



FEDERATION OF VICTORIAN WALKING CLUBS

THE ANNUAL FIELD WEEKEND, held at McCrae's Creek Falls last week, was a most enjoyable event for the seventy-odd walkers who took part. This was a much smaller number than expected - no doubt the prospect of cold weather frightened off a great many who would otherwise have come. Actually, except for sleety rain on Saturday morning, the weather was fine and surprisingly mild. One party, led by Fred Soutter, walked from Gladysdale to the camp-site, while an afternoon party came from Gembrook. And believe it or not, there were seven (or was it eight?) cars parked among the tents! The camp-fire concert, although not up to last year's standard, was most enjoyable - with the smaller numbers it was rather more informal than usual. (The Bushwalkers, we are sad to report, did not shine in entertainment - not one item were they able to offer! We can hardly believe that among 170 members there is no talent, surely.) After supper the University Mountaineers led their usual midnight walk - some of the party returned in an hour or two, while three rolled in when everyone else was breakfasting next morning! Bill Bewsher, of the University Mountaineers, kept everyone absorbed with his breezy account of his small party's trip through little-known southern Tasmania last January - aided by a charcoal-and-lipstick map marked out on a tent! After this, one group set off for Gembrook, while others joined Frank Pitt in a short walk before lunch, and all finally left the camp-site at 3 p.m. for Gembrook.

TRACK-CLEARING WEEKEND, MAY 5th & 6th.

The track to be cleared this year is one blazed many years ago by the Men's Club, from the Boobiulla Plateau to Acheron Gap, and will provide a good round trip from Warburton to Donna Buang and back. There'll be scope for plenty of manpower (and woman-power, too) and we hope the Bushwalkers will be very well represented, as they were last year. Transport will be by van - add your name NOW to the list of those going, and see Notice Board for any further details. It is hoped that once again it can be organized for the girls to prepare meals for the ravenous workers. So join the band and show your skill with jungle knife and axe - and enjoy it!

SEARCH AND RESCUE PRACTICE

The Committee at its last meeting appointed KEN GRANT as our representative for S. & R. Organization, with FELIX HARDING as deputy. The list of S. & R. members is being thoroughly revised, and their addresses and phone numbers being checked.

A practice search has been organized for APRIL 25th, and S. & R. members from all clubs are expected to take part. The party will leave by the 8.25 am train for Mt. Evelyn, and Ken will be contacting all our members to give further details.

GENERAL MEETING, MAY 16TH

The new Constitution has been prepared by the sub-committee appointed at the Annual Meeting, and will be presented to the General Meeting for discussion and adoption. Any member wishing to study the proposed Constitution may borrow a copy from our Secretary, Frank Pitt. The Federation is a most valuable body, and it is hoped our Club will show its appreciation and support by a very large attendance.

As the Assistant Secretary, Bill Buchanan, is resigning his position, it is likely that an election will be held to replace him at this meeting.

ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO R. A. A. F.

The Federation was asked to co-operate in supplying maps and lectures for training of R.A.A.F. personnel, and in subsequent field practice in the Baw Baws area, track notes from "WALK" were used and received praise.

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"THE NEWS"

This year's sub-committee consists of FAY PITT, BETTY HORSLEY, PADDY MALLET. Betty will be taking charge of distribution, and has already organized a team to assist in this. (However others who volunteer to help are also assured of a welcome.) Paddy will act as liason officer with the various sub-committees to deal with their reports.

"THE NEWS", which appears on the 2nd Friday each month, is distributed to everyone in the Clubroom, and posted out to all other FINANCIAL MEMBERS. If you are a financial member and do not receive a copy, ask for one. If you are NOT, then PAY UP!

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THE PRESIDENT. We are pleased to inform you, NOW HAS A TELEPHONE ..... WX 5450 ..... so if you want to contact him at home, that's the number to dial.

