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JANUARY, 2001

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**The President and
Committee would
like to wish all
Members a Happy
and Healthy New
Year.**

The Autumn program is enclosed with this issue of News. Some great walks have been included on this program. Please help your club to stay strong by participating in and contributing to the walks.

MOVIE NIGHT
23rd January
To see the movie
'INNOCENCE'

For more information on a fun night out at the movies see Fiona or Maureen in the club rooms.

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING
OF THE
MELBOURNE
BUSHWALKERS INC.**
**WILL BE HELD ON
28TH FEBRUARY 2001
VENUE TO BE ADVISED**

JOAN HAIGH

Nurse
3.1.1932 – 19.11.2000
Joan Haigh completed her sixth Great Victorian Bike Ride at 67, travelled the world and nursed and cared for people for more than 35 years.
Joan grew up in Chadstone Road opposite lush green cow paddocks – where Chadstone Shopping Centre now stands – with sisters Betty, Muriel and Anne. All four girls went to Guides and Joan continued her association with them, becoming a leader and taking disabled Guides on camps.

After completing her leaving certificate at Presbyterian Ladies' College and gaining nursing qualifications at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Joan sailed to England for a working holiday in 1954. She stayed in the UK for a number of years, returning to Melbourne just in time to attend the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. Joan also visited the Himalaya region, Egypt, Iceland, most of Europe and camped around Australia.

During her career she nursed at Royal Melbourne, Preston & Northcote Community Hospital and Peter MacCallum. Retiring in 1989, Joan moved to Somers where she continued to enjoy an active life.

She died from a complication of motor neurone disease, an illness she faced with great determination as it slowly disabled her.

Forthright and independent, Joan leaves behind many friends, her three sisters and her nieces and nephews.
The Age Obituaries. Monday 11 December, 2000.

PETER CROHN

On behalf of myself and my family I would like to extend my thanks to Peter's friends in the Melbourne Bushies for their support in our recent sudden loss.

I know Peter enjoyed his time with you, and I appreciated your expressions of sympathy. Bushwalking is a caring brotherhood.

Thank you
Val Crohn

NEILS PRIESTLEY

27.9.33 – 8.12.00
Neils joined the Melbourne Bushwalkers more than 25 years ago in the early seventies. An enthusiastic and very strong walker, he organised several club trips to Tasmania and New Zealand. For many years he was a walking companion of Tyrone Thomas, and explored with him many of the walks which are now written up in Tyrone's books.

Neils' special loves were the Snowy Moutnains and the Grampians. In 1998 on one of Sylvia Ford's camping trips, he led a group of us across the Major Mitchell Plateau.

He was a regular on Athol Schafer's Australia Day Walks, traditionally along the coast from Frankston to Mt Martha. It was almost always hot, and Neils swam at every opportunity.

On Sunday bus trips, his knowledge and experience of walking made him a popular choice for 'Whip' and there was seldom a Sunday he was not asked to fill this position. He always gracefully accepted. It meant he could walk at the back of the group and quietly absorb the nature of his surroundings.

Neils died suddenly on the 8th December as a result of a fall. He will be sadly missed.

Jean Woodger

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

- ◆ **By emailing to:**
- ◆ Placing disk (or hand written material) in the "Red Box" in the clubrooms
- ◆ By posting disk (or hand written material) to:

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

WALKS SECRETARY REPORT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is the Club Contact System?

A. All walkers (both members and visitors) need to follow the Club Contact System. The current Club policy is explained on the back of each Walks Program.

CONTACTS

Before setting out, walkers should advise those at home of the destination of the trip, method of travel and expected time of return and leave with them the phone number of the Club 'Contacts'. Any delay or emergency will be notified to one of 'Contacts', in the order shown:

Graham and Sue Errey
Geoff and Jenny Kenafacke
Jim and Libby Marsden

On behalf of the Committee and all Bushies I would like to say THANK YOU to our Club Contacts for their many years of excellent service to the Club.

A reminder for weekend trip leaders. A review of the Club Contact System has resulted in the following improvement. For weekend trips, and other day activities (ie non-Sunday Bus), the leader needs to place a copy of the trip route into the TRIP INTENTIONS FOLDER – located in the Clubroom. For the Sunday Bus, the leader needs to leave a copy of the routes (on a map) with the Booking List with the driver. This documentation is necessary in case of delay or an accident and will greatly assist Search and Rescue (if necessary).

Leaders – you must ring the Club Contact at the end of your club trip to report the safe return of your trip.

