



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 275

February, 1972.

Price 3¢

End of the Track:

WILLIAM INCE THOMPSON 1929 - 1972

Bill Thompson joined the Melbourne Bushwalkers early in 1956, soon after arriving in Melbourne from Launceston where he was an active member of the Launceston Walking Club. It did not take long for Bill to be actively engaged in Club affairs. He was elected to the General Committee at the Annual Meeting, February 1958, and the following year was elected President, in which capacity he served the Club for the next five years. Bill again took the Chair for the first half of 1965.

A glance through the old programmes shows that he was a popular leader specialising in Map Reading Exercises, giving theoretical and practical assistance to many now members.

Bill was elected M.B.W. delegate to Victorian Federation of Walking Clubs, Search and Rescue in 1959, a position he held for several years before becoming the Police Liaison Officer. For about four years he co-ordinated the Police Search and Rescue Team with that of the Federation.

The club had the honour of having Bill elected President of the Federation in 1963 and 1964.

Ill health had prevented Bill from taking an active part in Club activities for the last four years although he still kept his membership.

Margaret, his wife, is also a keen bushwalker and they, like so many others met in the club.

The club extends to Margaret and Barbara its sincere sympathy and hope that they will join us in family walks in the near future.

R&S.F.

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 7.30 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE:

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 23RD FEBRUARY, 1972 (WEDNESDAY) at 8.00 p.m., IN THE CLUBROOMS, AT 14 HOSIER LANE, MELBOURNE.

The Annual Reports by members of the committee, are attached to this issue of The "NEWS", please read them and take an active interest in your club.

Reports:

Walks Secretary - Approximate number was 200 people on walks during January.

Social Secretary - Because of the Power Strike, the Film on 2/2/72 was postponed. 'The Peace Game' - prize-winning award film on wild game in South African reserves, will now be shown - March 15th.

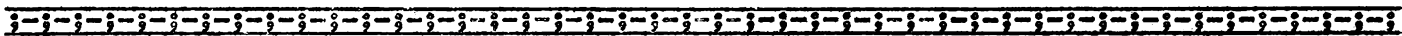
March 1st - Slide night by John Siseman on New Year Bushwalk in Tasmania, which should be well worth seeing.

Wilkinson Lodge - A 12 man work party recently spent a weekend doing many improvements to Wilkie and fences. Extra Lockers have now been added and will be available on a lottery system. We anticipate that 2 people can share one locker. There are now 12 lockers. Rental will be \$4 per year. People are advised that nothing is to be left in their lockers after the 12 months. Anything left after this period will be claimed by the club.

People are also reminded that each party of people going to Wilkie are to bring 1 packet of briquettes or else 20¢ per head per day extra. This is because of the shortage of firewood around the area.

DUTY ROSTER:

February, 23rd - Graham Mascas
March, 1st - Alex Stirkul



WOULD ANYBODY KNOWING THE POSITION OF THE FOLLOWING HUTS PLEASE CONTACT SUE BALL WITH MAP REFERENCES, FOR A LIST OF HUTS THAT IS BEING PREPARED:

DAY WALKS:

- March 5th MOOMBA WALK - WANDONG - MT. DISAPPOINTMENT
Arrangements for this year's Moomba Walk are being made by:
The Women's Walking Club. Further details will be advised later.
- 12 NARBETHONG - MT. DOM DOM - CARTER'S GAP - FERNSHAW
Leader: Leigh Pretty (b) 874 0333 Easy-Medium
Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m. Fare \$2.00
Map Reference: Juliet 1:50,000. Nearest medical help - Healesville Hospital.
Because of its popularity last year it has been decided to put this walk on again. A pleasant climb in the morning will give reasonable views to the East and a good appetite for lunch. (B.Y.O. - water, of course!) The rest of the day is almost entirely downhill and finishes with a stroll through one of the beautiful ferny valleys characteristic of this area. Just to prove I can do it I have made special arrangements for the sun to shine all day. The van used for this trip will also be used by the Family Walk to be run on the same day.
- 12 OLD BLACK SPUR ROAD - FAMILY WALK
Leader: Marijke Mascas (p) 50-2995 Easy
Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m. Fare \$2.00. 3½ miles.
Map Reference: Juliet 1:50,000
Nearest medical help - Healesville Hospital.
If the rain will hold off this time, we will walk down the old Black Spur Road, very easy. Bring water for lunch.
- 19 HEPBURN - DAYLESFORD
Leader: Alec Proudfoot (p) 98-3155 Easy
Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m. Return approx. 9.00 p.m. Fare \$2.75¢
Come and help me find the way along Sailors Gully to Tipperary Springs. Tyrone says it's 6 easy miles and you know how Ty is always spot on. Collect blackberries on the way and make blackberry wine when you get home. Mull it on the President's weekend. Bring bathing togs for the plunge into Lake Daylesford at the end of the gruelling journey and a matchbox into which you can drop the nuggets of gold you may pick up along the way. No Pubs open but high class Mineral water in three places.
- 26 WHITES CORNER - DAVIS ROD - GLEN NAYOOK
Leader: Alex Stirkul (p) 97-5538 Easy-Medium
Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 a.m. Fare \$2.50¢.
The highlight of this trip will be a visit to the scenic reserve of Glen Nayook. There we will see the re-growth of mountain ash almost 50 years old which spray from the ashes of the disterous bushfires of 1926. This trip is full of variety and interest.

