



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 287

FEBRUARY 1973

Price 3¢

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

WEDNESDAY 21st FEBRUARY 8pm.

in the club rooms.

BE THERE!!!

So far the response to the call for nominations has been rather disappointing. As usual there are quite a few nominations for general committee but very few people are willing to hold the positions that require a little more work.

There is still time to remedy the situation, give your nominations to Joy or come along to the meeting and participate.

FEDERATION DAY WALK - SUNDAY 4th MARCH

BALLAN - BOSTOCK RESERVOIR - WHIPSTICK - MT. EGERTON - GORDON

This year it is being organised by the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club.

Transport will be by train leaving Spencer St. Station, Platform 4 at 9.35 am.

Fares will be \$2.80 for adults and \$1.50 for children under 15. Ballan Return.

Tickets will be available in the clubroom.

Choice of walks. 1. A short walk of about 4½ miles around Bostock Reservoir area and back to Ballan station. 2. A medium walk of about 12 miles via Whipstick to Gordon station. 3. A longer walk of about 14 miles which will include a visit to Mt. Egerton and finish at Gordon.

So there should be something to suit EVERY BODY.

Refreshments, (iced soft drinks) will be served at the lunch and afternoon tea spots. Bring your own lunch and water. Bear in mind the possibility of a Fire Ban.

Attractions; Pleasant walking country with forests and expansive views, old gold mining relics and the chance of seeing numerous kangaroos.

Expected Return Train should arrive back in Melbourne at 8.15 pm.

COME ALONG AND MAKE SURE THERE'S A GOOD REPRESENTATION FROM THE M.B.W.

F I L M N I G H T

"FOLLOW THE SUN" by the producer of "Across the Top"

An unforgettable journey by pearling lugger and two 4 wheel drive vehicles into Australia's last frontier - the Unknown Kimberly region of N.W. Australia.

Friday 2nd. March in the Melbourne Town Ball at 8pm. Cost \$1.50 per ticket.

Social Sec. HAD 40 tickets which didn't long so make sure you secure yours from the next lot!!

All correspondence should be addressed to
 Hon. Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers,
 Box 1761Q, G.P.O.
MELBOURNE, Victoria 3001

Meetings are held in the clubrooms, 14 Hosier Lane, at the rear of the Forum Theatre, every Wednesday night at 7.30 pm. Visitors are always welcome.

MARCH WALKS PREVIEWS

DAY WALKS

March 4 FEDERATION DAY WALK
 See front page.

March 11 VIEW HILL - DEEP CREEK

Leader; John Cairns Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 am. Fare \$2.00
 Map; Lancefield 1" = 1 mile Approx distance; 10 miles.
 A mixture of open country and tree covered hills.
 Bring water for lunch.

March 18 TAGGERTY - GLENDALE -ACHERON

Leader; Robert Steel Easy - Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 9.15 am. Fare \$2.50. Expected return; 8.30 pm.
 Map; Taggerty 1:50,000 Approx distance; 10 miles.
 Interesting walk along forested ridges with good views along the way.
 Bring water for lunch.

March 25 FLAT ROCK - TENNERIFFE

Leader; Geoff Crapper (p)95 5793 Easy - Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am. Fare \$2.50.
 Map; Longwood 1:50,000 Approx distance; 10 miles
 A leisurely stroll through farm and grazing country, frequented by cockatoos and wabbits, with some rewarding views of the N.W. plains from the peaks we will ascend. Bring water for lunch.

WEEKEND WALKS

March 9 - 12 LABOUR DAY WEEKEND

1) MOROKA GORGE Hard

Leader required. Anyone interested in going on or leading this walk please contact Walks Secretary.

2) STRONACH'S - BAW BAW PLATEAU - WEST TYERS RIVER

Leader; Tim Dent Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave 6.30 pm. Fare \$5.00. Expected return; 8.30 pm
 Map; VMTC Baw Baw Plateau 1" = 1 mile. Approx distance; 30 miles
 Don't be bored - come to the Baw Baws! This walk commences near the headwaters of the Thompson River, traverses the complete Baw Baw Plateau, then finishes on the West Tyers River east of Mt. Erica. Not a tiring finish I hope. Alpine scenery without very steep climbs.

March 23 - 25 MT. EMU (WEST OF MT. BUFFALO)

Leader; Tyrone Thomas Medium
 Van leaves Batman Ave 6.30 pm. Fare \$7.00. Expected return 9.00 pm.
 Maps; Buffalo FCV 1" = 1 mile, or Buffalo 1:100,000
 Approx distance; 18 miles.

WALKS PREVIEWS (Cont.)

Mt. Emu ...cont.

