

SHOULD WE MEET ON ANOTHER NIGHT?

-- QUESTIONNAIRE ON GENERAL MEETING SUGGESTION --

SHOULD we change our club meeting night? A questionnaire attached to this issue of "The News" seeks your opinion.

The decision to send the questionnaire to all members follows suggestions made at the last bi-monthly general meeting.

Various arguments have been raised for and against the change. We believe a questionnaire the fairest way of finding out what the majority of members want.

Arguments for the change are:

. Weekend walks starting on Friday nights drastically cut down the number of interesting fixtures that can be arranged for Club nights. For example, this has stopped the committee running a number of talks on basic bushwalking for new members.

. The numbers in the Club room drop when a weekend walk is on and therefore active members don't get full value for their money.

. Club business (e.g. the publishing of "The News" and va. booking) would not be interrupted by walking fixtures.

. We will have to move from Room 110 reasonably soon -- if the dance band doesn't drive us out, the wreckers will. Therefore, if we have to make a change, this will be the ideal time.

Main arguments against:

. We are traditionally known as meeting on Friday nights.

. Members are more relaxed on Friday nights because most don't have to work next day.

. Friday nights obviously suit most members, but a change to another night might stop many attending Club meetings.

We want your opinion. Read the questionnaire attached to the back of this issue and return it to Charlie Welling, Flat 25, 6 Redan St., St. Kilda, or give it to him in the Club room.

MOST IMPORTANT: The personality slide night is approaching fast. The MacQuarie Island Monster has agreed to compere it. Dig those incriminating slides of you best friends up and give them to Robin or Helen Mitchell. We must have them early for a good show.

Edition 210

July 1966

= T H E N E W S =
of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

(Registered at the GPO Melbourne for transmission by post as a periodical)
- Price 3¢ -

-- THREE NEW WILDLIFE RESERVES --

The Fisheries and Wildlife Department has declared three new wild life reserves in Victoria's Western District.

The new reserves are:

BATS RIDGE (722 acres, west of Portland): Contains 45 species of birds and 12 species of mammals including rare native mice. Caves house colonies of bats (See "Walk" No. 10 for an article on Bats Caves).

THE STONES (14,000 acres, South of Mt. Eccles, near Macarthur): Basalt terrain with 91 types of bushbird and such rare animals as the barred bandicoot, the tiger cat and possibly the swamp cat.

LONG SWAMP. (6100 acres extending from near Nelson to Macarthur): Marsh and wild country supporting such rare birds as the emu wren and bristle bird. It is also the breeding ground of the chestnut teal.

An enlightened decision by a Government department increasingly recognised for progressive policies.

ARE YOU A SAFE LEADER? . . .

The Department of Social Services wants an experienced bushwalker to act as "safety officer" for a youth leader training course from October 31 to November 4. Money payment has been mentioned. If you are interested, contact our confidential secretary. (Barrington Tops need not apply).

INSIDE THIS MONTH:

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THE DIRGE OF THE DUNES : FOOLISH FILSON FOOLS FOOLS FOLLOWING HIM

(This is a blood curdlingly brief account of a recent valiant, but abortive attempt to reach fabled Maroong Rise, somewhere east of meridian 142°. Subtitled, lost in the Mallee with a map that was never right.)

TWENTY-THREE (?) struggled away from the comfort of the solid brick picnic shelter, chrome taps and plastic WC seats of Wyperfeld National Park's tourist area last Queen's birthday weekend and headed for the wild unknown in the teeth of the Mallee's annual average 10" rain storm (pew! what a sentence).

Valiantly struggling to the summit of Eastern lookout several hours later -- the first point above sea level -- we battled hordes of Catholic Walkers for the lookout tower. The view was tremendous -- absolutely nothing.

After an extensive lunch sardine tins. period of 20 minutes, we disappeared eastwards, destined never to know where we were again until rescued by a small band of Catholic Walkers days later.

We walked in circles for several hours before deciding to walk westwards on an easterly bearing. At nightfall, we stopped in the midst of a dense forest which the Lecherous Likeneer announced as Lunar Clearing, our camp site (it resembled Barrington Tops).

The rain immediately increased, aggravating the risk of fatalities from exposure and pneumonia besides serious wounds from porkypine grass and broken legs from falling down deep lowan mine shafts.

Members still well enough to move risked drowning to cook their evening muck on the regulation tent incinerators, finger burners and food freezers.

Fools.