WEEKEND WALKS:

- March 10-13th MTS. ST. BERNARD, TWINS, MURRAY & SELWYN
Leader: Roger Brown (p) 57-6729 Medium
Private/Transit vans. Fare \$6.00. 38 Kilometres or 24 Miles.
Map Reference: Howitt & Dargo 1" = 1 mile.
Nearest Medical help - Bright Bushnursing Hospital.
For the "peak baggers" there will be 3 peaks over 5000 ft. But for the ordinary Bushwalker there will be the chance to take in some of the Barrie Mtns. which otherwise would be difficult to complete any other way. Could you please book early as transport arrangements may have to be altered - if insufficient numbers are available.
Water will be necessary for Saturdays Breakfast.
- 10-13th MT. STIRLING - KING RIVER HUT - MT. COBLER RETURN
Leader: Philip Taylor (p) 306-6152 Medium
Private/Transit vans. 6.30 p.m. Fare \$5.50¢./30 miles.
Map Reference: Buller 1:50,000 & Howitt 1"=1 mile.
Nearest medical help - Mansfield Hospital.
This walk has been designed for both lazy and energetic walkers. First day will be a walk over Mt. Stirling and end at King River Huts. Second day, for those so inclined, will be a side trip to Mt. Cobler

(continued on Page 4.) - - - -

WEEKEND WALKS:

(continued from Page 3.)

- March 10-13th MT. STIRLING - KING RIVER HUT - MT. COBLER RETURN
 taking all day, or you can do nothing (these people will be dealt with by the leader at a later stage). Yes! another night at King Huts before returning to King Saddle for the finish of the walk. So come on and bag 2 peaks over 5000'. Note - Band-Aids will NOT be supplied by the leader.
- 17-19th FRY'S - GOVERNOR - MITCHELLS - JAMIESON RIVER
 Leader: Alma Strappazon 9p) 86-7559 Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30 p.m. Fare \$5.50¢ / 22 miles.
 Map Reference: Buller & Skene 1: 50,000.
 Nearest medical aid - Mansfield Hospital.
 Mitchells is renowned as an excellent campsite, it is a "lost" valley with magnificent trees and a river, and at the time of the walk the blackberries are as big as tennis balls - so bring the cream to have a feast. In addition there is another highlight in the climb onto the Governor. It is alpine and has excellent views. Generally the walk is of easy-medium standard but there is one big climb up the Governors which necessitates a medium grade label to the trip. Much of the walk is near streams.
- 24-25th NIGHT WALK:- SOMERS - SHOREHAM
 Leader: Graham Mascas (p) 50-2995 Easy (Moonlit)
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30 p.m. Friday. 11 miles.
 Approx. time of return: Sat. Noon.
 Map Reference: Western Port 1" = 1 mile. Army.
 Nearest medical help - Hastings Hospital. - Contact Fred Halls 97-3724
 A walk with a difference - there I go again. This time a night walk leaving Friday night and back Saturday midday missing all that weekend shopping. Come for a gentle stroll along the beach in the moonlight (I hope) bring sleeping bag, breakfast and a drink, bathers too perhaps but don't bother with a tent it shouldn't be necessary (I hope!) Come and try it (hopeful aren't I?)
- EASTER
 March 30th - MT. HOTHAM - MT. FEATHERTOP - FREEBURGH
 April 2nd Leader: Barry Short (b) 651-6266 Easy
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30 p.m. 20 miles.
 Map Reference: Feathertop 1" = 1 mile FCV.
 Nearest medical help - Bright Hospital.
 Down hill all the way! The first day will take us from Hotham via the Razorback to Feathertop. Second day will be easy, just climbing Feathertop. The third and fourth days will be occupied in a leisurely stroll down the Razorback to Freeburgh. What could be easier?
- " " BON ACCORD SPUR - MT. LOCH - MACHINERY SPUR - MT. FEATHERTOP - NORTHWEST SPUR
 Leader: Tim Dent 30 miles. /Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30 p.m.
 Map Reference: Feathertop 1" = 1 mile FCV.
 Nearest medical help - Bright Hospital.
 An Alpine walk for those who enjoy their ups as well as their downs, mostly on open ridges. 3 Peaks of over 6000 ft. (Mt's. Hotham, Loch & Feathertop), constitute the main "ups", whilst the Ovens and West Kiewa Valleys form the "Downs".
 Notes- 1. Bring your own Easter Eggs.
 2. No fooling on the first.
- " " NORTHWEST SPUR - MT. FEATHERTOP - MT. FAINTER AREA - MT. LOCH - BUNGALOW SPUR
 Leader: Alex Stirkul (b) 46-4841, ext. 22. Hard
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.30 p.m. 30 miles.
 Map Reference: Feathertop 1" = 1 mile FCV.
 Nearest medical help - Bright Hospital.
 A rugged walk for those who enjoy the Bogong High Plains and the Feathertop area. Not recommended for Beginners or once-a-year men.

(Walk Preview continued on Page 5.) - - -

WEEKEND WALK:EASTER

March - 30th
 April - 3rd

WOLGAN VALLEY - BLUE MOUNTAINS, N.S.W

Leader: Graham Wills-Johnson (p) 52-4720 Easy
 Private transport 6.30 p.m. Fare \$12.00. 10-30 miles
 Expected time of return - Midnight or later (500 mile trip).
 Nearest medical help - Lithgow.

The Wolgan Valley is described in an article in "Walk 1972". If you haven't bought your copy yet, they are on sale over in the corner behind you. We should be able to provide something for everyone from the most dedicated scrub basher to the most dedicated spine basher, so you can mark this one any grade you like between "bludge" and "hard" - or, provided you do not expect me to accompany your splinter group, "tough +" if you like.

