



# YETI

## THE NEWSLETTER OF YHA BUSHWALKING

Number 5

Winter 1999

Walking since 1939

### WINTER TRIP PREVIEWS

#### JUNE

**Base camp at upper Yarra Dam.** Leaves Saturday morning, easy day trips. Grade E

**Queens B/day weekend - Hattah lakes.** As in past years this trip will be by bus with the Roland at the wheel which takes all the worry out of driving. Three trips have been organised, a base camp, a easy pack carry and a medium pack carry. It should be noted that all water for the weekend must be carried as none is available at Hattah. Please book early to ensure your place on the bus and to make the organisers life easier. Grade E to M

**Whroo, Rushworth State Forest.** Leaves Melbourne Saturday morning and returns Sunday night. Base camping by the cars in the forest, meal out Saturday night. All walking off track through open Box Ironbark forest with or without compass. Great navigation practice. Good area for winter walking. Grade M. Limited numbers book early.

#### JULY

**Winter snow walk.** Mt Feathertop. Great introduction to snow walking and camping. Ascending and descending via Bungalow Spur and camping in the vicinity of Federation hut. Previous pack carry experience necessary. Come along to our Feathertop info night on 5th July at clubnight. Grade E/M.

**Marysville snow walk.** Easy day walk to Keppels Hut starting near Marysville. Grade E

**Search & Rescue practice.** Full search practice at Mt. St. Gwinear organised by Vicwalk Bushwalkers S&R. Prospective members welcome. Grade H

#### AUGUST

**Introduction to snow camping.** Easy ski tour to Mt Stirling. Previous pack carry experience and basic ski touring skills necessary. Grade M

**Winter snow walk.** Mt Bogong. The big one! climb the Staircase to the summit of Victoria's highest mountain, camp above the snow-line. Previous pack carry experience necessary. Grade M+

**Winter snow walk.** Mt Buller. Complete the big three! climbing up to the summit via the West Ridge and descending via McLaughlin Spur. Previous pack carry experience necessary. Grade H

**Mt Buller ski weekend.** Staying at Mt Buller hostel. Ski the tows or ski cross country trails to Mt Stirling or around the village. Early bookings advisable for hostel. Grade E-M.

### COMING UP IN SPRING

Spring brings fine weather, sunny days and a great excuse to go walking. Coming up this Spring are walks to Mt. Buffalo, The Grampians, Wilsons Prom, Wongungarra, Baw Baw Plateau, Castlemaine to Daylesford (Dry Diggings Track) and hostel trips to Ballarat. For those who have not participated in a pack carry walk there will be easier weekend walks. Our Spring series of record breaker walks will be held again this year culminating in the 78km record breaker day walk. Get ready for the big one! Spring program out at clubnight on Monday 23rd August 1999

### CLUBNIGHT SPECIAL EVENTS

All welcome. Come along for an enjoyable evening.

Proceedings start 8.15pm sharp!

#### June

- 7 General clubnight.
- 14 NO CLUBNIGHT QUEENS B/DAY HOLIDAY.
- 21 Nordic skiing winter ski season launch. Guest speaker from Bogong Equipment, talk on ski gear. supper provided.
- 28 General clubnight.

#### July

- 5 Introduction to snow camping. Talk and slides. Info for Mt Feathertop trip.
- 12 General clubnight.
- 19 Nordic skiing video night.
- 26 General clubnight.

#### August

- 2 Slides of Ethiopia with Steve Smith.
- 9 General clubnight.
- 16 Nordic skiing current season slides.
- 23 Spring walking program launch.
- 30 General clubnight.

#### September

- 6 YHA 60th anniversary slideshow.
- 13 General clubnight.

Before clubnights that feature a talk or slide show, walkers meet at La Porchetta near the Vic Market from 7pm for pizza or pasta. If you wish to join us please check with one of the committee members before attending.

