



A000133X

Edition 601

MARCH 2001

Price 60 cents

INSIDE:

- 2001 Committee
- A Member Receives an OAM!
- 3 Couples Tie the Knot!
- S&R Members Valued

S.O.S.!



SECRETARY REQUIRED!

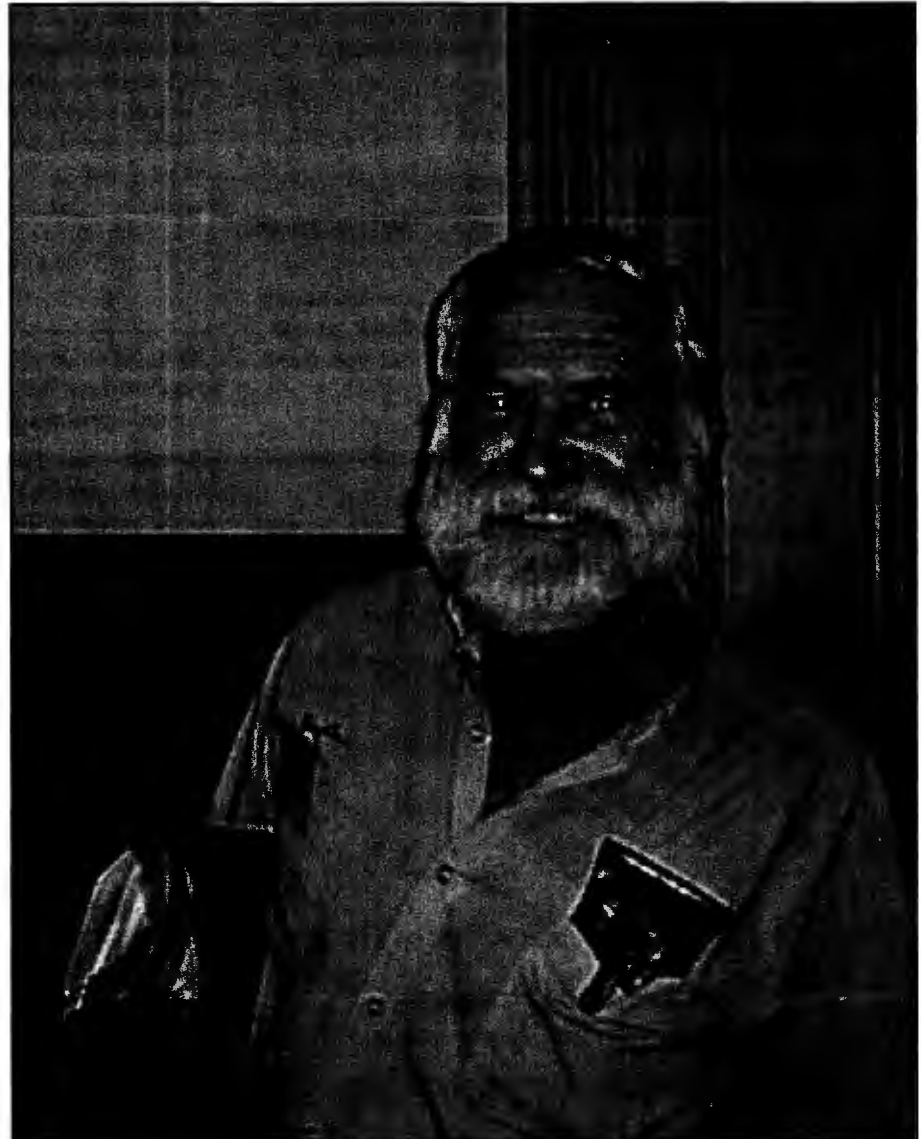
Do you enjoy a challenge?

Do you want to get involved
in the Club?

Do you want to
further develop
your organizational skills?

If so, phone:

Trish Elmore ())
or Anne Wilkins ())



“... and Doug will have his day.”

Doug Pocock at the Club's Annual General Meeting on 28 February 2001 where Jean Giese's proposal that he be made a Life Member in recognition of his "long & exceptional service" to the Club was unanimously carried. Congratulations Doug! (See details of a special Wednesday Walk for Doug on Page 4).



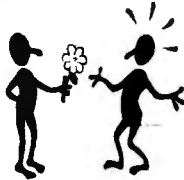
Goulburn River Canoe Trip: Labour Day Long Weekend

Suitable for beginners. Places are filling fast. Phone George Zamora. Details on Page 5

FROM THE EDITOR

Hi! If "The News" looks a little different this time it's because I've taken over the desktop publishing program from Clare Lonergan.

As the new "News" Editor I would like to begin by commending my predecessor for her great efforts over the last 2 years. I have always found Clare's editions well thought out, neat, consistent & innovative. I could write many positive things but rather I will note one & that is that she often "went beyond the call of duty" as Editor, e.g. by penning tributes to club members as well as walk previews for leaders who had failed to submit them by the deadline. Well done & thank you very much Clare!



Speaking of the deadline, I will finish by encouraging you to begin! or to continue contributing articles, poems, ideas, photographs, etc. - "The News" is what you make it - & by the deadline!

Vicki Scrivenger

BEST WISHES...



to newly-weds: Stuart Mann & Renee Thomas,
David Everitt & Lillian Dodemaide &
Adrian Bolzan & Celesta Fong

Members of the Melbourne Bushwalkers Inc. meet 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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

While the recent long & sad search was on for the man missing in the forest near Tanjil Bren, I felt very proud in the knowledge that we had six of our strong & able members out there taking part in the search.