Along The Track - Christmas Walk - December 24-28thTHE BLUFF - NO. 1 DIVIDE - MT. CLEAR - MT. McDONALD

Christmas morning saw 16 walkers assembled at Sheeppark Flat, en route to Bluff Saddle. The walk commenced late in the morning, as 2 walkers endeavoured to lose themselves whilst driving up to the saddle. The short, steep climb up to the top of The Bluff was compensated for by the excellent views of surrounding mountains, such as Buller, Stirling, Eagles Peaks and the Governors, and an overall panorama of the area to be covered by the walk. Lunchtime was spent at Bluff Hut lazing in fine, sunny weather. By mid afternoon we were at Lovicks Hut, and camp. Then the Christmas dinners were produced. These varied according to taste, from dehyds, tinned meat & vegetables, to cold chicken. Plum Pudding and "Lemonade" (thanks Graham) proved an excellent desert. Heavy rain during the night proved that at least one of the clubs tents needs reproofing.

An early start was made on Sunday morning, and by mid morning we reached the base of No. 1 Divide. Packs were left here and we climbed the No. 1 Divide and Mt. Magdala. The weather was now starting to change; we reached the exposed summit of Mt. Magdala just in time for a severe hailstorm. Hells Window was a real spectacle in these conditions with hail being blown horizontally up the valley, whilst on the mountain it was coming from a different direction. Graham and Gerry pushed on to Mt. Howitt and Macalister Springs during the middle of this storm; they thought it was worth it. Joy tried to lose herself on the return trip to our packs; Roger organized some impromptu Search and Rescue practice, to the tune of varied whistles and shouts. Whilst waiting for Joy the delights of hot Grapefruit Refresh were sampled.

Another 3 miles walking took us to Weirs Hut Site and another early camp. (Weirs Hut site appears to be shown approximately 1½ miles too far south on some maps). The weather was still undecided, we had a few heavy rainstorms around meal time. Later in the evening the mist came down, at times visibility was reduced to twenty yards. The tents on the other side of the creek disappeared from view. Roger attempted to find his tent through the mist and the creek, and succeeded only in wetting his feet.

The third day dawned fine and warm, in these conditions climbing Mt. Clear, but once the top was reached one was rewarded by the magnificent mountain scenery which we were by now becoming accustomed to. We lunched on the ridge between Square Top and High Cone, after which a short steep climb to the Nobs managed to bring exhaustion a step closer. At this stage an amateur photographer managed to drop his camera down 100 yards of steep, rocky mountain. Camp was made in a grassy saddle just below the Nobs. At this stage of the walk a comment must be passed regarding camp fires. Most of the male bushwalkers on this trip were loath to light fires. This is a simple task which everybody should help with. I am sure that J.H. will endorse this comment.

On the last morning the party split into 2 groups, four to walk out along the Jamieson River, whilst ten of us to climb Mt. McDonald. We climbed Mt. McDonald in time for morning tea, in my opinion the view from here was the highlight of the trip. Three miles and 3000 feet of descent brought us to the Upper Jamieson Hut, and to the end of the walk. All that remained to be done was to negotiate the traffic along the Howqua Track, campers and trail bikes are certainly "discovering" this area.

Finally, thanks to Roger for a scenic walk, with a minimum of steep climbs, and early finishes to each days walking.

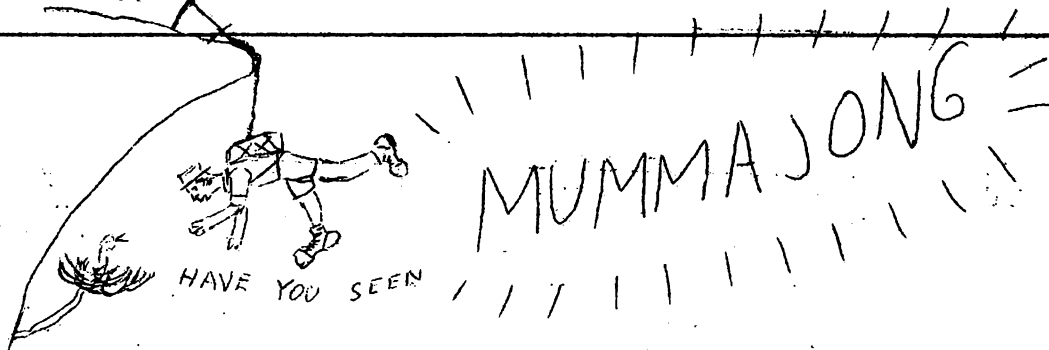
- High Tor -

All screenings at 8 p.m. Admission Adults 60¢. Children - 30¢

/ CLAYTON - 1st March, Thursday, at Rotunda, Monash University, Wellington Road.

PHOTOFLORA '72 - AUSTRALIAN WILDFLOWERS IN COLOUR

Ninety minutes of selected competition slides featuring Victorian & Interstate wildflowers, with commentary, will be screened at:-
 RINGWOOD - Monday, 6th March, at Norwood High School, Byron Street (also above)
 HETZELBERG -- Wednesday, 8th March, at Scots Church Hall, Burgundy Street (at Clayton)



"SPUD"

A one-act mini-playlet

Scene:- Wilkie, Saturday evening mealtime.

Characters:- R.Spudingley, "Aphro" Bob, Mummajong, The Mad Chemist, assorted chefs and sundry personnel.

