



OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

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RESORT FEATURES SURVEY OF MOUNT TORBRECK

Whether Mount Torbreck, eight miles south of Eildon, has the capacity to be developed into an all seasons alpine resort is the subject of a Forests Commission survey which has already commenced and will extend into April 1972. Commission officers, directed by Mr. K. Jerome, District Forester at Taggerty, will be assisted in the survey by members of the Eildon Chamber of Commerce. Alexandra Shire Council is also maintaining strong interest in the project.

The potential of Mount Torbreck as a snow resort in particular has been a matter of debate for some years, with some contenders maintaining that snow falls are not regular enough or suitable enough to warrant the expenditure which would be necessary for adequate development. Forests Commission policy favours the priority development of recreation areas which offer the best all seasons return for resort expenditures, particularly in cases of alpine areas, because of the severe limitations imposed on available funds for these works.

Mount Torbreck is located entirely within reserved forest, much of which is noted for the valuable hardwood timbers it produces. It comprises a major part of the catchment for the Snobs Creek fish hatchery and the survey will have to take into account the need to protect the catchment water quality.

The Barnewall Plains road from the north is the present main access to Torbreck. A rough foot track from Barnewell Plains, about a mile long, is the only established way of reaching the summit. Alternative vehicular access to the south east side via Cabbage Tree Gap will be difficult to achieve.

Because of the doubts about snow suitability, Forests Commission officers will regularly record frequency and depth details between the 4,600 feet level and the 5,000 feet summit. Temperature recording equipment which is to be installed will provide continuous readings from which variations in ski suitability can be interpreted. Snow presistence will be closely menitored.

Overall estimates will be made of the capacity of the mountain to cater for summer and winter visitors. Investigations will be conducted into the feasibility of access routes to the various possible recreational areas, and into the siting of visitor amenities such as car parks, toilets, catering services and shelters.

The assessment of the results of this most comprehensive survey of Mount Torbreck should be available shortly after its conclusion next April.

6th July, 1971. FORESTS COMMISSION. VICTORIA.

SNOW POLES IN BOGONG HIGH PLAINS AREA

A brief history of the snow pole lines compiled from various sources including Messrs. M.McColl, M. Hull, B. Scott (Ski Club of Victoria and Mount Bogong Club), and from the following publications — "Victoria Walker" "Harrietville" by E. Hay, and the Melbourne University's "Alpine Areas" and various Government records.

- 1873 Road from Harrietville to Omeo surveyed as an alternative route to Dungey's track.
- 1880 Mines Department investigations throughout area left some trails which were used by walking groups.
- 1883 Hotham Alpine road opened for through traffic,
- 1919 C.E.C. investigations through the Kiewa Valley extended the trails into the Kiewa area.
- 1923 1925 Representations to the State Tourist Committee resulted in the P.W.D. (continued on Page 2

(continued - SNOW POLES IN BOGONG HIGH PLAINS AREA.)

extending the pole lines used by the cattlemen, skiers and walking clubs. A total of 14 miles, with 27 poles per mile, was installed.

- 1928 1929 The above lines were extended by the Public Works Department for a further 13 miles through the Mt. Hotham, Mt. Loch, Mt. Jim areas.
 - 1930 Victorian Railways built huts on Mt. Feathertop, the Razorback and Bon Accord Spur.
 - 1937 The State Tourist Committee provided a further £50 to finance the new pole line from Staircase Spur to Memorial Hut.
 - 1941 After the 1939 fires. the Public Works Department offected renewal and maintenance on some pole lines across the High Plains.
- 1949 1950 C. Dobson & H. Robin carried out maintenance works on the Mt. Jim and Dibbins Hut for the Public Works Department.
 - 1965 Application by the Mount Bogong Club to Tourist Development Authority resulted in contract work to the value of £492 being effected in 1967 on pole lines.

 S.E.C. has erected snow poles along its aqueducts (blue capped poles) and roads (green capped poles).

PRESENT CONDITIONS OF SNOW POLES -

Trunk Line - Mt. Jim to Mt. Nelse and Mt. Jim to Dibbins - poor conditions

Laterat Lines - Mt. Jim Junction - Tawonga Hut and Nelse Line Junction - Fitzgeralds Hut - recently renovated and reasonable condition.

