



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 257

August, 1970

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As was reported in last month's "NEWS", a Sub Committee was formed to reply to the letter received from the House of Representatives Select Commission on Wildlife Conservation. The issues of conservation and pollution are matters in which bushwalkers should be vitally concerned and therefore, it is considered that only front page prominence is good enough to inform you of the contents of our reply.

"Dear Sir (Mr. L.M. Barlin, Clerk to the Committee)

We have received your letter referring to the setting up of the House of Representatives Select Committee to inquire into the Wildlife Conservation. We congratulate the House of Representatives on the setting up of this committee, the need for which we feel is long overdue.

As we do not have access to figures and statistics we cannot comment specifically within the terms of reference set out in your letter, however, we would like to bring forward some general observations which we feel are relevant to the inquiry.

As Bushwalkers we have walked throughout Victoria and over the years we have seen the wholesale destruction of the natural habitats and a steady depletion of the wild life of the country.

Whereas once it was possible to have a pleasant walk along the banks of rivers such as the Yarra and observe many examples of native flora and fauna, now we find that the whole ecological system has been destroyed by the presence of man through private ownership of riverside land and the indiscriminate rubbish dumper.

With reference to Item (b) we feel that the use of the word minimum in reference to areas of animal habitat is a negative approach and that we should strive to secure as large a area as possible, for the preservation of species and to maintain the balance of nature. We cannot stress too strongly that these areas should be held securely. Even though a region is a declared National Park, it can still be exploited by outside interests, to the detriment of the eco-systems; at no time should any section of a National Park be alienated, such as 15 acres on Mt. Buffalo for a hotel - motel complex, areas of land on Wilsons Promontory for a private development hotel, the proposed rutile mining on the beaches at Mallacoota and the dumping of rubbish in the quarries at Tower Hill.

Once it was possible to drink water from practically any creek in Victoria without fear of after affects, now care has to be exercised when selecting drinking water as so many creeks are polluted and unsavoury. Unless more care is taken on the use of fertilizers and pesticides we may find that we have a problem similar to that in Europe and America.

Members of our Club spend one or two days in the bush every weekend and it is only on rare occasions that we see kangaroos. These animals were once plentiful close to Melbourne. On the other hand, feral cats and dogs, and foxes appear to present a problem as evidenced by the decreasing population of lyre birds in the Dandenong Ranges.

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We note the conspicuous absence of "Flora" from your terms of reference and would like to point out that the flora is an integral part of the environment which supports the animal population, and thus we feel that your committee should not overlook this aspect.

It is becoming increasingly evident that there is a need for a uniform Commonwealth Wild Life Conservation Authority, as each State has its own set of regulations governing the use of Public Land. The flora and fauna of the country does not respect State boundaries and in our opinion the only practical approach is to have an Australia wide organisation.

Yours sincerely,

for the Committee of the
MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS"

For the information of members, Item (b) as referred to in our letter is "The adequacy of the several systems of National Parks, Reserves, etc. of the States and Territories to ensure that at least minimum areas of the major animal habitats and the wildlife of the continent are preserved, held securely, and are properly managed in the national interest;"

JOIN IN THE FUN AT THE
FEDERATION
WEEK-END

AT LAKE EILDON - FRASER NATIONAL PARK
SEPTEMBER 12th-13th 1970

THE LEADERS ARE THE MELBOURNE AMATEUR WALKING & TOURING CLUB.