Sometimes bushwalkers are accused of being selfish, just wanting to keep all the good, natural areas for their exclusive use, which is not true of course, but it is good that we have members who are prepared to be in our Search & Rescue squad & answer the call-outs.

I think the organisers of these searches calculate that they can send the Bushies into the rough stuff, searching gullies & following creeks in overgrown & pretty daunting territory, safe in the knowledge that they know the bush & can look after themselves.

It is good that we can give to the community in this way. Well done!

Jean Giese

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**

MARCH/APRIL DAY WALKS, ETC.



DATE

STANDARD

DISTANCE

LEADER(S)

TRANSPORT

Historical Walk: Elster Creek

MON 12 MARCH
(Labour Day)

Easy

Approx. 8 kms

Nigel Holmes

Public

Meet: "Under the clocks" at Flinders Street station at 10.00 AM. We'll depart on a Frankston line train around 10.15 to Ormond station.

The walk will start at Ormond station and follow the route of the Elster creek through Ormond, McKinnon, Brighton, Elsternwick and Elwood. Pre-settlement River Red Gums, a lagoon and the hotel where Thomas Bent was bailed up by bushrangers & tied to a tree will be some of the distractions on this walk. The route is about 8 km long, we finish at the Bay and can catch a bus or tram back to the city. All travel is within Met Zone 1.

Ring Nigel on anytime to book on the walk or ask questions about it.



DATE

STANDARD

DISTANCE

LEADER(S)

TRANSPORT

RETURN TIME

AREA

MAP REFERENCE

Yea Spur – King Parrot Creek

Sunday 1 April

Easy & Easy Medium

Approx. 11 kms & 17 kms

Alan Miller & John Kittson

Bus from South Bank Boulevard
at 9.00am

Approx. 7.00pm

Goulburn Valley Heights

Homewood & Flowerdale
1:25,000

This is an excellent ridge walk with extensive views over the Goulburn Valley & beyond. The easy walk is entirely along a bush track (the main road to Melbourne for one of the farmers!) The "birdo's" in the club should enjoy this walk; we saw hawks & parrots on the preview. The E/M walk starts further north & has an off-track section along the Yea Spur before joining the track used by the easy walk.



DATE

STANDARD

DISTANCE

LEADER(S)

TRANSPORT

RETURN TIME

AREA

MAP REFERENCE

Dom Dom Saddle – Donellys Weir

Sunday 18 March

Easy Medium & Medium

Approx. 15kms & 20kms

Lance Mobbs & Ralph Blake

Bus from South Bank Boulevard
at 9.00am

Approx. 7.00pm

Near Healesville

Juliet North & Juliet South

Both walks will start at Dom Dom Saddle. The Easy/Medium walk will finish at Fernshaw and the Medium walk will conclude at Maroondah Dam. Both walks are through forested areas and are mostly on tracks.

The Medium walk will head north west from Dom Dom and then south east to ascend Mt Monda. Then we will take Condon's walking track to the Maroondah Dam, a steep descent to the south.

The Easy/Medium walk will head past Mt Dom Dom, then along the Cleft Rock walking track. There is a bit of a climb here. Then it's along the Morley track for a gentle descent to Fernshaw.



DATE

STANDARD

LEADER(S)

TRANSPORT

Please see the leaders in the clubrooms or phone Tracey Jamieson on:



DATE

STANDARD

DISTANCE

LEADER(S)

TRANSPORT

RETURN TIME

AREA

MAP REFERENCE

Warburton - Upper Yarra Goldfields

Sunday 8 April

Easy & Easy Medium

Tracey Jamieson & Bill Donald

Bus from South Bank Boulevard
at 9.00am

Cape Schanck - Rye Back Beach

Sunday 15 April

Easy & Easy Medium

Approx. 15 kms & 18 kms

Peter McGrath & Jean Woodger

Bus from South Bank Boulevard
at 9.00am

Approx. 7.00pm

Mornington Peninsula

Department of Conservation,
Forests & Lands

This is a splendid walk for Easter Sunday. We all have plenty of time on our hands and want to see some beautiful part of Victoria, and share that experience with good company. Well let's do that.

This walk offers some splendid sights – Bushranger Bay for the Easy/Medium walk, then, the lighthouse at Cape Schanck, the boardwalk where sea monkeys have been seen to play, a lovely walk through coastal bushland, then a pleasant walk along the beach.

The Easy/Medium is slightly over the usual 17 km distance because of the flatness of the terrain on this walk. The Easy walk is in fact only 13 kms; however there is about 1 km to be gained from walking down to the boardwalk and doubtless you will want to hang around down there and look for glimpses of interesting sea-life, if there are any to be had.



Historical Walk

DATE MON 16 APRIL

Please see Nigel Holmes in the clubrooms or phone him on:



Wednesday Walk: Starlings Gap – Ada Tree

DATE WED 18 APRIL

STANDARD Medium

DISTANCE Approx. 12kms

LEADER(S) George Sawenko

TRANSPORT Private

AREA Yarra State Forest,
Powelltown

MAP REFERENCE Ada River, VICMAP
1:25,000

The plan at present is to walk from the Starlings Gap camping Area to the Ada Tree along the Upper Yarra Track. It will take us through magnificent Mountain Ash and Myrtle Beech rainforest to the Ada Tree itself which is considered to be one of Victoria's largest and oldest living trees. Over 300 years old, it towers to around 80 metres in height, although it's thought to have once reached a staggering 120 metres. The area is noted for its variety of mammals and birdlife, as well as a fascinating array of plant and tree species.

There'll be offerings of local history, particularly relating to the very active timber industry which has left behind old tram lines and a scattering of mill sites. I should have more information available in the next issue of The News, by which time I will have had the opportunity to do a proper preview walk.

