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THE EDITOR AND STAFF EXTEND TO "NEWS" READERS COMPLIMENTS
OF THE SEASON

Christmas Walkers ... Your Attention Please!

See that those at home have the following Contacts' phone numbers.
While you are away enquiries should be made through these people:-

Up to 1st January : Fred and Merle Halls	XU 3724
After 1st January : Norm and Edna Richards	WJ 9524
Available all the time : Win and Ian Bennet	JF 1921
" " " " Bill Thompson	WX 8240

WELCOME TO A NEW MEMBER:

McCLURE, Dawn Anne - C/o Nurses Home Post Office, The Royal
Melbourne Hospital

AUSKI

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Paddy Pallin has produced a new light-weight H-Frame Pack, slightly smaller than existing models. Cheaper too, at £11.10.0d. Need a new pack? Then call at AUSKI's and inspect his range, including models of the celebrated Bergen Rucksack recently imported from Europe.

AUSKI has instant mash potato in bulk

CALL AND INSPECT see LOIS, TONI, JOHN and CHARLES at
AUSKI HOUSE, 9 HARDWARE STREET, CITY (Near Bourke Street)

Our thanks to "Mrs. President" for the excellent Christmas cake she baked and presented at the Club's Annual Dance on Saturday, 14th December. To the accompaniment of Roy Taylor's stereophonic violin, etc., 35 members and friends executed a wide range of steps from lovely old-timers like "The Pride of Erin" to the frantic gyrations of today's torso-twitching "Twist". Amazing really - I thought the Barn Dance was set to go on all night, but I suppose it loses its novelty after the Umptey-Ninth time round! Doug kept his partners on their toes all night - and that "cuppa" for supper was very welcome.

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

ON BUSHFIRES

Bushfires usually just don't happen - they are lit. In most bushfires the hand of man is unfortunately too much in evidence. A bushfire does no one any good and the annual cost to Australia of losses of crops, stock and fences runs into millions of pounds.

A forest which is continually ravaged by fire degenerates. The soil is bleached out, undergrowth and new seedlings disappear and undesirable weeds etc. intrude. And all this very much concerns you.

This State of Victoria is in a somewhat dried out condition and already one bushfire has occurred this season. This Club never has been, and must not be responsible for a bushfire. The Forestry Commission realizes that bushwalkers must cook meals over open fires and are quite cognisant of our responsibilities in the matter.

The regulations are clearly and simply set out in a small pamphlet they publish, supplies of which are available from the Secretary or from the Commission. The responsibility for each fire rests with you - the members. You light it -- you put it out. When you do extinguish a fire, pour water on it and then test it by putting your fingers in the ashes.

When lighting a fire keep it small. A "blackfellows" fire is excellent for cooking on. Remember the bigger the fool the bigger the fire. From now until the end of the official summer fire danger period, I require all leaders to see that all members have put their fires out.

W. I. Thompson
President

PERSONAL

Over in W. A., Geoff Schafer says there is lots of territory waiting to be walked upon. Geoff will welcome visitors during the holiday period at this address : C/o Mr. R. Steilberger, 33 Hurlingham Terrace, South Perth.

We note that the Men's Club are now back in their premises at 161 Flinders Lane, which was damaged in the fire last August.

Two Anns going overseas - Ann Badger on 23rd December aboard the Castel Felice and Ann Guthrie, about 4th January on the Himalaya. Bon Voyage to you both.

Another member on the high seas at the time of going to press is Rex Filson, bound for Macquarie Island on the Nella Dan - he'll be absent from our sunny shores for 3 months.

Another engagement! Yes - this time its Ann Badger to Peter Van der Duys - Hon. Treasurer was first to notice Ann's ring at the Club's Annual Christmas Dance on Saturday, 14th. Our very best wishes to you both.

DAY WALKS PROGRAM

- 12 January Warrandyte - Hurstbridge (Easy 10 miles)
Please note alteration to transport. Now catching
the 8.55 a.m. train from Flinders Street Station.
Clive Bray 89 9640
- 19 January Lerderderg Gorge (Easy - 6 miles)
Swimming - Li-Lo Derby.
Van leaves Batman Avenue 8.55 a.m. and soon arrives
at that "well-known spot". Bring togs. (10/-)
Helen White 93 6351
- 26 January Emerald Park (Swimming) - Easy 8 miles.
Train departs Flinders Street Station 8.56 a.m.
Ticket: Return Belgrave plus Puffing Billy fare.

