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* THE NEWS *
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No. 32.

of

11th May, 1951.

..... THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

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A GENERAL MEETING of the FEDERATION of VICTORIAN WALKING CLUBS will be held

MAY 16th, at 8 pm. in the Chamber of Manufactures Building, 312 Flinders Street. The new Constitution drafted by the sub-committee appointed at the Annual Meeting last year will be presented to the meeting for adoption. This meeting is NEXT WEDNESDAY but there is still time for you to borrow and consider a copy of this proposed Constitution. (Our President, Secretary, Federation delegate and Egon Donath (a member of the drafting sub-committee) each has a copy, which you may borrow.) It is hoped there will be a big number of Bushwalkers present to show our support for the Federation.

Another item of business at this meeting will be the election of an assistant Secretary to take the place of the present one who is resigning. We would like our members to give their consideration to the matter of a suitable nominee.

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FROM THE WALKS SUB-COMMITTEE:

Following the April General Meeting the Walks Secretary, Gordon Coutts, inaugurated our new lecture series with a general talk on all aspects of Club walking, from the preparation of the Program to the leading of the walk, and mentioned many valuable points. He and the President, Norm Richards, have prepared a program of talks and discussions to take place in the Clubroom on the third Friday of each month from 8 to 8.30 pm. The first of these, to take place NEXT FRIDAY, May 18th, will be given by Frank Pitt. The Club exists through the activity of its members, especially by their acting as leaders for walks, and it is our aim to encourage as many as possible to volunteer to lead walks. We expect that even members just coming into the Club will eventually lead walks, and this talk is aimed at giving practical suggestions on how to go about it. The June talk will be given by Geoff Christensen on the subject of native plants, and a variety of topics will follow in coming months.

The Walks Sub-Committee's duties have been divided as follows:
Gordon Coutts, as Walks Secretary, is the Convenor, and is also in charge of maps etc.
Warren Olle is in charge of Walks Reports, and the arranging of contacts.
Jock Low is Program Organiser.
Remember to see one of these if you have any walking business to discuss.

THE WINTER WALKS PROGRAM came out last Friday, with eighteen day and six weekend trips providing a full and varied selection of walks for the next three months. (Gordon has done a very good job with these, which he has duplicated for about a quarter the usual cost of printing) Jock Low, as Program Organiser, will be pleased to have your co-operation in making up coming Programs - leaders and walks details are required well ahead, and will be accepted for up to fifteen months ahead.

LEADERS!! - (a) Leaders should fill in WALKS REPORTS and give them to Warren Olle by the Friday following the walk - don't let him have to chase you! Include not only a full list of names, correctly spelt, but also all the other details asked for on the Walks Report sheet.

(b) CONTACTS are arranged for all van and weekend walks. The leader must take note of the contact's name and 'phone number before leaving, and notify the contact as soon as his party returns to the city; or, in case of any unexpected long delay or accident, should endeavour to get in touch with him as soon as possible.

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SECRETARY'S CHANGE OF ADDRESS - Please note that from about May 19th the address will be 51 Birdwood Street, Box Hill South. He will now (alas!) have no telephone, but messages may still be left at XB5736.

A LIST OF CURRENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS is now being prepared by the Secretary, and a copy will be available shortly for all members. From time to time then new members' addresses, changes of address etc. will be listed on the notice-board to give members a chance to keep their list up to date. Please notify change of address or phone promptly.

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ALONG THE TRACK

The Cream Hunt attracted 54 Bushwalkers this year, in spite of doubtful weather. Some followed Egon along the traditional afternoon route from Ringwood, others went on Keith Murray's day walk over One Tree Hill, while four of Ken Grant's ten Moonlight Walk-ers survived to reach the scene of the cream, having covered 23 miles for the day. (Incidentally, they caused the proprietor of the kiosk on Mt. Dandenong some consternation when the (very subdued) sounds of their breakfast preparations roused him from sleep about 5 am. However, he was finally persuaded that the party, although ob- viously mad, was quite harmless.) We seem to be getting older, as there was only one pram and two little girls on the track. However, the usual games of Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf (Felix Harding) and Two's and Three's were played enthusiastic- ally, and "a good time was had by all".

Mary Nash's party of 16 had a very pleasant walk to Stringybark Creek and back to Lilydale on April 15th. On Anzac Day Lloyd Reynolds took over the leader- ship of the Yan Yean -- Howatt's Lookout trip with a party of ten. A feature of their day was the large number of kangaroos seen in the Yan Yean reserve, which, of course, provides a sanctuary for them - a sober estimate is that there must have been at least 150, probably more. Fay Pitt acted as leader on Frank's behalf for the walk on 29th April, with a party of 20. Ideal weather, sunny but not too hot, made this a very pleasant walk, which finished with a leisurely gathering of mushrooms. There was the large number of three on each of the two weekend walks - Don Anderson's Nar-Nar- Goon to Gembrook, an area we haven't visited for some time, and Des Tubridy's from Sun- bury via Emu Creek to St. Albans, an area possibly even less frequently visited.