Mt. Bogong - All in good condition.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

Hon. Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers, Box 1751Q, G.P.O., MELBOURNE, VIC. 3001

Meetings are held in the Clubrooms, 14 Hosier Lane, at the rear of the Forum Theatre, every Wednesday night at 8.00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

The Editor, "NEWS"

Dear Madam,

As a constant reader of your paper for many years I would like to express a few words of appreciation for the recent issues.

The world is light on laughter, although the Melbourne Bushwalkers have always had a good quota of that valuable commodity. All types of wits and nitwitticisms have graced the pages of the News, but never before it seems, has such a galaxy of stars twinkled from its pages, since "The Brigadier", The Major, Certified Reporter and G. Wills-Johnson turned their talents loose on us.

What does make these merry madcaps tick? Have they discovered some secret food? Are they on L.S.D., or are they growing their own plot of marihuana away in some hidden valley? Whoever creates laughter has not lived in vain.

If the Club's literary talents are to be preserved in the Archives of the nation, perhaps we should make it clear that we are non-political, non-sectarian, non-racial and try to retain cordial relations with all who love and wish to preserve the great outdoors of all countries, including scout-masters, nudiats, swagmen, keepers of potted plants, and even farmers who dislike trespassers and government officials who refuse permission for us to enter certain areas.

Its all good clean fun.

"REFUGEE FROM T.V."

DUTY ROSTER -	SLIDE NIGHTS -
28th July - Alex Stirkul 4th Aug Graham Mascas 11th " - Joy Scymour 18th " - Tyrone Thomas	4th August - Club Bushwalks - Ron Filsell 18th August - Central Australia - Joy Scymour

The Victorian Police Search & Rescue Squad are to hold an annual practice walk within the next fortnight.

WALK PREVIEWS

DAY WALKS:

August 1 SNOW WALK

Leader: Dave Oldfield (b) 31 7222 ext.613 Medium

Bus leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m. Fare \$4.00 approx.

Transport will be by bus and if we have a full list —

39 people, this will reduce the cost from \$4.00, so come along,

wear your warm clothes and enjoy the comfort of the bus on the

way home. The area for the walk will depend on the snow depths.

It will be either the Acheron Way near Donna Buang or else in

the Marysville area.

- BALIESTON STATE FOREST WHROO
 Leader: Dave Gibson (b) 387 1600
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m. Fare \$3.50¢.
 Map Ref. Murchison 1:50,000, 1:100,000.
 This walk is in open forest country with no major hill climbs.
 The area has historical interest with several old gold mines and an old cemetary.
 Ring the leader for any details of the walk.
- 15 WHITE SWAN RESERVOIR ST.GEORGES LAKE SPRING HILL
 Leader: Joyce Dunn (p) 88 2393 Fare \$3.00 Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m. Distance 11 miles.
 Map Ref. Creswick 1:100,00. or Ballarat 1:100,000.
 This walk will be through Forest and Pine Trees Plantations with
 undulating countryside and will end with a 2000' climb to Spring
 Hill where a good view of the surrounding countryside should be
 seen. Come along and show your fitness on the climb.
- 22 ELLIS FALLS COLIBAN RIVER TARADALE

 Leader: Peter Bullard (p) 50 5234 Fare \$3.00 Easy

 Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m. Distance 7 miles.

 Map Ref. Castlemaine 1" 1 mile.

 An easy walk through undulating countryside with a few nice views.

 No hills just the sort of walk for beginners or the lazy ones.

 Take water for lunch. Return 7.30 p.m.
- BREAK'O'DAY MIDDLE STATION CREEK ROCKY CREEK DIVIDE GLENBURN
 Leader: Philip Taylor (p) 306 6152 Fare \$2.50¢ Easy
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m.
 Map Ref. Glenburn 1:50,000.
 A pleasant ridge walk down hill all day.
 Bring water for lunch

WEEKEND WALKS:

August 6-8 BLACK BOX LAGOON - HORSESHOE LAGOON - SWAN LAGOON (N.S.W.)

Leader: Roger Brown (p) 57 6729 Easy

Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30 p.m. Fare \$6.00
Map Ref. Perricoote State Forest Sheets 4 & 5.
I promise a very easy walk as well completely dry feet unless you fall into the Murray. This walk will be alongside the Murray River for a Total distance of about 12 miles. This walk has been planned for anyone who has not been on a weekend walk before and wants to have a go.

