



THE NEWS

OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

Edition 352

NOVEMBER, 1979

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PAULIE'S PAGE

O.K. my little chickadee's, here are lots of things for you all to do.

WEDNESDAY 28th of November, 7.30 pm Clubrooms

To start off the evening we have a stimulating GENERAL MEETING to which I hope you will all turn up to. The meeting will be chaired by the one and only Robert Steel Esquire and if we all listen and don't say anything the proceedings will be over in about half an hour. To be followed by.....

AN AUCTION SALE

Chief Auctioneer is Bob Douglas and 10% of the money for Auctioned goods will go to the club (to help me with my Christmas expenses actually!) Please bring in all your treasures that are not doing you an good because they may be useful to someone else; and give them to me.

BLINKY BILL BUSH DANCE

PRESENTED BY THE MELBOURNE BUSHIES AND THE V.M.T.C.

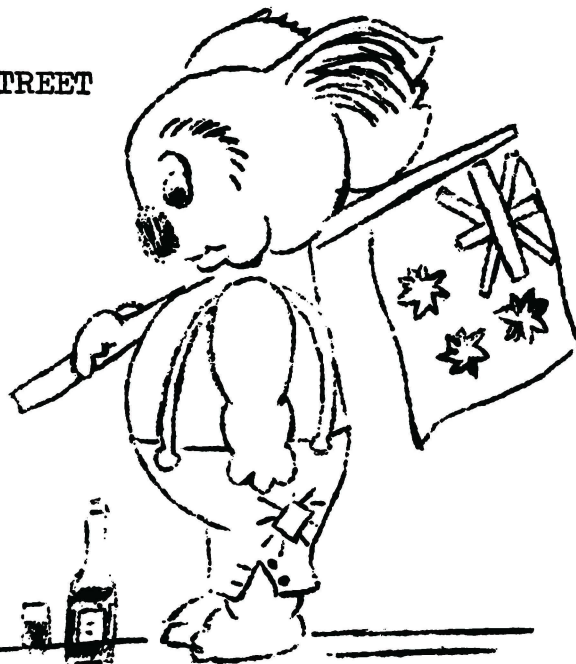
WHEN ??? FRIDAY 14TH OF DECEMBER

WHERE ??? BAILEY HALL, 401 CHURCH STREET RICHMOND.

WHAT TIME ??? 8.00 P.M.

BRING ??? FRIENDS, LOVERS, APPROPRIATE SPOUSES GROG AND SUPPER.

COST ??? ONLY \$\$\$\$4.00



Please turn to page **4** for continuing Social news.

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.

DECEMBER - WALK PREVIEWS

DAY WALKS

Dec. 2 MARTIN POINT - LITTLE YARRA RIVER - THE BUMP EASY/MEDIUM

LEADER: Any Volunteers???
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Av. 9.15 a.m.

If you are not going on the President's week-end, and feel like leading this lovely walk, see Alex Stirkul in the clubrooms.

Dec. 9 MOLESWORTH - MT. CONCORD - BLACK RANGE MEDIUM

LEADER: PETER ARDEN
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Av., 9.15 a.m.
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7.30 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Alexandra 1: 100,000
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 12 kms.

The walk starts about 1½ km north of Molesworth. There is a steep climb of about 500 m up to Mt. Concord. The rest of the walk is a very pleasant easy stroll along the edge of an escarpment, with views for most of the way. Bring water for lunch.

Dec. 16 CAPE SCHANK - GUNNAMATTA BEACH - RYE OCEAN BEACH EASY

LEADER: CAROLINE STRICKLAND
TRANSPORT: Van from Batman Av., 9.15 a.m.
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 7.30 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Rosebud 1 : 50,000
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 10 miles.

This walk will be very pleasant, mainly along the beach front. If the weather is hot, and good for swimming, we will be starting from Cape Schank and walk 7 miles to Rye Ocean Beach. However, if on the day the weather is cool I will be lengthening the walk to include "Main Creek - Bushrangers Bay" track which will mean we will walk approximately 10 miles. As lunch could be later than usual it might be an idea to bring a snack to have on the van. Bring water for lunch and swimmers.

