

CIRCULAR

* THE NEWS *

NO. 55

of

17th April, 1953.

- THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS -

Address: Room 110, 3rd Floor, Victorian Railways Institute,
Flinders Street, Melbourne.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING:

This General Meeting achieved a most business-like brevity which has been the unrealised ambition of past officials during their periods of office. We then saw a variety of Kodachrome slides of some of Victoria's most spectacular walking country, the Bogong High Plains and the Crosscut - Howitt Bluff area, the latter being taken on Bill Horton's Xmas trip.

FEDERATION WEEK-END - 21/22 March, 1953.

A somewhat wet walk from Diamond Creed, and along the Research Aqueduct, under the able leadership of Felix Harding, was the beginning of the Federation week-end for 13 walkers. A pleasant pine glade by the Aqueduct provided a good lunch spot and some compensation for the weather, which improved in the afternoon and was well on the way to being fine by the time the party reached Warrandyte and the camp site by the river in the National Fitness Reserve at Warrandyte. Six more walkers caught the 12.30 train to Ringwood to take part in the alternative inward walk. Various others found their way in by later trains and by car and by evening the whole assembly of a somewhat disappointing 40 were busily cooking respective teas in time to gather around the camp fire.

The various individual items were put over very well, including Bill Bewsher's "Ginger Mick," Prudence Auchinachie's sweet singing, Felix's well-known musicianship and the thoroughly enjoyable, if thoroughly incomprehensible "Ode to a Haggis", by Hamish, and many others. The rain held off till well after the campfire, and, in fact, the only ones it affected were the seven midnight walkers.

On Sunday, the weather smiled and so did all those who took part in the very pleasant walk led by the President, Bill Buchanan, back to Mitcham. He led the party by devious tracks and by-ways, only hitting a main road a couple of times and then only crossing it to turn again into less frequented paths - a very pleasant day walk to complete the Federation Week-end.

In passing we note that only a few clubs were represented and although by comparison our club was one of the better represented, there were still not many of our members there.

NEW MEMBERS:

We are happy to welcome the following new members accepted by the Committee at its last meeting.

LOUISE PAINE, 36 Bloomfield Avenue, Maribyrnong.
RONALD IRLAND ABBOTT, 12 Scotia Street, MOONBEE PONDS, W.4,
(B) MW 1826

Apologies are made for errors made in the previous issue, and the following are the corrected addresses of :-

MARIO JUSZCZYK, 13 Melby Avenue, EAST ST. KILDA
(P) LB 3246

KEN LORKING, 43 Windsor Crescent, Surrey Hills,
(who was incorrectly reported as being
a new member)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

KEN GRANT, C/o Telephone Exchange, Omeo, Victoria.
GERRY HARANT, Harold Street, Blackburn, Phone, (B) MM 1271)

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Well over one third of all members have by now paid their subs for 1953. Surely Y O U want to do the same before you will be considered unfinancial. Next Friday is the deadline; please make sure that you will be on the right side of it!

PERSONAL NOTES:

Our heartiest congratulations to Egon and Nina Donath, who have a daughter, Susan, born at the Mercy Hospital on the 17th March. Egon is one of our foundation members, and for many years has taken an active part in the Club's organisation.

Something unprecedented in the annals of the club has happened! Two members got engaged before even the keenest "society reporters" had an opportunity of "linking their names". Congratulations to you, Joan Stephens and Bob Darby. Bob is a Kiwi and by now, has returned to his homeland.

An engagement of interest to some of our older members, is that of Pam Abbott and Bill Nowack who are going to live at Yallourn. Congratulations!

We hear that Joyce and Kevin Foley have a flat now in Birmingham and are both working, Joyce in a chemist's shop and Kevin with an oil refinery. Joyce had been offered a job as a zoo assistant, with the choice of feeding the buzzards or the monkeys but she felt that the disdainful manner with which her charges gave her the "once-over" was a little too much to take. The weather, they say, is both raining and freezing.

We are sorry to hear that Tine Koetsier is leaving for Sydney on the 20th April. We wish her every success in "the big smoke" and hope that she may have many interesting walking trips in New South Wales.

VICTORIAN NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION:

PUBLIC MEETING - 23rd July, 1953. (LOWER TOWN HALL)

This is an historic occasion for it is the first time that a public meeting of this newly formed body is to be held, with the objects of obtaining the support and interest of the public and to recruit members. The Lord Mayor will chair the meeting, this being his first public duty on his return from the Coronation. Mr. Crosbie Morrison, well-known as a lecturer on natural history subjects, will be present as President of the V.N.P.A., and is to show a very good 16 mm. Kodachrome movie of various Victorian National Parks, which he has recently taken. Wilson's Promontory, The Tarra Valley and the Tower Hill Volcanic area feature in this film.

In order to have all the Victorian National Parks well represented as fully as possible, the V.N.P.A. welcomes contributions of 16 mm. colour film from anyone who is willing to make available their colour films of these parks, for parts to be cut and edited into a longer film. These sections of course will eventually be returned.

The organisation would also be very grateful for people who would be able to help prepare the Lower Town Hall, both before and after the meeting. Those interested in the above should contact Norm Richards, our representative on the V.N.P.A.

JAPARA SUPPLIES:

Industrious members will be pleased to note that Japara, 36 inches wide and at 9/6d a yard, can now be obtained at Morgans' in Swanston Street, just over Bourke Street. The Club is able to supply patterns of capes and sleeping bags, and advice in the making up of these and also where to have the sleeping bags filled.

" ON THE TRACK "

SILVAN - OLINDA - DOONGALA - KILSYTH. - 29th March, (Heinz Wolff).

