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Notice is hereby given of the Bi-monthly General Meeting on the last Friday this month (25th October) to be held in Clubroom, Room 110, VRI Building, Flinders Street. Members will consider important alterations to the By-laws and Practices of the Club following the closure of the two months' trial period which was agreed upon at the Half Yearly General Meeting held 30th August last. If deemed successful by a majority of members, these alterations will be adopted permanently. Please bring your copy of By-laws together with Aug. -Sept. issue of 'News' which contained the relevant Notice of Motion.

AUCTION: See notice on Page 2 re auction to be held after the above meeting.

CHRISTMAS WALKS

KIEWA AREA - starting from Tawonga Gap, taking in Dungey's Track, Wilkinson Lodge, The Grey Hills, Mt. Bogong ... 8 days. An extension may be made for those with extra time (4 days) to exit the area via the Fainter Ridge, Mt. Hotham and Mt. Feathertop. Leader: Athol Schafer. Reference Map: Robinson's "Kiewa Scheme" (4/-). Approximate cost of fares - £6.

The other area selected for the Christmas walking this year is the Bennison Plains/Snowy Range. With the advent of a good access road to this high country, walks for parties of any standard can be arranged.

For those who shun the easy way of gaining altitude, the climb Wellington River to Bennison Plains via the Crinoline (Mount Ligar) and Long Hill should satisfy them, or for others - the well worn road via Tali Karng and Mount Wellington may still attract.

From Bennison Plains to travel east will cover the Moroka River/Snowy Bluff/Mount Kent country - scene but not seen of last year's 5 day walk (Walk 1964). To the north, such well known names as Bryce's Gorge, Howitt Plains, Macalister Springs, Mount Howitt, Magdala, Cross Cut Saw, The Bluff, Viking and Cobbler still have a challenge to the walker.

If you want a walk where the days are long and the miles many we will arrange it. If the opposite is your desire - low daily mileage, early camps and a spare day or two to spend in the area that appeals, it can be arranged also.

"Hester Highland Hikes Inc."

CHRISTMAS WALKS PREVIEW NIGHT will be held in the Clubroom on 15th November. Newcomers to extended walks are advised that they must complete to the satisfaction of the Committee, one of the four overnight walks listed on Page 3 before being eligible to join a Club Christmas Walk party.

Please note that the 1.30 p.m. start on the President's Weekend allows the Saturday morning workers to complete a qualifying walk. Those taking advantage of this will be led over a tougher course and camp with the main party at the barbeque on Saturday night.

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)

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

ALDRIDGE - Barbara Grace, 22 Rothesay Ave., Elwood (p) 912087
(b) 62 5855

BRIDGE - June, 18 Stephenson St., Morwell (p) Morwell 43581

DOUGLAS - Ann Blair, 33 Guildford Rd., Surrey Hills (p) 83 5850
(b) 51 1221

(Alfred Hosp. Nurses Home)

ELLIOTT, Alan Frederick, 31 Fenton St., Ascot Vale (p) FU 1580
(b) 61 2041

KERR, Terence Royden, 2 Burnett St., Mitcham (p) 87 1259 (b) 69 5231

MUNRO, Sandra Lorraine, 64 Raynes Park Road, Hampton

VERTIGAN, Maitland James, 99 Barkers Rd., Kew (p) 86 6168

Alteration to 'Phone Number:

CORRY, Max - Business 'phone extension was 1226 is now 1228

SOCIAL ROUND - UP

Christmas Dance

The Victorian Amateur Cine Society's hall, East Melbourne, has been booked again this year for the Christmas Dance.

Auction Notice

There will be an auction of members' surplus walking equipment in the Club Room after October 25th Bi-Monthly meeting. Now is your chance to clear out surplus packs, boots, ground sheets, etc. and new members - this is a good opportunity to invest in some nicely "worn-in" equipment in readiness for Christmas walking if you can't afford new and expensive rig-outs just now.

Slide and Movie Night - 1st November

We are to be treated to some entertaining slide viewing of the first party of some Club members and friends who visited Wilkinson Lodge during September this year. Also some movie film of their ski-ing lessons in preparation for their winter holiday at "Wilky".

While thinking of slide nights - our thanks must go to Val and Betna for their absorbing presentation on 4th October last of slides taken on their recent journey to S.E. Asia. We hope to see more of these at a later date please.

Personalities

Mrs. Muriel Fox is at present in Jessie MacPherson Hospital recovering from an operation. A Committee member paid her a visit recently and says it was a pleasant change to see a hospital patient looking so cheerful. Muriel sends her love to her friends in the Club by the way.

