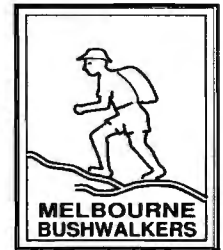




The News

of the

Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc



A000133X

FEBRUARY, 2001

In this Issue

- *Walk Previews for February & March*
- *Bushies' Burlblings*
- *A Letter from Sylvia Ford in Poland*
- *Committee Reports for 2000*

FIRST AID TRAINING

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th March
Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th April

The Level 2 First Aid Training which was successfully run last year will be repeated in March, over 2 weekends.

This course is brilliant in that it is very specific to our "Bushie" needs, including plenty of 'in the Bush' activities. I strongly recommend that all members consider taking this course so that they will have the skills to cope in emergency situations.

Numbers are limited, and as the places are filling up quickly, I suggest you book in without delay!!!!

**For more information contact
Brian Crouch, Training Co-Ordinator
Phone**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc

will be held on

Wednesday 28 February 2001 at 8.00 pm

at

Old Ballroom Annexe, Trades Hall Building Cnr. Victoria & Lygon Streets, Carlton for tabling of Annual Reports and election of Office Bearers.

Agenda:

1. Minutes from the Half Yearly General Meeting 2000
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Report on Restoration of Clubroom and Hall
4. Motion that Doug Pocock be made a Life Member of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
5. Election of Committee and Office Bearers
6. General Business

Everyone is welcome but only members can vote.

Tennis Day & BBQ

At Quentin's Place

Lot 1 South Maddingley Road,
Bacchus Marsh

(Melway 219 F7 or Melway 333 D 12 –
depends which version you own)

Phone

BYO meat, salad and drink.

Fruit salad and condiments provided.



Everyone Welcome

The News is the official newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and is published monthly.
Edited by Clare Lonergan until February, 2001.

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 electronic mail is preferred, and that walk previews, articles, etc. for The News may be sent to the Editor by:

- ★ Placing disk (or hand written material) in the "Red Box" in the clubrooms or posting to The Editor, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. PO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, 3001
- ★ Email – details to be supplied after AGM.

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
Last Wednesday in each month
ELECTRONIC MAIL IS PREFERRED**

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**

From The Editor



Tracey and her Matron of Honour watch in astonishment as the *News* Editor practises sneaking off the scene.
Photographer Unknown, but thanks!!

Yes, it is time for me to take my computer (actually Miller's computer), scanner and camera and slope off into the 'Past Committees File'.

I have enjoyed editing *News* immensely over the past 2 years. It has been a fun, challenging and satisfying pursuit. Alan Miller, my partner, has given me unwavering support by allowing me to take over 'the joy of his life' (his computer) for many hours each month as I put *News* together. He has put up with my hysterics and tantrums when the scanner failed to scan, the computer crashed and refused to reboot, or the email dropped out 90% of the way into sending the completed file to the printing company with only hours to spare before the deadline.

I would like to extend my thanks to my fellow committee members for their assistance and constructive criticism. I would especially like to thank Rod Novak who edited and produced *News* in August and September 1999 and David Arnold who edited and produced *News* in September 2000 so that I could go on holidays with peace of mind.

Last and not least I would like to extend my thanks to all of the MBW members who have sent in walk previews (97.75% on time), photos, recipes, book reviews, good places to partake refreshments, snippets of interest, humorous tales of harrowing hikes and poems on perambulations. Thanks also to David Turner who has supplied me with fascinating tales of his and Norma Carlson's travels in Asia.

I am sure that the next Editor will thoroughly enjoy the position and guide *News* further down the Information Highway in the new Millennium.

Clare Lonergan

Day Walks for February/March 2001

Sunday 18 February
Easy & E/Medium

**St. Georges River –
Cumberland River**

Leaders Brian Crouch & Sylvia Harris
Transport Bus from South Bank Boulevard
at 8.30 am
**Expected time of
return** 7.30pm
Approximate distance 12 & 15 km

NOTE 8.30 START

The easier walk starts at the Cumberland River Car Park, visiting Cumberland Falls and walking through mixed forest along St Georges River to finish at the ocean. There will be plenty of chances for swimming.

The E/Medium walk starts from Sheoak Creek Car Park on the Great Ocean Road walking to Sheoak Falls, Swallow Cave, Henderson Falls, Phantom Falls then following the St Georges River back to the ocean. There will be plenty of time for swimming. Other short side trips may be added, time and weather permitting.

