



The NEWS

of the

Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.



A0000133X

August 1999

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Special Notice

The Half-Yearly General Meeting of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. will be held in the clubrooms on Wednesday 25th August 1999 at 8pm. An important issue on training will be discussed.

Summer Walks Programme

The Walks Committee is now putting together the programme for the **Summer quarter** (December – February). Anyone with ideas for weekend trips, Christmas trips and any longer trips, lilo or canoe trips, Millennium trips, etc. should contact Pearson (AH) to get a spot on the programme.

Northern NSW National Parks

18th September to 2nd October 1999

Trip Planning Night – Tuesday 17th August at 8.00 pm at Sylvia Ford's place. Sylvia's address is

For more information, please ring Jopie Bodegraven on AH

Social Scene



Movie Night

The movie we have all been waiting for. Tom and Nicole as you have never seen them before in "Eyes Wide Shut" at the Jam Factory on Saturday 28th August. Time to be confirmed. Ring Fiona on

Future Events

There will be a "Round Robin" Tennis Day and Golf Day at Olinda. See the Noticeboard in the Clubrooms for more details.

60th Anniversary Celebrations

Next year is the 60th Anniversary of the Melb. Bushies. We are planning a number of special events to celebrate this achievement. Look out for the various activities, which will be throughout the year. The Committee has formed a 60th Anniversary organising sub-committee consisting of Darryl, Anne, Debbie, Trish and Fiona. So you may hear us talking about 'formal dinners on mountain tops', bush-dances and a special one-off publication of *Walk* magazine. We would be happy to hear of your suggestions and offers of assistance.

Fiona Gallery

Celebrate the Millennium. Two Melb Bushies, Flora Naod –Turner and Brian Crouch, are singing in the 300 Voice Millennium Chorus, performing at the Melbourne Concert Hall on Sunday 22nd August at 6 pm. Contact Brian for discounted tickets on

We were saddened to hear of Bob McLellan's mother, who passed away on the 22nd July. The Club extends its sympathy to Bob and his family.

From the President

Here we are in August and I've still not had my skis on! Some of you have managed to get out and some have had some decent days at Wilky and the high plains. Here's hoping that there'll be a decent dump soon before it's my turn at Wilky. On the plus side we're having lovely walking weather, crisp sunny days and the Sunday walkers are having great days.

The half-yearly meeting is nearly upon us so do turn up for a catch up and a chat.

Derrick Brown

From the "Temporary" Editor

Clare (and Alan) are on a well-earned break, checking out the potential of Sunday walks in the Austrian Alps. I have volunteered to have a go at *The NEWS*. Wow – all I can say is thanks to Clare, Judy and all past Editors for such a great mag. And a special thank you to the considerate leaders and fellow walkers who put their submissions in early. It really does help in reaching that deadline. I am also editing the next issue, so please direct those walk previews, reviews and pearls of wisdom to me. Thanks.

Rod Novak

Letters to the Editor

Regarding the Club donation of \$1400 for thermal clothing to the Wilderness Adventure Program. Over the years the club has had many such requests and has, in my opinion quite rightly, knocked them back. After the sale of the van the Club put \$20,000 into a term deposit with the idea that interest earned would be used for conservation purposes. I assume this was the money used for this donation. I would suggest this donation is completely outside of the spirit of the conservation fund. This Club is not a philanthropic organization and donating personal clothing to any group of people is not within our Club aims. If we use our money in the fight to preserve our rapidly disappearing bush we will be doing something worthwhile for all people and for generations to come. I would be surprised if in six months any of this clothing would still be around and accounted for.

Doug Pocock

Wilkie Backdate

It has been known for many years (certainly for as long as I can remember) that Tilley mantles give off toxic fumes when being burnt off. It has always been standard practice to burn off outside. I recommend people to read Wilkinson Lodge Users Manual. "When all else fails read the instructions."

Doug Pocock

The NEWS is the official newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and is published monthly.
Edited by Clare Lonergan. This issue edited by Rod Novak.

Articles, walk reports, poems, snippets of news, photographs of club events, 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 September NEWS* may be sent to Rod Novak by:

- ◆ Placing article in the Red Box in the clubrooms
- ◆ Mailing to:
- ◆ Fax:
- ◆ E-mail:

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 (1 year) \$270
Full Page 1 Issue - \$50; 3 Issues - \$125; 12 Issues (1 year) \$450
Only advertisements directly relating to bushwalking will be accepted (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, etc);

Members Ads – are FREE

Closing date for September *The NEWS* is 25th August, 1999

Meetings are held in the Clubrooms, MacKenzie Street, 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.

Warm Words of Thanks from Kids in Need!

The Melbourne Bushwalkers recently donated 12 polartex jumpers and 12 day-packs (purchased from Kathmandu who helped out with a special deal) to the Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre's Brief Intervention Program (BIP). BIP is a specialised mental health program for teenagers who have significant emotional, behavioural and psychiatric problems. While primarily a group therapy program, an innovative aspect is the Wilderness Adventure Therapy component which has been developed since the program started in 1992 by Clinical Psychologist and BIP Director Simon Crisp. "The most significant aspect of the 10 week program is the bushwalking, rafting and ski-touring trips which the young people do," says Simon. "Every young person recounts time and again how important these outdoor experiences are in developing confidence, motivation and a feeling of belonging to a team ... Being able to learn how to solve problems by asking for help is so important to many of the young people in the program who are suicidal or at risk of depression and suicide in the future". The Austin Hospital is extremely thankful for this generous support of what the staff believe is such an effective and crucial therapy which frequently fails to attract funding as would more conventional treatments.

