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: THE NEWS :  
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No.53

of

20th February, '53

-THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS -

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING- 20th February

Tonight we shall elect our 1953 Office-bearers. Whatever the election results may be, we take this opportunity to wish the new Committee a successful and satisfying year. We also hope that it will not suffer from the lack of continuity that hampered last year's committee. Praise is due to 1952 office-bearers who carried on with the job despite their sadly-depleted ranks.

NEW ADDRESS LIST OF MEMBERS

The February 1953 address list will be distributed together with the "NEWS" tonight. Please see that you get a copy and let the Secretary have any alterations in address or phone number so that the new list can be kept up to date.

LOSS TO THE CLUB

A couple of weeks ago we lost our Social Secretary, Marie Gillespie, who left to take up a position in Alice Springs. Her departure will leave a significant gap in the Club scene, as, during four years of office, she has kept the social pulse of the Club beating strongly. Scarcely any event of note in the Theatre has passed without us having a theatre party, and many other forms of entertainment have also been brought our way. Who does not remember the many dances, balls and lectures arranged for us by her? Marie was also active in the social activities of the Federation. We wish her success in her venture, and hope that we may see her again whenever she is in Melbourne.

CHRISTMAS TRIPS:-

BULL PLAIN SPUR-MT.CLEAR-HOWITT-CROSSCUT-COBBLER-HOWITT-WONNANGATTA-DARGO- 25th December 1952 - 8th January, 1953 Leader: NORM RICHARDS

This trip really commenced at the Barkly River, where we left wheels behind to resort to the boot as a means of transport. As usual, this "backward" step in transport marked the real beginning of our enjoyment of the trip.

From the Barkly it was only a few miles to our camp at Glencairn. The next two days were spent travelling Bull Plain Spur. We were kept busy looking first easterly across the precipitous Macallister Valley to the Crinoline, Snowy Plains and Mt.Wellington; then westward across the Barkly to Skene, Matlock, and beyond. Once on the Great Divide the views were continuously so impressive and the country so beautiful that comparisons become invidious. The views from Mt.Clear and the park-like country near Ware's old hut site, however, must be mentioned. The culminating experience came late in the afternoon with the climb to the top of No.1 Divide. From there the view extended north and south over the whole State; and east and west for an even greater distance. The blue, carved valleys and folds extending in every direction marked the handiwork of many of our main rivers: the Macallister, Barkly, Jamieson, Howqua, Delatite, King and Wonnangatta.

At Howitt Springs a small change in plans produced the "adventure" of the trip when the lateness of the day and the only misty night so far caused us to go astray, and add a night out around the campfire to our experiences. Next day back at the Springs, five of our party had to leave for Buller, via Bindaree, but the others were yet to enjoy some of the best parts of the trip. Crossing the Crosscut Saw, camp was made on the Cobbler Plateau and the next day spent on Cobbler itself. A return trip across the Saw the following day brought us to Howitt Hut that night. Both crossings of the Saw were made in almost ideal weather; a little hot, but usually a bit of a breeze. The views from there and Cobbler maintained the previous magnificent standard.

Next day, Sunday, was a day of rest. We did some washing and lazily poked around odd corners of the Plains - Alf killed a snake. This point marked the end of our stay on "the tops" and Monday we were off downhill to Wonnangatta, rain brewing ahead. In the valley mist and rain were our companions, and we were glad of the shelter of the old homestead, scene of early pioneering history, and of a genuine murder mystery. All felt the

spell of the place, and were loath to leave next morning. However, once atop Wombat, after climbing a couple of thousand feet, the views began to compensate in no small measure: First the river and the ranges from Snowy Bluff to Wellington in the south, and later the northerly broad, timbered valley of the Wongungarra capped by the mountains of St. Bernard.

Once down on the Wongungarra, a few hours brought us to Glenlea and the cordial hospitality of the Guys'. A last evening by the river and then back to Melbourne the next day concluded the trip.

