



# The NEWS

of the

## MELBOURNE **BUSHWALKERS** INC.

OCTOBER 1996

EDITION 548

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PRICE 60 cents

### PRESIDENTS WEEKEND

**October 18,19 and 20th**

You are all invited to this weekend.

Come for all the weekend or just part of it, or on the Sunday Bus Trip. It will be held in the Upper Loddon State Forest and at Fryerstown.

Lots of walking, a cocktail party, Chin wagging, Arvo tea and more. Please BYO Mugs for the tea.

Hope to see you there

### Secrets and Lies

The most honoured film of the year  
Winner Palme D'Or for the best Film Cannes 1996  
Friday 18th October (6.30/7pm)

### Emma

A new comedy from Jane Austen's timeless classic  
starring Gwyneth Paltrow, Toni Collette and Ewan  
McGregor

Friday 15th November (6.30/7pm)

Both Films showing at **Cinema Como**  
cnr Toorak Rd, Chapel St, South Yarra

**Cost :**

\$11 per ticket

or a book of 10 tickets = \$7 each  
or a group booking of 20 = \$5 each

Total numbers and payments for Group booking two  
working days prior to the event.

"Secrets & Lies" by Wed 16th Oct

"Emma" by Wed 15th Nov

No reserved seating so please be early or on time to obtain  
good seats.

For more information see Marisa or phone

### Sunset Boulevard

Winner Best Musical !

Winner 7 Tony Awards!

Andrew Lloyd Webber's spectacular new musical at  
the magnificently restored

**Regent Theatre**

**1997 February 13 Thursday 8 pm**

Tickets have to be paid for the 1st November.

Group Booking of 20 have to be sold to receive  
discount. Our price \$71.10 (Normal Proce \$78)

Please see Marisa for more details or phone

### Chinese Yum Cha

Shark Fin Restaurant

131 Little Bourke St, Melbourne

**Saturday 9th November 11.30am**

Let's enjoy good company, great food and then for  
those interested in hitting the city shops for some pre  
Christmas shopping !!

RSVP 30th October (Wednesday)

### Wilkinson Lodge Spring Clean

**Work Party**

**October 26-27th**

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

### Slide Night

**Wednesday 30th October 8pm**  
**clubrooms**

**Doug Pocock & Jan Llewelyn**  
will show their slides of their Willis's Walkabout in  
**Kakadu**

### House-sitting Available

by Marijke and Graham Mascas  
during 1 December - 31 January.

Preferably in the southeastern suburbs  
as we are expecting new grandchild in Aspendale!

Phone Kim Smith on \_\_\_\_\_ or,  
direct to Graham and Marijke on \_\_\_\_\_

### Latest Injury on the Sking Front

Geoff Kelly fractured his left tibia fibula on Sunday  
22nd September skiing around the Niggerheads.

There was a dramatic helicopter evacuation and he was  
evacuated to be cared for at the Alfred Hospital.

Hope to see you hobbling around real soon Geoff.

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**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 **November 96 News** is **30th October 96**

### From the Editor

The Club has been informed that the club rooms are to  
be renovated and a preschool set up in the building.  
The clubrooms currently occupy the area that will form  
the reception for the preschool. There is a possibility  
that the club will be able to use a room upstairs.  
However, we could have to move, so we are looking for  
alternative accomodation.

This should be in the central area of the city or on the  
periphery where there is some parking. If anyone  
knows of any available rooms please let me know as I  
work in the city and could go and look. My phone  
number at work is \_\_\_\_\_. For preference, the  
rooms should be at least the size of the current room  
and have some sort of secure storage.

The location of this year's Christmas Party is therefore  
under threat. As it is extremely unlikely we will be able  
to have our usual party, Marisa is planning an  
alternative. Please contact Marisa if you have any  
ideas. There will be news about where it will be held in  
the November **News**. The plan is to keep the same date  
and time.

This was the first edition of the **News** in which  
contributions were received by e-mail. While not every  
one has e-mail or knows what to do if they saw one, the  
computer cognescenti should consider it. It saves me  
(or Peter) having to re-enter articles, and it avoids the  
risk of losing your computer disk in our chaotic  
disorganisation system.

