

CIRCULAR

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No. 83

of
--- THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS ---

AUG. SEPT. 1956

ADDRESS : Room 110, 3rd Floor, Victorian Railways Institute,
Flinders Street, Melbourne
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EDITORIAL FOREWORD:

- DATES TO BE REMEMBERED: (a) Walks for the coming month --- see page 2.
(b) Half-Yearly General Meeting: 26th August (and please be early)
(c) Search & Rescue Practice Weekend: 27th & 28th August (see Bill)
(d) Barn Dance Week End: 3rd & 4th September, Britannia Creek (see Board)
(e) Lecture Night: 30th September, Mr. Butcher (Fisheries & Games Dept.)
(f) Federation Day Walk: 9th October. Led by our Club.
Alf would like suggestions.

WALK CONTRIBUTIONS: Norm is still worried about their dearth (see below).

"YARRAWONDA": A second Subscription list is on the notice board (or you can apply to Frank personally). The Caloola Club, in acknowledging our first donation with thanks, hopes that the magazine will be of great interest to members of our club. We feel sure it will.

LOST PROPERTY RE SEARCH: There is on the notice board a list showing details of gear, held at D24 and Police Transport Section, which was lost during the Search at Baw Baw. If you be a loser, look it over.

COMPENSATION FOR PROPERTY LOST DURING SEARCH: Bill is compiling a list of those who wish to make a claim for gear lost during the Search. It may be possible to apply some of the "Sun" Fund to this. But do not mistake this invitation for a 100% coverage affair. The Fund has large commitments (but may help us a little even so).

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I was speaking to Win the other day about that sleeping-bag mentioned in April's issue of the "News". You remember that she very kindly loaned it to someone in need, but didn't particularly bother about making out mental I.O.U.s. for its return, as such in-the-street precautions aren't ordinarily necessary between members. However one wonders whether maybe an occasional unwritten code of Club ethics is 'more honoured in the breach than the observance!' Win has heard nothing, and doesn't appear very hopeful. From any point of view, particularly the Club's, it's a B.P.S.....(in short, just Bloody Poor Show),

.....

Whilst on the subject of B.P.Ss, I have another but in placing it last hope that its heinousness may be overpassed unnoticed. My head hangs low in wretched shame. In the June issue of the "News", (which incidentally some of you will be receiving with this post because of an oversight in July), a list was given of those who responded to the Search at Baw Baw. For some unaccountable reason, and the blame is wholly mine, the very backbone of all musterings to the fray was overlooked ... the one who stood, phone in hand, for twenty-four hours of each of the twelve or so days, and with motherly devotion saw us all out of the area and safely home from her position beside the phone. I speak of Edna, as you know. I can't understand how she was passed over, for the one place I'd have least enjoyed was base. And to be cooped up in a spot for full days on end one hundred miles remote from even base was, in that week of glamourising, one unheralded, one unsung duty of which the public heard nothing.

All Club members, especially the searchers, are indebted to you, Edna.

No. 1 "WALK CONTRIBUTIONS": There is still plenty of room for contributions to "WALK", particularly some interesting accounts of trips and attractive photographs, the latter preferably to illustrate the former. If you have the least idea of anything interesting, then do something about it. You don't have to be able to write a-la-Somerset-Maugham. Just put in your copy, and, if necessary, ask the Editor to get someone to whip it into shape for you. He'll be only too happy to oblige.

No. 2 COMING EVENTS:

PAKENHAM - GEMBROOK:

(21ST AUGUST)

Should be a distinguished walk seeing the first name-place was so called in memory of General Pakenham, a Crimea War hero and brother-in-law of the first Duke of Wellington. As for the second: just take an eyeful of the Scotchmen-about-to-be-engaged lining up for this trip. (Weel, wat wit is there in payin' oot guid siller? whan there's muckle a bonnie stane in yon crik f'r th' takin', fit t'b' seen skinklin' on a wee lass's finger. Hoots mon! I isna faun t' Woolworths naw.)

THE WARNING

(Athol seems to feel
that there is a little
carelessness about some
first-aid kits, or is
his a warning of
excitements to come?)

Little Willie on the track
Was swallowed by an outsized python.
All the Search and Rescue found,
Full of useless bric-a-brac
Was his knap-sac on the ground:
No Snake-kit there, 'cept a soda syr'
And a little book entitled :
"20 Uses of the Hyphen."
(ATHOL SCHAFLIN.)

SEARCH AND RESCUE WEEK-END

(27th & 28th AUGUST)

See Bill about the details of this. All S. & R. members should turn out for this exercise. Though the real thing was encountered just the other day, there is always something to be learnt and innovations to be experimented with.

