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* THE NEWS *
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No. 33.

of

8th June, 1951.

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

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Winter is here with its frosty mornings, short days and all too often bleak weather, but it takes more than that to deter Bushwalkers, it seems, as numbers on recent walks have been very good, and we believe booking for the coming long weekend walks is also good. Here's hoping the weather will be at its best!

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FROM THE WALKS SUB-COMMITTEE

LECTURETTES - As announced previously, we are arranging to have instructional talks on the third Friday each month, from 8pm to 8.30 pm. The first of these short lectures was given last month by Frank Pitt, who gave very practical and helpful advice on how to become a leader. The few minutes' discussion which followed showed that his remarks had aroused both interest and controversy, a healthy sign. A copy of the main points of the lecture was prepared beforehand, and these sheets are still available for interested members who were unable to be there. The attendance, by the way, was very encouraging - 35 to 40. Next month Geoff Christensen will talk on native plants - a subject in which Bushwalkers are showing an increasing interest. (June 15th)

NATIVE PLANTS PRESERVATION GROUP - Latest news from Miss Waddell is that all the plants put in by the Bushwalkers at their last working bee at Sydenham are growing well. She is hoping that we can arrange another there before Geoff goes overseas. Marie Gillespie and Edna Richards have each spent a day with Miss Waddell and other enthusiasts weeding this area, and they are pleased to report that these new plants are continuing to thrive.

VAN FARES - Deposits must be paid when booking for van trips (a fortnight before date of trip). In future, in all cases where the fare is less than 10/-, the full amount will be required as deposit. For fares between 10/- and £1 the deposit will be 10/-.

HIRING OF CLUB EQUIPMENT - D O N ' T R E A D T H I S ! ! ! ! if you have Club equipment overdue to be returned - it might stir your conscience!

Several items of equipment have been missing for several weeks, and this means that a number of new members have been deprived of the opportunity of taking part in walks, particularly weekend walks, because no equipment has been available. It is of extreme importance that borrowed Club equipment be returned on the Friday following the walk, so that the Equipment Officer can rely on being able to issue it again to those for whom he has already booked it. (And remember, it should be dried and in good order.) If gear is not returned on time, the borrower is liable to be charged full rates for all the time it has been kept.

The Equipment Officer has not been able yet to trace who has the missing equipment as apparently it was borrowed without his permission. On no account should any person remove equipment from the cupboard without reference to the Equipment Officer, or a member of the Walks sub-committee.

AND FINALLY - IF YOU HAVE ANY CLUB EQUIPMENT, PLEASE RETURN IT NOW!

FEDERATION

A GENERAL MEETING was held on May 16th to adopt the new Constitution. Federation President, Norm Richards, chaired the meeting very capably, and Bill Bewsher (of Uni. Mountaineers), as sponsor of the new Constitution, presented it to the meeting and guided the discussion. A copy of the proposed Constitution was available for everyone present, and although there was a very small attendance - only 39, of whom about 15 were Bushwalkers - interest was keen and there was plenty of debate. Each clause was dealt with in turn, a few amendments being made, and then the Constitution as a whole was adopted.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY - Each Club has been asked to nominate one of its members for the position of Assistant Secretary, to replace Bill Buchanan, who has resigned. We have nominated our own capable Secretary, Frank Pitt.

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ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

At the June General Meeting a new committee member will be elected to replace Betty Horsley, who has resigned as she will be overseas for the remainder of the year. In the meantime, members are asked to consider a suitable person to fill this position.

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NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members into the Club, and trust they will enjoy many happy walks in the future:

Frank Burt, Laurie Degan, Laura Gover, Mack Morris,
Travers Nicholas, Stan Platt, Barry Revill (he's turned sixteen at last!), Bill Shaw, and Alf Cole.

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ALONG THE TRACK

There's been more walking than talking this month, and we've been able to glean very little about happenings on walks. Numbers have been good - between 23 and 29 on day walks, 15 on Paddy's weekend walk - and the three new leaders have shown themselves capable. The weather has been mixed - the worst was on May 27th, when Jill Butcher's party experienced icy winds and rain, but enjoyed the walk. Last Sunday, by contrast, presented an almost perfect day of sunshine.

Warren Ollie will be unable to lead his trip this coming weekend, but a deputy is being arranged.

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PERSONAL

**** Betty Horsley and Val Darcy were to leave on the Italian ship, "Australia" yesterday for Europe, and we hope they have a very good trip.

**** With so many of our members leaving us to go travelling, it is good to see some old members returning. We were pleased to welcome Joan and Jimmy Dyall back - they were in the Clubroom the other Friday for the first time since they returned from overseas, looking very well, and with lots of interesting tales to tell. We understand they are preparing to build a home, so we suppose we won't be seeing them quite as often as we might otherwise have expected..... Jack Boer is another we were pleased to see back after several years away at Bogong and elsewhere. He introduced his fiancee, too, and if reminiscences of Jack's past gastronomical prowess don't surprise her too much we look forward to seeing them both out on walks..... Eva Laidlaw has returned to Melbourne after about five years' country teaching, and is looking forward to walking with the Bushwalkers again.