THE FEDERATION TRACK-CLEARING WEEKEND was a very successful and happy event, with generally fine cool weather very suitable for hard work. The track chosen was satisfactorily cleared, and now provides a welcome new route to Donna Buang. About 50 turned up for the job, the Bushwalkers being well represented with twenty. They were accomodated in the Ski hut, and had a great time on Saturday night. The girls looked after the cooking, planned by Marie and Edna, and provided a very tasty menu - a very generous one, too, as several members failed to turn up and their share was shared up! Norm Richards had the bad luck to gash his leg, but Laura Howie rendered first aid, and it now seems to be going along satisfactorily.

On Anzac Day 18 members of the Federation Search and Rescue Organisation took part in a practice search in the Mt. Evelyn area, and although they failed to find the supposedly unconscious victims, missing them by only about 30', much valuable ex- perience was gained - especially in learning what Not to do. There were seven Bush- walkers in the party.

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SOCIAL NOTES

See Marie for tickets for these coming THEATRE NIGHTS:
SEE HOW THEY RUN (King's) - 21st May. (Monday)
RIGOLETTO - 29th May. (Tuesday)
MADAM BUTTERFLY - 2nd June (Saturday)
BRIGADOON - 14th June (Thursday)

We've had a successful run of theatre nights during the last month, having seen the Modern Ballet, and two National Theatre dramatic productions, Glass Menagerie and Deadlock.

KEN GRANT will be showing his Kodachrome slides of Wilson's Promontory a and other areas, in the Clubroom on May 25th, after the General Meeting. Ken's showing of slides last year was very enjoyable, and we look forward to seeing these, most of which were taken last Christmas, some in a part of the Prom. seldom visited.

THE FEDERATION ANNUAL CABARET BALL is to be held at the "Bambalina" (in malvern) on Friday, 13th July, with dancing from 8.30pm - 1 am. Marie has been appoint- ed as organiser, and those wishing to take part in this very enjoyable function should see her as soon as possible for invitations.

With the Club still growing quite rapidly, there are always newcomers in the Clubroom, and we hope that members in general will try to make all visitors feel at home and keep this Club the friendly place it has always been. We are also arrang- ing to have an official host or hostess each Friday night to welcome newcomers - they will introduce them to the President and other office-bearers, and to other members, in- vite them to sign the Visitors' Book, explain Club activities, etc. It is hoped to draw up a roster of those willing to help in this way, so we would be pleased to hear from volunteers as soon as possible.

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THE HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN ROOM 56 ON AUGUST 24TH.

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" W A L K "

"WALK" No. 3 is now being prepared for the press, and the date by which contributions should have been submitted is now in the past, but the Editor is granting a brief period of grace for those tardy authors and photographers who weren't quite in time. How about settling down to it this weekend? Heinz Wolff showed exemplary speed in producing an article - it was suggested on Friday night that he should write something, and in Monday's mail along came his article! Photographs are still required. Paddy Mallet is assisting to round up some of the many that our many photographers must surely have. Paddy says, " I would like photographers to bring in every walking shot they have, whether they think it is good or not, just in case we can get that unique shot we're looking for for the cover of "WALK". "

Egon Donath, as Advertising Manager, wants the name of any firm whom you consider might buy advertising space in "WALK". (His 'phone number is JA 4394.)

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" THE NEWS "

We regret that we shall be losing Betty Horsley from the sub-committee, but thank her for the good work she has done in carrying out the distribution each month.

We are grateful to Gordon Coutts who is continuing to arrange duplication.

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CLUB EQUIPMENT

Equipment officer, Harold Soutter, reports that there are several items of Club equipment missing:- 2 groundsheets, 1 framed pack, and 1 First Aid kit. Apparently these have been taken without his permission, and they should be returned to him without delay. On no account should any item be taken without authority. Our supply of equipment is limited, and we want to make sure that it is shared fairly among those requiring it, remembering that preference is given to new and prospective members. Another point: please treat equipment with care, always dry out tents and sleeping bags immediately after a trip, and return promptly.

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PERSONAL

**** At the last General Meeting wedding presentations were made to Gordon and May Coutts, and to Heather and Bill Thackray, with sincere good wishes from the Club.
**** The Club's matrimonial average is keeping up well, with no less than two weddings to report this month. Our congratulations and best wishes go to Melitta and Paul Lederer, who were married on April 14th, and to Heather and John Marshall, who were married just a week later.

