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THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS INC.

EDITION 605

JULY 2001

60 CENTS



*The July Social Function
will be a Spiritual Experience
at Bridie O'Reilly's Irish Pub,
462 Chapel Street, South Yarra*

*Friday 20 July
7.00 pm*

*The venue is in an old church,
which now has a whole new life
as an Irish theme Pub.*

*The owner tells me that he will go to hell
for serving beer in a church.
He does have free live music after 9.30 pm,
so maybe he will earn some penance after all.*

*The evening is for dinner, drinks
& most likely dancing
for those who stay for the band.*

See you there.

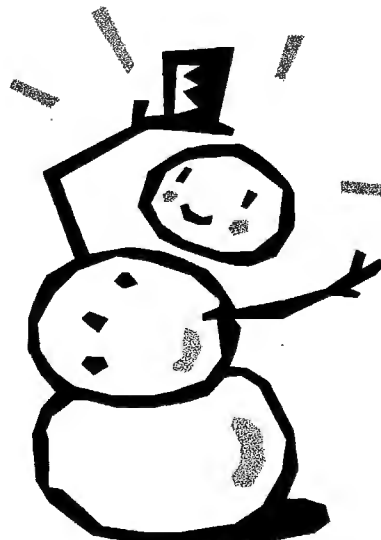
*R.S.V.P.: Deb Henry on
by Sunday 15 July.*

INSIDE:

- 9 Winter Walks
- 4 Ski Trips
- 4 Trip Reviews
- 2 Tree Planting Weekends
- 1 Poem

**HALF-YEARLY
GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 22 AUGUST
8.00 PM**

**TEMPORARY CLUBROOMS,
VICTORIAN HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY HALL,
VICTORIA STREET, CITY
ENTER FROM VICTORIA STREET**



**Beginners
XC Ski Day
Sat. 21 July
Lake
Mountain
Leader:
Doug Pocock
(Refer to
June News)**

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
meet in the Clubrooms
in the Victorian Horticultural Society Building,
Victoria Street, Melbourne
on **WEDNESDAY** evenings
between 7.00 and 9.00 pm

Visitors are always Welcome



The News is the official newsletter of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. and is published monthly.
Edited by **Vicki Scrivenger**.

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 diskette (or hand written material) in the "Red Box" in the clubrooms or posting to: The Editor, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc., PO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, VIC, 3001
- ★ Posting diskette (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 the

**Last Wednesday in each month
ELECTRONIC MAIL IS PREFERRED**

General correspondence should be directed to:

The Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc.
PO Box 1751Q, Melbourne, 3001

BS&R: SEARCH PRACTICE FRIDAY 27 – SUNDAY 29 JULY



This weekend should be attended by all BS&R section members or Club members who are experienced skiers and interested in becoming a BS&R member.


It will be held at Mt Stirling and transport will be provided by Police bus leaving early Saturday morning and returning Sunday evening.

There will be workshop activities on Saturday and a practice search and evacuation on Sunday.

You will need to bring normal ski-touring and camping gear and your own food for the weekend.

If you are interested in going, please contact Bill Metzenthon on:


**GINA HOPKINS
SEARCH & RESCUE CO-ORDINATOR**



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JULY/AUGUST DAY WALKS, ETC.



Forest Cave - Pyramid Rock (Phillip Is)

DATE Sunday 8 July
STANDARD Easy & Easy Medium
LEADER(S) Peter McGrath & William Cone
DISTANCE Approx. 15 & 17 km
TRANSPORT Bus from South Bank Boulevard
at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 7.00 pm
MAP REFERENCE Phillip Island Special 1:25,000

We could not do the advertised walk due to high tide at 2:22 pm on the day of the walk. The advertised walk will be on the next walks program on a day when it will be low tide around noon.

The Easy/Medium walk will commence at the Oswin Roberts Reserve and walk through some natural bush before entering onto the beach on the northern side of Phillip Island. The Easy walk will simply do the beach bits. Both walks will explore the northern coastline of Phillip Island from Observation Point to McHaffie Point passing such interesting places as Lovers Walk, Cowes and Red Rocks.

The coastline offers wonderful views of French Island and the Mornington Peninsula from Somers to Cape Schanck.



Anakie Gorge - Steiglitz (Brisbane Ranges)

DATE Sunday 22 July
STANDARD Easy & Easy Medium
DISTANCE Approx. 14 & 20 km
LEADER(S) Brian Crouch & John Coe
TRANSPORT Bus from South Bank Boulevard
at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 6.30 pm
AREA Brisbane Ranges near Bachus Marsh
MAP REFERENCE Staughton Vale & Eclipse Creek

This walk is in a very exciting, rugged and diverse area of the Brisbane Ranges which is a regular on our walks program. The Brisbane Ranges boasts the greatest density of koala populations in Victoria. Throughout the park, they occur in greatest abundance along water courses, such as Anakie Gorge which both groups will walk through. They particularly like the Eucalyptus Viminalis "Manna Gum" which are quite majestic in many areas we will walk through.