Rod Novak
Walks Secretary

CHANGES TO SUMMER WALKS PROGRAM

Historical Walk on Friday 26th January. New Leader is Nigel Holmes. Telephone
Sunday Bus on Sunday 28th January - Lerderderg Gorge. Lynda Larkin will co-lead with Jill Dawson.
Cycle Trip on Saturday 10th February. New Leader is Barry Smith. Telephone
Pack Carry trip on the 23-25 February to Helicopter Spur and Mt Howitt. New Leader is Trish Elmore. Telephone

Day Walks for January/February 2001

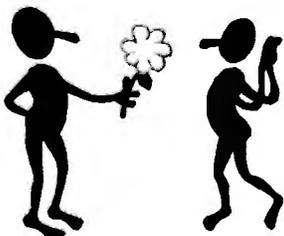
Sunday 28 January E/Medium & Medium	Lerderderg – O'Brien's Crossing
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Leaders	Jill Dawson & Lynda Larkin
Transport	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am
Expected time of return	7pm
Approximate distance	13km and 18km

(First preview 6 November, 2000)

O'Brien's Crossing will be both the starting and finishing point for this popular walk. The E/Med group will set out initially to the north west on a 5km circuit to The Tunnel via the Byers Back Track before returning to the Crossing.

Both groups will head along Short Cut Track, (which is a section guaranteed to kick-start the cardio-vascular system) before heading south for a leisurely stroll along scenic Cowan's Track. Lunch will be had perched high above Lerderderg Gorge (on the rocks, of course) where the view is sure to please. The homeward bound trek along East Track will probably require some innovative "track bashing", as the river had left a legacy of debris in places after October's deluge. Hence, caution will be needed while taking in the sights and sounds of the river. NOTE: Another preview is to be conducted during December or January.



MY PROFOUND
APOLOGIES TO JILL
DAWSON – SHE SENT IN
HER PREVIEW ON TIME
AND I LOST IT!!
THEREFORE IT IS
PUBLISHED THIS MONTH.

Sunday 4 February Easy & E/Medium	Barwon Heads – Point Lonsdale – Queenscliff
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Leaders	Rod Novak & Tracey Jamieson
Transport	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am
Approximate distance	14km & 16km
Area	Sea Change Country
Map Reference	Melways: 233-236, 1:25 000 Ocean Grove & Queenscliffe
Expected time of return	7pm

Come along for a great beach walk in "Sea Change" country. We will be on the lookout for Bucket (often mentioned but never sighted in the Sea Change series) as we walk from Barwon Heads to the historic town of Queenscliff. Features of this trip include Buckley's Cave (of the Buckley's or none fame) and historic lighthouses at Point Lonsdale (built in 1902) and Queenscliff's White Lighthouse and Black Lighthouse (both built in 1862) to guide ships into Port Philip safely through "the Rip". Bring a wide brim sun hat, sun cream, sunglasses, long sleeved shirt and your bathers for a quick dip at lunch time. For more information, see the Leaders on Booking at Clubnight.

Saturday 10 February Easy	Cycling – Dights Falls – Wsterfolds Park
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Leader	Barry Smith
Transport	Bicycle
Approximate distance	45km

The route follows the Main Yarra Trail from Dights falls in Abbotsford to Westerfolds Park (Templestowe) and back to Dights falls. It is mostly easy going on the flat mainly paved pathway but with a few ups and downs, which are manageable in low gear or of course, walkable if necessary. The round trip is about 45 kms and, if necessary, any Eastern suburbs dwellers can peel off for home on the return leg. We start amongst Melbourne's early industrial heritage of former woollen mills (converting rapidly to office and apartment use). Enjoying both tranquil river scenes, to the chime of bell-bird calls, and vistas reaching back to the city skyline. We skim through several Yarra Valley parks, including the sites which inspired the paintings of Streeton, Buvelot and Withers, until we reach the Koori art gallery and cafe in Westerfolds Park, for well earned refreshment. Then we return by the same route. Snacks and refreshments are available both outbound and incoming at the Fairfield Boat House and at the Westerfolds Park cafe but it may be advisable to bring your own lunch in case you do not like what is on offer and of course you should bring along a good supply of drinking water (especially if the weather is hot). We will start at 9:00 a.m. from the Dights falls car

park in Trenerry Crescent, Abbotsford (Melway -2D/A7) Please note parking is restricted in the car park, even on Saturdays, so it is advisable to leave your vehicles in Trenerry Crescent on the "river" side of the street which appears to be unrestricted and offers tree shade. For train travellers Victoria Park and Collingwood stations are near the start and especially keen cyclists can always cycle from Flinders Street Station along the Yarra to Dights falls. If you are interested in this ride or have any questions about it, please call me on _____ by Wednesday 7th. I look forward to hearing from you and to your joining me on the trip.

