



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 302

JANUARY 1975

Price 3¢

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26TH FEBRUARY 1975

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NOMINATIONS WANTED FOR ALL OFFICE BEARERS AND GENERAL COMMITTEE

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO REPRESENT YOUR CLUB IN 1975 AS EITHER AN OFFICE BEARER OR A GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, OR KNOW OF SOMEONE YOU THINK CAPABLE OF FILLING ONE OF THE POSITIONS, THEN APPROACH ANY OF THE PRESENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOW. DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED.

THE COMMITTEE POSITIONS ARE:

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENTS (2)
TREASURER
SECRETARY
WALKS SECRETARY
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
SOCIAL SECRETARY
NEWS CONVENOR
WILKINSON LODGE MANAGER
"WALK" MAGAZINE EDITOR
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS (5)

NOMINATIONS SHOULD BE IN BY MID-FEBRUARY. IF YOU ARE AT ALL HESITANT AS TO WHETHER YOU CAN DO THE JOB - DON'T BE. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SOMEBODY TO GIVE YOU ADVICE. THE CLUB CANNOT FUNCTION PROPERLY WITHOUT ITS OFFICE BEARERS SO WE MUST HAVE NOMINATIONS FOR THESE POSITIONS.

(Special ad. for "News" Convenor, by the "News" Convenor - If you can type (and spell!) then you should be able to do "News". No "News" Convenor means no "News". No "News" means, well no news.)

Thank you all contributors to this month's "News", and a belated special thank you to Ann Sullivan for the excellent drawing on the front page of last month's "News" of the Father Christmas-cum-Bushwalker.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

The Secretary
Melbourne Bushwalkers
GPO Box 1751Q
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

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

"THE ALPS AT THE CROSSROADS" by DICK JOHNSON - A REVIEW

This book should be read and digested by all bushwalkers. It covers all aspects of human activity in the Victorian high country - from gold-mining to bushwalking, from forestry to downhill skiing. The emphasis is on the impact that these activities have on the environment, and also on the confused system of administration and control which the country suffers. It pulls no punches.

The main feature of the first part of the book is an excellent presentation of the wilderness concept. This is a concept which bushwalkers accept intuitively but find difficult to express even to themselves let alone to a wider audience. In fact one of the main obstacles faced by bushland conservationists is their own lack of ability to express their values to an audience which responds only to economic or scientific logic. By emphasising our emotional response to wilderness, and making no apology for it, this part of the book will help us greatly to articulate our ideas.

There follows a history of human activity in the Alps. This is written in an entertaining style and is well illustrated with colourful anecdotes through the ages. It is shown how each activity passes through various phases; firstly the pioneering days when conflicts are few and control is unnecessary; secondly a growth phase when control becomes desirable; and finally, a controlled phase in which the degree of control depends on pressure between interacting groups. As the story approaches the present time, it is shown how we now have a confusing collection of bodies, some committed to development, some concerned with control. Most are concerned with one activity alone, none with a total approach to land use such as is required with to-day's conflicting demands. Nobody puts the conservationist point of view unless there is an economic incentive to do so.

The punch-line of the book shows what might be in the future. The author presents a very compelling case for an Alpine National Park of a very large size stretching from Baw Baw to the NSW border and including such areas as Tarli Karng, Purgatory Spur, Moroka Gorge, the Cobbler, the Dargo High Plains, the Cobberas, and the Snowy Gorges, in addition to the country traversed by the Alpine Track. The main emphasis of the Park would be on adventure recreation, bushwalking, ski-touring, mountaineering and canoeing. Various areas (ten in all) would be declared "wilderness areas", in which all commercial activity would cease. Perhaps the most significant of these is the Wonnongatta wilderness. In other parts of the Park limited commercial activity would be permitted under close control only when it does not conflict with the preservation of the Park. Thus the Park as a whole would be multi-use. The book gives detailed recommendations on all aspects of Park management. It is recognised that the existing National Park administration in Victoria is incapable of managing the proposed Alpine National Park effectively. Improvements are suggested.

