



# The NEWS

of the

## MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

AUGUST 1996

EDITION 546

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PRICE 60 cents

### WILKINSON LODGE NEAR DISASTER

#### LODGE USERS PLEASE READ

A recent winter group using Wilky went through the normal procedure on arriving. Turning the gas on in the woodshed, the group played around in the snow before going inside. When they eventually went inside they found the kitchen full of gas. The previous party had turned the gas off at the woodshed but had not turned the gas off AT THE STOVE IN THE KITCHEN. Luckily the wood stove was out at the time otherwise Wilky would be no more!!!

Would all Wilky users take note of this and make sure the gas is OFF at the STOVE as well as at the WOODSHED on your departure

*Doug Pocock*  
Wilky Manager

### Slide Night

8.00 pm Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August  
Clubrooms

*Allan Mikkelsen*  
Bhutan, Sikkim and the Karakoram

### Extended Trip to NE NSW and SE Qld

Consciousness Raising Meeting  
Tuesday 13th August at Jean Giese's  
9 Albert Cres, Surrey Hills.

Hear about route, walk locations, transport arrangements etcetera and meet some of the rest of the team. Or just come if you are interested.

Sylvia Wilson's real AH No

**Half Yearly General Meeting**  
**Melbourne Bushwalkers (Inc).**  
**Wednesday 21st August 1996**  
**8pm Clubrooms**

*Motion - see page 8*

### Search and Rescue Night

7.30 pm Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September  
Clubrooms

*Peter Campbell*  
Contact: Stephen Down

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### Tribute to Peter Micheletto

The Melbourne Bushwalkers were sad to hear that Peter Micheletto passed away on 7th July 1996.

Peter joined the Club in 1976, and after a long absence rejoined in 1994.

Peter was very well liked and made many friends over the past few years. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him and we offer the Micheletto Family our deepest sympathy.

## From the Editor

The usual crop of minor glitches seem to have occurred in last month's **News**. The most annoying one for some contributors to the **News** was a misprint in my fax number which caused a number of people untold frustration. My apologies to all those who were inconvenienced; I have corrected it in the box at the bottom of the page. It should have been 9667 6223.

I would appreciate receiving photographic and literary contributions to the News. As you are no doubt aware every sheet of paper has two sides, and the sheets in the News are standard A4. As a consequence the material we publish each month has to be an odd number of pages (plus the addressing sheet). This means we are constantly searching for articles or pictures of various sizes with which we can fill otherwise blank spaces. If you would like to submit something, we will use it when a suitable opening arises. Maybe not the first month, but within a couple.

*Judy Gipps*

## Walks Secretary's Ramblings

### Perfect Skiing - anyone?

Hardened skiers long ago learnt to treat the official snow reports with a healthy disrespect. For *Good* or even *Excellent* read 'might be worth the trip'. For *Fair* read 'the only snow around is in the fridge at the pub'. Last weekend we came across a new rating:

Bushies: Hullo ARC, what's the snow like up there?

ARC: *Perfect.*

Bushies: Great. We want to go to Mt Loch.

ARC: We wouldn't advise that. There's a gale blowing. It's snowing with zero visibility. The Mt Loch carpark is closed. The road is closed too.

If that's their idea of *Perfect*, then *Fair* doesn't sound too bad after all! Happy skiing.

*Pearson*

PS We went for a walk instead.

### Three Bedroom House in the Dandenongs Available for Rent

Commencing mid- September I am vacating my house in Kalorama for 12 months to go walking in England, and I'm looking for a responsible person (or people) to occupy the place. Enjoy this rustic residence, with views of Sylvan Reservoir and Olinda State Forest, and bushwalking on your doorstep.

If you are interested please phone me on  
(Work) or (Home).

*Jerry Grandage*



**The NEWS** is the official newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and is published monthly.  
Edited by **Judy Gipps**.

