

- THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS -

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

FEDERATION TRACK CLEARING WEEKEND - 2-3rd May.

For the first time for a few years fine weather was experienced for this annual event and perhaps this had a beneficial effect on the 56 people who were present, (13 of whom were Bushwalkers,) for a 5' wide track was cleared with the efficiency of a bulldozer from Donna Buang to Cement Creek. Surplus time and energy was found to go beyond the planned programme and approximately one mile of track was cleared in the same fashion from Cement Creek to Warburton. This track when finished this year will completely eliminate road-bashing from Donna Buang to Warburton.

Saturday was so clear and gave such fine views from the summit that many were induced to climb the tower several times and some climbed it again at 8 o'clock at night. Despite disparaging remarks passed at the time (a mere formality -- an old Chinese form of etiquette!) the meals were nevertheless appreciated and one member commented that the Social Committee's cooking organisation was sufficient to justify its application to all future weekend walks.

PERSONAL ITEMS

We have received notice of resignation from Rex Benn and Ada Schulz who were married in April and are now living in Lindfield, a suburb of Sydney.

Older members will be interested to hear that Vera Nolan was married on the 14th April to Abe Dorevitch. Vera was a very active member until about a year ago and was among the original members of the Club.

Another event of interest will be the marriage of Margaret Dark and Jock Low, to take place on the 19th September, to whom we extend our heartiest congratulations.

NEW MEMBERS: We are happy to welcome the following new members accepted by the Committee at its last meeting.

WILMA MAY HEILBRONN, 12 Mangan St., Balwyn. (p) WF.5972
(b) WF.3744

GRAEME ROBERT RAE, 12 Fairfield Grove, Sth.Caulfield.
: XM.2394

THOMAS GABOR, 21 Liscard Street, Elsternwick.

RONALD YATES, 103 Canterbury Road, Canterbury.
(b) Bayswater 532

AUDREY BATTERHAM, 6 McMillan Street, Elsternwick. LF.5717

PAT LONG, 526 Toorak Road, Toorak. BJ.5220

ANNE FRANCES SCULLION, 37 John Street, Elwood. LA.6368

CHANGE of ADDRESS and TELEPHONE NUMBER:

NICKI GEROE, 117 Victoria Parade, Collingwood.

PETER BECKER, Telephone (b) MB.3121

LIBRARY MAGAZINES:

Frank Pitt would like to remind all those who wish to borrow magazines from the Library to leave a note, besides leaving the money, giving particulars of the year, name or type of magazine taken out. This will assist the Librarian to keep a check on Library books, etc., which otherwise cannot be traced when they become overdue.

COMING EVENTS:

- MAY 16-17 SWITZERLAND RANGES: - Bill Horton. This is a van trip and for details see leader.
- MAY 17 ... Hurstbridge-Warrandyte - Margaret Dark.
- MAY 24 ... Mt.Macedon-Mt.Towrong-Camel's Hump. - Bob Bittner. This trip is noted for its autumn trees.
- MAY 29 ... A FILM to be shown after the General Meeting will be about Melbourn's water supply entitled "The Story Behind the Tap," produced by the Metropolitan Board of Works. The Social C'ttee would like this meeting to be well attended since the Board suggested that an audience of at least 60 would be desirable. So, roll up.
- MAY 31 ... Berwick-Sugarloaf Hill-Belgrave. (Alf Cole)
- JUNE 2(Tues) Yarra Glen-Marcoondah Aqueduct-Warrandyte. (Lorraine Richey)
- JUNE 6-7 ... BARWON-RICKETT'S SELECTION-WYE RIVER. (Peter Salmon). The van will leave on Fri. night at 6.00 pm. Rickett's Selection is a well-watered clearing surrounded by a fine stand of blackwoods and situated high on the Dividing Range from where a splendid view of the Wye Valley and the ocean can be had. It is approached by a well-defined track and members will have the opportunity of walking down the old Wye River Track which is still open. (Note: Knowledge of these negotiable tracks resulted from information brought back by survivors of the Separation Creek Weekend trip who, most painstakingly, investigated where not to get lost in the Otways!)
- JUNE 7 Hurstbridge-Plenty Gorge-Greensborough. (Brian Wilcher)
- JUNE 14 ... Glenroy-Broadmeadows-Mt.Gelibrand-Somerton. (Nick Geroe)
- JUNE 20-21 FLINDERS PEAK-MT.ANAKIE-BRISBANE RANGES-BACCHUS MARSH. Leader - Ron Abbott. This van trip leaves on Fri. night at 6.30 pm. It is hoped to camp in the vicinity of Flinders Peak to see the sunrise on Sat. morning. The Brisbane Ranges are open-timbered, pleasant walking country.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: (\$ + £.s.d. + \$\$\$) = Boodle (Sterling)

Please note that unfinancial members will not be posted the "News" in future.

A list of unfinancial members will be placed on the notice board very soon, so will you remind all your friends who have not paid their subscriptions yet that they are due now.

DRESSMAKING ADVERTISEMENT:

Attention is drawn to Miss Spierer's advertisement. Alice Spierer was a member of the Club and will be remembered by those who met her on walks last year.

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" ON THE TRACK "

FERNTREE GULLY-UPWEY LOCKOUT=SELBY-BELGRAVE. - Nick Geroe - 15th March. or "Foodling in the Dandenongs".

