



# The NEWS

of the

## MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

DECEMBER 1996

EDITION 550

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PRICE 60 cents



### Christmas Party

Wednesday 18th December

7pm ..... Onwards

Everyone is welcome !! Come and help celebrate the conclusion of another successful year for the Melbourne Bushies at the

### Golden Gate Hotel

239 Clarendon Street,  
South Melbourne

(change of venue, due to Hall unavailability)

- \* Drinks at bar prices
- \* Please bring a plate of food to share
- \* Lucky Door Prizes

### 'Come dressed in Christmas Spirit'

& reminisce, plan new trips, renew old acquaintances and have a really good time.



### Wilkinson Lodge Spring Clean

Work Party  
December 14-15th

Things to be done include general cleaning, cutting and stacking wood, installing new cupboard and bench in store room etc.

Contact Derrick Brown on

### Wednesdays

18th December - Christmas Party

25th December - Christmas Day

1st January - New Years Day

Clubrooms will be closed but the Walks are on.

Sunday walks book at Party, ring the leader or turn up on the day

Other walks ring the leader

For equipment ring Jean Woodger



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## From the Editor

Please note that the Clubrooms will be closed on the 18th and 25th December and the 1st January. So to book on walks please ring the leader and to book or collect hired equipment contact Jean Woodger.

Please mail, fax or email walk previews to me and any articles. We would all like to hear about the adventures over the Christmas Break.

I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year and I hope to see many of you at the Christmas Party.

*Judy Gipps*

## From the President

At the last Committee Meeting the Committee decided it would be wise to find new rooms for the New Year so we've decided to search in earnest. Because of our specific requirements such as storage space, parking near by and a city position it is taking a little more time but hopefully all will be resolved in the New Year. If you have any good ideas let someone on the committee know.

As you will have noted our Christmas Break up is at a new venue. Thanks to our Social Secretary, Marisa for finding it. Please note that the Club Rooms will not be open that night, but bookings can be made at the Party.

I have received more news about Fred Halls and unfortunately he has suffered a severe stroke and is in an Interim Ward at Kingston Centre, Cheltenham. On behalf of all the Club members who knew Fred I have sent flowers and our best wishes.

The committee has also decided to give \$1450 of the Club's interest from the special account to the VNPA for their

'Hands off the Prom' campaign and \$400 to the Federation to produce conservation kits.

It's been great weather for walking, not too hot! So lets hope it keeps up over the Christmas break. I hope you all have some great walking and a wonderful Christmas.

*Best wishes for the New Year.  
Janet Norman*

## Federation

The November meeting of Federation Council was notable because of the presence of a representative from the insurance brokers which provide our insurance. About half an hour was occupied in answering various questions from Council members.

*Bill Metzenthien*

## Mitchell Plateau May 11 - June 1 1997

Those who saw our slides of Kakadu will realise how much we enjoyed our trip with Willis's Walkabouts. We have decided to go to the Kimberley next year to do the Mitchell Plateau trip. Willis's offer discounts for early booking (20%) and a further 5% for a group of five (10% for ten people booking together). If anyone is interested in joining us please give us a ring.

*Doug Pocock & Jan Llewelyn*

## Crosscut Saw - Razor - Viking Walk - Cup Day Weekend

As a member of the ill fated Crosscut Saw-Razor-Viking walk over the Cup Day weekend I wish to pass on our appreciation to our leader Alan Ide, on behalf of the group. For a walk which had more incidents than a Leaders Day Alan was always calm and methodical in deciding the best course of action. He must also hold the record for the most visits to the Mt Speculation summit in 48 hours (six).

Our thanks to Alan from the eight of us who returned to Melbourne after the walk and the three that we had to leave behind.

*Adam Read*

**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 **January 97 NEWS** is **1st January 97**

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

*Visitors are always welcome.*

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

## Previews for January Day Walks

### Sunday 5 January 1997 Lake Mountain Easy & Easy/Medium

**Leaders:** John Kittson & Marisa Rizzuto  
**Transport:** Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 8.30 am  
**Area:** Warburton  
**Expected time of return:** 7.00 pm  
**Approximate length of walk:** 12 & 18 km

Please note the 8.30 am start for this walk. Bookings for this walk will be taken at the Christmas Party on the 18th December or turn up on the day. Please see Marisa Rizzuto at the Christmas party.

These walks will be through beautiful shaded areas if the weather is hot and there will be lovely views of the surrounding countryside.

