

THE NEWS

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NOTICE is hereby given that the
BIMONTHLY MEETING OF THE MELBOURNE BUSHWALKERS will be
held in Room 110 V.R.I. on Friday April 28th 1967 at 8.30p.m.
Subject for discussion: Federation Proposal to rebuild the
Mount Feathertop hut.

Sue Taylor Hon Sec.

MT. FEATHERTOP HUT.

At present there is an old dilapidated hospice on the Bungalow spur leading up Mt. Feathertop from Harrietville. For some time the Federation has thought that it would be an excellent idea to rebuild the hut and recently fairly concrete plans have been made. A tentative design has been drawn up by Mr. Peter Kneen and Mr. Paul Kennedy and an approximate estimate of \$ 1000 has been made. The Federation has decided that before venturing further with this scheme it must have the support of all member clubs. The questions that are being asked of clubs are;

- I. Is each club willing to raise approx \$ 100 towards costs?
- II. Are members prepared to give up walking weekends to work on hut construction?
- III Is the club willing to set aside 2 weekends on the summer programme so members who would normally go walking on those weekends can work at Feathertop?
- IV. Are we prepared to spend time and money on a project which will virtually become public property?

++In the past we has given money towards the upkeep of the present hut and it is for us to decide if we think it is worthwhile to continue support. More details are contained in the March Federation Newsletter which is available in the clubrooms. This is a large and expensive project not to be entered into lightly. Would you please give it your earnest consideration and bring your ideas to the general meeting?

- V. Are there any members who are willing to take considerable responsibility...e.g. purchasing officer ; labour manager site foreman?

..... BARN DANCE.....BARN DANCE.....

UPPER PACKENHAM HALL.....MAY 13..... COST \$1.00

DETAILS.....

Come in your own car or catch the van at 2.00pm Saturday in Batman.

Be equipped with your own enormous bill of tea, tent, sleeping bag, and loads of enthusiasm and energy.

Kick up your Paddy Pallins to the wing dinging sounds of Roy Taylors group from 8.00 till midnight.

Enjoy a gigantic, free supper when you have danced to a standstill (and paid your entry).

Pitch camp in the grounds or collapse and sleep on the hall floor.

Gallop round the countryside next day on the post dance walk led by Art Terry.

BUT.....JUST.....COME.

The News. April 1967. Page 2.

PICK UP AFTER VAN TRIPS. In the past there have been some delays in return of the vans after walking trips because the driver has inadequate instructions about the pick up point. Could future leaders please give WRITTEN instructions to the driver to see if we can overcome this difficulty.

FEDERATION OF VICTORIAN WALKING CLUBS A.G.M. The federation A.G.M. is on May 17th 1967 4th floor 161 Flinders Lane. Chief topic for discussion is the proposed Feathertop Hut. Nominations for President, secretary and Treasurer by April 17th. Any suggestions?

NATIVE PLANTS PRESERVATION SOCIETY Illustrated lecturette 'Identification of some autumn and winter wildflowers' April 20th, 8.00 p.m. C.S.I.R.O. Forests Products Building South Warf Road South Melbourne.

BITS AND PIECES FROM SUSIE FILSON.

Doug and Robyn Pocock Some members have heard from the wandering Pococks, who are having a whacko time in the land of geysers and mud pools. They are now working as kitchen hands in an hotel in Queenstown c/o P.O. if you wish to drop them an epistle.

The Honorable President. Johnno has been gallivanting around Central Australia in a light aeroplane during the last month. They touched down at Ayers Rock and Alice Springs whilst there.

The Honorable Walks Sec. The New Walks Sec is already experimenting with the 'joys' (?) of this position. So far two learners have not honoured their responsibilities as leaders. If your name is programmed to lead a walk, and for some reason you are unable to do so, please contact John Siseman as soon as possible. This will save a lot of time and worry, also it will prevent cancellation of the walk.

The Whytes. It was good to see Authur and Joan in the Clubroom on Friday. We do not see enough of these two very good walkers. Joan is leading a walk on April 13th to the Strezlecki Range. PLEASE NOTE That the walk is on the Korumburra Military Map NOT on the Map of Drouin 1" mile Military Map as stated in last months News. Also, bring water for lunch.