YARRA GLEN - ONE TREE HILL - ST. ANDREWS:

(28th AUGUST)

- Chances for (a) Rain, snow, sleet : very good.
(b) Getting lost : anything may happen.
(c) Missing the bus : excellent.

Anyone still wishing to come along can't say (s)he hasn't been un(h)armed.
(By one who orter no).

(Gerda hands out no silver-tongued platitudes, does she?) (GERDA SCHWETIN)

BARN DANCE WEEK-END:

(3rd & 4th SEPTEMBER)

This year it is to be held at Britannia Creek. (Yes, I realise that, but forgot to ask how to get there, so can't help; but see Jock or the Alf). Jock warns that should you turn up in hobbled-up boots only, you'll be detailed off to wip 'em out, before you touch the floor unless, of course, one cares to step the light fantastic in socks. But, adds Jock, clean 'em up a bit beforehand. I asked "if it ud be OK to turn up on our hands, like?" but he cut in abruptly that it wasn't a rough-house fancy-dress ball we're having.

Alf goes on record with the comforting observation that, for those unlucky enough to turn up in hob-nails only, his Saturday afternoon walk "will be of sufficient length and intensity to appease the wrathful Jock - I'll bring 'em back with no soles on their feet."

Anyway, there it is: A Saturday afternoon walk @ 1 p.m.: A Saturday night dance till 1 a.m. (in shoes): And an enjoyable Sunday walk, also 1, 2, 3. This should be a very friendly bush-gathering social. So come along for sure.

WOORI YALLOCK - YELLINGBO - SEVILLE

(11th SEPTEMBER)

Heinz promises a great variety of walking for this trip. First some mild scrub-bashing, then some good views from clear hill tops, followed by lunch on the river flats of Woori Yallock Creek (with beautiful spring weather and wattle-blossomed trees guaranteed). After lunch you will witness some excitement and acrobatics in the crossing of Woori Yallock Creek on a narrow log.

10. 2 cont'd.

Then it will be "plain sailing," along creeks and across paddocks to Duck's Hill and Seville. If there is sufficient time left, we shall have evening tea (do not get me wrong here - the meal won't be on the leader) in the open on the banks of Wandin Yallock creek. All you will have to do for this day full of fun is to board the 9.15 a.m. Warburton train at No. 1 East Platform, Flinders Street, with a 2nd class return ticket to Woori Yallock.

(HEINZ WOLFF)

THE NEAR OTWAYS:

(17th & 18th SEPTEMBER).

(Near? Could this be a trip to the Tourist Bureau?) But I digress.

This signals a return after a long absence to the little known (by this Club) timbered hilly country of the Otways rising from the rugged South West Coast, and location of the famous tourist resorts of Lorne, Apollo Bay, and Anglesea, and the little less famous (in the right circles) notorious scrub and wire-grass found beyond the high-heeled range of these places.

(ALF COLE)

TYNONG - NAR NAR GOON:

(18th SEPTEMBER)

Willie hasn't dropped in a briefing for this one. So all I can say is that you get a 2nd return, TYNONG, and forget your worldly sorrows for twelve carefree hours with Willie on the 18th.

(WILLIE BAXTER)

LOTHAR BORN - FLOWERDALE:

(25th SEPTEMBER)

Lothar guarantees fine weather for this trip, for, reasons he, has anyone ever heard of ghosts ghosting around in wet sheets. Just as the "News" readers of eighteen months ago remember Caesar's ghost terrorising a Club's harmless progress across the Bogongs, Lothar seems to suspect that the King of Denmark's spirit is stealthily haunting the gold mines in his area.... (Just because "Hamlet" is just now poking about in Collins Street.) Personally, I suspect that Lothar believes light-fingered gold-itchy gents from his party may slip down amongst the glittering chasms to try the luck of casual fossicking, when Lothar himself has a patch mentally pegged out. Anyway, bring a spare pair of shorts - Lothar could be right. This should be a very good walk .. so all turn up for it.

(LOTHAR KOTTEK)

LECTURE NIGHT : 30TH SEPTEMBER

MR. BUTCHER

You are particularly asked to remember this date, and please DO NOT turn up late. I'm not quite sure just what is the subject of Mr. Butcher's talk, but he is a nationally recognised authority on fish and game, and has only just returned from U.S.A. where he represented the Department of Fisheries and Game in discussions of a global significance. Therefore we are honoured in having as speaker someone who can "set us afire" with points of interest. And just in conclusion: a departmental head is a busy man indeed; so show our appreciation through big numbers and..... early arrivals, if you please.

. 3. FEDERATION DAY WALK

(9th OCTOBER)

Alf asks that members treat this one, this request with particular scrutiny. Search through and through the pigeon-holed mental archives, amongst the dust and decaying grey for what you feel would make an excellent day walk, a prize spinning show piece. The reason for such a SUPREME effort? Our Club's honour it is to lead that day. Let's show that we will uplift Olympus when it comes to helping the Federation.

