



The NEWS

of the

MELBOURNE **BUSHWALKERS** INC.

JULY 1998

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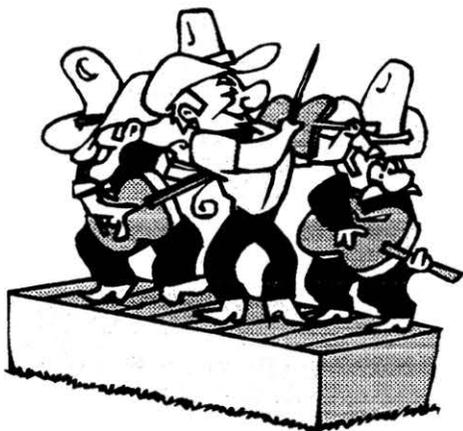
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PRICE 60 cents

Last Remaining Days to purchase tickets for

100,000th Walker Celebrations

*Tickets Not sold on the night. Final numbers and payment
by Wednesday evening 15th July*



100,000 walker plus the leader of the 5,000th
trip identified!

Door prizes. Great fun and a night to
remember.

Saturday 18 July

Place: St Michael's Community Hall
cnr MacPherson & Mcllwraith Streets,
North Carlton Melways Map 29 J12

Dinner served from 7 pm
Harvest Moon Bushband
performing from 8.30 till 11.30 pm

Please note: BYO & Glass

Tickets from Marisa & Fiona in the clubrooms.

Cheques payable to
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc

Further inquiries phone Marisa

A fantastic social event not to be missed!

Wednesday 19th August

8.00pm Clubrooms

Visit by

Wilderness Society

to show slides on

"Wongungarra"

which is Victoria's Last Unprotected Wilderness. The
visit is part of the Wilderness's campaign to save the
area and includes info on Bushwalking in the area.

Please come along on this night!

P.S. Please let Jan know by Mon 20/7 if you are coming as
its assists catering

Snowgum Special Discount Night

Thursday 23 July

Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

Tel: (if you wish to compare prices)

See page 6 for details

THE RAWSON WEEKEND

7-9 August

Cross country skiing, walking, eating, drinking,
socialising

See next page

100,000 Walker Celebrations

Lunch for Veteran Walkers

Sunday 13th Sept

See next page for details

Half Yearly General Meeting

Wednesday 26th August, 1998 at 8.00 pm

In the Royal Horticultural Society Hall adjacent to the
Clubrooms

Save Our Parks Submission Writing Nights

The nights will be Sat 18 July (at the 100,000th Walker
Festivities) and also in the clubrooms on Wed 2 Sept.

From the President

The snow has arrived and the keener bushies have dragged out the skis from under the bed. Some have tested their skills at Wilky; my turn there is yet to come! There must be lots of bushies who want to try skiing so don't miss the beginners' weekend coming soon. Once you can stay upright and ski with a pack you can get to Wilky - that ought to be a big incentive!

I have a sorry tale to tell of misdemeanours in the bush. In the Alpine National Park near Mt McDonald - actually on the Alps Walking track - the other weekend Gina and I came across a still-burning fire around which was strewn a collection of cans, silver foil, bottles, bullet cases and cigarette ends. Very large logs and machined timber had been burnt, resulting in a blaze sufficiently hot to melt a glass bottle! The front half of a deer carcass, minus the head, lay alongside the four-wheel drive track. We saw two dogs - deerhounds, a bitch and a male - at large in the bush. We managed to detain the bitch and take her to the police at Mansfield. The other dog remained at large. The policeman remarked that this scenario was nothing unusual. A sad reflection on how some people treat the bush and how easy it is for them to do this with impunity.

In this issue you will read about the protest at Wilsons Prom and at Mt McKay. Both of these are important conservation issues that all Bushies should support. I know that you all do - in principle - but that is not the same as actually doing something. Now with getting on for 500 members we really should be able to be heard. We have an opportunity now. We are

supporting the VNPA by asking members to sign a petition about the National Park excision. Individual letters are more powerful so we are asking you to write on this issue. We shall have a campaign in the Clubrooms and I ask you all to get involved and do something. It won't take long. And it does count.

Derrick Brown

100,000 Walker Celebrations

A lunch is being organised for the veteran walkers (1940s onwards) on Sunday 13th Sept at the Balwyn Community Centre, Whitehouse Rd. If you can spare some time on that day we could do with some helpers or if you know of some golden oldies do let them know about it. (Wendy Truscott is doing the catering)

Sylvia Ford & Tracy Guest & Jean Woodger

It's on again

THE RAWSON WEEKEND

7-9 August

Cross country skiing, walking, eating, drinking, socialising

Twin Share B&B accommodation

\$29.00 per night per person

Be there - or ever after hear people talking about what you missed.