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, letters or other contributions, where space, clarity or propriety dictate. and to maintain editorial consistency

Please note that articles for **The NEWS** may be :  
**placed** in the **Red Box** in the clubrooms or  
**mailed** to Judy Gipps,  
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 (eg gear, maps, trips, tours)

**Members Ads - FREE**

Closing Date for **SEPTEMBER 96 News** is **28<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 96**

## For Sale

**50 Years Along the Track**  
by Melbourne Bushwalkers

**\$18**

**Melbourne Bushwalkers Badges**

**\$3 or 2 for \$5 or 3 for \$6**

**Available at the clubrooms**

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 September Day Walks

**Saturday 31 August 1996**  
**Easy & Easy/Medium**

**Dandenongs Explorer**  
**Ballan - Moorabool**

**Leaders:** Michael Humphrey  
**Transport:** Private  
**Expected time of return:** 4.00 pm  
**Approximate length of walk:** 12 km  
**Map Reference:** Melway 127, 124 & 188

Please note there has been a change of plans for this walk - Debbie Gomm will be leading the **Dandenongs Explorer walk at the end of September.**

**We will meet and commence the walk at Emerald Reserve (Melway Map 127/G3) at 10.45 am sharp. From memory, this walk has not been done for about 3 years, maybe longer - Dorrie Warton was the last person to lead this walk.**

At the time of writing I hadn't previewed the walk, but from what I remember, it is a very pleasant ramble through the beautiful towns of Emerald and Avonsleigh.

If you are coming by public transport, the train arrives at Belgrave station at 10.02 am. Please ring me at home on \_\_\_\_\_ to advise me and I will meet you at the station. See you there!

**Saturday 7 September 1996**  
**Easy & Easy/Medium**

**Cycling**  
**Ballan - Moorabool**

**Leaders:** John Ogrizek  
**Transport:** Private  
**Area:** Ballan (between Bacchus Marsh and Ballarat)  
**Expected time of return:** 4.00 pm  
**Approximate length of cycle:** 65 km  
**Map Reference:** Vic Roads Country Directory 77E3  
 Melway 509/D12

The ride will begin in Ballan and head north towards Wombat State Forest. We will then travel along a gravel forest track to a picnic area alongside the Werribee River (wallabies have been seen along this track). We then continue on to Morrabool Reservoir for lunch.

After lunch we will return to Ballan via Wallace and Gordon, grabbing a glimpse of Bostock Reservoir. Once we have returned to Ballan there will be the option to stop at the local tea house. This ride will mainly be along quiet undulating country roads.

Note: A hybrid or mountain bike is required for this ride.

**Sunday 8 September 1996**  
**Easy & Easy/Medium**

**Yea Spur**

**Leaders:** John Kittson & Jean Woodger  
**Transport:** Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am  
**Area:** Yea  
**Expected time of return:** 7.00 pm  
**Approximate length of walk:** 15 & 18 km  
**Map Reference:**

The easy/medium have a steep climb of about 150 metres to walk along the Yea Spur, amongst rolling hills and wonderful panoramic views.

The easy group have a shorter climb to join the spur further along and continue with the valley below. It is not unusual to see wedge tailed eagles soaring above us.

**Sunday 15 September 1996**  
**Easy & Easy/Medium**

**Wilhemina Falls**  
**Murrundindi**

**Leaders:** Brian Crouch & Stan Machowiak  
**Transport:** Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am  
**Area:** between Toolangi & Yea  
**Approximate distance from Melbourne:**  
**Expected time of return:** 7.00 pm  
**Approximate length of walk:** 15 & 19 km  
**Map Reference:** Taggerty South

Both walks will be within the beautiful Murrundindi River Reserve. The highlight of these walks will be the spectacular views of Wilhemina Falls which drop 75 metres down a steep and slippery rock face. We also plan to visit Murrundindi Cascades where water surges over granite boulders surrounded by ferns, mosses and cool temperate rain forest.

There will be many rewards but also some challenges on both walks. Strong boots are highly recommended.

**Wednesday 18 September 1996**  
**Easy/Medium**

**Kinglake -**  
**Mt Jerusalem**

**Leaders:** Alistair Rowe  
**Transport:** Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am  
**Area:** Kinglake National Park  
**Expected time of return:** 5.30 pm  
**Approximate length of walk:** 22 km  
**Map Reference:** Strathewen 1:25,000

Meet at Jehosophat Valley Picnic Ground (Melway Ref 250/J8) at 9.45 am, or ring Jean Giese on \_\_\_\_\_ to meet at her house in Surrey Hills.

This circuit walk is one of the most pleasant and scenic imaginable with a wide variety of micro climates, eucalypts grass trees etc. Hear if not see the lyrebirds. Terrain is pleasantly hilly and there will be picturesque slots for morning and afternoon tea and lunch. Don't miss it!



## Previews for September Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks

**13 - 15 September 1996**      **Razorback - Feathertop**  
**Easy & Easy/Medium**      **Ski trip**

**Leaders:** Peter Chalkley  
**Transport:** Private  
**Expected time of return:** Sunday evening

This trip is for competent and experienced skiers only. With good weather this should be a picturesque trip.