Walk will start and finish at Gum Flat Creek; we will walk south - east to Mt. Emu (1070 metres altitude) then north - west to Bread and Butter Gap for camping. Next day will be northwards walking with good views of Mt. Buffalo from the ridge tops, then westwards through Carboor East. Carry water for Saturdays lunch. Mt. Emu is the table - shaped peak which is very prominent on the sky line just west of Buffalo. Many times people have asked "What peak is that?" It can be seen from most of the high country except the Wilky - Bogong area, and will prove a fascinating venue for a walk.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Patricia BREAKWELL, 16/635 Drummond St., North Carlton 3054 (b)340 6034
 Monik DATAR, 3 maple Street, Springvale 3171 (p)547 3134
 Ken FIRTH, 24 Beauville Ave., Murrumbeena 3163 (p)562 393 (b)37 8881
 Heather and Pete GOODWIN, 8 Viscount Drive, Doncaster 3108 (p)848 5028 (b)544 0666
 Rodney JACKSON, 306 Mitcham Road, Mitcham (p)87 1196
 Donald MCGREGOR, 78 were Street, Brighton 3186 (p)92 4233 (b)662 2628
 Janet MOORE, 10/449 St.Kilda Road, Melbourne 3004 (p)26 4946 (b)51 9921
 Clive PONTIN, 8 Pleasant Drive, Heathmont 3135 (p)729 4209
 Graeme SEERS, 48 Goomalibee St., Benalla 3672 (b) c/- Benalla Technical School
 Marianne SNIJDERS, 6 Somerst Street, Pascoe Vale 3044
 Tony WALSTAB, 20 Corsewall Close, Hawthorn 3122 (p)81 2732 (b)62 2007
 Greg WESTON 55 Chapman Street, Sunshine 3020 (p)311 2575

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS TO YOUR ADDRESS LIST:

Stan ATTWOOD, Flat 1 Alexandra St., Balaclava 3183 (p)52 4007 (b)64 0251 ex488
 Margaret GROGAN, 219 Canterbury Road, St.Kilda 3182 (p)94 3088
 Les MARKHAM, 4/10 Walsh Street, Ormond 3163 (b)699 2108
 Shirley TROTTER, 3/19 Kensington Road, South Yarra 3141 (p)24 37 67 (b)62 0621
 ex2126

SNAKE BITE

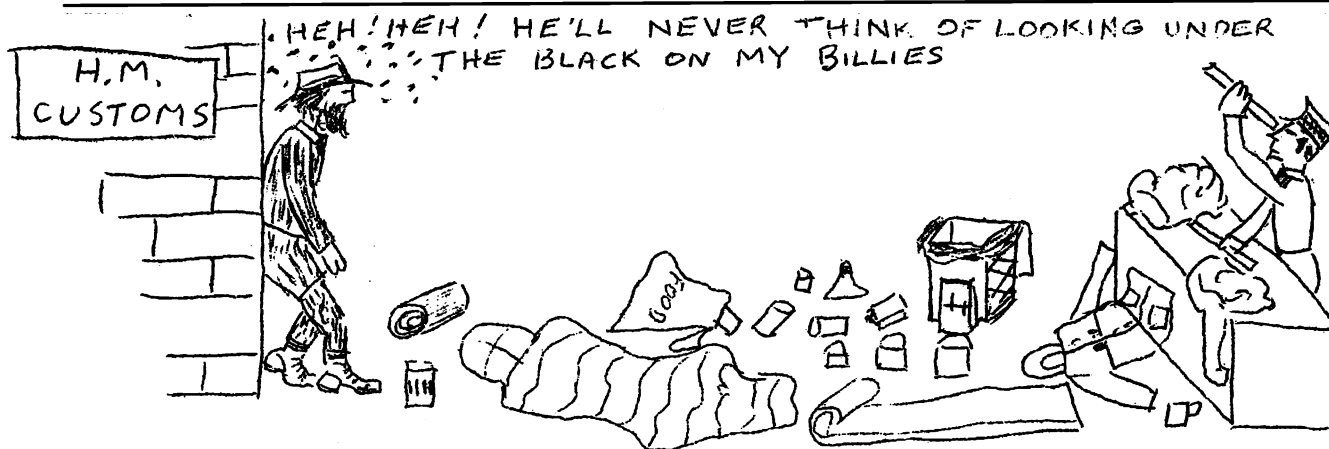
In view of the continual changes in the recommended treatment of snake bites and recent criticisms by some doctors of the use of a tornequet, the committee decided to find out from two authorities what was the correct treatment. We wrote to Eric Worrell of the Gosford Reptile Zoo, who has handled snakes for a great many years, and to the Commonwealth Serum Laboratory with regard to the use of antivenene. Both sent prompt and informative replies, and both recommended the use of a tornequet, or constrictive bandage, as it is more correctly called in the St. John Ambulance First Aid Hand Book.

Both sent leaflets which will be on the notice board in the club room. All walkers would be advised to make themselves thoroughly familiar with the treatment for snake bite, because although we have enjoyed a happy record where snake encounters are concerned, its no time to be fumbling with first aid books after some one has been bitten.

With regard to antivenene, the C.S.L. informed us that it is only available on a doctors prescription, but they felt we would have no trouble getting a prescription for it, for an extended trip in remote country. However they stressed the importance of knowing its correct use, which they outlined in their leaflet.

For further reading on this subject the following books were recommended
 St. John Ambulance Association First Aid Hand Book,

"Venemous Australian Annimals Dangerous to Man" by J. Ross Garnet



Alex Stirkul looks a very suspicious character with that beard, so suspicious in fact, that on his return from New Zealand the customs men accosted him thinking he was a drug pusher - or something. They looked into his pack, sieving through dirty socks, billies, etc. They even took his tent poles apart to see if any of the elusive powder had been stored there. Finally, after a thorough search through Alex's washing, and the kind offer by Alex to remove his pants, the customs men let him go.

Where was the stuff hidden, Alex??

If you have bothered to read last month's P.F. you will have read that the dreaded word *SEX* reared its ugly head at Wilkie. Well in keeping with the good name of the Club, just what was Sue Ball talking about when she uttered the following comments:-

- (1) "I would love to but I wish somebody would show me the way"
- (2) "I'd need a license in England to do the things I do here"
- (3) "I exposed it in New Zealand"

It's amazing isn't it? Sweet, innocent, young Sue, talking like that. She even reckons on having four good prospects coming up - again, I am not sure to what she is referring, but Bob Steel reckons he is experienced.