More details in next month's News.

Offers from potential leaders gratefully considered.

Leader: Marilyn Whimpey

Bob McLellan

Bob (our Sunday Busdriver) is currently recovering from a stay in hospital. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

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
emailed to

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 **AUGUST 1998 News** is **29th July 98**

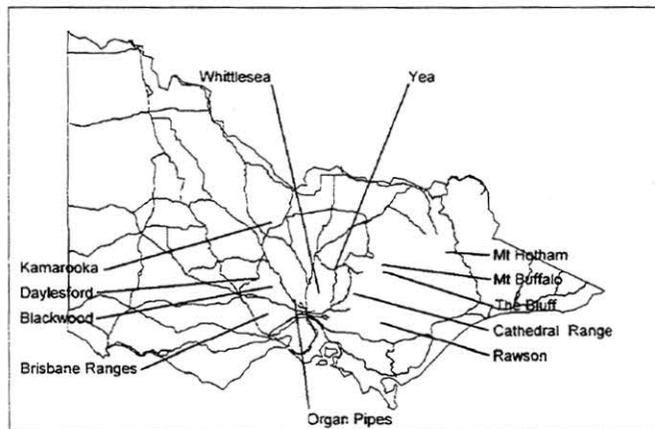
General correspondence should be directed to:
 The Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
 PO Box 1751Q, MELBOURNE 3001

Previews for August Day Walks and one for July

Saturday 25th July 1998 **Dandenongs Explorer**
Easy

Leaders: Pam Rosso
Transport: Private
Area: Olinda Forest & Adjacent Areas
Expected time of return: 3.30pm
Approximate length of walk: 11 Kms
Map Reference: Melways Map 120 G11

We will commence the walk in the lower car park of the Silvan Dam at 10.30 am Melways 120 G11. Though the walk is graded easy there is one short steep ascent, and we will be rewarded with good views at the top. We should complete the walk early enough for us to spend an hour in the BBQ area of the Silvan Car Park with a hot drink and Devonshire Tea around the fire, provided by the leader and her able assistant.



Saturday 1st August 1998 **Cathedral Range Sugarloaf**
Medium

Leaders: Alan Ide (w), (h)
Transport: Private- Car Costs
Time: Leave Melbourne ~ 8.00am
Area: Cathedral Range
Approximate length of walk: Who knows!
Map Reference: See how we feel on the day. Outdoor Leisure Map 1:25,000

This walk departs from Sugarloaf saddle after leaving one car at the Jawbones carpark. The first section to Mt Sugarloaf is about as steep as you can go without using rope. Make sure you have boots with good tread! After admiring the view we will wander along the razorback to the Jawbone peaks. Depending on time we may try to bushbash down through 'The Gorge' and/or visit Mt. Cathedral.

Along the way we get to do a bit of caving* and admire the memorials to all the other bushwalkers that died on previous trips. The track is rough where it exists and bouldering skills are required.

Please call to share transport and arrange other details.

(*Members over 30cm wide are advised not to come on this walk!)

Sunday 2nd August 1998 **Campaspe River Organ Pipes (Kyneton)**
Easy/Med & Medium

Leaders: Sue Ralston & Peter Havlicek
Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Expected time of return: 7.00pm
Approximate length of walk: 11 & 15 Kms
Map Reference: Redesdale (7823-4-4) 1:25,000

The early reaches of the Campaspe River (which flows all the way to Echuca) offer some quite dramatic scenery - steep gorges with fascinating rock formations (including the "Organ Pipes") and two spectacular waterfalls. Eagles, rosellas, wrens and several species of waterbird were seen on the preview.

Both walks will start at Barfold bridge and walk through farmland to the gorges.

The easy medium group will walk to the junction of Piper's Creek and the Campaspe River, and then follow the Campaspe River back to the Bridge.

The medium group will head first for Piper's Creek, which also boasts some beautiful gorges, and follow it from both above and below, to the confluence of the two rivers. Time permitting, we will explore the Campaspe downstream beyond this junction before turning back and following it upstream to the bridge.

Sunday 9th August 1998 **Blackwood Ranges Lookouts**
Easy/Medium & Medium

Leaders: Peter & Judy Gipps
Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Area: Blackwood
Approximate distance from Melbourne: 14 & 17 km
Expected time of return: 7.00pm
Approximate length of walk: 14 & 17 km
Map Reference: Trentham 1:25,000

The two walks start just south of Trentham and follow Countess Track as it winds between trees until it starts descending beside one of the old mines in the area. Only 10 metres of the track the shaft plunges vertical through an assortment of ferns and other vegetation. Continuing on we eventually strike Yankee Road and turn right and follow it for 100 metres before turning off along another quiet track and a short climb up to Golden Point Road. Here the two walks diverge.

