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* THE NEWS *
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of

No. 40

..... THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

18th January, 1952

Holidays for most of us have whizzed past, leaving a little extra suntan, lots of photos, new friends, innumerable happy memories - and plenty to talk about, if we are to judge by what goes on in Room 110! We hope for all Bushwalkers it is the beginning of a happy and active year.

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THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held in ROOM 56, Railways Institute, on Friday February 22nd, at 8 pm sharp. and it is hoped that members will show their interest in the Club's welfare by making a point of attending. The election of office-bearers will take place at the meeting, and we ask all members to give earnest consideration beforehand to the matter of electing the best possible team to carry on the work of running the Club for the next twelve months.

At THE MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING next Friday (January 25th) the motion of which notice was given last month will be considered. This provides that nominations for office-bearers and committee members shall be made in writing, and published in "THE NEWS" before the Annual Meeting. If this is passed, it will come into force for the coming elections.

CLUB ROOM

It has been agreed to share the 3rd Floor at 161 Flinders Lane as a Clubroom, our Club to have the sole use of it on Thursday nights. Final details, such as when we begin occupancy, have not been settled, but a special committee meeting to discuss the matter has been called for tonight, and details of what is arranged will be placed on the notice-board.

On several nights this week some of our members have assisted in working bees to decorate and clean the room, arrange furniture, etc. and it should soon be ready for the various Clubs to move in. (Clubs participating are: Men's Walking Club, Women's Walking Club, Victorian Mountain Trampers, and our own Club.)

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"WALK", 1952

Sales Manager, Fred Soutter, informs us that over 1000 copies have been distributed, but cannot tell us yet what proportion of these have been sold. He'd be glad to have information from those who have taken copies to sell, and also reminds them that it would be very nice to have the proceeds of sales, both from last year's and this year's issues, in the Club's bank account.

Praise for the general high quality of "WALK" continues, as well as admiration for the cover photo by Len Barr, whom we congratulate on his good work and thank for his speedy co-operation.

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FEDERATION ANNUAL WEEKEND, March 22nd-23rd.

This is an early reminder of the Weekend, especially in reference to the CAMP-FIRE CONCERT. This feature should be a highlight, and we want to see the Bushwalkers making a good contribution to an evening of really entertaining entertainment - we know they are capable of it. Remember that something appropriate to the walking atmosphere will be most appreciated, whether it is a song, sketch, story or any other "turn" which originality and inspiration suggest. If you have any ideas, let's hear about them - often many minds working together can produce something far better than any one of them alone.

CHRISTMAS TRIPS

There were 45 away on official Club trips during the holiday period, and all enjoyed exceptionally good weather. We are grateful to the leaders of the five trips for the following accounts of their adventures.

CRINOLINE - BENNISON - WELLINGTON - LICOLA

The party which took the "high road" along the narrow ridge capped by the Crinoline, and so wended their way to Mt. Wellington, enjoyed some of the widest panoramic views in Victoria - and enjoyed them under ideal conditions with wonderful visibility. Although precluded by a stiff climb, the view from the Long Hill early one sunny Monday morning included practically every mountain of note in the eastern half of the State, and was well worth the couple of dry lunches which were the price of its achievement.

Although there were only six in the party, we were never allowed to become tired of our own company as we were accompanied by Gordon Coutts and his band on the earlier part of the trip, and on Bennison Plains exchanged them for the six members of Fred Soutter's party.

Practically all the major points of interest in the area were visited - The Gable End, Trig Point, Spion Kop, The Sentinels - not to mention many of the lesser known but no less interesting places usually missed because of lack of time. The highlight of the trip, as of all trips in this area, was of course the visit to Lake Tarli Karng, and the views of it to be had from the Sentinels and the adjacent cliffs. The area lived up to its herpetological reputation and one well-known member took much pleasure in cooking - and offering to his "friends" - a number of samples.

The trip was also notable for the unorthodoxy and versatility of its camp-fire discussions - economics, management, physics, metaphysics, magic, telepathy, all at times kept us up later than usual. Finally, the weather, the company, and the scenery all combined to make this trip one to remember long after the ascents are forgotten.

