

THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

330 Edition MAY, 1977

Du APR (9767)

Registered at G.P.O. for transmission by post as a periodical — Category B.

MAY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Full minutes will be posted in due course in the Committee Room. Some points which came up:

REFERRED FROM G.M. 27APR77: (1) Advertisements in "News" to cease forthwith in accordance with motion passed at the General Meeting. Committee resolved to interpret "advertisements" as meaning "commercial advertisements", and not to include occasional advertisements by members (e.g. for a flatmate or to sell a pair of old boots). Also resolved to write to explain to former advertisers that we are under direction from a G.M. (2) Phone numbers on Walks Program: to continue to be included except where individual leaders request removal. Too late for implementation on Winter program. (3) Slide nights etc.: for a trial 3 months from 1JUN77 the club will be opened at 7pm so that most of the rush of bookings can be got out of the way before slides or talk.

TREASURER: Balance 30APR77 \$5348-08. Bills passed for payment at the meeting: \$1238-03.

WALKS SECRETARY: FEB: 153m + 69v = 222 = 155d + 67w/e. Loss \$124.

MAR: 138m + 65v = 203 = 135d + 68w/e. Loss \$255.

If losses continue, fares will have to be revised. CLUB PROJECT: consideration is being given to publishing book of track notes on the A.W.T. at the conclusion of the project.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: 212 paid-up members.

WALK EDITOR: 1 article has been received. The Editor hopes to have most of the material in by the end of May — so authors AND PHOTOGRAPHERS please hurry!

S.T.A.V.: AGM Wed 25 May, 8pm, Lowe Theatre, Melbourne University.

Meeting held 2MAY77.

Next meeting 6JUN 77, 14 Hosier Lane,7pm.

Visitors welcome.

ARTICLES FOR "NEWS"

All articles and walk previews to be printed in the next "News" should be sent to the News Convener, C/- 3/67 Kingwilliam St., Reservoir, 3073 to reach there not later than Wednesday, 8th June, 1977 or given to Alwyn on Wednesday, 8th June in the clubrooms.

Thank-you, to this month's contributors. Sorry Simon and R.A. that your articles are not printed in this copy, but we shall look forward to your 'Along the Track' reports in the June issue.

News Convener.

It's good-bye soon to Joyce Dunn and Lorraine Delany who are leaving for overseas on 4th June for 35 days. They plan to do quite a lot of walking in the following National Parks - Grand Teton, Wyoming, U.S.A.

Yellowstone, Montana, U.S.A.
Banff and Jasper, Alberta, Canada.
Yoho and Pacific Rim, British Columbia, Canada.
Olympic and Mt. Rainjer, Washington, U.S.A.

We all hope you have a wonderful time!

All correspondence should be addressed to:-

The Secretary, Melbourne Bushwalkers, Box 1751Q, G.P.O., MELBOURNE. VIC. 3000.

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.

JUNE WALK PREVIEWS

Day Walks.

June 5 PIONEER CK. - SPION KOPJE - LAVERY CK.

Medium

LEADER: Max Casley

TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9-15 a.m. Fare \$2

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8 - 9 p.m. MAP REFERENCE: Neerim 1:50,000 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 12 miles

This is a longish walk on roads through hilly forest country. I'm told the views are good but can't confirm this as the weather was wet on the preview. The walk has been slightly shortened and does not go along Woodall Road. There is a total climb up steep roads of about 2000 feet to Spion Kopje, and after that it is mainly downhill to the finish. Hoping for good weather, but bring warm gear just in case - this area can be cold and wet.

June 12 TALLAROOK - BEECH PEAK - BROADFORD

Mediumhard

LEADER: George Telehin TRANSPORT: Train from Spencer St. 9.34 a.m. EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9.00 p.m. MAP REFERENCE: Tallarook 1:50,000 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 23 km. (15 miles)

Starting from Tallarook rail station at 11 a.m. - crossing Dabyminga Creek to climb 340 metres to Breech Peak. We then walk SSE along the edge of the Tallarook Plateau, dropping off the end of the Western End of the Brown Range across farmland to finish at Broadford Station, in time to have tea and catch the train home.