EASTER WALKS. From all accounts the Easter walks on the High Plains were highly successful. Several members also visited Hattah Lakes in N.W. Victoria.

OSIPOV SOCIAL OUTING. The Social Committee organized a Theatre Party to the Russian Osipov Balalaika Orchestra. All tickets were sold quickly and everyone enjoyed the repertoire of this unique orchestra.

STOP PRESS Just received the word that out at the Eerie Errey they have an addition to the family. Congratulations Sue and Graham on a daughter born at Easter.

NEW MEMBERS. Shirley Treloar 197 Station St. Edithvale
P. 7722553

Rosemary Olorenshaw, Flat 4, 40 Bowman St.
Mordialloc b.931381

Ron Bracken 12 Ovens St N. Box Hill

Jeff Sill 313 Nepean Highway Edithvale p. 772 3507.

AUSKI

AUSKI

AUSKI.

GET YOUR WALKING AND CAMPING GEAR AT AUSKI'S.

Call and inspect See Lois, Tony, Jogn and Charles at Auski House, Hardware Street, MELBOURNE.(Just off Bourke st)

THE BUTCHER COUNTRY ... LABOUR WEEKEND

"Butcher Country - Medium" said the Walks Program. Twenty two of us decided to explore this unknown to M.B.W. part of our mountains. However, the program had mislead all into thinking it would not be too difficult. Some found they had bitten off just about as much as, or a little more than they could chew. For me, it was the hardest walk I've ever done or ever wish to do.

It was a long way in the van on Friday night, 54 winding, grinding mountainous miles in from Heyfield to Licola and up the Bull Plain Spur. About 2 a.m. John announced that we had, he thought, arrived at Far Yard Saddle. It seemed only a slight depression in the road, but, we all tumbled out bleary-eyed and shivering. Shortly all were asleep under bushes or tents — but not for long — we were up again in no time with a mile's walk to water before breakfast. We had not slept in Far Yard Saddle after all. We came upon it two miles further on.

A long steep descent then to the Macalister River. Many were misled in thick scrub near the bottom, the first of a series of mislayings. Hot and not quite so fresh we reached the river. It was lunchtime and we had come only two miles of the walk as planned — excellent beginning! The hot descent had knocked four of the party up and they decided to amble down the river and meet us at Sunday's campsite.

Six miles for the remaining 18 to camp. A 2500ft. climb in two miles lay in between. Slog, slog, puff, pant, rest; slog, puff, pant, rest; slog, rest; slog, rest. By 5.30 12 of us had managed the hot two mile climb — the rest turned back to the river unable to make the campsite by dark. Saturday night the 12 collapsed into bed, camped at an unexpected and very welcome waterhole 2 miles from the planned campsite. Four miles only for the afternoon! Medium walk were we told?

Sunday morning we had a pleasant stroll without packs out to some cliffs overlooking the Caledonia River, Long Hill and Mt. Tamboritha. These and views up the Macalister to the Howitt Plains, the Bluff and other peaks made Saturday's climb worthwhile. At 11.30 we picked up packs with 6 miles to go to camp at the junction of the Caledonia and Macalister Rivers, 4 miles of it down a long spur. After a little scrub-pushing and searching we located the spur and lunched on top, thinking of the cool waters of the Caledonia waiting below. Little did we realise just how glad we would be to reach them. Those 4 miles down took 4 hours. Medium walk — ha! ha! The spur was a series of steep knobs covered with loose rocks — rather painful for many pairs of feet. We managed to mislay a few members on the way down and at one stage John had 8 left out of 22 total starters — not a bad percentage of loss!

At last, at last, the river! Blow the last mile to the junction where the others would be! We found the nearest campsite and collapsed into the water to soothe tired feet and wash off layers of charcoal kindly donated by the scrub. What bliss!

Monday was a lazy day — just as well! We didn't find the other 10 until 10.30. A goanna kept some of us amused while we waited. Quite unafraid of the crowding camera bugs it sat on a log catching march flies. When we were 22 in number again we ambled down the Macalister along a cattle track through pleasant but very dry open forest. About lunchtime, at the edge of the cleared land, the river deepened into an almost Olympic-sized pool — straight wide and deep. We needed no second invitation — even those without bathers did not hesitate to get their clothes wet. After the last 2 days it was wonderful relaxation and we stayed as long as we could before the last climb over the hill to Glencairn Station.

