

CIRCULAR

* THE NEWS *

No. 54

of

20th March, 1953

- THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS -

Address: Room 110, 3rd Floor, Victorian Railways Institute,
Flinders Street, Melbourne.

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR THE YEAR 1953

At the Annual General Meeting, held on the 20th February, 1953,
at 8.00 p.m. in Room 56, V.R.I. Building, the following office-
bearers were elected for the coming year.

	PRESIDENT.....	Bill Horton
	VICE-PRESIDENTS.....	Norm Richards, Lorraine Richey
	TREASURER.....	Heinz Wolff
	SECRETARY.....	Helen Horton
	WALKS SECRETARY.....	Warren Olle
	SOCIAL SECRETARY.....	Win Dryden
	COMMITTEE MEMBERS....	Alf Cole, Frank Witt, Emil Slade, Win Bennett, Ruth Hart, Lesley Kurth.
COMMITTEE		
<u>1 9 5 2</u>		

On these thirteen people rests the responsibility of planning
Club activities and ensuring that all run smoothly, and we are con-
fident that they are willing and capable - we depend on every club
member to give the help and support that will make 1952 a year of
successful undertakings.

Also elected at the Annual Meeting was the following:

TRUSTEE..... Fay Witt

At the first meeting of the Committee held informally at Prince's
Bridge Gardens on the 27th February, the following subcommittees were
arranged. We ask all members to take note of who's who, and so be
enabled to contact the right person with any query or suggestion -
e.g. Walks subcommittee for suggestions for walks, Editorial with con-
tributions for "WALKS", Social if you can suggest a lecturer for our
General Meeting nights, or want tickets for a theatre night, etc.
Remember, suggestions for the better running of the Club, or interest-
ing information relevant to bushwalking will be welcomed.

"WALKS"

The Editorial Subcommittee consists this year of Norm Richards,
Helen Horton who is in charge of Advertising, and Frank Witt and Emil
Slade in charge of the sale of this Magazine. Give them the practical
support of sending in contributions for the next issue, suggesting
advertisers, and continuing to sell the present issue.

SOCIAL SUBCOMMITTEE:

Win Dryden, Emil Slade and Ruth Hart are looking after our social
interests this year.

There is to be a TheatreNight for the drama, "Such Men Are Danger-
ous", on the 21st March.

PERSONAL NOTES

Our heartiest congratulations to Warren and Betty Olle on the birth of their daughter, Kathryn, on February 19th. We hear that this potential young bushwalker is already practising her deep-breathing exercises - especially at night!

We are very pleased to hear that Gwen Cato has a three months old daughter born just before Christmas. Before she married, Gwen was well known in the Club as Social Secretary and also as one of the most enthusiastic of members, rarely missing a walk.

Members of the Xmas Trip to Bull Plain Spur, Mt. Howitt, Cobbler and Dargo High Plains had a most successful preview of Kodachrome films taken on the trip, and which were shown at Form and Edna's place.

COMING EVENTS:

- March 21-22The Federation Weekend (See notices for details of transport, site, etc.) We wish all who take part in this event the best of weather and a jolly good time - we look forward to seeing the usual large number of Bushwalkers around the camp-fire.
- March 22 Boronia - Old Olinda Rd. - Ferntree Gully. (See notice for change of leader)
- March 27 General Meeting - Gerald Corden to talk on the "Bogong High Plains" illustrated with slides.
- March 29 Silvan - Olinda - Boronia. (See notices for change of leader)
- April 3-4-5-6 ... Dargo High Plains Van Trip - See Leader, Warren Olle for transport.

At each Friday Meeting we have either a Host or Hostess to help new members and visitors to meet members of the Club and to obtain information about bushwalking and club activities. Tonight, Margaret Edwards is hostess. Hosts for March 27th - Felix Harding and for April 10th - Lloyd Reynolds.

"ALONG THE TRACK".

"Mt Blackwood - Lerderberg Gorge" - Emil Slade - 21-22 February.