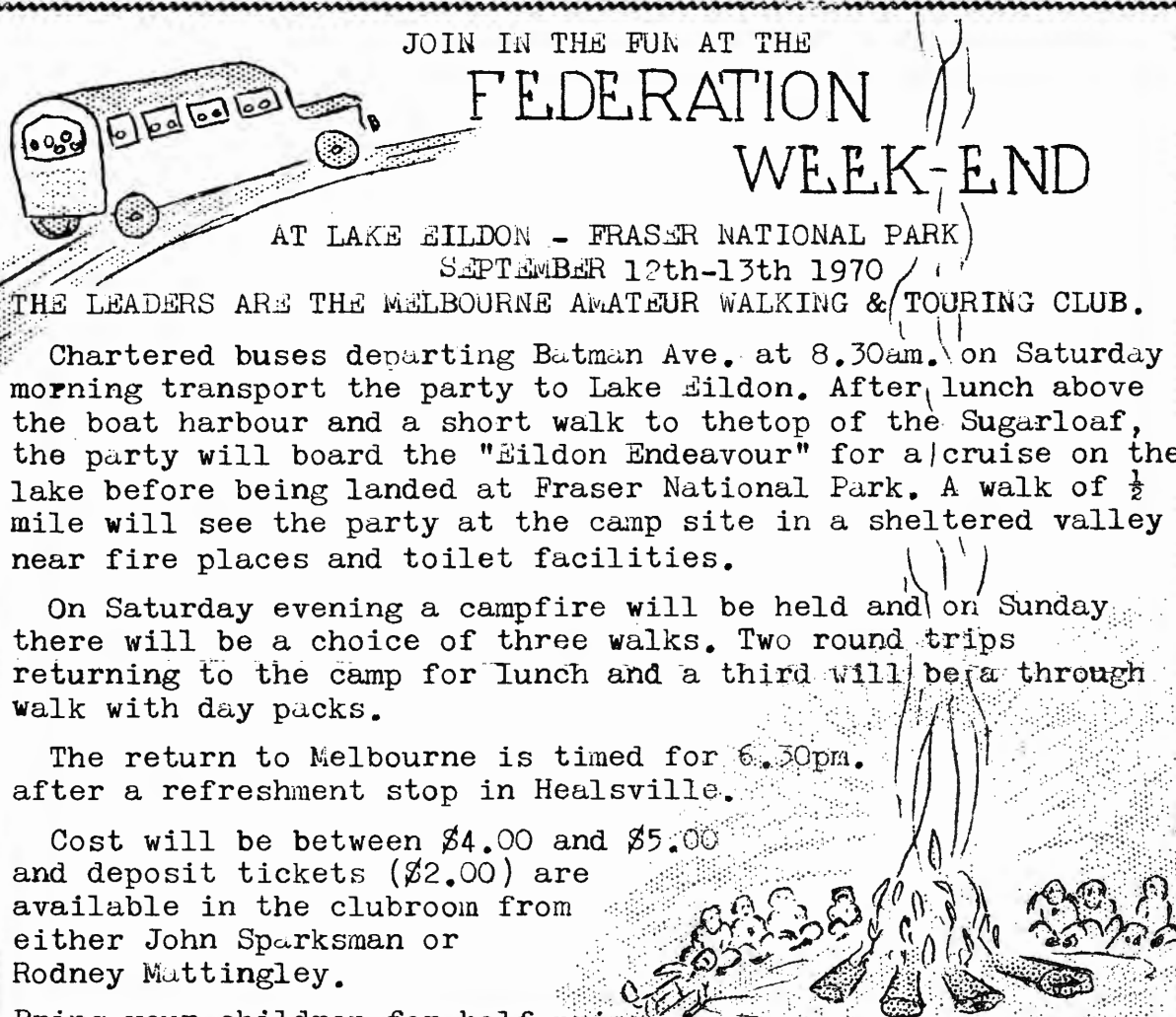
Chartered buses departing Batman Ave. at 8.30am. on Saturday morning transport the party to Lake Eildon. After lunch above the boat harbour and a short walk to the top of the Sugarloaf, the party will board the "Eildon Endeavour" for a cruise on the lake before being landed at Fraser National Park. A walk of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile will see the party at the camp site in a sheltered valley near fire places and toilet facilities.

On Saturday evening a campfire will be held and on Sunday there will be a choice of three walks. Two round trips returning to the camp for lunch and a third will be a through walk with day packs.

The return to Melbourne is timed for 6.30pm. after a refreshment stop in Healsville.

Cost will be between \$4.00 and \$5.00 and deposit tickets (\$2.00) are available in the clubroom from either John Sparksman or Rodney Mattingley.

