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AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

At the half-yearly meeting on August 27th the following amendment was approved:

That Section 5 (a) (i) be amended to read: "Qualifies, by completing to the satisfaction of the Committee three Club program day walks, each of at least ten miles, or two Club program week-end walks, necessitating camping out."

The following amendments were approved at the Extraordinary General Meeting on September 17th:

1. That a new provision (i) be added to Section 8 providing: "The Honorary Walks Secretary shall have power to veto Committee decisions on any Walks Programme that he has prepared and direct such decisions to a General Meeting."
2. That from the Annual General Meeting in February 1966 the first part of Section 7 be amended to read: "That the office bearers shall consist of a President, two Vice Presidents, Honorary Walks Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Social Secretary, "News" Convenor, and Honorary Lodge Manager."
3. That the last two sentences in Section 8 (d) be amended to read: "The Committee is empowered to form such sub-committees as may be necessary. The Committee or Convenors of sub-committees may co-opt any member whose assistance may be deemed valuable."
4. That in Section 12 (a) "Honorary Walks Secretary" be inserted after "Honorary Secretary".

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Melbourne Bushwalkers will be held in the clubroom at 8.15 pm on October 29th 1965 for the purpose of electing a President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Walks Secretary. Nominations are accordingly called and will be received in writing by the Acting Secretary, Athol Schafer (20 Mernda Avenue, Glenhuntly, S.E. 9) either before or at the meeting or verbally at the meeting.

This meeting will be followed by the Bi-monthly General Meeting.

WALKS PROGRAMME, SPRING 1965

The Walks Programme for Spring 1965 is enclosed with this issue of the News. Would you please note the following corrections to the printed programme:

September

19	Westburn - Mt. Little Joe - Mt. Tugwell - Warburton	Bus	10.00 am	23/-	Medium	Rex Filson (b) 63 7030
			Whight's Tourist Bureau	\$2.30		
23	Show Day. Tarrawarra - Schoolhouse Ridge - Healesville	2nd rot. H'ville	8.25 am	15/- \$1.50	Easy	Neil Ham
			Flinders St.			
26	Big Pat's Creek - Mt. Van Bride - Britannia Falls		8.55 am	14/- \$1.40	Medium	Roy Beames

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

- 24 September Slide night - Mr Peter Jackson will show slides of rock climbing. Clubroom, 8.30 pm.
- 29 September (Wednesday) Theatre night - Barry Humphries. Tickets 23/- each. Only 20 seats - first in, first served.
- 22 October Another slide night - Robert Steel will show slides of Lord Howe Island. Clubroom, 8.30 pm.

DAY WALKS PROGRAMME

- 23 September Show Day. Tarrawarra - Schoolhouse Ridge - Healesville
 Leader - Neil Ham (68 0311, ext. 335; after 7 pm ext. 605)
 Train leaves Flinders Street Station 8.25 am
 Fare - 2nd return Tarrawarra - 13/- (\$1.30) On return journey
 single Healesville to Tarrawarra - 2/- (\$0.20)
 Good views are guaranteed from lunch site. Bring water for
 lunch. This will be a medium walk.
 Map - Yan Yean 1" to 1 mile Military Survey.
- 26 September Big Fat's Creek - Mt. Bride - Britannia Falls
 This walk has had to be cancelled because of lack of support.
- 3 October Ravenswood - Malmsbury Aqueduct - Mt. Alexander
 Leader - Harold Petersen (b. 65 8772) Medium
 Van leaves Batman Avenue at 8.55 am
 Fare - 16/- (\$1.60)
 Map - Bendigo 1" to 1 mile Military Survey
- 10 October Worribee Gorge
 Leader - Marion Houston (p. 52 1313) Medium
 Van leaves Batman Avenue at 8.55 am
 Fare - 12/- (\$1.20)
 The gorge contains many unusual geological formations and
 provides very interesting walking.
 Map - Ballan 1" to 1 mile Military Survey
- 17 October Sugarloaf Hill - Mt. Disappointment - Running Creek - Park View
 Leader - Robert Steel (p. 47 3743) Medium
 Van leaves Batman Avenue at 8.55 am
 Fare - 12/- (\$1.20) in
 Interesting day walk/near hill country. Excellent views.
 Bring water for lunch.
 Map - Kinglake 1:50,000 Military Survey
- 24 October Old Strozlecki Railway
 Leader - Nicholas Cole (25 6400) Easy
 Van leaves Batman Avenue at 8.55 am
 Fare - 18/- (\$1.80)
 A walk which follows the old railway through the Strozlecki
 Ranges to the town of Strozlecki.
 Map - Korumburra 1" to 1 mile Military Survey

