



The NEWS

of the

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

DECEMBER 1997

EDITION 562

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PRICE 60 cents

Christmas Party !!



Everyone is welcome Come and help celebrate the conclusion of another successful year for the
Melbourne Bushwalkers

Wednesday December 17th 7pm onwards

St Michaels Community Hall
cnr Macpherson St & McIlwraith St North Carlton (Melways Map 29 J 12)

Please bring Plate of Food to share All drinks supplied
Lucky door prizes BYO Glass/Mug

Come dressed in Christmas Spirit and reminisce, renew old acquaintances, plan new trips and have a really good
time

Bring some music with you on tapes or CDs.

National Parks Under Threat Protest Meeting

Nicholas Hall, 148 Lonsdale St, Melbourne
Monday 8th December 7.30 pm

- Land grab from Alpine National Park
- Commercial Exploitation
- National Parks Legislation under review

Speakers:

Dick Johnson (Author of *Alps at the Cross Roads*),
David Scott (former Director of LCC) and
Amanda Martin (VNPAS Director)

Come along and invite your friends, everyone is welcome.

Victoria National Parks Association
Tel: (03) 9650 8296 Fax (03) 9654 6843

Due to Overwhelming Demand **The Murray River Canoeing is Back!!!**

23-36 January (Australia Day Weekend)
Suitable for Beginners
Book early so you will not be left out this time.
For more details see inside.

Clubrooms will Be Closed on..

Please note the Clubrooms will be closed on

17th December (Christmas Party)
24th December
31st December

**Trips can be booked directly with Leaders
and at the Christmas Party**

From the President

We have an important conservation issue looming - the unprecedented proposal to exise a parcel of land from a national park. The national park is the Alpine National Park and the proposal is to extend down-hill and leisure facilities by taking over 285 hectares of park. The Bill includes extending grooming of x/c ski trails and the proposed development would cut off the ski approach to Wilky via the North and West of the Rocky Valley dam. Graeme Thornton, our conservation representative, provides more information in this issue of *The News*. This is an outrageous proposal - the whole point of national parks is *protection*. If conservation is to mean anything then this is an issue that we must take notice of and give it our full attention. I urge you to read the article, the notice on the front page regarding a public meeting and resolve to put some time and energy into stopping this outrageous Bill which is already before Parliament. I want every member of this Club to be ready to *take action!*

We held our leaders training day in November and a number of would-be leaders performed leadership tasks and came through with flying colours. We are planning to extend the training for leaders and we hope to appoint a Training Officer soon to manage this and other training matters. Watch this space.

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 **JANUARY 97 News** is **31st December 97**

We are setting up a working group to produce a Wilky Disaster Plan. In case of a disaster at Wilky - the obvious one is a fire - we should have a plan ready for recovery. We will need some expertise to help with this plan. If you have any relevant experience or expertise (construction, carpentry etc) and might be willing to help us, please let me know.

Derrick Brown

From the Committee

- **All Wilkinson Lodge payments are to be paid to the Lodge Manager directly**
- **The committee passed the motion that this club opposes any excision of National Park Land**
- **The committee has passed a motion that the club agrees with the proposed changed to the Federation of Walking Clubs Rules and By Laws**

Cranbourne Royal Botanical Gardens

One of the proposals put forward by VicRoads is that a 6 lane road be put through these gardens. This was one of the three possibilities and has received wide publicity in the press. Members may be able to protest about this to their local member of parliament.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Melbourne Bushwalkers will be held on the **25th February, 1998**

Wilky

All food lockers are to be emptied by the end of the year. Please return any tea towels

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

Visitors are always welcome.

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

Previews for January Day Walks

Sunday 4 January
Easy & Easy/Medium

Tanglefoot Track

Leaders: Chris Lynch & Alan Miller
Transport: >>>>> Private Cars <<<<<<
Area: West of Healesville
Expected time of return: 6.00 pm
Approximate length of walk: 13 & 15 km
Map Reference Juliet North 1:25,000

Please note that as we expect smaller numbers for the first walk in January, we are using private cars not the bus. Please ring Chris Lynch if you want to come, and let him know if you want a lift or if you can take passengers.

