

- THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS -

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

FEDERATION NOTES:

Annual Meeting (13th May): We are all pleased to hear that at the Annual General Meeting in May, our delegate to the Federation, Warren Olle, was elected a Vice-President and that Bill Horton is now our second representative. The Federation office-bearers for the ensuing year are:-

President: Bill Buchanan (VMTC); Vice-Presidents: Warren Olle (MBW);
Eric Stewart (MWC), Stella Rosengrave (MWWC), Bill Bewsher (MUMC);
Secretary: John Hollingshead (YHA); Asst. Sec: Kitty Mitchell (MBW, YHA);
Treasurer: George Tanck (MWC); Auditor: Charlie Boyes (Ramblers).

Of particular interest after the conclusion of general business were the coloured slides contributed by the different clubs, which varied from the mountainous Isle of Skye exhibited by Bill Horton to rarely seen areas of Australia, the Warrumbungles in north-west N.S.W. and Federation Peak in south-west Tasmania.

"Mystery Hike": (June 2): About 200 people, many of them from the various walking clubs, attended the "Mystery Hike" conducted by the Railways on Coronation Day, with the assistance of the Federation. Fortunately, the day was very sunny and the "multitudes" (including about 9 Bushwalkers) enjoyed the walk through Baringo Park in the Gisborne - Riddell area.

Several members of the leading clubs contributed towards the excellent organisation of this trip, by acting as leaders and whips, and some came on an earlier train to prepare the luncheon spot in Baringo Park where hot tea was prepared in large cast-iron boilers provided by the Railways and transported to the camping ground by truck.

Perhaps, in the future, more members will come along and help to make these "mystery hikes" a success and also be a means of attracting people, interested in walking, to join our Club.

Federation Ball: This to be held on Friday, 21st August, at Tudor Court, Caulfield, which being larger than the ballroom selected last year, can accommodate from 200 to 250 people. Tickets (£1 - Single) will be available from Win Dryden at the next Friday meeting. Win will have 30, at least, and more can be obtained if these are taken, - now don't say you weren't warned in time!

The "Blundstone" Boot: This boot has been approved by the Federation and is on sale at Slicks Shoe Store, 382 Flinders Street. Being somewhat lighter than an ordinary boot and made with a special last, it is recommended as a suitable boot for women.

"Handbook of Bushwalking and Camping" (Paddy Fallin):

This booklet is an invaluable guide to all new members and is available from Frank Pitt.

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

James Blakely	Kevin and Joyce Foley
Jeoff Christensen	Fred and Jill Heilpern
Bob Darby	Gisela Heilpern
Betna Dryden	Betty Kyte.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS or TELEPHONE NO.

Henry Strathdee, Townsend House School, Brighton, South Australia.
Willie Baxter, 20 George Street, Ormond, S.E.14. (p) XU.3102
A. Camburn, 76 Octavia Street, St. Kilda.
L. M. Kurth, (b) MBO33 ext. 243.

This member was unfortunately omitted from the list of members' names.
Godfrey Graham McKinney, "Covers Carre", 36 Riddle Parade, Elsternwick,
(LF.5761).

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- JUNE 26 - Monthly Meeting at which Mr. Max Downes will be speaking on "Life on Heard Island" illustrated with coloured slides. Mr. Downes is a biologist and was a member of the 1951 Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition.
(Fri.)
- 23 July - National Parks Association Inaugural Meeting in the Lower Town
(Thurs) Hall. There will be colour films of Victorian and Queensland National Parks and a display of large photographs of these Parks to advertise the objects of the meeting and any member wishing to loan photographs for this purpose should contact Norm Richards.
- 31 July - Monthly Meeting at which Mr. N. Wakefield, a schoolteacher and
(Fri) naturalist, will speak about the country in the region of the Snowy River.
- 28th Aug - Half-yearly Meeting. Please roll up and make this a success.

COMING EVENTS: There have been some changes in the programme and these are underlined below.

