



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 348

NOVEMBER, 1978

Price 20¢

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CHRISTMAS DINNER

FANCY DRESS - DINNER DANCE

THEME - "WITCHES AND WIZARDS"

WHERE: PRAHAN TOWN HALL (SUPPER ROOM)

WHEN: 16th DECEMBER 1978 (SATURDAY)

TIME: 7.30 P.M.

COST: \$12.00 PER PERSON B.Y.O. PLUS 4 COURSE MEAL

ALL VERY WELCOME

FURTHER INFORMATION - SEE SHELLY HAYES IN CLUBROOMS OR CONTACT ON 7864306 (PRIVATE)

All correspondence should be addressed to -

The Secretary,
Melbourne Bushwalkers,
P.O. 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.

Days Walks

November 19 INGLESTON RD-NORTHERN CLIFF WERRIBEE GORGE, WERRIBEE RIVER Medium/Hard

LEADER: Christopher Murphy
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Avenue, 9.15 a.m.
FARE: \$
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7.30 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Ballan 1:63360
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 14 kms.

The walk starts south of the Gorge, rather than north, as shown on the programme. The scrub is light, and the walk will include excellent views of the Gorge and surrounding countryside. Once we cross the Werribee River, we climb out of the Gorge (quite steep) and walk along the cliff-tops to the Bacchus Marsh end of the Gorge. Try to carry at least a litre of water, long trousers are not really needed as the scrub is light. P.S. The walks grading is closer to medium than hard.

December 3 MT. TENNERIFFE PINNINGERS MONUMENT - PORCUPINE HILL (EUROA) Easy/Medium

LEADER: Harold Grave
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Avenue, 9.15 a.m.
FARE: \$4
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 0.00 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Longwood 1:50,000
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 20 kms.

An easy medium walk in the north-east, open country with rewarding views. As this walk completes a circuit, we may be able to persuade Dennis to join us again.
Start: Grid Ref. 411557 (Oak Valley Rd).
Lunch: Grid Ref. 402545 (Mt. Tenneriffe Ht. 1430 ft.) Please bring water.

December 10 NEW FEDERAL MILL - CHARLIES CK. - DOWEY SPUR Easy/Medium

LEADER: Liz McKenzie
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Avenue, 9.15 a.m.
FARE: \$4
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7.30 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Neerim 1/50,000
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 17 km.

Much of the walk is along disused railway tracks northeast of Powelltown. There are beautiful beech trees along Charlie Creek Rd. I saw one lyre-bird and heard many.

December 17 GOLDEN POINT-LAWSONS LOOKOUT-MT. ALEXANDER (CASTLEMAINE) Easy/Medium

LEADER: Max Casley
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Avenue, 9.15 a.m.
FARE: \$4
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 0.30 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Castlemaine 1:63 360 and Bendigo 1:100 000
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 16 km.

The walk starts through an old gold mining area with many deep mine shafts - so watch your step. We go through pine forest, farmland and native forest with quite a few good views on the way. There are quite a few ups and downs so the grade is probably closer to medium than easy. Bring water. Special Note: those attending the Christmas Party the night before are all warmly invited on this walk - there's nothing quite like a good walk after the night before.

December 24 KILMORE EAST - MT. PIPER - BROADFORD Medium

LEADER: Art Terry
 TRANSPORT: Train Spencer St. Departs 9.25 a.m.
 Broadford Departs 7.35 p.m.
 FARE: \$3.00 1st \$2.40 economy.
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: Spencer St. 8.40 p.m.
 MAP REFERENCE: Lancefield & Tallarook Military 1" = 1 Mile.
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 12 miles.

A nice walk across undulating open country with a couple of climbs including Mt. Piper - good views. Buy a day return Sunday excursion ticket to Broadford.

Weekend Walks

WILKY - DINNER PLAIN - ANGLERS REST Easy/Medium

Dec. 26-28 LEADER: Marijke Mascas
 TRANSPORT: Private

Due to the popularity of the leader the walk is full already.

WILKY - MT. BOGONG - MT. WILLS - BIG RIVER Medium

Dec. 28-31 LEADER: Graham Mascas
 TRANSPORT: Private
 MAP REFERENCE: Mt. Feathertop FCV 1:63 360
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 38 miles.