Next morning, one case of suspected pullmunery pneumonia and a seriously overloaded pack retreated, but the remaining fools again followed the Mawson Mauler eastwards, southwards, northwards, eastwards (to lowan nest No. 9 or 6; -- not marked on that map) southwards again, northwards, eastwards, southwards to a road that doesn't exist, then westwards in desperation (understand a black tracker hired by the National Parks Authority to find us, is in the Royal Melbourne Hospital with severe head injuries suffered from walking in ever diminishing circles until. . .).

Finally, as the sun sank westwards (in our imaginations -- it was still snowing) we got our first bearing! About 150 yards to the south we could see the tower on Eastern Lookout shimmering with discarded cheese wrappers and

With his analytical brain grinding away like an asthmatic concrete mixer, our leader (???) made his fateful calculation: "I knew it all along -- here we are, ninety miles northwest of Eastern Lookout." He pointed to his map and there we were, near "y" in "Slender cyprus pines", one and a half dirty finger nails from "dingo swamp" and six days hard march from Lunar clearing!

We were all deliriously staggering towards Perth when discovered by the kindly Catholics.

The author cannot say what happened after this because he and his cook decided to take the longest route to the van, arriving several hours before the rest of the party. However, he did see Foolish Filson being dragged in by the feet, screaming.

LATE NEWS: Rex is comfortable in the Mont Park rest home where he is being treated for rope burns to the neck, an overdose of Shellite fumes and water on the brain.

WANTED. . . . One new or new-second hand vice-president with few miles on the dash.

WALKERS BEWARE! The manual Medicine for everyman published in Sydney in 1875, offers this dire warning to walkers:

"The dangers of excessive walking are not generally recognised. Many young men, still weak from growth, and accustomed to the desk, set out in high spirits to walk 25 or 30 miles a day. Foolish creatures! As the inevitable result of this exercise, in which waste exceeds nutrition, they stagger hom so worn out and debilitated that they never recover."

No comment.

HAVE YOU COLLECTED YOUR INSURANCE REFUND. If not, see the Hon-treasurer.

O U R " N E W " D U P L I C A T O R : I T W O R K S

We now have a new (second hand) duplicator bought from the Women's Walking Club.

We hope this will make the production of The News easier.

In fairness to the typists, though we want to keep each edition down to six pages.

The News' committee wants articles - your articles - but please keep them BRIEF. No more than about 200 words except for something special.

We will have to give preference to shorter articles.

BOOTS and all.

Sandra doesn't know it yet, but we will be holding a theatre night to "Oliver" (a musical show with sheilas in it) at Her Majesty's Theatre. Further details later, but I reckon it'll be a terrific chance to find out who's going with who.

oo00oo

On the latter theme:
Ever seen a fanged sunbeam?
I'm offering 100-1 against.

oo00oo

The Gould League (of Bird Lovers) wants Club members to lend it slides on national parks. The League wants to duplicate the slides for an illustrated lecture to school children, on national parks. Anyone willing to lend suitable slides, contact our honorable old secretary, Anne Weiling, last heard of in Thredbo.

oo00oo

Keep trying Smith, you'll crack it yet.

oo00oo

A more sober note:
Rodney Mattingley is the Club's first National Serviceman. We wish you the best of luck, Rod, and expect to see you when you get a leave ticket. You can wear your boots in the Clubroom.

oo00oo

Our grim financial situation is about to be audited. Should show improvement following the Queen's Birthday van profit.

- Johan von Belch

PERSONALLY SPEAKING...

New Members

We welcome -

BAILEY, Raymond John
P.O. Box 43 North Balwyn
(b) 69 35 07

GREY, Margaret K.
13 Loddon St., Box Hill
N.E. 12. (p) 88 1316

PROUDFOOT, Alec Grenville
17 Bayside Cres., Hampton
(p) 98 3155 (b) 34 0234
ext. 54

TROTTER, Shirley Lynette
65 Atkinson St.,
Chadstone.
(p) 56 2496 (b) 67 9301.

Changes of address etc.

GEORGE, Spencer
6 Goddard Court, Box Hill
(p) 89 5854 (b) 63 2406

HAUGHTON, John (p) 544 7658
(delete business phone no.)

POCOCK, Doug and Mrs. Robyn
(p) 211 4970

PRICE, Andrew (p) 64 2096

News Subscriber

ANDERSON, Robyn
8 Kelba St., North Balwyn.

Honorary members (corrected list)
1966-67

BENNET, Ian and Mrs. Win
22 Echuca Rd.,
Greensborough

GUTHRIE, Ann
15 Glanfield St.,
Northcote.

MILNER, Jenny
6 Crest Ave., Balwyn.

RICHARDS, Mrs. Edna
Cnr. Timber Ridge and
Dana Streets, Doncaster.