OVERNIGHT WALKS

- 1-3 October Melville's Caves - Mt. Kooyoora
 Leader - Graham Errey (p. 88 4385) Easy
 Van leaves Batman Avenue at 6.30 pm
 Fare - 44/- (\$4.40)
 This walk is in an area NW of Bendigo. The caves or rock
 shelters are supposed to have been the hiding place of a bush
 ranger called Captain Melville. An easy walk with plenty of
 time to spare to explore the caves and to see some of the wild-
 flowers which should be abundant in the area.
 Map - Melville's Caves - Mt. Kooyoora 2" to 1 mile M.B.W.
- 15-17 October Yea - Mt. Bullmalite - Mt. Caroline - Yea Spur
 Leader - Barry Short (50 4843) Medium
 Van leaves Batman Avenue at 6.30 pm
 Fare - 26/- (\$2.60)
 Map - Kinglake 1" to 1 mile Military Survey

VAN FARES

It would be very much appreciated by leaders if you could tender the exact van fare. They cannot reasonably be expected to carry change for everyone on the trip. If the total fare is say 18/- and you have paid 10/- deposit, please give the leader the balance of 8/-, not another 10/- note and expect him to provide the change. Remember also, if you think the coins are too heavy, that £1 worth of silver coins only weighs 4 ounces.

REPORT FROM THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Those members who were not present may read above the formal constitutional amendments effected by the Extraordinary General Meeting on Friday last, September 17th. The meeting was attended by about 50 members.

After the passing of the first motion the President and the Secretary both resigned their offices forthwith. There is no member of the club who will not be sorry that this situation arose. Bill has been a conscientious member of the club for many years and, as President for a considerable part of this time, has set standards that would be hard to equal. A resignation from the Committee was later received from Margaret Thompson. We must respect the decisions made by all these three persons.

An Extraordinary General Meeting is called on October 29th to fill the vacant offices of President, Secretary and Walks Secretary. (John Siscman's resignation was received by the Committee on August 10th. He resigned because of his forthcoming marriage and departure for New Zealand.) All of us need to give considerable thought to this matter. The club has grown over the years due, in no small measure, to the work of its office bearers and committee members, and we want to see it continue to flourish.

Opinion was fairly evenly divided on several of the motions voted upon on Friday. Perhaps we needed some changes; perhaps we will need more. Let's be open about our differences, but let's work together.

After Bill's resignation Anne Weiling took the chair believing that it was in the interests of the club that the debate continue. As her first 5 minutes' experience of chairmanship included the resignation of the Secretary, a suggestion that the meeting was unconstitutional, and a request that non-members be asked to leave, as well as the moving of a motion on the agenda, she fears she was rather brusque in asking our visitors to leave. On behalf of the club, we apologise that the circumstances warranted this unusual course of action, and ask you to pass on this message to any visitors who were at the meeting. We hope to see them all again on a happier occasion.

COMMITTEE DUTY ROSTER

24 September	Anne Weiling	15 October	Rex Filson
1 October	Athol Schafer	22 October	Marion Houston
8 October	Helen Mitchell		

WILKINSON LODGE

The recent party found on arrival that some damage had been caused to the property. Would all walkers note that Wilkinson Memorial Lodge on the Bogong High Plains is the exclusive and private property of this club.

It is thought desirable that a kit of tools should be kept at Wilkinson to effect such repairs as may be necessary from time to time. Any donation of tools by members would be most appreciated.

The recent accident on the High Plains again demonstrates the speed with which a joyous party can be transformed into a benighted group struggling to save an injured member. It also demonstrates the necessity for all members in the interests of self preservation to have a reasonable knowledge of first aid and a suitable kit. A new item in this field is a plastic inflatable splint. These are available from Alston's Safety Equipment, Spencer Street, Melbourne and the Club has purchased a set of them to be kept at Wilkinson. They are recommended by the Committee for use by all - even if you only keep them in your car.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Wooden legs are said to run in families, but it seems the Taylor family has a tendency to broken legs. Sue Taylor had the misfortune to break her leg during the recent visit to Wilky. This happened at 5 pm on the Tuesday. Then followed a first class rescue operation. For a full account of this dramatic episode, please read the article below. Sue is now at home and we all wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her in our midst again soon.

