn disposed of the last of her sweets. Louise contemplated her summer-weight sleeping bag as the temperature dropped to zero (it subsequently went up to 4° during the night!). Max was Max. The next morning we set off early, and, after a last look at the views from the top of Speculation (Howitt, the Bluff, Stirling, were all now quite evident) we were soon down off the mountain top. Horrible Gap and Mount Buggery, while a little strenuous, did not live up to their names, and on a beautiful clear day, the walk over the Crosscut, with its fabulous views, was another experience to savour. Tania still coughed occasionally and Peter still talked continuously. Others were more contemplative, or, like Andrew, were just getting into the feel of it all.

Lunch on the lee side of Mt Howitt just about exhausted everyone's food supplies, and after a rest we set off for Macalister Springs. One last pause for a photo of the crosscut in the continuing excellent conditions (fancy running out of film!). The passage was broken when Andrew enthusiastically embraced Peter's order to "fetch some snow", and by a last pause to view the Crosscut and Speculation from beside the Devil's Staircase.

Another pause at the spring and to inspect the hut. We wondered about Cherry Ripes two years past their date, and why the hut was named after one only 20 years of age. Then it was off again for the last stretch back across Clover Plain. In an attempt to delay the inevitable, Dianne tried to pull the old "blister" trick, but with only a few hundred yards to go, the end was too near. Soon we all reached the cars, changed into fresh clothes, and departed, stopping briefly at Licola and Traralgon for refreshments and a meal.

And then, in our own time, we all fell back to Earth.

*Alan Clarke*

## The Easter Trip from Hell

Never had the words "there's a road here!" been more welcome! They marked the end of our search for a 4WD track to take us back to the cars at the end of a four-day walk that will remain in the memories of the participants for many years to come.

There were nine of us on the Lady Northcote Canyon walk in the Kosiusko National Park, lead by Bill Metzenthon, over the Easter Weekend. The plan had been to descend from Olsen's Lookout to the Geehi River, then walk the length of Lady Northcote's Creek with a side trip to Mt. Kosiusko and return via Watson's Craggs back to the cars.

From the start at Olsen's Lookout the conditions looked ominous. Snow covered the upper reaches of Lady Northcote's gully and Watson's Craggs. Bill was already rethinking the side trip to Mt. Kosiusko. Then began the walk. The descent to the Geehi wasn't so bad - it was steep and we slithered and slide and sometimes fell on our way down - but at least it wasn't scrubby. Rock-hopping up Lady Northcote's Creek, however, was a more difficult proposition. The first half dozen steps in the creek brought us to a large boulder to surmount that had a flat top about head height. Bill was first up without much ado. Peter Day was next, launching himself onto the rock and doing a great impression of a limpet - landing flat on the rock and squirming his way to the top. The rest of us were assisted up. Peter Chalkley tried the limpet technique but obviously did not have the stomach muscle control necessary to move forward.

This set the tone for the rest of the walking along Lady Northcote's Creek. The high level of water in the creek - especially upstream from the "opera house", where the Snowy Mountains Authority has diverted water from the creek into a tunnel running through the mountain to their hydro-electric scheme - meant that we were forced to the more bouldery sides of the creek and sometimes into the scrub. Not surprisingly we made slow progress. The first night we camped in the creek bed below the first waterfall. There was only one campsite big enough to pitch a tent which of course Bill and Marilyn got. The rest of us camped on rock slabs and on river gravel in the creek bed. Mary was so tired she forgot to blow up her Thermarest and so had a 'rotten' night's sleep.

