

Issued Monthly by the Melbourne Bushwalkers
(For Men and Women Walkers)

HON. SECRETARY:
Frank Pitt (XB5736)
8, Railway Avenue,
BRIGHTON, S.5.

CLUB ROOM
Room 110 (Right next to Dance Hall)
3rd Floor, V.R.I., Flinders Street.
Open every Friday - 7.50-11pm.

NEWS SUB-COMMITTEE
Fay Pitt (XB 5736)
Margaret Dark (LA4171-bus.)
Gordon Coutts (WX3030)

As so many new members have been entering the Club during recent months we are including in this issue quite a lot of incidental information which should help familiarize them with the background of Club activities. At the same time we urge them to seek further information for themselves, and assure them that Committee members in particular are always willing to give help and advice, and most of them are to be found in the Clubroom every Friday night. Sub-committees have been formed to deal with various aspects of Club activity (see March "News") so please try to approach the appropriate person for the particular matter - e.g., Walks Secretary, Gordon Coutts, or his sub-committee concerning walks and programs, Secretary, Frank Pitt, about membership and change of address, and so on.

WE EXTEND A CORDIAL WELCOME TO

Audrey Batterham, Robert Hughan, Garry Kendall
Marie Keys, Lorraine Pullen, Claire Stamp, Daphne Stevenson, Heather Stubbings.
Bill Thackray, and Harold Williams,

who were accepted as members at the last Committee Meeting. We are pleased to have you in the Club, and hope you will enter actively into Club life to our mutual advantage.

FINAL DATE FOR RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP FOR 1950 IS APRIL 17TH!

To date Emil's receipt book shows that we have 93 financial members. If YOU are not among the 93, dive into your pocket and pay your sub. before Emil gets on your trail. If you can't be in the Clubroom next Friday (that is the 21st, but you'll be allowed a few days' grace) send a Postal Note to Mr. E. Slade, 52 Queen's Road, S.C.2.

MT. DISAPPOINTMENT TRIP (25th - 26th February)

Another item from the Treasurer: When investigating a discrepancy between the cost of van and amount received in fares, it was found that fares charged were considerably less than they should have been for such a trip. It has been decided to charge each person on the trip an extra 3/-. This still does not fully cover the cost. If you were on this trip please give Emil this amount.

WINTER PROGRAM - LET GORDON KNOW BY APRIL 22nd ABOUT THAT WALK YOU ARE GOING TO LEAD!

To assist you he has prepared the accompanying form for suggested walks. As you will see from the form these are not only for the winter program. If you know a good walk but will not be able to lead it yourself give all other details, but leave name of leader blank. If you are in doubt about any point, consult one of the Walks sub-committee.

CANCELLATION OF VAN BOOKINGS. Of twenty five people who booked in for the Tourroorong Reservoir trip only twenty were present. As many others who wanted to go had to be refused, it must be stressed that it is the duty of anyone who books for a van trip and finds he cannot go to notify the leader (preferably) or Walks Secretary immediately to give some other person a chance of taking his place.

BOOKING FOR VAN TRIPS MUST BE MADE A FORTNIGHT BEFORE DATE OF TRIP

Too many members apparently overlook this instruction of Walks Program. In case you think it is just red tape we want to explain that the Club must book well in advance to ensure getting a suitable van for the number wanting to go, as naturally we are not the only ones to whom Mr. Gronow hires vans. We book a van to accommodate only the number who have informed the leader of their intention to go and paid their deposit. After that there may be one or two vacancies, but a booking cannot be guaranteed. So avoid disappointment for yourself and annoyance for the leader by booking at the right time.

LAST THROUGH CLOSES THE GATE !!!

CAMPING AT LAKE CATANI

Recently a small party of our members visiting the Buffalo Plateau unwittingly offended against the camping ground conventions there by washing in Lake Catani. This brought the Club a letter of reprimand from the Committee of Management (which had been good enough to extend to this party certain privileges) and the warning that if such action were repeated, no further privileges would be given. We therefore stress to all members the need to avoid any infringement of written regulations, and anything which good taste and commonsense would show to be against the general good name of the Club.

BE PREPARED FOR YOUR TRIP

Preparations for walking need not be elaborate but must be thorough. Boots should be bought with care and well broken-in before a long trip. Carry sticking plaster or band-aids in case of blisters which must be prevented or treated immediately. Above all, ask for and accept the advice of experienced members.

SPECIAL TICKETS FOR WEEKEND TRIP Wesburn - Healesville on April 22-23: These must be obtained from the Tourist Bureau during the preceding week. Give Frank Pitt, the Leader, your name and 7/- by Wednesday 19th if you wish him to get your ticket.

* * * April 30th - 10TH ANNIVERSARY WALK !! - April 30th * * *

The Club's first walk was to Mt. Morton in April, 1940. We are celebrating our 10th Anniversary by a walk over this now historic route with the leader of the first walk, Egon Donath, now our Vice-President. Don't miss this great event yourself, and try to get old members to come along too. Ring Egon (JA 4394) if you want further inducement to join the happy throng.

