



# THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 255

June, 1970

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The Committee agrees with and has approved the printing of this article.

Over the past few years it has become more noticeable that the speedsters get further and further out in front of the party. Ever since there have been walking clubs there have been fast walkers, slow walkers and moochers. This will never change. However, the speed of a party must be governed by the slowest walkers. This is all very frustrating for those fit young athletes who just cannot wait for 'grandpa' to catch up. If, however, the fit members of the party disappear into the blue haze in the distance, it is also very frustrating for the leader, who doesn't know how many of his party are 'up in front' or 'lagging behind', or if those in front are in fact going in the right direction.

On a recent trip into the Lerderderg Gorge this came to a head when nine members of the party walked out leaving eleven walkers behind in the Gorge. It was dark and the leader did not know how many had safely got out of the Gorge and how many were struggling behind him. This is bad. It is a terrible state when people can only think of themselves - "I have to be at work tomorrow, I am going to get out, b----- old pop back there!"

Naturally, if some misfortune has delayed the party it would be far better for the fit members to get out to the van so that the contacts can be advised and to see that as few people are inconvenienced as possible - and none of us like to miss work on Monday ..... BUT, it must be done properly.

If it is getting dark and you still have a long way to go to the pick-up point, those out in front should stop. Let all the party catch up. Have a discussion with the leader on the advisability of some members going on ahead to make a rendezvous with the van and explain the situation. Then, and only then, should the party be split, a second leader appointed, and the number of persons in each party clearly understood by both leaders.

On walks where the going is fairly easy and you find that you can out-pace the rest of the party. make it a rule to stop about every mile or at every track junction to enable the rest to catch up, as well as to let the leader decide where he is taking the party. After all it is his trip! He previewed it - and it certainly does not encourage him to spend a lot of time arranging a trip to be reduced to shambles by a few unthinking people.

As it happened, on the trip to the Lerderderg no one was seriously injured - no one was seriously inconvenienced. A few people spent a very cold night, a few people has a few anxious moments, a few people had to do some swift talking to the news departments of radio and newspapers. It could have been worse - don't let it happen again.

Just a final word on the Club contact system. Enclosed with this issue of "NEWS" you will find a copy of 'The Club Contact System' - possibly you have all had a copy at one time or another. If it has been mislaid, see that your parents or flat-mates know where this copy is so that they can refer to it if you are 'overdue' again.

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.

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EXTRACTS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

8th June, 1970

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Chairman: Alec Proudfoot

Present: Rex Filson, Jenny Mead, Barbara Davies, Judy Shegog, John Sparksman, Rod. Mattingley, Roger Brown, Graham Mascus, Robyn Pocock, Doug Pocock, Tyrone Thomas, Peter Carlyon, Dorothy Warton.

Apologies: Athol Schafer, Sae Ball, Margaret Wark

Correspondence:

A letter was received from Mary Bentley of the National Fitness Mountaineering and Bush Walking Leadership Course enquiring as to whether we would allow participants of the Course to join our walks. It was decided that we would welcome members of this course on our walks.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer reported that the finances of the Club are very satisfactory. 153 members are now financial and a sum of \$66 has been received in the form of visitors fees.

Walk Secretary's Report:

During the month of May 161 took part in walks of which 45 were visitors.

Social Secretary's Report:

Judy has arranged three film nights during July. On 8th Dick Johnson's slides of Kananza River and Budawang Range (N.S.W.) will be shown. On 15th July we will see Mr. K. Simpson's film "Aboriginal Relics of the Murray River". Mr. Simpson spent some time doing archeological excavation work for the Victorian Museum. This was done in the area which would be flooded by the proposed Chowilla Dam. Many interesting discoveries were made of aboriginal remains including aboriginal burial grounds.

Mr. Simpson is an excellent speaker with very interesting slides so come along for a pleasant slide night.

On 29th July Art Terry will show film of Maria Island and Freycinet (Tasmania).

On 1st July, Rex Filson will give a talk "Introduction to Equipment - especially designed for all new members.

Wilkinson Lodge Report:

The set of instructions for operating the water supply has been re-issued. The Lodge is ready for the winter season and several bookings have already been received. Maps of the area and location of fences have been sent to organisations which might be using the area during winter.