The second day we passed the gushing second waterfall of Lady Northcote's Creek but the going was even harder, and it soon became obvious that there was no way we were going to make Lake Albina that day. We camped beside the creek again but this time the base was snow, not rock slab. At least we could pitch our tents. We were so tired that some considered going to bed without eating dinner. During the night, though, the Easter Bunny (Marilyn) did come, which lightened our spirits somewhat. The third day promised to be easier. It was evident that the trip as planned couldn't continue. We considered a couple of options and decided to follow the creek part way back and then an old SMA trail back to the spur that came off Watson's Craggs. This trail started at the entrance of a SMA tunnel, and sidled around to where the tunnel exited the mountain. If all went well we could be back at the cars that night.

*Continued next page*

**The Easter Trip from Hell** continued

Well of course we never found the start of the trail and there followed the hardest couple of days bushwalking I've ever experienced. The scrub was so thick there were times where we walked for 200m and our feet did not touch the ground - unless you were unlucky enough to fall through the branches, and then getting back up again was exhausting. It was only 3 kms to the Spur but it took us 6 hours - one afternoon and the following morning - to get there. This sidling around was so exhausting and so drawn out that Ralph began to recall the last days of Cleve Cole. Marilyn thought we may have been round the mountain thirteen times looking for a non-existent spur. Anyway that night we camped high up on the mountain and had to hack a campsite into the slope. It was raining heavily by now and this gave way to light snow in the morning. On the last day we eventually found the spur back down to the Geehi and also the elusive SMA track where it crossed the spur - it

was very overgrown and we were not surprised we missed it at its start. The spur itself was less scrubby and we made our way down to the Geehi for lunch. Most of us were pretty exhausted by now, but we still had a steep climb up to the road back to Olsen's Lookout. We climbed slowly and as we got higher up we saw tantalizing signs of civilisation - rusty tins, bottles, a car battery and even a discarded trig point. However, it was only when the first person reached the road and called out "there's a road here!" that we allowed ourselves to relax and happily contemplate our imminent arrival at the cars.

Thanks, Bill, for a weekend that will surely enter the folklore of the Club, and for a potent reminder of how much harder unfavourable conditions can make a walk.

*Peter Chalkley and Mary Leonard*

# AN OASIS IN THE ARCTIC DESERT

A thermal oasis in the polar desert, a river that never freezes, this is the Lake Hazen area, 1500 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle on Canada's Ellesmere Island.

During the brief arctic summer there is no darkness to mark the passage of time. The scale of the land is both immense and intimate at the same time. Intricate patterns of rock, frost-cracked ground, willows and wildflowers at your feet extend out from



where you stand into endless vistas in the clear dry air. The animals lack fear of people and may approach closely, curious about your presence.

We are offering a special trip to Ellesmere Island in July 1996. An expedition like this will be a success only if the planning is begun far in advance. If you think you might be interested, now is the time to ask for more information.

12 Carrington Street  
Millner NT 0810



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

**Committee Notes**

Walks Secretary - for April  
 Day Walks - 5 with ave of 41 participants  
 W/E pack-carry walks - 4, ave. 9.5, Base Camps - 2, ave.  
 9.5  
 Wed, Historical & Dandenongs - 4, ave. 12¼.

**Treasurer:**

Opening Balance  
 Month's Receipts  
 Month's Payments  
 Closing Balance

April \$	May \$
56 375.53	52 250.88
6 492.28	10 586.50
10 616.93	3 925.98
52 250.88	58 911.40

**Membership:**

Life	11	NEWS Subs	11
Honorary	10	Complimentary	26
Single	260	Unrenewed-	85 singles
Couples	88 (2x44)		9 couples
Total	369		3 NEWS subscribers

**New Members**

Anne Mc Kenzie	Tania Lieman
Geoffrey Hughes	Carole Mc Bride
Joy Shields	Simon Freidin
John Rowe	Kelvin Rutgers
Susan Maughan	Peter Micheletto
Anne Wilkins	Rosemary Fantasia
Allan Mikkelsen	Alison Bond
	Jan Wild

