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\* THE NEWS \*  
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No. 27

8th December,  
1950.

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

NEWS SUB-COMMITTEE:

Ray Pitt (XB 5736)  
Margaret Dark(LA4171-bus)  
Gordon Coutts (WX 3910)

CLUB ROOM

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

HON. SECRETARY:

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

**A HAPPY CHRISTMAS and GOOD WALKING TO YOU ALL!**

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As this is the last issue of "THE NEWS" for 1950, we wish all our readers a very happy Christmas, whether they are walking, swimming or just lazing, and hope all will begin 1951 with renewed fitness and enthusiasm for bushwalking. May the many who will spend the holidays walking enjoy good weather, good fellowship, and everything else that helps to make a successful trip.

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FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING.

At this meeting our President, Norm Richards, was elected unopposed as President of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs. We heartily congratulate Norm, and express our pleasure at seeing him in this important position, not only for the honour it bestows on the Club, but because we are confident of his ability to worthily fulfill it, both as a capable guide within the Federation, and as its effective representative in outside relations. It is hoped all Bushwalkers will give him their support by an active interest in all Federation activities.

There were 26 Bushwalkers present at this meeting, which had a total attendance of about 80, and business proceeded quietly. The two motions of which notice had been given were dealt with. The first, "That the words 'No two Vice-Presidents may be members of the same Club, and at least one must be a woman' be added to Clause 8 of the Constitution" was passed without debate, while the second, which was proposed by the university Mountaineering Club, lapsed for want of a seconder after the Secretary of that Club explained that they had reconsidered the matter after discussion with other Clubs and did not wish to pursue it. A motion that five persons representing various Clubs be elected to re-draft the Constitution was passed, and we congratulate Egon Donath on being one of the five elected. This draft is to be presented to the Federation Committee early next year, and a Special General Meeting will be called to consider and vote on it. (Meanwhile Egon is giving the matter a lot of thought, and invites anyone with ideas about what should be included to give him their suggestions.)

To conclude the evening several interesting films of Australian life were shown - after the operator had had the bad luck to damage his transformer, and had had to spend some time obtaining another to replace it.

While dealing with Federation affairs, we report that the new Committee has already met, and is getting vigorously to work in organizing its Sub-Committees, namely the Mapping, Search and Rescue, Social, and the newly-formed Public Relations Sub-Committee. The Convenor of each of these is a Vice-President of the Committee, and there is a representative from each Club. So far we have appointed representatives to the Mapping Sub-Committee (Gordon Coutts) and to the Search and Rescue (Ken Grant).

The National Fitness Council has approached the Federation with the request that they provide leaders for groups of young people doing walking trips during the summer months. We know our members will be pleased to help, and our Walks Secretary will give full co-operation to the Federation in whatever arrangements are made.

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FIRE IS DANGEROUS! TAKE NO RISKS!

Throughout the summer the danger of bushfires is great. Do not add to it by carelessness. Keep a vigilant eye on cigarettes and matches (even the other fellow's) and take the strictest care with your fire. Below are the official regulations, and we trust all Bushwalkers will take it as a personal responsibility to see that they are carried out: \* In forest areas fires must be lit only for warmth or cooking. \*Billy fires must be lit only in fire-places, tin or pit 15" deep, and the surrounding area must be cleared of all inflammable material for a radius of 10' \*ALL FIRES MUST BE THOROUGHLY EXTINGUISHED when finished with.

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WALKS NOTES

The rail stoppage has continued to interfere with our walking activities to some extent. Vans were ordered to cater for Program trips, but in several cases, although the rule of booking a fortnight ahead has been relaxed, it was found there were not enough booked in to meet the expense, and the trip had to be cancelled at the last minute. This was disappointing for leaders and for those who had made plans to go. This weekend's Donna Buang trip will definitely be held, and will be led by Edna Richards.

CONTACT FOR CHRISTMAS - NEW YEAR PERIOD will be Gordon Coutts (WX 3910).

PRIVATE TRIPS - If you are planning a trip for a private party, remember that it is a matter of courtesy to have a word with the Walks Secretary about it as soon as possible so that he may take it into account in arranging Club activities. It should not be difficult to ensure that it will not interfere with Club affairs, the planning of which requires much careful thought and work.