The easy-medium walk turns south along Golden Point Road for about 4 km, eventually turning southwest to Shaws Lake. From there it descends the hill and

crosses the Lederberg River on a foot bridge, and heading to the finish in the centre of Blackwood, where you have a choice of venue for a coffee or hot chocolate.

The medium walk crosses Golden Point Road and heads south on Hayden Track for about 4km until it eventually fizzles out. We then put our faith in compasses and head cross country for 1 km to strike Tunnel Point Track when we turn north. Tunnel Point Track eventually hits Golden Point Road and we follow the route of the easy-medium walk.

Sunday 16th August 1998
Easy/Medium & Medium

Yea Spur
(Yea)

Leaders: John Kittson & Fay Pratt
Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Area: Near Yea (Golburn Valley Highway)
Expected time of return: 7.30 pm
Approximate length of walk: 15 & 18 kms
Map Reference: Flowerdale & Homewood 1:25,000

This is a walk in open farmland with wonderful views of rolling hills off into the distance. Both walks involve a fairly steep climb of about 150 metres to get you up onto the Spur, but once there "trust me" you will be warm. The medium group will start near Mt Marianne, and the E/Med group a few kilometres further on. The two walks will follow the Yea Spur along to Junction Hill, and the bus.

The whole area is fairly exposed, so it would be advisable to bring warm clothing and your coat just in case. I guarantee no leeches or trail bikes on this walk.

Wednesday 19th August 1998
Easy/Medium

Brisbane Ranges
Anakie Gorge

Leader: Trevor Thomson
Transport: Private
Area: Anakie
Map Reference: Brisbane Ranges Nat Park VMTC
Expected Time of return: 5.00pm
Distance: 13km

The Anakie Gorge, a cutting through a geological fault line by the Stony Creek, is a pleasant walking area with rocky headlands and several vantage points for views. Orchids, wattles in bloom, and koalas might be seen. Our circuit will take us through the gorge, to various lookout points, and to the lower Stony Creek Dam.

Meet 9am Westgate Bridge Park, or 10am Anakie Gorge picnic area.

Sunday 23 August 1998 Upper Loddon State Forest
Easy & Easy/ Med Sailors Gully (Daylesford)

Leaders: Maureen Peck & Trevor Thomson
Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Area: Daylesford
Expected time of return: 6.00pm
Approximate length of walk: 15 & 17 kms
Map Reference: Guildford, Daylesford 1:25,000

These walks, within the Upper Loddon State Forest, start in the vicinity of Mt Franklin, and finish at the pleasant picnic area of Vaughan Springs. The easy walk will follow part of the Dry Diggings Trail, traversing 1850's goldfields sites such as Sailors and Stones gullies, which have not been obliterated by later workings. Relics of open cuts, mullock heaps, hillside tunnels, stone ruins, and a long hillside chimney flue may be seen.

The easy/medium walk will take a more roundabout off-track route, including the minor gorge of Tarilta creek, and ridges and gullies. Silver and golden wattles should be in bloom.

Sunday 26th August 1998
Easy/Med & Med

Riddells Ck
(nr Gisborne)

Leaders: Alan Miller & Clare Lonergan
Transport: Bus from Southbank Boulevard at 9.00 am
Area: Daylesford
Expected time of return: 7.00pm
Approximate length of walk: 14 & 17 kms
Map Reference: Riddells Creek 1:25000

We will start by walking along a constructed walking track up Conglomerate Gully to a small waterfall. Then we head up a gentle slope through open eucalypt and wattle forest to Lighthill Ridge, where there are open views towards Lancefield. We found some patches of pink and white epacris in flower and patches of grass trees along the ridge. The wattle is just starting to flower.

We then cross private land, with permission of the appropriate owners and managers, mainly on tracks and roads, to reach Mt. Teneriffe. This involves a climb of about 140m up Taskis Track. There are views of Mt. Macedon from the top. The easier walk descends the same way and proceeds along dirt roads to the Rowallen Scout Camp. The more energetic walkers will cut across to Mt. Charlie before descending directly to the Scout Camp.

For Sale

Down Parka

Large Size Good Condition

\$100

Peter

Previews for August/July Weekend & Pack-Carry Walks/Ski Trips

24-26 July 1998	Mt Stirling
Medium	Ski Trip

Leader:	Bill Metzthen
Transport:	Private
Area:	Mansfield Region
Expected time of return:	Sunday Evening
Approximate length of walk:	Howitt-Selwyn 1:50k
	Buller North 1:25k
	Buller South 1:25k

In recent years, this trip has usually been based upon camping near TBJ. This time, I want to break with tradition and ski to somewhere in the summit region to set up camp. If we can get this done early enough we can ski over to Mt Buller and return in time to prepare dinner.

