

# THE NEWS

of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

Edition 250

January, 1970

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DONT BE A  
DONKEY  
READ THE  
SUPPLEMENT

WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
NOT FRIDAY  
HOSIER LANE  
NOT V.R.I.



Neil and Pat Ham require transport to Wilkie for the Easter Weekend, preferably in a car leaving early on Thursday afternoon. Contact Neil at 71 Leila Road, Carnegie before 10th March or at the Masonic Club, Flinders Street, Wednesday to Sunday nights telephone 63-3737 ext. 8 before 20th February.

PLEASE NOTE that John Sparksman, our Walks Secretary, can now be contacted during business hours on 41-1121.

REMEMBER

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The Annual General Meeting to be held 25th February in the Club-rooms in Hosier Lane.

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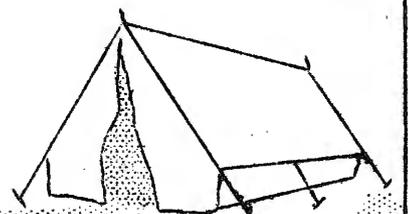
REMEMBER

## AUSKI

9 HARDWARE STREET  
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THE BUSHWALKING SPECIALIST

FOR ALL YOUR BUSHWALKING AND CLIMBING NEEDS



All correspondence should be addressed to:

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

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CLUBROOMS

See notice on the front of this month's "NEWS" for information on the Club's new rooms.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING  
7.1.1969  
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Chairman: Rex Filson

Present: Jan Abbott, John Sparksman, Marion Siseman, Liz Shaw,  
Rod Mattingley, Jenny Mead, Tyrone Thomas, Art Terry

Apologies: Dorrie Warton, Alec Proudfoot, Shirley Trotter, Michael Griffin

General Correspondence

Christmas cards were received from the Brays, Brisbane Bush Walkers and Stan Mizon.

The Australian Conservation Foundation has requested certain information about the Club for inclusion in a Conservation Directory which they hope to print as early as possible this year.

Walks Secretary

140 participated in walks during December 1969. The total number of walkers for 1969 was 1,570 which is an increase on the figure for 1968.

Social Secretary

It is hoped, now that we have our own Clubrooms, to run several film nights during the year.

Wilkinson Lodge

Twelve people visited the Lodge over the Christmas/New Year period.

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DUTY ROSTER:

January 23 Athol Schafer  
28 Marion Siseman  
February 4 Rod Mattingley  
11 Rex Filson  
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NOTE the Annual General Meeting to be held in the Clubrooms in Hosier Lane on 25th February, 1970  
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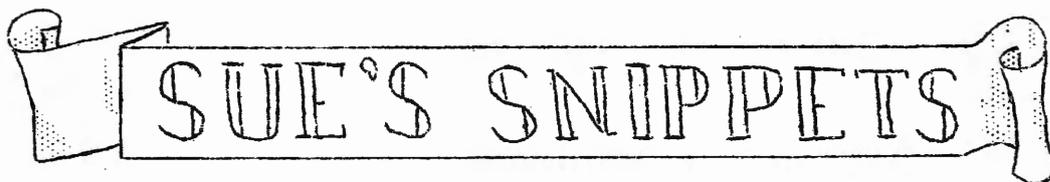
February Committee Meeting - TUESDAY NIGHT February 10th in the Clubrooms in Hosier Lane.

WALKS PREVIEWDAY WALKS:

- FEBRUARY 1 KINGLAKE-JEHOSOPHAT VALLEY-STEELS CREEK  
 Leader: Darrell Sullivan Easy/ Medium  
 Map reference: Yan Yean Military 1"  
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Fare \$1.60
- 8 WESBURN-BRITANNIA CREEK-MT. LITTLE JOE-WARBURTON  
 Medium  
 Map reference: Gembrook Military 1:50,000  
 Bus leaves Whights 10.00 a.m. Fare \$1.90
- 15 LERDERDERG RIVER AREA  
 Leader: Sue Filson p) 88-1165 Medium  
 Map reference: Ballan Military 1"  
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Fare \$1.70  
 Another Filson's Frolic (Folly) through the popular Lerderderg Gorge. Weather and tourists permitting, we may hold a Lilo Mini Derby in order to uphold this annual event - so don't forget your lilos and bathing togs.
- 22 BLACKBERRYING WALK: CLEMATIS-MENZIES CREEK-BELGRAVE (Family Walk) Easy  
 Leader: Lorraine Richey  
 Map reference: Monbulk Military 1:50,000 and Broadbents (Dandenongs)  
 Train departs Flinders Street 9.12 a.m. Buy Sunday Excursion ticket to Belgrave. Fare \$0.62 plus bus to Clematis  
 Do you like blackberry pie? Then come blackberry gathering with Lorraine, an acknowledged authority on the subject. There will also be a shorter alternative suitable as a family walk for the youngsters.

