



#### SPRING 1998 CHAIRMANS REPORT

Welcome to the second edition of YETI, the YHA Bushwalking newsletter.

For those of you who missed the first edition, we have re launched a club newsletter in an effort to improve communication throughout the club, particularly for those who do not attend clubnight.

With this edition, we have attempted to print sufficient copies to ensure that Yeti can be obtained wherever programs are made available. So for the Day Walk leaders running trips during the Spring Programme, ensure that you take both programmes and copies of Yeti with you to distribute on your walks.

We also ask that you the reader, support Yeti by sending us reviews of walks, details of forthcoming trips and articles to make it a homegrown publication.

“Wongungara Under Threat”. This is the title of a pamphlet currently being distributed by the Wilderness Society in an effort to preserve Victoria’s last true wilderness area. Wongungara is currently protected, but is likely to be scheduled for logging in early 1999. It is home to the the endangered Spotted Tree Frog whose decline in population has been attributed to logging. In addition, it has been estimated that there is sufficient timber on the Wongungarra slopes to provide sawmills with timber for only two years. If you want to help save Wongungarra, pick up a pamphlet at clubnight and write to Marie Tehran & Jeff Kennett.

The Committee has now published instructions for the use of the club’s mobile phone. Leaders running weekend walks are requested to take the mobile phone on the walk to be used as an additional resource in the running of the walk. Please contact a committee member for more details.

Some of the issues currently under discussion within the committee are as follows:

- Trip card: A scheme to reward frequent walkers by enabling them to purchase a card entitling them to walk for one year without the need to pay ongoing booking fees. The card has been agreed to in principle, but the costs and the mechanics of administering it have yet to be finalised.
- Telepath: The use of a single phone number on the internet and in public advertising for general club enquiries. This issue has been resolved by a sub-committee and should be ratified by the general committee shortly.
- Safety Policy: This issue is ongoing and a document will be published.

Molly Blooms Mid Year Christmas Dinner. I think I can speak for most if not all people who attended the evening. It was a great night with good food, nice cold Guinness and great company. Santa called and provided a few laughs and lollies. Many thanks to Ewan Murie for organising the night, particularly given that he was unable to attend due to work commitments.

It is important to the committee that walks and activities run smoothly and are enjoyable and safe. If there is any aspect of a walk, including the behaviour of other walkers that causes concern, please contact the chairman. All matters will be treated confidentially.

*Neil Gilbert, Chairman*

#### CLUBNIGHT SPECIAL EVENTS

**All welcome. Come along for an enjoyable evening.  
Proceedings start 8.15pm sharp!**

- 7th Sept Milford Track, Franz Josef glacier. New Zealand slides and talk with Ron Bell.
- 14 Sept Borneo slides and talk with Geoff Garty.
- 21 Sept General clubnight
- 28 Sept Introduction to Bushwalking and slides. Not just for the beginner.
- 5 Oct Cycling.
- 12 Oct Things that make you go ‘Ahhhh’ in the bush. Special guest speaker, supper provided \$2.
- 19 Oct Gear and food. Talk and display.
- 26 Oct Summer program walks meeting, come along with your ideas or even volunteer to lead a walk.
- 2 Nov **NO CLUBNIGHT.** Cup day weekend
- 9 Nov Gear buy, swap or sell night.
- 16 Nov Talk, slides on extended walking food and gear.
- 23 Nov General walks meeting, summer program leaders wanted.
- 30 Nov General clubnight
- 1 Dec Irian Jaya slides and talk. With John & Jean Braakhuis.

#### 60 YEARS OF WALKING

As 1999 approaches let us remind ourselves that YHA Victoria was formed 60 years ago in 1939. Hostels were to provide for walkers and cyclists in and around Kinglake, the Dandenongs and the Mornington Peninsula. The inaugural walk by YHA Bushies was at Easter 1940 in the Kinglake area. The cyclists held their first ride on the Mornington Peninsula when a group of 60 led by none other than Hubert Opperman (later knighted) cycled the Frankston, Mornington, Dromana circuit in July 1940.

