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\* T H E N E W S \*  
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of

No. 34.

..... THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS .....

20th July, 1951.

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ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER - July 27th.

At this month's General Meeting an election will be held for a new Committee-man, following the resignation of Jock Low. Please give thought to this matter, so that a capable and willing person may be selected to carry out Committee duties, which are by no means nominal.

It was with great regret that the Committee accepted Jock's resignation, but we thank him for the interest he put into his job during the past few months, and for his offer to give the Club whatever help he can in the future.

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Last month Kitty Mitchell was elected to fill the vacancy caused by Betty Horsley's resignation. We are pleased to welcome Kitty, and assure her there'll be plenty of work!

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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

You will no longer behold the impressive sight of the Committee gathered in earnest conclave round the table in the Club room each month. So that they will be able to carry on discussions in quieter surroundings, and so more efficiently, a small room has been booked where they will meet on the second Friday of each month, instead of the first as formerly.

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THE HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING

will be held in ROOM 56 (Second Floor) on AUGUST 24TH at 8 pm. Keep this date in mind and be sure to come along and hear reports of how Club affairs have been progressing during the last six months. It is an opportunity, too, to express your own opinions, and to put forward any ideas you have for improving any aspect of Club life.

NOTICE OF MOTION - It is intended to move at the Half-Yearly General Meeting that the Constitution be amended to provide seven days' notice of Extraordinary General Meetings instead of fourteen days.

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REPRESENTATIVE FOR NATIVE PLANTS PRESERVATION GROUP

As our present representative, Geoff Christensen, will be leaving for overseas in a couple of weeks, the Committee has appointed Noble Paine to carry on the good work Geoff has been doing so efficiently. Noble has shown himself actively interested in the activities of the Group, assisting at working bees and so on, and we are confident that under his guidance the Bushwalkers will continue to give practical aid in the worthy job of preserving our wild-flowers.

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"THE NEWS"

As Committee meetings now are to be held on the second Friday each month, "THE NEWS" will be moved on a week and will appear on the third Friday.

With increased postal charges the cost of posting out "THE NEWS" will be increased by 50%. Please help us to reduce these costs to a minimum by making sure you collect your copy whenever possible; we would also be grateful to those who are willing to deliver a copy to any other member who is not able to collect personally.

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## SOCIAL NEWS

The FEDERATION BALL, held at the Bambalina last Friday, was a great success, and all who took part felt it was the most enjoyable and friendly yet held. There were fifty Bushwalkers present, so there are plenty to pass on news of proceedings - for instance, to say how attractive the flowers were; how three of them carried off prizes; and that the prizes included such very appropriate articles as aluminium cooking gear and a pair of thick woollen socks. Much of the credit for the success of the evening must go to Marie Gillespie for her capable organization, and Norm Richards, as President of the Federation, presented her with an orchid spray as a token of appreciation, supported by the acclaim of all present.

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In the past few weeks there have been several successful theatre nights - to "Madame Butterfly", "Brigadoon", "Merry Wives of Windsor", and "Out of the Dark" - this last an excellent performance which deserved a larger party. A night had been booked for "September Tide" for July 26th, but as this was taken off earlier than expected, our night was cancelled. However a party of eleven was able to go and see it last Wednesday. A night will be booked for the new Comedy show, "Bell, Book and Candle", some time next month, but the date has not been finalised. Details on Notice Board later.

A small party has been booked for the NATIONAL THEATRE BALLET on Saturday 4th August. Marie would be pleased to hear as soon as possible from anyone else wishing to go, as if we have a larger party the Theatre will allow us concession rates. By the way, in case newer members are in doubt, we'll mention that they are welcome to bring visitors to theatre nights, as well as to other Club functions.

After the General Meeting next month we'll have the pleasure of seeing John Ball's films of southern Queensland and N.S.W., and if there's still time, a few he has taken on Club trips. Please come in on time !!

Last month Noble Paine gave us an informative talk on his home state, Indiana, and contrasted many aspects of life there with life here. We were surprised to hear that there is not nearly the scope for walking and camping that we know here.