For those who wish to attempt this system e-mail should  
be sent to — [peter.gipps@dbce.csiro.au](mailto:peter.gipps@dbce.csiro.au)

*Judy Gipps*

### 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



**Sunday 24th November 1996      Strath Creek Falls**  
**Easy/Medium & Medium**

**Leaders:** Nigel Holmes & Bernice Webster  
**Transport:** Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am  
**Area:** Whittlesea  
**Expected time of return:** 7.00 pm  
**Approximate length of walk:** 9 km and 12 km  
**Map Reference:** Reedy Creek 1:25000

The medium walk will cross the top of Strath Falls and follow the walking track up the spur to McMahons Rd. There will be some off track walking to reach the spur. We will see the view of the water coming from the tunnel at Tunnel Hill. The tracks could be quite wet but the Strath Creek Falls with their cascades are quite spectacular.

**Sunday 1 December 1996      Moondarra Res. - Wirilda Track**  
**Easy & Easy/Medium**

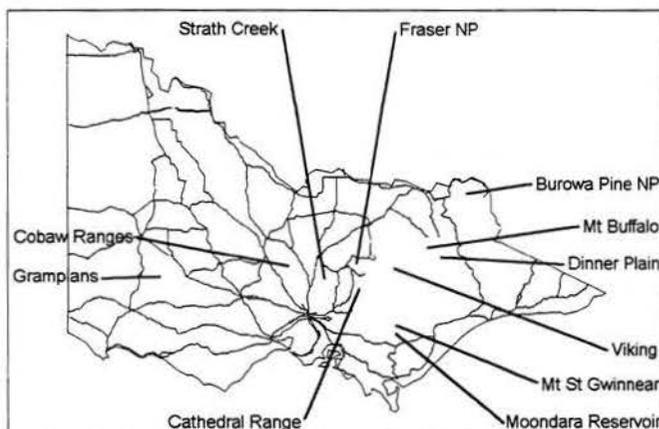
**Leaders:** Jean Giese and Janet Norman  
**Transport:** Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 8.30 am  
**Area:** Tyers River  
**Expected time of return:** 7.00 pm  
**Approximate length of walk:** 14 & 20 km  
**Map Reference:** Rintoul Creek & Morwell 1:25,000

**NOTE** an 8.30 am start as we have to travel to Moe and then north for a bit to Moondarra reservoir on the Tyers River.

Both walks will commence here, the medium walkers covering the whole of the Wirilda walking track as it winds through the forest above the Tyers Gorge and sometimes beside the Tyers.

The easy walk will follow the track for about 7 km, cross the river and return a different way to the bus. We will then take the bus to the southern end of the track and walk in to meet the medium walkers.

Bring lunch, afternoon tea and swimming togs as there is good swimming at the picnic area if it is hot and you would rather swim than walk the southern end of the Wirilda Track. There is no kiosk.



## Federation

Federation finally has a home! A lease has been taken out on a shop in Swan St, Richmond. At News time, the shop is still being cleaned, painted and made habitable. Several members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers volunteered to help get the shop ready were seen with paint scrapings in their hair and paint on their hands.

At the most recent Federation Council meeting, the subject of campfires was raised. It is currently Federation conservation policy that campfires should be banned in alpine regions. The view was advanced that campfires should be banned everywhere. The subject is to be considered further at the next Council meeting. Do you agree or disagree? I expect that there would not be strong support in the Melbourne Bushwalkers for a total ban, but I may be wrong. Please let me know if you have an opinion; the position taken at Council meetings by your representatives should represent *your* views.

*Bill Metzenth*

## Conservation

The Mount Stirling EES process is proceeding. At least three members of the Club should be appearing before the EES panel to support their submissions in the next few weeks.

Numerous and sometimes voluminous draft (and final) management plans for national parks, and related documents, continue to be received by the Federation conservation convener. The workload of assessing and replying to all this material has become too much for one person and it is proposed the work should be split among several people, each being responsible for a particular region. Volunteers will be needed. If you think that you can help, please let me know.

