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\* THE NEWS \*  
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of

No. 44.

16th May, 1952

..... THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS .....

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THE WINTER WALKS PROGRAM is now available and may be collected in the Club-room. There's a variety of walks to please everyone, including a couple new to most of us. June 1st is the date of the now traditional Cream Hunt, led by Egon Donath (also traditional). This year he promises folk-dancing as well as two's and three's, so bring your friends and join in the fun.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY - Yan Yean Walk. The leader mentions that a special feature of this walk is the large number of wallabies to be seen. He also warns that as there is no water available those going should provide their own.

Avenel - Tallarook. This is only three weeks off now. Those going should notify the leader (Alf Cole) well ahead, and make their own arrangements for train booking. This is very good country for winter walking.

Frank Pitt, our Program Arranger, tells us that both the Spring and Summer Programs are almost full, so anyone wishing to lead walks then should see him as soon as possible. (Sounds too good to be true, but it's a fact!)

LEADERS - Please let Ada Schulz (in charge of Walks reports, etc.) have your report by the Friday following the walk, so that records can be kept up to date. And if you can't come into the Club, post it. (25 Dunlop Avenue, Bentleigh)

ANNUAL FIELD WEEKEND - At the last Committee Meeting it was passed that this should be officially the President's Weekend, the President to have complete charge of all arrangements. This year's Field Weekend will be held on November 1st and 2nd.

<u>PROGRAM</u>	This walk was accidentally omitted from the printed Program, although it appeared in "THE NEWS" and "WILD LIFE": Please alter your Program. Remember, this walk is NEXT SUNDAY !!
<u>CORRECTION:</u>	
MAY 18th - WATTLE GLEN-JOYCE'S	2-R Train Leader
***** HILL-HURSTBRIDGE. 11m.M. H'dge	8.53 ALF STERNBERG

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FEDERATION of VICTORIAN WALKING CLUBS - ANNUAL MEETING

This was held on May 7th, attended by over seventy people, including seventeen Bushwalkers, with Norm Richards in the Chair. In his report the Secretary, Eric Stewart, stressed that Clubs and Club members should realize that they are the Federation, and that it is only by their enthusiasm and co-operation that the Federation can achieve its maximum usefulness. If they feel there is some matter in which the Federation should be acting, it is they who should bring it to the attention of Federation office-bearers. Bill Bowsher, Convenor of the Search and Rescue Organization, gave an admirably clear and concise account of the Federation's part in the recent search at Marysville, stressing the full co-operation of all members taking part, and the very favourable impression made on the police and military authorities.

ELECTIONS for the coming year's office-bearers were held. For the position of President there was a close contest, with Bill Buchanan (V.M.T.C.) gaining the vote by a majority of two over the retiring President, Norm Richards. Keith Murray was elected as one of the five Vice-Presidents. Eric Stewart is again Secretary, with Frank Pitt as Assistant Secretary. Treasurer is Geo. Tanck, of the Men's Club.

Following the meeting, five clubs contributed to a most enjoyable program of colour slides, with Ken Grant as projectionist. Areas shown were the Crinoline -Wellington area (Bushwalkers), Grampians (Women's Club), Cradle Mount Reserve (V.M.T.C.), S.W.Tasmania (Uni. Mountaineers) and Central Australia (Men's Club).

A FEDERATION DINNER was held at The Wentworth before the Meeting. At the meeting it was moved that this become an annual fixture, and after some discussion, mostly in favour, this was passed. (This year there were 29 at the Dinner, including three Bushwalkers.)

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FEDERATION SEARCH AND RESCUE ORGANIZATION

The recent large-scale search at Marysville, which called on the S. & R. for its biggest effort to date, has also focussed our attention on its work. As many of our members are vague about how it functions, we give a brief outline.