In order that we can leave early 8 a.m. on the Friday morning of the 29th December it is essential participants in this walk arrive on the evening of 28th Thursday and camp in the area round Wallaces/Wilky (N.O. Wilky is full). Friday we will cross the high plains to Ropers Hut down to Big River then up Bogong Camp that night will be new Maddisons Hut. Saturday - we will travel along the Alpine Walking Track down long spur to Big River Saddle then up Mt. Wills with its fantastic views. From the summit we will drop down to Big River again to an excellent camp site (If I can find it again). Sunday - we climb out of the valley up onto the High Plains via Kelly's Yards then back to Wilky for the New Year's eve festivities. With luck and a sympathetic Marijke, we might partake in a large communal meal - ready cooked for our return on New Years Eve. So if you can bring something that can be added to the meal (ice tin fruit/cream and some tins of vegies and meat) that can be left for our return so much the better. Unfortunately there will have to be a limit on this walk so book early.

PRESIDENT'S WEEKEND NOT TO BE MISSED.

December 1-3 LEADER: Graham Wills-Johnson
 EASY - but not a complete bludge.
 TRANSPORT: Private
 MAP: Maffra 1:100,000
 SUPPER FEE: Individual \$3 FAMILY GROUP \$10

Remember that wonderful spread Sylvia and her helpers turned on for us last year? In spite of a total fire ban at the last minute, the club has never been better fed! Well - I'm delighted to be able to report that it's on again this year. By popular request, the loc. is the Avon River where Dave Oldfield had one of his President's w/e's a couple of years back. Being December it may be hot, so it had to be somewhere with lots of water for swimming. O.Y.C. the usual President's weekend setup. Limit of 40, because the catering job gets too big after that - so be in early.

NOTE Please refer to Page 9 for details of BOB DOUGLAS'S WALK ON DECEMBER 8-10, 1978.

APOLOGIES TO BOB FOR LEAVING OUT HIS PREVIEW HERE.
 Refer to bottom of Page 9.



A LONG THE TRACK

The walking scene in Sunny Queensland.

Friday evening, 7 pm, I drive along to Wickham Terrace in the city. Bushies are sitting around everywhere. Suddenly the rain is pouring down. The bushies are scrambling for shelter. The leader is late. One by one the drivers are organised with passengers, about 14 cars in all and over 50 people.

With a couple of nice companions I drive through Ipswich and Warwick and meet up with the rest outside Stanthorpe. Then off again to Girrawarra National Park, about 250 km by road from Brisbane. Here we set up basecamp with all facilities at hand, free of charge. Saturday morning we are woken up by the sunshine, making it uncomfortably hot in the sleepingbags. Around 0.30 we move off on the narrow track by car. The road is no problem for the many 4WD's, while my poor Datsun keeps hitting rocks and dirt with the low towbar. After a few kilometres we have to return after we hit a patch of road that only 4WD's can negotiate. We now have to travel the long way through Wallangarra. It is 10.30 before we start the walk. The country is open bush, with huge rock outcrops. Here the wild pig is king. We are off to South Bald Rock. The rock is magnificent with excellent view from the top to Bald Rock, the worlds largest granite monolith. The NSW border is only some hundred metres away. Then it is rock caving for the most adventurous of us. It turns into a waiting game, out in the daylight we are surrounded by lightning and thunder as we run for shelter under some boulders. Next we are in the middle of a hailstorm. Streams and waterfalls develop on the rockface. 10 minutes later we are walking back to the cars in brilliant sunshine. Now it is back to base for a meal and a campfire. Songbooks and guitar is setting the entertainment scene for the evening.

Sunday we are off to climb West Bald Rock and Middle Bald Rock. The last one is a beast, steep everywhere, but with a grand view from the top. On the way back to Brisbane we all invade the Big Apple Roadhouse, before moving home.

Personal comments:

Fuel conservation and soil erosion are non issues around here. The people are marvellous. The mob is a mixture of teachers, nurses and foreigners like MDW. The club has listed 26 through (weekend) walks, 19 base camps, 8 day walks and 5 new members weekends for 1970.

