

CIRCULAR

" **THE NEWS** "

" " "

5. 68.

of

21st May '68

- - THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS - -

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

APRIL GENERAL MEETING.

This was a very quiet meeting with no topics to rouse exceptional heat. The Walks Secretary stressed that it was a great help if members booked early for trips, as this made it easier to arrange the appropriate transport. Also, on one of the Easter walks, some members who had put their names down to go, had not turned up on the trip and this had prevented others from going. If a person is unable to go on a van trip for which he had booked he should inform the Walks Secretary as early as possible so that if the van is already full, another person may have a chance of going.

A discussion on the Annual Federation week-end followed. A motion that the Club recommended that this annual event should be held next year as usual, and not cancelled, was passed and the Club delegate was asked to put forward this view at the next Federation Committee meeting where the matter will be decided.

HONOURY MEMBERS.

The under-named ex-walkers who are overseas, have been made Honorary Members during their absence, or until their return to the Club ranks again. They are:-

Joan & Bob Darby. Joyce & Kevin Foley.
Jill & Fred Heilpern. Gisela Heilpern.
Nancy Fillas. Betty Kyte. Pat Long.
& Louise Paine.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

ATTENTION !!

If you are no longer able to take an active part in the Club's activities but still wish to "keep in touch", 5/- sent to the Treasurer will ensure you have a copy of the News posted to you each month. This will be the final copy of the News to be posted to financial members, so if you wish to continue to receive the News although not able to attend Club meetings, send your 5/- to Heinz as soon as possible.

FEDERATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Federation Annual General Meeting held on the 12th May in the Chamber of Manufacturers Building was well attended by seventy walkers. There was a good representation from each club, including twelve from our own.

The following office bearers were elected for the coming year

<u>President.</u>	Bill Bewsher.	U.M.C.
<u>Vice Presidents.</u>	Marg. Douglas.	Womens Club.
	Bill Buchanan.	V.M.T.C.
	George O'Brien.	Catholic Club.
	Eric Stewart.	Mens Club.
	Bill Horton.	M.B.W.
<u>Secretary.</u>	John Hollingshead.	Y.H.A.
<u>Asst. Secretary.</u>	John Sculles.	Y.H.A.
<u>Treasurer.</u>	George Tanck.	Mens Club.

After the meeting, which was brief and to the point, a fine selection of Kodachrome slides on four separate areas was shown, and enjoyed by all.

FEDERATION TRACK CLEARING WEEKEND. 1st & 2nd May.

Again, from almost all points of view, the track clearing weekend has proved to be a successful venture -- the weather was fine but cool, ideal for the work in hand and for once it did not rain.

The aim at the weekend was to complete a walkers track from Donna Buang to the Acheron Gap over the Boobyalla Plateau, as part of the long range plan to complete a track from Warburton to Marysville.

By sending parties in from points along the Acheron Way and working in both directions along the ridge everyone had a "fair go" and the eight miles of track was successfully completed in the weekend.

Approximately eighty bodies attended, and these were taken to their dropping off places and to and from their campsites in four vans. Tools were distributed at the Cement Creek turntable and the M.B.W. van then went direct to the Donna Busang summit, the nearest point to the Ski Hut which proved to be a very comfortable weekend residence for our members. After a quick lunch the "workers" departed, armed with a miscellaneous looking collection of scrub hooks, slashers, axes etc., down a fire break to the Cement Creek turn off where serious cutting was to start, and from that point cleared a track to the other side of the Obyalla Plateau through varying types of bush, from open forest, to the thick scrub, and stunted trees on the Plateau where the track had to be marked with cairns.

In the afternoon the hungry horde returned a little earlier than anticipated and the cooks were subjected to some raucous comments during the final culinary preparation, but they retaliated with thinly veiled hints as to the disposal of certain furred live (?) stock that had been found in a trap in the hut. However, healthy bushwalker appetites offset by the afternoon's scrub cutting, were impervious to such trivialities as the doubtful antecedents of the huge pot of stew, for it was polished off in double quick time. Though the appetites flagged a little in the second half of the menu, it was not for any lack of the cellencence of the food, but rather lack of capacity of the eaters. A quiet evening followed.

To make an early start on the Sunday morning the cooks were (not so) bright and early to send the workers off, full of breakfast 8.00am for the day's toil. That day's work took the track from the Obyalla Plateau to the saddle where we met the advance guard of the F.A. group at about 2.30pm, approx. 2 miles past the Cement Creek turn-off. Lunch was served on the track by the cooks who had trudged out from Donna with large pannikins of enormous sandwiches etc. By about 5.30pm all the parties had gathered at the Cement Creek turn table for a cup of tea before boarding the vans for home, and by the comments everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves and cut track at the same time-- a very successful weekend.

