



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 263

February, 1971

Page 1

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OVER THE TOP
OR
HOW WE GOT WET WITHOUT REALLY TRYING

With the weather looking ominous and the forecast predicting heavy rain, three hired transit vans and a number of private cars loaded with assorted bushwalkers left Melbourne bound for Mountain Creek at the foot of the Bogong High Plains. We all hoped we would be able to gaze at the beautiful panoramas obtainable from the summit of Mt. Bogong and elsewhere on the High Plains. But this was not to be for Jupiter Pluvius, otherwise known as "Hughie" had other things in store for us.

There were four groups camped at Mountain Creek that Friday night. They were led by Art Terry, Robin Mitchell, Roger Brown and Michael Griffin (who was leading his favourite type of weekend trip. Your correspondent will confine himself to the only real walk on that weekend, namely that led by Art. (News Convenor's note: You mean Roger's !)

Saturday morning was bright and sunny after some overnight rain, and after having had a good breakfast, we were in high spirits as we readied to ascend the Staircase Spur to the summit of Bogong. We were accompanied up the Spur by several of Roger's Group and the whole of Robin Mitchell's group which consisted of Jeff Sill and himself. Art and several followers led the rest of us up the steep Staircase to Bivouac Hut along a track which was well cleared and marked. On reaching the Hut we all had a well earned rest after the very arduous climb. The sun at this stage was still shining. We enjoyed the view from the hut before tackling the final climb to Summit Hut. At this point it should be noted that your correspondent feels that the reason why Norm McLeish was not his usual dashing self was due not to his long absence from bushwalking but rather to the after effects caused by his recent sojourn in the tourist fleshpot of Noumea.

Soon after having left Bivouac Hut, we emerged above the treeline just below Bogong's summit, and it was there that we were enveloped in the cold, wet, wind-driven cloud that was to enshroud us for the next couple of days. We reached Summit Hut wet and cold and sought refuge there while having lunch and waiting for the rest of the party to arrive. The memorial cairn erected in memory of the three people who died there during a blizzard in 1943 a hundred yards or so below the hut, gave little comfort to us as we struggled upwards in the miserable conditions.

From summit Hut we followed a line of snow poles across the murky expanses towards our overnight stop at Cleve Cole Hut which was indeed a welcome sight to our weary group. Some Spartan types and a few of Roger's group which had arrived later, decided to brave the conditions and camp outside while the remainder of us settled down inside the hut for the night, secure in the thought that we were out of Hughie's clutches till the morning at least.

Sunday dawned dull and dismal with the weather much the same as it was when we arrived at the Hut the previous afternoon. After breakfast we followed

** Continued on page 7.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

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

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

EXTRACTS FROM THE COMMITTEE MEETING

8th February, 1971

Chairman: Alec Proudfoot

Apologies: John Sparksman, Rex Filson

Correspondence:

A letter has been written to the Wychitella Forest Committee informing it of our support for their campaign to preserve this unique area.

Treasurer:

Finances are satisfactory.

Walks Secretary:

During the month of January, 147 people participated in programmed walks. This figure includes 28 visitors.

Wilkinson Lodge:

It is essential that every leader who takes a party into Wilky contact the Lodge Manager beforehand for relevant information and the keys. The Committee has agreed that no dogs are to be permitted inside the Lodge from now on. The Manager proposed that each party visiting the Lodge should take in a packet of briquettes (28 lbs & costs 40¢) to alleviate the shortage of wood fuel. Your co-operation in this matter will be greatly appreciated. Lockers are now available for hire by winter parties for the fee of \$1.00 per year. If you would like one to store your food for the ski season in, please contact Peter Carlyon by 1st April. As there are only four lockers, they will be issued by a draw.

General Business:

After receiving reports of rather poor jokes being told around the camp fire at a recent weekend club walk, it was generally agreed by committee that the tone of campfire stories should be kept for "General Exhibition".

Track Clearing:

A PLEA FROM ROGER BROWN

Could all members who have collected tin lids for the Track-marking please give them to me no later than Wednesday 17th March. If it is impossible to give them to me then could you ring me on 57-6729 after 6 p.m. and I will arrange for them to be collected.

CONTRARY TO THE ABOVE REPORT:

WE WILL BE JOINING WITH THE BEN CRAUCHEN
CLUB TO MARK & CLEAR THE NEW TRACK TO
LAKE TARLI KARNG

THEY WILL HELP US TO CLEAR THE TAMBORITHA-
CRINOLINE TRACK LATER IN THE YEAR

WALK PREVIEWS

DAY WALKS:

March

7 MT. BUGGARY-YARRA RIDGE-THE BIG HILL

A leader is still required for this walk which is classified as medium so anyone who would be willing to lead this walk please offer your services for just one day and make a lot of other walkers happy. Please contact the Walks Secretary soon.

14 MORRISON-MOORABOOL RIVER-COOLEBARGHURK CREEK

Leader: Phillip Taylor p) 306-6152 Easy-Modium

Map Reference: Meredith 1:63,360

Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Fare \$1.80

This will be a pleasant walk following the Moorabool River. Bring water for lunch and be prepared for wet feet, and watch out for grass seeds too!

