

THE NEWS

Published by the Melbourne Bushwalkers

Edition 228

February 1968

Price 3c.

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

WILKIE RULES VIOLATED

The committee has been caused great concern by a letter received recently from the S.E.C. on the subject of Wilkinson Lodge. The first two paragraphs of this letter are reproduced below:

"There is evidence that vehicles conveying your members to this lodge are being driven over grassland right to the door. There are many who are apparently not prepared to leave their vehicles on the prepared access track, and carry their luggage and supplies the remaining few yards to the lodge.

"The result is that an unauthorised vehicle track is being created, and this will rapidly erode and become unserviceable and a source of erosion. This cannot be permitted."

The letter goes on to suggest that, as there appears to be the need for a road to the door of the lodge, the S.E.C. could do the work properly at our expense.

The letter is blunt and to the point. The matter is serious. It is assumed by the committee that a road to the door would be considered most undesirable by the majority of the club. The lodge would no longer be private and the club would be seriously out of pocket.

It is specifically stated in the lodge rules that no vehicle is to leave the access track, and those who have not complied with this direction have acted without the knowledge of the Executive and the Lodge Manager. This is considered by the committee to be a serious breach of the rules.

Reply has been made to the S.E.C. along the lines of the above paragraphs. We are seeking their approval to erect a notice, warning that cars may not leave the access road, and also to place a suitable barrier across the unauthorised track.

It is hoped that the unenviable situation which has been precipitated by this violation of the rules will cause those members of the club concerned to desist from further irresponsible acts. - For God's sake leave your blasted vehicles on the road.

A meeting will be held at the home of Sue Taylor, 66 Twyford St, Williamstown, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday March 6th, to discuss the desirability of renewing the heater chimney and of making repairs to the kitchen chimney and stove, before the winter season sets in. All interested members are urged to attend.

(Hope I've got it right, Tim)

FEDERATION WALK - LADIES DAY

Did you know that this year's Moomba Walkabout will be led by the Melbourne Women's Walking Club?

Did you know that the date is Sunday, 3rd March; and that the walk will be from Woodend to Macedon; and that it will be up in the morning and down in the afternoon, with lunch in the cool shade of a forest?

Were you aware that the distance is a mere ten miles, and that special carriages will be reserved on the 9.30 am Bendigo train from Platform 3, Spencer St. Station? (Return from Macedon 7.40pm Cost \$1.95) - - -

----- (Continued - see Page 2.)

A. G. M. AGENDA

The main items on the agenda for the A.G.M. will be:

1. Presentation of annual reports.
2. Presentation of financial statements.
3. Election of office bearers, committee members, auditors and trustees for 1968/69)
4. Annual subscription - deciding how much.
5. "Walk" magazine - will we publish this year..

" YOU JACK, I'M ALL RIGHT DEPARTMENT

The club equipment situation is best described as a shambles. We don't know what we've got or where it is, because the equipment officer is no longer with us (see scandal column): and because many people have been hanging on to equipment long past the return date.

John Rogers has gone, and with him, it seems, all coherent records of equipment held and hired. Ed Lawton is valiantly trying to restore order by making an inventory. J.B. has raised the proverbial roof and it is in danger of crashing down around the ears of all parsimonious offenders (Ken Sharpe sold me a dictionary). The editor is about to get serious!

Will all people holding club equipment that is overdue please return it to the club room. Courteous members will also immediately inform either John Brownlie or Sue Taylor that they are holding equipment, whether it is overdue or not.

It should not be necessary to point out that hanging on to club equipment is an act of selfishness because other members and intending members, who probably really need the stuff anyway, are being senselessly deprived.

The committee has decreed that severe penalties will be considered if overdue equipment is not returned forthwith, or notification given of its whereabouts.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

The stork (or is it the cabbage leaf?) has been sorely overworked lately. Congratulations to Frank and Joan Baker, who have scored a daughter, Judith - I wonder if female treasurers are permitted - and congratulations also to Felix and Kath Harding who likewise produced a daughter, Carol Ann.

Nice to hear that Ann S. was "supplied" as an experienced walker to the State Govt. for a weekend. Evidently they're not very fussy these days!

Quick work Dept. - Everybody knows, but congratulations to Rosemary and Ian, who are engaged. Hope Rosemary can cook porridge.

Could be that one of our newer committee members is finding out about computer dating.

News comes in that Rupert Lee recently suffered a stroke and is now in hospital. We wish you a speedy recovery Rupert and would like to hear how you are getting on.

