

THE NEWS
of
THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS...

18th February
1955.

Address... Room 110, Victorian Railways Institute, Flinders Street,
Melbourne.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting, and Office Bearers Election, will be held, this year, on the last Friday in the month, the 25th February, 1955. It will be held in Room 110, and will start at 8P.M. SHARP. !!! Please try and be in your place before this time, and so avoid disturbing others.

It is most important that you should make an effort to attend this meeting, and help decide, by your vote, just who will comprise the Committee for the coming year.

WALKS PROGRAMME

As previously announced, the details for Anzac Weekend, as shown on the Programme are incorrect.

The correct details will be shown in the News, shortly.

WATCH FOR THEM!!!!

Labour Weekend - March 12th-14th.

The BAW BAWS . Leader..Mario Juszczyk.

--- N.T.--- The starting time for this walk in 8am. on the Saturday morning
8pm., on the Friday night as many members seem to think.

March 6th - Ferntree Gully - Dandenong.

This walk, originally to be led by Jock Low, will now be led by Ron Abbott, as Jock is in Sydney.

SOCIAL NOTES

The Social Committee intend to hold a theatre night, to the excellent show 'Simon & Laura', starring Google Withers and John McCallum. This show is at The Comedy.

WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS ! TICKETS AT REDUCED RATE!
COMING VERY SOON.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

HEILPERN. Gisela.
909S. First Street, Champaign. Ill. U.S.A.

COOKING.

Having a little trouble thinking of something a little different yet something cool, to have as a sweet, this hot weather????

Ever thought of taking a packet of Jelly Chrystals on a walk? What could be a better refrigerator than the creek you make camp beside? If you make the jelly as soon as your tent is pitched, and before you do any other cooking, it should be set well before you are ready for the "sweets" course.

To make it a little different, add a few raisins or sultanas, or cut up some fresh fruit into it. You will find it is very nice, - slips down easily, too!!

PERSONAL NOTES.

WE'VE DONE IT AGAIN !!!!!

or, should we say, CONGRATULATIONS to Neil & Barbara McDonald who are now the proud parents of twins, born on the 9th February. We are very pleased to hear "all" are well. The chosen names are :- Bruce Alexander, and, Julianne Kaye.

What's this we hear about one of our more active members?? Bought a car ? Surely not!!

You will all be pleased to hear that we are doing our bit to help Australia along the way. Yes, raking in the American Dollars!!!! Well.....Gisela Heilpern did send one dollar as a donation.

COMING EVENTS.

Feb. 20th Mt.Tanglefoot-Mt.St.Leonard-Healesville.
Bill Horton.

The van leaves Batman Avenue at 8.55am. Have you booked and paid your deposit??

Feb. 25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Feb. 26th-27th.

Annual Federation Weekend.

Watch the notice board for details.

March. 6th. Forntree Gully- Dandenong.

Ron. Abbott.

You will need to buy a Hiker's Ticket, F.T.G.-D'nong- for this trip. The train leaves at 8.55am.

March. 13th-14th.

San-Remo -Phillip Isl.-Stoney Point.

John Guerin. LA8108.

The train leaves at 9am, you will need a 2nd Return Ticket to Anderson. The distance of the walk will be approx. 22 miles. You must be prepared to carry some water.

March 13th-14th.

Baw Baws. Mario Juszcyk.

This is a van trip and will leave Batman Avenue at 8am.

PERSONAL.

Everyone will be pleased to hear that Marie Gillespie is well on the way to recovery now, and is holidaying a while at Croydon. Marie has recently been in hospital, but we are pleased to hear she is there no longer. We would be pleased to see you in the club, as soon as you can make it, Marie.

ON THE TRACK

Frankston - Canadian Bay. 16th January, 1955.

The 16th of January was the day,
Sixteen bushwalkers were on the way,
From Frankston to Canadian Bay,
Too great a distance did you say?

The old Mornington Road, an easy track,
Who is that hidden by the large rucksack?
A happy crowd, one thought had we,
To swim and laze in the cool, calm sea.

The pace was slow, we did not care
In spite of taunts from the rear,
Soon cries were heard "It's not very far
A few more yards to the next milk bar".

