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* THE NEWS *
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of

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held in ROOM 56 (2nd Floor) on FEBRUARY 23rd at 8 pm.

PLEASE BE ON TIME !! We look forward to a big attendance, and intend to start promptly so that there will be ample time for full consideration of important points.

AGENDA:

1. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting.
2. Correspondence.
3. Presentation of Annual Report.
4. Financial Report and Yearly Balance Sheet.
5. Notice of Motion.
6. Determination of Subscriptions for 1951.
7. Election of Office-Bearers.
8. General Business.

NOTICE OF MOTION: In accordance with the Constitution, Egon Donath has given notice that he intends to move "That Clause 7 and any other relevant clauses of the Constitution be amended to provide for an Assistant Secretary, Assistant Walks Secretary, and Assistant Social Secretary."

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CLUB ELECTIONS

From these elections, which will be held in a fortnight, will emerge the team of Office-Bearers who will control, to a large extent, the activities of the Club for the next twelve months. All members who have the Club's interests at heart will do their best to ensure that this team is elected without fear or favour, and that it includes those persons best fitted to advance our interests.

A few years back it was an easy matter to ensure that, in fact, something like the best team was elected. At that time all members knew each other very well and generally met on walks at least every few weeks. With increasing membership, however, this position is tending to change a little, and there are now some in the Club who hardly know many of their fellow-members. Consequently there is the risk that unsuitable persons may be nominated and elected to the Committee. Further, it is possible that otherwise suitable persons may be elected in ignorance of the work expected of them.

In the past the Club has had good service from its committees, but to avoid any occasional weaknesses in the personnel an appeal is made to all members to ensure that all persons nominated for office are willing and able to work for the Club; that having accepted nomination they will be prepared to devote much of their time and energy to assisting in its management. When voting for members who have accepted nomination, remember that you should vote for the person whom you consider best suited to the position, not necessarily for the one with whom you are friendliest. Members accepting nomination will, if elected, be expected to attend the monthly Committee Meetings (held first Friday each month at 6.45pm) and probably to act on sub-committees. Sub-committee members are often allotted specific tasks which demand that they act on their own initiative: e.g. the Walks sub-committee at present consists of three members and is organized as follows - Walks Secretary, who acts as convenor and general executive on all walks matters, one member who is responsible for compiling the Walks Programs, and one responsible for looking after the Club walks records (for instance distributing and "chasing up" Walks Reports sheets to and from leaders.

I trust that the above remarks will impress on members the fact that the fortunes of the Club rest largely on its office-bearers, and that these should not be elected haphazardly, but should be the result of careful and detailed thought. The larger the Club grows, the more careful must we be that we choose both wisely and well.

.....Norm Richards, President.

A SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on Friday; February 16th, to give final consideration to matters to be dealt with at the Annual Meeting. If any members have in mind matters which they consider should receive consideration by the Annual Meeting, they are invited to discuss them with the Secretary or appropriate sub-committee by the 16th.

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head sharply breaking the skyline beyond, with the summit of Kosciuszko peeping above.

From Pilot Tin Mine the Inge road track led rather sulkily to Free-body's. Often it threatened to disappear but always "came good" without worrying us too much. Then came the spectacular Suggan Buggan Range: steep drops on either side, with thunder over the Cobberas in the west and to the east sunshine over the steep spurs and the foaming reaches of the Snowy River, culminating in the old homestead of Suggan Buggan, now deserted except for millions of ants. A nice shade of brown resulted from four hours in blazing sunshine on the most surprising of roads which led us to Black Mountain homestead and a mail truck which took us to Buchan Caves where we became two-bob tourists before returning home.

....Betty Horsley, Warren Olle, Edna & Norm Richards.

Cradle Mountain Reserve, Tasmania.