Was an ill wind for someone? Going out to Hurstbridge by train the other day, Felix could hardly believe his eyes (and luck) when, as tho' from nowhere, through the open doorway fluttered in a £1 note!

Heard a whisper that Peter Ingram and Margaret Manly heard wedding bells recently - also that they are planning to settle in the Bendigo area. The Club wishes them much happiness together through the coming years.

Mike Stevens became engaged recently - Best wishes from the Club to you both, Mike.

WILKINSON LODGE

There will be a work party up at Wilkinson over the long weekend in January (25th - 27th). For more details about this - read Page 5

STOP PRESS --- TO Bruce and Juno A SON. Our Congratulations

PROGRAM DAY WALKS

- 27 October** Estcourt's Track - Egg Rock - Beenak Junction (11 miles medium)
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 8.55 a.m. (12/-)
 Map: M.B.W. Warburton-Powelltown area.
 Betty Emslie.
- 3 November** View Hill - Mt. William - Moranding (11 medium miles)
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 8.55 a.m. (14/-)
 Map: Lancefield & Pyalong Military 1"=1 mile
 Anne Badger - WM 9362.
- 5 November** Cup Day: *Seville-Steel's Hill-Lilydale (13 miles easy)
 Train - No. 1 Platform 8.25 a.m.
 Ticket: Return Lilydale (5/8d.) + Single Extension to Seville (3/9d.) = 9/5d.
 Mostly pleasant bush tracks, surprisingly few fences, scenic views of Warburton Ranges especially atop fire tower on Briarty's Hill - lunch spot (bring water).
 Maps: Yan Yean & Ringwood Military 1" = 1 mile
 Fay Chesterfield - (p) 96 4160 (b) 62 0171.
 *NOTE: Alteration to walk as printed on Spring Program.
- 17 November** Rye - Spray Point - Diamond Bay (10 medium miles)
 Van leaves Batman Ave. 8.55 a.m. (14/-) - Coast walk.
 Note: that this is a medium walk, not a bludge swimming walk. However there will be a chance for a swim depending on the time and weather. Coastal scenery is quite impressive in parts. The walk will start on the sloping sand of the Rye Back Beach, then skirt the cliff tops and small beaches to Spray Point at Koonya Beach. On the way time off will be taken to inspect the old aquarium. The walk will finish at Diamond Bay. Bring a FULL water bottle.
 Map : Sorrento Military 1" = 1 mile.
 Robin Mitchell - XF 6082.
- 24 November** Mt. Hickey - Strath Creek (medium - 10 miles)
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 8.55 a.m. (14/-)
 Map : Tallarook Military 1" = 1 mile
 Dora Hester - 68 4086.

OVERNIGHT WALKS

- 26/27 October** Powelltown - Seven Acre Rocks - Tomahawk Valley (21 medium miles)
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 8.30 a.m. Saturday. (22/-)
 Maps: M.B.W. Warburton-Powelltown Area
 Fred Halls XU 3724
- 9/10 November** President's Weekend - Gilderoy Area
 Van leaves Batman Avenue 1.30 p.m. Saturday.
 Good camping sites are available and also a Rover hut should weather be unkind. It is close to the road so any members bringing their families along will not have to walk far to the scene of the festivities.
 Further details - see W. I. Thompson.
- 23/24 November** - Breech Peak - Mt. Hickey - Stony Creek - Mt. Marianne (24 hard miles) Van leaves Batman Avenue 8.30 Saturday morning (22/-).
 This is the ideal walk after the exams to toughen up for coming Christmas walks. The area is north of Melbourne probable starting point near Tallarook, finishing at Strath Crk. As it is a Saturday start we will have to be moving to cover the distance. BRING WATER.
 Maps : Tallarook Military 1" = 1 mile
 Charlie Weiling - 85 1979

ALONG THE TRACKThe Blackwood Hysterical Rumble ... er .. Historical Ramble 31 Aug. - 1 Sept.

The sky was grey and the wind cold as 17 history hungry bushies alighted from the van. Shortly afterwards, on entering a tree belt west of Mt. Blackwood we disturbed several kangaroos and were also lucky enough to see two sugar gliders in the trees, reminding us of a similar incident on the Fryerstown Historical Ramble 2 years ago. Skirting Mt. Blackwood the track led through pleasant eucalypt country where the screech of white cockatoos made us look upward away from the colourful heath and sarsaparilla on either side of the path. Our lunch stop was at the old Britannia Mine site. We then re-traced our steps to the main track and on past a ruined house to the Blackwood Road. A road bash skirting the township of Blackwood led us to the camping ground with its mineral spa water - it was obviously not everyone's cup of tea. We crossed the Lerderderg River on the old swing bridge and found a camp site a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile upstream. Saturday night was cold - this was obvious from the icy waterbags and moans of the frozen party next morning. When we had packed we returned to the camping ground & left our packs there while we did a short round trip taking in the old Royal Mail Hotel and the lookout before following the old water race back to the swing bridge and our packs. The local store being handy we had ice cream and soft drinks for morning tea (it was such a hard trip). From Blackwood we followed a road past Simmons Reef and then headed south into the bush passing an old mine on the way and stopping soon afterwards for lunch. The afternoon was a long ramble along a hard road past Green Hills, ending with a short cut to Greendale. While waiting for the van we attended to our weary feet - the price of history at first hand! G.E.

