

CIRCULAR

1.

"THE NEWS"

No. 64.

22th January 1954

THE MELBOURNE HUSHWALKERS

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

ANNUAL MEETING, ROOM 56. (Feb. 26)

Next month occurs our most important meeting of the year, for the election of office-bearers, reading of annual reports, and discussion by members. Your presence, (yes, we mean you, too) is a must to make this meeting a success.

SEARCH AND RESCUE (First Aid Class for Men)

This class will commence on the 1st February and later will continue on the 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st March, with an examination between the 31st March and Easter. It is to be conducted by the St. John's Ambulance Society at 161 Flinders Lane, (V.R.A. are in same building.)

LECTURE NIGHT (29th January) - KODACHROMES

Geoff Christensen, a well-known Club member, has an excellent collection of Kodachromes featuring England and Europe; some of these will be shown on this night. Among them are some very interesting slides of the Italian Dolomite Mountains, a famous mountaineering area.

NEW ISSUE OF "WALK"

This issue contains a number of articles which are of general interest to the public, the most outstanding being the "Snow Girl". It should be possible to sell this issue to friends who are not walkers, because of the interest of this article. If each member sold just 4 or 5 copies straight away we should have a good chance of making this number a financial success. What about taking some copies and try yourself out as a salesman!

Change of Address.

ERIL SLADE, 363 Upper Heidelberg Road, Heidelberg.

Change of Phone Number.

LESLIE HURTH, (b) MB033, Ext. 765.

GERDA SCHWERT, (b) EX.5831 Ext. 34.

ALF COLE, (b) JA.2171.

SOCIAL NOTES

News has been received from Tine Koetsier and Frank Furt who are both in Sydney. They have joined the Sydney Hushwalkers, (and when this letter was received) they mention hoping to do a trip in Australia over the Xmas. (They would!; thank M.S.V. Victoria, but not as good as Perth.

Congratulations to both Tess Maddison and Bob Fraser who are to be married on January 23rd.

Congratulations also to Joyce and Kevin Poley, who are now in Birmingham. They have had a baby daughter on January 4th.

We welcome a recent visitor, Miss Deryl Waters, to the Club. Beryl is a member of the Waikato Tramping Club, New Zealand, and is staying in Melbourne on holiday.

Many members were pleased to greet Rex and Ada Benn in the clubroom on Friday 15th. Both are well and are revisiting Melbourne while on holiday.

It's on, it's off - the fashion changes, you know! almost as rapidly as one of the fairer sex trying to make up her mind! Those resounding cheers when a certain robust, ruddy-complexioned member burst in the door last Friday, sporting a stupendously, stylish, 'stache. And the lad with the remains of a red beard - ah, me!

Ken, we hear, has removed his. Why, we ask, it was a landmark, even in far-away Omeo. Perhaps a certain decorum is desired in his new social duties in the country. Yes, keeping the Xmas Church Service waiting 10 minutes, even though our Ken had an important part in that service.

Financially the magazine has sustained a loss each year though this has been decreasing with each issue. Present conditions and the smaller number printed will lead to a certain loss on this issue too, but this can be minimised by the sales efforts of our members. It is to be hoped that such efforts and the financial backing of the Club will enable the publication of something which has become a regular and looked-for feature of the walking scene to be continued. There are too few channels for publicising our activities and earning the good-will of our fellows to allow one to perish.

Federation

At the Federation Annual General Meeting, our delegate, Warren Olle, was elected one of the five Vice Presidents, and Bill Horton was then selected to be Federation delegate in his place.

Federation fixtures have included the following: The Federation Week-end at Warrandyte, at which there were 40 present in all. The Federation has been co-operating with the Dept. of Railways in the hope of getting better train facilities for walkers. One of the outcomes of this was a Mystery Hike on Coronation Day, at which the Federation looked after refreshments at the lunch site. The usual yearly Federation day walk, though a Mystery Hike and run in conjunction with the Railways Dept., was organised by Federation.