Thirteen of our members who have just been through this area report a wonderful trip, with perfect weather. To avoid overcrowding in huts they travelled in two parties, one a day ahead of the other. However, they all travelled in the plane to Winyard together, then to Sheffield and Waldheim, where they spent the first night. (A telephone has recently been connected to the chalet there.) Next morning Emil's party hit the trail, and two hours' very steep climbing brought them to Kitchen Hut, now re-built and very good, where the ranger revived them with a cup of tea. Leaving the packs there, they visited Cradle Mountain which involved some rock-climbing, before continuing on 10 miles to Windermere - the going is fairly easy, but it was a long afternoon's walk. There they found a good hut, and met a local personality -

Percy the Possum, who features prominently in the visitors' book. Next day, going on to Pelion Hut, they found it was being re-built - the builders being a Sheffield man and his 5 year-old son! They were glad to shelter there from a thunder-storm and lent a hand with the flooring etc. so that the hut would be weatherproof enough to give them shelter for the night. Here they met the "Bacon Patrol" - six newchums on their first walk, with quite a lot to learn about equipment necessary for such a trip - they earned their title by the fact that they were carrying 22 lbs of bacon, supported by such little extras as 7 lbs of salami! Next day our party made for du Cane hut, detouring to visit several falls, including the Ferguson Falls, and the less accessible Hartnet Falls, which spill over about 80' in a single drop. At the top of these is a delightful pool, where an hour spent swimming was one of the highlights of the trip. West and East Pelion were visited - the latter giving a beautiful view over the whole reserve. Then they went on to Pine Valley Hut, which is off the main route, but perhaps the loveliest place in the whole reserve - a delightful valley surrounded by high mountain peaks, such as the Acropolis and the rugged Mt. Gould. Emil had to leave his party here, and walked the twenty miles to Cynthia Bay, going along the edge of the lake, which is very low, as its waters are being pumped out to feed the hydro station, and in this unusually hot weather its level is falling 2" a day. The rest of the party went on to Narcissus Hut, where they were re-united with Jock's party, and later were saved the long hot walk to Cynthia Bay when the ranger, Mr. Lamont, came out to pick them up in his motor launch.

Throughout the Reserve they had found the tracks and huts good, and plenty of wild life, including koalas and wallabies. Snakes were plentiful - some huge tiger snakes were seen (Emil killed one - all the others got away) and many small whip-snakes.

At Cynthia Bay the party dispersed and went by various ways to Hobart etc.

Emil visited Freycinet Peninsular, and praises it enthusiastically as rivalling Wilson's Promontory in ruggedness and variety - innumerable lovely beaches, for fishing and swimming, and rocky mountains for those who want tough exploring trips.

Here's Jock's account of the second party's adventures. Dramatis Personae: "Margaret (Midlark) Dark, Roger (Granbits) Wilkins, Kitty (famous mount) Mitchell, Don (Smiler) Smellie, Heather (last up) White, John (2nd last) Marshall, and, trotting at the rear somewhere, Leader Jock (It's Downhill All The Way Now) Low.

"A good (!) start to the trip was made when Jock left all his maps, compass, camera, sun-hat and glasses at the Melbourne air-depot - only a last minute dash by taxi saved the day.

We spent our first day around Cradle Mt. (three were successful in reaching the summit), touching Marion's Lookout (with crater lake), Hansen's Peaks, Mt. Campbell, Dove Lake, and Lake Lilla, and returning to Waldheim (Vampire) Chalet. Next day we reached Windermere Hut - chief events being that Jock fell and cut his forearm (good first aid saved a lot of trouble) and Johnny M. lost the heel off one boot, and had to do the rest of the trip with a limp. We also met Percy the Possum that night, and saw two Tasmanian wild cats. Our next day to Pelion was uneventful - unless you regard Kitty's losing both heels, and Margaret's disappearing up to the knees in mud periodically eventful! Leaving Pelion Hut we stopped at New Pelion Hut (about a mile S.W.) and divided into two parties, some climbing Mt. Ossa, with fine views rewarding them, the others visited "Toad Rock", a strange rock formation about 300 yds

"W A L K"

We're pleased to let you know that "WALK" is selling well, both within the Club and from the bookshops where it is on sale. Even so, we can't afford to slacken our efforts, and we appeal to those who have already sold copies to sell still more, and to those who haven't yet practised their salesmanship to get cracking. Have a copy by you ready to show to any likely buyer; point out articles of special interest to him; and don't be afraid to show your own enthusiasm for it. Remember, too, that the Club gains more from private sales than commercial ones as on the latter we must allow the usual trade discount. A few members are doing a very good job with large numbers - Gordon Coutts has taken 60 copies, Egon Donath 50 and Ken Grant 30 - and have already disposed of a good proportion of them.