EASTER TRIPS

More than fifty members spent the holiday walking. 36 of these were at the Grampians, and reported an enjoyable trip, with fair but photographically dull weather. The Pyrenees party had a successful trip, but once again a slow watch played tricks on them, and while they were happily gathering mushrooms before catching the train for Warat and home they were rather dismayed to see their train steaming out. However they were able to hitch-hike back to Melbourne in time for work! Half a dozen who were at Wilson's Prom. had a cold holiday and quite a bit of rain. The Mt. Buller party encountered bad weather, but had a good trip.

FEDERATION NEWS*** TRACK-CLEARING WEEK-END, 6-7th MAY ***

With the aim of opening up attractive walking country at present inaccessible, the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs organises each year the clearing of a track through another area. All member clubs take part in this effort, and we hope that the Bushwalkers as staunch supporters of the Federation will always be strongly represented. This year the old Millgrove timber-tram track, which provides another approach to Donna Buang etc., has been chosen. This is a big job, but with loyal support it should be successfully accomplished and we are confident that Bushwalkers will need no urging to do their share. In case the girls are wondering if there is a job for them we assure them there certainly is, both in looking after the camp and lighter clearing jobs. Remember that this weekend will be a lot of fun as well as work, so let Gordon know as soon as possible that you can come, so that transport can be arranged.

THE ANNUAL WEEKEND CAMP (F V W C A W E) at Silvan was a great success. Although the weather was bad during the preceding few days, it cleared up miraculously during the Saturday afternoon and walkers from Mooroolbark and Boronia arrived at the camp-site in late sunshine. The evening was mild, the sky starry, and 110 (30 Bushwalkers among them) gathered at the camp-fire to enjoy a varied and very entertaining concert, followed by first-rate coffee and plenty of biscuits. On Sunday morning Mr. Wallis, Overseer of the Silvan Dam, conducted the party on an inspection of the Dam, and gave a brief outline of Melbourne's water supply scheme. The sunny afternoon saw the party returning to Lilydale via the aqueduct and the old timber track to the lime works. The raffle for the aluminium camp cooking set, (organised by Marie) which was drawn before camp broke up on Sunday brought the Federation £3. 2. 6, which helped defray expenses of the Weekend which were only partly covered by the small camping fee.

A WATER-REPELLANT PREPARATION suitable for tents etc. (not capes) may be available in bulk to the Club from I.C.I. It is claimed that there is no increase in weight. Gerda Schwerin can give you more details.

Care should be taken in deciding on any preparation for the treatment of equipment. Your comfort will and your life may depend on good equipment.

"W A L K " 1950

All material for this issue should reach the Editor, Norm Richards, by the end of this month. Photographs, which should be plentiful if we judge by the number of cameras seen on walks, are still needed. Humorous articles and verse also would be welcome, as well as articles of general walking interest.

You could also help considerably if you would type a few letters for the Advertising Manager, Egon Donath. 300 letters have to be typed, and he would appreciate it even if you typed only four or five. He would also be glad of your suggestions for possible advertisers whom he might approach.

Fred Soutter can still supply copies of the first issue.

SOCIAL

THE BUSHWALKERS' FIFTH DANCE ON MAY 10TH is the most important date in our social calendar at the moment, and tickets will be available in a fortnight from Marie, Margaret and Lorraine. Our dances are always very friendly and gay events, and this one should be better than ever. We're looking forward to seeing all of you there to celebrate our TENTH ANNIVERSARY.

Following the General Meeting on May 26th, Mr. Frank Halls will be present to show us colour films taken during a visit to Central Australia last August. Mr. Halls is Official Photographer for the S.E.C. at Bogong, and a keen walker. You may have noticed his interesting article and photographs of frost crystals in this month's "Wild Life".

Marie will probably be arranging a Theatre Night for the Ice Ballet. Details later.

After the March meeting Geoff Christensen and Ken Grant showed Kodachrome slides they had taken on recent trips. Geoff traced the course of his Christmas trip to Mt. Cobbler Mt. Howitt, etc, and included some shots taken by Nobel Paine. Ken covered his January trip to Mt. Wills, Mt. Bogong, and they combined shots of the A.N.A. Weekend trip to the Baw Baws. We all enjoyed them very much - the scenes brought sighs of recollection to those familiar with the rugged mountains and delightful river valleys, and sighs of ambition from those who did not. All will support Norm in the hope that such showings will become a regular part of Club activities.

N.B. As Ken mentioned, Kodachrome is now very difficult to obtain, and various Club photographers would be very grateful for any help in obtaining supplies. They will be only too happy to let you know exactly what size and type of film they require, if you think you can put them on the track of any, and you'll be helping them supply the Club with some of its most interesting documentary matter.)

About thirty members had a most enjoyable evening at Ted Kirk's home recently. The weather was particularly warm, and rugs and groundsheets spread on the lawn provided comfortable accomodation for outdoors listening. And the supper.... ! Well, eating is believing, and believe me, it was good! Thankyou, Ted, for a most enjoyable evening.

