

O U R W A R N I N G C A M E T R U E : D O N N A B U A N G D A N G E R

--- NEARLY 50 MEMBERS OF THE FVWC IN RECENT SEARCH ---

(by Fred Halls)

THE response to the call-out on the recent Donna Buang search was most gratifying, both from the Federation and club point of view.

Edition 212

September 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/- --

Total Federation
attendance was 47. Club
members who attended were
Harold Peterson, Barry Short
Darrell Sullivan, John
Richards and Robin Mitchell.

As well as these
members who did a sterling
job on the search, B. priority
members were alerted and
signified their intention to
be available on the Tuesday if
required.

S P E N C E R A T T A C K S

Last month's editorial
hasn't proved popular with all
Club members.

Below is a critical
letter from Spencer George. That
we have received a critical letter
means that members are at last
starting to air their opinions
in the columns of News. This is
a healthy sign.

Spencer says: "It
seems from the page 1 editorial
of (last month's) News that our
Club has ceased to be democratic.

"In simple terms, if
we prefer Friday night, we are
selfish.

"Would you (the editor)
care to state in simple terms
why people who prefer Wednesday
night are unselfish.

"I fail to see why
Friday or Wednesday are not
equally suitable for Club meetings.

"I Wish ALL committee
members to realise that I still
prefer Friday night for Club night".
Another letter page 2.

Remember?

Do you remember the
last News and the item "Danger
at Donna Buang." BJ must have
polished the crystal ball well
before he wrote that prediction.

Another from the crystal
ball department: an expected great
increase in the search and rescue
section as a result of the search.

. Continued page 6.
. The search page 4.

STOP PRESS - STOP PRESS - STOP PRESS

The train ticket and time
for Sue Taylor's Show Day walk
have been changed. Buy a second
return ticket to Riddell (\$1.65).
The train now leaves at 8.10 a.m.
from Spencer St.

W E H A V E O N E A T L A S T : A C O N S T I T U T I O N

The proposed constitution attached to
last month's News (We hope you could read your copy) passed through
the extraordinary general meeting with only two amendments. We
believe this happened after everyone had fallen asleep when Mr Loch
Wilson moved his first amendment. The two amendments are on page 8
-- cut them out and stick them to your copy of the constitution
because there are rumors that "that document" will never be printed
again. On page 3 you will find a report of the last dynamic
bi-monthly meeting (amen).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It seems that, following the circulation of the August issue of The News, opinions have been expressed in regard to the "properness" of the editorial, which attacked selfish attitudes about change of club night.

One little paragraph appears to have created a bit of a storm. It states that people who do little or no work for the club are seeking retention of Friday night for selfish reasons. When various other phrases are considered and combined with this paragraph, one can evidently arrive at the conclusion that the committee prefers a night other than Friday and that the remaining replies are from people who prefer Friday night and are consequently being selfish.

The article does not reach this conclusion. Nobody is being accused of selfishness just because they elected Friday night, but the readiness with which the article was misinterpreted, together with the fact that the editor of The News, being a member of the committee has rubbed a little salt into the wound, seems to indicate a couple of touchy points - the accusation of selfishness and the attitude towards the committee.

To take the latter first. I often feel that some people regard members of the committee as constituting (in their own eyes) some sort of elite, running the club the way they want it run, hiding vital issues from the rest of the club and generally behaving in a thoroughly undemocratic manner. This is ridiculous.

The committee is a group of people who have come forward prepared to help in the running of the club (not take it over). Maybe this is a familiar theme but the committee does do most of the work.

In a philosophical sense, everybody's opinion is a selfish one; but if we come down from this unwieldy plane and consider selfishness on a more worldly level the concept becomes meaningful - we know very well what is meant by a selfish person. There are

selfish people in the club, people who want their say BUT DON'T want to do any work, who want to belong to the club but don't want to incur any responsibility on its behalf.