Dec. 23 KILMORE EAST - MT. PIPER - BROADFORD MEDIUM

LEADER: ART TERRY
TRANSPORT: Train from Spencer Street Station
 9.25 a.m. (Albury Line)
EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8.30 p.m.
MAP REFERENCE: Lancefield and Broadford (Military)
APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 12 miles.

A medium walk across undulating open country, we traverse a ridge for about 3 miles, good views with an excellent view from the summit of Mt. Piper. Bring plenty to drink as the day may be hot. Buy a day return to Broadford.

WEEK-END WALKS

Dec. 7 - 9 THE TWINS - MT. MURRAY EASY
 LEADER: ROD MATTINGLEY
 TRANSPORT: Private
 MAP REFERENCE: Howitt and Dargo 1 inch to 1 mile or 1:100 000
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 22 km minimum.

This is a week-end walk for those who like sweeping vistas of range after range of mountains fading off into a distant blue haze, lovely grassy campsites amongst snowgums, and also for those who like to reach the campsite after walking about 11 km.

We shall leave the cars at Mt. St. Bernard on the Hotham road, where the Dargo road comes in, and walk south-east over The Twins, following the ridge to our camp below Mt. Murray. Water is found a little way down a beautiful open gully graced with magnificent woolybutts. Yes, bring a water bucket. There will be side trips with daypacks to Mt. Murray and along the ridge in the direction of Mt. Selwyn. The highest point along the way is The Twins at 5590 feet.

If you aren't one of the "heavies" and even if you are a "heavy" taking it easy, this walk is highly recommended.

Dec. 14-16 TIMBERTOP - BULLER - STIRLING MEDIUM/HARD
 LEADER: HARALD GOETZ
 TRANSPORT: Bus from Batman Av., 6.30 p.m.
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 8.00 p.m.
 MAP REFERENCE: Watersheds of the King, Hawqua and Jamieson Rivers.
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 20 km.

The walk takes you through some of Victoria's most scenic mountain country so don't miss out - it will also be a good warm-up for your Christmas walk.

Both on Saturday and Sunday we start with a major climb, however after these there are only some small climbs left for the remainder of both days.

You need to carry water for Saturday. Please see leader about Friday night's campsite.

Dec. 21-25 TASMANIA - FRENCHMANS CAP
 LEADER: TYRONE THOMAS
 TRANSPORT: Air to Hobart, Tasmania and car to start of walk.
 EXPECTED TIME OF RETURN: 26/12/79
 MAP REFERENCE: Frenchmans Cap National Park, Tasmanian Lands Department.
 APPROXIMATE DISTANCE: 50 km

Friday 21st Dec. - 3.40 p.m. Tullamarine to Hobart.
 Saturday 22nd - car to walk start and walk to Lake Vera.
 Sunday 23rd - Lake Vera - Frenchmans Cap - return.
 Monday 24th - Lake Vera - Lyall Highway.
 Tuesday 25th - Back to Hobart and Melbourne.

A medium/hard walk - see leader for further information.

Dec. 26 - TASMANIA - MT. LA PEROUSE - PRECIPITOUS BLUFF
Jan. 10 LEADER: PETER BULLARD

Unfortunately this trip has been cancelled due to lack of interest in this walk.

PRUE'S PAGE PRUE'S PAGE PRUE'S PAGE PRUE'S PAGE PRUE'S PAGE

PRESIDENTS WEEKEND : November 30th to December 2nd, 1979

Once again the time of year has arrived for the merry get together down on the banks of the Avon River. People who are coming to this venture are advised that.....

- a) Saturday's evening meal will be provided for a fee of \$5.
- b) Non-alcoholic punch will be served with dinner
- c) If you wish to drink additional beverages ie. alcoholic, please bring your own.

I hope you all have a great time.

And now for the last but definitely not least occasion for the year!

CHRISTMAS DINNER

To be held at THE CHATEAU WYUNA
 Montrose-Lilydale Road,
 Mt. Evelyn.



To be held on Thursday 20th of December, 1979
 7.30pm

To cost \$12.50 per head for a four course meal

To wear Smart casual; no thongs or jeans please

To dance to A three piece band

To have A good time.



