

CIRCULAR

THE NEWS

NO. 84

OF

SEPT. - OCTOBER 1955

--- THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS ---

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

OFFICIAL CLUB NOTICE
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
Friday, 30th September

All members are asked to note that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING will be held on Friday night, 30th September, 1955, after the lecture by Mr. Butcher of the Fisheries & Game Department.

The meeting is for the sole purpose of electing a new WALKS SECRETARY, the position Alf Cole is forced to vacate due to pressure of business.

All members are asked to consider this matter carefully beforehand.

DATES TO BE REMEMBERED: (a) Walks for the coming month --- see page 2.

- (b) Lecture Night : 30th September, Mr. Butcher (Fisheries & Game Department).
- (c) Extraordinary General Meeting : 30th September, after the Lecture.
- (d) "Walk" Contributions for Norm : ABSOLUTE DEAD-LINE : 30TH SEPTEMBER.
- (e) Federation Day Walk : 9th October. Led by this Club. Don't forget.
- (f) Bi-Monthly Meeting : 28th October, and no late arrivals please.
- (g) Xmas Trip Applications : Kosciusko (Heinz) : By middle October (see page 2).

LECTURE : 30th September : As notified last month, Mr. Butcher of the Fisheries & Game Department, a nationally recognised authority on wild life, is to give the lecture. Mr. Butcher has only recently returned from U.S.A. where he represented his Department in discussions of global significance, and we are honoured this night in having, in addition to the lecture, a Kodachrome show dealing with his trip through the States. One Club member remembers Mr. Butcher as an excellent and entertaining speaker, and an acquaintance who has seen the slides, with lingering looks of longings for past fond memories, entreated, "Don't miss these whatever happens!"

Mr. Butcher must be a very busy man, so let us show our appreciation through big numbers, and as stated before early arrivals, if you please.

VAN TRIP -- A WARNING : Once again there seems to be a crop of people who join van trips at the time of departure from Batman Avenue, without booking with the leader. THIS MUST STOP! as it is impossible for the Walks Sub-committee to determine whether a van can be run without financial loss, unless it knows for certain how many people will be attending the walk concerned in time to cancel the van if necessary.

As lists are posted on the Notice Board in the Club room a month before each trip, and most leaders can be contacted by 'phone, there is no excuse for not booking. This is a warning that if this tendency of members to join vans without booking does not stop, those attempting to do so will not be allowed to join the van under any circumstances.

SHOOTING OF PENGUINS : Some unknown irresponsibles have been reported for shooting penguins at Sealer's Cove, Wilson's Promontory, last Easter; and Egon, who was at hand when the complaint was made, noted that the presence of walkers in the area was mentioned, significantly. We know, and feel sure that our relations with the Fisheries & Game Department have been sufficiently long to justify their feeling, that nothing could be further from the truth than linking walkers with such acts. However, this is the point of this small notice - we can assist in preserving protected life, and assist the Fisheries & Game Department by reporting such transgressions. Also be careful not to jeopardise 'walkers' reputations by any light-hearted act which may be misconstrued.

"WALK" CONTRIBUTIONS : Norm says that he can barely extend the dead-line date for contributions to "Walk" beyond about the 25th September. If he awaits them till later than that, there is the risk that the printers (who, you must remember, are themselves then experiencing heavy Christmas rushes) may not be able to print "Walk" in time for our Christmas sales. And this would be fatal.

Norm is a little perturbed about the quantity of articles received, and is understandably disappointed also. We beg of you, don't read this and do nothing. There must be some way that you can help. If you are nervous about your ability, remember Norm has already offered to help you with your problem. Just put the story on paper legibly, and post it to his address. You will then have done your little bit towards making the magazine the success it should be.

CHRISTMAS TRIP. YARONGABILLY - KOSCIUSKO : Heinz states that it will be advisable to make the rail bookings for his Christmas trip as soon as the booking opens (i.e. two months ahead), because the party will have to travel on the popular interstate trains during the height of the Christmas rush. For this reason he would like prospective starters to get in touch with him well before the middle of October again, middle of October. (See page 4 for details).