Anthony O'loughlin

**Altered Addresses and/or Phone Nos.**

Mark Walters	Martine Elliott
Kathryn Graham	Gillian Giles
Bob & Lynne Douglas	Barbara Burton
Therese Bunting	Keith White
Alex & Margaret Stirkul	Jerry Grandage
David Barton	Lynne Farrelly
Michael Humphrey	Edith O'shea
Helene Hunt	Maria & Warren Baker
Joyce Dunn	Jill & Graham Breen
Edward Russell	Colin & Angelika Prohasky
David Vincent	Darrell Rolfe
Graeme Thornton	Martin Williams
Barbara & Geof Crapper	Doreen Hopkins
Michael Brooks	Andrew Buckland

**Comitee Duty Roster**

14 June	Nigel and Jean,	28 June	Denise & Janet
21 June	Doug & Lloyd	5 July	Nancy & Pearson

## The Bushies Good Food Guide

*Contributions from readers most welcome. Don't let Sylvia do ALL the work! You must have some favourite eating places. Let us all know about them.*

### Bairnsdale

Healthy Happenings, 35 Service St. Bairnsdale. Turn left at the traffic lights c. 100 m. past the large Catholic church (travelling from Melbourne). On the way to Native Dog Flat at easter, we stopped for lunch at this coffee lounge which served 'all natural & wholesome food'. The service was quick, the portions were generous and the prices very reasonable. The coffee was good too!