*Bill Metzenth*

## Lost & Found

Somebody left their runners on the bus on the walk on the 6th October. Patricia has left them in the cupboard in the clubrooms.

## VICWALK and SNOWGUM

### Speaker and Sales evening

Speaker is Max Roche, who will talk on, and show slides of, walking in Nepal and Asia.

SNOWGUM is offering 20% off all items on the evening, and even more generous specials on some items.

**When:** 7.00pm, Thursday, 17th October, 1996  
**Where:** 36 Lonsdale St, City  
**Bookings:** Ph 9670 1177

## Previews for October/November Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks

<b>12-13 October 1996</b> Easy	<b>Grampians</b> Base Camp
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<b>Leaders:</b>	Trish Elmore
<b>Transport:</b>	Private
<b>Area:</b>	Grampians
<b>Expected time of return:</b>	Sunday Evening

The plan is to camp at Borough Huts just south of Lake Bellfield. On Saturday we should climb up to Mt Rosea on the Serra Range, then down and up onto the Wonderland Range, feast on the views then descend via Diary Creek. A short car shuffle is required.

Sunday should be spent exploring the remainder of the Wonderland Range visiting Mackay's, Signal and Bellfields peaks etc. Whilst this is a popular part of the Grampians the assumption is that many "regular Bushwalker's" visit elsewhere in the Grampians and I am reliably informed that this area is will worth a visit. Please join me if you can.

<b>25-27 October 1996</b> Easy	<b>Waterloo Bay</b> Wilson's Prom
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<b>Leaders:</b>	Bernice Webster
<b>Transport:</b>	Private
<b>Area:</b>	Wilson's Prom
<b>Expected time of return:</b>	Sunday Evening

On Saturday, we will walk from Tidal River to Waterloo Bay and camp there overnight. On Sunday, we will walk across the Prom to Oberon Bay and then follow the coast back to Tidal River.

A maximum of 12 walkers.

<b>1-5 November 1996</b> Easy/Medium & Medium	<b>Burowa Pine Nat. Park</b> Base Camp
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<b>Leaders:</b>	Jopie Bodegraven
<b>Transport:</b>	Private
<b>Area:</b>	Corryong
<b>Approximate distance from Melbourne:</b>	430 Km
<b>Map Reference:</b>	Corryong 1:100,000

A wonderful long weekend in a great area combing two mountains of contrasting geology, a waterfall, a days canoeing on the Murray and a delightful campsite. Full details are on page 6 of last month's **News**.

<b>1 - 5 November 1996</b> Medium	<b>Viking - Razor Circuit</b>
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<b>Leaders:</b>	Alan Ide
<b>Transport:</b>	Private
<b>Area:</b>	Alpine National Park
<b>Expected time of return:</b>	Late Tuesday
<b>Approximate length of walk:</b>	37 km
<b>Map Reference:</b>	Howitt-Selwyn 8223-N 1:50,000

This walk is a four day walk for walkers with some recent experience of overnight walking trips. While I have no intention of attempting any speed records, it should be noted that we will be climbing 1000 m on day two, so you will need to be at least half fit!

We will start from the View Point car park on Saturday and head off down Wonnangatta Spur, camping on the Wonnangatta River. On day two we ascend the Viking and then set camp in the Viking Saddle. On Monday we will stroll over to see Mt Spectacular via Mt Despair and Catherine Saddle. On Tuesday we traverse the Crosscut Saw to Macalister Springs and return to the cars.