A social function is held about every 2 months, and in addition supper is served at club meetings twice monthly. Where does the money come from? A 20 cents walking fee and a 3 dollar annual membership fee I suppose. The newsletter is similar to MDW's. A walk with DDW is recommended if you are in Brisbane.

TOM KVALNES.

Thank you Tom for a very interesting Article. Hope to see you down in Melbourne for Christmas.

A special note for all participants of the recent Navigation Course.
 Redefined:- A relief map is a chart showing all the public loos.

WANTED YOUNG LOVER(S) of nature, to occupy rural retreat for about one week commencing 23rd December. Accommodation free in return for feeding a goat, a sheep, chooks and doing some watering. It's easy but reliability is essential. Phone 341-6620 business hours or write to Max Wilkinson C/- P.O. St. Andrews, Victoria, 3761

WANTED TO BUY

One weekend pack
(similar mule or Flinders Ranges)

Two day packs

Please phone Lynn Ratcliffe 0304119

DANDELION WINE

Put 6 cups dandelion petals, 2 lbs of sugar, 1 lb cut up raisins, 3 tsp. acid blend, 1 campden tablet, 1/2 tsp. yeast nutrient, 1/4 tsp. grape tannin in a gallon crock or plastic container. Pour a gallon of hot water over the ingredients, cover with plastic sheet and add packet of wine yeast when liquid cools to 70°F. After three days, strain petals and raisins out, syphon wine into jug and attach fermentation lock to jug. Wait three weeks, syphon everything but yeast into new jug. Let stand three to six weeks (until liquid is clear). Put in bottles, let age six more months (or more). Why fight lawn dandelions? Use them!

STUART HODGSON

FOR SALE: One pair King Leo boots size 61 Worn twice, as new. Sherpe soles \$25 ring Alma Strappazon 061 7559

ASSORTED WAFFLE

Where, as a club, are we going? Are we, in fact, going anywhere? In a relatively unplanned, uncoordinated, and even unconscious way, I think we are. Membership is now very close to 400 for the first time, and still growing. We have completed the first long-term walking project in the club's history. "Walk", after venturing into the (financially) uncharted realms of a colour cover a few years back now seems certain in the near future to branch into a colour centrefold as well - maybe not next year, but it can't be far away. And we are in the throes of spending \$1000 on Wilkie. Is it time for some longer-term thinking?

As explained in a recent issue of "News", it is imperative that the stove be replaced at Wilkie. Our future long-term occupancy is, of course, in some doubt; but whatever happens in the Alpine area, it is going to take time, and we can be pretty certain that the new stove will be coming to the end of its active life before we are faced with any drastic changes in what has become quite an important part of the club's lifestyle. There has, of course, been the worry that ownership of the lodge might compromise our stance on environmental and national park issues. I am sure that the event has proved these fears unfounded. It was our club which finally broke through The Age's censorship of the bushwalking point of view - the importance of The Age if you wish to address the Victorian Establishment (of EITHER political stripe) directly is greatly underestimated by some. We have not been inhibited in protesting to the SEC and the SCA about the latest abuses of the High Plains by commercial interests. For all that the (late lamented? - this is being written before the meeting of 14 Nov) Federation persists in its denigration of the clubs, we made strong contributions to the Federation submission on the Alpine area - some of the best material in it comes originally from the pen of Jerry Grandage; we have played our part in Federation submissions on earlier study areas as well. No, Wilkie has not compromised our stance as some of us feared it might do.

What part does it play in the club's lifestyle? While those of us who do not have families would miss the occasional convivial weekend spent there, or a base for a week's skiing, I think its real importance, to wax somewhat corny about it, is as the club's "nursery". I don't seem to be able to go anywhere these days without hearing of yet another addition to the family section of the club. There is no doubt that the lodge makes an ideal setting in which kids can be introduced to bushwalking and the alpine environment. In trying to get society to provide wilderness areas

equal to the energies of twenty-year-olds, we run some risk of forgetting to provide for those ten years their junior.