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JANUARY

Look out for.....

A Wine and Cheese party to be held in Surrey Hills

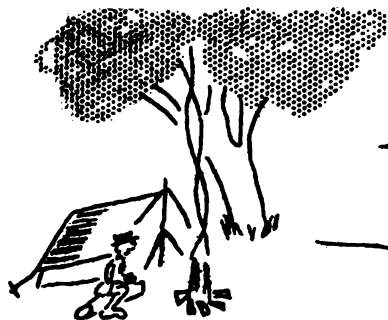
A horse riding/tennis playing weekend at Gisborne and environs

Film nights etc. etc. etc.

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WILKINSON LODGE

All these with food and clothing still in the lockers at Wilky are reminded that it should be removed by 31st December. Otherwise it becomes general property!!!!!!



A LONG THE TRACK

NAVIGATION WEEK-END - MELVILLE CAVES
OCTOBER 19th - 21st, 1979

PENNEY STAPLEY

As one to whom a compass had previously been a mysterious instrument stowed neatly at the bottom of ones pack, together with waterproof matches, torch, pencil, paper, extra jumper, and other emergency items, the Navigation Week-end was a revelation.

I should perhaps also mention that my previous experience of "week-end walking" had been two separate day walks interspered with a night in a motel watching the colour telly and reading the Gideon Bible.

Attendance at the first evening lecture reduced me to tears of frustration at my inability to progress further than the exercises on grid references.

The second lecture was, however, less shattering to my self-confidence. We were issued with "notes for leaders", which mentioned amongst other matters, a mysterious clause 5(i) in the Club's Constitution, and the importance of not infringing same. After this, all prospective navigators were involved in group planning of day walks from the Dunolly map. Walks planned ranged from long, hilly and hard/impossible, to gentle rambles of 5 km.

The Navigation Week-end was not intended to be competitive (a fact of which two participants seemed unaware, since they were observed to be running everywhere). Small prizes could, however, be awarded as follows:-

- (1) Prize for greatest number of mosquito bites. (not yet decided - contestants still scratching)
- (2) Prize for most elusive checkpoint - shared between (Day 1 - DID anyone find him?) and Peter Bullard (Day 2)
- (3) Prize for longest time taken and greatest distance covered, - Geoff and Tony.
- (4) Prize for reddest faces (but not from sunburn) - Penny, Chris and Margaret.

Prizes should also be awarded to the "checkpoints" who nobly suffered the vicious onslaughts of mosquitos, and to Graham and Bob for not allowing anyone to get lost (some participants were almost successful in this respect!!).

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The Launceston Walking Club has just released their latest issue of
SKYLINE MAGAZINE

If you would like to obtain a copy put your name on the list in the clubrooms or contact Ken McMahon on 45 2977

PRICE: \$2.50

From "Habitat", August, magazine of the Australian Conservation Foundation.
"The Deforestation of Australia" by Milo Dunphy, V.P. of the A.C.F.

Dr. Alec Costin, said that "in 100 years of wheat growing and pasture development in N.S.W. and Victoria, virtually all the original 100 million acres of woodland vegetation has been effectively destroyed". "In Queensland, he said, "only one extensive stand of tropical rain forest on rich parent material remains". Within the next 10 years, 30 million acres of heath and eucalypt vegetation in S.W. Western Australia will probably have been cleared.

FIRE: Early in the history of Australian forestry, it was noted that certain desired timber species germinated profusely after fire. In eastern Australia, Alpine Ash and Blackbutt are examples. Ash bed regeneration of these species came to be standard forest practice. In most countries men who burn forests are put into gaol. Here they are promoted to senior positions in the Forest and National Parks Service. Forestry came to be the profession which managed the burning of forest.

INTENSIVE FORESTRY A few major Japanese woodchipping companies are destroying forests in Australia, the Aleutian Islands, the Philippines, Borneo and the Solomon Islands. The companies are co-ordinated in their approaches to the separate, often uncounsellor potential suppliers. Hence, the suppliers are pushed into infrastructure, taxes, until they literally subsidise the Japanese to remove their forests. At the Eden Woodchip Project, described by the N.S.W. Forestry Commission as its most profitable venture, there is an annual discrepancy between income and expenditure of something like 1½ million dollars.