Two of our members accepted the invitation of the Women's Club to come to their Crazy Whist evening last month. They received a very friendly welcome, and spent a most enjoyable evening, topped off by a super supper.

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HOSTS and HOSTESSES. We've come to the conclusion that Bushwalkers are a very shy lot, though the casual observer might be forgiven for doubting this. Now a number of times we have asked for volunteers to act as hosts and hostesses to help newcomers to the Clubroom feel at home, but Marie reports very little response. We've always believed that there is a fine spirit of co-operation among our members, and that we are a particularly friendly band - making people feel at home is where we shine. So the only explanation seems to be that members are rather shy about offering their services formally. This being so, Marie plans to co-opt people to help, and will draw up a roster from time to time.

Last Friday Heinz Wolff acted as host for the evening, while Mona Clarke and Stan Platt very capably handled the coffee and biscuit operations.

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## LIBRARY NOTES

Recently we have received the latest issue of "SKYLINE", the Launceston Walking Club's magazine. This is well-written, well presented, and well illustrated with photographs, and the subject matter, largely of walking trips in Tasmania, is most interesting. You may obtain a copy (price 2/6) from our Librarian, Keith Murray, who has already sold over twenty copies in the Club.

We very gratefully acknowledge the gift of a book for our library from Jill Butcher. It is "THE GREAT BARRIER REEF" by Prof. Dakin, and is a most welcome and interesting addition to our small library. We appreciate this farewell gesture very much.

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BADGE REFUNDS - It has been decided that if a member resigns from the Club and returns his badge, half the deposit amount will be refunded, providing that the badge is in good enough condition to be re-issued.

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PERSONAL

\*\*\* We are very sorry that we have to say goodbye to Jill Butcher, who sails for home on the "MALOJA" tomorrow. The traditional boot was presented to her at our last meeting, and will be a reminder to her of the welcome she'll receive if she ever decides to return to Australia. (For those who are able to see her off : berth number is 965, C Deck , and the "Maloja" leaves from Station Pier, Port Melbourne at 12 noon, July 21st)

\*\*\* Another whom we'll miss in the Club is Geoff Christensen, who leaves for England in the "Mooltan" on 4th August. Geoff, by his own knowledge and enthusiasm, has aroused interest in the study of wild flowers among our members, and organized practical work for their preservation. We wish him every success in his studies, and look forward to having him back with us in a couple of years.

\*\*\* In case you're wondering why you haven't been seeing three of our girls lately - Laura Howie is in Coonamble, N.S.W., Jean Miller has gone to Wodonga, and Thelma Jackson is in Wangaratta.

\*\*\* Our congratulations to Alan Robins, who was married last month. He tells us his wife is also a keen walker, so we hope to see both of them on trips with us.

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ALONG THE TRACK

Numbers have varied from three to 39 on trips in the last few weeks, and the weather has varied from icy cold to pleasantly sunny, but altogether has treated us pretty kindly. A frequent member of the party has been Lucky, Hedi's wire-haired foxie, certainly one of the most active and tireless - on one occasion at least Lucky had to submit to the cramped indignity of travel in the dog-box, but emerged full of spirits..... There was much glee last week when one young B W tried to get through a fence ! ? ? # # ! ! \* ! - it was electrified! After this there was plenty of fun as newcomers were told. Of course, being human, their reaction was, "It isn't, is it?" and a tentative finger was laid on the wire ! ? ? # # \* ! Once again!..... Lee Pullen succeeded in spraining her ankle while waiting for the bus home from Gembrook, and consequently had a painful end to a pleasant day. However, it's one way of getting a lift back to Town - a passing car was hailed, and took Lee straight down to hospital. .... More adventures of Lucky - although a very well-behaved walker who keeps with the party in exemplary fashion, Lucky had one fall from grace, when, hunting-spirit aroused, he bounded off after a kangaroo on Mira's Tarrawarra trip, and was lost for quite some time. But three stalwarts of the party went back to search, so the story has a happy ending..... Once again the weather was at its worst for the Mt. Juliet trip. (Has anyone ever climbed it in good weather? So far we can't locate anyone who has!) If ever we hold endurance tests, this is just the route for it - very steep, very muddy, very rough and rocky in parts, very un-ending!

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