MURGATRIAD'S MIND -- STITCHER

If A is three years older now than B was five years ago, and if C is two years younger than B and one year older than A was when A was three years younger than B is now, and if A is J.B., and if the two disreputables who bet on this sort of thing are each old enough to know better, what is the colour of the Secretary's hair.

BURNING QUESTION

If a piglet is a small pig, what is a small toy?

MT. FEATHERTOP TO MT. HOTHAM - continued from page 5

did not impress us we started the descent down the Bon Accord Spur to the Ovens River where, having banished Margaret, all the dirty smelly male bushwalkers polluted the Ovens River, scandalised the local female populace and agreed that it had been a jolly good walk.

-----Gerard McPhee.

A pr of Paddie boots FOR SALE

One owner, once worn, (as new) paddie boots size no. 6 laced to toe are going cheap, anyone needs a new pr and doesn't want to pay a lot can get in touch with S. Treloar (b) 61 3281 ext 228 (p) 772 2553. How much does she want, she's willing to take an OFFER.....!

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

The editor has received information from only one leader and the usual Walks Preview section is thus omitted from this issue. Refer to (yellow) Summer Programme, and ask the leaders for extra details.

The following information has been received from Alec Proudfoot about his Walhalla Walk. I reckon that everybody and his dog will turn up for this one, so put your name down soon or you might miss out on a guaranteed bludge trip.

22 - 24th March - WALHALLA - THOMPSON R.
Van leaves Batman Av 6.30 pm. Fare: \$4.60.

Fixed camp at Coppers Creek on the Thompson River. Oodles of camp sites either in the open or among tall titree. Several deep pools in the vicinity ideal for swimming. River beautiful at this spot and cameras are definately recommended.

Items of interests - old lime kilns, tunnel of copper mine, small smelting plant, old Cobb & Co. Road.

Saturday - along the old narrow gauge tram line to Walhalla if you wish, crossing the Thompson and following up the gorge of Stringers Creek. Look at the long tunnel and the cemetery, the sports ground and pub. Return to camp in the afternoon over the Old Coach Rd through Happ Go Lucky mining settlement. to Coopers Creek, fording the river to get back to camp. About 10 miles for the day.

Sunday - about the camp, swimming, walking along the river, the Jubilee. The day is your own to explore or laze.

Bring sand shoes and bathers. -----

MT. FEATHERTOP TO MT. HOTHAM - with Art Terry

SATURDAY (VIVACE)

Nine little bushies, climbing up a hill,
Up an' up and' up, oh what a thrill.
Feathertop hut, finally in sight,
Nine little bushies think they'll stay the night.

Moving on out, through damp and mist,
Peering through fog, with all views missed.
Cold bitter wind, summit cloaked in cloud,
Hurry down the hill, to meet the uni crowd.

Now back at the hut, we had a great night,
Peace and lovely quiet, except for minar fright.
By giant possums, a canivorous rat,
High flying bushies, and jokes dead flat.

SUNDAY (MAESTOSO)

After a quick visit to the peak of Mt. Feathertop, with gaps in the mist giving captivating views of the Kiewa Valley, the Ovens Valley, Mt. Hotham and the Bogong High Plains, we started out across the Razorback. The whole journey was reminiscent of an aeroplane flight, with valleys and ridges in unending, ever higher, ever further, ever bluer ranks, with the rugged Buffalo Plateau like a blue stage backdrop to our right, and the impressive wall of the Bogong High Plains, changing from a distant blue to a light brown, as we approached, on our left.

One look at the concrete floor of the new Diamatina hut decided, ^{for us} that we would camp in the pleasant, sheltered valley below Mt. Hotham.

MONDAY (DIMUNUENDO) Art led up to Mt. Hotham Mon. morning where we had bitterly cold views of the cairn and a even colded ham radio operator. As this
cont'd page 3

ANNUAL REPORTS 1967/1968

The following reports are presented for your information and edification. Strangely enough they make interesting reading, so take my tip and consume them avidly.

NOTE: At the time of going to press (!) the Treasurer's Report had not been submitted to the editor. Reports on the following:

1. SECRETARY
2. WALKS SECRETARY
3. SOCIAL SEC.
4. "WALK"
5. NEWS
6. F.V.W.C.
7. N.P.A.
8. SEARCH & RESCUE
9. TRACK CLEARING
10. WILKIE

SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Sue Taylor

The end of the year saw the club still floating (or walking) in spite of one major change and several minor ones.