Search & Rescue. A Search & Rescue practice week-end in the Kinglake area proved of considerable worth, as shortly afterwards, the S. & R. was called out on a search for two lost sightseers on Donna Buang. This search was successful, though we were all sorry to hear of one of the victims' subsequent misfortune due to frostbite. The 23 members who turned out without demur on the search are to be commended and, rather naturally, we felt some pride in the fact that the leader of the rescue party and one of the two people who found the lost pair was our own President.

A sum of money was collected by the Sun Newspaper in aid of searchers and this has now been divided up into four equal parts to be given, one part each, to: Lilydale Fire Authority, Upper Yarra Fire Authority, Police Provident Fund, and Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs. The Federation has already decided to hand any money they might receive over to the Newly formed Victorian State Search & Rescue Co-ordination Sub-committee, if this Sub-committee will accept it, with recommendations as to its application.

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Hitch hiking. The Federation's official attitude on this matter was recently crystallised in the following motion: "The Federation deplores the practice of hitch hiking and disassociates itself from it". Our Club agrees with this principle and will adhere to it.

Track Clearing. The Cement Creek-Donna Buang track was cleared at the track-clearing week-end in May. Thirteen M.B.W. members attended.

Attendances.

bi-monthly + 1 special Federation meetings held - 6 attended by Vice President
6 " by Club delegate.
Search & Rescue meetings held and attended by Club delegate.

News

Twelve copies of the News have been published this year, Nos. 54-65 incl., following the same size and structure as previous years. Two new features have been introduced: "Coming Events", outlining details of walks and social highlights for the coming month; and more recently, "Campfire Cookery", designed to help new members (and perhaps some old members) in their bush menus. The Sub-committee has appreciated the help received from members in providing written accounts of walks throughout the year, as these form an integral part of the News sheet.

National Parks Association.

This newly formed Association had its Inaugural Meeting in the Lower Town Hall, on 23rd July and the Hall was packed to overflowing for the occasion.

XMAS WALKS REPORTS (Cont'd)WILSON'S PROMONTORY. Leader: Mary Nash. Dec. 26-Jan. 2)

Fifteen members of the Club decided on the Prom. for the week following Christmas - and so did about 3,000 other folk!!! With a very comfortable base camp at Tidal River, we made occasional day trips, and one longer trip taking in Sealers' Cove.

It's quite a trip to 'Sealers' wot with logs high and low across the track - spent a ~~lazy~~ day there the next day with vain attempts at fishing. Fortunately most of the party had carried sufficient food!

One member of the party had the 'bug' for colour photography which gave the rest of the group an extra break here and there at scenic spots.

Other trips from the base camp included Oberon Bay (for fishing), Squeaky Bay, swimming (of course) in nearby surf, and trips to the well-patronised shop right handy to camp. Sundry walkers tired of porridge and dehydrs. and were seen laden with Cornflakes, tins of possibly succulent stews, etc.

On New Year's Eve we enjoyed our own barbecue on the beach, complete with portable wireless (for square dancing and checking on the midnight hour), and some good servings of chops.

All in all it was a delightful week's holiday.

SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF THE PROM.

At Tidal River:

The camping area teeming with campers galore.

The incredible pandemonium in the store.

A feeling of utter uselessness on attempting to operate one of the new-fangled tin-openers.

A feeling of insecurity while lying awake at night in a poorly pitched tent, listening to the wind and rain.

The tantalising, mysterious reflections in some of the tents at night.

The serenity, sang-froid, and pancakes of the Leader (exceeded only by her great beauty).

The short-cut of a wily member, resulting in a debacle for the more gullible, not helped by the dryness of the gloating ones.

The Barbecue on New Year's Eve - succulent chops, home-made cake, the cup that cheered.