The Easy Medium walk will start along the Little River but climbs quickly up into the ranges, 200 Metres up for some 4kms then down 150 Metres. It then climbs again gradually up 220 Metres through Anakie Gorge, before going slowly down 150 Metres over the last 7 kms.

The easy will be considerably easier with 150 Metres of climbing in the first 5 kms, then gradually down 100 metres over 6 kms, before a slight "undulation" over the last 3 Km.

Both walks will finish at Historic Steiglitz gold mining township, hopefully with time to explore the old Court House.

It will be an enjoyable day in a fascinating area, come along for a fun day and support John in leading his first walk.

N.B.: Thanks to Steve Bentley for the detailed climb & distance stats.



Dandenongs Explorer: By the Beach

DATE Saturday 28 July
STANDARD Easy
DISTANCE Approx. 14 km
LEADER(S) Rod Novak
TRANSPORT Train
RETURN TIME Approx. 6.00 pm
MAP REFERENCE Melway: 97, 92 & 87

Meet at 10.15 am at the Carrum Railway Station. Catch the 9.12 am Frankston train at Flinders Street which arrives at Carrum at 10.08 am or alternatively drive to the railway station. Be careful of parking restrictions in the surrounding streets!

We will walk along the beach (on sand, and shared bike/walking paths) to Parkdale, visiting the Patterson River Marina, and Bonbeach, Chelsea, Edithvale, Aspendale, Mordialloc and Parkdale beaches along the way. We will then catch the train (either back to Flinders Street/home or return to cars at Carrum).

Bring warm clothes, and a good windproof/rainproof jacket for the cool sea breeze at this time of year. You need to carry lunch (and a thermos) and bring money for an afternoon tea/train fare.

Ring the leader - Rod Novak - on: between 7 & 9 pm only to book on this walk.



Lost Children's Track (Daylesford)

DATE Sunday 29 July
STANDARD Easy Medium & Medium
DISTANCE 14 & 20? km
LEADER(S) Peter Havlicek & Paul Beers
TRANSPORT Bus from South Bank Boulevard
at 9.00 am
RETURN TIME Approx. 7.00 pm
MAP REFERENCE Eganstown, Daylesford,
Bullarto & Barkstead 1:25 000

On a day in July, sometime last century, 3 kiddies (aged 4, 6 and 7) set out from Daylesford for adventure. Several months later, they were found dead near Wheelers Hill Road (south-east of Daylesford), having wandered some 20 km. The medium walk retraces their path, but your leaders trust in a happier ending. The easier walkers shall take a short cut going past Jubilee Lake.

Both walks start at the Lost Childrens Memorial on Table Hill. The medium walkers south towards Musk Vale and Sailors Falls; then towards and along the dismantled Daylesford-Ballarat railway before heading east past Specimen Dam towards the Lost Childrens monument.

The walks are mainly on tracks/forest roads through regrowth eucalypt forests. The vertical displacement is moderate.



	Ski Trip: Mt. Stirling?
DATE	Saturday 4 August
STANDARD	Medium
LEADER(S)	Alan Ide
TRANSPORT	Private

I can't tell you much about this trip yet - basically we will go where the snow is, provided we can get there and back in one day. Ideally we would go to St. Gwinear (near Baw Baw) or out the back of Lake Mountain. Mt. Stirling is a bit of a drive - I would prefer to drive up on Friday night if we were going. (- and having got that far you may as well stay the weekend...)

If you are interested, stay in touch (preferably by e-mail) and we will decide what to do closer to the day. My contact details are:



	Mt. Hickey - Warragul Rocks (Tallaroak)
DATE	Sunday 5 August
STANDARD	Easy Medium & Medium
DISTANCE	Approx. 16 & 19 km
LEADER(S)	Jan Palich & Hans Edlinger
TRANSPORT	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 8.30 am
RETURN TIME	Approx. 7.00 pm
AREA	Tallaroak
MAP REFERENCE	Strathcreek/Seymour/Broadford 1:25,000

This walks commences in the lovely area adjacent to the Goulburn River. Both the easy/medium and medium walkers will start from the same spot and head south with an immediate strong climb. This will get everyone warm and the muscles working after the bus trip. Initially we will be passing through farming country and then into bush. Most of the day is spent walking on forest tracks with some quite steep sections. I have been told by a local

farmer that this area has quite a number of heritage features. I will have more information for you on the bus.

We couldn't help stopping at Warrigal Rocks for lunch. The views are superb and the natural beauty of the rock formation will have you wishing you could stay.

However, the walk continues through some great treed areas and ends by climbing to the top of Mt. Hickey. Here the medium group continues south and down to the next valley, while the easy/medium group will head down to the nearby waiting bus.

It is suggested that you bring a change of footwear and warm clothes, plus something hot for afternoon tea at the end of the walk. The bus will then travel to collect the medium group. As this is a long drive, plus a longish walk with quite a few hills, we will be leaving Melbourne at 8.30 am, so make sure you arrive at the Bus early.