Please call to coordinate transport and arrangements for Friday night, as I will not be able to attend the club rooms. (Work , Home )

<b>1 - 5 November 1996</b> Easy/Medium	<b>Major Mitchell Plateau</b>
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<b>Leaders:</b>	Jean Giese
<b>Transport:</b>	Private
<b>Area:</b>	Grampians
<b>Expected time of return:</b>	7.00 pm Tuesday
<b>Approximate length of walk:</b>	39 km
<b>Map Reference:</b>	plus one day exploring without packs Southern and Northern Grampians Outdoor Leisure Maps 1:50,000

We'll make the ascent onto the Major Mitchell Plateau via Jimmy Creek Walking Track (a climb of 830 m) but we will take our time doing it. Day two will be spent exploring this wonderful plateau, then day three will take us though Boundary Gap and onto Mt William. Unfortunately there is a road bash here but we take to the bush again to cross Bovine Creek and make our way up to the Seven Dials Track, where we'll make camp near Barney Creek. Day four may include a side trip to 'The Dome', otherwise it is down Long Gully and around the western side of Lake Bellfield to the Settlement.

There should be lots of flowers, including Alpine ones on the plateau which is around 1100 m.

<b>9 - 10 November 1996</b>	<b>Mt St Gwinear - Mt Erica</b>
<b>Easy</b>	

<b>Leaders:</b>	<b>Pearson Cresswell</b>
<b>Transport:</b>	<b>Private</b>
<b>Area:</b>	<b>Baw Baw Nat. Park</b>
<b>Expected time of return:</b>	<b>7.00 pm Sunday</b>

Last year we had a wonderful walk on the northern end of the Baw Baw Plateau. This year it will be south. Starting from the St Gwinneer car park we will walk up to the Alpine Track and then follow it south to Mt Erica, camping in the vicinity. On Sunday we will follow the track on down to the road. It should be a leisurely trip with good views.

<b>15 - 17 November 1996</b>	<b>Introduction to Wilky</b>
<b>Easy</b>	

<b>Leaders:</b>	<b>Doug Pocock</b>
<b>Transport:</b>	<b>Private</b>
<b>Area:</b>	<b>Bogong High Plains</b>
<b>Expected time of return:</b>	<b>Sun Even to Suit Party</b>
<b>Map Reference:</b>	<b>Bogong High Plains 1:50,000,</b>

For description of Wilky see article on other page of **News**. This will be an Introduction to learn to 'Drive' the place. There will a group meal on Saturday Night. BYO Lunches and Breakfasts.

<b>15 - 17 November 1996</b>	<b>Stanley's Name Spur-</b>
<b>Medium/Hard</b>	<b>Magdala-Square Head</b>

<b>Leaders:</b>	<b>Bill Metzthen</b>
<b>Transport:</b>	<b>Private</b>
<b>Approximate length of walk:</b>	<b>29 km</b>
<b>Map Reference:</b>	<b>VMTC King, Howqua &amp; Jamieson Rivers, Howitt-Selwyn 1:50,000</b>

This is basically a pleasant ridge walk, mostly on tracks.

After a car shuffle on the Bindaree Road between Stanleys Name Gap and the Howqua River, the walk starts from Stanleys Name Gap and follows the ridge over Mt Thorn and eventually reaches the Crosscut Saw. The route then follows the Australian Alps Walking Track over Mt Howitt to our campsite on or near Mt Magdala.

The second day takes us back to the Howqua River via Picture Point, Mt Lovick, and Square Head Jinny. The descent of Square Head Jinny is via a steep gully through vertical cliffs.

Being a ridge walk, there will be few opportunities to find water but most walkers should not need to carry more than a litre.

<b>22 -24 November 1996</b>	<b>Mt Buffalo</b>
<b>Easy</b>	<b>Base Camp</b>

<b>Leaders:</b>	<b>Lloyd Young</b>
<b>Transport:</b>	<b>Private</b>
<b>Area:</b>	<b>Mt Buffalo</b>
<b>Expected time of return:</b>	<b>Sun Even to Suit Party</b>

The group will be camped at Lake Cafini.

There will be two day walks. On Saturday we will drive towards the horn and walk around the rocks and a waterfall.

On Sunday there will be a shorter walk taking in the chalet and possibly the underground river. We may stop at the Chalet kiosk for scones and tea.