Canadian Bay, a lovely spot,
Shading trees from the sun so hot,
Golden sands and sea very calm,
Blue sky overhead, air like balm.

Gorgeous girls with figures so slim,
And one or two - not very thin,
Of course there was a majority of men,
Did we hear a wolf whistle then?

A taxi coming down the straight,
Someone always has to be late,
Who said bushwalkers aren't keen
Well they're certainly not mean.

Lunchtime now and what a sight,
Delicious salads to delight,
A mystery pie has just been eaten,
Bushwalkers food cannot be beaten.

Who is that we see swimming by?
For the Olympics he's having a try,
Some underwater mermaids too,
Funny things the swimmers do.

Time for a snack beneath the trees,
Where is that lovely cool breeze.
Will you have some tea, my dear?
You know we haven't any beer.

What a really perfect day,
Too soon we must be on our way,
Over the rocks and cliffs we climb,
Come again with us next time.

ON THE TRACK. cont.

Lerderderg Gorge.

23rd January, 1955.

Sixteen would-be mannequins filled every available square inch of space in the three cars, in order to take part in the "Lerderderg Beach-Wear Fashion Show". The party left the cars at the lower end of the Gorge, and the display of fashions took place whenever a fairly deep pool was reached. Great was the variety of bathing costumes on display, and there was also some variety in their use.; for while the party walked from one swimming pool to the next, it was proved that "bathers" also make some suitable walking gear. In the hat section the leader showed distinct talent as a mannequin. Although the ladies displayed some attractive varieties of straw hats, he "stole the show" and created interest in an ordinary linen sun hat, simply by wearing it while swimming and performing some underwater stunts with it. Among the accessories -- John Brownlie's swimming pack deserves special mention. A novelty were the two portable bathing boxes -- (Look out Karl. if this idea catches on, there will be no takers for your immovable bathing box) which two male members brought along. One member, whose unorthodox taste in clothing has been noticed on previous occasions, surprised the onlookers by putting on an ankle length robe. In its heydays it probably covered the bulging curves of some portly female, but now it provides a screen behind which its present owner can change. Another gentleman enlisted the help of a bashful young lady, whom he asked to hold a ground sheet around him so that he could perform his striptease in comparative privacy. In addition to the fashion show, a little walking and a lot of swimming was enjoyed, and soft drinks in a milk bar and not-so-soft drinks in the real bar at Bacchus Marsh brought a successful trip to an end.

Eildon - Jerusalem Creek - Big River - Eildon.

28th-31st January, 1955.

The party of nine spent a somewhat damp night as a prelude to the week-end's walk, but good views were the reward next morning as we climbed out of the Goulburn Valley eastward. Trig points on most cleared hill tops afforded welcome resting points, but soon we had to climb up and over wooded slopes to Jerusalem Creek and a late lunch. Camp was made on an inlet of the Weir, and a welcome swim was enjoyed by all.

Sunday was spent on a round trip to Big River and back. The highlight of the weekend came on Monday, though, when the party climbed the range extending eastward from the dam and lying between the Jamieson Road and the Weir, marked "Mt. Pinniger" on some maps. Really excellent views were the reward for a climb of about 600 feet. At the eastern end of the range, the greater part of the Goulburn portion of the Weir lies at 100 feet. While the middle portion, and finally the whole dam came into sight from the power line and the western end of the range respectively.

The descent was accomplished from just above the Dam, and the party walked out through the working area, which is normally inaccessible to the public.

Mt. Pinniger range can be recommended to all who wish to enjoy really good views of the Weir. The best approach may be along the power line from the main road.

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ON THE TRACK cont.

The Basin - Sassafras - Beagley's Bridge - Ferntree Gully.
6th February, 1955.

A party of nine set off from The Basin, but there were two attempts to increase our number by "gate-crashing". We walked along the old coach road to Sassafras, four puppies followed persistently, but their efforts were finally frustrated when Frank adopted a threatening attitude which sent them centering back. The second attempt was more welcome. While we had lunch near Beagley's Bridge our old friend Ralph Tersch suddenly appeared out of nowhere and joined us for the remainder of the trip. After lunch we passed through Sherbrook Forest where two lyrebirds passed quite close to us, but were not in the mood to give a special performance for our benefit. A couple of fan-tails were more obliging and posed for us - (best view is from the rear). We reached the scheduled end of the walk at Belgrave so early that we - after first partaking heartily of Devonshire Tea - continued the walk along the railway track to Ferntree Gully. To our great distress we found that with the closing down of "Puffing Billy", the Victorian Railways have barricaded all essential buildings at the stations. Even with this handicap we reached Ferntree Gully safely, and in time to get home for tea.