Instructions for drivers:

- Those coming from the east and southeast, drive to Healesville then about 12 km along the Meyers Creek Rd to the top of the long hill. The Potato Research Farm is at the top. Turn right along Monda Rd (good gravel) for 3 km and then park near the locked gates at the bottom of the track to Mt St Leonard.
- From the northern suburbs, it is probably more convenient to through St Andrews to Kinglake, and then take the Healesville Rd to the Potato Farm about 4 km beyond Toolangi. Then turn left on Monda Rd.

Most people should allow at least 1.5 hours to reach the meeting place by 10 am.

The E/M walk will start by going up Mt St Leonard, which is a climb of only 101 m in 1 km.

Both groups will then walk the Tanglefoot Track to the Mt Tanglefoot picnic area. This is an easy track through eucalypt forest with plenty of shade. From the picnic area we will head west then south down the Myrtle Creek track to an old quarry and the Wirrawilla scenic loop walk. From the quarry we will walk along Quarry Rd, which is a closed 4WD track, back to the cars.

Most of the walk will be through cool forest, though there is a section of about 0.5 km which is a mess resulting from clear felling. Myrtle Gully and the Wirrawilla Track, which criss-crosses Myrtle Creek, can be particularly welcome on a hot day.

Sunday 11 January
Easy/Medium & Medium

Mt Donna Buang

Leaders: John Kittson & Stuart Mann
Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Area: Near Warburton
Distance from Melbourne: 90 km
Expected time of return: 7.30 pm
Approximate length of walk: 11 & 15 km
Map Reference Juliet South 1:25,000

Our walk for the day is through some of the nicest sub-alpine areas of Victoria - eucalyptus regnans - mountain ash, myrtle beech stands, and fern gullies are all part of the scenery, with parrots to be seen and lyrebirds to be heard. All with the smell of that cool fresh mountain air. What bliss. The medium group, as always, will do it a bit harder, but I expect the easy/mediums to enjoy themselves. So after our initial climb up the cement Creek track, then its along the Boobyalla track and up onto Mt Donna Buang, and if the skies are clear we will have good views from the fire tower on the summit, at altitude 1260 metres or for us oldies, 4,080 feet.

We will then make our way back via Mt Victoria, finishing at the Ten Mile turntable.

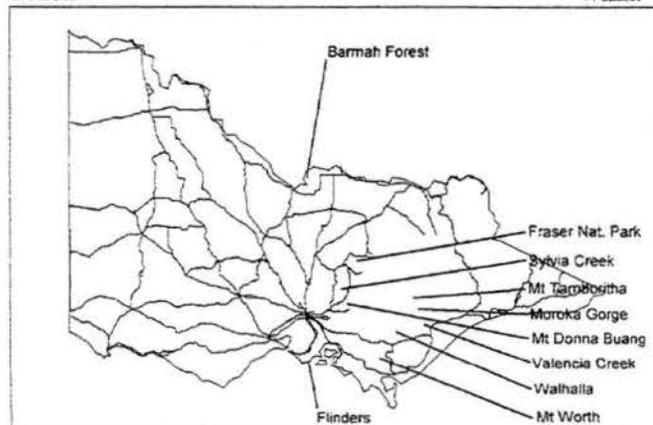
Sunday 18 January
Easy & Easy/Medium

Flinders - Somers

Leaders: Joan Haigh & William Cone
Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Area: Mornington Peninsula
Expected time of return: 7.00 pm
Approximate length of walk: 13 & 15 km
Map Reference Meways p262

Both walks start at Flinders Pier, and head north along the shoreline. The easy/medium walk finishes at Somers and the easy walk at Balnarring.

At this time of year fine weather and views of Western Port and Phillip Island are likely. Both walks will provide an opportunity for swimming. Bring sun screen and water for a pleasant summer beach walk.



**Wednesday 21 January Fraser National Park
Easy/Medium**

Leader: Jean Giese
 Transport: Private
 Area: NW side of Lake Eildon
 Expected time of return: 6.30 or 7.00 pm
 Approximate length of walk: 15 km
 Map Reference: Collier Bay 1:25,000

We will adjust the walk according to the weather. If its not hot we will commence with a 240 m climb for great views over Lake Eildon and away to the mountains. The second part of the walk will be on foot track (at times) not far from the water's edge. So we can stop off for dips or paddles, as the spirit moves. The intention is to do 15 km if cool enough.

