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* THE NEWS *
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of

No. 45.

20th June, 1952.

..... THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

"W A L K " - Issue No. 4 - A Message from the Editor!

There is still time to hand in that contribution for "W A L K " - No. 4. Photographs, particularly, are exhorted - nay begged - so do something about the matter: there is still a great blank space on the front cover waiting to be filled, not to mention smaller spaces throughout the book. So pen-pushers, poets and photographers, go to it!

As a special effort to get the best photos available, photographers are invited to bring in any assorted packets of photos they may have, the bigger the better. If handed in to the Editor one Friday evening he guarantees to peruse them and hand them back the following Friday without fail. Dig out all your photos and let the world see some of them in print.

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JUNE GENERAL MEETING - JUNE 27th - 8 pm.

As well as the usual business, there will be an ELECTION OF A WOMAN COMMITTEE MEMBER to replace Lee Pullen, whose resignation the Committee accepted at its last meeting. We take this opportunity of thanking Lee for her work.

Following the Meeting we shall have the pleasure of introducing Miss Winifred Waddell, already well-known to wild-flower enthusiasts in the Club. Primarily she will outline the work of the NATIVE PLANTS PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF VIC. of which she is Secretary and indefatigable organizer, and of which our Club is a Group Member. There will also be ample opportunity for discussion, questions and suggestions and we look forward to a lively and interested meeting.

TWO REQUESTS :1. Although we look forward to a Utopian future when there will be no late-comers to our meetings, for the present we aim to make their coming cause as little disturbance as possible. Therefore, would early-comers keep the far side of the room and leave spare seats near the door; and would late-comers move away from the door so that those still later can come in with less struggle.

2. SMOKERS ! Would you co-operate by cutting down your smoking as much as you can bear, and refraining altogether when there is a meeting in progress, as we often have to reduce the already inadequate ventilation by closing the windows so that we can hear what's going on.

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AT THE LAST GENERAL MEETING, on 30th May, it was good to see business dealt with in such a quick and effective manner. It was what we've been striving for, so let's try and keep it that way.

Matters raised in General Business included a protest by Edna Richards against persons being allowed to take native fauna outside Australia, especially, as has recently happened, for publicity purposes, and against the cruel manner in which some of these animals have been treated. A motion that the Secretary should write to the Fisheries and Games Department, and to the Press, expressing our protest, was unanimously agreed to. (Letters have appeared in two of the daily papers, and a reply has just been received from the Department expressing their agreement with our sentiments, and assuring us that none of the animals sent overseas has been from Victoria, as they maintain a strict control over such illegal practices.) Other points raised were that there is probably as much cruelty to native animals within Australia as outside, and we should be on our guard against that, too; and that in the case of animals which are a serious pest to farmers and must be reduced in numbers, at least the manner in which this is done should be inspected..... Another comment was on the very small Bushwalker attendance at the recent Federation Annual Meeting - only seventeen.

After the meeting, Mr. Bill and Mr. Hilke of the Forests Commission treated us to some interesting films. "Jacaranda Festival" and "Alpine Harvest", both very colourful, were especially beautiful, and there was also a most interesting film on fire-fighting in the Otways, another on the afforestation program of a Gippsland paper mills, and a surprise "Abbott & Costello" short. Between films Mr. Bill gave most informative talks on the work and problems of the Forests Commission, and finally discussed the many questions put to him in a way we all enjoyed and profited by.

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HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING

Please note that this will be held in Room 56 (2nd Floor) on Friday, August 22nd, at 8 pm. This will take the place of the usual monthly meeting which would normally be held on the following Friday.

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A WORD FROM THE TREASURER

So far this year the number of financial members is about 95 - appreciably lower than at a corresponding time last year. As numbers in the Club-room seem as large as ever, we'd like to see this discrepancy disappear. We realize this won't concern most who are reading this, as from now on "THE NEWS" is being posted only to financial members, but we hope the idea will filter through to those whom it does concern. A couple of weeks ago a list was put on the Notice Board of those who had paid. This week the list will be of those who have not paid.

COLLECTION. This is taken up in the Clubroom every Friday to cover cost of room rent, including coffee. As this is 30/-, a little simple arithmetic will show how many people have to put in 6d to come out square - is your answer 60 too? Average attendance would be about this number, so in theory we should be paying our way. But we must ask everyone to co-operate and put in that small six-pence without fail. The collection is made about 9 pm - if you leave before that time, or come in later, please remember just the same. You'll find our "honesty box" on the door - an old idea renewed - don't overlook it.

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AND NOW FROM THE WALKS SUB-COMMITTEE

Fred Soutter is unable to lead the Flowerdale walk on 28th-29th of this month, so Betty Olle will be taking over. All who intend going should already have booked, but the van is not full so it is still possible to do so tonight. (Or by phone (UL9743) on Saturday at the very latest.) CONTACT FOR THIS WEEKEND - don't forget to note it and leave with your family! - is FAY PITT, WX6554.

The next van trips are a month ahead, but that only leaves a fortnight to book, so keep it in mind.