XMAS WALK - -Bindi-Cobberas-Mt.Kosciusko-Khancoban.
25th December - 9th Janur

The festive spirit accompanying this usual seasonal migration manifested itself at Bindi on the eve of setting out, and several of the pennikins and billies found themselves in strange, it is hoped, company. Not that it in any respect exhausted itself or its means on this occasion, but mention of it serves like a musical term, preceding to indicate the mood of the following movement.

If the reader fears that our purpose in walking was flippantly regarded, he may be assured that there was just compensation the following morning with the ascent of some two thousand feet with fully laden packs, Nuyong Plateau, and for several days afterwards as the party made their way from the plateau along the Divide to Cobberas. The programme, if it is to be called that, continued, notwithstanding however. Other such celebration at Blurshirt Plain. Here the generosity of the caterer was rewarded with sympathetic assistance by the rest of the party to lighten a eighty pound pack.

Now, if the reader is cynical, and imagines that these times are completely without blessings, then he is mistaken, for always the beauty of the country and the campsites and the views which increased and reached an early climax on the Cobberas and Pilot gave small reason for disappointment.

Loyalty to the cause prevailed, and was rewarded with a day's rest, as planned, at Tin Mine. Into the newly established, but temporarily named Snowy Mountain Camp, the mob swaggered and took over all facilities offered by the men in charge, and acceptance by the party being a mere formality. Such facilities included tents, showers, privies, coppers, darts and darts. Soon the showers and coppers were working overtime!!

After such recreation, the party moved on to Dead Horse Hut. On the big day arrived when the ascent of Ramshead and The Plateau, then Kosciusko itself was achieved in the face of a gale. Here our official poses were taken of the posing heroes and heroines, who then retired down the Chalet, where they collected their food parcels, and attired and well worn as they were, sat in the splendour of the lounge and sipped.

Within a few hours, a small colony was established on the outskirts of the chalet. A packless tour of the plateau was cut short by threatening rain (on the following day). That night, the only rain for the day assisted by a strong wind attempted to humiliate the landed gentry

cont....

in front of the bourgeois, and succeeded in removing three of the to the hardly more advantageous shelter of the wood shed. Yet it was a defiantly proud and unperturbed bunch that presented themselves to the Chalet for breakfast the following morning.

Despite the opposition from March Flies, they returned across the plateau to Dead Horse.

Three members were neglected and lost, until Tom Groggin, then as a last straw two members were allowed to labour across the Murray in a flying fox before being told that camp would be made before crossing the water. Perhaps it was the delightful swim that followed that prevented a lynching that night at Tom Groggin. There was a road from here to Khencoban, and the end of the trip.

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# MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS

## Annual Report for the year 1954/55

Presented by the Committee at the Annual General Meeting, February, 1955.

This year has again seen a slight decrease in financial membership but an increase in honorary membership, giving an overall decrease of seven members. There are now 134 financial members, 1 life member and 13 honorary members.

The slight decrease of financial members follows the general trend of the previous two years and while not of serious proportions, members should do all they can to counteract this trend. While many members have worked enthusiastically for the Club in various capacities, there has also been a certain amount of apathy as shown by the fact that it has been impossible to fill the vacant committee places at any stage of the year.

### WALKS

A great deal of work has been done by this sub-committee but unfortunately our Walks Secretary's work unexpectedly took him to Sydney immediately after Christmas and completion of their report has consequently been more difficult. Absence of many walks reports has also contributed to the difficulty of compiling a complete and comprehensive set of figures for the full year.

From the beginning of March 1954 to the beginning of January, 1955 (i.e. 10 months) 846 walkers were out on the 62 walks for which Walks Reports are available. Of these, 646 were on day walks, 156 on weekend walks and 44 on 3 day trips.