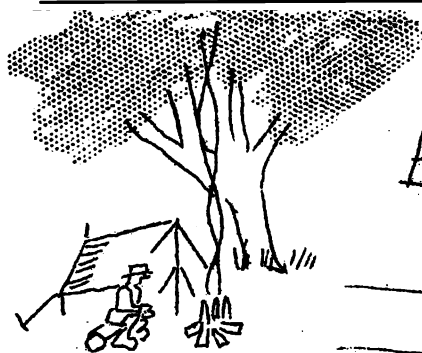
You've all heard of The Mouth, well nature's oral vacuum has been more than amply filled by the return to our ears of a veteran *MRM* Voice. Listen next time you are on a weekend trip, you can't miss it.

Do you like calendars and well tailored suits? Just contact Mr. R. Chuck of Hong Kong. Chuck is the unfortunate bloke's real name. Can you image him in a restaurant when he is asked by the Chef, "What do you think the meal tasted like Mr, er...?" "Chuck".

Mathematicians can be very frustrating at times. Two blokes, one a bush-walker the other an accountant, were sitting on Elwood beach one hot sunny day when a gorgeous voluptuous female passed them by. Wow!! said the bush-walker, 42-25-36 for sure. He turned to the accountant and said what do you reckon? 103 was the resounding reply.

Now it's *OUR* turn to report on a little escapade Phantom Fossil was up to recently:-

The well known "Fossil" was seen at a Club party borrowing a dress from one of the young ladies present (the one who wore the Turkish pyjamas to the Club barbecue). They both went into the changing room and reappeared on the scene, he in her long, flowing, white dress with see-through lace panels; she in the host's long bath robe in bright coloured stripes with hood attached. After doing a dance routine together they again returned to the changing rooms to swop over the same clothes. This time "Fossil" appeared looking like "The Sheik of the Burning Sands".



ALONG THE TRACK

THE ANNE SEMI-CIRCUIT; or MR. HARDING'S PRIVATE HELL

It's raining as usual as Felix, Alma, Norman, Ron, 2 Grahams and your correspondent set out from Sandfly Creek one morning. Our objective, Mount Anne, is obscured but in clear weather its massive dolerite summit dominates a large area and makes one of the finest climbs in SW Tasmania. It is prone to violent changes of weather, and its lower parts are notorious for button grass, horizontal scrub and invertebrate vampires, as each of us will testify. The usual method of touring the area is to do the Anne Circuit, which takes in the summit as well as several lesser peaks, with a sidetrip to Schnells ridge if time permits. For glaciologists it's hard to beat, for it is one of the finest examples of cirque topography in Australia.

We forsake the road and follow a burnt button grass lead for a short distance inland, and cross a creek choked with relatively innocuous bauera and cutting grass. Avoiding a barrier of dense melaleuca (the vertical kind) a swampy button grass plain is crossed with Alma cursing freely at the rear. Felix nearly treads on a fat copperhead snake. After a quick snack, we begin climbing at 1 pm. The first couple of hours is spent sorting ourselves out in the dreaded horizontal scrub in which one requires the skill of a gymnast and the patience of Job. The climb is long, interminably long, and it is 6 pm before we are on the boulder field below North Ridge, with the scaly face of Anne peering over our shoulders and Lake Pedder and the Franklands yonder. By 7.30 pm the sheltered campsite on Pandani Shelf is reached. Shallow tarns quench raging thirsts and pandanifolia leaves produce a good fire. The overshadowing north face of Anne plunges into a deep forested cirque below; opposite lie Mount Lot and Lot's Wife; beyond, Mount Weld and the forbidding Weld River valley. At the approach of darkness mist swirls over the summit, and, as usual, it starts to rain.

Reveille does not sound at all next morning and we spend an enforced rest day within tents as the mist and rain have resolved to remain for the time being. The adventurous emerge at 2.00 pm and set out to locate the limestone potholes nearby. Your correspondent remains to guard the camp with Norm's naughty novel for company. The main body returns at 4.00 pm; the sky clears briefly at 5.00 pm - meals out of doors again. Poker and bridge until the fire goes out. The summit is relatively clear as we strike camp at 10.00 am and climb back onto North Ridge and traverse a boulder field around the base of Anne for three hours to the main saddle. Pauses are frequent as it is a delicate and painstaking business. But the marrow-chilling wind keeps us moving. There are fine views - a 180° sweep takes in the Arthur Range, The Franklands, Coronation Peak, The Prince of Wales Range, The Thumbs, and, faintly visible, Frenchman's Cap. Drop packs at the saddle, then up the steep, cairned route to the top, with a 50' vertical wall thrown in for good measure. Low mist, however, is swirling around the top and there is nothing to see.

A circuitous and hazardous traverse brings us onto an exposed rocky ledge dotted with shallow tarns, and several dubious campsites. The vague tracknotes refer to a tenable campsite on the south side of the ridge overlooking Lake Judd. With the contours on the map converging at this point it seems impossible and reconnaissance proves us right. From our position on the ridge, however, there are fine views down to Lake Judd thousands of feet below, with the lofty slopes of Mounts Eliza and Sarah-Jane thrusting upward on either side.

Continued on page 8.