- June 21 - Diamond Creek - Thomas Town. (Willie Baxter) See Leader.
- June 28 - Konagaderra - Wildwood - Sunbury. (Lesley Kurth). This is a new area to be visited with pleasant walking over open rolling country but mainly following the Maribyrnong River. Views can be had from Reds tone Hill near Sunbury.
- July 5 - Wesburn - Mt. Little Joe - Warburton. (Louise Paine) See Leader.
- July 11-12 Black Ranges (Peter Becker). For details about the van, see Leader. This walk commences near St. Fillans following a road leading through the heavily timbered Black Ranges affording magnificent views of steep forested hillsides and large pine plantations. Buxton terminates the walk where the van is met.
- July 12 - Riddell - Cherokee area (Neil McDonald)
- July 26 - Mt. Alexander - Koala Reserve (Horst Eisfelder). Don't miss an opportunity to see Koalas in their natural surroundings. This is the first time the club is visiting this area. The walk will first take us along water channels then through some beautiful open forest up the slopes of Mt. Alexander (2,432').

SOCIAL NOTES:

News from Marie Gillespie who mentions the accomplishment of a long felt desire - to see Ayres Rock and Mt. Olga, in fact Marie had the most exciting aerial flight over them. She has also visited such famed places as the Amphitheatre (by air) Palm Valley, Hermansburg Mission and Angas Downs Station. We shall be hearing more of Marie's adventures in future issues of "News".

Margaret Dark has received a letter from Mr. H. L. Webb of "Holly Green" Sunbury, and Bushwalkers may remember Mr. Webb's kind hospitality on Margaret's Clarkfield-Sunbury trip last year when incessant rain forced us to lunch in his cow shed. Mr. Webb tells of improvements to the homestead - one of the oldest in Victoria - and assures Bushwalkers that they will have a more congenial lunch spot next time they call on him as he has had a small hall built near the house. He extends an open invitation to all Bushwalkers to visit the old homestead.

PERSONAL:

- * Congratulations to our social secretary, Win Dryden, on her engagement to Max Downes.
- * Best wishes to Neil McDonald and Barbara Faran who have become engaged.
- * We congratulate Marjorie and Norman Freeman who now have a daughter, Julie, Elizabeth, born in June.
- * An item of interest is the marriage last Xmas of Henry Strathee, who is now teaching at Brighton, South Australia.

"ON THE TRACK"

MT. JULIET (19th April) Felix Harding.

The ascent of Mt. Juliet proved to be one of the season's most enjoyable walks. "Walk" is hardly the right word as at no time during the trip could it be said that the party actually employed this method of progression. We crawled, clambered, scrambled and slithered and slid instead. About 6 miles out of Healesville the van set us down at a broad, level, leafcovered track whose pleasant aspect gave no hint of the steep, narrow, rocky, slippery thing it was to become at higher altitudes. We lunched about a mile from the road at the last water and left all surplus equipment there taking only warm clothing and groundsheets. It drizzled a little at lunch time, but stopped soon after.

"ON THE TRACK" (Cont'd)

Beyond the lunch spot the track narrowed and steepened and we climbed energetically congratulating ourselves that it was going to be easy after all until the leader disillusioned us by crying "This is nothing! wait till we start climbing!!" After a while we did; the track suddenly stopped humouring us and shot up at a much steeper grade carefully covering itself with rocks and mud. The party chose various interesting methods, some on all fours, some up 2 steps and back 1. Two ran up. As we climbed we noticed the trees thinning out and finally giving way to snow grass towards the top. On the summit a cairn about 20' high afforded some with a little mild rock climbing practice. We built a fire as it was very cold and stayed on the summit about 1½ hours.

The descent was accomplished much faster of course and was much more fun. Again various methods were used. There was more crab-mimicking, skipping where safe and some alternated the use of their feet with a humbler part of their anatomy. The two who ran up also ran down averaging 12 mph. We picked up Bill Horton's weekend party at Healesville and returned home tired but happy mountaineers.

SWITZERLAND RANGES: Bill Horton (16-17 May).