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" W A L K "

is now well accepted and the 1951 issue is steadily selling itself - that its fame is spreading is illustrated by the numerous interstate enquiries. But to remain solvent and go on to produce "WALK" 1952 we must sell every copy we can NOW. So think over your friends and acquaintances and see if there are any prospective readers still to be sold a copy. Remember that if YOU sell a copy the Club fares better financially than if you let the sale go to a bookseller - SO KEEP AT IT !

No publication date has been decided yet for our next issue, but preparation is proceeding on the assumption that it will go to the printer early in June. So if you have anything to write, or any photographs to submit, know anyone who has, or have any suggestions, GO TO IT and act immediately. see one of the Editorial Sub-Committee; RICHARDS, DONATH & SOUTTER, Inc.

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LECTURE - DISCUSSIONS TO BE HELD

For some time we have felt the need to give a lead to those members who regard bushwalking as something more than merely following the leader, and are anxious to become more competent and self-reliant; and further, to give guidance to prospective leaders, to give them confidence in their own ability. With this in mind, it is being arranged for the Walks Sec., Gordon Coutts, to give a general lecture at the Monthly Meeting, to be followed by a series of lecture-discussions on more specific subjects which we hope will become a permanent feature of Club activities. These will be held from 8pm to 8.30 pm on the third Friday each month, and we look forward to seeing a lively interest in these. The program has not yet been worked out, but it will include such topics as map-reading, care of equipment, duties of leaders, and possibly later on first aid, etc. If there is any point you would like to discuss or have explained, let us know, so that we may plan to include it.

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WORKING PARTY AT SYDENHAM WILDFLOWER SANCTUARY , April 21st.

Some eight or ten people have their names on the list to take part in this, but we would like to see at least twice this number . There will be plenty of work for as many people as come, and we'd like to see a really worthwhile amount accomplished. No special knowledge of plants is required - no doubt you'll know much more about them by the time you've finished the day. Geoff is arranging transport from Sunshine station - he'd be glad to hear from anyone who could assist him. Whether you can spend the morning or afternoon only, or the whole day, you'll be welcome. Put your name on the list, and Geoff will see that you are informed of final arrangements.

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SOCIAL NOTES

Another successful theatre month has passed through Marie's capable hands with well-attended nights at three National Theatre ballet performances, and at the play, "Message for Margaret". Coming theatre attractions are:

April 14th - MODERN BALLET (under direction of Hanny Kolm) - Assembly Hall.  
(The "Herald" critic gave this high praise)

April 19th - THE GLASSHOUSE MENAGERIE (National Theatre Drama) - Princess. 5/-

May 3rd - DEADLOCK " " " " "

A night will be held for BRIGADOON about the end of May. Booking later.

To avoid a repetition of previous misunderstandings, please note: If you want tickets for a show and our night is booked out, let Marie know, as she may be able to get extra tickets, or may have cancellations; if however, you are subsequently able to get tickets elsewhere, let Marie know immediately, so that she may pass any extras on to other members.

To help newcomers and visitors feel "at home" when they come into the Club room, a host or hostess will be appointed for each Friday night. He or she will look after the visitors, introduce them to the President and other office-bearers, perhaps show them our Photo Album, get them to sign the Visitors' Book, and so on. If you would be willing to help in this way, let one of the Social sub-committee know soon.

After the March General Meeting a large audience enjoyed Geoff Christensen's Kodachrome slides of Tasmania and Kosciusko, and his interesting commentary, which, assisted by a clear map, gave us a very good idea of his recent trips. And, incidentally, a strong desire to follow in his footsteps. (It is a pity we can't have a print for the Club album of a fine firelight portrait which might well be titled "Bath Night" ! )

LIBRARY NOTES

Our new Librarian, Keith Murray, is keeping the library in good order, in spite of the very cramped space it has to occupy in our cramped cupboard. However, he informs us that there are several books missing - if you have borrowed books or magazines would you check up and make sure you have returned them, and if you haven't, please do so immediately. Members borrowing books are asked to sign for them in the Library Book provided.