RETURNING HOME

OR a Walk From Howitt Road to Caledonia River and Butcher Country. (Feb. 2 - 4)

Somewhere past Heyfield, Licola and 11.30 pm., three groups of car weary Bushies stopped at a place called Breakfast Creek, to sleep out with the stars and the all too intimate mosquitoes.

With morning and a reshuffling of the cars the walking commenced amid snow gums and flies, and the incense aroma of Australian sun crisp bush, crackling grass and leaves under foot. Without notable views of breathtaking variety Saturday passed along "some ridge or other", before a descent into the Caledonia River valley. This day, lacking grandeur was intensely nostalgic and beautiful beyond belief to one who had not walked in the high country for many a month. Like a homecoming to a home well loved, it was.

New Zealand (where my infidelity to this our country had occurred for a time), has alps which awe-inspiringly scream their beauty for ALL to see. But OUR alps have a subtlety, of hue and colour and contour and scent, requiring a great sensitivity and knowledge to appreciate.

(To continue) Night fell cloudy and close upon the valley, blanketing with darkness our campsite amid tall proud unrivalled gums. Silenced then were all harsh parrott calls and other bush sounds.

Sunday daylight broke with an intensity much muted by distant action from "Hughie", who, faithful as ever, answered the prayers of the "Hot Refresh Drinkers". The persistent wet, warm and pleasant, was beautiful to walk in. Contrary to belief our leader had NOT suggested the inclusion of bathers for a swim AFTER a hat tiring walk; rather they were to be used DURING the walk. While the rain created sparkle, intensified colours and smells, we too glistened bather clad, beneath its precipitation. Dripping with mingled rain and perspiration we ascended to Butcher Country and an "up and down" jeep track leading to Howitt Hut, lunch and the conclusion of our swim.

It wasn't a spectacular walk but it was deeply appreciated by one for whom the Australian bush has not yet been surpassed - even by the recently experienced and enjoyed magnificence of New Zealand's glaciers, snow, ice and volcanoes.

Thanks for the walk home, Sue!

Rosemary Rider

TRAVELLING COMPANIONS WANTED

for KOKODA TRAIL in MAY 1973.....

Contact Don Baker (p) 844 3941 (b) 67 7911

DON'T FORGET TO NOMINATE SOME ONE FOR A COMMITTEE JOB BEFORE THE A.G.M.

WEDNESDAY 21st FEBRUARY 8pm SHARP

Thanks to every one who contributed to the NEWS this month and especially to Helen who helped with the typing.

Deadline for next month should be Wednesday 7th March.

TYRONE'S TRANS - TASMAN TRIBULATION

Outside Dart Hut the rain poured down dismally. Inside Dart Hut sat Yoong Dave, looking as miserable as the weather, trying to light his choofer. Already he had nearly two dozen charmed match sticks under the tank and still there was no sign of co-operation. "That's a silly way to do it," I said in my usual helpful fashion. "Why don't you take the cap off and blow like anyone with any sense would?" "Because I promised 'er I wouldn't", he said, all irritation and despair. "She promised me she wouldn't hitch hike to Mt. Cook, and I promised 'er I wouldn't blow petrol out of me choofer! Now do yer see?!!" Sensing that my tactfulness was hardly improving the relationship I silently handed him two full boxes of matches and returned to the task of ringing water out of wet clothing.

Tribulation? You don't know what tribulation IS till you've been tramp-ing trans-Tasman with Tyrone! Rain? Lissen mate, there was FEET of it! You haven't SEEN rain in this country. When a Kiwi wakes up at one o'clock in the morning to find himself floating out of his tent on his Li Lo, he mutters that it's slightly damp this evening and goes back to sleep again. Jungle? Just try some of their beech forests! All tangled roots and slushy bog. We walked thirteen miles through beech forest to Loch Maree one day and it took us thirteen hours - and that meant we were travelling faster than the speed of sound because it's so thick in there that sound won't travel! Mosquitoes? Just try their sandflies mate! Kiwis are given to understatement, so when one of them told us the story of two sandflies dragging a tramper out of his sleeping bag and deciding to eat him inside the tent in case the big fellows grabbed him, that's a typical Kiwi understatement. Rough terrain? The doctor says I might be able to sit down on about six weeks time after sliding off one of their volcanoes. Crook beer? Lissen, I've drunk beer in Italy, mate. I've even drunk beer in Egypt. It was perfect nectar compared with that Kiwi stuff. You'd be better off going out to the kitchen for a glass of Dishwater! Next time there's a Tyrone Tour to Kiwiland I'm going to get Carlton and Ujited to arrange air drops.

Next time? I must be crazy! Why should I go through all that again?!! We were sitting in the sunshine at Cascade Saddle looking thousands of feet down into the West Matukituki valley. On its far side a snow capped range rose to seven thousand feet in front of us. Out to the left the summit of Mt. Aspiring, which lacks but forty of ten thousand feet, was hidden in swirling cloud, while to the right were two magnificent waterfalls, each of the larger than you could see any where in Australia. "The descent from Cascade Saddle to the West Matukituki" says Moir's Guidebook, "has never been completed....."

Aft er a climb of 2500 feet we came out of the dripping beech forest onto brown alpine tussock grassland. The rain had stopped, but the sky was overcast, and the air was very clear. There was still a bit of a climb, but already looking back, far away you could see Dusky Sound winding in among the mountains from the distant sea. Once the summit was reached we could see Lake Horizon - an intricate grey shape nestling in among the folded brown hummocks of the open tops, and bend back from overflowing into a deep valley below only by a low ridge about a hundred yards wide. From the direction taken by the markers it becomes clear the track lies along the ridge.....