P.S. For "cooks" read "lady bushwalkers".

LIBRARY.

The first step towards organisation of the library has been completed with the indexing of the Club's copies of "Walkabout". Articles have been indexed that may reasonably be expected to be of interest and use to walkers, such as "Historical Buildings and Remains" "Modern Exploration in Tasmania" and "Micronesian Paradise". It is hoped that members will use the material available to increase their knowledge of areas they walk in, and to attract them to new areas. Intelligent walking demands more than putting one foot in front of the other after the leader all the trip ends. The Librarian will be pleased when he hears "Have you anything in the library on Wilpna Pound?" and similar request, and will do his best to answer them.

The following copies of Walkabout are missing. If you have the missing copy, or one to donate, Frank Pitt will be glad to see you.

- 1949. April, May, July, August, September,
- 1950. January, July, September, November, December.
- 1951. January, February, April.
- 1952. August.
- 1953. February.

Also, the Club's file of the "News" is not complete, and Frank would be pleased to receive these copies from members who would like to help to complete one of the records of the Club.

- 1949. January, May., 1950. January, August, November.,
- 1951. April, October., 1952. March, June, November.,
- 1953. January, February, March, April, May, June, August, December.

NEW MEMBERS.

We welcome five new members to our Club this month and hope they spend many happy walking days with us. They are :-

Yates. John Edward, Myoora Cottage, Myoora Road, Toorak. S.E.2.

LEE. Rupert Weston, 31 Nerissa Street, Burwood. E.13.

Phone (F) WH4897. (B) FJ9171.

MORRISON. William John, 180 Exhibition Street, Melbourne.

Phone (F) FB1851. (B) FB1851.

GALLETTLY. Faye./36 Walsh Street, Ormond. Phone (P) UL8611 (B) AL10
KNIGHT. Marjorie Olive./ 14 Mills Street, Albert Park.
 Phone (B) MF0211 ext. 222

See that your address list is kept up to date.

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS.

Phone.
RYAMS Brian. (B) MY240, ext. 836.
EDWARDS Margaret. (B) C.6191, ext. 18.
KOTTEK Lothar. (B) KW3251.
WISFELDER Horst. only phone number now is (P) LA4632.
ADDRESS.
MORGAN Nancy, 30 Thomas Street, Burwood. M.13.
 Phone. (P) WH5600 (B) WA1271.
CRAIG Edna, 18 Malcolm Street, Freemantle. W.A..
McDonald Pat, "Fyneview" Grasmere. Vic.
CARBURN Bob, C/- 13 Lalwa Street, Blackburn.

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 26th. Theatre Night - "Pineapple Poll" Her Majesty's Theatre
May 28th. Lecture Night. 8pm. Club Room.
May 29th - 30th. Trentham - Blackwood - Ballan.

Bill Kirkpatrick. WF7246.

The diesel train to be caught for this walk leaves No.9 platform, Spencer St., Railway Station at 9.30am. Your Bikers Ticket will cost you 18/1, (Trentham - Ballan). This is VOTING WEEKEND if you find you have insufficient time Saturday morning, you will be able to vote at Blackwood Interested in having hot, home made pasties for tea on the Saturday night Then see the leader.

May 30th. Woodend - Camel's Hump - Macedon.

George Gordon.

Come on this walk and enjoy the remaining glorious Autumn tints to be seen in this area. It will be your last opportunity this year! Buy a 2nd return ticket to Woodend and catch the 9.00am train from Spencer S Station.

June 6th. Toolern Vale - Coimadai.

Norm Richards. WA 5450.

This is a van trip. Have you entered your name on the list on the notice board yet? Have you paid your deposit? Do it now, and come also this walk has an unusual feature about it that should prove interesting to everyone.

June 12th - 13th - 14th. Mt. Avoca - Ben Nevis - Buangor.

Alf Cole. JA 2171.

This trip leaves on the Friday night, The train leaves at 9pm from Spencer Street Station. Buy a Bikers ticket for Maryborough - Buangor.

SOCIAL NOTES.

On the Lecture Night - last Friday in May - Miss Watson of the Bird Observers Society will be giving a demonstrated lecture on "Central Australian Birds". Do come early, the lecture shall commence at 8 PM.

The Social Sub-committee intends to get a block of seats for a newly commenced show "Dear Charles" at the Comedy Theatre. Keep this in mind, watch for further details !!

PERSONAL NOTES.

The Bushwalkers wedding Bells ring again - yes - this time it Congratulations & Best Wishes to Audrey Batterham and Peter Becker who married recently. Audrey and Peter hope to be setting up home in either Mt. Beauty township or Bogong Village very shortly.

Personal Notes cont.

Best Wishes go to Eileen Reardon who announced her engagement to Bill Rogers recently.

