

The NEWS

of the

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

JUNE 1996

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Tarkine Slide Night.

8:00 pm, Wednesday 26th June in the clubrooms.

In January 1995, Doug Pocock led a Club trip to the Tarkine Wilderness area of north-west Tasmania.

Doug will be showing a selection of the slides he took on the trip.

Come along and see views of this lesser known (to bushwalkers) part of Tasmania.

Refreshments will be provided as usual.

Bill Metzenthien

**To wish Alan Miller and Claire Lonergan
A Safe and Happy Holiday**

**Friday 9th August 7.30 pm
Chinta Ria**

94 Acland St St Kilda
(Malaysian Restaurant)

Set Menu \$23 or \$26
RSVP Marisa Rizzuto with \$5 deposit
by 21st July

Introductory talk on cross-country skiing

7.30 pm, Wednesday 19th June in the clubrooms.

The Club includes a range of cross-country skiing activities in its program each year. Many members may be interested in having a go at skiing, but need more information about what is involved.

The Club meeting on Wednesday, 19 June will include a talk on the equipment and clothing needed for cross-country skiing. There will be skis and other gear to look at, and a demonstration of how to fit snow-chains. The talk will start at about 7.30 pm, leaving time beforehand for the usual Club activities such as booking into walks.

The talk is being jointly organised with STAV, the Ski Touring Association of Victoria, to which this Club is affiliated. Inquiries to Ian Hoad ().

Talk by Doug Scott -

**The Final Tour - Himalayan Climber And
The Seven Summits**

15/16th June 1996

Commonwealth Bank Theatre, 385 Bourke St
Melbourne

Tickets \$20

To reserve tickets Phone 1800 688 799

Navigation Day

30th June

On Thursday 27th June there will be a preparation evening in the Clubrooms. Speak to Bob Steel about this

Half Yearly AGM

Wednesday 21st August, 1996

From the Editor

This month Bill Metzthen has written an interesting article on GPS which seems to be a topic many members are interested in at the moment.

I think we should all take an active interest in conservation and write letters to note our concerns. The sight and noise of trail bikes is usually bad enough but having to watch out for shooters near the Alpine Walking Track is quite disturbing.

I'm off to Hattah Lakes this weekend and look forward to receiving some walk reports and photos.

Judy Gipps

From the President

After 6 months without one I'm delighted to announce that Ian Hoad has agreed to be coopted on to the committee as Social Secretary. He already has some good ideas in the pipeline so keep some dates free in your diary.

The club extends its deepest sympathy to our club contacts Jim and Libby Marsden. Libby's brother Peter Quartermain and his family were tragically killed in a road accident in Kakadu at the end of April.

Janet Norman

Extended Trip to Northern NSW and Southern Queensland.

Last week of Sept and First Week of October 1996

I'm planning an extended trip for the fortnight of the school holidays heading from Caputar National Park,

up through Northern New England and into the border lands among them Mt Waring, Mt Baine, Bold Rock, Lamington National Park and my favourite Girraween National Park with base camping and day trips of a decent standard. I'll keep you posted as plans take shape but expressions of interest are acceptable from now. maximum number 14.

Sylvia Wilson

Personal Injury Insurance Cover

Federation has made a Personal Injury Insurance Cover available to all club members at a cost of \$2.60. The cover has to be taken for all members. The committee is considering the offer. A copy of the offer will be available on the desk in the clubrooms. Tell the committee what you think about this offer.

Rawson Weekend: 16-18 August

Advance preview

As I will be away until mid-June and because of the need to obtain numbers, I thought I would give the Rawson weekend an early mention. The weekend was very popular (and great fun) last year. So I booked 36 beds (18rooms) for this year's weekend. If less people are interested, I can let the Rawson staff know about 2-3 weeks in advance. However, if more than 36 are interested, there may be difficulty in booking the extra places without at least a month's notice. So I need an indication of interest by the end of June.

Cost: Same as last year
 \$29 per person per night if two in twin-share room
 \$36 per person per night if one in twin share room
 Rates include a hot breakfast.

I intend to collect the full amount before the trip, so please pay when booking. Please note that my home phone number is incorrect on the Walks Programme

Home number

Work

Last but not least, leaders will be required for a walk each day and for hopefully two ski trips (depending on numbers). Offers of leadership for all trips will be gratefully appreciated.

Mary Leonard

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.