Everyone's acceptance of the girls' hospitality on the last night around the camp fire; the rapid exchange of anecdotes concluding with the adventures of a fortunate Sam Bull from Blackpool.

The undreamt of advantages of a beard, and the agony of its removal.

The 'jams manufactured by Larmb', and the affaires-s-s-s-s amour of the redoubtable master of Irish wit.

The amazing disappearance of one fishing member.

The unparalleled lack of co-operation of certain males in refusing to complete a square dance set.

At Sealers' Cove:

The thunderous roar of the breakers crashing on the shore.

The gnashing of the footsore after following Leader barefoot over the rocks.

The disheartening propensity for various members on the track suddenly to assume the horizontal position.

Upon meeting the Y.H.A. types:

The confirmed awareness of the unimpeachable quality of our women.

The salubrious pub. at Fish Creek; lack of same on Prom.

SOME REMINISCENCES OF THE BOGONG HIGH PLAINS

(Leader - Alf Cole)

After having heard Julius Caesar from Cleve Cole to Wilkinson's Memorial
 ut from Alf Cole and Graeme McKinney, the next morning, before leaving for Tawonga
 ut, this "Ode to Alf Cole" was entered in visitor's book.

"In Shakespeare's realm strode Alfred Cole,
 When 'Bogong Great' was beneath the sole,
 For breakfast our dear Brutus spake
 But dehydrs. and Cassius are too much to take,
 In mortal fear we stay no longer
 Lest Caesar's Ghost be in Tawonga."

"AUSKI" wishes all Bushwalkers the COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON,
 and hopes that future walking trips are made the
 more enjoyable by using the practicable equipment
 to be obtained on the 6th Floor, McEwan's Bldg.

Scout sleeping bag, feather-down, japara, with drawcord around neck;
 Jenkins "Fitmaster" boot (triple sole): £2.17.0. £3.10.0. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb)
 (double upper and free movement at ankle, double-stitched. Ladies' sizes.
 Woollen ski-caps. Paddy Pallin's Handbook, and Campset.

CURE YOUR OPTICAL ILLUSIONS CURE YOUR OPTICAL ILLUSIONS

AND PAY A VISIT TO

WERNER GRAF, OPTICIAN

2nd Floor, 80 Swanston Street, Melbourne. C.3186.

ALICE SPIERER ALICE SPIERER ALICE SPIERER

has resumed dressmaking at 4 Ivy Street, PRAHRAN

YOUR OWN MATERIAL MADE UP also NEW MODEL BRIDAL GOWNS
 FOR HIRE.

MODERATE PRICES

MODERATE PRICES

For Appointment

Ring LA.2918

Nothing Box Barbecue.

A Very suitable weather favoured the occasion and we enjoyed the bathing
 so much that it was rather late before we set off for the chosen spot near the Red
 Buff rocks. Alan Knight had offered his car to carry the gear (including some of
 the girls!). Now it is common knowledge that on hikes people sometimes get lost!
 but it seems rather improbable on a fairly densely populated beach, flanked by a
 main road. Yet this is exactly what happened. In the darkness Alan drove too far
 and search and rescue parties had to be sent out. Gradually everyone disappeared, and
 at one stage Karl Bing was left alone nursing the fire and sadly musing that after
 his experience he would certainly be disqualified from leadership for life. Strangely
 enough, everyone turned up eventually, including two girls (we won't mention any
 names) who had developed a more than usual stubbornness in getting themselves bushed,
 and the party got into a somewhat belated swing. As a matter of fact, it was very
 enjoyable and some members even suggested a repetition of the occasion (minus the
 initial mishaps). Thanks are due to Val Adams who supplied the implements of the
 barbecue (grid, iron, fork, kero tin and a much needed torch), acted as a good samar-
 itan to a member of the party who got his toe cut and was altogether a tower of
 strength, and thanks are also due to Alan Knight who acted as a carrier and had pre-
 pared some entertainment. It is rather regrettable that there was not time for it,
 especially since Alan- believe it or not - had dug up some NEW jokes for the
 occasion.

MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1953/54

Presented by the Committee at the Annual General Meeting, February 1954

The year 1953/54 has been a comparatively quiet one with a slight decrease in membership compared with last year. There are 145 financial members, of which 34 are new members, 1 life member and 9 honorary members.

Walks

During the year the Walks Secretary, Warren Olle, found the work involved was too much for his available time but a reshuffling of duties of the walks sub-committee forestalled his resignation.

From the beginning of March 1953 to the end of February 1954 there have been 84 club walks (excluding Federation walks), of which 56 were day walks and 28 week-end walks and extended walks. Approximately 300 members attended, making an average of 17.5 on day walks and 11 on week-end walks (averages based on 11 months as there are still 9 walks reports outstanding). This shows an improvement on last year's figures in that the average on day walks has increased from 15.5 last year to 17.5 this year. Only three walks were cancelled during the year.

There were 46 different leaders this year, including 19 new leaders. There have been times when the programme organiser has had to chase people up to lead walks but things have been looking up a little of late and he does appreciate it when members offer to lead walks in specific areas. Some new country has been broken into this year and it is to be hoped that enthusiasm for excursions into new and/or comparatively unmapped areas will grow - with profitable results for the mapping section!!!

Social

At the Half Yearly General Meeting our Social Secretary, Win Dryden, found it necessary to resign as her impending marriage would not allow her adequate time and opportunity to carry on, and Ruth Hart took over, being elected to the position at the next General Meeting two months later. Despite this setback, the social activities have been interesting and varied throughout the year and have included a Barn Dance and Week-end at Mt. Slide, the Christmas Dance, five theatre nights and a very instructive lecture and demonstration with live snakes by Messrs. Wallace at Emil Slade's property at Warrandyte. The M.M.B.W. showed a film on Melbourne's water supply, Mr. Jannon gave an interesting lecture on Australian folk lore and slides were shown by Mr. Wakefield on East Gippsland, Mr. Bishop on Canadian National Parks, Mr. Harold Jones on Mt. Buller area, Gerald Corden on Bogong, Dr. Geoff. Christensen, recently returned from England, on a "Holiday in Italy", and last, but by no means least, Mr. Paddy Pallin, on a flying visit from Sydney, delighted us not only with his presence but also with a collection of slides of M.S.W. scenes and Australian wild flowers.

Seven weddings during the year have disposed of almost double that number of "possibles" but there are still some able bodied members left. The extension of the "coffee and biscuits" service to every Friday night was, we are sure, welcomed by all.

President's Week-end

This was attended by 37 brave souls, who, despite the incessant rain, which, for the first time, prevented the roasting of the sheep, had a cheerful and enjoyable time. The original site, Panton's Gap, was changed to Ben Cairn, which has the welcome facility of a hut and this and Don Smellie large tent with its fly provided extra comfort in cooking and sleeping accommodation.

"Walk"

No. 5 issue of our Club magazine was produced in December, somewhat later than had been proposed, this being largely due to members' tardiness in coming forward with contributions. Our members have much to write about and there are many keen to read about it but always these things get left till after the last moment. What about drawing something out of your store of bush experiences and writing it up for the next issue now!!

Financially the magazine has sustained a loss each year though this has been decreasing with each issue. Present conditions and the smaller number printed will lead to a certain loss on this issue too, but this can be minimised by the sales efforts of our members. It is to be hoped that such efforts and the financial backing of the Club will enable the publication of something which has become a regular and looked-for feature of the walking scene to be continued. There are too few channels for publicising our activities and earning the good-will of our fellows to allow one to perish.

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National Parks Association.

This newly formed Association had its Inaugural Meeting in the Lower Town Hall, on 23rd July and the Hall was packed to overflowing for the occasion.