.....Norm Richards.

LICOLA-WELLINGTON R.-TARLI KARNG-WAUK WAUK-BRIAGALONG

After a drive (woman driver!) from Heyfield to Licola in a brand new Holden we started walking at 12 noon. An hour's walk earned us our lunch, then the whip had to start cracking - the first of our 21 river crossings, about knee-deep but, like all the others, easily negotiable, with only the sound of squelching boots on the other side. The the Bennison Spur, and off came the winter woollies. (Claire seemed prepared for a blizzard!) At last the plain, and a lovely photo of the crossing of Shaw's Ck. where the tree across the creek was like a Christmas Tree with Santa handing out packs. With a day's wait for the other two parties at Higgins' Hut, a Christmas pud was turned on - no wonder we could not hit top "C" in the camp-fire singing! The arrival of the Coutts-Richards warriors brought thirsty throats - just to think that while we were enjoying lunch at the waterfalls they were about four miles away having a dry lunch and a beautiful view of the falls.

Next day we parted with Coutts & Co. and joined forces with Richards. We had our first snake kill near Miller's Hut, and a certain famous home-brew expert dissected and cooked the carcass and fed the hungry walkers. (Not bad either - tasted something like chicken crossed with rabbit) Then for the rest of the trip Scott and Tina attracted millions of flies, as they both carried snake-skins to make belts - pity about the tanning process, Tina! At Wauk Wauk we returned to civilization - well, one farmhouse and an orchard, but we found out too late the owner was away! Morning tea at a farmhouse in Briagalong was quite a mannequin parade - perhaps the most elegant was Baden in bathing suit and hob-nailed boots. To finish off the trip, it was train from Stratford to Melbourne, then map and compass to the Melbourne Cricket Ground to see the Test.

..... Fred Soutter.

- P.S. Caution: 1. Always remove the lens cover before taking picture.
 2. Do not put exposed films back into the camera even if you are running short of films.
 3. Why photograph the flap of your ever-ready case?

..... F.S.

LICOLA - CRINOLINE - LICOLA

Arriving at Heyfield late on Friday night, we slept at Porter's Mill and had breakfast at their canteen next morning before going to our starting point, about 5½ miles along the new timber road past Licola. (Three taxis were hired for the 19 members of the three parties - quite a fleet.) The sky was overcast as, with Norm Richards' party, we began walking down the road to Riggall's (Primrose) Gap, across the Barkley River (where we had lunch and a shower of rain) and on up the Glencairn Ck. to Sweetapples'. Our goal, the Crinoline, was now much nearer, yet it was hard to realize we would be on top of it next afternoon. From "Glencairn" we crossed the zig-zag which goes over the ridge separating Glencairn Ck. from the Macallister R. where we

camped the night. On Sunday morning we crossed the river and climbed to the top of the ridge between the Sugarloaf and the Crinoline, where we had the choice of having a dry lunch or none. By this time the clouds had cleared and it was quite warm for the rather steep and in places rocky climb up the Crinoline, so we weren't sorry to reach the top. However, our exertions were rewarded with good views of Mt. Wellington, and of the Strezleckie Ranges across the Gippsland flats. The Crinoline was the most photographed point of the trip, as from all angles it has a most unusual profile, and thus kept the "shutter-bugs" busy. (After arriving home one member found that, due to a defect in his camera or film (so he says) he took about 36 exposures on one. Economical? At any rate, the nett result was that his adjectives were as black as his film!)

The party was forewarned there might be a dry camp that night, as there was no sign of water coming over the falls, but when the creek was finally reached there was found to be a good flow, which apparently just trickled over the edge concealed by the moss and rocks, so the leader escaped unscathed.

