



# THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 296(2)

JULY 1974

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Category B

# THE SQUARE DANCE IS ON AGAIN

WHEN ..... SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH at 7.30 p m

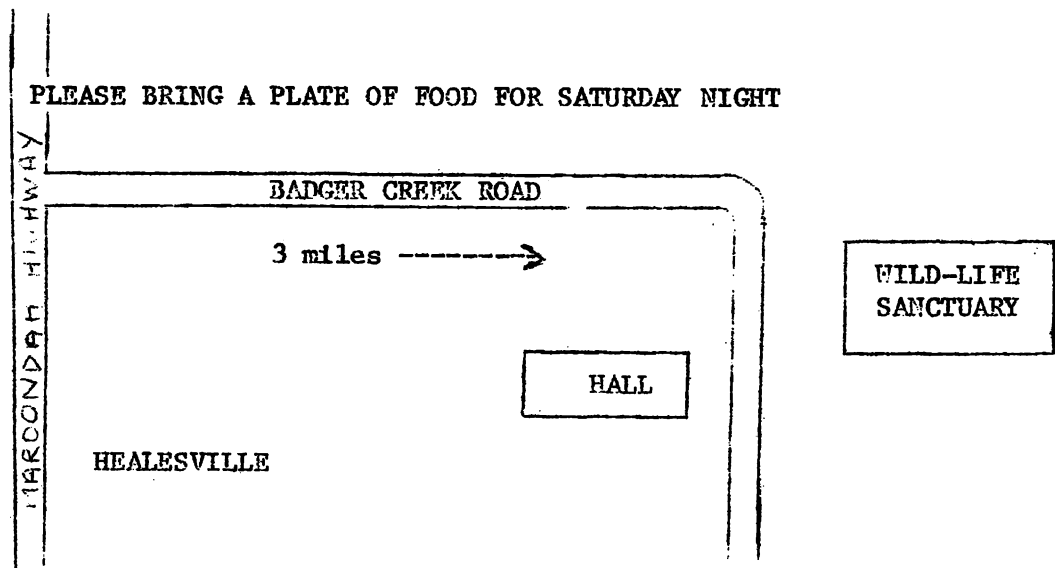
WHERE ..... BADGER CREEK HALL (near Healesville)

COST ..... ONLY \$1.50

DANCE CALLER ..... KEN HOOKE

WHAT TO WEAR ..... COUNTRY-FOLK STYLE CLOTHES

TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM OUR SOCIAL SECRETARY, GRAHAM HODGSON



All correspondence should be addressed to

The Hon Secretary  
Melbourne Bushwalkers  
P O Box 1751Q  
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.

COMMITTEE NOTES

CLUB CONTACTS

Graham and Sue Errey will be away for a couple of months, so until September, the No 2 Contacts will be the No. 1 Contacts. Walk leaders, especially, please note.

"WALK" '75

Photographs are needed for "Walk". They may be of any particular area, black and white or colour. Please contact Dave if you have any good scenic shots you think he might be interested in.

HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING

Please note that the half-yearly meeting will be in September this year, not August, as printed on the Club Programme.

CLUB T-SHIRTS?

Would anybody be interested in having an MBW T-Shirt? If so, please let Lindsay or myself know and if there is a general demand for them we will investigate the cost, colour design etc.

XMAS TRIPS

It would be appreciated if anyone who is planning an Xmas trip could contact the Walks Secretary and submit details by the end of August, in order to enable inclusion of the trip on the Summer Programme.

AUGUST SOCIAL EVENTS

- August 7th Slides on Moroka Gorge, Hattah Lakes, Blue Mountains Wilkie, Buffalo by Geoff Crapper.
- August 21st Film - A half-hour film on the journey of Charles Sturt down the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers and the development which has taken place since.
- September 14th (Saturday) SQUARE DANCE

DAY WALKS

AUGUST PREVIEWS

August 4th MURCHISON FALLS-STRATH FALLS-TUNNEL HILL-DIGGERS GULLY Medium

Leader: Geoff Mattingley  
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am - Fare \$2.00  
 Expected time of Return 8 p.m.  
 Map Reference: Kinglake 1:50,000  
 Approximate distance: 6 miles

Spectacular scenery in rocky gorges with visits to four waterfalls. There should be plenty of water! Some walking along rocky creek beds involved, but worth it for the views

**August 11th**      TURPINS FALLS-CAMPASPE RIVER-MICHELLS FALLS      Easy/Medium

Leader: Ted Brown (p)97 2301  
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am - Fare \$2.50  
 Expected time of Return: 8 - 9 pm  
 Map References: Castlemaine & Pyalong 1" = 1 mile  
 Approximate Distance: 10 miles

A walk along the Campaspe River from Turpins to Mitchells Falls, then through wooded area.