### Sunday 12 January 1997 Cape Wollamai Easy & Easy/Medium

**Leaders:** Chin Tek & Jean Woodger  
**Transport:** Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 8.30 am  
**Area:** Philip Island  
**Expected time of return:** 7.00 pm  
**Approximate length of walk:** 14 & 17 km  
**Map Reference:** Philip Island Tourist Map

Please note the 8.30 am start.

The day will be a combination of beach and cliff top walking. The only difference between easy and easy/medium is distance, and some cliff scrambling on the easy/medium.

The views from the Pinnacles at the southern end of the cape are breathtaking. It's possible to climb down to the rocks below at this point, or just enjoy sitting amongst the grasses and coastal wildflowers. We'll all finish at a car park and toilet block in Cleland Bight, where hopefully there will be time for a swim.

This is an exposed walk, and sufficient water, hat and sunscreen are essentials.

### Wednesday 15 January 1997 Marysville Waterfalls Easy/Medium

**Leaders:** Jean Giese  
**Transport:** Private  
**Area:** Marysville State Forest NE of Marysville  
**Approximate length of walk:** 15 km  
**Map Reference:** Marysville - Lake Mountain  
 Outdoor Leisure Map 1:30:000

We will visit Phantom Falls, Keppel Falls and the cascades on the Taggerty River near the Beeches Walking Track - a wonderful place to be among the Myrtle Beeches and Sassafras on a hot summer's day.

After this we drive back towards Marysville and stop off to do the Michaeldene, Manfern and Island Hop Track, inspecting the old trestle bridge and wishing well along the way.

There is agreement amongst the 'regulars' that we round off the day with a BBQ tea (cold picnic if a fire-ban day; eat in Marysville if foudls weather). If you cant stay for tea ring leader if transport needed.

Meet at 9 Albert Cres 8.30 am or in Marysville near bridge crossing Steavenson's River at 10.20 am.

### Sunday 19 January 1997 Warburton Area Easy/Medium & Medium

**Leaders:** Alan Ide & Fulvia Collova  
**Transport:** Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am  
**Area:** Warburton  
**Expected time of return:** 7.00 pm  
**Approximate length of walk:** 15 & 22 km  
**Map Reference:** 80222 Neerim 1:50,000

This walk starts from Big Pats Creek near Warburton. All parties will initially follow the same route up the old Richard's timber tramway at Starling's Gap. This is a gentle climb over a distance of about 9.5 kms. The Easy group will then return to Startling's Gap while the Medium group continues to Ada No.2 mill site and down the High Lead to Knott's Tramway and the Noojee Road, which is 13 kms from Starling's Gap.

This country is covered in dense Mountain Ash forest with Southern Beech and Tree ferns in the gullies and cuttings. There is much evidence of the old tramways and mills to be seen. On wet days it can be quite muddy and the leeches come out in force, so be prepared!

Alan Ide's new phone numbers:

Home:

Work:

\*Must be dialled to connect from Melbourne

### Sunday 26 January 1997 Lorne Waterfalls Easy & Easy/Medium

**Leaders:** John Kittson & Faye Pratt  
**Transport:** Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 8.30 am  
**Area:** Lorne/Angahook State Forest  
**Expected time of return:** 7.00 pm  
**Approximate length of walk:** 15 & 22 km  
**Map Reference:** 80222 Neerim 1:50,000

Details of this walk will be in the January edition of the News.

## Previews for January Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks and Christmas Trips

**26-29 December 1996** **Upper Murray River**  
**Easy** **Canoe Trip**

**Leaders:** Doug Pocock  
**Transport:** Private  
**Area:** Upper Murray  
**Approximate distance from Melbourne:** 450 km

A very pleasant paddle down a lovely section of the Murray. There are some small rapids so some experience is necessary. It is very important that you have some paddling experience with your canoe partner. On previous trips we have seen plenty of platypus.