On Monday the weather was perfect, and the morning was spent travelling along the Long Hill, from which splendid views of the Great Divide, Mt. Wellington, The Crinoline and Mt. Tamboritha were enjoyed - members of the party still don't believe the leader when he says that 55 minutes were spent at one point just admiring the panoramic view. After another dry lunch (this one according to schedule) we climbed Tamboritha, with views of the Shaw's Ck. Falls, then dropped steeply to the Bennison Plains some 600' below. A pleasant walk along the Plains brought us to Higgins' Hut, where Fred Soutter and party were firmly entrenched. We accepted their generous hospitality - plenty of boiling water, all we had to do was add our OWN ingredients! Next day we went with the other two parties as far as Tin Bucket Ck. and, rather envying them their extra days ahead, left the Plains and followed down Bennison Spur to have dinner at Dinner Creek. (Naturally.) We set off down the Wellington R., camping at the 13th crossing, and next morning finished up in Licola about 11 am. From there it was taxi to Heyfield and train to Melbourne, and our trip was over. However, as there were two Kodachrome enthusiasts on the trip, we'll be able to revive many memories, and ensure an enjoyable evening in the Clubroom for those who did not do the trip.

Re wild life seen on the trip: No snakes: one platypus at Shaw's Creek; two foxes; and one Wolff which accompanied us throughout the trip.

..... Gordon Coutts.

BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

The 14 members of the party led by Peter Becker in this area enjoyed perfect weather and the best of company. Arriving at Harrierville at 4.15 pm we camped there and next morning climbed up to Feathertop. The next day across the Razor back to Diamantina Hut, where we spent Christmas Eve. (Here Ma and Pa Santa Claus paid us a visit with balloons and hankies combs, etc. and a BELL for the leader, just in case his long legs got him too far ahead! Pa Santa spoke with a suspiciously Scotch accent, and Ma was rather "Dark"!! Next day we travelled up over Mt. Loch and down Machinery Spur to a pretty little spot at Blair's Hut. Then up to Basalt Temple and on to Tawonga Hut, where we disturbed some wild horses grazing nearby. Six of us climbed Fainter. Next day four of the party travelled round through Pretty Valley and Rocky Valley and on to St. Elmo's place, while the rest of the party made straight for St. Elmo's - both parties are convinced they had the best of it! We slept in the Bogong Ski club hut, which we found in a most unattractive condition, but which we left spotless. Before a lovely big log fire we had a grand sing-song, before retiring to our "boudoirs" with lovely soft mattresses! Next day we went on to Roper's Hut via Mt. Nelse, and the following day over Tim's Lookout and down spur to base of Bogong Gap, making camp on Big River Creek. The party split up here, as some did not think Bogong worth the effort of toiling up under a "killer" sun, and some were suffering the effects of sunburn. They set out to travel the old mining track to Roper's Hut on the Tawonga Road, but found it has been destroyed by about ten roads running across it, and so just followed the road down to Clover Dam - in time to sneak in behind a party of sight-seers inspecting the dam - they were never noticed, being so inconspicuous?! A hitch-hike into Tawonga saw us - after milk drinks and ice-cream! - pitch our tents by the Kiewa River, which we left at 6 am on Tuesday bound for home.

The weather was perfect and the scenery wonderful. And the flies!!! Ask "Flycatcher" Corden how many of the 43,562,444 flies (he counted them!) were drowned in his tea, coffee, custard, etc!! But they will soon be forgotten, while the happy memories linger on.

.....on behalf of Peter Becker.

LIMESTONE - INGEEGOODBEE - SUGGAN BUGGAN

There were twelve MBW's on this trip, and if laughter is any indication of a good walk then this party had the goods. From the jump-off when they stayed the first night at "THE GOLDEN AGE" in Omeo and next day raced in two cars across to Maronggo until ten days later when they danced the New Year in at a Ball at Buchan, the weather held good. Nobody was worked to death; everyone held their own pace and arrived in camp with plenty of energy to spare as was evident in the meals that came to light - junkets, scrambled eggs, stews, and even a steam pudding.

The friends the MBW's have made in previous years were in evidence and as we made contact again we found they were more than pleased to see us, in some cases the fame of "WALK" also preceding us. Mr. McCallum of Benambra was there to pay his respects, and later we once again met Mr. Chas. Carter of Tin Mine; the Loader Family of Black Mountain Station; and Mr. Weston of Buchan Reserve, the latter coming to transport us from the camping area to the bus on the morning of our departure.