FAMILY WALK-MOORABOOL RIVER-COOLEBARGHURK CREEK

Leader: Dick Johnson p) 857-7362

Map Reference: Meredith 1:63,360 at Morrison:

Van leaves Batman Avenue at 9.15 a.m. Fare \$1.80

Approx. distance will be 1.8 miles each way.

The walk will start from the tar road, wind down to the Morrison Ford and follow the course of the Moorabool River upstream for a little over 1½ miles. The stream is full of many pools suitable for children but tree cover is sparse. A dirt road follows the river most of the way.

21 SCOTTIES GULLY-GOODMANS CREEK

Leader: Doug Crocker p) 82-1830 Medium

Map Reference: Ballan 1"=1 mile.

Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Fare \$1.80

Expected time of return 8.30 p.m.

Providing the sun shines lunch will be 1½ hours, thus making this a fairly easy walk. You must bring water for lunch. Forget the Lorderberg.

28 MT. ALEXANDER-EXPEDITION PASS RESERVOIR-GOLDEN POINT

Leader: John Sparksman p) 95-5133 Easy

Map Reference: Castlemaine 1"=1 mile

Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.15 a.m. Fare \$2.20

Expected time of return 8.00 p.m. Approximate distance 10 miles.

An easy walk starting at the Koala Sanctuary, with good views from Mount Alexander and Lawson's Lookout, Leisurely pace and plenty of stops guaranteed.

WEEKEND WALKS:

March

5-8 MT. DARLING-WONNANGATTA STATION-BRYCES GORGE

Leader: Tyrone Thomas p) 89-5197 Medium-Hard.

Map References: Moroka 1"=1 mile & Howitt 1"=1 mile

Transport: Transit Vans from Batman Avenue 6.30 p.m.

Approx. distance 22 miles. Expected time of return 10 p.m.

A three day round walk commencing just near Mt. Darling, walking over Mt. Darling with its splendid alpine scenery (height 5,200' approx.), then down to Wonnangatta Station for the first night. The second leg will be west up Conglomerate creek, on to Dry River Track and camping on a magnificent alpine plain beside Conglomerate Creek. The third day we will visit two Lookouts, two Falls and Bryces Gorge, swim (weather permitting) in Piemans Pool which has spectacular views of the gorge, then walk south over alpine plains to the east Caledonia Creek. The third day will involve little pack carrying and should be a bit of a bludge.

WALK PREVIEWS (Continued)

March 5-8 HOWITT HUT-BUTCHER COUNTRY-MT. TAMBORITHA-KELLY'S HUT
 Leader: Michael Griffin b) 801-333 Medium
 Map Reference: V.M.T.C. Macalister River Watershed
 & M.U.M.C. Guide to the Vic. Alps.
 Transport: Transit Vans from Batman Avenue 6.30 p.m. Fare \$7.00
Deposit \$3.00

A deposit must be paid in advance. Walk, although of medium standard, will include a long first day (approx. 16 miles). Highlights will be: the seldom visited Butcher Country with spectacular cliff views into the Macalister; the prospect of crazed bushies seeing their first water in 16 miles; total collapse at Mt Arbuckle; leader cursing transit van; ice cream on the way home. Come along for the ice cream!!

MT HEWITT-BRYCES GORGE-SNOWY PLAINS

Leader: Darrell Sullivan Easy
 Map Reference: Howitt 1"= 1 mile.

This is definitely an easy walk covering fabulous country in only a short distance including pleasant strolling on the Snowy Plains; so for relaxation come with us!

MOROKA GORGE

Leader: John Siseman p) 878-1839 Hard
 Map Reference: Moroka 1"= 1 mile.

Transport; Private

Approximate distance will be 6 - 7 miles.

Saturday will be spent finding our way into the gorge and setting up camp below, but not beneath, a 100' waterfall. Sunday will consist of a day trip without packs further into the gorge, returning to camp at the same point. Monday will find us retracing our steps back to the cars.

The party will have to be a small one due to restricted space in the gorge for camping; and although mileage is low, walking through the gorge is very slow and tiring.

20-21 GOLD FOSSICKING WEEKEND-LERDERBERG RIVER NEAR BLACKWOOD

As Doug Pocock is no longer able to lead this walk, we are appealing for a leader to take his place. This will be a very easy weekend and should be a simple trip to lead. If you have any knowledge of gold fossicking in the stipulated area this would be an added advantage but by no means absolutely necessary; so volunteer your services for two days, and contact the Walks Secretary.

Hikers carry their own navigation systems these days. One, built by Westinghouse Electric Corporation., Pittsburgh, fits knapsack fashion on a hiker's back. It contains a computer that records direction of movement, number of steps and their length. A handheld unit allows the hiker to set a starting position to co-ordinates on a map. Accuracy is within 1% says Westinghouse .

(From INDUSTRY WEEK - December 14, 1970)

LOCKERS AVAILABLE AT WILKY FOR WINTER PARTIES.

FEE OF \$1-00 PER YEAR.