Sunday 11th February Easy & E/Medium	Loddon Falls – Vaughan Springs
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Leaders	David Arnold & Andrew Francis
Transport	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am
Map Reference	Guildford, Daylesford 1: 25 000
Area	West of Malmsbury
Approximate distance	12km an 17km
Expected time of return	7pm

A typical goldfields area near Castlemaine and Malmsbury. The walks are in the Upper Loddon State Forest for the most part, sometimes on track, sometimes off, but with very little scrub. May be an opportunity for a swim at Vaughan Springs so be prepared!

Wednesday 21 February E/Medium	Sugarloaf Reservoir
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Leader	Alister Rowe
Transport	Private
Map Reference	Melway 273 D7
Area	Christmas Hills
Approximate distance	18km
Expected time of return	5pm

Meet at the Saddle Dam Picnic Area at 10am, which is the most distant point you can drive to.

While not challenging as a walk, on a fine cloudy day it is one of the most beautiful walks close to Melbourne. We will walk clockwise around the reservoir. Getting the boring part over first!
Ring me on _____ with questions.

Saturday 24	Dandenongs Explorer
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Leader	Warren Baker
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Please see leader in clubrooms or phone him on _____ for information re this walk.

Sunday 28th January	St. Georges River – Cumberland River
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Leaders	David Laing & Brian Crouch
Transport	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 8.30AM

To date I have not received a preview for this lovely walk which is along trails amongst tree ferns close to the water's edge. The Cumberland River flows into the ocean west of Lorne.

Sunday 25th February	Bellbird Creek – Tarago River
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Leaders	John Kittson & Jean Woodger
Transport	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9am
Map Reference	Neerim & Tarago maps Scale 1: 25 000
Area	North of Warragul
Approximate distance	150 km from Melbourne
Expected time of return	7pm

Our walk for the day is through the mountain forest of the Tarago Reservoir catchment area just north of Neerim South (which, by the way, is great dairy farming country). So we have contrasting areas side by side and the valley can be seen from several viewpoints along the forest tracks during our walk.

If time permits there is a great cheese factory that we could visit and maybe buy some locally made cheeses, so here's hoping

The bus will be travelling out from Melbourne along the S.E. Freeway and joining up with the Princes Freeway near Hallam (maybe a good pick up point).

Regarding the weather, it could do anything in late February so bring plenty of drinking water and have your coat and broly handy, plus that change of shoes for the bus in the locker underneath.

P.S. Put a smile on the committee's face and fill up the bus by coming along and filling the seats. It will guarantee to maintain our Sunday bus for the future.

Weekend & Extended Walks for January/February 2001

25 – 28 January	Tarli Karng
E/Medium	

Leader	David Durad
Transport	Private
Approx. Distance	36 Kms + Optional day Walk to Mt Wellington or Spion Kopje or fishing in the lake!
Area	Alpine National Park Wonnangatta-Moroka, Wellington River
Expected time of return	Sunday evening

Hidden deep in the mountains at the head of the Wellington River, Lake Tali Karng has the unique distinction of being the only natural lake in the Victorian Alps. Water seeps through a natural rock barrier formed aeons ago by a massive landslide to become the infant Wellington River in the Valley of Destruction. First day: 18kms. We will take the scenic traditional route to the lake which follows the (shallow) Wellington River, and is popular on a hot summers day with sixteen river crossings to keep cool. Second day: Eat and sleep, rest, fish or optional walk. Last day: 18km return via Echo point and Wellington River.
email:

2 –4 February	Track Maintenance
Easy	

Leader	Anne Wilkins
Transport	Private
Map Reference	Tamboritha-Moroka Area: 1: 50 000
Area	Gippsland
Expected time of return	Sunday evening

For a very pleasant change, a weekend has been planned with much help and enthusiasm from the Ben Cruachan Walking Club which is based in Maffra, Gippsland. The plan is to drive up on the Friday night and camp beside a lovely creek between Tamboritha Saddle and Arbuckle Junction which will be our base. Thoughts are to do some work on McMillan Track on Saturday and a walk on Sunday, perhaps around Little Taboritha/Mt Reynard. This is a low skill [tools available], high enjoyment weekend, and a rare opportunity to meet and spend some time with members from another Bushwalking Club who have a great knowledge and love of an area. Depending on peoples' work schedules there may be an opportunity to come up a day earlier and do another walk. So consider this a fun summer weekend to do something a bit different, putting something back into an area that the Bushies often enjoy walking in. Please contact me in advance as I may be staying down in Gippsland after the long weekend the weekend before, or try Mobile [the reception may not be good though].