SISEMAN, John and Mrs. Marion
Lot 36, Kevin St.,
Cockleigh.

STOCK, Katherine
13 Lockart St., Camberwell
E.?

TAYLOR, Roy
52 Argyle Ave., Chelsea,
S.15

Duty Roster

July 15	Sandra Phillips
July 22	John Brownlie
July 29	Rex Filson
August 5	Anne Weiling

A L O N G T H E T R A C K

R O Y ' S B L A C K W O O D B L U D G E , J U L Y 2 - 3.

SATURDAY, 1.40 p.m.

Ten minutes late a loaded van leaves. After an attack on the army's newest recruit by the Hon. Soc. Sec. we arrive at a deserted, heavily clouded Blackwood.

3.0 p.m. Oh fantastic! Do you happen to know where we are?

3.30 p.m. Yes! Transporting the surface of a soggy clay track a la boot tread.

5.30 p.m. Tents are pitched in daylight (just). Camp is a pleasant area of ground either side of the Yankee Creek. The motions made when traversing the area's thick grassy mounds and deep shafts gave an onlooker the impression of a wallowing seal.

Atmosphere is definitely improved when "Dim Tent" holds aloft the carefully made wooden cross he had discovered atop a mound in the precise position he had intended to camp.

8.30 p.m. A furtive creeping line of torches appears winding in the distance. Nearer it draws and halts at its objective - the leader's camp-fire - with foul intent. Oh horror ... the secret is out... and the mob wishes the newly haloed sunbeams many happy returns from unconsciousness.

SUNDAY 7.0 a.m. "Wakee, wakee!" "Oh, shut up."

9.05 a.m. Are youse muddy blugs ready yet?

9.30 a.m. "Hurrah!" there's a sharp start now!" and we set out on our clay transporting operations once more.

11.30 a.m. The track comes to a sorry end at the edge of a dangerous looking slope down to the Lerderg River lunch spot. Heard every now and then on the way down, "THUMP, ooh ***!"

1.30 p.m. The River is negotiated with no mishaps, much to everyone's disappointment, and an assault is launched on the slope from the river. Oh fantastic! hakea illigitimata is liberally distributed.

2.00 p.m. "Where are we?" "To be quite frank I don't really know." Worried brows and tight lips.

2.15 p.m. "Hurrah! the track, we're done there!"

2.40 p.m. The road - and the party relaxes before the final few minutes to the pick up point by watching a few mad nots chase a tennis ball, and gaping in horror and disgust as one member hoists his shorts' leg to show a hairy knobbly knee to a passing female in a car.

3.00 p.m. The end of a pleasant trip when the van is intercepted ahead of time and we spill out at Blackwood to overwork the little milk bar lady, await the day walkers and give local Blackwoodians an energetic display of MBW ball throwing prowess.

"FANGS"

T H E W H Y ? ? ? W A L K - S H E R B R O O K E F O R E S T

QUESTION

Why did it have to be pitch-black when we left home for Flinders St. and catch the 8.03 train?

Why did the littlest walker have to get bogged in a swamp?

Why did the same little chappie nearly get lost twice?

Why did we have to find such a show off lyre bird that insisted on dancing and singing at our feet for 25 minutes.

Why did everyone have to eat Devonshire Tea at Kallista and

June, 18.

get 5 cents commission from the proprietor.

Why was it such a hard walk, all four (4) ?? miles of it? It must have been the Bushies' biggest bludge!

Why did two respectable ladies insist on racing up and down every platform on the way home?

ANSWER

Why didn't you come and find out for yourself like the happy 14 who know the answers!!!

T. Thomas.

W A L K S P R E V I E W S

DAY WALKS.