For bookings please contact me on my home number as I cannot make it to the Wednesday night gatherings: (phone)



Cycle Trip: City to Jells Park (& Return)

DATE Saturday 21 April

STANDARD Easy Medium-35kms one way

LEADER(S) Rod Novak

TRANSPORT Train & Bike

This cycle trip will follow the Yarra Trail to the bridge over the Yarra, then we take the Gardiners Creek trail to Glen Waverley with lunch at Jells Park. After lunch, we cycle up the hill (granny gear!) to Glen Waverley for an ice-cream. You can exit here via the train at Glen Waverley station. Keen cyclists can return to the city. Most of the way is on shared bike trails with the occasional road. You need to bring your lunch, 2 bidons, a good rain coat and bike gear (eg puncture repair, small tools, spare tube). A bell is a must for the shared bike path. Get an Info



School House Ridge (Toolangi)

DATE Sunday 22 April

STANDARD Easy Medium & Medium

Please see the leaders in the clubrooms or phone Tracey Jamieson on:



Wednesday Walk: Doug's Day Walk

DATE WED 25 APRIL (Anzac Day)

STANDARD Easy – Approx. 12kms

LEADER(S) Doug Pocock

TRANSPORT Private

MAP REFERENCE Yarra Valley Tarrawarra
1:25,000

The 1961 Autumn programme featured the walk "25th April, Killara – Warramate Hills – Tarrawarra, 10 miles, leader Athol Schafer, 2nd return Killara, fare 11/3d." I went along & was introduced to the mysteries & magic of bushwalking. I was hooked!!!

This 2001 Anzac Day is the 40th anniversary of that walk. The area has changed somewhat – a few more houses & fences & lots of grape vines so I can't repeat the original walk (anyway no trains & no bridge at Tarrawarra) so the walk will be Killara – Warramate Hills – Killara. We will meet at Killara station, now part of Warburton Trail, at 10am. Parking is in Kylie Lane off Sunnyside Road.

This could be a good opportunity for oldtimers such as Erreys, Shorts & Sisemans to stretch their legs alongside newer members. Bring your cape groundsheet, Federation A-frame rucksack & your ex-army hobnail boots & join me on a pleasant walk in the Yarra Valley.

We can have afternoon tea at our home after the walk.

MARCH/APRIL WEEKEND & EXTENDED WALKS, ETC.



Base Camp: East Gippsland

DATE	FRI 9 – MON 12 MARCH (Labour Day Long Weekend)
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER(S)	Rod Novak
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Approx. 9.00pm MON Evening

This trip will depart Melbourne on Saturday, meeting up in Lakes Entrance for an early lunch and a short walk to "the entrance". We then visit an old historic rail trestle bridge and make our way to Orbost for a late afternoon stroll to Young's Creek Falls. On Sunday we will walk to the mouth of the Snowy River at Marlo and also a beach walk along the "French Narrows". On Monday we will walk along Cape Conran with a possible visit to the Holey Plains State Park (near Rosedale) in the afternoon and a group dinner on the trip home. See the leader at Club-night for an Information sheet.

N.B.: This trip replaces the base camp at Alpine National Park.



Canoe Trip: Goulburn River

DATE	FRI 9 – MON 12 MARCH (Labour Day Long Weekend)
STANDARD	Easy
LEADER(S)	George Zamora
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Shepparton/Nathalia
TRAVEL DISTANCE	240kms from Melbourne

Come and explore with me the wonders of the Goulburn River. On Friday night we will camp at LOCH GARRY which is on the Shepparton/Barmah Road, no far from Bunbartha town (small town). On Saturday Morning we start our paddle downstream to McCoy Bridge (If you remember McCoy Bridge was the starting point of our previous canoeing trip). On Saturday night we will camp on one of the sandbars along the river (plenty of sandbars on this trip). We should arrive at McCoy Bridge on Monday afternoon after smooth water paddling all the way.

For those people who have been on previous canoeing trips, this section of the Goulburn River is on State Forest land and is totally a new area for us to explore, also this river is completely different to the Murray River. First, there is no high speed boats on the river, Just canoes, so you don't have to insert your fingers in your ears each time a speed boat passes. Second, the river is not as deep,

does it have such strong currents as the Murray River, which means that is easier to negotiate obstacles such as snags. You will see magnificent River Red Gums and many types of native birds; but you will not see people. Beautiful campsites will provide a trip to remember (don't forget to bring your photography camera). It will be an easy trip with lots of swim stops, lunch and afternoon breaks.

Warning: It will be hot - old pyjamas, plenty of 15+ sum cream and a hat. We will hire canoes at Barmah town. The two person Canadian canoes are supplied with - life jackets, waterproof barrels, detailed maps, bird ID books, fact sheets and compasses. A non refundable deposit of \$20. Per person is required for canoe allocation, as this time of the year is the busiest of the calendar. As lots people like to come on this canoe trip you must book early, otherwise you may miss this wonderful experience. Beginners welcome! You can book at the club rooms or ring



Canoe Trip: Opera on the Murray

DATE	SAT 7 - SUN 8 APRIL
STANDARD	Easy
DISTANCE	Approx. 40kms
LEADER(S)	Joy Carver
TRANSPORT	Private
AREA	Murray River/Keogh Island
MAP REFERENCE	Chart 19-14 River of Islands, Kath & Leon Bentley

Easy (basic skills – flat water touring) overnight canoeing trip ending with Mediterranean buffet in the rose garden with entertaining light opera.