<b>29 Nov - 1 Dec 1996</b>	<b>Dinner Plain-Mayford-</b>
<b>Easy &amp; Easy/Medium</b>	<b>Mt Tabletop</b>

<b>Leaders:</b>	<b>Max Casley</b>
<b>Transport:</b>	<b>Private</b>
<b>Area:</b>	<b>Mt Hotham</b>
<b>Expected time of return:</b>	<b>Late Sunday Evening</b>
<b>Approximate length of walk:</b>	<b>28 km</b>
<b>Map Reference:</b>	<b>Dargo Plains - Cobungra 1:50,000</b>

This area south east of Mt Hotham is not often visited by our club and I have never been there. We will meet for a 9 am start at J.B. Plain (about 10 km east Hotham Heights, before Dinner Plain). Our route will be along the jeep track on the Dividing Range and then down the Mayford Spur to Mayford. Here there is a large area for camping at the junction of Precipice Creek and Dargo River, where the water babies will have time for a swim.

Sunday morning, starting early, we will climb to Mt Tabletop for magnificent views. Then along a walking track to J.B. Plain. This should be a good walk with plenty of wild flowers. Be there.

### Wilkinson Lodge

The Melbourne Bushwalkers own and operate Wilkinson Lodge, a small comfortable hut on the Bogong High Plains. A fringe benefit of membership of our club is that any member can use the lodge after suitable introduction.

Access is on the Omeo Rd via Falls Creek, some five or so hours from Melbourne. We can park within about 700 metres of the lodge.

A visit to Wilky is delightful at any time of the year, though of course over winter it is necessary to ski the ten kilometres from Falls Creek.

Attractions of the place are walks, bike riding, fishing in Rocky Valley Dam, touring or just lazing about. The alpine wildflowers start with the melting of the snow in spring and continue through to autumn.

Wilky consists of a common lounge/dining room, kitchen, entrance alcove and sleeping loft in the gable. The kitchen has a wood fuelled slow combustion stove for general use and a gas stove for when the stove is not operating. All cooking utensils and crockery is provided. The stove provides the hot water as Wilky has the luxury of a shower as well as an inside flush toilet. There are foam rubber mattresses in the loft. Lighting is by kerosene operated Tilley lamps. All fuel, toilet paper, cleaning and washing up materials are provided. It is usual to form a cooking group to reduce chaos in the kitchen.

There are a few points about using the lodge which make it desirable for people to first visit in the company of an experienced Wilky user before they use the place. Not the least of which is finding the place, especially if it is foggy !! Consequently there will be an introduction to Wilky on the weekend of 15-17th November (see Walks preview).

The lodge is limited to eight people as the septic system is designed for that many, any more will overload it and could cause problems with smells. We have had trouble with the Environmental Protection Agency in the past and do not want a repeat.

Any member who has been introduced to Wilky can visit and organise a group, however booking in may not give sole occupancy and if a second group wish to visit then they may do so if the total number does not exceed eight people.

*Doug Pocock  
Lodge Manager*

### Snowy Mountains Skiing August 1996

For weeks I had been looking forward to once again skiing in the Snowy Mountains and on this trip I was heading up to Round Mountain with Stephen, Bill and Peter in Bob Wilkinson's mini-bus. As we ascended the snow became deeper until it covered the road and the bus could go no further. We scoffed Bob's curried egg sandwiches and set off with bloated bellies and heavy packs along the road.

There had been a brief snow fall that morning but now the weather was fine and sunny. A side trip to Round Mountain provided extensive views of our intended route to Jagungal and beyond and enabled us to have a few down hill runs. After lunch we skied south along the Toolong Range. I began to wonder if I had packed too many loaves of bread for this trip! My heavy pack was starting to strain my shoulders and back and I was starting to lag behind the others. Thankfully we made camp early and settled in for our first night out.

We made our way along the Toolong Range and skirted along the lower western slopes of Jagungal. Camp was set up on a small hill to the south of the Jagungal at lunch time. That afternoon we climbed to the cloud shrouded summit of Jagungal, but alas the clouds did not lift to give us any views. We did enjoy the ski back to our camp though. Bill paralleled down in no time at all and Stephen just belted straight down the slopes. Peter and myself made our way down some what slower, adhering to the classic telemark style.