They were all in a line. First the incredibly bright green Emerald Lakes. Behind them a huge burnt hole in the ground - Red Crater. Still active. A strong smell of sulphurous steam had nearly overpowered us as we walked around the rim of Red Crater a few minutes before, peering in at the scorched rocky shell of a throat which had burst, and treading warily on the fine grained black ash from the lower slopes of which the heat was still rising. Two miles away behind Red Crater the symmetrical cone of Ngauruhoe towered to over seven and a half thousand feet of sombre grey volcanic ash. A plume of white smoke rose from the crater, for Ngauruhoe was in eruption while we were there. Finally, several miles behind Ngauruhoe rose the vast, snow covered bulk of the giant of them all, Ruapehu. To the Maori these mountains were haunted by wrathful, savage gods. 151 people died on Christmas Eve 1953 when Ruapehu sent down a lahar which swept away a railway bridge five minutes ahead of the Wellington - Auckland express.

Milford Sound in sunshine - the air so clear you feel you could reach out and touch Mitre Peak, and the scale of the scenery so gigantic that it comes as a shock to learn that Bowen Falls is over 500 ft. high. It looks so small in comparison with every thing else. The first breathtaking view across the blue mirror that is Lake Wakatipu of the Humboldt Mountains and the huge Earnslaw Massif, all under snow. Soon we will be walking through those dark green forests in the valley between them.

Continued on next page.

.....Mr. Harding's Private Hell...continued.

We also appreciate the difficulty of the route across Mount Lot and down to Lake Picone that we are to take the next day. We return to the ledge to find one of the more likely looking campsites. The ground is damp underfoot; tents are pitched with difficulty in the strong wind and guys are anchored with large rocks. If the weather deteriorates now, we may be in trouble.

*Be sure not to miss next month's ripping episode -
Underleutnon Greenboots R.L.*

..... Tyrone's Trans Tasman Tribulationcontinued.

The wacky weka which wandered absent-mindedly around our feet looking for a worm, and was so tame he expected you to get out of his way. Lake Harris at dawn as the mist rose slowly to reveal it, remote and mysterious as any mountain lake in the Tasmanian southwest.

Yes, there's no doubt we'll have to see Carlton United about that air drop. So hurry up and come back from overseas, Ty - its just about time you organised another "tramp".

Graham Wills-Johnson

molony's

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67-8428&9

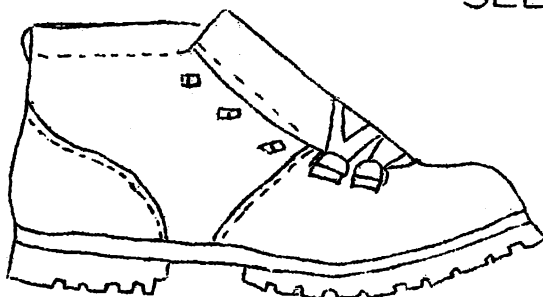
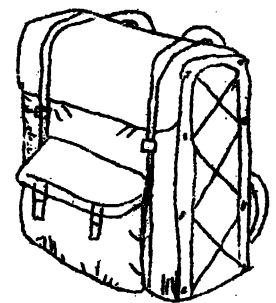
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Success in a club such as ours is a difficult parameter to measure but I feel that again we have had a successful year. 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 Organizations to which we are affiliated. For this, you and I must thank that small, hard working group of members that represent you on the Committee. Apart from one occasion (the \$50 donation to help save Lake Pedder) the work of the Committee has gone uninterrupted by the wrath of club members, which has made for a very peaceful year for me as President. Even "Walk" magazine was printed in its new form without the traditional difficulties of editorship and has been well received.

I have enjoyed my term as President but now feel "it's time" for a change. I am standing down at this year's AGM to allow someone else to take the chair, but I would like to thank very sincerely the two Committees that have served during my period as President. They made the job easy.

Graham Mascas

SECRETARY'S REPORT

As happens in each Secretary's Report, I advise that the number of Information and Programmes sent out was 155, which is greatly up on the previous year's total, but again only a small number became members - 10. Many more people rang the contact telephone number and decided to go direct to the Clubrooms without having the information sent out. Of these, perhaps more became members, as we still have a growing membership.

Again we had much correspondence from Conservation Societies - there is always some part of Australia that is wanted for development. This affects us, as it is our walking areas which are gradually going. We should all be prepared to take an interest and act in any way we can if we want to continue walking.

The Annual Elections will soon be on, and it is up to every member to think seriously about what they can do for the Club. If you are willing to stand for elections, then ask someone to nominate you or if you wish to help the Committee in any way, please let the Committee know.

Finally, thanks to our President, who has been tremendous, and also the Committee for their help in the past year.

With best wishes to the incoming Committee.

Joy Seymour

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

"Bushwalkers are basically antisocial". This comment seems to have been rather repetitious with previous Social Secretaries. I must admit I felt rather dubious at the beginning of the year with the above comment to contend with. However, I think the year was full of surprises.