It will be an easy trip with lots of swim stops and early camps. Weight is not a great issue. So luxuries can be carried, discuss with Doug about packing. Canoe Hire will be approx \$45 per person (includes delivery and pick up)

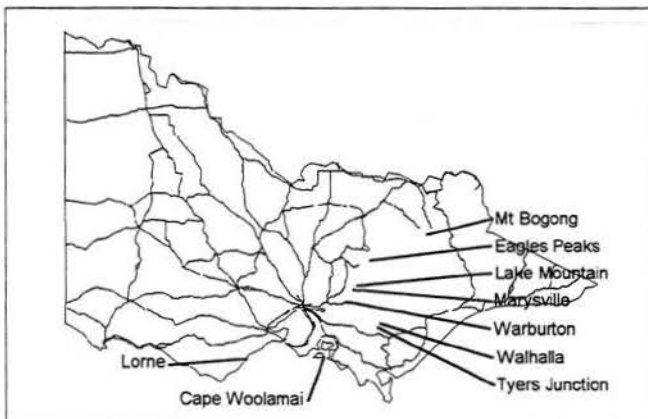
**10 - 12 January 1996** **Tyers Junction**  
**Easy** **Base Camp**

**Leaders:** Judy Gipps  
**Transport:** Private  
**Area:** Erica  
**Approximate distance from Melbourne:** 150KM  
**Expected time of return:** Late Sunday  
**Approximate length of walk:** Various  
**Map Reference:** Tyers Junction 1:25,000

This will be a base camp at Morgan's Mill, some 4 km beyond Tyers Junction, which is the limit for 2WD vehicles.

The walks will take us along a mix of walking tracks and 4WD trails through a range of locations with exotic names such as - The Left Eye, The Right Eye, Woodchop Corner and Spurwheel Saddle. The area is heavily treed and there are many old timber mills and railways in the vicinity. The canopy will provide good shade if the weather is warm.

As the clubrooms will be closed you can contact me on (W), (H). Please leave a message.



**17 - 19 January 1996** **Eagles Peaks**  
**Medium**

**Leaders:** Pearson Creswell  
**Transport:** Private  
**Approximate length of walk:** 32 km  
**Map Reference:** King, Howqua and Jamieson (VMTG)

This was the first walk that I did with the club, so 18 years later, it seems like time to do it again.

Starting from Sheeppark Flat we will follow the track to Lickhole Gap and then down to the Jamieson River to camp. On Sunday there is a stiff climb up to Eagles Peaks for the grand views, then back across the ridges to Sheeppark Flat.

**24 - 26 January 1996** **Mt Bogong**  
**Medium**

**Leaders:** Peter Chalkley  
**Transport:** Private  
**Area:** Mt Beauty  
**Expected time of return:** Late Sunday Evening  
**Approximate length of walk:** 30 km  
**Map Reference:** Bogong High Plains 1:50,000

Australia Day falls on a Sunday so I am assuming that this will be a normal two day weekend with no extra Public Holiday.

We will go up the Staircase Spur to the summit and walk past Cleve Cole Hut to camp near the site of Madison's Hut. We spend some time exploring the area including Howmans Falls. We will finish by descending past Michel Hut down the Eskdale Spur.

Note: Following the affair on Mt Speculation, Peter has kindly offered to lead this walk - Max is still injured.

**24 - 27 January 1996** **Walhalla Hostel Base Camp**  
**Easy & Easy/Medium**

**Leaders:** Brian Crouch  
**Transport:** Private  
**Area:** Gippsland  
**Expected time of return:** Late Monday 27th Jan  
**Approximate length of walk:** Various  
**Map Reference:** Walhalla 8127-2-2 1:25,000

The very popular Australia Day base camp at Walhalla will be on for the third time over the weekend of January 24 - 27 1997.

This is a beautiful part of Victoria about 2 1/2 hours drive from Melbourne which combines rugged mountain scenery and gold mining history. I plan on being at Walhalla from 2 pm Friday 24th until lunchtime Monday 27th, and will arrange various walks around Walhalla and possibly in the Baw Baw Alpine Area as well. There will be walks on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Monbulk Secondary College Tisdall Camp provides comfortable dormitory accommodation; you only need to bring sleeping bags, pillows and food. All cooking utensils



and crockery are provided. The Hostel provides accommodation for 32 people and Ian Richardson, a mate of mine, has again offered overflow accommodation for 2 or 3 couples. Thanks for your hospitality Ian.

Please make your bookings to me direct, by phone or fax. I want to finalise numbers before Xmas. ie close off bookings on 18 December. Phone anytime, within reason, on \_\_\_\_\_, or Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ or send me a fax on \_\_\_\_\_

See you in Walhalla.

## Walks Sec's Ramblings

Ode to the Emergency Services or What Suburb is That?