So that was the Butcher Country. Most of us will remember the heat and the sore feet, the tiredness and the thirst, and the welcome waters of the Caledonia and the Macalister, but some the blue ridges will beckon and the Butcher Country will be a new route to the Howitt Plains.

Marion Siseman

ALONG THE TRACK - JANUARY 22nd 1967

Our roving reporter came across a group of walkers on Sunday while convalescing from typewriter fatigue at that little known beauty spot Glen Nayook. Forgetting his malady, he sent in the following report.

" Noojee, Sunday.

" I was awakened from revitalising slumber by a sound similar, I would imagine, to that of an army in full flight. There were only 23 of them however, evidently walkers (for I detected that note of insanity) and, intrigued, I followed them at a discreet distance down to the glen. They chatted, joked and cat-napped over lunch and seemed superficially much like normal people. It was only close and continued observation that rewarded me with examples of their quantity habits.

" I noticed first of all a couple, sprawled unashamedly all over a piece of plastic sheeting, trying to hide behind a fern frond from a third person who was intent on recording the scene on film. A little to the left of this group, three or four people were very busily eating lunch, taking their lead from a fine figure of a chap whom I overheard called 'Mitchell'. Mr. Mitchell (for I presume that such an unassuming name would be his surname) must assuredly be one of the biggest eaters in these parts - and there is no ambiguity in that statement. Somebody else was pathetically attempting to boil some water on a little stove that was placed precariously at the edge of the stream which runs through the glen. Their food looked unpalatable on the whole, but I noticed a few touches of sanity - a thermos flask, cut sandwiches and some tins.

" After lunch and various undisciplined and apparently quite aimless wanderings, they suddenly disappeared into the scrub on the west wide of the glen. As they gradually merged into the surrounding greenery, I caught a last few words, as if in explanation: 'Come on you chaps, we've still got about eight miles to do yet, with a few blackberry bushes to fight through Bown by the La Trobe'.

" I crawled slowly out of the glen and decided that typewriter fatigue wasn't so bad after all ".

Our keyed up reporter will be back next week with more stories of the unusual, the barbaric and the primitive.

Michael Griffen

ATTENTION:

The following letter has been received by the secretary but the committee feels that it should concern all members and it is now reprinted here.

Dear Sir,

Recently I went on the Nullarbor Plains trip led by Rex Filson. There are many aspects of the walk which are too trivial to complain about, however I desire to put the aspect of litter before the club.

IN this club, we are proud of our habits of not littering the Bush with waste garbage, however, judging from the experience of the trip, we care not about the public roadways. Many of my companions on the journey ate lollies, biscuits, et cetera in the vehicles, and then tossed the waste paper out from the window. One or two carefully dumped paper in some windy corner whence the wind did the work for them. Quite apart from the legal aspect, I consider such actions reprehensible and careless. It would appear to be a small thing to use the ash-trays, or if they prove inadequate, a paper bag, which could be emptied either in the next municipal rubbish-tin or into the next camp-fire or rubbish-hole, as the case may be.

It appears necessary to constantly remind folk of this matter, therefore, I respectfully request that this matter be brought before our fellow members now, and at any time any long trip is planned by private vehicle in the future, in so far as that be possible

Yours Fraternally,
N. R. COLE

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

DAY WALKS

- April 23 CHERRY TREE RANGE - KERRISDALE DISTRICT. Medium.
Leader - Athol Schafer (p) 211 2649. Train leaves Spencer Street at 9.35 am. Fare \$2.25. Buy a Sunday excursion to Kerrisdale. Map - Tallarook Military 1" to 1 mile or 1:50,000.
- April 30 STRZLICKI - GRAND RIDGE. Medium.
Leader - Joan Whyte (p) 97 3027. Van leaves Batman Ave. at 8.55 am. Fare \$2.00. Map - Drouin or Moe 1" to 1 mile military map? A pleasant walk through forest and farm country. Carry some water.
- May 7 COBAW RANGES. Medium.
Leader - Fred Halls (p) 97 3724. Van leaves Batman Ave. at 8.55 am. \$1.60. Map - Pyalong 1" to 1 mile military map. Good leisurely walking through open forest country. An ideal place to visit in Autumn.
- May 21 TIPPERARY HILL - SAILORS FALLS. Easy - Medium.
Leader required. Van leaves Batman Ave. at 8.55 am. Fare \$2.20. Map - Daylesford 1" to 1 mile military map. An interesting stroll through open forest with some relics of mining days. Carry some water.
- May 28 MOORABOOL FALLS - LAL LAL FALLS Medium.
Leader - Val Jones (p) 97 6108. Van leaves Batman Ave. at 8.55 am. Fare \$1.80. Map - Ballan 1" to 1 mile military map. Forested, volcanic country with spectacular falls. A must for all walkers. Bring your cameras.