N.B.: 8.30 am start.



	Jan Juc - Ironbark Basin (Anglesea)
DATE	Sunday 12 August
STANDARD	Easy & Medium
LEADER(S)	Peter Havlicek & Anna Anson
TRANSPORT	Bus from South Bank Boulevard at 9.00 am

Please see the leaders in the clubrooms about these walks.



	Wednesday Walk: Mt Alexander
DATE	Wednesday 15 August
STANDARD	Easy Medium
DISTANCE	Approx. 14 km
LEADER(S)	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Approx. 6.00 pm
AREA	Castlemaine - Harcourt
MAP REFERENCE	Chewton 1: 25 000, Barker 1:25 000

This walk is an old favourite which has not been done on a Wednesday since 1995.

Meet at Harcourt at 10.15 am outside the General Store on the Calder Highway about 120 km from Melbourne. Telephone me on: for car sharing arrangements.

From our meeting point we will drive to The Oaks picnic ground which is the start & finish of the walk. We will inspect the oaks & pines & then climb steadily through eucalyptus forest to the top of Mt. Alexander & have lunch at Lang's Lookout. After this we will try to find a koala & look at Dog Rocks & then back down to the cars.

JULY/AUGUST WEEKEND & EXTENDED WALKS, ETC.



	Lodge:
	Ski & Walk at Rawson
DATE	Friday 10 – Sunday 12 August
STANDARD	Various
DISTANCE	Various
LEADER(S)	Max Casley & Rod Novak
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Sunday Night
AREA	North of Moe - Walhalla
MAP REFERENCE	Baw Baw National Park VMTC 1:50 000

Yet again we are having a Lodge Weekend at Rawson. There will be a choice of either cross-country skiing on the Baw Baw Plateau from Mt. St. Gwinear or walking in the Thompson Valley & the Walhalla area, lead by Rod Novak.

Cost is \$33 per person per night including a big-as-you-like breakfast. Linen, towel, electric blanket are provided. You provide your own lunches. Single room rate is \$44. In the evening dinner & drinks will be had at the Pub. Motel accommodation is also available at \$44 each twin share. I have reserved 20 places – let me know early if you want to come.

N.B.: the skiing is not suited to complete beginners.



	Ski Trip: High Plains/ Tawonga Huts
DATE	Friday 17 - Sunday 19 August
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	30 km with packs, ? km without
LEADER(S)	Merilyn Whippey
TRANSPORT	Private
MAP REFERENCE	Bogong Alpine Area Outdoor Leisure Map

I don't intend to camp with the crowds at Tawonga Huts: I know a nice camp site on the ridge above. This will probably mean melting snow for water, so bring plenty of fuel.

The plan is to ski out from Falls Creek on Saturday morning, set up camp, and head off towards Mt Niggerhead or even Mt Fainter if the group are fit and enthusiastic. On Sunday, before heading back to Falls Creek we should have time to ski a few slopes. Plans may be changed according to circumstances, e.g. weather, cruddiness of snow. The object of the trip is to have fun.

You need experience in snow camping and carrying a pack on skis. The usual warm winter gear is essential. If you have to hire skis, please do so in Melbourne to avoid waiting around in Falls Creek.



	Base Camp:
	Kamarooka State Park
DATE	Friday 24 – Sunday 26 August
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER(S)	Jerry Grandage
TRANSPORT	Private

I haven't been to the area before but will visit it before the due date. Kamarooka is one of the larger areas of the Box-Ironbark forests to have survived and the vegetation should be great. The wattles will be out and also the earlier spring wildflowers. The walking will be relaxing and you will have plenty of time to enjoy the scenery and study the plants.



	Ski Trip: Mt. Buffalo (Porepunkah)
DATE	Friday 24 - Sunday 26 August
STANDARD	Easy/Medium
DISTANCE	Approx. 20 km
LEADER(S)	Ken MacMahon
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Approx. 8.00 pm Sunday
MAP REFERENCE	Buffalo & Buckland 1:25,000

Ice skating is certainly a thing of the past at Mt. Buffalo & one could be forgiven for concluding that skiing is also!

But, ever the optimist, I have agreed to give it a try again this winter. The plan is to find accommodation off the mountain, probably in on-site vans at Porepunkah, & I envisage a hearty meal in a cosy pub with a nice fire. Oh, & up on the mountain I'm sure it would be delightful touring amongst the granite tors & along the sheltered snow plains.

WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT

Attention ALL SUNDAY BUS WALKERS: - Please Remember - No telephone bookings for the Sunday Bus. If you need to ring the Sunday Bus leader to advise of a cancellation, then please ring at a reasonable hour. Come to our Clubnight to talk to the leader, make a booking and have a cuppa.

For the Winter months, can all Sunday Bus walkers put a torch into their daypacks (short days) and please bring a change of footwear for the Bus, a change of clothes, and a thermos is always welcome at the end of a cold day.