From the Staff at BIP, Austin Hospital.

Heysen Trail and Flinders Ranges

7 day walking tours departing Adelaide
on 19 September and 4 October.
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"Day Walks" for August

Saturday 14th August 1999
Easy/Medium

Mt. Hickey

Leader: Alan Ide
Map reference: Strath Creek. 1:25,000
Area: Tallarook State Park
Transport: Private
Approx. distance: Distance: ~16km
Expected time of return: Late Saturday evening

Tallarook State Park is a reserve of open woodland covering an outcrop of granite rock. The highest point is Mt Hickey (806m), which boasts a microwave communication tower and a fire tower. When Pam and I did the recce we saw loads of white cockies, a wedgetail eagle and many other birds. The area is criss-crossed with 4WD tracks in various states of repair. Alternatively, it is possible to walk cross-country here with relative ease (unlike, for example, Lerderberg Gorge!). I intend to walk most of the way on old 4WD tracks with some sections of cross-country to make life interesting and provide some chance of getting lost.

The plan is to meet at the start of Ennis Road where it leaves the Hume Freeway ~ 9.5 km north of the Broadford/Flowerdale exit at about 10:30. (This is a right hand turn from the centre of the freeway.) When we have all arrived we will head off to the state park and get the car shuffle organised.

The walk will start just inside the park, about 7.5km from the Hume along Ennis Road at Mountain Track at around 11:15. Please call me on (W), (H), (M) if you want to come.

Falls Creek - Helicopters

The Manager, Alpine Planning, Department of Infrastructure has advised that the department does not normally provide a critique of objections to applications, in this case the Falls Creek helicopter permit. Further steps have been taken to get the reasons behind the recommendation that the helicopters should be permitted. These reasons may not stand up to scrutiny. I am now informed that Mitch Dodson, Manager of Operations is in charge at Falls Creek, and you should write him about helicopters: Falls Creek Ski Lifts, PO Box 55, Falls Creek Vic 3699.
Stephen Lake

Saturday 28th August 1999 **Dandenongs Explorer**

Easy

Leader: Michael Humphrey

Map reference: Melways Maps 65 and 66

Area: The Basin – Doongalla Forest

Transport: PRIVATE

Approx. distance: 12 km

Expected time of return: Approx. 4.00 pm

We will meet at Wicks Reserve (Melway Map 65 J7) at 10.50 am where we make our way to the Doongalla Homestead site for lunch. After lunch we encounter a climb and then a leisurely walk through the lower reaches of the Doongalla Forest. If you are coming by public transport please ring me on () and I will pick you up at Boronia Station at 10.27 am. See you there!!!!
NOTE: Please ring me at home to book on this walk as I may need your telephone number in order to cancel the walk at the last minute (i.e. due to family illness).

Sunday 29th August 1999

**Kilcunda –
Andersons Hill**

Easy and Easy/Medium

Leader (s): Peter Havlicek and Jill Dawson

Map reference: Kilcunda 1:25,000

Area: Gippsland (near Phillip Island)

Transport: **BUS** from South Bank Boulevard at 9 am

Approx. distance: 14 km and 17 km

Expected time of return: 7.00 pm

This walk is in an old black coal mining area (discontinued around 1950). The remnants of the Melbourne – Wonthaggi railway and old mines pits dot picturesquely the landscape. We walk first along the old railway line, pausing to admire the old wooden trestle bridge before climbing Anderson Hill for some views (not too high, you will not be out of breath). This part of the walk is done under the wondering gaze of wandering grazing cows. After making our way to the sea, the - easy/medium walkers do an up-and-down-the-coast walk enjoying spectacular seascapes from up the cliffs. The easy group also walks by the sea-cliff path, one direction only, high tailing it to the Kilcunda Caravan Park (and the local snack bar).

“Day Walks” for September

Sunday 5th September 1999 **Lerderderg - Blackwood**

Easy/Medium & Medium

Leader (s): Bill Donald & John Kittson

Map Reference: Lerderderg Gorge 1:25,000

Area: Mt. Blackwood via Bacchus Marsh

Transport: **BUS** from South Bank Boulevard at 9 am

Approx. distance: 10 km and 14 km

Expected time of return: 6.30 pm

The bus will be heading out along the Western Freeway taking the Myrniong turn-off north-west of Bacchus Marsh, with our starting point at the intersection of Mt. Blackwood and Loh's Lane GR 662392. Both groups will climb Mt. Blackwood (alt. 736 metres) before heading down to the Lerderderg River for a spot of lunch, then climb back out of the gorge along the Lower Chadwick Track taking in the early wildflowers and the local wildlife along the way. Hopefully we will have nice weather, but bring that change of dry clothes and clean shoes just in case, and that thermos with a hot drink would be nice.