I think the time has come for some long-term thinking. It seems extremely unlikely that we will be able to occupy Wilkie under the present conditions for ever. The present lodge and its surroundings are, of course, completely irreplaceable, but unless we take the line that it's not going to be replaced by anything when we finally have to go, I think it must be conceded that we ought to commence making financial provisions for that day - and perhaps looking around and wondering where we will go. There is no excuse for not at least thinking about the question. There is no excuse for not thinking about the club's longer-term future.

-----W.J.

NOVEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Official minutes will be posted in the committee room in due course. Some points which came up:-

CORRESPONDENCE: Draft letter to SEC, SCA, etc. protesting re vehicles on the High Plains during the snow season now ready to be sent (see last month's notes).

TREASURER: Balance 31 Oct 78: \$8059.27. Bills passed for payment at the meeting totalled \$3368.13. The bill for "Walk" 1979, approx. \$3300, is expected this month. \$1000 was transferred from the investment a/c during the month in anticipation of the "Walk" bill.

WALKS SECRETARY: Sep: 71v + 115 m = 186 = 149d + 37 w/e. Loss: \$10.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: We have 381 members.

SOCIAL SECRETARY: Talk & film on first aid in the bush 22 Nov. Christmas dinner/ball - see notice elsewhere in this issue of "News" - \$12 per head.

NEWS: Closing date is 6 Dec. More articles are required, please.

WILKINSON LODGE: The stove has now been purchased, and with accessories and delivery charges total costs were \$820. Installation is expected to commence on the forthcoming Australia Day w/e. About 35 vouchers have been sold already.

"WALK" 1979: Expected delivery date is Thursday (16th Nov.) Editor had a sample of the cover, which has this year been reproduced from a slide of Bob Douglas's which was of horizontal format. Selection of a vertical portion of the slide has not resulted in excessive graininess - note to future editors - it appears that it is NOT necessary to restrict the search for a good cover to vertical-format slides!

FEDERATION: Council meeting tomorrow night (14 Nov.) - delegate was instructed to pay particular attention to the Constitutional eligibility of the putative chairman. Meeting to decide the future of Federation to follow the Council meeting on the same evening.

DUTY ROSTER: 29 Nov. Geoff Crapper, Graham Wills-Johnson; 6 Dec. Eileen Ayre, Rob Hayes; 13 Dec Shelly Hayes, Christine Nicol; 20 Dec Ian Hargreaves, Rod Mattingley; 27 Dec. Clubrooms will be closed.

Meeting held 13 Nov 78
Next meeting 4 Dec 78, 14 Hosier Lane,
7.00 p.m.
VISITORS ARE WELCOME

Closing date for next month's "News", December issue is December 6, 1978. How about some great articles for the Christmas issue, especially "Along the Track". Articles to be sent to News Convenor, 53 Riverside Avenue, North Dalwyn or hand them to me in the Club Rooms.

ALISON BLAKER

Congratulations to Alex and Marg. Stirkul on the recent arrival of their son Timothy. All the very best Marg. & Alex.

I shall be in Tasmania from 13th December, 1978 to 18th January, 1979 and would like to walk through the Reserve. If any members will be doing such a trip and wouldn't mind another traveller, I would be interested.

Arthur Francis.

Copies of ECOs have been bound recently, but we are missing Nos. 1,8,9 and 10. Members are asked not to remove any library material from clubrooms. Please return the 4 issues of ECOs so that they can be included in the next volume.

ATHOL (Librarian)

F.V.W.C.

On Tuesday 14th November approximately 62 people representing 15 Clubs attended the meeting to discuss the future of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs. After hearing some written submissions the meeting began to put forward suggestions and discuss the matters that arose. Some points arising were:-

1. The F.V.W.C. must find a president.
2. Communication between F.V.W.C. council and it's members must improve.
3. F.V.W.C. must determine its priorities.
4. A sub committee will be formed to review the constitution.
5. Member Clubs must find club members who are willing and able to help with these and all other Federation activities.