### DO YOU WANT TO SAVE SOME MONEY ? DO YOU WANT TO SAVE SOME TIME ?

Then buy a YHA Bushwalking trip card and save the bother of paying fees for a whole year. available at all clubnights for \$30 ( \$25 concession)

### QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 12/13/14 JUNE 1999 HATTAH LAKES

Many options including base camp, easy and medium pack carries. Great walking through open River Red Gum and Mallee country, abundant birdlife and the chance to see the elusive Mallee Fowl. Good navigation practice.

\$50 includes bus fare and booking fee  
Leaves Melbourne 6.30pm Friday 11th June 1999.

BOOK AT CLUBNIGHT OR PHONE  
RICHARD ON 9756 7419 FOR MORE  
DETAILS

**YHA BUSHWALKING COMMITTEE**

Chairman	Neil Gebert	9525 6462
Secretary	Simon Walliss	9816 9541
Treasurer	Keryn Lientschnig	9555 2512
Walks Sect	Steve Smith	<del>9853 1017</del>
Social	Wendy Davidson	9726 5168
S & R	Ken Sussex	9853 1017
Committee	David Sisson	9347 1487
	Rob Adams	9383 4352
	Mark Beyer	9596 4906
	Warren Young	9568 2274
	Ron Bell	9338 4057
	Andrew Brown	9484 5273
	Jean Brakkhuis	9598 8619

## Co-opted members

Newsletter Richard Miller 9756 7419

YHA Bushwalking emergency mobile phone  
(not always in range) 018 313 880

*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.*

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO YETI**

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, please phone the editor with details of your contribution.

**Deadline for Spring edition 13th August 1999**

**Next edition out Monday 23rd August 1999**

**TRIP LEADERS**

If you wish to have a brief description of your upcoming trip printed here in YETI please phone the editor with the details.

**TRIP CARD**

YHA Bushwalking trip card is available at clubnight. A single payment of \$30 (\$25 concession) covers all trip fees for the year. Purchasers must be current financial members of YHA Victoria.

**YHA ACTIVITIES CLUBNIGHT**

Is held on Monday nights at the YWCA buildings 489 Elizabeth Street in the city, from 8pm to approx 9.30pm. New members welcome.

**WINTER 1999 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Since the last issue of Yeti, we have had our Annual General Meeting and now have a few new faces on the committee. Steve Smith has joined and taken on the role of Walks Secretary. In addition Jean Braakhuis and Andrew Brown have both come on board whilst Geoff Garty has stepped down.

The Bushwalking activity is in sound financial state even though walks numbers declined slightly in 1998.

The first of the combined social activities took place with a barbecue on the Yarra. The bulk of the attendees were from the Sailing group but there were a few from Bushwalking and Cycling. Please try to give these events your support where you can. The YHA 60th anniversary Bushdance is to be held on May 31st at the Kensington Town Hall and will feature Bushwhazee. Tickets \$12. Due to the smaller size of the new venue and the publicity given to the dance this year, it is expected that tickets will be sold out in advance. As I am writing this, I have less than a table left so I would suggest that you contact Ron Bell or myself to reserve a ticket if you want to attend.

A draft form of the long awaited Accident Policy has been produced and is expected to be published as soon as it is approved by the committee.

*Neil Gebert* Chairman YHA Bushwalking

**BUYING CAMERA OR OPTICAL GEAR?, LOOK AROUND, BEWARE!**

Prior to a recent overseas holiday, I thought I'd take advantage of making a duty free purchase of a pair of compact binoculars.

Knowing almost nothing about such devices, I decided to take a trip into town on a Saturday morning and quiz the staff at the various photographic shops, starting with the most northerly camera shop in Elizabeth street, working my way southwards. This I did and for the most part, the experience was pleasant. Most of the shops seemed to carry one or two of the reputable brands and the assistants did their best to extol the virtues of their particular merchandise. Fair enough. One expects some salesmanship on the part of the seller when asking for advice.