The next day enabled us to set a cracking pace towards Cup And Saucer Hill under fine weather and good snow conditions. From there we headed up onto the Brassy Mountains and in no time at all we were at Tin Hut in time for lunch. The afternoon was warm and sunny and we did a side trip to Mount Porcupine. We all had a very pleasant afternoon skiing and argued about the names of the various hills and mountains we could see. This was what ski trips were all about. I hoped it would be this enjoyable on the Main Range. Only time would tell.

After a comfortable night in the hut we awoke to find rain and sleet outside. At about midday blue sky was sighted on the horizon and after hastily packing up we set off towards Schlink Pass. From there we slowly climbed up to Granite Peaks and the Rolling Ground. I could see Watsons Crags and Mt Twynam with dark grey storm clouds looming over them. After what seemed like an eternity we finally made it to Consett Stephen Pass. It was getting dark and tents were set up quickly in the approaching storm.

The weather conditions were awful for all of the following day. Rain pelted down and strong winds buffeted the tents. No one felt inclined to ski in such conditions so we spent the whole day tent bound. Bill and I regretted forgetting to bring a pack of cards and we spent the day eating, sleeping and melting snow for water. By late afternoon the temperature was dropping and rain gave way to snow. Later that evening the clouds parted to reveal the surrounding hills illuminated by a nearly full moon.

Next morning the sun was desperately trying to break through the low cloud cover. We spent the morning practicing skiing on a nearby slope and we had some fun trying to roll a giant snow ball down the hill side. By midday the sun had broken through and once again we packed up and continued onwards, climbing towards Mount Tate. We were rewarded by magnificent views of Main Range which made us feel the effort to get there had been worth while. We skied off Mt Little Twynam and the views of Blue Lake covered in deep snow were fantastic. We made camp somewhere beyond Headly Tarn and enjoyed the spectacle of a magnificent sun set. Hopefully the weather would stay fine to enable us to see more of this wonderful place.

Once again cloud had returned to plague us as we made our way to Seaman's Hut for lunch. We waited in vain for the weather to clear enough to enable a side trip to Mt Townsend or Mt Kosciuszko. As this was to be our last night out we decided to enjoy the comforts of the hut as opposed to snow camping in the deteriorating weather conditions.

A raging blizzard prevented us for leaving the hut for all of the next day. Twice we tried to make our way out but we were beaten back by gale force winds, snow and zero visibility. This was the worst conditions I had ever experienced in the mountains and I was glad to return to the hut. I lay in my bed that night listening to the howling wind and wondering what tomorrow would be like.

We were now one day overdue and desperate to leave the hut. With a cry of "We're no wimps!" we set off into still prevailing blizzard. Bill set a compass bearing to take us directly to Thredbo. After slogging through the white-out for some time we sighted a ski tow in the gloom. Safe at last! We then picked up a ski trail which took us down the mountain side. As soon as we were off the top the weather became fine and mild, even sunny at times. Before I knew it I was in a crowd of trendy looking alpine skiers. I felt out of place all rugged up for a blizzard and carrying a pack as they zoomed past me. No one was particularly interested in a bedraggled bunch of ski tourers who had come from the great unknown beyond the resort boundaries. We soon met Bob, who was glad to see us again. Curried egg

sandwiches never tasted so good than at the end of this trip. Tall trees, grass, blue sky and sunshine seemed so fresh and new after spending nine days in a desert of snow and ice.

Thanks to Stephen for organising our trip and for being our leader, and to Bill for navigating us to safety in extremely difficult conditions. Thank you also to Bob Wilkinson, of Corryong, who transported us to the mountains and whose dedication and concern for our well being helped to ensure our safe return.

*Ralph Blake*

## **The Angahook State Park (Easy) Walk**

**Sunday 22nd September 1996**

Some walks can be said to be tough indeed,  
when muddied by adverse weather,  
but on this day, with Marg in the lead,  
the going was as light as a feather.

We set out from a spot near Airey's Inlet  
to the bush, and wildflowers ablaze,  
along tracks alternatively dry and wet,  
and most with a view to amaze.