Bring your children for half price.



All correspondence should be addressed to:

Hon. Sec., Melbourne Bushwalkers,
Box 1751Q, G.P.O.,
MELBOURNE Victoria 3001

Meetings are held in the Clubrooms, Hosier Lane, at the rear of the Forum Theatre, every Wednesday night at 8.00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

WALK PREVIEWSDAY WALKS:

- September 6 BLACK SANDS CREEK-MT. BRIDE-BRITANIA CREEK
 Leader: Alan Miller p) 81-7176 Medium
 Map reference: Gembrook 1:50,000
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Expected time of return 7.30 p.m. Fare \$1.50
 A hilly walk through Forestry Commission territory. Bring water for lunch.
- 13 BORONIA-ONE THREE HILL-BELGRAVE
 Leader: John Wallace p) 754-2759 Easy
 Map reference: Monbulk 1:50,000
 Train leaves Flinders Street Station 9.12 a.m.
 Buy Sunday Excursion ticket to Belgrave. Fare \$0.62
 Expected time of return 4.30 p.m.
 From Boronia to The Basin the walk will be on sealed roads. From The Basin, our route is on bush roads and tracks with pleasant scenery, with a short scrub bash to One Tree Hill and then on to Belgrave via Sherbrooke Forest.
- 20 TENNERIFFE-PENNINGERS MONUMENT-TUBBS HILL
 Leader: Alex Stirkul b) 46-4841 ext. 20 Easy/Medium
 Map reference: Longwood 1:50,000
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Fare \$2.00
 Feeling tired, listless, rundown? Then stay home. But if your system craves excitement, adventure and is titillated by the possibility of getting lost, then this walk is for you. It is mainly through undulating country with the leader guaranteeing that there will be no hills higher than 2,000 ft.
- 24 SHOW DAY: MALMSBURY-PATTENS HILL-KYNETON
 Leader: Tony Morris b) 66-6026 ext. 6342 Easy
 Map reference: Castlemaine 7/187 1:63,360
 Train leaves Spencer Street Station 8.10 a.m. Buy 2nd Return ticket to Malmsbury Fare \$2.25 Expected time of return 8.30 p.m.
 An easy walk, starting from Malmsbury and heading south west across clear country to Pattens Hill about 4½ miles away which overlooks Malmsbury Reservoir. From there we will head south west through light bush to join the rail line again at Kyneton Station.
- 27 MT. BULLENGAROOK CAMPASPE RIVER NORTH BLACKWOOD
 Leader: Jenny Mead p) 25-1709 Easy/Medium
 Map reference: Dalysford Military 1" = 1 mile
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Fare \$1.60
 The walk will not be as published, that is unless you want a road bash. The leader intends the walk to be in the vicinity of Blackwood, an old gold mining town. Gold has been found in Blackwood as recently as early August 1970 so come along and find your fortune.

WEEKEND WALKS

- September 18-20 LAKE NILLAHCOOTIE-STRATHBOGIE RANGES-SEVEN CREEKS GORGE
 Leader: Tyrone Thomas p) 89-5197 Medium/Hard
 Map reference: Nat. Mapping 1:250,000 Wangaratta
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 6.30 p.m. Expected time of return 9.00 p.m. Fare \$4.60
 We aim to walk westwards all weekend commencing at Lake Nillahcootie (south of Benalla) climbing Mt. Strathbogie,

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WALK PREVIEWS (Contd.)

September 18-20 and crossing Brankeet Creek and camping on Gerar Creek. On the Sunday, we will continue along the Strathbogie Range and finish up at Seven Creeks Gorge.

There is a total of 3,000' of climbing during the weekend. Some walking will be in open ridgetop areas and some walking is in forested areas. The first day's walk has not been visited by the Club for at least five years so its something new to most, and as only a 250,000 scale map is available, your leader will take extra care not to lose you. Ha! Ha!