These are the people that the little paragraph is referring to. When somebody writes something like "It suits me" as a reason for preferring Friday night, this is not necessarily being selfish; but when this person is one of those who don't want to do any work etc., I contend that this is now a selfish attitude because their whole outlook is selfish. They are not being accused of selfishness because they write a few words on a piece of paper but because these words are a reflection of their outlook to the club.

To finish on a different note, the editorial was not without fault. Tongue-in-the-cheek combined with words chosen for their stinging power make a mischievous weapon. It must be used with care and with regard to the right of the individuals who are the target. Such explosive matter can lead to (sometimes wilful) misinterpretation unless it is very carefully worded. This editorial was misinterpreted by some because they equated the two different concepts "prefer Friday night because selfish" and "selfish because prefer Friday night".

But the fact remains that the idea presented in the article is the important thing, and with that idea I am in full agreement.

Michael Griffin

(Editor's note: Michael's letter was received before Spencer's. Michael had nothing to do with the "offending" editorial -- he didn't see it until News was printed. HOW ABOUT A FEW MORE OPINIONS?)

"There's nothing like a diet to take the starch out of you."

ILLUMINATING BI-MONTHLY MEETING

Highlight of the last bi-monthly general meeting was a display of wall papering technique by the treasurer. We couldn't understand it Frank, but we believe you.

Second act was a recitation by the honorable old secretary's dishwasher, of the results of that unmentionable questionnaire.

He said the results were fairly evenly divided between a change and keeping Friday night for Club night.

As the president had an important date at Mt. Buller, the meeting didn't last long.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to -

LATHAM, Denise, 32 Kalimna St.,
Carrum. (b) 60 0281,
ext. 234.

MILLIS, Verna, 20 Mashoobra St.,
Merlynston. N. 14
(b) 62 1411

RAKOCZY, John, P.O. Box 13,
14 Pyke St., Werribee.

SNAP NEWS. . .FARES RISE. . .

We are sorry to announce that you will be digging deeper into your pockets for spring walks than the latest program shows.

Fred says that the van fares shown on the Program will be 15 per cent higher. The right fares will be printed in the walks preview section of News each month.

LATE STABS: Did you hear about the individual, well known for his unique methods of using choofers who poured fuel allover himself recently? Completed the act by lighting himself with a candle.

Club capitalist, Loch Wilson, is importing a large number of New Zealand woollen shirts which he hopes to sell at a huge profit. Hopes to sell them as apres ski wear.

BOOTS AND ALL. . .

Three of the club's spinster schoolmoms have been around for twenty one years. Common fellers, what's wrong with teachers (kiddy instructors)?

Seriously, congratulations to Fangs Jones, Good Old Slap-happy Tayler and Sharpie Phillips.

The same to Shirley's chauffeur who also struck 21 recently. Good luck Bob.

Joan and Frank Baker are doing their bit for the human race. Congratulations on the birth of their son.

Muriel and Lort Fox will soon dissappear Englandwards for a couple of years. How about posting me some good French post cards Lort?

According to recent letters Bill and Margaret are enjoying themselves overseas and should be home soon.

Old Art and Doc Shaw have gone crocodile shooting in Sumatra (think I've got the rumor right this time).

Cowboy Pocock was in his element defaming everyone at the recent personality slide night. He'll keep.

Beamesey's got a new status symbol.

Don't come on October 7 (my birthday) to see "Sunset Country" and "Along the Birdsville Track." We hope we can find another free Friday night to show these excellent films.

See how its done in Europe -- September 23 for slides of Rob Taylor's European conquests. (climbing, that is.)

Taswop and recently acquired wife have moved to Bendigo. If you're in Bendigo, they're a good touch for a free feed.

. . .YOU KNOW WHO

T H E D O N N A B U A N G S E A R C H : A B R I E F A C C O U N T

Barry Short, Harold Peterson, Darrell Sullivan, John Richards and Robin Mitchell were the five Melbourne Bushwalkers called out. Other members who also appeared were Dave Hogg and Toyota Corry (both with the MUMC) and Shambles McKinney (representing the MAWTC).