The book is illustrated by superb photographs. As well as portraying the wilderness concept as effectively as the author's words, these depict all types of activity through the ages. The layout of the book is attractive. Owing to the extensive voluntary effort which has gone into its preparation and distribution, it is well priced at \$3.50 and upwards (retail) or \$2.50 if you are able to order 10 or more from VNPA.

Jerry Grandage

RISE IN MEMBERSHIP FORECAST

"If there is an economic recession, nurserymen will prosper greatly, dog-breeders and cat-breeders will not experience a slump, bushwalking clubs will quadruple their membership." --- from "Browsing with Max Harris" - "The Australia" 26/10/74

WALK PREVIEWSFEBRUARYDAY-WALKS

February 2nd STARLINGS GAP-ADA RIVER-HIGH LEAD Medium

Leader: Philip Taylor (p) 306 6152
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 a m - Fare \$2
 Map Reference: Neerim 1:50,000
 Approximate Distance: 15 km

Pleasant walking along old tram tracks through thick forest. Interesting old relics of the by-gone days. Bring water for lunch.

February 9th KALATHA SADDLE-MT TANGLEFOOT-MT ST LEONARD-MYERS CREEK Easy

Leader: Max Wilkinson
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 a m - Fare \$2
 Expected time of return: 8.30 p m
 Map Reference: Juliet 1:50,000
 Approximate Distance: 12 miles

This walk features ridge walking on leafy jeep tracks amongst the big timber, little climbing and good views from Mt St Leonard. Carry water for lunch.

February 16th BEACH WALK: KILCUNDA-POWLETT RIVER Easy

Leader: Lindsay Markham
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 a m - Fare \$3
 Expected time of return: 8.00 p m
 Map Reference: Kilcunda 1:50,000
 Approximate distance: 5 miles

Bring your bathers and look forward to a relaxing day with more sunbaking and swimming than walking.

February 23rd TALLAROOK-GOULBOURN RIVER Easy

Leader: Otto Christensen
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 9.15 a m - Fare \$2.50
 Approximate distance: 8 miles

Easy walk with no climbing, following the Goulbourn River. Bring your bathers - there may be some good swimming holes.

WEEK-END WALKS

February 7th-9th GLEN AIRE-CAPE OTWAY-PARKER RIVER Medium

Leader: Les Markham
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 6.30 p m - Fare \$9.00
 Expected time of return: 9.0 p m
 Map Reference: Aire, Otway 1:50,000
 Approximate distance: 20 miles

A weekend for bushwalkers, beachwalkers and others of that ilk and inclination along Victoria's beautiful S W coastline. Miles of soft yellow beaches and dunes, cliffs and heathlands and the magnificent rain-forests of the Otways. Safe swimming at Saturday night's camp. Not a beginners walk. Firewood is scarce. Water must be carried during the day.

February 14th-16th WOOLLYBUTT SADDLE-RAZORBACK HUT-MT EVERETT-THE PINNACLE SAWMILL SETTLEMENT Medium

Leader: Graham Wills-Johnson (p) 52 4720 (b) 341 2153
 Transport: Van leaves Batman Ave 6.30 p m - Fare \$9.00
 Expected time of return:
 Map Reference: Buller 1:50,000 or VMTC "King, Howqua and Jamieson Rivers" or FCV Macallister River
 Approximate distance: 13 miles

Mt Everett seems to be a figment of the Walks Secretary's imagination (at least I cannot find it on any of my maps), so we will go to Mt Winstanley instead! I rather think this walk has been over-graded, and should have been marked Easy/Medium, because after a short climb (1.5 miles, 1000 ft) up an insignificant

prominence called Mt Stirling, the whole of the rest of the walk is down hill! The first day is disgracefully short - exactly 5 miles to our camp at Purcell's Hut (if you are a VMTC fan) or Razorback Hut (if you follow the FCV, who reckon Purcell built his hut a couple of miles down the hill). I think in order to make the walk of qualifying standard we will have to put on a side trip to the Monument as well.