Saturday 24 February

**Dandenong Ranges
National Park**

Leader Warren Baker
Transport Private
Map Reference Melway 75 K4
Approximate distance 14km

Meet at 10:30 am at Grant's Picnic Ground, Melway 75 K4. As it is February, and likely to be hot, I want to keep this walk as shady as possible with the minimum of climbing. If it looks like being over 30 deg C, I would like to start earlier so could I ask you to let me know if you will be coming and give me your phone number.

If there are fires in the Dandenongs the walk will be cancelled.

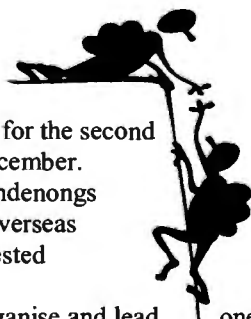
DANDENONG EXPLORER

HELP.....

is required to organise and lead these popular Saturday rambles for the second half of 2001 – being June to December.

Warren Baker (Our new Dandenongs Explorer Coordinator) will be overseas during this period and has requested assistance.

Would anyone willing to organise and lead one or more of these popular walks please contact Warren on



Saturday 3 March
Easy

**Warburton Rail Trail:
Cycling**

Leader Jan Llewelyn
Transport Private
Map Reference Rail Trails of Victoria or
Melways 287-291
Area Upper Yarra Valley
**Expectedtime of
return** 5pm
Approximate distance 30km

We will meet at the car park next to Launching Place Pub at 10.30am

The ride is on flat country – a mixture of open areas, bush areas and some suburban areas. We will probably go to Big Pats Creek for lunch.

Come along for a very pleasant ride on Victoria's premier rail trail.

Sunday 4 March
Easy & E/Medium

Wilkes Creek – Mt Strickland

Leaders Jean Woodger & Andrew
Francis
Transport Bus from South Bank Boulevard
at 8.30AM
Map Reference Juliet Nth & Steavenson
1:25,000 & Outdoor Leisure
Approximate distance 15 & 18km
Area Narbethong/Marysville
**Expectedtime of
return** 7pm

8.30AM START

The easy/medium group has one fairly long steep uphill climb (500m over 4 kms) to reach the top of Mt Strickland. From here there are views across to the Cathedral Range, before we descend to walk beside Wilkes Creek.

The easy group will stay on a lower level, walking some sections of the Bicentennial National Trail. We will cross Wilkes Creek then walk alongside Man o' War Creek, before returning via Neds Track.

The Grand Prix is on Sunday 4 March. Access and parking may be affected, so allow extra time just in case, and don't forget it's an **8.30 start!!**

Sunday 11 March **Cape Woolamai**
Easy & E/Medium **(Phillip Island)**

Leaders Peter McGrath and Sibylle Holdheide
Transport Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am
Approximate distance 15 & 17 km
Area Phillip Island
Map Reference Phillip Island Special, 1:25,000
Expected time of return 7pm

We have a lovely walk planned. Cape Woolamai offers an interesting slice of this popular coastal area. Obviously, the walk will be centred on the beach.

As usual, we have two walks planned. The Easy/Medium group will commence (subject to a further preview) from the San Remo side of the bridge and do an extra two kilometres before joining the same walk as the Easy Group. Total walking will be 17 kms for the day.

The Easy group will commence from the bridge at Newhaven, walk along the beach at Cleeland Bight where excellent swimming can be enjoyed at morning tea (if it is a hot day). Then we will walk along the cliff line at Cape Woolamai enjoying such sites as Woolamai Hill where there used to be a lighthouse and The Pinnacles. This will be followed by a long walk along the Woolamai Surf Beach to the Colonnades where we will board our chauffeur-driven transport and return to Melbourne.

Come along to enjoy a good slice of this popular Melbourne area.

Monday 12 March **Historical Walk**

Leader Nigel Holmes
Transport Private
Phone Nigel on for details of a great walk.

Sunday 18 March **Dom Dom Saddle –**
E/Medium & Medium **Donnelly's Weir**

Leaders David Everitt & Ralph Blake
Transport Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am
Area Near Healesville
Expected time of return 7pm

The owner of Coliban Park has asked us to defer the programmed walk to Coliban Falls until later in the year. There will be a preview for this substitute walk in the March newsletter.

Wednesday 21 March **St George Lake – Creswick**
E/Medium

Leader Trevor Thomson
Transport Private
Approximate distance 14km
Map reference: Creswick 1:25 000

Meet 10:20 am Creswick Landcare Centre (on Daylesford Rd, park outside the nursery).