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ALONG THE TRACK

Walks are getting well into swing again after the usual unsettling effect of Christmas holidays, although we've had the most consistently hot walking weather we've experienced for years. Betty Horsley's Canadian Bay trip was the only one which struck bad weather - her party of nine experienced a great thunderstorm, and a few downpours, but were lucky to have shelter each time. Lloyd Reynolds and Harold Soutter, who led day walks during A.N.A. Weekend, had small parties and sizzling hot weather - lunch time was no doubt the pleasantest part of the day! Marie Gillespie and her party of nineteen travelled to their mystery destination in great comfort, as Mr. Gronow provided the "new" van, which gave them loads of room. The locality planned for the trip remained a closely-guarded secret until the van was well on its way, and a guessing competition provided entertainment on the way - Betty Kyte won this by guessing that Cape Woolamai was the spot. This proved an attractive base for varied activities - a trip in a shark boat, with packs following behind in a dinghy, a moonlight walk for the energetic, a walk to the top of the dunes to see the sunrise, big camp-fires, and swimming, surfing and fishing. The wild life of the island was an attraction - great numbers of mutton birds, a thriving colony of koalas, some of them really huge. Those who were up to see the sunrise were surprised to see dozens of wallaby pads across the sand dunes - apparently the wallabies had been out feeding on the tender shoots during the night. On the Monday the party was driven in the van to Cowes (this included an exciting ride along the cliff edge above Smith's Beach) and given a tour of the town, and a luscious feed of watermelon, before heading for home.

Nunniang - Black Range - Limestone Ck. - Tin Mine - Suggan Buggan - Black Mt.

"----- Take the Omeo Road from Bairnsdale past the pub at Tambo Crossing (why?) to the pub at Ensay South, then a side road east for 2 miles."

These track notes are written for the benefit of the pub-crawling public who have travelled the Omeo Road without knowing that they are missing a pub by a mere two miles. However our members (some anyway!) know that this brings you to Ensay and it was from here that four old members (ancient) set out for Nunniang Plateau, which lies to the north. Truck for 6 miles, 13 miles of not unpleasant road-bashing brought us to Bentley's Plains, where we met a person whom we now count among our best friends: Bill Ah Chow, who maintains a fire watch from nearby 5000' Mt. Nugong. We had the privilege of a conducted tour (by eye) of half Victoria, with Bill pointing out almost every named peak in the state, many certainly invisible to us without his directions.

From Bentley's the track goes through good timber and across pleasant little plains to Nunniang Plain, from which we climbed to the Black Range. Along this range is a small plain with the poetic name of Jam Tin, and while camped nearby we drifted off to sleep neath a curtain of stars. However, it was a curtain of good japara that about 11 pm kept out the buckets-ful of water that began to fall - complete with fireworks and illuminations. Rain and mist kept us company the next day to the Limestone, where we arrived after dark to view a wondrous scene. Here in this sacred haunt of walkers we found a truck, a panel van, 2 large tents, 3 children, a hutful of card-players, and at least 11945 $\frac{1}{2}$ candlepower of Gloria lamps. All belonged to a family party who had managed to get down the old Tin Mine Road. They also had fishing rods and lines and a complete armoury of guns, but apparently they didn't know the guns were loaded, as they pushed up and made us welcome, and speeded our meal by providing the fire and hot water.

Now on familiar ground, we crossed to N.S.W. at Quambatt, and later climbed The Pilot. Foiled by weather on previous trips, we had imagined that the view would not be as good as that from the Cobberas, but once at the trig. (6005') this idea was soon dispelled. A true full-circle panorama gives one of the most varied views imaginable. The three rocky Cobberas, Wombargo, The Black Range to the south, with northward the plateau to Cascades and Dead Horse showing smooth and flat, sharply incised by streams and falling precipitately to the Murray in the west, and the Rams-

along the track from Pelion Gap, , and all met again at du Cane Hut. From here we visited the beautiful d'Alton and Ferguson Falls, only a few hundred yards off the main track. We spied a few snakes on the trail - black, we thought, but one can't observe reliably while hitting top speed - in the opposite direction!! Emil's party arrived at Na rcissus two hours after us - and did our ears and throats feel sore that night! Five of us made a day trip to Lake Marion and "The Guardians", and found a swim in the lake most welcome, for it was our hottest day yet. A walk along the shores of Lake St.Claire rewarded us with the sight of a platypus in the water. On our last day we rose at 5.30 am, and by 7 were at the lakeside waiting for Mr.Lamont (who sends regards to all M.B.W.) who was to pick us up in his motor launch. Then OUR FEED!!! Ask them yourself.

