

the news

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Bushwalkers

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HALF YEARLY GENERAL MEETING :

The half yearly general meeting was held on August 16th, 1968 at 8.30 pm.

In general business it was resolved that the booklet Guide to Bushwalking, with or without cover, be made available for any interested walker, at a charge of 10¢.

The Walks Secretary stated that 1968 figures show a reduction in people out walking in comparison with the previous years. A fall of 135.

The Hon. Treasurer reported that the Club's finances are buoyant, with sufficient capital to pay outlying expenses. Van fares are producing a substantial margin of profit.

The Mag. Editor reported huge outstanding numbers of 'Walk', unsold and stock which amounts to approx. 600 including G & Gotch. It was suggested that people should return the unsold copies to him as soon as possible.

The Club's magazine "WALK" stimulated lengthy discussions for most of the meeting. Currently we employ Gordon and Gotch to distribute Walk for us. The discussion centred around the rejected magazines. Many of these are returned damaged to us, without covers, pages torn or dirty, etc. and unable to be sold as back copies. A motion for individuals to take copies and hand them around the country areas was again rejected. The original method of distribution through G & G., although in some ways unsatisfactory is still the only convenient method of distribution for the Club.

Rex Filson to approach Manager G. & G. for a discussion on the above problem.

There were no new suggestions to supplement the "News"

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ROLL UP TO THE FEDERATION WEEK-END AT ANAKIE - 14/15 SEPTEMBER

EVENTS WILL INCLUDE :

Navigation contest (Saturday 10.30 to 4.30) Barn Dance and concert at Anakie Hall (Saturday evening) Walk in old gold-mining area of Steiglitz (Sunday).

Apart from the fact that we should support Federation activities (this is being organised by the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club), this promises to be a most enjoyable week-end.

Camp will be made at the campsite at Anakie Gorge. Bring usual bushwalking clothes, a spare pair of light shoes, food for Saturday lunch and tea and Sunday breakfast and lunch. Supper on Saturday will be provided by the organisers for a small charge.

TRANSPORT : Private

To give the organisers an idea of numbers will ALL those intending to go put their names on the list on the club notice board, indicating whether you require transport or whether you have spare seats and how many. It is suggested that cars leave the city by 8.30 am on Saturday to arrive in good time for the start of the navigation contest.. The contest will start at 10.30 a.m.

INSTRUCTION FOR GETTING TO ANAKIE GORGE - Follow the Western Hwy to Bacchus Marsh, then turn left along the road to Geelong which leaves the hwy just before the hill on the far side of the town. Turn right immediately before this road crosses the railway line (about 1/2 ml) and follow this road for about 12 ml. when the turnoff to Balliang and Staughton Vale is reached. Grid r.418 332) Turn right here and follow the road through Staughton Vale. About 1 1/2 ml beyond here, a dirt road goes to right, Anakie Gorge (grid.r.346299)

NOTES FROM SUE F.

Neil H. is a free man once again as he joins the civilian ranks after serving twelve years in the R.A.A.F. With the reputation bushies have for food it may be an idea if Neil opened his own cafe.

Spring is in the air. Congratulations to John B. and Sue T. who plan to marry next Easter. Also there are another two couples going to get hitched -- Darrell S. and Ann S. (and) Allen Veenstra and Shirley Treloar (Haven't heard when the big date is for the last two pairs). The M.B.W. must have the top statistics of all Melbourne Introduction Services with twenty-five couples drawn from its ranks over the past five years.

National Service is finished (thank goodness) for Rodney who returns to the S.E.C. Unfortunately Rodney has been transferred to Hazelwood, so he still has a considerable amount of travelling to do if he wishes to go walking.

It is good to see Gwenda back in the Club. Her lovely face has been missing from our numbers for awhile.

What happened to all the girls? "Guess Who's Coming For Dinner?" was a man's night out. How about the girls organising a big contingent to the next film night.

