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* THE NEWS *
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No. 30.

of

9th March, 1951.

..... THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

.....
With the Annual Meeting just over, this marks the beginning of a new Club year, so what about some New Year resolutions? Such as
To persuade the Treasurer to accept your sub. for 1951 immediately.
To see how many copies of "WALK" you can sell.
To let the Walks Sub-committee know that you are willing to lead a walk.

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THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, with about 70 present, proceeded quietly but with plenty of active debate and the attentive interest of all. This year for the first time we were able to have the Annual Report and Balance Sheet roneoed and distributed to all members, so that everyone, including those who were unable to attend the meeting, would have an opportunity to read it at leisure and ponder on the various points embodied in it.

Egon Donath's motion that the Constitution be altered to provide for an Assistant-Secretary, -Treasurer, -Walks Secretary and -Social Secretary was fully debated, but most arguments put forward were against it and the motion was lost.

OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS, 1951.

Edna Richards and Ken Middleton were appointed as scrutineers for these elections. All office-bearers were elected unopposed, except the Treasurer - three accepted nomination for this position. Voting was also necessary for Committee Members, Auditors & Trustee.

- President MORRIS RICHARDS
- Vice-Presidents EGON DONATH, FAY PITT.
- Treasurer EMIL SLADE
- Secretary FRANK PITT
- Walks Secretary GORDON COUTTS
- Social Secretary MARIE GILLESPIE
- Committee Members LORRAINE RICHEY, BETTY HORSLEY, PADDY MALLET
WARREN OLLE, FRED SOUTTER, JOCK LOW.

These thirteen members form the executive, which plans all Club activities works hard for the smooth running of Club affairs. We are confident that every one of them will give us whole-hearted service, and we hope that all members will give them full support and all possible help.

Also elected at the Annual Meeting were the following:

- Auditors KEN MIDDLETON, GWEN ROBERTS
- Trustee EDNA RICHARDS

(There are three trustees, one of whom retires each year. Paul Lederer was the retiring member this year, leaving RAMSAY CRAIGEN & TED KIRK.)

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The first meeting of the new Committee was held last Friday, the main business being the arranging of sub-committees to carry out various aspects of Club activities. You will find these mentioned elsewhere in this issue, and we ask you to take particular note of the people responsible for various specific tasks. The Committee is most anxious for the co-operation of members, and will welcome their suggestions, queries and constructive criticism, but we do ask that you approach the appropriate Committee member for the matter to be dealt with - e.g. the Walks sub-committee if you have a suggestion about the Program, a map correction, etc; the Social sub-com. if you want to pass on the name of a possible lecturer, or enquire about theatre nights; the Editor if you have written an article for the magazine or have some attractive photographs that may be suitable; and so on.

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ADVERTISERS: Both Egon Donath and Fay Pitt would be pleased to have suggestions of possible advertisers. Egon is anxious, as Advertising Manager, to obtain ads. for the next issue of "WALK" and would be glad to contact any firm or individual suggested. Fay is trying to defray some of "THE NEWS" expenses - advertisements will be accepted singly or for a period.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, 1951

It was passed unanimously at the Annual Meeting that subscriptions for 1951 should be as follows:

JUNIOR MEMBER (16 - 19 years)	7/6.
FULL MEMBER	15/-
HUSBAND AND WIFE	25/-

Payment is due NOW. Of last year's 168 members, 24 hastened to become financial for 1951 at the Annual Meeting, and more joined the ranks last Friday. Emil will be only too pleased to accept further subs. - he doesn't mind how busy you keep him with the very satisfying task of gathering in funds for the Club's bank account!

An innovation this year is the Financial Sub-Committee formed to assist the Treasurer, both with the practical tasks of collecting money, keeping books, etc., and with the more abstract one of budgeting, financial policy, etc. It consists of the TREASURER, EMIL SLADE, NORM RICHARDS and FRED SOUTTER.

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SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT

BADGES - It was passed at the Annual Meeting that the deposit charged on badges should be 5/-. Frank Pitt has charge of these.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - It was also passed that applications must be accompanied by full subscription (to be refunded if application is rejected by the Committee). Non-members who have qualified (by doing three full day walks or a weekend walk with the Club) should apply to the Secretary for an application form as soon as the required walks are done.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY - It was decided to appoint an Assistant Secretary to assist with routine work, and to act as deputy should the Secretary be absent. The Committee appointed FAY PITT. (It seems safe to assume that she will maintain close contact with the Secretary !)

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WALKS SUB-COMMITTEE NOTES

The Walks Sub-committee consists of the WALKS SECRETARY, GORDON COUTTS (as Convener), WARREN OLLE and JOCK LOW. HAROLD SOUTTER is Equipment Officer again.

ALTERATION TO PROGRAM OF EASTER WALKS - Two walks have had to be cancelled, as the prospective leaders are now unable to lead them. These are Len Barr's trip to the Otways, and Nancy Morgan's to Cape Paterson. However, there will be one extra trip, not programmed: Paddy Mallet will be organizing a trip to Walhalla and district. As the Railway timetables are not yet available for Easter, transport details cannot be finalised. Intending walkers should keep in touch with leaders, and any who have not yet notified the leader of their intention to join a trip should do so immediately. Private transport may be arranged in the event of there being no suitable trains, and as this is naturally limited, late-comers are very likely to miss out altogether.