BEACH "BASHING" MORNINGTON PENINSULA

Sunday dawned a beautiful day for a beach walk; with the possibility of a suntan? The first problem to be encountered was that 50 people (a possible Club record?) had to fit into a 35 seater van. Problem solved - 15 people went down in private cars, and the problem then became to find the cars at the other end.

A gallant few even put on shorts, well it was a beach walk and the sun was shining and what's a slight sea breeze. I was one of the few; never have I covered the first mile so quickly. John complained we were going too fast, "How am I going to keep count of you all".

When most of the group had been misled to a dead end, not by John, it was either wet feet or straight up; Spencer decided on wet feet - he has changed since Barmah. Jenny tackled the rock climbing with great gusto flattening a bush in the process. Most of the group retreated to an easier route.

Lunch was enjoyed lazing in the sun and sand. While some walkers viewed the surging blue sea pounding into the cliffs, others hid themselves in the sand-dunes.

All too soon lunch was over and it was back to cliffs and sand and more cliffs and more sand.

Some time during the afternoon an old injury caught up with a young male member of the group and some of the party consequently had to slow down. After waiting $\frac{1}{2}$ hour for the leader, the delayed party and the injured one to catch up, we finally reached the Ampitheatre; the Sorrento back beach for the uneducated. Huge quantities of milk shakes and hamburgers were then devoured by all, all, that is expect the affectionate couple in front of the kiosk.

Thanks John for a most enjoyable walk, even though we didn't manage to lose some of the noiser members of the party to the sea.

"One of the Group"

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Don't forget, Committee meeting 7th September

EXTRACTS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

10th August, 1970

Chairman: Alec ProudfootPresent: Dorrie Warton, Tyrone Thomas, Barbara Davies, Rod. Mattingley, Jenny Mead, Roger Brown, Sue Ball, Doug and Robyn Pocock, Rex Filson, Judy Shegog, Peter Carlyon.Apologies: John Sparksman, Margaret WarkGeneral Correspondence:

A letter was received from M.U.M.C. advising that work has commenced on the second edition of the "Guide to the Victorian Alps". In this second edition, M.U.M.C. hope to expand certain sections, in particular the Eskdale Spur between Trapper's Creek Gap and Mt. Tawonga, and the Wood's Point - Aberfeldy - Mt. Useful area. They would appreciate advice in the following forms:

- (i) Confirmation of any sections that have been checked and found to be correct;
- (ii) Correction of any inaccuracies or omissions;
- (iii) Recent notes on further tracks that could be included.

Replies should be direct to Dave Hogg, Editor.

Treasurer's Report:

The Club's financial position is very satisfactory. Club membership is at a record number of 188.

Walk Secretary's Report:

During the month of July 129 people walked with the Club, this number included 24 visitors. The Spring Programme was outlined.

Social Secretary's Report:

Judy reported that all tickets had been sold for the night at "The Cuckoo". Film nights were organised for 2nd September and 16th September. See ad elsewhere for details of these films.

Magazine Report:

Robyn reported that articles are still required for 'Mountain Muster'.

Federation Report:

For details of Federation weekend, September 12-13, see Page 2.

General Business:

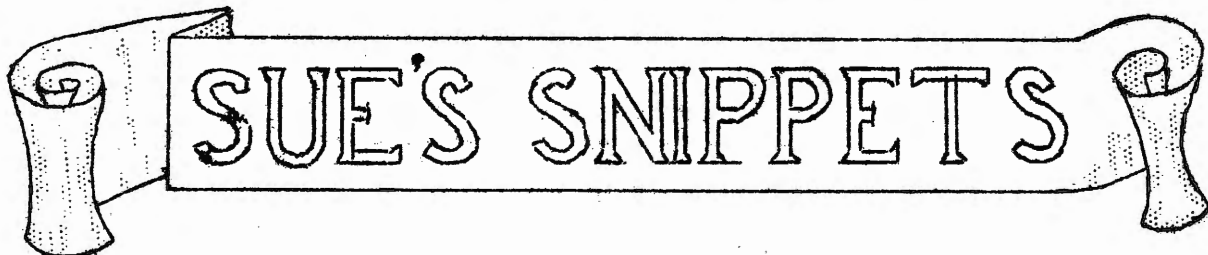
Applications for membership were received and approved from Margaret Ellis, Alan Holder, Julie Hofsteede and Deborah Hansen Bay.

