

* * * * *
*
* THE NEWS *
*
* * * * *

of

No. 36

..... THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

21 September, 1951.

.....
AT THE HALF YEARLY GENERAL MEETING (August 23rd) there was a good attendance, and we were pleased to see several members who had made a special effort to be in for the occasion. Proceedings began very quietly, with no comment on the sub-committee reports - which seems to indicate that everyone is quite satisfied with all aspects of Club affairs. Later, discussion became a little livelier over the motion (of which notice had previously been given) that the Constitution be amended to provide seven instead of fourteen days' notice of an extraordinary meeting for the election of an office-bearer, and further that seven days' notice in writing be given to each member before the Half Yearly General Meeting. It was pointed out by Gordon Goutts, who proposed the motion, that the main reason for the amendment was the practical one of fitting in with the new publication date of "THE NEWS" which had had to come out a week later as Committee meetings were now held on the second instead of the first Friday each month. The motion was passed.

From the reports we learned that the Club's financial membership is now 139, including 30 new members. However the average attendance on walks, especially weekend walks, is lower than for the corresponding period last year, although membership is about the same. We look forward to seeing a return of this old interest and activity, especially with this fine Spring weather to encourage us.

The treasurer stressed the fact that since our room rent has risen, the Friday night collection often fails to cover the cost, but added that if everyone present put in his (or her) sixpence without fail this could be remedied. (As there seems to be some misapprehension among newer members, we should mention that this collection is to cover room rent as well as supper - some have been under the impression that it is purely a supper charge.)

An appeal was made to members to be punctual at General Meetings and Lectures if they wish to be present. Otherwise they should wait until the lecture was over before coming in, as constant interruptions by late-comers were distracting to both lecturer and audience, and most discourteous to the lecturer. Please co-operate!

* * * * *

ASSISTANT SECRETARY - The Committee has appointed Keith Murray Assistant Secretary, and will co-opt him onto the Committee. We are very pleased to have you Keith.

NEW MEMBERS - We are very pleased to welcome four new members and hope they will be spending many happy days along the track with us in future. They are

- Lech Gaby 103 The Avonue, Parkville.
- Merle Grigg 249 Barkley Street, St.Kilda. Bus.phone FO 244, Ext.261
- Fred Halls 26 Sunnyside Grove, Bentleigh, S.E.14.
- William Hendry 10 Queen's Road, Melbourne, S.C.2.

* * * * *

SOCIAL NOTES

Marie now has the Host and Hostess system running smoothly, and the people who have undertaken the job have done it very well. On the roster for the next four weeks we have LEE PULLEN (21st Sept.), MARIE KEYS (28th Sept.), KEN GRANT (5th October) and JOHN LOW (12th October.)

A number of Club members spent a most enjoyable evening at Margaret Dark's home the other Saturday, when Earl Lavender brought along a number of his records of classical music. The guests were all very appreciative of the tempting supper, and did full justice to it. It's quite a long time since we have had an evening like this and we'd like to thank Margaret and Earl.

Marie has tickets at 7/- for "The Moon Is Blue" on the 19th. Sad to report, the Theatre is not allowing any concessions for the Borovansky Ballet. A party of thirty went to "Bell, Book and Candle"

FROM THE WALKS SUB-COMMITTEE

Lloyd Reynolds is now in charge of Program arrangement, so he is the person to see about that walk you intend to lead. He'll be pleased to help you with the details if you are doubtful about any point connected with leading a walk - so if you are willing to lead a walk, see Lloyd. By the way, there are still copies of the talk on leadership given earlier this year available for prospective leaders.

It was good to hear that leaders are giving more thought to their Walks Reports, and that some very helpful detailed reports have been received. These will be of great help to others leading walks in the same areas later. And don't forget, if you are a leader, to be sure to find out beforehand just what information is available.

CHRISTMAS WALKS - Leaders have not been chosen for all Christmas walks yet, because it was intended to arrange a leader from among those intending to take part in each walk. However, as only one of the lists has many names on it, this has been impossible. So if you are considering going on one of the trips, please add your name immediately for whichever trip you are interested in. Would you be willing to lead one of these trips ?