We all successfully hitch-hiked down to Bellerive Youth Hostel, and spent another week travelling around Huonville, Port Arthur, New Norfolk, and surrounding areas - all in a car! - with a boat trip to South Bruny Islc. The whole holiday was voted 100% Jock (D.A.T.W.N.) Iow.

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EASTER TRIPS: Lists are already on the notice board for these trips. Easter is only six weeks off, so make up your mind if you want to join one of these.

Transport arrangements may depend on the numbers going, and will have to be made soon. Details of trips are contained in Autumn Program, which it is hoped will be available tonight - if not see full program on Notice-board.

REMEMBER THAT VAN BOOKINGS MUST BE MADE, AND DEPOSITS PAID, A FORTNIGHT IN ADVANCE.

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PERSONAL

*** Best wishes to our busy Walks Secretary, Gordon Coutts, who's relinquishing his state of single blessedness on Feb. 24th.

*** Congratulations, too, to Heather and Bill Thackray, who were wed at Christmas time, and who've been looking very happy about things ever since. Another we want to congratulate is Dorothy Higgins, who was married recently - we were pleased to meet her husband in the Clubroom the other Friday, and hope to see both of them out with us often.

*** Tracking down the cause of a certain excitement in the Club a fortnight ago, we found it was that Jo Thompson and Don Sellar had just announced their engagement.

*** Bill Horton writes that he's getting around in England, although worried at times by a septic finger. He was met at Tilbury by Tess Maddison (who had to wait 3 1/2 hours on a bitterly cold day for him to get off the boat.) He spent Christmas in the Peak district, wallowing in snow in the first white Christmas for many years.

*** A recent letter from Jack Smith (who has been in New Zealand since last August) gives details of a fortnight's trip he is doing in company with Denny Pile. So far he has been living in Queenstown and doing the local mountains, but this trip, is taking them up the Rees and Dart Valleys, then along the Routbourne and Hollyford tracks, & finally to Milford Sound, the Milford Track and Te Anau. After the trip Jack intends to take up residence in Invercargill and explore its environs.

*** Betty Kyte will be leaving for her home-town, Sydney, on Feb. 16th, before sailing for England in the "Otranto". She will be passing through Melbourne again on Labour Day weekend. All the best for a very good trip, Betty!

*** We'll be missing Win Dryden for a while, as she's been transferred to Ararat, while Keith Murray and Ken Grant will be working at Apollo Bay until Easter. (Fancy letting those two loose together! Perhaps we should warn the local residents.)

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THEATRE NIGHTS : Marie has tickets for three National Theatre presentations: March 8th, "ALDA"; March 20th, "SWAN LAKE"; March 29th, "CORROBOREE".

Tickets for each, 5/-.

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NEW MEMBERS - We are happy to welcome four new members, WILMA MUNDAY, PHYLLIS STEWART (a Brisbane Bushwalker), KEN LORNING, and KEVIN FOLEY, and hope they will enter fully into all our activities.

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FOR SALE - Hip-length wind-proof jacket, zipp-front. Quality good, price moderate, size, S.M. colour fawn. Any enquiries to Fay Pitt. (XB 5736), as the member wishing to sell the jacket is away from Melbourne at present.

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FOUND ; A bundle of two Weekend Magazines was left in the Clubroom a week or so ago. As these were carefully rolled, we think they might be precious to someone - maybe its the photos of League football teams, or hints for freshening the complexion for Spring (they are June issues.) Claimant will be asked no

***** questions! *****

If you have any news items, or comment or suggestions about "THE NEWS" please see "THE NEWS" Sub-Committee:

- FAY PITT (XB 5736)
- MARGARET DARK (LA 4171)
- GORDON COUTTS (WX 5910)