

of
- THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS -

No. 50

November 21, 1952

Address:- Room 110, 3rd floor, Victorian Railways Institute,
Flinders Street, Melbourne

FIELD WEEK-END or "THE RAINS CAME" - November 1-2nd

It had to happen! Seven years have we been blessed with fine weather but this year rain came together with the merry crows (60) which journeyed to Pheasant Creek. Tents were pitched under a sunny sky, but community singing around the campfire competed with the roaring gale, showers of sparks and squalls of rain, which, it was said, caused some people to sing off-key, to the dismay of Ted Kirk, who was our energetic campfire 'compere'. Despite this the roast meat and hot cocoa made everyone feel better.

Those who left shelter on Sunday afternoon visited Kinglake National Park where Masons Falls were seen at their best. The usual complement of children attended (Wendy Richards excepted), and they seemed to enjoy the moist conditions. The same could not be said of some car owners, who might still be stuck in the mud, if a handy tractor had not happened along- instead of cars carrying bushwalkers, the bushwalkers practically carried the cars! The poor weather meant that an even larger portion of the chores fell on the shoulders of the willing "horses" and a little gentle persuasion had to be used on the not so willing; however, the event went according to plan, thanks to the energy of Bill Horton and the other stalwarts who helped to make it a success in spite of the rain.

STOP PRESS

Remember that summer weather means snakes. It is essential that all walkers should carry a snake-bite outfit and know how to use it. A half-inch rubber tube or leather lace long enough to go around the thigh, and an unused razor blade are adequate, and should be carried around the neck or fastened to the belt.

CHRISTMAS TRIPS

1. LICOLA-BULL PLAIN SPUR-MT. CLEAR-MT. HOWITT-CROSSCUT SAW- STIRLING AND
BULLER- STANLEY'S NAME- MT. HOWITT -WONNANGATTA- DARGO ROAD

From Glen Cairn the walk goes along a gradually ascending spur with scenic views westwards towards Mt. Skene and the Great Divide, while to the east across the Macallister Valley are the Crinolines, Mt. Reynard and Snowy Plains.

From the Great Divide a "packless" day trip will be made to Mt. Macdonald, where splendid views down the Jamieson Valley across the Bluff are obtained. Easy going with extensive views will be enjoyed on the way from Mt. Macdonald to Mt. Howitt, and although the walk is a little harder from Howitt- Crosscut Saw-Cobbler, glimpses of the surrounding country are adequate compensation. The descent to King River, across the Clear Hills and back again to Mt. Howitt for more food will be followed by a walk through the pleasant and historic country of Wonnangatta.

(11 days)

Leader- Norm Richards

2. COBBLER- SPECULATION- CROSSCUT SAW- HOWITT

Transport by train, bus and car will be included in Bill Horton's 5-day walk, leaving on Christmas Eve. From Bennie's homestead via Mt. Cobbler to Mt. Speculation, the walk continues over "undulating country across the Crosscut Saw to Mt. Howitt. Following the Great Dividing Range past Mt. Magdala, the party will reach No. 1 Divide, which gives a glorious panoramic view of adjacent mountain peaks. Passing the Bluff en route to the Howqua River- one of the best river walks in Victoria - the walk will terminate at Fry's homestead on the way to Merrigig.

(5 days)

Leader- Bill Horton

CHRISTMAS WALKS - Contd.3. COTTER'S GAP - BIMBERI - COOLEMAN CAVES - PEPPERCORN HILL - GOODRADIGBEE RIVER - BRINDABELLA RANGE - COTTER'S DAM

This is new country to the Club, but the following route will be adhered to as closely as possible. The trip will start from Orrora homestead (40 miles from Canberra), proceed to Cotter's Gap and Coronet King Rock - a fairly steep climb through timbered country up Bimberi, the highest mountain in the Capital Territory. The party will then drop down to the Coolerman Caves and visit the headwaters of the Murrumbidgee. The most western point of the trip is Peppercorn Hill, from which the way leads over the Coolerman Mountains and Mt. Jackson to Dunn's Flat on the Goodradigbee River. The various peaks of the Brindabella Range will provide scenic highlights of the trip, for instance, Mt. Aggie and Mt. Coree. The walk will eventually finish at Cotter's Dam.