Mt. Blackwood - Whisky Gully - Lerderderg

1st Sept.

The booking list said Fosters Lookout-Green Hills, but as this involved mostly road bashing the 12 walkers decided to have a go at the leader's suggestion of walking from Mt. Blackwood to Frenchman's Road via the Lerderderg instead. The sun shone brightly as we set off on our "Mystery Hike". A kookaburra, unable to restrain himself, burst out laughing at this strange procession. A short while later we had arrived at the end of the track at a point overlooking the Whisky Gully. After a rocky scramble the Whisky Creek was reached. All were impressed by its beauty, especially some "new chums" who wanted to know if all bushwalking was as pleasant as this. Then followed an hour of rock-hopping as we followed its bed to the Lerderderg. The Golden Wattle was in full bloom and made a very impressive sight. Lunch was had by the Lerderderg, now a "broad and noble stream". As it was impossible to follow up the river at this point, it was necessary for us to climb a 45° slope immediately after lunch, but all came through with flying colours. The scenery was spectacular but unfortunately the route was very rough and we took 1½ hours to cover a mile. Eventually we arrived at the top of a 100' cliff and this prevented further travel upstream. We were forced to climb a spur out of the valley and navigate through scrub, luckily to a track which we hoped was still in existence. As the hakea was much in evidence, there were many "ouches" and "ows" from the party. An hour later - to everyone's relief - the track was met. Hoping that the track would take us to our destination we now set off at a good pace. Our luck was in for the track led us right to Frenchman's Road where the van was waiting. To my surprise we were actually 10 minutes ahead of schedule! P.I.

Wilson's Promontory -

25-29 Sept.

Five of us arrived at Tidal River after making the journey in Rex's Landrover. The party set off on the first morning along the beach under a cloudless sky, bound for the Lighthouse. At the further end of the bay we picked up the track to Oberon Bay and from Oberon Bay negotiated a bare Sahara-like sandy gully. By following a line of wooden stakes along scrub-covered sand dunes, we arrived on a jeep track which was followed south to the PMG hut.

Wilson's Promontory (Cont'd.)

After lunch came the traditional climb to the plateau leading to the Lighthouse. Next day we visited the lighthouse without packs. The keeper kindly showed us over the light and his wife treated us to a cup of tea. Then back to Roaring Meg Creek - the previous night's campsite - to pick up packs and retrace our steps past the PMG hut. We turned east on a rough track climbing to the gap, then dropping down through hakia, Acacia illegitemata, head high scrub and creeks to Waterloo Bay and another campsite at the southern end. Rex was by now quite despondent, he had not found any lichens but the rest of us did not mind so much as there were lots of wildflowers about. After 2 hours of scrub bashing the next day, we were back on the jeep track heading North to the Sealers Cove turn-off. From here a wide track winds its way down through an attractive rain forest and much mud. We leaped from log to log, every now and again a splash and a curse announcing that someone had landed in deep, clinging mud. Sealers' Cove boasts a beautiful stretch of golden sand - a startling contrast to the forest we had just left. The tide being in, we had to wade the inlet to our campsite. This resulted in our shorts getting rather wet and unfortunately Frank's suffered a disastrous accident during drying out operations over the fire after tea. Luckily for him, he had brought along his swimming togs! After retiring for the night we were woken up by "ghoulies and ghosties", one sounding like a sick outboard motor, the other like that of a magpie in its death agonies. The source of these noises remained a mystery for there was no sign of intruders next morning. Possible explanations included wombats, wild pigs, owls, possums and koalas. Next day we attempted to reach Refuge Cove, but time was against us and we had to turn back when in sight of the cove. The weather was now also against us and rain began to fall as we made our way to Oberon Saddle and Tidal River Settlement. It accompanied us right back to Melbourne. B.S.

WILKINSON LODGE

Several improvements to the Lodge are envisaged by the Wilkinson Lodge Sub-Committee. These improvements will be commenced soon and include a hot water system and shower. "Wilky" will also be painted in the New Year. Now is the time to think about spending some time at "Wilky" this summer. Situated on the Bogong High Plains easily accessible by road, the Club's Lodge is an ideal place for your next holidays.