Over the years we have seen many changes. In the early 1980’s and earlier, transport for just about all bushwalking trips was by van or bus. Today very few trips have the luxury of bus transport and while the old furniture van is still in use it is not the preferred mode of travel. Framed packs are seldom used and there are those who use a GPS instead of a compass.

In 1959 Paddy Pallin extolled the virtues of the 3 B’s, Burn, Bash and Bury, but today there are those who would suggest that you take *everything* out. The boom years of the 1930’s when 1000’s participated in day walks is now over and probably just as well.

And while walking with a club may not be as popular with young people today, clubs such as YHA bushwalking are still relevant and still have a large part to play in the walking and social arena. *Walking with a club group can be, and is, a very satisfying and rewarding experience.*

So in 1999 when we start to look back at 60 years of walking with YHA let us also look forward to another 60 years of walking.

**WALKS PREVIEW**

*A selection of trips on which information was available at time of printing.*

- ❑ Saturday day walks. Every second Saturday this Spring we have a walk that is just a little bit longer than the usual day walk. The emphasis is on the walking but that is not to say we will not enjoy ourselves. Meal afterwards at a nearby pub or BBQ on the Dandenongs walks. Check the program for details.
- ❑ 17-18 Oct. Mt Feathertop. A medium walk possibly up Bon Accord Spur and camping at Twin Knobs. The summit on Sunday. Ph Neil 9546 6318
- ❑ 21-22 Nov. Mt Bogong. Climbing up Staircase Spur and on to Cleve Cole Hut for Saturday night. Ph Neil 9546 6318.
- ❑ 2-4 Oct. Little Desert wildflower walk. A little harder than normal as we will be walking on sand and we may have to carry water. But don't be put off as hopefully there will be wildflowers and birdlife in abundance. Ph Richard 9756 7419.
- ❑ Oct 2/4. Mt. Disappointment base camp. Cabin accommodation with great meals. 50 km from Melbourne. Total cost \$36. 2 walks Saturday E to M with Ron Bell and M to H with Simon Wallis. Similar walks Sunday or horse riding (\$30). Phone Ron 9338 4057 for bookings.
- ❑ Cup day skiing on the Main Range. Base camping not far from the cars near Guthega. Easy to medium day trips depending on the inclination and fitness of the group. Ph Richard 9756 7419
- ❑ White water rafting. Day or W/end trip depending on numbers. Mitta Mitta or Thompson river. Get your adrenalin pumping for this exhilarating experience in spectacular scenery. Bookings by 6th September for fun and games on the river, all meals and camping equipment included. Check program for date. Ph Wendy 9726 5168.
- ❑ 14-15 Nov. Marysville base camp. Camping and cabins by the river, Day walks (easy day Sunday), camp fire, meal at pub Saturday night. Early bookings appreciated for cabins. Otherwise book by Monday before trip for campsite. Easy social weekend, come along and enjoy. Ph Dorothy 9689 6899.
- ❑ 14-15 Nov. Pyrenees Trail. Near Avoca, medium pack carry on purpose built walking track. Total distance 22km includes some hills. Ph Geoff 9557 8387.
- ❑ 22 Nov. Navigation practice. If you would like to learn to navigate or just brush up on your skills, this is the trip for you. Our experienced navigators will assist in the undulating terrain of Mt. Disappointment State Forest. Ph Ken 9853 1017.
- ❑ 22 Nov. Van trip. Reunion walk all walkers welcome. Your choice of either a medium downhill or easy 6km walk. Come along and experience the atmosphere of 'THE VAN'. Bring photo's, memories and memorabilia. Last reunion walk over 60 walkers participated. Book by 25 October to secure a seat in the van or turn up at meeting point on the day. Ph Bob 9773 5765.