Our Treasurer, Maitland Vertigan, has a job which frequently takes him interstate. He left on September 11th for Tasmania for about three weeks. During this time his duties will be carried out by Robert Steel.

NEWS OF MEMBERS (cont.)

Bruce Draper will be walking in the Malacoota Nadgee area starting on October 4th and would welcome a companion or two. Contact him at 13 Farm Street, Newport, W. 15

Good to see Liz and Clive Bray recently in the clubroom.

Our Canberra contingent, Val and Peter, and Anne and Peter, wish to be remembered to everyone. Anne Weiling had good gossip sessions with them all during her recent visit to Canberra!

CHANGES TO ADDRESS LIST

BAKER, Frank & Mrs. Joan - 35 Mummery Street, Mount Waverley

HESTER, Jim & Mrs. Dora - 87 Bealiba Road, South Caulfield

PHILLIPS, Ian & Mrs. Ann - 67 Glynden Road, Camberwell .. (p) 29 4016

WEILING, Charles - (b) 63 0271, ext. 71

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LOST

In the clubroom on Friday, 17th September - Amendment No. 3

MISSING

Young lady trying to trace tall, distinguished gentleman, slightly grey, who figured prominently in recent society wedding. Understands he is a bush-walker. Really?

ALONG THE TRACKWILKINSON LODGE - Winter Party, 23th August - 4th September

Our party of eleven strong arrived at the Falls Creek car park at 10.30 am on Saturday morning after spending a comfortable night on the inner-spring bunks of a house rented at Mt. Beauty. (It was here proved that 'Dencorub' is no substitute for toothpaste.)

At 11 am, after unloading and adjusting skis, eating a number of oranges unobtrusively acquired from a tree at the overnight stop, and donning packs, we began the trek to Wilky. Progress was eased by the use of correct touring bindings, by skins, and by the fine weather, and even the least experienced skier reached the hut by about 4.30 pm, in fighting spirit though rather weary.

Inspection of the hut revealed a break in the water pipe near the hot water unit, and as a consequence frequent trips to the nearby spring for buckets of water became necessary for use in the kitchen and toilet. The week's succession of excellent meals was then started before all retired for the night.

Sunday brought perfect weather for sunbathing on the roof and a few tentative attempts at the soft slopes. An acquaintance with the party of Rover Scouts "over the way" was formed upon our request for a blow torch, and after valiant efforts, the water pipe was adequately repaired. The novelty of hot water caused a rush for the shower that night.

The reflected sun had by this time produced many red faces displaying various interestingly-white sunglass effects. The oft repeated cry from the shaving section of the small community became: "Where the --- did you buy those blunt razor blades?"

Monday began with the usual screech of "Who wants porridge?", and produced a few more sorties around the slopes. Some skiers even ventured up Basalt Hill to try their skills in preparation for the day trip to Kelly's hut planned for the next day.

WILKINSON LODGE (cont.)

Six of the party set out on this trip after complaining that the luxurious breakfast of chops cooked in claret tasted like bad meat. The stay-at-homes were left to enjoy their lazy day of sunbaking, cooking and some skiing. The area of snow extending from Wilky to the aqueduct was at this stage tending to drop away into little waterholes, and beginners ski tracks at times veered alarmingly close to the edges of these. In the afternoon eighteen heavy-footed Rovers invaded Wilky and were entertained with biscuits as they sat under the rather impressive array of girls' washing and drank tea from cups and mugs hastily scrounged from all quarters.

As night came and the tea cooked, the touring party had not returned and a slight unease grew. At 7 pm we decided to have our own tea and then hang lanterns around the hut to give some guidance in case the missing returned in the dark. Having cast our lights like Christmas decorations we were about to retire to sleeping bags when, at 10.45 pm, a shout from the aqueduct stirred us to frenzied action. Four of the party trooped in and plumped themselves in front of the fire too exhausted to do anything but sit. As they were fed they unfolded the unfortunate tale of the broken leg. On their return journey one of the girls had taken an awkward spill. As she had forgotten to unlock her toe-piece when fastening the cables, the side release did not work. Fearing a broken leg, two of the stronger skiers were dispatched to Falls Creek for help while the suspected break was splinted and the patient, supported on one ski by two walkers, was brought to the road. Here a fire was built with the aid of a Carter Brown previously removed from Fitzgerald's hut. (Who said honesty was the best policy?) The lights of the snow cat, 4 hours after the accident, were a very cheering sight.

Next day several of the party returned to the scene to collect the skis that had been abandoned during rescue operations. One set was taken to Mt. Beauty where the hospital sister seems to have been thoroughly appraised. The lass who had gone in the snow cat to the hospital with the patient was brought back to the hut at about 7 pm.

