

FEDERATION OF VICTORIAN WALKING CLUBS

Extra-Ordinary Meeting - Subject - Proposed Feathertop Hut. 19th September, 1967
A rather poor attendance of about 30 interested people. The hut proposal and plans were discussed to some lengths. It was generally agreed that the hut should only be a refuge hut and not a camping hut. The actual site of construction was discussed and most were in favour of building the hut up near the sign post, just on the treeline, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the cross. Although there is no water here, it would be more suitable for people coming across the Razorback, or parties caught on Feathertop by a sudden change in weather. Approximate cost of construction was estimated at \$1000. There was much discussions on how much money we had, and where the balance was going to come from. Some felt the project should not continue until we had sufficient money on hand to complete the hut. The meeting concluded with supper.

Council Meeting - 29th September, 1967.

Normal council business. Only item of general interest was that it was formally moved that the Federation should build a hut on Mt. Feathertop. Although the subject has been debated and mulled over for many years, it had never been decided to actually build a hut. But now it is on record and the project can go ahead officially. A few financial spanners were thrown into the works, but after much discussion agreement was reached and a motion was carried to control the expenditure and finances of the project. Briefly - no expenditure to be made without prior approval of the Treasurer, who must be satisfied that the Funds are in existence to meet the expenses. It was felt that the Federation should not count on the T.D.A. grant to enable it to go ahead - we would lose independence if we obtained money, in the form of a grant from another source particularly a Government source. To date donations to a total of \$800 have been promised but not yet received!

The following dates have been set for work parties :-

2nd-3rd December	Digging of foundations, preparation of aggregate transport of materials.
16th-17th December	Completion of foundations, transport of materials.
26th-December - 1st January (exact dates to suit individuals).	Erection of Hut.

If sufficient people are interested, a work party will also be held on 9th-10th December for transport of materials and work on foundations. Subsequent work parties will be arranged as required.

Chairman of Hut Committee is DAVID HOGG. Contact David at 292 Mitcham Rd, Mitcham 3132 (p) 87 1630 if you can help in any way - on work parties, prefabricating in Melbourne etc.

THIS IS A TREMENDOUS AND WORTHWHILE
PROJECT SO SUPPORT MT. FEATHERTOP HUT.

FREE HOLIDAY IN THE BUSH

The subject of Social Welfare Depts course for Youth Workers and vacancies for a male and female bushwalkers - leaders for the weeks course 16th-20th October, was again brought up. So far little interest has been shown in this, but for anybody in a State Govt. Dept. this is an ideal opportunity to have a weeks paid holiday in the bush.

FEDERATION WEEKEND 21st - 23rd September 1967

About 100 people, including local residents, were present at the Dance on Saturday night, and they all seemed to be enjoying themselves. The hall was decorated with bales of hay, old bits of harness, and gum tree branches, and this gave atmosphere to the occasion. A good supper was quickly devoured by the hungry dancers, but unfortunately, due to malfunctioning of the urn, the coffee was only luke warm. We apologise for this. Unfortunately, although it was a Federation event, only two clubs were well represented. These were our own and the Catholic Walking Club of Victoria. However, there were small contingents from the Y.H.A., V.M.T.C., and a couple of other clubs.

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Check your equipment before you leave for your Xmas trip
And don't forget that AUSKI can help you get it into AI condition.
AUSKI - HARDWARE STREET CITY.

September 15 - 17th. MALDON AREA - SPRING GULLY =====A 'Short' Ramble.

Friday night in a cemetery - what a way to start a weekend. But that's just where the van left us, right in the 'dead centre' of Maldon.

Not to be discouraged, we started off next morning with a straight-after-breakfast jaunt up Mt. Tarrengower. Took in the view and the cold wind at the top and headed down the other side.

Next we ventured underground down Carmen's Tunnel. There was 900 feet of tunnel which had been generally made safe for visitors but still the notice said 'Enter at your own risk'. So we did. Andy scared the life out of an innocent tourist by spooking him in a dark passage. He tried to tell us he thought it was Art.

Near by were the remains of the North British gold mine workings. For next hour or so our diverse group swarmed all over the relics, climbing in and out of everything that opened and shut and trying to work out just where they all fitted in. There were tanks, heaps of tailings, sheds, old brick walls, holes in the ground and all manner of fascinating things. The shaft itself was fenced off.

Having spent such a leisurely morning, the pace for the afternoon was a little brisker; a mad succession of fences, paddocks, scrub, more fences and paddocks, punctuated with stops to inspect ruined historical houses and such like.

Camp was on Muckleford Creek which is one of the few reliable water -courses in the area - it tasted lousy anyway.

The following morning was similar to the previous afternoon ... fence,,,paddock...fence...scrub...fence...etc...etc. We bypassed the top of Mt. Consultation, as we had fulfilled our mountaineering quota yesterday. And so, religiously following a dubious compass bearing, we pressed on, each carrying a bottle of equally dubious Muckleford Creek for lunch. However the gods were smiling on us and, quite by accident, we came across a picnic ground complete with tables, barbeque and shed with a tank of cool, clean water.