Scene: *The Top of Mt Speculation, a valiant group of Bushies heads through gale blown cloud. Behind lies Max Fracture with a broken ankle, awaiting rescue. Ahead lies the Crosscut Saw, 4-5 hours walk and 2 hours drive to the nearest phone box (at Licola). In the swirling mist they spy a lonely tent.*

*The leader approaches the tent and knocks (proverbially).*

Leader Excuse me, would you have a phone?

Tent Sure.

*A hand emerges offering the delectable object. It is passed to the Walks Sec. who dials the magic number - 112 (The emergency call number for GSM phones worldwide - worth knowing).*

ESO Emergency Services. Which service do you want?

WS Police.

ESO Where are you?

WS On top of Mt Speculation.

ESO Which suburb is that?

WS It's not - we're in the mountains.

ESO What's the telephone area code?

Area code? Not many phones near Mt Speculation otherwise we might have used it. After a bit of a run around we end up talking to the Ambulance Service who take the details, grid reference and description. We hang up hoping for the best.

And so it is. About three hours later Max is picked up by the police from Whitfield and transferred by ambulance to Wangaratta.

The morals (we are a moral lot, aren't we?):

- A mobile phone is a useful thing to have on a trip. Not a magic carpet, but if help is needed then contact can probably be made sooner rather than later.
- Police have responsibility for rescue in remote areas; even though we were shuffled to Ambulance, the police did the job.
- DO have ambulance subscription. The trip would cost heaps otherwise.
- Have RACV subscription too: you never know when you might be stuck with a flat battery on the Howitt Plains. But that's another story.

Pearson Cresswell

## Conservation

By the time you read this, the Mount Stirling EES review panel may have presented its recommendations to the government. Watch the press for an announcement and be prepared to write letters to your politicians.

Unless you have been away on a very long walk, you will know that two draft management plans have been issued for Wilson's Promontory. The Club has purchased copies of these plans. There are good points and bad points in them and we have until the end of December to make our comments.

There are several issues of significance to us in the plans.

Firstly, there is the much talked about proposal for a 150 bed 3-4 star 'lodge'. I expect that most members of the Club would oppose this.

Then there is a proposal for commercially guided tours using private huts (or standing tent sites). Similarly, I expect very few members of the Club would welcome this.

More controversial among bushwalkers is a proposal to cut more walking tracks. These include a coastal track around the southern part of the park. At least one Club in the Federation opposes this because of their use of this area for off-track walking. However, I expect little or no opposition to this proposal from members of our Club because it would extend the range of walks which we could do in this part of the park.

Also in the plans is a proposal to declare the north-east part of the park a wilderness zone. Part of the proposal is to close and re-vegetate the tracks (actually old roads) which we have been using on our annual trips to the northern part of the Prom. The impact of this upon our trips is uncertain at this stage.

If you have opinions upon what our response to the plans should be, please let me know.

Bill Metzenthien

## ALL YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT MT SPEC BUT ARE TOO AFRAID TO ASK

1-4 November 1996

It started on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November. We all left Melbourne for a rendezvous with the others at Mt. Howitt carpark 0930 the following morning. Alan, Marika, Anne and I decided to camp at the Licola caravan park. Our tents were next to a water pump that runs 24 hours a day 365 day a year!

0600 Saturday morning, Alan inquired if we had a spare 20 cents for a hot shower. Indeed a 20 cents piece had momentarily become more precious than a \$2 coin. Luckily we had just the right denomination. Breakfast was consumed in a fairly leisure pace and we got to our rendezvous before 0930. Max's troops were already there and before long Pearson's gang turned up as well. After a few yarns, including why Pearson's car needed a bit of a push start to get it going, we started just before 1000.

We were at fairly high altitude. Ambling along the tracks, there were patches of snow and we stopped occasionally for

photos or snow fights. We soon reached Macalister Springs, where a group of Geelong bushies had set up their base camp. We pottered around the hut and took a short side trip to absorb the magnificent views of the X-cut saw, Speculation and Vikings. There were more snow patches just before the X-cut saw and henceforth more photo stops.

After lunch, we proceeded to Mt. Buggery. So aptly named as most of us were bugged by when we got to the top. After a good rest, we pushed on to destination Mt. Spec., our 1<sup>st</sup> camp site. The combined topology of Mt Buggery, X-cut saw, Horrible Gap, coupled with the day's heat and the lack of water had taken its toll, as a number of us found it just a bit tough going up Mt Spec. However, with our hearts set on getting to the camp site, we pressed on and reached our day 1 destination just before 1700.