There is a park entrance fee.

Meet at Jean Giese's at 8 am or Fraser National Park Office at 10.30.

**Sunday 25 January Mt Worth
Easy & Easy/Medium**

Leaders: Peter Havlicek & Margaret Borden
 Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 8.30 am
 Area: Gippsland
 Expected time of return: 7.00 pm
 Approximate length of walk: 13 & 17 km
 Map Reference: Mount Worth, Allambee 1:25000

This is a circular walk in Mt Worth State Park. The area is ancient volcanic outcrop which has all the goodies which we bushies like: great views, rock formations, open hillsides, forest tracks, tall timber, some reasonable hills to exercise those citified legs, hearts and lungs, a creek and wildlife including at least one not too shy wombat. Come and walk off all these Xmas and New Year parties extra inches.

Person to share spacious, 3 bedroom, two storey house with one other person in Kensington. Double size bedroom with built-in wardrobe. Quiet street, supermarket and public transport nearby. Only 4kms to CBD/Victoria Market. \$75 per week. Telephone Virginia (03) (AH)

Learning to XC ski in 1997

Now it is December, 1997 and in the years to come I am sure I will remember 1997 and learning to XC ski with the club at Lake Mountain.

Beginners' Ski Day (19/7/97)

Fall down, Get up, Fall Down, Get Up....

Extremely slow. Little Balance. Little control, Many bruises,
 Little ego.

See a little of the beautiful winter landscape.

A little enjoyment

Second Private Ski Day

A great improvement...

Very slow but more balance and more control. Some bruises,

More ego.

See more of the beautiful winter landscape.

More enjoyment.

Third Private Ski Day

Similar to Second Day

Fourth and Last Private Ski Day this Season

XC skiing in a special and magical time and place...

Slow but some balance and some control. A few bruises.

Much Ego.

See much of the beautiful winter landscape.

Much enjoyment,

Many thanks again to Doug Pocock and co and Ian Hoad.

Vicki Sarivenger

For Sale
Back Pack

Caribee Lhotse 70 litre, Teal Green. Only used twice, excellent condition.

\$150

be medium/hard. We would meet you at the base camp site.

There will need to be a limit of 12 due to the size of the campsite.

23-26 January	Barmah Forest Canoeing
Easy	Murray River

Leaders:	George Zamorah
Transport:	Private
Map Reference:	River Murray Charts - Maureen Wright
Area:	Barmah Forest Park
Approx Distance from Melbourne:	250 km

Come and explore the most beautiful scenery that the Barmah Forest has to offer.

On Friday night we will camp at Morgans Beach at the start of the Barmah Forest. On Saturday we start our paddle downstream to the Barmah Township. The next two nights we will camp along the river, wherever we see a nice beach (and there are plenty on this trip.) We should arrive at Barmah Town on Monday afternoon after smooth water paddling all the way.

For those people who have been on previous canoeing trips, this area is completely different to other parts of the Murray River. The river has lower banks, hence no big walls but plenty of beautiful white sandy beaches.

You will see magnificent River Red Gum trees (the park contains the largest natural River Red Gum forest in the world), Grey Kangaroos, and many types of birds (more than 200 bird species inhabit the Park), but you will not see people. The chance to catch a fish, beautiful camp sites will provide a trip to remember. It will be an easy trip with lots of swim stops, plus lunch and afternoon breaks.

Warning: It will be hot - old pyjamas and plenty of 15+ and a hat!

We will hire canoes at Barmah. The two person Canadian canoes are supplied with - life jackets, waterproof barrels, detailed maps, bird ID book, fact sheets and compasses. A deposit of \$10 will be required.

A great adventure and a photographer's dream.

This trip is a must

Book at the club rooms or ring AH and BH

Bushfires

You will note I use the Australian term "bushfire" rather than the more American "wildfire". But whatever term is used, bushwalkers, perhaps more than most sections of the community, must be aware of the dangers of bushfires. This year may pose a particularly high threat due to the dryness of the bush. Despite rain over the last month or so things are still very dry, remember the canoeing group on the Thompson River overdue as the river levels were so low.