A party of 16 boys and 7 girls left the van in blazing sunshine on Saturday to climb Mt. Blackwood for a panoramic view of the country. At the top was a recently-erected watchtower manned by a lonely fire-watcher, who did not mind his small cabin being invaded by 24 bodies in order to look through his telescope. We then began climbing the spur leading into the gorge which was at first quite gentle in grade gradually becoming steeper. The party became scattered as they scrambled down and at one stage an object came hurtling down at an alarming speed which turned out to be only a rucksack. The lunch spot was ideal being complete with swimming pool and warm water. Good progress was made leaving time for several more dips in romantic rockpools during the afternoon, although at times, it was easier by wading in the river. Camp was made at 5.30 pm. with time for more swimming, and after the usual songs and yarning around the campfire, most of the party slept out under the stars, lulled to sleep by a nearby brook.

Screeching cockatoos woke the camp at dawn but later the pleasant sound of a flute aroused everyone to activity at 7. a.m. At 8.45 am. the party started off through the Gorge enjoying quick dips on the way some of them quite involuntary and a difficult bathing-costume problem was solved by the ingenuity of two girls. At some stages the leader was not quite sure of the whereabouts of his party but usually the missing ones at the rear were found to be well ahead due to crossing ridges and so cutting off river bends. The van was reached on time and judging by the number of aching muscles and tired bodies, the walk was not as "soft" as it appears from this account! A high-spirited and thirsty mob invaded Bacchus Marsh milk bars and before 9 o'clock the city was reached together with the day party.

"WERRIBEE GORGE" - Horst Eisfelder - 22nd February.

A leisurely walk and a long swim plus comfortable lunch was enjoyed by 9 bushwalkers. The afternoon was less enjoyable, unfortunately, because of two river crossings and while scrambling down a steep bank there were two casualties who received first-aid treatment from Louise Paine. To add to the day's misadventures, for a while the party was temporarily lost and climbing out of the Gorge in extremely hot weather was very unpleasant. Civilisation was reached at 7. p.m. when a lift was obtained for the whole party into Bacchus Marsh, where the van was met.

"STRONACH'S MILL - MT. WHITELAW - MT. ERICA - THOMPSON RIVER BRIDGE." (Alf Cole - 7-8-9th March)

A party of 23 left on Friday night arriving after a long, tiring journey through Tanjil Bren, at Stronach's Mill, and made a late camp. Potato parings were noticed in the water supply next morning! At 9. 00 pm. we moved off picking up a track behind the mill which soon led to the track marked with metal disks. Before Mt. Whitelaw was reached many good views were had of the "mystic lake" effect of the cloud banks and heat haze towards Matlock. At night the stars were clear and bright and around the campfire, Alf related the murder story of the Wonnangatta homestead, in Feb. '18, which is still an unsolved mystery.

The next morning two of the men shared Tom's pack, he having sprained his ankle the day before, and when Neulynes' Mill was reached Nicky and Tom left the party following a shorter track out. Ron Abbot volunteered to lead a small section off the main track to see Gwinear and Kernot meeting the main party at Mt. Erica. Bill Horton also lead a small party and all met at Ezzard's. The long, tiring descent down Mt. Erica was compensated by the prolific number of blackberries to be had on the track. The weather being mild again most of the party slept out "a la belle étoile". The Mill has only skeleton timbers remaining and most of the huts have been torn down.

The lazy day spent by the Thompson River was an enjoyable interlude before commencing the long journey home. Some people visited Walhalla or explored Stringer's Creek after bathing in the river.

"HEALESVILLE - WADE'S LOOKOUT - KILLARA". - Lloyd Reynolds - 9th Mar.

The eight blithe spirits who participated in this walk were met at Healesville by Edna Craig who expressed keen regret at being unable to accompany them to Killara. After appropriate farewells, the party pounded along a bitumen and gravelled road, to Wade's Lookout while the temperature soared gaily to 101° F. Silence - and dust - gradually descended on all while each dreamed of cool drinks and the sparkling water of the aqueduct. Part of Melbourne's water supply was temporarily threatened at one of the numerous "rests" and a bull (which later was found to be a steer) disorganised the party at a later stage but all went well for the remainder of the trek to Killara.

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