**UPCOMING TRIPS**

- ❑ Bushwalking, Nordic & Cycling Christmas Breakup Trip. 12-13th December at Marysville. Walking and cycling base camp. Option of cycling or bushwalking. Staying at Marysville caravan park. Cabins and camping. Easy or medium options. Cathedral Ranges day walk on Sunday.
- ❑ 26th Dec - 12th Jan. Alpine Walking Track extended walk, Thredbo to Beunba Ck., using mini-bus for transport shuffle. More details next issue. Leader Mark Beyer.
- ❑ 1st Jan - 3rd Jan. 3 day walk. Possibly in the vicinity of Mt. Reynard/Snowy Plains. More details next issue. Leader Richard Miller.
- ❑ Set aside the night of Saturday 5th December for the end of season social night. More details next issue.
- ❑ Last Friday in May 1999. 60th anniversary Bushies Bush Dance. Celebrate 60 years of walking with YHA at the gala event of the year. More details next issue.
- ❑ Mt Hotham. Machinery spur to Blairs hut via Red Robin Mine. Possible mine tour if owner present. Then Lake spur to camp at Wilsons hut. Sunday over Mt Jim and return to cars. As featured on A River Somewhere !!
- ❑ Jan 9-16. Kosciuszko base camp staying in luxury units at Jindabyne. Approx cost \$100. day walks in area using ski tube or chairlift. Must book in advance by 1st December. Phone Ron 9388 4057 for details.
- ❑ Dec 25-28. Snowy River exploratory walk New Guinea Bend. M/H, limit 6. Many swimming holes and sandy river beaches, fantastic scenery. Ph Colin 9386 2471

**THE LONG WALK**

So you think that a 50km day walk is all too hard ?

Over the years walkers have undertaken some impressive feats. For example one documented trip was from Whittlesea to Gembrook, a distance of 169km in 49hrs 10min with an actual walking time of 28hrs 15min, an average of almost 6km/hr. Other walkers achieved 112km in 24hrs, 83km in 24hrs and 135km in 2½ days and the 80km length of the very hilly Baw Baw track in a long weekend. At least one club undertakes a bi-annual 100km/24hr endurance walk and other clubs have in the past organised 24hr walk as far as you can marathons. Yet others have been documented to have walked 25km to and from work each day.

50km doesn't sound too long after all, so why not give it a try. Our program of Saturday walks is designed to help you achieve that goal. Start with Mt Bullfight (16km) on the 12th September and work your way up to the big one! Feel that sense of achievement and satisfaction of a good solid walk under the boots. Walk in country that seldom sees the soles of walkers boots.

If you tire early and cannot finish the walk as planned, there will be regular points at which to drop out and be picked up later. Most walks will end with a meal at a nearby pub or in the case of the Dandenong Ranges trips a BBQ close to the finish of the walk.



### Dr. TELEMARCS TALL TALES

Bushwalking stories inspired by actual events.

*Views or opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of YHA Bushwalking, the committee or the editor of this newsletter. Address all complaints to Dr. Telemark, Cleve Cole Hut, Mt. Bogong Vic.*

**Dear Dr. Telemark,** I have recently been trying to test myself to the limit and have found that I am spending too much time on my navigation. I have been told that to speed up a trip and get as many Kilometres under the belt I should study the map during breakfast, memorise the route, the distances, the direction of travel and then walk from my memory. Another ace navigator suggests that after many years of experience the use of a map is unnecessary as all you have to do is navigate from the contours. The only trouble is, I have a terrible memory. Have you any tips on how to improve my memory?

"Stumbling Astray (Mr), Melbourne

*Dear SA, Navigation is a fine art and can only be improved with a lot of practice. Using your memory is fine but it could be very difficult if not dangerous to trust the whole days walk to your memory. Always carry a map and compass even if you know where you are going. In a whiteout or bad weather the map and compass will be very useful if you became disoriented. Dr. T*

**Dear Dr. Telemark** My Macpac Olympus has sprung a leak and I find that everytime it rains water runs down inside my tent and on to my head. I have seam sealed the inner with a proprietary seam sealer but it still leaks. Any ideas?

Battered Shelter (Mr) Melbourne.