The problem of club-rooms came to a head early in 1967, and after much scouting around, and a good deal of discussion, we came to our present roosting-place at 161 Flinders Lane.

I think most people feel it is satisfactory- we certainly have more space to move in, and the convenience of a kitchen is much appreciated by "them wot used it" Storage space is still a little limited, but on the whole, the move has been successful.

Our meeting - night does not seem likely to be changed from a Friday while we remain at 161.

Changes have occurred on the committee itself during the year. Val Jones fled the country, leaving Shirtey Trotter to be "social", Tim Dent took over from Darrell Sullivan as keeper of the Lodge, Rex and Sue Filson produced a time-consuming problem - our youngest bushie, anyway - and resigned, and three new committee members were elected: Marion Siseman, Shirley Treloar, and Michael Griffen.

Walks attendances have been pleasing, especially towards the end of the year, and credit is due to John Siseman and the team for an extremely good collection of trips.

Financially, too, the club is in a satisfactory state, thanks to Frank's continuous efforts in keeping us "off the rocks". The increase in membership subscriptions has been fully justified, and has contributed substantially to the overall situation.

Social outings have been well-attended and pleasant occasions. Both the Barn Dance and Christmas 'ding' were thoroughly enjoyable, the latter being run a little differently from previous years; i.e. as a barbeque -cum-party.

WALK '68 was produced most successfully, although many people are becoming concerned about, and showing a pleasingly active interest in the maintenance and improvement of the magazine.

During the year John Rogers and Geoff Kenafacke have taken care of equipment hire. All equipment is, at present, in a reasonable state of repair and is in constant use. During the past year the initial outlay made some years ago to purchase new equipment was recovered from hire charges. Money made on equipment hire can now be used to build up general club funds until such a time that it may be necessary to purchase new equipment.

Van Finance ; As usual it was club policy to neither subsidize nor make money out of programmed van trips, and as will be seen in the Financial Report the club made a surplus of \$104.70 on van transactions over the year.

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT - Val Jones & Shirley Trotter

The two major events of the social year were the Barn Dance at the Upper Pakenham Hall, attended by 65 people, and the Christmas Party at John Brownlie's home (replacing the annual Christmas Dance) at which 50 members were present. Also about 20 of our clubmembers attended the Federation Barn Dance at Kerrie. Roy Taylor's band provided excellent music at both Barn Dances.

Theatre parties this year saw Osipov, Peter, Paul & Mary, Fiddler on the Roof, and To Sir with Love. One night Mr. Jim Willis presented a very interesting talk accompanied by slides. Speakers in the clubroom included Bill Thompson, Elizabeth Shaw, John Siseman, Robin Mitchell, Charlie Weiling & John Brownlie.

Val Jones' resignation in September, resulted in Shirley Trotter being elected as Soc. Sec. at the October bi-monthly meetings.

Finally, thanks should go to all who have helped with supper and the various activities throughout the year.

"WALK" MAGAZINE REPORT - Athol Schafer

Vol. 19 became available for sale on 10/11/67, 2,500 copies having been printed. Rex Filson became distributor having actually assumed that responsibility at the end of the previous year. Geoff Kenafacke remained as advertising manager up to December, 1967. All those who helped in the production and appearance of the magazine are thanked.

The circulation has been boosted to near 2,000 copies per year, but this is due mainly to the zeal of a few. With this in mind, a well attended meeting on 6/12/67 discussed the future of the magazine and whether it should continue in its present form or not. Members have been asked for their ideas and help in improving the magazine - a task for the early part of the new year. (Refer to December "News")

MAGAZINE FINANCES

<u>"Walk" No. 18 1967</u>		<u>"Walk" No. 19 1968</u>	
Printing 2,500 copies	\$710.00	Printing 2,500 copies	\$720.00
Cost of blocks	52.00	Cost of blocks	69.98
Sales to 31/12/67 (1,962 copies)	429.76	Sales to 31/12/67 (298 copies)	88.70
Advertising revenue	307.27		
Sale of back copies	43.34		

requested the Federation to supply an experienced Walker to help in planning the trip and instructing the students. Ann Silva, of the Melbourne Bushies was the Federation representative. She reports that she had an easy week, on full pay, as she was seconded by the Mines Dept.

Due to the extra interest aroused by the Feathertop Hut Project, and the proposed change to the set up of the Federation, I feel that the F.V.W.C. has a bright future.