CHECK ALL TRAIN TIMES ! As restricted time-tables have come into operation since the Program was printed, members are advised to check time-tables before each walk. Another point: check up on the platform from which the train is to leave. Two walkers missed their train and consequently their weekend walk recently through going to Platforms 2 & 3 instead of No.1, East End.

C O N T A C T S : LABOUR DAY WEEKEND - FAY PITT (XB 5736)
 EASTER - GORDON COUTTS (WF 1372)

Always remember to leave the name of Contact at home when going on a trip.

VAN BOOKINGS should be made a fortnight before date of trip. Booking for the Mt. Dom Dom trip is going well. The list is also up for the WERRIBEE GORGE trip on April 1st (the Leader maintains it is March 32nd.) and booking closes next Friday.

WALKS SECRETARY'S PHONE NUMBER is now WF 1372. Make a note of it now.

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FEDERATION OF VICTORIAN WALKING CLUBS - GORDON COUTTS has been re-appointed as our representative on the Federation Committee. The Committee appointed at the Federation Annual Meeting last year to draw up a revised Constitution has now completed this and a General Meeting will be called later to adopt it. Anyone who wishes to study this may obtain a copy from our Secretary.

F E D E R A T I O NThis will probably be held at Gilwell Park, but arrangements are not yet completed - keep the date free, and watch our Notice-Board for details. This is always a most enjoyable event, and an opportunity to get to know members of other clubs. Walks are arranged to the camp-site, where parties arrive in plenty of time to make camp, and highlight of the weekend is the Camp-fire Concert.

W E E K E N D
APRIL 7th-8th

" W A L K "

Sales Manager, Fred Soutter, informs us that "WALK" is selling well, but there are still plenty on hand for members to dispose of. It is realized that everyone hasn't the opportunity to sell large numbers, but if each member sells only two or three the total is quite considerable.

In this month's "WILD LIFE" is a half-column review of "WALK", giving warm praise and recommendation. Coming from a magazine of such high standing, this is a most valuable opinion.

The Editorial Sub-committee is the same as last year's:
 Editor and Convenor - NORM RICHARDS; Advertising Manager - EGON DONATH;
 Sales Manager - FRED SOUTTER.

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SOCIAL NOTES

Assisting the Social Secretary, MARIE GILLESPIE, on this year's Social Sub-committee are Lorraine Richey and Paddy Mallet. The work of the Social Sub-com. includes arranging lectures etc. for Monthly Meetings, organizing Theatre Nights and other social activities, providing the Friday night cup of coffee, and generally making life pleasant for Club members.

There is a fairly full program ahead. Here are the details:
 Theatre Nights for "AIDA" (8th March), "SWAN LAKE" (20th March) and "CORROBOREE" (29th) are all fully booked - tickets for these sold out almost immediately.
 MARIE will be accepting bookings for the following after March 16th:

"MESSAGE FOR MARGARET" (Sonia Dresdel) at the KING'S - APRIL 5th
 NATIONAL THEATRE DRAMA at the PRINCESS - Tickets 4/-;
 GLASSHOUSE MENAGERIE - APRIL 19th.
 DEADLOCK - MAY 3RD.

Following the General Meeting on March 30th - remember we start at 8 pm SHARP! - GEOFF CHRISTENSEN will show a collection of his Kodachrome slides, mostly of Tasmania and Kosciusko. Remembering his very attractive slides and interesting commentary from the last occasion, we look forward to a particularly enjoyable evening.

THE CAMP-FIRE CONCERT is a big feature of the Federation Weekend, and we do want the Bushwalkers to be worthily represented. So we appeal to every member to consider possible items, either group or individual, we can contribute to the evening's entertainment. The standard set last year was high - a challenge to our abilities. We have only four weeks to prepare, so let's get cracking!

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NEW MEMBERS - We have to welcome a male quintet this month, namely DON ANDERSON, RON EATON, JACK GUNNING, PETER SALMON and VIC WELCH. We are very pleased to have you in the Club, and hope you will take an active part in Club life.

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NATIVE PLANTS PRESERVATION GROUP

The Committee appointed GEOFF CHRISTENSEN to continue his work as our representative with this group. At the Annual Meeting Geoff outlined the work done by this group in the short period of its existence, and mentioned the part Club members had played. The object of the Group is to establish and maintain small sanctuaries where native plants may be given a chance to thrive as they did before they were destroyed by stock, weeds and foreign pasture plants. Those developed so far have been very successful. Geoff organized two work parties from the Club to help with an area of a couple of acres at Sydenham during last year, and on another occasion a group of members spent a most interesting afternoon in the native plants garden of Miss Winifred Waddell, the organizer of the Group. Similar activities are planned for the coming year, and all interested should contact Geoff. (WF 4553).

At present he is arranging for a work party at Sydenham on APRIL 21ST, the job then being the transplanting of native plants from along the railway line (where numerous plants that have entirely disappeared elsewhere still exist, owing to the protection from stock afforded by this enclosed area). There is scope for a large party, as there is plenty of work. Notice of further details will be on the Notice Board later, and in next month's "NEWS".

