



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 318

MAY 1976

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

How big should a bushwalking party be? This question has recently been raised after observing the effect of forty-odd people (not forty odd people) tramping through the undergrowth. As conservationists, we should be concerned that our impact on the bush is as small as possible. Several avenues are open to us to reduce our impact. We could limit the numbers on walks, have several smaller parties in the same general area or perhaps only use established tracks. What are your views — in condensed form please.

How would you feel if someone lit a big smoky fire in front of you whilst you were admiring a mountain-top view? This is exactly what people who find it necessary to light up a cigarette are inflicting on the majority of non-smokers around them. We don't ask you to stop smoking, only that you be a little considerate of the feelings of others and try to indulge your addiction downwind of the party.

..... Dave.

MAY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Reports

TREASURER — Bank Statement as at the 31st April, 1976 = \$6,498.75

WALKS SECRETARY — 106 Visitors and 151 Members attended club walks during the month of March.

F.V.W.C. — Federation Day Walk on May 2nd, organised by V.M.T.C., was successful and attracted between 350 and 400 people. The walk, from Gisborne to Riddell by way of Barings Reserve, was sponsored by the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation, as part of their "Life, be in it" campaign. About a dozen members of our club took part as marshalls.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT — A new agreement has been drafted to cover the sub-letting of the clubrooms to the Catholic Walking Club, on a regular basis.

After many years of demands by our club, a fire extinguisher is at last to be installed in the clubrooms.

EQUIPMENT — The income during April was \$14.30

General Business

The formation of a sub-committee to raise the membership provisions of the constitution, in accordance with a motion passed at the April General Meeting, was approved. The sub-committee will comprise of Rex Filson, Mike Griffin, and Graham Wills-Johnson with Dave Oldfield as convenor.

A notice has been prepared for the booking board suggesting that members should be more considerate if they must smoke on walks.

All correspondence should be addressed to:-

The Secretary,
Melbourne Bushwalkers,
P.O. 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 pm. Visitors are always welcome.

WALK PREVIEWS.

Day Walks.

June 5th - Saturday Walk.

SHERBROOKE SHIRE WALKING TRACK.

Easy

LEADER: Athol Schafer (p) 211-2649
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9.00 am
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 5.00 pm
MAP REFERENCE: Monbulk 1:50,000
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 10 miles.

Last year, Sherbrooke Shire re-opened the old tourist track that follows the valley of Menzies and Sassafras Creeks - reserved public lands holding magnificent stands of timber and fern gullies.

Bring well-treaded footwear as the ground could be slippery in places.

Please note: we are going by van now, as practically all public transport, except the trains, has been cut out on weekends in the Dandenongs.

June 13th - COIMADAI - GOODMAN'S CREEK - SCOTTIES GULLY

Easy/Med

LEADER: ANY VOLUNTEERS? Fare: \$2.50
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. at 9.15 am.
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: ?????
MAP REFERENCE: ?????
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: ?????

URGENTLY REQUIRED 1 willing Bushwalker to lead this Sunday walk.

Persons interested see Walk Secretary - Alex Stirkul.

Remember: NO LEADER - NO WALK.

June 20th - ANGLESEA - PT. ROADKNIGHT - AIREYS INLET.

Easy

LEADER: Sylvia Withall Fare: \$3.00
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. at 9.15 am.
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: ?????
MAP REFERENCE: Anglesea.
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: ?????

This will be any easy walk. For further information see sylvia in the club rooms.

June 27th - HEATHCOTE JUNCTION - LESLIE - KILMORE.

Easy

LEADER: Michael Mann (B) 25-4502 Fare: \$2.50
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. at 9.15 am.
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7.30 pm
MAP REFERENCE: ?????
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: ?????

... The start will be near Heathcote Junction moving towards Leslie via the old rail track. We will follow the railway track until we reach the old tramway museum where we will stop for a look around. After this, I will try not to get lost on the way into Kilmore.

Weekend Walks.

June 11-14 **WYPERFELD NATIONAL PARK** Easy/Med

LEADER: Graham Wills-Johnson
TRANSPORT: Bus from Batman Ave. at 6.30 pm.
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: ?????
MAP REFERENCE: Your school atlas? A road map of Victoria?
The only other possibility seems to be Ouyen 1:250,000!
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 35-40 Miles.