Saturday 11th September 1999

Historical Walk

Easy

Leader: Lance Mobbs

Map Reference: Melways

Area: Moonee Ponds

Transport: **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Approx. distance: 10 km

Expected time of return: 6.00 pm

We will be doing a bit of a ramble around Moonee Ponds taking in some points of interest. Seeing as how we will start and finish at Queens Park, we could have lunch there. As I have no phone on at present, and if you are interested in coming, then please see me in the clubrooms or drop me a note at 31 Rosshire Road, West Newport. **We will meet at the Flinders Street concourse under the clocks at 10 am.**

Sunday 12th September 1999 **Gunnamatta Beach – Cape Schank**
Easy and Easy/Medium

Leader (s): Peter McGrath & Jan Palich

Map reference: *Discovering the Peninsula*
Dept of Conservation, Forests and Lands

Area: Mornington Peninsula

Transport: **BUS** from South Bank Boulevard at 9 am

Approx. distance: 15 and 18 km

Expected time of return: 7.00 pm

The Medium walk will commence at Boneo Road and walk to Cape Schanck via Bushrangers Bay. Always a pretty walk, it offers excellent ocean vistas and interesting rock formations. From there, the Medium walk will follow the same route as the Easy/Medium without an in-depth exploration of Cape Schanck.

The Easy/Medium will explore Cape Schanck in great detail. There are frequently interesting slices of sea life to be witnessed here. Porpoises often play in the water here resembling playboys loafing in the water waiting for someone to toss them a ball.

Excellent coastal views abound as we wend our way through the coastal tea tree to the water's edge. The second half of the walk will be on the sand. Sneakers are recommended as *de rigueur* for the day.

Wednesday 15th September 1999 **Brisbane Ranges**
Easy/Medium

Leader: Max Casley

Map reference: Eclipse Creek 1:25,000,
Steiglitz Historic Park Walking Trails
– Park Victoria leaflet.

Area: NW of Melbourne

Transport: PRIVATE

Approx. distance: 15 km

Expected time of return: 6.00 pm

Meet near Steiglitz Courthouse at 10.00 am or at Westgate Park carpark at 8.30 am or telephone me for transport arrangements.

This walk starts north of Steiglitz, then heads along Sutherland Creek to Old Mill Camp, a delightful grassy area. We then cross to Yankee Gully and follow the overnight walking track along Grahams Gully and then back to our starting point. This was one of the walks we did when our Club organised the Federation Day in March. A pleasant walk through open forest with old gold diggings and mine shafts and the wildflowers should be at their best. Be prepared for some ups and downs but nothing too severe.

Sunday 19th September 1999 **Heskett - Camels Hump - Mt Charlie**
Easy/Medium and Medium

Leader (s): Brian Crouch and John Kittson

Map reference: Riddels Creek 1:25,000
ES Map P.P. 596.597

Area: Near Mt. Macedon

Transport: **BUS** from South Bank Boulevard at 9am

Approx. distance: 16 km and 20 km

Expected time of return: 7.00 pm

The medium walkers will climb onto Macedon Range near the Camels Hump and make their way south-east towards Mt. Charlie State Forest going through the old township of Cherokee, then up and over Mt. Charlie. The easy/medium walk starts near Heskett and covers similar ground. All on tracks for this walk, with a short steep pinch onto Mt. Charlie, but not too daunting. The duration of this climb is about 15 minutes, and if it's a cold day it will just warm you up nicely. We will have lovely views of the local countryside, with Melbourne off into the distance.

Saturday 25th September 1999 **Dandenongs Explorer**
Easy

Leader: Michael Humphrey

Transport: PRIVATE

More information on this classic walk will be in the next issue of *The NEWS*.

Sunday 26th September 1999 Middle Brisbane Ranges

Easy/Medium and Medium

Leader (s): Darryl Weinert and Stuart Mann

Map reference: VMTC: Brisbane Ranges

Area: NW of Melbourne

Transport: **BUS** from South Bank Boulevard at 9am

Approx. distance: 14 km and 18 km

Expected time of return: 7.00 pm

The walk will concentrate about the middle Brisbane ranges and both walks will include off track walking. The medium being about 18 to 20 km in length and the easy/medium not more than about 14 km. The walk will offer the opportunity for some gazing at wild flowers, if they come out a little early, as well as surprising wallabies, kangaroos, and possibly some koalas. On my last foray into the Brisbane Ranges we observed some Wedge-tailed eagles and their nesting sites. We will keep our distance from these sites as they will be in the peak of the mating season.

Wilkie Update

Wilkie winter weekly occupancy has been going in full swing now for several weeks with varying degrees of snow and weather – what's new!! In the first week icicles pierced the outer window near the store but the group did a good job boarding it up till Spring. The dear little marsupials have been very much in evidence even so early in the season. We trapped one nightly (a live one) in the Elliott trap and let the little buggers go behind the woodshed having marked them on the tail with texta (to see if we got the same one twice – we didn't). Perhaps if you'd like to use this contraption we could ask Dave Hespe to give us a demo one night?? They were all *antechinus*es by the way.

PLEASE don't forget your own tea-towels as there are very few in stock and getting the clean ones to and fro is a major pain. Don't forget about burning off new Tilley mantles outside – radioactive and/or toxic effects.