13-15 AMPHITHEATRE - MT.AVOCA - NOWHERE CREEK - MT.WARRENMANC

Leader: Bob Steel (p) 47 3743 Medium

Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30 p.m. Fare \$5.00

Map Ref. Beaufort 1:100,000 Distance 18 miles.

Interesting walk in a good forest area near Avoca, in the Pyrenee
Range, Some good views, and the possibility of seeing kangaroos and other wildlife. Eary camp on saturday night. Bring water for Friday night and Saturday breakfast and lunch.

(MORE WALK PREVIEWS ON PAGE 4.)

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(continued from) (previous page)

WALK PREVIEWS

WEEKEND WALKS:

EIGHT MILE HUT - ROCKY RANGE - EAGLE PEAKS - THE BLUFF -August 27-29 Medium-Hard Leader: Bruce Meincke (p) 306 2428 Fare \$5.50¢ Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30 p.m. Map Ref. Buller 1:50,000 A medium snow walk in an area seldom visited in winter. Magnificent views of Mt. Buller, The Governors, Mt. Ma Donald, etc. with their winter snow. Saturday - Eight mile Hut, - Rocky Ridge, - The Bluff(without packs) Sunday - Rocky Ridge - Eagles Peaks(without packs) - Eight mile Hut.

27-29 EIGHT MILE HUT - ROCKY RANGE - SIXTEEN MILE SPUR - HOWQUA RIVER Leader: Joy Seymour (p) 41 4790 Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30 p.m. Fare \$5.50¢ Map Ref. Buller 1:50,000 On Saturday most of our climbing will be at the start of the walk, then it will be pleasant going with wonderful views of the snow covered peaks on all the mountains in the area. Camp will be at Pykes Hut Flat. On Sunday the walk will be downhill and walking alongside one of Victoria's finest rivers - the Howqua. There could be some snow around during the walk so bring

SPENCER'S SATURDAY SURPRISE

This was illustrated by the fact that 30 bods by-passed the pleasure of shopping on a cold drizzling morning, or a lie in bed, and must surely prove two things; that the Dandenongs are a more popular area, or that the leader is in danger from the opposite sex, because the majority present were attractive young damsels.

Leaving the van in pouring rain, we set off along quiet tracks through the Olinda forest. The rain stopped long enough for lunch, and a lyre-bird was heard close by, to the delight of an American visitor.

May, June and July are the best months to see and hear these rare and wonderful birds, and many people do not know that they can be observed in the Sherbrooke forest, dancing and mimicking other birds, quite tame enough to view closely if one is lucky enough. A condensed version of the late Ambrose Pratt's book entitled "Miracle in the Dandenongs" appears in the June issue of "Readers Digest".

Sometimes we have to leave our own shores to appreciate the treasures we have on our doorstep. In this area of luxriant tree-ferns, tall mountain ash, fragrent shrubs and sub-tropical jungle growth, it is possible to walk for miles on tracks through Sherbrooke, Monbulk and Olinda Forests without meeting many people. Fine views were glimpsed through the mist, as well as the regrettable sight of a hillside cleared of native trees.

A most refreshing walk. Thanks, Spence.

warm clothes.

-*- "The Queen of the Dandenongs" -*-

OCH WILSON

For all

Bushwalking Equipment,

Climbing gear, Shirts, Pullovers, Sleeping bags.

592 Glenhuntly Rd. Caulfield



by 'MUMMAJONG'

Well, what with our President hobbling around after a minor operation, the Secretary Plastered (ankle that is), the Walks Secretary and the Equipment Officer in New Zealand, One Vice President in Europe. One wonders Who is running this Club.

Wanted known set of "L" Plates.

Ted Brown is off to Hong Kong for 2 years - another plastic Kid?

Definition of a Humourous Situation:

Lady getting out of bath with broken ankle.

Belated congratulations on the engagement of Pam Collinson to Trevor Lambeth, also congratulations to them on their Wedding, last week.

The News Convenor looking fit after a holiday up north.

They tell me she missed typing News so much last month that she cannot wait to type this one. (The News Convenor comments that as much as she "loves" typing the News, she would much rather be at the moment sitting up on top of Ayers Rock admiring the view.)