IF the weather is as obliging as it was on the preview, and as it has been in this part of the world on the June long weekend for at least the past three years, we will awake on the Saturday morning with the mists slowly rising from the waters of beautiful Lake Albacutya, and the sun slowly beginning to climb into a cloudless Mallee sky. I was truly surprised at how much water there is around - Albacutya itself is like an inland sea. After traversing its western shore, we will stroll amid the lagoons that have been filled by Outlet Creek as we wend our leisurely way northwards. It is all a great deal more like the lakes of Hattah and Kulkyne than I expected. Camp on the Saturday night will be made just outside the park on the south side. On the Sunday morning we will enter the park, and our two main problems will begin to make themselves felt (1) There is no water north of Lake Brambruk, which is not very far inside the park from the south side. (2) The ranger will not permit either fires or choofers anywhere inside the park except in the camping ground at Wonga Hut where the bludge mob will be entrenched with at least 200 other people. (I was told at least 4 times that he had 312 campers there over Easter !). So I am afraid we are going to have to carry water for the Sunday night and Monday lunchtime - and step it out a bit so as to make it right across the Park (about 12 miles) to camp in a place the Ranger has suggested just outside it on the north side (over towards Pine Plains Station). Return to Wonga Hut on the Monday will be by a different route. Oh, yes - there was just one other thing: all members of the party are strongly advised to bring a clean, well-boiled cotton handkerchief.

June 11-14 **WYPERFELD NATIONAL PARK** Easy
LEADER: Bob Steel (p) 47-3743 fare: \$10.00

TRANSPORT: Bus from Batman Ave. at 6.30 pm.
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9.00 pm.
MAP REFERENCE: Algona Guide Map - Wyperfeld National Park.
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 30-40 km. depending on everyone's mood.
For further information see Bob in the clubrooms.

June 25-27 **CAMPASPE RIVER VALLEY** Easy
LEADER: Peter Bullard fare: \$6.00

TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. at 6.30pm.
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: ?????
MAP REFERENCE: ?????
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: No more than 20 miles.

A nice easy walk through undulating country, suitable for beginners new to weekend walking. Come along for a surprise weekend and preview the walk with the leader.

For more details see Peter in the clubrooms.

RUCKSACK PALSY

A paper by this title, by Dr. A. Rothner and others, recently appeared in the American Medical Journal "Paediatrics". A synopsis of this paper is as follows:-

Heavy backpacks or rucksacks should be considered among the causes of shoulder pain or weakness in hikers, campers and others who use shoulder bags. The prognosis for recovery is good when a graduated exercise programme is used, although it may take several months before normal function is regained.

With rucksack palsy, a previously healthy individual who has used a pack for hours at a time first complains of pain or sensory symptoms in the shoulder or arm. The pain is often followed by gradual weakness and wasting in the shoulder girdle, with the non-dominant side usually affected first.

Decreasing the amount of weight that is carried, frequent removal of the load during hiking, improved design of the shoulder straps and redistribution of the weight onto the back and pelvis may decrease the incidence of this problem.

COMING SOCIAL & GENERAL INTEREST FUNCTIONS.

- Wed.
June 2nd. - Slides of AFRICA by Peter Bullard.
- Thurs.
June 3rd. - Ski Touring Association of Victoria - Inaugural meeting. See page 5 for further details.
- Fri.
June 4th. - Meeting to discuss woodchipping proposals in N.W. Gippsland. See page 5 for further details.
- Wed.
June 16th. - Lecture and slides of the Upper Thomson Dam by M.M.B.W. Senior Forester, Pat O'Shaughnessy who has walked in the area while compiling the Environmental Study Report.
- Wed.
June 30th. - General Meeting.



CLUB WORKING BEE

Thank you Peter Bullard, Elizabeth Mitchell, Simon Arnold, Tony Morris, Dave Oldfield, Sylvia Withnall, Janet and Max(8 OUT OF 300 MEMBERS - LESS THAN 3% OF THE CLUB) for coming to the working bee to clean the clubrooms!!

For so few you made a good effort!!

IN THE CAUSE OF CONSERVATION

The Conservation Group brings to your notice and urges you to attend:-

1/ An inaugural meeting of the Ski Touring Association of Victoria. To be held in the Rivett Lecture Theatre, Redmond Barry Building University of Melbourne, on Thursday 3rd June, at 7.15 pm. - Let's see a few bushwalkers on their committee.