WEEKEND WALKS:

- FEBRUARY COOPERS CREEK-THOMPSON RIVER-WALHALLA  
 6 - 8 Leader: Alec Proudfoot p) 98-3155 Easy  
 See article in Walk 1968 for information about the locality  
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 6.30 p.m. Fare \$4.00  
 It is expected that on this occasion our fixed camp will be at the same spot as it was in 1968. The walk on Saturday too, may be over the same route, viz. along the permanent way of the old Walhalla line to Walhalla and back to Coopers Creek via the deserted settlement of Happy-Go-Lucky. An alternative to this could be from the camp across the Thompson River and up the hill to "The Happy" then down to Bruntons Crossing and back to the camp via the Jubilee. Wherever it is, it will be good, so arrange your affairs so that the weekend of 6 to 8 February will see you camped on the Thompson with film in your camera, bathing togs and old sand shoes in your rucksack and a 1968 copy of Walk in your pocket.
- 20 - 22 WILSONS PROMONTORY: LIGHTHOUSE-OBERON BAY Medium  
DARBY RIVER-TIDAL RIVER-OBERON BAY (Swimming) Easy  
 Leaders: Tony Morris and Peter Bullard  
 p) 66-6026 and p) 50-5234 respectively  
 Map reference: Algona Guides  
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 6.30 p.m. Fare \$5.00



## SUE'S SNIPPETS

A short column this month so we can fit in an explanation of the Family Walks.

Phrase for this month - about to be hitched!

Seems to be the month for ads.. May have to start charging - perhaps so many hours working for the Club, per line.

Andy Price would like it known among members and visitors that he has ventured into the business world by purchasing an "Apartment House" situated at 341 Auburn Road, Hawthorn. This is a big comfortable house featuring apartments with own cooking facilities, refrigerators etc. adequate bathrooms and toilets.

Andy has vacancies from time to time so if you require an apartment or know of some-one who does, then let Andy know and he may be able to help out.

Graham Errey (88-4385) discovered to his annoyance, that what he thought was a complete set of THE MELBOURNE WALKER is missing the 1965 copy. Graham would like to hear from anyone who has a copy they would be willing to sell him.

Somewhere along the line wrong information was fed into the computer and produced a married Ham. (Glad to pair him off.) Neil is to be married next month with Joan Whyte (ex-Bushie) as Matron-of-Honour to give him support.

Nick (still haven't answered your letter) Fidel Cole should be touring the land of the Ruskies, that is if he got past Siberia, at present. China not willing to take the risk, the U.S.S.R. proved to be the answer of vacation problems. Jeff Sill and Nick should be able to have some interesting tales to swap.

Before Christmas, a lambskin car seat was presented to Dennis, our favourite van driver, as a token of our appreciation of the fine service he gives the M.B.W.

The following letter was posted to 24 families who, we thought, may be interested. If you know of any families who may like to join us, please tell John Sparksman (business number 41-1121) or myself so we can send them a programme.

Dear Friend,

The Melbourne Bushwalkers are organising Family walks, commencing on the next programme. This is to give ex-members with families the opportunity of joining in the activities of the Club once more.

There are several couples in the M.B.W. who would like to remain active members but whose children are not capable of completing the mileage of an average Sunday walk.

Continued on Page 5

Walks Preview (Contd)

As usual with our Wilsons Promontory trips, there are two alternatives. Tony's party will camp at Roaring Meg on Saturday and continue to the Lighthouse. Peter's party will follow the coast with frequent stops for swims. It will be necessary for this party to carry water for breakfast on Saturday.

