

Issued monthly by the Melbourne Bushwalkers
(for men and women walkers)

NEWS SUB-COMMITTEE:

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HON. SECRETARY.

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CLUBROOM:

Room 110 (Right next to Dance Hall), 3rd Floor V.R.I. Flinders St., Melbourne
Open Every Friday - 7.30 - 11 p.m.

OFFICIAL:

We would like to put the "Sold Out" notice on "WAIK" as soon as possible, it has been promised to us for next Friday, so it is up to you to sell as many copies as possible. "WAIK" would make a nice Xmas gift for folk overseas. It is believed that there is a definite demand for a good magazine for walkers and with this in mind, we have tried to fulfil the demand. Copy is coming to hand for the second issue of "WAIK", but more is required, we expect you to co-operate in giving Norm more articles, for the second issue.

Our half-yearly meeting was well attended and two minor amendments to our Constitution were accepted. The motion about non-active members had to be postponed, and this will give you time to consider this problem further.

Our next monthly meeting, on 30th September, will start at 8 sharp, as is our custom, and after any necessary business has been transacted, Mr. Walker will give an illustrated lecture on some of his travels, including England and the Continent. He has colour film and this is an added attraction.

Dr. D.E. Thomas, Chief Government Geologist will be along on Friday, 28th October, to talk to us of the Old Mining Tracks of Victoria. Maybe prospective leaders will learn of a good walk to lead, and others will learn of new routes to take to well-known places.

The Visitors Book is now an established fact. If you bring visitors or intending members into the Clubrooms introduce them to our President or Secretary and then they will be enabled to inscribe their names in the Visitors Book. A mathematical member worked out that there is enough room for signatures for the next 35 years. We will see.

WALKING NOTES:

For some time past there has been talk of having classes, lectures and practical work for the less experienced of us. At last, however, this is being organised on a sound basis, and the first class is to be on TUESDAY, 27th September, 1949, at 8 p.m. Norm Richards will be the lecturer, and the class will be at his home, 17 Howard Street, Box Hill. Naturally the number will be limited, so see Norm early. Norm, by the way has promised not to use the strap, but instead has installed an electric switch.

The lecture will be followed on 1st-2nd October by a weekend of practical instruction in charge of Frank Pitt (see your Programme). This is an innovation on the Programme and walkers old and new should attend, the experienced providing knowledge for new members to receive.

The instruction should cover most aspects of walking, and will be especially helpful to prospective leaders and Xmas walkers.

Contacts for September 11th and 25th - See the Walks Secretary.

Xmas Trips:

Now book for that Xmas walk, as quotas are filling rapidly. Walks are listed on the back of the current programme, and further details may be obtained from the respective leaders. Remember, also, that it is necessary to complete at least three (3) week-end walks between 14th October and Xmas in order to qualify for a Xmas trip. Exemptions will be considered only in special circumstances. See the Walks Secretary for details.

Summer Programme:

Yes, already the next programme is under way, so please do not wait until the dead-line date, which is 14th October and not 11th November, as mis-stated on the programme, to hand in your walk. If you don't know where to lead a walk, see Ken Grant, if you don't know how to lead a walk attend a class mentioned in the first paragraph of this section.

Federation Notes:

The Federation day walk is on 23rd October, and will be lead by the Melbourne Bushwalkers in the Eltham district.

The Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs is forming a "Search and Rescue Section". Volunteers from male members of the Bushwalkers are wanted, so if you feel strong enough and know the "bush" well enough have a word with Ken Grant. Naturally only those who come up to a very high standard will be called on, but every one can play their part. Cars for transport are also required.

SOCIAL:

Marie Gillespie reports that a very pleasant afternoon was spent recently by 23 members who had the company of Mr. Lamont, on a ferry trip up the Yarra. Next time we hope to have our own ferry for fun and games.

"Separate Rooms" at the Comedy was enjoyed by those who attended.

It's on again! The Federation Ball on 5th October, at Tudor Court, tickets 10/- each, Marie is Hon. Ticket Secretary, and dancing is from 8.30 to 12.30. You can catch a bus at Batman Avenue to the door, or Balaclava Road tram, alighting at Kooyong Road. East Brighton (65) from the city. From all accounts you will have to get in early to secure your tickets.

We recently had the pleasure of entertaining Mr. A. Lamont, the Lake St. Clair (Tasmania) Ranger. He visited our Clubroom and joined the river trip, and on the Monday night saw him at the Tivoli with a group of members from last January's Cradle Mt. trip. We look forward to meeting him again, perhaps next time in his own area, where he has promised to initiate us into all the hidden ways and paths.