WALK PREVIEWSDAY WALKS:

- JULY 5 YUU YANGS-FLINDERS PEAK  
 Leader: Peter Bullard p) 50-5234 Easy  
 Map reference: Meredith 1" = 1 mile  
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Expected time of return 7.00 p.m.  
 An easy walk of 8 miles to the mineral springs at the north end where we will have spring water for use at lunch. After lunch we will walk south to Flinders Peak and then follow the track down the other side.
- 10 LYREBIRD WALK-SHERBROOKE FOREST  
 Leader: Darrel Sullivan Easy  
 Map reference: Monbulk Military 1:50,000, Broadbents No. 200  
 Train leaves Flinders Street Station 8.03. Buy return ticket to Belgrave.  
 This will be a very pleasant walk through lush bush forest with every promise of seeing lots of lyrebirds (weather permitting). Distance 10 miles
- 19 MURCHISON FALLS-WILD DOG CREEK  
 Leader: Fred Halls p) 97-3724 Easy/Medium  
 Map reference: Kinglake 1:50,000  
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Expected time of return 8.00 p.m. Distance 11 miles  
 An easy/medium walk in the rugged Strath Creek Gorge region. We will follow a spur northwest above the deep Digger's Gully Creek with views westerly towards Strath Creek's 1,000 ft. gorge. From the valley we will climb south past Tunnel Creek Gorge, then past Murchison Falls to the high lands returning to Strath Creek down along Wild Dog Creek valley. Dry rocky country.
- 26 CAPE SCHANCK-BOAGS ROCKS-RYE BACK BEACH  
 Leader: John Sparksman p) 41-1121 Easy  
 Map reference: Sorrento Military 1"  
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Expected time of return 7.00 p.m. Distance 10 miles  
 Come and join the winter beach walkers for an invigorating jaunt from Cape Schanck along the ocean beach. Bring hot coffee or soup for lunch and don't bring your bathers as we don't intend to go swimming.

WEEKEND WALKS:

- JULY 18-19 DIGGER'S GULLY FALLS-TUNNEL HILL-STRATH CREEK GORGE  
 Leader: Michael Griffin p) 81-8376 Medium  
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 8.00 a.m. Fare \$2.40  
 Come along for a walk with a difference, the leader doesn't know anything about it at all but as the Walks Secretary has said, 'Sanity will no doubt prevail'. Some time before the walk, the leader promises to find out the map reference. Intrigued?

EQUIPMENT FOR BUSHWALKING  
 talk in the clubroom july 1st at 8-30pm.

Extracts from the Committee Meeting (Contd.)Federation Report:

John reported that the usual large number attended the Annual General Meeting of the Federation.

Track Clearing Report:

The first weekend in October has been set for the Club's track clearing effort. John Sparksman is to enquire from Federation about the allocation of a new area for the Club to clear.

General Business:

Applications for membership were received and approved from Walter Cavill, John Hillard, Tim Andrews, Lorna Johnson, Owen Creighton, Michael Garner, Gregory Lawson, Richard Johnson, Laurie Pagliaro, Audrey Bree and Peter Vanderborcht.

Discussion was held on the day walk when eleven walkers had to spend Sunday night out. Information on the Contact system is attached to this month's "NEWS".

It was brought to the Committee's notice that certain members of the Club are openly canvassing for private walks in opposition to programmed walks organised by the Club. in the Clubrooms. The Committee, while realising that private walks will always be conducted, does not condone open canvassing in the Clubrooms.

It was decided that in future, occasions to which Office Bearers have been invited, as representatives of the Club, shall be reported upon at Committee meetings.