A detailed description of part of this trip may be found in the 1949 issue of the "Melbourne Walker".
(11 days trip) Leader - Warren Olle

SOCIAL NEWS

Older members will be happy to know that Kath and Ramsay Graigen had a daughter on the 22nd September.

Warren and Betty Olle arrived back on the 22nd October, having spent a few days with Keith and Paddy Murray in Mansfield.

Message from the Murrays to all the Bushwalkers:- Everybody welcome, but bring your own meat and sleeping bag with you!

Our congratulations to Mario Juszczyk, who has "taken the plunge" at last and is engaged to a charming girl, Halina Kojder.

Some of the regular Friday night members may have met her in the Clubroom. They will be married at the end of December.

The Christmas dance and Social to be held in Jerram Hall, December 4th, is being organised by Marie Gillespie, who would like you to book your tickets as soon as possible. We will have our second Christmas tree and the dancing is from 8 till 11.30. Price of tickets is 7/8d.

Ruth Hood is being married at Christ Church, South Yarra, on the 29th November.

Hosts and hostesses for the next month are as follows:-

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------|
| November 21 | - | John Ball |
| " 28 | - | Peter Becker |
| December 5 | - | Ada Shultz |
| " 12 | - | Horst Eisfelder |
| " 19 | - | Marie Gillespie |

Laurie Rayner will show his films on Central Australia after the next monthly meeting - 28th November.

CHANGE OF LEADERS ON SUMMER PROGRAMME

Rex Bonn's walk on the 23rd November to Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge will now be led by Jock Low.

Ken Grant's weekend walk in Britannia Falls area on the 29th to 30th November will now be led by Peter Becker.

NEW MEMBERS

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| GEORGE GORDON |) | 12 Danin Street, Pascoe Vale |
| Mrs. VIDET GORDON |) | |
| MARY COOK | | 490 Kooyong Road, South Caulfield (p) XM 2754 (b) FJ 9177 |
| LESLEY KURTH | | 69 Orrong Road, Armadale, S.E.3. (p) Win. 8284 |
| GORDON TOWERS | | 3 Holloway Street, Carnegie, S.E.9. |

AMENDMENTS TO ADDRESS LIST

| | | |
|----------------|--|---|
| VIC WELCH | | 23 Lansdowne Street, Pascoe Vale S. |
| KITTY MITCHELL | | 37 Byron Street, Elwood. (b) MXY 130, Ext. 555 |
| FRANK BURT | | 74 Park Street, Parkville, N.2 |
| LAURENCE COLES | | 16 Byron Street, Kew. (P) Haw 2579 (b) MY 240 Ext. 210 |

MAPPING- Anyone interested in learning the art of mapping, and who wants some practical experience, should contact Gordon Coutts.

CHANGE IN THE COMMITTEE

Because of his departure for Sydney last week, Rex Benn has had to relinquish his position as Club treasurer, which he has so efficiently carried out this year. Frank Pitt will be acting treasurer until the next annual meeting. Rex's address in Sydney is: c/o Commonwealth Office of Education, Box 3879 G.P.O., Sydney.

INSURANCE SCHEME FOR WALKERS - see attached sheets

"WALK" no 4 will be on sale in the club room December 5th. Please help our sales manager Bill Horton by telling him how many copies you think you will be able to sell outside the club. Why not send some away as Christmas presents?

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Frank Pitt still has plenty of Christmas cards available. If you cannot come into the club, give him a ring or write him a note and he will post them out to you. (Post free for orders over 2/-)

"NEWS" - The number of people coming into the club room has been decreasing, judging by the alarming rise in distribution costs of the last few issues of the "NEWS". It would be appreciated if more members would make the effort to collect their copy or at least arrange for someone else to do it for them. If the position does not improve, some scheme may have to be adopted next year, limiting the number of issues of "NEWS" posted out to an individual member.