There was a tremendous response to both the dinners at Edelweiss and Salzburg Lodge where an average of over 50 attended each. The Square Dance in July attracted even more, 65 being the number attending. I put the success of the dinners to the casual yet very professional atmosphere and decor of these Austrian restaurants. In the past, the Square Dance has always been well patronized and with such an excellent caller in Ken Hooke, I fail to see how any dance could ever be a flop, this year being no exception. The attendances at a party and an ice skating night were very poor, while a theatre night was so popular that all the tickets were sold in only ten minutes, and other people wanted to go but were too late. I feel people are socially erratic at times. The only way to persuade people to attend functions is to advertise

Social Secretary's Report contd...

the event well in advance and frequently remind them that a party, theatre night etc. etc. is coming up. They soon get sick of being pestered and eventually say "Yes, I'll come" to keep the asker quiet, and they always manage to enjoy themselves when they do go. Why "yes" wasn't the operative word in the first place I'll never know! Wednesday nights were very well attended, especially when a series of wildlife films by BHP were shown; also, people seem to enjoy watching other members' slides.

My only gripe during the year was the apparent selfishness of some people towards the making of supper. We have the hard core helpful members who willingly make the coffee, but we also have the persons who dream up some incredible excuses as to why he or she will not do it. The task is not a particularly difficult one and I sincerely hope some people will become a little more helpful this year.

To sum up, I have enjoyed being Social Secretary immensely, the meeting of new people, the fun of organizing the activities and the thrill of being part of a beaut club. I thank everyone for their participation during the year and hope this year is a colossal social boom.

Graham Hodgson

TRACK CLEARING REPORT

Two track clearing/marking week-ends were conducted in the Mt. Tamboritha - Crinoline (Mt. Ligar) area during the year - the first in March and the second in October. Fifteen people turned out to work on the track in March and twelve on the week-end in October.

In March, the track was cleared and marked from the Tamboritha Saddle to a point five miles from the Crinoline. The working party in October completed clearing the track to Brunis Nob and marking it in one direction. To complete the job, the track needs to be marked in the opposite direction and the marker discs should be painted with yellow enamel or some other colour that stands out from the colour of the trees and other vegetation. One wet and cold Saturday during August, five Bushies, including one girl, turned up to do a day's work of maintenance on the Ada River tramway track. We started at Starling's Gap and went through to the Little Ada River. This is a delightful area but not many club walks are organized along this track - 440 man/hours were spent on clearing this track several years ago and it seems a pity not to take advantage of such a tremendous effort.

To encourage people to participate in track clearing activities your Committee decided to subsidise the fares on such outings by 50%.

Many thanks to the Bushies who worked on the Crinoline and Ada River tracks. The Crinoline stunts were tough - even so seven of the twelve people who worked on the week-end in March fronted up again in October. Spencer would have been with us again in October but the flu grabbed him. Also, many thanks to the people who supplied the lids and other material for marking the track. A special thanks in this respect to Peter Bullard and his Dad who supplied enough discs to mark a track from the Wellington to Mt. Cobbler.

Art Terry

TREASURER'S REPORT 1972

From a financial point of view, we had a busy year in 1972. This is seen by looking at Turnover which was \$21,500 compared with \$18,900 in 1971 and \$14,800 in 1970.

Our financial position is fairly sound. We have a total of \$2,229 in cash (Bank and Petty Cash), approximately \$500 is due from Debtors for advertising in "Walk 1973", whilst we have not paid for the printing cost, \$900. On the debit side, Cash and Cash at Bank fell by \$253 during 1972, due in the main to "once-only" purchase totalling nearly \$250. The items involved were filing cabinet, typewriter, gas stove and a donation to the "Save Lake Pedder Action Committee".

Membership at 240 is identical to last year; it has risen from 172 in 1969. Despite our stable membership, subscription income fell by \$23, indicating a growth in under-age membership.

The general principle behind our finances is that each of our activities be self-supporting. During 1972 walks and equipment hire financed themselves, whilst "Walk" magazine and Wilkinson Lodge were not self-supporting. The deficiency on "Walk" may be remedied in one of these ways: by increasing advertising revenue, selling price or sales, whilst Wilkinson Lodge requires controlling of expenditure.

In closing I would emphasise the need to ensure that all spending of our finances is on items of an essential nature, on items which have a real use to club members, and not to just a few - 1972 saw the purchase of a typewriter and gas stove which I think fall into this latter category.

Ralph Bryan

1972 Finance - A Brief Summary

| | <u>1972</u> | <u>1971</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Cash at Bank and On Hand | 2,229 | 2,482 | -253 |
| Subscriptions | 776 | 799 | - 23 |
| Van Profits | 69 | 429 | -360 |
| Visitors Fees | 169 | 124 | + 45 |
| Wilkinson Lodge profit/(loss) | (70) | 96 | -166 |
| Walk Magazine (loss) | (113) | (132) | + 19 |
| Equipment Hire profit/(loss) | 28 | (43) | + 71 |
| Purchase and Sale of sundry publications (loss) | (31) | (15) | -(16) |

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 31.12.72RECEIPTS:

| | <u>1972</u> | <u>1971</u> |
|--|-----------------|-------------|
| Petty cash 1.1.72 | 86.69 | 16.94 |
| Cash at Bank 1.1.72 | 2,395.20 | 1,812.95 |
| Subscriptions - 1972 | 770.00 | 770.00 |
| 1973 | <u>6.00</u> | <u>6.00</u> |
| News Subscriptions | 776.00 | 799.00 |
| Visitors fees | 8.00 | 2.10 |
| Bank Interest | 168.65 | 123.69 |
| Equipment hire revenue | 89.41 | 76.71 |
| Van fares - 1971 walks | 62.00 | 42.50 |
| 1972 walks | 4.00 | |
| | <u>5,791.19</u> | 5,311.14 |
| Social Activities - Profits | 13.00 | Loss |
| Sale of Sundry Publications | 48.80 | 28.80 |
| Miscellaneous sales (badges, maps, guide to B.W. etc.) | 18.40 | 17.92 |
| Donations | 7.96 | 10.00 |

contd...