CONTACT PETER CARLYON BEFORE 1st APRIL

(SEE NOTES OF COMMITTEE REPORT)

SUE'S SNIPPETS

As Limericks are the "in thing"; thought I would add one poor effort to the collection.

There was a young man who aspired
To tell dirty yarns round the fire,
Three girls of the group
Blushed to their boots,
Now this young man has retired.

The M.B.W. Matrimonial Bureau is still having success. Latest satisfied customers are Peter Carlyon and Sue Hossack who plan a January '72 wedding. Heartiest congratulations. Always knew The Prom was a great place.

May be the next coupon selling should be for sound proofing Wilky.

Founder and Life Member Egon Donath has had a book published, the subject of which you all would never guess - William Farrar and the Wheat Industry.

Looks like our Treasurer to be may not be with us for long. Alan has been offered a position with the C.S.I.R.O. in Sydney.

Darrell and Ann moved into their new home at Tullamarine last week. All members who are passing by are requested to take a spade to help with the digging.

Here we are all gloating over our biggest membership figure ever and suddenly masses of members are taking off. The latest news is that Doug and Robyn Pocock have booked their passage in September for an extended working holiday in Europe.

Congratulations to Graeme Hodgson on his twenty-first birthday which was doubly celebrated at Hunter's and Wilkinson Lodges - pancakes both times?

May have to invite the Women's Decency League out walking. Leopard look bathers are just the thing these days.

Welcome to the following new(?) members:

Stuart Hodgson "PineRidge, Sheffield Road South, Montrose. 3765
Graeme Hodgson "PineRidge, Sheffield Road South, Montrose. 3765 b) 42-1831

Change of Address: Ian & Rosemary Smith now live at
387 Bay Road,
Cheltenham. 3192.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO QUEENSLAND FOR EASTER PLUS THREE WEEKS ??? WELL ONE SEAT IS AVAILABLE IN MARGARET JORGENSEN'S CAR. SHE HOPES TO GET TO CAIRNS.

Anyone interested in travelling by car to Queensland at this time, and who is willing to share costs (one third) phone Barbara Goldfinch on 896 070 (home) or Marg. Jorgensen on 340 6101(work)

They will be leaving Good Friday, returning May 4.



OBSERVATIONS ON A THEME OF LILO DERBY

In the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy One, Common Era, I, being of sound mind and sober habit do hereby chronicle this tale of events, recently witnessed, so strange that you will scarce credit me. Pray indulge me yet awhile.

T'was a rare and valued privilege that I was permitted to accompany such a strange and primitive tribe of woodland nymphs upon their annual frolic in the leafywoods.

Being inclined to aquatic sports, these unorthodox creatures headed for a shady glade near a cool pool deep in the heart of the forest. They took with them numerous huge balloons of diverse colours and shapes which, upon arrival at the appointed venue, they proceeded to inflate to monstrous size! Whereupon these boisterous bucolics carried them reverently down to the edge of the pool and launched them upon the surface of the water!

In the account that follows I shall subscribe to correct nautical terminology by referring always to these incredible balloo-ships in the feminine gender.

Having successfully launched their ungainly craft, it befell the respective captains to clamber aboard their vessels. It was quickly evident that there existed a number of ways of achieving this objective. One captain fell upon his property from above with considerable force. Another approached from behind and attempted to mount her that way. Still another came up from underneath and grappled furiously for supremacy.

Having managed to get on top, the next step was to determine the best position. One captain straddled his charge, with one leg clamped firmly over port and starboard. Another lay across her, firmly grasping the stern in both hands. Others preferred merely to sit upon the stern, thus raising the bows to a better racing position. For indeed the culmination of this extraordinary series of events was to be a contest. How best to implement propulsion? How to achieve a state of mobility? What better way of finding out than in a spirit of healthy competition! The contestants lined up, quivering slightly in nervous anticipation.

The event was presided over by a venerable old man whom I presumed to be the Admiral of The Fleet. A dashing figure, clad only in gaily coloured bathers, he initiated the proceedings by noisily consigning a sizeable rock unto the depths of the pool.

And they were off.....! In-out; in-out; it was a stirring sight, and credit must be given for the ingenious techniques employed. Some preferred the sideways method, progressing with a series of short, sharp jerks. Others liked to remain horizontal, using the breast stroke as a means of encouraging progress. But the vertical ride, with its many flourishes and embellishments was easily the most popular amongst the spectators. It was grand to see those old sea-dogs, astride their old-sea bitches, so to speak, all striving to be first to finish in a wonderful spirit of true sportmanship.

All except one unfortunate individual, whose craft sank dejectedly beneath

Along The Track - Continued from page 1.

the track past Aertex Hut where the main body of Roger's party were camped, along the T-Spur which descended steeply (you're not kidding!) to the Big River. It was a pity to lose all that height because we had to make it up again on the other side of the river where we climbed Duane's Spur towards Roper's Hut. After arriving there a nice warm fire was lit in front of which we had lunch and waited for the arrival of Roger's merry band. In due course he appeared well ahead of his stragglng group. We bade him farewell and set off along a jeep track across the cloud covered High Plains towards Wilkinson Lodge. On reaching Langford's Gap, Hughie decided to stop fooling around and really sent her down. Consequently a very moist group of bushies arrived at Wilky that afternoon. Blessed is this haven called Wilky for it was indeed a relief to escape the deluge and to step inside and be greeted by the warmth from the fire and the (dry) smiling countenances of Michael's party.