To all our Walkers - Please come along to Clubnight to make enquiries / speak to the leader / to book on a trip. Leaders can show you the route on a map and provide equipment advice. We are now located at the front of the Royal Horticultural Building on Victoria Parade (opposite Trades Hall). We have a warm meeting room, with lots of friendly smiling people and coffee/tea/herbal tea are available for 20 cents.

Private Transport Rate - The RACV 'Annual Survey of Motoring Costs' [Royal Auto May 2001] was discussed at the May Committee Meeting. It was agreed to retain the rate of 8 cents per km per person for private transport trips. Trip leaders will try to car pool 3 people per car (24 cents/km) and will need to equalise costs when there are 4 to a car.

WALKS PROGRAM CHANGES

Sunday 15th July. Please Note: 8.30 am start. Contact Fiona Gallery on for more details.

20 - 29 July an "Extra Trip" - Extended Ski Trip. Grade - Hard. Contact Bill Metzenthon on for more information. Further details in the June issue of NEWS.

27 - 29 July an "Extra Trip" - Les Sobey is organising a weekend ski trip staying in accommodation at Tawonga South. For experienced skiers only - with space for 4 people only. Preview details in the June NEWS. Contact Les on for more information.

Sunday 5th August. Please Note: 8.30 am start. Mt Hickey - Warragul Rocks (Tallarook) is now an early departure (8.30 am) due to the travel distance. Contact Jan Palich on for further information.

18 - 19 August an "Extra Trip" - Project Hindmarsh Tree Planting weekend at Nhill. For more information contact Anne Wilkins on Bookings close on 1st August.

MAY WALK STATISTICS

May 01	Trips	People	Average	May 00
Sunday Bus	4	164	41	38
Other Day	2	28	14	15
Pack Carry	1	6	6	7
Base Camp	2	25	12.5	-
Training Day	1	9	9	-
Lodge	1	5	5	-
Cancelled	2	-	-	2
Total	12	237		188

ROD NOVAK
WALKS SECRETARY

Project Hindmarsh Ace Radio Planting Weekend 18 & 19 August

This year the roadside stage of the Project Hindmarsh will be completed, linking the Big and Little Deserts with 2000 km of Biolink corridors.

Last year I attended, and helped plant the thousands of trees native to the area which had been especially raised from seed for this project. It was a great weekend and the company and hospitality were really fantastic.

This year there will again be meals, free camping and entertainment provided for the weekend. There is also other bookable accommodation in the area and a bus is run from Spencer Street at a very reasonable cost. Bookings close on the 1st of August or when 400 volunteers have signed up.

This is a highly recommended chance to see some of the Wimmera and have a rewarding, fun and interesting weekend, get in early - it fills up fast.

Contact: Anne Wilkins on

or Greg Barber in Nhill

on

Regent Honeyeater Project Early September

If you can't make the Project Hindmarsh Weekend (or had an excellent time at it) then consider this one.

The Project focuses on the Regent Honeyeater, a striking and rare bird with just three key habitats in Victoria, one of these in the Lurg district providing essential nectar supplies from the flowering Ironbarks each winter. Also living in the area are Grey Crowned Babblers, Squirrel Gliders and Brush-tailed Phascogale, Quolls, Bush Stone Curlews etc.

Keep your eye on the August News for information on this second tree planting weekend near Benalla with free accommodation, hot showers, meals and a folk dance on Saturday night. Look out for the slide presentation by the Project Co-ordinator in late August in the club-rooms.

Contact: Anne Wilkins on

GLEN WILLS WEEKEND

11-13 MAY

A long way for the weekend for Melbournians is Glen Wills, but MBW members from East Gippsland met with a contingent from Albury/Wodonga. For both it was only a 150 km trip and well worth it.

We arrived just after dark coming from the south, while the Northerners beat us by 1/2 hour so had the fire lit and stove going.

Joy our leader had organised a shared food system which meant we were grossly over catered for as usual, but do you hear any complaints, oh no!!!

Our lodging for the weekend was great, a bit Wilky like but larger and even more comfortable, even electricity was provided by a "platypus" a tiny turbine run by a creek diverted for the purpose.

After our sociable meeting and evening on Friday we had great plans for Saturday morning which included an early rise, we had left the curtains open to avoid sleeping in, but first glimpses of thick mist gave just the excuse to roll over. The mist didn't clear till 10 am when we took the car up to the track to Mt. Wills. We set off in beautiful sun but as we approached the top, the cloud came down and it was cold! We couldn't see enough to be sure we made the summit (every direction did seem to be going down from where we stopped, so I suppose we must have been close!) A very rapid decent was made back to base for sundowners and nibbles watching the sun set over a perfectly clear Mt. Wills! We "closed the doors, lit the lights and stayed home that night" as the temperature dropped and dropped, glad we weren't camping.

Sunday was to be a leisurely day and so it was. We explored Glen Valley with its gold mine and fascinating collection of old cars and mining machinery. After that we visited Mittagundy, last seen 20 years ago, and marvelled how they had kept it so simple. After lunch we said our farewells, almost tearfully, and parted heading in opposite directions.