We were pleased to have Nancy Morgan back with us in club after a long absence. We hope to see Nancy more often again.

What a surprise when Ted Field put his head around the door of room 110 a couple of Fridays ago, after an absence of two years! Ted is certainly looking very fit and is obviously enjoying life on a wheat property in northern Victoria. Ted was down to the "Big Smoke" on holidays only, so now he is back at work again. We send him a "Cheerio" and hope he looks us up again, next time he is in Melbourne.

Neil McDonald, who took the "big step" at Easter is back from honeymooning in Sydney. Neil and his wife have moved into their home in Levensborough amid what Neil terms as being "real dinky-di bushwalker-ish surroundings".

A letter received from Prudence Auchonachie recently tells us that Prudence is now working in Launceston now that the fruit picking season down Hobart way is finished.

Emil and Mira, just back from a car trip to Adelaide and the Murray Valley bring news of Kath Mulligan (nee Ward) and Gwen Cato. Kath and her husband have a sheep station near Mt Gambier. Both Kath & Gwen (who lives in Adelaide) are well and both asked to be remembered to club members.

We've all missed Felix's cheery company on walks lately. Best luck with those exams you've been studying so hard for, Felix.

THE TRACK

Whittlesea - Mt Disappointment - Monumental Hill - Kilmore.
April 3rd-4th Leslie Hurth.

Due to last minute purchases from greengrocer, butcher, and milk-bars a party was late in leaving Whittlesea, but the speed of the leader soon made up for lost time - so much so that the sight of Reservoir brought a sigh of relief as well as a "licking of chops" from the hungry. After lunch - and a pleasant siesta 'neath the pines - the party made good time Mt. Disappointment - one member eating two eggs en route. It was remarked that the "googlies" seemed to have the same effect as does spinach on Popeye! Camp was made in a glade thoughtfully cleared by lumber-getters - one of the party snuggling down for the night in a luxurious hammock guaranteed to "weather" any storm.

The next day brought more sunshine, back roads for walking and meeting with an extremely voluble local gent. Accepting all his advice on tracks etc., and declining a hospitable offer of a cuppa the party swung along in haste for lunch. A mile or so further and the leader was seen talking awhile with a rather jovial gent - whereupon two footsore members of the group continued the walk per car - clearly a tribute to the said leaders charm and personality.

Following lunch a short trek across the hills brought the party East Kilmore, where a chat before a roaring fire at the local was enjoyed prior to leaving on the 7.10 pm for Melbourne.

EASTER WALK

The Grampians
Athol Schaefer.

At about 7pm Thursday evening, with a happy party of 18 or so dazed enthusiasts on board, including a bewildering bevy of beauties-- there was also Athol's hat, an unusual design in khaki - our van was soon caught up in the stream of Easter traffic along the Ballarat Road. After stopping for half an hour in Ballarat where, true to form it was raining, continued until we arrived at Ararat in the early hours of Friday morn. The party devanned and, after some hurried reconnoitring, indistinguishable teams were soon surreptitiously manoeuvring themselves into diverse camping positions, picnic table and seats serving a new purpose.

The part was astir about 7am and, after a leisurely breakfast were soon on our way. As we progressed, the blueness of the Grampians occasionally hidden by a rolling mist beckoned invitingly. At Halls Gap a party was joined by two more members. A few miles along the Mt. Victory Rd, we left the van, which took all the heavy gear to the fixed camp near the Borough Huts and with only small packs commenced the days walk of 12 miles. After an early lunch we continued up the Grand Canyon through Wonderland - where the varied shades of green were interspersed with the lighter colours of Banksias, Wild Fuchsia and Easter Daisy and Gilly Wattle, - thence along Silent St. to Bellfield Peak, below which unfolded a magnificent panorama. Numerous groups of walkers were encountered including a party of Y.H.A. from Stth. Aust. accompanied by a tall dog called Sandy, conspicuous with

cont.

After much climbing the track descended fairly steeply to Grampians Road, along which we walked to the camp site on Fyans Creek. Another two members who had travelled by private car joined us at the camp site. Unpleasant weather was experienced during the evening, which was wet and windy.

Saturday morning, breakfast over, with the co-operation of the van as far as the Silverband Road, we set off for Mt. Rosea. At lunch time acquaintance with Sandy and party was renewed. After leaving Mt. Rosea some heavy going was encountered before we reached camp just on dark. The evening was spent around the camp-fire. It may be of interest that a member was seen shaving and sometime later the van drove away, not returning until much later.

Sunday morning was crisp and clear. This was an ideal day for the climb to the summit of Mt. William (3829 ft.) On the way up there were many pauses, ostensibly to admire the scenic grandeur - Cathedral Rock was particularly impressive. The bronze plaque affixed to the summit cairn reminded us that Major Mitchell ascended this highest and most eastern summit in 1836. Visibility was good; the Serra Range bathed in soft sunlight was easily dissected into its various peaks, with the Victoria Range clearly discernible in the distance.