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NO. 1. NEW MEMBERS : Three new members have been added to our numbers this month, and here they are to be added to our List of Members :

- (a) Rosemary DOWNES, 6 Gilsland Road, MURRUMBEENA. Phone : (p) UM 2870.
- (b) Diethard (Tim) KOTTEK, 38 Charlotte Street, NEWPORT.
- (c) Hans WOLFF, 11 Powell Street, SOUTH YARRA. Phone : (p) LX 8139 (b) MJ 8861.

All members wish that all three of you, Rosemary, Tim and Hans, will have many happy days of walking with the Club.

NO. 2. COMING EVENTS

THE NEAR OTWAYS : (Alf Cole) 17 - 18 SEPTEMBER.

TYNONG - NAR NAR GOON : (Willie Baxter) 18TH SEPTEMBER.

GLENBURN - FLOWERDALE : (Lothar Kottek) 25TH SEPTEMBER.

These were reviewed last month, so turn them up to see what Alf, Willie and Lothar have in store for you.

YAN YEAN - WHITTLESEA area. SHOW DAY 29TH SEPTEMBER.

The SHOW DAY Walk. The walk advertised in the programme has proved to be too long to fit in with the available transport; and so it will now be a round trip in the Yan Yean - Whittlesea area, taking in Howitt's Lookout on the way. (N.B. The ticket is now a 2nd return to Whittlesea).

This is a very pleasant area at this time of the year as everything is fresh and green. The views from the top, too, are worth the effort of the climb. (Win Bonnet)

BACCHUS MARSH area --- VAN TRIP. 1 - 2 OCTOBER.

We forgot to get a briefing from Norm for this one, so all we'll say just now is to make sure that you do not forget to book early for what should prove to be an excellent walk. Remember Norm is an old hand who knows all the trade tricks for making even the dulllest walks glitter with the sparkle we learn to expect from the best and this one is a long way from being just average. So don't forget it, or the VAN part either. (Norm Richards)

MACEDON - CAMEL'S HUMP - WOODEND 2ND OCTOBER.

George hasn't dropped in a briefing for this one, so we'll just advise you to get a 2nd return WOODEND, and leave behind for twelve carefree hours the tensions of city life. (George Gordon).

FEDERATION DAY WALK : (Led by this Club) 9TH OCTOBER.

Rally to the aid of the Club! Come and meet walkers of other clubs! Make our leadership not only one of organization, but of numbers, friendliness and enthusiasm. And, damn it all -- it's a good walk, too :

TRENTAM - TRENTAM FALLS - COLIBAN R. - LYONVILLE BE SEEING YOU.

NO. 2 COMING EVENTS (continued)

MOE - NARRACAN CREEK - TRAFALGAR

15 - 16 OCTOBER

As you all must know, those of a couple of years standing personally and many others through hearsay, Ken (who ~~was~~ ~~lives~~ at Omeo where he tends the needs of the P.M.G. and those who suddenly find their phones 'won't talk') is the very life - and the death - of any part he monitors. (Some of us no doubt recollect a day near Hurstbridge when Ken scaled a tree the better to observe the antics of one below ... a bull ... and twenty others of his party, equally inquisitive, took up vantage points in twenty other trees ... and they didn't waste much time about it either.)

Anyway, as enterprising and as full of life as Ken is, he hasn't had enough energy to tell us what his walk is about ... unless, of course, his boss forgot to deliver the letter. So just get a 2nd return to MOE on the 16th and find out what rascallity Ken has in store for you. (Oh, a tip! ... Stick to the timber, where there are enough trees to go around, just in case).

(Ken Grant)

SEVILLE - STEEL'S LOOKOUT - BRIARITY'S HILL - KILLARA

16TH OCTOBER

Provided the weather is fine (and Margaret doesn't guarantee this) a pleasant walk is assured for all starters. The walking in the morning will be through paddocks and along unformed roads (~~therefore don't come in cars~~).

After lunch - following in the best traditions of the Club - the party will begin to climb. The more agile and daring members will obtain splendid views of the Yarra Valley from the fire tower on Steel's Lookout. After visiting Briarity's Hill the party will return to Killara, where, time permitting, the billy will be boiled before boarding the train.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS : The leader does not expect to lose anyone on this trip, but bring your compass anyway.