Geoff Kenafacke has just commenced National Service. Geoff is soon to go to Vietnam. To help him pass his time more quickly he could read about your doings. What about writing to Geoff and cheer him up.

PTE. G. KENAFACKE

11/68 BASIC SIGS. COURSE

BARDIA BARRACKS

MILPS, INGLEBURN. N.S.W. 2174.

WALKING IN THE "TWENTIES"

This year is the 40th anniversary of the publication of R.H. Croll's "The Open Road in Victoria". Subtitled "Being the Ways of Many Walkers", this descriptive guide book appeared in 1928, and has since proved very popular. An inveterate walker, Robert Henderson Croll, who held office in the Melb. Walking Club, knew and loved his countryside. Besides, he was also associated with various writers and literary figures of the era, and it is undoubtably his own talents in this field that make his book a pleasure to read.

Although transport in 1928 had its problems (Sunday trains departing 11.15 am) the bush was closer and the bulldozer unknown. Timber trams gave access to mountain and gully and some of the govt. mining trails were still open. His walks ranged from what is now suburban sprawl, circling out to take in Mt. Howitt and the distant Cobberas. It is of interest to mark the walks that have vanished and the surprising number still just as popular. In a chapter on equipment, packs versus swags are discussed; and the question of the disappearing swaggie-- the depression years of the 'thirties were yet to come.

If you are a keen walker, this is still worthwhile reading, but you'll have to beg or borrow a copy---its 40 years out of print.

Athol Schafer

VICTORIAN WATTLES

A very interesting informative field guide to Vic. Wattles has been written by F.J.C. Rogers. It gives an easy reference with beautiful illustration and clear, concise text on Vic. species. The cost of the book is \$1-50, for orders up to 10 they can be obtained for \$1-20 each, a saving of 30 cents. An order has been placed for 10 copies -- if the demand exceeds this number, a further order shall be placed. They will be available soon.-

MERCI --

Appreciation is expressed to the contributors of articles which appear in this issue. Thank you also to Judy S. for typing the address lists. and to the News-assembly rs.

THE TWENTY FOUR HOUR WALK - OR HOW NOT TO NAVIGATE

The morning of Saturday, the sixth day of July, 1968, dawned fine and clear, much to the relief of ten "bushies", who had been rash enough to enter the annual 24 hour walk event organized by the Melbourne Uni Mountaineering Club and which was to start at 2 p.m. that day. Eager to learn the route which we fondly hoped, we would be trudging for the full 24 hours, we, and a couple of hundred other hopefuls, converged on the Beaurepaire Centre at the Melbourne Uni to receive maps of the route and a list of the checkpoints. The morning passed quickly, as, maps spread around us, we plotted the route and calculated compass bearings. The route was set in Tallarook, and covered 60 miles some 10 miles less than the previous year. The full significance of this fall was not clear to us until later.

Noon saw six vans trundle out of the University, and we were safely delivered to the taking off point. The blast of a shotgun jerked us off to a racing start, and we straddled the first fence in great style, following rapidly in the wake of an everwidening stream of persons.

We soon reached the first obstacle, namely a swollen creek, and intent on avoiding a swim, we walked upstream and prudently found a bridge to cross. Our group consisting of three very novice navigators, safely passed three checkpoints to the first hashhouse, where we avidly sampled the refreshments provided for us. We were soon joined by another group from our Club, and as we were about to depart on the next "leg", Art and Andy cantered up, having literally run about ten extra miles up Mount Piper, the prelude to a gruelling Men's Only course.

Stepping out into the fading dusk, speculating rather hysterically about our prospects of navigating accurately at night, we found our way to another swiftly flowing creek (the Dabyminga)-- and managed to ford it and remain dry (no mean feat!) we clawed up an almost vertical slope to strike a jeep track which bore some resemblance to the lines on the map. We were reinforced in our belief that we were somewhere in the general vicinity of the checkpoint by joining some other walkers, some of whom were none too dry. The clue as to the whereabouts of the checkpoint was typically vague-- "a clump of trees at the north end of the clearing?" --what clearing?--what end?--which trees? Finally in the darkness someone stumbled over the empty Nescafe Jar which constituted a checkpoint and we each signed our names and recorded arrival time. We were fortunate this time, as paper had been provided for us. Earlier we had been reduced to using toilet paper for the purpose.