A great weekend, good company and a beautiful place. Thanks Joy!

Participants: Joy, John and Sandy, Graham and Marijke.

GRAHAM & MARIJKE MASCAS



MAJOR MITCHELL PLATEAU

11 – 13 MAY

Two cars, three bushies in each headed out of town on Friday night towards the Grampians, passing by Ballarat and through Beaufort, Aarat, Moyston, Pomonal and Halls Gap on their way to a pack carry across Major Mitchell Plateau.

Car one had three M's – Mark (leader), Max and Mike while car two had Marika, Wendy and Sak Hong. M, M and M had dinner in Beaufort at the local fish and chip shop – score card of OK. M, W and SH ate their dinner in the Beaufort pub. The pub did not rate on the scorecard, the jukebox music was overlaid with music from the radio, it was smoky and the vegetarian plate of vegetables had bacon in it!

Mark and co. camped near the start of the walk at Mafeking. Mafeking once operated as a mining town with 10,000 gold miners and their families. Sak Hong and co. camped at Jimmy Creek where we met Mark on Saturday morning to start the car shuffle. We began walking at about 10am on the Stockyard Track, the start of our up hill for the day, a 600m climb. This track joins the Major Mitchell Track another grunt up until our fine lunch spot overlooking the vast valley below. We reached the campsite at 3pm next to the gurgling creek. There was a scrounge for firewood. Another party joined us at the campsite having carried their water in as they were told there would be no water flowing at camp. Lucky for us Mark had come up here 2 weeks ago to check the water situation.

There was plenty of time to relax, set up the tents, snack and watch the daylight disappear. The composting toilet was discovered up on the hill overlooking the campsite as the wall was only ¼ high!

By 5pm we all felt like dinner and the jet engine like sounds emanated from the dragon fly cooker (SORRY WHAT WAS THAT YOU SAID?!!). Max had a home made dehydrated mix of mince meat and vegetables. Wendy revealed that she had been carrying 200gms of beef all day and Mark had lasagne in a plastic sachet to boil with his vegetables. Stories were told around the warm fire which was stoked by Sak Hong. At 8.30pm we were beckoned by our warm sleeping bags to turn in.

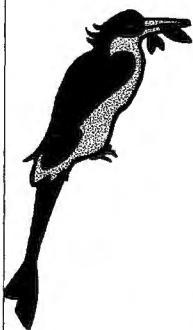
Sunday (Mother's Day) was fabulously sunny. Ferrero Rocher chocolates were handed around at breakfast time. Just after 9am we broke up camp and headed for the descent through Boundary Gap. The views were excellent across the Sierra Range and later Cathedral Rock. Mt William appeared on the horizon our next ascent to 1167m from 500m. After some time on Mt William looking as far as the eye can see it was time to move on down. Along the way we stopped for lunch on a rocky outcrop with brilliant viewing, perfect for the bush opera. Mike whistled a tune using his sheepdog whistle (ask him about it). For a while after lunch we walked on the Mt William Road then we dropped down onto the Mt William Track for a further 6 km. Fyans Creek held refreshing water not far from the car park, our finish.

Thanks to our leader, Mark for a great weekend walk with fellow bushies, Mike (for the constant supply of Ballantyne chocolates), Max, Wendy, Sak Hong and me.

MARIKA JAGOW

BARMAH STATE FOREST BASE CAMP

18 – 20 MAY



Friday night found our leader Rosemary by the grand Murray River enjoying a late fire started by Roger. Rod & Liz camped five minutes away & met us in the morning as did Janet & Keith.

We awoke to glorious sunshine on Saturday & after breakfast by the fire wandered off up the track, then bush to explore Barma State Forest.

The sun shone warm & we enthusiastically ventured on. We spotted two emus, many brown & white tree creepers, Jackie winter wrens, sulphur cockatoos, galahs, corellas, pacific heron & the restless fly catcher, the sounds were glorious.

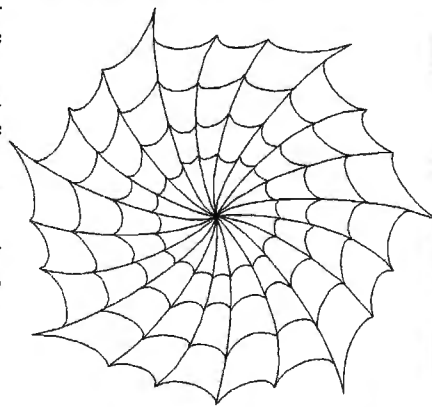
Lunch found us by a beautiful billabong where to our delight an azure kingfisher entertained us. We also came across many huge spider webs.

Back at camp we soon had a fire & a welcome meal complemented by wine & port, under the stars, by the beautiful Murray River.

Next morning after a leisurely warm start we ventured off along the Murray River, then tracks & bush to the sounds of birds onward, & then back to the cars to Ngambie where we had coffee & cake by the Lake.

Thank you Rosemary & everyone for a peaceful mostly sunny weekend, by the glorious Murray.