(The curtain rises, revealing all the characters sitting around the dining table, hungry gazes fixed on the sumptuous repast spread out before them, except one, who is studying a small book.)

R. Spudingley: Wot! Only one baked potatoe, I would like another, please.

"Aphro" Bob: (dictionary in hand) Let me see now, it's spelt "a", "p", "h"

The Mad Chemist: Gosh Spudingley, will you be able to eat all that?

Mummajong: Boy, am I disgusted.

"Aphro" Bob: (still studying dictionary.) Ah, here it is, well I never! (priceless expression on his face).

(The Mad Chemist goes into a fit of uncontrollable laughter.)

R. Spudingley: Phew, I think I have had enough. (loud cheers from rest of group).

"Aphro" Bob:- Who put this half-eaten spud on my plate?

(Curtain falls).

I would like to take this opportunity to launch the Dave Thompson Footwear Appeal. If anyone has any unwanted footwear which they feel could be donated to a worthy cause, it would be appreciated if they would bring it in to the clubrooms and hand to the committee member on duty. The situation is becoming serious.

Our friend Ralphie appears to be wandering around nowadays with a misty expression on his face.

I suppose most people would have heard by now, that Stuart Hodgson will be leavin Melbourne in the near future for New Guinea where he will be starting a career as a Patrol Officer. The club would like to extend to him all the best wishes and the hope that he will be successful in his new job.

They call him our singalong leader, because he really loves to sing, it's when cries of "Belt up" are heard, that he excels in doing his thing.

The busy Bushwalking supplier whose presence on the recent search was required, had to have the police bus held while he caught a taxi to it, A useful propaganda trip.

Belated Congratulations to John Sparkman & Jan Abbott on the occasion of their Marriage on 28/1/72. First Bushie Wedding For The Year!.

The News Convenor feels she must reply to Mummajong's statement in the January News that he and Spencer may appeal to SMELLS for assistance. It seems to me that too much comment is made about all your poor bachelors who are so worried about losing your bachelor status. No one seems concerned about us girls so I have decided to form the S.S.S.S. (Swinging Spinsters Social Society). - We have no connection with Women's Lib.

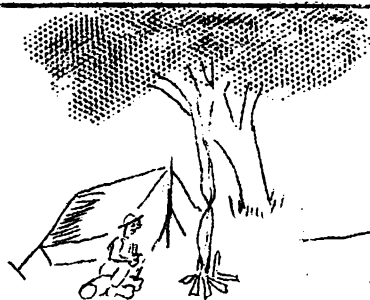
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ALONG THE TRACK

ANOTHER WAY TO NEARLY CLIMB BOGONG - A CHRISTMAS TRIP FROM SASSAFRAS GAP TO WILKINSON LODGE.

Maps → Benambra, Nat. Mapping 1:100,000. Tawonga, For. Com. of Vic. 1:63,360.
Plus a map of the Bogong High Plains (e.g. FCV, Algona, etc.)

On the afternoon of Monday December 27th 1971, 9 bushies converged upon Sassafras Gap - 3 from the north and 6 from the south. Two of the three arriving from the north had been picked up by the writer at Wodonga Station and advise that the buffet car on the 8.30 a.m. train from Spencer Street closes at Wangaratta at midday - hence they were hungry on arrival. Sassafras Gap, for anyone who does not know, is about halfway from Corryong to Omeo; Its altitude is about 4250 ft. above sea level. Tents were pitched on sloping ground at the T-junction. The next morning, we found an excellent campsite alongside a hut less than a mile up the road from the Gap to Dartmouth.

According to the Benambra 1:100,000 map, Dartmouth is about 3000 ft. lower than Sassafras Gap, yet we managed to climb about 2000 ft. in the exercise on a hot day accompanied by a few million flies. The jeep track which we followed starts about 1 mile from, and 500 ft. above Sassafras Gap on the road (which is driveable in cars) to Dartmouth via Eustaco Gap. The jeep track which is signposted, had been cleared for about the first three miles but was blocked by fallen timber for the rest of the way, but could be easily cleared. The route of the jeep track is not as straight as shown on the Benambra map - another example of a map not surveyed on the ground. The first day's walk was of about 15 miles, up and down several thousand feet, and most members were rather grateful to see the River Dart.

Our esteemed leader, the club President, had not previewed the trip, tut-tut, and considerable doubt had been expressed beforehand as to whether it was possible to cross the Mitta Mitta. Various advice was given to us by people camped at Dartmouth including the information that there was a flying fox about two miles downstream; the flying fox is in fact about 8-9 miles downstream and locked. We walked down the road about two miles then crashed through the blackberry to reach the river again. One or two members of the party thought it could be swum; others were less enthusiastic. We retreated through the blackberry to the road. We were holding a conference at the roadside when a car was heard. The driver we found had driven 100 head of cattle across the river only 12 months before and led us back to a point about 1 mile downstream from Dartmouth. For anyone else trying to find this crossing place, there is a blazed tree at the side of the road, (the grid reference on the Benambra map is 503521) just before the road starts to climb. The river is crossed just downstream of a small island. Even inspired by the example of the local's cows, no one seemed keen to be first into a river 30 yards wide, fast flowing and of unknown depth. Time was occupied in changing into swimming costumes, repacking packs, etc., in the hope that someone else would be first to try. Eventually our courageous leader waded in wearing an original swimming costume consisting of boots and a wrist watch. The water was apparently only waist deep, so yours truly followed. Now the party contained a Kiwi, Grant Pearson, who assured us that "back home" trampers were always crossing far worse rivers than this, and that the only way to do it was by walking across with linked arms. The remaining seven in the party did this. Unfortunately Grant omitted to mention that the person at the upstream end takes the full force of the river in this operation, as Gerry McPhee soon found. Dick Johnson also discovered that no. 2 has the job of catching no. 1 every time he loses his footing and floats past. Fortunately the water was warm and everyone crossed safely though we twice watched helplessly while our leader floated downstream.