Bill Bewsher, the Federation's field organiser, met them at Warburton on the Monday night and they "camped" in the Seventh Day Adventists' hall. Next morning the walkers were divided into 11 search groups consisting of one leader and three others. The MBW group (No. 7) consisted of Robin, Harold, Barry and John. 'Yak' Sullivan was classified a member of the Catholic Walking Club (serve him right for having an Irish-Chinese name) and assigned to the Youth Hostels party, group 8.

Groups 3, 7 and 8 were sent into the Badger Creek watershed via Donna Buang with orders to set up base at a junction on the Mt Riddell track. At 5.30 the previous evening, an Ansett-ANA helicopter hired by the Children's parents had reported seeing the children on the northern bank of Badger Creek, not far in distance from Donna Buang.

Soon after setting up base (about 10 am.) the searchers received an unconfirmed message that the children. Toyota Corry immediately confirmed this by tuning in to a 3UZ news flash on his police issue walkie-talkie radio. The three groups were then instructed to start walking down the Riddell track to the other search base.

Shortly after starting off, another radio message said that the leader of the party that found the children (Doug Reed) was heading out to the track with one boy and a couple of other searchers. About 11 a.m. our boys heard shouting from down the valley and decided to spread out along the track to intercept Reed, a successful manoeuvre. Reed indicated the best way down to the remaining lost children and the three groups set off immediately to start the rescue. Reed said there were three boys and a girl and the girl would have to be carried out. Accordingly, Harold and Robin carried full packs down.

The rescuers reached the small group of children about 12.15 by following the sound of a bugle blown by one of the original searchers (who found the children). The girl, Anne New was very cheerful. One of the boys was feeling sorry for himself because someone had given him a dose of Whisky. He also had bad feet so was pronounced a stretcher case.

Dry clothing was put on both stretcher cases before they were put in Harold's and Robin's sleeping bags. By this time, the other eight parties had arrived down and started making stretchers.

Cutting the track and carrying the stretchers proved the usual nightmare and the track was not reached until between 4.30 and 5 p.m. Everyone was then driven back to Warburton for a hot meal of pies, pasties and tomato sauce before the police van brought them back to Melbourne.

A LONG THE TRACK

THE CASTLEMAINE CAPER

Once upon a time there was an up-and-coming young walker named Ted Lawton. One day, when Spring was still warring with the waning influence of Winter, Ted led a walk. The story of this walk must be told. Full of the rich romance that has gained walking a firm place in the hearts of a grateful minority, it is a chronicle that will provide living proof, throughout history, of that time honoured, but necessarily obscure proverb: walking is for peasants.

We were following a pencil line drawn on a map when it happened. Funny things, pencil lines. They calmly lead a walker up and down the steepest slopes, over the boggiest ground eschewing all tracks, loving only thick scrub, and happily leading whole parties of people to a sticky end. Our pencil line had been skilfully drawn by the above-mentioned Ed "Argus" Lawton, and it tied us into knots, took our hands and made us walk in circles, and even led us unerringly to the van.

Anyway, we were busily following this pencil line sometime after dinner. The ground and surroundings looked slightly familiar, but we were so busy trying to figure out what our leader Mr Tuft (another nick-name) was doing, that nobody gave much thought to the matter. I forget who first discovered the terrible truth, but an agonised howl, emanating deep in the throat, informed us. We were walking in circles.

After three verses of Jabberwocky (this seemed the most appropriate way to exercise the vocal cords) Mr Lawton made a momentous decision, in words that will always live as an example of just what can be done with the English language. Unfortunately your reporter speaks only Greek and is blessed

We know a man who never smokes, drinks, nor dates women. (couldn't possibly be Smith.) Next month he celebrates his '80th birthday. We wonder how!

with a lousy memory. Anti-climax followed anticlimax. We reached the road, we saw the footbridge we were supposed to be looking for and then, horror of horrors, we reached the van.