OVERNIGHT WALKS PROGRAM

- 18-19 January - Lerderderg Gorge (Easy 10 miles)
Swimming - Li-Lo Derby.
Van leaves Batman Avenue 9.00 a.m. Saturday (16/-)
Walks Sub-Committee.
- 24-27 January (Australia Day Long Weekend)
Aberfeldy - Jordan River - Red Jacket - Jericho
Medium - 20 miles.
Van leaves Batman Avenue 6.30 p.m. Friday. This will
finish the walk that we didn't last February. Take the
opportunity of visiting the area for it is earmarked as a
site for a new water storage.
John Bach 98 3352
- 24-27 January (Australia Day Long Weekend)
* Work Party, etc. - See Graham Errey 88 4385
Wilkinson Lodge.

* There will be plenty of work for all. The main job will be the
painting of the exterior of the lodge, so any budding painters,
complete with paint brushes, will be welcome. See Lodge
Manager for all details including transport. LIMIT-14 persons.

NOTE: All bookings must be made through the Manager.
Drivers must not take their vehicles on to the grass
in the Kiewa area.

1964 Walking Club Magazines Recently Published:

1. First of all our own "WALK" written and produced by your fellow
club members. Get your copy at Room 110 - Price 2/6d.
2. "The Melbourne Walker" - produced by the Men's Club, copies
are also available at Room 110 - Price 2/6d.
3. "Skyline" - Annual magazine of the Launceston Walking Club
has been on issue for some time now - Price 2/-.
4. Also from Tasmania and the latest arrival is "The Tasmanian
Tramp". Produced by the Hobart Walking Club this is a fine
magazine.. Price 3/-.

Track Note Index

A limited number of indexes to track notes published in "Walk"
Vol. 1 to Vol. 14 are available. Also guides to descriptions of walks
in same volumes. See Athol Schafer.

ALONG THE TRACK

Breeches Peak-Mt. Hickey-Stony Creek-Mt. Marianne ... 23-24 November

There were only 3 names on the list, perhaps because of the rating "Hard - 24 miles", so the outward journey was by train. But only 2 were on board, the member who missed it spent the rest of the next day and a half searching the area for the other 2, having followed by car.

The leader and whip, on leaving Tallarook, had their packs weighted by an added one pound of flies and one pound of grass seeds in their socks, but not enough to prevent them from enjoying the steep climb to the Peak and the easy stroll along the scenic ridges and by cool streamlets.

Shortly after lunch Mt. Hickey was reached but a blue haze spoilt the views so it was down to the reservoir, a lagoon-like sheet of water surrounded by steep hills, the peace disturbed occasionally by raucous kookaburra laughter. A cool wind gently swayed the tree-tops blowing the fragrance of many blossoms as the shadows lengthened and day gave way to dark.

Next day it was along the steep ridge forming the southern boundary of the Goulburn Valley, lush and green, while beyond were seen many mountain peaks including Mt. Buller. Then the party gained a 50% membership:-

"Two jolly bushwalkers, as happy as could be,
Then Maitland joined their party, and so they were three".

The afternoon's objective was the grassy sloped Mt. Mariame, and there more sock seeds. A hot sun and cold breeze took turns in raising the calorific needs of the party, so that by the time Strath Creek was reached, well, never before was so much liquid and ice-cream consumed by so few in such short time, before joining the Sunday Strollers for the return home in a somewhat battered van.

F.H.

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KELLY'S PLACE

We stopped to ask the way ahead
Along a distant track,
And this is what a gaffer said
Outside his paling shack.

"At Kelly's place you'd like to camp
Although it takes all day?
Well, if you think you'd like the tramp,
I'll put you on your way".

"First take the pad along this fence,
Yes, that's the way to go,
Then enter timber fairly dense,
Oh, just five miles or so".

"After you cross a muddy creek
And keep it on your right,
You climb up to a rocky peak,
Six miles to reach that height."

"Ten miles down to a grassy flat
Where flow three swollen streams,
When crossed, it's Kelly's place
you're at
When fades the sunny beams".

After we spent the day upon
Trudging those tiresome tracks,
How, when the sunny beams had gone
Didn't we drop our packs!

To our dismay we soon discerned
Dim on the gloomy flat
That old man's hut, and we'd returned
To where we started at.

We lost no time and banged his door,
Until we saw his face,
Complaining loud that we were sore
Looking for Kelly's place.

He said, "I think my hearing's right,
You said you had all day
To get from here to Kelly's site
If I could show the way".

"I am Kelly, and told you how
To get from here - to here
As you wanted, but see you now,
You never asked how near!"

"RATTO"

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In our recent snake-bite article, mention was made how snakes will seek a cool spot during hot weather. An old-timer we know was reminiscing on life at a South Gippsland farm in pre-refrigeration days. To keep the butter solid during a hot spell it was stood in a pail of water housed in a little hut. When getting it out it was always necessary to take a good look before putting a hand in the pail - quite often a snake would be curled round in the water, cooling off.