The trip brought home to those who participated the pleasure and satisfaction to be derived from these extended trips; occasional trials and tribulations being merely passing shadows serving to provide essential contrast. In particular, those who did the full fifteen days, could not help feeling sad that the other five had not been able to come with us and share all the pleasures remaining. The end of the trip found us "raring to go", even to the extent of trying to devise some scheme to spend a few more days and traverse the Dargo High Plains as a finale, a scheme enthusiastically endorsed by Lorraine and Edna; but alas found impracticable. Such are the joys of the remote tracks to those who care to make the effort required to sample them.

N. Richards

NEW MEMBERS- We wish the following new members many happy walking days with the Club:-

CRIMP, Bunnie	6a Glenferrie Rd., Malvern S.E. 4 (p) and (b) U 9717
FREITAG, Fred	48 Nelson St., Windsor, S. 1 (p) LA 4614 (b) IW 6615
HEILBRONN, Wilma	12 Mangan St., Balwyn, E. 8 (p) WF 5972 (b) WF 3744
HORTON, Helen	22 Latrobe St., Box Hill
PURDIE, Margot	8 Boothby St., Northcote, N 16 (p) JW 5354 (b) FJ 9177

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

GUNNING, Jack	31 George St, Reservoir, N. 19
MITCHELL, Kitty	103 Hambleton St., Middle Park
OLLE, Warren and Betty	4 Nelson St., Sandringham (p) XW 2170 (b) MY 48282 (Warren)

DID YOU KNOW: that we consume 2 gallons of coffee on a club night ?

PROGRAMME NOTES

HEALESVILLE-WADE'S LOOKOUT-KILLARA- 9th March - will be led by Lloyd Reynolds. Lloyd says that hiker's tickets are obtainable from the Tourist Bureau if you ask for: Forward journey Melbourne-Healesville and Return journey Killara-Melbourne. Combined cost is 9/8.

WERRIBEE GORGE- 22nd February- is to be led by John Ball instead of Horst Eisfelder, who is suffering from chicken-pox. Please contact John, as this is a van trip.

PERSONAL NOTES:

Our heartiest congratulations to Gordon and May Coutts on the birth of their son on the 15th February. We believe that the shock was almost too great for the father-

Betty Kite wrote to us from England thanking us for conferring honorary membership on her until she returns, and mentioned that she led a walk through Epping Forest with great success.

We shall miss the cheery face of Ken Grant who is leaving Melbourne on the 23rd February for Bruthen to brighten up the telephone exchange there.

Congratulations to Vera Holan on her engagement to Abe Dorevitch - they have acquired a flat (some people are lucky!) and will get married in the next few months.

Fay Pitt brought her newly-born daughter Christine into the clubroom last Friday. Our youngest potential bushwalker did not blink an eye, nor did she raise a protesting cry at the general uproar...

Mario Juszczuk was married to Halina Kojder on the 15th February at St. Ignatius' Church, Richmond. The service was in Polish and hymns were sung by a Polish male choir. The couple chose Lorne for their honeymoon.

"THE NEWS"

If you now live away from Melbourne and can no longer take part in club activities, and therefore do not wish to renew your subscription, you can still have the "NEWS" posted out to you each month by sending 5/- to the Treasurer.

COMING EVENTS

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FEBRUARY	21-22	.....	Mt. Blackwood-Lerderberg Gorge van trip
"	22	.....	Werribee Gorge van trip- see John Ball
MARCH	2nd	.....	Theatre night- Opera "Tosca"
"	7-8-9	.....	Baw Baw van trip
"	21-22	.....	Federation week-end- see notice board for details soon.
"	26	.....	Theatre night- Drama "Such men are dangerous"
APRIL	3-4-5-6	.....	Dargo High Plains -see leader Warren Oile for transport

"ALONG THE TRACK"

SEPARATION WEEK-END ON SEPARATION CREEK- PETER SALMON- 24-26th January

Our van transport reached Forrest about 10 pm on Friday night and the next morning we travelled by road and track to the new Lake- Lake Elizabeth, formed by a landslide last year. An invigorating (?) climb through wire-grass and brambles to the top of a steep ridge resulted in one member of the party being escorted back to Forrest, supported by Heinz and Peter. The leadership then fell to Felix, who proceeded to lead by the up-and-over method- up hill and over wire-grass. Progress was made, but ceased abruptly when the ladies revolted, and during a quick conference Felix saw the error of his ways and proceeded to find tracks and easier going.