DUTY ROSTER

26th August - Rex Filson
 2nd September - Jenny Mead
 9th September - Sue Ball
 16th September - Peter Carlyon

FILM NIGHTS

2nd September - Ron Filsell - Barmah
 16th September - N.Z. Wanderers - Films
 of their trip



SUE'S SNIPPETS

There is no word for this month as so many people have difficulty getting the point. Any more pointed and I may be sued for slander.

A much belated note to welcome back Mario from a sojourn in Malta to visit relatives and friends. It's not that I hadn't noticed you Mario, it's just that I never remember.

Notice a young lady sporting a "latest look" suede hand bag? Driving a "Crocker type" car? Planning a European holiday? She's just received the key of the door. Congratulations and all that.

If you have some recipes for easy to make meals, please pass to Greg. You don't have much time to work, do the housework and cook the meals.

Pam and Margaret do not look as though they have been very battered during their week's skiing. Hope they are a bit lighter on skis than Jeff.

Looks like we may be losing a few more members to the clan of the "Wandering Bushies". Some time next year Rodney and Co. hope to have a six month trip round Australia. Hope this doesn't mean we are going to lose a Walks Secretary as well!

Best wishes to George Hall and his new wife. Some sharp eyes noticed it in the Sunday paper. Nearly got away with a Filson act.

Seems we have a T.V. star in our midst. Who was that Bushie on his skis in "World of Sport"?

Welcome to New Members

The following people have had the courage to join the ranks of the elite: Audrey Bree, Dorothy Davies, Jeff Flynn, Kevin Hadingham, Alan Holder and Elizabeth Spurell.

This item has absolutely nothing to do with bushwalking or bushwalkers, but Margaret Jorgensen thought it might appeal to the special sense of humour bushies are endowed with.

The house journal of the Swedish dairy equipment firm, Alfa-Laval, described A COW

A cow is a completely automatic milk manufacturing machine. It is encased in untanned leather and mounted on four vertical movable supports, one in each corner. The front end contains the cutting and grinding mechanism, as well as headlights, air inlet and exhaust, a bumper, and a fog horn. At the rear is the dispensing apparatus and an automatic fly swatter. The central portion houses a hydro-chemical conversion plant. This consists of four fermentation and storage tanks connected in series by an intricate network of flexible plumbing. This section also contains the heating plant complete with automatic temperature controls, pumping station and main ventilating system. The waste disposal apparatus is located at the rear of this central section. In brief, the externally visible features are: two lookers, two hookers, four standers-uppers, four hanger-downers, and a swishy-wishy. There is a similar machine known as a bull, which should not be confused with a cow. It produces no milk, but has other uses.



SHERBROOKE FOREST WALK - 11th JULY

Leaders who start their walks at dawn, or even 8.00 a.m. on a chilly Saturday in the dead of winter can't reasonably expect a big turnout, and Darrell mustered only 8 for his trip to the far-off Dandenongs. A labrador joined for part of the train ride, but gave up at the station.

Promises of blue sky came to naught as the party trudged off the road, refreshed at the corner shop with vanilla slices two feet thick. Shortly into the mountain ash and the haunting notes of our quarry are heard, the signal for Geoff to reveal a tape-recorder and mike. This is too much for the TV idiots and cries of "Why do you use OMO madam?" are heard in purest Strine. Away with such hilarity, there are serious bird-os, and the party strikes off into the thick scrub, guided by the lyre-bird's note. A busy-body bird, hearing the intruders from his lofty perch, gives the alarm, and all is silent, the only trace of the prey being scratch marks on the forest floor, where delicious grubs have been retrieved. So back up the track, oozing mud and slippery, till hard by a picnic ground a flash of dark brown feathers is sighted. A female sips at the creek, up the bank, passes our feet, beak laden with moss, and up the trunk of a tree, and a flutter to the top fronds of a fern, the chosen site for next building. No clock-watching worker your female lyre-bird, the moss of the trunk is worn away where she has made a track with her hen-like feet, carrying bits and pieces constantly. Her companions flit about the scrub, black-eyed, yellow fronted friendly robins.