Not long after we had pitched our tents, we heard news of a venturer who had fallen sick due to the lack of water and suspected food poisoning. He was resting at the Horrible Gap. Alan graciously offered his water bottle and volunteered to assist him with two other venturers who came for help. It would be at least 2 Km walk back, but what the heck, I think Alan was yearning the opportunity to practise his "Ain't no mountain high enough..." singing as he climbed back up to Mt Spec.

Whilst Alan was away, the troops rested and marvelled the million dollar views. Dinners were savoured before the silhouette of the mountains, gradually covered by mist rising from The Terrible Hollow. Alan returned just before dark to report the venturer was OK. That night, gathering by the camp fire, we exploited the marsh mallows on offer and rhapsodised on who and what we are.

Day 2.. Rain. Alan came round asking if we had a spare rain coat or garbage bag as Les had forgotten to bring his. With Les's wet gear arrangement sorted, we started for Viking shortly after 0900. It had been raining for a while and the tracks were slippery. As we were descending, Max slipped and injured his right ankle. He was immobilised. Les also felt cold. The priority was to bring Max and Les to safety ASAP. The weather condition deteriorated, a tent was quickly erected for Max and Les. Lloyd and Pam stayed back with whilst the rest pushed on to the Camp Creek camp site, which was about 5-6 kms away. We knew there were 2 cars parked there and had hoped we would find someone with a mobile phone or someone to provide transportation. On the way to Camp Creek, Alan went off to look for a short cut back to Max. Tents were hastily erected at Camp Creek. When Alan returned, he had found a short cut which reduced the distance to about 2 Km.

The rain hadn't stopped, Marisa, Anne and Marika took shelter in Anne's tent while Adam, Lloyd, Pearson, Alan and I went back to rescue Max. It was a stretcher job, when we rejoined Max et al, a stretcher was quickly constructed using two branches, two empty packs( Adam and Pearson) and a space blanket( Alan's) as the base for support.( It was a sturdy stretcher, just ask Max..). We laid Max on his tummy and strapped him(gently) to the stretcher to prevent him from falling. With Pam's assistance, we carried Max out to safety. In the meantime, Les documented some of the rescue operation with his camera. "Operation save Max

with Les" took about two hours. It had been raining the whole day, night 2 was damp and cold, period.

Day 3. Rain had eased but it was foggy and visibility was poor. Les decided to stay back with Max. Our priority was to get help to Max ASAP. The quickest way out from here to Mt. Howitt carpark involved the return of Mt Spec and via the same route we came on day 1. Also, we would look for a mobile phone or one of us would need to get to Licola, the nearest town from the carpark. We were lucky enough to find someone with a mobile phone at the top of Mt Spec. and emergency help was immediately arranged. Alan then walked back to Camp Creek, humming "Ain't no mountain high enough..." , to inform them of the arrangement. While waiting for Alan, we took shelter to avoid the blasting wind. To keep warm, we did aerobics aptly lead by Marisa.

The chilly condition hastened our pace(despite Lloyd's upset tummy) and we were back at Mac's Springs just before 1500. After a short break and we were off to the car park. My legs were a bit tired and just about 15 mins away from the car park, I tripped on a branch and fell, which cut my left knee. I could see Alan took a deep breath and said "oh on, not another incident !!!". He thought I had broken my knee but I was lucky to survive this fall. I was able to walk with my pack. We soon reached the car park, got changed and headed for Licola, but not before Max's flat tyre and the unsuccessful attempt to push start Pearson's car. Pearson had to stay overnight in Licola to wait for a mechanic the following day.

Well, we didn't do the circuit as planned but the weekend had been an invaluable learning experience for us. All of us agreed to come back. Many thanks to Alan who had demonstrated good leadership throughout the whole walk.. The party were :

- Alan "Mt Spec anyone ?"  
 Marika "the direction we are heading is this red arrow here"  
 Anne "what did you say?... let me turn off the choofer..."  
 Sak Hong "**OUCH!!!**.. my knee.."  
 Max "that wasn't me, it was from the rain"  
 Adam "nope, I make sure the curtains are drawn..."  
 Marisa "the beef rendang has turned out to be heavier then expected"  
 Pam "Panadol or Asprin, do you have any known allergies ?"  
 Pearson "no, we are not in Melbourne suburbs, we are at Mt Speculation!"  
 Les click, click, click  
 Lloyd " It's too cold for a swim."