We start and finish on the 2km La Gerche circuit track, which was opened in 1998. Signposts point to 1890's oak & pine trees planted by this pioneer forester, as trials aimed at restoring land denuded by mining and unregulated cutting. The much larger circuit from here will take in the northern shores of Lake St George, the Koala Park & surrounding Manna Gum forest, Eatons Dam (once used for gold sluicing), Cosgrove Reservoir, and through Jackass Gully, passing the site of the bark hut where W. G. Spence, the early unionist and Federal politician from the start of Federation, was brought up. Further info or to register, call () or email me

Sunday 25 March **Federation Day at**
Easy & Medium **Daylesford**

Leaders Jan Palich & Trish Elmore
Transport Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 8.30am

Hosted by Bayside Bushwalking Club & Great Dividing Trail Association. This year's Federation Day Walk will explore the area around Daylesford, Hepburn and the Wombat and Loddon State Forests.

The venue for the day is Hepburn Recreation Reserve. All Walkers must carry water and lunch. Afternoon tea will be provided at the end of the day. Please see leaders in the club rooms for more information.

Saturday 31 March **Dandenong Ranges**
Easy **National Park**

Leader Warren Baker
Transport Private
Map Reference 65 H 12
Approximate distance 11-12km

Meet at 10:30 am at One Tree Hill. It is a walk through the northern section of Dandenong Ranges National Park. There is only very gentle climbing at the end of the walk. We will have lunch on the track but you will need to bring water. If you need a lift from Upper Ferntree Gully Station give me a call on

Weekend & Extended Walks for January/February 2001

8-10 March The Niggerheads & Bogong Plans

Leader Roger Wyett
Transport Private
Map Reference Bogong Alpine Area, Leisure Series 1:50,000
Area Falls Creek
Expected time of return 8pm
Approximate distance 18.8km with packs
 Further 23.4km without packs

This walk will suit the experienced walker who wants to revisit the spectacular views of the High Plains as well as the novice pack carrier (as long as they have the right equipment) who want to experience the beauty of the area.

Day One will be a 4.5km pack carry from Pretty Valley Pondage to Tarwonga Huts, with two side trips (without packs) to Mt Fainter Sth (12km return) to experience a 360° view of the Bogong area, and a 3.4km return climb up the Niggerhead to view Feathertop at sunset.

Day Two will be a 8.8km pack carry to Ryders Yards near Mt Cope with one of two possible side trips without packs, en route, subject to weather, to Westons Hut (5km return) or Basalt Temple (8km return). However if it is warm we may opt for a swim in the High Plains Creek instead, his & hers swimming holes 200m apart, in a pristine stream, with views across the Alpine Walking Trail.

Day Three will be a 5.5km pack carry back to the Pretty Valley Pondage via some classic alpine plains and allowing plenty of time for lunch at the Mt Beauty bakery (the best in town) and still be back in Melbourne by night fall.

This three day walk can be an introduction to pack carries (18.8km with relaxing afternoons at camp to recover) or a 42km medium walk in the beautiful Bogong Alpine area (subject to weather). This will depend on your level of enthusiasm and energy. All walkers must be well equipped for the worst, but ready to experience the best of the High Plains, as I did in the New Year, if the weather is kind.

9-12 March Pack Carry Stanley Name Spur – Crosscut Saw – King Spur

Leader Jerry Grandage
Transport Private
Map Reference Howitt-Selwyn 1:50,000
Approximate distance 24km

The campsites will be near the top of Stanley Name Spur and Mt. Speculation, the second of which is one of Victoria's more spectacular locations. We will do a side

trip to Mt. Howitt and then follow the Crosscut to Speculation, descending via the King Spur on Monday. The scenery should be superb.

9-12 March Base Camp: Alpine N.P. – Raspberry Hill

Leader David Laing
Transport Private

Please see the leader in the club rooms or phone David on

9-12 March Canoe Trip: Goulburn Rivers

Leader George Zamora
Transport Private

Please see the leader in the club rooms or phone George on

16-18 March Wilkinson Lodge: Alpine N.P. Work Party

Leader Doug Pocock
Transport Private

Map Reference Bogong Alpine Area, Leisure Series 1:50,000

Area N.E. Alps

Expected time of return 8pm

Every year the Melbourne Bushwalkers has a work party weekend for the Bogong National Park. Our efforts are greatly appreciated by the rangers as it enables them to get on with jobs which they have been putting off due to shortage of person power. MBW can look with pride at many projects we have been involved in.

This work party will be removing pine trees from Sun Valley – hard work but rewarding.

We will be staying at Wilkinson Lodge – a good introduction for anyone who has not stayed there. A communal meal will be organised for Saturday night.

