

Registered at G.P.O. Melbourne for transmission by post as a periodical.

ATTENTION :**MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED A RED X**

According to our records you are now unfinancial which means we will be unable to send you further copies of the News after this issue, unless the situation is remedied promptly.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Member (over 21) 30/-
 Junior Member (16 to 21) 15/-
 Husband and Wife 40/-

The Hon. Treasurer is Robert Steel, 10 Queen Street, Regent (p)47 3743.

LIKE TO HELP US SPEND SOME MONEY?- Your Money. Yes, we'd like to hear your ideas on how to dispose of surplus funds. Suggestions in hand include:- Getting a hut nearer the city - Hut Maintenance - Helping publication of track note book - A prudent investment with a Reputable Company. All schemes should help achieve Club Aim - promotion of walking. Come along to next Bi-monthly Meeting. But, remember, only financial members are entitled to a vote.

MAPS:- Drawing a map? Know any new track information? Please advise Miss Val Goldsmith. She is now committeeman for mapping. Revisors i.e. those holding files please return copy to the committee man every 6 - 12 months with corrections.

BOOKING OFFICERS ROSTER

At the General Meeting last (24 April) it was decided that leaders are to act as Booking Officer on the Friday fortnightly prior to the date of their walk. This is to be given a two month trial period.

The following leaders are requested to act as booking officer on the Friday nights listed below. If they are unable to attend the dates listed, it is requested that they inform a member of the Walks sub-committee in order to make alternative arrangements:-

MAY 22nd Harold Peterson
 MAY 29th Arthur Whyte

JUNE 5th Betty Emslie
 JUNE 12th Helen White

SOCIAL EVENTS

MAY 22nd LECTURE "An Introduction to Map Reading" Major J. Stevens, R.A.S.C.
 Please be seated by 8.30 pm.
 JUNE 19th SLIDE NIGHT - "Antarctica" - Rex Filson.
 JULY 4-5 FEDERATION WEEKEND CAMP.

WELCOME TO A NEW MEMBER

JEFFREY, Rosemary Anne - 55 Hickf. t., Spotswood, W.4 (p) 65 1701 (b) 63 0411

CHANGE OF PHONE NOS.

Barry Short & Helen Downing (business only) Delete 67 8001.
 Insert 60 0701 extensions are unaltered.

SEARCH & RESCUE - The following have been approved for Membership in S & R:-

1. Clive Bray. 2. Richard Hughes. 3. Roger Kearin. 4. Harold Peterson.
 5. Robert Steel. 6. Daryell Sullivan. 7. Jim Wilson. 8. Loch Wilson.

A meeting will be called for 9th June at 6 pm. followed by a leaders' meeting at 8 pm. See Delegate for place.

NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS:- Best wishes to Norm Trigger and Coral Stafford on their recent engagement. Hear that John Chennell became engaged earlier this Year. Soon walking about in Thailand will be Neil Ham.

NATIONAL FITNESS COURSE

The National Fitness Council in association with the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs have arranged a course in Bushwalking. This will be held at the National Fitness Training Centre for four Wednesday evenings -24th June -15th July with practical sessions on Sundays 28th June and 5th July, and the weekend 11-12th July. Fee 15/-. See sec. for further details.

CONSERVATION CONFERENCE will be held at the National Herbarium, The Domain, South Yarra, on Saturday, 30th May.

3 Sessions: 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.; 2 pm. to 5 pm.
7.30 pm. to 10 pm.

Speakers include well known figures in the sphere of wildlife and landscape conservation.

PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE: 1.) To voice united expression of concern at the inroads made on some of our National Parks and the failure to declare as parks or similar reserves other suitable areas before their natural character is destroyed by a variety of factors.

2.) To plan for the promotion of closer co-operation and fuller participation on the part of all bodies interested in the protection of Nature.

3.) To develop short and long term plans for the achievement of agreed upon objectives, including a scientifically based master plan for National Parks.

4.) To bring to the notice of Parliamentary candidates for the State elections in June, 1964, the conclusions which it is hoped the conference will be able to reach.

WALKS PROGRAM

24 MAY - MAP READING EXERCISE - Light-hearted competition for old-hands and Instruction for tyros. See last "News".

31 MAY - COTTRELL RIDGE - WESCOTT CREEK - This walk commences some 4-5 miles east of Heathcote Junction and follows lesser forestry roads in a generally N.E. direction. Plenty of eye-catching scenery close at hand. Add to this an easy terrain and you are sure of an enjoyable walk. Van leaves Batman Ave 8.55 am. (12/-) Maps: Kinglake military and FCV Mt. Disappointment. Norm Trigger.