ALONG THE TRACK

Although our activities have been curtailed, those walks which were held were as successful and enjoyable as ever. There were nine on Frank Pitt's weekend walk from Yarra Glen to Hurstbridge, and the weather was fine, giving very clear views. (All the same, we don't really believe they could see the Macedon party climbing Mt. Diogenes!) As Gronows were short of vans, the party had to be picked up at 4 pm. and so had a couple of miles' very hot, brisk walking at the end before reaching the solace of a drink shop - it is reported that the first glassfuls sizzled as they touched the parched throats! On the Sunday there were 26 on Ken Grant's Macedon walk. They had an enjoyable and varied day, including some climbing and swimming - the latter more popular than the former on the hot, sunny day, we guess. They had a long day, with tea out, as the van could not get back to pick them up until about 7.15 pm.

Instead of taking his programmed walk from Eltham, Egon Donath arranged for an afternoon walk through Studley Park. A party of twelve gathered at Johnston Street Bridge at noon, and after a walk to the boatsheds had a fine time rowing on the Yarra, and reflecting on how attractive and peaceful an area is to be found within a couple of miles of the city. Two of the braver ones even had a swim.

When the Federation walk had to be cancelled, Marie agreed to lead a trip in the Healesville area. A van was booked, and the small party had an interesting day, the highlight being a visit to the Colin McKenzie Sanctuary where one of the staff led them round, explaining various points of interest. The snake pit proved a most fascinating place, and they learnt quite a lot about distinguishing the various kinds.

There was a good party of 22 on Gerda Schwerin's Glenburn - Healesville weekend. It was a good trip, although it was disappointing that, after climbing Mt. St. Leonard, the fog was so thick there was no view at all. It didn't stop some of them from exploring round about, and they discovered a large dug-out. We don't know just what attraction they found there, but they were very reluctant to come out again.

As only 8 turned up for Gordon Coutt's walk, he regretfully decided to cancel the van, and took his group through the Botanical Gardens and round the Boulevarde to Victoria Street Bridge. A party carrying rucksacs in these areas is definitely unusual, but that didn't prevent them from enjoying the day, and discovering some interesting points - for instance, the Corroboree Tree, which marks the area where Melbourne settlers used to gather to watch the aborigines' corroborees.

Last Sunday there were 31 to enjoy the luxury of Gronows' new van - large windows, upholstered seats, and an arrangement for keeping the dust out, which was much appreciated. Although there was a heat wave, the temperature in the Lerdorfer Gorge was a little more moderate, and most of the party escaped the heat by swimming - the lazy ones stayed in the first pool, while leader, Egon Donath, penetrated a little deeper into the Gorge with the "toughies". Margaret Ward, a visitor from South Africa, was a welcome member of the party, and we hope to see her on other trips with us while she is in Melbourne.

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THE SUMMER PROGRAM, covering walks to the end of January, is now ready. As this is only a short period, it has been issued as a one-sided sheet.

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A VISITORS' BOOK FOR KELLEN'S HUT, on Snowy Plains, has been bought by the Club, and will be taken to the hut by Ken Grant's party in early January. This is the hut where one Club party found welcome refuge from cold and thick fog on a trip two years ago, and where doubtless many others, besides the cattlemen to whom it belongs, have sheltered. There was no visitors' book there to record the history of the walkers and cattlemen who use it, as there is in most other huts, where the entries, often going back over many years, prove most absorbing.

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SOCIAL NOTES

To wind up the year with a festive touch of Christmas, Marie has arranged a special evening in the Clubroom next Friday (15th). She has baked a Christmas Cake - and Marie's cakes need no recommendation - and Ken Hewitt is to show some of his films taken on Club trips during the year.

Our last theatre night for the year will be at "THE HIGHWAYMAN" next Thursday. Looking back through the year we can remember many very enjoyable shows seen with the Club, and this promises to equal them. Members will be pleased to know that these nights, as well as giving pleasure to those who go, have added several pounds to Club funds.

The Clubroom will be open every Friday in December and January.

BATHING BOX No. 799 - Last month we gave directions for getting to the Club's bathing box at Sandringham, which has already been patronized by quite a few members. As we pointed out then, it is available throughout the week, and anyone who wants to use it may get the key from Mrs. Abbott, at 2 Southey Street, Sandringham. LEN BARR is Manager (at a colossal salary!) and will be pleased to give you any other information, and to meet you at the box. We look forward to many lazy, friendly days there during the coming months.

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We were very fortunate last month to have Mr. P.G. Law, Director of Australian Antarctic Research, to show us a particularly interesting film of Heard Island. His commentary as it ran through was crisp and instructive, often amusing, and the audience was absorbed in the various aspects of establishing an Antarctic base, and of the wild life to be found in Antarctic regions. It seems safe to say that the baby penguins, fluffy with their thick down, were the favourite performers! The film was Kodachrome, which added to its attractiveness, and of high quality.