Bring raingear, water for lunch and wear comfortable footwear. Some good views from the edge of the Tallarook Plateau.

June 19 MT. BLACKWOOD - LONG POINT - DARLEY FORD

Medium

LEADER: Brian Busby

TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9-15 a.m. Fare \$2

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7 p.m.

MAP REFERENCE: F.C.V. "Lerderderg Gorge Forest Park", 1:25,000

APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 10 miles

Come to sunny, leafy Lerderderg and relax by a bubbling brook! Never mind the hills, they are there as a challenge and to provide entrancing views. Of course there are tracks - we will follow them most of the time but a short bush bash will add variety.

Better to bring some M.M.B.W. treated water with you since their tunneling at Long Point is stirring up some mud.

June 19 MT. BLACKWOOD - BLACKWOOD RANGE - DARLEY FORD

Medium

LEADER: Cameron Paine

Van from Batman Ave. 9-15 a.m. TRANSPORT:

Fare \$2

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7.00 p.m.

MAP REFERENCE: F.C.V. Lerderderg Gorge Forest Park. 1:25,000

APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 10 - 14 km. (6.25 - 8.75 miles)

(Cont. page 3)

(Cont. from page 2)

This walk is graded easy/medium, and on the easy side of medium I intend it to stay. DCM's: Stay at home unless you are prepared to remain WITH the field for the WHOLE event!!

The walk will take us from Mt. Blackwood (yes, we do have to climb the last 60m) along the rim of the Lerderderg Gorge, finally descending to the river and following it to Darley Ford. Some scrub bashing is likely during the descent from ridge top to river bank. All in all it should be a pleasant Sunday afternoon walk.

N.B. Please bring water for lunch; swimming togs and a towel might also be an advantage, if the prospect of a river in mid-June appeals to you.

June 26 KINGLAKE -- BALD SPUR -- ARTHURS CK.

Easy -Medium

LEADER: Ross Hoskin

TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Ave. 9-15 a.m.

Fare \$2

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Yarra Glen 1:50,000
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: Up to 11 miles

The walk, at this stage, has not been fully previewed.

The walk will be in the north-western part of the Kinglake National Park and will mainly be along fire access roads with a small amount of trackless walking. Although a steep 1,000 feet climb is involved, the pleasant countryside more than compensates.

Be prepared for bad weather and have well treaded footwear. It is essential to carry water.

June 10 - KULKYNE STATE FOREST. (Base Camp)

Easy

13

LEADER: Rob. Hayes
TRANSPORT: Private

WALK PREVIEW NOT RECEIVED.

June 10 - COCOPARRA NATIONAL PARK

Easy -Medium

13

LEADER: Graham Mascas TRANSPORT: Private

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: ?

MAP REFERENCE: Griffiths 1:100,000

APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 3

The Cocoparra N.P. is about 15 miles N.E. of Griffiths N.S.W. (280 miles from Melb.) It consists of a range of hills rising about 1,000 feet above the surrounding plains. Though the forest is reasonably open the landscape is quite rugged with deep scenic gullies and rocky ridges. It is intended that we will set up a base in the centre of the range and spend the 2 days walking from camp, exploring as much of the range as possible. Water must be carried but some, in tanks, is available about 1 mile from camp.

The trip will be limited to 10 vehicles, so for booking will drivers only, put names on list and indicate when their vehicle is full.

June 24 - MT. ENTERPRISE - LAKE EILDON

Medium

26

LEADER: Peter Bullard
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman

TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Av. 6.30 p.m.

Fare \$8

EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: ?

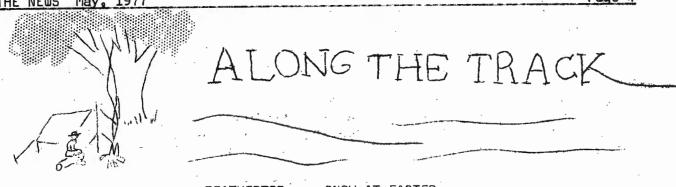
MAP REFERENCE: Crown Lands & Survey Eildon 1:50,000

APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 18 miles

This is a walk into an area in which the club has never been to before. The first day will be along a ridge to Mt. Enterprise then later up another hill and down into camp.