**13 - 15 September 1996**      **Mt Cole - Mt Buangor**  
**Easy**      **State Park**

**Leaders:** Required  
**Transport:** Private

Mt Cole State Park is about 200 km west of Melbourne and has a wealth of interesting walks, flora and fauna. This base camp trip will take advantage of that lovely patch of warm weather that we (usually) get in September to get out and see it off. All those orchids and honeyeaters!

Note that we still need a leader for the trip. Volunteers please contact the Walks Secretary.

**20-22 September 1996**      **Mt Nelse Ski Trip**  
**Easy/Medium**

**Leaders:** Marilyn Whimpey  
**Transport:** Private  
**Area:** Bogong High Plains NE Victoria  
**Map Reference:** Bogong Alpine Area

We'll carry our packs to within somewhere of close reach of Mt Nelse. We'll be looking for gullies to ski around Mt Nelse and the Spion Kopje ridge. Should be good for XCD hoons. But I'm sure there will be easier slopes to people who aren't so gung-ho. If there is still a good cover I'd like to lead a tour out towards Roper's Hut or Spion Kopje or whatever. The main aim is to have lots of fun.

**27 - 29 September 1996**      **Wabonga Plateau**  
**Easy & Easy/Medium**

**Leaders:** Doug Pocock  
**Transport:** Private  
**Area:** near Mt Cobbler  
**Expected time of return:** Sunday evening  
**Map Reference:** VMTC Wabonga Plateau

**Please note.** This will be an ordinary weekend walk NOT a long weekend (Show Day) as it appears in the Program. However if anyone wants to go up there earlier we can arrange to meet.

After a car shuffle we will walk up a very easy climb to the plateau, dropping packs for a side trip to Mt Warrick. We have an excellent camp spot for the night. On Sunday the walk continues over the plateau with

views of the King River before we drop down McMillans Track (not THE McMillans Track).

This would be a very good introduction to weekend walking for anyone contemplating a move up from day walks.

### Mt Stirling Environmental Effects Statement

The options presented by consultants (Sinclair Knight Merz / Loder and Bayly) who were engaged to prepare an environmental effects statement are:

- A. Continuation of Existing Uses without New Infrastructure
- B. Nature-Based Low Impact Mountain (Conservation Focus)
- C. Nature-Based Low Impact Mountain (Recreation Focus)
- D. Day Visitor Mountain with Downhill and Cross-Country Skiing (with separate mountain centres)
- E. Day Visitor Mountain with Downhill and Cross-Country Skiing (with combined mountain centre)
- F. Comprehensive Ski Resort and Village

A number of members of the club are preparing a submission that basically favours options A or B. If anyone else would like to contribute they should contact:

Bill Metzethen AH -  
 Peter Gipps AH -

### Bushies Good Food Guide

On the road to Wilky (ie Bogong High Plains)

#### Milawa Bakery

Thursday to Sunday 7.30 am till 5.00 pm mostly.

Log fire      Fantastic  
 bread      Terrific  
 Coffee      9/10

Food generally smashing including interesting pies.

#### Mt Beauty Bakery

Open quite a lot.  
 Coffee 10/10

Teensy bit expensive. Bread and food tops. Apt to be busy.

#### Myrtleford Carlo's Pizza & Pasta

Main drag, block beyond loos, opposite war memorial.  
 10 pm close.

Efficient, great value except awful coffee.

*Sylvia Wilson*

## Bushwalking and the Internet

No, that is not an oxymoron. There is much useful information about bushwalking in Victoria (and more remote regions) that can be obtained on the internet. One good example is a set of pages designed and maintained by Trevor Brown. [tbrown@netc.net.au](mailto:tbrown@netc.net.au) and live at the North East Telecentre

The pages include:

- Lists of places, tracks and huts
- General Information
- Maps Information
- An overview map of the Mt. Feathertop and Mt. Bogong Areas.