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MT. COLE, PRONOUNCED COLD

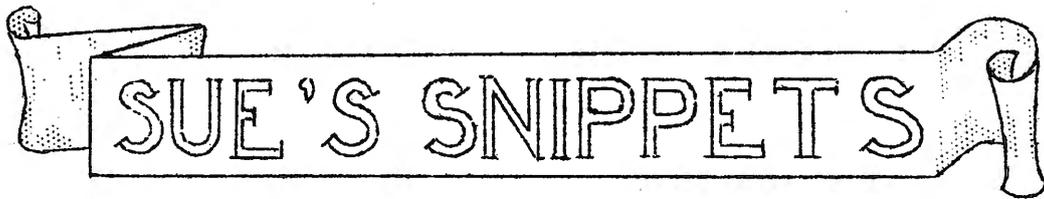
We awoke on Saturday to find the sun shining and the possibility of a good weekend ahead. After breakfast, we set off to Mt. Cole, unfortunately no views, then off along the ridge to the Mt. Cole road. We continued our wanderings until we reached Fern Tree Waterfalls Scenic Reserve where we had lunch. By this time it had become wet and cold so fires were hastily lit.

During lunch, Andy was seen returning from the direction of the Waterfalls looking rather wet; he had been in for a swim and though he assured me it was quite enjoyable, I took his word for it and remained near the fire.

We then moved on to the Lookont Hill TV Tower through which the wind could be heard whistling from  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile away. Art mentioned the possibility of snow and we later found that Fred's party which had been there earlier, had encountered falling snow. Once the tower was visited, all bent a hasty retreat to warmer places?

On to Victoria Mill Scenic Reserve and camp, and after much persuasion, fires began to burn - some not too well. I found that the roof in the hut leaked but preferred that to the outside. By morning, so had two other people. At least I did not have the troubles of dodging fallen trees, hungry rats, banging in pegs with a frying pan or swimming in my sleeping bag.

Continued on Page 8



# SUE'S SNIPPETS

Word for this month "fiasco".

Marge Coltman is at present doing a whirlwind tour of the world - visiting The Holy Land, Europe, Great Britain, Canada and the U.S. An interesting feature of the trip is that accommodation is in private homes. Good way of seeing how the "other half" live.

Hope you all noticed how clean the Clubrooms look after the working-bee by the mini army. Thanks go to all those willing souls who kept out of each others hair at home.

Humblest apologies to all the new members who have "paid up" but have not been receiving one of the fringe benefits of membership. The "NEWS" address list should now be up to date. If you do not regularly receive your copy of "NEWS" would you please notify Jenny Mead or Rex Filson.

The King himself has follow'd her  
When she has walked before

Oliver Goldsmith

Would he, where she has not??

Anon.

Quotations offered to Graham and Marijke after they "bushed" a party on May 17.

There are not many people who have not heard of Warwick Deacock and his Ausventure holidays. Recently, in conjunction with Air India, he held a film night to publicize his trips - especially to The Himalayas and Fiji. Doug Pocock represented the Club at this function which included a chicken and champagne supper, and reports that anyone with a few spare dollars should seriously consider seeing the Himalayas with Ausventure.

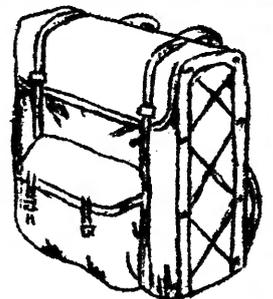
We believe that Dave U. has changed his war cry from Nanga Parbat to Anna Purna.

All these husbands galavanting off to Barmah Forest last long weekend - there might be a need for a "Lonely Wives Club".

Is it the change to Wednesday night or that Eddie and Greg do not fight so much of late? What other reason for the big influx of new members. Hard to find some-one you know in the Clubrooms these days.

Heard the new way of making the previewing of your walk enjoyable? Invite company and then make sure it doesn't come, that is, all except one attractive young lady. Good trick Doug. You may be mobbed for pointers on your technique.

**AUSKI** 9 Hardware St.  
Phone 67 1412



The Bushwalking Specialist  
Paddymade equipment, Packs, etc.



### ALONG WHAT TRACK?

Sunday 17th May a party of 20 set out on a most memorable walk. Starting at the head of Blue Gum track, we left the van and set off at a cracking pace. Within 100 yards, we had our first casualty, Marian Fricker, on her first walk with the Club, twisted her ankle and although she plodded on for two more miles, had to give in and return. One very gallant gent walked back with her to the start of the track where, fortunately, two families were busy sawing up wood. They took her back to Melbourne where an X-ray showed a broken bone.