Sunday will be along a ridge after a short climb up to it.

I do not know what the area is like yet but I intend to preview it beforehand. Please see leader when booking as choofas or water may be necessary.



FEATHERTOP - SNOW AT EASTER.

Although not a programmed walk, Bill Metzenthen and I had an interesting trip over Feathertop at Easter and one which we both thought well worth writing up. Our plan was to do in 3 days the 4 day walk (minus the side trip) described by Alex Stirkul in "Walk" 1973, although this did not eventuate. We drove out of Melbourne in the tremendous Thursday night storm and were apparently lucky to make it as we heard later that the Hume Highway was cut by floods. It took $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours to get from Fitzroy to Seymour but thereafter we made good time.

We camped at Freeburgh at about midnight (luckily it was not raining) and settled down to sleep. About two hours later, however, we were woken by an incredible din of drunken shouting and loud music. Some local lads had come in after us and settled down to a hard night of drinking. Chants of 'Lil-lee, Lil-lee' and 'Walk-a, Walk-a' split the night only twenty yards from us. During these ravings they announced that they did not intend to sleep all weekend 'until we crash'! After half an hour of this Bill and I discussed what to do and luckily they gave us a chance to influence proceedings. After a trip to the river, someone yelled out 'I suggest we drink more beer' and so I asked 'Can I make a suggestion too?' This silenced them and then I asked them to turn the radio off. They fortunately were happy to do this as Bill and I were hardly in a position to take issue with them. We could not silence their drunken talk, however, and they carried on for a while longer. We eventually got some sleep and when we woke at 6.30 they had gone, departing as silently as they had come. It was difficult to believe it had happened.

DAY I: Harrietville - N.W. Spur - Bungalow Hut; $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

We left the car in Harrietville and started up the North West Spur from the blazed tree. It had started raining again and we were soon soaked. Leeches were in abundance. As we drew near MUMC Hut we saw the unexpected sight of snow on the mountain through the cloud. In fact snow had fallen at a level below the hut. It was very cold and windy and we spent two hours at MUMC drinking hot drinks and getting warm. Our original plan was to cross the mountain and go to Blair's Hut but this was now obviously out of the question and so we headed for Federation Hut. We lost the track and climbed higher than necessary but soon came to the Feathertop ridge. The snow on the mountain was about 6 inches deep but the track was clear and we went down to the Hut, There were 17 people already there (at 3.30) and so we continued down to Bungalow Hut and camped outside. The rain had stopped but it took about an hour to get a good fire going. All our gear was soaked and it was my first experience of sleeping in a wet sleeping bag.

DAY II: Bungalow Hut - Diamantina Spur - Blair's Hut - Dibbins Hut - Derrick Refuge; $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The clouds looked thinner when we woke and we decided to complete as much of the original trip as we could. When we reached the memorial cross there was a lot of cloud about and a strong wind blowing so rather than cross the summit and descend the East Ridge we decided to go down the Diamantina Spur. The weather began to clear after a while and we had some spectacular views of the East Face as we descended the Spur. Eventually the whold mountain was exposed with snow covering the top 200 metres. We lost the track at the bottom of the spur but this did not matter as you can't avoid meeting the road at the bottom. We came out near the junction of the Diamantina and East Kiewa Rivers and there would probably be an excellent camp—site among the tussocks on the river flats here. We lunched at the ford near Blair's Hut and continued on mast Red Rob Battery to Dibbins Hut.

(Cont.)

FEATHERTOP - SNOW AT EASTER (Cont.)

The new Dept. of Lands 'Feathertop' sheet does not show the walking track continuing from the end of the jeep track on this route and also does not show the walking track from the High Plains to Dibbins and up Swindlers Spur (though it does show the snow pole line on these sections). From Dibbins we went up to Derrick Shelter for the night. Here we heard that two people, very badly equipped, had to be rescued from the Razorback on the previous day, suffering from exposure.

DAY III: Derrick Shelter - Diamantina Hut - Razorback - Feathertop - Bungalow Spur - Harrietville: 13½ miles.

