



APRIL, 2000



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- *Ford's Final Fling*
- *Walk Previews for April & May*
- *The Tao of Gnome*
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Movie Night

Thursday 13 April

"The Green Mile"

*(Probably at the Jam
Factory, Chapel Street,
Prahran)*

*Call Fiona on
for more details.*



Easter Activities

*The Easter Base Camp is now Mungo National Park (NSW).
Leaders are Michael Mann and Bob Steel*

*An "Extra" Easter Pack Carry (Medium) to Bogong High Plains (Mt.
Fainter) has been organised. Please contact the leaders Max Casley
(away 11-14 April) and Alan Clarke for more details.*



Letters to Editor

Dear Ms. Lonergan,

As you are probably aware, I owned the Heilpern plywood boots for the past few years. They were given to me by Fred's

widow after his death because there was nobody else here to whom the names inscribed on them had any meaning. Because I am now getting on in age and again, the boots would have no meaning to anyone else here, I sent them to my old MBW friend Horst Eisfelder and suggested that he pass them on to the club.

For your information, I will copy now a paragraph from a letter which I am sending to-day to Horst.

"Thank you for returning the Heilpern boots to the MBW and for sending me a photocopy of the relevant item in the "News". I liked the explanatory note which you had prepared for the "News", but am rather surprised that the editor thanked only you who, with due respect for your part in it, were merely an intermediary, but not me who had owned and donated the boots and originally had the idea of returning them to the club."

Yours sincerely

Heinz Wolff, Vancouver, B.C. Canada.

Dear Mr. Wolff,

On behalf of the Melbourne Bush Walkers I wish to thank you for organising the return of the boots to the Club.

I apologise for failing to acknowledge the pivotal role that you played in that return and hope you understand that no slight was intended.

The boots have now been mounted in a glass frame,

together with a list of the names that are legible on the boots, together with the explanation of the meaning of the boots as given by Horst Eisfelder, and take pride of place on our Club Room Wall.

Clare Lonergan

Dear Ed

What have I been missing out on? In February's *News* I saw that some black fishnet stockings and red highheeled shoes had gone missing at Walhalla. Then in the Walhalla weekend review Brian Crouch thanks Tracey for her whipping...

I'm searching for my handcuffs and I'll have my name down for the next event at Walhalla.

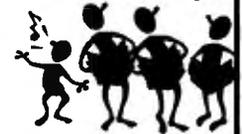
Items of Interest

Photo competition certificate

I have an unclaimed certificate that was awarded in the photo competition last December 15. The award is in the *People* category and the picture was *Wadi Kaudi, Sudan*. Unfortunately I do not have the name of the owner. Would he/she please get in touch with me to claim the certificate? Derrick Brown Tel: 9853 3788

German Choral Work

Members Flora Naod-Turner and David Arnold will be singing in a performance of the 1930's Operetta "Im Weissen Rossl" (The White Horse Inn), at the Camberwell Centre on Sat. 29th April at 2pm. Contact Flora for further details on programme and ticketing.



The *News* is the official newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and is published monthly.

Edited by **Clare Lonergan**.

Articles (max 1000 words), 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 News* may be sent to Clare Lonergan by:

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

Advertising Rates (artwork ready)

¼ Page 1 Issue - \$30; 3 Issues - \$80; 12 Issues (1 year) \$300

½ Page 1 Issue - \$50; 3 Issues - \$135; 12 Issues (1 year) \$500

Full Page 1 Issue - \$80; 3 Issues - \$220; 12 Issues (1 year) \$800

Only advertisements directly relating to bushwalking will be accepted (e.g. gear, maps, trips, tours, etc.)

Members Ads - FREE

Closing date for receipt of material for *The News* is the last Wednesday in each month.

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

Saturday 15 April
Easy

UPDATE FOR
TRAINING DAY!!!!

Leader	Brian Crouch
Approximate distance	6-10 KM
Transport	Private
Area	You Yangs
Expected time of return	7pm



NOTE!!!

Change of location. We will now be going to the You Yangs. We want everyone to feel they can gain from joining in the training day. This means you may not want to lead

walks but can certainly benefit from knowing what's involved and certainly join in the navigation sessions. The format will be that we will have a discussion on leadership skills in the

morning, lunch provided by the Club and then navigation in the afternoon. The navigation will cater for both beginners and advanced levels so come along and build on your skills.

The information night on Wednesday 12 April will cater for leaders wishing to meet and share ideas as well as people wanting to learn about navigation.

The club appreciates the work put in by leaders and realises that collectively we have a lot of knowledge and skills. The "Training Day" and evening meeting is an important part of sharing those skills for old and potential leaders. We want input from day leaders and weekend leaders.

This is the first of 4 training days to be conducted throughout the year. Please come along to the information night or the training day and be part of these activities in a fun environment.

Call me for details Brian Crouch

Notes for all Walkers

A new **Booking Sheet** is being used, which has requires an emergency contact name and telephone number. The **petrol allowance for private trips** is currently under review by the Committee. Details will be displayed in the Clubrooms and in the next issue of *The News*.

Sunday Bus Protocol

Track Junctions: There have been several "incidents" in past months with some fast walkers not stopping at track junctions, causing a lot of hassle to leaders and fellow walkers. It is essential to STOP and re-group at each track junction and to wait for the whip before proceeding.