The members of our party are all shattered wrecks and our leader was last seen tearing through the streets of Castlemaine yelling "Rum and Coca-Cola", the reason for which escapes me at present. But through this blur, one thing burns itself remorselessly into the minds of everyone who was there: It had been a jolly good walk. And that, if you think about it, is the greatest anticlimax of them all.

Michael Griffin.

THE WAY TO YEA

Earlier the "crump" of mortars.

A steep drop down a timbered spur, when - ambush.

Leader Art ducked behind a nearby tree as the small-arms banged away. Your correspondent at the rear, made a sudden halt, heart pit-a-pat, knees knick-a-knock. Then a cry from below "Goy." - Yes, O.K., eyes level, white skin, born -? Pass chum.

"Heck: It's fun for them", growled one of the jungle-greeners.

At Yea, it was nay, a remarkable display of morale for an all male party, when invited by the returning Ski-ettes. ..AS

THE DUTY ROSTER. . .

Sept. 16 : Michael Griffin.
23 : Slap happy Taylor.
30 : The Hon Sec.

Oct. 7 : Doug's wife.
14 : Rob. Steele.
21 : Yak.
28: The Editor.

MORE NEXT MONTH. . .Don't miss the next thrilling instalment.

ALONG THE TRACK: THE LONG ROAD HOME OR A GALLOP THROUGH THE MUSEUM.

The News expedition to Cannibal Hills (Aug. 28) was a typical walk beginning with a ma noeuvre over a fence and an uphill scramble and ending with a long, long, long road bash.

On the initial climb Michael gave an unscheduled display of rock sliding which left a distinct impression on his white shorts.

Recruit Rodney was carrying a well filled weekend pack with his favorite hat in a big box. Both he and Maurice demonstrated the fitness of our soldiers.

Hill number two produced an echidna which consumed a good amount of our time, film and energy. While we were descending the third hill, a farmer, a creek and a fence all tried unsuccessfully to stop our progress and we thankfully rested for lunch in a grassy paddock. While we were there, another farmer and his wife came to gaze at the picnickers.

After lunch we wandered along a road admiring the wattle and peach blossom until the News crew ordered us to climb a hill and struggle through neck-high undergrowth along an abandoned jeep track. It was good leech country.

Finally the long trail home began with the misleader and her navigator consulting maps and compasses so that they could give us as many possible miles of hard road. The day ended with a swift run through the Cornucopia Museum and a dusty van ride to Melbourne.

The Search, from page 1...

There was some confusion as to the true position of the last party of five. This caused some delay in the search parties reaching the young people.

Tardiness in transport for the returning searchers was also something that should have been avoided.

Never give alcoholic drinks to a person who has been lost or is suffering from exposure.

At the next Federation Sea rch and Rescue committee meeting on Tuesday, September 20, the search will be fully discussed and there will be further items of interest in the next News.

THANKS TO our typists, Dawn and Shirley, and to the rest of the News gang for getting this issue out only three days overdue.

"Reeling and Writhing, of course, to begin with," the Mock Turtle replied: "and then the different branches of Arithmetic - Ambition, Distraction, Uglification, and Derision." -- Lewis Carroll in 'Alice in Wonderland.'

CORRECTIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO CORRECTED AND ALTERED ADDRESS LIST

BAXTER, Mrs. Doris - 228 Stephenson's Rd., Mount Waverley
BAKER, Frank and Mrs. Joan - 35 Mummery St., Mount Waverley,
(b) F. 60 0771, ext. 295.
BEAMES, Roy - (b) 35 0221, ext. 254
BEAULIV Drecy - c/- YMCA, City Rd., South Melbourne, (p) 62 4153
CORY, Max - 56 Henderson Rd., Tullarmarine, (p) 30 7306
DENT, Tim - (b) 68 0551, ext. 390
GEORGE Spencer - (p) 89 5854 (b) 63 2406
GORDON, Helen - 7 Gaynor Court, Malvern.
GRIFFIN, Michael - (p) 90 4554
HAUGHTON, John - (p) 544 7658
HESTER, Jim and Mrs. Dora - 87 Bealiba Rd., South Caulfield,
(p) 211 2423, (b) D. 94 0101, ext. 6393
HORDERN, Bill - c/- Mount Isa Mines, Mount Isa, Queensland.
HOCKLEY, Mrs. Valerie - 59 Rowan St., Bendigo.
KEARIN, Roger - c/- 67 High St., Kew. (p) 86 7932, (b) 64 0771 ext. 325
MURPHY, Kaye - (p) 92 5253
NEWMHAM, Ken - (p) 772 2402
O'DONNELL, Ray - Unit 6, 7 Hedgeley Ave. East Malvern. (p) 25 7184
OLLE, Warren and Mrs. Betty - 43 Park Rd., Cheltenham, (p) 93 5056
WEILING, Charles and Mrs. Anne (b) C 63 0271, ext 73 (b) 623680
(b) A 26 4471, ext 225 Please note!

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

DAY WALKS.

Sept. 22
(Show day)

MT. ROBERTSON - MT. CHARLIE - RIDDELL.
Leader - Sue Taylor (p) 65 6029. Medium.
Train leaves Spencer St.
Buy a Sunday Excursion to Gisborne.
Map - Lancefield 1" to 1 mile.

Sept. 25

PIONEER CREEK - SPION KOP.
Leader - Darrell Sullivan (p) 93 5713.
Medium - Hard. Van leaves Batman Ave. 8.55 a.m.
Fare \$1.80. Map - Gembrook 2" to 1 mile -
Section D : Lands Department.

Oct. 2

HARCOURT - MALMSBURY AQUEDUCT - MT. ALEXANDER.
Leader - Robyn Pocock (p) 211 4970. Fare \$2.20
Easy - Medium. Van leaves Batman Ave. 8.55 a.m.
Map - Bendigo 1" to 1 mile : Castlemaine 1" to
1 mile. Robyn has successfully tamed (?) the
Macquarie Island Monster. Come along and see
what she can do to this walk!

Oct. 9

HURSTBRIDGE - PHILLIP'S HILL - COTTELL'S BRIDGE.
Leader - Ann Silva. (p) 878 3354. Easy.
Train leaves Princes Bridge Station 8.55 a.m.
Buy a Sunday Excursion to Hurstbridge.
Fare \$0.55. Map - Yan Yean 1" to 1 mile Army.
Bring water for lunch. Look - an easy walk and
Ann leading. What more do you want? Be on that
train!

Oct. 16

BELGRAVE - MENZIES CREEK - MONBULK CREEK -
KALLISTA.
Leader - Lorraine Richey (p) 48 3885. Easy - Med.
Train leaves Flinders St. 9.00 a.m. Buy a
Sunday Excursion to Belgrave - \$0.58.
Map - Monbulk 1:50,000 M.S. A pleasant Sunday
stroll through Lorraine's favourite area.

Oct. 23

ROBLEY'S SPUR - STEAVENSON RIVER.
Leader - Neil Ham. Medium - Fare \$2.00.
Van leaves Batman Ave. 8.55 a.m. Map - Juliet 'B'
2" to 1 mile Lands Dept. Starting from Marysville,
we will head for the high country, where
excellent views should be obtained from Bringley
View. We will finish at Steavenson Falls.

Oct. 30

YARRAGON - STREZLECKI RANGES - TRAFALGAR.
Leader - John Rogers. Medium. Fare \$2.15.
Train leaves Flinders St. 9.05 a.m. Buy a Sunday
Excursion (2nd Class) to Trafalgar. Map - Moe
1" to 1 mile. There's gonna be a big "Elvis"
revival meetin' out Yarragon way. So come along
all you swingers and bring those "hip" long
trousers for the bracken bashing. Elvis tells
me it's gonna be an easy walk, but you're gonna
haf' ta do a bit of steep climbin', so leave
that ol' guitar behind, huh!