They will probably hang the leader on Sunday morning when they are faced with a 500 ft climb that he forgot to mention, first thing after breakfast. However, if we all survive that, the rest of the day really IS all down hill - which is not quite the same as saying it will all be plain sailing, because a certain amount of guess work and perhaps even some scrub-bashing will be involved in the approach to the Pinnacle (if it is where I THINK it is!) If we finally come out in the right place, we have a small item which, while perhaps not of a permanent enough nature to attract a rating from the National Trust, may be of passing interest to history buffs in the party.

Razorback Spur is pretty dry. Carry water for Friday night/Saturday lunch, and again for Sunday lunch (unless you are a dry muesli freak!)

February 21st-23rd COOPERS CREEK-THOMPSON RIVER-WALHALLA Easy

Leader: Alec Proudfoot (p) 98 3155
 Transport: Van leaves Batman 6.30 p m - Fare \$8.00
 Expected time of return: 9.00 p m
 Approximate distance: 10-12 miles (Saturday)

Saturday: Coopers Creek to Walhalla along permanent way of disused Moe-Walhalla railway and return by old coach road through Happy-Go Lucky.

Sunday: River swimming and walking along river, near Copper mine and lime kilns, maybe to Jubilee or Boat Hole. Weather will determine activity to large extent.

This walk will probably be a replica of one taken in 1969 or a variant of it. Bushies intending to do it may care to read an article on it in "Walk" 1969, and for a well written, concise history of the second half of last century encompassing the rise and fall of gold mining in the district, I recommend a paperback - Old Walhalla (portrait of a gold town) by Raymond Paull, Melb. Uni. Press (140 pages)

The variant referred to could occur through the Thompson R. being too high to ford, the permanent way of the old railway line being overgrown with blackberries or the girders as well as the decking gone from some of the bridges we would need to cross along Stringers Creek.

The van will take us about 35 km from Moe along the Walhalla Rd. to the turn off to Coopers Creek (see P.113 of OldW.). If history is repeated the driver will refuse to go down this road and we shall walk about 2 km to our camp site on the river where I hope to have cleared sites ready before hand for our occupation. In the morning we will walk back to the site of Platina Siding and follow the disused Line to the site of Thompson siding where we cross the river at the mouth of Stringer's Creek. The line follows the Creek to Walhalla - in its heyday a town of 4500 people. We will spend an extended lunch hour exploring the residue and return by the Old Coach Road of Cobb and Co fame through where Happy-Go-Lucky, a "suburb" of Walhalla used to be. After sidling down the mountain we ford the Thompson to our camp; that is provided we don't miss the turn off and arrive at the Old Iron Bridge at Brunton instead. But not to worry - there is a way back to the camp which we should be able to manage by midnight.

I note that the programme lists the walk easy. Well it should be so - about 16 to 20 km. Near the campsite is a fine deep pool and there are others elsewhere. If Sunday is fine many will prefer to spend the day on the river (bring sand shoes to walk in it) but there are other things to see - the Old Lime Kilns, the Copper Mine re-established in recent years, the Jubilee, the boat hole and so on.

February 21st-23rd EZARDS NO.1-THOMPSON RIVER-ABERFELDY RIVER

Leader: Rod Mattingley

Sorry folks, but this walk is no good. It was recommended to me by a former boy scout who said there was a very good campsite at the junction of the Aberfeldy and Thompson rivers and a pleasant walk along the river from there to the Walhalla road bridge. However, the preview found the promised campsite to be a nest of impenetrable blackberries and the only suitable spot for a tent was on several square feet of river pebbles. The track along the Thompson is also completely overgrown with the friendly blackberry bush. In other words, this trip is not going, and the moral is, never trust a boy scout! I recommend Alec's walk to Coopers Creek and Walhalla.