Get to the Bus Pick-Up Early

This time of year there are lots of mega-events from Melbourne bike-rides, marathons, parades, street walks etc, where the local authorities divert traffic or take over all the nearby parking. So be warned – get to the pick-up place early, get a park, relax and avoid the hassle.

Please help to keep the Sunday Bus clean: It is important to have a spare pair of clean shoes to wear on the bus after the walk. Also, please assist Bob by keeping the bus clean and tidy. Check for rubbish and all your gear at the end of the trip.

Application for Credit

If you need to cancel your Sunday Bus booking, you must telephone the walk leader (at a reasonable hour!) before Sunday, and then apply in writing to the Walks Secretary who will, at his/her discretion, issue a Credit Note.

Day Walks for April & May, 2000

Saturday 22 April **Dandenongs Explorer**

Please note that there is **no** Dandenongs Explorer walk scheduled for this date – please disregard the notification in last month's edition of the News.

Saturday 29 April **Dandenongs Explorer Easy**

Leader Michael Humphrey
 Map reference Melway Maps 124 & 125
 Area Monbulk – Johns Hill
 Transport Private
 Expected time of return Approx. 4pm
 Approximate distance 12 kms

An oldie but a goodie!!! We will meet at Johns Hill Reserve lookout (Melway map 124 K11) and depart at 10.30am. If you are coming by public transport please ring me at home on () and I will pick you up at Belgrave Station – (train arrives at 10.02am). See you there!!!!

Sunday 7 May **Richards Tramline – Big Pats Creek**

Leaders Brian Crouch & Tracey Jamieson
 Area Warburton
 Transport Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am
 Expected time of return 7pm
 Approximate distance 13 & 19 km

This will be a pleasant walk in mixed forest within the Yarra State Forest close to Warburton. Much of the area has a timber history and for part of the walk we will walk along Richards Tramline which was built in 1923 to move logs to timber mills in the area. Autumn is a good time to walk in this area, no bush fires and no leeches.

There is a gradual climb in the first half which means mainly downhill in the second half as it is a circuit walk. There are some lovely fern gullies and plenty of large eucalyptus areas.

Sunday 14 May **Masons Falls – Kinglake** **E/Medium & Medium**

Leaders Peter McGrath & Sibylle Holdheide
 Map reference Kinglake National Park Outdoor Leisure Map
 Area Kinglake National Park
 Transport Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am
 Expected time of return 7pm
 Approximate distance 14 & 17 kms

Trees and topography combine to make this area north of Melbourne interesting. The walk is in one of those places where it would be nice to have a Sunday picnic. We won't be having a Sunday picnic, but the walk will resemble one! At least for part of the time. The rest of the time we will be walking.

The view of Melbourne from Mt. Sugarloaf is one of the finest. Both walks will visit Mt. Sugarloaf as well as Masons Falls. The easy medium walkers will do an extra 3 km loop at the start.

Today will be Sibylle's first walk as leader so please be supportive. Those of you who know her may want to come along.

Wednesday 17 May **Jumping Creek – Yarra River** **Easy Medium**

Leader Alister Rowe
 Map reference Melway 279 B 4
 Area Wonga Park
 Transport Private
 Expected time of return 5pm
 Approximate distance 15 km

Meet at picnic ground at end of Lower Homestead Road at Yarra River at 10am. Allow 30 minutes for car shuffle. Will walk back through Warrandyte State Park to Tills Road car part at Warrandyte. Many good landscape and river views. Ref: Melway Maps 24 and 23

Life Members	11
Honorary Members	10
Single memberships	383
Family memberships	100 (= 2x 50)
Total membership	504

Bus fares

The bus fares for the Sunday walks are as follows :
Members \$15.00 Concession \$10 Visitors \$20
 Late fee of \$2.00 (for both members & visitors who attend on Sunday without having booked on the walk).

Sunday 21 May **Ingliston & Werribee**
Easy & E/Medium **Gorges**

Leaders Stuart Mann & Peter McGrath
NOTE CHANGE OF LEADER!!
 Map reference Ingliston 7722-1-3 1:25,000
 Area Bacchus Marsh
 Transport Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am
 Expected time of return 7pm
 Approximate distance 12 & 16 km

I HATE writing previews!

They are meant to be a reflection of what the walks will be like, entice the reader but usually they just end up being an indication of how good the writer is, at using the thesaurus.

I love Gorges and if you show up I will show you why. So come on people, lets fill up the bus. Take a chance and be surprised, I dare you.

Note, if you do come, it is a good way of stopping us talking about you!