Of the total were visitors or prospective members. 18 was the average on the 3 day trips, well below the vans' capacities and two van trips had to be cancelled due to poor booking. The inducement of the 2/- reduction for payment a fortnight in advance has had insufficient trial to determine if the scheme will prove effective.

The equipment has been overhauled and increased generally, with the particular addition of sleeping bag sheets.

The map library has been reorganised and many additions and replacements made. There is still a regular sale of maps produced by the club to club members and other walkers.

A new contact system has been instituted and all members should make themselves familiar with its details.

### Resident's Weekend

After the bad weather experienced at this event in the two previous years, there was not a little anxiety about how this year's weekend would fare. As it turned out, we were to be fortunate on the Saturday night when a hearty sing-song was followed by the supper cooked to perfection. We realised how fortunate we had been when Sunday dawned with its morning deluge, but the afternoon walk to Lion's Falls was blessed with fine weather and the weekend finished on a happy note. Together 50 members attended, including a few who came up for the Sunday walk.

### Social

During the year we have been unable to find a Social Secretary and all the duties of this office have been capably performed by Betna Dryden, with the assistance of other members of the Committee. While social activity has not been so extensive perhaps as in some previous years, nevertheless, a considerable number of social occasions have been enjoyed throughout the year. Thirty-eight attended the Barn Dance, now seemingly an annual institution, held this year in ideal surroundings at Holly Green, near Sunbury. The Christmas Dance, held on Dec. 6th, was a very pleasant evening and quite well attended. Several theatre nights were arranged and we have continued to enjoy lectures and slide shows on the last Friday of each alternate month. These latter have included Laurie Rayner on 'New Guinea', Miss I. Watson on 'Central Australian Birds', Mr. Wakefield on 'The Historical Penetration of East Gippsland', and a general show of members' slides, and two evenings devoted to the coming Christmas trip.

Kodachrome enthusiasts are pleased to have the use of the new back-projector screen, kindly made by Frank Pitt. This screen can be used to show slides to small groups on any club evening without interfering with the activities of others in the room.

### Federation.

The Annual General Meeting of the Federation was held on May 12th, 1954, when a fairly short business meeting was followed by a showing of slides.



The activities of the Federation are many and varied and fall under several headings.

While the Search and Rescue Section has not been called out for a full scale search this year it has been quite active and a lot of good work done. The first aid classes, two for men and one for women, were organised and proved successful in every way. As a result, several of our members are now proud possessors of St. John's Ambulance Association certificates. This year the details of an insurance scheme for searchers were investigated and now all Federation members participating in a search will be automatically insured against injury for the full period of the search, the premium being paid by the Federation. A day search practice was held in the Gembrook area and was attended by approx. 45 members from various clubs. The objectives were found in due course and carried for a short distance on improvised stretchers. The next practice is to be a weekend affair and has been fixed for the weekend of the 27th and 28th August, 1955. A wireless instructional class held one day was also attended by 15 members. A large First Aid kit has been purchased and is held at Russell St. Police Station together with a set of key maps.

On this year's track clearing weekend, a track was cut and cleared from Donna Buang to Acheron Gap, and the track to Cemont Creek and Jarburton water race was cleared. Signs were erected at either end of the track, the cost of £40 being met by the Tourist Associations Committee. The next weekend in May 1955 will be used to clear tracks in the Mt. Vinagar area as a continuation of the track already cleared.

The mapping section has finally published an index of all maps available to Federation members and copies are being sold at 5/6, including manilla covers.

The Annual weekend was held in the Yarra Junction area, was poorly attended and not a success. After much discussion it was decided to give this event one more trial and the next Annual Weekend is due to take place on 26th/27th February, i.e., this weekend. We hope this time the attendance will be better and the weekend a success.

The Annual Ball held at Tudor Court on Aug. 6th was most successful, 184 members, representing nearly every Club in the Federation being present. A profit of £26 was made. The 1955 Ball is arranged for 5th August at Tudor Court.

#### "WALK"

WALK No.6 issue was produced in November, a little earlier than last year but not yet early enough to give the magazine the full benefit of pre-Christmas sales. Once again the delay was considerably prolonged by the lateness of members' contributions and if the Editor could only have those articles in his hands several months earlier, it would make a great difference in the satisfactory production of the magazine and ensure that it gets away to a good start on the financial side.