RECEIPTS (Contd.):

| | | <u>1972</u> | <u>1971</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Walk Magazine | 1972 sales | 435.87 | |
| | 1972 advtg. | <u>446.00</u> | |
| | 1973 sales | 58.10 | |
| | 1973 advtg. | 27.00 | |
| | Sales Back Nos. | <u>164.68</u> | |
| | | 1,131.65 | 929.03 |
| Wilkinson Lodge - Fees | | 131.70 | |
| | Locker Hire | <u>38.00</u> | |
| | | 169.70 | 254.80 |
| Projector | | - | 15.00 |
| Advertising in News | | 18.00 | 4.50 |
| Fines in lieu of deposits | | 2.00 | - |
| | | <u>10,790.65</u> | <u>9,445.08</u> |

PAYMENTS

| | | | |
|---|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Cheque book and bank fees | | 11.85 | 4.95 |
| Phone calls | 9.00 | | |
| pink pages listing (1972/73) | 79.20 | | |
| postage | 72.24 | | |
| GPO Box rent (1973) | <u>15.00</u> | 175.44 | 129.19 |
| Insurance | | - | 11.34 |
| Stationery | | 16.93 | |
| The News - printing costs and typesetting of walk programmes | | 215.29 | 224.46 |
| Rental - Clubroom | | 390.00 | 390.00 |
| Filing Cabinet - for Secretary | | 49.16 | - |
| Suppers | | 25.40 | 39.71 |
| Social Expenses - Losses | | - | 32.31 |
| Typewriter | | 95.00 | - |
| Purchase of projector and bulb | | - | 72.65 |
| Affiliation fees - Federation etc. | | 45.25 | 20.50 |
| Purchase of maps | | 45.73 | 29.10 |
| Advertising | | - | 12.00 |
| Donations (save Lake Pedder Action Committee \$50.) | | 55.00 | 10.00 |
| Purchase of Equipment | | 34.15 | 86.30 |
| Mt. Feathertop - Search Fees, Thesis, Maps | | 18.25 | - |
| Track Clearing Expenses | | 19.13 | - |
| Club Badges - Deposit paid to Arbon Embroidery | | 25.00 | - |
| Camping fees | | - | 6.00 |
| Van costs - hire of Gronow's vans | 4,472.85 | | |
| hire of Transit vans | 509.97 | | |
| hire of Quinces coaches | <u>743.00</u> | 5,725.82 | 4,621.49 |
| Purchase of Sundry Publications | | 79.80 | 44.15 |
| Walk Magazine 1972 - printing | 1,212.00 | | |
| - postage etc. | <u>33.50</u> | 1,245.50 | 1,061.35 |
| Wilkinson Lodge - rent | 2.00 | | |
| maintenance | 144.29 | | |
| insurance | 38.36 | | |
| gas stove | <u>55.00</u> | 239.65 | 159.49 |
| Miscellaneous | | 48.89 | 8.20 |
| Cash at Bank 31.12.72 | | 2,228.09 | 2,395.20 |
| Petty Cash 31.12.72 | | 1.32 | 86.69 |
| | | <u>10,790.65</u> | <u>9,445.08</u> |

SEARCH AND RESCUE REPORT

1972 was an active year so far as Search and Rescue activities were concerned, with two full scale searches and one call out late in the year, together with search practices in March and July. These events led to lengthy discussions at meetings held throughout the year, leading, it is hoped, to more efficient search methods in future.

The first search was at Lake Mountain in August, for two school boys lost in bitter snow conditions, and was attended by seven of our members. The search was successful when the boys were found and carried to safety within three days.

Toorong Falls near Noojee was the location for the largest search ever attended by members of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs, in late August and early September. Thirteen days were spent searching unsuccessfully for a five year old boy, aided by eight M.B.W. members at various stages.

Early in December, fifteen school boys and two teachers were lost near Mt. Tamboritha. A call out resulted in five of our members attending, but the police bus in which they were travelling was recalled at Rosedale, when it was reported that other searchers had found the missing party.

Bob Steel organised a search practice in March which was very poorly attended by our members, as was the winter (snow) practice in July, held at the Snowy Plains.

Club membership of the Search and Rescue section now stands at seventeen and with a club as large as ours, I feel that we should be more strongly represented. Women too can become members - we only have one such person - any other ladies interested?

I'd like to thank Fred and Merle Halls for their part in ensuring the smooth organisation of Search and Rescue activities during the year. As number one contacts, their's is not an enviable task, often entailing lengthy phoning sessions at very late hours.

Tim Dent

EQUIPMENT REPORT

1972 proved to be a year of more demand for the Club's equipment than the previous year. The income from the hire of equipment is broken down as follows.

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Tents | \$24.70 |
| Rucksacks | \$24.40 |
| Sleeping Bags | \$17.70 |
| Groundsheets | \$ 3.20 |

Which gives a total of \$70.00. This is \$18.30 more than during 1971. One factor contributing toward the increase would be the raising of hire charges in November last year. However the full impact of this will be felt during 1973. These charges had remained the same for many years, but the price of new equipment certainly has not!