I personally find Ingliston Gorge one of the prettiest I have seen in Victoria. I am not a birdo but the bird song in this gorge has to be heard to be believed!! Editor

Saturday 27 May **Dandenongs Explorer**
Easy

Leader Michael Humphrey
 Transport Private



Please telephone Michael on for more details with respect to this walk

Sunday 28 May **Mt Macedon – Braemar**
Easy & E/Medium **Track**

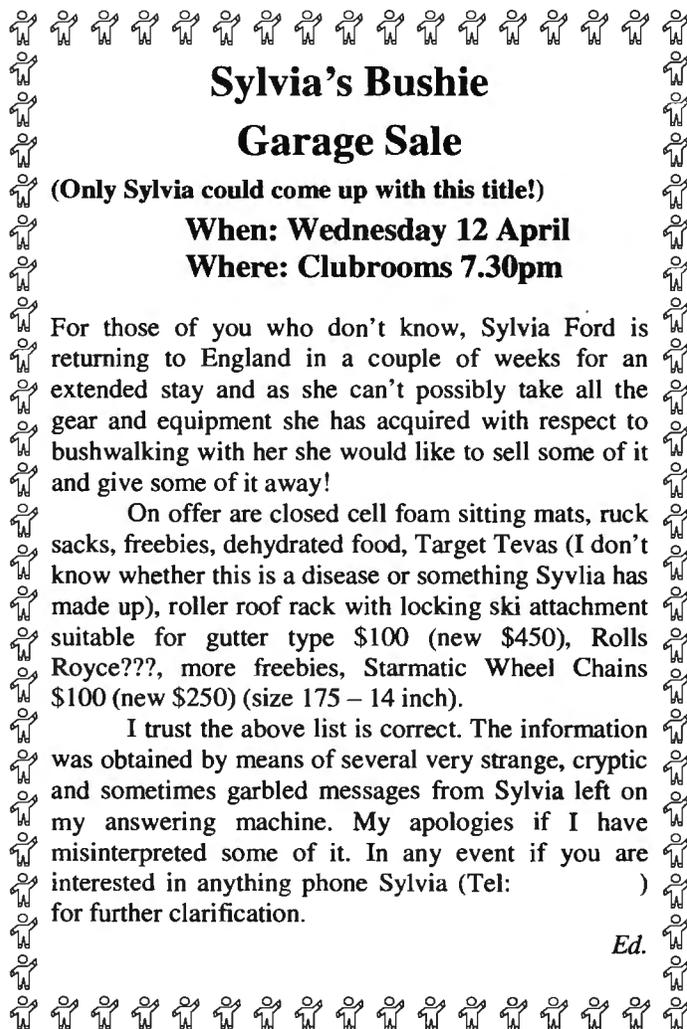
Leaders John Kittson & Jean Woodger
 Map Reference Macedon & Woodend 1:25,000
 Approximate distance 15 & 18 km
 Transport Bus from South Bank Boulevard 9am
 Area Macedon Ranges
 Expected time of return 7pm

Both walks start near the township of Mt Macedon, an area with excellent views, tall trees and fern gullies.

The easy/medium walk starts with a climb to Mt Towrong, with views to be had looking down on the township of Mt Macedon and the surrounding countryside. This plus the extra 3 km separates it from the easy walk. A track taken to the east loops back and eventually heads north to meet the aptly named Zig Zag Track.

The easy walk passes the Orde Hill Reservoir before also meeting Zig Zag Track.

From here both walks are the same, each visiting Sanatorium Lake then Camel's Hump, from where it is possible to see Hanging Rock a few kilometres away. Continuing on, we visit the summit of Mt Macedon where the views are spectacular. Leaving the cross, we'll make our way down Braemar Track via Braemar College and back to the bus.



Sylvia's Bushie
Garage Sale

(Only Sylvia could come up with this title!)

When: Wednesday 12 April
Where: Clubrooms 7.30pm

For those of you who don't know, Sylvia Ford is returning to England in a couple of weeks for an extended stay and as she can't possibly take all the gear and equipment she has acquired with respect to bushwalking with her she would like to sell some of it and give some of it away!

On offer are closed cell foam sitting mats, ruck sacks, freebies, dehydrated food, Target Texas (I don't know whether this is a disease or something Syvlia has made up), roller roof rack with locking ski attachment suitable for gutter type \$100 (new \$450), Rolls Royce???, more freebies, Starmatic Wheel Chains \$100 (new \$250) (size 175 – 14 inch).

I trust the above list is correct. The information was obtained by means of several very strange, cryptic and sometimes garbled messages from Sylvia left on my answering machine. My apologies if I have misinterpreted some of it. In any event if you are interested in anything phone Sylvia (Tel:) for further clarification.

Ed.

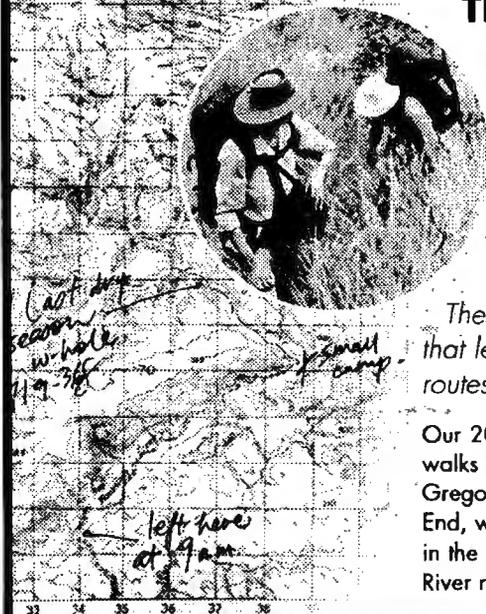
Duty Roster

12 April	Pearson & Doug
19 April*	Rod & Alan Ide
26 April	Clare & Alan Miller
3 May*	Fiona & Amanda
10 May	Trish & Anne

Date of next committee meeting:
Monday 1 May, 2000 at 7PM

Explore the unknown!