The group: Rosemary, Roger, Janet, Keith, Rod, Liz & me.



MONIKA HOLLANDER

BURROWA – PINE MOUNTAIN NP BASE CAMP

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

Doug and I arrived early, from the north of Mount Lawson State Park, to bag spaces for our group, considering the long weekend. To our surprise, two ex-presidents had beaten us and were already settled in – Jean Giese. and Graham Wills Johnson. The camping area was popular, with a couple of campervans and some groups of tents taking up much of the limited space available. However the rest of our party quietly arrived during the late afternoon and evening and found themselves spots. Doug and I had the ample establishment of our van, and an auto tent with a covered walkway in case of the group's need for shelter in inclement weather.

On Saturday it was raining, so we decided to leave the rocky climb to Pine Mountain for Sunday, in the hope the weather would improve. We started with the nature trail leaving the camp, climbed to a waterfall, where Jean left us, then followed tracks to Ross's Lookout for a rather hazy view. Lunch was damp, but the constant songs of lyrebirds were a highlight of the day – they are winter breeders so are busy establishing territories and courting at this time of year. We finally headed off down some steep tracks, on our way home. Nearly there, however, we found our way blocked by a locked gate and an electric fence. We gingerly followed this around and met up with our track again, to the relief of all as it was getting dark and we were quite wet. Torches were produced for the last stretch home through the forest, to Jean who had been anxiously awaiting us, with the fire lit since 4.00 p.m. In our absence, she had seen displaying lyrebirds when she was quietly walking on her own.

With the fire (we had brought our own wood at the leader's request), some dry clothes and some food, spirits lifted. The generous shared entrees made dinner redundant for some and we ended up with a late night, after all.

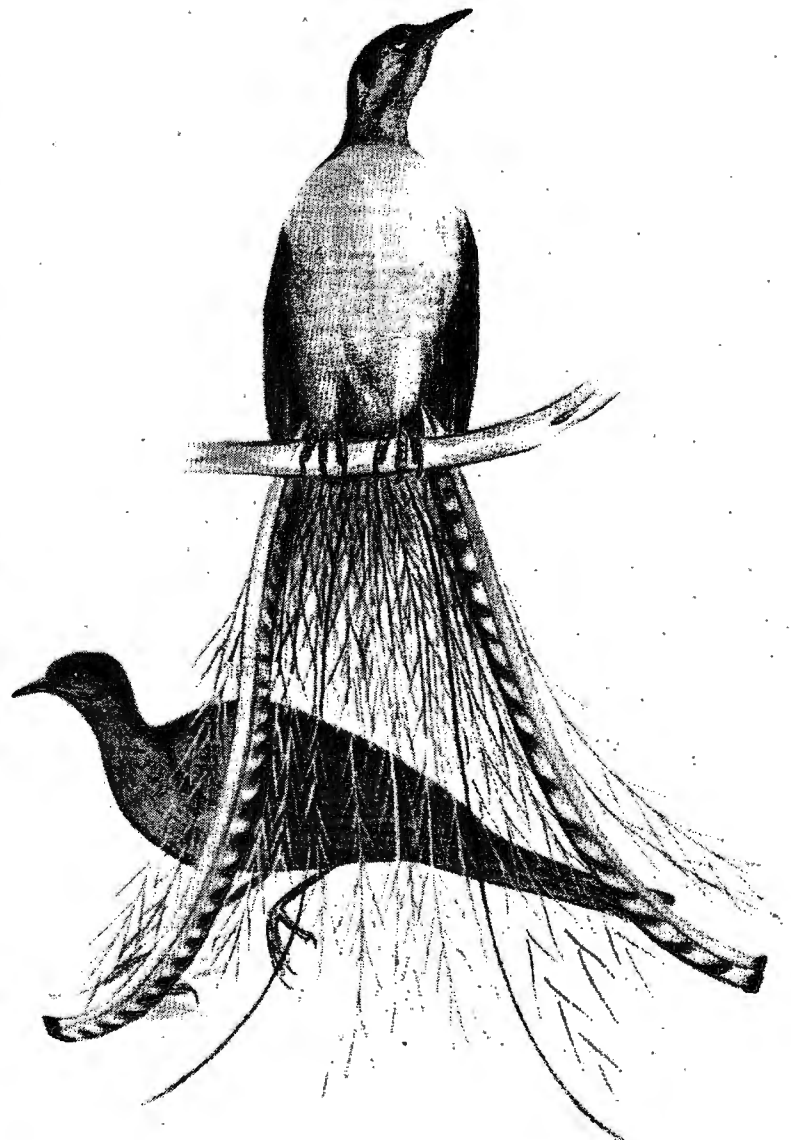
The following day was dry and after a late start we drove off to Pine Mountain monolith, our leader planning to go to the first lookout only, considering our long hard day Saturday. We all enjoyed this very much – the views were spectacular and the lyrebirds continued with their amazing repertoires down in the valleys. Unfortunately the rocks were still damp and a few of us slipped and fell, only one suffering any injuries – luckily our two doctors in the party were near by and rushed to the rescue, doing a great repair job. We felt we deserved a treat after this so headed for Walwa for coffee – and petrol. We took the long way home so we could get a better view of the area, then again started the evening with nibbles and sat up talking until late.