The law states that during the fire restriction period you may light a fire so long as it is in a properly constructed fire place or in a trench 30cm deep. (A few stones in a circle does not constitute a properly constructed fireplace.) The fire must be cleared of all flammable material in a 3 metre radius and must be clear overhead. A fire must not be lit within 3 metre of a log or stump. A stump can smoulder for months and burst into flame in a strong dry wind. How many of us have complied exactly with these conditions? A fire may NOT be lit in the open in a day of Total Fire Ban. This includes a fuel stove, even inside a tent. Some areas of the State are fuel stove areas and no campfires may be lit at any time. Total fire ban regulations apply to all of the declared areas. The state is now divided into five fire areas and any or all can be declared. Ignorance is no defence so if in doubt don't light a fire. Consider carrying some meals that do not require cooking.

Over the coming summer walkers must be aware of the dangers of going into the bush. Leader may change a walk if they decide there is danger in the area of the programmed walk. Leaders should consider an alternative walk in case of needing to make a last minute change and let the contacts know of any changes. If you arrive for a walk and it is different to what you expect, don't complain, the leader will have made the change for the safety of the group.

If you are caught in a fire DO NOT PANIC. A big bushfire is a noisy, scary thing but try to stay calm. Listen to your leader and try to help with decisions rather than arguing the point. If you have what you think is a better idea suggest it without trying to force it on him/her. Stay in the group so that the leader knows where everyone is.

Remember two things, a fire moves faster than you (especially uphill), and RADIANT HEAT IS A KILLER. If you are caught, look for a clear spot, cover up and lie down. Use a reflective foil groundsheet to cover up if you have one and cover your face with a damp cloth (tee shirt or similar) to cool the air you breathe until the fire front has passed. If your chosen spot is a road then obviously lie at the

side, it would be embarrassing to be run over by a fire truck after surviving a fire front. When you cover up remember a lot of the clothes we wear are synthetic and may burn, smoulder or melt and stick to your flesh. Consider cotton or woollen clothes. If you cannot find a clear spot then it may be possible to produce a safe spot by back-burning but be extremely careful if you do try this method. If you are at a waterhole then immerse yourself for protection, but NEVER get into a water tank above the ground. It doesn't take much of a temperature rise to kill you.

If you are in a vehicle and get caught in a fire STAY IN THE VEHICLE. Close the windows, cover up and get low, remember RADIANT HEAT KILLS. Leave your lights on in case there is other traffic on the road. Stay inside until the fire front has passed, a car is quite safe even if the tyres are on fire. It takes a long time before a fuel tank will explode.

DON'T PANIC

DON'T TRY TO OUTFRAN A FIRE

RADIANT HEAT IS A KILLER

PLAN AHEAD SHOULD THINGS LOOK DANGEROUS

Doug Pocock

Conservation Forum

Further to last month's *Conservation Forum* re low flying helicopters in the Bogong National Park and the possibility of the same at The Prom lighthouse: there are a couple of items of interest from the October VicWalk (the Federation of Vic walking Clubs) Conservation Committee meeting.

David Rimmer (VicWalk president) has been told verbally that as the road to the lighthouse was only going as far as halfway hut (a good thing too), and that supplies to the lighthouse would be via helicopter. Thus any concerns about low-flying helicopters at The Prom have moved up a couple of notches in my mind. In the good old days the lighthouse was supplied by sea. This is apparently too heroic and romantic a method in this day and age - it might just also be too expensive and make the commercial lodges uncommercial.

At the same meeting Bill Metzthen reported that to do anything about the non-compliance of helicopters in the Alpine N.P. required that the colour, registration number and description [also, I assume, the time/date/place] of the offending helicopter was required. This adds a whole new dimension to bird-spotting for Bushies. We will need to take binoculars and cameras with us to record the offending specimens. I don't see why an accurate time and

place shouldn't be sufficient to identify the culprit from flight logs.

Some Bushies will have heard of the proposal to excise 285 hectares from the Alpine National Park at Falls Ck. The area extends along the northern shore of Rocky Valley reservoir (below Sun Valley) from the dam wall to Mt Mckay. At the moment, about 1/2 of Mt McKay is in the resort and 1/2 in the park, so the proposal is for all of Mt Mckay to be included and earmarked for downhill ski development. The Mt McKay idea has been around for some years and is thus not a new threat. What is new is the addition, and development, of the lake side to include car parks, boat storage sheds, BBQ's and a cabin style series of developments.

