

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

CLUB ROOM

NEWS SUB-COMMITTEE

Fay Pitt(XB5736)

Margaret Dark(LA4171-bus)

Gordon Coutts (WX3 10)

Room 110(next to Dance Hall)

3rd Floor V. R. I., FLINDERS ST.

Open every Friday, 7.50-11 pm.

H O N. SECRETARY

Frank Pitt(XB5736)

8 Railway Avenue,

BRIGHTON S.5

FEDERATION OF VICTORIAN WALKING CLUBS

T H E A N N U A L M E E T I N G and E L E C T I O N of O F F I C I E R S .

will be held NEXT WEDNESDAY, November 15th, at 8 pm.

in the CHAMBER OF MANUFACTURERS BUILDING; 312 Flinders Street (South of Elizabeth St.)

In addition to the business of the meeting there will be a showing of films provided by Mr Alan Wilson, of Herbert Small Pty. Ltd., of special interest to all walkers

The following Notices of Motions have been received and will be put before the meeting:

(1) From the Secretary of the Federation: that Clause 8 of the Constitution have the following words added: No two Vice-Presidents may be members of the same Club, and at least one shall be a lady."

(2) From the University Mountaineering Club: "that Clause 6a be amended to read: 'that the Annual General Meeting be held on a suitable date in February each year. and that the Election of Officers for the Year 1951 be adjourned until February, 1951; further, that a Constitutional Sub-Committee of 5 persons, each of whom must represent a different Club, be elected by this present meeting to re-write the Constitution of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs and to present a draft of their recommendations to the Secretary before the New Year; and that this meeting request the Executive of the Federation to call a special General Meeting during February 1951 to vote on the acceptance of the re-written Constitution.' "

It is hoped that every Bushwalker who is able will attend this meeting, and show our active interest in the increasingly important Federation activities.

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"THE NEWS"

Please put your name on the sheet provided as you collect your "NEWS". Giving out "THE NEWS" is a busy job, and it is easy to overlook a few names on the official list or to tick the wrong one, and this means that we post copies to some members who have already received one - a waste, you'll agree. If members co-operate in putting down their names we will be able to use this as a check before beginning to address wrappers. We also ask any who come to the Club after about 9.45 to visit the group addressing wrappers and obtain their copy..

Betty Horsley has agreed to distribute "THE NEWS" this month, as once again there will be a Committee Meeting in progress, so please give her your co-operation Betty has also undertaken to duplicate the sheets, and Kitty Mitchell is typing the stencils. We are grateful to them for giving up their time to help in this way.

CHRISTMAS CARDS.

are proving popular again this year. There is a sample card on the Notice Board for those who have not already seen them. We would be glad if those who intend buying cards would assess their requirements and get them by the end of November so that we will have ample time to re-order if necessary. Last year some people who wanted cards were disappointed, as we had sold out, and we want to avoid any disappointment this year. It's up to you! (price of card & envelope is 3d.)

WALKS NOTES.

CHRISTMAS WALKS. Those who intended joining extended trips over the Christmas - New Year period are reminded that they are required to do at least three weekend walks beforehand. Every member should have a map of the area through which they will be travelling - if they contact Gordon Coutts in good time he will obtain the correct map for them if possible. A compass is another essential; it need not be an expensive one - one of the small units in plastic case costing only 1/6d. is adequate, and a few of these are still obtainable in Melbourne. The Walks sub-committee can probably advise you where to go.

THE WALKS SECRETARY? GORDON COUTTS; requests that members telephone him only between 5.45 and 6.45 pm, except on really urgent business. If he should not be at home, please leave your name and details of why you are ringing, so that he can contact you if necessary.

THE TRAIN STRIKE has ~~interfered~~ with our walking a little during the last three weeks. Perhaps the most disappointing result was the cancellation of the Federation Day Walk - it has not yet been decided whether this will be held early next year or abandoned altogether. It was most unlucky too that Norm Richards' four day walk could not be held, while Horst Eisfelder's Cup Day walk had to be cancelled as there were not enough going to justify the expense of a van.