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION - Delegate : Sue Taylor

Public interest in National Parks continues to increase, and it is heartening to find such vocal response in the daily papers to matters concerning these areas.

Of particular note during 1967 has been the intense reaction to the proposal to flood Lake Pedder, and the proposal to build a lake in the Mt. Buffalo National Park.

Protects against the former met with little success, as you are all aware' one must hope that future governmental authority views the preservation of country which is unique with different eyes.

The latter suggestion appears to have subsided, and in any case, legal opinion would suggest that such construction is a violation of the National Parks Act.

A reserve for the protection of the almost - extinct Helmeted Honeyeater, and a new national park at Morwell were proclaimed during the year. Investigations and suggestions for other reserves have been made, and the Alpine Park sub-committee is well advanced in the production of a book proposing this park.

Natural History Medallion

This award was made to a person familiar to many of us : Mr. J. Ros Garnet. His work in furthering an appreciation of nature conservation richly deserves such recognition.

I strongly urge all club members who have not taken the plunge and paid their \$1 to do so - you appreciate and use our national parks, so join the VNPA and lend a bit more support.

SEARCH AND RESCUE - Fred Halls

The numerical strength of the Club Search and Rescue section remains much the same as last year, new memberships replacing the few resignations during the year.

Fortunately, there was no full scale search; there were however, two or three "alerts" but the lost persons were soon found by small groups of local searchers or the Police S & R Squad.

This was the first year in which the Land Rover Club provided some transport for the Search Practice. Valuable lessons were learnt from this Practice Search.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 1.2.67 to 31.12.67

CLUB ACTIVITIES:

<u>1966</u>		<u>1966</u>		
446.00	Subscriptions (149 financial, 16 News)	527.50	194.00	Rent 210.50
28.29	Bank interest	35.97	117.22	Programs 99.94
---	Vistors, late fees (since August)	11.00	72.95	News 76.96
92.52	Donations, other income	20.19	16.31	Secretarial exp. 20.68
24.10	Profits social functions	8.20	39.86	Other expenses 19.82
			29.86	Supper 23.09
			12.30	Affiliation fees 16.20
				Other payments 6.00
				Donation 50.00
				Estimated expenditure, January 25.00
			48.30	Provisional surplus 54.67
		<u>602.86</u>		<u>602.86</u>

WALKING ACTIVITIES:

2300.10	Van fares	2540.00	2039.00	Van hire 2338.50
			25.98	Other expenses 41.57
			212.52	Walks surplus 159.93
		<u>2540.00</u>		<u>2540.00</u>

TRADING ACTIVITIES:

100.30	Publications sold	65.05	110.95	Paid and owed for publications 64.08
290.82	Sales Walk 67 (1962 copies)	427.10	762.06	Cost producing Walk68 789.98
244.86	Advertising Walk 67 (17 pages)	306.60	169.24	Reserve to print Walk 69 116.95
106.30	Walk back numbers	43.34	24.00	Replacement equipment 24.00
63.93	Visitors Fees (Feb. - July), Equipment fees.	51.60	7.00	Replace metal badges 9.50
142.84	Sales Walk 68 (329 copies)	89.95	57.50	Surplus on other trading 28.77
26.40	Advertising Walk 68 (1½ pages)	27.00		
7.00	Metal badge hire	9.50		
5.90	Sales of map	0.20		
120.08	Cost replacing Walk 67 with Walk 68	12.94		
		<u>1033.28</u>		<u>1033.28</u>

WILKINSON LODGE:

94.90	Accomodation fees	111.70	2.00	Rent 2.00
2.01	Bank interest	2.30	32.21	Insurance 34.27
			----	Maintenance 3.85
			----	Other expenses 1.15
			69.02	Reserve to future improvements 72.73
		<u>114.00</u>		<u>114.00</u>

CASH RECONCILIATION AND APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT AS AT 31.12.67:

626.31	Cash at Bank(cluba (club a/c)	969.45	Amounts owed:	
69.02	Cash at bank (Wilkinson a /c)	141.75	15.50	December rent 13.00
	Cash in hand	1.06	177.75	December vans 271.50
				Summer program 25.88
			13.25	Publications 11.60
			52.06	Blocks Walk 68 69.98
			19.29	Other amounts 9.45
				Reserves to meet future expend.:
			169.24	To print Walk 69 116.95
				Club exp. January 25.00
			96.00	To replace equipment 120.00
			7.00	To replace metal badges16.50