This day we woke to a beautiful sunrise on Mt. Loch. The sky was a bright cloudless blue and remained that way all day. After an early start, with the snow crunchy underfoot, we came to a point below Loch where we had a spectacular view of Buffalo which at this time of day in the absence of haze looked incredibly close and huge. The snow on the high peaks all around us looked superb but it would all be gone by the end of the day. Once on the Razorback we came across all sorts of people (including an Amazon who ran along the track) but this was nothing compared to the numbers on Feathertop. We must have seen at least a hundred people at various places on the mountain: old ladies, dogs, school kids, young children, day trippers from Hotham and Harrietville. The views were superb — the Main Range just in sight behind Nelse, Bogong glistening as the snow turned to ice, the southern peaks of Cobbler, the Crosscut saw and so on lining the horizon, Buffalo, now hezy, looking like a gigantic castle rampart, and the Ovens and Kiewa Valleys stretching north. It was worth the damp clothes, damp sleeping bags, and cold, sleepless nights.

Bob Douglas

EASTER IN THE COBBERAS AREA

As you may remember Thursday night beginning the Easter holiday was lousy weatherwise. Geoff Matt. and passengers Sylvia, Peter Bullard and self got past Dandenong on the Princes Highway. The idea of at least 9 hours driving in heavy rain and heavy Easter traffic did not appeal (nor did setting up camp in a quagmire in pitch dark) so we drove back to Melbourne and started again early Friday.

By the time we reached Native Dog Flat the weather had turned cold and was even snowing a little. Rod's party had left as planned in the morning (so we were told) but we wondered how far they would get as we could see snow on the Cobberas.

Our plan was to take the Tin Mine track to Cowombat Flat and meet the other party on their second night. Cowombat Flat is a delightful camping area (though marred at times by the sounds of a 4 wheel drive party). It is by the junction of Pilot Creek and the Murray River. If one wanted to be alone all one had to do was "go interstate" — a mere step over the 2 ft. wide Murray River!

Sylvia's idea for breakfast on Sunday was very practical; what she couldn't eat for dinner was left uncovered in the pan overnight and remained completely preserved (by ice) for the morning meal. I never complain about frosty nights because they usually produce clear, sunny weather the next day. An so it was for Sunday when we left camp and did a day trip to the Pilot. We were in the brumbies area and were interested to see mounds of dung which the horses leave. Apparently whenever they want to go to the toilet they head for one of the mounds — we wondered what happened when they couldn't quite make the mound — were they disgraced by the community? We heard and saw some brumbies thundering off in the distance and later at Cowombat they came quite close before seeing us. We had glorious views from The Pilot of the Cobberas and surrounding ranges and Mt. Kosciusko didn't look so forbidding from our height; the top of Kosciusko was snow—covered.

On Menday unfortunately we had to back-track on the Tin Mine Road to Native Dog Flat where we found out how the rest of the party had survived their walk.

Janet W.

EAST GIPPSLAND: L.C.C. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS. (A Personal Viewpoint)

These aptly titled "Final" recommendations of the Land Catastrophe (oops sorry) Conservation Council show who really holds the whip hand in apportioning public land.

The first casual glance seems encouraging, as loudly proclaimed in the Press, parks of various types occupy 15% of all land in the area. Contrast this with hard-wood production (47%) and uncommitted land (22%). So you eagerly turn to the map to see where all these parks are situated.

Croajingolong National Park, (82,000ha) along the coast from Sydenham Inlet to the N.S.W. border at Cape Howe, no one could dispute the wisdom of that.

Tingaringy National Park, (17,000 ha) adjoining Kosciusko National Park across the border in the top corner of the study area.

Snowy River National Park (25,000 ha) in a thin strip between 3 km and 8 km wide to the east of the river from McKillop's Bridge south to near Buchan.

At this point you stop, scratch your head, and wonder what happened to the Wilderness Area proposed here in the proposed recommendations. Aha! all is revealed when you read "Most of this park was proposed as a wilderness area in Council's Proposed Recommendations. Subsequent to submission on this proposal — and based on further information regarding the conservation values and the opportunities for recreational development — the Council now believes that it would be more appropriate to reserve portion of the area as a national park. This will enable a wider range of people to enjoy its scenic grandeur and high nature conservation values."