NEW MEMBERS (The Club welcomes all new members)

Rosalind PRICE, 5/129 Domain Road, South Yarra, 3141. H: 261511 B: 263740.
 Grant NICHOLSON, 11 Victor Avenue, Cheltenham, 3192. H: 550 6404 B: 5416414.
 Aneila BEYEN, 21 Inglisby Road, Mont Albert, 3127. H: 88 4011.
 Zoe HEDDON, 23 Gable Street, Laverton, 3020. H: 399 1004.
 Anne HEDDON, 23 Gable Street, Laverton, H: 399 1004.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Andrew BOLGER, P.O. Box 766, Horsham, Vic. 3400 PHONE 053 821 351.
 Prue HARDIMAN, 65 Hodgkinson Street, Clifton Hill, 3060.
 Les & Lindsay MARKHAM H: 25 0510 B: 630 7740 (Les).
 Anne SHENTON, 9/306 Toorak Road, Toorak, 3142. H: 24 6080.
 John HILLARD, 5 Awarua Street, NGAIO, Wellington, New Zealand H: 792 991.
 Janet WHITE, Phone: 509 2501.
 Bob DOUGLAS, 3 Woodside Street, North Fitzroy.

PLEASE NOTIFY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY PROMPTLY RE. CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND PHONE NOS.

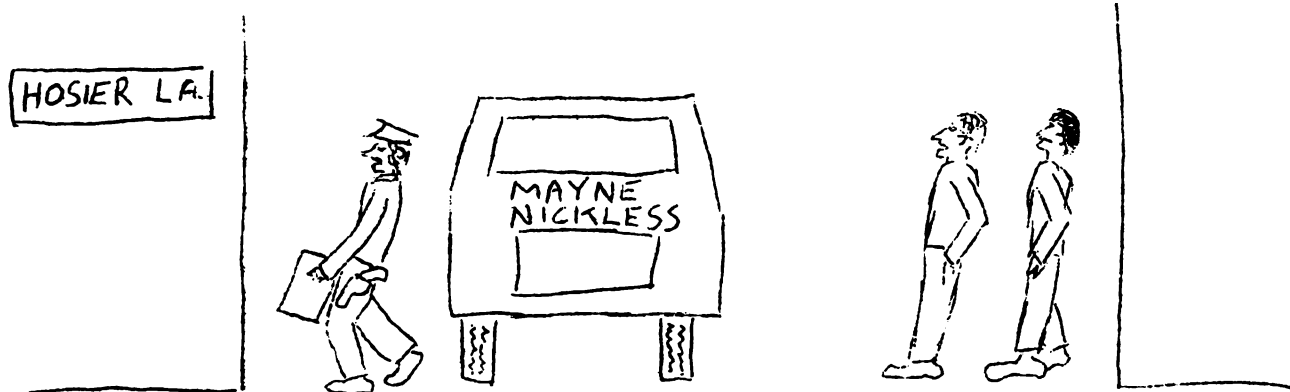
STOP PRESS

As an added attraction, we are serving supper in the Club Rooms on DECEMBER 20, 1978 (Wednesday night Club) at 8.30 p.m. Please come and celebrate Christmas with us, I am sure everyone has heard of Libby's famous fruit cake which will be served.

EVERYONE MOST WELCOME - SEE YOU THERE

Help us make a submission to the LCC about the "North Central Area". Send your information to Christine Nicol via the P.O. Box 1751Q, before December 13, 1978

Wednesday November 29, 1978 - General Meeting. Come to the last General Meeting of the year and discuss whatever you wish.



WE HAD WORD THAT THE OPPOSITION MAGAZINE WERE GOING TO HIJACK
 "WALK"
 LOPEZ

There was a funny sight in Hosier Lane during the petrol strike when a Mayne Nickless Van rolled up to the clubrooms to deliver a huge "payroll" of a few dozen large containers. I pity the poor thieves who may have thought that they could get an easy amount of money. The boxes contained a valuable quantity, of course, namely 3000 odd copies of Walk 1979!

Talking of walking there are strong rumours that the President is being dragged off to Tasmania at Christmas time by Renne Lays. It seems that more well known club members are "going off" nowadays.

On the weekend trip to Melville Caves, it was raining when the van arrived at the campsite. As there were only a few on the walk about half stayed on the van for the night while the rest stayed in a leaky shelter that picknickers usually frequent. Come the morning when they awoke, Spencer George's tent was seen to be neatly pitched on a picnic table in a adjoining shelter shed. Poor Spence, having to pitch a tent in such rough conditions.