The Association was well launched with an assurance from the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Stoneham, that something would definitely be done about a National Parks Bill for Victoria within the near future. We can now begin to hope for a better deal in the way of National Parks in this state. A circular Newsletter was recently received by all individual and corporate members stating the policy of the Association. At the Annual General Meeting, on 17th September, we had the pleasure of seeing Mr. N.E. Richards elected as Treasurer of the new Association.

"Wild Life & Outdoors"

We all felt rather sad when it was learnt that "Wild Life" had ceased publication. Bushwalkers in general have received a great deal of co-operation and support from "Wild Life" and in its demise we have lost a valuable source of publicity and a very close friend. We thank its Editor, Mr. Crosbie Morrison for his past sympathy and help, and extend to him our best wishes for his future association with the Sun News Pictorial, in a feature of which he will carry on the good work of "Wild Life".

General

At our Half Yearly General Meeting, a motion was carried that General Meetings should be held once every two months instead of every month. The Committee have found that this new amendment to the Constitution has had some repercussions on smaller issues which have been taken for granted over the past few years. The gap between General Meetings was felt particularly in the four months that elapsed between the October meeting and the February meeting, which is also the Annual General Meeting, since the December meeting invariably lapses.

It is to be hoped that the apparent decrease in enthusiasm and interest in Club affairs by members in general does not snowball.

Committee Attendances

13 Committee Meetings were held during the year, including a preliminary meeting for the allocation of duties, and were attended as follows:

J. Horton, President	13
N.E. Richards, Vice President	10
L. Richey, Vice President	12
H. Wolff, Treasurer	13
H. Horton, Secretary	13
W. Olle, Walks Secy.	11
J. Dryden, Social Secy. (to August, '53)	6
R. Hart, (Social Secy. from Oct. '53 to Feb. '54)	12
W. Bennet	13
L. Kurth	11
E. Slade	11
F. Pitt	13
A. Cole	12

(sgd) Helen P. Horton
Hon. Secretary

MELBOURNE BUSIWALKERS

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR 1ST FEBRUARY 1953 TO 31ST
JANUARY 1954

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand 1/2/53: £70. 0.9	
Cash at bank 1/2/53: <u>110.19.9</u>	£181. 0. 6
Social	1. 8. 0
Train Fares	307.13. 6
Collections	87.18. 5
"Walk", Sales & Adverts.	151. 7. 4
"News", Ads. & Subscriptions	11. 5. 8
Subscriptions	140.11. 3
Donations	2. 9. 3
Sale of Books	1.12. 0
Sale of Maps	6.13. 6
President's Weekend 1953	25.18. 0
Christmas Cards, Sales	5. 8. 9
Bawling Box, Collections (1952/53)	1.14. 6
Badges	3.15. 0
Equipment Hire	15.16. 0
Miscellaneous	15. 6
	<u>£945. 7. 2</u>

PAYMENTS.

Program, Printing & Postage	£23.15. 9
Wedding Presents	1.19. 6
Social	6.12. 1
Van Hire	319.17. 0
Rent	96. 3. 6
"Walk", Printing etc.	182.18. 4
"News", Printing & Postage	17. 7.11
Subscriptions to Organisations	6.10. 0
Subscriptions to Magazines	2. 9. 0
Purchase of Books	2.13.10
Purchase of Maps	2. 0
President's Weekend 1953	27.17. 3
Christmas Cards, Printing etc.	6. 2. 2
Bawling Box, Rent (1952/53)	5. 0. 0
Badges	19.18. 9
Miscellaneous	4.18. 9
Cash on hand 31/1/54: £2.13.1	
Cash at Bank 31/1/54: <u>218. 8.3</u>	<u>221. 1. 4</u>
	<u>£945. 7. 2</u>

Audited and Found Correct

Signed) H.E. Wolff
Hon. Treasurer

(Signed) Ian J. Bennet
E.W.T. Kirk

Hon. Auditors