

of
- THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS -

No. 51

December 19th, '52

Address: Room 110, 3rd floor, Victorian Railways Institute,
Flinders Street, MelbourneCHRISTMAS PARTY AND DANCE- December 4th

In spite of the warm spell, the Christmas social and dance at Jerram Hall on the 4th of December was well attended. A number of visitors from other clubs were also present.

The outsize Christmas tree gave the Hall the traditional Yule-tide air, and everyone there received a gaily wrapped present. The stage camp fire (not a Richards special), complete with billy, was very effective. Gay party caps donned before supper added to the festive air. A minor scare was provided by a suspicious character armed with an oil-can. Shades of the Sprayer!

After supper, all present gathered around the stage, lights were extinguished and the "camp-fire" lit - pardon - switched on. Ted Kirk led the carol singing, and the presents were distributed by Marie and Lorraine. During the dances which followed, food-bags and other presents were distributed as prizes. The party broke up just before midnight, ending an evening of fun and gaiety. For bringing in the Christmas tree, decorations, etc. our thanks are due to Lorraine Richey, Tom Stoodley and Don Smellie. The "hander-outers" and "washer-uppers" also earned our gratitude for their willing and able work.

INSURANCE FOR SAFE WALKING

Last Friday Mr. Cherry of the New Zealand Insurance Co. Ltd. gave a short address on his company's insurance scheme for Bushwalkers, which is approved by the Federation. The policy covers all aspects of bushwalking, mountaineering and rockclimbing, including travel by any sort of transport and snake-bite. Any person interested can obtain full details from the circulars available in the club-room.

CONSERVATION OF ENERGY - 21st November

We all enjoyed Norm Richard's talk on this important topic. Some of the points he made were:- After leading a life of ease, one should expect to suffer fatigue after a day's walking. Look after yourself and fix up small things such as blisters and cuts or uncomfortable apparel at the first opportunity. Take an interest in your surroundings, but above all, before taking up walking, a basic physical fitness is necessary.

PERSONAL ITEMS

We are glad to hear that Fay Pitt has returned from a short stay in hospital with her condition greatly improved.

Kevin Foley and Joyce Wilkinson were married at Wesley Church on December 4th, and sailed for England 2 days later on the "Largs Bay". Our best wishes to both of them. There has been news of them since, reporting that they have arrived in Fremantle none the worse for wear after a rather stormy trip.

Noleen Henderson came swimming back today from Maori-Land for a visit to Melbourne and the Prom. at Christmas. Noleen is reported to have said she was looking forward to Melbourne's warm summer days; we can only assume she has not been studying Inigo Jones' reports very carefully.

Ken Grant had an unfortunate accident recently, when he knocked himself out running into an iron grill in the dark. In hospital they shaved off half an eyebrow to put in the stitches, and Ken now looks more distinctive than ever with one and a half eyebrows. Some helpful people suggested a hair graft from his mustache, but Ken feels his brow will sprout again unaided...

Evelyn Hecht and Ben Moscovitz were married December 17th. Our heartiest congratulations to both of them.

HOSTS AND HOSTESSES

Helen Wallace and Roma Bee will be in charge of the supper and any social arrangements for January 2nd and January 9th, in the absence of the social sub-committee over the Christmas holidays.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome to the Club the following new members, and hope they will have happy walking days with us :-

IAN BENNET 52a Dwyer Street, Clifton Hill (b) MW 2385
ALAN W. BATES 4 Austin Street, Bentleigh, SE 14

CORRECTIONS to address list:

MARY COOK (p) XM 2724
NEIL McDONALD The phone number given on the list is not a business but a private number e.g.(p) FM 2632

THEATRE NIGHTS

A series of theatre nights have been booked for the New Year:-

February	2nd	Ballet
"	16th	Opera (La Boheme)
March	2nd	Opera (Tosca)
"	9th	Opera (The Consul- Australian premiere)
"	26th	Drama ("Such men are dangerous")

Booking for the above will be open with the Social Secretary, Marie Gillespie, on January 16th, 1953.

LIBRARY NEWS

It was decided some time ago to have our back issues of "Wild Life" and "Walkabout" bound, so it is necessary to have our sets as complete as possible before we send them away to the binders. The librarian, Alf Cole, found upon checking that the following copies were on loan or missing, and would like your cooperation to return any of these issues you may have on loan. Please search your bookshelves and your conscience and help us to locate these missing copies:-

"WILD LIFE"

1947 April, June, July, August, Sept. and October
1949 December
1950 Jan, May, June and July
1951 February

"WALKABOUT"

1949 Jan, April, May, July, Sept., Oct., and December
1950 Jan, Feb, April, June, July, Aug., Sept, Nov. and December
1951 Jan, Feb., March

EQUIPMENT

At the last committee meeting Tom Stoodley's equipment report was read and discussed. It was generally agreed that the club equipment is inadequate and some of it in bad repair. It was recommended that the matter be taken up early next year by the new committee.