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Sue's letter to families on Family Walks (Contd)

With the family walks it is intended that families travel on the same van as the ordinary walk, but will be set down at a different point so that only about three miles will be covered for the day. The fares will be - children under four free, four to sixteen half fare, over sixteen and adults as set out in the programme. If, for some reason, e.g. car sickness, you feel that you would have to go by private transport, a fee of \$1.00 per family will be charged (this also would be charged on the train trip). We would like to see private transport used only in exceptional circumstances.

On the walks for 18th January and 15th March, we hope that the weather is fine, as plenty of time will be allowed for playing in the sand and for swimming. Lunchtime on all walks will last a couple of hours. Please bring a picnic lunch, or depending on the fire restrictions in force at the time, food for a barbeque.

If you have children able to walk ten miles, as well as younger children, you may like to arrange for the older children to go on the ordinary walk (in this case they will have to pay the full van fare.)

The leaders for these walks will be - January, Rex Filson; February, Graham Errey (88-4385); March, Graham Mascas (50-2995). Bookings for the February and March walks can be made at our new Clubrooms in Hosier Lane (off Flinders Street, behind the Forum Theatre) on Wednesday nights after 28th January. If you are unable to attend the Clubrooms on any of these times, do not hesitate to ring the leader who will advise you of any special arrangements.

We would like to see as many families as possible out on these walks so that the Committee will be encouraged to include similar walks on future programmes.

Yours etc,

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Change of address -

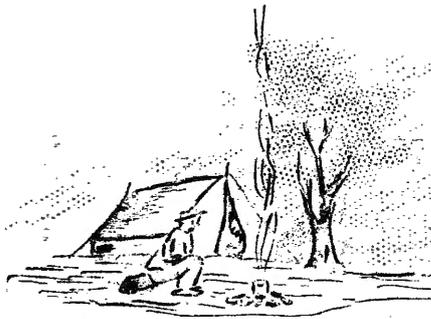
SCOTT, Merv and Mary - 14 Heath Avenue, Oakleigh 3166 p) 56-1290

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Apologies for "NEWS" this month, but what with an early Committee Meeting and a rushed issue of "NEWS" due to the long weekend, the Convenor is a bit like this issue - all over the place. Sanity will prevail next month!

"NEWS" is looking forward to having contributions from the Tasmanian invaders. Copy Deadline is 11th February.

Jenny Mead - News Convenor



# ALONG THE TRACK

A PLAY IN 8 ACTS FOR MUTES

Dramatis Personae: Athol, Sam, Gerry

Act 1 - The Hume Reservoir at Tallangatta.

The three characters alight from a taxi, still clutching their "Victour" tickets for a bus that did not run on Christmas Day. Everyone knew it did not run, except Victour and its victims. The three are seen to pause at the milk bar, the lake, the cafe and the gents, and then to labouriously climb the hills leaving the town behind. Complete silence is maintained through this act, a silence deepened when it is found that the leader has no sleeping bag. The actors fade away into the dark, the heat, the flies, the rotting flesh of slain wild-life and the bullants.

Acts 2, 3 and 4 - All identical

The scene for each act is dry, hot, dusty ridges over leading south, always in and out of "sun-traps", over which a jeep track stumbles. The actors are the same as those in Act 1. They walk slowly, eyes cast down, in a tired absent-minded plod. Conversation, like water, is non-existent. Each act starts with a long climb up from the water, and finishes with a longer climb down to water. Dehydration is present, as are bullants, grimy eyes, dusty throats and complete silence.

Act 5

The three return to civilization; that is, they pass a few farms. The pace is more lively this act, despite the oppressive heat. This is because they have water, water, water ..... water, water, including a savage 30 minute storm. The long, slow process of re-hydration is started.

Act 6

This scene depicts a long day along dry ridges, but it is also to be enjoyed by the actors. The cool to warm weather full water bottles, good views and dirt tracks make it a happy 12 hour walk, a proof that bush-walking can be both pleasant and demanding at the same time. This act with its combination of unusually long time/distance and enjoyment is also an omen.