On Sunday we can start with a few runs down Stanley Bowl and perhaps fill in time with a trip to Craigs Hut. This trip won't be suitable for beginners and either a reasonable level of skiing proficiency or a good level of fitness will be required

31st Jul-2nd Aug	Mt Hotham-Derricks Hut
Medium	Ski Trip

Leaders:	Ralph Blake
Transport:	Private
Area:	Mt Hotham
Map:	Bogong Alpine Area
Expected Return:	Sunday night
Approx Distance:	15 km

On this ski trip we will explore Swindlers Spur and Mt Loch.

From Mt Loch car park we will ski with packs along the Alpine Walking track to Derrick Hut, where camp will be made close by. There should be excellent views from Mt Loch of the surrounding mountains. (Weather permitting!) Also plenty of slopes for practising telemark if you feel so inclined. On Sunday afternoon we shall return to Mt Loch car park via the same route.

We may go somewhere else depending on snow and weather conditions.

7-9 August 1998	Rawson Lodge Weekend
Various	

Leaders:	Merilyn Whippey
Transport:	Private
Area:	Gippland
Expected time of return:	Sunday evening
Map Reference:	VMTC Baw Baw Plateau

A fun weekend of skiing and walking, eating, drinking and socialising. \$29 per person per night covers a twin share room with linen, electric blankets, wash basin, tea

and coffee making facilities. Bathrooms and toilets are communal. There is a drying room. Cooked breakfast is included. After Saturday's activities we go to the pub for an evening of food, drink and sociability.

There will be several options for the two days activities. Cross country skiing around Mt St Gwinear at two or more levels of ability/energy. The skiing is not suitable for beginners - you need to be able to ski down slopes with a reasonable amount of control. If skiing's not your thing, or if there's insufficient snow, there's lots of good walking country around.

I'd appreciate it if people would book before 1st August so I can tell the resort people how many are coming. Please pay the full amount (\$58 per person for 2 nights) when booking. Please also let me know who you'd like to share a room with, or I'll pair up any singles.

14th-16th Aug 1998	The Bluff
Medium	Ski Trip

Leader:	Derrick Brown
Transport:	Private
Map Reference:	VMTC - King, Howqua & Jamieson Rivers,
	Howitt - Selwyn 1:25,000
	Tamboritha - Moroka 1:25,000

We shall camp on Friday night at Tunnel Bend Flat (near Sheepyard Flat) and drive to Refrigerator Gap on Saturday morning. We have a steep, short climb up to the Bluff - this can be slippery if icy, wet if the snow is melting. Once at the top we shall make camp in the snow - or on grass if its visible - either at the Blowhole or somewhere sheltered. We can then ski with day packs on Saturday afternoon and Sunday. There may be some views - no promises. Should be fun.

21st-23 Aug 1998	Kamarooka State Park
Easy	Pack Carry

Leader:	Jean Giese
Area:	Ne of Bendigo
Transport:	Private
Expected Time of return:	6.30 Sunday evening
Distance:	25km + 5km without packs
Map Reference:	Mayreef & Summerfield 1:25,000

A peaceful place to walk in winter amongst the Mallee, Ironbark and Box, the Kamarooka State Park is just 24km NE of Bendigo. The Pycnantha and Warrakee wattles should be in full bloom in August. We will visit the remains of some old eucalyptus distilleries and call in on one still in operation at the conclusion of the walk.

The walking is on flat ground (with a few little hills from which to view the surrounding countryside) so is

graded easy and suitable for beginner pack-carriers. It will be cold at night but we will have a campfire.

28-30th August 1998
Easy/Medium

Mt Buffalo
Skiing

Leader: Ken McMahon
Area: Myretleford/Bright
Transport: Private
Distance: 20Km with packs
Map Reference: Mt Buffalo Plateau 1:30,000

I plan to camp in the Mt McLeod area. This means a pack carry of around 10km to get there. From camp we should have plenty of time to explore this lovely area of granite outcrops and sheltered snow plains. As there is only a 100 or so metres of climbing involved, this trip provides a good opportunity for those contemplating their first snow camping adventure. If there is insufficient snow on Mt Buffalo, another venue will be chosen.

Snowgum Special Discount Night

Thursday 23 July
Lonsdale Street, Melbourne
Tel: 9670 1177 (if you wish to compare prices)

See over page for details

We are having an exclusive buying night at Snowgum where we will receive

- 20% on all equipment/clothing/accessories
- Free nibbles & drink
- Guest Speaker & slides (refer below)

So now is the time to take advantage of restocking/replacing some of your gear.