But leaders are never satisfied, and to the chorus of complaints about cold feet, the bushies are led up the track again, up through tall straggly pines. Now being milled by a wiser Forests Commission than of yore, here there is room to move between the pines, watched by silent kookaburras perched on the lower branches. Geoff issues instructions like an old hand "keep silent and communicate by hand signals, don't stand on a twig" and we work round the side of the hill towards the sound, where the native scrub begins again and there he is, our quarry, working over the rich brown earth, the aptly named greyish-brown feathers trailing behind. Hopping up to a fallen trunk, he lets forth a rich trail of notes, one bird after the other mimicked, magpie, mynah, yellow robin, kookaburra, whip bird, and others unknown to your city-bred reporter, without pause in an endless stream of pure sound. Creeping up, for he is oblivious of the seekers, we see the bill and throat working vigorously, then, off he is, for more tucker, scurrying through the brush at a pace. Hand signals guide to his next location, for his is quite a wide territory for a bird, and out come the recording instruments for sound and sight, to get tangible evidence of these unique abilities. Manura superba finally decides the free show is over and runs off into inaccessible bush. The party returns for lunch, glad to have sighted a pair, and heard, the voices of others. Not all our unique fauna is on the decline, thanks to the Forests Commission.

Dorothy Davies.

LOCH WILSON

For all your bushwalking needs
692 Glenhuntly Road Caulfield

The Committee has received a letter from John and Sue Brownlie wandering around north Australia. We thought that you might be interested in the following extracts.

Dear Dorrie and Hon'bl C'tee,

Normally I don't type letters - I cheat and handwrite 'em first, but as you typewrit yours thought I'd hand the same punishment of wading through mistakes. xxxxxxxxxxxx This is mainly to acknowledge with Gratitude the Honour bestowed upon us - Honourable membership. We thank you from the bottom of our dusty hearts

..... we went west to Areyonga Native Settlement where we were greatly impressed with the thousands spent on the whites on the staff there, and the lack of it on the natives. \$20,000 electrical plant at present being installed for the staff, and there is not even a hot shower for the black kids. Up the Welfare

..... From there went to Redbank Gorge - basically all the gorges in the Macdonnells are the same "plan" - a chasm running straight through the range from one side to t'other. Terriffiicccc colours, some beaut narrow walls, pools and giant rocks. Great country. Climbed Mt. Sonder - first bush-walking since Robinson Gorge in Queensland and boy did we know it. A really blue day, rock wallabies, spinifex and fabulous views. Hope we get some good photographs out of this part of the trip - with luck something may get into Aust. Post

..... Hear you are having much snow - getting out the skis, eh? Weather glorious here, but we are a little sad to be missing out on another winter - can't have it both ways however.

..... John is cooking tea tonight - how zat, huh? He says it is ready and I'd better stoporitwillbecold. And look out for the dreadedlurgy.

Love Sue and the Lug.

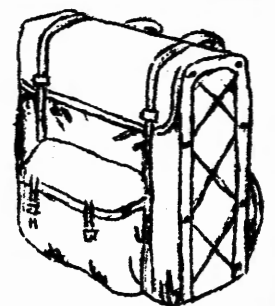
To all contributors to this month's "NEWS" go my thanks.

I feel special thanks should go to the Filsons and the Pocock's for such a fine letter on our behalf to the Select Committee on Wildlife Conservation. Let us hope their time and effort is not wasted and that this Committee is the beginning of action leading to nation wide legislation to cut down pollution and help conserve our heritage.

Jenny Mead
"NEWS" Convenor

AUSKI

9 Hardware St.
Phone 67 1412



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