7 JUNE COBAY RANGE - 11 easy miles. Van leaves Batman Av. 8.55 am (14/-) Come along the Great Dividing Range. Maps: Lancefield and Pyalong Military 1" = 1 mile. Harold Peterson.

14 JUNE KILMORE EAST - MONUMENT HILL - MALLAN 12 medium miles. Train departs Spencer Street station 9 am. Ticket 2nd return Kilmore. WANTED a leader for this walk. Let walks sub-committee know.

21 JUNE LYREBIRD WALK - SHERBROOKE FOREST Easy. Train departs Flinders St. Station 9 am. Return Belgrave (4/-) Betty Enslie

28 JUNE TOOLANGI - PAUL'S RANGE - SCHOOLHOUSE RIDGE Easy 10 miles. Van. (14/-) Map: Van Yean Military 1" = 1 mile. Led by Helen White. Carry water.

12 JULY LODDON FALLS - DYER'S FALLS - BELLTOPPER HILL - MALMSBURY 11 medium miles. Van. (16/-) Led by Graham Errey.

THE LONG WEEKEND WALK - 12-15 JUNE

MUNBOWER ISLAND (Murray River) This will be 20 easy miles or so through Red Gum Forest. Similar to Barmah Forest. Maps: (1) General reference. "Deniliquin" 1" = 4 miles. (2) Broadbent's Card No. 244 "Kerang Lakes" Led by Arthur Whyte 54 4277

Also see leader for FCV maps. Van leaves Friday night 6.30.

OVERNIGHT WALK

11-12 JULY FRYERSTOWN TOWER-GLENLUCE SPRINGS - LODDON FALLS medium 19 miles Van (28/-) Fred Halls 97 3724

"ALONG THE TRACK"

EASTER, 1964

"SKYLINE TRAIL"

"Hotham--The Razorback--Feathertop--Freeburgh." So says the Walks Program. Sounds nice and easy. But -- surprise! We are to start from Harrierville and ascend to Hotham via the Bon Accord Track instead of by van. All thoughts of real ease flee away, though we look forward to following for several miles the old mining track to Crooker River.

As the van leaves us in Harrierville, Doug pounces on chestnuts with exclamations of "Gee! Conkers! Give you a conker match!"

Us: "Conker match? What's that?"

Doug: "That is a very fine ancient English sport!" And at his enthusiastic bidding we gather several each, adding to our already heavy loads.

A few miles further on we make another find--blackberries--heaps for lunch and some for tea. Here begins the climb up the spur to Bon Accord Hill, with a little scrub-bashing for interest, and as we pant up the long grind we think with admiration of the miners who carted their supplies and belongings the many miles up this track to the gold diggings and with loads probably twice as heavy as ours.

At last we reach the Bon Accord Hut--the lunch shelter built by the Railways in the late 1930's for skiers making the journey to Hotham. After tea we try roasting our chestnuts but find they are mostly bitter. The conker match is put off till later.

Next day we scrub-bash again up the track, passing two very old huts, until we emerge from the trees with the bare Razorback ahead, Feathertop to the left and Hotham to the right. Now we can see something for our effort of the day before. The green flats of the Ovens valley stretch away far below, the Alpine Road snakes up the long spur opposite and away on the horizon distant ranges give promise of even wider views at the top. Cattle gaze curiously as we face the Razorback with renewed vigour. Here we discover that the signs on snow poles saying "Bon Accord Track" are old road signs and read on the other side "Caution Drive Slowly".

We leave our packs on the Razorback and walk up to the summit of Hotham a mile away. Magnificent views are on all sides. We can see as far west as Mt. Howitt, the Cross Cut Saw and Mt. Cobbler. These views are with us all the way along the Razorback, once described as "the finest skyline walk in the state".

For the rest of the day we follow the Razorback, gradually nearing the mighty Feathertop itself, and finally find a lovely campsite just below Little Feathertop. Here we meet up with the "Easy Party" which has preceded us across the Razorback.

Viewing from Little Feathertop the sun setting and the purple dusk stealing over Buffalo and the countless ranges and valleys to the west, brings a perfect day to a perfect end.