"The remainder of the area originally proposed as a wilderness area has now been recommended to be uncommitted land with an embargo on logging and roading, other than that required for fire protection, until land use is reviewed by Council."

The Gelantipy Plateau has been designated a Reference Area, however don't be fooled into believing that this is inviolate. The document at this point has all the signs of a "committee job" as succeeding paragraphs extoll the virtues of the plateau as of "national significance" and go on to say "this timber may eventually be important to the industries using the timber resource in the western portion of the study area."

Just to keep us still on the hook how about this "Council still believes that there should be a wilderness in eastern Victoria and will seek to provide this when making recommendations for other study areas." I wouldn't put much of my money on their seeking very hard.

By examining the map with a magnifying glass you will find that the Lind National Park, which was apparently forgotten earlier and must have caused many official red faces, now appears as Euchre Creek Scenic Reserve, to be managed by the F.C.V.

There is, of course, no overt commitment either for or against the commencement of large-scale pulpwood operation, which would inevitably lead to widespread clear-felling of all the forest committed to hardwood production. However "it has main-tained the option to establish an economically viable pulpwood industry." Did you see that mentioned in the (Pulpwood Controlled) Press?

There are two supplements at the end which speak for themselves. The first is entitled "The Wilderness Concept" and occupies 2 pages, the second "proposed Pulpwood Industry — East Gippsland Study Area" takes up 12, repeat twelve, pages. Need I say more!!

If the L.C.C. takes such little notice of the conservation arguments in East Gippsland what hope have we in the Alpine Study Area?

Dave Oldfield

Denis, our friendly Gronow's van driver, will be absent from the local scene for a few weeks - as he and his wife will be holidaying in England for that period.

Leadership is a very difficult business. I think there is a constant danger in bushwalking clubs that it will become too repressive. Younger members find their style cramped and drop out. The club becomes set in its ways and goes into the sort of decline in which its greybearded majority congratulates itself if there are as many as ten new members in a year. It is possible to lead a party successfully from the rear - my immediate predecessor did so regularly and with distinction - but the leader who adopts this style should remember that both ends of the party require effective leadership at all times. Neither end should be left in the dark - in any sense of the expression - for a moment. Life is very easy for hard-line critics (and like every other sizeable gathering of human beings our club abounds in them). Some of these adopt the permissive hard-line, others the respressive hard-line. The permissive hard-liners will accuse you of being overbearing. The repressive hard-liners will accuse you of being too slack. Both sides will accuse you of being inconsistent when you try to steer the middle course, where people are reasonably free to do their own thing and yet the cohesion of the group is not threatened, nor are there embarrassing S&R-type experiences for the club. I am afraid that the continuing health of the club demands that leaders strive for this uncomfortable middle ground - you will be able to judge your success not by the absence of criticism, but by whether it comes fairly evenly from all sides! You will have to live with that - but above all be sure there is a clear understanding between you and every member of your party.

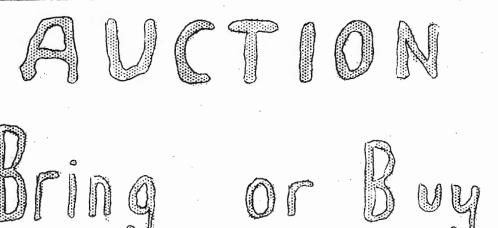
HOWEVER: having said all that about leaders, I am afraid it has become necessary to say one or two hard words about some other members of the club. On a recent walk one young man who is becoming entirely too clever for his own (and perhaps the Club's) good, and another member who is old enough to know better achieved the following impressive record: (1) Called the leader's navigation into question. (2) After it had been proved that the leader was right and they were wrong, forged on ahead repeatedly in very difficult country, in spite of his request to them to stay with the party. (3) After the lunch break again forged ahead (in the wrong direction) and told two others who began to follow them to rejoin the main party.....but made no attempt to do so themselves!! I know it's unbelievable, but perhaps in cold print even they will be able to see how unreasonable their behaviour was. (4) Left the group altogether. As a third party I am unable to say exactly how clear the state of understanding was between the leader and the persons concerned, but I hope there is no doubt as to where my sympathies are.