Unfortunately the Club can resist football no longer. That's Right.

You guessed it, on a recent Sunday walk, several members were seen filling in their lunch hour playing football.

Are Sunday walks too easy?

Well it is about the time of year when we help those people with little black books keep tabs on todays couples. Please note they are not in their correct Order. I hope!

Leigh Jenny
Geoff Marion
Stuart Rosemary
Chris Helen

The incredible has happened, Nick Cole has a job.
That's right, he's working, teaching no less, History and English.

For all those who were wondering, Geoff did not know where he was on his recent Sunday walk.

Where was he then?

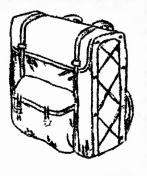
We welcome the following New Members to the fold -

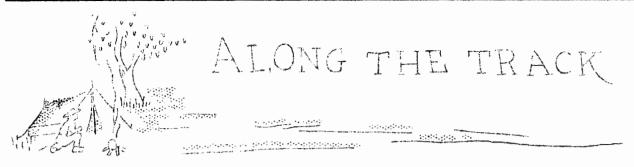
Dennis Williamson Peter Crosser Peter Bryan

AUSKI

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The Bushwalking Specialist Paddymade equipment, Packs, etc.





TYRONE'S TERRIBLE TRUTH.

It is just possible, I suppose, that this is the first article written in Queens—land about a walk in Victoria. The walk was, of course, Tyrone's monsoonal trip to Mt. Terrible, Enoch's Point and all points wet.

It rains in the east, it rains in the west,
But it rains on Tyrone's walks the best,
and, furthermore
A young walker chappie named Ty,
Said I'll get to the top or I'll die
Well he may not be dead

But he's soft in the head And the rest of him isn't quite dry.

(Now that I've got that load of rubbish off my chest, I can get down to telling you what happened.)

It all began one cold, wet, utterly miserable Friday night, when the van stopped in close proximity to the Big River and we all had to get out. The good samaritan award went to John, who through pouring rain insisted on putting up tents other than his own. Naturally, his motives were suspect, we thought.

The Saturday morning fire was most welcome and the numerous bipedal iciles quietly thawed out as the revitalizing food was taken in. After locating Art'n'Andy, Tyrone led us along a road (from the rear) for a short while, until we came to an impossibly steep jeep track. At this point, several things happened: Winifred discarded her mattress, Art discarded the majority of his clothes and the twins discarded their sanity.

Up and up and more up, as the freezing wind blasted across the track. Near the top, Art and Andy had to stop for a clothing session, after their bare shoulders and arms became numb (And friends, it isn't often that the elements stop those two).

Finally, just as the first snow appeared, the summit fire tower loomed up in the gloom. Hopeless visibility and frost-bite weather, but a warm hut ahead, crowded with shivering steaming walkers. Lunch in the dark, getting the peanuts mixed up with the sultanas.

When lunch over, and the fire demolished, I stood outside throwing bricks up to Andy on the chimney, to hold the cover down. Definately outside the line of duty.

Somewhere below was Enoch's Point, and a race against the approaching night began. Some of us lost — the glories of being whip. But Art took pity and invited us into the safely guarded hut, to join the girls and Andy. Outside, and down the track, the rest of the party were being systematically drowned by the remorseless rain. One lilo held more water than air.

Sunday morning was uncommitted - some rain and a dab of sun. Through the black-berries and along the road, the whip miles behind the rest. I am told by my eager spies that all sorts of incredible things were happening in the main party (even Joy was not above a faux pas or two) but in all fairness, I cannot spill the beans when I did not see them: so that's why Tyrone asked me to write up the walk!

Eventually, the two stragglers found the others huddled under the Big River bridge at our starting point - how to get nowhere, but drowned in the process. Tyrone deposited a loaf of bread and some butter in a strategic place and sat back while the vultures performed. Graham and John began to wonder how much water was flowing past. I believe that the estimate was somewhere near a million gallons per minute. The final figure does not matter, but the procedure is indicative of a rapidly deteriorating morale. Luckily, we were all saved by the arrival of Dennis.

The walk proved to me that I can enjoy climbing Mt. Terrible even when the weather is putrid (ah, but I remember Roy Beames' trip (...) yet, as I now look out at this perfect Queensland day, I begin once again to doubt my sanity.