WALKS PROGRAM - Frank Pitt (Program Organizer) reports that the Committee has passed the Spring Program, which is now on its way to being printed. There are still a couple of vacancies on the Summer Program in December, and for trips and leaders for extended walks. Other walks will be accepted for as far ahead as the 1953 Winter Program.

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LECTURETTES

All who have even the slightest intention of taking part in extended trips during the Christmas-New Year period should make a special point of attending next month's third Friday meeting, as it will take the form of a discussion on planning these long trips. Certain areas have already been suggested, and one leader has already volunteered to take a trip he has mapped out. These and other possibilities will be discussed, together with such matters as limiting the size of parties, packing in food, etc. etc. With this as a basis, the Walks Sub-committee hopes to have trips definitely planned early in August, and lists up for those who intend taking part. So note the date - JULY 18th, at 8 pm.

Last month the subject of compasses was dealt with by Frank Pitt, who had samples of various types on show, and discussed the particular uses of each.

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NEW MEMBERS

We extend a hearty welcome to these six people:

- Herbert ALLEN...56 Powell Street, Yarraville. (p) MW 1159.
- Robert BITTNER...8 Valentine Grove, Armadale. SE 3. (p) U 3129 (b) MU 3809.
- Eric HORNE.....Police Headquarters, Russell Street, C.l. (b) FO244
- Charles MUNRO...34 Sebastopol Street, Caulfield. (b) MU 5313.
- Maureen SHEPHEARD.85 Windella Avenue, East Kew. (p) WL 2089.
- Heather STEVENS.20 Broadway Camberwell. (p) WB 3681 (b) FA 8621 Ext.39.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS or PHONE NUMBER - Please remember to notify the Secretary as soon as possible. Note the following on your own copy of the address list: Tess Maddison Phone (b)(School hours)- MW 9238. John Ball Phone (b) MU 7888

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NEWS FROM THE FEDERATION

The Federation holds a Meeting of Office-bearers and Club Delegates every two months, and Sub-committees arrange their own meetings from time to time. The first Meeting since the Annual General Meeting dealt mainly with setting up sub-committees - or rather, appointing Convenors of various sub-coms., as these consist of special representatives appointed by Clubs - and discussing Search and Rescue business. That this all received exhaustive treatment is evidenced by the fact that the meeting occupied two separate nights! Dates for 1953 Federation fixtures were determined, and are as follow:

- Annual Weekend - Tentatively, March 21-22, depending on Labour Day.
- Track-Clearing - May 2-3.
- Ball - To be decided.
- Annual Meeting and Dinner - May 13.
- Day Walk - September 20.

WALKING BOOTS - Do you have trouble in getting a good fit and a strong boot? A Tasmanian firm makes boots on the American multiple fitting last which many walkers have found particularly comfortable, but which cannot now be obtained in Melbourne. The Federation wants to find out how many walkers here would be interested in obtaining these boots, and whether the number would justify having them specially made in strong leather. Price would probably be about 50/-. Let our Fedn. Delegate, Ken Lorking, or Frank Pitt, know if you would be interested.

TREE PLANTING - The Federation has been asked to give help in planting a number of trees which have been donated to a Boys' Home in the Cheltenham district, and the Secretary, Eric Stewart hopes to organize a day for it in the next couple of weeks. We'll post arrangements on our Notice-board for the information of anyone willing to give a hand.

LOST AND FOUND (Marysville Search) Eric Stewart reports he still has a torch and a knife without an owner, but has still not recovered his own knife. Will our Search & Rescue men please check their belongings?

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SOCIAL EVENTS

THE FEDERATION BALL will be held on August 15th, but no further details are to hand yet. However, note the date now and keep it free.

BARN DANCE AND SOCIAL WEEKEND, May 24th & 25th - a weekend of "thrills and chills"! Leaving at 2 pm on Saturday by van, we went direct to the summit of Arthur's Seat via Red Hill and pitched our tents on a slight slope beneath "The Garden of the Moon". We chatted round the camp-fire till the sound of music lured us onto the waxed concrete floor at 8 pm. A few carloads of Bushwalkers and friends also appeared from Dromana, where some were on holidays, making some 30 dancers in all.

The Dance was voted by all a huge success. Scotch dances were prominent, and added to the gaiety. In fact so much noise was made we didn't realize there was a violent storm outside until we went out to another room for supper. The open area on the roof was covered with a couple of inches of water, and some of the party nearly walked straight into the swimming pool by mistake, not seeing any distinction between it and the surrounding water.

Coming to our tents, we found most had collapsed - only those securely lashed to trees remained up- and the really unlucky ones found all their possessions drenched, including sleeping bags. Those who were not spending the night at Dromana bunked in around the dance floor on the cushioned benches, and were entertained by two of the members putting on a floor show to top off the evening!

The next day was fine, even warm. Leisurely breakfast, a stroll to King's Falls and back, lunch, a walk down the steep slope to Dromana brought the weekend to an end - a very fine end, as we were sumptuously entertained to afternoon tea by the Bushwalkers-on-holiday before the van picked us up at 5 pm.