Join in for a delightful paddle along the Murray to camp on Keogh Island in setting sun. Then an organised start to enjoy the rest of the distance before pulling canoes out at St. Leonards winery. A quick change removing all signs of mud & presto! Lunch in the rose garden at All Saints enjoying a light opera program with all the beautiful people. This is a popular trip & numbers are limited to 12. Early bookings recommended.

Lunch is an occasion not to be missed prepared by Peter Weir – cost: \$60 approx. Canoes are provided at a cost of \$25 per person.

Full details are provided when booking is confirmed by contacting Joy on



Pack Carry: Ben Boyd National Park (NSW)

DATE THURS 12 – MON 16 APRIL
(Easter Long Weekend)

STANDARD Easy Medium

DISTANCE Approx. 30kms

LEADER(S) Jopie Bodegraven

TRANSPORT Private

AREA South East New South Wales

MAP REFERENCE National Parks Brochure
Eden State Forests 1:125,000

The attraction of Ben Boyd is the spectacular coastal scenery, cliffs, rocky headlands, rock platforms and some cute beaches. The National Parks have recently completed a 30 km coastal track with 2 designated backpack camping areas which will make a lovely 3 day backpack without big hills. There will be opportunities for some exploration without packs along the rock platforms where the track touches the coast.

We will drive to Cann River (about 6 hours) to camp on Thursday evening. On Friday we will drive to Green Cape, the southern starting point of our walk and do a car shuffle to our northern finish point at Red Point. Our days walk is 11 km to our campsite at Heaghertys Bay. The next 2 days each only have about 9 km of backpacking plus sidetrip explorations but these will of course be optional. We will need to carry water about 4 km for our second backpack camp at Mowarry Point.

Sunday night will be in Twofold Bay Caravan Park and on Monday morning we will have a look at Haycocks Point, a very interesting spot north of Eden but still in Ben Boyd.

Those who have to be back at work on Tuesday can then head home. The rest of us who have an extra day or two have got some more pleasures in store. First is a half day walk rockhopping down Tantawangalo Creek inland from Bega. Tantawangalo Creek has a charming section of cascades and small waterfalls set in a granite gorge. After a night camped at Bombala we will do some exploring at Myanba Gorge and Falls in State Forest east of Bombala. We may drive home on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning depending on how much time we spend at Myanba.

This trip should be a good introduction to 3 day backpacking.

N.B. New phone no.:

TO RENT

2 bedroom Hills cottage. Available late March until early November (negotiable). Big garden, close to National Park, new kitchen & recently decorated. Off-street parking. 10 mins walk to Ferntree Gully railway station. Please contact Susan Maughan on:



Pack Carry: Kosciuszko National Park (NSW)

DATE THURS 12 – MON 16 APRIL
(Easter Long Weekend)

STANDARD Medium/Hard

DISTANCE Approx. 60kms

LEADER(S) Ralph Blake

TRANSPORT Private

RETURN TIME Late Monday Night

AREA Snowy Mountains NSW

MAP REFERENCE Khancoban 1:50,000

This trip will be a four day pack carry in the Jagungal area. The walk will be a circuit starting and finishing at the Round Mountain trail head. Places we hope to visit would be Far Bald Mountain, Happy Jacks Plain, Bulls Peak, Valentine River, Mt Jagungal and Toolong Range. We will try not to walk more than 20 km in any one day. Depending on the weather and aspirations of the group the itinerary may be changed.

This trip is suitable for fit and experienced pack carry walkers only. Please be prepared for any kind of weather conditions, including rain and snow.



Base Camp: Cobberas – Native Dog Flat

DATE THURS 12 – MON 16 APRIL
(Easter Long Weekend)

STANDARD Easy Medium

DISTANCE Approx. 30kms

LEADER(S) Michael Mann & Bob Steel

TRANSPORT Private

AREA Cobberas – NE of Omeo

MAP REFERENCE Suggan Buggan double map
1:50,000

Come on a great base camp in an area we haven't visited for some time. Good camping by a stream at Native Dog Flat, with walks up into the Playground, the various peaks of the Cobberas & maybe Mt. Wombargo.

I promise to make apple pie in my camp oven.

Please contact the leaders for further details & directions.



Canoe Trip: Murray River

DATE 12 – 16 APRIL – Easter

STANDARD Easy Medium

Please see the leader in the clubrooms or call George Zamora on:



Pack Carry: Eagles Peaks

DATE	FRI 27 – SUN 29 APRIL
STANDARD	Medium
DISTANCE	Approx. 25kms
LEADER(S)	Max Casley
TRANSPORT	Private
RETURN TIME	Late SUN Evening
AREA	Mansfield (South of Mt Buller)
MAP REFERENCE	VMTC Buller South - King, Howqua & Jamieson Rivers 1:50,000

We tried to do this trip last October but were foiled by snow, rain & fallen timber. We still had a nice walk but we will try again in beautiful autumn weather – fingers crossed!

The plan is to walk from Sheeppark Flat up to the Mt Darling ridge to camp on Saturday night. Sunday we will visit The Governors as a side trip, & then climb over Eagles Peak to finish at 8 mile Gap. “Why go up rather than down”, do I hear you ask? The idea is to save carrying all our water needs for Saturday & Sunday morning. Also there are steep sections which are easier to ascend than descend. However, it is possible that we may do the walk the other way round. Anyway, it will be a great autumn walk with magnificent views.

Meet Saturday morning 8am at Sheeppark Flat when the car shuffle will start. Hopefully we will start walking soon after 9am. Sunday night we can reminisce over dinner perhaps at Yea of Mansfield.

Suggested transport cost will be about \$32 per person.