Pungent aromas embraced the air  
when trapped in damp gullies below,  
and birds would whistle all the while there,  
as though performing a special show.

"Painkalac" emerged like a jewel in the crown,  
t'was the ideal place for a break,  
as spillway waters came tumbling down,  
while the sun glistened over the lake.

Across every ridge-top and every bend,  
gums swayed in the turbulent breeze,  
'til the lighthouse at Ocean View Track's end,  
and a panorama fit to please.

*Jill Dawson*

## **Advance Notice**

### **Upper Murray Canoe Trip**

**December 26th to 29th Inclusive**

I have booked canoes for this trip, which will be a repeat of the trip done six years ago. As usual for longer trips it will be for members only and people must have had some canoeing experience. It is also necessary that participants have paddling experience with their canoe partner. This will be one day less than in other years but will still be an easy, leisurely trip with plenty of swimming. (Be warned there may be nakedness). Deposits will be required. Contact me for further details.

*Doug Pocock*

## Kakadu Bushwalking

Last May we finally managed to realise a long-held ambition and went with Willis's Walkabouts to Kakadu. The heat on the first day was a bit overwhelming after Melbourne's weather but constant swimming stops helped us to acclimatise. The walk started on the southern side of the escarpment and we followed Koolpin Gorge northerly, gradually climbing. We were amazed at the amount and quality of the Aboriginal art along the way. Camp spots were usually sandy spots on the river-bank though often we camped on flat rock ledges. Of course, the flora was of great interest to us with so many (to us) unknown species.

Catering arrangements were that we provided our own breakfasts and lunches and a communal meal was provided at night. These were divided through the group with the guides carrying the cooking gear. We found the meals tasty and satisfying. It was good to see the guides were very conscientious in cleaning up all traces of the campfires and leaving the camp spots very clean.

After five days in the Koolpin system we crossed over to Twin Creek which we followed to the spectacular Twin Falls. Dropping off the escarpment we visited Jim-Jim falls where we picked up supplies for the second half of the trip.

We climbed back onto the escarpment and generally followed the edge in a south-westerly direction for another 9 days. Fantastic scenery, waterfalls, lots of interesting plants and of course plenty of swimming. In some of the gorges it was easier to swim down in some places rather than cling to the cliff walls.

After the walk we went to Cooina for an evening cruise on the floodplain and a social evening meal farewell. We really appreciated our introduction to Top End walking.

*Doug and Jan*

### TASAIR

TASAIR have sent us a brochure advertising their services in Tasmania. They provide a service where they will land at Melaleuca and Cox Bight on the South Coast Track. See their brochures in the clubrooms or contact then on 002 485 088.



*Sylvia and friends on her base camp (Warby Ranges)*

*There's one more river  
And that's the Werribee River  
One more river  
There's one more river to cross.*

We did an Outward Bound trip to the Werribee Gorge recently. The river was swollen and fast flowing - more suited to white water rafting than bushwalking.

When the track ran out, we manoeuvred ourselves around the rocks, or scrambled up the steep side, all to avoid getting wet. The time came when we could put this off no longer. Determinedly we made several attempts to cross the deep rushing river.

The good news was that Chris made it. Clinging to a rotten log he scrambled ashore. The bad news was that he had to come back. Lloyd had the best idea. Stripped to the boots and back pack, he swam across a quieter section - and back. Twice. No one else followed suit, but Paula was ready to give it a go. Michael fell in negotiating the rocks at the side. Stuart waded through waist high water to that last fast section - but could we all make it from there? I thought a rope would have helped, then considered Lloyd's option. Neil decided we were not using the correct approach, but as he didn't know what it was, he went and sat on the bank to observe the varied attempts.

William, who wisely decided we could not cross the river after all, calmly watched all our antics, then gathered us together, and led us to a sunny rock ledge overlooking the river, where we relaxed over lunch.

Oh! the joy of emptying boots, wringing wet socks, and basking in the sun as our clothes started to dry out. Sunday walks will never be the same again.