HOSTS and HOSTESSES who are looking after our visitors and new members are:

- June 6th - HORST ELSFELDER June 15th - KEN GRANT June 20th - JACK SMITH
- June 27th - TINE KOETSIER July 4th - JOYCE WILKINSON July 11th - MARGARET DARK

Six Bushwalkers enjoyed "The Man Who Came To Dinner" at the Arrow Theatre on Tuesday night. It had been hoped to arrange a bigger party for this.

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A WORKING BEE was held at the Sydenham Wildflower Sanctuary recently to build a protective stone wall for the many plants which are coming on so well there, with the aim both of protecting them from the strong winds and catching some of the weed seeds which could later mean so much extra work in weeding the plantation. Five men from our Club took part, and it is hoped later to arrange a Club working bee there.

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PERSONAL

*** Bill Horton was booked to leave England on June 16th, so we can look forward to seeing him back in the Club again fairly soon.

*** Geoff Christensen sends his regards to the Club. He's making most of every spare moment to see the country - he's booked in for every weekend this summer for walking trips in England and Scotland.

*** Kitty Mitchell sends her regards from N.Z. Her present address is G.P.O., Christchurch, New Zealand, and she begs for correspondents !

*** Congratulations to Evelyn Hecht and Ben Moszkowisz who announced their engagement recently, and to Joan Negus who also recently became engaged to Jim Camburn.

*** Best wishes to our two new members of last month, who were married last week - Elva and Peter Ward. We're glad to hear they've obtained a flat, and hope to see them soon.

*** Win Hosier is another who was married recently, and we wish her every happiness.

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ALONG THE TRACK

BUNYIP-AQUEDUCT-MT.CANNIBAL (Drouin Military Map) KEITH MURRAY. - Spring-like weather made the going very pleasant for the full van of 30. We walked a couple of miles along pleasant lanes, then followed the level track skirting the aqueduct - saw a 3" baby snake sticking his tongue out at us on the way - until opposite t.Cannibal we plunged up through the heath and scraggy bush until we reached its rocky, twin-peaked summit. The northern peak looks west along the plain to Melbourne and north to the Divide the other to the south across the wide LaTrobe valley to the Strezlecki's. A mile or so's steep sliding through the scrub brought us then to the road and the homeward van.

WATTLE GLEN-JOYCE'S HILL-HURSTBRIDGE Also on 18th) ALF STERNBERG. 12 of us walked thro' Smuggler's Gully to Yarrambat School (lunch) and returned via Brown's Hill, where some made for Diamond Ck., the rest for Hurstbridge. Apart from about 50 fences and several cows to get through, a very pleasant walk was enjoyed by all in fine weather.

LILYDALE- T.EVELYN-MOOROOLBARK The dozen who accompanied Frank Pitt were lucky to strike the one fine day in a horribly wet week, and keeping mostly to back roads and tracks had a very enjoyable day. They just missed the homeward train - all except one sprinter who unceremoniously parted company with the rest and streaked stationwards !

THE CREAM HUNT - W-e-e-e-l !! The weather was so very bad that when the leader met the three people who turned up at the station they agreed to call it off. As this is the first time in ten years we've had to abandon it, Egon philosophizes that on the whole the weather has treated us very kindly. However the six who went with Willie Baxter, and some ten others who arrived, report that they just wallowed in cream ! It DID treat them kindly !

AVENEL-HUGH'S CK.- T.STEWART-TALLAROOK - Queen's Birthday Weekend. ALF COLE had a party of 14, including (we believe) several leaders. It was nearly smaller, as the train overshoot the platform and our party had to jump for it - the last couple making dramatic leaps as the train began to steam off again ! A herd of Herefords now know everything about making billy tea, after gazing at us throughout lunch. Two members using a Radius stove said they were nearly dying of cold, but were hard put to get anyone to share a fire with such high-class company. Hugh's Ck. was flooded, and it took 1 1/2 hours to get across by flying fox - each had to sit hugging his pack, with legs tucked up to keep out of the water. One didn't quite manage, and descended suddenly into the raging torrent. Other delights were a view of mist from Mt. Stewart, and hours to wait for a train at Tallarook, but all in all we enjoyed this trip in comparatively unfamiliar country.

HURSTBRIDGE-WATSON'S CK.-WATTLE GLEN - LES SCOTT. Fine weather and a party of fourteen made a pleasant trip in familiar country. An interesting feature was Redshirt Gully, named after the red-shirted immigrants from Italy in early mining days. There were numerous mine-shafts round Panton Hills, so members had to be on best behaviour ! This would be a good walk for early Spring, as there is so much beautiful wattle in this district.

YAN YEAN TRIP - HORST ELSFELDER. There were fifteen starters, and though skies were overcast there was no rain. The trip was longer than planned, as permission to go through the Reserve was refused, and five who had to be home early left the party at 3 pm. We visited Lobb's Hill - we believe we're the first Club party to do so.

BORONIA-CROYDON and KALLISTA-CROYDON . These parties - of 4 and 5 respectively-travelled up together, with Lorraine Richey leading the former and Ken Grant deputising for Ruth Hart on the other. The weather was better than expected, although there was a high wind, and drizzle in the afternoon, and views were clear over Silvan Dam and the ranges. We say the Program miles must be very long but a brisk pace covered the distance in goo time.

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