



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 353

DECEMBER, 1979

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CHRISTMAS-DINNER

DON'T FORGET

20TH DECEMBER - CHATEAU WYUNA

7.30 p.m. - only \$12.50 per head - three piece band

Correspondence should be addressed to:-

The Secretary,
Melbourne Bushwalkers,
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 7.00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

JANUARY - WALK PREVIEW

1980

DAY WALKS

Jan 6.

LERDERDERG GORGE

EASY

LEADER: Jim Hedstrom
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Av., 9.15 a.m.
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7.00 p.m.
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 3 Miles

This is the annual Lilo Derby walk - the Walk Secretary's Christmas gift to all walkers who have toiled hard throughout the year.

Starting at Darley Ford, we walk a short distance along the Lerderderg River to an idyllic rock pool where we join the week-end walkers and spend the rest of the day swimming, loafing in the sun, and competing if you wish, in the Lilo Derby. We then return after a hard days loafing to the Darley Ford.

Visitors requesting information on the Lilo Derby, see the leader or ask any member. Bring togs and water for lunch.

Jan. 13.

SNOWY HILL - CAMBARVILLE - CUMBERLAND FALLS

EASY/MEDIUM

SNOWY HILL

LEADER: Peter Bullard
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Av., 9.15 a.m.
MAP REFERENCE: McMahons Creek 1:50,000
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 12 miles

This walk will be starting near Lake Mountain. First we go over Snowy Hill and then drop down a ridge in lightly timbered country to Cambarville then across to the Cumberland Falls before the climb up Mt. Arnold, then to the Lake Mountain Rd. and back to the van. Time permitting we will also make a side trip to the top of Lake Mountain. Carry water for lunch.

As I will only be coming back from Tassie a few days before this trip, it will not be previewed. If you have any queries, I will be in the clubrooms on the Wednesday prior to this walk.

Jan 20.

PHILIP ISLAND - PYRAMID ROCK - FOREST CAVES

EASY

LEADER: Alison Blaker
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Av., 9.15 a.m.
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: Negotiable, depending on weather.

A pleasant easy walk. Bring bathers and water for lunch. Distance of the walk depends on the weather conditions. We hope to be back by 7.00 p.m.

Jan 28.

COAST WALK - FRANKSTON - DAVIES BAY - MORNINGTON

EASY

LEADER: Athol Schafer
TRANSPORT: Train. Holiday time table approx 9. a.m.
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7.00 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Cranbourne Military 1" = 1 mile
also see Melway Directory.
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 10 miles.

Barefoot walking on the sand, but please bring boots for scrambling around cliff base. Don't forget bathers, sun cream, hat, fruit juices etc.

WEEK-END WALKSJan. 5 - 6 LERDERBERG RIVER - ANNUAL LILO DERBY

BLUDGE

LEADER: Stuart Hodgson
 TRANSPORT: Private - Meet at Darley Ford at
 2.00 p.m. Saturday Jan. 5.
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: Negotiable!!
 MAP REFERENCE: F.C.V. Lederberg Gorge
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 5 miles

This is The Big Event of the year! Roll up with your lilo and splash about in a glorious secluded pool a mere stone's throw from the metropolitan hubbub. Join in the races of your choice - singles, doubles, males, females, mixed - or any other variation you can think of. Stimulating company, superb weather and lots of aquatic fun.

Jan. 25 - 28 BASE CAMP - BRYCES GORGE

EASY

LEADER: Bob Steel
 TRANSPORT: Private
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: About 9.00 p.m.
 MAP REFERENCE: Howitt, 1: 100000
 V.M.T.C. - Snowy Plains - Mt. Wellington.
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 20 - 30 kms.

A base camp will be set up on Conglomerate Creek on Saturday and Sunday nights, from which daywalks will be conducted.

Friday night we will camp at Breakfast Creek (on Wellington River above Licola). Spectacular scenery guaranteed - waterfalls, rapids, deep gorges, cliffs, far vistas to blue horizons and GOOD WEATHER!!

Could be total fire bans, so come prepared for no cooking.