A MESSAGE FOR MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS (& ALL OTHERS TOO!)

We are now in the Membership subscription renewal period. If you wish to continue as members (and receive your NEWS without a break), you should renew your membership as soon as possible (and certainly before the end of May)! The subscriptions have not changed from last year and are shown on the last page of each issue of the NEWS. If you are uncertain whether you are due or not, check your address label: if it says “Subs Due”, they are! If you don't believe it, please ring your Membership Secretary, me, on Thank you for co-operating.

Peter Havlicek
Membership Secretary

2001 COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT	Pearson Cresswell
VICE PRESIDENTS	Anne Wilkins & Trish Elmore
SECRETARY	Vacant
TREASURER	Jan Palich
WALKS SECRETARY	Rod Novak
ASSIST. WALKS SECRETARY	Tracey Jamieson
SUNDAY WALKS	
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Peter Havlicek
SOCIAL SECRETARY	Vacant
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CONGRATULATIONS...

to Lindsay Crawford on the award of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of his 50 years of volunteer service with YHA.

Anne Crawford

WILKINSON LODGE

I will be away in Tassie from March 21 to April 18. I suggest you contact me before then if you want to use Wilky over that period. Otherwise contact Greame Thornton who will handle bookings & keys in my absence.

Doug Pocock

SEARCH & RESCUE REPORT

This last year there seems to have been many more searches involving the Bushwalkers' Search & Rescue than in past years. Since I have been the Club delegate there have been 5, or possibly 6, call-outs.

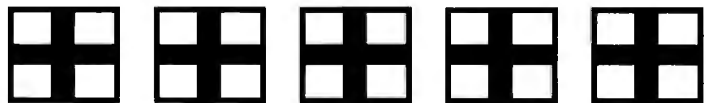
On Thursday 18 January we had the first call-out for 2001. A young man had gone missing near Tanjil Bren, not far from the Baw Baw plateau. Derrick Brown was the only Melbourne Bushie to respond to that first call but a total of 20 Bushwalker S&R members turned up that first day and were given a pretty tough job doing line searches in the dense scrub and steep terrain surrounding Tanjil Bren. There was no success by the end of the first day and a second call-out resulted in another 20 BS&R members turning up early Saturday morning. This time another five Melbourne Bushies attended - David Brett, Alan Clarke, Bill Metzthen, Mark Walters and myself. In groups of four we were given the task to search all the creeks and gullies in the area. It was very slow going with most groups only managing to cover about 3-400 metres an hour.

On Saturday about 130 people were involved in the search, including the police, their dogs and horses, and the SES. Food was provided by the Red Cross. The intensive searching continued on Sunday but in spite of all the efforts there was no trace found of the missing person. The BS&R members returned home after 3 days and the search was scaled back. Although this search did not have a positive outcome, the contribution of the Bushwalkers Search & Rescue members was very much appreciated.

If you are a weekend walker and interested in joining this section please contact me for more information. You don't need to have excellent navigation skills and you don't need to be able to ski. Each year there are Search & Rescue practice weekends where you can learn valuable skills which may be useful on any trip.

Gina Hopkins (tel:)

LEVEL 2 FIRST AID TRAINING



Following on from the successful course ran last September, the Club is planning to run another course this year to be conducted over 2 weekends: **Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th March & Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th April.**

When it comes to learning new skills, there is nothing like first hand experience in the bush as well as classroom. This course has plenty of both, with particular emphasis on remote area first aid, including bush exercises and is invaluable in the skills it provides for both Day walkers and Weekend walkers.

It is essential that we have as many people as possible with the skills to assist Leaders, if the need arises.

The cost for 20 hours of training is approximately \$120 with a possible subsidy from the Club to assist people develop their First Aid skills.

I have some definite "starters" and a number of others "thinking" about it so **ACT NOW** if you want to be part of it as numbers are limited to 12.

Brian Crouch
Training Coordinator



CHANGES TO THE AUTUMN WALKS PROGRAM

9-12 March – The long weekend base camp – David Laing’s trip to the Alpine National Park has been cancelled (leader is unavailable) with an alternative base camp to be held in East Gippsland. Contact Rod Novak for more information on

Sunday 18th March – New destination – Dom Dom Saddle. New leaders are Ralph Blake telephone _____ and Lance Mobbs. [The original destination to Coliban Falls has been postponed as the farmer had concerns with the high fire danger at this time of the year}.

May - The Wednesday Walk in May has been rescheduled to the “third Wednesday of the month”. The walk to **Blackwood – Garden of St Erth** will now be held on the **16th May** (not the 23rd on the program). Contact Sandra Mutimer for more information on

Sunday Bus trip on 13th May. New leader is Alan Miller (replacing Sally). Telephone _____

Pack Carry on 11-13th May. New Leader is Mark Walters (replacing Gina Hopkins). Telephone _____

WALKS SECRETARY’S REPORT

All walkers please note: The Committee has passed a new Club By-Law concerning activities on **Total Fire Ban** days. With the extreme temperatures and bushfire risk, the Sunday Bus trip will need to have an alternative walk in a safer locality eg beach walk, or in the greater metropolitan area. This is for safety reasons.

The **Winter Walks Program** is now being prepared. If you would like to help lead a Sunday Bus Walk, then contact Tracey Jamieson on _____

Sunday Bus Leaders – Please help Bob our Sunday Bus driver with a map with clear directions for the Bus drop off and pick-up points. Use a highlighter pen for the main roads/bus route. Bob would like some useful reference points eg nearest town, main roads, distance along the track etc.