. 4. Here's a little word of very special interest to those who know George MacKinnon, and to others too. One member was stunned to receive a letter from George the other day "c/o Ward 9, Fairfield Hospital". After a walk of Felix's in April, George was taken to hospital with suspected Polio. All members will be pleased to learn that it turned out to be Poliomyelitis, and that Graham made a fruitless visit to Fairfield last week George had just been discharged. We all wish you a very speedy recovery George.

PARSONAL: It is with regret that we learn that Fay Galletloy's mother passed on recently.

On behalf of all Club members we express our sympathies, Fay.

In Sydney, on the 6th August, Len Barr and Joyce Quinn were married.

No. 7. CHANGE OF ADDRESS :

KEN JACOBS: Change to 191, Glen Iris Road, GLEN IRIS. (p) BL 2920.

No. 8 THE SOCIAL ASPECT :

[illegible]

DRESSMAKER

DRESS-MAKER

DRESSMAKER

A L I C E S P I E R E R

Your own material made up Your own material made up

MODEL BRIDAL GOWNS FOR YOU TO HIRE

Moderate Charges

455 Malvern Road, HAWKSBURN.

(Between Chapel St. & Williams Rd.)

PHONE: BJ 5200

[illegible]

No. 9: ON THE TRACK: Here are some contributions this month.

LYREBIRD WALK:

(SATURDAY 16th JULY)

Disregarding the warnings of several of the inhabitants of FERNY CREEK who told us that our intended route would never get us to Sherbrooke Forest, we went on and reached our destination according to plan. As usual, many Lyrobirds and very few bushwalkers were seen. Four members and seven visitors participated in this leisurely walk in cool but pleasant weather which finally ended at Upwey.

(HORST EISFELDER)

TARRAWARRA - HEALESVILLE: (The Jackie Jackie Walkabout) (17th JULY)

The walk was attended by ten members and seven visitors. The party proved to be good mixers and their behaviour - it is reported - was the best of the year.

The route taken was to the foot of School House Ridge at the southern end of Paul's Range, which was skirted along a pleasant bush road to the point where the Maroondah-Sylvan pipeline issues from the tunnel beneath the above-named ridge,

Lunch at noon sharp was voted for with no dissents, the site being at the point of the pipeline's emergence - a pleasant spot for any occasion.

No. 9. ON THE TRACK (CONTINUED)

BACCHUS MARSH - WERRIBEE GORGE - BACCHUS MARSH: (Round Trip) (7th AUGUST)

When the train finally pulled out of Spencer Street Station, a bare twenty minutes late, twelve members were on board in answer to the loader's invitation - "Well I've never been there, but if you like to take the risk of following, it should be a good walk." After collecting the 13th (Huh!!) member at Bacchus Marsh station, the party started out in sunny but rather windy weather along Werribee Vale Road, following the road to its end. There the first river crossing was made over an old ford. The party then followed a water channel along the side of the gorge above the river, affording both easy walking and pleasant views of the river in the gorge underneath. The channel was followed until it joined the river. By popular request this was made the lunch spot.

After lunch the party continued up stream, keeping as much as possible at water level, and crossing the river whenever a sheer cliff prevented continuing on that side. Some pleasant but easy rock-scrambling was enjoyed by the party, as well as some excellent views of rocky heights and sheer drops.

Of necessity, two members of the party fell into the river whilst crossing, but this time the difference was that one was the loader. At the upper end of the gorge the party climbed up the ridge on the N.W. bank, and walked along the cliff edge, where good views of the river immediately below and the 'island' opposite were obtained. The party left the view at this point and after climbing to the top of the ridge returned to Bacchus Marsh across open country, and in the teeth of a howling gale driving across the plain.

We arrived in time to refresh ourselves with fish and chips before boarding the train for Melbourne, and a warm bed.

(JOAN HOBDEN)

No. 10. LOST PROPERTY:

Someone just rang up to scrape in by the 'skin of his teeth' a breathless message of distress, in such haste that we got little more than the name "Blair", and the phone number UL. 9770.

Well - here it is: He was with a party that crossed, or passed our party led by Alf last Sunday (7th August) on the way up to the tower on Donna Buang, and he lost a prismatic compass at about the time both parties met.

There is little need to add that the loss of such an item is the loss of a quid or two - they are valuable instruments. Did any of you in Alf's group happen by any chance to notice or pick up a prismatic compass at Donna on Sunday?

If you can help the loser, ring UL. 9770, and ask for Mr. Blair. He will be very pleased to hear from you.