9-11 February Pack Carry – Bogong High Plans – The Lanes

Leader Marilyn Whimpey
Transport Private
Map reference Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Leisure Map
Distance 20 km

The main purpose of this walk is to camp in The Lanes, a large, beautiful area of snow grass shaded by snow gums. It's down past Kelly's Hut, if you know that area. It's only about half a day's walk with packs to get there. In good weather we can go over the tops, with fabulous views and carpets of flowers. In bad weather we can get there along the aquaduct, where it's sheltered from the wind.

The walk is suitable for beginners, bird watchers, flower gazers, photographers, artists, layabouts—just about anybody who doesn't want a hard, challenging walk. If you're a beginner I'll want to talk to you about equipment. This is an alpine area where you can get rain, hail, snow, sleet and sunburn all on the one weekend, so you'll need to be prepared.

16 –18 February Lodge: Mt. Hotham – Alpine Day Walks
E/Medium

Leader Dianne McKinley
Transport Private
Map reference VicMap 1:25 000 Feathertop Map 74
Area: Hotham

We will stay at the RCH Ski Lodge at Mt. Hotham Friday and Saturday night. Two day walks are planned for Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday we will head towards Feathertop along the Razorback.

Sunday we will head past Mt. Loch and head along the Alpine Walking track visiting the Charles Derrick Hut and down to the Cobungra River.

Other interesting alternatives for walking are also possible.

The lodge is comfy, so come along and enjoy some excellent summer alpine walking with spectacular views

16 – 18 February Mitchell River Lilo
Medium

Leader Bill Metzenthien
Transport Private
Map reference 1:50K Cobbannah – Tabberabbera
Distance About 21 km
Limit 10

Lilo-ing is the gentle art of floating down a river on an inflatable mattress (known as a lilo).

The Mitchell River is in Gippsland and is accessed from the Dargo Road.

Our section of the river (Angusvale to Woolshed Creek) is a mixture of slowly flowing sections and interesting rapids up to grade 3-4 standard. These include the spectacular Slalom and Amphitheatre rapids.

Our campsite will probably be in one of the areas of temperate Rainforest which exist along the river.

The trip ends with a steep 120 metre climb to the carpark where most of the party will wait while the car(s) are returned from Angusvale.

A buoyancy vest and safety helmet are mandatory on club lilo trips. A Kayak style paddle is necessary in order to maintain a reasonable pace on the sections of flat water. A wet suit is recommended. A number of punctures are almost certain and spare lilos and ample amounts of patching material must be carried by the group.

If the water level is very low then it may be necessary to walk the last few km of the trip in order to finish at a reasonable time.

23-25 February Pack Carry: Helicopter Spur – Mt Howitt
Medium

Leader Jerry Grandage
Transport Private

To date I do not have a preview from the leader but see him in the clubrooms or telephone him on for more information.

Parks Victoria have advised new address details, effective Jan 2001:

Level 10
 535 Bourke St
 Melbourne VIC 3000
 www.parkweb.vic.gov.au
 Phone: 13 1963
 Fax: 9629 5563

Bushies Good Food Guide

Café Euroa – in the main shopping street in Euroa, you need to turn off the Old Hume Highway just before the Seven Creeks bridge. The Euroa Café is two doors down from the Post Office. A Trish and Dianne find on the way home from Wilky. Great menu – lots of variety and very reasonable prices. Good coffee and the cakes on display look scrumptious.

Rod Novak



Conservation Forum



Conservation Forum is on holidays. Here is some interesting Holiday Reading – For the Bushwalker’s bookshelf...

Geoff Mosley (1999) *Battle for the Bush: the Blue Mountains, Australian Alps and the origin of the Wilderness Movement*, Colong Foundation. RRP \$24.95

This book provides a tremendous insight into the development of the wilderness movement from a bushwalking perspective. Documents the rise of the bushwalking clubs and their concern for protecting the bush.