*Dear BS One way of ensuring that your tent remains dry inside is to seam seal the fly and not the inner, that way water will not enter the tent in the first place. By the way, most tents have a breathable inner that isn't waterproof and it will be a waste of time using seam sealer on it. Dr. T*

**Dear Dr T** The importance of carrying a map at all times whilst bushwalking, and knowing how to properly orientate it, can never be overstated; it can spare you from embarrassing situations, as I recently found.

Confronted with a chest high creek crossing and not having too much spare dry clothing, my companions & I decided to strip off for the experience. Emerging I saw to my horror that my "mates" were mischievously pointing their cameras in my direction. Fortunately my trusty map case was, well, not by my side but much more prudently positioned, thus ensuring any exposure was kept strictly behind the lens.

Map Bearer (Mr) Melbourne

□ Back in the seventies the US army came up with the idea of dividing service sleeping bags from the waist down as a aid to mobility in an emergency. However, in practise, these sleeping bags proved to be much colder for it was no longer possible to generate the mutual warmth of legs being kept together. The project was soon abandoned.

*The following unsolicited letter found its way to Dr. T's desk. It has been printed here due to a severe shortage of quality copy.*

### BIG HERO ?

Dear Ed,

After walking with YHA on and off over the years, I finally saved up enough money to purchase a Pajero - and the experience has been liberating! I've been everywhere I ever did with a pack on, and in much more comfort. Many people seem unfairly biased against 4WD's, including me once, however I've now been converted.

Consider just two of the advantages - me and my mates can carry 24 times as much booze as we ever managed in a backpack. And also, no more enduring wailing harmonicas or endless choruses of "American Pie"; now we can enjoy campfires to the sound of Barnsey, AC/DC and other real music for as long as the esky holds out. When I bought my vehicle, the salesman told me Pajero is Spanish for "Big Hero", and it's not hard to see why. I reckon there can't be too many places in Victoria it can't get to. Of the 50 highest peaks, I reckon my Pajero can get to at least 35 of them. Last summer I made it to the summit of Mt. Bogong by following the (*route deleted - Ed*). As proof, I enclose a photo which I dare you to publish (*offer kindly declined - Ed*).

Finally I'd like to offer a tip on 4WDing which your more open-minded readers may appreciate. From experience in the Grampians recently I discovered that you can safely travel at any speed at up to 90km/hr as kangaroos will always get deflected if you hit them. Above 90km/hr, they can come over the roo-bar and risk hitting the windscreen; So remember to watch your speed in some of the wilder areas.

See ya on the track

Rob Kingaween

*We apologise for the very politically insensitive comments on kangaroos. Ed.*

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to YETI are welcome subject to editorial approval. You may send news, articles, gossip, letters etc relating to bushwalking to YETI, GPO Box 25A Melbourne 3001. If you do not have the time to write why not phone the editor direct (see footnote page 2)

Deadline for Summer edition 1st November 1998

### TRIP LEADERS

Are you leading a trip and would like a few words about it here in YETI ? Please phone the editor direct to have more information printed here.

### FOR SALE

If you have any bushwalking related gear to sell, advertise here for free as long as you are a YHA member. Contact the Editor direct to lodge your ad.

### BEDS BOOTS AND BACKPACKS

The above titled book has been published by YHA and tells the story of YHA in Australia, with the mention of YHA Bushwalking and the other activity groups. Hardcover \$34.95, Softcover \$24.95. Order at clubnight or contact Neil Gebert.

**BUSHWALKING NEWS****From VicWalk News**

□ On June 25. Boroondara Bushwalker's cars parked on Donnelly Weir Rd at the junction with Road seventeen near Healsville, were broken into. The police informed the drivers that this was a regular occurrence. (Another area where theft from cars happens regularly is the Mountain Ck. campground at the base of Mt. Bogong.)

□ A series of events are being held to highlight opposition to development at Wilsons Prom. Starting on 28/29 November it is planned to stage a two week walk from Tidal River to Parliament House culminating in a presentation of an alternative plan to the Government. If you would like to participate in all or sections of this event please contact Dave Rimmer at VicWalk.