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,
 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 July 96News is 26th June 96

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

Both walks feature some beautiful forest and some interesting relics of the gold hunt late last century - numerous mineshafts and two tunnels, hacked through solid rock, to cut off bends in the Yarra River. They also feature clay walking surfaces which are slippery after rain, walking through water for those who can't walk on it, leeches, a big climb at the start for both groups, and a killer hill near the end of the longer walk. (Doug says that, if he can climb this last hill, anyone can. Doug says many strange things.)

A torch will be handy in the gloomy bits.

Saturday 27 July 1996 Easy	Dandenongs Explorer Ferntree Gully Forest
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Leaders:	Rosemary Cotter
Transport:	Private/Train
Area:	North of Upper Ferntree Gully Railway Station
Expected time of return:	4.00 pm
Approximate length of walk:	10 km
Map Reference:	Melway 74 & 65

This is another of the old favourites, more commonly known as 'One Tree Hill'. It comprises walking tracks on the western side of the Park - very peaceful away from the sound of the traffic. We will start at 10.45 am from the railway underpass entrance closest to the shops. Train travellers catch the 9.35 am from Flinders Street for a journey of approximately one hour.

This park has been the unofficial training ground for those going to Nepal etc on account of the nearly 800 steps on the eastern side, overshadowed by ferns and forest trees (peppermint, messmate and stringybark.

Saturday 27 July 1996 Easy	Beginners Ski Day Lake Mountain
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Leaders:	Sylvia Wilson
Transport:	Private
Area:	Lake Mountain
Expected time of return:	8 pm
Approximate length of walk:	10 km

This annual event is for the benefit of absolutely new to skiing members of MBW. It takes the form of an introductory lesson to get the feel of the activity and then a gentle zoom round the easier trails. There's a hand out to tell you what to bring, what to wear, where to hire skis etc etc however I would appreciate people meeting up in the clubrooms the Weds before (24th July) to finalise travelling arrangements.

Sunday 28 July 1996 Easy & Easy/Medium	You Yangs
--	------------------

Leaders:	John Kittson & Fay Pratt
Transport:	Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Area:	You Yangs

A preview of this walk will be in the July news.



Good weather for this time of year.

Previews for July Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks

5 - 7 May 1996
Easy

Snake Island

Leaders: Bernice Webster
Transport: Private
Area: East of Wilsons's Prom
Expected time of return: Sunday Evening
Map Reference: Welshpool, Mt Singapore, Sunday Island 1:25000

Saturday morning we go by boat from Port Welshpool to Swashway Jetty on the North eastern Coast

of Snake Island. We will carry our pack 6.6 km to the huts where we will spend Saturday night. For the rest of Saturday we will walk with day packs towards Lighthouse Point at the Eastern end of the Island. On Sunday we will explore the Western end of Snake Island and catch the boat back at 4pm.

Snake Island is fairly flat and most of our walking will be along tracks, carrying day packs. There will be the opportunity for one or two lengthy walks. Features includes koalas and swamps.

The boat trip will probably cost \$20 per person. We can use the cattlemen's huts Saturday night which have beds with mattresses. Alternatively people can camp out. There is a good supply of fresh water at the huts. There will be a limit of 12 people on the trip.

12-14 July 1996
Medium

Bogong High Plains:
Start of Ski Season

Leaders: Stephen Down
Transport: Private
Expected time of return: 10.00 pm Sunday
Approximate length of walk: 25 km
Map Reference: Bogong High Plains - VicMap

This winter is going to be a great ski season! Well that is if you believe what the press and ski resorts say leading up to the start of the season. Hopefully by this weekend there will be snow on the High Plains which will allow us skiers to shake out the cobwebs and go for a ski.

You must have skied with an overnight pack to come on this trip. We will be camping out on the High Plains, on snow with luck. Mt Nelse or Mt Cope are possible destinations.

Federation

There is little new to report this month from the Federation meeting. The Annual General Meeting was held on the 7th of May. All office bearers were re-elected. None of the positions was contested; is this a reflection of apathy? As a member of an affiliated club *you* are eligible to stand.

Bill Metzenth

19-21 July 1996
Easy/Medium

Kamarooka State Park

Leaders: Jean Giese
Transport: Private
Area: North East of Bendigo
Expected time of return: 1830 Sunday
Approximate length of walk: 25 km + 5km without packs
Map Reference: Mayreef & Summerfield 1:25,000

A peaceful place to walk in winter when the nights are cold but days, hopefully sunny. We will be walking through box and red ironbark forrest as well as Mallee. Two of the species of Mallee, e.g. Green and Blue mallee, are the source of top grade eucalyptus oil. We will see the remains of old distilleries and, at the end of the walk, we can visit a distillery that is still operating.