We will be meeting "Steve" (who is a dogmusher in his spare time) and his faithful "husky" who together will share their experiences on racing across snow and ice in Alaska. Steve brings his sled as well

"It will be a great night so come and join us"

Track Clearing/Maintenance 14th June

Many thanks to those chicks with attitude (Clare, Judy, Fiona, Julie & Tonia) and the blokes with the big pecs (Alan, Peter, Michael, Daryl, Cameron and Rod) for an excellent days work in the Yarra Ranges National Park near Lake Mountain.

Lots of very satisfying work was done, so be there or be square in October!

Anne Wilkins

Conservation Forum

On Saturday 6 June 1998, approximately 75 people braved cold wind and rain to protest the excision of 285 ha from the Alpine National Park near Falls Creek. The group initially assembled at Howmans Gap in front of the "Save Our Parks" banner, and then moving up to Falls Ck, marched through a rainy white-out to the ARC offices. The chant "Give back - Mt McKay" rang through the resort village.

Speeches were abbreviated because of the weather. Anne Casey, Vic National Parks Association (VNPA) President, spoke of the nasty precedent set by this first major excision from a national park and the significant fauna, flora and geology of the area. David Scott, a member of the Land Conservation Council at the time the Alpine National Park (ANP) was established, told us that the land now taken from the ANP was deliberately included in the Park because of its high conservation values after extensive public consultation. This contradicts the claims of the Minister and other pro-development people.

David Tomkin spoke briefly of the implications for cross-country skiers. Sherryl Garbutt, Shadow Minister for Environment, Conservation and Land Management, spoke about the political climate and the tenuous state of National Parks in Victoria. She then delighted the crowd by promising that if the ALP was returned to government at the next election, it would reverse the excision!

Thanks to David Tomkin who allowed me to plagiarise his McKay report and photos. Thanks also to the Bushies who turned up in the bleak conditions, you all helped to raise the public profile of this "forgotten" issue that has been secretly and cynically manipulated through parliament.

There is a public petition being circulated around The Club calling for the reversal of the excision. Please consider signing it as you will help raise the public profile of this issue. Who knows which National Park will be next? The Prom? The recent protest (28/6/98) at The Prom gave an indication of how people would feel about that. It is essential that ministers Maclellan and Tehan do not have the slightest doubt about the public feeling toward excision. At it now stands the excision is law but there is not even a requirement for an Environmental Effects Statement into the effects of development on the Mt McKay environs. There is thus absolutely nothing to prevent open slather development.

Damage related to the bushfire last January in the Mt Tamborith - Mt Wellington - Snowy Plains National Park and Wilderness areas are being reviewed by the VNPA. If you will

be in the area over the next 6 months the VNPA would value your help with assessing damage done by overzealous and unnecessary activities at the time of the fire. To find out what to look for please 'phone either Jenny Barnett at the VNPA office, 9650 8296, or Rupert Barnett at home on 9803 3615.

Many thanks to Doug and Sylvia for their photos of cattle damage on the Bogong High Plains. These will be used by the VNPA in their submissions on the renewal of grazing licences for another 7 years. A decision has to be made on the licences by the 15th August and at the moment it looks like lobbying activity by the cattlemen might be successful. The VNPA hope to be able to include a damage related performance target and/or a realistic agistment fee into the licences. The legislation provides for these types of inclusion but at the moment "performance" is not defined.

At least 3 tenders have been received for development at Lake Mountain. It's not possible to find out what is proposed, as the tenders are "commercial-in-confidence" (see the April *Conservation Forum*). This dodge is rampant with this government and always signals something they don't want you to know about. So what is it this time?

Graeme Thornton



At the Excision Rally

SAVE OUR PARKS

The Club is sponsoring 2 " submission writing nights" concerning unwanted development in our National Parks and the excision of 285 hectares of land around Mt McKay in the Alpine National Park.

The nights will be Sat 18 July (at the 100,000th Walker Festivities) and also in the clubrooms on Wed 2 Sept.

We will provide pens, paper, stamps, envelopes and enthusiasm. We will also have a summary list of key points to aid writing submissions. The submissions don't have to be long, even one of two sentences will suffice as the main impact comes from their individuality rather than a rigorous recitation of facts.

The 285 hectares around Mt McKay that has been excised is a unique ecological and geological that will be irreversibly damaged by a down-hill ski development. The enabling legislation was passed secretly attached to the back of another bill and was not noticed until its second reading – and then only by chance. There is no requirement for an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) so there is nothing preventing the total desecration of the area. If unchallenged this device could be used at other National Parks, for instance, The Prom.