On this very warm day, nine walkers set out from F.T.Gully on what proved to be a glorified blackberry hunt. We "browsed" amongst them on our journey to Upway Lookout, where after a brief scanning of the surrounding horizon the party resumed its way along roads until it accidentally arrived at Belgrave Municipal Baths via Lovers' Lane where all concerned gazed longingly at the lucky "locals" enjoying themselves. (Ctd)

"ON THE TRACK" (Ctd)

After brief refreshments we resumed our trek into the unknown, until our leader discovered a "short-cut" through a veritable jungle of blackberry bushes to Selby Reserve, whereupon all arrived at the hardwon lunchspot much battered and scratched. Then the walk really commenced after lunch, into an enjoyable wandering all over the countryside with our leader trying to satisfy his yearning for a few blackberries. We eventually found ourselves again at Selby, only this time we entered by the gate. Much laughter and more road-bashing till we finally caught a bus from Belgrave.

YARRA JUNCTION-STONY RISES-WOORI YALLOCK. Frank Pitt - 6th April.

The first part of the walk passed rather uneventfully, as after having left the Warburton train at Yarra Junction, we walked mostly along wellformed tracks, and little scrub-bashing was encountered. After an hour's lunch near a creek, we walked steadily on, when the smell of burning eucalyptus became very pronounced. We had walked another half - an-hour before we could see the smoke of some fire right ahead of us. Another fifteen minutes and we heard the crackling of burning trees and shrub. The fire was burning apparently on a wide front, and it seemed quite hopeless that we could do much about it. However, some of the party tackled the fire as best they could by beating it out with tree branches, and any object they could lay hand on and after an hour's taste of bush fire fighting, walked on to a road, where we were lucky enough to get a lift to Woori Yallock, to meet the rest of the party. At the railway station a call was put through to the fire brigade and after a good clean up we all caught the train back to Melbourne.

HARKAWAY-CARDINIA CREEK-CLEMATIS. Heinz Wolff - 12th April.

Twentysix people attended Heinz' walk on a warm and sunny day. A firm believer in variety, Heinz gave us roadbashing, rolling grassy hills, lovely bush track and scrubbashing again. The grassy hills and most of the bush tracks came before lunch, after which, more bush-tracks, then scrub-bashing through all sorts of prickly things with a little sword-grass thrown in for good measure. At about 5 o'clock the leader granted us a rest of 3/4 hour on a pleasant creek about four miles from Clematis. We reached Clematis at about seven and from there took a bus (privately hired, but generously shared by the Melbourne Walking Club) to Ferntree Gully. But the excitements of the day were by no means over. The Victorian Railways and an innocent but foolish cow were to provide us with a little tragedy.

About 20 minutes out of F.T.Gully, the train, with an alarming bump suddenly pulled up. As it was quite dark there was nothing to be seen and we had to content ourselves with speculation. At last the train driver had to use his torch and there, protruding from beneath the first carriage was a bovine leg (hind). A strong odour pervading the forward carriages led us all to believe that the lower portions of the cow's anatomy had been severely damaged, a suspicion which later was fully confirmed when the unfortunate beast was dragged out. For some-time nothing was done and the spectators increased in numbers. People from the nearby houses came out in pyjamas and dressing gowns, the local policeman and the less fortunate passengers from the rear carriages. Small boys advanced curiously until informed by a compassionate member of our party that they would most probably be sick if they ventured any further. Eventually some admirable person crawled beneath the train and tied ropes about the cow. With the help of these and a jerk of the train it was pulled out and our interrupted journey was continued. Certainly one of the most eventful walks of the season.

YARRA GLEN PAUL'S RANGE-HEALESVILLE. Bill Horton - 18-19th April.

With a grim look, Edna managed to jump on the about-to-depart 8.25 from town, whereupon said train left Box Hill to rattle along to Lilydale where various "bods" who had not breakfasted filled the empty voids, until finally it dumped us at Yarra Glen, all ten of us. Highbrow Hill, our first high spot afforded a fine panorama of the valleys on either side with Mts. Beggary, Jerusalem, Slide and St. Leonard behind them and opening out to the valley of the Yarra. It was pleasant ambling along the ridge to the Pinnacles, down to Dixon's Creek and up to Cape Horn the site of an old homestead, giving another lovely view, but the threatening rain caught up with us by the time we camped near the head of Paul's Creek, and the prospect of

"ON THE TRACK" (Ctd)

a rather cool night made Emil sigh for his good old nightgown and cap, worn in the good old days. To cheer him up we promised to hold a nightgown party for him. Further complaints came when the leeches were found to be the original inhabitants, but all settled down to a comfortable night. Sunday was ideal walking weather, and most of it was spent on Paul's Range which despite a few ups and downs and a little scrubbashing made pleasant walking, and the leader was complimented on his lunch spot - soft pine needles to sit on by the aqueduct and the sun obligingly came out. A short cut across the end of the ridge opposite provided a contrast to the morning's open forest, in the way of lush undergrowth and ferns, and to complete the variety, the last half-mile into Healesville took us under the colourful leaves of English trees well advanced in their autumn glory. Having satisfied our various spirits in various liquid ways, we sat down to await the van, with morales at a high level in the knowledge that it had really been quite a pleasant walk.

WHITTLESEA-TOOROURRONG RESERVOIR-JACK'S CASCADES. John Ball - April 25.

A party of eight started off on a typical autumn day, and lunched at the Reservoir, continuing on to the Cascades. Unfortunately one of our members became a "displaced person" as he mistook instructions and headed back to Whittlesea an hour in front of the rest of the party. The remnants of the party arrived back to catch the last train out at 7.43 pm.

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