(Margaret Low)

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BOTANY WALK IN BRISBANE RANGES

23rd OCTOBER

Although the walk is described as a 'Botany Walk', don't let that put you off. Since October is the peak month for our native wild flowers (except in the alpine regions where it is later), this walk has been arranged in one of our best wild flower areas closer to Melbourne. The walk of approximately ten miles will either begin or end at Anakie and will include a visit to the Durdiwarrah Reservoirs. Walking is easy through lightly timbered and undulating country of the Brisbane Ranges with a minimum of fences and road-bashing. If time permits, a visit will be paid to the summit of Mt. Anakie which is a granite residual overlooking the basalt plains adjacent to Port Phillip Bay. For those particularly interested, this will be a good opportunity to recognise some of our native flowers, and for those not so interested a very enjoyable walk anyway.

(Geoff Christensen).

GARFIELD - MT. CANNIBAL - GEMBROOK : (Bill Horton)

29 - 30 OCTOBER

DROUIN - TARRAGO - PICNIC PT. - LONGWARRY : (Frank Burt)

30TH OCTOBER

Previews of both these walks will appear in next month's issue of the "News", so don't neglect to turn up on the night of the Bi-Monthly Meeting on the 28th October, get your copy and "readallaboutit".

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2nd Floor, 80 Swanston Street, MELBOURNE

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NO. 3 CHRISTMAS WALKS : This is a very special notice, which, by rights, should have been poked in amongst the headlines. A little note appears on page 2 warning you that if you don't book for Heinz's trip when booking opens in the middle of October, you'll walk to Kosciusko or be thankful for a berth in the dog-box.

Alf also wishes to make an announcement or two before we settle down to business. In the first place the listed particulars are tentative only and subject to confirmation further, there may be another walk of less duration if enough members are interested and lastly, all those intending to take part in any of these walks should see the leaders without delay, and before the "full-house" sign goes up.

3rd. BOB BITTNER : LICOLA - LAKE TALIKARNG - MT. WELLINGTON - SNOWY PLAINS -
TRIP. (15 days) MT. HOWITT - HOWQUA RIVER - MANSFIELD
24th DECEMBER (Sat.) to 7th JANUARY (Sat.)

Ist. PETER BECKER : MANSFIELD - FRED FRY'S - JAMIESON VALLEY - GREAT DIVIDE
TRIP (15 days) (between Mt. MacDonald & Knobbs), CROSSCUT SAW and
returning via BULLA or the HOWQUA VALLEY
6th DECEMBER (Tues.) to 20th DECEMBER (Tues.)

2nd. HEINZ WOLFF : YARONGABILLY CAVES - TUMUT PONDS - MT. KUGUNGAL -
TRIP. (17 or 19 days) MT. KOSCIUSKO - KHANCOBAN.
22nd DECEMBER (Thurs.) to 7th JANUARY (Sat.), or
23rd DECEMBER (Fri.) to 9th JANUARY (Mon.)
(Heinz, apparently wishing to square off with your boss, says he will not be leaving before you get your days work in; but you'd better see him about what the position is there.)

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(WHICH ARE BACK IN STOCK AGAIN SO DON'T MISS OUT)

Paddy Pallin Price List on Request.

AUSKI, 6th Floor, McEwan House, Little Collins St., MELBOURNE. PHONE: MU 1412

NO. 4. ON THE TRACK :

Here are three or four for this month, the first of whom Henry Lawsons his subject, and gets us there just the same.

PAKENHAM - GEMBROOK :

21ST AUGUST

One Sunday morning last August was seen
A bushwalking party numbered sixteen,
Who stepped off the train at Pakenham Station,
Then marshalled themselves in hiking formation.

Their leader cried "Start!" and off they all went.
In a northerly direction - as was their intent.
When outside the town, they formed a large ring
And with lusty voices their names did they sing.

There was Ian and Bob, and Felix as well
(To these such a walk was a mere bagetelle),
And two young ladies, of whom I must relate
Finished this their first walk with unwavering gait.

Then off the road and up a steep spur,
Thick scrub cutting vision down to a blur;
The pace starts to slow and breath comes in pants,
But there's soon a reward in a view that enchants.

Alas on the way down through a dark vale
Some stragglers misadventantly took the wrong trail.
So the only thing to do was to shout a loud "hoy"
Which brought them back safely much to their joy.

After eating some lunch, not too frugally
And sipping tea stirred centrifugally,
The party then stirred themselves and decamped:
Up a damp earth ramp they stamped and they tramped.