PLEASE NOTE: ***We will have a van for Frank Pitt's weekend walk tomorrow, leaving Batman Avenue at 1.15 p.m. Please ring him XB5736) if you intend coming.

*** Egon Donath will lead an afternoon walk through Studley Park on Sunday, instead of the programme walk to Eltham. Take bus to Johnston Street Bridge and meet there at 12 noon.

ANNUAL FIELD WEEKEND.

Men, Women and Children!!!

They were all there (69 of 'em) at the Annual Field Weekend. The event was the usual great success; even the weather stayed warm and dry, although not until after the few short drizzly attempts to rain on Saturday afternoon. Don Smellie's Marquee-like tent was needed only as sleeping quarters. The Saturday morning walk had thirty clients and Ken Grant treated them very kindly, as they arrived at the camp-site by one o'clock and so had plenty of time to prepare for the evening's proceedings, for which purpose all hands were called on deck.

Eight o'clock saw the camp-fire well under way, and with Jock Low as cheer-leader and the parodist firms of "Pitt, Pitt & Grant" and "Kirky & Co. on the job, even the coming of food was awaited with patience. Interjectory efforts by Paddy Mallet and Geoff Christensen both found the same mark, luckily one BIG enough to take it as well as dish it out. Climax of the evening was, of course, the barbecue supper. Despite the large number of cooks (Emil Slade, Fred Scutter, Gordon Coutts, Bill Thackray and many others helped or "advised") the meat was done a turn, and Edna Richards' well-tried recipe for the cocoa, which she and Marie Gillispie brewed, was as good as ever. It is rumored that some members are bringing their mothers next year to show just how they like their meat cooked.

Bushwalker resilience was seen at its best on Sunday morning when all were up "bright" and early despite over-loaded stomachs the night before. The photographers were to the fore, especially when a couple of hairy-legged "skirts" appeared in our midst speaking with accents strange to the Sassenach; and later when they were able to keep everyone together in one big heap while they darted back and forth with their little black boxes - hope we'll see a few photos !! The heap eventually escaped and, assuming the forms of individual walkers, set off behind Ken G. for the Sunday Walk. This turned out to be a minor marathon, complete with mud-bath, as the walkers didn't return till after 4 p.m., Ken apparently making sure of exceeding Saturday's meagre mileage. After breaking camp and tidying up, the vans then bore everyone homeward with memories of another delightful field weekend.

P.S. To round off Norm's account it must be added that he, as enthusiastic organiser of this famous event, deserves much of the credit for its success.

~~ALERT FOR TRAIL~~

Geoff Christiansen's Upper Lerderberg trip was very successful, with extra good weather, a good party and a pleasant camp-site. On the Sunday Jock Low had a good crowd on his Wattle Glen-Marandyto walk, and shared in the good weather. A van was hired for Ted Kirk's walk last Sunday. There were twelve on the trip, which proved quite an adventurous one. Some of the party hired togs and went swimming at lunch time - perhaps if they'd known how much water they were to encounter later on they might not have bothered! The creeks were very swollen, and for long stretches had spread out over the paddocks, so the party found themselves wading ankle-deep at times. They even seemed to enjoy it, so that we wondered if the Bushwalkers were becoming Water Babies'. A large black snake had a lucky escape from a crushing death when Ted nearly trod on it.

SOCIAL NEWS.

Mr P. G. LAW, who is in charge of the Australian Antarctic Expeditions, will visit the Club on November 24th to show us recent films of the Antarctic area.

THE CHRISTMAS DANCE is on December 7th, less than four weeks ahead-reserve the date now! It is to be held as usual at Jerram Hall (Cr Spring St. & Flinders Lane) Beginning at 8pm. Tickets and further details will be available soon from Marie.

NO. 799 Some of our newer members may not yet be familiar with this magic number, so we will let them into the secret - this is the number of the Club's Bathing Box at Sandringham. This is for the use of all members at any time, weekends or weekdays, and now that the warmer weather is here (well, here some of the time, anyhow!) it's fairly sure you'll find a few Bushwalkers there every weekend. To find it, take train to Sandringham, walk along Beach Road to Southey Street, and down the ramp there, and you'll find No. 799 about 100 yards along to the right. Don't forget your sun-burn lotion, a shady hat, and a pair of sun-glasses! (Our advertiser, Werner Graff, can supply you with a reliable pair of glasses.)