#### The News

The News, under the direction of Margaret Edwards and Horst Eisfelder, has continued to appear throughout the year, Nos. 66 - 77 (Incl) being the issues produced. It plays a very useful part in linking up the work of the Committee with the Club as a whole, and in carrying announcements and news to a wider circle than that of the Club-room. The News now has to be runned commercially and the purchase of a duplicator has been considered, provided extra storage space could be found.

#### National Parks Assn.

At the Annual General Meeting in September and through the medium of several Newsletters distributed to members and corporate members, the Association has brought to our notice its activities and various matters of interest to us all. Of these matters, the three most important were: (1) the possibility of the You Yangs being used as an Army munitions dump - this danger would seem to have been averted as the Army is now looking for another site. (2) Yakkie Common, the gateway to Wilsons Promontory is being split up for rehabilitation settlement, but it is anticipated that a certain area will be allocated to Wilsons Promontory. (3) It is hoped that part of the Coranderrk Reserve will be added to the Sir Colin Mackenzie Sanctuary at Healesville.

#### General

##### Bathing Box.

There has been a change in the regime this year as the box was bought by



two members and repaired to make it habitable once more. The Club has rented the box as usual, however.

| <u>Committee attendances</u> (12 possible) |              |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| W. Horton, President                       | 12           |
| N. Richards, Vice President                | 11           |
| B. Dryden, Vice President                  | 11           |
| H. Wolff, Treasurer                        | 10           |
| W. Bennet, Secretary                       | 12           |
| J. Low, Walks Secy.                        | 9            |
| M. Edwards,                                | 10           |
| M. Nash                                    | 6 (out of 7) |
| J. Hobden                                  | 5 (out of 5) |
| A Cole                                     | 11           |
| H. Eisfelder                               | 12           |
| F. Pitt                                    | 12           |

(sgd) W.M. Bennet,  
Hon. Secretary.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR 1ST FEBRUARY 1954 TO 31ST JAN. 1955

| <u>RECEIPTS</u>                 |                   | <u>PAYMENTS</u>                       |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Cash on Hand 1/2/54: £2.13.1    |                   | Program, Printing & Postage           | £24. 6. 1         |
| Cash at Bank 1/2/54: £218. 8.3  | £221. 1. 4        | Wedding Presents                      | 3.16. 0           |
| Social                          | 13. 1. 1          | Social                                | 20.17. 0          |
| Van Fares                       | 311. 0. 0         | Van Hire                              | 322.17. 6         |
| Collections                     | 88.14. 1          | Rent                                  | 94.12. 3          |
| "Walk", Sales and Adverts       | 128.14. 3         | "Walk", Printing, etc.                | 160. 4. 6         |
| "News", Advers and Subs.        | 10. 5.10          | "News", Printing and Postage          | 24.15.10          |
| Subscriptions                   | 119.18. 9         | Subs. to Magazines and Organisations  | 7.11. 0           |
| Christmas Cards, Sales          | 3.14. 6           | Christmas Cards, Expenses             | 0.17. 6           |
| Equipment Hire                  | 9.16. 0           | Purchase of Equipment                 | 16.11. 5          |
| Bathing Box, Collections(53/54) | 4. 0. 6           | Bathing Box, Rent (53/54)             | 7.10. 0           |
| Donations                       | 3.19. 9           | Gordon Neilson Fund                   | 5. 5. 0           |
| Badges                          | 6. 0. 0           | Miscellaneous                         | 17. 9. 1          |
| Sale of Maps                    | 5. 9. 6           | Cash on hand 31/1/55: £20.10.8        |                   |
| Sale of Books (8/-)             | 0. 8. 0           | Cash at Bank 31/1/55: <u>200. 0.7</u> | 220.11. 3         |
| Miscellaneous                   | <u>1. 0.10</u>    |                                       |                   |
|                                 | <u>£927. 4. 5</u> |                                       | <u>£927. 4. 5</u> |

(Sgd.) H.E. Wolff  
Hon. Treasurer

Audited and Found Correct

(Sgd.) Ian J. Bennet,  
E.W.T. Kirk.  
Hon. Auditors.