That evening, it was decided by Art that due to the persistent bad weather, he would cancel the last part of our walk which was to have been a 20 mile marathon trek to Mt. Beauty township via the plains, Niggerheads and Mt. Fainter and so we stayed at Wilky. In the early hours of Monday morning an amazing thing happened. The sky cleared and stars could be seen. However, by 6 a.m. clouds started to roll in again, but we did manage to get some sunshine; our first dose since Saturday morning. Monday morning was spent in walking to Mt. Cope from the top of which we obtained some good views of the High Plains in the direction of Mt. Hotham, all else being hidden by cloud. Our walking for the weekend was nicely rounded off by Hughie when he unleashed a heavy deluge upon us as we were returning to the Lodge.

It was sad in some ways to leave Wilky looking sturdy in its new cladding for it is indeed a wonderful place to stay. Taking our final leave we moved off in the three vans down towards the picturesque township of Bogong where we were to pick up Roger's group. But Hughie was not finished with us yet!!! for as the small convoy was winding its way down the road, one of the vans developed a puncture which had to be fixed during a torrential downpour. After moving off once again, we picked up the others at Bogong Village and later dropped them off at Mountain Creek. We then started the long journey back to Melbourne.

I think it can be said for most of the walkers who were up there on the Bogong High Plains that weekend and who felt that they had been thwarted by the weather, that their feelings can be summed up in the words of that famous general who said: "I shall return".

*** ALEX "WATERLOG" STIRKUE. ***

Observations on a theme of Lilo Derby - Continued from page 6.

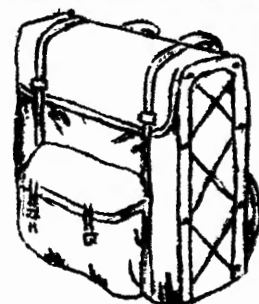
the waves at an early stage. He was quick to learn the old adage that a Li-Lo will Li even Loer if the stopper falls out. Perhaps this gallant mariner had intended to submerging his way to victory.

The carnival ended, the woodland creatures abandoned themselves to the simple pleasures of eating, drinking, making whoopee etc, until it was time for them to return to their reservations.

Same time, same place (?) next year.....

**** Stuart Hodgson. ****

AUSKI 9 Hardware St.
Phone 67 1412
The Bushwalking Specialist
Paddymade equipment, Packs, etc.



Along The Track - Continued from page 7KING ISLAND

Early on Thursday morning January 26th, the Piper Cherokee Six with four expectant Bushies aboard lifted off from Essendon Airport bound for King Island off the north-west tip of Tasmania. However thick black clouds enveloping the Otway Ranges forced a temporary diversion to Grovedale (Geelong) Airport. Some hours and much coffee later we were again airborne, following the coast down to Apollo Bay then across cloud-shrouded Bass Strait with the King Island Aerodrome RDF Beeping music to our ears.

Friday morning saw us perched on little seats in the school bus winding its way down south to Pearshape (so named because of two pear-shaped lagoons either side of the road.) There we clambered out much to the amusement of the local children and set off for Seal Rocks through gently undulating countryside devoid of any trees. The islanders told us that cutting by the early settlers together with the disastrous bushfire of 1939 had destroyed all the trees leaving only tee-tree scrub as the natural vegetation. The only seal seen was a dead one, found in Surprise Bay, naturally!! The coastline presented a panorama of high cliffs, rocky bays and huge seas cascading over protruding outcrops.

After a pleasant Saturday morning stroll along the wide dune-lined beach at Yellow Rock on the northern end of the island, we shouldered packs and set off down the coast for Whistler Point, the largest Mutton Bird rookery on the Island. Passed was the wreck of the "SHANNON" 1906, one of fifty-two wrecks littering the foreshore of the island. That evening as the sun dipped into the sea and the clouds became tinged pink and red, flocks of mutton-birds (short-tailed Shearwater) began to make wider and wider sweeps over the land until as dusk gave way to night, they dropped over our observation spot in the rookery itself straight into their burrows.

The next morning a chorus like "funny kookaburras" awakened us at first light as the birds took off in their never-ending quest for food. Perhaps due to the number of wild life sanctuaries on the island, birdlife particularly sea-birds seemed to proliferate with sea-gulls, swans etc in abundance. Two species of wallabies and both black and copperhead snakes were frequently to be seen.

As on the first day, thick clouds enveloped the island on Monday but this time we were not able to take-off nor the regular Ansett Fokker flight land. So at an early Tuesday Tasmanian Standard Time hour, Ian Sheehy, our pilot/leader dragged us out of bed and with Ron Filsell clutching his bottle of home brewed honey mead, flew us home after a restful five days in a secluded part of Australia. What made the stay memorable was the friendliness of our hosts, the Templetons, who at various times transported, fed, bathed and bedded us as well as arranging transport connections for us with different islanders.