TWO MORE THEATRE NIGHTS will be held before the end of the year. The first will be for "ICE FOLLIES" on November 23rd, the other for "THE HIGHWAYMAN" on December 14th. Contact Marie as soon as possible if you want tickets for either of these.

A party of 44 Bushwalkers saw "Worm's Eye View", and the general verdict was that it was all that it was cracked up to be. Eighteen went to "Don't Listen Ladies", and report that it was a very good French Comedy.

Mr Lecnard came to show us films on October 27th, but unfortunately the sound device was unsound (pardon!) and in spite of earnest tinkering refused to work, so we saw only part of his intended program. One showing scenes of skiing holidays in Canada was easy to follow without commentary, and probably aroused nostalgic thoughts among some of our enthusiasts. (We overheard the comment that glamor on skis is much better maintained by being towed up than by plodding unaided - think of some of those rear view shots of the touring party labouring up the slopes!) But we would like to have been able to hear some of the (apparently) rollicking songs being sung in the hut at night.

OUR NEW CLUB SCREEN was used for the first time to show these films. Made by Frank Pitt, it is about 5' by 5', of ample size for any projector we may have to use, and will be an asset to the Club for years to come.

During the Rail strike the M.R.I. has been unable to supply us with coffee. However our adaptable Social sub-committee made a smooth changeover to tea, and have already earned praise for the fine "cuppa" they produce.

At the last General Meeting Norm had the pleasant duty of presenting wedding presents to Kath and Hew Ridge, and to Heinz Marcuse. We all wish them every happiness, and hope to have them with us in the Club for many years to come. We will also be glad to meet Heinz's wife.

NEW MEMBERS - We are pleased to welcome as members:-
Peter Becker, Bill Glover, Claire Hilsburg, Melitta Kauders, Gwen Robinson, and Trevor Tannick, who were accepted at the October Committee Meeting. We hope you will very soon feel at home in the Club and enter into all Club activities.

*** Congratulations and very best wishes to Heather White and John Marshall, who became engaged recently.

*** Ten Bushwalkers were at Station Pier to farewell Bill Horton, who sailed for England in the "Stratheden" on October 31st - at 11 pm! Members will be pleased to hear that the autographed boot occupied a prominent place in his cabin.

*** Our other traveller, Helen Ross, left on October 29th in the Norwegian vessel, "Tian Shan", which was originally due to leave about the 17th.

*** We'll be missing Pam Abbott in the Club. She has taken a job with the S.E.C. at Mt. Beauty, and will only be able to visit us occasionally. We're sorry to lose you, Pam, and just a bit envious, too - what a wonderful area for a walker to live in!

*** We were pleased to get a newsy letter from Lorrie Brown, who has been living in Sydney for several months now. She has joined the Bush Club, a walking club which celebrated its 11th birthday recently and gives an account of some of their activities. Lorrie misses our Friday night meetings - the Bush Club meets only once a month - and sends good wishes to us all. She hopes to visit Melbourne next year and see us again.

*** Another letter is from Harold Williams, who is at present living at Phillip Island. He and a partner have a 27' fishing boat in which they intend sailing north by easy stages, fishing. His letter is on the notice-board.

*** Noeling Henderson and Ruth Hart are having a fine time in Queensland, by all accounts. We last heard of them in Mackay, so they're well into the tropics.

LIBRARY

"WILD LIFE" and "WALKABOUT" both have articles about Lake Eyre, whose three thousand four hundred and sixty square miles area is now a vast sheet of water - a fact which captures the imagination, as neither white man's history nor the legends of the aborigines contain any record of its ever being full before. Both magazines contain photographs of the lake well worth studying.

"WILD LIFE" also contains remarkable pictures of a group of ghost fungi, photographed entirely by their own phosphorescence, and an interesting article about them.

FOR SALE - A pair of waterproof Cossack walking boots, size 6 (woman's), studded. These boots are in excellent condition, only having been worn a few times, and the price is moderate. See the owner, Jean Forbes, or Fay Pitt.

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