The exploration of Australia is far from complete!



On previous explorer trips we've found pockets of rainforest, Aboriginal art sites, pools, gorges and waterfalls – no hint of which appeared on any map.

These are the kind of trips that let us discover the walking routes we regularly use today.

Our 2000 exploratory trips include walks in the region in and around Gregory National Park in the Top End, walks in the Red Centre, walks in the Charnley and Middle Isdell River regions of the Kimberley and

a walk in the Chichester Range in the Pilbara. We do not expect to offer any of these exact walks in 2001.

If you have ever dreamed of being among the first non-Aboriginals to explore an area, our Explorer trips could be your dream come true.



**Willis's
Walkabouts**

**12 Carrington St
Millner NT 0810**

Email: walkabout@ais.net.au

Phone: (08) 8985 2134

Fax: (08) 8985 2355

Weekend Walks for May, 2000

**21-25 April
EASTER WEEKEND
Easy**

**Hattah Lakes National Park
(Vic) and Mungo National
Park (NSW)
Exploratory Base Camp**

Leaders: Bob Steel & Michael Mann
Transport: Private
Expected time of return: Tuesday
Area: North Western Victoria & Southern NSW

This is a base camp over Easter which includes the Anzac Day Holiday. You may travel either Thursday night or Friday morning, but we plan to meet at Hattah Lakes National Park. There are plenty of camping spaces near the information centre.

At this stage it is intended to depart for Lake Mungo around 1 pm on the Friday, however this may change depending on the number of people and the Ranger's availability at Lake Mungo.

The Hattah-Kulkyne National Park is situated 500 kms north west of Melbourne via the Murray Valley Highway. The area is an oasis of mallee woodlands surrounding a system of tranquil lakes set among rolling sandhills. The ecological significance of this area is recognised by naturalists throughout the world, and in

1982 the park was listed by UNESCO as a World Biosphere Reserve.

Mungo National Park covers an ancient dry lakebed on the plains of South Western NSW. The dry lakebeds preserve the longest continual record of Aboriginal life in Australia dating from 40,000 years ago.

We will stay at Lake Mungo until Monday, then find a place to camp on the Murray River Monday night, driving back to Melbourne on Tuesday.

There appears to be some guided walks by the Rangers over Easter so we may go on some of these, or do our own walks.

Book at the Club Rooms or ring Michael on or Bob on



**Unfortunately the EASTER
Barmah Forest – Murray River
Canoeing trip for 20-25 April has
had to be cancelled!!**

Accounts for February 2000

Opening Balance	\$46,336.13
Receipts	\$3,857.00
Payments	-\$2,499.01
Closing Balance	\$47,694.12

**5-7 May
Medium** **Major Mitchell Plateau
Pack Carry**

Leader Cameron McMillan
 Map reference Southern Grampians Outdoor
 Leisure Map 1:50:000
 Transport Private
 Area Grampians National Park
 Approximate distance 25km
 Expected time of return 9pm Sunday

Twelve months ago I first visited The Major Mitchell Plateau in the Southern Grampians National Park. Since then I have wanted to go back and walk Ralph's original route which we didn't do because the Mt William walking track was closed for maintenance.

We will start at 9am at the Jimmy Creek Walking Track after a car shuffle, climbing up onto the plateau where we will hopefully have good views. Camp will be made in the spot near the track beside the first Wannon Creek.

On Sunday we will climb up to Mt William then descend steeply down the sealed road before walking down the Mt William walking track. This walk is suitable for people who are reasonably fit. Note limit of 12 due to limited camping area and at least ONE LITRE of water must be carried on Saturday for the climb up!!!

**12-14 May
Easy** **Howqua Base Camp**

Leader Lance Mobbs
 Transport Private



Please see Lance in the clubrooms or phone him on for more details with respect to this walk

**19-21 May and optional
Monday 22 May
Medium** **The Crinoline**

Leader Rod Novak
 Transport Private
 Area North of Licola
 Approximate distance 20 kms
 Expected time of return 8.30pm Sunday

A late autumn pack carry around the Mt Tamboritha area. This walk has yet to be previewed and could be better described as exploratory – especially for the leader. I was last here in 1975 and expecting some changes eg the recent devastating bushfire and the re-growth. A weekend pack carry, with the option of an extra day in the area – possibly a day walk on the Monday before the return journey. Contact the leader for an information

**26-28 May
Easy Medium** **Northern Wilson's Prom NP**

Leader David Arnold
 Transport Private and boat
 Approximate distance 20 kms
 Map reference Mount Singapore 1:25 000
 Expected time of return 8pm Sunday

An area much less often visited than the southern destinations of Tidal River, Sealers Cove etc. The northern part of the Prom has a wilderness zoning, and as a consequence the party size is limited to six, so get in quick if you are interested in visiting this part of the Prom! Since the points of interest are 20-30km from the nearest carpark (and we would have to return to the cars again the following day), it is my intention to organise a boat to take us from Port Welshpool across to a landing point such as Tin Mine Cove. The round trip will cost about \$25 per person. Using Tin Mine Cove as a base, we would do walks to Chinaman Long Beach, Mt. Margaret, and other locations which are within the realm of a weekend visit. Please call me if you are interested (note that my phone number was not correct on the walks program - it is).