We should be at the right time for the Wirrakee wattle to be in bloom, This is the only area in which it occurs. There are also many species of birds to enjoy.

The walking is mainly flat with a few bumps from which to view the surrounding countryside, so is suitable for beginner pack carriers. It's also not too far from Melbourne for anyone wishing to travel up on Saturday morning.

19-21 July 1996
Medium

Sawmill Settlement Creek
Weekend X-C Skiing

Leaders: Bob Steel
Transport: Private
Area: near Mt Buller
Approximate distance from Melbourne: 225 km
Expected time of return: 8.00 pm Sunday
Approximate length of walk: 20 km
Map Reference: Outdoor Leisure Map - Buller-Stirling

I have access to a private ski lodge at Sawmill Settlement, near Merrijig, and within easy access to Mt. Stirling and Mt Buller. The lodge has all facilities, including a drying room, & comes fully equipped. You will need to bring your own sleeping bag, pillow and all food. The lodge accomodates 30 people, but I have only reserved two bunkrooms (total of 12 bunks) for this weekend, so if you want to come, you will need to book early. Cost will be \$25 per person per night. I will want money up front to confirm your booking.

I will be arriving on Friday night about 2130, but you can arrive Saturday morning if you wish. My plan is to drive up to Telephone Box Junction (Mt Stirling) on Saturday morning and ski up the trails to the summit of Stirling, then back down to the cars. On Sunday we could go back to the Mt Stirling area, or alternatively go up to the Buller. This weekend would also be suitable for the "yo-yo" skiers. If there is insufficient snow, we can go walking in the area. I will provide a map & directions to the lodge closer to the date.

GPS Units

My name was mentioned in the May News in connection with GPS (Global Positioning System) units. I have gathered some information on these devices which I think will be of interest to members who have heard of these but have not had the time to look more deeply. I should mention that I have never used one of these devices so some of the following is based upon the experiences reported by others.

- The units operate by receiving radio wave signals from satellites. The frequencies used are such that they are significantly affected by moisture. Some units are not usable in forest due to the attenuation of the signals by the moisture in the leaves. It may be necessary to find a clearing in order to get a position reading. Similarly, rain or falling snow can affect the ability of the units to operate correctly.
- Other objects may attenuate, reflect or otherwise impair the signals. For bushwalking, this means that it may be difficult or impossible to obtain a meaningful position reading if you are in a valley, gully, hut, or similar situation.
- The current practical accuracy of GPS for bushwalking under good conditions is about 100 metres horizontally, and much worse vertically. There are more accurate alternatives such as differential GPS (of which there are two basic kinds) and GLONASS (the Russian system which is roughly similar to GPS). You can buy receivers for these systems but they are much more expensive and/or currently impractical for our bushwalking use. For various reasons, this will probably remain the case for the next couple of years.
- To give you position, the GPS unit needs to gather information from several satellites (at least three to give a position without height information). Better accuracy is obtained if more satellites are used (under ideal conditions more than 12 are possible, but 5 or 6 are probably more typical in good locations). Most of the cheaper GPS units process the signals one satellite at a time. Some units are capable of processing several signals simultaneously. The advantage of this approach is that it enables the unit to give good results on poorer signals. For the bushwalker, this means that these units are much more likely to be usable in forests, valleys, etc.
- GPS units get data from the satellites at a low data rate (50 bits per second). It normally takes 12.5 minutes for a satellite to transmit its whole message. To avoid having to wait this time, GPS units store information even when they are turned off. This way, it can take as little as 15 seconds or so for a GPS unit to give you a reading when you turn it on. It will take longer, perhaps several minutes, if the information it contains is not sufficiently accurate or is stale.
- You can leave the GPS unit switched on and get a continuous reading of your position as you walk along. However, a new set of batteries will be drained in less than 10 hours (perhaps in as little as 2 hours) by some GPS units when used in this way.
- The GPS system keeps very accurate time, which can be used by the GPS receiver to give you a very accurate clock. However, this information may not be accurately displayed while the GPS unit is performing position calculations.
- The price of GPS units is becoming more attractive. It is claimed that it is currently possible to buy a small hand-held unit (250 g with batteries) for about \$250 Australian.
- The usefulness of GPS units in Australian bushwalking conditions is not well established. Anecdotal evidence ranges from somewhat useful to almost useless. Considering the relatively low price of some units, it might be worthwhile for the Club to consider purchasing a unit for our navigators to evaluate.
- If you want to use a GPS unit as a navigation aid when bushwalking then you will want to use the unit in conjunction with maps. To avoid some pitfalls when purchasing or setting up a GPS unit, you should be aware of one or two basic facts:
 - The earth is not spherical. The mapping authorities model the earth with an object called a spheroid. Different spheroids are used for different regions of the earth. The spheroid, in combination with other information gives a *datum* which is used when making maps. A consequence is that the latitude and longitude of a given place depends upon which datum is used. In Australia, the maps we use for bushwalking are based upon the Australian Geodetic Datum 1966 (AGD66) or the later version, AGD84.
 - With the datum, you get to latitude and longitude. For bushwalking, we seldom bother with latitude and longitude. Instead we use the more useful Map Grid (which is based upon the datum). A GPS unit which does not give your position in map grid coordinates will be of limited use to you.
- If you purchase a GPS unit you should make sure that it at least supports either the AGD66 or AGD84 datum (the difference between these won't matter to you, look for the words *Australian datum* and *1966* or *1984*). If your unit doesn't have these then you could use the standard WGS80 datum which is used internally by the GPS system, but your position readings (latitude, longitude and grid coordinates) will have an additional error of about 200 metres. In addition to the correct datum, you will want the unit to be able to give you Australian Map Grid coordinates but the manual for your GPS unit probably won't mention the Australian Map Grid, however it will hopefully mention UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) which is the projection used for the Australian Map Grid. In summary, the magic words to look for are *Australian datum* for 1966 or 1984, and UTM. Once you have purchased your GPS unit and set it up, you can probably safely forget