Having settled on the preferred make and model of binoculars at one shop, the salesman advised me that his store had snapped up the remaining consignment of stock in Melbourne and were clearing them at the most competitive price of \$399, duty free. He stated that they were selling quickly and to ensure that I could buy at this price, it might be prudent for me to make an immediate purchase or alternatively, place a deposit or arrange for lay-by. (*I've heard that one before - Ed*)

I was quite tempted by the seemingly attractive offer, but resisted the urge to buy on the spot stating that I was in no hurry to buy and if I missed out, then that would be my bad luck. I thanked the salesman for his assistance.

I then left the shop and walked less than fifty metres south to the next store to enquire as to whether they stocked the make and model of the binoculars that I had decided to buy.

I was somewhat surprised when the shop carried the same brand and quite shocked when exactly the same model was being offered for \$245, duty free, \$154 less than the shop I had previously left, virtually seconds before!

Being a rather suspicious soul, I asked the sales assistant whether in fact the binoculars were identical to those just down the road. He checked the model number and assured me that they were. I verified this prior to purchase.

I told him of the enormous variation in the item price between his shop and the previous. He laughed, saying that he had worked at the other store some years ago and to his knowledge, this was not an unusual business practice engaged in by them.

Call me naive if you will, but these are practises that I have come to expect from the stereotyped used car salesmen and real estate agents, not shop assistants from supposedly reputable camera shops.

The lesson here is not new, Caveat Emptor or quite literally, Buyer Beware!

**1999 STAV SECOND HAND GEAR SALE  
HAWTHORN TOWN HALL SUNDAY 27th JUNE 1999**

**10am - 3pm**

**Buy or sell second hand and last years gear.**

**Great range of cross country ski and related equipment.**

**Dr. TELEMARCS T'ALL 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. Any resemblance to real people or events is not imagined. Address all complaints to Dr. Telemark, Cleve Cole Hut, Mt. Bogong Vic.*

**Dear Dr. Telemark,** I've seen your vidco's and now I'm even more addicted to skiing - I can now go faster and steeper and not bomb out without style! However I'm poor, I can't afford to go where there's snow in summer, but desperation to keep those skills has made me find an answer - I now practice at home in the garden with an old pair of skis on a mattress. I don't go anywhere but it's great fun - and I'll be ready for the real stuff when it comes.

One problem - people think I'm really mad now - Dr. Telemark how can I overcome my addiction? Life ain't life without a Telemark and sex's a poor second - HELP!. PJ "Delirious" (Mr) Melbournish.

**Dear PJ** An addiction to Tele skiing is nothing to be ashamed of, tell your neighbour you're mad and proud of it!. Overseas travel does not need to be expensive, recently on a trip to the Hindu Kush, I lived on \$5 a day. Sure the food wasn't that good and the accommodation left much to be desired, but when you're skiing some of the best slopes in the world with no tows and no crowds and descending from summits of mountains such as Koh-i-Sisgeigh (6130metres), the standard of food and accommodation does not matter. This was one of the highlights of my life only surpassed by a near terminal descent on tele skis from near the summit of Mt. Everest, But I digress

It'll be near impossible to cure the addiction so I suggest that you need a new challenge in your life, how about starting with a 50km day walk, then progressing to 100km in a day. Or take up Rock Climbing, or similar extreme sports. This will take your mind off the snow for a while.

Get rid of the mattress and practice on the grass instead. If the lawn looks a little shabby, I suggest that you reseed it in Spring with a hard wearing grass seed that contains a high percentage of perennial rye-grasses. When it's growing, feed it well with a lawn fertiliser (NPK 17:0.6:9) and your lawn will be well established for that Autumn ski practice. **Dr. T**

The last issue's story from Snake Charmer brought forth more snake tales such as the recent walk where a female participant placed her hand on a rock only to feel something smooth and slippery, pulling her hand away quickly revealed a 6 inch long Tiger snake basking in the sun. Or how about the guy squatting on the steep slopes above the Irenabyss in S.W. Tasmania, he reached for the paper only to knock it down the slope, reaching out again he knocked it further down the slope. It came to rest beside a huge Tasmanian Tiger snake which was happily basking in the sun. Eventually the snake moved to the great relief of the walker.