With governments and ministers of all inclinations feeling vulnerable, now is the best chance we have to drive home our annoyance at the way our National Parks have been treated.

Please come along to one of these nights and lend your support – we will do our best to make it interesting, simple and effective. For more details contact Jenny Gregory or Peter Chalkley in the clubrooms or Graeme Thornton on (home)



Walk Review:

Thorsborne Trail - Hinchinbrook Island.

Hinchinbrook Island is Australia's largest island national park. The island is within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. This rugged piece of unspoilt wilderness is between Townsville and Cairns and can only be accessed by sea. Vegetation ranges from low heath on the mountains to mangroves, rainforest, palm swamps and grassland. There are wide beaches, waterfalls and freshwater creeks full of friendly fish. Pam and I walked from the southern end (George Point) of the island to near the northern end (Ramsay Bay), over four days as part of our honeymoon and thoroughly recommend the experience. You could easily spend more time if you climbed some of the mountains, or stayed on Gould or Garden Island for a night. Here is some useful bits of info:

#Permits, maps, track notes: Queensland Dept. of Environment, POB 74, Cardwell 4849. (07) 4066 8601. \$3.50/night (Special permits required for the mountains.) Consider booking one year in advance.

#Hinchinbrook Island Ferries: 131 Bruce Hwy, Cardwell (07) 4066 8270, (hinchinbrook @4kz.com.au) \$45.00 gets you a one way ticket plus guided tour. Drop off's at Gould & Garden Islands or Cape Richards, Macushla or Ramsay Bay on Hinchinbrook island. Excellent value.

#Hinchinbrook Wilderness Safaris: POB 43, 4850. (07) 778307. \$45.00 gets you a pick up from Ingham plus ferry to George Point. Only operator at south end.

#Kookaburra Caravan Park, Cardwell: (07) 4066 8648. Check out Muddies Restaurant up the road, great seafood!

#Lee Hotel, Ingham: (07) 7761577. (It's cheap.)

#McCafferties Coaches: (Cairns office) (07) 4051 5899. Several services per day between Cairns and Townsville.

#Crocs: Hunt using vibration sensors in snout. Good in mangroves, still water. Useless off an open beach (so we were told).

#Jellies: Not a problem over winter. We swam in the sea and were not killed once! (Just lucky Pam thinks).

#Rats: Eat through your pack & tent to get to your food, given half a chance. Hang food from trees or place in metal boxes provided.

#Tides: Get a Lucinda tide chart. Tidal range is ~4 meters. On tides above 3.5 meters there may be no beach, eg no walking track, eg. wading neck deep through croc infested mangroves. Especially Mulligans Bay, Zoe Bay, North Zoe Creek and Nina Bay.

#Cooking: Fuel stoves only. No fires at all.

#Pesties: Good supply of mosquitos and sandflies. Take cream and appropriate clothing for protection.

#Best season for traveling. QLD's winter months are good as temperature during day is 28-29.0 C Over night approx. 20.0 C. Humidity is lowish. Over the summer it may be too hot and humid.

Pam & Alan

THE MT KOALA-MOLLISONS CREEK WALK

Sunday 31st May 1998

That "moderate" climb through granite boulders was great for the circulation, and Stuart (our leader) was brave when he told us that he'd planned some "deviations".

To be sure, we weaved our way about through farms and barbed wire fences, the electric ones couldn't keep us out despite fears that we'd lose our senses.

The sheep seemed to greet us at every turn while maintaining a parallel run, and some curious "hefers" just had to learn that bushie leftovers amount to none.

Gigantic mushies were there for the picking as John and Lou will testify, and though they were rapidly sweating and sticking, they made it "home" for mushroom pie.

Up Mollisons Creek, the gorge drew near and the water was even colder, and though the torrent we could plainly hear, t'was flowing beneath the boulders.

T'was this walk last August on this very day when Roger conveyed the sad news, that Princess Diana had passed away - and I thought he was trying to amuse!

So if the ghostly boulders and trees convey special meaning to me, it's because that news still echoes in the breeze across that lovely open country.

Jill Dawson

Queen's Birthday Weekend- Little Desert Pack Carry

The weekend forecast was for three rain fronts to pass over north western Victoria. The first one made its presence so strongly felt over the Little Desert on the Friday night that two bushies - one with a story of the Wimmera River flowing through her tent, the other claiming her tent had fallen down - sought refuge in the nearest car, occupied at the time by our fearless leader who was trying to get a decent night's sleep after the long drive up the Western Highway.