Wilkie is now booked up every weekend from mid – October to mid- January and for several mid week sessions too. If you would like to "squash-in" on a weekend please see me first. The Wilkie noticeboard in the Clubrooms tells you who is in

there and when. I will be there for a week or few days in January 2000 and it will be an Open House system for anyone who would like to come up.

Sylvia Ford

Maldon Folk Festival

October 29th to November 1st Weekend

For those poor souls like me, who can't get away for the Cup day long weekend, a pleasant alternative is the Maldon Folk Festival. One can camp here if you haven't got friends or relatives to visit, or just come up for the day. However, the Friday night dance I believe is terrific and I can vouch for the variety of interesting music and the scenic venues. The Bendigo Alpine Club with whom we have some ties will be there in force, and there are usually some Melbourne Bushies as well, but how about a few more this year? For \$40 its heaps of fun. There is an information sheet on the noticeboard in the Clubrooms and/or talk to me.

Sylvia Ford

A Weekend Trip for August

20 – 22 August 1999

Mt. Buffalo Ski Trip

Easy

Leader: Trish Elmore

Area: North-east Victoria

Transport: PRIVATE

Approx. distance: Ask Trish

Expected time of return: Late Sunday evening.

Let us be optimistic ... and the flakes will arrive with a vengeance. Then those of us who wish to enjoy the beauty of the Mt. Buffalo snow gums and those wonderful granite boulders under a mantle of fresh snow will be rewarded. The plan is to stay at Porepunkah caravan park and enjoy the warmth of heated cabins for our accommodation and have two day trips exploring the plateau. Unfortunately, I can only attend the Clubrooms on Wednesday the 18th August and would therefore appreciate a call (AH) from interested skiers so I can book cabins before Friday 6th August.

Weekend Trips for September

3 - 5 September 1999 Hughes Creek – Bungle
Boori Base Camp

Easy/Medium

Leader: Jopie Bodegraven

Map reference: 1:25,000 Mt Bernard, Mt Stewart,
Tarcombe & Dropmore

Area: near Seymour

Transport: PRIVATE

Approx. distance: Ask Jopie

Expected time of return: Late Sunday evening.

Come and enjoy a weekend of rambling over rolling green, granite outcrop studded open ridges with glorious views in all directions. This is the area that is just a bit too far for regular Sunday walks with the club bus but as a weekend venue it is very close, 2 to 2 ½ hours from town, straight up the Hume to Seymour and turn right. You'll get better instructions than this of course!! The campsite is a very basic local council owned one right next to Hughes Creek and near some delightful cascades. With luck we'll have a big open starry sky. Mark this weekend on your calendar with a **big X**; Not to be missed!!

10 – 12 September 1999

Warby Ranges
Pack Carry

Easy/Medium

Leader : Rod Novak

Map reference: Warby Range 1:25,000

Area: North-east Victoria (near Glenrowan)

Transport: PRIVATE

Approx. distance: 15 +13 kms = 28 kms

Expected time of return: Late Sunday evening.

The Warbys are a beautiful range of hills near Glenrowan (Ned Kelly country). And yes, the best time to visit is early Spring. This area offers great walking with a lovely open forest (Blakey's red gum, red stringybark, red and long-leaved box); and with a carpet of wildflowers. Last year the spring wildflowers were just superb. There are also lovely stands of Austral grass trees (some up to 5 m). This pack carry promises open forest walking (definitely no scrub!!), undulating country (no big hills!!), fantastic views of the snow covered Victorian alps, waterfalls, orchid spotting, and bird-watching for the rare Turquoise parrot. See the leader at Clubnight for an Info Sheet.

3 – 5 September 1999 Mt. Buller Downhill Ski
Weekend

Easy

Unfortunately, this trip has been **CANCELLED**.

A Handy Hint for Weekend Trips.

A tip that I have picked up from Bill Metzenthien is to download the latest Internet weather forecast on Friday for weekend trips. The MET is on the NET. The web address is www.bom.gov.au Double click on the Weather & Flood Information line. This brings up the Map of Australia. Double click on the state of Victoria. Here you will find the Forecasts for the Mallee, Wimmera, North-east, East Gippsland, Alpine etc. It also has current warnings and fire weather forecasts amongst other things. A very handy Internet print-out for weekend walks.

17 – 19 September 1999 Grampians Base Camp:
Boreang

Various

Leader: Pearson Cresswell

Map reference: 1:50,000 Northern Grampians
(Outdoor Leisure)

Area: Grampians (NW Victoria)

Transport: PRIVATE

Approx. distance: Various

Expected time of return: Late Sunday evening.

Spring in the Grampians! We will camp at the Boreang campsite (GR 256 847) on the Glenelg River Road: this has basic facilities and is reasonably quiet. Walks can be organised to a variety of areas according to taste. I am looking forward to another look at Mt. Rosea Creek (gorgeous!) Bring water as supplies are limited at camp.

18 Sept to 2 October '99 Northern NSW National Parks

Car based camping/day walks

Leader: Jopie Bodegraven

Area: Northern NSW

Transport: PRIVATE

There are some great National Parks in the north of NSW that I'm just itching to get back to. Volcanic areas, waterfalls, gorges, rainforest, granite formations and superb views. The itinerary has yet to be decided but I'm full of ideas. The details will be worked out at a planning night to be held on Tuesday 17th August at Sylvia Ford's place at

We'll also work out transport arrangements, decide when everyone wants to get back home and have a fun night to boot. This will be a great trip, definitely not to be missed. Wangle things so that you can come if it's at all possible. Interested?? Then ring me on before the planning night on August 17.