TED BROWN

A R E Y O U ???

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?
Or are you just content to have your name upon the list?

Do you attend the club and mingle with the flock?
Or do you stay at home to criticise and knock?

Do you take an active part to help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be the kind that "just belong"?

Do you voluntarily help at the grinding stick?
Or leave the work to just a few and talk about "the clique"?

Come to the meetings often and help with hand and heart;
Don't be just a member, but take an active part.

Think this over, member; you know right from wrong -
Are you an active member, or do you "just belong"?

ANNUAL REPORTS

1970 / 1971

The following reports are presented for your information and edification.

1. PRESIDENT
2. SECRETARY
3. TREASURER
4. WALK MAGAZINE
5. WILKINSON LODGE
6. WALKS SECRETARY
7. EQUIPMENT OFFICER
8. TRACK CLEARING
9. SEARCH & RESCUE
10. AUDITORS REPORT
11. NEWS CONVENOR

PRESIDENT'S REPORT — ALEC PROUDFOOT

Each month the "News", which everyone gets, reports on the activities of the Club; at each general meeting reports are made to those who attend and the opportunity is given to question the committee and to make suggestions to it; every Wednesday evening at the clubrooms your committee is well represented, each member prepared to discuss any matter of club importance.

Now, at the end of the Club year, each committee man has presented to you in this copy of the News a resumé of the year's activity for which he is especially responsible.

Truly, the members of this Club are kept well informed and are close to those who run it and that is how it should be. In this regard the President should have little to say. Mainly, he chairs meetings, keeps an eye on things, takes an interest in all that goes on and tries to foster good relations among the members. Here and there he finds ways to help, like drying the dishes for the girls, but he hasn't got a special job and probably is the most dispensable member of the committee.

Three years ago, much to my surprise, I found myself President of the M.B.W. and three happy years they have been. I hope my successor at the end of his term has the same warm feeling of gratitude that I have as I write this now.

Perhaps this is a good point at which to urge upon all members who believe in the worth-while-ness of the Club and who feel they have some competence, to seek office on the committee or to offer it the assistance it often needs in the running of the club. Let me assure you that what you may contribute will be offset by many intangible gains to yourself.

We are a Walking Club. We have other activities such as most special purpose clubs have which keep to weld us together and give us added happiness but it is because our club is a walking club that most of us belong to it. Consequently any member who successfully leads us on a good walk does us a great service.

Here then is a field where almost everyone can help. Go to some area you like where a good walk may be surveyed. Walk through it purposefully - assess its length, its difficulty, its duration, all relevant characteristics. Seek help and advice from local inhabitants if you consider that helpful and when you are talking to them, remember the M.B.W. is being judged by their assessment of you.

When you have planned your walk on the map and in the field, offer it to the committee through the Walks Secretary with yourself or someone to act for you as leader.

No doubt you will have noted the large number of visitors who visit our clubrooms and walk with us. Some of them become members, many do not, but I believe that to all it is a memorable experience. Furthermore it is good for society that those who live urban lives should visit the wild places. Such a visit will show them the value of this that we are all eager to save, better than words either written or spoken.

And then there are those who have been ill in body or are sick in mind or spirit who look for healing in our ranks and in the solitudes we visit - and find it. Those of us who have been members for some years, particularly those

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President's Report - Continued from page 9.

gregarious ones who are sympathetic to the misfortunes of others would tell you that their number is not inconsiderable. The value of bushwalking clubs to the individual and to society is a topic worthy of more space than a paragraph in a President's report and to a pen more competent than mine. It is worth thinking upon by us all.

Soon you will elect a new committee upon whose shoulders the welfare of the club for another year will likewise depend. Obviously it makes sense to vote for the most able and having done so to give them your full support. Probably some will be elected who may not be to your taste. Once they are elected, you, if you are a good club member, will swallow your chagrin and tender to them the support you would have given to those dear to your heart. Personal animus should be set aside wherever club's interests are involved. The institution is more important than the individual - the M.B.W. is more important than you or me.

To the new committee I extend my best wishes and wish for them a quality of experience like which I have enjoyed. I hope that in my new capacity of ordinary member they will find some ways for me to help.

SECRETARY'S REPORT — DORRIE WARTON

On retiring from the Secretarial position after two years of happy association with all members of the Club, I particularly wish to thank the Committee for their willing co-operation at all times. This makes the Secretary's job so much easier. I am sure the same club spirit will be extended towards my successor.

Once again I have answered approximately 100 enquiries about the Club's activities, some of these people come out with us and become members, some come but do not stay with us, maybe the Club does not suit everyone.

The family walks have been introduced this year and I think have been successful, they help to keep the family members in closer contact with other members of the Club.

You will read reports from other members so there is no need for repetition; the Secretary just ties up the loose ends and tries to keep the ball rolling. I can only hope my effort has been of some use to the Club - I will follow with interest your activities in 1971 from "somewhere in Europe".