The excision of land from a national park is unprecedented.

Such a possibility is not even covered by the National Parks act as it is not something our founding parents would ever have considered as an eventuality. It goes against previous Lands Conservation Council (LCC) recommendations. The excision was virtually kept secret by the government by attaching it to the back of another bill during its second reading before parliament. The offending bill is the Alpine Resorts (Management) Act and quite clearly, to the mind of the government and whoever are their advisers, the resorts and their commercialisation rank above national parks. Opposite Sun Valley are the Rocky Knobs, much beloved of summer and winter visitors to the High Plains. If the bill is successful and gives the government a chance to hone its excision skills and further perfect its tradition of ignoring public opinion, then it's not much of a stretch to visualise rows of cabins scattered right around the lake side and over the Rocky Knobs.

And why then would they limit the technique, if successful, to just the Alpine National Park? It could be even be a useful device for The Prom, and other national parks!

The Vic. National Parks Association are holding a public meeting in the city at the Nicholas Centre, 148 Lonsdale St at 7:30 pm, Mon 8/12/97, to raise public awareness of this unprecedented act of opportunism and total disregard for the status of national parks. Dick Johnson (author, "Alps at the Cross-Roads") and David Scott (an ex LCC director) will be speaking. If you are in the city at that time, give some thought to going along and lending the VNPA a supporting hand.

Graeme Thornton- Conservation Convenor

Falls Creek - Mount Hotham helicopter shuttle

Most readers will be aware of the Falls Creek - Mount Hotham helicopter shuttle. The Minister for Conservation and Land Management has finally replied to a letter. As expected, Mrs Tehan has not denied any of the points made about the helicopter. In particular she agrees:

- That remote values in the Alpine National Park have been compromised.
- The noise and visual intrusion from aircraft as acceptable in the Alpine National Park, even though she has the power to curtail them by closing landings sites on Crown land. She agrees that non-management aircraft are acceptable in National Parks.
- That she is unable to guarantee that interested stakeholders will be given a say in the review of the 1997 helicopter operation, or that the review will be immediately after the 1997 ski season. She consequently agrees that democracy has been compromised.
- That helicopters with skiers may land on Mt Stirling and other ARC land.

About the time Mrs Tehan wrote to me, she announced that Mt Mackay would be taken from the Alpine National Park and made part of the Falls Creek Alpine Resort. Recall that the Alpine Resorts Commission were deeply involved in the abortive attempt to make Stirling a downhill resort. Recall also that this was crushed under the sheer weight of numbers, people writing letters. Mt Mackay could also be a helicopter landing site. There would be very little to stop Mrs Tehan taking, say, Mt Loch, Mt Feathertop, or other mountains - except public opinion. Stirling is an alpine resort, and could also have helicopters.

If enough people write to the Minister, then this will have an impact. One letter, however simple, will add to the impact. The Minister is The Hon. Marie Tehan, MP, Minister for Conservation and Land Management, PO Box 500, East Melbourne 3002. If you have no computer, write by hand. One genuine hand-written letter has far more impact than a score of form letters, or a petition.

The most important thing is for the review of the 1997 helicopter operation to be a public process. Seek a firm assurance on this, and that you can make a submission.

The words of a poem seem very relevant:
I'm only a boy from the bush near Fitzroy,
And I don't understand people's games.
But I just want to know where our children will go,
When none of our bushland remains.

Or even: 26 November 1997

Don't it always seem to go,
You don't know what you've got till it's gone
Pave paradise, put up a parking lot.

Stephen Lake

Introduction to Wilky

or Gerhardt's Birthday

Thank you Gerhardt for letting us celebrate your 55th birthday with you at Wilky. I know you particularly enjoyed the early morning *Happy Birthday* serenade whilst you were still in bed. Great way to wake up. Shame about the singing.

Jan made the first claim to fame at the weekend by 'kinda' missing the turn off to the lodge on our 11 pm moonlit arrival. She mumbled something about being too busy chatting.