WEEKEND WALKS

- April 28-30 PEARSONS POINT - BEN CRUACHAN. Medium - Hard.
Leader - Barry Short (p) 50 4843. Van leaves Batman Ave. at 6.45 am. Fare \$5.50. Map - V.M.T.C. 1" to 1 mile Ben Cruachan and Environs (available at Auski's). An interesting weekend in the sandstone country with good views of Mt. Wellington and the Sentinels.
- May 13-14 Barn Dance
SEE OUR ADVERTISEMENT ELSEWHERE IN THIS 'NEWS' ISSUE.
- May 26-28 THE PYRENEES - VICTORIA MILL - BEN NEVIS. Medium.
Leader - Art Terry (p) 93 3617. Van leaves Batman Ave. at 6.45 pm. Fare \$4.20. Map - For. Comm. Mt. Cole Forest 2" to 1 mile. Good walking through magnificent forest country. Some fern gullies and panoramic views.

April 22 23 S.R. Practice...S.R. members only
Cars meet at 058870 Kinglake 1:50000 9.00 a.m.
Base at 131882 " " "
Police radio 130893 " " "

Anzac day walk: Riddell - Mt Robertson Easy.
Leader Geoff Kenafacke b.344651 ext 26.
Train leaves Spencer St. 8.00 \$ 1.65
Map Lancefield Military. Bring water for lunch.

EARLY REMINDER :
QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND JUNE 9 12th BARMAN FOREST. SEE YOU THERE

ALTERED "VR" TIME-TABLES:

It has been brought to our notice that that admirable body, the Victorian Railways, has decided to change its time-tables for Sundays and Public Holidays trains. On those days, trains will be running half an hour later than at present. This means that trains which are presently arriving at the City at 8.30 a.m. will not arrive till 9.00 a.m., This could affect the time of departure of our vans.

! Now this might be more convenient for those members of the community who like to take the train to Belgrave on Sunday morning, and then just picnic on the station to return in the afternoon; but it does not suit people, like ourselves, who like to look at the countryside as well!

We, therefore, strongly urge you all to write to your local M.P.'s, The Victorian Railways, newspapers and other influential people, pointing out that, regrettably, we shall have to withdraw our patronage from that epitome of efficiency and service, as we do like to spend the day in the bush!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Our esteemed friend, Bob Frost, has humped his bluey, and can now be hailed by smoke signals to the Port Hotel, Carnarvon, W.A. Good drinking man!

SPECIAL CLUB MEETINGS:

On May 5th, MR. JIM WILLIS, GOVERNMENT BOTANIST, will give an illustrated talk. This should be extremely interesting to all nature-lovers.

ERRATA:

Please note that Contact, 'NORM RICHARDS' telephone number was incorrect in "the March News".
Correct number is - 857-6793

WANTED TO SELL:

Almost new imported lightweight climbing boots, size 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, \$12.00. Contact Miss C.J. Hiron, C/- Wesley College, Prahran, S.1, Tel. 51-4229.

WANTED TO BUY:

Geof. Kenafacke (33 Mount Dandenong Road, EAST RINGWOOD; (p) 87-6070, (b) 34-4651, ext. 26) wants to buy an H-frame pack.

<u>DUTY ROSTER:</u>	April 21st, Val Jones	May 12th, John Siseman
	April 28th, Eliz. Shaw	May 19th, Fred Halls
	May 5th, Athol Schafer	May 26th, Sue Filson

THE NEWS of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

A. Schaffer
20 Morda Ave.
Glenbury.

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