

CIRCULAR

THE NEWS

of

No. 73.

- THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS -

15th October,
1954.

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

The Federation Search & Rescue Day Practice.

The practice this year was held on Sunday, 19th September, in an area about two miles south of Emerald and Cockatoo. Fortunately the weather was fine, for scrub bashing was the order of the day, and at times progress was extremely slow.

Eight M.B.W.'s attended of the total of forty from various clubs and all were transported to and from Upper Fern Tree Gully, in a special bus and private cars. Two parties were made up to search up two adjacent areas but, due to the thick scrub, it was almost "knock-off" time when the victims were found reclining comfortably underneath a large fallen tree trunk, and little time was left for stretcher making etc. At the H. . a short discussion and post mortem took place, most of the points raised being on the operation, etc, of the four Forestry Commission radio sets that had, or should have been in use. Weak or flat batteries accounted for some of the radio troubles. Both parties had adopted an "in line" search with twenty men in each line, and the results in this thick scrub bore out our experience of last year when a major "in line" search was tried with almost seventy men in the one line to search more lightly timbered, but quite rough country at Mt. Robertson. These lines are difficult to control and difficult to keep moving at a reasonable pace and often one half of the line has to wait for long periods while the other half extricates itself from some difficult piece of scrub, or a valley, gully, etc. However, they do ensure that a small area is searched thoroughly and it is up to the organisers to see that the lines are kept to a size most suitable for the areas to be searched.

Next year the S.M. practice will be a weekend affair and different methods of searching will be adopted, probably along similar lines to last year and it is hoped that we will again be well represented then, even if there is no call out between now and then. While a real live search gives our activities a boost along, the fewer boosts we get the better, and it is between searches that we need the support of all members, to be ready when required.

The Library.

A Collection of Australian Verse, Ballads, Stories, songs, Legends, under the title "The Australian", edited by Bill Wannon and introduced by Alan Marshall is now on sale in bookshops. Bill Wannon's talk to the Club a few months ago convinced members of his interest and authority on this subject and should recommend the book.
(12/6 in paper cover, 18/6 in boards.)

Coming Events.

Nov. 2nd. Yarr Yarr - Howatts Lookout - Whittlesea.

John Brownlie. LF 9092.

Give John your support on this walk, you will need to buy a 2nd return Ticket to Whittlesea.

Nov. 6-7th. Presidents Weekend. Mt. Slide area. Watch the notice board.

Nov. 7th. Daywalk to join the weekend party. George Gordon will lead this walk, it will be a van trip leaving Batman Avenue at 8.55am. Pay your van deposit now!!

Nov. 12-14th. Gembrook - Gomeroi Valley - Mt. Bannak - Gembrook.

Fred Falls. MJY000 ext. 605.

This will be a van trip, pay your deposit now, you don't want to miss out because you've left it too late to put your name down, do you? The walk will be approx. 20 miles long (or short) and is in a very good area. Come out on this walk, the weather is sure to be excellent, see you there.

Nov. 14th. Portrose - Alorame - Lookout Rock - Hallista.

Ian Scott.

Buy a Hikers ticket, Croydon-Fern Tree Gully, catch the 9.15 am train.

The walk will be of a distance of approx. 13 miles.

Nov. 20th-21st. Brisbane Ranges. Heinz Wolff. UY2078.

Another van trip, give it your support and enjoy yourself at the same time

Coming Events. cont.

Another area entirely new to the Club and to most of its members will be visited by Gerda Schwerin's weekend party to Vaughan Springs on October 23rd and 24th. Almost the entire walk leads through timbered hills along well defined tracks. There are several mineral springs en route, where free refreshment may be had. There will be at least one, possibly two opportunities for swimming.

Train leaves Spencer Street Station, Platform 5, on Saturday the 3rd, at 8.15am. Fare will be 25/2d, 2nd return to Castlemaine. The leader would appreciate if those intending to go to put their name on the list on the notice board as soon as possible, or to ring her at WX 6965.

REMEMBER that you must pay your van deposit at least a fortnight prior to the intended trip. Just keep that in mind, for who knows, the late comers may have to pay a "late-comers fee"!!!!. Don't be caught.

Xmas Walks.

Are you intending to go on an extended trip this Xmas? If so, you must complete at least three weekend walks between now and then. Xmas is not far off, you know, a matter of ten weeks, not long is it? Are you fit? Anyway, do go on those three walks, and prove to everyone including yourself, that you really are fit and ready to go. It is the Walks Secretary's privilege to stop anyone going, if he thinks they are not fit. Don't let it be you.

Social Notes.

On the last Friday in November, the 20th, there will be a lecture (pap-talk) for the benefit of Xmas walkers. Do come along, you will most probably hear quite a few tips that will save you no end of trouble, time and worry. No one knows so much that they can't learn some more -- see you there.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Kirk, Ted. ---- 17 1/2-8N, Toorak Road, South Yarra. BM2232.