CLUB EQUIPMENT - An important item: Those borrowing Club equipment must return it without fail on the Friday following the walk for which it was borrowed, as it is always needed by somebody else.

FEDERATION SEARCH AND RESCUE ORGANIZATION - Our Club delegate is now Keith Murray, while Margaret Dark is No. 1 Contact and Marie Gillespie No. 2 Contact.

PROGRAM CORRECTIONS - Make sure you have altered yours.

1. SHOW DAY - Ticket to buy is Macedon 2nd Return. The Railways have not issued the special time table yet, but we will be taking the first train in the morning. The time will be announced in the Clubroom as soon as it is known. N.B. - The leader advises that food for both lunch and tea should be taken, as the train back leaves Macedon fairly late.
2. October 14th - Ticket to buy is 2nd Return Mooroolbark. Frank Burt will lead this.
3. " 21st - Train time should be 8.55 a.m.

Last month Mr. Alan Frosstick gave us an introduction to geology, discussing the geological formations in areas often visited by Bushwalkers.

We had hoped tonight to have a talk on first aid in the bush, but unfortunately the man whom we'd hoped would give this is ill, and it is impossible to obtain another lecturer at such short notice.

* * * * *

ALONG THE TRACK

Spring has sprung, and for the first fortnight we had near-perfect weather. More and more of the people who do "better" things during the winter are appearing on walks. The first weekend walk of Spring was Felix Harding's Garfield-Gembrook trip. Eight early risers appeared - the train left at 7.40 a.m., otherwise there may have been more starters. The weather was clear - what was presumably Mud Island could be seen from Mt. Cannibal, and the Baw Baws could be clearly distinguished from Mt. Towt. Lloyd Reynolds lead the Greensborough - Diamond Creek walk for Frank Burt. Twenty six attended - seven men and nineteen women. What's this we hear about Lloyd leaving his harem down at the Prom? Des Tubridy took the survivors of his Mooroolbark - Mt. Dandenong walk into the forest for a moonlight walk. The evening was warm and the track just distinguishable in the moonlight. Lysterfield Hills provided Heinz Wolff with a very pleasant walk that was well attended, while on the same day Egon Donath led a party from Boronia over One Tree Hill. Gordon Coutts and party visited the "Organ Pipes" on Jackson's Creek during the walk he led for Tom Stodley. These are a striking example of the columnar structure formed in basalt; the columns are hexagonal in section, and where exposed in a creek bed, for instance, form a regularly patterned pavement. There were 26 on Lorraine Richey's van trip to Little Sugarloaf. John Low's party of 21 (5 girls and 16 men) left at 6.30p.m. on Friday for the Lerderg gorge trip. They left the van in heavy fog to walk about a mile to their camp-site, and awoke to find it still foggy, so abandoned the idea of climbing Mt. Blackwood. By the time they reached the Gorge for lunch the sun was shining and the rest of the week end was very fine. Four of the party were mislaid and finished the trip alone. The main party had a strenuous time climbing and descending steep hills above the Gorge, and spent a precarious night on a sloping site with what might be described as a three-storeyed camp and no camp fire. Many mountain goats were seen (as well as the party.). The fisherman of the party actually caught a fish.

LIBRARY

Keith Murray sends a reminder that he wants items for the Club Scrap Book which, as he mentioned at the Half Yearly meeting, he intends to build up. Any articles of general walking interest, or any appropriate humorous stories or cartoons will be gratefully received.

NATIVE PLANTS PRESERVATION GROUP

Noble Paine has organized several small working bees with Miss Waduell at Sydenham lately, to get rid of the rapid spring growth of weeds, and the area is reported to be going ahead well. It is hoped that a Club visit may be arranged to give members a chance to see progress while plants are flowering at their best. (An interesting article in the current "Walkabout" describes this sanctuary and its remarkable transformation in just twelve months.)