"5 miles to go" as was shown by signpost -----
Well, the party could have missed their bus by "almost"
Which would have brought some quick tempers up to hate,
For this would have meant a most aggravating three hours wait.

But the leader knowingly, wisely held their paces,
Waiting till the downgrade to start the races.
Thus Gembrook town was reached all in good time
A perfect ending to a walk voted sublime.

(Athol Schafer).

SEARCH & RESCUE PRACTICE WEEKEND :

27 - 28 AUGUST

This practice, as stated above, was held at Kinglake West on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th August. About fifty bodies turned out on the Saturday, and were organised to search a small area adjacent to the road junction, using different methods to those employed in the past. Several portable wireless sets were used and added to the general interest of the day's activities.

At a post-mortem in the local hall which was attended by everyone, general discussion on Club practice and general procedures took place. On Sunday, groups practised the use of the radio sets, stretcher making and carrying, first aid and base organisation. All enjoyed themselves in the beautiful sunny weather, and voted the whole exercise an outstanding success, even to the extent of recommending that another practice be held next Autumn, before the rush period.

NO. 4 ON THE TRACK Continued

YARPA GLEN - ONE TREE HILL - ST. ANDREWS :

28TH AUGUST

Twelve bodies turned up to be led by Heinz, who had taken over from Gerda who was interstate at the time. After crossing the aqueduct, we turned north. Apparently there must have been a bargain sale of bills in these parts because a never ending supply presented itself. Eventually HUNCH BACK CREEK was reached and a suitable spot found for lunch. As befitting a leader (see rules and regulations on the program), Heinz made sure that no litter was left around, and his eagle eyes very quickly unmasked an attempt at camouflage.

Even after that, the supply of bills still held good, the only diversion being the claim of some to have seen two wombats. The question is open as to whether they saw two wombats, the same wombat twice, or just had the wrong kinda lunch.

Near the Knobs we had another stop opposite a farm house. Here a well-known roué tried his luck with a local beauty by putting on his best Sunday smile and asking her an apparently innocent question. The lady showed her justified indignation by bursting into tears, and enlisting the services of her big brother, who, however, preferred to lead her away rather than tackle the impudent stranger. The roué noted the place and hopes to return in another three years, by which time the local beauty might be of school age.

The party reached St. Andrews in good time for the bus. The train journey from Hurstbridge (6.05) ended a pleasant hike.

BARN-DANCE WEEKEND : BRITANNIA CREEK :

3 - 4 SEPTEMBER

Once again the Barn Dance has come and gone, and everyone there agreed that it was bigger and better than ever.

The Saturday walk from Yarra Junction was started in a downpour, but the thirteen "toughies" who braved the elements, enjoyed a short but interesting walk to the campsite at Britannia Creek..... a lovely setting of gum trees, blackwoods and wattle (in full bloom) even if it was a trifle damp underfoot.

The dance was a "wow" with plenty of canned music, thanks to Gerry Harant and his amplifying arrangements. It was 12.30 before "Auld Lang Syne", and the dancers didn't want to stop even then! But before the night was out, we once again had a "prize" set, and a "Strip-the Willow"!!!!!! A huge supper was scoffed by the H.H's (i.e. Hungry Hounds), and "Swan Lake" ballet was "moldered" by three baletomai(m)eds, one of whom lost her skirt during the proceedings!

Sunday's walk was not long but scrubby and hilly enough to keep everyone from complaining - they were too puffed!! And everything was a success and enjoyed by all, two even turning up at 9 a.m. for the 1 p.m. van on Saturday. Keen Types!!!! (Jock was the master of MCs that night).

LOST : Cap, left in club room on 26th August is being guarded by editorial staff.

CONGRATULATIONS: In case there may be one or two of us who may not have heard the news about the next Arctic, rather Antarctic Expedition which heads South for the Polar blizzards early next December, here is 1 little piece of very good news, and concerning two very well known Bills and prominent members of the S. & R. Bill Bewsher (MUMC) is the man in-charge at the important Antarctic Base of MAWSON, and Bill Hollingshead (YHA), the run of wireless communications there.

All members are delighted to hear of the news, and the Club extends the heartiest congratulations to you both, and wish you every success in your enterprise in this romantic region.