Eighty Bushwalkers shared the cream at our annual Cream Hunt on April 2nd, but reports so far show no marked weight increases among members. Once again threatening weather came to nothing, and young and not-so-young enjoyed the mild sunshine. We're going to present that billy-goat with a cake of Lifebuoy next year - Emil declared he could smell it from Ringwood!

PERSONAL

Every good wish to Kath Batten and Ramsay Craigen, who are to be married on April 28th. We believe that their home is practically completed, and we sincerely hope that a very happy life in it lies ahead of them.

A number of Bushwalkers farewelled Tess Maddison when she left Melbourne in the "Mooltan" last Wednesday (April 12th) a day of perfect Autumn sunshine - a happy omen for her trip. At our last general meeting Norm, on behalf of the Club, presented Tess with a plywood boot, which everyone present signed, and which she can carry with her as a memento of the Club.

We were sorry that Gwen Hancock could only pay a brief visit to Melbourne during Easter, and hope it won't be too long before she can return and see us in the Clubroom.

We wish to congratulate Betty Horsley on her appointment as Secretary to the Dean of Canterbury during his visit to Australia.

A Bushwalker badge is travelling to the Antarctic now, worn by Fred Douth. of Canberra, whom we have been very pleased to have with us in the Club during his few months in Melbourne. We'll have a shiver on your behalf occasionally, Fred, and hope you will let us know something of your experiences. We'd like to take the opportunity, too, of hoping that his wife, Dorothy, will continue to come into the Club and on our walks as long as she is in Melbourne.

LIBRARY NOTES

Higgins', Miller's, McVeigh's, Bryce's, Hearnès - old bush huts - are names familiar even to new members who have heard them often in the Clubroom after Christmas and other holiday trips, names which bring back to older members memories of good trips, of a long hard day's walk or perhaps a pleasant amble from a nearby camp, of days spent waiting for bad weather to break, of new friendships with other walkers and cattlemen, of fresh food supplies and perhaps tins of fruit after many days of dried vegetables, and so on. In fact, a hut can serve as a landmark, both literally as a point to be reached by a certain time and metaphorically as a milepost in your walking career, in which case the name will serve as a mental focal point for the whole trip. For those who do not walk far afield there are huts too, very old ones, at Belgrave, Warrandyte and such places, not as well known, perhaps, but none the less interesting for that.

If you have heard the names, but are not yet familiar with the huts themselves, do not despair: read the article in the March issue of "Wild Life", or at least look at the many photos contained in the article. In fact, while you are on the job, read some of the other magazines that the Club buys for your use - Walkabout, National Geographic, and Geographical.

And if any of you budding photographers have prize photos of old bush huts, or any other zappropriate subjects, see the Club Librarian, and have a print included in the Album.

PADDY PAILLEN'S "BUSHWALKING AND CAMPING", an invaluable little book of practical advice from one of Australia's foremost walkers and campers, is available from Librarian Bill Horton for the small sum of 2/- . We strongly recommend new members especially to obtain a copy - it's a handbook they'll still be glad to have when they're old, tough and seasoned like - on second thoughts, perhaps we'd better mention no names! By the way, listeners to 3 AR's "News Review" on March 23rd were interested to hear Paddy giving advice on how not to get lost, and what to do if you are.

TELESCOPIC DEMONSTRATIONS - We hope that those who put down their names for an invitation to one of these are patient people - a reply from the Astronomical Society informs us that bookings are so heavy that we cannot attend a demonstration before next January.

NATIVE PLANTS PRESERVATION GROUP MEETING Geoff Christensen attended this and reports as follows: The scheme being developed now is to have small areas set aside where native flora, by protection from introduced weeds, rabbits, and human interference, may be regenerated. Any spot, however small, could be suitable - perhaps where certain orchids grow plentifully, or a representative variety of wild flowers characteristic of certain soils is still to be found. It is necessary that the area may be aquired (without too great expense) or held on lease by the Group, therefore M.M.B.W. and other such property would be especially suitable. Our members can help by being on the lookout for suitable spots and reporting to the Group, who will investigate their suitability.

UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERS SUCCEED IN ASCENT OF FEDERATION PEAK (Tasmania) If you heard Mr. John Bechervaise's lecture to us last year on his party's rigorous expedition to this peak, you will know just how great an achievement this is. The University party, although denied the thrill of being the first to conquer the peak, are to be congratulated on their achievement. They have the honour of being the first to visit the Hanging Lake.

SMOKERS! ATTENTION! At our last meeting the President asked us to refrain from smoking as far as possible. Especially now that our membership is increasing so rapidly, the Clubroom becomes extremely stuffy, and smoking increases this stuffiness - with your co-operation we can keep it to a minimum. If you must smoke one or two, do not throw your butts on the floor.

KEEP THESE DATES IN MIND:

<u>Apr. 22</u> Winter Program Walks must be in.	<u>May 6-7</u> Federation Track-Clearing
<u>Apr. 28</u> General Meeting	<u>May 10</u> Fifth Bushwalker Dance
<u>Apr. 28</u> Booking Mt. Dom Dom trip closes	Gen.meeting. Central Aust. col films
<u>Apr. 30</u> Anniversary Walk Mt. Morton	

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