Jan 25 - 28 HOWITT PLAINS RD. - MT. DARLING - WONNANGATTA
DRY RIVER - GUYS HUT

MEDIUM

LEADER: Graham Wills-Johnson
 TRANSPORT: Private
 MAP REFERENCE: Howitt 1: 100 000 or
 V.M.T.C. - Snowy Plains.
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: ??

This walk takes me back - at least the first day does! I think it must be just about the first walk I ever did with the club - and we've never been back. Perhaps this is because the leader, a certain Tudoresque gentleman by the name of Thomas, got a magnetic anomaly into his direction finder and took us miles (it was miles in those days Virginia) out of our way. However, it's interesting, if little-visited, country, and the final approach to Mt. Darling is on a narrow rocky ridge with views down into the Wonnangatta Valley. Bring water - the first day could be dry! We camp near the famous Wonnangatta Station - I hope there will be enough water in the river for a swim this year! Anybody who wants the second day to be tough can take themselves up Conglomerate Creek - but the leader is old (???) and out of condition (!!!) and overweight (***), and will be quite content to totter up the Dry River Track at the tail of the party. On Monday there is a wide variety of pack-free sidetrips to choose from; gorges and waterfalls in the head of the East Caledonia River, cliffs and waterfalls on Piemans Creek and Conglomerate Creek, or, if you're energetic, you could "blat" round all of them.

COMMITTEE NOTES

Meeting held December 3rd, 1979.

Only ten committee members were present.

Reports received - TREASURER \$6817.30 in bank. Accounts totalling \$5148.29 were passed for payment, including \$4130.00 for "Walk"

WALKS SECRETARY October - 216 people, consisting of 49 visitors and 167 members and 134 day walkers and 82 week-end walkers. Loss for the month was \$150.

MEMBERSHIP 372 financial members as at end of November.

SOCIAL SECRETARY 128 tickets sold for Blinky Bill Ball.

"WALK" 2500 copies have been distributed. Break even point is 300 sold at \$1.20 and 2830 at 85 cents.

GENERAL BUSINESS 1. It was decided not to sell the club's projector. 2. The club will reprint the club booklet "A Guide To Bushwalking" - Peter Bullard to prepare a revised edition. * (continued)

DUTY ROSTER 12 Dec. - Ken McMahon, Bob Steel
19 Dec. - Peter Bullard, Ian Hargreaves
26 Dec. - CLUBROOMS CLOSED
2 Jan. - Prue Hardiman, Jim Hedstrom
9 Jan. - Rod Mattingley, Libby Quarterman

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING - 7 January, 1980

*GENERAL BUSINESS (cont.) 3. Suggested that in future at General Meetings, copies of minutes of previous meeting will be available in clubrooms on meeting nights to avoid the time wasting procedure of reading the minutes.

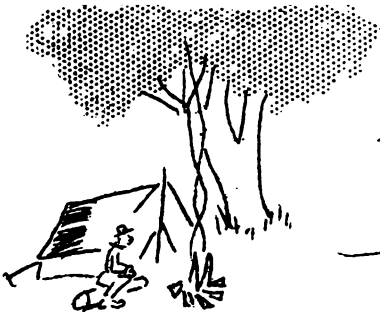
CONTACTS FOR THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

The Club contacts for the period

21 Dec-- 6 Jan

will be-

No.1 Contact
David and Joan Gibson 801951
No.2 Contact
Barry and Gwenda Short 8706830
No.3 Contact
Fred and Merle Halls 973724



A LONG THE TRACK

THE LAST OF THE HARD WALKS????