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Gokyo Lakes and Everest Base Camp trek
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Annapurna Sanctuary trek
 21 days departing November 2nd \$3,795

Temples & Tigers minibus
 14 days departing 23rd November \$3,200

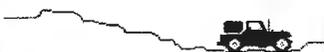
Mingmar & Marilynne Sherpa of Om Trek
 03 9781 1280
<http://travel.to/kathmandu>

Trek with Aust / Sherpa team to the heart and soul of Nepal

Fraser Island

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WALKS PROGRAM NOTES

Updates / Feedback / and Handy Hints from your two Walks' Secretaries

A special thank you to all our walk leaders, assistant walk leaders and "whips" for helping the Melbourne Bushies Inc organise lots of great walks with fun, fitness and friendship.

Change to the Walks Program

Sun 21st May 2000 Ingliston & Werribee Gorge with Stuart Mann . Peter McGrath is now replacing Mike Low (he's off to En Zed).

NSW or maybe the scenic rim in Qld. More details to come.

Handy Hints

A really good rain-jacket is essential for the fast approaching "wet and cold" months.

Rod Novak and Alan Miller

P.S. We are now seeking your ideas and suggestions for the **SPRING** walks program.

Advance Notices

Training Day Saturday 15 April Leading a walk. For more details - Brian Crouch on

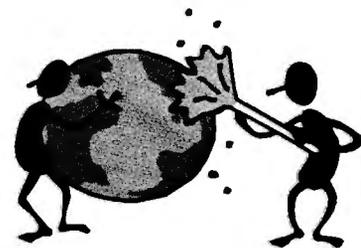
Extended Pack Carry Sat 24 June to Wed 5 July 2000
The Great South West Walk - a 250 km pack carry. Early expressions of interest welcome. A twelve day pack carry guaranteed to be cold, wet and windy. Suitable for fit, experienced and equipped walkers only. Rod Novak

Extended Moving Base Camp Sat 16 September to Sat 30 September 2000 Escape the Olympics with Jopie. A moving Base Camp with day walks - probably in southern

JANUARY WALKS STATISTICS

	Number	Average	1999	1998
Sunday Bus	4	35	40.6	35
Pack Carry	2	9	6.7	5
Base Camp	Nil			
Lilo (w/e)	1	8	10	5
Lodge	2	13.5	12	16
Other Day Historical - 7 Sun - 6 (cars)	2	6.5		
Cancelled	1 x P/C			

Walkers' Wanderings (or Wonderings)



Ford's Final Fling

4th-19th March, 2000

When Sylvia announced that she would be organising another trip, I rushed to sign up. Having been with her twice previously (Mootwingee & Flinders Ranges) I knew that an enjoyable time would be in the offing. And I wasn't disappointed.

This time the trip was to the northernmost parts of the South Island of New Zealand. There were two walks undertaken. The first was along the Abel Tasman Coastal track, the second the Heaphy track.

Abel Tasman Coastal track

Max, Ben, Rick, and Kerrie joined Sylvia for the first leg of the trip, initially flying to Christchurch for a couple of days. Firstly, a chaotic visit to the supermarket to stock up on food for the week, the next day we were off to Nelson. This followed a cultural expedition to the Antarctic exhibition at the museum (well worth the visit), and a tour of the Sunday markets.

The Abel Tasman coastal track is one of New Zealand's Great Walks. It follows the coastline from Marahau to Totaranui, in several places joining the beaches and traversing coastal inlets. The colours are magnificent, with golden beaches and aquamarine bays. The photos you may see of the area don't do justice to the scenery.

The original plan was to go from south to north, doing the walk in five days. But despite all previous assurances that as we were after the peak period there would be no problem getting space in the huts, they were fully booked. Fortunately Ben had flown to Nelson earlier than the rest and was able to reorganise the schedule by arranging for water taxis to take us to the northern end, so that we could do the trip in the reverse direction. This meant that we had to cut short the duration by a day.

The water taxi was an interesting introduction, as we were able to preview the area where we would be tramping (as they insist on calling it in NZ) and the beaches and huts at which we would be staying. A highlight of the trip was visiting the fur seal colony on Tonga Island. They were completely unafraid of the boats weaving amongst them, and almost put on displays for our advantage.

Beginning at Totaranui, we were able to take a short walk to Anapai Bay, as the tides were up, and we had to wait for low tide to cross the inlet to our first night's stay at Awaroa Hut. This really was the beginning of our holiday. Up to this point everything was a build up to the main event. It was the first time we were able to observe the fauna or flora of this part of New Zealand. The area had been logged over the years, but is now a National Park, only created in 1942, on the 300th anniversary of Abel Tasman's visit. Other visitors have included James Cook and the French explorer Dumont D'Urville, both of whom named various features in the area. Although there is much bracken and gorse, with

some help the native vegetation is re-establishing.

Awaroa Hut is an excellent hut, with wide verandahs overlooking the inlet. Due to the boat trip and late start we only walked for 6km this day. The sea had been beckoning us all afternoon so Ben & I (Rick) abandoned all intentions of preparing for dinner till we'd had a swim. Although a bit cool, it was so refreshing after the day's walk.