From here we thrashed our way through to Spring Gully, which also was once a hive of industry. Unfortunately time was against us by this stage so we were unable to investigate many of the ruins. Back on the road we passed the Wattle Gully mine which is still in operation, and hurried on into Chewton to meet the van.

The gallantry award, for holding down numerous barbed wire fences while ladies climbed over, goes to Geoff Kenafacke.

And here is a further note of historical interest about the mine visited on the preceeding walk.

The North British shaft was one of a number operated by the Oswald Mining Co. on Parkins Reef. From 1858 to 1926 it yielded 201,615 oz. of gold from 225,729 tons of quartz. It had a 23-head crushing mill and was one of the largest workings in Maldon. Cyaniding facilities were set up in 1901, and an extra 40,851 oz. of gold were extracted from the tailings. (totalling approx. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons of gold.) Cyanidization is a chemical process used to separate finer gold from its ore. The ore is dissolved in a cyanide solution in large vats, then filtered through gravel to remove the gold residue. This residue was washed and fed through extractor boxes containing zinc shavings. The pure gold was separated from the zinc by smelting. By 1926 the shaft had reached 1670ft. and was surmounted with a 72ft. high wooden poppet.

Today, the dissolving vats, smelting kilns and a shed housing the extractor boxes are all still in fairly good condition.

(Further information about this mine or any others is available from the Mines Departments, publications section, 1st Floor, 107 Russell Street, Melbourne.

MORE PAID HOLIDAYS IN THE BUSH ! HURRAH !

NATIONAL FITNESS COUNCIL

ROCKCLIMBING AND BUSHWALKING COURSES 1968.

The dates for the 1968 National Fitness Council Rock Climbing and Bushwalking Courses have now been finalised and are as follows:-

<u>Rock Climbing</u>	Theory Sessions	-	Tuesdays 27 Feb, 5th, 12th, 26th March
	Practical Sessions		Sunday 3rd March, 16/17th Mar, 30/31st Mar, W/E's
<u>Bushwalking</u>	Theory Sessions	-	Tuesdays 2nd, 9th, 23rd, 30th April.
	Practical Sessions		Sunday 7th Apr, W/E 20th/21st Apr
			Weekend 4th/5th May, Sunday 12th May.

The publicity material and application forms for these camps should be available from the Council fairly soon. (cont.p.3

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

- October 22 SUGARLOAF - TAGGERTY RIVER. Medium - Hard
Leader: Neil Ham 68 0311 or 68 0341 ext 335 (till 6.30pm)
ext. 605 (after 7pm). Van leaves Batman Av. 9.15am. Fare \$1.70.
This is a new area for day walks in the vicinity of the Cathedral
Range - so come along. Map: Taggerty C & D Lands Dept 1:31,680
- October 29 FERNSHAW - CARTERS GAP - OLD BLACK SPUR ROAD. Medium
Leader: Shirley Treloar 772 2553. Van leaves Batman Av. 9.15am.
Fare \$1.50. Map: Juliet 1:50,000. Walk along the old Black Spur
Coach road, amid giant Mountain Ash Forest.
- November 5 STARLINGS GAP - ADA VALLEY. Medium
Leader: Peter Carylton 68 6027. Van leaves Batman Av 9.15 am.
Fare \$1.70. Map: Neerim 1:50,000. A visit to the old timber
tramways around Powelltown.
- November 7 C U P D A Y. YARRA RIDGE - PINNACLES - Highbrow Hill
YARRA GLEN. Easy
Leader: Shirley Trotter 56 2496. Train leaves Flinders St 8.25am.
Buy 2nd return Yarra Glen. Map: Yan Yean 1:63,360.
Carry water for lunch.
- November 12 HANSON'S CREEK ROAD - BEENAH - TOMAHAWK VALLEY. Medium
Leader: Brian Ellis 58 1504. Van leaves Batman Av. 9.15 am.
Map: Gembrook Lands Dept. Carry water for lunch.
- November 19 P R E S I D E N T ' S D A Y W A L K . - FRYERSTOWN. Easy
Leader: The President, John Brownlie 53 9692. Van leaves
Batman Av 9.15 am. Fare \$1.60. President's annual shamble
around historic Fryerstown.
- November 26 OLD GHERANG CAMP - WENSLEYDALE RAILWAY - PETERS HILL. Easy
Leader: Ken Sharpe 113 Bowes Av. 3042. Van leaves Batman Av
9.15 am. Fare \$2.00. Map: Anglesea 1:63,360. Follow the old
Wensleydale Railway Line through the foothills of the Otway
Ranges.