State Forest Walking Track Survey - The objective of this survey is to build a database of walking tracks in state forests to help protect them from logging operations ie buffer zones. Walk reports are still required of walking tracks/routes in state forests. See Rod Novak if you can help.

JANUARY 2001 STATISTICS

Jan 2001	Trips	Participants	Average	Jan 2000	Jan 1999
Sunday Bus	4	123	30.75	35	40.6
Other Day Wed – 15 Hist – 3	2	18	9	6.5	9.5
Base Camp	1	9	9	-	-
Lodge	1	17	17	13.5	12
Canoe	1	24	24	-	17
Pack Carry	3	31	10.3	9	6.7
Cancelled	Nil			1	-
Total	12	222		219	281

N.B.: The Australia Day long weekend was very successful this year with 81 Bushies out and about on 6 different trips with the three day weekend.

DANDENONG EXPLORERS

HELP is required for these popular Saturday rambles for the second half of 2001 – being June to December. Warren (Our new Dandenong’s Explorer Coordinator) will be overseas during this period and has requested assistance from Club members. Can walkers who would like to assist please contact Warren on _____ if you can help.

Rod Novak

AUSTRALIA DAY CANOE TRIP – GEORGE'S GOULBURN – BRIDGE TO BRIDGE

Take a thunderstorm or two, add a cast of thousands (actually 24 people), arriving at various times on a dark night, and 12 canoes. It takes a very special person to 'manage' such chaos, and that man is George. The cars were 'shuffled' to a safe place in two separate trips, the first being at 8pm as the heavens opened and sheet lightning showed glimpses of the track to Barmah, and then at 8.30am in the morning. Early morning by the river showed a muddy stream which was to be our venue for the next 3 days. Excuse my dismay at the state of the river, but the week before three of us had been upstream on a clear, fast-flowing river above Traawool, and yes, it was also named the Goulburn River. Economics and agriculture certainly have impact on natural beauty.

DAY 1: But first of all the boats had to be carried overland from where the track became unable to be navigated as the black night merged with the black mud on the Thursday night. Eventually people, gear, canoes and cars were all in the right place, thanks to Michael of Gondawana Canoe Hire. We set off about 11am just past McCoys Bridge with steep sided banks showing that this river had carried a considerable greater amount of water in times past. The acacias and red gums along the way marked the passing distance as we observed night herons, hawks, cormorants, swallows and kingfishers in their habitat. A tranquil scene only offset (or should I say upset) by the occasional jamming on underwater obstacles by canoes heavy with the comforts of home. Who said it nice to get away from it all? Why not bring it with you, and that includes chairs, eskies, as well as tents, stoves, food, etc. The first night looked like being on the river as it was after 6pm before our able leader allowed us to make camp. The steep sides did not afford a lot of options for camping, but a suitable site was found. Meal preparation took priority as fading night bought out a mosquito or two. Entertainment was provided by the Village Glee Club singing favourites from the musicals. Such talent should be harnessed. The excitement of the night was felt as a tree dropped a limb, shaking the ground. Yes, Ros, the ground did move for me. It was just to remind us how silly it was not to "Look before you pitch". The morning light revealed a substantial limb that would have squashed anything in its path. Four feral dogs were sighted circling camp out of curiosity.

DAY 2: Early morning on the river is exquisite. The domestics taken care of, canoes re-laden, the group circled together and attempted yoga exercises. This revealed that some were more agile than others, some seemed to be put together with rubber bands as they bent over double. 10am start today as we really wanted to see more of this magic place. Swim stops along the way were enjoyed as the river did not sweep people away. Lunch time, and this time Quentin provided the works! Volley ball in hand the beach took on similarities to Bondi during the Olympics. Similarities ended though with a bash as the jaw-breaker shot (from Quentin) connected with Carolyn's jaw. Now here's a doctor who takes his profession so seriously, that he seeks to continue even on holidays. Does it matter that he has to create patients where there are none around? If you can imagine Carolyn, unable to speak, unable to eat, as well as in great pain, with a dislocated jaw, you will then appreciate the gravity of the situation. But with care and solicitations attended by Quentin, Carolyn regained full use of the mandible joint before the trip ended. Now I did not tell you before, but Gerhard was suffering in silence with a twisted knee. So we have Carolyn suffering in silence, with Gerhard, and their canoe became

known as the 'hospital ship'. The trip continued along serene sections of the river, rafting up with canoes for social chit-chat, or choosing to have a go at water polo. The distance between the ball away from the body at paddle-length seemed to be a good safety precaution. Camp on night 2 was made on a sandy bend, with some choosing a river-side view, others more pastoral outlook across a dry lagoon. Another good evening spent as the evening meal was prepared and enjoyed. Melodies again were enjoyed with the repertoire enhanced by Doug's contribution. Weariness soon took over as we took to the tents for a very sound sleep.

DAY 3: Great sunrise over the pastures. The wonderful thing about canoeing with George is that he does all the worrying, and he doesn't show it. Who cares what time we finish, or if we ever do? The river is there to enjoy, and that's what we did. This morning Tai Chi restored the balance between body and soul, and mind you, some are more delicately balanced than others. What a sublime group of friends. Only on a river do we all blend in with such peace. Put us in an urban setting and out goes all this accord. Back to the boats, and where are we? Who cares. George is in charge. Along the way a channel discharges water back into the river being a run-off channel from agriculture land. Such dirty polluted water. It was good to see the destination bridge (Stewart's Bridge) come into view about 3pm, knowing that we would not be swimming with the additional discharge.

Cars were retrieved as Michael timed his arrival coordinated by mobile phone to the minute. A 60-minute round trip saw the first round of drivers arrive to pick up private canoes and gear, with a second round following. Thanks to George for a safe 65 km paddle and we farewelled each other, had a slice of watermelon, and there was a promised reunion at Quentin's planned for 25th February.