Its history goes back over three years, when the search for Mr. Howie at Wilson's Promontory stimulated the already existent idea of forming a permanent voluntary organization of experienced bushwalkers ready to act in any future emergency. The Federation handled the matter, and there is now a Sub-committee consisting of Club representatives (one appointed from each Club) and presided over by a Convener, who is a member of the Federation Committee. (At present Bill Bewsher.) Two or three practice searches have been held, and, basing discussion on these and other actual experiences in the field, the sub-committee is trying to develop the most efficient methods of conducting a search - only time and further experience can test and develop their efficiency.

Each Club prepares its own list of searchers, all experienced and reliable, each of whom undertakes to be ready to answer a call at two or three hours' notice. This means that they keep all equipment in first-class order, boots in repair, etc. and have packs ready with basic supply of food, first-aid kit, spare clothes, etc. (N.B. Never ask a S. & R. man for a loan of equipment!)

The Organization works in two ways. First, they have offered their services to the Police Department to assist in searching for any persons lost in the bush (but not for criminal cases). The initiative in organizing a search is then taken by the Police, but selection of personnel etc. is left to us. Police provide all transport to and from Russell Street. The Organization also functions to look for any Club party overdue, without reference to the Police. In this case an assessment of the possibilities is made, and a search organized if it appears warranted. In this case private transport will be necessary, and any members who are willing to lend their cars also register with the S. & R. in their own Club. In a case such as this there would probably be scope for women members to take part, especially in keeping base camps, cooking, etc. whereas at present, at least, the Police will accept only men as volunteers.

To set the Organization in motion, there is a No. 1 (and No. 2) Federation Contact, with whom the Police or other organizers first make contact, and subsequently keep fully informed of all that is happening. This contact in turn gets in touch with the No. 1 (or No. 2 in the event of No. 1 not being available) Contact from each Club, and each Club Contact then calls the members from his own S. & R. list. (In the recent search the numbers called for exceeded the lists, and Contacts had to use their own discretion in extending the call.) Naturally all Contacts must have constant access to the phone number they have given, and must not be people who would take part in any search.

In the recent search there were approximately 130 men working under the Federation, with 24 Bushwalkers, and they deserve our thanks for their ready co-operation and willingness to do whatever work was allotted them. Conditions were bitterly cold, severer than any of them, probably, had had to endure on any trip, and the country was particularly wild and scrub-grown.

We deplore the undue publicity given to the whole affair by the Press, and certainly want to do all in our power to prevent any recurrence. We therefore ask that in any case where a party is overdue, do not panic and do not contact police, but get in touch first of all with the Walk contact. (At present, we fear, very few walkers remember to find out before leaving on a trip who the Contact is, and notifying their family accordingly. To enable members to more easily remember a Contact, it has been suggested that a panel of Contacts be established as a more permanent arrangement, and this will soon be done.) Leaders should see that the Contact or Walks Sec. knows as exactly as possible what route they intend following, and for any longer trips particularly, members would do well to see that they, too, know the intended route beforehand in case of separation from the main party. A compass and map of the area should be carried by everyone.

Thought is being given to the best procedure to follow for any party that gets into difficulties in the bush, whether delayed by accident, bad weather, mistaken direction, or any other reason. We are anxious to hear the opinions of those with experience who have practicable ideas to pass on. We are also concerned to discuss aspects of organizing a search - when to start, factors to consider, etc.

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THE TRACK CLEARING WEEKEND,

which was arranged for May 10th and 11th, was cancelled, mainly because all those taking part had already had a heavy week at Marysville. It could not be merely postponed, as Clubs already had their own programs arranged well ahead, and in any case weather any later in the year would not be suitable. There is a possibility that an attempt will be made towards the end of the year to make a big effort in the Marysville area and clear overgrown tracks there, but there is nothing definite to report yet.

SEARCHERS! Anyone who lost equipment during the search (or found any) should go to D-24.

" W A L K " ISSUE NO. 4

CONTRIBUTIONS !!!!

HAVE YOU SENT IN YOURS YET ????