Apart from heading up eight-mile creek for about a mile instead of six-mile creek, the afternoon of the second day was uneventful - just tiring after spending so many hours trying to cross the Mitta Mitta. We probably walked about 15 miles including a climb and drop of 2000 ft. to reach Granite Flat on the Omeo Highway about 9.45 p.m. An excellent campsite was found alongside the Snowy Creek, though the only way to escape the flies the next day was to crawl under the bridge.

The track to Bogong starts two miles up the road from Granite Flat, at a timber mill. The manager of the mill did not believe that we really wanted to go up his timber road to Bogong and suggested the route via the Mulhauser Spur. He fetched his glasses and peered at our maps. We said we wanted to go over Bull Hill and past Howman's Hollow

(continued on Page 8.) - - -

Along The Track - continued from Page 7.

Hut and he agreed that the timber road seemed to be the one we were looking for. Let me say no more about the 13-mile slog up to Howman's Hollow than that the road is driveable by cars, that it climbs about 2500 ft. and there are no good camp sites on the way.

The old hut at the Hollow is still habitable, but a new hut alongside was built in January 1970. It contains a double bed and the hut sleeps about 8 people reasonably comfortably. Water is obtained about 100 yards down a side track. We appear to have been the first bushwalkers to have stayed at the new hut.

Several new timber roads have been cut in the vicinity of the hollow and we wasted an hour searching for the right one to take for Bogong. This is the old track heading up from the back of the hut. It is certainly not suitable for cars. After 100 yards, the right fork has to be taken, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile further on, the 4-wheel drive track to Trappers' Creek Gap leaves on the right. The gradient becomes steeper and after another mile becomes too narrow for vehicles. The track is not overgrown as stated in the MUMC. Guide to the Vic. Alps. Granite Flat Spur meets Eskdale Spur at the tree line. At this time the hail started for us. With the hail beating into our sunburn and blackberry scratches we stumbled from one snow pole to the next up to Eskdale Point and then into the Summit Hut. Even though the hail was coming in through the roof and a gap in one wall, we were very grateful for the hut. With knees knocking and teeth chattering, we took lunch and hoped for a break in the weather. It did not come and so we sprinted as best we could over the exposed top to Cleve Cole Hut. Yet another party had passed within a hundred yards of the summit without climbing it. The wind was so strong that it was difficult to stand upright, and at least one person was blown over. Later, after arrival at Cleve Cole, the hail turned to snow. We discussed moving on to Madison's Hut or Ropers as we had only come about 7 miles and we had arrived at Cleve Cole about 2.00 p.m., but the hut was warm and comfortable. We stayed. Then 12 boy scouts arrived, then 13 Adelaide bushies.

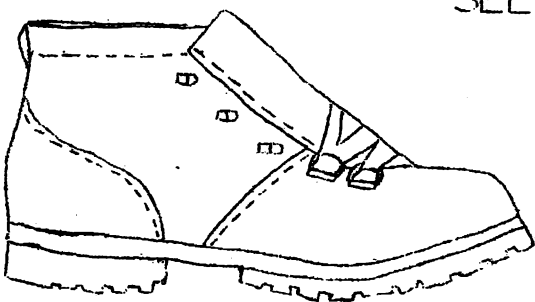
From Cleve Cole Hut to Wilkinson Lodge via the Big River, Duana Spur, Ropers and the aqueduct is a route well-known to bushies. The route is now partially marked - IN ONE DIRECTION ONLY! from Cleve Cole down to the Big River, with red markers, green markers and tree blazes. The markers are however conspicuously absent where they are needed and the track clearing which has been done is only of the small fallen timber. The distance for this day is 14 Mascalas miles or 16 Milner ones. Eight of the party arrived at Wilkie late in the afternoon and rushed for the shower. Phil Taylor decided to climb Nelse on the way, a cloud engulfed Nelse, he lost the snow poles and eventually turned up at Wilkie an hour after everyone else having explored a large area of unknown territory and then hitched a lift from a passing motorist.

Lasting memories of the trip - The flies,
Crossing the Mitta Mitta.
The flies,
Rosella dehyds.
The flies,
Mascalas miles.
A Ford Falcon utility.
Discovering an easy route up Bogong.
The hail on Bogong.
9 in a bed at Cleve Cole.

Thanks Graham for organizing the trip which was certainly memorable though it should have been graded medium-hard. The Granite Flat Spur route up Bogong should certainly be better known as cars can be driven as far as the Hollow, at 3780 feet, and the track from there to the summit is a good one.