We don't want to cramp your style. Wherever possible and within clearly—agreed and sensible limits we hope leaders will give the "racehorses" enough rein. But if a prospective leader says that he feels he is unable to lead an incident—free walk because you are on the list it is your name (under Walks by—law A6), not his, which will be removed from that list.

BROADFORD TO YEA.

Any member or visitor who would like to participate in a cross country run—climb from Broadford to Yea on SUNDAY, 5TH JUNE, '77 is welcome to come — Train leaves Spencer St. 9—30 a.m. Buy a single ticket to Broadford. Transport from Yea is bus. Distance 30 miles.

Art Terry (P) 93-3617.



BRING ANYTHING YOU WANT

BUY WHATEVER IS AVAILABLE.

DON'T RESTRICT YOURSELF TO BUSHWALKING GEAR.

AN AUCTION WILL BE HELD IN THE CLUBROOM ON

WEDNESDAY, 6TH JULY OF ANY ITEMS WHICH ARE

BROUGHT IN FOR SALE. TIME: 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

ALL ITEMS CAN BE INSPECTED ON THE NIGHT.

THE CLUB WILL RETAIN A COMMISSION OF 10% ON TOTAL SALES.

Bob Douglas
Auctioneer.

EATING OUT = ON FREEZE DRIED FOODS.

One of the new developments that have lightened the walker's burden (or should have) of late is the availability of freeze-dried pre-cooked meals. In the packet they may weigh only as much as a fifth of their reconstituted weight, contain no stamina-sapping preservatives — your nitrates and nitrites, and take only a few minutes to cook — a boon to those who use small stoves in that less fuel need be carried on a trip.

The term 'freeze-dried' is a bit of a misnomer as heat actually does play a major part in the process. What happens, as in the method used by the Alliance Freezing Co's. works at Invercargill, New Zealand, is that, firstly, the food is frozen then placed in a vacuum and heat applied. This converts the ice in the food directly to a vapour without passing through a liquid stage. After freeze drying the cabinet is flushed with nitrogen to inhibit mould growth and the food then rapidly packaged in airtight containers. Virtually any food, either cooked or raw — fruits, vegetables, fish or meat can be processed in this way — without loosing any of the original flavour.

Recently I tried out a few of Alliance's pre-cooked-food sachets. There are seven meat dishes, one fish, one rice and three fruit to choose from. Trying the Sliced Beef in Gravy with Green Beans as a typical dish, I found it made a big enough heaped-up plateful. However as a main meal a carbohydrate filler should be added - potatoes, rice or bread. When this is done the result could be a satisfying meal for the hungriest. In the pre-cooked long grain rice sachet you get 60 grams weight of the food which swells up to a 135 grams of rice. Add jam and dried fruits and you have an instant dessert as there is no need for cooking. I found, however, that if heating the rice slightly more water should be used than that recommended. A handy innovation is that, by the use of a filler line, the empty packet is used to measure out the prescribed amount of water to be added. And finally, don't throw aluminium packets on a campfire - metal won't burn. Carry out - it's light enough!

YOU THINK HE'S FALLEN OVER A CLIFF? MAYBE HE'S SHY AND GONE INTO HIDING. I'T SAY ANYTHING TO HIM DID YOU? DIDN'T SAY REALLY CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT.

I USED TO ENJOY READING HIS ON HOLIDAYS? GONE COULD HE MAYE RECKON! YOU MORE LIKE ASLEEP

ALTOGETHER ONE ... TWO... THREE

YOU LOPEZ! WHERE ARE

As 'Lopez' appears to have gone on holidays for this month we do have sufficient room to include the two following 'Along the Track' articles.

A WALK TO REMEMBER (7-11 Easter)

We left Melbourne behind on Thursday night, but the weather followed us right into Friday. It didn't help much either when the ranger told us, "We get this sort of weather around about now".

Anyway, after a sleep—in Gordon, Peter and Ian drove off in the only two cars to Mallacoota. Gerry and I set off in the rain on a short walk amongst the sand dunes around the Thurra River. The outcome - wet and cold and two hours to get a proper fire going. Enough said about Friday.