Something of interest found on the preview was an old steel bridge across the Thompson river about 2½ miles upstream from the road bridge. It was built by Long Tunnell

Company in search of firewood. The bridge has been classified by the National Trust and there is a marked track to it which leaves the Fingerboard spur about 1/2 mile down from the Upper Thomson road, as marked on the VMTC map.

The following is an extract from "The Farthest Shore" by Ursula Le Guin

Presently the image said, speaking softly, "Do you see, Arren, how an act is not, as young men think, like a rock that one picks up and throws, and it hits or misses and that's the end of it. When a rock is lifted, the earth is lighter, the hand that bears it heavier. When it is thrown the circuits of the stars respond, and where it strikes or falls the universe is changed. On every act the balance of the whole depends. The winds and seas, the powers of water and earth and light, all that these do, and all that the beasts and green things do, is well done, and rightly done. All these act within the Equilibrium. From the hurricane and the great whale's sounding to the fall of a dry leaf and the gnat's flight, all they do is done within the balance of the whole. But we, in so far as we have power over the world and over one another, we must learn to do what the leaf and the whale and the wind do of their own nature. We must learn to keep the balance. Having intelligence, we must not act in ignorance. Having choice we must not act in ignorance. Who am I - though I have the power to do it - to punish and reward, playing with men's destinies?"

"But then", the boy said, frowning at the stars, "is the balance to be kept by doing nothing? Surely a man must act, even not knowing all the consequences of his act, if anything is to be done at all?"

"Never fear. It is much easier for men to act than to refrain from acting. We will continue to do good, and to do evil"

(Les Markham can tell you more about the book from which this came, interested. It's certainly a book with a message)

LOGAN BREAD

A food item which I enjoy in the outdoors is "Logan Bread". The recipe is claimed to have originated with a wife whose husband was about to climb 19,850 ft (6050 m) Mt Logan in the Yukon, Canada's highest mountain.

To one quart water add:

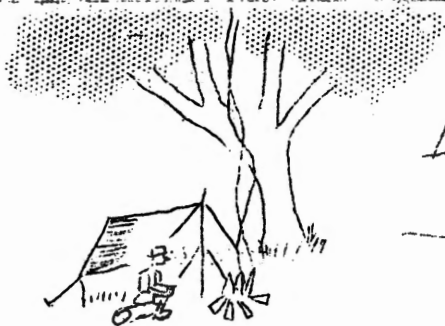
3½ to 4	lbs Whole Wheat Flour
1½	cups shortening, melted
1	cups brown sugar, packed
1	lb honey
1	lb blackstrap molasses (obtainable from Health Stores)
½	cup powdered whole milk
1	tsp salt
2	tsp baking powder
1	lb dates, cut in large pieces

(The recipe, of course, can be halved or quartered, should a smaller quantity be desired)

Mix ingredients and put into muffin tins or run into pan 1/2 inch thick. Bake around 300°F for 1 hour. Bake longer to dry out, but take care as the product becomes very hard if baked too long.

The product is nutritious, keeps very well and does not crumble easily. Try some.

Max Wilkinson



ALONG THE TRACK

"TRAMPING" - FORTY YEARS AGO

The Hobart Walking Club's project to reproduce facsimiles of those back numbers of the Tasmanian Tramp which were out of print has now been completed, and the early issues make fascinating reading. The first issue was in February 1933, and so great was the early flush of enthusiasm that the second issue came out in December of the same year. Thereafter it appeared every December until number 5 (December 1936), after which, despite apparent good health at that time publication inexplicably lapsed.

That might have been the last anyone ever heard of the Tramp. However, in 1942, a Melbourne walker by the name of Critchley Parker, despite the chronic ill-health which prevented him from being accepted by any of the services, set out alone to walk from Port Davey to Maydena. On the way to the Crossing River he was overcome by sickness, and when he reached the river he was unable to cross it because it was in flood. Weeks later fishermen sheltering from bad weather found his body on the shores of Port Davey, which he had regained in seeking help, which, because the rescue parties missed him, never came. His diary told the story. A bequest under his will made the publication of the sixth issue of the Tasmanian Tramp in December 1945 possible. It has continued to appear ever since.