WEEKEND WALKS

- November 3-5 BIG PATS CREEK - STARLINGS GAP - ADA VALLEY. Medium
Leader: John Rogers 1/30 Westbury St. 3182. Van leaves Batman Av
6.30 pm. Fare \$2.60. Map: Neerim 1:50,000. A pleasant walk
along the timber tramways from Warburton to Powelltown.
- November 18-19 P R E S I D E N T ' S W E E K E N D . - FRYERSTOWN. Easy
Leader: The PRESIDENT!! - Big John Brownlie 53 9692. Van leaves
Batman Av 1.30 pm Saturday 18th. Fare \$2.80. Map: Castlemaine
1:63,360. Our beloved Presidents annual picnic and tent pitching
competition at (but not in) the Crocodile Reservoir.
- November 24-26 OTWAY RANGES - Medium - Hard
Leader: Felix Harding 53 3851. Van leaves Batman Av 6.30 pm.
Fare \$4.20. Map Beech Forest, Lands Dept. A pleasant walk in
the rarely visited Otway Ranges.

National Fitness Council - Courses on Rockclimbing & Bushwalking - continued from
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A number of leaders are required for the practical sessions of the
Bushwalking Course and if you would like to either participate in the course
or be a leader contact ROB TAYLOR of Nat. Fit. at T & G Building, 147 Collins St.
3000. Tel 63 4936 as soon as possible.

HATTAH LAKES

Geof Tichner visited this area a few weeks ago and reports that the lakes are
nearly dry. He estimates that water will last till approximately the New Year.
Unfortunately what water that is there is filthy and brackish and therefore anyone
visiting the area should carry water. There is still an abundance of bird and
animal life present.

THANKS to Shirley (Treloar) for pounding out this rather abbreviated issue. Ed.

YARRA VALLEY CONSERVATION LEAGUE

The Yarra Valley Conversation League is in full swing. A Newsletter has been printed and is available for perusal in the Clubrooms. They have asked all people to enjoy the bush and seek to retain its natural neauties to report anything that is detrimental to the walking to the Hon. Sec. Mts. M. Little, 1 Hodgson St. Heidelberg.

Items meriting particular attention.

- (1) Dumping of old cars and garbage
- (2) Removal of soil
- (3) Felling of trees and shrubs
- (4) Removal of native plants
- (5) Proposed subdision of land near the river

DATES TO REMEMBER :: MEETINGS HELD ON FRIDAYS 8PM 161 FLINDERS LANE.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 27th BIMONTHLY MEETING

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10th WATER IN THE BUSH - JOHN BROWNLIE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 28th GET-TO-TOGETHER FOR FRIENDS of YESTER YEAR -

For the children- Puffing Billy leaves EMERALD LAKE Belgrave for Emerald at 10.50 am.

THEATRE NIGHT TO: "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF"

Date: Early November - will be announced in the clubrooms

Organizer. Shirley Trotter 56 2496

NEW MEMBER:

A welcome to Kathryn Howell 534 Burwood Rd Hawthorn (p) 81 1838
(b) 62 0341

CLUBROOMS: 161 FLINDERS LANE

There has been a change in the tiolet facilities, would ladies please use toilet on the first floor (despite notice which says "MEN'S TOILET"!) and gentlemen use toilet on 2nd floor.

VICTORIAN SPELAELOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8 pm at the Victorian Association of Youth Clubs, St. Peter's Hall, Gisborne St. E. Melbourne, Hon. Sec. Daryl Carr (p) 49 4335 (b) 42 1099. The MEW is afflicated with the VSW and members are welcome to attend meetings and go on trips.

CHRISTMAS WALKS 1967

So far one Christmas walk has been bocked out (Tyrone's walk to Lake Pedder) but there is still time to attend one of the other walks. If you want to go walking at Christmas contact one of the leaders as soon as possible. Incidentally, if you really want to go to Lake Pedder, see Tyrone, as there may be a cancellation.

DURATION

AREA

LEADER

14-16 days Kosciusko State Park

Athol Schafer 211 2649

Athol says those who are able to come for a shorter time only can probably join the walk for part of it.

4 days Christmas weekend Lake Pedder Nat. Park

Tyrone Thomas 89 5192

5 days " " Howqua River - Mt. Howitt

Art Terry 93 3617

Wonnangatta River

3 days New Year weekend Mt. Feathertop - Mt. Hotham

Art Terry 93 3617

WILKIE LODGE: Bookings must be made with Lodge Manager Tim Dent (b) 65 8201 ext 72.

DUTY ROSTER

Oct 20 Tim Dent

Oct 27 Eliz Shaw

Nov 3 Shirley Trotter

Nov 10 John Brownlie

Nov 17 Athol Schafer

Nov 24 John Sisenan

Dec 1 Fred Halls

The NEWS of the Melbourne Bushwalkers

Registered at the GPO Melbourne for transmission by post as a periodical

If not claimed within 7 days
return to Hon. Sec. Melb. Bushwalkers,
P.O. Box 1751 Q, GPO, 3001.