In the wee hours of Saturday morning Fiona needed to descend from the loft for a loo visit. Along the way she 'kinda' crawled all over Peter. 'I was trying to find the ladder without turning on my torch' Fiona tried to convince us. Yeah, right Fiona! Peter just smiled!

I've discovered Melbourne Bushies' lunches can produce some interesting table talk; Saturday's ranged from Greek coffee to Greek septic tanks! Lunch also saw Fiona and Carolyn grovelling over Doug; they were fighting with each other as to whom would get him coffee (Greek of course!). Really ladies, less obvious next time please. Jan just hoped he wouldn't expect this treatment to continue at home. Someone asked if we had to sit an exam on all the instructions and do's and don't's of the lodge. Doug announced that a \$50 note attached to the exam paper would ensure a pass.

Saturday afternoon saw a few ladies return to the lodge with wet knickers. The story goes that a makeshift toboggan ride on a large, lonely patch of snow was the reason. I'll leave you to decide for yourselves.

Chin move over! Doug Pocock is competing with you as Melbourne Bushies' Chef Extraordinaire. Thank you Doug for the magnificent roast dinner on Saturday night.

Thank you Doug for a good and fun intro to Wilky and thank you to Doug and Jan for the great walk leadership.

The 'Birthday' party were - Carol, Carole, Carolyn, Doug, Fiona, Gerhardt, Jan, Judy, Peter and Steve.

Carole Patterson

Of Saturday Walks & Sunday Walks

For some time the committee has been concerned about the apparent 'saturation' of the Sunday Bus trips and, a couple of months back, I sought members views on the matter. As it turned out, not many members took the opportunity to comment and even those who did were generally not too worried. This notwithstanding, the Walks Committee (who plan the programme) recently resolved to take action by programming some more walks on Saturdays. These will generally be of medium or even medium-hard grade using private transport. As well as taking some pressure off the bus, they will cater to those who would like a more challenging walk and allow us to do some more adventurous things which may not be suited to large parties.

Initially (starting with the Autumn programme) we will run one trip per month, probably on the second Saturday. A range of easy walks is already provided by the Dandenongs Explorer series on the fourth Saturday of each month.

Pearson Cresswell

Proposed Motions for the AGM in February 1998

The following motions are proposed by the committee to be voted on at the AGM and the following are statements of support.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF INCLUSION OF A NON-PROFIT CLAUSE IN CONSTITUTION

On a recent visit to the Business names office of the State Government for a purpose unrelated to the club, I noticed a large sign asking "Is your club tax-exempt?". This sounded interesting. I thought as treasurer I had better check it out.

The Australian Tax Office has produced a booklet called The Club Pack: A Taxation Guide for Clubs, Societies and Associations. According to this publication, there are three categories of clubs: a non-profit organisation with a tax-exempt purpose, non-profit organisation and taxable organisation. I will describe then for you.

A *non-profit tax-exempt organisation* has clauses in its constitution forbidding distributions to the members while the organisation exists and when it is

would up, and a primary purpose that is tax-exempt e.g. the encouragement or promotion of a game or sport. This organisation pays no tax and does not lodge a tax return.

A *non-profit organisation* has the clauses forbidding distributions however it is not primarily for an exempt purpose. This organisation must lodge a tax return if income exceeds \$146 per annum and pays tax on any income in excess of \$416.

A *taxable organisation* does not have the non-profit clauses in its constitution and is not for an exempt purpose. It pays tax on all its income.

I don't want to have to prepare a tax return (or Pay tax). I urge you to approve this change.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CHANGE OF FINANCIAL YEAR

Clause 21(3) of the constitution says that our financial year is from the 1st February each year till the end of January. At the same time, Clause 4(1) requires that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) be held between the 14th and 28th days of February. As well, Clause 21(4) requires that two auditors will be appointed and report to the AGM.

As the Committee meets on the first Monday each month, there is very little time between the end of the financial year and the committee meeting in February for the committee to consider the annual financial statement. At present, an almost herculean effort is required from the treasurer and the auditors to prepare the annual statement and have it audited in as little as 4 days (as will occur in 1998).

Although the constitution does not require the committee to formally consider the annual financial report before it goes to the AGM, I believe that is non-sensical. The management of the club is vested in the committee. They have the right to put motions at the AGM recommending increases (or decreases) in entrance and membership fees. These need to be carefully considered. In this regard the auditors help by making sure that the data is correct.