"We should persuade the Australian Government to fund a pan-Pacific woodchip conference. Community organisations from around the Pacific should be invited to discuss their common problems concerning Japanese woodchippers.

All forestry projects should be the subject of environmental impact studies.

It is possible to may have to encourage the setting up of a new professional training school in alternative forestry.

At the most practical level, promotion of a pilot scheme in alternative forestry will be required - a forest to which Australians can be brought to show what can be done and how it should be done.

* * * * *

A.C.F.

At the recent Annual Meeting of the A.C.F., Dr. Kenton Miller, Chairman of the I.U.C.N. Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas, said that only about 10 years remained to choose protected areas, and that includes the Amazon and Antarctica. The 1980's will also be the last chance in Australia.

Dr. Coombs, retiring president, hoped that the A.C.F. might promote in 1980 the idea of a conservator society. in which the pattern of life is full and rich, but in harmony with the environment.

* * * * * Elizabeth McKenzie

QUOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

THEY're not interested in conservation.
 THEY just might wake up one morning and
 find that there's no bush left to walk in"

* * * * *

AYE-I SEE'S EYE TO EYE I ISOLATE, IDENTIFY, ITEMIZE...
 I...EYE...WHO MISSES NOTHING!.....
 EYE.... EYE... EYE.....



While beginners should be warned this year, Rod seems to have developed a sudden attraction for snowfalls. On his snow walk the snow was so soft and deep that two moth-eaten yeti's who were searching for his party had their skis sink a foot into the snow.

Rod's next walk was in spring and unscheduled snow caused unprepared walkers to provide a symphony of chattering teeth and knocking knees at every rest. Mixed fortunes were experienced at a creek crossing on that walk, with one girl falling in and another doffing her jeans to face the icy waters. Mick and Art immediately offered to carry her clothes, proving that chivalry lives on!

Our secretary was overheard on a recent Wednesday meeting suggesting to our V.N.P.A./A.C.F. representative that they spend some time together in Queensland in 1980. On business of course??

It was reported that at a recent committee meeting, the President was throwing his balls around the clubrooms, fortunately he didn't lose his bearings at Melville Caves.

Mick's complaint on the Navigation Weekend, that he was with an all male group instead of with girls, was squashed by Jean's comment "This is a navigation exercise, you can practise your other pursuits at some other time!!"

Participants on the course found it easy to keep moving and as the blood streaked bodies arrived back at camp, it was common to hear that mosquitoes made it difficult to stand still and read the map.

Other highlights of the week-end included a comment overheard around the campfire, "Don't cuddle so vigorously"; a walker looking for nude sun-bathers navigat into a tree; Geof G. proved it's best to be slow and accurate?; Tony S, our most long suffering walker, walked and ran miles with Geoff to complete (?) the course finishing off with a sort of "U" bearing; three girls were picked up on the main road by a car despatched to purchase insect sprays and a few "cold ones".

After a meeting recently Janet Mc was seen to go for coffee - to the pub - back for coffee and finally back to the pub, thirsty girl!!

The man of Iron has taken the plunge and done a day walk without his Kombi! The same Man claims to have a 40 girl tent for the President's week-end, better book early girls.

P.B. proved his animal loving nature recently when he unintentionally fed his Saturday evening steak to a wandering dog.

The day walk on French Island got off to a good start when the leader almost overslept, however she soon demonstrated excellent P.S. training as she filled in her P16 for the group ticket almost forgetting to include 'Hodgehog' All had a pleasant time mosquito squatting across the island. At the top of the Pinnacles, Andy and 'Hodgehog' had an insect free lunch atop a navigation marker.

An unexpected creek crossing saw walkers in various stages of undress as they waded the thigh deep waters. Penny surprised a few people by taking to the waters in her jeans, then removing them after the crossing to reveal perfectly dry shorts.

Best wishes for your retirement, Art. We're sure that after January next year you'll find better things to do than work.