Act 7

After climbing Mt. Bogong, there is a bleak, cold lunch in the Summit Hut, before descending Mt. Bogong via the "Quartz Knobs". Owing to the writers deficiency with a pen and the understatement of adjectives like magnificent, beautiful, etc. no attempt shall be made to describe this backdrop. At dusk the actors climb the new super highway up Timm's Lookout spur, and head into the gathering dark, aiming for Roper's Hut. This is not found and after 18 hours walking, the party arrive at Wilkinson Lodge at about 1.00 a.m. on New Year's Day.

Act 8

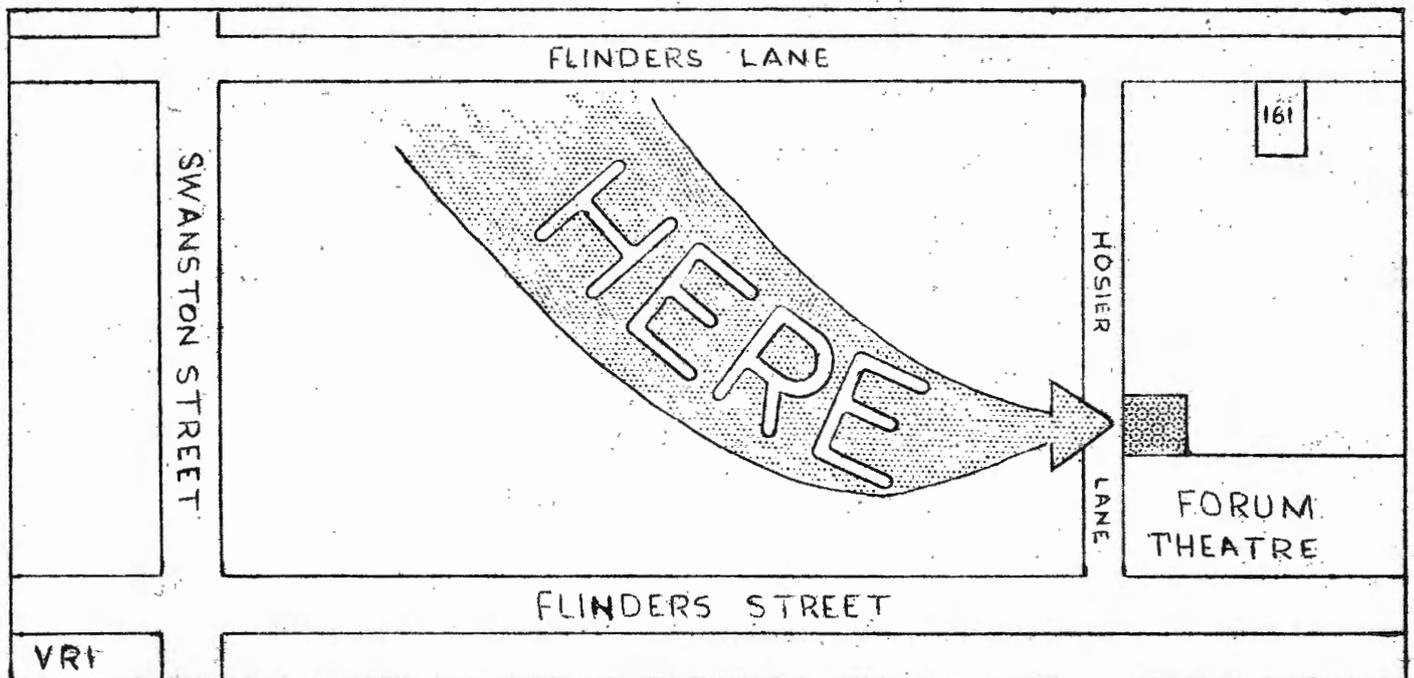
After a bludge day in the Lodge, complete with snow outside, the writer went home, leaving Sam and Athol in PEACE.

Gerry McPhee

AS FROM JANUARY 28TH 1970  
THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS WILL  
MEET ON WEDNESDAY IN

# OUR NEW CLUBROOM

BEHIND THE FORUM THEATRE  
IN HOSIER LANE



After many months of hard work your committee has at last found suitable clubrooms at a reasonable rent. We are combining with the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club to rent three floors of a small building behind the Forum Theatre in Hosier Lane. The MAWTC will have exclusive use of the first floor and the MBW has exclusive use of the second floor. The third floor is the meeting room to be used by both clubs.

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VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME  
ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 8PM.