AUSKI...AUSKI...AUSKI...AUSKI...AUSKI...AUSKI...AUSKI...AUSKI

Good old Tony, John, Lois and Charles haven't changed their ad.
yet -- THEY STILL HAVE HEAPS OF JUNK USEFUL ONLY TO BUSHWALKERS
AND WASTE DEALERS FOR SALE. Number one on their lits of items
to flog is Paddy Pallin's (we'll leave the new out this month)
lightweight, slightly smaller 'H' frame pack, cheaper too at
\$23.00. If you need a new pack see the gang at Auski's -- they
have a complete range of models, including the celebrated Bergen
from Europe. They are also flogging freeze dried meat and clean socks.

OVERNIGHT WALKS.

Sept. 30 - BOTANY WEEK-END - BENDIGO WHIPSTICK.

Oct. 2 . Leader - Roy Beames (p) 37 7669. Easy.
Van leaves Batman Ave. 6.45 p.m. Fare \$3.80.
Map - Huntley Maps - Lands Dept. 2" to 1 mile
(four sections). Come on this bludge botany
week-end with Sunbeames the original nature boy.
Flat country and whipstick mallee scrub. Roy
wants you to bring a water bottle. Sounds
suspicious!

Oct. 15 - 16 Federation Track Clearing.

Oct. 22 - 23 MT. GRANT - PARADISE PLAINS - DE LA RUE'S LOOKOUT
(Introduction - STEAVENSON FALLS.

to Week-end Leader - Fred Hallis (p) 97 3724. Medium.
Walking.) Van leaves Batman Ave. 1.30 p.m. Fare \$3.00.
Maps - McMahon's Creek 1:50,000 M.S.
This is a walk to get enthusiastic about!
An early Saturday afternoon start, generally
easy - medium walking conditions, and the
splendid camp sites at Paradise Plains should
result in an enjoyable short weekend; very
suitable as an introduction to week-end walking.
The Paradise Plains is a series of small but
delightful grassy flats at an elevation of about
3,300 ft., surrounded by forests of tall Ash and
Shining Gum and it will be mid-Spring at this
altitude with the resultant flush of Silver Wattle
blossom. The latter part of the walk, over some
of Marysville's elevated lookouts, provides many
splendid views across the Steavenson Valley.

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

CLAUSE 4 AND CLAUSE 11 NOW READ.

Clause 4 - Associations:

The Club may, when it is deemed advisable, affiliate,
co-operate or associate with any other body or organisation for
the purpose of furthering the aims of the Club, provided that
affiliation with any other body or organisation shall not be
effected by a decision of a majority of members present at a
General Meeting. At least fourteen (14) days' notice of the
proposed affiliation shall be given in writing.

Clause 11 - Finance:

(a) Accounts shall be opened in the name of the
Club with a reputable bank, and any two jointly of the President,
Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Walks
Secretary shall operate on the accounts.

THE NEWS OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS.

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

If not claimed within seven days, return to the
Melbourne Bushwalkers, Room 110, V.R.I. Building, Flinders St.,
Melbourne, Australia.

SPECIAL LIFT OUT, TEAR UP, THROW AWAY correction supplement to

THE NEWS, September this year (1966): Since News rumbled off the duplicator certain grave "clangers" (short for errors of judgement) have been discovered:

(1) In the fare rise piece on page 3, it is TRAIN fares that have risen, not van fares. Substitute train for van and we hope it still makes sense.

(2) The first sentence in the fourth paragraph on Page 4 (search account) should read: " Soon after setting up base (about 10 a.m.) the searchers received an unconfirmed message that the children had been found." In the last paragraph read "route" for the first "track"

An addition to the corrections and alterations to the corrected and altered address list:

POCOCK, Robyn & Douglas, 46 Gardenvale Rd., Gardenvale.

AUSKI'S ADDRESS is Hardware St., Melbourne, 13.5 minutes walk north-west from Young and Jacksons.

Yes, we realise disappear is spelt disappear, not dissappear.

Mr Wilson denies he is a : pituili c H m: . :
" , ' r . . -- censored.