Joy Carver

MT BOGONG TRIP

As the March hare once said to Alice, "I'm late, I'm very very late". And so too is this review, which should have appeared in the last "News" if only I had remembered to write it. Oh well! As I'm also fond of saying, better late than never.

So off to Mt Bogong we went, ably led by Rod would you like a caramello chocolate bear Novak. Just as we were about to begin the walk up the fire track, a woman, rather upset as it would happen, asked us to keep an eye peeled for her missing husband, a certain Mr K. It appears that Mr K was in the habit of wandering off into the bush without telling a single living soul where he intended to walk. Mrs K was followed shortly after by the local constabulary who asked us, "I suppose you know where you're going?", "yes", we said, we did and were allowed to carry on.

So upwards and onwards we went. Up the Staircase Spur, which we accomplished in good time, lunching at the top, or close to it as it would happen. The climb up was a warm one, the weather Gods being terribly kind to us on this trip, so much so that we were greeted with a lovely view at the top. Views on Bogong are a rare thing I find, the summit being usually clouded over once the Mount has been gained.

Deborah Henry

AUSTRALIA DAY WALK – CAREY CREEK

Friday morning and there we were at the appointed meeting place. But where were the others? There were four of us in our car, but there were two other cars and five walkers missing! After checking and re-checking the map for likely errors, we left a message and set off. The route was up to the Watchtower, down a spur to the Carey Creek, following this around to Surveyors Creek, then up a spur and out. No tracks at all to follow except for the first bit - this was to be an exploratory walk.

We were soon at the Watchtower, which we climbed for the views. As we came down and headed for the next high point, along came Jerry and Peter. They had driven in from a different direction, and the road had been blocked by a fallen tree. So now we were six. Max and passengers were still missing.

The navigation soon became a little tricky as we had to decide which spur to descend to Carey Creek. After due consultation we set off - the right way, of course! The temperature rose as did the humidity. When we found the creek we went right in. Steam rose from six bodies. Now we followed the creek, at times a bit scrubby, passing several quite decent camping spots. Meantime, the sky blackened, thunder rolled, lightning struck. The rain fell. We found a suitable campsite and quickly made camp. After two hours or so of heavy rain it stopped. Socialising outside the tents we found the site had been used before. We found a bowsaw, billy and some plastic drums. Strange, no road into here. Horse parties? While standing around Susan and I were bitten by bull ants who were aggressively defending their territory.

Next day was delightful, sunny and not too hot. The plan was to follow the creek and this we did, mostly alongside, occasionally in. We found some deep swim holes and made full use of them. We met several snakes (one very large), a water dragon, a bush rat, a dead roo. Camp that night was at the foot of the spur we were to follow out. Looking up we had great views of the impressive sheer cliffs on the eastern side of the Watchtower.

Hans became quite excited at this campsite. The pools, he explained, were perfect for fishing. I was busy settling down with my cup of tea so I nodded. He disappeared with a tin of worms, a line and some hooks. He was back inside a minute. "Ten seconds!" he shouted, showing us a decent sized brown trout. He caught several others, a blackfish and an eel. All went back in the water. "A fisherman's paradise", he commented.

Next morning we took off up the spur and were on the top soon after morning tea. That left time for some exploring before driving out. At Tali Karg car park there were Max and Rod. A breakdown had interfered with their plans and they had joined the Tali Karg trip. So all was well. Thank you Gina for planning and leading this three-day walk. We now know that you are back on form and you can now carry your full share of the pack!

Leader - Gina Hopkins, with Hans Edlinger, Susan McInnes, Jerry Grandage, Peter Cook and me.

Derrick Brown

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NEW ZEALAND ADVENTURE - MILFORD TRACK

FEBRUARY 2001

Try to think of the most courageous, skilful, daring members of our club ? Yes, you know their names ... that is the group that tackled the fierce wilderness of the Milford Track on February 8-11. **Jan Palich, Maureen Hurley, her friend Bob (now nicknamed 'starkers') Fiona Gallery, Ralph Clayton, David Moon, Jenny Grice, and Margaret Campion.** Although physically absent, **Tracey Jamieson** was on the track in spirit and many of us used her bush tips to make our journey more comfortable eg. the Coffee & Milk tube, the packet of cashews etc.

We met at Te Anau, overlooking its magnificent lake, staying at the Te Anau Holiday Park. Thanks to Ralph and Jan the vague plan finally became a reality with careful bookings. Before the walk Maureen and Ralph had already seen penguins and other critters and walked up the steepest street in Dunedin. Margaret had enjoyed a luxury motel suite with TV at Christchurch to help her prepare mentally and physically for the hardships ahead.

Instead of the torrents of rain we had been warned of, we enjoyed perfect sunny weather for 3 out of 4 days of our walk. Crystal-clear rivers, icy-cold swimming holes (ask Bob), eels and trout, snow-capped peaks, avalanche zones, awesome mountains, excellent tracks and spectacular waterfalls were all part of the journey.

Margaret was disappointed with the slow pace of the walk and would have preferred a much faster rate. She also felt there weren't enough rocks, but you can't please everyone. A competition emerged to see who could get the most sandfly bites in the most embarrassing places and Jenny was the winner at last count, according to David.

Some interesting characters joined our group in the 40 bed huts. There was '**Boot Monitor**' (aka Boot Nazi) who felt it was his God-given responsibility to make sure no-one wore their boots into the hut – until the ranger told us all to bring our boots inside or the Kia birds would destroy them! There was '**Boulder Man**', who made Ralph Clayton shiver with fear as he told him about the horrible giant boulders we would encounter on the track – Ralph's still looking for them.