**From the Sun**

□ Wed 22/7/98. An Israeli tourist spent 6 days trapped in the mountains of Western Norway after falling from a steep overhang and breaking his foot. After using camera lens cloth to clean the wounds and bandaging his foot with clothing he waited for help to arrive. His shouting and whistling failed to bring forth help. After 6 days he decided that he had no choice but to make it out on his own. He crawled for 5 hours to reach safety despite hunger, exhaustion and pain. (*What can we say, let someone know before you go, Ed.*)

□ Thurs 9/7/98. A man known only as David was stretchered from near the Summit of Mt. St. Leonard near Healsville after spending what he thought was 7 nights out. He was dressed for walking (?) and carried a briefcase containing a watch and Melway street and country road directories. He told rescuers that he had 4 pots of beer and a bag of chips at Healsville RSL before taking a hike because he remembered taking walks in the area as a child. He was in remarkably good condition considering that the weather had been cold and wet.

□ Fri 10/7/98. The State Government has approved plans for Australia's highest airport at Horse Hair Plain, 20km from Mt. Hotham. The airport will service Mt. Hotham, Dinner Plain, Horse Hair Plain and Falls Ck. The chairman of Mt Hotham Skiing Co. said "This is the linchpin to releasing the real potential of the Victorian ski Country".

□ 13/7/98. Locals claim that rogue hunters with large teams of dogs are running amok in Victorias High Country. Teams of up to 15 men and 30 dogs are chasing prized Sambar deer. At least 1 farmer has been threatened after finding dogs roaming on his property. Areas of concern are the Wonnangatta - Moroka, The upper reaches of the Buffalo River, the Dargo area and the Buckland river. It was noted that while responsible hunters controlled their dogs the rogue hunters often flouted park regulations. The police said they had received many complaints about dog team operators.

**From People Caring for Nature (VNPA)**

□ June. It is reported that Parks Victoria have released a brochure and video and unveiled an elaborate scale model of proposed changes to the Tidal river area at Wilsons Prom.

□ May. The State Government has put out an expression of interest calling for plans and tenders for the future use and development at Lake Mountain. Partly the brief stated "*The opportunity may exist for the development of new cross country trails as part of the existing network and at new locations in the resort and Yarra Ranges National Park*".

□ July. Parks Vic. has released a report on damage caused by grazing cattle on the High Plains. The reports conclusion did not find in favour of the Cattlemen.

**From Parkwatch June 98 (VNPA)**

□ In March this year the road leading to the reservoir at Mt. Buffalo was closed to traffic to allow a commercial operator to operate a horse and coach ride. A sign at the gate read "*Notice! the reservoir road is closed 28th & 29th due to horse and coach rides. sorry for the inconvenience. Thank you. Parks Victoria*".

□ The Australian standard for walking track signage is under review. The new revised standard (DR 98208 Walking Tracks, Part 1 Classification & Signage) proposes: "*A classification system for walking tracks and guidance for the design, fabrication and use of track markers and information signs to be used for walking tracks. Also proposes guidelines for the erection of these markers and signs to ensure that while they will be readily visible, clear and easy to read, they will not detract from the landscape.*" Public comment was sought and a copy is available from Standards Australia for \$10.

**From other sources.**

□ For those heading to the Kosciuszko National Park this year you will be pleased to know that due to public opposition park fees will remain at \$12 / day or \$60 for a Yearly pass.

□ On Tuesday 4th August, Bushwalkers Search & Rescue were called to assist in the search for a lost snowboarder at Mt. Buller. Among 30 or so searchers were YHA S & R members Dave Burnett, Mark Beyer, Matt Flaherty, Roger Palmer & Richard Miller. After arriving at Mt. Buller just after dawn the searchers prepared for action but their services were not required as the lost person had been found cold and exhausted but otherwise well.

□ A reminder that following the fires in the Alpine National Park earlier this year, some areas may still have access restrictions imposed on them. For more information you can phone the Parks Victoria information line on 13 1963