The second day saw us up and ready early. Or that was the plan. We had begun to get into holiday mood, so inertia caused us to set off a little later than intended. This was no problem till the next river crossing. We arrived there almost at high tide; this left Kerrie wet up to her armpits. But we had an excellent beach (Onetahuti) to dry out at, so there were no hard feelings. That night we stayed at Bark Beach Hut (one of the few we could pronounce). Max and Kerrie, the birdoes of the group, have been active in their pursuits. There have been surprisingly few birds, even sea-going birds are relatively few. At this hut a bellbird (different to the Australian version) entertained us with an amazing repertoire, similar to a lyrebird in that it imitates other birds.

Day three and we were off to Torrent Bay and the Anchorage. Another crossing, but we were able to skirt round this on a high level track. Many visitors at the park hire sea kayaks, and paddle into the coves and bays, landing at spots even we walkers can't get to. It seems the ideal way to get around; the waters are so clear they seem to be suspended in air.

The final day was back to Marahau. Again following the coast, the foot traffic was increasing. Due to the water taxis and the ease at which you can access the track, there are many day-trippers who visit the park. Although I don't begrudge them the enjoyment of the area, it does result in crowds. One aspect that surprised us was that the times that the Department of Conservation (DOC) allowed for their walks are very optimistic, and in most cases we were well over their estimates. This was a little daunting, us being the tough Aussie bushwalkers that we are, but they don't seem to have any allowance for rests.

The Heaphy Track

Ben left us here to attack the Routeburn track, but we were joined by Alan and Clare. They had been taking advantage of the holiday by touring parts of the South Island by car. By all reports a very enjoyable time.

The Heaphy Track starts a little further north west, taking 77km to cross the mountains to the west coast, requiring us to stay overnight in Takaka. This gave us the opportunity to go shopping again (a little less traumatic than the first time), do some washing, catch up on our caffeine fix, and also allowed Kerrie to take a trip to the Farewell Spit. This is a 50km sand spit that forms the northernmost point of the South Island, the home of many different species of sea birds.



Left to right: Kerrie, Max, Alan, Clare, Sylvia & Rick outside McKay Hut half way through the walk

We set off by bus to the start of the track, past Collingwood (no jokes), to the base of the hill. Due to the bus trip, we were not able to start till about noon, with the prospect of 21km, rising up 800metres, to be done that day. The track was smooth, as it followed the route of a planned road that never was built, but it was long and arduous. The forest was mostly Red Beech and Rimu. By 5pm, we had reached Aorere Shelter, an emergency shelter supposedly 60% of the way to the first hut. With caution being the better part of valour, we decided to stop there, rather than proceed to the hut. In consolation, there were two other couples who only made it as far as this camp also. Sylvia and Kerrie set up house in the shelter, but the rest camped. To date we had had excellent weather, but this night it decided to rain. Max and I got by with minimal drama, but Clare and Alan had to abandon their tent and move into the shelter with Sylvia and Kerrie.

The next morning dawned bright and clear, and it took us less than two hours to reach the Perry Saddle Hut, to which we were intending to go the night before. Passing by this hut, we continued down to the Goulard Downs. This is an area contrasting greatly with the previous day, very similar to the High Plains in Victoria. That night we stayed at the Goulard Downs Hut, which is also similar to the huts on the high plains, though better fitted out. Most of the huts on this route are fitted out with gas for cooking, but in this one we had to set a fire. A little more rain that night, which made the hut very cozy. Sometime after dark, in from the rain, we were surprised by a Maori goddess arriving like the Valkerie, resplendent in white gum boots. She had covered that day what had taken us two days to do.

Nearby was an area of ancient beech forest covered with hanging mosses and lichens. You expected the Trolls to come out at any time. That night we also heard some Kiwis for the first time.

The next day we left the Downs and climbed again. The Tasman Sea appeared for the first time on our left as we reached the saddle. A reasonably short walk then to James Mackay (pronounced makkee) Hut where we

stayed that night. This was the first time we had to share our hut with any number since the Abel Tasman. There was a party, led by a tour leader, who provided everything. The track was so well marked that it seems to us completely unnecessary to get a guide, but it would save our food buying drama.

From here it was all downhill. Another short day to Lewis Hut. This is on the Lewis River, at the junction of the Heaphy River, virtually at sea level. The birds here are amazing. There are not very many, but they are so tame. Today we were amused by the antics of a robin which would flit around completely unafraid of our presence. Due to the short day, we were able here to catch up on some reading, and lazing around. Another visitor that night. The tour group had arranged for a food drop to be made, so this character had carried their food supply up the hill where we had started, and continued on to catch up with us, a trip that day of 52km.

The next morning we crossed the river by a long, unstable swing bridge. We had had a couple prior to this, but this was much more impressive. The vegetation was changing daily, and here, as we were following the river, Nikau Palms were becoming more dominant.

That night we stayed at the Heaphy Hut, at the mouth of the river. By this time the sand flies were reasonably few and far between. But here they attacked us with a vengeance. It was an ideal site, spoiled by these mauraunders.

The last stage of the walk out the following day was dramatic following the pounding surf of the west coast. Sylvia left us here to further tour the country, and visit relatives, so we restocked in alcohol and caffeine again. As there would have been a long delay, and an even longer bus trip, Alan had arranged for the next day a charter flight out from Karamea direct to Christchurch. This was a fitting finale to an excellent holiday.