Looking at the first five issues, it is striking how some things have changed - and how others have not. The style of an advertisement of Davis and Rogers in the 1936 issue is quite strange to those used to the advertising techniques of the '70s. whereas the subject, though encountered in an unexpected place, is not: "Ill-fitting boots; an uncomfortable pack; a leaky tent; in fact any defect in the apparel or equipment used on your hiking or camping trip", say Davis and Rogers, "will do much to rob it of its pleasure." They then go on to tell you you should buy their Men's Sweaters from 6/11, unlined duck sleeping-bags for 19/6, their khaki shirts, collar-attached from 3/11 or women's jodphurs at 7/11, 14/6 or 17/6. The seemingly everlasting Paddy Pallin was of course around in those days too, and in his 1935 advertisement tells us sternly: "If you wish to get the best out of your ground sheet - DON'T use it as a bread board, DON'T walk on it with hob-nailed boots. DON'T pack it away wet. DON'T discard it when it begins to leak, But please DO - Give it a thin coat of oilskin dressing. Mend small holes and tears with sticking plaster." For 47/6 you could buy his Steel Frame Rucksack. "Holds 50 lbs gear. Four pockets outside and one inside for money." With steel packs at 47/6 I suppose the walkers of those times did have problems about where to put all the money left over. At today's rate of inflation such an added attraction would seem to be in bad taste!

Social attitudes seem to have been more of a problem in those days, especially as far as women walkers were concerned. "For some years now", says Sheila Brough disapprovingly, "our mountain side has been infested with girls, well made up, wearing father's or brother's cast-off trousers, too large round the waist and too short in the leg, and finished off with light, high-heeled shoes. Such "get-ups" not only put us off slacks, but put other people off us. We are criticised as unseemly young women. Our critics do not stop to notice the difference in appearance between a girl in good strong riding breeches and thick boots and the girl in the "get-up" aforesaid."

Unfortunately Ms Brough finds that her own "get-up" is not entirely without problems either, however, because "A bitter experience was when I walked up a river bed in a skirt and shoes Not only was I hindered by my skirt, but, having a great love for icy mountain water in the middle of winter, I lay down, unexpectedly, in a nice deep pool, and had to walk ten miles home with a flapping wet rag round my legs."

In those days, however, the bushwalker could still consider himself something of an explorer, with a chance of making new discoveries. Jack Thwaites (after whom Thwaites Plateau in the Eastern Arthurs is named) in the December 1934 issue tells of the discovery of quite a large lake near Frenchmans Cap. "I took the liberty of naming it Sophie after the wife of E T Emmett, Director of the Government Tourist Bureau, and leader of this party." Sure enough, on the Franklin 1:100,000 sheet, published in 1971 Lake Sophie it is. In the first issue Thwaites also claims a number of first ascents at the north end of Lake St Clair in December 1931, including Mt Manfred, and the second ascent of Mt Ida. He took along an altimeter to measure the heights of the summits, and it is interesting to compare his values with those taken from a modern map. For Gould he claims 5020 ft (it is 4892 ft according to modern surveyors), Manfred 4545 (4600), Ida 4400 (4111), Byron 4450 (4521), and Olympus West 4700 (4747), so most of his claims are slightly on the modest side except the highest. Did he happen to pick a day of unusually low pressure for the climb up Mt Gould, or did the temptation of breaking the 5000 ft mark subconsciously affect his judgement in reading the needle that day?

I guess our own Walks Secretary has been a bit lairy lately, with his Sunday walks for only \$1, but could he match this?: "There is another reason why the Club flock to Punch's. It is the cheapest week-end trip of the whole year It costs 3d., and very little energy to get there. It is always rushed by the "financially depressed". (We notice particularly that the married members always turn up on this trip. There is no need to skimp on the housekeeping money weeks beforehand.)" If they could turn on a weekend for 3d., could they have done a day walk for a penny ha'penny? I know there's been a bit of inflation since then, but come on Alex - our cheapest day walks cost SIXTY SEVEN times as much! When are you going to introduce the 50¢ weekender?