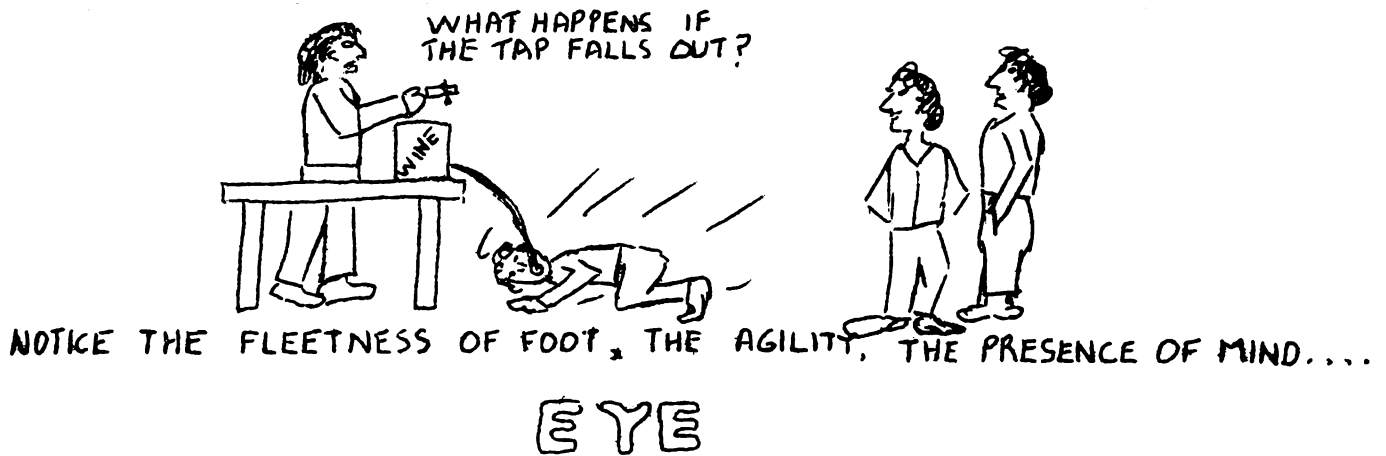
BY BOB DOUGLAS

Geoff Law's trip to Spion Kopje and the southern slopes of Bogong was originally programmed by the Walks Secretary to be on the same week—and as another hard trip around the High Plains to Mt. Fainter. When it was pointed out to him that the same kind of people would want to go on both walks, the Fainter trip was cancelled. For all the interest shown in the other walk it might as well have been cancelled too; if it had been, however, the five who did go would have missed out on one of the classic alpine hard walk which, it seems, were better patronised only a short time ago.

We started, typically, by getting lost, crossing the wrong creek below Howman's Gap and starting up a very scrubby spur which proved to be the wrong one. Having found the right spur we ascended through the levels of vegetation — wet ferns, mountain and alpine ash, snow gums and open alpine country — to Spion Kopje, scrub-bashing, track-climbing and road-walking in succession. It was a pleasure to be out on the alpine tops again, especially after we left the road and cut across country to Roper's Hut. John King made the interesting observation that this country is much like the Pennines in England, except that it is boggier there. After a late lunch at Roper's, we went down Deane Spur, catching up at the bottom with another party, who ^{was in the Roper's log book to go on to Cleve Cole} but changed their minds once they had reached Big River. We all felt tired now, with a climb up and a steep climb down already completed, and none of us were looking forward to the ascent up T-Spur. But the weather was mild, indeed a little cool rain fell, and we were up at the shell of Michelle's Hut in about two hours. It was quite foggy and cool, with the threat of more rain, and it would have been nice to spend the night in Cleve Cole Hut, but it was filled with beer drinking bushwalkers from Ballarat and so we pitched tents near the stockyards at about 5.30 p.m. A heavy shower dampened our spirits, but not the fire which Geoff managed to light with the help of huge chunks of firelighters. The rain soon ceased and we enjoyed a pleasant, quiet dinner around the warm fire.

A nearly start in the light fog and we were soon on Horse Ridge, with the weather steadily improving. By the time we had descended Granny's Spur to the Big River it was fine and sunny, allowing John to dry out after his 50% immersion crossing the river. Another long climb, up to Timm's Spur; this seemed the worst of them all, and we welcomed frequent breaks on the way. Once on top, another delightful walk across the open plains. The weather worsened again as we lunched beside a small stream, and we moved off briskly along the surprisingly long trek across the Spion Kopje Ridge. Then down the road, rain again, down the steep slippery track to the river, another wetting as we crossed (but not as great as the photographers hoped) and then up the track to Howman's Gap, finishing at 4.15.

As pleasant a walk as any I have been on, hard or otherwise. But where are the walkers who used to come on this kind of trip, and perhaps more important, where is the fresh blood the club needs if it is to sustain those trips? John and Roy are new (John only temporarily here), but the Club does not seem to be attracting and/or retaining enough people to make up the numbers of a few years ago. And does this really matter anyway? Are the participants on hard walks just a small, exclusive sub-set of the vast membership of the club, arcane in their customs, frightening to potential newcomers? It would be a pity if that is the image. I hope it is not.