23-25 March Base Camp: Mt Franklin E/Medium

Leader Rod Novak
Transport Private

Map Reference VicMap 1:25,000 Guildford and the GDTA Dry Diggings Train

Area Near Daylesford'

Approx distance 25kms

This weekend trip coincides with the Federation day walk at Hepburn Springs. Mt Franklin is a small State Park based on an old volcano crater with a pine plantation! Toilets and picnic tables are available but you need to bring your own drinking water. On Saturday we will walk the Dry Diggings Track from Vaughan Springs to Mt Franklin. On Sunday we will join the Federation Day Walk at Hepburn Springs which offers a variety of walks, mingling with other walking clubs' members and afternoon tea. Bring your base camp furniture and an entrée to share with the group for Saturday night. See the leader at Clubnight for an Information Sheet.

30 – 1 April Base Camp: The Prom in a
Hard Day Circuit

Leader Pearson Cresswell

Transport Private

Distance 43km

Tidal River – Sealers – Refuge – Waterloo – Oberon Bay – Tidal River. All in one day. With a down start the trip usually takes about 11 hours. It's a long way, but you get to see the classic Prom Circuit without carrying a big pack, with a swim at every beach included.

Strictly for the fit and (reasonably) fast. That's Saturday. Sunday is spent recovering, swimming or doing another walk.

Walk Statistics for December 2000

December 2000	Trips	Parts	Av	Dec 99
Sunday Bus	3	82	27.3	29.3
Other day - Wed	1	16	16	12
Cycling	1	9	9	-
Pack Carry	3	24	8	8
Base Camp	3	21	7	12.5
Lodge	1	8	8	-
Cancelled	2	-	-	4
Total	14	160		141

Treasurer:	
Accounts for December 2000	
Opening Balance	49,293.13
Receipts	1,998.08
Payments	5,273.68
Closing Balance	46,017.53

Kiewa View at Mt Beauty

Three bedroom holiday house
for rent

Comfortable accommodation for up to 10 persons from 2 to 3 nights or 8 persons for longer periods.

MBW members are entitled to a 25% discount on the advertised price provided the booking is made and paid for over the internet.

Check out the website at www.kiewaview.com or email David Walsh at david@kiewaview.com for more information

Phone 9337 7700

25%
Discount for
Internet
bookings



**FLY TO SYDNEY & BE ON
THE TRACK THE SAME DAY**

FAST TRAINS LEAVE MASCOT AIRPORT EVERY 30 MINUTES FOR CAMPBELLTOWN RAILWAY STATION BUS TERMINAL.

THE NSW WILDERNESS BUS

Destinations

IN THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

**KATOOMBA. JENOLAN CAVES. KANANGRA WALLS
YERRANDERIE GHOST TOWN**

IN THE BUDAWANG MOUNTAINS

BUNGONIA CAVES. WOG WOG. NERRIGA

Departs from Sydney's Campbelltown Railway Station

Blue Mts Mon & Wed at 11am Frid at 7am

Budawangs Tues & Thurs & Sun at 11am

Yerranderie Ghost Town first Saturday in each month (or any Friday minimum of 6 passengers)

Group booking discounts and charter service

Tel 0246 832 344 Mob 0428 832 344

www.wildernesstransit.com.au





Dear Everyone,

This letter was supposed to be published in the December newsletter to wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year. Anyway, I hope the festive season was all it should be, and you've made New Year's resolutions to keep the 'do lots more walking'.

Mid Poland is not conducive to walking. It's flat and these endless grey winter days are great for hibernating with a great book. Finding a walking group initially was interesting. The Bushies equivalent is called a tourist club. A WHAT? I mistakenly thought another more well-known one was what I wanted, but they turned out to be the Alps/Himalayas ice-axes and crampons expeditions only brigade. Ah, language difficulties!! However, Klub Karpaty – it has a certain cachet wouldn't you say? – suits me fine. I can never make their mid week club night as we teach in the afternoons and evenings, so goodness knows how they work. So far Sunday walks happen every two to four weeks. Public transport is excellent so we catch a bus or train to point A and return from point B, all for peanuts. Farmers don't mind you walking between the strip fields – no hedges or fences in this neck of the woods, so access is a piece of cake. My first walk with them was in a glaciated lakes area with "sand mountains" and several castle sites, the earthworks thereof, the wooden structures having long since gone. The second one started at Teutonic Knights Castle, crumbling, but their chapel was very much intact. Would we like to join the locals for Mass before we start? Right.....

Today's walk I missed because it snowed yesterday and I couldn't face the slush and anyway the boss had invited the staff to a proper Polish Christmas Dinner at his place and I could NOT be late. But next yearwe have a fortnight's holiday in February which is known as the Winter Break. Time to head south for the real mountains, the Tatras in this case, and snow. Then comes Easter, so off to the lake area in eastern Poland. Yet another holiday in April/May is for the SE tip of Poland which is mountainous, remote, unpolluted, fairly unpopulated and with excellent walking trails. April 27 to May 6th - via Krakow for 10 days. Six of these will be walking, mostly on ridges. Looks fantastic in the pictures. Huts en route to stay in AND they feed you, so light packs. Come and join me. SERIOUSLY!!