The editor tells me that he asked for contributions to this rag on a recent walk and here is a contribution by one walker who shall remain nameless - The Crinoline.  
We started walking, we got thirsty, we walked back to the cars.

He awoke to the sound of possums ransacking his pack and a quick check with the torch revealed his gear spread around outside. Wearing only his underwear our hero exited the tent to retrieve his belongings and was then attacked by hundreds of blood sucking leeches. He returned to the tent to pull them off, only to find a dozen Tiger snakes coiled up on his sleeping bag. He awoke in a cold sweat, it was 2am, he had dreamt the **BUSHWALKERS NIGHTMARE!**

**CAPTAIN CACTUS'S TEN QUESTION QUIZ**

There may be more than one answer to each question



1. A back bearing is when you:

- a) Take a bearing back where you came from.
- b) Line up the back of another walker with the bearing of direction you want to go.
- c) Sight a known feature and add 10°.
- d) Sight a known feature and subtract 10°.

2. In an electrical storm in the bush you would:

- a) Hunch up and kneel down on one leg.
- b) Stand under a thick barked tree.
- c) Sit hunched up on your pack and don't touch the ground.
- d) Find the lowest ground clear of trees.

3. 'Aiming off' is:

- a) A deliberate offset course to a feature.
- b) Getting lost on purpose to get in the newspapers.
- c) Walking on a revised bearing taking into account magnetic declination.
- d) Another term for road rage.

4. A compass purchased in Australia:

- a) Would not work properly in Austria.
- b) Would not work properly in Alaska.
- c) Would not work properly in Andes.
- d) Would not work properly in Africa.

5. A knoll is a :

- a) A growth on your foot caused by wearing tight boots.
- b) A feature on the landscape.
- c) The bit of your pack that digs into your back.
- d) A baked energy biscuit.

6. Magnetic declination is:

- a) The difference between grid north and magnetic north.
- b) The angle you hold the compass at when taking a bearing.
- c) The bearing you get when you hold your compass next to your watch
- d) A method of water purification.

7. Which of the following are true:

- a) For practical purposes true north is the same as grid north.
- b) A compass needle points magnetic north.
- c) All compasses are made in Sweden.
- d) Magnetic declination varies throughout the world.

8. Azimuth is:

- a) A compass error due to geological interference.
- b) Swedish compass.
- c) Swedish inventor of the compass.
- d) A used in astronomical navigation.

9. You can work out which direction north is by:

- a) Using your watch and the sun.
- b) Watching ducks fly south.
- c) Observing which side of a tree moss grows on.
- d) Rubbing two sticks together.
- e) Observing the stars at night.

10. Magnetic deviation is:

- a) An compass error caused by magnetic objects influencing the compass.
- b) A bent magnet
- c) The difference between grid and magnetic North.
- d) The bubble that sometimes forms in the compass dial.

Answers: 1(a), 2(c), 3(a), 4(a), 5(b), 6(a), 7(a,b,d), 8(d), 9(a,c,e), 10(a).

## BUSHWALKING NEWS

### From Vicwalk News

- This year's Search and Rescue practise will be held on the weekend of July 31 to August 1st. A simulated remote area search practise including full weekend pack carrying will be held at Mt. St. Gwinear. All S&R members and prospective members are welcome to attend.
- For latest info on the state of tracks and access to National Parks consult "temporary park and road closures" on the Parks Vic web site at [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)
- The Victorian Tracks and Trails Coordinating Committee and Tourism Victoria will soon be launching a vigorous marketing campaign to promote Victoria's walking tracks to local and interstate 'markets'. This will take the form of a series of brochures which will promote existing tracks. The campaign will eventually promote improved and new tracks that are fully integrated with accommodation.