Thank you all for a happy year of association.

TREASURER'S REPORT — TYRONE THOMAS

1970 has again been an exceptional year, continuing the 1969 boom. Our membership is at an all time record of 210 including 192 financial members. Last year the total was 172. There has therefore been a 22% increase for the year. Walks have not only been more numerous but have been well supported in numbers. Fares paid for Van trips increased by about \$1300 or 50%. We have purchased a new typewriter, improved our clubrooms, and have continued to improve Wilkinson Lodge. Our Social activities have generally been more successful financially. The new visitors fee scale which was introduced after last Annual General Meeting has been highly successful also as it met our increased rent costs all bar \$17.00, thus accomplishing its purpose. Walk Magazine continues to just pay its way. The 1969 issue however looks unlikely to break even as it is still \$53 short of its cost after being on sale for two years. Walk 1970 is better off but is also still \$65 short of its cost. This should mean a break-even point in about another year's time. The costs of the magazine have increased over the years and various attempts to rectify its finances in years past have been necessary.

It would seem that all aspects of club finances are good to very good except perhaps our magazine and I would submit the following points for consideration on this matter. Consider the large amount of time and effort, the outlay of well over \$1,000.00 of our club funds which takes up to two years to regain

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Treasurer's Report - Continued from page 10.

and loses us a conservative estimate of \$40 in interest in the process annually. A recent poll among 41 club members in the clubrooms illustrated that 14% of our members were introduced to the club because of Walk magazine. The figures are interesting and are as follows:-

Walk magazine 14%, Friend's introduction 48%, Y.H.A. 9 %, Pink pages 14%, met us whilst out walking 7%, remainder 8% for various minor reasons.

It appears that this is a good fringe benefit of Walk magazine and that for this reason alone we should continue to print Walk. There is evidently a large stock of unsold 1969 & 1970 issues - shouldn't we cut our circulation to say 2,500 and therefore not have to outlay so much of club funds. The reduction in unit cost for the larger circulation is only small.

There is virtually no point in using Gordon & Gotch for distribution other than that that Newsagents outside Melbourne are served. No profit at all is derived from these sales, and it is purely advertising the club. Many copies are returned damaged and unsaleable. We need another long hard look at the possibility of reintroducing hand delivery by a large number of members. We could perhaps concentrate on a few large booksellers as Gordon & Gotch 1000 odd copies and virtually stopped selling by July. We had their cheque for \$163-00 by mid August. Also why not try and get just two or three more advertisements netting that extra \$50-00 odd. We now have a 72 page book, surely that little extra advertising will not ruin it. At present 30% of the space is taken up by advertising. Our opposition magazine certainly cannot be called second rate and it has 37% in advertising. Surely you haven't noticed any difference between the two amounts.

Finally for those who don't understand finance much, "in a nutshell" we are well off generally. The position at 31-12-70 was:

Bank balance	\$ 1813	+ 500
Subscriptions	657	+ 121
Visitors Fees	137	+ 114
Van fares	3844	+1298
Wilkinson fees	163	+ 19
Walk 1970 sales + adverts	851	+ 97
Rent paid	399	+ 131
Stationery	122	+ 12
Program production	48	- 56
Van hire costs etc	3598	+ 879
Walk '70 printing costs	916	+ 122
Wilkinson Lodge costs	181	- 120

ASSETS HELD AT 31-12-70

Wilkinson Lodge	Walk Magazine unsold copies
Track Clearing Equipment	Other clubs publications unsold
Tents, Packs & Sleeping Bags	Stationary
Gestetner Duplicator	Debtors Walk Magazine
Adler Typewriter	½ share of Joint Clubroom
Projector	Cash at bank 1812-95
Filing Cabinet & Maps	Petty Cash 16-94
Badges - Metal & Cloth	

 Continued on page 12.

NOTE!

NEXT WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24TH
 IS THE M.B.W. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 IT IS IN YOUR INTEREST TO BE THERE

Treasurer's Report - Continued from Page 11.

MELBOURNE

BUSHWALKERS

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 31-12-70

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
Petty cash at start of year	Nil	2-27
Cash at bank at start of year	1330-19	2016-20
Subscriptions in arrears (1969) 4-00		
Subscriptions in advance (1971) 14-00		
Sunscriptions 1970 (210 members including 192 financial) <u>657-00</u>	675-00	544-00
News Subscriptions 2-80		
News Subscriptions in advance(1971) <u>60</u>	3-40	4-70
Visitors Fees	137-20	23-00
Bank Interest	69-38	54-19
Equipment Hire profits	48-60	79-90
Van Fares in arrears (1969 walks) 69-00		
Van Fares 1970 walks(excludes \$14 also received during 1969) <u>3830-99</u>	3899-99	2559-70
Barn Dance profit	9-10	Loss
Other clubs publications sales profits	49-20	57-65
Stationary, maps, badges etc sales profits	29-35	13-10
Donations	2-62	8-25
Wilkinson Lodge donation fencing 49-00		
Wilkinson Lodge Fees <u>163-50</u>	203-50	144-05
Walk Magazine sales of back numbers 92-65		
Walk Magazine sales 1969 edition 50-40		
Walk Magazine sales 1971 edition <u>57-30</u>	200-35	186-80
Walk Magazine 1970 sales (excluding \$87-90 also received during 1969) 387-10		345-16
Walk Magazine 1970 advertising (excludes \$11-00 also received during 1969) <u>365-80</u>	752-90	344-52
Walk Magazine advertising in advance	Nil	11-00
	<u>\$7410-78</u>	<u>\$6394-49</u>