Your Sydney correspondent,
- Alan Miller

NEWS CONVENOR'S NOTE:- Thankyou to the contributors of this month's News.
Deadline date for March - 8th March.
Walk Previews should be handed in for April Walks as soon as possible.
- Joy Seymour



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ANNUAL REPORTS1971 - 1972

The following Reports are presented for your information and edification:

1. PRESIDENT
2. SECRETARY
3. WALK 1972
4. WALKS SECRETARY
5. WILKINSON LODGE
6. EQUIPMENT OFFICER
7. TRACK CLEARING
8. SEARCH AND RESCUE
9. COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
10. SOCIAL SECRETARY
11. NEWS CONVENOR
12. TREASURER
13. AUDITORS'.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - GRAHAM MASCAS

How many members of this Club understand the reasons for the bimonthly meetings that clutter up the calendar of the Clubs activities? For so many, these meetings interrupt an otherwise social evening with reports of the administrative doings of the committee. They form, however, a very important safety value for club members. The authority of the committee is not absolute as was seen at the first general meeting of last year when the safety value was used and the club as a whole rescinded a committee decision that was unpopular. However infrequently this occurs the opportunity must be available.

This was one of the most outstanding events in this years club administration. The second was the extraordinary general meeting over 'WALK' Magazine. Again the outcome was, to say the least, satisfactory and a very good edition of 'WALK' was produced and published.

The President's position is mainly administrative, being a figure head and to keep the peace. I have endeavoured to fill the position as best I could though I feel I have been better at some aspects than others. In carrying out the years duties I have been very dependent on a committee who have been very hard working and co operative and I take this opportunity to thank them all. I have leaned particularly on the 2 Vice Presidents, Geoff and Rex, and I'm grateful for their support. Jenny, as Secretary, has been very helpful and efficient (sometimes embarassingly so) her successor has a high standard to uphold.

As a club I feel we have had a successful year no matter how we measure that success. We have had good well attended walks, we are financially viable, our social activities have been varied and successful and we have been well represented at the many organisations to which we are affiliated. The general interest shown by members in the clubs activities has been high and I feel our efforts, that is the committee's, have been appreciated. We realise that we have not been able to please everyone all the time but hope we have represented the majority. As a club of individuals with sometimes the only common interest of walking we have been surprisingly harmonious (not completely of course!) but I have been proud to be your president for the past year.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - JENNY MEAD

It has been the practice over the last couple of years for the Secretary's Report to include the number of enquiries made by people interested in the Club and the number of those who consequently became members. To conform with this 'tradition', I received 81 enquiries and of this figure, only 7 became members. Only a small percentage, but in this year of record membership, not a percentage to cause worry. A thought that could be borne in mind for the future, should the membership figure decline, is why these people don't become members. Maybe it's because they are not cut out for bushwalking or maybe it's because of some other reason which the Committee, being too close to the root, fail to recognise.

Maybe you, as members, can see why people don't become members or maybe you have some cause for dis-satisfaction in the way in which the Club is being run. You can have your say in the election of the Committee and Office Bearers at the Annual General Meeting. Maybe, at the A.G.M. you are quite satisfied

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Secretary's Report -- continued from previous page.

with the people elected to the various positions, but at some stage through the year have cause for complaint with some facet of the Club. The Committee is there to run the Club as it best sees fit, to carry out the wishes of the majority of Club members, but it can't carry out its responsibility properly for the benefit of all if you, as members, don't let it know what you want. If you have something to say, be it constructive or a 'gripe', write to the Secretary, who will present your views to the Committee. In this way the Committee can be kept in touch with what you think. One of the Secretary's duties is to be a stirrer and this includes stirring on your behalf. Democracy may not seem to exist in many sections of Australian life, but it will exist in M.B.W. if you want it to.

In conclusion, may I take this opportunity to thank the President and my fellow Committee members for their support this year and for their long sufferance in my stirrings about conservation. I wish the incoming Secretary every success in this position and hope she will find it as interesting and satisfying as I have.

WALK 1972 REPORT - WARREN BAKER

In spite of considerable trouble in the initial and final stages Walk 1972 finally reached the bookstalls about a week before Christmas 1971. This is later than was originally hoped but in the circumstances was understandable.

There have been a large number of favourable comments concerning this issue - both from within and without the club - and the club owes a debt of gratitude to those who have helped in the production. This includes the editing panel, advertising, photography and walks section convenors and those who drew the maps and helped with the typing and all those small jobs which must be done before the manuscripts go to the printer.

Part of the success of this years Walk is no doubt due to the high standard of article which was received. Most of these were well written and full of interest and our only regret is that this edition could not print all the articles which were received. We ignored the idea of a Theme in this years Walk and published those articles of wide general bushwalking interest. Those articles which have not been published were of a much more specialised nature and it is hoped that, with the authors permission, these may be considered for next years Walk.

The total cost of printing Walk 1972 has been \$1,212. which I believe is slightly less than last year. This is due to the excellent standard of the proofs which came back from the printer - which required very little re setting, and hence lowered the cost. As far as I can ascertain there are only two errors - both spelling errors and even then this is debatable - and no inverted lines like other publications we know,

There has been some talk this year that the club should abandon Walk. To my mind this is quite unwarranted. At a time when the club is at its strongest in membership and when urgent biological, pollution and environmental problems threaten us to even talk like this about the one avenue that we have of expressing our views to the general public is irresponsible. Such talk should be immediately dropped. Another view is that Walk 1973 should be changed in format. While this view has merit it must be kept in mind that MBW is a voluntary club comprising members who for the most part have limited time available. A clear statement should be made indicating what extra work is involved before members decide on this issue. Another attitude, prevalent in committee, is that Walk is too expensive. One has to ask what would happen to the money which we save from not publishing Walk. Do we invest it at 8% and make a profit. We are not, let me remind you, a fund raising or profit making organisation.