The weather which had held out so well this far, now began to turn contrary on Thursday with a fairly dense mist. Consequently, the lodge was heated up and occupied all day until three Adelaide walkers arrived to tell of their wandering across the High Plains on home-made snow shoes of bamboo and rope. They were offered accommodation far superior to that at Wallace's hut but as they already had all their equipment laid out there, they had to decline.

After entertaining them for a while we conducted them across to visit the Scouts, thus answering a previously issued invitation to "cocktails" as a celebration of the commencement of the new "mating season". A pleasant hour was passed as we covertly inspected Rover knees and observed the absorption of two of our girls with anything in a green shirt. They were eventually lured away at 5 pm in time for tea. But this was only a temporary measure. Friday came and they again vanished while the rest of the party spent a comfortably lazy day sleeping, eating, sleeping and eating again with a few interruptions for the release of high spirits.

But all good things must end, and Saturday had to come. Our departure was staggered, one small group leaving early to help pick up the injured girl, and then the second group leaving, after clearing up, a couple of hours later.

On the trip out, the sparse snow cover of the start of the week was, in places, reduced to a 3-inch swamp partly iced over enough to hold your weight (sometimes). At other places the ground was bare of all trace of snow, and any other sizeable snow area usually sported the tips of bushes and boulders in abstract pattern. Soup-like fog reduced visibility to about 10 yards and most of the journey was made on foot - to the detriment of ski boots. The route taken was over Basalt Hill and onto the road via Langfords Gap and Watchbed Creek. Progress was slowed by innumerable stops for those two girls who sported between them an insatiable curiosity about "rabbits" and explosive-type lungs.

A neat pile of week-old orange peel on the road near the dam wall was a sign that out in that murky mess was the road to home. We began to slide and walk the short distance to the cars for the long journey.

It had been a short week.

MOUNT FEATHERTOP, 30th August - 1st September - THE WALKERS' SIDE OF THE STORY

Comfortably in time for refuelling of vehicles and personnel, all five parties arrived at Glenrowan on Friday night. With one Landrover encountering generator trouble, the remainder drove off to the foot of Mt. Feathertop at Harrierville. Being lazy and tired, and the hour being late, I disregarded the warnings of what might befall me and did not, like the wiser ones, bother to erect my tent. After finding my way through the earlier arrivals I was sound asleep in two seconds. Morning, it seemed, came five minutes afterwards. After breakfast I was anxious to try my first "hard" walk.

Our party of four set off on a jeep track and the skiing party drove on their way to Mt. Hotham, from where they intended to cross the Razorback ridge and meet us at Mt. Feathertop. After a few hundred yards the track narrowed and patches of snow began to appear. These gradually became more frequent, covering the wildflowers and obscuring birds-eye views of Harrierville. Many tracks showed traces of wildlife and we were startled, but not more than the animal itself, when a kangaroo bounded in front of us. As the vegetation decreased, the density of the snow increased. A joke for the others was when, on my turn for leading, I walked off the end of a log and fell deep into one of the invisible drifts.

Eventually we reached a hump of snow which we hoped was hiding the hut. Enthusiastically digging, we found a door (of sorts). Refuelling now at 3 pm we moved towards the summit with the temperature a few thousand degrees below. We made it to Feathertop Saddle and were rewarded by magnificent views of the surrounding mountains - but not of the so-called skiers. We therefore decided not to go the last few feet until the next day, when there would be more light on the danger spots.

Shouting did not bring any replies from our friends, and we soon returned to the hut. A hurried mouthful of tucker, and then sleep in the hut and the tents - the hut for me. Midnight was ushered in by a slight blizzard ... and then Bang! The door had fallen down! Being inexperienced (first up goes for water), I climbed over the fresh bank of snow next morning to find a tree outside full of parrots or some such birds. The sausages which I was looking forward to enjoying had been enjoyed by something else - rats? I kept on accusing somebody of throwing snow at me, but presently found that the tree was unloading its burdens down my neck.

Our ice-picks and rope came in handy and we used them on the last few feet. On again, with a slight blizzard blowing, and we had an enchanting view of the Kiewa valley and surrounding snow-capped mountains ... but still no sight of the skiers.

We startled a lyre-bird on the way to the foot of the slope and took many excellent photographs of scenic attractions. At the end Barry was waiting to chauffeur us back to Melbourne after a very exciting walk.

A. Price.

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