**** Congratulations to Gwen Roberts and Fred Soutter, who became engaged recently.

**** The number of Bushwalkers making their way overseas continues to grow. Pam Abbott left in the "Otranto" on Anzac Day, and Betty Kyte on the "Largs Bay" two days later, both bound for England. (The "Arawa", on which Betty was to have sailed, was delayed in New Zealand.) Betty Horsley and Val Darcy leave on June 7th, travelling in the Italian ship, "Australia" (it's maiden voyage). They will disembark at Genoa, then go overland to Berlin. They hope then to see something of conditions in other European countries before going on to spend a couple of months in England, and we look forward with great interest to hearing their impressions when they return. Jill Butcher is also leaving us about the beginning of June, returning home to England on the "Maloja". We wish Jill a happy re-union with her family, but hope that sometime in the future she'll be returning to Australia.

N.B. - So that all who would like to can join groups to farewell Bushwalkers going overseas, from now on we'll put final details of berth number, date and time of sailing etc. on notice-board.

**** Dave Varns is hitch-hiking to Queensland, where he's going to spend a few months working and travelling about, enjoying the winter sunshine. Lucky man!

**** We were sorry to hear that Jock Low had to spend some days in Prince Henry's Hospital with a broken upper jaw. Soccer, of course - his second accident in two matches! Nothing like that ever happened in bushwalking! It is coming along satisfactorily, we hear - we're waiting anxiously, though, to see if his jaw has been reset with an Australian accent.

**** Ruth Hart spent a week in "Bethesda", where she parted with her tonsils. Seems she's getting along quite well without them, too.

**** We were pleased to see Don Smellie in the Clubroom the other Friday - he's back from Tasmania for a while.

**** We are happy to welcome ENID BAKER as a new member of our Club.

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THE WORKING PARTY at SYDENHAM WILDFLOWER SANCTUARY on April 21st was a great success. Altogether 17 took part, and an amazingly large area was cleared and re-planted with native plants, which were searched for and dug up along the railway line. Everyone worked with a will, and there were a few stiff backs next day, but the pleasant feeling of achievement and the increased familiarity with different species of flowers amply rewarded the effort. The group began to sound quite learned, as Latin names slipped easily from their lips! Miss Waddell, the enthusiast who undertakes the establishment of such sanctuaries, was quite thrilled with the results, and wrote to thank Geoff Christensen, who organised the day, and all who took part, and extended an invitation for all interested to visit her own garden in Toorak, where she has some hundreds of native plants growing. A day will be arranged in Spring. A paragraph in "The Argus" and a mention in the National News let the public know about this effort.

WINDOW ON YOUTH EXHIBITION - The Federation was represented at this exhibition, which was arranged by the National Fitness Council, and held last Friday and Saturday. Ted Kirk went on behalf of the Bushwalkers on Friday, and set up his tent with sleeping bag, ground sheet etc. inside. Outside he had another ground sheet with typical food set out - de-hyd. veg., and so on - and also showed a semi-prepared meal. Also on display were different types of packs, suitable walking wear, including boots, thick woollen socks, light sand-shoes for weary feet in camp. The walls were decorated with gum, and spread with maps and photos. Ted Kirk was on duty on Friday night and left all his equipment set out until Saturday night. Paddy Mallet and Keith Murray were there on Saturday night, as well as in the afternoon, and had the honour of a long talk with the Governor, who showed a great interest in the equipment, and in hearing about walking trips. Copies of "WALK" and of "THE MELBOURNE WALKER" were on display, and a number were sold, and Walks Programs were taken by interested prospective members.

LIBRARY NOTES - Added to our small collection of books is a copy of "WILD FLOWERS OF VICTORIA", received from the Sun News Pictorial. This is a most attractive and useful book, and will give members the opportunity of identifying flowers seen on walks. Among many other interesting articles in the month's "WILD LIFE" is one which will appeal particularly to those who have been walking in the far east of Victoria - it includes photos of Suggan Buggan, the Cobberas, and other beloved places, and describes the mobs of wild horses seen in this area.

ANNOUNCEMENT TIME - The custom of making all announcements for the night at the same time is being established. This will be done each Friday night about 9.15, so if you want any announcement made, let the Secretary know before this time. You are asked to remain quiet until all announcements have been made, even though all do not concern you personally.

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-----KEEP THESE DATES IN MIND-----

- May 16th - Federation General Meeting 8 pm.
- 21st - Theatre Night, "See How They Run"
- 29th - " " "Rigoletto"
- June 1st - Booking closes Tarra Warra - Yarra Glen Van Trip.
- 2nd - Theatre Night, Madame Butterfly.
- 8th - Booking closes Mt. Juliet Van Trip.
- 14th - Theatre Night, Brigadoon.
- 15th - Booking closes Flowerdale trip.

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For enquiries re "THE NEWS": Fay Pitt 51 Birdwood Street, Box Hill South.