all of this, at least for the next few years (however, see below).

- Australia is currently shifting to a new mapping datum called GDA94. On the good side, this is for our purposes identical to the WGS84 datum which is used internally by GPS, so any GPS unit purchased now will be able to give horizontal position with the new datum. On the bad side, the new datum gives positions which differ horizontally from the old by about 200 metres (a different datum is used for height). This means that when maps are produced using the new datum you will find that all the features on them will have shifted by this 200 metre amount. The target date for implementation is the year 2000, but in fact the new datum will be phased in as new maps are issued. There are interesting times ahead!

There you have it. GPS units are available, at prices which aren't outrageous. They are potentially useful as a bushwalking aid to navigation, *but not as a substitute for the ability to navigate with a map and compass*. Care needs to be taken before making a purchase, for example one unit with one of the best reputations for use in bushwalking-type conditions (because it can process several signals simultaneously) lacks the UTM transformation and hence is difficult to use with maps.

On a related topic, AUSLIG has released its Australia Unfolded CDROM for \$99.95. However, it is reported to have "no useful elevation detail to speak of at finer scales ie contours, mountains etc" and is therefore "No good for bushwalking". Even with the addition of 3 kg of computer it won't replace your maps!

Bill Metzenthien

The Mount Franklin-Hepburn Springs Walk Sunday 19th May 1996

Three white brumbies galloped in a loop
as we trekked by their paddock vast,
they kept an eye on our sizeable group
'til we turned to the bush at last.

Intrepid walkers may well aspire
to the heights of K2 and Everest,
but on this day t'was humble barbed wire
to be beaten on "Norman's Conquest".

The 'f' word reared its ugly head
as we crawled through rusted barb,
some clothes were torn, some bodies bled
on this conquest of fences macabre.

As we circled a crater beside the mount,
I feared we were soon to be dead,
and so my blessings I continue to count -
that bulls are not angered by red!

There were new-born lambs with their mums out there,
even one still attached to the cord,
tempting it was to help one in despair,
but that task we could ill-afford.

Ascending Mount Franklin were fairly tough
for the terrain was littered with mines,
and rabbit warrens made the going rough
until the summit amid the pines.

Lunch with a grand view was to be our lot
instead of the crater below,
for another group had claimed that spot
with their Customlines out on show.

At no stage was the group too far off the mark,
though one track eluded our way,
and we reached Locuna Springs before dark
to end our adventurous day.