The second front burst as the party of eight bushies farewelled the base campers and set out for the Kiata campsite. However, by lunchtime the third front had passed, the skies had cleared, and we were able to really appreciate the landscape around us.

We walked around 20km on Saturday to the Mallee campsite. Sunday's walk was an easy 13km on marked trails, the group split in half as some decided to embark on a bit of bush bashing to make the day more interesting. After seven hours, many confabs, much poring over maps and compass, retraced steps, 10 extra kilometres and suffering severe geographic

embarrassment, the bushbashers finally reached the Yellow Gum campsite.

And then there were seven.... Injuries prevented one of the party from being able to complete the remaining 20km back to the Kiata campsite, so the trusty mobile phone was put to good use to arrange a pick up. Thanks to Alan from parks Victoria and Ken from Dimboola police for their help.

All agreed it had been a very interesting weekend. The name 'desert' is a misnomer, as over the three days we walked through some quite varied vegetation, and on Monday we even reached the dizzy height of around 217m at a trig point from where there was a good view of Mount Arapiles. The weekend's highlights included tawny-crowned and white-fronted honeyeaters, golden whistlers, midge and greed hood orchids, emu tracks and calls, and kangaroos. The two campsites were excellent, with good supplies of firewood and water.

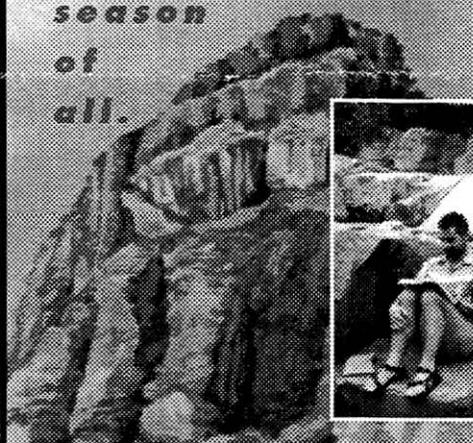
Thanks to Pearson, our leader, and his mobile phone which saved the day.

Party: Derrick, Gina, Rod, Joanne, Debbie, Helen and Jill

Build Up

Bushwalking

The most dramatic season of all.



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

On our Build Up trips, you begin your acclimatisation with a day and night on a houseboat, cruising slowly along the Mary River, entranced by the hundreds of birds that line the shore. Then it's time to put on your pack and head into the wild. You walk along gently flowing escarpment creeks, stopping at tranquil waterholes where you spend hours swimming and relaxing in the shade. You watch the birds and listen to the cicada chorus that announces the season's change.

Kakadu Highlights 16 and 17, the two most laid back and relaxed trips we offer. Ask for details.

Willis's Walkabouts
12 Carrington St Millner NT 0810



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

Two more versions of the truly yummy oaty Muesli Bar type Tramping/Bushwalking Biscuits.

One

- 4 cups oatmeal
- ¼ cup sesame seeds
- 2/3 cup sunflower seeds/chopped walnuts or pecans etc
- 2/3 cups currants or chopped dates
- 125 grams butter
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 3 tablespoons skim milk
- water if required

Melt butter and honey together. Soak dates before using. Mix everything together (should be a moist but stiff mixture). Roll out on a floured board 1 cm thick and cut into shapes. Bake 30 mins at 180°C

Two

- 4 cups oats
- 2½ cups flour
- 2 tablespoons baking powder
- ¼ cup sunflower seeds/chopped walnuts or pecans etc
- 250 grams butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 tablespoons golden syrup
- ½ cup milk

Melt butter & golden syrup together, add milk. Pour into dry ingredients and mix well. Roll out on a floured board 1 cm thick, cut into shapes. Bake 25 mins at 180°C.

New members

(Addresses in Membership list)
(June:)

- BRUCE CAMPBELL
- ANDREW FRANCIS
- FRANK HUMPHRYS
- PETER MADDOCK
- BOB OXLADE
- ROBERT ROWELL
- JAN SLADE

(July:)

- LORRAINE BATESON
- HOWARD FRIEND
- TONIA GALVIN
- LAURA ANITA JANSSEN
- ALISON JENKINS
- LYNDA LARKIN
- JOHN DAMIEN TOLMIE

Membership:

Life Members	12
Honorary Members	10
Single Memberships	327
Family Memberships (2x 48)	96
Total membership	445

Committee Reports

Treasurer:

Accounts for June 1998

Opening Balance	\$60,955.73
Receipts	\$5,017.24
Payments	\$10,288.28
Closing Balance	\$55,684.69

Walks Secretary:

Attendances for May 98

	Trips	Av	1997
Sunday Bus	5	41.4	43.3
Pack Carry	1	9	8
Base camp	2	16.5	7
Other Da	3	13	17
Cancelled	2		