**August 18th**      RYE BACK BEACH-CAPE SCHANK      Easy

Leader: Verna Millis (p) 49 5128  
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am - Fare \$2  
 Expected time of return: 7 pm  
 Approximate distance: 9 miles

An easy walk along the beach dunes and cliffs overlooking Bass Strait. Come and see the surf at its wildest.

**August 25th**      VICTORIA RANGE-BLOWHARD RANGE-MT TANGLEFOOT      Medium

Leader: Art Terry (p)93 3617  
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 am - Fare \$2  
 Expected time of return: 8.30 pm  
 Approximate distance: 10 miles  
 Map reference: Taggerty and Juliet

An invigorating walk in the Healesville area - plenty of fresh air

WEEKEND WALKS      \*\*\* Weekend walk 2-4th - See below \*\*\***August 9-11th**      MT FRANKLIN-GLENLUCE SPRINGS-ELPHINSTONE      Easy/Medium

Leader: Paul Wiencke (p)88 1184  
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 6.30 pm - Fare \$5  
 Expected time of return: 9.30 pm  
 Map Reference: No 817 Castlemaine 1" = 1 mile  
 Approximate Distance: 13 miles

An easy/medium weekend walk with plenty of spa water for Saturday night's tea and a good camp site.

**August 23-25th**      SKI TOURING: MT HOTHAM AREA

Leader: Gerry Grandage (b)68 0251 X 532  
 Transport: Private  
 Expected time of return: 11 pm  
 Map Reference: Hotham and Falls Creek Alpine Areas  
 4" - 1 mile numbers 1 and 3  
 Approximate Distance: 16 miles

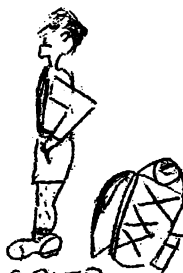
This is a trip for moderately experienced ski-tourers. However, we will not be ski-ing with week-end packs. The itinerary will depend on weather and snow conditions, but we hope to spend one day in the Mt Loch-Swindlers Spur area, and the other day on the Razor Back. On Saturday night we will camp in the snow close to the cars.

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**August 2-4th**      DOM DOM SADDLE-MT VINEGAR-ACHERON WAY-WARBURTON      Medium

Leader: Geoff Crapper (b)254502 X 54  
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 6.30 pm  
 Expected time of return: 8.30 pm  
 Map reference: Juliet 1:50,000  
 Approximate distance: 15 miles

Saturday will be spent traversing the Great Dividing Range from Dom Dom Saddle to Boobyalla Saddle. On Sunday we may encounter snow near Mt Boobyalla and the route back to Warburton may be via Donna Buang or Acheron Way. Due to the leaders absence from Melbourne on the weekend 23rd-25th, the date for this walk has been changed from the advertised date in the Walks Programme.



YES YOUNG MAN I'VE ALWAYS CARRIED ONE FOR PROTECTION

PHANTOM FOSSIL

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: The topic of conversation had been on the merits of ice axes. Sue Ball - Yes, an ice axe saved my life on an exposed mountain in Scotland once.

Unidentified voice - You hit him on the head did you?

A few "News's" ago I made mention of a certain bod called Thomas Crapper who was the innovator of that common everyday item known as THE LOO. I thought you might like to hear a little more about this important gentleman and his toy. Thomas was born in 1837 and at the tender age of 11 became an apprentice plumber with the local council. With general promotion etc. Crapper, when 24 became a sanitary engineer. It was about this time that cities in Britain were considering the possibilities of a sewer system, so sanitary engineers were sought, work literally poured in and Crapper felt the first flush of success.