24 - 26 September 1999 Terrick - Terrick Base Camp

Easy

Leader (s): Gina Hopkins and Derrick Brown

Map reference: Ask Gina at Clubnight

Area: 65 km north of Bendigo

Transport: PRIVATE

Approx. distance: Various

Expected time of return: Late Sunday evening.

I believe that it is many years since the Club had a walk in and around Terrick Terrick National Park. This park contains a valuable remnant of native vegetation of the northern plains, including a significant stand of White Cypress Pine with most of the trees over 100 years old. The wattle trees (Deane's Wattle) should be flowering at this time and I am told there is an abundance of birdlife in the park. Each day there will be two grades of walks - one led by Derrick which will be a 'real' walk and the other will be a botanising/birdwatching type of walk led by Gina.

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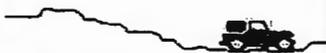
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Little Desert Adventure 11-14 June 1999

Excellent! Just when a long weekend was needed, one popped up! After nicking off work a little early from work on Friday and chucking my gear into my car, I headed off to pick up Bob and Cameron. After some dinner at the *Pancake Parlour* in Ballarat (the buckwheat pancakes were an excellent, tasty energy source for the very cold night ahead), it was a smooth trip to the Horseshoe Bend camping ground in the Little Desert National Park just outside of Dimboola. It was around 11.00 pm when Bob, Cameron and I arrived at the campground, so we pitched our tents in the dark, and spent some time listening to the light rustling wind and trying to get the image of the road out of our minds before falling asleep.

The next morning was frosty and brisk. It took some mental fortitude to crawl out of the warm sleeping bag and face the crisp winter air outside. Once outside, one could see that it was going to be a very pleasant day for walking: a few clouds to reduce the glare of the sun, but no rain. Soon, everyone was up and the Trangias and "rocket engine" chooffers came out for that morning cuppa as we all packed up for the almost 21 km walk to our first overnight spot. When we were ready to embark, we did our traditional "Bushies Circle". Lyn, Marisa, Anne, Bernie, Pam, Alan, Rod, Debbie, Bob, Cameron and myself - Rod, of course, being our humble "walk organizer."

We set off. It was a fair pace that we set for ourselves that day. We wanted to be certain that we could set up our camp before dark and before any of that forecasted rain. We moved out of the tree covered camp area into the low shrubbery of the desert, it was interesting to see the variety of plants and the evidence of a fair bit of wildlife activity.

When we reached the campsite, we set up camp away from the hut in a sheltered area. Wind and rain were expected that night. The first evening in the bush saw us bring out an assortment of treats and alcoholic beverages as Lyn led us through a revitalising stretching regimen. The bush gourmets Pam and Alan impressed us all with their dehydrated *Chilli con Carne*. There was also some spicy *Tom Yum soup* and I warmed myself up with a fiery lentil and potato curry on rice. We were certainly all well fed!

The next day (Sunday) was not quite as pleasant. It had rained almost the entire night and the tent-flies were all soaked and it looked like it would rain all day. Luckily it was not too cold and everyone had his or her raingear, but it rained most of the time we were walking. We decided to try to make it to the next campsite before lunch. This meant a steady, speedy plod over moisture-hardened sand, which felt like concrete to walk on. I developed a nasty set of blisters on my feet that day (sand got into my boots and abraded my feet -ouch!). Nevertheless, we all made it to the Yellowgum campsite around lunchtime and set up camp. Lunch never tasted so good! As I relaxed in my

tent with my sore feet, the sun came out and everyone else decided to explore a bit.

The evening's festivities included more treats (Anne's marshmallow and chocolate creation was very popular as were Rod's minty bikkies). A cheery, warm fire in the old truck wheel fireplace brightened everyone's spirits as we shared stories about trips and outdoor gear (Gore-Tex's deficiencies were popular topics of discussion). Again, all the bush gourmets impressed me with their dinner creations. The sky had cleared and the clear desert air gave a beautiful view of the stars of the Milky Way. It was a great way to recover from the yucky weather that day.

The last day of our walk (Monday) included a 13 km distance back to the Horseshoe Bend campsite. It was a beautiful morning which promised to be the start of a much more pleasant day than Sunday. The air was clear and there were some good elevated views of the desert landscape. I marvelled at the delicate flowers on some of these tough desert shrubs. (Thanks to Bernice Webster, our resident plant-identifier: *Flame Heath, Desert Banksia, Brush Heath, Common Correa, Prickly Cryptandra and Erect Guinea-flower*).

Unfortunately, I also marvelled at the pain of blisters and an overexerted ankle brought on by favouring the less-damaged foot. I want to thank everyone in the party for helping me carry my gear that last day and I want to thank Debbie and Cameron (who was whip) for staying behind to help me during stages of the walk. Thanks also to Rod for his help. Despite the physical pain, I was glad to spend a weekend with this group of people. As a final event, we all headed to Ballarat's *Golden City Hotel* for some great grub before heading back to Melbourne. It was a fine way to end the weekend.