SWIMMING WALK

Nick Geroe's walk - Wattle Glen-Watson's Creek-Warrandyte-21st December will be a swimming walk, and Nicky advises the shy people to take their bathers along.

"ALONG THE TRACK"

TRENTHAM- COLIBAN RESERVOIR- MALMSBURY- GERDA SCHWERIN- 22-23 November

The country covered on this week-end proved quite a welcome change of scenery - very open, cultivated paddocks and old settlements basking in the sunshine. Trentham Falls made a delightful lunch spot for 16 hungry walkers. Some intrepid souls explored the cave at the back of the falls and emerged dampened by the spray. The leisurely walking suited everybody- the photographers, the lazy types and the leader. Camp was made by daylight along a pleasant creek near Coliban Reservoir, which we visited next morning. But the best was yet to be- late on Sunday afternoon, walking along a ridge overlooking Malmsbury Reservoir, our "livers off the land" Messrs. Scott and Harding were noticed straying behind and sideways, picking mushrooms. Soon everyone caught the fever, and no wonder - some were the size of saucers, but most the size of dinner plates!

"ALONG THE TRACK" (cont'd)

Noble Paine had trouble crossing fences with his plastic groundsheet bulging with mushrooms! The process of cleaning up and changing back to our respectable city selves took place in the picturesque Malmsbury Gardens, old and shady, with a dilapidated melancholy charm all their own. The bus took us back to town fairly late on Sunday evening.

DIAMOND CREEK-HAZELDELL-HURSTBRIDGE- John Low - 23rd November

Thirty-two walkers came out with the sun to participate in this walk led by John Low. When the train pulled out at Princes Bridge we found ourselves a leader short but somehow or another, he turned up at Diamond Creek, so all was well. The wildflowers were out in profusion and some lovely orchids were seen. After lunch and a pleasant walk back to Hurstbridge, some very sunburnt members caught the early train back, while the rest, also sunburnt, basked in the sun once more. We had the company of a "mushroom digest" on this walk.

BRITANNIA CREEK FALLS-Mt. BRIDE-WARBURTON- PETER BECKER & LORRAINE RICHEY
29-30th November

Peter Becker and Lorraine Richey joined forces on this weekend- they were to cover roughly the same area and the combined number of walkers was only sixteen. From Britannia Creek we followed a well-defined track to the Falls, where we had lunch. We then scrub bashed up the creek for a few miles eventually reaching a dirt road not far from the Women's Club hut. Camp was made near Mill no. 4 at the head of the creek. In the morning we followed the remains of an old timber tram-track heading towards Mt. Bride. When the track petered out, there was some uncertainty as to our exact position- apparently we were on the wrong side of (the) Bride- and there was no alternative but to scrub bash down into Warburton. Matters were not improved by a violent thunderstorm, which brought driving rain, lightning and leeches, but a hot cup of tea in the van soon raised our spirits.

ELTHAM-KANGAROO GROUND-WARRANTYTE- JOHN BALL- 30th November

A party of eleven enjoyed John Ball's walk through pleasant country to the Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower which was reached after lunch. A change in the weather enforced a dash to Warrantyte where we caught the 5.40 bus. Apart from one of the female members soiling her white shorts, there were no incidents to report. The mushroomologist was at it again.

CLEMATIS-FAIRY DELL- BELGRAVE- MARGARET DARK-7th December

Margaret Dark lived up to her reputation as a rain-maker by leading her party of fourteen in the pouring rain. There was some slight improvement in the weather by lunch-time, but by common consent it was decided to cut the walk short, and instead of going to Belgrave, the party made for Kallista and the bus back to Ferntree Gully.

KALORAMA-OLINDA CREEK-LOOK-OUT ROCK- HORST EISFELDER- 14th December

A party of thirteen (one girl) climbed Mt. Dandenong, where refreshments were served- strawberries and cream - A little bird saw Felix have two helpings. Lunch-time brought us to Olinda Falls, where two members lost themselves, only to turn up again at Look-out rock. The walk finished with a mad 2 mile dash- fortunately the bus cooperated by being late, so all was well.

YARRA JUNCTION-SLATY CREEK-GEMBROOK- EARL LAVENDER- 13-14th December

Only one member accompanied Earl on his trip, which was reported in "WALK" 1949. They made such good progress the first day, that they reached the campsite indicated by 4 o'clock, and decided to go on for some miles. Some slight difficulty was experienced when the leader came across a new road not mentioned in "WALK" which they followed until it suddenly came to a dead-end. They then took to the scrub in a SW direction, making for Gembrook, which was eventually reached after some hard going. George's hack-saw blade must have come in handy at this juncture, sawing through fallen logs too big to climb over. The weather held out all the week-end, and Earl felt that quite a few members missed out on a good trip.

EDITORIAL APOLOGY

The Editor feels that some apology for the brevity of this "NEWS" is necessary. Being new at the job, the art of expanding nothing into something has yet to be mastered. But with Christmas nearly upon us we can forget all about the "NEWS" until next year.

A happy Christmas everybody and best wishes for 1953 ! T.K.