Alas, little did we know that this was to be our last checkpoint! Filled with misplaced confidence, we set forth for the N E X T checkpoint, forging cross-country high up on the side of what we innocently believed to be Mount Hickey. Our confidence waned somewhat as we plunged down a rapidly steepening slope. The scrub grew thicker, more impassable. To add to our disquiet, where had everyone else gone? No flashes of torchlight, no voices, nothing but the moon riding through the clouds, and the bush around us. We should have reached the checkpoint ages ago! Finally, with the ground scrubby as it was, literally dropping away beneath our smarting feet, we accepted the inevitable, and concentrated our efforts on the hashhouse we had last seen six hours earlier. Heading for more promising terrain, some miles later, we suddenly realized that the forbidding slope looming up was somewhat familiar! With glad cries we recognized the hill and nearby stream as the same one we had crossed some hours earlier. We soon covered the remaining distance into the hash house, where we arrived shortly before the legitimate leaders, who had successfully located the checkpoints which had so eluded our efforts. The campfires beckoned, so we retired to snatch what warmth and rest we could, and to welcome the others as they came in with exciting tales of their experiences and attempts to find the checkpoints.

Continued Page No. 4

CASTLEMAINE WEEKEND - 20/21st JULY -- Along the Track

It was a mild cloudy day when the party of 8 plus (the plus representing Filson junior), left Castlemaine station. We proceeded northwards out of the town, through mostly thinly forested country and later open paddocks, culminating in a steep climb to Tower Hill, where good views were obtained to Maldon and Mt. Tarrengower in the West and Mt. Alexander in the East. Continuing to the far end of the ridge, camp was made near Fogarty's Gap, permission having been obtained from the property owner (future walk leaders please note!)

Rain began falling during the night and it was still cold and drizzly when we set out next morning. The Filsons decided to make for Castlemaine direct, the other 6 reclimbing the ridge into the clouds for a while. Michael enlivened the proceedings by making a gallant but unavailing attempt to jump across a creek in a hailstorm (he could have stayed dry by crossing just upstream). Lunch was taken in a ruined house near a monument commemorating the discovery of the first gold in the Mt. Alexander gold-fields. Passing a quarry and a great hill of dumped cars a track was followed to just below Lawson's Lookout (the view this time was not worth the effort of climbing up). The return to Castlemaine was by Moonlight Flat and the Burke and Wills monument which overlooks the town.

Dry socks and longs were donned, Michael doing a strip-tease act in the semi-darkness of the station waiting room. There was time for an excellent meal in the Athens Restaurant - if this sounds like advertising, well it is!

The 8 hungry bushwalkers (is there any other sort?) all agreed it was the best value for money had for a long time, satisfying even the gargantuan appetites of Spencer and Michael. Thanks, Fred, for a very enjoyable week-end.

John Sparksman

THE TWENTY FOUR HOUR WALK - continued from Page 3.

Few fared better than we had, and amusing anecdotes were plentiful. One of our number (the Ed.) decided to try her luck with another group and carry on. We others decided that the fire offered more and were glad to withdraw. The next day the sun thawed our weary bones, and the van conveyed the survivors to the next hashhouse to pick up those who had carried on. As the 24 hours drew to a close we resighted Art and Andy, who had completed over fifty miles of arduous country, including Mount Hickey twice over (or near enough!) and had distinguished themselves by finishing in the first five of a field of over 250. We were, would you believe, tired, but we are, all of us, "hooked" and circumstances permitting, will be out there again next year. By the way, how does one practise navigation at night?