<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
Cheque book & Bank fees	3-40	2-50
Phone 8-00		
Postage 37-32		
GPO Box rent <u>9-00</u>	54-32	50-74
Stationery	122-06	110-49
Rent arrears VRI 1969 41-50		
Rent in Advance 1971 65-00		
Rent 1970 excludes <u>292-50</u>	399-00	268-50
\$97-50 also paid during 1969		
Joint Clubroom contrib.	55-00	67-50
Suppers	27-27	55-19
Typewriter	95-00	-
Presentation Spoons	7-70	-
Programs typing & printing	47-80	104-65
Affil. Fees	13-70	12-70
Xmas present for Dennis	3-60	12-00
Pack for equipment hire	19-90	-
Equip. hire deposit refund	2-00	54-00
Barn dance subsidy	Nil	23-27
Moomba Walk subsidy	6-70	-
Presidents W/E subsidy 11-40		11-10
Van fare deposit refunds 20-25		61-70
Lerderberg trip phone calls & taxis etc. 12-14		
Transit Van hire 45-00		
Gronow's Van hire <u>3509-25</u>	3598-04	2719-50
Other club publications cost 27-30		34-80
Walk 1970 printing 3000 cop. 916-60		794-00

Treasurer's Report - Continued from page 12.

Wilkinson Lodge lease	2-00		2-00
Wilkinson Lodge Maintenance & Extensions	107-28		275-07
Wilkinson Lodge-Supplies	10-47		13-60
Wilkinson Lodge-Insurance	36-54		10-54
Insurance arrears	<u>25-21</u>	181-50	-
Cash at Bank 31-12-70			
Including Interest			
Bearing Deposit \$600-00		1812-95	1330-19
Betty Cash 31-12-70		16-94	-
Sundries including duplicator		-	380-45
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		7410-78	6394-49

WALK MAGAZINE --- ROBYN POCOCK

"Walk" magazine was produced successfully again this year, although it unfortunately made its appearance about three weeks late as a result of the printer having staff difficulties.

The magazine maintained its high standard and was increased in size from 64 to 72 pages, thus enabling more track notes to be included. A further improvement was the use of a glossy cover, although the printing of the cover photograph left something to be desired.

The production of "Walk" '71 was hampered by the usual problems - mainly the shortage of articles. The editorial committee's job would be a great deal easier if more articles were submitted each year thus allowing the final choice to be made from a greater range of material.

Printing costs were \$142-00 more than last year; i.e. \$1058-00 as against \$916-00. This was due to the increased size and increased printing costs accounting for \$107-00 and the glossy cover accounting for \$35-00. This increase will be partially offset by an increase of \$104-00 in advertising income.

WILKINSON LODGE --- PETER CARLYON

The Lodge has seen an increase in useage during 1970. There have been 105 visitors to the Lodge, this can be broken down as 60 members & 17 non-members, or considered as 285 people nights. The hut was occupied for 86 days during the year.

There have been a number of improvements made to the hut. The water supply inlet system was modified and is now working well, freezing of the pipes has been almost eliminated. The Lodge and gully have been fenced to keep the cattle out, the cost of this was paid by a donation from a few generous members and erected during easter. There are signs of the vegetation recovering from the cattle devastation already. A new barrier and series of timber posts have been placed across the lower entrance track to the hut. The keys to this barrier are kept by the Lodge Manager and will be issued only for the purpose of carting building materials and fire wood into the hut. The cladding of the rest of the hut with beige Trimdeck was completed during the last week of January '71 and the resultant appearance is very pleasing.

I would like to thank all those people who helped on the work patties and those who have used the hut this year for keeping it so clean and tidy.

Continued from page 13.

WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT — ROD. MATTINGLEY

The walks sub-committee consisted of Fred Halls, John Siseman, Barry Short and John Sparksman, and I would like to thank them for their assistance in compiling the walks programs.

Walks attendances have been considerably higher than in previous years. This is possibly due to the Wednesday night meetings being more suitable for new members than Friday night.

Family walks were introduced for the first time during Spring and Summer. A total of 6 family walks were programmed with an average attendance of 11 children.

Van hiring charges have risen by 10% since January 1971 and this will result in an equivalent increase in van fares in the Autumn program. This is the first increase in van costs for at least 4 years.

Any new ideas for walking areas are always welcome and I am sure my successor will be pleased to have any suggestions.