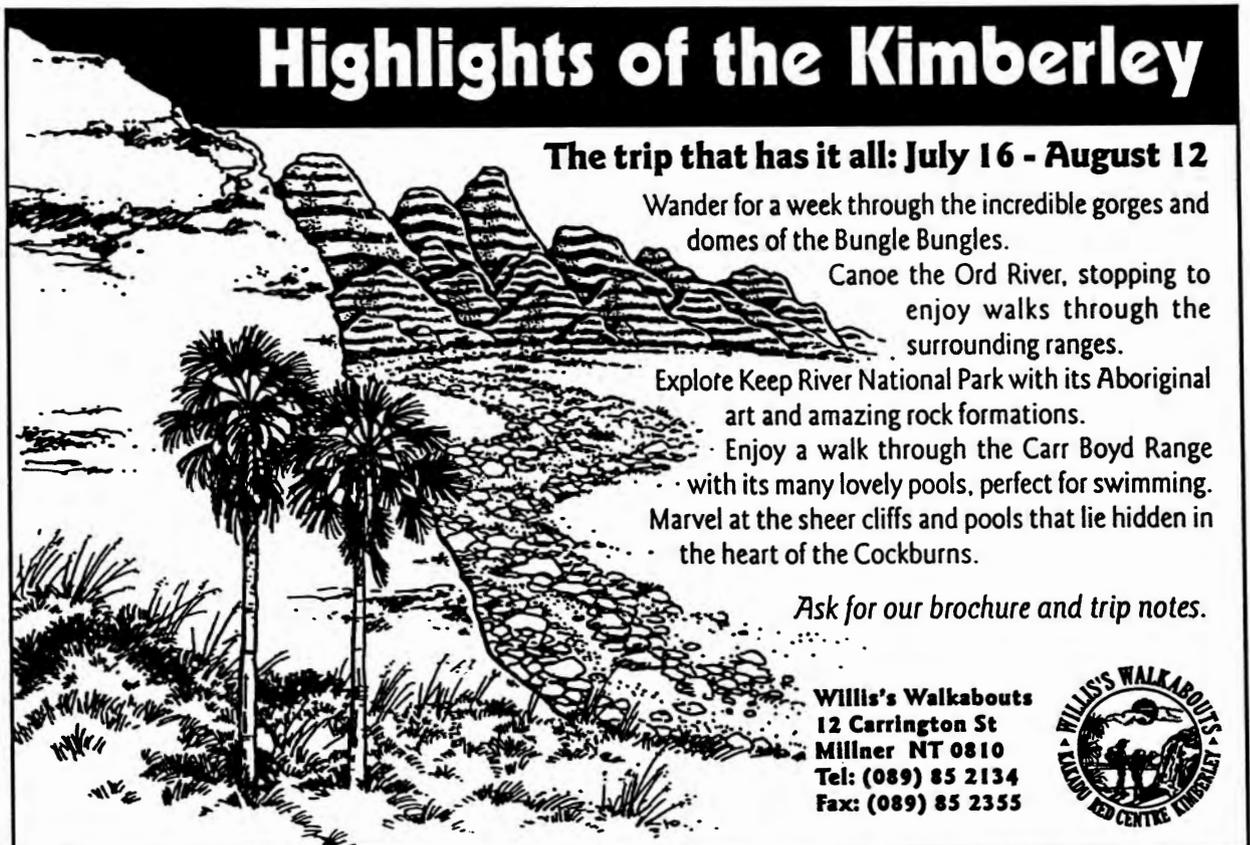
*Clare Lonergan*

### Buchan

Dilly Dally Restaurant & Cafe, Main road. It re-opened last December after being closed for several months; it has a new chef/owner. We stopped on the way back from Native Dog Flat for morning tea. The Devonshire Tea/Coffee was good value. Slightly up-market for a tiny place like Buchan, but we enjoyed the service. Looks like a good place to stop for dinner - it is licensed and has a range of local wines. Phone: (051) 55 9387

(PS. Native Dog Flat to Melbourne via Buchan is 25 km shorter than via Omeo.)

*Alan Miller*



# Highlights of the Kimberley

**The trip that has it all: July 16 - August 12**

- Wander for a week through the incredible gorges and domes of the Bungle Bungles.
- Canoe the Ord River, stopping to enjoy walks through the surrounding ranges.
- Explore Keep River National Park with its Aboriginal art and amazing rock formations.
- Enjoy a walk through the Carr Boyd Range with its many lovely pools, perfect for swimming.
- Marvel at the sheer cliffs and pools that lie hidden in the heart of the Cockburns.

*Ask for our brochure and trip notes.*

**Willis's Walkabouts**  
 12 Carrington St  
 Millner NT 0810  
 Tel: (089) 85 2134  
 Fax: (089) 85 2355



## Summer Walks Programme

The finishing touches are now going on the Spring Programme (mostly finding suitable and willing leaders). 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. Get your ideas to me as soon as possible please.

As an example of a possible Summer trip, the Maroonda Bushwalking Club is planning to walk from Kiandra to Thredbo (Kosciusko National Park), starting walking on 30th Dec and ending on about 8th Jan. They are interested in having members or groups from other clubs involved in this project. I had been considering putting a similar walk on our programme, but starting on the 26th or 27th of Dec. What do you think? Would you be interested in doing this walk this summer and if so what dates would best suit you?

I am still not getting as many walks ideas from the membership as I would like. This may be because the Walks Sub-committee does such a good job with the walks programmes but I find it hard to believe that our walks programmes have *exactly* those walks you would like to do at *precisely* the time when you want to do them. To try and encourage people to give their ideas, I will put a folder in the club rooms with WALKS IDEAS written on the cover in large letters. The next time you are in the club rooms, please have a look at it and write { \em your } ideas or comments for the walks programme into it. Keep those ideas coming folks!

*Bill Metzenthien*  
Walks Secretary

## Search and Rescue Ski Skills Improvement Day - Mt Stirling

**Sat 22 July 1995.**

**Leader: Stephen Down**

For winter training this year the Federation Search and Rescue Section is organising a ski skills improvement day. To quote from *Behind the log*: "a one-day ski skills training program .....designed to increase the skills of searchers likely to be called for snow searches. Searchers registered as an experienced ski-tourer are welcome to attend. Instruction (pitched at levels to cater for all) will be provided by qualified ski instructors".

Stephen Down has been enjoying life overseas, but may be back by the time you read this. Contact him for more details.

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