I am pleading the extra time. I urge you to support this motion.

Peter McGrath

New/Add members

JOHN MIKUZ

BILL SLADE

MARIE TRAINA

JANET CROWE

MARY GAZZO

ALAN GRIMWOOD

Add to membership list

PETER NAUGHTIN

Altered Address/Phone

STELLA Y Y WONG

Lost touch with: (Anyone knows of them?)

DIANE ELLEN BESTER

MONIKA HOLLANDER

Committee Reports**Treasurer:** Accounts for November 1997

Opening Balance	\$59,879.40
Receipts	\$4,533.00
Payments	\$3,739.58
Closing Balance	\$60,672.82

Walks Secretary:

Attendances for October 97

	Trips	Av	1996
Sunday Bus	4	39	39.5
Pack Carry	1	4	7
Base Camps	2	12.5	18.5
Wed, Hist, Dandenong	2	12.5	10
Cancelled	1		

Membership:

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	369
Family Memberships (2x 44 =)	88
Total membership	478

Duty Roster

10 th December	Jean & Anne
17 th December	Ralph & Peter C. (Xmas Party)
24 th December	No Meeting
31 st December	No Meeting
7 th January	Stephen & Marisa
14 th January	Bernie & Lloyd

Next committee meeting 12th January, 1998**For Sale****Walk**

5 for \$2

For those new to the club **Walk** magazine was published by the club from 1968 to 1987 and is in a small magazine format and has valuable descriptions of walks and is well worth reading. Various surplus copies are available.

Ask in the clubrooms.

Bushies Good Food Guide

The BBQ Chicken Ranch

Yummy good quality takeaway.

Very clean. Service friendly.

Open 7 days a week.

182 High St

Kangaroo Flat (Bendigo area)

Tel (03) 5447 2047

Cameron McMillan

Please. Please Please

Please send all walk previews to my home address or fax them to me at work. The January issue of the News will be out the first week of January and it would be a great help if all previews etc were in early. However I would love to get articles on Christmas trips. The issue will be printed on the 7th January so you have until a couple of days before that to get articles to me but please get the previews in early..

Arctic Adventure

March–April 1998:



4 weeks above the 60th parallel in Canada's Northwest Territories

- 10 days across Baffin Island by Inuit dog sled

- Great views of the aurora.
- Temperatures well below Australia's record low of -23° C.
- Local bed & breakfast accommodation while you acclimatise.
- A week in the wilderness outside Yellowknife.

Total cost about \$7500. Ask for our trip notes.

Too cold and costly? Ask for the brochure describing our many northern Australian bushwalking holidays!

Willis's Walkabouts 12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810



Phone: (08) 8985 2134 Fax: (08) 8985 2355

Walks in December 1997/January 1998

Date	Location		Standard	Leader
5-7 Dec	St Gwinear-Mustering Flat-Mt Erica	Private	Easy	Peter Gipps
7 Sun	Mt Dissapointment	Bus	E/M & Med	John Kittson & Fay Pratt
10 Wed	Somers Beach	Private	Easy	Joan Haigh
12-14 Dec	Upper Wongungarra River	Private	M/Hard	Ralph Blake
14 Sun	Captain Ck - Wombelano Falls	Bus	Easy & Med	Jean Giese & Stuart Mann
21 Sun	Ada Tree	Bus	E/M & Med	Peter McGrath & Pauline Williams
28 Dec	<i>No Walk</i>			
26-1 Jan	Stanley Name Spur - Mt Howitt etc	Private	E/Medium	Jean Giese
26 - 4 Jan	Alpine Track	Private	Medium	Bill Metzenthén
26-3 Jan	Tingaringy-Byadbo(Snowy River)	Private	M/Hard	Doug Pocock
26-4 Jan	Upper Shoalhaven Lilo Trip	Private	M/Hard	Jopie Bodegraven
26-4 Jan	High Plains Base Camp	Private	Easy	Contact Pearson Cresswell
4 th January	Sylvia Ck -Tanglefoot	Private	E&E/Med	Chris Lynch & Alan Miller

The NEWS of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

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