On the following morning we were on our way by 11 am. with a lunch stop at Ararat, we arrived in the city a little after 7pm. Everyone agreed it had been a most enjoyable trip, well worth a repeat performance.

Strathewen - Mt. Sugarloaf - Howatts Lookout.
10th April. Emil Slade.

A Gronow van with 21 brownish-grey mummies inside was driving over the roads beyond Hurstbridge on the morning of a beautiful Autumn morn. When the van came to a stop at Strathewen, the mummies came to life and started their metamorphosis. After 10 minutes of vigorous dust shaking they looked again like normal bushwalkers. We went over the route of the still famous "mystery walk" led by Emil several years ago. After we had climbed the steep slopes of Mt. Sugarloaf the question "when will we have lunch" was on everyone's lips, but the answer to this remained a mystery until 3pm when we reached our lunch spot in the valley of Kunning Creek. After lunch (or was it afternoon tea?) we went up to Howatt's Lookout and hurried down the track to its junction with the "Hittlessea road, in order not to be more than 1½ hours late for our rendezvous with the van. Apologies to Emil for putting perhaps too much stress on the "unusual" aspects of the trip; everyone readily agreed that it was a most enjoyable walk and even Emil admitted that we were the nicest party he had led...since his last walk.

Mt. Macedon - Mt. Towrong.

11th April. Helen Whitten.

A party of 17 gathered on the Macedon Station on a perfect Autumn morning determined on the triple conquest of Mt. Towrong, The Bump, and Mt. Macedon. First seen earlier from the train had dissolved and the route of the trip was outlined against a cloudless blue sky. By following the abandoned road the party cleverly cut the roadbash by ¾'s. Well fortified by milk shakes and potato crisps, we then attacked the slopes of Mt. Towrong, from whence at several points there were delightful views across the valley with the houses of Upper Macedon clinging to the tree covered slopes. As the summit afforded no views and lunch still an hour away we did not linger but continued along the timbered ridge. The lunch spot proved to be a picturesque little reservoir, surrounded by trees. Our next objective was the Bump, from which on a day of clear atmosphere extensive views to the North and West can usually be obtained. Unfortunately a haze limited visibility for us, but nothing daunted, we faced the hazards of the Sunday traffic on the two mile stretch to Mt. Macedon. The tourist crowds had disappeared by the time we reached the Cross, so we were able to enjoy the quiet of evening falling on the hills and valleys. Too soon we had to start down the steep track toward the township, and as darkness fell reached the Falls, where in a combination of firelight and moonlight billies were boiled again. A brisk moonlight walk to the station ended a trip carried out in perfect Autumn weather.

EASTER WALK "The Barrys" changed to Mts. St. Bernard, Hotham Loch, Frinter & Mt. Beauty. Gerda Schwerin.

After "slave driving" everyone Thursday night and Friday morn. to reach Mt. St. Bernard by noon, the leader had to reluctantly change the course from the Barrys to the above due to low visibility. The 18 members of the party who had turned hut-dwellers felt very glad to have done so when the clouds broke that night - the reputation of M.B.W. was saved

cont.

by the 19th man, who tented.

St. Peter, or who ever is responsible for the weather, must have relented next day, because it cleared for the rest of the trip. It was fine enough for out door portraiture of the party by a Herald reporter but the leader has since been accused of double crossing. If this is double dutch to you, look up the Herald of April 21st.

Very good views were had from Mt. Painter and an especially pleasant camp site was discovered and used on the Painter ridge road into Mt. Beauty. Monday brought us to our journey's end, and a hot shower for some, (at Mt. Beauty)

Most notable feature of the trip; the number of "old" members, quite a surprise.

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LATEST FROM "ANSKI"

Coming! Primus stoves. Of particular interest to bushwalkers these, when packed consist of billy and frying pan clipped together with the stove inside.

Coming!! One and Two man "A" type "Willesdonk" japane tents from Thos. Black of Scotland. These are excellent tents and priced at £7:19:6.

Coming!!! "Sven" stoves.

In Stock. Powdered Potato -- 6d. an ounce.

ALAS WALKS

IF YOU INTEND GOING AWAY WITH THE CLUE AT ALAS THIS YEAR PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND MAIL IT TO --JOCK LOW, 254a, Ascot Vale Road,
ASCOT VALE.

DETACH HERE.

ALAS WALKS.

Where would you like to go?

For how long ?

are you prepared to lead such trip ?

The Xmas fortnight is from Saturday Dec. 25th to Sunday Jan. 8th inclusive.
PLEASE MAIL ON RETURN THIS FORM NOT LATER THAN AUGUST 1st, 1954.

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