While in England over the late spring and summer I did some walking in the SW: Dartmoor, Exmoor, the south coast of Devon and the north coast of Cornwall – out from Tintagel. The flowers were a treat, found orchids too! I wish I'd done more but locating groups was tricky. The National Parks themselves are a good source, and I was working then too, sometimes on weekends.

Where I'm down on the walking stakes I'm up on things cultural. In England I had a National Trust card and

trashed it. And here we've been to the biggest brick castle in the world, 13th century, fantastic museums, ancient buildings (Torun has heaps of them), churches with immensely high gothic ceilings, concerts, and even been pubbing and clubbing. So life's different, but good.

Miss you all and the camaraderie that is the Bushies.

Sylvia Ford
C/- International House
W. Legionow 14,
87-100 Torun, Poland.

Wilkinson Lodge Winter Bookings 2001

Bookings will open on Wednesday 7th March and will follow the system used in previous years.

1. An experienced member shall nominate to be leader of a chosen week. Preference will be given to a leader who will put together a full group, especially favoured will be groups with lots of "brownie points" gained through work parties, committee work, etc. It is the leader's responsibility to collect fees up front – NO PAYMENT, NO BOOKING. Leaders are also responsible for organising the food for the party so should consider collecting the food kitty at the same time. Any group should have at least two experienced Wilky users.
2. For the first two weeks only Club members can book, bearing in mind that at least three weeks are put aside for outside groups. If you want to book please talk to the leader first.
3. After those two weeks then members' families and friends can fill vacancies up to a full week of eight.
4. The weeks run Saturday to Saturday and groups are expected to book for the entire week. If groups are not filled, the Manager may offer places to any interested parties.
5. Winter fees will be \$35 for members and \$70 for non-members. Note that children under 16 take their parents status, over 16 they are classed as visitors. Refunds will only be made in exceptional circumstances.
6. 7th March is not far off so start thinking now about whether you want to go into Wilky this winter and who you would like to ski with. If you have not been into Wilky before then talk to me and I may be able to suggest a group for you.

Doug Pocock

Remote Kimberley Bushwalking Expeditions

The Kimberley

Rugged mountains, spectacular waterfalls, deep gorges, mighty rivers, cliff-lined coasts, a wealth of Aboriginal rock-art sites – and more.

The Mitchell Plateau. Walk through open woodland, broad river valleys and deep gorges. Savour spectacular waterfall views. Relax in cool rock shelters as you view the ancient paintings.

Drysdale River National Park. Follow the largest river in the north Kimberley. Enjoy magnificent hilltop views. Explore rugged rock formations in search of Aboriginal art. Swim in clear, tropical pools.

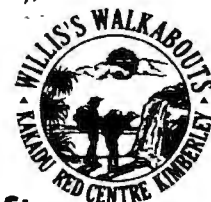
The Kimberley Coast. Join our longest bushwalking expedition: a five to six week exploration of the area between the Berkeley and King Edward Rivers.

... has it ALL!

King Leopold Ranges and the Isdell River.

Wander through a world of gorges. One day you're in forest, the next on bare rock. Swim through one gorge, carry water in another. Every day brings something new.

Helicopter, seaplane, light aircraft, boat and 4WD – after 15 years leading walks in the Kimberley, we not only know the best walks, we know the best ways to get to each of them. Let us handle the hassle and give you a bushwalking experience to remember.



**Willis's Walkabouts 12 Carrington St
Millner NT 0810 Email walkabout@ais.net.au**

www.bushwalkingholidays.com.au

Phone (08) 8985 2134

Fax (08) 8985 2355

Wilkinson Lodge Report 2000

One of the first motions I proposed upon being re-elected Lodge Manager was to reduce Wilkinson fees back to the level at which they were two years previous. I failed to see the need for the higher fees as the club easily covered running costs and was still able to build up a reserve to cover emergencies. As can be seen from the financial report this has been the case this year.

Usage of the Lodge was approximately 830 person nights with about half being visitors. Visitors included members, friends and families and also other outside club groups. Winter usage was 12 weeks, the snow lasted late in the season and more use could have been made of the conditions.

Work parties carried out maintenance and re-stacking supplies. Maroondah Bushwalkers performed their usual sterling job in carting, cutting and stacking the wood. Bogong National Park work party assisted in erosion control on the track to Ropers Hut. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

As usual I would like to see more summer use of this wonderful facility. Perhaps some experienced Wilky users might like to program some Lodge trips, either weekend or longer.