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We learnt with regret that Paddy Pallin's premises in Sydney were destroyed by fire recently. In reply to our letter of sympathy Paddy replied thanking us, and saying that he had his workshops going again, and hoped soon to finalise arrangements for city premises.

LIBRARY NOTES

KEITH MURRAY has been appointed Librarian, and we are confident he'll be very capable in the position. See him if you want to borrow any of the magazines or books in our modest library or if you have any good shots for the Photograph Album - there have been a great many being shown round the Clubroom lately.

It has been decided to discontinue the Club subscription to the National Geographic Magazine, as there was little demand for it. We now subscribe to "WILD LIFE" and "WALKABOUT", which are both of outstanding interest to bushwalkers. This month's camera supplement to "WALKABOUT" contains some superb pictures of Tasmania, while both magazines contain articles on New Guinea, and "WILD LIFE" has a most readable and interesting article by Crosbie Morrison about tortoises, an increasing number of which are finding their way to Melbourne - the close-up portraits are splendid.

"PEAKS AND HIGH PLACES: CRADLE MOUNTAIN-LAKE ST. CLAIR NATIONAL PARK", written by Ian R. Boss-Walker and reviewed in "WILD LIFE" appears to be a booklet of great interest to all walkers and of practical value to those visiting Tasmania. With the added attraction of low price (2/6) it seems likely to find its way to many Bushwalkers' bookshelves.

"WILDFLOWERS OF VICTORIA" (by Jean Galbraith) is a book with which some members are already familiar. It is an attractively produced book, and most valuable to anyone interested in the wild flowers seen while out on walks. Plants are grouped in sections, beginning with the simplest orders, and each flower is simply and clearly described, and the botanical and common names are included. There are 175 photographs of various species. Detailed table of contents, glossary and full index. (Price 12/6).

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ALONG THE TRACK

Numbers on walks have been fairly small - due no doubt to the hot weather in most cases. One notable exception was Kitty Mitchell's Toorourrong Res.-Jack's Cascades trip on 18th, when the rain was torrential and only 14 of the 35 who had booked turned up. Most of the party had wet feet within five minutes of leaving the van, as the overflow channels from the reservoir were pouring across the road in sheets inches deep. The rain continued without ceasing for some miles, only occasionally easing to a downpour. However, there was compensation in witnessing the aqueduct as a roaring torrent beside which the path led for some distance, and the falls as a surging cataract sending off great clouds of spray. Lunch-time shelter was found in a small hut, humble but very welcome, and later the weather cleared and there were occasional cheering patches of sunshine. (N.B. - THOSE WHO BOOKED AND DID NOT TURN UP are to pay an extra 1/- each to make up the deficit caused by the very low attendance. Kitty is collecting this - if you have not already paid please make sure of sending it to her as soon as possible so that the accounts for this trip can be finalised.) Five on Ted Field's weekend to Gembrook had a very hot trip with more than enough scrub bashing, while a fortnight later Fay Pitt's party of six had a fine though humid weekend for the Yering Gorge trip. There were ten on Bill Thackray's trip on 11th, 14 with Les Scott on 25th, and the lure of blackberries attracted 25 on Lorraine's trip on 4th.

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PERSONAL

*** There were many messages from Bushwalkers among the congratulatory telegrams received by our Walks Secretary, Gordon Coutts and his wife, May, after their marriage on March 24th. Although the morning was wet, it cleared up at the time for the ceremony approached, and the bride arrived in fine weather.

*** It is with great regret we learn that we'll be losing Len Barr from the Club - he will be living permanently in Sydney now. We were glad to be able to say goodbye to him when he visited the Club last Friday, and to see his fine Christmas photos.

*** We'd like to congratulate Edith and Bernard Schattner, who have a baby son.

*** Betty Kyte is the latest of our members to be heading overseas - Travelling on the "ARAWA", she embarks in Sydney, and will be passing through Melbourne on March 12th.

*** Next to leave will be Pam Abbott, who has her passage booked on the "OTRANTO", due to leave Melbourne on April 25th. Pam is still at Mt. Beauty, and doesn't expect to be able to visit the Club before she leaves.

*** Geoff Christensen, Jock Low & Don Smellie had a most interesting trip in Central Tasmania recently. They found it a wonderful experience, with superb views rewarding their efforts through dense scrub, and are enthusiastic about a future Club trip there.

*** Four of the Cradle Mt. party were at the monthly meeting of the Hobart Walking Club, and were made to feel very welcome. They heard a report of a party of three Melbourne Uni. Mountaineers who spent 31 days in the Mt. Picton-Federation Peak area, on some days covering only 3 mile. They carried primus stoves (because of bush-fire danger) and water bottles, and their packs weighed 60 - 70 lbs. Some of the Hobart Club's Walks Reports, read out at the meeting, proved very amusing. Altogether a very good evening.

*** We were pleased to see Des Tubridy back in the Club after several months in Adelaide. We hope that Don Smellie is enjoying life in Tasmania, too.