Details of attendances

Month	Day	Weekend	Long Weekend & Extended	Members	Visitors	Total
January	3	-	1	55	31	86
February	3	2	-	104	49	153
March	5	-	2	115	67	182
April	4	2	-	101	47	148
May	4	3	-	115	46	161
June	4	1	1	111	48	159
July	4	1	-	101	35	136
August	5	3	-	172	63	235
September	5	1	-	109	33	142
October	4	2	-	126	33	159
November	5	4	-	178	88	266
December	3	2	2	100	34	134
Totals	49	21	6	1,387	574	1,961

Of the total number of 76 walks, 19 used trains and 12 used private transport.

Comparison of attendances on walks since 1966:

Year	Day		Weekend		Extended		Overall	
	No.	Av.	No.	Av.	No.	Av.	No.	Av.
66/67	47	18	17	17	10	16	74	18
67/68	44	19	23	18	9	15	76	18
68/69	43	22	20	17	6	17	69	20
*69	49	21	22	20	7	18	78	20
*70	49	25	21	27	7	20	76	26

(* 1969 & 1970 calendar year. Other years 1st February to 31st January.)

Continued on page 15.

Continued from page 14.
EQUIPMENT REPORT — SUE BALL

Equipment this year has been relatively well used, packs have been hired by 32 people, tents 35 times, sleeping-bags 22 times, and ground sheets 6 times. The profit for the financial year was \$46-60 which is 70¢ more than last year. However, against this we have to set the non-return of two un-framed packs and one sleeping-bag, which have been outstanding for more than one year. There is also the problem of tent No. 13, last seen at 161 Flinders Lane.

In view of this I do not feel that I can ask the committee for money for a new tent which I do feel that we need so I am appealing to those members of the club who have bought new equipment to replace their old. The club will buy second-hand equipment in good condition from anyone who has it to offer. Of course we will also accept donations, as well. The club would very much like to have some H-Frame packs particularly.

TRACK CLEARING REPORT — ROGER BROWN

There has been no track-clearing in the past year because our weekend would have been too close to the F.V.W.C. track-clearing weekend.

Our own track-clearing weekend has now been shifted to April and in April 1971 the track-clearing will take on a new form of track-marking to mark the track around the Long Hill and Crinoline area.

The F.V.W.C. Tracks and Huts Committee was formed this year and as its name implies takes in all walking tracks and huts used by walkers. At the moment a list of information on all known huts is being compiled by members of all Clubs, when they visit any hut they are asked to fill out a detailed questionnaire. This has been very poorly supported by our club as at the moment only two members have offered any assistance. If you want information about all huts in Victoria you have to be willing to help compile it or else you will have to rely on word-of-mouth only.

SEARCH AND RESCUE — JOHN SPARKSMAN

Last year no members were called out on searches, although the Federation was alerted on a number of occasions.

The annual Search and Rescue Practice week-end was held last year in the Mount Donna Buang area, being notable for increased use of Land Rovers and radios.

This year's practice will take place in the Kinglake District on the week-end of 8th - 9th May, 1971, and it is hoped that as many members as possible will attend.

Our club is not very well represented numerically (18) in the S & R; and since not all are ever available at one time, more members are needed in case of emergency.

Continued on Page 16.

SLIDE NIGHTS 1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAY
EVERY MONTH

Continued from page 15.

AUDITORS' REPORT — SAM LARSON & ROBIN MITCHELL

We have examined the books and records of the M.B.W. for the twelve months ended December 1970 and are satisfied that they show the true position for this period.

A notable feature was the increase in membership, which, combined with abundant club activity, resulted in a profit to the club of several hundred dollars.

Making allowance for depreciation of equipment and emergencies, the club appears to be in a sound financial position.

NEWS CONVENOR — BARBARA DAVIES

Once again the job of compiling The "News" changed hands during the last year, and it will be changing hands again next month as this is the last edition of News that I will be doing. Although I have only been Convenor for four months I have enjoyed the work and am sure that it has helped me get to know more club members and vice versa.

Much credit must go to our previous Convenor Jenny Mead who has really done an excellent job and I only hope that I have kept this up.

The new typewriter recently purchased by the club has been a great asset to me as it is much more convenient to have one at home and thus makes the task a good deal easier. This also means that the Secretary of the club has been able to make use of it at certain times because it is a semi-portable model.

Special thanks to Sue Filson for her "Sue's Snippets" column which I hope most readers enjoy. As Sue is going overseas in May a replacement must be found for this worthwhile page, so if you are willing to be the next "stirrer" please LET Sue KNOW !

Rex also deserves credit for his wonderful job of making "News" so presentable with his decorative front pages which have helped to publicise certain events in the club calendar.

Sincere thanks from myself and the Filsons to all those who have so willingly given their time in helping to collate the News each month. Barry and Gwenda Short will be printing the News for most of this year so please express your support for them as you have done for us.

Finally, I hope you give my successor all the support you can to make her task a little more easier; and thank you to those contributors who are so necessary in keeping News "ALIVE".

<u>LOCH WILSON</u>	692 Glenhuntly Rd.	
For all	Caulfield	
Bushwalking Equipment,		
Climbing gear, Shirts, Pullovers, Sleeping bags.		