COMMITTEE NOTES

Meeting held 12th November, 1979 - held late this month due to the cup day.

Treasurer Bank balance of \$7657.03. Bills totalling \$1686.68 were passed for payment, of which \$1024.65 was for transport. Also a cheque was sent to the C.C.V. for its publication "What State is the Garden in?" - this is a subsidy and we will get the money back.

Walk Secretary There were 210 people on walks in September, 147 members and 63 visitors. Comprising 172 day walkers and 38 week-enders. A profit of \$67 was made.

Social Secretary 23 people attended the bowling night and all had a jolly good time. Committee dinner will be held in January, 1980.

Membership Secretary We have 369 financial members at the end of October 1979 (compared to 380 at October 1978). A sub committee has been set up to clarify the position of members wishing to rejoin after letting their membership lapse.

Conservation Letters were sent to Mr. Hamer and Mr. Houghton urging the adoption of the L.C.C.'s final recommendation on the Alpine area.

Walk About 600 copies received from the printer are faulty, and we are hopeful of having the account reduced.

News Rosemary Gosling is in Queensland and the committee has granted her leave of absence. Marijke Mascas will be doing News for the rest of the club year.

DUTY ROSTER

21st Nov. Rex Filson, Ken McMahon

28th Nov, Prue Hardiman, Ian Hargreaves

5th Dec, Liz McKenzie, Rod Mattingley.

* * * * *

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS.

Trevor ARMSTRONG, 16 Connell St. Hawthorn, 3122 H. 819 1872 B. 870 4488
Kari MEISSNER, 5/21 Pyne St. Caulfield, 3162 H. 528 6818
Lance MOBBS, 113 Chomley St. Prahran, 3181 B. 544 0855
Lynne MUIRHEAD, 6/58 Sutherland Rd. Armadale, 3143 H. 509 0474
B. 347 3833 x 385

Ian O'Donnell, 10 Manning Rd. Malvern East, 3145

Frank and Nellie HARGREAVES, (News subscribers)

29 Halsbury Street, Glenroy, 3046 H. 306 1658

CHANGES AND/OR ADDITIONS TO MEMBERSHIP LIST.

Bob Ayre Bus. 541 6733

Janet White Bus. 647 0111

Charles and Glennis CUTLER, 55 Stanley Rd. Vermont, 3133. H. 233 2058
B. (Mrs.) 540 8022 (Mr.) 686 978 x 227.

Cameron PAINE, 5 Dalgety St. St. Kilda, 3182 H. 534 3481.

Chris MURPHY, 42 Oron St. South Yarra, 3141, H. 240 9901 B. 609 2483

Monique MASCAS B. 26 6621

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WANTED

DOWN FILLED SLEEPING BAG IN GOOD, CLEAN CONDITION.

FOR TIMOTHY

STYLE AND SIZE UNIMPORTANT. PREPARED TO PAY REASONABLE PRICE.

PHONE ALEX STIRKUL H. 850 7493

The News Convenor,

The winter 79/80 catalog of Recreational Equipment Inc. has some recommendations to improve the stability of tents pitched in windy conditions and I thought perhaps they may be of interest to others. R.E.I are a large U.S. manufacturer and retailer (co-operative) of hiking and related equipment.

A range of tents were pitched in various directions relative to a wind of variable strength. The wind was simulated by mounting the tents on a platform over the front of a truck and charging up and down a drag strip. Perhaps if this idea catches on we could have an International Grand Prix for the fastest tent for formula 1, 2 or 3 man tents.

The recommendations were:-

1. Pitch a tent with the end into the wind.
2. If possible open a tent or door on the windward side and close other vents. Internal pressure from the wind will inflate the tent and thus reduce flapping and reduce the load on the tent pole. The interior room inside the tent is also increased.
3. Additional guy lines at about mid point on the tent poles will reduce the load on the tent poles.
4. Stabilizer cards tied from the centre pole to the tent corners will help prevent a centre pole from buckling.
5. Keep guy lines tight in windy conditions.
6. Use natural wind protection or build a wall of snow or rocks where possible.
7. All free standing tents should be staked down and guyed if possible.
8. Some tents with flexible poles will yield with the wind, then spring back up as the wind diminishes.