Bill Slade

Heard Around the Campfire

Welcome home to the "fair-weather" bushwalkers who escaped the harsh Melbourne winter for those warm and barmy tropical days and nights up north. I hear the **Kakadu explorers** just worked on their all-over tans as they lazed around and swam in those crystal clear creeks. Gerry, Max, Derrick, Gina, Trish, Jopie and Jenny had their annual pilgrimage to Kakadu. Jenny, Jopie and Gina also ventured across to the West Kimberley.

I hear that Bob Steel has a new "pop-up" tent. And it has a Toyota 4 wheel drive camper connected to it. Our very experienced bushwalkers never tire, they just increase their level of comfort.

The continued success of the **Dandenong Explorers** (last Saturday of the month) is amazing. Is it the relaxed start (10.50 am)?, the closeness of the Dandys to Melbourne or, more likely, the excellent choice of the scrumptious coffee and cake venues. Congratulations go to Michael Humphrey and his dedicated team for a great Saturday walk and of course the excellent venues for afternoon tea.

from *Coo-eeee*

Conservation Forum

Following on from last month I've got some good news and I've got some bad news.

The good news is that a date has been set for the Bushies trip to the Wongungarra Wilderness with Mr Bruce Billson (Federal MHR for Dunkley). It will be over the weekend of 5-7 November (w/e after Cup-Day). Mr Billson is on the Federal House of Representatives Standing Committee for Environment, Recreation and the Arts. In this respect he works closely with Senator Hill, the Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage. The exact route has yet to be agreed with Mr Billson. The objective will be to give him as good a perspective as possible on the wilderness values of the Wongungarra. There is also a possibility that we will have representation from the Victorian state parliament on the trip. More about this later if it develops.

The bad news is the Victorian Minister for Planning and Local Government, Rob Maclellan, has not responded to my submissions and requests of February and June regarding the proposed down-hill ski developments at Mt McKay. His department has not even had the grace to acknowledge receipt of correspondence. I know minister Maclellan has to be aware of my submission as the Premier's department has written saying that they have passed their copy of my letter on to Mr Maclellan for response. I don't think that it is good enough for a minister of the crown to ignore such requests from its citizen's. There are 2 major issues here. Firstly, the 285 hectares around Mt McKay was removed from the national park by clandestinely attaching the legislation to the back of another bill where no-one would be expected to notice it. Secondly, Minister Maclellan refuses to request an environmental effects statement for the

proposed Mt McKay developments. I've been dealing primarily with the second issue in *NEWS*. That the development proponent has allegedly attempted to bypass the planning process on other projects by appealing directly to the minister does not improve my confidence what is happening about Mt McKay. The minister is certainly not being open and transparent about it as he promised in February.

I'm not going to give up on Mt McKay. Stealing land from a national park and proposing to develop it without adequate environmental safeguards is too important an issue. Given that a state election is in the offing sometime, I'd like to propose that now is the best time for those members interested in the issue to start a campaign directed at marginal electorates of both the government and opposition with copies to the relevant party leader and minister/shadow-minister. The 15 most marginal city electorates, in approximate order from most vulnerable are: Carrum, Werribee, Oakleigh, Ivanhoe, Yan Yean, Dandenong N., Bundoora, Tullamarine, Frankston E., Dandenong, Essendon, Ripon, Prahran, Mordialloc, Bentleigh. They are a mix of electorates from both major parties.

I am going to ask the opposition about their level of commitment to the issues that I've raised and failed with minister Maclellan. Members can contact me on

A/H or via e-mail at

Graeme_Thornton@hotmail.com with your views on this proposal. I can provide details of the issues and who to write to.

Graeme Thornton,
Conservation Convenor

From the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs Conservation Committee (28/7/99)

Bunyip State Park – The User Group Rep. reports on plans to extend the walking tracks in this park. Blackberry reduction works are also planned. There are some concerns with *Phytophthora* in the park. Please be careful with off-track walking in this park.

Yarra Ranges – The Federation is still trying to get Parks Victoria to open more of the Water Catchment for walking. Approx. 80 per cent of this national park is out of bounds to walkers due to Melbourne Water restricting access to the catchment. The Fed. will meet with Parks Victoria on the 5th August to further discuss the feasibility for “permits” to Federation Club walkers. More details next issue.

Baw Baw N.P. – The Friends Group have received a grant to re-align the walking track to Mustering Flat. The track needs to be re-located to higher ground because of damage to the bog areas. Feral cattle numbers are now believed to be quite low – about 6 are still in the park.

Murray-Sunset N.P. – The remote distance walking track is still in the planning process, subject to funding for water tanks and map production. Stay tuned for more information on this.

Snowy River – Recent press articles state that 99% of the water-flow of the Snowy is diverted into dams for irrigation. Scientific studies suggest the Snowy River needs at least 28% of water-flow for ecological

considerations. Unfortunately the Victorian government are only going for the 15% option.

Mitchell River – Minister McNamara has announced a feasibility study for a dam on this wild river.