Four o'clock next morning sees 9 of us astir and setting off by moonlight for a saddle on the far side of Feathertop. Here we drop packs and climb to the summit to await the sunrise. The local wildlife in the shape of moths and bats resent our intrusion into their silent, moonlit world and proceed to dive-bomb us. We sit huddled in the cold watching the light spread imperceptibly from the east, chasing the purple gloom from the sleeping countryside and back-lighting the peaks and ranges. The Kosciusko Plateau and the Cobberas are surprisingly close in the clear pre-dawn air but fade into the distance as the gold rim of the sun bursts suddenly into view enabling us to distinguish the nearer peaks on the High Plains, and the Ovens and Kiowa valleys far below. With the coming of daylight the bats and Moths vanish and so soon do we, seeking warmth and breakfast waiting below.

A fire like a beacon is soon blazing in the saddle and as we eat several figures become visible on the skyline climbing Feathertop on their way to meet us further along the Razorback.

Soon we turn our backs on the mighty mountain and begin our descent, meeting the 7 others who join us from the "Easy Party". It doesn't take long to reach the trees again and soon we are passing through beautiful stands of tall timber.

During one resthistory is made with the holding of the long-promised and much talked-about First Australian Conker Match. Contestants --Arthur and Doug. Heavy blows are rained conker on conker until at last Doug emerges champion -- with a Jonker 2.

By lunchtime we are at Lawlers's Hpper Hut, the tiniest log hut imaginable. Doug finds a heap of horseshoes and announces joyfully that we can indulge in the "ancient English sport" of horseshoe-throwing. We wonder what (or who) we are to throw them at, but it appears it is a game like quoits except it is much

harder to throw a horseshoe on a peg than it is to throw a ring on. However, the historical First Australian Horseshoe-throwing Contest is held, and this time it is Arthur who is proclaimed champion.

On from Lawler's Upper Hut a new road confuses us a little, but, with a very steep 1000 feet (at least it seems like that) drop to a creek, we find the track -- a very pretty track through a ferny valley. Presently ferns give way to blackberries - masses and masses of them -- fresh fruit for tea again.

The creek at our camp spot is used as a bathroom by a certain male member of the party much to the embarrassment of one innocent young lady -- her face nearly matching her hair.

Next day we have only a few road miles to travel before reaching Freeburgh. As we wait for the van we think over the trip, of the perfect weather (we haven't used tents the whole time), of the wonderful views we have seen, and the pleasure and fun of the companionship of our friends -- surely one of the best trips over. (==Narrated by Marion Houston).

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 in at AUSKI'S and inspect his range which includes models of the Celebrated Bergen Rucksack imported from Europe.

AUSKI Has instant mash potato in bulk

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

SECTION FOR THE VERY YOUNG

MOTHER GOOSE REWRITTEN

The following lines were inspired by the numerous marriages of late which could easily give rise to the thunder of little feet. The editor has amended one or two stanzas, for sake of publication; the originals are best left in oral tradition, which see the author "Doug".

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the bushwalkers and bushwalkeresses
Had scrambled eggs as their breakfast
messes.

Polly put the billy on to make a cup of tea. Not a recruit right through the year
Go easy on the water, it's very scarce you
see.

When you've finished with it don't tip out
the brew,
Just put some dehyd with it and then we'll
call it stew.

Carry a pack to Banburry Cross
To see a fine lady on a white horse.
With bells on her finger and studs on her
boots,
She's a far better sight than most of you
coots.

Mary, Mary, quite contrary
How do your blisters grow?
"With fallen arches
From 30 mile marches"
We said you were nuts to go!

Little Boy Blue come blow your
whistle
The hikers are lost in the clover
and thistle!
"Alert Search & Rescue? They'll never
appear--"

Little Jack Horner sits in the corner
Eating his Christmas Dinner,
Dehyd and nuts, and rice in the guts
Already he looks much thinner.

Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet
Eating tinned peaches so nice.
Along came a walker, a very fast
talker
Who swapped for a bucket of rice.

Old King Cole is a jolly old soul
And a jolly old soul is he;
He packed his bag and waved a flag,
Singing "Fidel, Fidel, Fidel that's
me!"

THE GRAPEVINE

At the Barndance. Everyone stopped and stared when in walked Sue and Graham
with that infant.