OUR CHRISTMAS DANCE, held in Jerram Hall last night, was most enjoyable, really the best yet. There were between 60 and 70 present, a smaller crowd than usual, but just enough for comfort on such a hot night. Everyone seemed in high spirits, and in spite of the mugginess all danced happily, with Gordon Coutts showing unsuspected talent as an M.C. We are happy to thank Marie and her sub-committee for their work in preparing for this, and they in turn would like to thank John Palmer for his assistance in taking tickets at the door.

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NEW MEMBERS

A cordial welcome is given to Dorothy Flint, Joan Negus, John Palmer, Nick Gerce, Rod Lingard and Dave Varns who have all been recently accepted as members. We hope they will be with the Club for many years of happy walking.

PERSONAL

\*\*\* Best wishes to Heather Stubbings and Bill Thackray, who are to be married at Christmas time - they are certainly going to start the New Year well.

\*\*\* Anne Gubbins was married last Saturday a perfect day, to a fellow Zoo worker. Our congratulations and best wishes, Anne.

\*\*\* Another to announce her engagement is Nancy Treholla. As her fiancee hails from Glen Valley (which is, by the way, the only place in Victoria where uranium ore has been discovered), high up in the Australian Alps, we hope to see both of them on some "tough" hikes in the future.

\*\*\* Wendy Law, an old member, who came back to give us a most entertaining talk last year, was in the Clubroom the other night. She is returning to Borneo in January to be married, and we give her our very best wishes.

\*\*\* We are sorry that Noeline Henderson will be leaving Melbourne on the 11th to return to New Zealand, but wish her a good crossing and a happy return to her home. We have been very pleased to have her in the Club, and hope that one of these days some of us may be able to visit New Zealand and have her show us some of its beauty spots. Noeline and Ruth Hart have come back with enthusiastic reports of their visit to Queensland, where they had many unexpected adventures. They camped out most of the time, and were fortunate with the weather. After leaving Toowoomba they camped on the verandah of the store at Greenmount, which was the setting for Steele Rudd's famous, "Dad and Dave", and learned many interesting stories of the author and the surroundings.

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Father Christmas has many varied places to visit in his stocking filling mission, but we wonder how often he has to find his way through the bush to a camp-fire, as he will be this year to visit Wendy and Jan.

"THE NEWS"

will not be posted out in January, but will be available in the Clubroom each Friday. It is hoped that, with the co-operation of the leaders, we'll be able to give an account of the many long trips in which Club members will be taking part. It would be appreciated if those going away would let Fay Pitt know something of their adventures as soon as possible after their return - we hope they'll all be happy ones.

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CHRISTMAS CARDS - Please let us know without delay if you still require cards. Anyone who wants some but is unable to get into the Clubroom may ring Fay Pitt (XB 5736) and she will post whatever they require. (Price 3d each). By the way, have you thought of mounting a suitable photo on the plain inner sheet - it adds an attractive personal touch, and the cost is still very low.

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LIBRARY NOTES

Lorraine Richey is now acting as librarian, and will be pleased to lend out any of the many interesting magazines for those who will have leisure to read during the holidays. Among them are "WALKABOUT", "WILD LIFE", "NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC" and the English "GEOGRAPHICAL MAGAZINE", to which the Club has been subscribing for long enough to have built up quite a big collection. They all contain articles of great interest to us bushwalkers - for instance, in this month's "WALKABOUT" is an article by John Becherwise on exploratory trips made by school-boy parties.

Two recently published Australian books we can recommend are "WILD FLOWERS OF VICTORIA" by Jean Galbraith, and "GREAT BARRIER REEF" by Professor Dakin, priced at 12/6 and 10/6 respectively. Both are very attractively produced, and fully illustrated with photographs of high quality, while the scientific information they contain is accurate and reliable. At the same time are simply and clearly written, and easily understood. We'd like to be able to say that they were in our Club library, as they would be excellent reference books - that on the wild flowers particularly.

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"DIMP" Insect repellent. The manufacturer has presented the Secretary with a tube of this very useful product, so members will be able to sample it for themselves, and see how effective it is in repelling those most irritating enemies of campers, the mosquitoes.

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Jean Forbes has a pair of waterproof Gossack boots for sale - these are size 6 (man's, not woman's, as stated last month), studded, and in excellent condition, having been worn only a few times, and the price is moderate.

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\* For those essential \*  
\* SUNGLASSES \*  
\* Sec \*  
\* WERNER GRAFF \*  
\* \*  
\* 80 Swanston St., \*  
\* Cent. 3186 MELBOURNE \*  
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\* READ \*  
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\* WILD LIFE \*  
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\* Australia's \*  
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\* Nature Magazine \*  
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