Copies of a note on the care of Equipment are handed out to each hirer, but I notice pegs still disappear regularly, so I have suggested ways to eradicate this.

During the year I purchased two new 2-man tents and 30 pegs. This leaves the club with \$10 in hand towards more equipment in the future. All five tents are in excellent condition and the same applies to the four H-frame rucksacks. Although I have repaired them, three of the sleeping bags are very near the end of their long lives, so I trust my successor will endeavour to purchase new ones this year.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to Peter Bullard for his unfailing assistance as Deputy Equipment Officer throughout the year.

Barbara Bryan

WILKINSON LODGE REPORT

The period of the last twelve months has seen the lodge well used by members and their friends. The winter ski touring parties obviously enjoyed their stays judging by the log entries, also the President's Christmas party went off well.

The wire fence has been rebuilt after snow damage and the barrier locks replaced twice due to vandalism. I feel sure that the purchase of the twin burner gas stove has made the use of the lodge easier for parties wanting to make an early exit on walking trips.

In the near future it has been suggested to hold a work party at the lodge to clean up a few small jobs and to a few repairs to the access road

Darrell Sullivan

NEWS REPORT

After a rather dubious start at last years AGM the News managed to make its appearance each month during 1972 mainly due to the efforts of a large number of willing workers and contributors.

Amongst the regular contributors were the late Mumajong, Phantom Fossil (alive and stirring), Brig. Paddyboots, Unterleutenant Greenboots - thanks go to them and all the many others who have sent in articles from time to time.

Behind the scenes thanks go to Helen Dent and Marion Siseman for continual help with the typing and to Barbara Bryan who took over for three months while I was away during 1972. You wouldn't see News at all if it weren't for the efforts of the unsung heroes of the Gestetner - Barry and Gwenda Short. They have turned their flat into a production line each month to get News printed, sorted, stapled and addressed. Barry was also responsible for all the cartoons and drawings that have been decorating News during the last year.

Thanks to all of you from the humble 2 finger typing Editor,

Ann Sullivan

WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT

Walks attendances were good all year with a record 2184 persons out walking, Visitors numbered 712.

Transit vans were used occasionally on weekend trips with small numbers to more distant areas. Buses were used on three trips and were much appreciated. However the higher cost of buses limits their use.

My thanks to all walk leaders and especially to the walks sub-committee for their great help in preparing the walks programs. The walks sub-committee comprised Fred Halls, Geoff Kenafacke, John Siseman, Bob Steel and Bruce Meinke.

Van hiring for day trips have increased by about 10% since January. However the charges for weekend trips have actually been reduced by an average of about 10% so we come out square and van fares for '73 will be about the same as for '72.

DETAILS OF ATTENDANCES:

| YEAR | DAY WALKS | | WEEKEND WALKS | | EXTENDED WALKS 3 days or more | | OVERALL | |
|------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| | No. of trips | No. out walking | No. of trips | No. out walking | No. of trips | No. out walking | No. of trips | No. out walking |
| 1966 | 47 | 847 | 17 | 294 | 10 | 155 | 74 | 1296 |
| 1967 | 44 | 824 | 23 | 411 | 9 | 137 | 76 | 1372 |
| 1968 | 43 | 942 | 20 | 343 | 6 | 103 | 69 | 1388 |
| 1969 | 47 | 1007 | 22 | 445 | 7 | 128 | 78 | 1580 |
| 1970 | 49 | 1269 | 21 | 567 | 7 | 140 | 76 | 1976 |
| 1971 | 47 | 1247 | 29 | 511 | 14 | 262 | 90 | 2020 |
| 1972 | 51 | 1417 | 29 | 573 | 13 | 194 | 93 | 2184 |

Walks Secretary's Report. cont....

Therefore the average attendances on trips overall are as follows:

1966 - 18
1967 - 18
1968 - 20
1969 - 20
1970 - 26
1971 - 23
1972 - 23

Rodney Mattingley

FEDERATION REPORT

The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs has had a particularly successful year in 1972. At the Annual General Meeting, a complete change occurred in the office bearers. Ken McInnes of Y.H.A. became President, Pat Miller of M.U.M.C became Secretary and Lyn Stephens of the Walking Club of Victoria is Treasurer. Under this leadership, new ideas were introduced and new projects commenced. A F.V.W.C. symbol was adopted to identify Federation letterheads and literature.

Of particular importance has been activities in the conservation field. The Land Conservation Council has been studying various areas of the State, on future use of unalienated Crown Land, and the Federation has made submissions in this regard. This work is continuing. Submissions were also made regarding the logging activities in the Catherine Saddle area.

A deputation consisting of Ken McInnes, Graeme Seeger of the Mens' Club and myself, met Mr. Borthwick, the State Minister of Conservation, in September. We had an amiable meeting, where we put the Bushwalkers' point of view on various subjects, including the proposed development of Mt. Feathertop. We got a sympathetic hearing.

A successful Moomba Day Walk was held - run by the W.C.V., although our club was poorly represented.

A Federation Weekend was held at Breakfast Creek, near Licola, and was a great success. Our club was well represented.

With the increasing interest in conservation, the pressure for development of bush areas, and the demands of various interests, makes it imperative that the bushwalking fraternity presents a united front. We must make a strong and informed case for the preservation of our vital bush areas, or we will find we have nowhere to walk!

I strongly urge all members to support the Federation and to help in any Federation projects.

Robert Steel