In those somewhat primitive times the water for flushing a loo came from a cistern in which there was a valve at the outlet to the flush pipe. When one pulled the chain it lifted the valve and down came the water. It was simply a case of pulling the plug out. Here people took advantage and proceeded to tie the chain down thus leaving the valve open and causing an endless torrent of water to cascade into the bowl. This horrified the government who thought it terribly wasteful and drought provoking. SO IN CAME CRAPPPER, the brilliant cistern improver, loo lover, toilet tester and flushing freak. He modified the existing loos and came up with "CRAPPER'S VALVELESS WASTE PREVENTOR" capable of "SUPER FLUSH" (The new butane boosted, enzyme enriched, chocolate coated flusher that removed 16 apples, 4 flat sponges, a block of wood and 4 newspapers in one hit!!! a record which stands to this day.

A more recent case of loo extraordinare occurred during the coronation of the Queen. Organizers of the time were rather concerned that Westminster Abbey conveniences would be well patronized and were sceptical as to what would happen if all the loos were flushed at once. Surely the noise would reverberate around the edifice to some fantastic degree.

A test was carried out and a detachment of guards from Wellington Barracks were ordered into the toilets. BBC technicians were on stand-by with decibel meters. ATTENTION!!! CHAINS PULL!!! The Abbey was subjected to a right royal flushing, but hardly a waver from the meters was to be had. SUCCESS cried everyone, and all were understandably relieved.

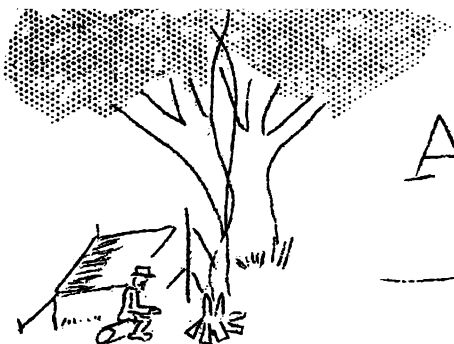
I think we can justly thank Thomas Crapper, a man whose foresight, ingenuity and perseverance perfected one of the greatest boons to mankind and, unfortunately, brought him almost total obscurity.

NEW BUSHWALKING CLUB

A note from Geoff Schafer Port Hedland : "There is now a bushwalking club at PARABURDOO, the inland iron ore town of Hamersley Iron Co out from Dampier".

While wordly matters take their turn  
Ancient, modern, to and fro,  
Rivers and mountains are changeless in their glory  
And still to be witnessed from this trail

---- from "The Jade Mountain", an  
anthology of Chinese poetry of the  
T'ang Dynasty, 618-906



# ALONG THE TRACK

## SUNDAY JUNE 16TH - ON THE TRACK

We were indeed lucky on this memorable occasion, the sun was shining and there was every indication that it could turn out a perfect winter's day up and around Riddell way. To the Leader's delight twenty-five sprightly bush-walkers turned up for the free, as did the ever faithful Dennis.

The track began near a beautiful rise on a flat paddock called Brocks Monument. The first stage of the walk was a stiff climb and a rocky scramble up the spur through wattle scrub, until the ridge was conquered. From this vantage point we had an excellent view of Mt Diogenes rising as it does from the flat plain. Along this ridge, which is an animal sanctuary, we were fortunate to see some koala bears in their native habitat. As we dropped off the ridge we reached a very pretty perennial stream called Bolinda Creek. Unfortunately, no one fell into it. After crossing it we proceeded along the road towards the foot of Mt Eliza, our next objective, and this place also served as our lunch spot.

We all took the opportunity of enjoying the excellent sunshine and lack of cold winds for which this area is well known. Art, Andy and Alwyn all decided to explore some old farm ruins, where many interesting pieces of bric-a-brac were to be found. After lunch we proceeded with a gentle climb up to the peak of Mt Eliza. From this cleared mountain, we had mind bending views of the surrounding undulating country, which varied from cleared green farm lands to heavy timbered slopes of rugged mountains.

Dropping of Mt Eliza we had a wild dash right into the heart of Charlies Creek, where after much swearing and cursing by the leader, we finally ascended from that horrible water course to climb towards our last objective, Mt Charlie. Climbing the long spur towards Charlie, we encountered a profusion of white and pink flowering heaths, plus the ever present spring hakea, which thrust at us all the way to the top. Once on top we settled down to the last of the sunshine, and a delightful afternoon tea break. Proceeding back along the ridge we picked up a suitable spur to intersect the track which was to lead to an open clearing, where the van collected us.