Thanks, Ty, before I change my mind.

--- Major Grippe Yarfeet.

ANDERS SVEDLUND, who set out to row from W.A. to AFRICA, (SINCE reported that he has arrived safely) mentioned that he had evolved a method of cooking rice without fire. "I will soak the rice for 12 hours before wrapping it in plastic to be cooked by the heat of the sun", he said from "The Sunday Times" May 25rd, 1971,

LAKE HATTAH NATIONAL PARK AND KULKUYNE STATE FOREST

At 6.30 p.m. we boarded our luxurious tour-coach and by 6.45 we were on our way for a 300-mile trip to the far north-west of the premier State. At Kyneton we gave into the screaming furies gnawing at our insides and a mercy stop was declared at the sign of Greasy Joe and the loo. Recharged, discharged and otherwise resigned we tumbled back on board for the long dozing trek bearing 320 magnetic until a triumphal cry pushed us sleepily into the bracing air of the vast metropolis of Hattah. Sleeping in the open or under a rude shelter of mallee and tentcloth proved a stimulating experience, with a night temperature of 35°F and the roar of transports up and down the adjacent highway. Best of all were the occasional freight trains, the rolling thunder of their approach translated in the still night air to an avoidable wakefulness. The arrival of our train-bound brothers on the 8.00 a.m. ensured a prompt awakening among the transient population.

Art charted his course to our campsite, Lake Mournpool from the Murray Valley Highway through the mallee and spinifes of the Hattah Lakes National Park, though this gave way to a drier sequence of rolling sand dunes clothed in green and occasional Murray pine and mallee. What a surprise to find Andy's trousers with \$1, change and rail ticket still intact after the loss of two years before. In Australia this speaks volumes about the numbers of people who choose to walk through the park. After rising over a rather bare sand dune we had our first view of Mournpool — a large elliptical lake surrounded by a beautiful fringe of red river gums and box trees, a profusion of firewood, an absence of people, and clear, cold, clean water. A camper's paradise! However a neat collection of tents, each with its water frontage and all in precise soldierly alignment soon betrayed minds insidiously polluted with the concept of city civilisation.

After lunch we toured the immediate circlet of lakes Konardin, Yelwell, Yerang and Mournpool but found few birds, just occasional ducks, a swan or two and a large flock of pelicans. This walk was unrewarding of wildlife in many ways, though we picked up some emus and kangaroos in the distance. The flocks had simply disappeared into the surrounding country — probably following the very good rains experienced only a few weeks before and which had turned the brown plains into good pasture. The crossing of Chalka Creek involved wading to the thighs and those who had chosen not to swim in Mournpool justified their decision in the chill of that still water. Tony's crowd were camped on a rise by the peppermint trees of some previous homestead in the triangle between Yelwell, Yerang and Mournpool. Most of the group headed back to camp around the northern side of the lake, but Art led a few enterprising souls around the southern route. This involved another wading episode, but this time to chest level. We resembled a string of primitive tribesmen, loads on heads and unrigged in original dress. Whatever you might say about the water, you could not deny it was stimulating.

After a second cold night's sleep and breakfast, we struck a course to Lake Bitterang. Again the dearth of birdlife, but our walking rewarded us throughout the day with many views, near and far of kangaroos and emus on the move. Walking in this district, efficially the Kulkuyne State forest, is over a flat plain punctuated by the undulations of low sand ridges and rarely does the view from any point penetrate more than distance of two miles. Every sand ridge brings its own reward of animal life. However the district belies its name. Nowhere is there millable timber, except for the red river gums on the shores of the lakes. One is even tempted to rename it the Kulkuyne State Desert, for the sandridges must be very brown and barron in the absence of the rains that we were following. It seems difficult to understand why the whole area has not been incorporated into the Hattah Lakes National Park, until one sights another form of animal life within the forest perimeter — cattle. Indeed, a political forest!

Lunch at Chalka Creek. A trench incised 15 feet into the surrounding plain and which forms the anabranch system feeding the lakes and fed in turn by the River Murray. Andy and Lance enjoyed themselves climbing around the branches of a red river gum and Dick discovered the day's first clutch of emu eggs. It is not their size and weight which is surprising — one might expect large eggs of a large bird — but their colour, which is a uniform dark jungle green on asmooth y stippled surface.