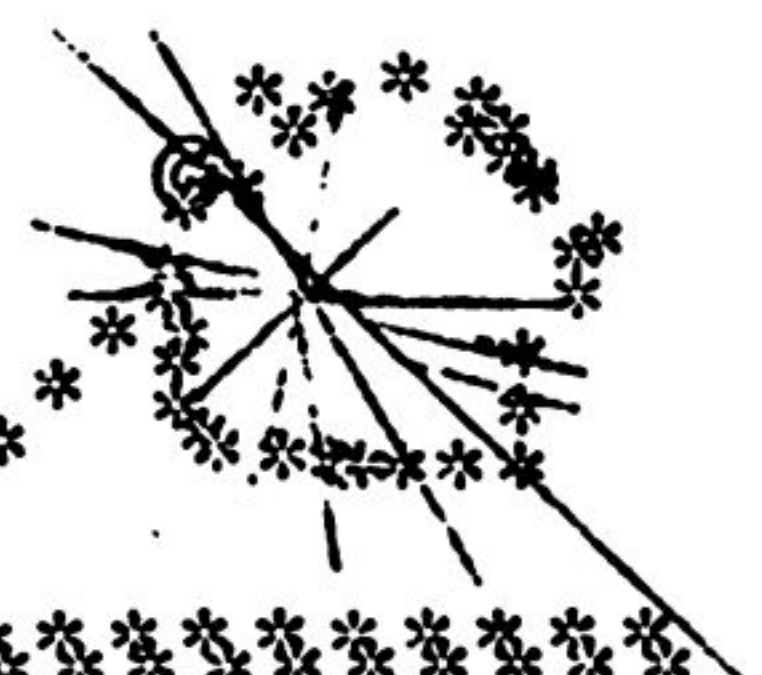
Maria Verginis

Trot along to AUSKI's (9, Hardware St. Melbourne)

for all that bushwalking equipment. All year round service in packs, parkas, socks, stoves, tents, sleeping bags, boots, billies, dehyd and acres of other stud. GO ALONG AND INSPECT FOR



AUSKI YOURSELF AUSKI
AUSKI AUSKI AUSKI AUSKI



DATES FOR THE CALENDAR

- 27/9/'68. : Barry Short presents a slide night on the "Centre".
- 30/11/'68 : Christmas bar-b-que ...details to follow next issue ...

WALK PREVIEWS

DAY WALKS

- SEPTEMBER** THREE BRIDGES-MT. BEENAK RD.-SALES HILL-YARRA JUNCTION - Medium
- 1st Leader : Athol Schafer (p) 211 2649 (b) 67 4445
Van leaves Batman Av 9.15 am. Fare : \$1-70. Maps : Gembrook A or Warburton 1:250,000
This is now a fairly easy walk of 10 or 11 miles of forestry track and road, finishing up with a ridgewalk giving good views of the Warburton Plateau.
- 8th BIG PATS CK-MT. BRIDE-BRITTANIA FALLS. Medium
Leader : Kel Wilson, 70 Callendar Rd. 3174.
Van leaves 9.15 am from Batman Av. Fare : \$1-80.
- 22nd TALLAROOK-BREACH PEAK-DANIEL SWAMP. Easy
Leader : Margaret Reid (p) 80 4793
Train leaves Spencer St. Stn. at 9.30 am. Buy a 2nd Ret. Tallarook. Map : Tallarook Military.
Enjoy a fresh walk in open country with good views of Tallarook from Meadow Hill.
- 29th SCOTTIES GULLY-GOODMAN'S CK. Easy
Leader : Alan Phillips (p) 93 3628
Van leaves Batman Av 9.15 am. Fare \$1-30. Map : Ballan 1" to 1 mile. Pleasant walk along wooded gullies near Lerderderg Gorge.