*Sak Hong*

## More Walks Sec's Ramblings

Snakes Alive - preferably

Summer is here and the chances of a close encounter of a snake kind are on the increase. Here are some tips on what to do, garnered from our national expert, Prof. Struan Sutherland.

- Avoid snakebite:
  - \* Leave snakes alone
  - \* Wear stout shoes and adequate clothes in snake country
  - \* Watch where you put your feet and hands
  - \* Use a torch around the camp - most snakes are active on summer nights
- Tiger snakes are the commonest cause of snakebite, Brown snakes the commonest cause of death.
- The effect depends on how much venom is injected and on the size and health of the person. Only 1 in 10 snakebites results in serious sickness.
- If bitten, DO
  - \* Immediately apply a broad firm bandage around the limb (it's usually a limb) and on the bitten area. It should be as tight as one would bind a sprained ankle. As much of the limb should be bandaged as possible.
  - \* Keep the limb as still as possible. Bind it with a splint.
  - \* Preferably bring transport to the victim.
  - \* Leave the bandage and splint on until medical care is reached.
- DO NOT:
  - \* Cut or exercise the bitten area
  - \* Apply an arterial tourniquet (the venom moves through the lymph).
  - \* Wash the bitten area. The species of snake may be identified by the detection of venom on the skin, allowing administration of the appropriate anti-venene.

As always, prevention is the best plan.

*Pearson Cresswell.*

## Wilkinson Lodge - Notes for Users

1. There is now new light in the toilet, see Bills instructions. It is hoped that we will be able to overcome the problems that have been experienced in the past with the lamps working intermittently.
2. The upper dam of the water supply is now marked with a piece of electrical conduit. I suggest all groups as a matter of course on each visit check the flow through the black poly pipe into the lower dam. If there is no flow, locate the top dam and clear the inlet.
3. When checking 2 above remember the fence is now charged. I would appreciate you touching the fence to check that it is working. If you are adverse to touching

electric fences then talk another of your group into touching it.

4. If you have time whilst at Wilky check the fence and remove any branches that may cause a short circuit.
5. I have removed excess chairs that have been left at Wilky, there are plenty there for any group without cluttering the place with any more. If anyone wants to claim two ugly plastic chairs that were dumped there they are at my place.
6. Would all groups please ensure they sieve the ash and return cinders to the lounge fire. There were at least two groups over winter who threw out ash without sieving it. There is usually no need to clear the log fire.
7. I want to get serious about assembling a Wilky photo album. Please dig out any historical shots, especially of work parties, and let me have a copy.

*Doug Pocock, Wilky Manager*

## Introduction to Wilky 15-17th November 96

Two new members felt privileged to have the personalised introduction we received from Doug and Jan, we are still amazed that not more members took advantage of the weekend.

Experienced Wilky visitors will realise how incredibly lucky Melbourne Bushies are to have access to this wonderful site.

If you don't mind the drive (approx 400 kms from Melbourne). If you enjoy quietness, scenery and excellent walking country. If a remote retreat with excellent facilities appeals to you. If a range of weather options (warm sun to electric storm to wind/hail/sleet/snow) excites you. If emerging behaviour of marsh marigolds set you pulses running. If you enjoy nature outside your backdoor (Flame Robin's nest with three eggs).

Then Wilkinson Lodge is for you. The next time the opportunity arises GO! GO! GO!

Thank you Doug and Jan for showing us how to operate Wilky and giving us such an enjoyable weekend.

*Kerry and Paula*

## WINTER OF 1997 - KIMBERLEY & TOP END BACKPACKING TRIPS

From early May to Mid August we will be in Northern Australia to do some serious backpacking bushwalks in exciting areas. Being social creatures and for safety reasons we are inviting other keen walkers to come up and join us for parts of our adventure. This is a unique opportunity.

We will have bought a Landcruiser 4WD hopefully before April, so we will have it up there and will be able to fit in probably 2 other people plus use it to ferry more for short distances. This will be enough for the Kakadu, Gregory & Carr Boyd sectors. For all the others which include the Upper Prince Regent River, Isdell River and Bell Creek we would either need someone else to have a 4WD or else hire one or more. Kakadu & The Bungles are known quantities in that other bushwalkers regularly go there, but of course



they will still be rough. All the other sectors are totally exploratory. They look fascinating on the maps. They will undoubtedly be very rough and will require agility on rocks. The last sector is a 4WD expedition visiting a whole string of remote gorges, almost all of which are day walks from 4WD station tracks. They look interesting on the map and are in a very remote area not mentioned in any tourist literature.