2/ The Save Our Bushlands Action Committee are organising a public meeting over the future of the East Gippsland Forests now threatened by proposed wood chip operations. Displays, Slides, film and poetry. Nicholas Hall, 148 Lonsdale Street, Friday 4th June at 8.p.m.

3/ Victorian National Parks Association Meeting, Wednesday 9th June at 8.p.m. A panel of speakers: "Beyond the Thomson" Future implications of the Thomson River Scheme, at Herbariolum, The Domain, South Yarra.

A.C.F. APPEAL FOR FUNDS.

The Australian Conservation Foundation has launched an appeal for \$50,000 to enable them to continue their vital work, but for the ACF's efforts a strong national viewpoint would not be put on a wide range of conservation efforts. Donations can be sent to the ACF at 206 Clarendon Street, EAST MELBOURNE., gifts over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

NEW MEMBERS.

AUSTIN, Marie-Paule, 6 Wright St, Brighton. 3186 (P) 96-4316
BERMINGHAM, Kathleen, 7 Stanford Ave, Brighton. 3186 (P) 81-8531 (B) 92-2539
BOLGER, Andrew, 26 Booker St, Cheltenham. 3192 (P) 93-5586
BOND, Ailsa, 549 Elgar Rd, Box Hill North. 3129 (P) 89-7507
CHANDLER, Amy, 4 Neville St, Mooroolbark. 3138 (P) 726-0325
HARRIS, Roger, 23 Seacombe Grove, Brighton. 3186 (P)92-3073 (B)69-2805
HIBBS, Alan, 2 Vista Court, East Ringwood. 3135 (P)870-2186 (B)51-1451 x263
ZEELANDER, Juliette, 3 Lantana St, Clayton. 3168 (P) 544-6241

Change of Address

DUNCAN, Hugh (Who!) (B) 615-4109
FRITZE, John - (B) 652-8292
LAW, Geoff - 41Williams Rd, Windsor. 3181.
MacMAHON, Ken - 55 Yarra St, Heidelberg. 3084 (P) 45-2977 (B) Same.
MANN, Mick - 15 Wellman St, Box Hill. 3128 (B) 25-4502
POLONIATO, Diego - C/- Temira House, Darwin Hospital, Darwin. N.T. 5790
SCHMID, Ella - Flat 2, 10 Stevenson St, Kew. 3101 (P) 86-7056
SHEEHY, Ian & Magaret - Kanangra, Park Rd, Warburton. 3799.
SMITH, Ronald - Unit 28, 214 Kambrook Road, South Caulfield. 3162
WEATHERHEAD, Judy (nee BILHAM) 3/106 Millswyn St, South Yarra. 3141.

A PECKING ORDER WITH A USE

It is noticeable on walks that status is accorded to those who arrive at different sections first - at least in their own eyes. This however, has two drawbacks. It scatters the party all over the scenery and usually means that the party starts off just as the last person reels up to the stopping place.

We could however, direct this energy into a socially useful channel by introducing a handicapping system. The racehorses could be given more weight to carry. It is visualised that the system would work as follows on a weekend walk. Each walker would have his⁺ weight, agreed between himself and the Walk Secretary, prominently displayed on his pack. Thus we would have 10lb, 20lb, 30lb, and so on, men*. Low weight men would give their surplus to the leader who would distribute it amongst the high weight men*. Balancing could be done by ensuring that high weight men were fully laden whilst low weight men* could be underweight.

It is visualised, that once the system caught on, heavier party items like portable refrigerators, thunder-boxes, generators, camp ovens etc. could be carried. The sceptical at this point may ask - What would induce the heavies to carry all this weight? Simple, we give them blazer badges with their weight prominently embroidered in gold thread. Also, they would have their weight in large figures on their pack - also we could have guernsey's with the appropriate weight shown.

The advantages, status wise, are obvious; instead of a few fleeting minutes of superiority six or seven times a walk, it would be an ongoing thing. In the clubroom on Wednesday when a 70lbber joined a party of 30lbbers, there would be a respectful hush whilst he pontificated and syncophantic agreement when he paused. Should a 90lbber walk into the club all conversation would cease for one minute and people would nudge each other and glance worshipfully at him.

- + For him read him/her, if you know any her silly enough to join such a system.
- * For men read men/women as above.