*Jean Woodger*

## Photographic Exhibition

**“Havens of the High Country”**

Ramsay Gallery, Royal Mint, 280 William Street,  
Melbourne

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria is staging an Exhibition of Black & White Photographs by former member and past President of the Bushies, David Oldfield.

This exhibition is a marvellous evocation of some of the huts of the High Country, which many of us have visited and have sometimes sought refuge in over the years. Familiar huts such as Ropers, Wallaces, Guys, Howitt, Kellys, McNamaras, Millers, Bindaree, etc are lovingly captured in these excellent photographs.

There are also some wonderful images of the mountain scenery - trees in the mist, sun breaking through the clouds, weathered snowgums - as well as examples of bush architecture and rough-hewn hut furniture.

Unfortunately it is only open from 1000 to 1600 on Monday to Friday, but if you can make it, your visit will be well rewarded. Entry is free and it will be on until mid December. The Ramsay Gallery is through the same entry as the Registry Office.

David has also produced a book to go with the exhibition (Published by the Black and White Enthusiasts). Athol Schafer has some application forms if you want a copy.

David is continuing his photographic odyssey to capture as many as possible of the old cattlemen's huts before they finally succumb to the ravages of time.

I can thoroughly recommend this exhibition to all members.

*Bob Steel*

JAN PALICH

VICTORIA SCRIVENGER

DEBBIE STANFORD

PAULA H STEPHENSON

VINCENT TORLEY

STELLA Y Y WONG

**Add to membership list:**

SUE COOKE

IAN DUNNADGE

**Altered Address/Phone**

NANCY BELYEA

JANE BENNIE

MICHELLE CAREY

DEBBIE GOMM

**New members**

ROSA GENTILE

JOAN GIBSON (NEWS subscriber)

ANNE JONES

ELEANOR M LANCASTER

VIVIENNE LIM

TONY MORTIMER

ALAN IDE

ELIZABETH MOORE

NEIL PRIESTLEY

SYLVIA WILSON (till the New Year)

JEAN WOODGER

**Committee Reports**

**Treasurer:** Accounts for September 1996

Opening Balance	\$58,225.13
Receipts	\$2,465.35
Payments	\$3,583.71
Closing Balance	\$57,106.77

**Walks Secretary:** Attendances for August

	Trips	Av	1995
Sunday Bus	4	34	36
Base Camp	1	11	10
Wed,Hist, Dandenong	4	14	
Ski Trips	2	4	
Lodge(Rawson)	1	41	33
Cancelled	3		

**Membership:**

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	11
Single Memberships	345
Family Memberships (2x 44 = )	88
<b>Total membership</b>	<b>455</b>

**Duty Roster:**

9th October	Peter & Lloyd
16th October	Patricia & Ralph
23rd October	Jenny & Bill
30th October	Jean & Marisa
6th Nov	Janet & Peter

Next committee meeting 11th November, 1996

# Kimberley Coast EXPEDITION

MARCH-APRIL 1997



**C**ome north and join us on our longest and most ambitious Australian expedition. See the land when it is green, when the rivers and waterfalls are at their incredible best. See for yourself what makes this area so special.

**Highlights include**

- A boat trip through the 20 km long Berkeley Gorge.
- King George Falls where the river plunges 90 metres into the sea at the head of one of Australia's most spectacular gorges.
- Drysdale River Gorge, where flood waters have left debris 20m up the cliffs.

And, of course, there is more. Small waterfalls and gorges, beautiful pools we have all to ourselves, Aboriginal rock art some of which may never have been seen before by non-Aboriginal eyes.

Those who get in early get the chance to help plan the route and determine the length of the trip. As in the past, we may finish with a six-day loop along the lower Drysdale and some of its tributaries or we may extend the trip to a sixth week and explore new territory by walking all the way through to the Aboriginal community of Kalumburu.

If five or six weeks is too long for you, don't despair. The trip is divided into three sections any of which may be done on its own. The seaplane that brings in our two food drops provides transport for those doing only part of the trip.

**For more information about this expedition and the rest of our bushwalking program contact:**



12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810

Phone: (08) 8985 2134

Fax: (08) 8985 2355

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