We should I believe, publish Walk 1973. There is a sufficient number of articles to give us a good start and I am convinced that the people can be found to do the job. One of our major difficulties is typists. If a number of typists offered to type one article each we would have a large number of the club doing a little towards the magazine so I appeal to those who can help in this way to come forward and offer to do a little work. Another of the problems is further articles and the Walks section. I hope that club members will begin now to write their articles so that Walk 1973 will be published free of the trouble which preceded Walk 1972.

WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT - TYRONE THOMAS

Once again we have had a successful year with a record 2,020 persons out walking. Visitors numbered 601. I am able to report good average attendances throughout the year with the need to cancel only one day walk and three weekend walks. All told we conducted 90 separate trips. Easy walks have been consistently well attended and trips lead by women also were well supported.

Thanks goes to all those leaders who made my task much easier. Thanks especially to those particularly popular leaders such as Spencer George, Graham Mascas, Roger Brown, Rosemary Rider, Jenny Mead, and Peter Bullard, each of whom never fail to "attract the hordes" and who readily lead any walk they are asked to lead. A special thanks to the walks sub-committee for work in preparation of the 90 trips. If you enjoyed the many and varied areas they selected during the year then perhaps that is a direct result of the work of those who in my opinion far outstrip all in their knowledge of the state and ability to carry out program planning. The committee this year consisted of Bruce Meincke, Robert Steel, Fred Halls and Roger Brown plus John Siseman and Rod Mattingley for part of the year.

This year we made an attempt to introduce more weekend walks and to go to the high country sometimes to encourage weekending. However the attempt seems to have failed as there were slightly fewer people out and the more trips purely reduced the average number on each walk. Perhaps the fares may have hindered some, perhaps cupid married off too many who have been regular weekenders in the past. In any case a good time was had by all and in doing so we ended up with about \$190-00 profit on walks for the year.

We experimented with transport during the year and found Transit vans to be useful on weekend trips with small numbers. A transit van was a viable proposition in some cases where a Gronows van may have resulted in a heavy loss. The transit vans were generally well received but their use was kept to a minimum and we hope they will not be needed much in the future. Quinces buses were hired on trial trips and were naturally very well received however their cost is about 25% to 30% greater than Gronows vans. Their use can no doubt be of benefit on long distance hauls where a large number of people attend.

A table is set out below showing recent years figures and from it you can readily see the healthy growth of our wonderful club.

Year	<u>DAY WALKS</u>			<u>WEEKEND WALKS</u>			<u>EXTENDED WALKS</u>			<u>OVERALL</u>		<u>VISITORS</u>	
	No. of Trips	No. out walking	Aven. No.	No. of Trips	No. out walking	Av. No.	No. of Trips	No. out walking	Av. No.	No. of Trips	No. out walking	Av. No.	No.
1966	47	847	18	17	294	17	10	155	16	74	1,296	18	00
1967	44	824	19	23	411	18	9	137	15	76	1,372	18	00
1968	43	942	22	20	343	17	6	103	17	69	1,388	20	433
1969	47	1,007	21	22	445	20	7	128	18	78	1,580	20	519
1970	49	1,269	25	21	567	27	7	140	20	76	1,976	26	576
1971	47	1,247	27	29	511	18	14	262	19	90	2,020	23	601

WILKINSON LODGE - PETER CARLYON

The Lodge has increased its useage to an all time record during 1971. There have been 148 visitors to the lodge, 43 more than in 1970. This can be broken-down as 115 members and 33 non members or considered as 428 people nights. In 1970 there were 285 people nights. The hut was occupied for 87 days during 1971.

Improvements made to the lodge include the completion of the Trimdeck cladding and fly screens to many windows. The window ledges were capped in galvanised iron and the wooden frames painted.

The fence is proving a great success in the regeneration of the moss beds and native grasses. Present indications predict a dramatic increase in winter useage of the lodge this coming-year, with possibly double the number of winter visitors.

Thanks must go to all those who worked on the work parties and to the users of the lodge. who without fail left it spotlessly clean and tidy.

EQUIPMENT REPORT - SUSAN BALL

This has been a good year for equipment hire. The financial return was \$51.70 which is \$5.10 up on last year. The proceeds from last year were used to purchase two - one man tents, one of the older tents has since been written off. Anticipating that this would be another good year we bought two H frame packs, and I have also made four sheet sleeping bags, this still leaves us with about \$7.00 in hand for the year, one of the older tents has become leaky, so I am ^{at} present finding out about getting it reproofed. One day an unframed pack which has been outstanding for over two years appeared in the post!

Finally I would like to thank all those people who have donated A frame packs, we now have quite a collection, good tents are the main things that we really need now if anyone has one that they don't really need.

TRACK CLEARING REPORT - ALEX STIRKUL

In April last year, a walking track named the Gilleo Memorial Track was cleared into Lake Tarli Karng by this Club in conjunction with The Ben Crauckan Walking Club.

For 1972 our Club intends during April to mark the route joining Mt. Tamboritha - Long Spur - The Crinoline.

It is also advised that a List of known Tracks and Huts in Victoria, is being compiled by some members of the committee. Please refer to the "NEWS", Page 2, of this issue, for anyone who has further information.

SEARCH AND RESCUE - ROBERT STEEL

During the year, there were two alerts, one in October, 1971, and the other in January, 1972. Both were in the Mt. Buffalo area. On the October search, a schoolgirl was lost for 2 days and 26 members, of the Federation Search & Rescue section, including 3 from our club attended.