For those you don't know, Sylvia is leaving our shores soon, to return home (England) for an extended period. I would like to pass on all our best wishes for the future, and thank her personally for all she had done for the club and specifically for organising these trips over the years.

Rick Chater

FEBRUARY 2000 WALKS STATS

	Number	Average	1999	1998
Sunday Bus	4	35.75	34.5	42.8
Pack Carry	2	12	9	4
Base Camp	2	7	11.5	9.5
Lilo (w/e)	1	7	-	6
Lodge	-			
Other Day	2	14	11.5	14.5
Wed - 10				
Dand - 18				
Cancelled	Nil			



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Conservation Forum



VicWalk - The following issues were discussed at the 23rd February **Conservation Committee** meeting.

Deerhunting The NRE have a discussion paper on this issue. Contact NRE 13 6186 or download form the net on www.nre.vic.gov.au under "plants and animals" and click on "hunting" then "deerhunting". Apparently deerhunting is allowed in state forests and national parks – but dogs/hounds are prohibited in national parks. The Federation strongly believes that guns and walking tracks don't mix.

Mt Stirling – the January planting day had 70 attendees. Mansfield 4WD Club has installed a pot bellied stove in Craig's Hut – and they will supply wood. The State Government will only provide basic funding for Mt Stirling, for running costs and minor maintenance on ski trails.

Tracks and Trails Conference – a national conference is scheduled for 11-13 May at Mansfield.

South Australia – Walking SA have reported on a "Recreational Greenways Bill for SA. A draft is on the net at www.recsport.sa.gov.au/news/new.htm.

State Forests – closing date for RFA's public submission is 31/3/2000. The Federation has sent a submission.

VicWalk - The following issues were discussed at the 23rd March **Conservation Committee** meeting.

Wilson's Prom – Parks Victoria [PV] met with the VNPA on 23/3/2000 concerning the re-drafting of the

Management Plan. This is a reversal of the previous government's policy – with separate plans for Tidal River Village and the rest of the Prom. One master plan is now being developed, with the draft to be approved by the Minister in November 2000. The PV guided walk to the Lighthouse commenced in mid-January. It is a 2 day trip, down via Roaring Meg track, over-nighting in the Lightkeeper's Cottage and returning via Little Waterloo bay. PV claims the public requires an educational and interpretative service to the Lighthouse, and they use a ratio of five walkers to one guide. PV are still considering accommodation options for the return journey. A new Oberon Hut or mobile caravans are a possibility!!

Alpine – still no government announcement on the excision of Mt McKay. The water level of Rocky Valley Dam is at historic lows with the recent power generation for the power shortage / strike. The ranger believes it will be several years for the lake to return to its normal level. Apparently the snow making water uptakes for the Falls Creek Ski Village are high and dry.

State Forests - Lorne Business Council and the three Local Councils are also against the clearfelling in the Otways. They are concerned with water quality and the effect of clearfelling on tourism. Several thousand local people are employed by tourism – as against a hundred or so employed in forestry!!

Bogong N.P. Work Party

"Hi Ho, Hi Ho, its off to work we go ...

The rangers called the work party off on Saturday due to very poor wetyher but Sunday dawned clear so we assembled at the barrier to head off with the rangers to the Nelse Road. Luckily David had his 4WD so we could fit into the 2 vehicles capable of travelling on that road.

We went over to Ropers Hut Road to work on the terrible erosion. The snow poles that we had removed last year were to be set in the track to divert water and to help silt to build up. Also old drains were to be located and cleared. Starting at Ropers Hut we worked back toward Nelse making good pace and impressing the rangers. We finished work early afternoon and headed back home.

The rangers were very appreciative of our efforts. There are not many volunterrs coming forward for work parties so many jobs are being put off, they are certainly glad of our annual work party.

Willing workers were Doug Pocock, Jan Llewelyn, Bill Metzenthen, Merilyn Whimpey, Peter Hogan, Graeme Walthalm, David Laing with visitor (maybe member soon) Tim Stirbal.

Doug Pocock.

Clarification of Printing

Costs for 1999 - for

Information

At the February Annual General Meeting, costs for printing the "News" and also "other printing" for the 1999 year were detailed. It has been pointed out that the figures may not have shown a clear picture of the actual printing costs. Hence I have broken down the 1999 printing figures further :

News	\$5,087
Quarterly Programmes	\$465
1999 Membership list	\$306
Total Printing	\$5,858

The printing of Information Brochures for potential/new members increased the total cost of printing for the year by another \$748. This gave a total printing cost for 1999 of \$6608.

Jan Palich
Treasurer - March 2000

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

New members:

ADRIAN & ANITA BURGESS

RENAE B BURTON

MARY DAMOUSI

MICHELLE GIBBINGS

MARK A HEATH

LILIANA IURI

LYNDA MADDISON

MICHAEL D QUINN

MARTIN REYNOLDS

GWILLIAM K RUTLEDGE

HALINA SARBINOWSKI

JENNIFER WALLIS

Altered Address/Phone:

TANIA ADAMSON

ALISON HATFIELD

KEVIN KENNEDY

KATHY LEFEVERE-BURD

SHEILA PIEKARSKI

The following article from *The Weekend Australian*, February 26-27, 2000 was sent in by Ann Lindsay who felt it was "a piece worthy of inclusion in *The News*"

The Tao of gnome

Dear Gnome,

My boyfriend of some months wants us to go bushwalking to test our relationship. I have not done it before but I'm interested. Things are working out really well, so why a test and should I go?