Doug Pocock

NEW MEMBERS

Helen F Montgomery

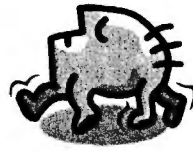
ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE

Jenny Gricermb

Nicole Sinclair

Renee Thomas

Bushies' Burlblings



Snowy Mountains Xmas Trip: Munyang power station to Perisher

23 December 2000– 2 Jan 2001

Leader: Ralph Blake

The starting date for this trip was a deterrent to many Xmas traditionalists. So whilst the great majority were preparing for the usual Xmas festivities, a select few decided to forego the routine and bring in the new millennium away from all such fuss. Which is not to say that Ralph, Bill, Marilyn and Celesta did not celebrate Xmas with due pomp and comfort at the Schlink Hilton. Contrary to the advertised plan, strong winds on Xmas eve called for a quick change in the itinerary and it was decided that staying off the main range was a good idea. So, with hopeful hearts that the weather would not be too unkind to us over the next 10 days and heavy packs we set off on a 4WD track after a quick car shuffle. The Schlink Hilton provided a very comfortable abode the first night with even the luxury of a potbelly stove to cook on and soft mattresses covered in plastic sheeting. Plus we had the entire place to ourselves. Though the skies were leaden and the wind penetrating that first afternoon we were granted our Xmas wish of fine weather throughout the remainder of the trip. We even got a little bonus—it's a wonderful thing to pack a dry tent. Thank you, Santa!

The next day saw us heading up towards Gungarten and the Brassy's, taking in views across the main range from on top of a very blowy Gungarten, bypassing the Kerries and Tin Hut. There was the obligatory 5 secs toboggan down our first snow drift at the base of Gungarten. It was slow going across uneven snow grasses and ankle to knee high alpine scrub and especially so with 10 day packs so we didn't make it quite as far as planned. Though the wind hadn't abated, it was glorious sunshine with clear views in all directions. Not a bad place to be on Xmas day! Long breaks and short days were the order of the trip, but the cool weather prevented us from being too sociable till after dinner whence we fell into the pattern of visiting Bill and Marilyn in their rather accommodating tent.

Day 3 and we were getting ever closer to the impressive face of Jagungal. As we bypassed Mailbox hill and onto Bulls Peaks we revisited Ralph's favourite snow gum where a photo was taken to add to the one he already has on the wall. Camp that night was on a carefully chosen spot on a hill overlooking the meandering headwaters of the Geehi River. Much circumnavigation of that hill was undertaken to ensure the absolute best position for the next two nights. Cool, a base camp and a wash!

It had been rather chilly overnight as attested by the frost on the tents the next morning and the wind still hadn't

stopped. We were beginning to wonder what a wonderful thing it would be if we could hear the silence and walk without being blown over. Well at least we didn't have to walk with packs on that day as we headed to Jagungal. Following the Geehi, we ascended the right hand side of Jagungal, admiring the views across to the main range. After 3 days without seeing a soul, we were a little put out by first seeing another couple and then of all things, a family with a baby coming up the summit. It was Boxing Day and the isolation was about to end with a rude shock the closer we got to the main range.

At Valentine's hut the next day there were fewer inhabitants than predicted but the steady stream of people headed in that direction would have made for a cosy spot later that night. There was a short detour to the bottom of the falls where a cool dip was irresistible to some before the long slog back up. The aim of the day was Schlink Pass and full circle. Entertainment that evening was afforded by a large group of Uni students (16) coming off the pass from the direction of Gungarten rather late. We watched bemused as they streamed down the slope in great numbers, and were amused at the bed rolls and gear extrapolating off at various angles on their packs. Oh, the wind had stopped finally and we could hear ourselves think again.

Day 6 and it was over Schlink Pass onto Dicky Cooper Bogong, past the Rolling Ground, onto Consett Stephen Pass, bagging Mt Tate before coming to rest just metres off the track at Mt Anderson, all the while saying 'Hello' to other walkers and staying ahead of our worse-for-wear but cheerful sixteen of the night before. Bill and Marilyn had iced coffees courtesy of a snow-drift at lunch. The weather was warming up.

The following day was a bit daunting with the prospect of hundreds of day visitors coming in through Charlottes Pass and up the chairlift at Thredbo. The day was a bit of a stinker with an early morning warm-up up Mt Tynam, side trip out to Watsons Crags and Carruthers Peak with hazy views across to Mt Bogong; all along with several hundred others before an early camp at the headwaters of the Snowy River. This was once again in full sight of track, overlooking Etheridge ridge and Rawson Pass. People-spotting had become a new hobby aside from swotting and devising ways to kill march flies, which were relentless.