I would like to thank those twenty-five bushwalkers for a memorable day "along the track" with me.

*Sandy Ireland (the Leader)*

## HAPPENINGS AT HATTAH

Lake Hattah was still hidden in thick mist as we emerged from our tents in the chill of the morning. The sun was beginning to make its presence felt as GNJ gathered his select band together for the impending ramble around the lakes. The lakes were at flood level following heavy rains a month earlier and they were still rising. Fortunately there were plenty of Water Signs in the group (8 Scorpios and one Pisces) and web feet were the order of the day.

Heading east across the desert country towards Lake Kramen, we spotted our first herd of kangaroos. The flat, featureless terrain makes navigation very tricky for those who usually only frequent the mountain and ridge country. After lunch at Kramen we headed north to the Murray where camp was made, one mile upstream from Chaika Creek.

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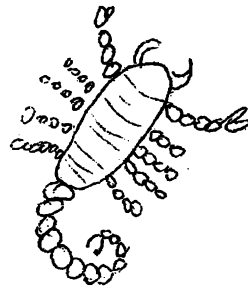
Sunday was spent exploring the flooded Murray where the water was slowly rising on the dusty flood plains. After photographing some of the wildlife and the weird shapes of trees mirrored in the lagoon we headed back NW. After going about a mile, Peter realised he has mislaid his camera so he back-tracked in an attempt to retrieve it.

Pressing on, we came across an un-named lake which looked as though it would be dry for most of the year. Perched on some fallen timber at the far end of the lake were a flock of Ibis who nervously scurried away, foiling our attempts to photograph them. On our way back to our packs, numerous kangaroos and emus were to be seen bounding around in the mulga.

After a quick lunch, we began our migration downstream, paddling across the swollen backwaters of Chaika Creek in a Westerly direction. The weather was fine and mild, as it had been all day, ideal for walking. We headed inland for a short distance, cutting corners, and then our boots got submerged again as we slogged across a few swamps. This was OK for the Scorpios but the Fire and Air people were having a hard time of it. Eventually, GWJ decided our socks needed drying out so we dropped packs and called it a day. We pitched tents in a neat little circle with the fire in the middle, reminiscent of something out of "Wagon Train".

Monday morning dawned and was a bit of a non-event. It was like being in a blizzard on the High Plains without the wind and snow; visibility was down to about 50 metres and we had to set a compass course of about 230 M to reach Lake Roonki. On the way, Alma diverted our attention to an abandoned emu's nest with about 9 eggs - anyone for omeletes. The fog was still pretty bad by the time we got to Roonki after an express dash, with Peter leading the way as usual. A wild pig was spotted on a side trip around the lake, which your humble correspondent did not partake in because he was in a snoozing mood. The ceiling had lifted good and properly by now and the sun was beating down magnificently. With plenty of time up our sleeves, GWJ offered us a gracious hour lunch break on the shores of flooded Lake Arawak. After dining to our hearts' content and basking in the beautiful sunshine, we reluctantly donned our packs once more for the final stretch back to Hattah and the Bush.

Thanks Graham for a pleasant three days walking and wading around Hattah.



#### P.S. ON HATTAH LAKES

A truly liberated woman is the female emu. She lays an average of nine eggs, after which exertion, she promptly forgets her responsibilities. The male emu does the brooding of the eggs, which occupies approximately eight weeks.

There was once an emu called Jane  
 Who laid big green eggs on a plain  
 Now she's out every night  
 While big daddy sits tight  
 For he gets awful wet in the rain

A. NONNY MISS

FEDERATION URGES "DOBBING"

Athol Dorman, FVWC President, at the Council Meeting of 9th July asked delegates to impress on the members of their clubs the importance of playing an active part in supporting the Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Act (1972) and the Recreation Vehicles Act (1973) and Regulations gazetted under them. In order to preserve our Australian heritage, we must resort to the rather un-Australian practice of "dobbing" offenders in. Quite apart from the damage trailbikes are already causing, if we do not show how serious we are about conservation by upholding to the limit what little there IS on the statute books in our favour, then vandalism by mining companies and government departments will continue because they will realise we are not even serious enough to oppose the small fry. I hope to have a concise "dobbers' kit" of legal do's and don'ts prepared for a later issue of "News" but in the meantime:

- (i) If it's a track suitable for vehicles with four wheels, don't act - the bkie is within his rights
- (ii) Have a witness, or preferably several. It probably wouldn't do any harm to take a photo, either
- (iii) Don't let village cop-shops put you off with "out of our district" stories. Make your complaint anyway, and tell them that you will be lodging a duplicate report at Russell Street as well. Do so.
- (iv) Don't get physical (even the weediest bkie occasionally has a nasty trick up his sleeve!) Seriously, though: even mere words can get you convicted of assault if they are convincing enough - so play it cool.

In the Federation Hut book you will find dozens of bkie entries, including one whose depressing gift to prosperity was the feat of riding all the way from Hotham along the Razorback. The bkie menace is real and growing. It is up to us to do something about it.

FEDERATION PLANS BOOK LAUNCH

Dick Johnson's book on the Victorian Alps is a major pillar in support of setting aside the Victorian Alps as a recreation reserve and wilderness area. A launching sub-committee is looking into the feasibility of a full-scale launching, with maximum publicity, press raves, an exhibition mounted by the walking clubs, and bottles of champers and little things on plates. This will need manpower from all the clubs, so please give thought NOW to making YOURSELF available when the time comes. If the book is a success, it will do more to put our case for conserving the Alps directly to the wider public than anything else could.

*G. Wills-Johnson*  
FVWC Delegate

MANY A SLIP ....

No doubt about it: rock climbers are certainly different, especially French ones! The name of Pierre Mazeaud will be familiar to many members of the club as the leader of the 'Latin' faction which walked out of the 1971 International Everest Expedition. However, the remark about rock climbers being a race apart is provoked by the way in which he tells of an incident very early in his career, in the summer of 1949, when he was climbing with a school friend identified only as Louis. Louis was leading, and looking desperately for somewhere to place a piton when "Suddenly I heard an oath and he went flying into space to crash heavily against a rock a few metres below me. Siezed with fear I scrambled down and bent over him. His face was covered with blood. Time passed as I waited for help to arrive, and gradually he returned to consciousness, complaining of pain and blaming himself for having fallen off". As help arrives and they begin to get Louis down a thunderstorm with torrential rain begins. A climber further up the face is killed by lightning, and another badly burned. "As they descended the long slab where there is a fixed chain and which the storm had changed into a raging torrent, Louis was almost drowned.

Contd... Page 8

His courage impressed everybody. At the bottom of the rocks he was laid in the snow and given a push so that he would slide down the slope. Slide he did, but into the (bergschrand\*), and we had to look for him and pull him out. The day ended at the hospital in Chamonix." Louis makes a comeback the following summer, but "Our badly laid course nearly cost us our lives...." He is dismissed from the book on the next page: "For Louis, this was his best and last climb. A few days later he returned to Dakar, and the horrors of military life soon erased the joys of the high summits from his mind." (!)

Geoffrey Sutton's translation of Mazeaud's book is now available in Melbourne under the title "Naked Before the Mountain" (Victor Gollancz Ltd., London, 1974, 256 pp, \$9.60).

\* the crevasse at the edge of a glacier. The French word "rimaye" is used in the text, but the German word is more familiar in English.

*Earthbound bushwalking bookworm*

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBER

Liz Rudolph - 16/36 Domain Street, South Yarra 3141. p)263579 b) 634411

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NOS

- Graeme Laidlow - 598 Mitcham Road, Mitcham 3132
- Alan Holder - 6/24 Lascelles Ave, Toorak 3142 p)244230
- Lindsay Barrow - 82 3321 (b)
- David Bover - (b)2672011 X 29
- Verna Millis - (b) is no longer 6020131
- Debbie Moore - (b)625311

<p><i>molony's</i></p> <p>197 ELIZABETH ST MELBOURNE 67-8428&amp;9</p>	<p>STILL TOPS FOR BUSHWALKING, SKIING, AND CLIMBING NEEDS</p> <p>INSPECT OUR RANGE</p> <p>1ST &amp; 2ND FLOORS</p>
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