Jill Dawson

Conservation

At the Annual General Meeting of the Federation (held in early May) David Rimmer was re-elected as the Conservation Convenor. David is an energetic campaigner for the bushwalker cause. He represents us at numerous official meetings, as well as preparing submissions to government bodies, etc. It is fortunate that David has retired from full-time paid employment because his position as Federation Conservation Convenor represents almost a full-time job.

As bushwalkers, we need to reflect upon the fact that we rely heavily upon the voluntary work of people like David, in an era where few people appear to be willing to contribute. When the time comes, it may prove to be impossible to replace David unless we are willing to pay a reasonable amount for someone to do the job. Some other organizations, such as those representing 4WD owners, or horse tour operators, etc, have paid representatives to do a job similar to David's which includes attending crucial meetings which are often held during normal working hours.

Derrick Brown's letter on increasing our financial support for the Federation has generated little response. It deserves more attention. We will inevitably be faced with a choice. Contribute more as individuals by volunteering to do the necessary work or pay a little more to enable the Federation to employ more people (Federation employs a part-time Executive Officer). Otherwise we will probably find ourselves sharing more of the areas where we walk with 4WD's, horses and even shooters.

Some issues of interest to members of the Club were raised at the May meeting of the Federation Conservation Committee:

- **Stirling "Development"** The State Government has appointed the three-member panel to make recommendations on the future of Mt Stirling following the release of the Environmental Effects Statement (now due mid-June). The panel was taken to Mt Stirling on 21st May to view the mountain. Representatives of various interested bodies accompanied the panel, with David Rimmer representing the Federation.
- **Bridgewater Bay** The Club has had a number of trips to the Bridgewater Bay area. In recent years a viewing

there is a proposal that an access road to the viewing platform should be put in. Your questions and comments can be sent to Peter Novotny, Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources, 8-12 Julia St, Portland 3305.

- **Shooting in the Baw Baw National Park** Deer Hunting is to be allowed in the Baw Baw National Park in the area east of the Thomson Valley Road. The AAWT (nee the Alpine Walking Track) passes through this area.

Bill Metzenthien

New members

JANET ALLEN

FULVIA COLLAVO

MARILYN LOCK

PETER SIMPSON

Altered Address/Phone

DAVE & SYLVIA ANDREWS

JULIA KATERINE ANSON

JANE BENNIE

JAN CASE (Changed name from Carnell)

JORDY CUTHBERTSON

STEPHEN DOWN

SHIRLEY FROST

PATRICIA HILL

MICHAEL HUMPHREY

TERRI KEOUGH

STAN MACKOWIAK

REBECCA MARSHALL

ROGER OXENBOULD

MAUREEN PECK

JOHN ROSEMAN

BARBARA & DAMIEN RYAN

LINDA WALLER

ELEANOR WEEKES

SYLVIA WILSON

(Sylvia is house sitting for Gina & Derrick)

Committee Reports

Treasurer: Accounts for May 1996

Opening Balance	\$57,857.26
Receipts	\$8,690.00
Payments	\$3,311.44
Closing Balance	\$63,235.82

Walks Secretary: Attendances for April

	Trips	No	Av	1995
Sunday Bus	4		37	41
Pack Carry	5		9.4	9.5
Base camp	2		7	9.5
Wed,Hist, Dandenong	3		13.3	12.3

Membership:

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	11
Single Memberships	373
Family Memberships (2x 48 =)	96
Total membership	491

Duty Roster

12th June	Doug & Ralph
19th June	Patricia & Jenny
26th June	Bill & Janet
3rd July	Judy & William
Next committee meeting 1st July, 1996	

For Sale

Available at the clubrooms

50 Years Along the Track

by

Melbourne Bushwalkers

\$18



Melbourne Bushwalkers Badges

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

AMAZON TO ANDES

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OCT - NOV 1996

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One of the best mountain bushwalks in Peru, far more spectacular and less touristed than the Inca Trail.

The Yungas Trek Four or five spectacular days from the mountains to the jungle in Bolivia.

Lauca National Park A little known park in northern Chile, perhaps the best single place to see Andean wildlife in its natural state.

Aconcagua Foothills The highest peak outside the Himalaya. Our walk offers you incredible scenery without the potential danger and hardship that a summit climb requires. We can, however, arrange a summit climb for anyone who wishes to do it.

Cost About \$2200 for the airfares, \$1400 for the Walkabouts fee plus your expenses when you get there. The grand total should be no more than \$5500 - hopefully less. Ask for our trip notes and free brochure.



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