### From the newspapers

- Bushwalkers lost at Mt St Leonard. Three walkers spent a cold and wet night near Mt. St. Leonard after losing their way while walking to Donnelly's Weir via Mt. Monda and Condon's track's. The three became lost after taking a wrong turn after sign posts they had been following suddenly stopped. The three were well equipped and survived the night out with little ill effects.
- Tasmanian Wilderness. A 10 year management plan for Tasmanian wilderness World Heritage areas has been released. The plan details further development to walks such as the overland track and improvement of huts, toilets and other facilities in this zone. Wilderness zone would be kept undeveloped and any structures in these areas would be allowed to decay. The self reliant recreation zones will be left largely undeveloped
- Alpine development. The State opposition released documents obtained under FOI requests outlining options for developers to build private huts to support guided walks through Victoria's high country. The report identifies two walking tracks along which huts could be built and commercial walking tours run on a similar basis to the overland track in Tasmania and walks in N.Z. A government spokesman said that the recommendations in the document were not accepted and the government had no intention of developing private huts or walking tracks in these areas.
- Walker shot at Warburton. A man walking his dog near Warburton East in State Forest adjacent to the Yarra Ranges National Park was shot by hunters and subsequently died. A man was later charged with manslaughter.
- Trekkers lost in Andes. Two trekkers on a 4 day trek in the Argentinian Andes misread their map and were confused by directions given in their guidebook. It was only after 2 days of walking that they realised that they were lost. One trekker then broke his kneecap and tore a cruciate ligament making it very difficult for him to walk. The pair decided to wait for help to arrive. After five days

### From the newspapers Cont.

- no one had come by and the second trekker then left to find help. After three days she returned empty handed. It was decided that they would have to look for help together and after three days of crawling they found a mountain climbers refuge and were then taken to safety. *(This shows that even on a well marked walking track mapreading and navigation skills are a must, Ed.)*
- The body of George Mallory dressed in tweed jacket and trousers has been found 600 metres below the summit of Mt. Everest. Mallory went missing along with Andrew Irvine in 1924 and the two may well have been the first to reach the summit of Mt. Everest. The search continues for their cameras that may contain photographs to prove that they did indeed reach the summit. Mallory is remembered amongst other things for wanting to climb Mt. Everest "because it is there".

### Around the traps

- The Autumn newsletter reported the publicised assault of two walkers by a kickboxer at Lerderderg Gorge. In the month following this incident YHA bushwalker Colin Cody was also attacked. Another walker Trevor Ward accompanying the victim was unharmed. This second incident occurred about 1km from the scene of the previous assault. They were attacked completely by surprise from behind. The assailant in this attack was a *small* miniature dog. Colin was bitten on the leg. The force of the bite through the canvas gaiter and two explorer socks still managed to break the surface of the skin. It is hoped the kickboxer and the dog cross paths as soon as possible.

### From Wild magazine

- Photographers taking pictures for sale in national parks in Victoria will require a permit which may cost \$300 for a 1 or 2 day pass, or more for a yearly pass. Photos taken in National Parks which subsequently appear in print may make the photographer liable for prosecution under the National Parks Act (1975).

### From the Ski Touring Association of Victoria

- STAV will again organise the second hand cross country gear sale on Sunday 27th June, 10am - 3pm at the Hawthorn Town Hall. If you wish to sell gear please arrive early to book the gear in.

## Wanted: Pictures of mountain huts.

If you have any photos, slides or sketches, featuring huts, mines or towns of the high country or you know of any obscure printed material, Dave would like to hear from you. Photo's of less visited or demolished huts are of special interest.

These are to be used in a forthcoming book on huts of the high country. All contributors will be acknowledged and you may even get a free book or a share of any royalties.

Call David Sisson on 9380 8126  
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