Vehicle transport costs will be shared. All food will be organised individually. Everyone of course will be responsible for getting themselves to the designated starting points.

If you are interested contact us on [redacted] We will have a planning meeting on Thurs 30 Jan at our house at [redacted] at 7.30 pm if we haven't organised one before that date.

*Jopie Bodegraven & Jenny Flood*

### Major Mitchell Plateau - Cup Day Weekend

We left Melbourne on a balmy Friday evening and with the smell of new mown grass filling the air travelled to Jimmy's Creek in the Grampians. After erecting out tents we found the rest of our party, arranged for the morning car shuffle and went to bed.

I had visited the Mitchell Plateau on a previous trip with Doug Pocock but unfortunately saw it from the inside of a cloud. The forecast was for afternoon thunderstorms but the day dawned clear and sunny. We started off while Jean and Peter did the car shuffle. The first fifty metres of track set the scene for the rest of the walk. Wildflowers everywhere, abundant in both numbers and variety. Running postman, Creamy Stackhousia, Black-eyed Susan, Flame Grevillia, Psopogon, Hilbertia and Caladenia Orchids to mention a few. We climbed slowly enjoying the warmth of the morning sun and, as we gained altitude, the views of the rugged Serra Range and the Victoria Valley beyond. Different species of flowers and shrubs appeared along the trackside and as we rounded one corner we came upon a large rocky area completely covered with small bushes of lovely pink flowering Colytux or Fringe Myrtle.

We stopped at the helipad and waited for Jean and Peter. Jean with a light pack soon came tripping along followed later by Peter carrying a much heavier one. We decided lunch was in order so we found some shade and were soon eating Peters apples, to lighten his load. The day became hotter but we were cooled by a gentle breeze as we reached the plateau. Here a new variety of plants and flowers were to be seen as we passed along the rack. We could only guess at some but there appeared to be a beautiful pink prostrate Grevillia.

We arrived at the campsite to find it fully occupied by parties who had not booked with the ranger. However we found room by refusing to let them light a fire on a flattish stretch of sand. Wendy and Tanya with smaller tents had less trouble finding a spot. The party of Scouts who arrived later had no such luck and had to retreat back up the track.

The weather clagged in during the night. Most of the other parties departed early next morning and we spent the rest of the day doing short walks as it remained warm although foggy.

Next morning, the wind which had blown a gale from the West during the night, swung round to the South promising a cold but clear day. By the time we reached the car park near Mt William the weather was quite pleasant. Wendy, Judy, Tanya and myself walked down the road to await the returning cars. The show of wildflowers was again magnificent especially the Boronias and thousands of Fairy's aprons on a mossy bank.

Next morning we did a final walk which ended up following the prosaically named Bovine Creek. We dropped down to the water for morning tea at a delightful spot where the stream flowed over the red rock shelves reflecting the dappled sunlight filtering down through the leaves of the overhanging trees. The banks were covered with ferns flush with the seasons new growth, a family of Rufous Fantails fluttered about a small wine glass shaped nest attached to a branch overhanging the stream. As we continued on we saw great swathes of Orange Bell creeper covered with beautiful yellow and golden blooms. Then came a cry from Tanya as she spied a large deer looking down on us from the grassy hill side above us. Truly a wonderful walk through one of Victoria's most beautiful native gardens.

Thank you Jean from us all.

*Dave Andrews*

### Bushies Good Food Guide

Past Taralgon on the way to Licola etc is the town of Heyfield ....home of the

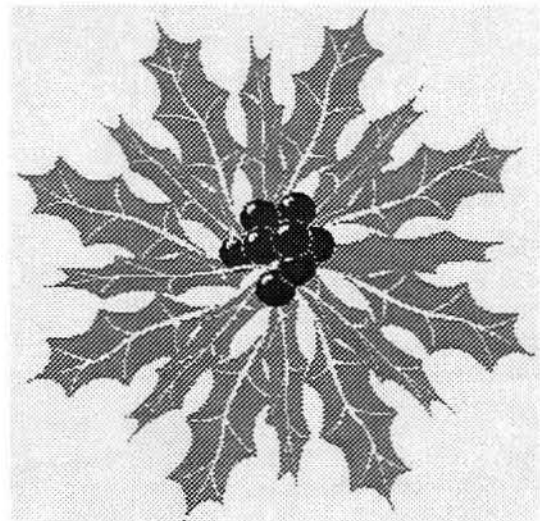
**Dragon Star Restaurant**

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Closed on Mondays except Public Holidays