At the Navigation weekend a few parties got bamboozled and had such great faith in those who were manning the checkpoints that they showed no surprise when they found the person that they had just left, at the next point.

Katrina Watters and Little Willie are the only members of the club who have walked with the club on the whole length of the Alpine Walking Track. Could this be the start of bigger and better things?

Overheard in the van on the way to the A.W.T. No. 5 walk -

"Darling, we can't keep on meeting like this, people are starting to talk about us".

Hugh Duncan has driven for most of the walks and on the last walk he joined the walkers to Mt. Speculation and then walked down to the road along the A.W.T. After leaving the walkers to walk back to the van down the road, he was bailed up by a billy goat (a real one, not a hairy bushwalker). The goat had big horns, at least 4 ft. across and tried to use them on Hugh. After playing matadors with his japara and cleverly side stepping just before the goat rumbled past, Hugh raced off down the track to the van.

Poor old Hugh.

Weekend Walk Preview -

Dec. 8-10 LOCATION: ABBEYARD-MT. COBBLER-CATHERINE RIVER

Medium/Hard

LEADER: Bob Douglas TRANSPORT: Private EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 9.00 p.m.

MAP REFERENCE: Duffalo and Howitt 1:100,000 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: Day 1: 23k. Day 2
 21 km.

This is a genuine medium-hard walk with some steep climbs, a considerable distance to be covered, some rock scrambling down a cliff-line, and a scratchy, scrubby ridge to endure. Nevertheless these hardships are amply balanced by the views from Cobbler and the concluding stage, a truly delightful walk down the Catherine River Valley (with 14 river crossings).

NOTE - Abbeyard is 290 km. from Melbourne via Genalla and Whitfield and 302 km. via Mansfield and Whitfield.

THE AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

When I have nothing to report on the ACF at meetings, the comment has been made:-

"The A.C.F. never does anything". This is because there is usually nothing directly connected to bushwalking in Victoria.

Its annual report, however, shows that it has a finger in many states and national pies. For example.

URANIUM MINING:

The A.C.F. called for the Australian Government to give an undertaking that it would not allow N WASTE to be imported for storage in Australia. An unequivocal undertaking to this effect was then given by a spokesman for Mr. Anthony.

FORESTRY AND LAND MANAGEMENT:

With Church and other appropriate bodies the A.C.F. intends to approach the P.M. and State Premiers about the rapid run-down of indigenous fossil fuel reserves and the social and environmental implications of the high and increasing rates of per capital use of energy in Australia and the Western World.

Possibly the main environmental problem in the world is the desperate situation facing millions in the Third World. The A.C.F. has urged that Australian trade and foreign policies be consistent with the long term sustainability of the environment with an approach towards equity for all nations.

Its submission on national water resources advised multi-objective planning.

The A.C.F. launched an appeal in June for \$20,000 for the preparation of a plan for the conservation and expansion of Australian forests (The only other plan is that made by the wood products industry and forestry authorities.)

In an EIS (environmental impact statement) for a wood-chipping proposal, the A.C.F. pointed out that the proposal was inconsistent with a NSW cabinet decision.

Concern for the Jarrah and Karri Forests has prompted the A.C.F. to try and arrange a comprehensive study of land use in South Western Australia.

On Australia Day the Foundation met with representatives of the Northern and Central Aboriginal Land Councils. In April the A.C.F. presented a submission on the Walbiri land claim in Alice Springs for the land to be a sanctuary or national park.

120 people attended the Foundation's first national conference on wilderness conservation. It sponsored the formation of EFE - Environmentalists for Full Employment, providing an office at Victorian ACF headquarters.

The net immigration of 70,000 announced by the Minister in June should add 3 million to Australia's population by the year 2000. The A.C.F. asked the Minister for Environment to require an EIS on this proposal and supported immigration for family reunion and refugee settlement.

It is not surprising that with all its interests, the Foundation wants many more members who feel that they can take the initiative themselves and work for conservation ... wherever they live?

E. MCKENZIE