It is reported that on a preview recently two intrepid walkers, Ian and Peter, almost had the privilege of spending the night in Cressy Lock-up. They certainly enjoyed the hospitality of the local constabulary.

On another trip Jackie H. was seen in an elegant combination of green and white pyjamas and boots. After a very convivial evening, she was seen next morning with a red nose (said it was the sun).

The party at Eileen's was enjoyed by all, even the fellow who fell asleep over his food half way through the evening. Peter A's "lack of experience" with wine casks enabled him to remove completely the tap with the cask still full. A situation which didn't last long as the cask emptied itself over Peter and others rather quickly.

The President's week-end was a great success and Stewart was heard to exclaim: "That's the largest erection I've ever seen" - - - when he saw a 27 foot long tent.

The festivities and swimming were enjoyed by all. Janet's endeavours to introduce topless bathing to the M.B.W. went without the success we males had hoped for!

Someone tried unsuccessfully to centrally heat a tent and ended up with (h)air conditioning and no sleeping bag.

Never was there so much food left after a bushies do - did the heat drill those famous appetites or was it the lethargy taking over.

Congratulation to Rex on obtaining his Master's Degree. A very valiant effort.

Congratulations also to Shirley and George Telehin on the birth of their son Anton, who was born on 23rd November. Mother and son are alright, father coping.

Welcome to the following new members:-

Peter HAVLICEK, 27 Montpellier Rd. Burwood, 3125 H. 288 7013 B. 819 8416
 Terence LITTLE, 8/5 Denbigh Rd., Armadale, 3143 H. 509 6089 B. 419 6255
 Ian VAN DER VEEN, 12 Hick Street, Spotswood, 3015 H. 391 3058

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Kathy LILEY, 1/8 Clarkson St. BRIGHTON, 3186 H. 96 6118
 Andrew BOLGER, C/- Radio 2 QN P. O. Box 312, DENILQUIN, 2710.
 Dorrie WARTON, Lot 15 Macclesfield Rd. AVONSLEIGH, 3159 H. 059 68 3131.

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HONEY AND BANANA WHOLEMEAL LOAF

2 cups wholemeal S.R. flour	Sift flours, add brown sugar - mix
3/4 Cup white S.R. flour	lightly. Melt butter with honey over
3/4 cup brown sugar, lightly packed	low heat, cool slightly. Make a well
1/4 cup honey	in the centre of dry ingredients. Add
4 oz butter or margarine	mashed bananas (these should measure
1 cup milk	3/4 cup) then finely chopped walnuts,
1/2 cup bicarb of soda	well beaten egg, combined soda, milk
2 ripe bananas - mashed	and butter. Mix well. Pour into
1 egg	greased 9 x 5" loaf tin with base lined
2 oz walnuts.	with greaseproof paper. Bake in
	moderately hot oven 1 hour 15 Min or
	until cooked when tested.

* * * * *

AT THE LAST GENERAL MEETING THE FOLLOWING RULES FOR VAN TRIPS WERE SUGGESTED:

NO SMOKING

SEATS NOT TO BE USED AS FOOTRESTS

ALL RUBBISH TO BE DEPOSITED IN GARBAGE BIN PROVIDED

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"CANYONING IN THE COLO"

Canyoning is a new sport in Australia, and it is very likely that little goes on in any other country. It involves following creeks that drop into deep narrow clefts, wherever they go, over waterfalls, down slots, through holes and chasms and out into deep valleys. Once you have committed yourself to a canyon, there is no way back. It is one of the coldest sports, being far colder than any of the snow sports. The only time it is advisable to descend a canyon is in summer and even then you freeze. At least with snow sports you wear protective clothing, but in a canyon you have to swim, so it is either swimmers or a wet suit.

Elizabeth McKenzie

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Please send all copy for news to:- Marijke Mascas
 12 Hillcrest Rd.,
 GLEN IRIS, 3146.

or "post" in the red box in the clubrooms.