## Strath Creek Falls Revisited Sunday 24th November 1996

No-one can forecast the weather for sure  
when planning walks on a Sunday,  
but there's something to be said for Murphy's Law  
when a blue sky replaces the grey.

To say that last time was tough is no fib,  
and those who came back are strong of head,  
like Julia who fell and near broke a rib  
on a slippery rock in the river bed.

The appearance of legs this time no doubt  
spelled a turning of the Seasons there,  
even the red-bellied 'blacks' came out  
with curiosity to spare.

The Falls were low and not so inviting,  
at times they were merely a trickle,  
and while the leeches this time weren't biting,  
the insects and bracken did prickle!

Rare sulphur-crested cockatoos  
squawked and flapped overhead,  
conveying to all some manner of news  
that was 'noise' to us instead.

At last we sighted Bob in his chair  
with a novel near three inches thick,  
camped by the bus like a lord out there  
in the bush so serene and rustic.

Our wish was granted at Whittlesea  
when all forty of us filled a shop,  
it must have been quite a sight to see  
on that 'five-minute' ice-cream stop!

*Jill Dawson*

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the Vosges Mountains. With a map and instructions  
provided by the local walking club and your picnic  
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\$900 per person twin share including excellent  
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*This is a private advertisement and is accepted as a service to Members  
only. These are NOT official Club trips.*

### New members

DAVID ARNOLD

FIORINA COZZI

HELEN FITZGERALD

ELIZABETH GWYNN

KATHY LEFEVRE

HELEN & KEITH LEONARD

BILL LLOYD-SMITH

DALE J MAC KENZIE

MARIA MAZZINI

LALLI MOOSAD

CAROLE PATTERSON

WENDY SMITH

### Add to Membership List

DON ISDALE

### Altered Address/Phone

DENNIS BARSON

ALAN IDE

VIVIENNE LIM

DELWYN RANCE

## Committee Reports

|                   |                            |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Treasurer:</b> | Accounts for October, 1996 |
| Opening Balance   | \$57,226.92                |
| Receipts          | \$3,278.73                 |
| Payments          | \$3,410.05                 |
| Closing Balance   | \$57,095.60                |

### Accounts for November, 1996

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Opening Balance | \$57,095.60 |
| Receipts        | \$4,285.00  |
| Payments        | \$2,984.25  |
| Closing Balance | \$58,396.35 |

### Walks Secretary: Attendances for September

|                         | Trips | No | 1995 |
|-------------------------|-------|----|------|
| Sunday Bus              | 4     | 37 | 39   |
| Pack Carry              | 1     | 9  | 11   |
| Ski Trips               | 2     | 5  |      |
| Wed, Hist,<br>Dandenong | 2     | 11 |      |
| Cycle                   | 1     | 7  |      |
| Cancelled               | 1     |    |      |

### : Attendances for October

|                         | Trips | No   | 1995 |
|-------------------------|-------|------|------|
| Sunday Bus              | 4     | 39.5 | 34.4 |
| Pack Carry              | 1     | 7    | 7.8  |
| Ski Trips               | 1     | 8    |      |
| Wed, Hist,<br>Dandenong | 2     | 10   | 11.5 |
| Base Camp               | 2     | 18.5 |      |
| Run                     | 1     | 4    | 4    |
| Cancelled               | 1     |      |      |



### Membership:

|                    |            |     |
|--------------------|------------|-----|
| Life Members       |            | 11  |
| Honorary Members   |            | 11  |
| Single Memberships |            | 361 |
| Family Memberships | (2x 46 = ) | 96  |
| Total membership   |            | 475 |

### Duty Roster

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| 4th December                             | Doug & Lloyd      |
| 11th December                            | Doug & Derrick    |
| 8 th January                             | William & Pearson |
| Next committee meeting 6th January, 1997 |                   |



A group of Bushies on one of Marisa's Social Evenings

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Ordinary Member  Concession  Couple  NEWS subscriber

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