Those who have delighted in the profusion of Alpine flowers which are a feature of summer trips in the high country will enjoy Edna Walling's description and photographs of the many varieties seen on a recent trip to Kosciusko. This will be found in the current copy of "WALKABOUT".

We have just received from the University Mountaineers a very praise - worthy book they have produced (duplicated and bound together) dealing with Equipment for walking trips. It gives full, detailed and very practical advice on food, clothing and general equipment, as well as the names of stores where such things may be obtained, and should be of very great help to less experienced walkers.

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PERSONAL

\*\*\*\* Our sincere good wishes to Heather White and John Marshall who are to be married on April 21st. Fancy Johnnie having to come all the way to Australia for heather !

\*\*\*\* Betna Dryden left for England on April 4th. At the General Meeting Norm, on behalf of the Club, presented her with the traditional boot, signed by all present. Unfortunately it was marred by bad ink blotches which spread when being lacquered. A new boot will be circulated for signatures, and sent on to Betna. Members are asked to use either pencil or nib-type pen ink, preferably the latter, when signing boots.

\*\*\*\* Pam Abbott will be sailing on the "Otranto" on April 25th. She does not leave Mt. Beauty until 21st, so won't be able to come into the Club. Her berth no. is 1411.

\*\*\*\* The degree of Master of Science was conferred on Geoff Christensen at the ceremony on April 7th. We congratulate Geoff on this, and also on being selected to do a course of study in England. We will miss him from the Club when he leaves in August, but wish him every success.

\*\*\*\* Peter Salmon, who became a member only last month, parted company unexpectedly with his motor bike, and as a result has been in plaster for the last few weeks.

\*\*\*\* Roger Wilkin has been missed in the Club lately. He's been grape-picking Mildura.

\*\*\*\* Further news of Jack Smith is that He's been over the Milford and Hollyford tracks and is now completing his tour of the South Island by bike. When last heard of he was at Greymouth. He expects to be home sometime between August and Christmas.

\*\*\*\* Egon Donath spent Easter at his favourite haunt, Wilson's Prom., and brings us an account of the damage caused by the recent bushfires. Protected by the fire-break made before summer, the Tidal River valley has been untouched, but Mt. Bishop, Lilly Pilly Gully and everything to the left of the lighthouse track has been burnt and presents an ugly sight. The track to Sealers' Cove, only recently opened up, has been cluttered with fallen timber etc. However, he also brings good news for us when he reports that the ranger has sold over 20 copies of "WALK" since Christmas, for which we are grateful.

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NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome ROMA BEE, MARY LICKLEY, GERALD LOBL, PHILLIP MULCAHY, and HEINZ WOLFF to our ranks, and hope they will take an active part in Club life.

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ALONG THE TRACK

Generally speaking the weather has been good for walks during the last five weeks. Easter was outstanding, and gave the three Club parties very fine views but very warm walking. Fourteen on Marie's trip to Harrierville and sixteen on Warren's to Mt. Cobbler shared a van - on the way up. For the first time in Club history (we believe) the van broke down, so the first party had to come home by bus and train, and Mr. Gronow sent a special van to pick up the others. It was most unfortunate for the Harrierville party, who arrived there much later than expected, and had to curtail their trip. There were ten in Paddy Mallet's party in the Walhalla area....Only twenty took part in Labour Day weekend trips - 13 at Lorne, 7 Lake Mountain..... Gwen Roberts led a party of six away from the beaten track through the Sherbrooke Forest, and they had a fine view of a wallaby, which remained for about 15 minutes, as well as other wild life.... Dave Varns nearly lost his boot in the Werribee Gorge, when it floated off down the rapidly-flowing stream. However a grand dash by Emil and a valiant grab by Lee Pull Pullen, it was retrieved - though Lee had to be toasted over the fire to dry her off !

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