We pressed on to Lake Cantala and beyond this to the river Murray. Here we were treated to an elegant spectacle, the parade of the emus. A flock of about 20 advanced cautiously to within 20 feet and passed by slowly studying us carefully. Kodak celebrated the event in champagne. The River Murray was broad and high with clear cold water for the thirst of a good walk. The current was strong. The advancing hour dictated only a brief stay by the riverside as we had nine miles to cover before night—fall. Suffice to say we made it in time to identify our food and find the matches before light failed completely.

LAKE HATTAH NATIONAL PARK AND KULKUYNE STATE FOREST

(continued from Page 7.)

Lakes Lockie, Roonki and Brockie. Some of these other lakes seemed shallower than the ones we had encountered on earlier days, with larged and more obvious reed beds. I could well imagine the variety of bird life to be somewhat better here at the right times. We finished our circuit at about halfpast one with a promenade along Lake Hattah and a march across the ford coming in sight at last of Quince's parlourcar. What a treat to find that Charlie had picked up a case of undersized reject oranges in his travels. There were no oranges rejected by this group. In case anyone felt too fired after their three days walk and might by accident fall acleep and miss the meal stop in Bendigo. Bot and Roger elected themselves to the task of ensuring a non-stop barrage of lively entertainment (?). At moments when quality might appear to flag, volume was supplemented through the agency of the PA system on the bus. The warm and pleasant recollection of the three days' walk, the comfort of the bus, together with a full tummy at Bendigo and a swift run to the city's centre made the whole weekend—

a memorable and enjoyable experience.

--- R.J. JOHNSON ---

"FROM A-B - OR HOW TO GET THERE & BACK AGAIN".

Armed with secret instructions, Sgt. K's plateen leaders departed from headquarters with their troops, on board motor transport, to places unknown. After being misplaced before we started our group finally reached the rendezvous & departure point.

In a briefing by Cpl. Brown, the destination was revealed as 98-689. Led by recruit Jorgensen, a scramble down the hillside ended at checkpoint waterfall.

After syncronising compasses, recruit Bryan took the lead & forged ahead with unerring aim, to the top of the highest hill; Cpl. Brown directing operations from the rear. Emerging from bracken cover, a view of a wide expanse of water was revealed in the distance, with a pier & lighthouse to triangulate our position. After taking stock of his bearings, recruit Bryan plunged downhill, through bush & scrub, to look for point 98-689 or the converging watercourses. One casualty en route, as recruit Seymour hobbled in, one leg streaming blood. The clusive waterfall & junction remained clusive and a new leader "volunteered". After a sighting of the Sun, it was decided to head South and recruit Seymour took the lead, straight into a barbedwire fence and across a golf course.

At the top of the next hill, rebellion set in and a halt was declared for lunch. Continuing on, when some of the party were "fod-up", Seymour led an assault on the next hill, from where a view was obtained of an unmapped sheet of water. Our destination, the second stream junction, was no more. After wading through shoulder—high bracken, the former creek junction was reached and a course was plotted to the top of a nearby hill.

Cpl. Brown plunged into the lead and from the top he revealed the final destination. The canny Cpl. tried some misleading tactics, but we were not fooled and a nearby road led us back to our starting point.

Mission completed.

.*-- RECRUIT MILLIS --*.

MBW CHEF'S SUGGESTIONS

In different parts of Australia there are many varieties of primitive native foods which could be of special value to bushwalkers in extreme circumstances;

Here are some tried and tasted recipes:

MUSHROOMS: Generosity is always encouraged amongst bushwalkers. Give your companion a generous helping. If he's still alive within one hour then they're not toadstools, and you can safely go ahead yourself.

SHORTBREAD: Take a fresh Farmhouse loaf, and cut in two.

JACKAROO JELLY: This is very messy, and should not be eaten with the fingers.

The fingers should be eaten after the jelly.

SNAKE JUICE: Beats pineapple and orange. Many people prefer the juice of the tiger snake to that of the death adder. We don't know why; we can't seem to find anyone who has actually tasted either.

NEWS CONVENOR'SNOTE:

Back on the job of typing News again, I thank all the bright, budding Whitehag for next month's News. — July Seymour ——