Tourism Victoria – have published a series of booklets called *Stepping Out – Victoria's Great Walks and Rides*. These are available from the Victorian Tourism Information Service on 13 2842. Also, there is a government "Victorian Tracks and Trails Committee" which aims to make Victoria a bushwalking destination. They are considering to "market" the following walks:- 'The Great Prom Walk' (3 days), 'The Great Ocean Walk – Apollo Bay to Port Campbell' (6 or 7 days), 'The Grampians Flagship Walk' (7 days), 'The Croajingalong

Coastal Wilderness Walk' (7 days), and a 'loop walk' along the Australian Alps Walking Track (3 days).

Woodchipping – In a recent newspaper (19/7) article, *The Age* Conservation reporter, Claire Miller claimed that 85 per cent of Victoria's forest timber ends up as wood chips.

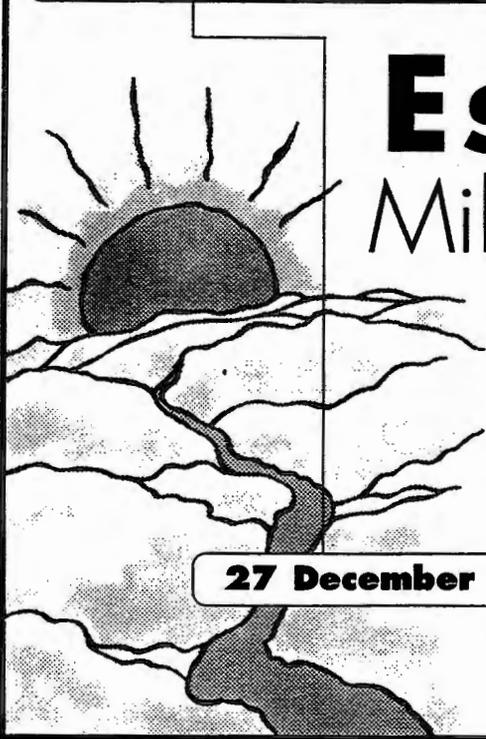
Phytophthora – This continues to be a major concern in our bush areas. I have placed the brochure *Phytophthora Root Rot – the plant killer* on the Conservation noticeboard. Can all current and prospective walk leaders read this important information sheet and take the necessary precautions in suspect areas.

Rod Novak
Club Delegate to Fed.
Conservation Committee

Rocky Valley Dam As *The Age* says, we were wrong. (*The NEWS*, May 1999). I wrote to Southern Hydro at Mount Beauty, and received a reply from Collins Street. They said to write to the Corporate Services Manager, and I thought that the CSM was at Collins Street. Nup - at Mount Beauty. The CSM wrote to me after I submitted May's copy. From the CSM, Christine Dew: 'The water level will have the potential to increase by 1.2 metre, (but perhaps) only ... in the spring thaw. The water level will not affect the High Plains Road. ...available for public comment in approximately three months* from the Department of Infrastructure...' (* ie, about July/August. SL) Southern Hydro seems to be acting reasonably, but the Department of Infrastructure has Rob Maclellan as Minister. VNPA is on the technical advisory committee, with state government officials, academics and the developers. The Minister may 'call in' the plan, and approve it despite the technical committee's recommendations.

Stephen Lake

New Year in Kakadu



Escape the Millennium Madness

Where will you be when the 1900's end and the year 2000 begins?
Will you join the frantic throngs in the city, partying on while worrying about the millennium bug?
Or will you seek a tranquil spot in the bush where you can relax and let the madness pass you by.

27 December 1999 - 8 January 2000

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Committee News and Reports

Notes from the Committee Meeting (5/799).

- * **Membership** - now stands at 444.
- * **60th anniversary** - we are pursuing the idea of producing a special edition of 'Walk', the Club magazine that was last published in 1986. Ideas for celebrations are also being sought.
- * **Conservation** - see page 10 and 11.
- * **Grievance procedure** - our resolution has been approved by the office of the Department of Justice. In addition, Model Rule 7 must apply and we have to ensure that existing and new members are aware of this.
- * **Training** - There has been more work done on a training policy statement. The next version will be published for comment, with the intention of including it in the constitution.

Derrick Brown

Trip Statistics for May and June

May 1999	Trips	Average	1998
<i>Sunday Bus</i>	5	41	41.4
<i>Pack Carry</i>	2	6	9
<i>Base Camp</i>	1	10	16.5
<i>Other Day</i>	3	13.3	13
<i>Cancelled</i>	2		

June 1999	Trips	Average	1998
<i>Sunday Bus</i>	4	40.5	35.3
<i>Pack Carry</i>	1	11	8
<i>Base Camp</i>	1	13	17.5
<i>Other Day</i>	3	10	13
<i>Cancelled</i>	2		

Pearson Cresswell
Walks Secretary

New members

DENISE P CHARMAN

RALPH W CLAYTON

CAROL CORRIGAN

ANNABEL DRYNAN

ANNE GAY

ELERI PIERCE

MICHAEL A PRICE

SANDRA RAEBURN

NADIA WANG

Add to membership list:

ANDREW ANKERS

JULIA BOX

ELFIE BROOKS

DARRELL ROLFE

MICHAEL VERNI

Altered address / phone:

WILLIAM CONE

ALAN and PAM IDE

VICTORIA SCRIVENGER Ph W) 9885 0336

Current Club Membership

Life members	Eleven
Honorary members	Nine
Single memberships	343
Family memberships	94 (2 X 47)
Total	458

Peter Havlicek
Membership Secretary

The June and July Social Scene

At the Friday 18th June social event, there were 23 Melbourne Bushies at *The (not so) Quiet Man Hotel* in Kensington enjoying great company, a Guinness or two or three, traditional Irish fare and great music by the band.