The next day saw an early start without packs to Mt Townsend via Muellers Peak. We saw several tents dotted in the valley along Wilkinson's Creek and around the base of Mt Townsend. On the way back, we made full use of the stairs shovelled into a snow-drift on the main summit track by a cheery ranger who was just putting in the finishing touches. We lay low in the tents till some of the heat of the day had dissipated before packing up and making the

obligatory side trip to Mt Kosciuszko. Ralph was rather sunburnt by now and was taking drastic measures to avoid further exposure, wearing rain pants and thermals, which must have been stifling. It was decided to take the lazy route across to the Ramshead, ie along the Tin track, rather than carry packs over the top of Kosci and down the other side. Camp was at a pleasant little spot near the Tin track with water next door, beneath the North Ramshead. It appears the chairlift runs till 6 pm and starts promptly again at 6 am. It was very nice once the rabble had stopped coming past. The official Melbourne Bushies New Year was declared at 10 pm and was celebrated without alcohol or shenanigans in Bill and Marilyn's tent. Everyone was safe in bed by 10:30 pm.

The easy-going tone of the trip changed the last day as a group decision was made to finish the trip a little early. Bill and Marilyn had run out of shellite; Ralph was burnt to a crisp and on the last day devised a cowl from his silk inner sheet that made him look a little like the evil emperor from Star Wars; and I had told everyone at home I was going to be back Monday not Tuesday. For all these reasons we walked out. It was our longest day, 16 km, most of it across snowgrass and through alpine scrub; and it was very hot and the march flies very, very annoying! We took the off-the-beaten track route along the valley through the Ramshead range, looking out to the Pilot and coming out near Porcupine rocks at Perisher.

After a long cold drink at the 'Man', and a return to Ralph's car we made it to Khancoban and the caravan park for a pub tea and long overdue hot shower. And so it ended.

Thanks Bill and Marilyn for the company and conversations in the tent each night and Ralph for a wonderful trip and for organising the weather just right!

Celesta Fong

Australian Alps Walking Track (Mt Skene to Walhalla)

Between Christmas and New Year Rod Novak initiated a club endeavour at completing the Australian Alps Walking Track from Walhalla to Canberra. This time the first leg was undertaken between Mt Skene and Walhalla and as a group it was successfully completed, but not without many comings and goings. While 3 members started the walk, the final tally was 9 walkers. Amongst those joining the group were the likes of Gina who believe me *has* made a recovery from her recent op (what op?), and Jean who's ticker was in fine shape to walk into Walhalla alongside us all (can't hold those 2 back!).

As we finished at the beginning of the Track (Walhalla), our start was some 100km in, making camp on the first night at the Black River, then going through to the Jordan

& Thompson Rivers. We found pristine walk-in river sites to bed down beside; sometimes making fires on the rocky beach, within ear of the running water, & visited by bird life delights. We had passed through the old gold digging settlements near Red and Blue Jacket, & up the too steep trails, ascending into the different terrain of the Baw Baw Plateau with snow gum forest and monster rock displays. At times we walked through a carpet bed of magnificent alpine flowers. Here we were not alone having met 19 others out on the track on the last day. New Year we spent on the East Tyers River and with lots of 'spoils' befitting the occasion made readily available in the waiting cars. (Group: Tracey, Fiona, Trish, Alan, Max, Jean, Rod, Di, Gina & Derek)

As a club we completed 110 kilometres in the 6 days requiring 6 Vicmaps to cover our route, lots of repellent for the river mossies, our very warmest thermals for the high country cold nights, then lots of sunscreen for hot days on the Baw Baw plateau (whilst snow was underfoot!). Now for the remaining kilometres through to Canberra! Keep posted for announcement of the next leg and think about the fun to be had joining the entourage representing the club in this epic endeavour.

Dianne McKinley

Duty Roster

14 February	Alan and Brian
21 February	Amanda and Anne
28 February	Rod and Peter
7 March	Debbie and Jan

**Date of next committee meeting:
Monday 5th March 2001 at 7PM**

MBW MEMBERSHIP STATS AS AT 31 JAN 2001	
Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single memberships	327
Family memberships	102 (= 2x 51)
Total membership	449
This time last year:	492

Walks Secretary's Report for 2000

Table 1 - Yearly attendance totals for the five years 1996-2000

Year	Total	Day	W'end Total	Pack Carry	Memb	Vis	Trips
2000	2,552	2,047	505	189	2,098	454	134
1999	2,734	2,230	499	213	2,208	526	139
1998	2,916	2,411	505	201	2,368	548	138
1997	3,019	2,488	531	234	2,403	616	135
1996	2,937	2,443	594	335	2,337	600	148