Lunch was leisurely and extended to allow our gallant gent, Tim, to catch up with us - poor bloke was only allowed a ten minute break before we were off again. After about seven miles from the start, we left the track to climb up Kidney Hill, but we had been preceded. Yellow flags and cleared hill tops giving magnificent views to the south and east were the signs left for us. Still the going was easy as we followed the bulldozed track to its end in a neat but final cul-de-sac. The original plan was to follow the ridge right to the end, then drop down to the river about one mile above Darley Ford, but in our effort to find an easier way through the scrub, we dropped down into the Gorge. From then on, the ease of our earlier miles was changed as emergency brakes were applied during the downward slide. Now who dropped that stone missing Dorrie's nose by less than an inch?

After the scramble down and everyone's thirst being quenched, we went along the river bank until the first cliff came into view. A mad scramble with fear of lost bodies in the swirling waters below brought home the notoriety of the Larderberg and the difficulty of travelling along the Gorge with a high level of water in the river. Progress was good until the next cliff scramble where nine members were able to cross before darkness. After much crossing of the river with several wettings, some complete, they managed to reach the Ford by 9 p.m., aided by a bright moon and much cajoling by Alec. Faced with no van, they set off briskly for Bacchus Marsh, six miles away where, to their delight, they found a Gronows van, having given us all up and just about to leave for Melbourne.

The remaining eleven still in the Gorge were collected together. With the prospect of crossing the river or the rock face in darkness not appealing to the minority or majority, it was decided to "stay bush" for the night. Wood was soon collected to make two enormous fires which we kept burning all night. I can't say it was the most comfortable night's sleep but it passed quickly. Every so often a hooded figure would rise from the ground and stoke up the fires thus ensuring our continual warmth. We were fortunate that the weather kept dry.

Monday morning, and after shaking away the cobwebs and stretching a few stiff limbs, a delicious breakfast of hot coffee, cake, cheese, toasted sandwich, lettuce, chocolate and fruit was enjoyed by all. After examining the rock face which didn't look any easier to cross in day light, we set off up onto the top of the ridge and continued where we left off on the Sunday. Apart from the initial climb out of the Gorge, the going wasn't too difficult. Doug bulldozed a way up front and Tim brought up the rear with us all keeping very much together this time. The walk was pleasant and uneventful with a pleasant

Along the Track (Contd.)

descent down to the Gorge about one mile above Darley Ford. We emerged at noon to be met by Philip's dad who ferried us to Bacchus Marsh for a counter lunch. Meanwhile, a party of three had gone looking for us using the river for guidance and therefore missing us, but finding our "camp" site and message. Just as we were finishing our enormous steaks, our searchers arrived to take us back to Melbourne.

As Alec said on the way home, this was one day walk that will never be forgotten, by us anyway. Although it was something you would never plan, looking back we wouldn't have missed it either. All who shared our night out suffered no ill effects and I think secretly enjoyed themselves. Our apologies to those who had to wait in vain for us and our thanks to those who came looking for us on Monday morning, Alec, Felix, Fred and Ron. A special thanks to Tyrone for arranging the absence of parking fines on our cars still in Batman Avenue.

So come walking with the Mascasses again - you never know what might happen, but come prepared.

Marijke Mascus

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LIMESTONE TO MOLESWORTH

The sun broke through as we crossed the Divide and as the van disgorged at Limestone, it was bright on the hillside.

We climbed up towards the cloud sitting on the summit, Tyrone carrying a mushroom like a parasol. Gasping, we are finally allowed to stop for lunch and light our fires and smoke our bread. He of the large sized pack produces half an ox which is roasted and devoured. The whip cracks and we bury the fire and head out onto the track, pleasant to walk under the gums in dappled sunshine. A fork and our leader says left, we pass a big truck in the timber. A mile later we cut across to join the right hand fork, easy walking through bracken with wallabies bounding from under our feet. We find the track, another big truck, funny same number plate. Back into the bracken and the correct path which takes us along the ridge, tantalising glimpses of sunlit valleys through the trees.