Parma, Barry) Jean. 27 Queens Road, Melbourne.

Personal Notes.

We have always had quite a few Junior Bushwalkers-to-be, arriving, but now they are coming in pairs!!! Yes!!! Double congratulations to Tess(Maddison) and Bob Fraser on the birth of twin boys (1) three weeks ago. We are glad to hear that mother and sons are all well.

Congratulations & Best Wishes are extended to Mary Nash and Irwin Gottlieb who were married on October the 2nd. Mary & Irwin are heading north for a "look-see" -- hope to see you both in the club again before very long.

Sincere Best Wishes go to Tine Koetsier and Don Matthews, a Sydney Bushwalker, who announced their engagement recently.

We also extend Sincere Best Wishes to Jean Barry who married recently.

Another whisper along the grape-vine. Marie Gillespie has already started South!!! Won't be long before we'll be able to welcome Marie back into the club ranks again.

Along the Track.

Britannia Falls - Mt. Little Joe. Willie Baxter. Sept. 19th.

Here a leader of wide and varied experience led the party of nine, over entirely new tracks which cut out the usual long "road-bash" to Britannia Falls. After a somewhat wet lunch the party went into the woods! and up and up and up. Finally the party found itself on top of Little Joe, probably the first visit of the Club to this peak. The descent straight down into Warburton proved harder than the climb to the top. It was very steep and scrubby. However the weather had

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greatly improved during the afternoon, and it was in bright sunshine that the railway line was reached and followed into Warburton.

Croydon - Warrandyte.

20th September, 1954.

Thirteen walkers went on this walk, which had the good start of a six mile road bash. The water found at lunch time was of a somewhat dark and stagnant nature --- 'twas surprising the number of walkers that did not drink tea. However all responded to the "on your feet"; and enjoyed the easy scrub walking to Warburton, which was reached by way of compass and map. Weather was sunny, morale was good, and a good day was had by all.

Mt. Blackwood - Mt. Bullengarook. 25th - 26th Sept. Geoff. Christensen.

Fifteen walkers attended this trip which combined pleasant walking in a pleasant area with map reading. After all had surveyed the view from Mt. Blackwood, the leader divided the party into three groups; each one to take a different route to a rendezvous at the junction of the Lerderderg River and Clearwater Creek.

With great cunning (or bravery) he then attached himself to the group consisting of four members of the fair sex only, and accompanied them until lunch time, when an ill timed remark about teeth, from one of the ladies evidently upset him so greatly, that he became temperamental and shortly afterwards disappeared with two of his, herem, leaving the offending member and another, scrambling down a scrubby slope from whence they continued to the river. The junction appeared rather elusive, and after crossing the Lerderderg several times they decided to camp for the night, and bravely bedded themselves down alone, fully expecting to be awakened by some weird or wonderful beast during the long hours of the night.

Next morning was spent pushing through prickly scrub, and just when the scrub was thickest, a road appeared as if by magic, and led for several miles to Mt. Bullengarook. The rest of the party had a day of "up hills and down gorges" but all reached the van on time.

The wild flowers were not very plentiful, although a few orchids were seen, also a gully white with bearded heath.

By the way girls, as we have proved that the boys are copying our tricks. We all know about the leaving of compacts in their cars, but now it appears that a certain popular young lady found a water bucket belonging to a certain gay bachelor in her pack !!!!!

Lyrebird Walk. 30th September. Heinz Wolf:

On joining the train en route, I was somewhat startled to observe among the party of about twenty or so, many newcomers -- some wearing nylons. "Why", I wondered, "is everyone expectantly clutching cameras - but of course, this was a walk with a difference; it was Heinz's Lyrebird walk.

Setting off from Belgrave, it became obvious that the girls in their "15 Denier's" were determined to employ all their feminine charms in attracting the unsuspecting birds. Before long we came to the area where the leader said the Lyrebirds were to be found.

Upon hearing the "whip" call, excitement heightened. On instructions from the leader, we converged towards where the calls were coming from. Stealthily and silently (certain members please note) we crept nearer and nearer. Then one of the glamorous ones gently parted the ferns and peered through. "There it is" she hissed exultantly. We all looked, and there it was! Something was moving in the undergrowth - gracious it was Heinz!

Alas, no more birds were seen. Soon afterwards we arrived at the lunch spot. After lunch, we enjoyed a leisurely walk to Monbulk then per bus to the Gully.

Did you know that soft, plastic, flask shaped bottles, which would be very handy for Bushwalkers are available in the shops now. They are available in two sizes, one approx. 4 ozs., priced at 3/11, and one approx. 6 ozs., priced at 5/6d. They have screw tops, and are very light. Assorted colours available.

Did you know that there will be a talk on Bushwalking on 3 AR, 6.30pm, on the 29th October.

Did you know that you should soon be thinking of buying your salami sausage for Xmas, and hanging it up somewhere out of the way, to dry out.

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