I have a copy of the catalog with the results of the tests, but the tents tested were specific to products handled by R.E.I.

Graham Thornton

From "Green Bans" to "Green Plans" by John Andrews, Vic. Co-ordinator, Environmentalists for Full Employment.

The Australian Railways Union has embarked upon a new campaign to "save the railways" in Victoria. The campaign will involve publicity and industrial action, and rail workers and travellers throughout the State are being asked to participate in drawing up a full-scale alternative plan for Vic Rail. John Andrews believes the campaign could mark the beginning of a new wave of union activity in Australia - moving from "Green Bans" to "Green Plans" - and calls for environment groups to support the A.R.U.'s initiative. The first stages of the A.R.U. campaign are already under way. Action is being taken to improve the service on the Shepparton to Cobram, Ballarat to Melbourne, Geelong to Warnambool, and Frankson lines

Substantial shifts from car to rail for passenger transport, and from road to rail for freight must be our aim, both to save oil and cut air pollution. This is what the A.R.U. is pressing for, too. Unions can be a positive force for socially and environmentally beneficial change.

Liz McKenzie

DISCLAIMER FROM GRAHAM MASCAS

I FEEL THAT MY REPUTATION IS AT STAKE! JUST BECAUSE I LED ONE MEDIUM/HARD DAY WALK DOES NOT MEAN THAT ALL MY SUBSEQUENT WALKS WILL BE HARD. I INTEND TO PRESERVE MY POSITION AS MOST FREQUENT LEADER OF BASE CAMPS AND OTHER BLUDGE LIKE ADVENTURES. SO PLEASE DON'T BE PUT OFF BY A SINGLE ABBERATION ON AN OTHERWISE UNBLEMISHED REPUTATION.

ALPINE PARKS IN JEOPARDY

The Victorian National Parks Association has criticised the Final Recommendations of the Land Conservation Council in the Alpine Study Area, particularly for its failure to recommend the creation of one large Alpine National Park. Even so, we see the four national parks recommended by the L.C.C. in the region as a crucial step towards our goal.

We have now become aware of a concerted effort by those who oppose national parks to dissuade the Government from creating these recommended parks through a barrage of letters to the Minister for Conservation, Mr. Vasey Houghton.

If you believe in the ideal of one large national park in the Alps it is vital you write NOW to the Minister urging the immediate creation of the four national parks recommended by the L.C.C.

Inaction will only strengthen the hand of our opposition.

Write to:- The Hon. Vasey Houghton,
Minister for Conservation,
Parliament House,
Spring Street, MELBOURNE 3000

The four parks concerned are: Wonnangatta-Moroka 104,000 ha, Bogong 79,000 ha
Cobberas-Tingaringy 94,700 ha, Snowy River 15,700 ha.

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WANTED - 560 PASSENGERS TO HELP PRESERVE A HISTORIC GOLD
MINING TOWN - WALHALLA

Travel into the past on a Vintage Steam Train to Historic Walhalla

SUNDAY 25th NOVEMBER, 1979

Cost \$18.00 - 20.00 adults \$2.00 - 14.00 children under 16

Bookings may be made by post to "Walhalla Steam Train Tour,
40 Bridge St. Richmond, 3121. cheques to Walhalla Preservation
and Restoration Group.

Enquiries (other than booking) Mr. John King B/ 285 0270
Mr. J. Harrington 509 4525 after hours. No enquiries on weekends

For more details see note in clubrooms.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

Volunteer contacts are needed during the following
periods of the Christmas Holidays.

Dec. 21st 1979 - Jan. 5th 1980

Jan 25th - 28th 1980

If you can be a club contact during those days,
please ring Rex Filson for more information at

88 3683

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THERE NOW IS A RED BOX IN THE CLUBROOMS TO POST YOUR
ARTICLES FOR NEWS. MARIJKE WILL EMPTY IT THE WEDNESDAY
BEFORE NEWS IS PRINTED. OR SEND TO:-

MARIJKE MASCAS,
12 HILLCREST RD.,
GLEN IRIS, 3146.