On Monday we planned to go home via Mount Lawson, but found the track unsuitable even for the four-wheel drive vehicles in the party. However we walked to the impressive trestle bridge in the south of the area, then drove on to Mount Granya for a short walk to a waterfall. Lunch was at the Hume Dam wall where we did some exploring. Most of the party then returned home, Jan, Doug, Jean and Graham staying near Chiltern overnight to avoid the long weekend traffic.

For us we enjoyed catching up with old friends – Rosemary, Jean and Graham, and getting to know others a little better – Bob, Monica, Quentin, Janty, Liz and Rod – in the way you only can on a weekend or longer trip. We also enjoyed renewing our acquaintance with this lovely area – quite different at this time of the year than in November when we have visited before. Thanks Rod for your work in planning this.

JAN LLEWELYN

Picture: **Birds of Victoria: The Ranges** with paintings by Margo Kroyer-Pedersen. Gould League Victoria, 1970.



THE GREAT DIVIDING TRAIL WALK

CASTLEMAINE-FRYERSTOWN-VAUGHAN

SUNDAY 10 JUNE

Along the Great Dividing Trail,
from Castlemaine to Vaughan,
we "strangers" trod the quartz and shale
where miners once adorned.

Onward beside Poverty Gully Race,
where water sometimes flows,
we marvelled at this special place
where the gold rush effort shows.

From Monk Hill, a splendid view was had,
but the flowers were yet to appear,
no sign of the Red Spider orchids was sad,
but they'll bloom when Spring is near.

A southerly trek through the gullies was next,
where ruins amid blackberries remain,
the scale of erosion makes one feel vexed,
as the land struggles to recover in vain.

Alas, the outskirts of Fryerstown appeared,
in much better time than expected,
whilst the noisy pubs have long since cleared,
much history can still be detected.

The final leg toward Deadman's Flat
skirted old Irishtown,

the area's littered with names like that,
where gold diggers fought 'til down.

There might have been mayhem further west,
for I reckoned we'd missed the turn,
when my concentration was not the best,
but I've survived to live and learn!

We picked up a track to Vaughan-Chewton Road,
and savoured some wonderful views,
then the sight of the picnic ground eased my load,
"All back at the Springs" was the news.

On the bus, some "ingots" were handed out,
(not the real thing, but the thought was there),
and as for the roos that were hopping about,
they looked like cows to Clare!

As usual I'd like to thank our Bob,
and Alan for great preparation,
to Nick, my whip, for an excellent job,
and to Jean for the walk's "creation".

JILL DAWSON

P.S. Congratulations to Bob on becoming a grand-
daddy to little "Blue Boy" Lachlan!

Mitchell Falls - a tourist icon...



The Mitchell Plateau

Lower Mitchell Falls - a series of falls, cascades and pools - swim in them all.

Tidal Rapids - a waterfall that flows upstream or down with the changing tide.

Western Gorge - 5 km of narrow, spectacular gorge headed by a 70 m waterfall with four drops.

Donkins Falls - a sheer drop of over 100 m into a narrow gorge that meets the sea.

Unnamed Falls & Gorge - something this big should be on the map, but it's not.

Aboriginal art - dozens of sites in a variety of styles show that this has been a popular place for the last ten thousand years or so.

It's not too late! Places are still available on our August trip. Please ask for trip notes.

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that most visitors see.
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more, much more!

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CONSERVATION FORUM

Here are some reports from the VicWalk Conservation Committee meeting of 23/05/2001:

Bunyip State Park - This park is the second largest State Park in Victoria and is being heavily used by trail bikes. There are designated unloading areas for the bikes and unloading is banned in picnic areas; but they still do so. The erosion of the tracks is horrific. The Ranger has requested the Vic Conservation committee convenor [Dave Rimmer] to write a letter, which will be sent to Higher Authority, regarding the lack of signage on the tracks, erosion, inappropriate use of 4-wheel drive vehicles, and the unbalanced use of the Park. There are some 300 km of vehicle tracks, less than 20 km of walking tracks and some mixed tracks. Some trail bikes are unregistered, but the Police go through the Park fortnightly.

Alpine - Bill Metzenthien had received a report that Sherryl Garbutt had rejected a proposal to raise the level of the Rocky Valley Dam - (a) it is inconsistent with National Park values, and (b) it conflicts with biodiversity requirements. The cap has been raised on charges that can be made for electricity, which may affect use of Rocky Valley for electricity generation. An EES is being prepared for Rocky Knolls lifts, which are in the resort area, but right on the boundary.

Mt Hotham Resort - released a comprehensive Development Framework Plan for comment. It covers a lot and includes new lifts, increased tows to Golden Point, zoning an area near Wire Plain for activities including mountain slides, golf course, orienteering, indoor recreation, rock climbing, horse riding, etc, plus residential development around this. They want to zone an area for possible future developments such as Ski-tows - this area is the headwaters of the Diamantina River, just over Loch Ridge. Bill was advised to reply to this stating our concerns, particularly preservation of Cross-country ski-trails.