Warm pleasant walking on soft loamy tracks and a grand panorama to gaze on while enjoying our afternoon tea. As we climb the last spur a low sun, half obscured by cloud, sends shafts of light across the valleys picking out bright green paddocks and tinting the gums with rose. Across the Goulburn Valley a fiery ball drops behind the black range and a cool wind hurries us down the steep slopes as the shadows gather into darkness and the lights of Molesworth guide us back to the highway home.

Ron Filsell

LOCH WILSON

692 Glenhuntly Rd.

For all

Caulfield

Bushwalking Equipment,

Climbing gear, Shirts, Pullovers, Sleeping bags.



Mt. Cole, Pronounced Cold

Next morning, off to Ben Nevis and good views if we are lucky. Arrive at the turn off, down packs and up to Ben Nevis. Those who climbed the Forestry tower were rewarded with good views of the rolling mist and cold hands. One thing I did see though was a certain type of dog that had a red coat and goose pimples - as yet I have not worked out what breed it was.

Art and the tougher members of the party set off to climb Everseley Sugarloaf while the rest retreated to the packs and lit fires and some even ate for about the next two hours non stop. After lunch, we set off for Elmhurst and the van then off home. An early arrival home.

I thought this was the end and so did everyone else, but this was not to be the case. When we reached the pick-up point for the day walkers, they were not there and we spent the next 3½ hours in a fruitless search for them only to pick up 9 of them at Bacchus Marsh with 11 still missing; slightly more than a 10% loss. We finally reached the city at about 12-midnight.

Thanks for a good walk Art, and thanks most go to the day walkers who provided transport to so many on Sunday night, even though it was out of their way.

'One of the Group'

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THE DIVINITY OF NATURE

Sir Kenneth Clark's series of TV lectures 'Civilisation' made particularly interesting viewing, from our point of view, on 1st June 1970 when the author examined the impact of a new creative force in European culture - the worship of nature, a movement which first appeared around 1730.

In the 18th Century the idea of walking for pleasure was about as unthinkable as it is with many today. But, almost unnoticed, English poets began to make walking as much of a fetish as an inspiration. Wordsworth's great major work "The Excursion" tells of his walking tour in the Lakes District.

Clark stressed the role walking played in English writing - and the still-growing demand for participation in the great outdoors.

And it was also in the 18th Century, for almost the first time in human history, that mountains were beginning to be climbed 'because they were there'.

Athol Schafer

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My thanks to all those who answered my plea for contributions. Even though there is no similar plea in this issue of "NEWS", please remember that items of interest are always welcomed and wanted.

Jenny Mead - News Convenor

DUTY ROSTER

July	1	Dorrie Warton
	8	Barbara Davies
	15	Peter Carlyon
	22	John Sparksman

Slides will be shown in the Clubrooms	
on:	8th July
	15th July
	29th July

CLUB CONTACT SYSTEM

The Club has three 'CONTACTS', one of whom is sure to be at home to receive or give information in case of delay to any party, emergencies, etc.

Leaders of all Club walks must report in to the Contact immediately on return. When necessary, leaders will inform the Contact of the cause and nature of delay or emergency and the action to be taken.

Members, before leaving on any walk must leave 'phone numbers of Contacts at home, so that people anxious about their non-return can get information from the Contact. They must be urged not to ring the Police from whom newspapers can get notes that often lead to unnecessary and damaging publicity.

Members leading private walks should inform the Contact of persons in the party, intended route and expected time of return, and should report-in on return.

Failure to use this Contact System causes inconvenience to the Contact (who waits up for reporting-in), anxiety and confusion to people at home, and harmful public criticism of walkers.

LEAVE THE ACCOMPANYING  
INFORMATION AT HOME

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS  
CLUB CONTACT SYSTEM

In case of delay to a party on a Club walk, the leader will try to inform the Contacts, of the cause and nature of the delay and the action being taken.

People who are anxious about members' non-return should ring the Contacts, in the following order, till one answers.

**DON'T RING THE POLICE**, who know nothing about the party's movements and from whom newspapers often start damaging and unnecessary publicity.

CLUB CONTACTS

1. Fred and Merle Halls 973724
2. Graham and Sue Errey 884385
3. Norm and Edna Richards 8576793

Members leading private walks should inform the Contact, of persons in the party, intended route and expected time of return, and should report-in on return.

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