LETTER TO THE A.B.C. - As mentioned last month, a letter was written to the A.B.C. suggesting a regular session on outdoor topics. In reply they stated that they could not find program space for this, but were interested in the possibility of including such material in a proposed Hobbies Session now being arranged.

LETTER TO LANDS DEPARTMENT - As we often have trouble in walks along certain stretches of the Yarra, where fences to the water's edge hinder our progress, and where land-owners are hostile to walkers, we wrote to the Lands Department to ascertain whether owners have the right to prohibit people from walking along the banks. In reply, the Secretary of the Lands Department informed us that certain titles, granted up to about 70 years ago, gave owners full rights along their river frontages. Others, given later, do not include this, but the owners have been given permission to extend their fences to the water's edge, but they are obliged to give right of access through such properties. Details of particular areas may be inspected at the Department.

" W A L K "

When our Financial sub-committee met they found that "WALK" 1951 had sold very well - in fact, they assess that if 280 more copies were sold it would clear last year's debt. Can we do this by the end of the year? If each member sold only two copies this could be achieved, and "WALK" 1952 could be published with a clean sheet. Let's see what we can do!

CHRISTMAS CARDS - As usual we are having Club greeting cards printed, and these will be ready in plenty of time for overseas mails. They have been ordered for 28th Sept. and will be available from Fay Pitt.

"THE NEWS" will be distributed in the Clubroom on the third Friday, and those not collected then will be held until the following Friday when it is hoped a great many more can be taken personally.

Remember, if you have any interesting items of news, you can pass them on to Fay Pitt, Paddy Mallett or Kitty Mitchell.

PERSONAL

*** Several Bushwalkers were at All Saints Church, St. Kilda, to see Jo Thompson and Don Sellars become Mr. and Mrs. Sellars, with Paddy Mallett as a bridesmaid, Keith Murray a groomsman, and Bill Kirk to give the bride away. The "Father of the Bride" played hockey (and lost!) just beforehand, and was so pressed for time, he informed us, he had to finish dressing in the taxi!

*** Just a fortnight later, on September 15th, Gwen Roberts and Fred Soutter were married in Holy Advent Church, Malvern, and once again the Club was well represented. Ken Middleton was best man, and Marie Gillespie made the wedding cake.

*** Our last wedding for this month will be on September 29th, when Paddy Mallett and Keith Murray will be married in Christ Church, Hawthorn, at 11 a.m., with Ken Grant as best man.

*** We hear that Thelma Jackson is back in Melbourne, and engaged to be married soon.

*** We've just had a letter from Gwen Hancock, who sends her regards to all her friends in the Club. She says visitors are always welcome at Tea Tree Gully.

*** We're glad to know that Tom Stoodley's ankle is progressing well, now out of plaster.

*** John Ball, we hear, has measles. W-e-e-c-l!!!

*** Bushwalking was represented at Box Hill Girls' Technical School with Wilma Munday's display of sleeping bag, rucksack, and other camping gear during Education Week.

* * * * *
 *
 * G E T Y O U R P H O T O S E N L A R G E D *
 *
 * by HORST EISFELDER *
 *
 * in the Club Room every Friday night. *
 *
 * Also Photos of Club Walks, Australian *
 * Scenery, Fauna & Flora AVAILABLE FROM *
 *
 * HORST EISFELDER *
 *
 * 91 Chapel St., S.1. LA 4632 *
 *
 * * * * *

* * * * *
 *
 * S P E C T A C L E S *
 *
 * from *
 *
 * W E R N E R G R A F F *
 * = = = = = *
 *
 * THE OPTICAL SPECIALIST *
 *
 * 80, Swanston Street, Melbourne, C.1. *
 * Central 3136 *
 *
 * * * * *

* * * * *
 *
 * R E A D and K E E P *
 *
 *
 * "W I L D L I F E" *
 *
 *
 * A U S T R A L I A ' S *
 *
 * L E A D I N G *
 *
 * N A T U R E *
 *
 * M A G A Z I N E *
 *
 * * * * *