The 8 am bus on Saturday bore eleven bodies up to Molesworth where we crossed the Goulburn River, unfortunately only once by bridge, which caused some little meandering around on the swampy island. However, shortly afterwards the pleasant foothills to the north of the river afforded water and lunch. A little after lunch the climb proved to be a considerably steep 1400 feet ascent which had its compensations in a fine view of the Goulburn Valley and the mountains in the distance and in that it brought us into very pleasant open forest country where we startled a number of kangaroos, including one teenage joey before we camped by a hut in a shallow valley. On

Sunday we went on to Dunn's Hill and a higher clear hill to the west of it which afforded us another expansive panorama - in the distance Mt. Buller was hazily visible and much closer was Torbreck with his head in the clouds. After crossing open plateau where we lunched we stood on Mt. Broughton to admire the view again and then went north for a short distance to reach the head of a long ridge. Some bracken pushing, alternating with scrub bashing had already enlivened the trip and we were thankful to reach the end of the last mass of bracken and with the view over the Goulburn Valley enhanced by the setting sun, we set off down the long grassy ridge for Yea, which, in truth, we would not have reached in time for the bus without the aid of a kind man with a little truck who gathered in the somewhat widely scattered members on the road to Yea, thus giving us a good 25 minutes to quiet the inner man or woman.

HURSTBRIDGE-WARRANTYTE: Margaret Dark (17 May)

Sixteen members enjoyed the morning walk over Pretty Hill to the Eltham Memorial Tower where a fine view was obtained. After having lunch at the Aqueduct the more energetic members entertained the remainder of the party by square dancing. The afternoon walk led to the Yarra and on to Warrantyte where most of the party just managed to miss the bus.

MT. MACEDON - MT. TOWRONG - Camels Hump: Bob Bittner (24th May)

Quite a large party enjoyed this walk, starting from Macedon township and climbing up through surrounding timbered hills. It was here that most of the party's idea of mushrooms were confounded by the picking of some "large species" by a few very enthusiastic members. After lunch a visit to the Camels Hump was most enjoyable. Although conditions were not very clear the outline of the Grampians could be seen in the far distance. Another very pleasant stop was made at the Cross on top of Mt. Macedon proper. From there the party came down to the township and after having refreshments boarded the van for home at a quarter past six.

YARRA GLEN - MAROONDAH AQUEDUCT - WARRANTYTE: Lorraine Richey (Coronation Day)

13 people caught the train to Yarra Glen and on this pleasant day followed the aqueduct most of the way and then on quiet tracks through the bush where the tunnels went through the hills. At lunch time a 14th member joined the party after missing the train and hitchhiking, hopefully arrived with a huge utensil for gathering mushrooms. After a brisk walk into Warrantyte, we caught the bus, home in nice time for the Coronation celebrations.

"ON THE TRACK" (Cont'd)

HURSTBRIDGE - PLENTY GORGE - GREENSBOROUGH: Brian Wilcher (7 June)

Fifteen people attended this walk which began at Hurstbridge in a chilly morning mist and ended later in a thick pea-souper fog. Fortunately the chill and the mist vanished as we pursued our path westward to Yarrambat over fine rolling country dotted with orchards. Yarrambat was reached at 1230 pm. and after pausing for a cigarette, half-an-hour's rapid roadbashing brought us to the Morang bridge over the Plenty River. Here we enjoyed our lunch in very pleasant surroundings and in bright sunshine.

After lunch we began to walk south along the Plenty Gorge, which provided some most attractive scenery. Walking along the sides of the gorge and climbing up and down the deep gullies entering it proved arduous and time-consuming. The numerous winding turns of the gorge made map-reading difficult and the leader's state of mind was much relieved when at about 4.30 pm. the party stumbled on a track which led due east into Plenty township. About this time mists began to gather and by the time Plenty Hall was reached (6.00 pm) all thoughts of farther walking were banished by the thick fog-blanket which had descended. Two confident spirits, who had already vanished from the party during the morning and reappeared for lunch, insisted on walking alone for the second and harder part of the walk. They were fortunate in stumbling on the main party while it was resting in the fog on the outskirts of Plenty. The party moved in two taxi-loads from Plenty to Greensborough, in time to catch the 7.30 pm. train to Melbourne.

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