The pages include a list of walking tracks and huts in the region with the corresponding 1:25,000 map, and additional snippets of information, such as:

*The areas of Mt. Feathertop, Mt. Hotham and Mt. Bogong are covered by different 1:25,000 maps and in some cases this leads to problems. One of these occurs in the case of the popular Razorback which leads from Mt. Hotham to Mt. Feathertop. The 1:25,000 maps of Harrierville and Mt. Feathertop which sit side by side cover the walk but the track lies between the maps, alternating from one to the other.*

They also contain helpful information and with one exception related to compasses (which I will not repeat here appear to be reliable). For example:

*With the continual expansion of the Mobile Phone network, mobile phone access is worth mentioning. On various walking tracks mobile phones work well and should be considered when working out what to take. .... With any communications equipment always remember that temperature, weather and location can all effect performance. If you do need to use such equipment then try to get onto a ridge or peak as the higher you can get above trees etc the better chance you have of getting out and therefore getting some help.*

One of the pages which I will include (almost) in its entirety is on minimal impact bushwalking.

### Minimal Impact Bushwalking

This term refers to the way many bushwalkers now behave once out in the bush. It doesn't limit or stand in the way of walkers but simply means if all walkers take up this then the bush and all its wonders will remain as they are today. There are some simple steps that walker can take to protect the bush and they don't cost anything!

By staying on tracks and not cutting corners on zigzag tracks.

By spreading out in open country as to minimise the damage to plants and grasses.

By avoiding sensitive vegetation such as Sphagnum bogs, cushion plants and other vegetation which is highly sensitive to damage. Some plants can die after just one person steps on them.

Don't cut new tracks as this is not only detrimental to the bush but is also illegal.

These are only some of the steps walkers can take to help the bush. There also things that walkers can do once they have set up camp which can help.

Use a fuel stove instead of a open fire, this is not only less damaging but there are vast areas of walking tracks which are designated as 'fuel stove only areas'. If you have to light a open fire try to light one in an existing fireplace instead of starting a new one. Never light a open fire or use a fuel stove outside on a day of TOTAL FIRE BAN there are severe penalties for doing this. It is legal to use a fuel stove inside a hut on a Total Fire Ban day but be careful! Once you have finished with your open fire 'Put it out!' and never leave a fire burning without someone watching it.

Always carry a good quality tent which has a floor and waterproof fly. Don't rely on the huts as these may already be full and if you use a hut be prepared to allow walkers who are in trouble to come in. Remember the primary use of the huts is for emergency or refuse use. Don't leave food scraps or store food in the huts as this encourages rats and other animals. Clean the hut up and replace any firewood that you use, when you leave close the door.

Once you have your camp set up remember to wash 50m away from streams and rivers. If there is no toilet dig a hole 15 cm deep and at least 100m away from any streams or rivers as well as camping areas.

Carrying out these simple measures can make a big difference and mean that next time you visit will be just as wonderful as the first. In Victoria -Australia pamphlets on Minimal Impact Bushwalking are available from The Conservation and Natural Resources which have offices all over the state.

Some basic rules for walking can also make a difference not just for the bush but for you as well. Always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return, Not following this simple procedure has lead to some lengthy and costly searches being carried out. Carry a map and compass and know how to use them. Remember just being 5 degrees out could cost you your life in bad weather. You can purchase good quality compasses for as little as \$30 (Australian) and this could make the difference between getting home or being stuck out on the bush.

**New members**

LEONARD ALLEN  
 MARK BIESOT  
 GARRETT BIRMINGHAM  
 ALISTAIR BODYCOMB  
 KIM BUENEN  
 HARRY DIMECH  
 FAY DUNN  
 ELISABETH FULLAGAR  
 ALLAN KITCHENER (converting from subscriber)  
 KERRIE M KNOTT  
 ANNE MARIE SPICER  
 LISA SULINSKI  
 LYNDA WILSON  
 ANDREW BUCKLAND  
 ADRIAN COLE  
 DEBORAH HENRY  
 PETER T HOGAN  
 DEREK MORRIS

MARY RUTLEDGE  
 ROLF SORENSEN  
 CHRISTINE SOUMALIAS  
 DOMINIQUE SZYRPALLO  
 MARK TISCHLER  
 JENNY WOOLCOCK

**Altered Address/Phone**

FULVIA COLLA VO  
 JEAN PEDERSEN  
 ADAM READ

**Commitee Reports**

**Treasurer:** Accounts for July 1996

Opening Balance	\$65,813
Receipts	\$3,394
Payments	\$9,914
Closing Balance	\$59,293

**Walks Secretary:** Attendances for September

	<b>Trips</b>	<b>Av</b>	<b>1995</b>
Sunday Bus	5	35.8	41.5
Pack Carry	2	8	10.7
Base Camp	2	15.5	15.5
Wed,Hist, Dandenong	4	10	13
Canoe	1	12	

**Membership:**

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	11
Single Memberships	325
Family Memberships (2x 43 =)	86
Total membership	433

**Duty Roster**

14 August	Ralph & Derrick
21 August	Jean & Doug
28 August	William & Jenny
4 September	Janet & Bill

Next committee meeting 2 September, 1996

### **Injury Insurance For Club Trips Vote At Half-Yearly Meeting**

The Club has been offered the chance to join a Group Injury Insurance plan. The Insurance will provide financial compensation to members unfortunate enough to be injured on Club trips. It is a condition of the Insurance that all members are covered. It is probable that the cost of the Insurance can be met by the Club with no increase in members fees next year.