Duty Roster

15 th July	Peter C & Fiona
22 nd July	Jean & Stuart
29 th July	Judy & Jan
5 th Aug	Peter H & Peter G

Next committee meeting 3 August 1998



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*To get the real feel of the wilderness
we cater for small groups only*

Bushies Good Food Guide

Ballarat - GC's Cafe at the Golden City Hotel on the corner of Sturt and Dawson Streets. Good atmosphere with open fires, and serving wood-fired pizzas, pasta dishes and hearty main courses all reasonably priced. Excellent coffee too. (Renovations were due to start the day after we were there, but the manager assured us it would be business as usual).

Half Yearly General Meeting of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

Wednesday 26th August, 1998 at 8.00 pm

In the Royal Horticultural Society Hall adjacent to the Clubrooms

All members are welcome and are urged to attend

Visitors may observe but cannot vote.

If you are unable to attend but would like to cast a vote fill in the Proxy form that appears below.

Business to be transacted will be published in the next newsletter.

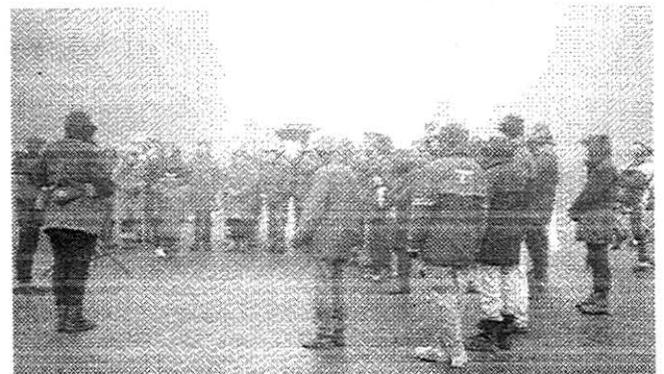
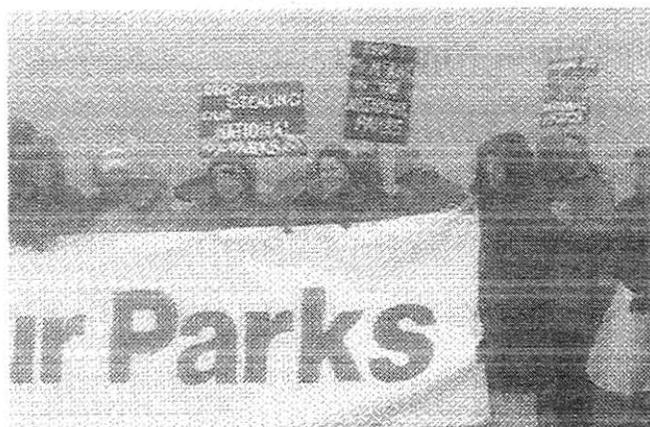
Form of Appointment of Proxy

I of
being a member of Melbourne Bushwalkers (Inc), hereby appoint
..... of
being a member of Melbourne Bushwalkers (Inc), as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the half yearly
general meeting to be held on Wednesday 26th August, 1998 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

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

Signed:.....
Date:.....

* Delete as appropriate
+ Delete if not applicable



More photos of the Excision Rally

Walks in July/August 1998

Date	Location	Stand	Leader
10-12	Mt Langi Ghiran	Private E/M	Mary Leonard
11 Sat	BEGINNERS SKI DAY - LAKE MOUNTAIN	Private E	Pearson Cresswell
12 Sun	BIG PATS CK - MT BRIDE-LALAFALLS	Bus E/M & M	Rod Novak & Fiona Gallery
15 Wed	YARRA BEND - KEW	Private E	Jean Giese
19 Sun	E MOORABOOL RIVER - BOSTOCK RESERVOIR(BALLAN)	Bus E & E/M	Jean Woodger & Teck Chin
24-26	Cape Patterson - Bunurong Coastal Reserve	Private E	Cameron McMillan
24-26	Skiing: Mt Stirling	Private M	Bill Metzenthien
25 Sat	DANDENONGS EXPLORER	Private E	Pam Rosso
26 Sun	RIDDELLS CK - CONGLOMERATE CK	Bus E/M & M	Alan Miller & Clare Lonergan
31 Jul-2	Skiing Mt Hotham - Derricks Hut	Private M	Ralph Blake
1 Sat	CATHEDRAL RANGE - SUGARLOAF	Private M	Alan Ide
2 Sun	CAMPASPE RIVER - ORGAN PIPES	Bus E/M & M	Sue Ralston & Peter Havlicek

The NEWS of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

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