THE MATTER IS URGENT\*\*\*

We are anxious to get "WALK" No.4 to the printer as soon as possible. Only one small matter is holding us back - lack of contributions ! We want more articles. We're looking for those people who felt they "could have done better last year if only..." Well, they've had the extra time, the chance to look up whatever it was they wanted to look up, to go back over tracks and brush up on a few details ..... NOW WHERE'S THAT ARTICLE !!! Another urgent requirement is a suitable cover photo. Can one of our photographers capture just that shot to rival last year's ? We suggest that they make a special day out in the hills to rove round seeing what their imagination can make of an apparently ordinary landscape. In fact, they can take this as a challenge !

At a recent sub-committee meeting it was arranged that Keith Murray should be Sales Manager, Ken Lorking Publicity Manager and that Norm Richards remain Editor.

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LECTURETTES

Last month the subject, "The How and Why of the Federation " provoked some interesting questions and discussion, which extended the usual half hour. Tonight Frank Pitt will be dealing with "Compasses" .

NEXT MONTH - "HOW TO CHOOSE A CAMP-SITE and PITCH CAMP."

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S O C I A L

THE BARN DANCE is to be held at "The Garden of the Moon", Arthur's Seat, on May 24th. A short walk during the afternoon will bring people to the camping park nearby in plenty of time to have tea and get ready for the dance. Dressing will be strictly informal, but please bring a pair of light shoes. Dancing 8pm to 11.30pm.

There's a list on the board for those wishing to go. Please add your name at once if you want to be among them, so that a van can be booked if necessary, costs worked out and other arrangements made. A walk back will be arranged on Sunday.

SEAGULLS OVER SORRENTO - Tickets will be available for June 19th.

HOSTS and HOSTESSES:

MAY 16th - EVELYN HECHT.

MAY 23rd - TED KIRK.

May 30th - GERDA SCHWERIN.

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PERSONAL

\*\*\* Margaret Dark and John Low have announced their engagement tonight. Congratulations to you both, and special good wishes from "THE NEWS" !!

\*\*\*\* Another romance which, we're told, had its beginning in the Club - Dorothy Flint is now Mrs. Paul Zammit. Her present address is 262 Grafton St., Bondi Junction, N.S.W.

\*\*\*\* We're pleased to welcome two new members - Elva Howat and Peter Ward .

\*\*\*\* Some of the Grampians party were surprised to see Roger Wilkin at Easter time. He was with a party from the Adelaide Bushwalkers, and they met at the blizzardly cold top of Mt. William, but Roger was in top form. He was next visiting the Blue Mountains, then returning home to New Zealand for some winter climbing. His regards to old Club friends.

\*\*\*\* An ex-member of our Club, Lorrie Brown, is now Assistant Sec. of the Bush Club, Sydney.

\*\*\*\* Frank Burt's pack isn't heavy enough - he now collects rock specimens, too !

\*\*\*\* At the last meeting we presented Betty and Warren Olle with a gift to express our good wishes to them for many happy years of married life. We are also posting a wedding present to Laura Howie (now Mrs. Tym).

\*\*\*\* Jill Butcher sends us a card from Canada, where she is holidaying.

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR SUB ? IF NOT, WHY NOT ? The two months' grace allowed by the rules has long expired. See Treasurer, Rex Benn tonight, or post your sub. to him. After this month's issue, "THE NEWS" will be posted only to financial members.

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS: (Note these on your own address list)

The President is pleased to inform members they can now reach her by phone : WX 6554

GERDA SCHWEERTIN - 28 Linden Street, Blackburn.

JOHN BALL - Phone number (business) Cent. 6578.

The Committee accepts with regret the resignation of MONA CLARKE.