.... Charles Knight

JUST A PIECE OF USELESS INFORMATION
FOR THOSE WHO GO SKI-ING

For the third consecutive year, above average water runoff, from melting snow in the Kiewa and Snowy Hydro Schemes, has given the Hydro Authorities headaches.

For approximately six consecutive months inflows were about twice the average. The probability of this occurring, calculated by the S.E.C., is one in ten years.

By the way, seeing that 1964 was the best ski-ing season in thirty years, and that the best seasons come in a cycle of four years, 1976 should prove to be a good year snow wise.

.... Ian Hill

SHADY SCORPION

It seems Tyrone found a new way to lead his walk the other day, he simply selected the most likely looking candidate from the booking list, handed him a copy of "100 Walks in Victoria" and said "Turn to page 90, Walk No.65, read carefully and good luck Peter" while he stayed in Melbourne for the weekend.

Peter didn't do a bad job considering it was only his sixth time on the walk, the party only got separated 4 times and he only took about 30 minutes to find the campsite.

Overheard on the Crinoline:

Charles (to Peter. A.): Is it true that when they told you you couldn't take it with you, you said you weren't going?

Peter A: Your so mean I bet you'd make your own coffin.

Charles: No, I'm getting buried in my sleeping bag.

A nasty element has been rearing its head on Club walks recently and the Shady Scorpion and the Yabbering Yeti have joined forces to stamp out the fiery menace of the chimney pot men. They look, talk and walk like anyone else but whenever they emerge from the Van, stop for a "breather", pause for lunch, loiter around the campfire or admire the view from a rugged peak they drag out their cigarettes, cigars, pipes and any other foul weeds they can get their hands on and proceed to pervade the atmosphere with noxious smells that asphixiate the aeromatic bush fragrances and force people to breath in their exhaust fumes.

There are no Club By-Laws at present to prevent smoking on walks but it is suggested that if the C.P. men insist on partaking in this distasteful habit then they do so in private at least 100 metres from the rest of the group and downwind.

All those who viewed Rob Harris's slides of the Western and Eastern Arthurs will surely agree that it was one of the best filmed and edited slide shows for some time.

Rob's interesting and well recorded soundtrack could just about go in as a feature article for "Walk 77".

Gerry reverantly summed up: "I've never been to a Cecil B. De Harris slide show before".

Well the Dinner at Alfreds Homestead certainly carried on from where it left off last year.

Bushies certainly are a weird bunch when they get together, paper darts were flying before the soup was served, the instigator of the Battle of Barmah (son of Hodge) was at it again, fending off food scraps and wet napkins with his chair, Mick actually parted with his chair and got up and danced, Steptoe and Malda - what more can we say, Robs Anniversary cake celebrating 12 months association with the Club, Lynnes Cigar, Hugh and who?, the great food spread, the flower girl and lastly the goddam mess at the end of the night. Really you lot!

Seriously though, congratulations to Malda and John on the announcement of their engagement, it's really fantastic and all the best for the future from all of us.

HIRE OF EQUIPMENT

All members and visitors are reminded that equipment is available for hire from the Club. It is suggested that new members sample the equipment available before buying their own.

Scale of charges.

Frame packs	\$1.00 / week
Sleeping Bags	\$1.00 / week
Tents	\$1.00 / week
Day Packs	.50 / week
Ground Sheets	.50 / week

A deposit of \$2.00 is also required.

The Equipment Office has just bought three new packs and now has two packs available for sale. There are also three sleeping bags for sale. All items are well used, but no reasonable offer will be refused!

Come and inspect them at the equipment room, one floor below the clubroom.

molony's

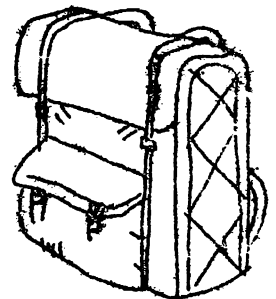
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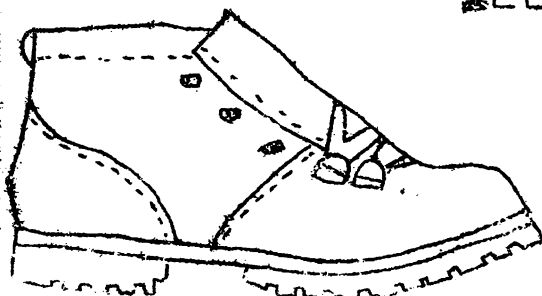
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