Well, well, it has happened again!!!! Last Friday Norm extended our best wishes to Paul Peer who arrived over from Tasmania and brought his wife into the Clubroom, whilst on a short visit to Melbourne - we knew there must be some attraction over there Paul. Paul has joined the Hobart Walking Club.

We were pleased to see Betty Booth's photo in the Weekly Times of August 24th, when she was interviewed and an article entitled "Fresh Air and Fun Enjoyed by City Walkers", our Club was duly mentioned. An article of such a calibre as this tends to create good liaison between the city walker, and the rural section of the community, where most of our walking is done.

Don't forget the Fourth Xmas Dance in the Jerram Hall on 7th December, this is a MUST for Club members.

Attention Pig Islanders: Margerot (Midge) McLean had the misfortune to finish up with her leg in plaster for a couple of days, but now, we understand, she is homeward bound. Good walking in your old haunts Midge and we will be pleased to see you again if you should venture this way.

About 25 members spent a very pleasant evening at Ted Kirk's, listening to some of his records, last Tuesday, 6th September.

Maude McLean (Midge's sister) is now out of hospital and convalescing satisfactorily at Frankston. She says that we'll see her out on the track again soon. Bad luck Maude, here's to a 100% recovery.

News comes from Prague that Moira Tolhurst (nee Cole) is the mother of a prospective member of the Bushwalkers, Barbara Rose.

BOOKS:

No one who heard Alan Marshall's absorbing lecture in the Clubroom recently could fail to realize how little most of us know about the Australian aborigine, or of his treatment by "superior" races. It is not for lack of opportunity, for a number of enlightening books - such as Marshall's own "Ourselves Writ Strange" - have been published during the last ten years or so. Of these, none could provide a better introduction than "Taboo" by W.E. Harney. Twenty years' trading and contracting in Arnhem Land brought him into continual contact with the aborigines, and led his sympathetic and intelligent interest in them as human beings. He has put the results of his study into twenty-eight stories and sketches, all authentic, illustrating various aspects of the contact between blacks and whites - the destroying of native food supplies, interference with religious rites and sacred places, taking of native women, etc. which have all led to the rapid dwindling of the race. He writes without sentiment or bias, occasionally suggesting a solution to certain problems, but mostly giving a purely objective account.

To provide a basis of understanding for the stories, there is an introductory section by Professor Elkin, of Sydney University (who is at present engaged on an expedition to study native customs and conditions up north), describing the complicated system of relationship within a tribe, the obligations of native law, various taboos, native belief in their "dream-time" spirit which is reborn after their death, and so on.

Among other books dealing with the Australian aborigine are these: "The Australian Aborigine" by Prof. Elkin, a clearly written and detailed study. "The Passing of the Aborigines" by Daisy Bates, who came to Australia as a young journalist and became so interested in the aborigines that she has spent the rest of her life, living among them. Her feeling is that the race is doomed, but that we should make its passing as happy as possible. "Black War" by Clive Turnbull, dealing with the extinction of the Tasmanian aboriginals. "Brown Men and Red Sand" a well written account by a scientist who has spent much time living with, and studying the aborigines "Tell the White Man".

GENERAL:

Bill Horton will be pleased to receive more photographs for our Club album. It is surprising how helpful an album, made up of members' photographs can be, when describing walks to newer members. You have an opportunity of comparing the same scene taken over a period of years, and if you ever have to lead a walk you can imagine the scene in your mind's eye, and make it a much more interesting trip.

Do you know how to treat snake bite? If you don't, ask someone who does. None of our members have ever been bitten (by a snake we mean), but if it happened to you there would be no time to find out then what to do, so be prepared.

Many members are now buying new equipment for the walking season ahead, and it seems as though a word of warning to newcomers would not be amiss. Remember that all your equipment should fit you properly. There are various sizes of pack, pack frames, tents, etc. and there are many different qualities of each article. Be especially selective when buying a sleeping bag to see that you get the best down, it may cost a little more than an inferior grade, but is worth the difference for weight, space and warmth. If you haven't had previous experience in buying these articles don't be backward in approaching "older" members who have, especially some "officials". You'll thus save money and worry and find yourself with the equipment most suited to make your walking enjoyable.

How would you suggest we celebrate our 10th birthday in April next?

Walks recently have been well attended. At least half of our financial members are "regular customers". It is gratifying to notice that on the Spring Walks Programme the names of two new leaders appear.