Bishop, T. (2000) *Field Guide to Orchids of NSW & Victoria* (2nd edition) – contains guide notes for over 500 native orchid species, with 500 colour photographs. 250pp, RRP \$37.95, paperback

Corrick, M & Fuhrer, B (2000) *Wildflowers of Victoria and Adjoining Areas*, has 840 colour photos, 256pp RRP \$49.95

Trigg, C & Trigg, M (2001) *Wildflowers of the Brisbane Ranges*, 128pp paperback RRP \$19.95

Lindenmayer, D (2000) *Life in the Tall Eucalypt Forests* 96 pp Paperback RRP \$29.95

Lawrence, D (2000) *Kakadu – the Making of a National Park* 402pp Hardback, RRP \$54.95

NOTICE OF MOTION TO BE PUT TO THE FORTHCOMING A.G.M.

“That Doug Pocock be made a Life Member of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.” Moved Jean Giese Seconded Rod Mattingly.

In proposing this motion I offer a brief summary of my reasons:

Doug joined the Club in 1961, his first walk being in the Warramate Hills (which, incidentally, he will lead for us this year in celebrating his 40 years as a member). Always one to give rather than take, Doug soon joined the Committee and was Social Secretary for two years. He was elected to the Committee again in the late 1960’s and became very involved with “Walk” magazine which the Club proudly produced each year in those days. Doug was on the Editorial Committee and Business Manager for four years.

Then came a period when Doug was not so active in the Club whilst raising his two sons, but did find time to lead weekend trips in which the boys joined in and later became full adult members.

Back onto the Committee in the 1990s when the position of Manager of our beloved “Wilky” lodge was taken up, which position he holds today, having served for a total of six years. There is an enormous amount of work involved in this position in managing the bookings and being responsible for the lodge’s maintenance through planning and organising work parties and liaising with all groups which use “Wilky”. Being set in the National Park as it is, it is essential that a keen interest be taken in the Alpine Park as a whole and Doug takes part (as well as urging other Club members to participate) in work parties arranged by the Park Rangers in adjacent areas.

The very successful 60th Birthday celebrations of “Wilky” were organised by Doug and much time was spent in making contact with old identities from the area and tracking down the Trimble family whose home Wilky was from 1942 to 1947.

Doug is a very able and willing leader of Club trips, mainly of the longer and more adventurous type. These have included several long pack-carrying trips in Tasmanian Wilderness and in our own high country, four Christmas canoeing trips on the upper Murray, a sea-kayaking trip in the Cairns area and a Club trip to Nepal. Doug’s extensive knowledge of the Australian flora has been shared in leading many botanising weekends.

It is with pleasure that I propose Doug be made a Life Member in recognition of his long and exceptional service to our Club.

Jean Giese.

FOR SALE

Macpac Atlas 2-3 person freestanding 4 season, three pole tent in excellent condition that has had very little exposure to UV light, well looked after.

Cost when purchased new 174.98 – \$900.00

For Sale \$495.00

Phone Maggie

Email:

CLUB DONATION

When the Club sold its van it was decided at the AGM to invest the money and the interest gained to be used for conservation purposes.

The Committee is responsible for the distribution of this money and would welcome any ideas from Club Members for worthy causes to support which will help future bushwalkers. Typical of our donations have been VNPA and Buy Back the Bush.

Contact any Committee Member with your thoughts.

Doug Pocock

If you visit the Top End only once in your life...

Magic May

May is when the nights turn cool and the last rains finish.

...make it May!

Water is everywhere. The waterfalls for which the Top End is famous look like they do in the tourist brochures. In a few months they will have begun to disappear. Many 4WD tracks

remain closed so you can enjoy places like Jim Jim Falls without the day tourists who arrive in June. Places which become too dry to visit later in the year are still accessible.

Our May trips are all designed to run at a leisurely pace to allow you to enjoy the best that Nature has to offer at this time of year.



**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

NEW MEMBERS
NICHOLAS DOW

RITA MAHONY

SAMANTHA S MARKS

NATALIA PHOTIOS

Life Members	10
Honorary Members	10
Single memberships	326
Family memberships	102 (= 2x 51)
Total membership	448
This time last year	488

LUCY RIZZI

Altered Address/Phone:
CRAIG CARPENTER / AMANDA SMITH

SIBYLLE HOLDHEIDE

DEIRDRE C LLOYD

MISSING

Otways and The Shipwreck Coast Outdoor Leisure Map (laminated).

This is a new map purchased last July which seems to have disappeared. If you have this map please return it to the club rooms.