Another strange character from our trip was '**Screamer**'. As everyone was sound asleep in their beds – their own beds we hope – a blood-curdling scream was heard coming from the bunk-house. Was it a murder ? Was it a furry critter crawling over someone's face? Was it a deadly sandfly swarm or rogue leech? No ... it was just the German woman having a nightmare. Unfortunately 15 minutes later, just as all had calmed down, she lapsed into the same nightmare, screaming again at the top of her lungs. Who ever said bush-walking was relaxing? '**Boulder Man**' boasted the next day that he had told her about rats in the bunk-house and traps under the beds. I'm sure that would have helped her relax.

On the last day of the trip '**Boulder Man**'s' torch went missing and he was convinced that one of us had taken it, an idea fuelled mischievously by David and Ralph. David also doubled as our hut "**Gas Tap Monitor**" ... which explains some hut explosions we heard during the day.

The **Stamina award** goes to Maureen Hurley who was still dancing and singing on the track after over 20kms of climbing. Even Fiona, who often didn't know what day it was, wished she'd knock it off.

And **The Romantic** award goes to Jan Palich who gave us all heart-shaped cookies on Valentines Day. Nice touch Jan !

Bill Donald followed in our Milford footsteps soon after. 3 show-offs also did the Routeburn walk while others rafted in Queenstown. A very happy and successful adventure in the land of the long white cloud.

Margaret Campion



THE LERDERDERG – O'BRIENS CROSSING WALK

SUNDAY 28 JANUARY 2001

For those familiar with the Lerderderg area
you'll know of its rugged beauty,
And I, for one, am now much warier
since performing my preview duty.

I'd seen what the river can do in flood
leaving all before in its wake,
and though adventure runs fast in my blood
safety is always the highest stake.

Though we were blessed with a mild and sunny day
showing the Gorge in all its glory,
some trials were had along the way
that I'll divulge to you via this story.

Despite two previews of the easy walk,
the other remained to be seen,
so when we strode past the Lerderderg fork,
some doubts developed between.

'Tis true that some maps can be misleading
around that part of the Gorge,
with signs amiss and tracks a'feeding
every which way, it seems, they forge.

But contours and creeks don't lie as they do,
thank God for those natural features,
I could tell that our course was way off cue,
what a lesson that sign did teach us!

Spanish Onion Track was always there,
but concealed near 2K back,
the relief at last we tended to share
while walking toward East Track.

And whilst track problems were in the past,
after lunch, we split into two,
for one nameless walker was far from fast
as her hangover grew and grew!

The easy group experienced some drama too
while descending Cowan Track,
when ground gave way beneath her shoe,
Maria's ankle tore or cracked.

Lynda's expertise was there at hand,
as well as some able assistants,
who carried the casualty over land,
while a 'courier' rode in by chance.

Whilst a day of drama unfolded for all,
t'was a test of character true,
and I'd like to thank those who came to the call,
to see our walking through.

Thanks to Roger and Ian for deputy leading
and those heroes who assisted Maria,
to my group who triumphed instead of conceding,
and to Bob, our intrepid carrier.

NEW MEMBERS:

JOHN LISTER

FIONA A. MAC PHERSON

VALMA A. WALLACE

ALTERED ADDRESS/PHONE:

JOPIE BODEGRAVEN / JENNY FLOOD

JOY CARVER

PETER GIPPS

ROD MATTINGLEY

PAMELA ROSSO

Life Members 11
Honorary Members 10
Single memberships 332
Family memberships 100 (= 2x 50)
Total membership 453
This time last year 494

DUTY ROSTER:

14 MARCH	Doug Pocock & Brian Crouch
21 MARCH	Jan Palich & Trish Elmore
28 MARCH	Anne Wilkins & Tracey Jamieson
4 APRIL	Deborah Henry & Rod Novak

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

MONDAY 2 APRIL 2001 AT 7.00PM

Jill Dawson

MARCH

16-18	Wilkinson Lodge: Alpine N.P. Work Party	Private	Easy	Doug Pocock	
17-18	First Aid Training – Level 2 Course	Private	Easy	Brian Crouch	*
Sun 18	Dom Dom Saddle – Donellys Weir	BUS	E/M & M	Ralph Blake & Lance Mobbs	#
Wed 21	St George Lake – Creswick	Private	E/M	Trevor Thomson	
23-25	Base Camp: Mt Franklin	Private	E/M	Rod Novak	
Sun 25	8.30 Start Federation Day at Daylesford	BUS	E & M	Jan Palich & Trish Elmore	#
30 -1	Base Camp: The Prom in a Day Circuit	Private	Hard	Pearson Cresswell	
Sat 31	Dandenongs Explorer	Private	Easy	Warren Baker	

APRIL

Sun 1	Yea Spur – King Parrot Creek	BUS	E & E/M	Alan Miller & John Kittson	
7 -8	First Aid Training – Level 2 Course	Private	Easy	Brian Crouch	
Sun 8	Warburton – Upper Yarra Goldfields	BUS	E & E/M	Tracey Jamieson & Bill Donald	
12-16	Pack Carry: Ben Boyd National Park (NSW)	Private	E/M	Jopie Bodegraven	
12-16	Pack Carry: Kosciuszko Nat. Park (NSW)	Private	M/Hard	Ralph Blake	
12-16	Base Camp: Snowy River National Park	Private	E/M	Michael Mann & Bob Steel	
12-16	Canoe Trip: Murray River	Private	E/M	George Zamora	*

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