For bookings and any further information regarding Wilkinson Lodge contact Lodge Manager - Graham Errey ... 88 4385.

Any person who has any of the following to spare may care to make such equipment available for improvements to "Wilky".

Water pipe - all sizes, good condition ($\frac{3}{4}$ ", 1", 2" etc.), Taps (any type)
 Wash Troughs, Drain Pipe, Pipe Fittings, Hot Water Service Tanks (copper)
 Galvanised Iron Storage Tanks, Hand Basins, Shower Base, Fibro-Cement Sheets, Masonite, Weatherboards, Corrugated Iron, Windows, Lining Boards and any other Building Materials.

SNAKE BITE PRECAUTIONS

This is the season for snakes. With the strengthening of the summer sun reptiles then become more active and more likely to be encountered in the bush. New chums need not be unduly apprehensive when they meet them if the following precautions are well heeded. Besides, snakes themselves are usually only too anxious to avoid approaching humans.

Be Prepared

1. Carry a Snake-bite outfit WHEREVER you go. This may consist of a cutting instrument, e.g. a clean razorblade, and a constrictive bandage - e.g. leather bootlace or rubber tube. These should be carried on your person, either around the neck or in a tin to fit a pocket, but NOT in your pack. Often on a walk you may be a long way from your pack when on side trips, looking for water, etc. The absence of immediate first aid in

Snake-Bite Precautions (Cont'd.)

an emergency could mean the difference between life and death, especially if you are alone & far from other members of the party.

2. Be familiar with the First Aid Treatment. Think clearly - act quickly.

- (i) Apply a ligature (bootlace) on a single-boned part of the limb.
- (ii) Wash off surface venom. (Thus see that water is always in your flask).
- (iii) Incise or cut over each puncture always up & down the limb NOT across (thus cutting muscles, tendons, etc.) to encourage bleeding.
- (iv) Apply suction through clean polythene, plastic, etc.
- (v) Keep absolutely at rest. Drink only warm tea or coffee and keep warm. If breathing ceases apply artificial respiration.
- (vi) After 20 minutes relax ligature for 30 seconds or until colour returns to the limb, whichever is first. Tighten ligature and repeat procedure till the doctor comes or is reached.

3. Arrange for Anti Tetanus Injections with your doctor. Some fatalities are due not to the venom but by infection of the wound.**4. See that your First Aid Kit is in good order (Carry 1 or 2 sterile bandages).****5. Learn how to distinguish the various species - there is a good display of snakes at the National Museum. Several books are in print and obtainable at city bookshops. But in practice treat ALL SNAKES YOU MEET AS DANGEROUS.****Be Wary**

- 1. Look where you are going before stepping over logs and stones. Take a good look around before spreading your groundsheet or sitting down.
 - 2. Do not walk around camp in bare feet after dusk especially when camping near water. Snakes come to these places to hunt frogs and in summer to keep cool. Wear boots and thick socks.
 - 3. When going through tall grass wear gaiters and slacks. Be careful in coastal areas where there are dry grass tussocks, scrubby sandy country, blackberry bushes, bluestone walls, occasionally occupied huts. When leaving a hut see that all food scraps are destroyed or rodents will come - natural prey for snakes;
 - 4. Note that hot and humid weather seems to bring out snakes.
 - 5. Do not play with or worry snakes. A snake, when cornered, can be very vicious. When meeting a snake in your path wait for it to slither away or walk around it, giving it a wide berth!
 - 6. Do not attempt to kill a snake (unless it presents a threat to you or others)
- THE MAJORITY OF SNAKE BITES HAS OCCURRED THROUGH PEOPLE ATTEMPTING TO KILL OR CAPTURE A SNAKE.** If you must kill a snake, select a stout green stick, not too long, or a piece of fencing wire. A dry stick is apt to break and a snake can twist around a long pole and drop on the holder on the next upstroke.

In an Emergency

- 1. If a member of your party is bitten co-operate with the leader in caring for the casualty and seeing that he gets to safety and medical aid.
- 2. If it can be done without risk, try and kill the offending snake for identification purposes.
- 3. **SEND FOR A DOCTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** and tell him the species of snake if known.
- 4. Reassure the patient with encouraging words, as his alarm will aggravate the conditions of shock. Most snake bite victims in Australia recover after receiving treatment.

WARNING : This article is only a brief summary of the subject. Members should make themselves responsible to have a thorough knowledge of the first-aid treatment, etc.

Planning a Tasmanian Trip? The River Don Trading Company of Sheffield, Tasmania is prepared to organize food, transport, etc. for parties going through the Reserve.