Intermittent rain fell on Saturday, and kept us going until Ram Head Trig point for lunch. Three out of the five who came on my trip climbed this 341 metres high sand hill. From here to the Wingan Inlet National Park beach, where we came across a sign saying "To Camp". All eyes set upon us as we entered camp, but they soon became friendly, especially the Ranger.

It was he who transported us the next morning across the Inlet. Before continuing, Gordon gave me a snack of rock oysters; and later I treated Ian to a different treat by getting his nice day boots all wet in the Red River.

They didn't expect at the end of the day to be carrying their water bags across half a mile of jagged rocks to camp at Benedore River. On route Ian got wet again much to his displeasure I'm sure.

Monday went very quickly especially the morning, not to mention pies and cheese cakes (my favourite), purchased from the Mallacoota bakery.

I think Gerry sums it up well; "One of the best trips I have been on with the club".

Simon Arnold

A FULL-DAY WALK ALONG THE CATHEDRAL RANGE

Groans and grumbles were heard from one end of our Little River campsite to the other as Otto wandered from fire to fire proclaiming an 8 o'clock start. After a little overnight rain, Sunday morning dawned fine and clear, and by a quarter past 8, Otto was confronted by 22 more or less bright and cheerful faces.

We started to climb across open grassland, disturbing several kangaroos, and later entered open forest. As we climbed higher, the track became steeper and more rocky, until at last we emerged on top of Chapel Hill. The views of the Acheron and Little River valleys were excellent, well worth the breath-robbing climb. The views improved as we climbed southward onto the Cathedral along a rocky ridge-top track. Once past the Cathedral, we could see the remainder of our route down the ridge top to the prominent pinnacle called Sugarloaf, 4 miles away.

The northern half of the range, down to the lunch spot at The Farmyard was easily traversed. After lunch we continued south along the aptly named Razorback, which is dominated by almost vertical rock plates along the ridge top for its entire length. The ridge slopes are too steep to walk on, so we had to scramble from rock to rock along the ridgetop. As we approached Sugarloaf from the north, a cloudbank approached it from the south, and the race to the summit ended in a dead-heat. A prolonged afternoon tea was held on the summit, during which the cloud conceded occasional glimpses of the valleys to the east or west. The descent was another rock scramble, and has prompted one young lady, (who has developed a three-point technique of slide-scrambling down smooth rock slopes), to go shopping for a pair of lederhosen. A short road walk through dense forest brought us to Keppel's creek, the van, and the end of an excellent day: many thanks Otto.

MEMBER S

AND EVERYONE INTERESTED

PLEASE NOTE THAT FROM THE

157 JUNE '77 THE CLUBROOMS WILL

OPEN AT 7.00 P.M.

Thank you, Shelly Hayes Soc. Sec.

Slides on 25TH MAY on, "FOOD AND EQUIPMENT TO TAKE ON WALKS", by JOHN SISEMAN.

MID-YEAR DINNER: 27th MAY, 1977. PLACE: Emu Bottom Homestead.

Time: 7-30 p.m. Cost: \$11.00.

FOR SALE.

1 PAIR WOODEN 210cm SPLITKEIN CROSS COUNTRY SKIS

COMPLETE WITH RAT TRAP BINDINGS (IN GOOD CONDITION)

(SUIT SOMEONE 5'9" - 6'0") \$25.00

CONTACT GRAHAM HODGSON (B) 42-3496 (P) 24-4230.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS.

BODEGRAVEN, Jopie - 170 Rossmoyne St., Thornbury, 3071. (P) 480-3595

COGHILL, Ron - 29 Haig St., Croydon, 3136. (P) 725-7244 (B) 89-0211

COSTA, Brian - 33 Barton St., W. Footscray, 3012. (P) 68-4644 (B) 604-8706

HARDINGHAM, Heather - C/- Epworth Hospital,

34 Erin St., Richmond, 3121. (P) 24-4780 (B) 42-6160

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

BUSBY (JORGENSEN), Margaret and Brian — 24 Archibald St., Pascoe Vale, 3044.

(B) Margaret 641-6115 (B) Brian 37-8881.

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