On Saturday 3rd July, another 14 Bushies enjoyed an Italian dinner in Clifton Hill before hiking down to *The Boite World Music Cafe* in Fitzroy to listen to Danny Spooner and his Celtic songs, stories and tunes - in front of an open fire. Good fun was had by all!!

On Friday 30th July, sixteen intrepid Bushies went on a journey of a lifetime - to Antarctica. Actually, we went to the IMAX to see this great documentary. Excellent footage of the cold southern land, lots of history, science and yes, there were the cute penguins strutting their stuff - their shenanigans with nest-building was quite funny. Thanks Fiona for arranging a great night out.

Bushies "Good Food" Guide

Now that the Western Freeway by-passes Ballarat, here are some suggestions for a meal stop.

Beaufort - *Andy's Café* (has coffee, snacks and light meals). We stopped here on the way home from Max's Black Range weekend trip. Quick service, great photos, clean toilets, and the Western Victorian Hang Gliding Club 'hang out' here.

Great Western - *The Great Western Hotel*. Untried, but a local member (Ken from Moyston) recommends this as "the pub of the district". Try it next time you go to the Grampians or Mallee parks.

Halls Gap - *Halls Gap Hotel*. The bistro lounge has an open fire, and meals are priced between \$10 to \$15. There are reasonable sweets such as sticky date pudding and brandy snaps. Give the coffee a miss though. Local bottled wines at \$5 per glass.

Equipment for Hire

The Melbourne Bushies has some great equipment for hire. We suggest that you 'try before you buy'. The equipment is very easy to hire. Try the FOOD DEHYDRATOR - its great value at \$5 per fortnight and only \$15 deposit. If you need help with hiring the club equipment, then see me at Clubnight or ring me on - AH

Rod Novak

"A latrine be it any other name does odour same"

Can someone tell me, why should be
For tracks and camps we pay a fee
That at the end with damp and sweat
Or has, at times with mud and wet
For no shelter to provide, the haven
That most we walkers cravin'.

To enter toilet blocks of "him and her"
Their real purpose does deter.
To change in comfort and with grace
Surely, ablution blocks are not the place.

So why! The many fees that ring the till
Can't some be used to show goodwill
To management, staff and whom may care
Is it too much to accept to share
Some damp and smelly used latrine
Surely! 'Tis not the place to dress and preen.

So if we patrons be your aim
Then and not before to walk "The Prom" I go again.
E.L.K.

Ed. E. L. is pseudonym for one of our tribal elders who is less than impressed with the standard of the Tidal River facilities for independent walkers. He always refers to those great New Zealand walks with excellent facilities and access for independent walkers.

Bus Fares

The bus fares for the Sunday walks are as follows:

Members	\$15
Concession	\$10
Visitors	\$20

NOTE: There is a LATE FEE of \$2 (for both members and visitors who attend on the Sunday without having booked onto the walk).

Committee Duty Roster

11 th August	Darryl and Sylvia
18 th August	Debbie and David *
25 th August	Trish and Rod
1 st September	Derrick and Gina *
8 th September	Rod and Peter

August/September 1999

13-15	SKI TRIP: RAZORBACK – FEATHERTOP	Private	M	Bill Metzenth	
14 Sat	MT. HICKEY (TALLAROOK)	Private	M	Alan Ide	
15 Sun	CONGLOMERATE CREEK – MT. TENERIFFE (MACEDON)	Bus	E/M & M	Brian Crouch & Stuart Mann	#
18 Wed	MT FRANKLIN – TARILTA CREEK (DAYLESFORD)	Private	E/M	Trevor Thomson	
20-22	SKI TRIP: MT BUFFALO	Private	E	Trish Elmore	
20-22	WILSONS PROM: LIGHTHOUSE CIRCUIT	Private	M	Cameron McMillan	
22 Sun	LONG FOREST FLORA RESERVE – DJERRIWARRH CREEK	Bus	E & E/M	Peter McGrath & William Cone	#
28 Sat	DANDENONGS EXPLORER	Private	E	Michael Humphrey	
29 Sun	ANDERSONS HILL – KILCUNDA	Bus	E & E/M	Peter Havlicek & Jill Dawson	#
3-5 Sept	HUGHES CK – BUNGLE BOORI (BASE CAMP)	Private	E/M	Jopie Bodegraven	
3-5	DOWNHILL SKI W/E: MT. BULLER	Private	Easy	George Zamora	*
5 Sun	LERDERDERG – BLACKWOOD	Bus	E/M & M	Bill Donald & John Kittson	#
10-12	WARBY RANGES (P/C)	Private	E/M	Rod Novak	
11 Sat	HISTORICAL WALK	Private	E	Lance Mobbs	*
12 Sun	GUNNAMATTA BEACH – CAPE SCHANCK	Bus	E & E/M	Peter McGrath & Jan Palich	#

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