My own memories of the north side of Mt Picton, up from Blake's Opening, may be coloured by the fact that we got there after two strenuous weeks in the southwest. I still think it would have been pretty rough at any time. However, in the December 1936 issue, we find the following: "I understand that, many years ago the local schoolmaster [? - Gaeveston?, Judbury?] used to climb the mountain frequently. He once suggested taking his school (the children I mean) - a proposal condemned by the Parents' Association on the grounds that the smaller tots might tear their dresses. I repeated this to myself several times on the way up the timbered face and had an absurd vision of a hen coaxing chickens through a brush fence. I decided that the parents had made a wise decision."

G Wills-Johnson

SOME MORE "THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT N.Z." by Geoff Crapper

- * Most of the major towns don't cater very well for bushwalking supplies. Mountain Equipment in Christchurch is about the best
 - * Tongariro National Park is the second oldest National Park in the World (next to Yellowstone) and is well worth a visit. The contrasts between the lush green wetness of the South Island Alps and Lakes compared to the rugged grandeur of the active volcanic peaks is overpowering
 - * Nelson Lakes, along with Fiordland, is an absolute must for anything up to about 5-6 days tramping
 - * It doesn't matter how much you fight it you'll start referring to NZ bushwalking as "tramping" after a while
 - * Avoid the Milford Track in preference to the Routeburn
 - * Try to arrive in NZ on a week day so that all the shops and booking offices are open
 - * Accommodation at most Motor Camps is very good. They usually have good toilets and shower facilities, kitchens and laundries. Average Price is 60¢ per night
 - * A hire car or cars or a transit van would be a good investment for many trips
-

FOR SALE

TENT SYSTEM (YES - A SYSTEM)

- 1 7' x 5' high paddymade green japara "A" type tent. For most weathers. Has 2 zips and fly wire. Weight 3 lb. Pegs.
- 2 10' long "Bushgear" nylon fly for above. Has eyelet at 7' mark to allow for pole to be used to form small verandah extension for cooking, packs, etc. Can be used on above tent for wetter weather or when two persons are using it. Pole and pegs provided. Weight 1½ lb.

FOR THE WORST WEATHER

- 3. Full "Force 10" Vango Mountain tent. Full aluminium frame with twin "A" frame poles at each end. Rigid ridge pole. Sewn-in floor. Snap assembly inner nylon tent. Very storm resistant fly. Storage "Vee" inside. Cooking "Vee" outside inner under fly. Extra storm guys fitted to special order by Bushgear. Weight complete 8 lbs. Approx size 7' x 4'.

This last tent available on its own for \$70. The whole system is up for sale for \$90. Gerry McPhee 387 3417 (Home) or 345 2822 X 2007 or 2488

AMENDMENTS TO ADDRESS LIST

- SMOY, Barry and Gwenda - 11 Wingate Avenue, North Bayswater (p) 870 6830
- AYLOR, Gwynnyth - (STD 053) 83 6745
- ATTWOOD, Stan - (b) 69 7661

molony's

197 ELIZABETH ST.
MELBOURNE
67-8428&9

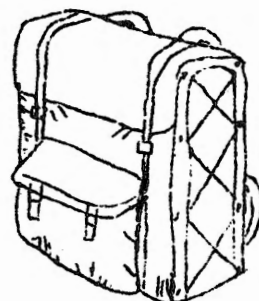
STILL TOPS FOR
BUSHWALKING, SKIING,
AND CLIMBING NEEDS
INSPECT OUR RANGE
1ST & 2ND FLOORS

AUSKI

9 HARDWARE ST
PHONE 671412

THE BUSHWALKING SPECIALIST

PADDYMADE EQUIPMENT, PACKS, ETC.



SEE LOCH WILSON AT
BUSHGEAR PTY LTD
46 HARDWARE ST
MELBOURNE

FOR ALL
BUSHWALKING AND CLIMBING GEAR