Alan Ide
Map Secretary

Bushies' Burlblings



Not Eagles Peak

13th - 15th October, 2000

Members participating in this trip were: Max Casley (Leader) Bob Oxlade, Bill Donald, Lillian Dodemaide, David Everit, Roger Harris, Celesta Fong and Adrian Bolzan. The intent of this trip was to walk from Sheeppyard Flat, visit the Governors and Eagles Peak, and finish walking at 8 Mile Gap. Alas, THE WEATHER had other ideas.... The trip commenced Friday night with the drive from Melbourne to Sheeppyard Flat. We stopped for dinner in Mansfield, at Mingo's Bar & Grill. The food was wonderful, the main meal cost was about \$20, and an entrée \$10. This restaurant is well worth a visit.

Upon arrival at Sheeppyard Flat, we met up with the rest of the party, and pitched our tents. Celesta and Adrian arrived at approx. 11.30 and pulled up behind Lillian's rather distinctive green Jeep, yet failed to see it. We caught up with them the next morning. Saturday morning started with a car shuffle, then we started the walk from Sheeppyard Flat to Eagle's Peak. The weather was overcast but fine until mid afternoon, at which point it turned sour. At this point, the leech attack began, with Adrian being the main focus of the attack. We continued to walk, up leech-ridden hills, in the rain, getting progressively colder, until we arrived at our night's camp

on a ridge near Mt Darling. We were all drenched, and after pitching our tents were very grateful to Bob for setting our campfire, achieved against great adversity. Especially me, as I had to dry my sheets which suffered in the rain.

The evening was blissfully concluded with the drinking of a quantity of port (thanks Max and Bob) and eating chocolates (thanks Bob and Bill). Sleep came easily for us all. Sunday morning found us amazed by a light snowfall, and very cold weather. Eagles Peak was visible, close, and covered in snow but was soon hidden by cloud. After a good hot coffee (thanks David), we decided that it was not worth visiting the peaks in such poor visibility, so we changed plan, to head down to the Jamieson River to Upper Jamieson Hut, then back to our cars at 8 Mile Gap. This was a pretty good walk, with two knee-deep crossings of the fast-flowing Jamieson River. After the first crossing, we had lunch lounging in the sunshine, at Upper Jamieson Hut. At the second crossing, I got my walking pole caught between the rocks on the river bed, and was very chivalrously rescued by David. We then road bashed back to 8 Mile Gap where we picked up our cars and drove back to Sheeppyard Flat. On the way back to Melbourne we stopped at the Peppercorn Bar in Yea for dinner, and were all very happy to see home again.

Lillian Dodemaide

Vicwalk News December 2000 Summary

President's Report The mc2 Internet communication service for bushwalkers has been extended indefinitely past the trial period. Please have a look at the WWW site at <http://www.mc2.vicnet.net.au/>. Please use the service. You can register on-line at that site. On behalf of the VicWalk Council I would like to wish all bushwalkers a Merry Xmas, a happy New Year and enjoyable bushwalking! *Bill Metzthen, President*

Wanted Urgently -Secretary

VicWalk's Secretary has had to resign because of a need to shift interstate to take a new job. VicWalk is in urgent need of an individual who is willing to handle this important function. Please consider volunteering.

Contact the VicWalk office (email: vicwalk@vicnet.net.au, 9455 1876) or a member of the Executive if you are interested or would like more information.

CONSERVATION – OTWAY RANGES

A meeting was held on 31/10 between Otway Ranges Walking Track Association, VicWalk, and the Minister for Conservation re the proposed Trans Otway Walking Track. As a result of the discussions approval has been given to plan short related walking tracks, with the understanding that the concept/vision of the long distance track is still on the agenda. A feasibility study is still being developed, which will no doubt have an impact on future proposals. A group to plan the walks is to be established represented by ORWTA, VICWALK, LOCALS, and DNRE.

AUSTRALIAN ALPS WALKING TRACK

A 5 km re-route of the AAWT has commenced within the Namadgi National Park, diverting the track off two busy roads, Booroomba and Honeysuckle roads. As stated by the ACT Parks Service "By taking the track off the roads the walkers' experience and safety will be greatly enhanced". It would be hoped other National Parks Services would take note and improve their attitude.