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ALONG THE TRACK

As the leader didn't appear for the walk on April 13th Harold Williams organized a walk along the Program route (Eltham-Research-Diamond Creek) and carried it through successfully. The party followed a dry creek bed to Research, up to the aqueduct, and lunched at Harold's place, with a fire in his front garden and a portable wireless to lull them for an after-lunch siesta. The aqueduct led them across open country to D.Ck. A sudden downpour changed their plan to continue walking to Wattle Glen - as some of the visitors had neither coats nor capes, it was deemed wiser to be discreet than valorous ! PADDY MURRAY -F.T.G.-Mt.Morton-Selby. "First we staggered through a beaut muddy paddock, to be enveloped by blackberries at the end of it. What was left of us crossed a broken bridge and started filling our billies with mushrooms. Gobbled them down on top of Mt. Morton then headed through a beautiful fern gully to the milk bar at Belgrave Heights, Then Selby, and still full of energy, on to Belgrave. Although we hear it drizzled all day in Melbourne, up in the hills it was gorgeous."

LLOYD REYNOLDS - Woori Yallock - Killara. "Men were in the minority (sadly so) on the Anzac Day walk, but the attractive girls who came along proved excellent walkers and good cooks. Crossing the water channel by a single log bridge was enjoyed - mainly by the onlookers- but all remained dry and enjoyed a "cuppa" at Killara."

DES TUBRIDY (Croydon-One Tree Hill-Boronia) had a good crowd for a pleasant cross-country walk on 27th - that is, it was pleasant once he disentangled the party from the local tip! Lunch was at a good creek at the foot of Burke's Lookout, and after that there was much scrub-bashing before the party finally emerged to the wintry blasts on One Tree Hill. A quick glance from the Lookout was enough for most, before descending again to Boronia.

TED FIELD - Strezlecki's, Anzac Weekend. "Fifteen left by van on Thursday night and camped in darkness on the Lang Lang River. For the first two days we followed the old railway line to Strezlecki - pleasant going but for innumerable barbed wire fences, and bulls. Once, the vanguard marched in a block towards a herd of cattle, but the herd advanced in a block, charged at the double - and the vanguard dived under the nearest fence. While the curious cattle gazed through the fence at bushwalkers sprawled on the ground, a fierce trumpeting from Claire Hilsberg caught them off-guard in the rear, and the herd stampeded in terror. An abundance of mushrooms in every field (including Ted !) soon had hats and pockets bulging. Saturday afternoon saw us in extra wild undergrowth along Wild Dog Ck., where we camped. On Sunday we climbed a variety of long, steep bare hills forming the Strezlecki Ranges. At the top of every hill we obtained magnificent panoramas - sometimes over Westernport Bay, sometimes across the LaTrobe Valley to Donna Buang, sometimes along the Grand Ridge - but we also had to brace ourselves against the fierce and icy gales. At last we entered the cosy van at Strezlecki South, and headed straight for home.

MARIE GILLESPIE - MtMacedon. "28 turned up. We started from the Cross where cameras did justice to the sweeping view. We passed through the pine forests along Alton Road, thence to the Camel's Hump, amidst many groans from the party to stop for lunch. Finally had a leisurely lunch at Sanatorium Lake, then proceeded to Macedon via the "Devil's Hole". The Autumn foliage as we walked through the township was as beautiful as the day's weather."

EMIL SLADE - Hurstbridge-Queenstown. With 14 on this trip, there were a total of 42 out for the day. "We had hoped to gather lots of mushrooms, but found we'd been forestalled. Nevertheless we had a very pleasant walk, and revelled in the sunny weather."

JOHN LOW - Croydon-Mt.Dandenong-Olinda. "With a party of 26 John had some trouble getting them past all the milk bars - especially in the thick mist. It wasn't till we reached the top of the mountain we were sure where we were at all. Then we sat in sunshine to have lunch, and gazed down on the sea of cloud - though it was clear around Silvan Dam. We plunged through tangled blackberries, followed the creek along a leafy path, then headed for Olinda, where, having safely by-passed the last milk-bar, we caught the bus."

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