Boots in Ballarat

Dear Boots,

What is it about your relationship that needs to be tested, especially in the middle of nowhere with freeze-dried food and a head torch?

If your boyfriend is a nice guy, then he probably wants to see if you like bushwalking because he does and you two will be able to work out something. If, on the other hand, he is of the other variety, which hopefully is dying out — Wilbur Smith, army fatigues and competitive self-sufficiency — and you have made a good Impression on him, he may be playing out the weird fantasy of "she makes a good mate, let's see her rough It". Depending on his level of macho-sadism, you could be in for one helluva walk that will be an unforgettable experience, especially when you're home and it no longer hurts.

Clever camp cooking, how to pack and myriad other tricks take time to learn. Go on this walk, plan to enjoy it, but if his metre-long legs stride off into the thicket while you're still adjusting the straps on your unfamiliar pack, he's acting like a jerk. Collapse with a pathetic cry and feign a sprained ankle. When he comes out to help, squirt him with your drink bottle and remind him that being a bloke doesn't mean being better, faster and stronger than the chicks. The bush, with mud, mozzies and isolation, is a great test of humour, so treat this as a test for him, too.

Wilkinson Lodge

Winter bookings are proceeding pace with 10 weeks booked and most of those fairly full.

However there could be some places, so if anyone is thinking of skiing this winter but hasn't got a group then talk to me. The late spring weeks have not been booked, probably because of the poor seasons over the last few years. So, if the season looks like going well into eptember a late planned week may be possible. Perhaps food could be put in on the off chance.

Winter leaders please collect your groups' money and get it to me to confirm your week. Remember to get food — as early as May weather cannot be trusted and the barriers may be closed.

We are missing a gas cylinder. Has anyone got it in the bottom of their pack or rolling around in the boot of their car?

Please remember to return keys, fees and Wilky report promptly to ensure the smooth running of your lodge.

Doug Pocock

Search & Rescue Practice

6-7 May 2000

This year's Search Practice will take place at Mt Tanglefoot State Forest, north east of Melbourne. It will be a weekend base camp with search skills practice and is open to any members of the Melbourne Bushies who may be interested in becoming a Bushwalkers Search & Rescue volunteer.

Transport to the venue is by Police bus from Glen Iris Primary School (Glen Iris Road, near junction with High Street) at 6:30am Saturday morning. The bus returns to Glen Iris at about 6:30pm Sunday. Parking is available in the school grounds. You need to take the usual gear for a weekend base camp, including food and water for the whole weekend.

Anyone wanting to attend this weekend should notify me by Wednesday 26 April on _____, or call me if you would like more information about the weekend, or about Bushwalkers Search & Rescue in general.

60TH ANNIVERSARY MOUNTAIN TOP DINNER

BUSHWALKERS INC.



Mark, Terese, Joy, Ralph, Alan, Max, Debbie, Derrick, Paul and Tracey

Of interest to the Bushies

New Field Guidebooks from CSIRO Publishing

Greig, D (2000) *Field Guide to Wildflowers*, 442 pp paperback RRP \$39.95

Taylor, R. (2000) *Wild Places of Greater Melbourne*, 274 pp paperback RRP \$24.95

Beardsell, D & C (2000) *The Yarra — A Natural Treasure*, 72 pp paperback RRP \$15.95

A brochure is on the Conservation Noticeboard with other great titles.

Rod Novak

April 2000

15 Sat	TRAINING DAY: LEADING A WALK	Private	E	Brian Crouch	*
16 Sun	ANAKIE GORGE/LITTLE R. STEIGLITZ	Bus	E & M	Max Casley & Stephen Bentley	#
19 Wed	LERDERDERG GORGE	Private	E/M	Sandra Mutimer	
EASTER & ANZAC DAY					
20-25	MALLACOOTA-CAPE HOWE-NADGEE NAT. RES	Private	M	Pearson Cresswell	
23 Sun	BOSTOCK RESERVOIR-E.MOORABOOL R.	Bus	E & E/M	Peter Havlicek & Jill Dawson	
21-25	HATTAH LAKES NP & MUNGO NP Base C	Private	Easy	Bob Steel & Michael Man	
21-25	BOGONG HIGH PLAINS Pack Carry	Private	M	Max Casley & Alan Clarke	
29 Sat	LITTLE RIVER GORGE (CATHEDRAL R)	Private	M	Alan Ide	
29 Sat	DANDENONG EXPLORER	Private	Easy	Michael Humphrey	
30 Sun	N.E. LERDERDERG	Bus	E/M & M	Sally Bouvier & Stuart Mann	#

May 2000

5-7	MAJOR MITCHELL PLATEAU	Private	M	Cameron McMillan	
7 Sun	RICHARDS TRAMLINE - BIG PATS CREEK (WARBURTON AREA)	Bus	E/M & M	Brian Crouch & Tracey Jamieson	#
12-14	HOWQUA BASE CAMP	Private	E	Lance Mobbs	
14 Sun	MASONS FALLS - KINGLAKE	Bus	E & E/M	Peter McGrath & Sibylle Holdheide	#
17 Wed	JUMPING CREEK - YARRA RIVER	Private	E/M	Alister Rowe	

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