BOX-IRONBARK FOREST

Earlier this year the Environment Conservation Council brought down a report on land use in the Box-Ironbark Forest. Included in these recommendations were new National Parks at Beechworth and St Arnaud. However intense lobbying from the Mining Industry, logging and firewood interests may overturn these proposals. Bushwalkers are asked to write to or see your local politician supporting the ECC recommendations, which incidentally are very conservative, further information can be obtained from VicWalk or your Club's Council or conservation delegate. *David Rimmer Conservation Convener* Search and Rescue I guess I spoke too soon when at the Council meeting on 14th November I suggested that requests for BS&R's assistance might taper off now that the winter is over. A few days later, BS&R members were involved in the search for an intellectually disabled boy in the Mt Samaria National Park. Members were in the field on Friday 17th November. Fortunately the boy was located in the late afternoon. *Monica Chapman S&R Convener*



David Carlson

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN GOA

We are pretty comfortably housed in a furnished flat in a small village about 3 km from the capital of Goa, Panjim. It is a welcome relief after nearly 7 weeks living in hotels and eating at restaurants. Not that the food was not good, actually sometimes it just seemed missing - bowls of spicy sauce with a sorry cube of potato or two peas. What began to

wear was the wait: 10 min for breakfast, 30 min for lunch and 45 min or more for dinner. We would bring books to read and lately found you could complete most of a chess game before the food arrived.

Well, our village of Merces has a population of a few thousand with quite a few mini-stores which all seem to be selling the same thing: eggs, white bread, soaps, etc. You are served from a counter and have to ask for everything. Just because you can't see it doesn't mean they don't have it. Might be in that box or in that bag on the floor.

People are curious, often asking blunt unusual questions out of the blue. Someone asked me yesterday "What did you have for lunch today?" I go to the local baker and buy our rolls every day. Finally yesterday, the proprietor, after some small talk, got around to the question she has been saving for the last week. "What do you do with all that bread?" she queried as if she could not think of one conceivable reason for that high a level of bread consumption

After a few days, people are getting used to seeing us walking around. At first, everyone stopped and asked "Where are you going?" "Just walking", I would reply. But I'm thinking of buying some binoculars and telling folks I'm bird watching, which apparently seems to them more normal than just walking. There are some really striking birds in the village. The kingfisher has a brilliant blue back and bright red beak. They perch over the many small ponds near the rice fields and dive among the water lilies.

It is an incredibly peaceful scene: fields being plowed by bullocks, pigs and Brahman cattle grazing in palmy lanes. The only drawback is that the animals are as curious or puzzled by us as the people. There are no fences, so often a large bull or a good sized boar will amble over to get a better look or smell. The dogs are a little put off by us and often recoil barking. Rabies is endemic here and I've started carrying a cane for protection.

The worst part of village life so far has been the Krishna Temple located about 100 yards from the apartment. All churches and temples have camp style loudspeakers so that those outside can enjoy the services. This weekend the Krishnas put on a tape Friday evening, which was pleasant enough, but on Saturday morning at 6:00am they cranked up the volume. The 30 second chant was repeated thousands of times. Finally the volume was lowered to background clutter. But again on Sunday it was back with a vengeance. Today, I haven't heard anything, but the power has been off most of the morning. Even when it's off, I can still hear the aural echo-4 notes endlessly circling.

There is also a construction site near the flat. A three story building is being erected entirely by hand. All the concrete is mixed on the dirt road, rebar is cut with a cold chisel on an anvil and bent by hand. There isn't even a wheelbarrow. Sand is hauled in wok type containers balanced on top of the worker's head. Unfortunately, the sand pit is on the other side of our building. All day long, from 8am to 6pm, three young men dressed in short loin cloths, flip flops and ragged t-shirts walk back and forth, like the living dead, in front of my first floor balcony carrying maybe three shovelfulls each time.

So, picture me sitting on my porch, reading, sipping a scotch while haari Rama is monotonously sung over and over and the hod carriers pace back and forth in their flip flops carrying sandfilled woks on their heads. Back and forth, back and forth, hari rama, hari rama. I want to jump up and scream, For God's sake get a wheelbarrow and turn off the damned music! But if you want village life you can't just choose the picturesque parts.

I have a small motorbike which we have used to get around. This morning we took the 3km ride into town by bus. One thing about travelling is that you develop new reference points: the dirtiest air, the nicest beach, the most expensive hotels, etc. Well, now I have raised the bar for the most crowded bus. Africa once had the marker, but Indian buses are never empty, the last few hang onto the doorframe and angle out at 45 degrees. I don't know how they manage to hold on when the bus takes a sharp corner. At every bus stop, half the bus has to empty and reboard for people to exit. The fare was cheap enough, 6 cents each. But I think I'll keep the motorbike, its scarier but more comfortable.