**** Rhonda Maude and Ken Lowenstern have just announced their engagement. We haven't seen them in the Club for a long time, but wish them all the best.

**** We have received cards from the Heilperns recently, sending good wishes and hoping to hear news of members.

**** Ken Grant sent us a card from Horsham, where he'll be spending the next two months. He info med us that the weather there was very cold (and we know how Ken likes cold weather!) However, it will take more than cold weather to damp his spirits!

**** Peter Salmon is back, looking none the worse for his accident. We must apologise for our previous error in saying he had had a motor bike accident - believe it or not, it was just a push bike!

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THE SECRETARY REQUESTS

+ That any members who has changed address or phone number let him know as soon as possible. A few people have proved very co-operative in this regard, but with others, alas, it is often only a matter of chance that he hears of a change, and probably months after it has been made.

+ That you note his own change of address - it is now
51 Birdwood Street, Box Hill South, E.11.

+ That you give quiet attention to announcements made in the Clubroom. These are made about 9.15 pm, so if you want to have anything announced, please let him know before that time.

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S O C I A L

FEDERATION ANNUAL BALL, Friday, 13th July.

Under Marie's capable guidance, preparations are going ahead to make this year's Ball more than usually festive. It will be held at the "Bambalina" (Malvern), and everyone is assured a most enjoyable evening, from the time dancing begins at 8.30 till "Auld Lang Syne" at 12.55. Soft drinks are "on the house", provided by the Federation out of the goodness of its heart. (In previous years we've had to buy them). But accomodation is limited, and each Club has been allotted only a certain quota of bookings, so make sure you don't miss out on your invitation - see Marie as soon as possible, and not later than June 15th.

"BRIGADOON" We are having a theatre party for this show on June 14th, but all tickets have now been sold.

Last Saturday's theatre night at "MADAME BUTTERFLY" concluded a series of enjoyable evenings at the National Theatre's Arts Festival productions.

A night will probably be arranged later on for "September Tide", so if you're thinking of seeing this, check up first with Marie to see if the date available for the Club night will suit you.

WOMEN'S CLUB CARD NIGHT 25th June. Our members are invited to attend this function, which should be a very enjoyable one. Marie has details - see her by June 8th if you wish to go.

Ken Grant's Kodachrome slides of Wilson's Promontory and various other places were enjoyed by a large audience when he showed them in the Clubroom on May 25th. The Wilson's Prom. shots were taken last Christmas, when a party of half a dozen had an adventurous and arduous trip through dense scrub and along the beaches to Sealers' Cove. Fortunately the rigors of the trip did not deter Ken from taking photographs, and the weather for the most part was very good, so we saw some really lovely pictures. There were plenty of comments from the gallery, especially while Ken was showing shots of Mildura, Camperdown, etc, mentioning, "... and when I came out" followed by shots of the local gaol, or "... and this is a really delightful spot" accompanying a view of the local pub! Coincidence, entirely coincidence!

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LIBRARY NOTES

Librarian Keith Murray is away for a few weeks, but Margaret Dark is looking after the library in his absence.

In this month's "WILD LIFE" is an article of particular interest - by Crosbie Morrison, it is entitled "Post Mortem on the Prom.", and in assessing the vast extent of the recent bushfire damage makes tragic reading. However, constructive suggestions for future action are made, and give some hope for the future.

Several members have copies of "Peaks and High Places" (dealing with the Cradle Mt. Reserve) mentioned here a month or two ago. For others who are wondering where to obtain it, we understand that Spencers' Bookshop (Cr. Bourke & Exhibition Sts.) will have stock of it soon.

Weather is a subject that vitally affects us as bushwalkers, and it is often useful to know what kind of weather to expect, even if we can't do anything to alter it when not to our liking. A book just published that will enlighten us about many phases of weather observation (the basis of any forecasting) is "Australian Forecasting and Climate", by Ashton and Maher. It is simply and understandably written, though based on sound meteorological experience, and illustrated by many photographs and diagrams. Price 3/6. (Obtainable from the authors, P.O.Box 6, Fairfield, N.20.)

We have recently received a copy of "WAYFARING", journal of the Melbourne Women's Walking Club, and enjoyed reading reminiscences of their Club's early history, about "Youth Hostelling in Devon and Cornwall" and "Where the Snow Gums Grow" - many will be surprised to learn that they grow at many places at altitudes far lower than the Alpine regions where we expect to see them; some in fact grow almost at sea level!

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PATRONISE OUR ADVERTISERS - SEE LAST PAGE.

----- DATES TO KEEP IN MIND !! -----

June 8th Book for Mt. Juliet van trip (June 24th)
 " 14th Theatre Night, "Brigadoon".
 " 15th Book for Flowerdale -Pheasant Ck.weekend.
 " 22nd " " Strathewen - Mt.Sugarloaf trip.
 July 6th " " Glenburn - Tanglefoot weekend.
 13th FEDERATION ANNUAL BALL, "Bambalina" Malvern.

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