The **Mount Loch** power-line is going ahead. V.N.P.A. have modified the plans and are content with the result.

Mt Stirling - plan to reduce car-parking and use of roads. The main development to be at the Cricket Pitch. The 20:20 Report is to come out in June. Summit road has been closed since May 15th. Craig's Hut can still be approached from Circuit Road. Circuit Road will be closed on the Queen's Birthday weekend.

Deer Hunting - The VicWalk Conservation Committee have received the Draft Recommendations. N.R.E. will:-

- (a) review information sheets and maps to ensure they include information on hunting areas.
 - (b) that targeted enforcement be undertaken to deal with illegal activities, such as spot lighting (c) will liaise closely with the Police and Hunting organisations.
 - (d) close the hunting season of sambar deer - December to Easter. Open season for fallow deer to be no longer than for sambar deer.
- Five areas closed to deer hunting with dogs - These are:- Marysville, Kevington and Jamieson, Warburton, and Rubicon Power Station. Hall's Gap [Grampians] closed to all forms of deer hunting. Considering closing an area near Dargo, to hunting with scent-trailing hounds and gun-dogs.

State Forest Track Survey - Starling Gap - As a result of road works at the gap the Upper Yarra Track will be re-routed. DNRE will consult with VicWalk regarding further work on the "Walk into History Track".

VHC Track area has been logged, it according to DNRE was never a walking track, and they did not realise the extent of usage. Will consider putting in a track through regrowth area.

Box-Ironbark Forests - Rally on October 6-7. Rally will include variety of activities, including bird-netting, geology, music, speakers and walks. It is to be held in Maryborough as it is a politically sensitive area.

Otways - Recent research reveals the 'top ten' natural experiences to attract visitors. The top activities are - walking, farms, mountain biking, four-wheel driving, motor-bikes. The final report will be available in June.

ROD NOVAK

CLUB DELEGATE - VICWALK CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

NEW MEMBERS

FRED BROWN
 DAVID EASTON
 JAMIE A FREEMONT
 CHERIE HORNE
 CAROL LEE
 FOTINA LENNON
 DZINTRA NIKAKIS
 CHRISTINE NOLAN
 JOSEPHINE TALANEK
 GREGORY THOMAS
 ELIZABETH TYE

MAY ACCOUNTS

	\$
Opening Balance	49,657.97
Income	10,301.00
Expenditure	9,424.42
Closing Balance	50,534.55

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Life Members 11
 Honorary Members 10
 Single memberships 302
 Family memberships 96 (= 2 x 48)
 Total membership 419
 This time last year 395

JAN PALICH
TREASURER

PETER HAVLICEK
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

CLUBROOMS DUTY ROSTER

Wed 4 Jul - Brian & Tracey Wed 11 Jul - Anne & Marika
 Wed 18 Jul - Amanda & Doug Wed 25 Jul - Pearson & Vicki
 Wed 1 Aug - Debbie & Peter Wed 8 Aug - Tracey & Trish

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Mon 6 Aug at 7.00 pm

JULY 2001 WALKS, ETC.

20-29	Extended Ski Trip: Bogong High Plains	Private	Hard	Bill Metzenthien	
Sat 21	Ski Trip: Beginners Trip - Lake Mountain	Private	Easy	Doug Pocock	
Sun 22	Anakie Gorge – Steiglitz (Brisbane Ranges)	BUS	E & E/M	Brian Crouch & John Coe	#
27-29	VicWalk: Search & Rescue Snow Practice	Private		Gina Hopkins	
27-29	Ski Trip: Tawonga South (Falls Creek)	Private	Medium	Les Sobey	
Sat 28	Dandenongs Explorer	Private	Easy	Rod Novak	
Sun 29	Lost Children’s Track (Daylesford)	BUS	E/M & M	Peter Havlicek & Paul Beers	#

AUGUST 2001 WALKS, ETC.

Sat 4	Ski Trip: Mt Stirling	Private	Medium	Alan Ide	
Sun 5	Mt Hickey – Warragul Rocks (Tallarook)	BUS	E/M & M	Jan Palich & Hans Edlinger	#
10 – 12	Lodge – Ski & Walk at Rawson	Private	Various	Max Casley & Rod Novak	
Sun 12	Jan Juc – Ironbark Basin (Anglesea)	BUS	E & M	Peter Havlicek & Anna Anson	#
Wed 15	Wednesday Walkers: Mt Alexander	Private	E/M	Max Casley	
17 – 19	Ski Trip: High Plains/Tawonga Huts	Private	Medium	Merilyn Whimpey	

<p>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</p>	<p>SURFACE MAIL</p>	<p>POSTAGE PAID</p>
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ALTERATION TO PARTICULARS

Name (new) Name (old)

Address
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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 *The News* – \$18.00

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