The rules of the road are quite simple here. You can ignore signs, one way arrows, and certainly any lines in the roads. Only one rule operates: size matters! Big buses are kings, motorbikes are pawns, pedestrians are hares who scatter to safety. Brake lights, turn signals, back-up lights are optional. Horns are mandatory. When in doubt, beep. Beep especially at pedestrians, smaller vehicles and cows. Cows are everywhere on the road, in the road; groups of cows, family groups, grazing groups, cows on exit ramps of the highways, cows everywhere!

The beach is a pleasant 45 min bike ride. Soft white beaches, clean 84 degree water with a touch of light surf. I was enjoying myself and spending lots of time in the water until I read about the three common sea snakes. They are quite poisonous and it is little consolation that it takes 15ml of toxin to kill you. Is that a lot? or a little? Guidebooks sometimes leave out the crucial information.

Goa is not India, that in itself recommends it. It is lightly populated with lush landscapes, rices fields and pretty villages. The Portuguese legacy seems a positive one. There are none of the sores of Bombay: the beggars, diseased, the dying. Here it is more like the Canaries, and well worth the trip.

Hope you all have a wonderful holiday, dash a bit of curry on the bird for us!

David and Norma

Email:

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

WALK STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER

November 2000	Trips	Parts	Av	Nov 1999
Sunday Bus	4	130	32.5	32.8
Other Day	2	23	11.5	11.3
- Wed 15				
- Hist				
Track Maint	1	9	9	-
Cycling	1	12	12	-
Pack Carry	2	22	11	5.3
Base Camp	2	43	21.5	-
Lodge	1	9	9	-
Cancelled	3	-	-	1
Totals	16	248		171

Three cancelled trips – Lerderberg Gorge Pack Carry, Mt Buffalo Beginners Pack Carry (no interest) and the November Dandenong Explorer (leader unavailable).

Duty Roster

17th January	Alan Ide & Pearson
24 January	Doug & Anne
31 January	Trish & Fiona
7 February	Deb & Peter

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

FOR SALE

Katmandu Sympatex Walking boots
Women's size 37-38, Good Condition
\$50 ONO

Wendy Boddison



GOULBOURN RIVER CANOEING TRIP Australia Day Weekend 25-28 January

Places are filling fast. This trip is suitable for beginners.

Make your booking early so you will not be left out. Contact George on

JANUARY 2001

Sun 21	CAPE PATTERSON – INVERLOCH	BUS	E & E/M	Lance Mobbs & Ches Volpato	#
<u>Australia Day Long Weekend Trips (3 days)</u>					
25-28	Pack Carry: Tarli Karng	Private	E/M	David Durad	
25-28	Base Camp: Mt Buffalo National Park	Private	E/M	Stuart Mann	
25-28	Pack Carry: Carey River – Neilson Crag	Private	Med/Hard	Gina Hopkins	
25-28	Lodge: Walhalla Long Weekend	Private	Various	Brian Crouch	
25-28	Canoe: Murray River	Private	Easy	George Zamora	*
Fri 26	<i>Historical Walk:</i>	<i>PUBLIC</i>	<i>Easy</i>	<i>Nigel Holmes</i>	*
Sun 28	LERDERDERG- O'BRIEN'S CROSSING	BUS	E/M & M	Jill Dawson & Lynda Larkin	#

FEBRUARY 2001

2-4	Track Maintenance Weekend	Private	Easy	Anne Wilkins	
Sun 4	QUEENSCLIFF - BARWON HEADS	BUS	E & E/M	Rod Novak & Tracey Jamieson	#
9-11	Pack Carry: The Lanes	Private	E/M	Merilyn Whimpey	
Sat 10	<i>Cycling: Dights Falls – Westerfolds Park</i>	<i>Ferry</i>	<i>Easy</i>	<i>Barry Smith</i>	*
Sun 11	LODDON FALLS - VAUGHAN SPRINGS	BUS	E & E/M	David Arnold & Andrew Francis	#
16-18	Lodge: Mt Hotham - Alpine Day Walks	Private	E/M	Dianne McKinlay	
16-18	Li Lo: Mitchell River	Private	Medium	Bill Metzenthien	
Sun 18	8.30 Start St GEORGES RIVER - CUMBERLAND RIVER	BUS	E/M & M	David Laing & Brian Crouch	#

The News of the Melbourne Bushwalkers
 Print Post Approved. PP No 338888/00016
 If undelivered please return to:
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 Family/Couple -membership \$50.00 **Concession** – couple \$28.00 (proof required)
 New members joining on/after 1 October \$21.00 less visitor fees.

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 Membership Secretary, GPO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, 3001**