Felix and Alf -intent on reaching Separation Creek- left the party after tea on Sunday, and so missed the commotion in the middle of the night when a lady was bitten on the face by a spider, or some such beastie. A gallant "Scott" rushed to Forrest for aid, matters were adjusted and Ass. Deputy Leader Schafer led the party back to Forrest again, where they arranged for the van to be diverted to the latter place instead of the Eye River as scheduled. Heinz and Peter meanwhile plodded along in the wake of the party, but, failing to catch up with it, they spent their time exploring the Otways and Lake Elizabeth, and deploring its misleading adjacent ridges. They finally followed King Creek to the road, where, by the greatest chance, they were picked up by the van on its way homewards from Forrest with the rest of the party. It was certainly an eventful trip!

CROYDON-WONGA PARK-WARRANTYTE- PETER SALMON- 1st February, 1953

Our gang of 13 reached Wonga Park at about 10:30 am, and after we had pounded the road and did a spot of scrub-bashing we met up with Old Man Yarra. Followed a marathon swim down-stream, after which we sank eager fangs into lunch and sprawled gracefully (?) beneath a shady gum. Later the still active among us churned across the river to inspect an ancient water wheel, decamping with dignity (we hoped) upon the arrival of a farmer and four dogs. More swimming, sunbathing, and bitter criticism by ANA week-enders at the lack of wire-grass, tough scrub, etc.- and we caught the 6:20 bus back to Ringwood en route to Melbourne.

SORRENTO-KOONYA BEACH-LONDON BRIDGE- HEATHER STEVENS- 7-8-9th February

8 Members and visitors and 1,000,000 march flies came on Heather's pleasant trip. It was a week-end walk without pack-carrying (an experiment which should be repeated) as the bus put us down at the entrance of the Sorrento Camping Ground on Saturday morning and picked us up there again on Sunday afternoon. We made the camping ground our headquarters and went on walks from there to Diamond Bay and Koonya Beach on Saturday, to the Back Beach on Saturday night, and to London Bridge with its interesting cliff formations on Sunday, finishing the trip off with a quick dip in the strong sunf at the Back Beach.

FLINDERS AREA-PT. LEO- NICK GEROE- 8th February

Nick Geroe led this walk instead of Marie Gillespie. A fairly well-loaded van with 22 aboard arrived near Pt. Leo, where most of the walkers got out to walk the ½ mile to the beach, while some lazy types rode all the way in the van to Pt. Leo. The rest of the day was spent in leisurely fashion by 9/10th of the crowd, as the weather was a bit cloudy and the wind too cool for enjoyable swimming. Only a few hardy ones got wet all over, with the leader giving the good example. The only real "incident" occurred at Hastings, where an irate caretaker chased some bushwalkers off the children's slide, see-saw, etc. in the park opposite the milk-bar...

KALLISTA-MONBULK-EMERALD LAKE- TED KIRK- 15th February, 1953

Ted Kirk had fourteen starters on his day-walk. From Kallista, the party soon settled down in a pleasant lunch-spot on the creek, to be enter-

tained by examples of American humour from Louise. After lunch some more walking brought us to Emerald Lake about 4 pm, in "glorious sunshine", giving those who needed it sufficient time to have a swim before catching the bus back to Ferntree Gully.

EDITORIAL FAREWELL

The "NEWS" suffered no less than three changes of editorship throughout the year - a fact which we hope was not too obvious from its pages. The present editor has attempted to carry on the excellent work done by her predecessors - Rex Benn and Fay Pitt - in presenting a readable account of our walking activities and general interests. Fuller coverage of our walks and less social and business news was given in the last few issues, but a more balanced production will probably be achieved next year with a full staff of three people - two for the collection of items and the writing-up and one for the distribution and perhaps help in the typing of the stencils. Our thanks to Graeme McKinney for the loan of his typewriter and to Gordon Coutts for his regular duplicating of copy. Note to future editors:- Information and criticism from members was always welcomed, but sometimes proved difficult to extract...

THEATRE NIGHT CANCELLED:

Members are notified that the theatre night to the opera "The Consul" on March 9th has been cancelled. We have been unable to obtain seats for the Australian premiere of this opera.

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TO ALL BUSHWALKERS

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