WEEKEND WALKS

- AUGUST** S N O W TRIP. MT. FEATHERTOP. Medium-Hard
Leader : John Brownlie (p) 53 9692
- 23 - 25 Private transport arranged. Maps : MUMC "Mt. F'top. Return late Sunday night. Distance - 10 miles.
This is a snow trip with sleeping in the snow near the old Feathertop hut. The walk up to the mountain is by a good track with snow conditions.
Cross country skis can be carried up from Harrietville or if a party can be made up a ski tour can come from Hotham. Extra clothing and bedding, gloves, mitts, waterbottle, stove, and all those winter extras.
Clothes can be left in the cars for the return. Don't forget your snow-goggles. We welcome those who want to make this their first snow trip. Ring...J.B.
- 24 - 25 GISBOURNE-FRENCHMAN TRACK-SARDINE CREEK-BLUE MOUNTAIN-TRENTHAM. Medium
Leader : Michael Griffen (p) 90 4554
Train leave Spencer St. Stn. on Saturday at 8.20am and arrives Gisbourne 9.32 am. Arrive back Melb. 8.45 pm.
Fare : \$3-85. Buy a second return Trentham. Ref. July News.
- 30 - 1 DOM DOM SADDLE-MT. VINEGAR-ACHERON WAY. THE KNOBS-WARBURTON. Med. Hard.
Leader : Tony Morris (p) 878-8361.
Van leaves Batman Av. 6.30 pm - returns approx. 8.30 pm Sun.
Fare : \$3-00. Map : Juliet 1:50,000 - Distance 14-15 miles.
From the dom dom saddle on the Maroondah Hwy we will walk south over Mt. Vinegar, The Knobs and Mt. Boobyalla to the summit of Mt. Donna Buang. The Saturday night camping spot will probably be Somer Pk. on the Acheron Way (this will depend on the weather, as there will be snow. (approx. 18" on Donna Buang) We will be picked up at approx. 4.30 pm Sunday at the main car park (at the end of the sealed road) 1/2 mile from Donna Buang summit. Warning as there will be snow on the higher ranges, make certain that you are well clad and your boots watertight.

DUTY ROSTER :

SEPTEMBER 6 --- Maria Verginis AUG - 23 -- Michael Griffen
13 --- Marion Siseman 30 -- Shirley Treloar
20 --- Sue Taylor
27 --- Barry Short.

NEW MEMBERS :

We have pleasure in welcoming to our Club

Mr. Douglas J. Crocker,
36 Victoria Rd., E. Hawthorn. (p) 82 - 1830

WALK PREVIEWS contd. from Page No.5 WEEKEND WALKS

September 14-15 Federation W/E (Refer Page 1) to Anakie Gorge.



Details listed on Notice Board on Club Night at 161
Flinders Lane. This weekend should appeal to both
old and new members and will be an excellent intro-
duction to week-end camping (without the burden of
carrying a heavy pack all day) for those who have not
week-end walked before. The navigation contest can
be as hard or easy as you want to make it - anyone with
two feet can join one of the teams. If you cannot
come earlier, come in the evening for the Barn Dance.

Sept 27/29

MT. BLACKWOOD WHISKY GULLY-LERDERDERG R.

Leader : Jeff Sill (p) 772 3507 Medium-Hard

Van leaves Batman Av 6.30 pm. Fare : \$3-20.

If you have an article, item of general interest and you would like it to be
printed in the "NEWS" contact Shirley Treloar, 197 Station St. 3196. p) 772 2553

WEST VIC. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Minister for Lands and a small group of developers here seem deter-
mined to make Kentbruck heathland available for settlement in the immediate
future. From a conservation point of view this is the most valuable area in
the whole of the park.

The number of species in the area alone should be a valid reason for its
preservation for posterity, apart from the aesthetic, cultural, scientific,
historical and tourist potential. Their booklet sets out the reasons why
48,000 acres of the lower reaches of the Glenelg R. and adjoining heathland
should be proclaimed immediately as a National Park.

In reply to the appeal for funds to cover the cost of the booklet and other costs
associated with the campaign, the club is therefore forwarding a cheque for \$10.

See LOCH & WILSON & CO. of 692 Glenhuntly Rd., South Caulfield(53 7353)
for all walking/climbing gear and garb. Write or ring for a price list.....

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