Table 2 - January to December 2000 Statistics

Activity	2000 - Number of trips - 1999		2000 - Average Attendance - 1999	
Sunday Bus	49	51	34.2	36.6
Wednesday	12	12	12.8	11.6
Dandenong Exp	7	10	11.7	14.3
Historical	4	2	6.8	4.5
Saturday (Med)	1	7	8	7
Cycle	3	-	10.6	-
Pack Carry	25	27	7.6	7.9
Base Camp	17	17	10.9	10.2
Canoe	1	2	10	18
Li-Lo	2	2	7.5	8.5
Lodge	5	6	10.4	10.7
Ski - Day	1	-	18	-
Ski - W/E	1	2	3	9
Ski - Lodge	2	1	15.5	10
Training Day	3	2	12.3	9
Track Maint.	1	1	15	6
Cancelled	24	20	-	-

1. Thank you to the Committee and all our leaders for their time and energy in organising great trips & activities for the club.
2. The "numbers" are down this year, represented by the continued decline in Sunday Bus attendances and evident in most other club activities eg ski trips, Dandenong Explorers, Beginners pack carries etc. We also had an increase in Cancelled trips [24] mainly due to lack of numbers (of surprise is the bumper ski season and still 7 weekend ski trips were cancelled!). Wednesday Walks maintain their popularity, as do most Base Camps. Pack Carries appear to be just holding but are worthy of more attention by club members. Thank you to Alan Miller (retiring Assistant Walks Secretary), the hard working members of the Walks Sub-Committee (who plan the 4 walks programs), Michael Humphrey (retiring Dandenongs Explorer Co-ordinator), Max Casley (Wednesday Walks Co-ordinator), our Club Contacts, all leaders, assistant leaders & whips, club members and visitors for making our trips very successful, enjoyable and fun.

Rod Novak

Form of Nomination of Officers and Members of the Committee of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.

Nomination: Enter President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Walks Secretary, Assistant Walks Secretary, Social Secretary, "News" Editor, Wilkinson Lodge Manager, General Committee, as appropriate and return form to The Secretary, GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne 3001

Name of Nominee

Proposed by

Seconded by

Acceptance of Nomination: I,.....agree to stand for this position

Signature of Nominee..... Date

FEBRUARY 2001

Wed 21	<i>Wednesday Walkers: Sugarloaf Reservoir</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>E/M</i>	<i>Alister Rowe</i>	
23-25	<i>Pack Carry: Helicopter Spur – Mt Howitt</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Jerry Grandage</i>	
Sat 24	<i>Dandenongs Explorer</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Easy</i>	<i>Warren Baker</i>	
Sun 25	BELLBIRD CREEK – TARAGO RIVER	BUS	E/M & M	John Kittson & Jean Woodger	#
Sat 3	<i>Cycle Trip: Warburton Rail Trail</i>	<i>Public</i>	<i>E/M</i>	<i>Jan Llewelyn</i>	*

MARCH 2001

Sun 4	Wilkes Creek – Mt Strickland	BUS	E & E/M	Jean Woodger & Andrew Francis	#
	8.30AM START				

Labour Day Long Weekend (3 days)

9-12	<i>Pack Carry: High Plains - Mt Fainter</i>	Private	<i>E/M</i>	<i>Roger Wyatt</i>	
9-12	<i>Pack Carry: Stanley Name Spur – Crosscut Saw - King Spur</i>	Private	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Jerry Grandage</i>	
9-12	<i>Base Camp: Alpine N.P. - Raspberry Hill</i>	Private	<i>E/M</i>	<i>David Laing</i>	
9-12	<i>Canoe Trip: Goulburn River</i>	Private	<i>Easy</i>	<i>George Zamora</i>	*
Sun 11	Cape Woolamai (Phillip Island)	BUS	E & E/M	Peter McGrath & Sibylle Holdheide	#
Mon 12	<i>Historical Walk: Refer to The NEWS</i>	<i>Public</i>	<i>Easy</i>	<i>Nigel Holmes</i>	

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers
 Print Post Approved. PP No 338888/00016
 If undelivered please return to:
Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne 3001

**SURFACE
MAIL**

**POSTAGE
PAID**

Alteration to Particulars

Name (new)..... Name (old).....
 Address

 Phone h) w) h)..... w)
 Email

Subscription Fees: **Ordinary** – single membership \$35.00 **Concession** – single membership \$24.00 (proof required)
Family/Couple -membership \$50.00 **Concession** – couple \$28.00 (proof required)
New members joining on/after 1 October \$21.00 less visitor fees.

**Make cheques or money orders payable to ‘Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.’ and post to:
 Membership Secretary, GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, 3001**