On this trip there were some more-than-fine views - such as sunrise from The Pilot (6005'), the panorama from the Cobboras (6030'), and the unique scenery seen from the Suggan Buggan Range - but views were not the only things. We found out just how much we liked our companions; and then the country itself is very pleasant to walk through. - in many places like a big park.

There were days without packs when we visited the Cobboras, and later the Tin Mine Falls. On quite a few days we were up at 4 am and off at 6 am, had latish lunch and lazed the rest of the afternoon. Those were the days the leader was cursed in the early morning; but they were also the days when we enjoyed an afternoon paddling in the headwaters of the Ingegoodbec; and making camp early after a scorching ten miles - and we found a little feathered mother with her three babies in their furlined nest; and fishing at Quambatt where the Murray is born; and bathing at Suggan Buggan.

We all remember the camp-fire at Little River - and the fish - and the Ball at Buchan. We have an idea there will be a few Buchan-ites who will remember it too. The local police-man told us it was the best Ball ever - but I wonder why he came to see us safely on the bus next day ?

And finally, whether we thought Suggan Buggan was the place God forgot, or whether we thought that it was Shangri-La, one thing is certain: that the now-abandoned homestead and its valley keep you wondering and thinking - thinking and wondering.

..... Edna Richards.

There were quite a few Bushwalkers wandering in other walking areas, both here and in Tasmania, and maybe elsewhere, but we haven't caught up with them yet. But just breathe the words "And where did you go for Christmas?" to them, and we guarantee you'll soon know all about it. Try and stop me, in fact !

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

were sent to the Club by many ex-members and from other Clubs, but arrived too late to be displayed in the Clubroom before the holidays. However these are on the notice-board now, and will be left for a while to give all members a chance to see them. Our greetings were also sent to other Clubs.

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"THE NEWS"

will not be posted this month, but those who have not been able to come into the Club to collect a copy will get it with next month's issue.

PERSONAL

*** We will be very pleased to welcome Betty Horsley back into the Club. She returned on the Orcades last Wednesday, very fit and full of interesting things to tell us about her trip on the Continent and in England.

*** Jock was happy for Christmas - his family sent him three haggis's, care of Tess.

*** Kitty Mitchell's N&Z. is not as rumoured, we can state authoratively. In case you'd like the correct one, it is: C/- Y.W.C.A. Residence, 115 Broughan Street, Wellington, New Zealand. We hear she's having a fine time there.

*** While mentioning addresses - Egon Donath's new address is 21 Gipps Street, East Melbourne, C.2., and phone number JA 4412.

***** WALKS PROGRAMME FOR FEBRUARY *****

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCALITY</u>	<u>TICKET TO</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DISTANCE</u>	<u>LEADER</u>
3rd	WattleGlen-Pretty Hill-Diamond Creek	2-R W.Glen	8.53am.	6m. (E.S.)	Emil Slade Win. 5619
3rd	Social Afternoon-Bathing Box 799	2-R S'ham	1.35pm.	--(S.)	Marie Gillespie BJ 1629
9-10th	Dromana-Arthur's Seat-Cape Schanck - Flinders	2-M.R. Frankston	9.10 am.	22m. (MS)	Peter Salmon BJ 4548
10th	Mooroolbark-OlindaRes.-Silvan	2-R. L'dale	9.15 am.	10m. (E)	WarrenOlleUL9743
17th	Lerderderg Gorge	Van	8.55 am.	--- (ES)	M. GillespieBJ1627
17th	Reservoir-Aqueduct-Greensbr'h	2-R. G'sb'h	9.05 am.	9m. (E)	Tom Stoodley
23rd-24th	Olinda-Mt. Evelyn-St. Marks Hostel- Lilydale	FTG-L'dale HT	1.38 pm.	15m (MS)	Jim Dyall
24th	Blackberrying Walk	2-R FTG	8.55 am	8m. (E)	Lorraine Richey FI 4553

Abbreviations: Tickets - R. Return; MR. Month Return. HT. Hiker's Ticket

Distance- E. Easy; M. Medium; S. Swimming.