The Committee will put a motion to the Half-Yearly meeting that the Club join the Insurance plan. If this motion is passed insurance cover will commence in October and the first year's premium will be paid from Club finances. A summary of the plan is set out below, with the reasons why the Committee recommends proceeding.

Copies of the Insurance plan are also pinned to the large Notice Board in the clubrooms.

**Summary of Insurance Plan :**

This summary covers the key points of the Insurance Plan but doesn't include all details. In particular reduced benefits apply for members over the age of 65.

**Who is covered**

Club members and visitors for the first five visits.

Covered while participating in Club trips including canoeing, cross country skiing, liloing, mountaineering and rock climbing trips.

The insurance commences from October this year.

**Amount Insurance will pay****Lump Sum Amount - Permanent Injury**

The maximum benefit is \$250,000. Specified amounts apply depending on the nature of injury. For example the benefit payable in case of death or the loss of the use of one limb is \$50,000.

**Weekly Amount - Temporary Disablement**

A weekly benefit is payable to cover loss of earnings or the costs of domestic help or home tutoring (for full-time students). The maximum benefit available is \$200 per week payable for up to two years. (\$150 per week limit for domestic help or home tutoring.)

**Medical Expenses -  
not covered by Medicare or other insurance**

80% of medical expenses can be claimed up to a maximum amount of \$1,000.

**Land Or Air Ambulance**

In case of injury land or air ambulance costs can be claimed up to a limit of \$2,000.

**Cost Of Insurance**

\$2.70 per member per year. Note that this would be paid by the Club, and it is probable that the cost can be met without fees increasing next year.

The Committee compared the benefits and cost of the Injury Insurance against insurances Club members might purchase as individuals (health insurance or income protection insurance). The Committee is recommending that the Club proceed with the Injury Insurance on the following basis :

- The benefits provided by the Injury Insurance would be useful to any seriously injured Club member, regardless of whether the member had other types of insurance.
- The Injury Insurance is substantially cheaper than any insurance which an individual can purchase for themselves. For members without other insurance it provides a very cost effective way of obtaining insurance protection.
- The insurance is very good value for money.

I encourage all members to think about this issue before the half-yearly meeting and to vote at the meeting.

*William Cone,*  
Committee Member

Form of Appointment of Proxy

I..... of.....  
being a member of Melbourne Bushwalkers (Inc), hereby appoint

..... of.....  
being a member of Melbourne Bushwalkers (Inc). as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the half yearly general meeting to be held on Wednesday 21st August 1996 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

+ My proxy is authorised to vote (in favour of / against) the following resolution(s):

.....  
.....  
.....

Signed:

Date:

- + Delete if not applicable
- \* Delete as appropriate

# Build Up BUSHWALKING

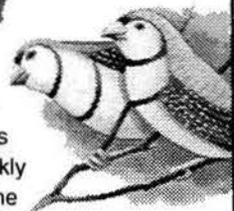
The  
most  
dramatic  
season  
of  
all.

**D**awn. The pleasant temperature evaporates with the sun. Huge clouds grow as the land swelters below. Suddenly, a wind springs up and the temperature crashes. Rain buckets down as lightning flashes and thunder roars. Then, as quickly as it began, the storm passes. Frogs call and birds sing. The land turns green, almost as you watch. All nature rejoices in the change.

On our Build Up trips, you walk along gently flowing, escarpment creeks, stopping at tranquil waterholes where you spend hours swimming and relaxing in the shade. You watch the birds and listen to the cicada chorus that



announces the season's change. You spend a full day on a houseboat, cruising slowly along the Mary River, entranced by the hundreds of birds that line the shore. You relax with a cold drink and watch the moon rise over the river, finally lulled to sleep by the peaceful sounds of the water and wildlife around you.



For more information, ask for the trip notes for Kakadu Highlights 16 and 17.



12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810

Phone: (08) 8985 2134

Fax: (08) 8985 2355

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

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