In January 1972, a 63 year old widow was lost for 4 days in the same area as the schoolgirl. 37 members of the Federation S & R. Section attended, including 6 from our club. In both cases, the lost persons walked over the eastern scarp of the Plateau and descended to the Buckland Valley. Both walked out to open country, the schoolgirl to a farm, and the widow was picked up by a police patrol along an S.E.C. access road.

As the Bushwalkers were the only parties who searched from the edge of the plateau down to the Buckland River, we would have definitely found both persons if we had been called in a day or two earlier. In fact, on the latter search, for the widow, one party of bushwalkers were actually trailing the woman down the valley. They found the spots where she spent the nights and also signs of her progress, but by this time, she was already out on the S.E.C. track. Although we didn't find either person, I think both searches proved that Bushwalkers are more effective searchers than other groups, and perhaps should be called in earlier.

During the year, a practice search was also held. This took the form of a seminar-type program on Saturday, 8th May, 1971, at Melbourne University, and on Sunday, a day Search practice was held in the Gembrook area, with the Police Search & Rescue team joining in with their radios and vehicle.

The Melbourne Bushwalkers Section contains 15 members at present. 10 of these are on "A" priority, which means available at short notice. We also have one Female in the Section, Joan Whyte. I would appeal to any active, experienced Members who are willing and able to join the Section to see me and help swell our numbers.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT - GRAHAM MASCAS, - ROGER BROWN.

This year has been completed with many improvements to your Clubrooms. The most notable being the tiling of the Meeting room floor; which has improved the atmosphere of the clubrooms. The addition also of a large map of Victoria has already proved very useful in such a short time. Although the clubrooms are in very good condition there is still room for improvement so your continued support will be greatly appreciated by all.

We as the Committee of Management would like to thank all people who have participated in the several clean ups which have been held during the year.

SOCIAL SECRETARY - MARGARET JORGENSEN

Two Square Dances, one in June and one in December, proved very popular with a gay crowd of over 60 at each; the first being a weekend at Main Ridge on the Mornington Peninsular, with an orienteering challenge to all interested on the Sunday, and the second at Royal Park Hall for our break-up.

The slide shows for half an hour each first and third Wednesday continued to be popular,-

Eight 16 m.m. films were shown to capacity audiences -

2 on conservation, - "Turn of the Tide" by Monash University,
"Shadow of Progress", by B.P.

2 on First Aid - "Kiss of Life" and "Bushfires, Safety and Survival",
2 of wild game in South African Reserves,
2 on Australian bush and alpine scenery.

Three speakers also brought more than capacity crowds -

Tom Morrison from Dept. of Forestry & Recreation,
Alan Knox from Walking Club of Victoria - on First Aid in the bush,
and Dr. Tim Ealey from Monash University, on Ecology.

Two Bowling Nights were poorly attended, as were
Two Theatre Nights,
Ice Skating - a fun night for a dozen dare-devils.

Most of these functions were so well attended that our cosy room almost needed elastic sides.

Thanks are due to many - to all the brilliant photographers who presented slide nights, to the three most interesting speakers, to all the supper helpers, the budding interior decorators at the two dances, to Barry Short and Peter Van de Borcht, for obtaining the films, and to Graeme McKinney for making the showing of these movies possible. To all those who helped in many ways, thanks.

To take an active part in any club is to work and therefore learn, and this I have enjoyed throughout the year.

NEWS CONVENOR - JOY SEYMOUR

As a very new member last year I took on the News Convenor's job quite innocently not realising what amount of work was involved both with News and on The Committee. I have since learnt a lot thanks to my fellow committee members who have helped and supported me in the past year.

The standard of Articles received for News during the past year has been very high and well varied. Also several stirring articles have been published which have aroused much comment and interest among members which is good as it keeps everyone active and concerned about the running of the Club.

I wish to thank the many people who have contributed to News each month, especially to regular writers - Stuart Hodgson and Graham Wills-Johnson who have written faithfully each month.

I would like to point out the necessity for submitting articles by the deadline date given for News each month. The biggest worry is the Walk Previews that Leaders of Walks are required to hand in. It is for your benefit that these are published to enable your walk to be successful and well attended. Other people like to know what to expect when they decide to go on a walk so if Leaders would endeavour to hand in their Walk Previews by the set date given to them on the previews it would help the News Convenor's job greatly as previews not received hold up the typing and printing of News.

Thanks to Barry & Gwenda Short, and members who have helped ^{with the printing} each month's News. The little drawings and particularly those at the head of Mummajong's page have added greatly to the appearance each month and raised much comment.

Also thanks to Alex Stirkul the creator of that famous legendary Mummajong which has been a huge success. Many members turn to that page first when they receive the News to see who's who and what's what, etc.

I have managed to type a new edition of the M.B.W. Song Book which is now available at a small cost. I have tried to supply a variety of songs as it is not possible to please everyone. There are always those moments when people feel

Continued . . .

News Convenor's Report - continued from previous page.

like a good sing-song so perhaps the book will help to start songs 'rolling'
(Apologies for not including The Alcoholics Anthem).

Again thanks are due to Barry and Gwenda, and helpers for the printing and stapling of the books.

I also thank Jenny Mead and Barbara Davies for help with some months typing of News.

Finally, would you please continue to support my successor, who ever may be elected, during the coming year, as you have done for me in the past.

TREASURER'S REPORT - JENNY PULSEFORD

Unfortunately this was not available when "News" went to press. Copies will be available in the clubrooms on the night of the A.G.M.