MEMO TO X'MAS WALKERS

For members who feel they need to "toughen up" for Christmas, remember there are several week-ends on the programme especially designed for this purpose. Carrying bricks in your pack is optional on these walks. Equipment: Ausli is expecting to have a supply of Paddy Pallin packs in by next week. All four types will be available at the same price as in Sydney - see advertisement on the back page. Blundston boots, approved by the Federation, are available at Slick Shoe Store, 302 Flinders Street. Much invaluable information is to be found in the following publications - 1) Paddy Pallin's B ushwalking and Camping Handbook, copies of which may be obtained from Bill Horton. 2) Report on equipment by the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club, 2nd ed., 1952. Price 3/-

"ALONG THE TRACK"

GLEN WAVERLEY-WHEELER'S HILL-FERNTREE GULLY- JOHN LOW- 19th October

The weather was perfect - something we had not expected - and the views excellent throughout. But the eighteen present struck innumerable fences and two black snakes, one of which was killed, and the other, trodden upon by Margaret Dark, was maimed for life. Lunch was had at a pleasant spot on the Dandenong Creek. Walking was easy, high country at first, then some swampy paddocks, and last of all a road-bash back to Ferntree Gully.

ELTHAM-PRETTY HILL-HURSTBRIDGE- NICK GEROE- 26th October

Twenty-three happy walkers accompanied Nick Geroe on this walk - the first on which Nick enjoyed the exalted position of leader. Lunch was eaten at an anonymous creek, and, as on all walks, was followed by hill climbing. Apart from four people missing the train, owing to an inordinate liking for milk-bars, all felt they had had an excellent day.

SEVILLE-STEEL'S HILL-KILLARA- LLOYD REYNOLDS- 4th November (Cup Day)

The weather was chiefly kind to the twelve "types" who came to walk from Seville to Killara by way of Steel's Hill. The latter provided an exhilarating(?) climb and a good view. Lack of a milk-bar, cafe or hotel at Killara Station provoked criticism of the leader, but tea made from a "jimpy" and a remark from one of the party to the effect that it was the best walk he had ever been on (crawler!) made everyone cheerful again.

HURSTBRIDGE-MEMORIAL TOWER-WARRANTYTE- HEINZ WOLFF- 9th November

It rained from when we got out of our beds till when we got back into them at the end of the day, but eleven braved the elements on this

walk -appropriately labelled "swimming" on the programme. We followed Cherry Tree Gulley to Watson's Creek, then proceeded along roads and through fields of prickly thistle to the Memorial Tower. We ate our lunch in the tower and our billies were boiled for us by the famous redheads living nearby. (For further particulars of these charming ladies see Emil). We left before a church service started in the tower, and dropped down through scrub to the Yarra, which was running a banker. We made our way along the banks through pleasant copses and unpleasant fences, and up over the hills until Warrandyte was reached, where we caught a bus back to town.

MT.MONDA-MT.ST.LEONARD- MARIO JUSZCZYK - 15th-16th November

Sixteen people had a "moist" enjoyable week-end on the Great Divide. The van dropped us at the entrance of Maroondah dam, and lunch was had fairly early on the aqueduct. Then followed a long, slow climb up Mt.Monda with the track made difficult in spots by fallen timber. Despite the overcast sky and thick scrub, several good views were obtained of the Dandenongs and the Warramate Hills. The ridge road was reached about 4 o'clock, and we continued along it for nearly an hour before water was found in a gully off the road. Camp was then made near a Board of Works dug-out. The rain fortunately kept off until the early hours on Sunday morning, and then came down with such intensity for the rest of the night that the occupants of one tent, carelessly pitched too near a run-off channel, were flooded out and had to shift. A fairly late start in the morning and a gradual climb along the ridge road brought us to St.Leonard around noon. Just when preparations for lunch were getting under way, the rain changed to a fierce hailstorm. The wind and the hail soon drove us from the top and the descent down St.Leonard spur was made in good time. At the aqueduct a communal fire had been started by the advance guard, and as the van was not expected before 6 o'clock, certain individuals had an unorthodox afternoon tea consisting of such diverse items as stew, macaroni, ham and eggs and stewed fruit. Some impatient people then departed to hitch-hike back, and some walked into Healesville and brought back the van earlier to the appointed place.

LILYDALE-MT.EVELYN-MONTROSE- FELIX HARDING - 16th November

From Mt.Evelyn a party of sixteen followed the aqueduct "mostly through scrub", as might be expected when the leader was Felix Harding. After passing the National Fitness Park, the track followed beside the stream, and hordes of leeches and mosquitoes were encountered- the record score of leeches was fifteen. The party climbed on the ridge and from there proceeded through Kalorama to the top of Mt.Dandenong. The rain poured down and visibility was nil, so we pushed straight down the mountain to the Montrose road, and caught the bus back to Croydon.

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