- July 17 OLINDA - OLINDA FALLS - LYREBIRD GULLY - MONBULK.
Leader - Lorraine Richey (p) 48 3885. Easy.
Train leaves Flinders St. at 9.00 a.m.
Fare \$0.51 (plus bus). Buy a Sunday Excursion
to Belgrave. Map - Monbulk 1:50,000 M.S.
- July 24 SCOTTIE'S GULLY - GOODMAN'S CREEK.
Leader - Sandra Phillips (p) 65 5473. Medium.
Van leaves Batman Ave. at 8.55 a.m. Fare \$1.55.
Map - Ballan 1" to 1 mile M.S.
Join the fun! Join the Hon. Soc. Sec. in a
hysterical ramble up hill and down dale!
- July 31 TREE PLANTING - YOU YANGS.
Leader - John Brownlie (p) 53 9692. Easy.
Van leaves Batman Ave. at 8.55 a.m.
Map - Meredith 1" to 1 mile.
The You Yangs were once extensively farmed, but
are now being made into a forest reserve with
native trees. The day's outing will include
the planting of trees in the morning in
conjunction with The Bird Observers Club, who
have been planting trees in the You Yangs since
1958. There will be a short walk in the afternoon.
Please bring a small trowel and a bag to carry
six small tins in.
- Aug. 7 SNOW WALK: CEMENT CREEK - DONNA BUANG.
Leader - Robin Mitchell (p) 50 3042.
Medium. (Leader getting too old to make it hard!).
Van leaves Batman Ave. at 8.55 a.m. Fare \$2.00.
Map - Juliet A or Club map - Federation Track.
- Aug. 14 TANTARABOO - KURKURUE CREEK - MT. WILLIAM.
Leader - Sue Taylor (p) 65 6029. Medium.
Van leaves Batman Ave. at 8.55 a.m. Fare \$2.00.
Maps - Lancefield 1" to 1 mile M.S..
Pyalong 1" to 1 mile M.S.. Bring water for lunch.
- Aug. 21 KILMORE - MT. PIPER - BROADFORD.
Leader - Bob Frost. Easy - Medium. Fare \$1.55.
Train leaves Spencer St. 9.00 a.m. Buy a Sunday
Excursion to Broadford. Map - Tallarook 1:50,000.

OVERNIGHT WALKS.

- July 29 - 31 SNOW WALK: (2 PARTIES) BAW BAW - ST. PHILLACK. - TALBOT PEAK.
Leader - Robert Taylor (Party 1). Medium - Hard.
Fare \$4.95. Maps - Walhalla A, B and D. All 1" to 1 mile Lands Dept. Van leaves Batman Ave.
at 6.30 p.m.
Please note that the following items of equipment,
in addition to standard walking gear, are
absolutely essential for this snow trip -
- Goggles or sunglasses,
 - Gloves or mittens;
 - Warm hat;
 - Extra pair of long trousers;
 - Part share of a stove;
 - Extra cord for pitching tent in snow.
- In addition, make sure that the tent you will
sleep in is in good condition and that plenty
of clothing is carried. An ice axe could be a
useful extra. Anyone in doubt regarding
equipment, please contact Rob. Taylor at the
National Fitness Council 63 4936.

OVERNIGHT WALKS (Cont'd.)

July 29 - 31 MT. BAW BAW - PARTY 2.

If you don't like trudging in deep snow, come on skis. A sub-group of Robert Taylor's party will race the walkers over the same route, camping at the same spot. If you can ski it helps, but you don't need to be an expert. It might be an idea to carry a pair of sandshoes if you don't want to walk from the snow line down to the van in your ski boots. Carry a few extra bob in case we decide to take the transport to the village and the ski tows to the summit. Anyone interested in coming on the skiing party should get in touch with Charlie Weiling (p) 51 8368.

Aug. 20 - 21 BROADFORD - MT. MARIANNE - YEA.

(Please note change in programm. Walk shown in programm against this date will now take place September 10 - 11).

Leader - Art Terry (p) 93 3617. Medium - Hard.

Train leaves Spencer St 7.10 a.m. Saturday.

Buy a 2nd return Yea. Fare \$4.05. Maps - either

Tallarook 1:50,000

and Yea 1:50,000

or Tallarook 1" to 1mile

A good invigorating walk across undulating and mountainous country, giving fine views from

One Tree Hill. Mt. Marianne and Mt. Jimmy.

Saturday night camp will be by King Parrot Creek.

Bring water for lunch and provide for an extra meal as we will return late Sunday night.

AUSKI

AUSKI

AUSKI

Paddy Pallin has produced a new light-weight H-Frame Pack, slightly smaller than existing models. Cheaper too, at \$23.00. Need a new pack? Then call at Auski's and inspect his range which includes mosels of the celebrated Bergen Rucksack from Europe.

At last - Freeze-dried meat - available at Auski's.

Call and Inspect - See Lois, Tony, John and Charles at Auski House, Hardware St., Melb. (Just off Bourke St.)

LATE LATE NEWS (i.e. news we forgot): Rumors that the delayed reply to Paddy Pallin will be published next month are believed true. . . We almost forgot to say thanks to Dougo for his interesting talk on seal wallows. . . The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor. . . Wanted - new pancake make to replace Rodney. . . You won't be reading this if you're unfinancial. . .

THE NEWS of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

MR ROBYN AND MRS DAUG BOCK
42 STOCKDALE
CLAYTON VIC

If not claimed within 7 days,
Return to Melbourne Bushwalkers,
V.R.I. Building, Flinders St., Melbourne, Australia.