Due to the glorious autumn weather, members turned out in force, and the driver of the Lilydale - Silvan bus had to clear the bus of all other passengers in order to make room for 32 Bushwalkers. We visited the Silvan Dam Reserve and then went up the gully of Olinda Creek to the Olinda Falls, our lunch spot. The views of Donna Buang and Mt. Juliet which we had when we continued the walk to Olinda were used by Felix to recruit members for his forthcoming van trip to Mt. Juliet.

From Olinda we went down to the upper part of the Dandenong Creek. Here the party separated, some members continuing along the road to Boronia whilst the main party paid a visit to the burnt out ruins of the former mansion of Doongala which is situated in a beautiful position among picturesque old trees and bushes. In the twilight we went across paddocks and managed to avoid some dangerous looking bulls, but were less successful in avoiding the many fences. Darkness had fallen by the time we were "rolling home by the light of the silvery moon" over the last couple of miles along Liverpool Road to Kilsyth. A bus with an apparently unlimited capacity for passengers took us from there to Croydon.

"THE DARGO HIGH PLAINS" (Easter Walk - Warren Olle)

Twenty-two Melbourne Bushwalkers visited the Dargo High Plains at Easter and had a most enjoyable and interesting trip. The party went by van and after a stop at Traralgon for supper, camp was made on the banks of the Avon River at Stratford. Leaving Stratford early next morning, we soon entered the narrow tranquil valley of Freestone Creek. Dargo was reached about 11.30 a.m., after a delightful drive of about 50- 60 miles, through the pretty clearing at Gee's Junction where Cobbadah Creek was crossed, and thence through attractive bushland to Waterford and eventually to Dargo where we left the van.

This is an ideal centre for walkers as tracks radiate out west and north-west to Dark Hill, Mts. Kent and Howitt, Wonnagatta Station and Talbotville, north to the High Plains and up river to Mt. Birregun, north-east over the Wentworth to Mt. Baldhead and south-east to Tabberabbera. Lunch was taken at the foot of the Spring Hill climb, the last water for ten miles. With intriguing valley glimpses in the early stages, the road follows up a broad spur in a north-west direction through open forest into taller timber. After a climb of seven miles, rising 2,500 feet, Spring Hill was reached. It is a delightful spot, massive woollybutts, stately manna gums tower above the young forest with wattle trees and lesser shrubs interspersed. Among the scrub a single poplar is strongly growing. Camp was made in a saddle just south of Mt. Ewen, about 3 - 4 miles from Spring Hill. There is a stockyard on the right of the road.

When we woke the next morning, it was raining. This continued on and off till early afternoon. Lunch was taken at a small flat near a tree marked with the sign "water" and arrows pointing east to the Dargo Falls. This water is the head of 18-mile creek. This spot is about five miles from twelve-mile crossing and about six miles short of Treasure's Station. Soon after lunch we arrived at a long slender plain with a tall poplar dominating the entrance. At the northern end of this plain is Gow's old accommodation house site, a relic of the old mining days.

"DARGO HIGH PLAINS" (CND)

After leaving Gow's, the timber was entered again and rising ground was encountered through an extensive belt of snowgums. Soon after we arrived on Treasure's Plain. From the old Homestead good views towards Mts. Kent and Snowy Bluff were obtained. The Treasures were very hospitable and tea and scones, etc., were dispensed to all. They were also very helpful with much information on the area, as regards tracks, watering places, in connection with the naming of creeks in the area, - 12-mile, 18-mile, 25-mile and 30-mile. These are the approximate distances from the township of Grant, and not from Spring Hill as other val have thought.

The next day we crossed the High Plains, which extend north from Treasure's for about five miles and which are about five miles across at the widest part. While crossing the plains, views were obtained of the Cobberas and the Pilot to the north-east. A little while after leaving the plains via Lankey's Gate, views were obtained towards Bryce's Gorge and Mt. Wellington. A narrow unobtrusive ridge is traversed from which splendid views may be had of many of Victoria's outstanding mountains, Mt. Mothar and the Alpine road are to be seen across the Dargo Valley to the north. At the foot of a declivity a close view of Crooked Valley can be seen and further on about three miles from the High Plains Blue Rag Mountain is visible. This 4,900 ft. mountain has its long crest covered in low scrubby snowum, and stands stolidly at the head of the range separating the Crooked and Jongungarra Rivers.

After climbing over several saddles the road rises again giving magnificent views of the wild uninhabited valley of Jongungarra River, with the Twins dominating the skyline ahead. The bare smooth face of Mt. Freezeout, is skirted before reaching a very narrow saddle directly under Mt. St. Bernard. Camp was made on this narrow neck with water on the Dargo Fall. The next morning was spent on the Alpine Road obtaining some wonderful views of the surrounding mountains including Buffalo and the Twins. The van was on time at St. Bernard and a pleasant journey was had by all on the way back to Melbourne via the beautiful Ovens Valley with a stop at Bonalla for tea.

STOP PRESS (for the curious!)

It is regretted that this issue is not printed in uniform type and the Editress wishes to explain that, while in the midst of operations, the original typewriter was whisked away by a repair mechanic who had called it unexpected punctuality.

DO YOU SEE THE POINT ?			
SEE			
HERRNLI GRAPP			
Optician			
2nd Floor, 80 Swanston St., Melbourne.			
Central 3186		Central 3186	
"A U S I"			
Knife Fork and spoon set	6/-		
"Silva" Compass (Swedish)		Type 5 ...	14. 9.
"	"	Type 9 ...	21.12. 9.
"	"	Type 12 ...	22. 6. 0.
"	"	Type 15 ...	25.15. 6.